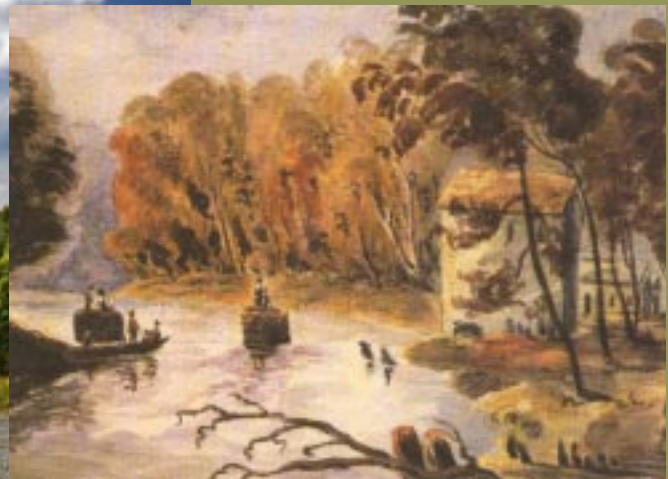


# The Thames Strategy:

Managing the Thames as a Canadian Heritage River



2000

The Canadian  
Heritage  
Rivers  
System



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*Published by:*

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## Front Cover Illustrations

*St. Marys On the Thames* 1842

George Russell Dartnell

Source: Le Pencil, Honor, 1987. Posted in Canada: *The Watercolours of George Russell Dartnell 1835-1844*. Toronto and Oxford: Dundurn Press, 2006.

(George Russell Dartnell painted several watercolours of the Thames River Valley. The painting shows the process of building the piers for the original Victoria Bridge. The town of St. Marys and the log house constructed by Thomas and James Ingersoll are also shown in the work.)

The Thames River near London. Photo by Ken Wightman, Courtesy London Free Press.

Wood Noppies (*Stylophorumiphyllum*). Photo by Jane Bowles.

# The Thames Strategy:

## Managing the Thames as a Canadian Heritage River

J a n R a r y 2 0 0 0 R

*Submitted by the*  
Thames River Coordinating Committee

*abled with the*  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board  
January, 2000

ISBN N894329-04-XN



Fishing in the Thames River near London

UTRCA



Enjoying a picnic Runch along the Avon River inR StratfordR

Richard Bain



The Battle of Longwoods, re-enacted Rch Bpring at Longwoods Road Conservation AreaR

LTVCA

# Executive Summary

The long and rich cultural heritage and diverse recreational values of Ontario's Thames River formed the basis for its nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) in 1998. Submission and acceptance of this document represents the final step in the designation process.

*The Thames Strategy* outlines how the watershed's natural, cultural and recreational features and values will be conserved and interpreted for the future. The purpose of the strategy is to guide voluntary action. It provides an opportunity for river managers, stakeholders and residents to work together to continue to conserve and revitalize the river's many values. The strategy does not override any existing policies and regulations, nor does it propose any new legislation.

Input was received from a broad range of stakeholders including individuals, groups, clubs, institutions, and agencies during the production of this document and the previous stages of the Thames River Designation Project. Some 75 people have participated in committee meetings and 50 organizations were interviewed for information and input during the writing of this document.

Managing the Thames as a Canadian Heritage River involved nurturing its values. Participants have identified the following broad goal:

- To increase the appreciation, enjoyment and stewardship of the natural and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities of the Thames River and its watershed through community cooperation and involvement.

There are a great many separate activities and efforts being made by governmental agencies and non-governmental groups in the Thames River watershed that address the above goal, although not in a formalized way. What is needed is an over-arching theme to provide common purpose and direction for these separate activities.

Designation as a Canadian Heritage River provides this common theme and its unifying influence has already been demonstrated through the strong community participation and support for river stewardship that has evolved during the Heritage River Project.

The following are the key actions needed to fulfil the goal:

## Leadership

- establish and empower a Thames Implementation Committee to act as the catalyst that sees [The Thames Strategy](#)

## Monitoring

- monitor the river's values by completed the Thames River Annual Report Checklist
- monitor the progress of The Thames Strategy every 10 years and present the results to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board

## Outreach

- host a series of workshops across the watershed inviting both non-governmental groups and government stakeholders and individuals to develop priorities and foster support for the Thames Strategy

## Education

- promote and distribute the Thames River Background Study to schools, libraries and other interested groups

## Communications

- write and distribute a regular Thames River Newsletter that includes information on local activities that promote CHRS values and facts about the river's environment, history and places of interest;
- establish a Thames River Web Site to communicate this information
- feature a regular column on the Thames in local newspapers

## Marketing

- establish and celebrate an annual Thames River Heritage Day throughout the watershed, highlighting specific river-related achievements
- erect plaques in communities explaining the designation of the Thames as a CHR;
- erect attractive signs at all major bridges over the Thames indicating it is a Canadian Heritage River;
- develop Thames River Heritage Tours that highlight various points of interest along the river
- produce a War of 1812 Daybook and/or Tour

The Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities and Thames Implementation Committee will provide leadership and guidance to ensure that the vision and work identified here continues.



Photo by Meredith McLeod, orchester ignpost.

Some of the members of the Thames River Coordinating Committee. Left to Right: Douglas Bocking, Don Pearson, Ken Matilla, Ian Wilcox, Harald Schraeder, Dan Shrubsole, Gerald Killan, Glenn Stott, Michael Koughton, Cathy K Quinlan, Ken Burch, Ked Blowes.

# Acknowledgments

The *Thames Strategy*, and all the phases leading up to it, have involved remarkable community effort, drawing on individuals, agencies, and groups from across the Thames watershed. Many people have contributed their time, talents, and support. The Thames River Coordinating Committee extends a heart-felt *thank you* to all who have played a role in this project from its initial phases, through the development of the preliminary proposal *Background Study*, Nomination Document, and, finally, *The Thames Strategy*. Letters of support were received from numerous groups, municipalities, M.P.s and M.P.P.s and these are listed in Appendix A.8

## Thames River Coordinating Committee

Douglas Bocking, Chair	London
Charles Baldwin	Ridgetown
Tim Blackburn	Delaware
Ted Howes	Sebringville
Karen Purch	London
Jerry Campbell	Chatham
Bonnie Carey	Mt. Prydges
Terry Chapman	Exeter
Rosemary Dickenson	London
Nancy Fallis	London
John Fisher	Peterborough
Neil Garber	Chatham
Dean George	Southwold
Terry Grawey	London
Brian Grimsey	Ottawa
Bryan Howard	North York
Janet Jones	Chatham
Gerald Killan	London
Dan Martin	Stratford
Don Pearson	London
Edward Plevap	London
Russ Piper	Urgessville
Doug Reycraft	Glencoe
Marcel Roelandt	Tilbury
Harald Schraeder	St. Thomas
Dan Shrubsole	London
George Simps	Chatham
Michael Troughton	London
Bill Wachsmuth	Chatham
Valerie Welsh	Chatham
Timothy Whitehead	Chatham
Ian Wilcox	St. Marys

