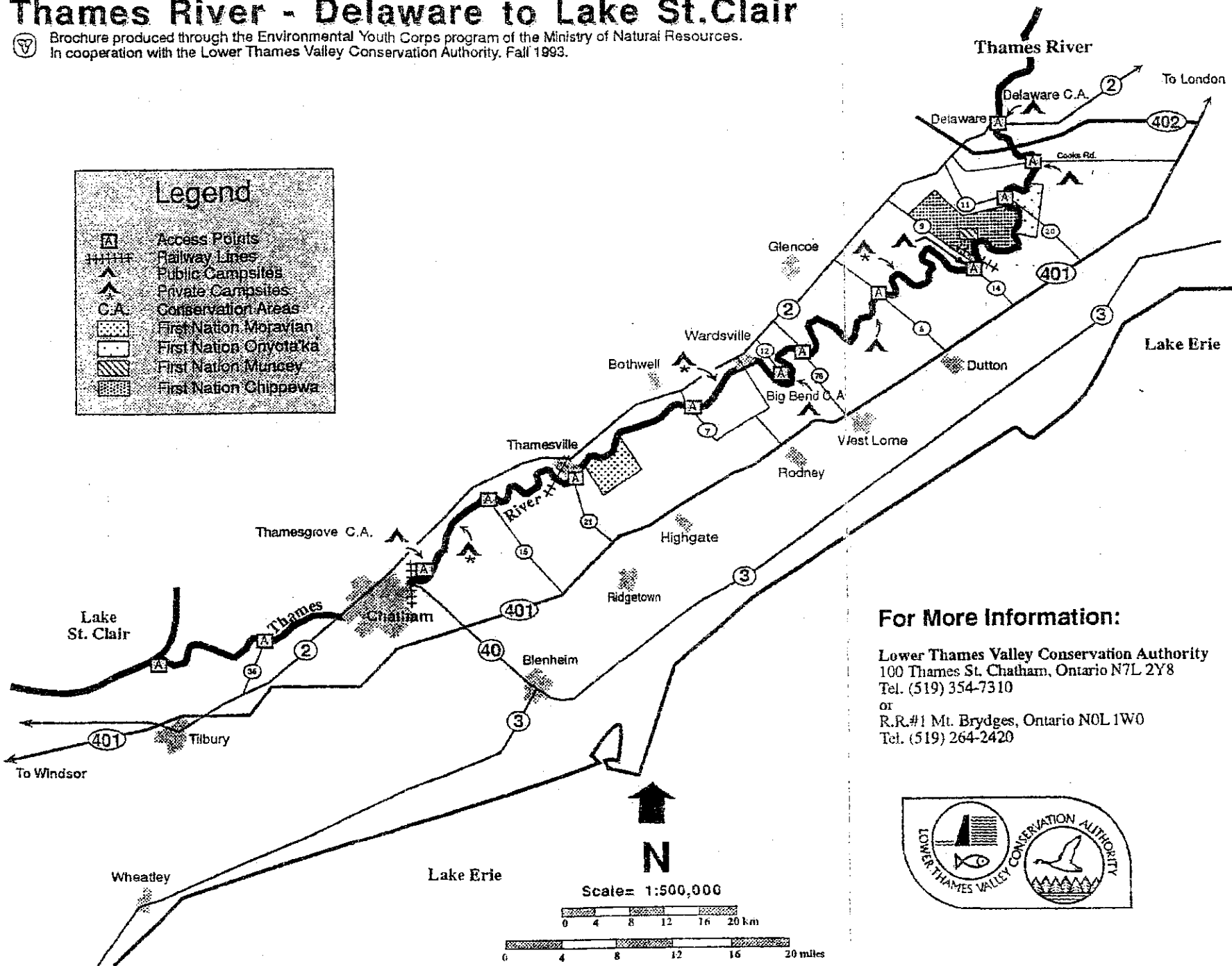


Thames River - Delaware to Lake St. Clair

Brochure produced through the Environmental Youth Corps program of the Ministry of Natural Resources.
In cooperation with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, Fall 1993.

