

WHY LONG POINT?

The Long Point area, comprising 26,250 hectares, was designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in April, 1986, the third in Canada. Today it is one of 15 biosphere reserves in Canada. It provides an example of the Great Lakes coastal ecosystem and a unique blend of habitats – long uninterrupted beaches, undisturbed sand dunes, grassy ridges, wet meadows, woodlands, marshes and ponds, coldwater streams, and the shallow Inner Bay. It is a world-renowned refuge and stopover for migrating birds in fall and spring, and waterfowl viewing is excellent in March and April. Its delicate dunes and marshes teem with songbirds, spawning fish, turtles and frogs.



The Southern Norfolk sand plains that lie immediately to the north of Long Point are well-known for their rich agricultural lands, tallgrass prairie and oak savanna remnants, wetlands and forests. Farmers, woodlot owners and other rural property owners living here take great pride in practicing sound land stewardship practices and value the interaction they have with the biodiversity in this special part of Ontario.

Within the watershed that feeds Long Point Bay are also found the finest examples of Canada's remaining Carolinian forest, including Backus Woods,



St. Williams Conservation Reserve, Spooky Hollow, Rowanwood, the South Walsingham sand ridges and the Big Creek floodplain, as well as numerous privately owned and managed woodlots. Arguably, the highest biodiversity of plants and animals anywhere in our country occurs here, including the threatened Eastern Fox Snake and Hooded Warbler, and the endangered American Badger.



The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation promotes research, monitoring, community outreach and education, partnerships, and projects that support the goals of biodiversity, conservation and sustainable communities in the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve. We exchange information and work collaboratively with the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association, as well as other biosphere reserves in Canada and around the world. Our UNESCO/MAB Biosphere Reserve designation does not bring with it any new authorities over lands, water or resources.

Our Board of Directors consists of volunteers that share the vision and objectives of the Foundation. They represent a broad spectrum of professions, including local business people, farmers, foresters, biologists, engineers, nurses, teachers, writers, civil servants, retirees and others.

Organizations, as well as individuals, are invited to join the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation which is incorporated as a charitable organization. The support, both moral and financial, of all those in harmony with the Biosphere Reserve concept is deeply appreciated. Membership information is available on our website.

MISSION

The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation is dedicated to conserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable communities, and partnering in research, monitoring, outreach and education.



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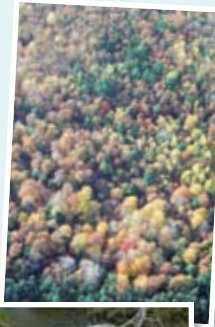


Biosphere Reserves are important ecosystems that are internationally recognized by the United Nations Environmental, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) "Man and Biosphere" (MAB) program. They serve as a demonstration of areas where communities combine conservation of biodiversity with sustainable community development.

The more than 500 biosphere reserves found in over 100 countries are not covered by any international convention and remain under sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.

Each biosphere reserve is intended to fulfill three basic functions, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing:

- A **conservation function** - to contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species biodiversity and genetic variation;
- A **development function** - to foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- A **logistic function** - to provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local, national and global issues of conservation and development.



Projects On The Go...

Long Point Causeway Improvement Project

The Causeway is 3.5 kilometre link between Long Point Peninsula on Lake Erie and mainland southern Ontario. This stretch of road is known as the fourth deadliest for reptiles in North America, including species at risk such as the Blanding's Turtle and the Eastern Fox Snake, as well as thousands of frogs and toads. The LPWBRF, along with numerous other organizations, oversee the multi-million dollar community project, with a goal of significantly reducing wildlife mortality along the Causeway; improving water quality and water movement between Big Creek



Marsh and Long Point Inner Bay; creating safer roadway conditions for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians; and improving recreational opportunities, such as cycling, birding, and fishing. (For more information on the Causeway Improvement Project visit www.longpointcauseway.com)



Community Outreach and Education

The LPWBRF partners with other organizations to deliver workshops and conferences consistent with the objectives of the Foundation. The Building a Sustainable Norfolk Community Conference, held in Simcoe in 2006, attracted 200 participants. We have coordinated workshops on sustainable tourism, promoting local agriculture, land stewardship practices, and naturalized gardening. Other activities include biodiversity camps for youth, tree planting with high school students, and educational displays at various venues and events throughout Norfolk County.