## Background Studies & Strategy Subcommittee

Gerald Killan, Chair	London
Douglas Bocking	London
Bonnie Carey	Mt. Prydges
Dave Martin	Elmont
Jack McCallum	London
Ian McCallum	London
Karma McClenaghan	London
Andrea Quenneville	London
Cathy Quinlan	London

Cathy Rogers	ayfield
Harald Schraeder	Aylmer
Dan Shrubsole	London
Glenn Stott	Arkonap
Michael Troughton	London
Ian Wilcox	St. Marys

## Human Heritage Subcommittee

Michael Troughton, Chair	London
Mike Baker	London
Shirley Bain	Thamesville
Dan Bock	London
Andy Chisholm	London
Jim & Lisa Gilbert	Chatham
Marjorie Jackman	Thamesville
Gerald Killan	London
Ian McCallum	London
Archie McIntyre	Othwell
Bob Pearce	London
Arthur P. Pegg	Lenheim
Joseph C. Reily	Mt. Prydges
Cathy Rogers	ayfield
Glenn Stott	Arkonap
Jan Trimble	London
Timothy Whitehead	Chatham
Ian Wilcox	St. Marys

## Natural Heritage Subcommittee

Dave Martin, Chair	Elmont
Jane Howes	Thorndale
Key Dewdney	London
Vicki Hammond	London
Dave Hayman	London
Spencer Inch	London
Bob Miller	Stratford
Cathy Quinlan	London
Marcell Roelandt	Tilbury
Bill Wachsmuth	Chatham
Valerie Welsh	Chatham

## Recreation Subcommittee

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Allan Bailey	London
Georgina Pateman	Thamesville
Douglas Bocking	London
Bill Chipperfield	London
Gary Hawkins	Chatham
Jean Law	London
Karma McClenaghan	London
Archie McIntyre	Othwell
Michael Murphy	London
Russ Piper	Urgessville
Jim Riehl	Lambeth

## Communications Subcommittee

Bonnie Carey, Chair	Mt. Prydges
Karen Purch	London
Ted Howes	Sebringville
Rosemary Dickenson	London
Cindy Flegel	London
Joanna John	Lucan
Cathy Quinlan	London
Steve Sauder	St. Marys

# Funding support

The Thames River Coordinating Committee and its subcommittees would like to extend a special *thank you* to the foundations and organizations that have supported this project financially over the last four years (1996-1999). Their contributions permitted a number of things to be accomplished that moved this project forward including the hiring of staff, the production and distribution of newsletters and information packages, the publishing of reports, and community out-reach.

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 The Richard Ivey Foundation  
 The Richard and Jean Ivey Fund  
 The Walter J. Blackburn Foundation  
 Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
 Human Resources Development Canada  
 Canadian Heritage Rivers System, Parks Canada

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The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
 The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
 The University of Western Ontario, Department of Geography  
 John Fisher, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources,  
 Ontario Parks  
 Brian Grimsey, Parks Canada

