

CHAPTER ONE

CONCERN FOR CONSERVATION ON THE THAMES

While it was the five-day flood that began April 26, 1937, on the Thames that sparked the action to enlist the aid of the Ontario Government to help prevent such occurrences, this was by no means the first flood to have descended on the area.

The Thames Valley Report of 1946 deals at length with records of flooding on the Thames, both above and below London, dating back to April 18, 1791 and will not be repeated here except for reference to the 1937 disaster.

The flood of 1937 was the highest ever recorded on the Thames and the most destructive of life and property. Five deaths were attributed to the flood, an estimated 1,100 homes were ruined, and property damage ran to \$3,000,000. The city of London was the hardest hit.

Nearly six inches of rain fell on Southwestern Ontario in five days. On April 26 the North Branch rose 15 feet at Fanshawe, just north of London, in a few hours. The flats on this branch, including the London suburb of Broughdale and a part of North London, were all flooded. In the meantime, the South Branch had risen 13 feet nine inches in southeast London, and continued to rise for some hours after the North Branch had fallen.

During the morning of April 27 the river reached a record height of 21 feet six inches above mean summer flow, continuing at nearly the same height until afternoon. At the Douglas Avenue gauge in London, just below the confluence, the combined floods reached 17.19 feet above the bottom of the gauge, or about 23 feet above normal summer flow with the Springbank dam closed.

There was heavy damage to roads and bridges throughout the watershed above Thamesford, and in almost every case, except at St. Marys, the greater part of the damage in the municipalities was done by smaller creeks. Even at St. Marys a large part of the loss was caused by the flooding of Trout Creek.

At Stratford the flood on the Avon washed out the dam of the lake in the centre of the city. Damage to private property was

caused chiefly by Erie Creek, a small creek now flowing underground through part of the city. Damage to public and private property at Woodstock was due chiefly to the flooding of Cedar Creek. The mill dam and the highway bridge at Thamesford were damaged and a dam at Embro broken.

Near Beachville, a few miles southwest of Woodstock, a CNR passenger train charged off the undermined tracks, killing the engineer and fireman and a transient "riding the rods". Scores of passengers were injured.

An Ingersoll doctor, rushing to the derailed train to administer to the injured, was drowned when his car plunged into the Thames River after a bridge gave way. A London man was drowned when he was swept from a rescue boat.

Little wonder then that the flood-stricken people of the Thames should turn to the Provincial government for assistance. Initial leadership was given by Dr. J. Cameron Wilson and Dr. Watson Porter of London, who became the first chairman and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the Authority, and by Middlesex County Engineer Raymond Smith.

FIVE COUNTY MEETING

On June 27, 1937 a meeting of elected representatives of municipalities in the counties of Perth, Oxford, Middlesex, Elgin and Kent was held in London to consider the flood situation. Out of the meeting came a resolution to ask the Provincial government to survey the Thames Valley and the Federal and Provincial governments to undertake the early execution of measures to provide adequate and reasonable control of floods in the watershed. No concrete action was taken by the senior governments.

Years passed, but concern over flooding remained. Another meeting was convened in London on March 12, 1943, representative of the same municipalities that attended the June, 1937 meeting. Again it was resolved to ask the Provincial government to proceed with a survey without delay so as to be in a position, with the Federal government, to proceed with the work immediately on the termination of the Second World War, as part of a program of post-war rehabilitation work. Further, it was resolved to ask the Provincial government to introduce legislation to provide for a "Conservancy Act", "based on or similar to that in effect in the State of Ohio, to the end that all areas in the province having flood and water problems similar to those existing on the Thames may have available an established and recognized procedure under which relief might be obtained upon the petition of the municipalities interested or concerned."

A delegation proceeded to Toronto in support of the resolution and also suggested that legislation be enacted patterned on the Grand River Conservation Commission. That Commission, involving eight municipalities in three counties, was established by a special act of the Legislature in 1938, and its first major project was the construction of the Shand Dam. The delegation's suggestion was favorably received and, based on a hydraulic survey made for the government in 1938 by the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission, the Legislature passed the Thames River Control Act in 1943. This provided for the appointment of a Commission, naming the following as participating municipalities: the cities of London, Woodstock, Stratford and Chatham, and the towns of Ingersoll, St. Marys and Mitchell. The Act was never implemented and was nullified when the Conservation Authorities Act became law in 1946.