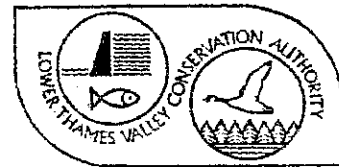
Legend

- Access Points
- Railway Lines
- Public Campsites
- Private Campsites
- Conservation Areas
- First Nation Moravian
- First Nation Onyota'ka
- First Nation Muncie
- First Nation Chippawa

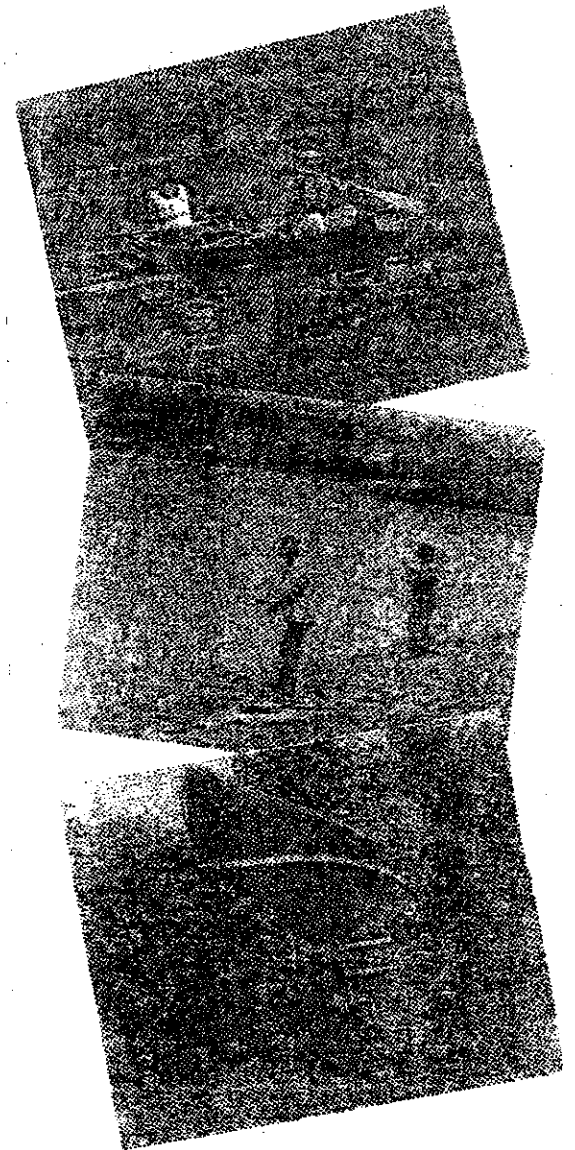


For More Information:

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
100 Thames St. Chatham, Ontario N7L 2Y8
Tel. (519) 354-7310
or
R.R.#1 Mt. Brydges, Ontario N0L 1W0
Tel. (519) 264-2420