The Canadian  
Heritage  
Rivers  
System



Human Resources  
Development Canada

Developpement des  
ressources humaines Canada



LONDON COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



The Richard Ivey Foundation

The Richard and Jean Ivey Fund

The Arcangelo Rea Family Foundation

THE WALTER BLACKBURN FOUNDATION

McGEACHY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

UPPER THAMES RIVER  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

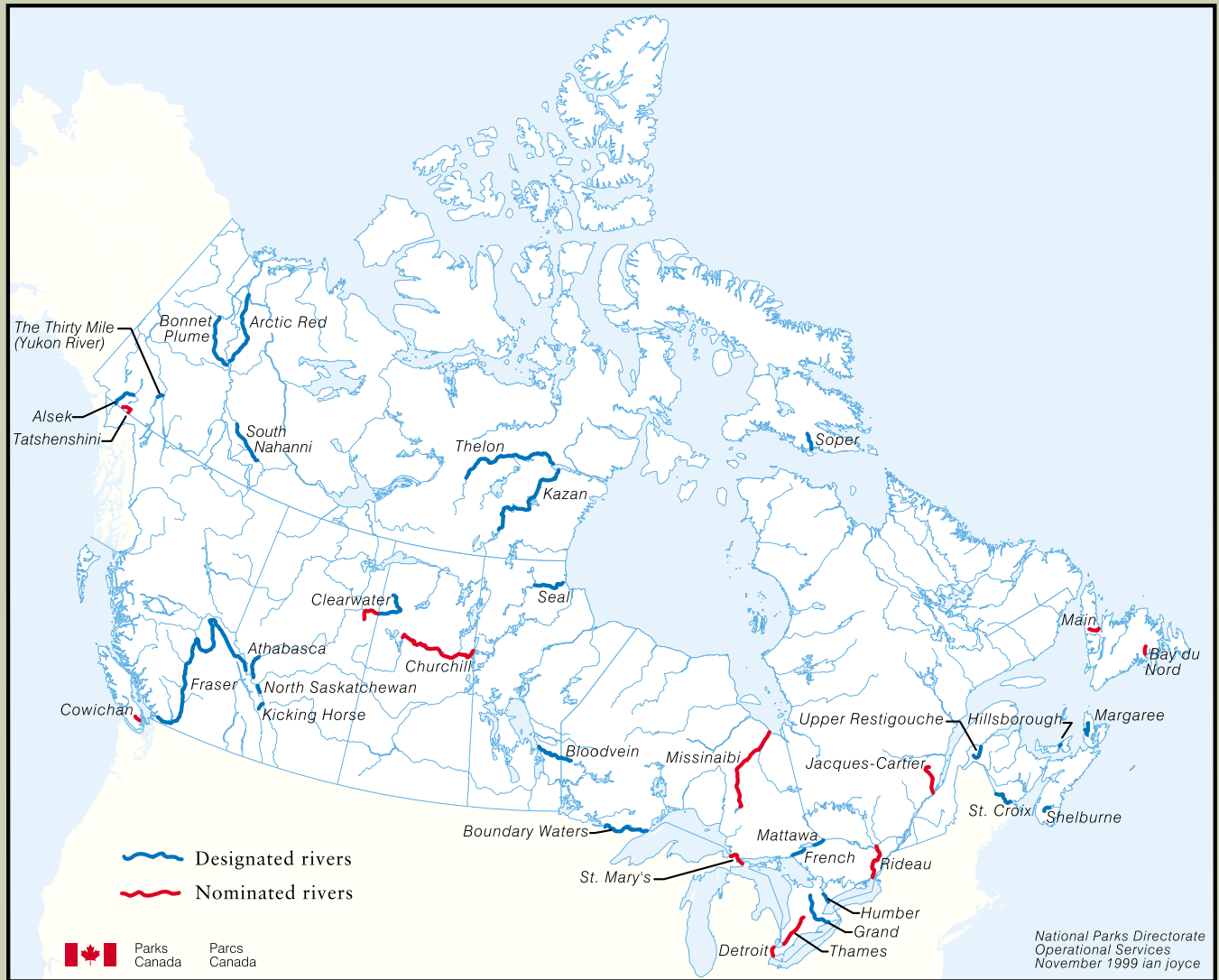




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Map 1. Canada's System of Heritage Rivers Ks of January 2000K



Paddling down the ThamesK from the London Canoe Club,K Springbank Park, London.K

# Part One

## Purpose Goals

### 1.1 Introduction

Ontario's Thames River is one of Canada's most southerly water courses. Its long and rich cultural heritage and diverse recreational values formed the basis for its nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) in 1998.

Before the river can be formally designated by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (CHRB), a management strategy must be completed. This strategy outlines how the watershed's natural, cultural and recreational features and values will be conserved and interpreted for the future and explains how its role in the CHRS will be fulfilled.

### 1.2 Goals of the CHRS

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) was established in 1984 as a cooperative federal-provincial-territorial program. Parks Canada is the lead federal agency. In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources, through Ontario Parks, supports the program and manages rivers within its jurisdiction.

The objectives of the CHRS are to give national recognition to Canada's important rivers and to ensure their future management such that:

- the natural and human heritage that they represent are conserved and interpreted; and,
- the opportunities they possess for recreation and heritage appreciation are realized by residents of and visitors to Canada.)

Participation in the CHRS is voluntary and participants retain their traditional jurisdictional powers including land ownership and management. Map 1 illustrates rivers currently in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.)

### 1.3 Role and Authority of The Thames Strategy

The purpose of the strategy is to guide actions that promote shared objectives. *The Thames Strategy* provides an opportunity for river managers, stakeholders and watershed residents to work together to continue to conserve and revitalize the river. The strategy does not override any existing policies and regulations, nor does it propose any new legislation. Rather, it outlines opportunities and goals that demonstrate the commitment of managers and stakeholders towards fulfilling the CHRS objectives.)

The strategy is advisory in nature. Because the nominating organization, the Thames River Coordinating Committee (TRCC), is comprised of volunteers and holds no management power of its own, this strategy can only advise managing agen-

cies and stakeholders on appropriate or desired future river management.

*The Thames Strategy* is both an end and a beginning. It represents the culmination of a four-year community project aimed at designating the Thames. It is also marks the beginning of a second phase—the Thames as a Canadian Heritage River.)

### 1.4 Preparing the Thames Strategy

The Thames River Coordinating Committee was formed in May 1996 to oversee the development and delivery of the various stages of the Thames River Designation Project including the preparation of the *Background Study*, *Nomination Document* and *Thames Strategy*. The TRCC and its subcommittees, some 75 people in all, have contributed their time and expertise to this project. They include representatives from The University of Western Ontario, King's College, Fanshawe College, the Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities, the Celebrate the Thames Committee, the Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society, historical societies, canoeing and rowing clubs, biological consultants, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, communities throughout the watershed, interested citizens and others. Staff were hired at various stages of the project to carry out the research, writing, and community outreach under the guidance of the committee.)

Input from this broad range of individuals has been invaluable in the production of this strategy document. The committee's philosophy has always been to involve as many stakeholders as possible. To this end, a newsletter summarizing the key components of *The Thames Strategy* was sent to every community organization and club in the watershed with an interest in natural heritage, cultural heritage or recreation, as well as government agencies and municipalities.)

An inventory of the clubs, groups, agencies and municipalities was compiled for this project. This information is summarized in a companion document entitled *The Thames River Directory: A Listing of Community Groups and Agencies with an Interest in Natural Heritage, Recreation and Cultural Heritage in the Thames River Watershed, 1999* (see Bibliography for details.)

In addition, approximately 50 groups/representatives were interviewed in person by members of the TRCC to document examples of current management efforts and to acquire more detailed insight into heritage and recreation management needs. Interviews were conducted with representatives of groups such as field naturalists, historical societies, environmental organizations, museum staff, stewardship committees, ministries, First Nations, archivists, and many others. A list of these groups is provided in Appendix B.)



The North Thames River, an ancient glacial spillway



The Forks of the Thames in the heart of London



The lower Thames meandering through the fertile plains of Kent County



Mouth of the Thames at Lighthouse Cove on Lake St. Clair

# Part

## Background

### 1.1 The Thames River Watershed

Nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System includes the entire Thames River and its watershed. The land and the river that drains it are interrelated, interconnected and inseparable. While heritage and recreational features are often located near the river and its major tributaries, it is the entire watershed that sustains and unites the resources and activities. The Thames River watershed is nestled in the agricultural heartland of southwestern Ontario in close proximity to Lakes Huron, St. Clair, and Erie. The river is 273 km long and drains some 5825 km<sup>2</sup> of land, making it the second largest watershed in southwestern Ontario. In fact, the watershed is 165 km<sup>2</sup> larger than Prince Edward Island. Map 2 illustrates the drainage pattern of the Thames and the location of major urban centres within the watershed.

The Thames rises at three distinct points. The North Thames River, also known as the North Branch, begins near Mitchell and ends at the Forks in London. The Middle Thames River, or Middle Branch, starts near Hickson and enters the Thames near Putnam. The South Thames River, called the South Branch upstream of the Forks, originates near Tavistock. The Forks in London is the city's most important historical landmark. From this point the river flows parallel to Lake Erie toward Lake St. Clair passing through Delaware, Wardsville, Thamesville and Chatham as well as the Chippewa, Oneida, Munsee-Delaware and Moravian First Nations communities.

The Thames finally joins Lake St. Clair at Lighthouse Cove.

Major tributaries of the Thames include the Avon River, Medway Creek, Dingman Creek, Jeannette Creek and McGregor Creek (see Map 2).

### 1.2 Summary of Values that Supported the Nomination of the Thames

To qualify for inclusion in the CHRS, a river must be of outstanding significance in one or more of the following areas: natural heritage, human (cultural) heritage, or recreational value.