In the meantime a department of planning and development was established by the Provincial government on March 14, 1944. In October of that year the new government department, headed by Hon. Dana Porter, sponsored a two-day conference in London to consider a report prepared by the Engineering Institute of Canada. The report embraced data gathered on the Thames, with particular attention being paid to erosion and control of small streams. More than 300 delegates attended from all parts of Ontario and many points in the United States. The Minister, Mr. Porter, called for the fullest co-operation of technicians and public alike in river valley development. Bryce C. Browning, secretary-treasurer of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District in Ohio, outlined the program that had been started there in 1913. Resolutions were presented, urging on the government the "Establishment of a Conservation Authority for Ontario" and "An inventory of ground water supplies in the Province." That London conference has frequently been called the "Cradle of the Conservation Authorities movement in Ontario", because it was following the conference that the Minister finally decided to form a conservation branch within his department.

SURVEY AUTHORIZED

Mr. Porter introduced a bill in the Legislature in 1945 that was to become the Conservation Authorities Act, but when the Legislature was dissolved suddenly the bill was held over until 1946. Although he had previously indicated to the Thames people that a conservation survey would not be made until an Authority was formed, the Minister, in view of the delay in passing the act, authorized an Upper Thames survey in 1945, the first of its kind in the province.

The survey was carried out under the direction of Dr. A. H. Richardson, chief conservation engineer of the Department of

Planning and Development. The survey party had its headquarters in a camp near Lakeside.

Dr. Richardson's report was presented to the Minister in July, 1946 and was unveiled at a meeting in London on October 25. The report covered such subjects as land use, forestry, hydraulics, wildlife, and recreation. Recommendations included the construction of flood control dams and farm ponds, channel improvement schemes, restoration of mill ponds and community ponds, purchase of swampland for impounding water and other land for reforestation, preservation of historic sites and buildings, improvement of fishing facilities and better methods for the preservation of wildlife, land erosion and water pollution control, provision for recreation facilities such as boating, swimming, group and individual camping, nature trails, picnicking and scenic drives.

The meeting was described in the press as probably the most significant in the long history of efforts to tame the Thames and protect the district's future richness. Explaining the procedure for forming an Authority Mr. Porter said that at least two municipalities must make application, through the Department of Public Works, for a meeting to establish such a body. London and St. Marys fulfilled this requirement by November 9. A steering committee, headed by Dr. Watson Porter, worked diligently during the winter months laying plans for an organization meeting. Though the Richardson report dealt only with the Upper Thames, the committee felt that municipalities on the Lower Thames should be invited to participate.

The meeting was held in London on May 27, 1947, attended by representatives of municipalities along the whole stretch of the Thames, from its source areas in Oxford and Perth, to its mouth in Dover Township, downstream from Chatham. The vote on a resolution to form an over-all Authority was 28 in favor and 26 against. The proposal was declared defeated since the Act of 1946 required that two-thirds of the delegates be in favor before an Authority could be formed. Kent County delegates tried in vain to forestall the vote until a survey of the Lower Thames had been made.

The idea of an Authority for the whole Thames now seemed to be dead. A second look at the 28 to 26 vote, however, showed that most of the delegates from the Upper Thames, in Middlesex, Oxford and Perth had voted in favor, while all except three in the Lower Thames area, in Kent and Elgin, had voted against. Favorable votes were cast by Thamesville village and Dunwich and Lobo townships. The Upper Thames people determined to go it alone and requested the government to call another meeting. It was held in St. Marys on August 14, 1947.

Thirty-one delegates attended the meeting, representing 27 municipalities. They voted 24 to 7 to ask the Ontario government to establish an Upper Thames Conservation Authority, to include the city of London and all the watershed upstream from London. As a result of this request the government, by Order in Council passed on September 18, 1947 created the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. The organization meeting was held in Stratford on October 20. It was the sixth Authority to be formed under the Act of 1946.

