



Norfolk County

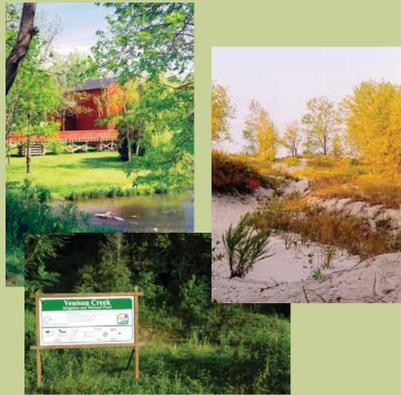
Norfolk County is a municipality on the north shore of Lake Erie in southwestern Ontario and is home to 61,000 residents. It was formed on January 1, 2001 when the former Town of Simcoe, townships of Delhi and Norfolk and part of the City of Nanticoke amalgamated. Neighbouring counties include Elgin, Oxford, Brant and Haldimand.

Norfolk County provides a mix of urban and rural life. Highway 3, known as the Detroit-Buffalo corridor, passes through the municipality with highways 24 and 59 connecting this corridor to highways 401 and 403. Norfolk's economy is varied - from strong agri-business enterprises and manufacturing - to tourist resort communities. Norfolk County also includes several internationally, nationally and provincially significant natural areas including the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve, Big Creek National Wildlife Area and the Backus Woods Conservation Area.

Norfolk County provides many municipal services to its residents through a wide variety of projects and programs; these include community, social, recreational, environmental, engineering, drainage, roads, health and financial services.

Norfolk County Environmental Advisory Committee

The Norfolk County Environmental Advisory Committee (NEAC) is a committee of Norfolk County Council that was formed in the Fall of 2002. NEAC advises and assists Norfolk County in land use planning matters pertaining to the preservation, conservation, restoration and enhancement of the County's natural environment. By doing so, NEAC helps people understand the importance of these valuable ecological functions and features so that the County's residents can continue to enjoy the local environment for generations to come. NEAC also provides advice and comment to the County's Planning and Economic Development Department on certain development proposals and applications, as well as, environmentally related policy issues. Additionally, NEAC can be proactive in identifying matters important to Norfolk County. NEAC meets on the second Wednesday of every month and committee members are volunteers appointed by Council for 3-year terms.



Long Point Region Conservation Authority

Working with Local Communities and Partners

The Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) is a community-based environmental management agency that protects local ecosystems in partnership with its member municipalities and the Province of Ontario. For more than 50 years, it has spearheaded grassroots environmental efforts to help achieve a healthy environment within the Long Point Region watershed. During this time, significant achievements have been made in flood control, natural area protection, environmental planning, erosion control, water quantity and quality, as well as, the provision of conservation areas for educational and recreational use. Today, the LPRCA works with our local communities and many other partners to achieve the conservation, restoration, development and responsible management of our water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs. We do this by implementing programs that:

- Protect life and property from flood and erosion
- Protect, manage and restore natural areas
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities
- Ensure that lands and waters are properly safeguarded

Within Norfolk County, the Conservation Authority has designated 11 significant forest tracts (1933 acres) as Natural Heritage Woodlands, based on criteria that evaluated natural heritage values and assessed the status of species and habitats. This approach to forest management identifies opportunities and actions for protecting significant natural heritage features within specific LPRCA forest properties. The Natural Heritage Woodlands represent twenty percent of the Authority's total forest holdings.

LPRCA's holdings also include the Backus Heritage Conservation Area (BHCA). This 210-acre facility blends Norfolk's natural and cultural heritage. Aside from wooded trails, the nationally recognized 1798 grist mill, a conservation education centre and the heritage village - BHCA offers numerous exhibits and special events to entertain and inform visitors of all ages.



Norfolk Field Naturalists

Celebrating Over 40 Years of Nature Appreciation, Conservation and Education

The Norfolk Field Naturalists (NFN) are a community-based, non-profit organization founded in 1962. The group is dedicated to the study, appreciation and conservation of Norfolk's natural world and beyond. NFN members participate in monthly meetings from September to May. Guest speakers present programs on various aspects of natural history at each meeting. The NFN also organizes field trips throughout the year. There are also Family Field Naturalist events designed to inform and entertain all ages. Members also receive the Lotus, a bi-monthly newsletter with important information and interesting stories on the natural environment.