The Thames was nominated to the CHRS in 1998 on the basis of its cultural heritage and recreational attributes. The presence of impoundments (dams) precluded its inclusion on the basis of natural heritage, although its biological diversity and significance is widely recognized and is essential to sustaining the cultural and recreational features.

The cultural and natural heritage and recreational values are described in a 215 page document entitled *The Thames River Watershed: A Background Study for Nomination under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, 1997*. A summary of the key values follows.

Map 3 illustrates the location of some of the significant natural, cultural and recreation sites in the watershed.

#### Natural Heritage Values

- The Thames River watershed's outstanding natural heritage as supported by the evolution of significant cultural heritage and recreational values. Significant facts and features include:
  - the first river to form in Ontario following the retreat of the last glacier 11,000 years ago;
  - water quality suitable for fish, wildlife and recreation;
  - exceptional diversity of plants and animals characteristic of both the Carolinian and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Zones; and
  - home to 15% of Canada's Species at Risk (including the Eastern Spiny Softshell turtle and Wood Poppy).

#### Cultural Heritage Values

- The Thames River watershed possesses an outstanding cultural heritage reflecting 11,000 years of human settlement, conflict and development. Significant heritage facts and features include:
  - First Nation occupancy from 11,000 years ago to present;
  - a multitude of archaeological sites along the river system;
  - the birthplace of Canadian agriculture and the agricultural heart-land of eastern Canada;
  - War of 1812 sites;
  - the terminus of the Underground Railway for fugitive slaves prior to the American Civil War;
  - a rich architectural heritage;
  - rural and human settlement strongly influenced by the river;
  - a leading role in the establishment of Conservation Authorities in Ontario; and
  - the birthplace and/or homes of prominent Canadians including Adam Beck, Timothy Eaton, John Labatt, Harriet Boomer, and Tom Patterson.

#### Recreational Values

- The Thames River valley offers a great diversity of river-related recreational opportunities accessible to the over half million people who live in the watershed and the millions of others residing a short distance away. Significant opportunities include:
  - canoeing, kayaking, rowing, cruising and sailing;
  - hiking trails including the Thames Valley and Avon rails;
  - swimming & recreational opportunities at conservation areas;
  - numerous riverside parks and campgrounds;
  - diversity of fish and animal species that provides many angling, hunting and trapping opportunities;
  - a variety of natural areas where one can enjoy the unique plants and wildlife of the Carolinian Zone; and
  - heritage appreciation including the Stratford Festival, museums, Indian and pioneer villages, and re-enactments.



Wingstem, a provincially rare plant, grows densely along sections of the lower Thames

UTR A



The Ingersoll Cheese Factory useum Melebrates theM region's long and prosperous dairy farming heritageM



Longnose Mr , one of 88 species of fish M the ThamesM River SystemM

UTRCA



Shawnee Chief Tecumseh - a key figure M the War ofM 1812, died along the banks of the ThamesM



The Battle of the Thames M re-enacted annually atM Chathams Mritage Days



Olympic Mld Medalists, Marnie cBean and KathleenM Heddle, training on Fanshawe LakeM

### 3. Role of the Thames River in the CHRSM

values described in the previous section prompted the *Thames River Nomination Document (1997)* to suggest that the role of the Thames in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System is:

- to present a unique post-glacial landscape that contains ancient glacial pillways, terminal moraines, drumlins and rolling plains of till, as well as younger channels carved from the flat clay and sand plains of old glacial lake beds;
- to include a watershed that falls almost entirely within the Carolinian Life Zone and hence contains unparalleled biotic richness, in particular fish and freshwater mussels, and endangered species such as the Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle and Wood Poppy;
- to feature a historically significant river system that is unique among major rivers in Canada in terms of the length and continuity of pre-contact Aboriginal cultures dating back 11,000 years;
- to recognize a river and valley system where agriculture, derived from Meso-America, entered Canada becoming the first region in Canada where farming was practiced;
- to celebrate a long and rich history of European exploration and settlement dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century which encompassed the fur trade, British exploration and early settlement, military battles (e.g. the War of 1812 and the 1837 Rebellion), and intensive agricultural and urban settlement thereafter;
- to foster a 200 year old nature cultural landscape where urban centres owe their placement and development to a riverine location whether as a port, shipbuilding centre, grist or saw mill site, or quarry;
- to feature the full sweep of settlement of southern Ontario with its unique creation of the most successful and adaptive agricultural economy and society in Canada;
- to include a river that maintains a high level of physical integrity and naturalness within easy reach of over a half million watershed residents;
- to celebrate the diversity of recreational opportunities offered by a river in a developed region of Canada including traditional uses of the river (i.e. fishing, hunting and trapping, boating, canoeing, and jiking) and modern-day re-construction, re-enactments and celebrations of its multi-ethnic heritage (First Nations, French-Canadian, British-American, and African-American);
- to recognize human adaptation to flooding, including the Fanshawe Dam (one of the first multi-purpose flood control structures in Ontario), and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (one of the earliest Conservation Authorities in Ontario) which followed from the conservation movement in this region; and
- to celebrate international recreational activities including Canada's High Performance Rowing Centre on Fanshawe Lake and the Stratford Festival on the Avon River.)

The significance of the Thames lies not in any one natural or human attribute, but in the combination of its natural characteristics and the manner in which a sequence of human users of the river and occupiers of its watershed have used, and continue to use, the physical base and the opportunities it offers. The Thames is thus unique in itself and significant within the set of Canadian Heritage Rivers.)

### 4. Existing Land and Water Uses

The dominant land use in the watershed is agriculture (70%). Urban areas and roads account for some 16% of the watershed area, forest cover for about 11%, and watercourses and water bodies for 3%. The four First Nations Reserves total 80 km<sup>2</sup> or 1.5% of the watershed.)

Irrigation of farmland, golf courses and parkland is the primary consumptive use of the river water. Industrial use of the water is negligible and limited primarily to the quarries near Ingersoll. There is a modest amount of hydro electricity generated at the Fanshawe Dam and a few flour mills still make use of water power.)

### 5. Land Ownership

The majority (approximately 98%) of the Thames watershed is in private ownership with a few parcels of publicly owned land scattered throughout. The Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities (UTRCA and LVCA) are the largest public land holders, together managing about 70 km<sup>2</sup> of parkland and floodplain land. The two provincial parks in the watershed (Komoka and William Woods) are owned by the crown/province. Municipalities own floodplain lands, parkland, service lands, county forests, and agreement forests, most of which are open to the public. In London, about 80% of the river flats are owned either by the city or the UTRCA.)