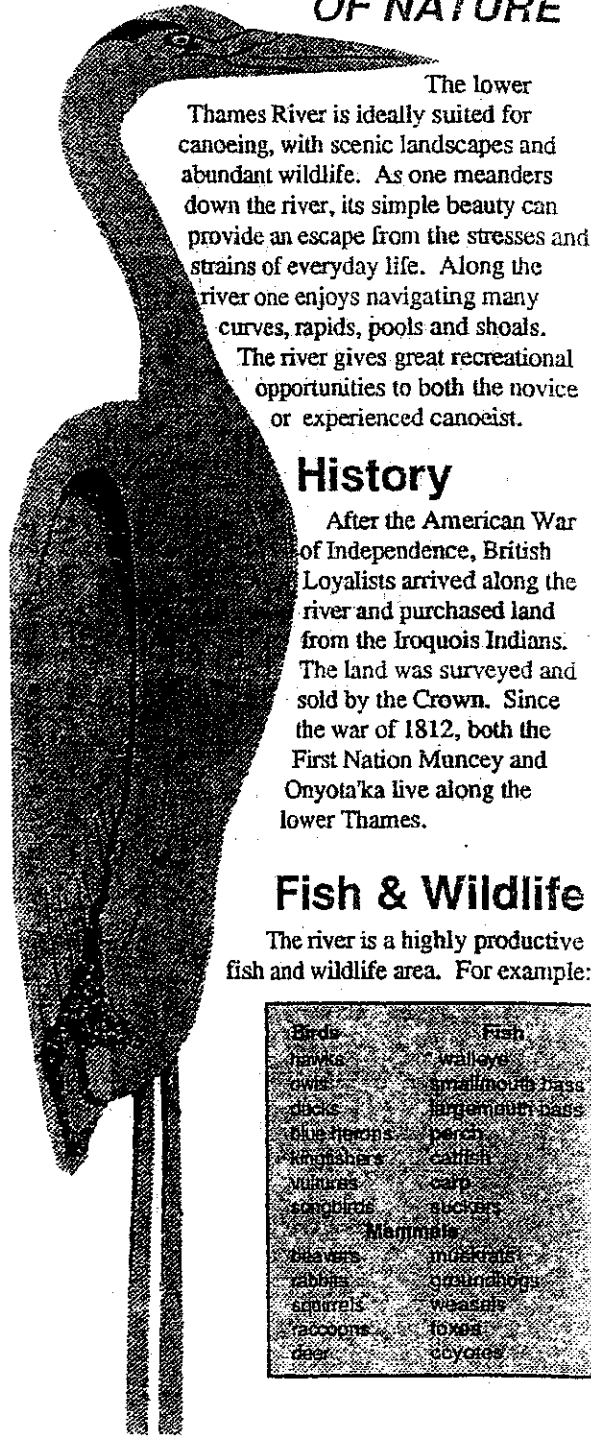


Paddling Portraits



Canoe the Lower Thames River

PADDLING PORTRAITS OF NATURE



The lower Thames River is ideally suited for canoeing, with scenic landscapes and abundant wildlife. As one meanders down the river, its simple beauty can provide an escape from the stresses and strains of everyday life. Along the river one enjoys navigating many curves, rapids, pools and shoals. The river gives great recreational opportunities to both the novice or experienced canoeist.

History

After the American War of Independence, British Loyalists arrived along the river and purchased land from the Iroquois Indians. The land was surveyed and sold by the Crown. Since the war of 1812, both the First Nation Muncey and Onyota'ka live along the lower Thames.

Fish & Wildlife

The river is a highly productive fish and wildlife area. For example:

Birds	Fish
owls	walleye
owls	smallmouth bass
ducks	brook trout
blue herons	perch
kingfishers	catfish
ducks	carp
songbirds	trout
Mammals	
coyotes	muskrats
rabbits	groundhogs
squirrels	weasels
raccoons	foxes
deer	coyotes

General Information

The lower Thames River from Delaware to Lake St. Clair is 173 km in length and has a total drop in elevation of 34 metres. The river route from Delaware to Thamesville has high banks which help to protect land from flooding. From Thamesville west to the mouth of the river, flat lands and low banks increase the risk of flooding from high river flow and ice jams.



* No Trace Camping *

Campsites are both publicly and privately owned. Permission from the private landowner must be obtained in order to camp overnight. Landowner information can be received by calling the Conservation Authority at (519) 264-2420 or (519) 354-7310. No trace camping should be used to preserve these sites for other canoeists. Clean up garbage, and leave the campsite in as good a shape or better than it was found. Leave only footsteps and the wake of the canoe! Private and some publicly owned campsites are **not** equipped with toilet facilities, fire pits, picnic tables or drinking water.

Drinking Water

The water in the Thames River is not suitable for drinking, even after the use of water purification tablets. A supply of bottled water is advised. During the summer months drinking water and serviced washrooms are found at Big Bend and Thamesgrove Conservation Areas.

Access Points

Boat launches along the river allow good access for canoeists. These points are located along the river at 15-20 km intervals, ideal for the one day or extended trips. Parking is available at these locations. Some bridges may be used as canoe access points. (See map)

Reference Maps

The topographic maps needed for the journey from Delaware to Lake St. Clair are available from Oxford Bookstores, or the Map Library at the University of Western Ontario in London. A scale of 1:50,000 is recommended.

The 1:50,000 maps needed are:

Bothwell 40-1/12	St. Thomas 40-1/14
Wallaceburg 40 J/9	Chatham 40 J/8
Strathroy 40-1/13	



Canoe Safety

The best canoeing months for the lower Thames River are: May, June and October. Hazards such as logs, rocks, sand bars and other large obstacles can be expected. In the early spring, the water levels are high and currents are strong and dangerous to canoe safely. The low water level in the summer months restricts canoe passage down the river.

Safety Checklist:	
padding bucket	sunglasses
ropes	map
extra warm clothes	compass
first aid kit	sunscreen
additional paddle	hat
extra drinking water	life jacket

Distances

The average speed for recreational canoeists is 3.5 km/hr. At approximately 5 hours/day it would take 9-11 days to complete the entire 173 km route. These figures are averaged and speeds depend greatly on the individual. (See map)

For More Information

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
100 Thames St. Chatham, Ontario N7L 2Y8
Tel. (519) 354-7310

or
R.R. #1 Mt. Brydges, Ontario N0L 1W0
Tel. (519) 264-2420

Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association
P.O. Box 500 Hyde Park, Ontario N0N 1Z0
Tel. (519) 473-2109

Canoe Ontario
1220 Shepard Ave. E Willowdale, Ontario M2K 2X1
Tel. (416) 495-4180