At the St. Marys meeting Stratford and Woodstock had two votes each and London had three. The other municipalities had one each. The 24 votes in favor included the seven from the three cities, plus the votes of the single delegates from the urban municipalities of Ingersoll, St. Marys and Mitchell, and from the townships of Biddulph, Blanshard, Blandford, Dereham, North Dorchester, Fullarton, London, East and West Nissouri, East and West Oxford, East and West Zorra and Westminster.

The seven delegates opposed represented the townships of Delaware, Downie, South Easthope, Ellice, Logan and North Oxford, and the village of Embro.

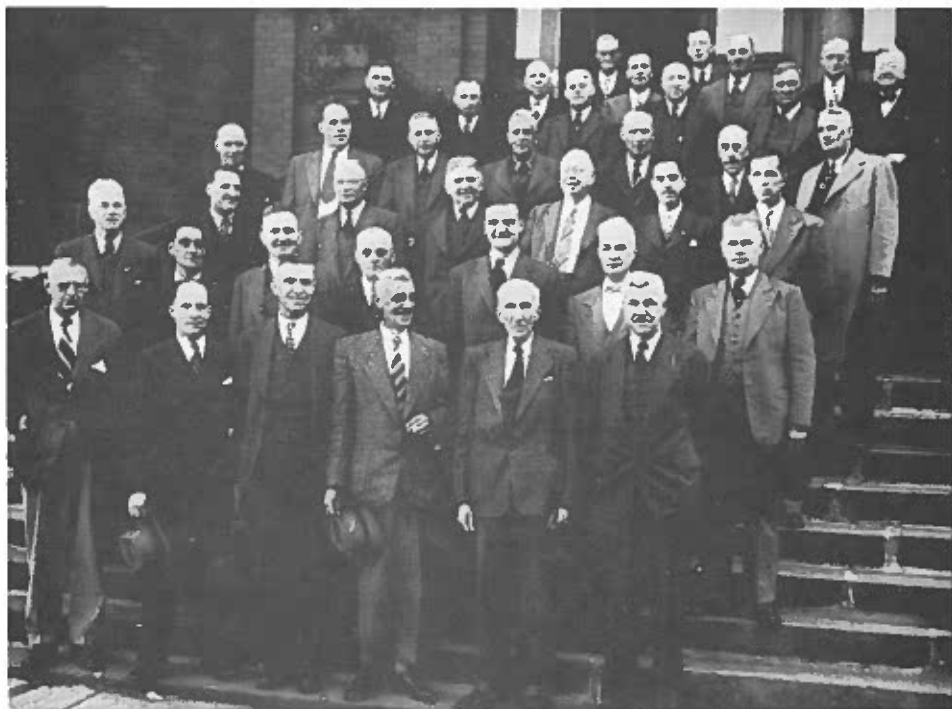
The townships of Lobo and North Easthope and the village of Tavistock were not represented at the meeting and Downie had a change of heart, having voted in favor of an Authority at the London meeting.

ORGANIZATION MEETING

Dr. Richardson, who became the Authority's first chief officer, and who continued in that capacity until 1960, presided at the organization meeting. L. R. Graham, Stratford's city clerk, acted as secretary. Thirty municipalities became members.

The first officers and executive members elected were: Chairman, Dr. J. Cameron Wilson, London; vice chairman R. Thomas Orr, Stratford; secretary-treasurer, Dr. Watson H. Porter, London; Executive: Middlesex, E. A. Boug (London), William Goddard (London Township), Frank Annett (West Nissouri), Lorne Shackleton (North Dorchester); Oxford, J. A. Lewis (Woodstock), P. M. Sage (West Oxford), Gordon Ross (East Zorra), Milton Betteridge (East Nissouri); Perth, John G. Bell (St. Marys), Dr. G. H. Jose (Blanshard), William A. Tuer (Fullarton), Michael Messerschmidt (Ellice).

Other Authority charter members were: Blandford, Oscar Sippel; Biddulph, Joseph E. Bryan; Delaware, Orville Kennedy; Dereham, LeRoy Curtis; Downie, David S. McKay; North Easthope, Joseph E.