#### Watershed Location: G 532,000G

78% reside in cities

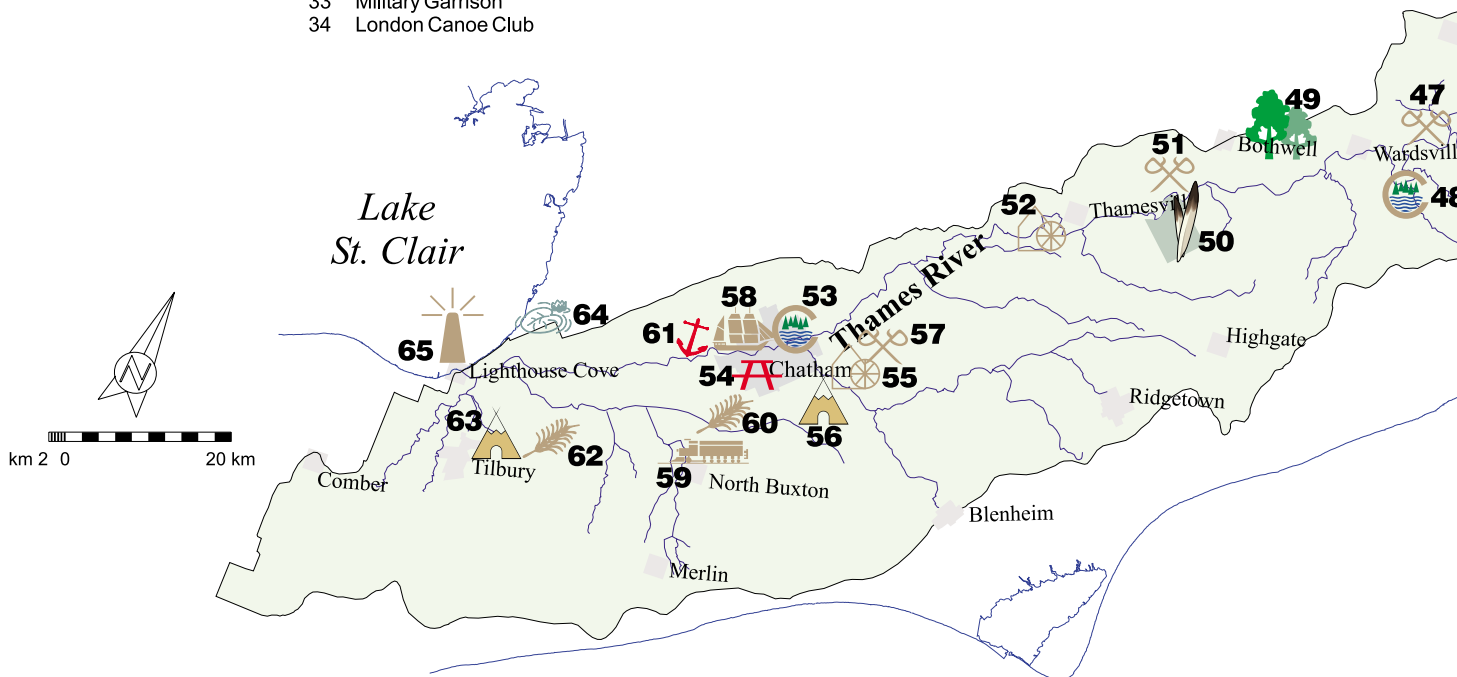
7% reside in towns and villages

15% reside in rural areas

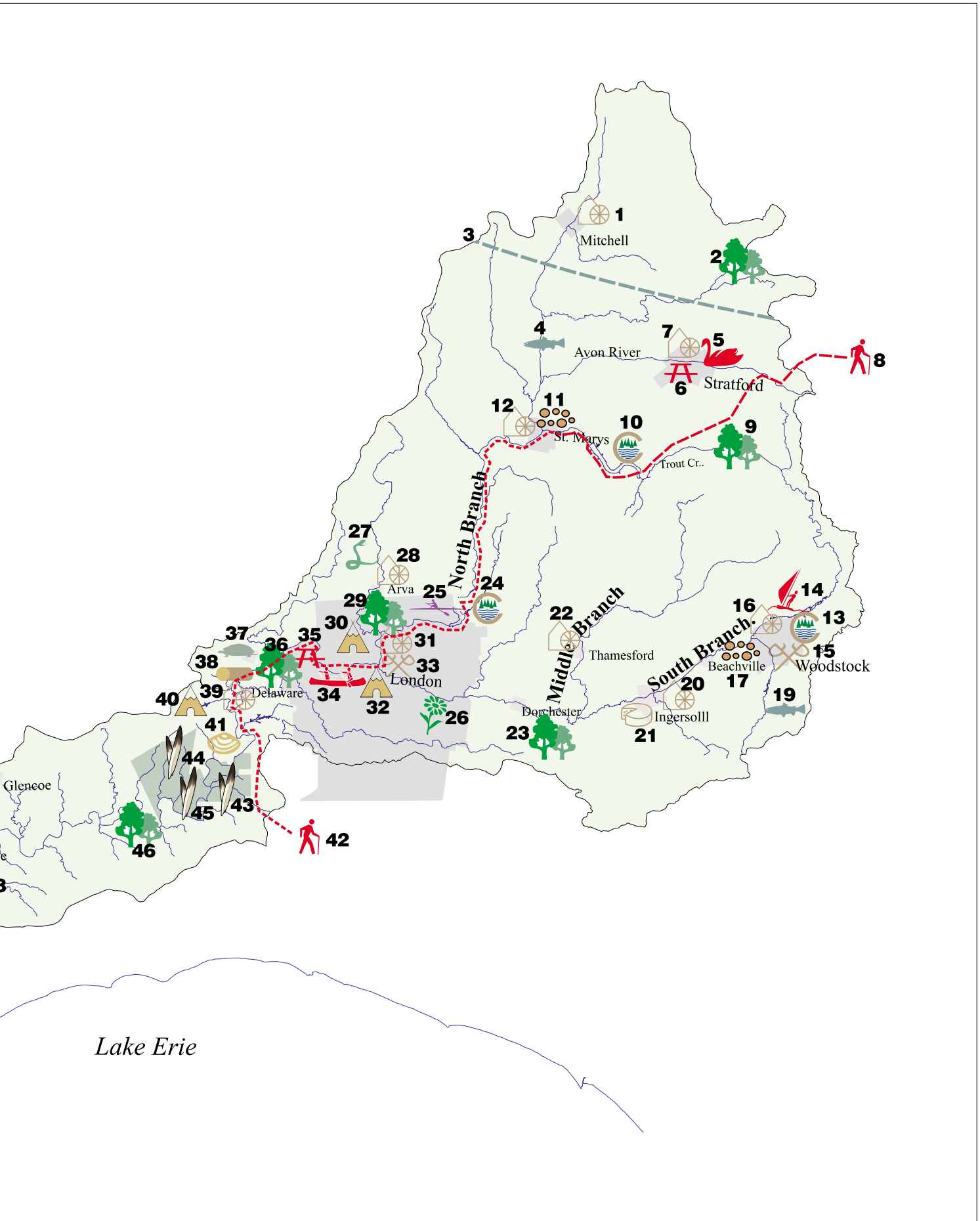
### Map 3. Some Significant Natural, Cultural and Recreation Sites within the Thames River Watershed