NFN members have also been very active on recovery teams for various species in Norfolk County. These include groups to protect the American Chestnut, Karner Blue butterfly, Barn Owl and Tallgrass Prairie. The NFN also supports local bird monitoring, promotes roadside tree plantings, tracks snakes, surveys butterflies and fundraises for various environmental programs throughout this region.



Long Point Foundation for Conservation

Supporting Environmental Projects in Norfolk

The Long Point Foundation for Conservation is a local charity that is making a difference by funding regional environmental projects. Community volunteers give generously of their time in order to contribute to a variety of local conservation efforts. The Foundation develops programs that enable people to support environmental, outdoor education and heritage conservation projects in the Long Point Region watershed. Thanks to the generous support of corporations, individuals and like-minded organizations, the Long Point Foundation's programs are making an impact in improving Norfolk's environment. Since 1982, the Foundation has worked in partnership with the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and other agencies to help improve and preserve the watershed's natural and cultural environments. Today, the Long Point Foundation for Conservation continues its strong tradition of helping fund projects that support a healthy watershed.



The Norfolk Federation of Agriculture

Improving the economic and social well-being of Norfolk County's farmers

The Norfolk Federation of Agriculture (NFA) serves farmers in the County by promoting their industries, as well as, the stewardship of public resources on their land. The NFA acts as a messenger, delivering the viewpoints of affiliated commodity groups and members within the County to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture for action. In turn, the NFA interprets Federation policy for its members in Norfolk.

The NFA works cooperatively with all County organizations, commodity groups and rural farm organizations in order to improve agriculture throughout the region and Ontario. It also helps gather and pass along information and services beneficial to its members.

In Norfolk County, the NFA and the Norfolk Land Stewardship Council (NLSC) have taken the lead in developing and promoting the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Pilot Project - an initiative to promote conservation of natural areas on farms, enhance wildlife habitats and convert marginal farmland to produce environmental benefits.

Norfolk Land Stewardship Council

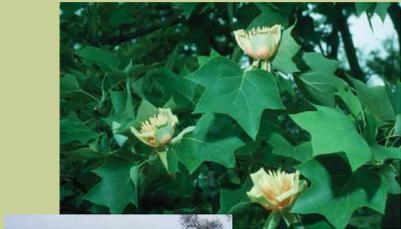
People Working Together to Advance Land Stewardship

Established in 1995, the Norfolk Land Stewardship Council (NLSC) is one of 41 community stewardship councils across this province formed under the Ontario Stewardship program (OS) of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). This program is currently expanding to Northern Ontario and is based on people working together to advocate and implement resource stewardship on private and public lands.

The NLSC has between 8 and 15 members, a majority of which makes their living from the land and have an interest in both conservation and land care. They represent landowners and land interests in Norfolk County and volunteer their time out of concern for local land stewardship issues. The aim of the group is to promote land stewardship designed to protect and enhance resources like air, water, soil, forests and wildlife. The NLSC respects private land ownership and works with the community to pool available resources to help people help themselves.

The NLSC works to locate and make available to landowners information on stewardship projects, programs, services and grants. Public forums are held to promote compatibility between man and nature. As well, the NLSC is an advocate for the Norfolk community on stewardship issues and helps by initiating pilot projects along with other activities.

The NLSC holds regular meetings open to the public, on the third Tuesday of each month (except July, August and December), starting at 7:00 pm and located in the auditorium of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Simcoe Resource Centre. OMAFRA is an important partner of NLSC as it not only provides free space for regular meetings, but also provides the auditorium for NLSC events, as well as, a stewardship coordinator who answers to the community of Norfolk through the stewardship council.