This picture was taken October 20, 1947 on the city hall steps at Stratford, the day the Authority was formally organized. From left to right: FRONT ROW: Dr. A. H. Richardson, Toronto, chief officer; N. A. Bradford, London; G. Lorne Shackleton, North Dorchester; Dr. J. Cameron Wilson, London, chairman; R. Thomas Orr, Stratford, vice-chairman; Roy Garrett, London city engineer. SECOND ROW: Dr. R. S. Murray, Stratford; William Goddard, London Township; Charles M. Kirk, Westminster Township; Frank Annett, West Nissouri Township; J. Maurice King, mayor of Stratford; J. A. Lewis, Woodstock; H. G. McKay, Lobo Township. THIRD ROW: J. G. Bell, St. Marys; Milton Betteridge, East Nissouri Township; George A. Wenige, mayor of London; J. A. Saunders, Woodstock; Reginald Cooper, London city clerk; H. A. Cook, Mitchell. FOURTH ROW: Osmond Murray, West Zorra; Gordon W. Pittock, Ingersoll; E. A. Boug, London; James Smith, Middlesex County engineer; Fred Ahrens, Logan Township; John Rose, North Easthope Township; Alex. Anderson, South Easthope Township. FIFTH ROW: James Calder, North Easthope Township; John A. Wallace, East Oxford Township; Oscar Sippel, Blandford Township; LeRoy Curtis, Dereham Township; Gordon Ross, East Zorra Township; Michael Messerschmidt, Ellice Township; Wilfred Corp, Tavistock; William A. Tuer, Fullarton Township; Robert Clark, Embro; R. A. McDonald, Embro. SIXTH ROW: Charles Hoyle, North Dorchester Township; P. M. Sage, West Oxford Township.

Rose; South Easthope, Alex. Anderson; Embro, R. A. McDonald; Ingersoll, Gordon W. Pittock; Lobo, Harold G. McKay; Logan, Fred W. Ahrens; London, Norman A. Bradford; Mitchell, H. A. Cook; East Oxford, John A. Wallace; North Oxford, James Calder; Stratford, Dr. R. S. Murray; Tavistock, Wilfred Corp; Westminster, Charles M. Kirk; Woodstock, J. A. Saunders, West Zorra, Osmond Murray.

Of the original group, seven are still members of the Authority: Bell, Bradford, Bryan, Kirk and Wallace continuously; Cook and Goddard, returning after periods of retirement.

MEMBERSHIP INCREASED

Since the Authority was formed two municipalities have been added, bringing the total to 32. Usborne Township, in Huron County, requested admission in 1954 because some landowners in the township wanted to take advantage of the Authority's assistance policy for building farm ponds. Usborne, along with Hibbert Township, in Perth County, had been invited to attend some of the early meetings at which the formation of an Authority was being discussed, but were dropped from the list of interested municipalities because each township had only a small area draining into the Thames. Beachville, in Oxford County, became a member in 1962, upon incorporation as a village.

In 1961 the Provincial government appointed three members, Harry Duffin, R. R. 4 Thorndale; F. L. Jenkins, London and David White, St. Marys, bringing to 40 the number of members on the Authority. They were elected to the executive in 1967.

Members of the executive in the 20th anniversary year of 1967 were: Chairman, N. A. Bradford, London; vice chairman, Robert Rudy, Tavistock; J. G. Bell, St. Marys; J. Wilson Brown, Fullarton; J. E. Bryan, Biddulph; H. J. Collins, Woodstock; T. J. Dolan, Stratford; Gordon Hotham, Delaware; Charles M. Kirk, Westminster; C. M. Riddle, North Oxford; John A. Stephen, Blanshard; J. Grant Sutherland, East Nissouri and the three government representatives, R. D. McCall was director of operations; G. W. Kelly, secretary-treasurer and Rex H. Bishop, parks superintendent.

Other Authority Members in 1967: Ross Edwards, Beachville; W. A. Chesney, Blandford; Carl Sackrider, Dereham; K. W. Martin, North Dorchester; Alister McIntosh, Downie; Donald McTavish, North Easthope; H. A. Lowe, South Easthope; Wilbert Herman, Ellice; J. D. Hossack (January-April), Karl Osterberg, Embro; T. J. Morrison (January-August), J. F. Stares, Ingersoll; Lorne E. Vail, Lobo; W. A. Chaffe, Logan; Dr. Wilfrid Jury,

W. E. Dyer Jr., F. H. Flitton, London; W. J. Goddard, London Township; H. A. Cook, Mitchell; Cecil Glass, West Nissouri; J. A. Wallace, East Oxford; A. D. Robinson, West Oxford; J. D. Douglas (January-March), G. L. Mavity, Stratford; C. A. Smith, Usborne; J. F. Hutchison, Woodstock; W. J. McDonald, East Zorra; Evan Sutherland, West Zorra.