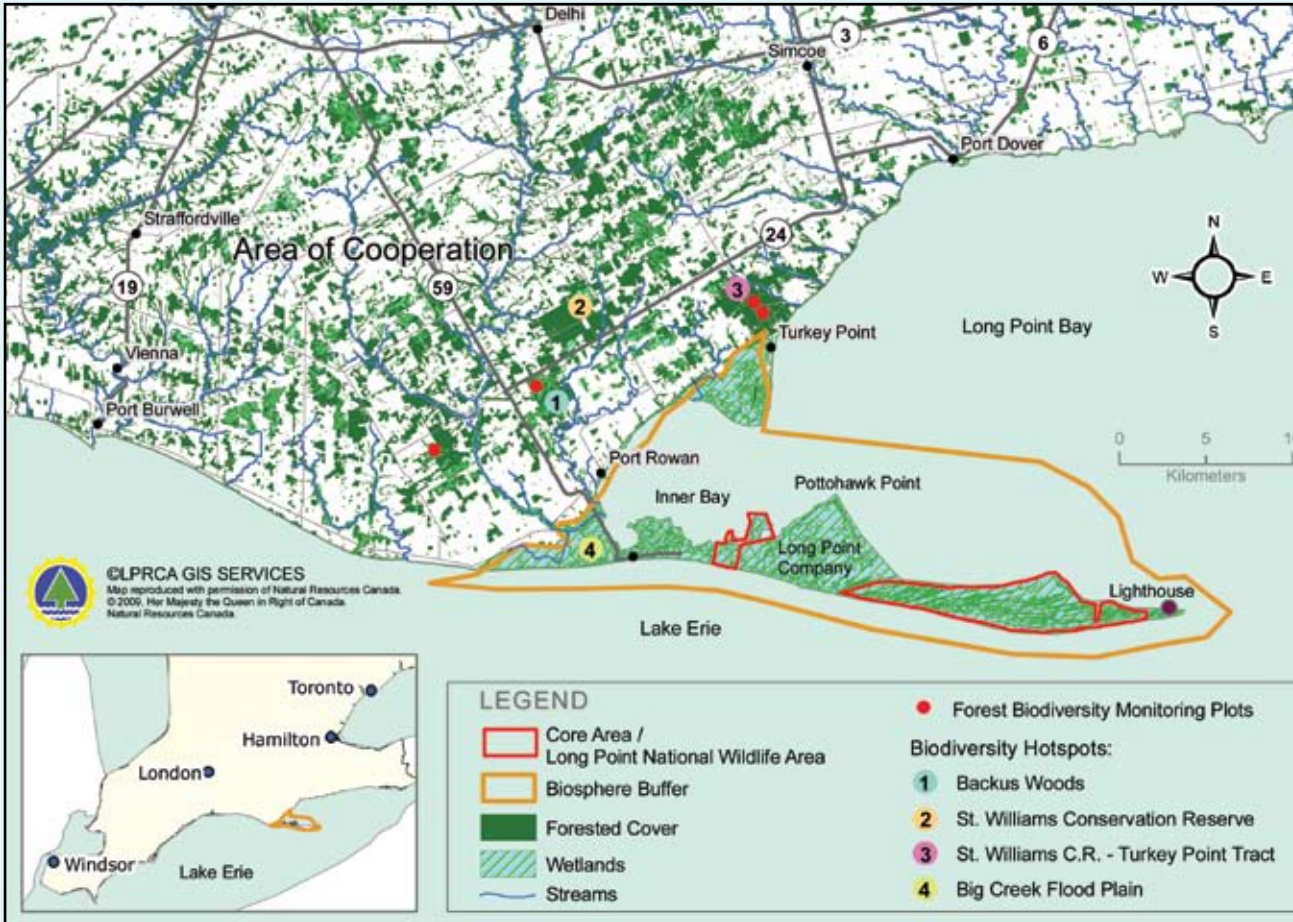


Kids for Turtles

In 2009 the youth environmental education organization, Kids for Turtles Environmental Education (KFT), granted the LPWBRF a Long Point-Norfolk Chapter. Our committee of



Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs



local educators and naturalists is addressing "nature deficit disorder" in our youth by engaging them in preserving natural habitats and protecting the many species that live in these habitats. We provide an opportunity for kids and their families to interact with nature in a positive learning environment and participate in local conservation projects. KFT is a non-profit organization with registered charitable status.

(For more information or to volunteer email kidsforturtles@lpwbrf.ca)

helped retire fragile agricultural lands, provided wetland habitat, and increased biodiversity.



Forest Biodiversity Monitoring

This is a long-term project supported by Environment Canada's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) and the Smithsonian Institution. Using a consistent method, biodiversity indicator (e.g. salamanders, trees, shrubs) data is collected and contributed to EMAN and the Smithsonian's global networks. Permanent plots are located at Backus Woods, the Wilson Tract, Turkey Point Provincial Park and Spooky Hollow. This information allows scientists to monitor landscape response to climate changes and other environmental stresses.



Sustainable Tourism Project

Initiated in 2009, the Long Point and Area Sustainable Tourism Project is partnering with Brock University, Norfolk County and other partners to develop local, low-impact eco-tourism opportunities that support the Parks Canada and the Tourism Industry Association of Canada's definition of sustainable tourism: "Tourism which actively fosters appreciation and stewardship of the natural, cultural and historic resources and special places by local residents, the tourism industry, governments and visitors. It is tourism which can be sustained over the long term because it results in a net benefit for the social, economic, natural and cultural environments of the area in which it takes place."



Forest Corridor Project

The Forest Corridor-Carbon Sequestration Project is a partnership between LPWBRF, Ontario Power Generation's Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Project and the Long Point Region Conservation Authority. Since 2001, over 700 acres of natural habitat has been restored and 800,000 trees, nuts, and cuttings, including Carolinian forest, oak savanna, and enhanced natural fencerows, have been planted. This project has reduced forest fragmentation, added wildlife corridors between natural areas, improved wildlife habitat,