**Legend**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Mitchell Mill, est. c. 1840                  | 35 Springbank Park                         |
| 2 Ellice Swamp                                 | 36 Komoka Provincial Park                  |
| 3 Northern limit of Carolinian Life Zone       | 37 Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle          |
| 4 Greenside Darter                             | 38 Start of Log Running                    |
| 5 Stratford Shakespearean Festival             | 39 Allen's Mill, est. c. 1797              |
| 6 Shakespearean Gardens                        | 40 Ska-na-Doh Village/Longwoods CA         |
| 7 Avon Mills, est. c. 1832                     | 41 Clam Harvest-Button Industry, 1920-1946 |
| 8 Avon Trail                                   | 42 Thames Valley Trail                     |
| 9 Zorra Swamp                                  | 43 Oneida First Nation                     |
| 10 Wildwood Conservation Area                  | 44 Chippewa First Nation                   |
| 11 Limestone Quarries                          | 45 Munsee-Delaware First Nation            |
| 12 St. Marys Mill, est. c. 1842                | 46 Thames River Floodplain ANSI            |
| 13 Pittock Conservation Area                   | 47 Battle of Longwoods, War of 1812        |
| 14 Tornado Board Sailing Club                  | 48 Big Bend CA                             |
| 15 Military Barracks                           | 49 Skunk's Misery ANSI                     |
| 16 Beach's Mill, est. c. 1785                  | 50 Moravian First Nation                   |
| 17 Limestone Quarries                          | 51 Battle of Moraviantown, War of 1812     |
| 19 Central Stoneroller                         | 52 Arnold's Mill                           |
| 20 Ingersoll Mill, est. c. 1819                | 53 Heritage Days, Thamesgrove CA           |
| 21 Cheese Manufacture                          | 54 Tecumseh Park                           |
| 22 Thamesford Feed Mill, est. c. 1845          | 55 McGregor's Mill, est. c. 1788           |
| 23 Dorchester Swamp                            | 56 Archaeological Site - Neutral           |
| 24 Fanshawe Conservation Area                  | 57 Chatham Military Barracks               |
| 25 High Performance Rowing Centre              | 58 Shipping Centre                         |
| 26 Wood Poppy                                  | 59 Underground Railroad, 1840-1860         |
| 27 Queen Snake                                 | 60 Tobacco and Wheat Farming               |
| 28 Arva Flour Mill, est. c. 1842               | 61 Boating/Navigation Route                |
| 29 Medway Valley Heritage Forest               | 62 Tobacco and Wheat Farming               |
| 30 Archaeological Site - Lawson Site, Iroquois | 63 Archaeological Site - Attawandaron      |
| 31 Blackfriar's Mill, est. c. 1833             | 64 St. Clair National Wildlife Area        |
| 32 Archaeological Site - Iroquois              | 65 Thames River Lighthouse, c.1818         |
| 33 Military Garrison                           |  |
| 34 London Canoe Club                           |  |







Lake Erie

Table 1. Cross Section of Current Management and Managers in the Thames Watershed

CHRS & VALUE	GOVERNMENT MANAGERS	ACTIVITIES	OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	ACTIVITIES
<b>NATURAL HERITAGE</b>				
<b>Water Quality &amp; Quantity</b>	UTRCA, LTVCA, f OMOE, OMAFRA Health Units	-monitoring, enforcement, f pollution prevention, land stewardship programs, water taking permits, flood attenuation, f low flow augmentation	Stewardship Councils, f Soil & Crop Improvement Ass'ns, Organic Growers f	-land stewardship, f soil conservation, f pesticide reduction, f buffers along watercourses
<b>Fisheries</b>	OMNR, DFO, f UTRCA, LTVCA	-inventory, protection, regulation of harvest, education, habitat improvements and protection	Angling Clubs	-habitat improvement projects, public education, enjoyment
<b>Natural Areas &amp; Endangered Species</b>	OMNR, UTRCA, f LTVCA, f Municipalities, f Environment Canada	-research, protection, enforcement, land use planning, bylaws, f outdoor education, tree planting, f afforestation	Naturalist Clubs, UWO, f Environmental Groups, f Woodlot Owners Ass'ns, f NWRI, Stewardship Councils, World Wildlife Fund, Carolinian Canada	-advocacy, field trips, f lectures, research, f education, enjoyment, f habitat improvements, f stewardship, f publications
<b>CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>				
<b>Heritage Sites Protection</b>	Municipalities, f OMCZCR, Dept. of Canadian Heritage	-creation of LACACs, heritage designations in Official Plans, f upkeep of properties	Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees, Architectural Conservancy groups, f	-research and inventory, f advocacy, fund-raise, f upkeep, restorations
<b>Research &amp; Documentation</b>	Municipalities, f OMCZCR	-support and advance public libraries, maintain archives and databases	Academia, Archaeological Societies, Genealogy Societies, Historical Societies, LACACs, Public Libraries, local archives, f professional associations, f Save Our Shipwrecks	-field work, advocacy, f publications, research and assistance, upkeep of databases and photo directories, plaques and education, f walking tours
<b>Museums, Villages and Living History</b>	LTVCA, UTRCA, f Municipalities	-operate historical villages, host events, museum upkeep, f promotion, education	Individual Museum Boards, f Historical Societies, f Heritage Days Committees, f Re-enactment Societies	-maintenance, fund- raising, research, f educational programs, f promotion
<b>RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>				
<b>Water-based Recreation (Boating)</b>	Canada Coast Guard, police, City of Chatham, UTRCA, f LTVCA, OMCZCR	-enforcement, safety, f facilities, reservoirs, promotion and empowerment	Power Squadrons, Navy Leagues, Marinas, Canoe Clubs, Rowing Clubs, f Dragon Boat Committees, Sailing + Yacht Clubs, Boat Rentals, Cruise Lines	-education, safety, f lessons, races and regattas, berths and facilities, equipment rental, sight-seeing
<b>Land-based Recreation</b>	UTRCA, LTVCA, f Municipalities	-conservation areas (camping, f swimming, day use), urban multi-use trails, promotion, f parklands	Fishing + Hunting Clubs, f Hiking Clubs, Trail Committees, Children's Camps, Campgrounds, f riverside trails, f Canada 2001 Summer Games	-opportunity, f participation, education, f promotion, f maintenance, f improvements, f special events