Members of the Authority are responsible for policy making, adoption of schemes, and the raising of funds to carry out conservation programs. There may be several full Authority meetings a year, depending on the business at hand.

A system of advisory boards was established in 1948, and these vary in number and name depending on circumstances. Members of the Authority serve on one or more of these boards. Chairmen of the advisory boards make up the executive, together with the chairman, vice chairman and government representatives. Between meetings of the full Authority, business is conducted by the executive committee. Technical work is supervised by the director of operations and business administration is directed by the secretary-treasurer. Sub-committees, for specific tasks, are named when the need arises. Complete reports by the Authority officers and advisory board chairmen are made to the annual meeting.

FINANCING

The Authority is financed by a per capita levy, based on assessment and population, on its 32 member municipalities; grants for general conservation work and recreational development from the Province of Ontario and assistance for major flood control and water conservation schemes from the Government of Canada, paid through the province. The remainder of the Authority's budget is derived from revenue-producing projects, such as the recreation areas at Fanshawe and Wildwood.

At its organization meeting in 1947 the Authority sanctioned an interim budget of \$1,000 for administrative purposes, which was assessed against the member municipalities. In March, 1948 a budget for that year of \$10,000 for administration and conservation services, was approved. By comparison, the levy for 1967 was \$81,490, reflecting the increasing costs of these services. In 1952 the province acceded to an Authority request for dollar for dollar grants for general conservation work.

In 1956 the province increased grants from 50 to 75 per cent toward engineering costs on small dam projects, and in 1965 offered 75 per cent grants toward the regular program of maintenance on flood control structures. Where works qualify under the Emergency Water Supply Reservoirs program the province also pays 75 per cent of the cost.

It should be noted that the annual levies against the municipalities were for administration and conservation purposes only. In the case of large projects the Authority's share of the cost was levied against the directly benefitting municipalities, except on the Wildwood and Pittock dams, where small levies were imposed on indirectly benefitting municipalities as well.

Approach to the Ontario Government is through the Conservation Authorities Branch (CAB) of the Department of Energy and Resources Management. This was not always the case. When the Upper Thames Authority was formed in 1947 it came under the Conservation Branch of the Department of Planning and Development. This department was established on March 14, 1944, under the Department of Planning and Development Act, and shortly thereafter a conservation branch was formed within the department. Dr. A. H. Richardson was transferred from the Department of Lands and Forests and made director. The P. and D. Department had a succession of five Ministers -- Hon. Dana Porter, Hon. G. A. Welsh, Hon. William Griesinger, Hon. W. K. Warrender and Hon. W. M. Nickle. During Mr. Nickle's time, the name of the department was changed, first to Department of Commerce and Development and later to Department of Economics and Development. Hon. Robert McCauley succeeded Mr. Nickel and was the Minister for a short time.

In January, 1962 the Conservation Branch was transferred to the Department of Lands and Forests, and the name of the branch was changed to the Conservation Authorities Branch to avoid confusion with other phases of conservation work which the Department of Lands and Forests undertook. The CAB remained with Lands and Forests until April, 1964. The two Ministers during that period were Hon. J. W. Spooner and Hon. A. Kelso Roberts. In April, 1964, the CAB was transferred to the Department of Energy and Resources Management, with the Hon. J. R. Simonett as Minister and A. S. L. Barnes as Director.

PROJECTS SUGGESTED

At a meeting in St. Marys on November 7, 1947 Dr. Richardson suggested five projects that might be undertaken at once by the Authority. They were: Trout Creek (Wildwood) reforestation and water storage area, near St. Marys; Cobble Hills reforestation area in East Nissouri, near Kintore; Fish Creek reforestation area on the North Branch; Mitchell dam and reservoir; Embro village dam. Mr. Orr also suggested that the Ellice Swamp be brought under the control of the Authority, terming it a key project in the watershed. It is a matter of record that some of these projects, notably Wildwood and Mitchell, did not proceed until years later. Actually the first major undertaking in the watershed was the

Ingersoll Channel improvement project, completed in 1950 at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000.