Long Point World Biosphere

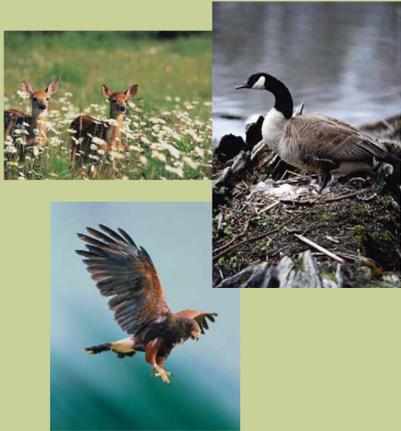
Promoting Sustainability - Social, Economic & Environmental

A biosphere is an area of ecological significance such as Tanzania's Serengeti Plains or Ecuador's Galapagos Islands. Altogether there are 482 biospheres in 102 countries around the world that are internationally recognized for promoting and demonstrating a balanced relationship between people and nature. Each biosphere is a symbol of voluntary cooperation to conserve and use resources for the well being of people globally.

In 1986, the Long Point World Biosphere (LPWB) was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO - Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)) as a biosphere that represents a unique geographical place in the world - a great lakes coastal ecosystem. The LPWB includes the Long Point National Wildlife Area as one of the core protected areas where species of plants and animals are preserved. However, a biosphere is more than a protected area. It also includes the surrounding watershed as the zone of co-operation where local citizens strive for a balance between conservation and economic development - a balance that will help to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

The LPWB is blessed with vibrant agricultural, industrial, and service communities, and one of the finest examples of Carolinian forest to be found in Canada. Many organizations, agencies and landowners in the Biosphere are working together with the Directors of the LPWB to conserve and restore the region's Carolinian forest. Norfolk County's forest is home to over 50 vulnerable, threatened or endangered species of which some are found nowhere else in Canada.

Ontario Power Generation has provided the LPWB with financial assistance to plant almost half a million trees on private and public lands. These trees provide habitat for plants and animals, connect forested lands, and help reduce global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the air. The Long Point Region Conservation Authority supervises the planting of the native tree species using the most up-to-date designs, methods and composition of species under the guidance of an expert advisory committee consisting of representatives from Norfolk County, Norfolk Field Naturalists, and Carolinian Canada among others. This is only one example of a partnership project benefiting the Norfolk community. The LPWB Members and Directors are proud to work together with other organizations and agencies to promote research, monitoring, education, conservation and development that addresses the challenges of today without compromising the needs of future generations.



Canadian Wildlife Service - Environment Canada

Providing Science to Support Conservation Actions

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), part of Environment Canada, handles wildlife matters that are the responsibility of the federal government. These include protection and management of migratory birds, nationally significant habitat and endangered species, as well as, work on other wildlife issues of national and international importance. In addition, CWS does research in many fields of wildlife biology. This research provides the science base for CWS's conservation actions. In Norfolk, CWS manages the Long Point and Big Creek national wildlife areas covering (9000 acres or 3642 hectares).

To maintain optimum populations of migratory waterfowl, various field surveys are conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other organizations. Hunters are also asked to get involved by answering a questionnaire about the number of birds killed and by sending in duck wings and goose tails. By examining the wings and tails, biologists can determine the age and number of each kind of bird taken in a given year.

CWS also coordinates an annual national survey of breeding non-game birds, mainly songbirds. Each year since 1968, on early June mornings, volunteers record the breeding birds present along prescribed routes. Annual changes in numbers and long-term population trends are valuable indicators of environmental change not only in Norfolk County, but all of Canada.

CWS also plays a prominent role in the protection of species at risk most significantly through the development and promotion of the adoption of the Species at Risk Act (SARA). This act, which came into effect in 2003, protects species from extinction and their critical habitat from disappearance, as well as, ensures their recovery.

Carolinian Canada

Protecting the Uniqueness of Norfolk and other Natural Areas



Carolinian Canada is a non-profit coalition of over 40 government and non-government conservation groups, as well as, many individuals working to conserve the ecological diversity of Canada's most threatened natural region. Members include the Canadian Botanical Association, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Stewardship, conservation authorities, federal and provincial departments and ministries, and other groups.

For over 20 years, Carolinian Canada has worked with landowners, local groups and partners from agriculture, forestry, education, planning and other sectors to enrich all life in this environmentally-significant area. Norfolk is in the heart of the Carolinian zone, a region extending from Toronto in the east to Grand Bend in the west - and south to Lake Erie's northern shoreline. The Carolinian zone is a wealth of natural diversity. Towering Tulip trees, luxurious Magnolia, the fascinating southern Flying Squirrel, the beautiful Fox Snake and tiny treasures such as the Spicetush Swallowtail - these and many hundreds of other fascinating and unique species make their home here in Carolinian Canada. These featured species are important in that they help filter air and water, regenerate soils and provide endless opportunities for resources, recreation and relaxation.