Activities reflect projects currently or recently carried out by some or all of the managers/stakeholders listed

**SHORT FORMS:**

UTRCA = Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

LTVCA = Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

OMOE = Ontario Ministry of the Environment

OMCZCR = Ont. Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation

OMNR = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

OMAFRA = Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food &amp; Rural Affairs

NWRI = National Water Research Institute

LACAC = Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

DFO = Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Federal)

## Part three

# Management, Goals and Actions

### 3.1 Multi-Jurisdictional Management

Several of Canada's Heritage Rivers are located in parks or on Crown Land and thus are owned and managed by a single agency, normally the dominating agency. In contrast, 98% of the Thames watershed is in private ownership and management is multi-jurisdictional. Both governmental agencies and non-governmental groups play important roles in the management of the natural and cultural heritage and recreational features of the Thames River watershed.

Regional, provincial and federal government agencies protect CHRS values in the Thames watershed through statutes, programs, planning reviews and other services. Municipal governments manage through land use planning and zoning, heritage property designations, and recreational facility development.

Volunteer groups, committees, individuals and private businesses work with, or independently of, government agencies in a variety of ways to provide opportunities for participation in, and conservation of, specific resources and facilities. Most organizations focus their efforts at a local or provincial scale. The Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities work on a watershed scale and together manage specific natural heritage and recreation features in the Thames basin.

Table 1 on the facing page lists the key managers and stakeholders currently working on CHRS values. The names of specific municipalities and stakeholders are not listed as there are over 300 clubs, societies, businesses, foundations and governmental organizations with an interest in the natural heritage, cultural heritage and recreation in the Thames watershed. Additional information on each of these organizations is available in a companion document titled *The Thames River Directory* (see Bibliography). As well, specific programs are not listed because of the large number in operation. Furthermore, these programs tend to change from year to year in response to varying needs and resources.

### 3.2 Existing Watershed Plans

There is no overall plan or strategy for the Thames River watershed as it relates to all of the CHRS values of natural heritage, cultural heritage and recreation. Each value tends to be the mandate of a different organization, although some overlap does occur. In addition, the watershed scale is generally only used by conservation authorities; most other organizations plan on local or political boundaries.

Many natural heritage issues are addressed at the watershed scale, however. Watershed reports were written in the past on the Upper and Lower Thames and dealt with issues of land use, forestry, wildlife and recreation. (Dept. of Planning and Development, 1952 and Dept. of Energy and Resources Management, 1966.) They provided a basis for the development of the Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities and the facilities and programs they offer.

More recently, the *Thames wRiver wBasin wWaterw Management wstudy* completed (Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1975), focused on the entire Thames watershed and examined water quality and quantity issues. Many sweeping recommendations were made (e.g. tertiary sewage treatment, control of farm pollutants and practices, control of floodplain development), many of which have been acted upon to some degree over the years as resources became available.

Today, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) is working towards a Conservation Strategy that employs Geographic Information Systems (GIS) modeling of resource information to produce maps that target areas in greatest need of remediation and protection.

Several subwatershed studies have also been prepared jointly by municipalities and the conservation authorities. For example, the UTRCA and the City of London studied 13 sub-watersheds in the London area in the 1990s. These studies address water issues, help define land use planning policies for the Official Plan, and identify constraints and opportunities for development.

Cultural heritage has been dealt with at the municipal level, primarily through official plans. The protection of cultural heritage and archaeological resources is a component of every official plan as directed by the Provincial Policy Statement issued under the authority of Section 3 of the Planning Act. It sets the minimum standard, but a municipality may go further.

Some municipalities in the Thames watershed have produced heritage inventories that document existing and potential designated properties.

The City of London has the most comprehensive heritage planning program in the watershed. Numerous reports have been issued: *Archaeological Master Plan* (1996), *Buildingw Conservation wMaster wPlanw* (1998), *Inventory wof wHeritagew Resourcesw* (1998), and *Cultural wHeritage wLandscape wStudy wof wLondonw* (1996).

Strategies for recreation are less formalized. Municipalities often deal with active recreational facilities (e.g. soccer fields, ice rinks) through land use planning policies and those with Parks and Recreation Departments often have master plans for their facilities. Recently there is a movement towards planning for passive recreation such as trails in floodplain areas and nature-appreciation. Non-profit clubs and businesses who control most of the River-related facilities



UTRCA

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority staff work with community volunteers to re-habilitate a section of Stoney Creek near London



LTVCA

Outdoor Education at Longwoods Road Conservation Area



H.Leparskas

Public Day at an archaeological dig along the Thames London



UTRCA

Tecumseh Monument. Erected near Thamesville on Hwy. 2 by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and the Citizens of Thamesville



UTRCA

Eastern Spiny Softshell Research

(marinas, canoe clubs), plan for their particular activity independently.) e) conservation authorities have aster plans for their large conservation areas.)

Designation as a Canadian Heritage River will, hopefully, encourage municipalities to include policies that address river-related recreation and river heritage appreciation.)

### 3.3 Community Commitment

e) long list of efforts and activities outlined in table 1) indicates that a strong pro-active community interest exists in celebrating the Thames' natural, cultural and recreational values. Outreach for the Thames River Designation Project as shown there is also a desire to learn more about the river and others involved in the watershed.)

Numerous representatives from government, non-profit clubs and academia participated in this process and share its goals. Their continued involvement and willingness to partner with community organizations provides a sound commitment for the future well-being for the Thames River watershed.)

*"The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a program that comes from the community and gives back to the community."*

**Jack McCallum, London**

### 3.4 Global and Proposed Future Actions

Managing the Thames as a Canadian Heritage River involves nurturing its values. Participants in the process have identified the following broad goal:

- *To increase the appreciation, enjoyment and stewardship of the natural and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities of the Thames River and its watershed through community cooperation and involvement.*

As table 1) illustrates, there are a great many separate activities and efforts being made by governmental and non-governmental groups in the Thames River watershed that address the above goal, although not all in a formalized way. What is needed is an over-arching theme to provide common purpose and direction for these separate activities.)