When the move to construct a dam at Wildwood was shelved in 1948, attention focused on the London area, resulting in a dam being built at Fanshawe, under a special financial arrangement with the governments of Ontario and Canada. It was completed in 1953 at a cost of nearly \$5,000,000.

Following the construction of Fanshawe Dam, the Authority had to content itself with the development of small projects, with costs shared by the Provincial government and the member municipalities. Approaches to Federal authorities for financial assistance on single projects failed to bring results.

BRIEF TO OTTAWA

In an effort to impress Ottawa, the Authority in 1954, with the assistance of the Conservation Branch, prepared a brief on flood control measures in the watershed to include dams, reservoirs and channel improvements at Glengowan, Wildwood, Thamesford, Woodstock, Cedar Creek, Mitchell and St. Marys. The cost was estimated at \$9,264,000 and the Federal government was asked to absorb 37-1/2 per cent.

Basis of the brief was a report produced by the Department of Planning and Development in 1952, at the instance of the Hon. Mr. Griesinger. This followed an Authority request in 1950 for a re-survey of the watershed in accordance with improved methods adopted by the Conservation Branch after the Second World War. The survey was carried out by Dr. Richardson in the summer of 1950. The survey party on that occasion had its headquarters near Prospect Hill.

The brief was submitted to Ottawa on May 10, 1954, but it was not until January 31, 1955 that a delegation was able to meet with the Hon. Jean Lesage, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources in the Liberal government of Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent. The meeting was arranged between Mr. Lesage and Mr. Warrender, the Provincial Minister, but the latter was unable to attend and was represented by Dr. Richardson. Other delegates were Mr. Pittock and Mr. Rudy. On hand at Ottawa to lend their support were H. O. White, M. P. for Middlesex East; R. W. Mitchell, M. P. for London and J. Waldo Monteith, M. P. for Perth.

Mr. Lesage said he felt the meeting had been most useful, but that more data was needed. He emphasized that thinking should be directed not only to flood control, but also toward conservation and water use. He added that the program had to be of national stature.



This picture was taken at the survey camp near Prospect Hill on August 3, 1950, when members of the Authority gathered to hear a progress report. From the left, Alster Clark, Harry Collins, L. N. Johnson, G. W. Pittock, H. G. McKay, Jacob Krug, Edward Wilhelm, Grant Sutherland, Wilfrid Murray, Charles Kirk, R. C. Dunn, Robert Clark, Dr. G. H. Jose, Robert Rudy, John G. Bell, Charles Cousins, Dr. J. Cameron Wilson, Michael Messerschmidt, Dr. A. H. Richardson, G. W. Roulston, William Goddard, Joseph Bryan, extreme right, R. T. Orr. The four men between Mr. Bryan and Mr. Orr have not been identified.

Despite no little prodding to obtain an answer, it was not until January 25, 1957 that Mr. Lesage announced that the government had rejected the program as of "dubious benefit". He admitted that the brief embraced a comprehensive scheme of flood control in the area, but said that the government had come to the conclusion that the economic benefits to be derived from the overall scheme did not warrant Federal financial participation. He said the conclusion was reached after examination of the cost-benefit ratio by an economic study group, based on the engineering data presented. He left the door open, however, when he told the Province if it and the Authority wished to submit additional information regarding the economic benefits the government would be glad to receive it.

Mr. Lesage's announcement was a big disappointment to the Province and the Authority, but it did not deter them from preparing, almost immediately, to take advantage of the Minister's offer to study further information. Authority members said rejection of the scheme virtually guaranteed a continual annual loss of millions of dollars to the economy of London and a vast area north of the city.

In view of the attitude of the Federal government, Mr. Nickle, as Ontario Minister of Planning and Development, announced that the province was willing to pay 50 per cent of the cost of flood control projects in the watershed, but the feeling prevailed that absorbing the other 50 per cent would cast too great a burden on the municipalities.

There was also criticism in the House of Commons. Mr. White, the member for Middlesex East, said the government gave Egyptian President Nasser a million dollars to help clear the Suez Canal and spent millions on aid programs abroad, but was unable to contribute to the completion of the Authority's program.