Carolinian Canada strives for a healthy, balanced and sustainable landscape for the benefit of wild and human communities. From 1984 to 1994, Carolinian Canada funded land acquisition and stewardship projects directed at conserving 38 critical environmental areas across the region. These programs resulted in private landowners agreeing to conserve over 15000 acres and acquisition of another 2000 acres by conservation groups. Public education and scientific studies were also undertaken.

Today, Carolinian Canada promotes innovative and comprehensive ways to conserve the zone's natural features. One such approach, the "Big Picture" project, is a state-of-the-art combination of conservation science and computerized mapping used to identify different natural areas across the entire Carolinian zone. Norfolk County is part of this pilot project that will produce a long-term vision for a healthy landscape that everyone can enjoy.

Ministry of Natural Resources

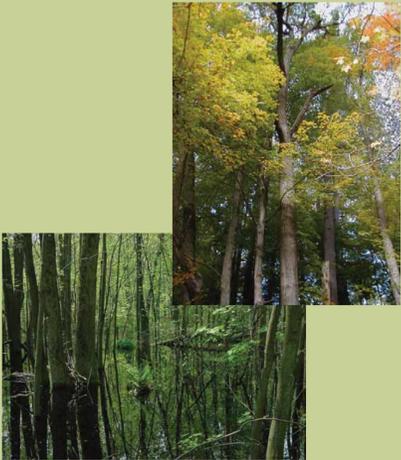
Promoting Healthy, Sustainable Ecosystems

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is the steward of Ontario's provincial parks, forests, fisheries, wildlife, mineral resources, as well as, Crown lands and waters that make up 87 per cent of the province. This is a major responsibility which MNR manages through a diverse legislative mandate and an array of programs aimed at meeting the needs of numerous stakeholders.

MNR's vision for Ontario's natural resources includes safeguarding the many vital contributions that these resources make to people's lives. As a ministry, MNR is working to promote healthy, sustainable ecosystems and the resource economies and communities that depend on them. The Ministry works to conserve biodiversity, protect greenspace, ensure sustainable forestry, support renewable energy, protect source water and enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation.

In Norfolk County, one initiative that highlights MNR's commitment to enhancing the local environment is the Wetland Drain Restoration Project which uses the Drainage Act to modify existing drains in order to restore wetlands and their associated functions and benefits - thus improving the quality and quantity of water supplies available to the farming community and wildlife.

In the St. Williams Conservation Reserve, MNR has worked to protect and preserve the unique biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage features of the landscape, while permitting traditional public land uses that are compatible with natural heritage protection - demonstrating that nature and humankind can coexist.



Ducks Unlimited Canada

Committed to wetland conservation for more than 65 years

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)-a national, private, non-profit organization is Canada's Conservation Company. It is a responsibility DUC does not take lightly. DUC is active in every province and territory in Canada and is certainly easily recognized by its familiar "duck head" logo. From volunteers at DUC fundraisers, to landowners working to conserve habitat, to scientists knee-deep in environmental and wetland research - wetland conservation is what DUC is all about.

But despite the efforts of DUC and its many partners, wetland loss continues across Norfolk and the rest of Canada. As much as 70 per cent of Canada's original wetlands have been lost in some areas of the country. To reverse this trend, DUC has developed a multi-faceted approach to its conservation efforts. This strategy includes:

- on-the-ground wetland and environmental research by DUC's scientists;
- fundraising events;
- volunteer opportunities;
- working hand-in-hand with landowners to make land-use more sustainable and profitable;
- conserving wetlands and associated habitats through charitable donations and long-term/permanent land-use agreements;
- encouraging policies that favour wetland and habitat conservation; and
- delivering wetland and environmental education programs to teach Canadians about wetlands and the need to conserve them.



Norfolk Environmental Advisory Committee

State of the Environment Poster



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