While the information suggested by Mr. Lesage was being prepared, the Liberal government met defeat at the polls on June 10, 1957, and a Conservative government, led by Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker, came to power.

On January 17, 1958 the Authority, with the blessing of the Ontario government, sent a delegation to Ottawa to meet with Hon. Alvin Hamilton, the new Federal Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, in support of a revised flood control brief and a new cost-benefit analysis. The estimated cost was now \$9,640,500.

Representing the Authority at the meeting with Mr. Hamilton were Messrs. Pittock, Bradford, Wallace, Kirk, Bell, Rudy, Sutherland, Brown, Stephen, Dolan and Johnson. Members of Parliament J. Waldo Monteith for Perth, Wallace Nesbitt for Oxford and W. H. A. Thomas for Middlesex, also attended.

The delegation was well received and Mr. Hamilton promised prompt consideration of the request, declaring, "You will hear from us in a matter of weeks, not months or years." The Minister offered a suggestion which injected a new consideration into the assessment of the value of flood control and conservation projects -- that of the estimated immediate and future recreational value of river works. Mr. Hamilton said he believed the value of such recreation facilities to the municipalities and to the tourist industry generally was being "vastly underestimated". This accent on recreation, despite the fact that the Federal Government did not contribute to development for recreational purposes, apart from national parks, coupled with the Minister's apparent desire for more specific and detailed figures as to actual flood damage suffered by the various affected municipalities, was of great interest to the delegation.

In an interview with a London Free Press reporter, after he had met the delegation, Mr. Hamilton said the brief was well presented, that it had endeavored to demonstrate the cost-benefit ratio, and that he would have his department officials analyze it as quickly as possible.

There seems little doubt that Mr. Hamilton did give the brief early attention but progress was impeded by the terms of the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act, passed about four years earlier. In June, 1958 Mr. Hamilton made frank acknowledgement that the Act was virtually useless and that under it Federal contributions to flood and conservation programs were almost impossible. Specifically, the Minister complained that the need to demonstrate that benefits from any given project would outweigh the cost was making the Act inoperative and hamstringing the government. Again he laid stress on the recreational benefits which, he said, might be one of the greatest of all benefit considerations.

THE BIG BREAK

The big break for the Authority's program came on November 10, 1960, when the Federal government, having amended the Act, agreed to pay 37-1/2 per cent.

It had been a long wait since 1954.

The agreement, the first under the amended Act, was signed at Fanshawe Dam on January 28, 1961 and made possible the construction of the Wildwood Dam, near St. Marys, the Gordon Pittock Dam at Woodstock, and dam and channel improvement projects at Mitchell and Stratford.

Hon. Walter Dinsdale, who succeeded Mr. Hamilton as Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, signed for the Federal government. Mr. Nickel had signed the agreement for the province in Toronto at an earlier date and was represented at the ceremony by Hon. John Robarts, Minister of Education. Mr. Pittock signed for the Authority. Other government representatives present were Federal Members of Parliament White; Monteith; Thomas; G. Ernest Halpenny, London, and from the Ontario government, W. A. Stewart, Middlesex North, John White, London and Dr. Richardson.

Speaking at the ceremony Mr. Dinsdale said that the projects planned by the Authority "will have a long-term effect on development in Western Ontario."

"The Authority", he said, "is recognized as one of the most active bodies of its kind in the Province, and its work in forest, wildlife, water and soil conservation, its erection of a unique pioneer village and the development of the Fanshawe region as a splendid recreation area, demonstrates to all Canadians what can be accomplished by a voluntary grouping of municipalities in the common cause of wise and socially rewarding conservation."



*Front row, left to right, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Pittock, Mr. Dinsdale;
back row, Mr. White, Mr. Halpenny, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Monteith, Mr. Thomas.*

UPPER THAMES WATERSHED

showing
Flood and Water Conservation Projects

LEGEND

- PROPOSED
- COMPLETED
- 1947 FLOOD AREA
- RAIN GAUGE—MANUAL
- RAIN GAUGE—RECORDING
- STREAM GAUGE—MANUAL
- STREAM GAUGE—RECORDING
- STREAM GAUGE—TELEMETER
- SNOW COURSE