Designation as a Canadian Heritage River provides this common theme and its unifying influence (as already been demonstrated through the strong community participation) and support for river stewardship that has evolved during the CHR process.)

Many other future needs have also been put forward by participants to sustain and promote the Thames. e) following are the key actions needed to fulfil the goal:

#### Leadership

- *establish and empower a Thames Implementation Committee to act as the catalyst that drives the Thames strategy*

e) Thames River Coordinating Committee (TRCC) and its subcommittees are a model for a future coordinating body. e) TRCC effectively guided the Thames River Designation Project through the initial stages in 1996, to completion of *The Thames Strategy* in 1999/2000. Its success is due in large part to the broad sector representation (see Section 1.4) and the administrative leadership of the UTRCA and LTVCA.)

Employees of the UTRCA and LTVCA have played a vital role on this committee, acting as hosts, administrators and staff supervisors. The watershed mandate of the authorities, their visibility in the community, technical expertise, and capability make them logical entities to take leadership of the post-designation period.)

Members on the TRCC and its subcommittees will be invited to serve as members on this new Thames Implementation Committee. Invitations will be made to others from the natural resource, cultural heritage and recreational fields who are not currently represented.)

#### Monitoring

- *monitor the river's values by completing the Thames River Annual Report Checklist; and*
- *monitor the progress of the Thames Strategy every 10 years and present the results to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board*

e) Canadian Heritage Rivers Board reviews the status of rivers in the system both annually and periodically, to ensure they maintain the outstanding heritage values for which they were nominated.)

e) annual checklist, as provided in the *Nomination Document*, will be completed by the UTRCA and LTVCA with involvement of the Thames Implementation Committee. e) authorities are involved in water quality monitoring and other natural heritage issues. The partnerships developed over the years and especially through the CHR project, will facilitate in the collection of status information on cultural and recreational features.)

The 10-year report will provide a more detailed review of the status of values as well as an evaluation of the implementation of *The Thames Strategy*. Again, this will be completed by the UTRCA and LTVCA with input from the Implementation Committee.)

Although this is a requirement of the CHR, citizens are also concerned with the protection of resources and facilities and want to see monitoring, inventorying, research and protection programs continued.)

The London Sport Fishery helping out at Family Fishing Day, Sharon Creek CAM



Conservation Authority staff work on a new bridge for the Thames Valley Trail in Fanshawe CAM

Downtown Chatham on the Thames - "Alive with History"



The London Dragonboat Festival held on Fanshawe Lake



A Nightwalk with the Spirits, Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and useum



Heritage Stone House, St. Marys

### Outreach

- *host workshops of community workshops across the watershed inviting both nongovernment and government stakeholders and individuals*

During the public interview process, many groups expressed an interest in meeting with other like-minded groups and organizations from the watershed to share ideas and concerns about the Thames. UTRCA and LTVCA communications staff will coordinate these workshops with assistance from members of the Thames Implementation Committee. The following workshops will help to:

- ) develop priorities;
- ) foster support for the Heritage River designation;
- ) strengthen partnerships and community cohesiveness;
- ) share and acknowledge ideas for existing and future projects/activities that further our goal for this designated river; and
- ) enable groups to develop strategies specific to their mandates that use the Thames Strategy as a tenet or overarching vision.

### Education

- *promote and distribute the Thames River Background Study (print and CD ROM) to schools, libraries and other interested groups*

The public could benefit from having an enhanced appreciation for the full range of heritage and recreational values in their watershed. *The Thames River Background Study* (1998) is the most comprehensive report written on the natural, cultural and recreational values of the Thames River watershed. Early feedback from the community, who have received this document, indicate that there is a genuine interest in this material, especially since it is contained under one cover. Education is a key component in appreciation of local values. As publishers of the document, the UTRCA will take a lead role in this task.

The Background Study needs to be made available to schools and individuals in the watershed. Suggestions have also been made that this material be repackaged for school curriculum. This idea will be explored by a subset of the Implementation Committee.

### Communications

- *create and distribute a regular Thames River Newsletter that includes information on local activities that promote CHRS values and facts about the river's environment, history and places of interest*
- *establish a Thames River Web site to communicate this information*
- *feature a regular column on the Thames in local newspapers*

Sharing information on activities in the watershed and the work of the Thames Implementation Committee will increase interest in the Heritage project. It is our hope to integrate the goals and efforts of the many geographically and operationally separate organizations with an interest in the river and watershed.

### Marketing

Activities and projects that market the Thames will help to increase public knowledge of the watershed's values. The following projects will be explored and prioritized by the Thames Implementation Committee.

#### Thames River Heritage Day

- *establish and celebrate an annual Thames River Heritage Day throughout the watershed, highlighting specific river-related achievements*

#### Plaques and Signs

- *erect plaques in communities explaining the designation of the Thames as a Canadian Heritage River;*
- *erect attractive signs at all major bridges over the Thames indicating it is a Canadian Heritage River;*

#### Tours

- *develop Thames River Heritage Tours that would highlight various points of interest along the river and in the watershed that could be taken from boat, car or bus*
- *produce a War of 1812 Daybook and/or Tour and erect signage at battlefield sites*

Implementation will go on for many years. *The Thames Strategy* would be reviewed by the Implementation Committee every five years to determine if it still reflects watershed need.

As a community, the challenge is to move forward with projects to ensure the Thames remains a vital part of the local culture. It will ensure it remains a strong representative within the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

Once designation is officially confirmed, *The Thames Strategy* will be provided to all government agencies and major stakeholders in the watershed and made available to the community at large to share the vision and goals and encourage participation in the post-designation stages.



Naturalists hiking a Thames River floodplain forest near Dutton



Students collecting garbage along the Thames River during "Tune-up '98"



Students play Iroquoian games in front of the unsee log cabin at Longwoods Road Conservation Area



London's Thames Valley Golf Course, the oldest municipal course in Canada



The Thames is one of the richest rivers in Canada for freshwater mussels



Wading and playing in the North Thames at the St. Marys weir



## Bibliography

City of London. (1998.) *Inventory of Heritage Resourcesw (Real Property wBuildings and wStructures)*. Prepared by the London Advisory Committee on Heritage and Department of Planning and Development.)

City of London. (1996.) *The City of Londonw Archaeological Master Plan.* Prepared by Jim Wilson and Malcolm Horne for Department of Planning and Development Planning Division and Vision '96.)

City of London. (1996.) *Cultural Heritage Landscapew Study of London.* Prepared by Historica Research Limited for the London Advisory Committee on Heritage.)

City of London. (1998.) *Building Conservation Masterw Plan, Interim Report.* Prepared by Mark Gladysz.)

Department of Energy and Resources Management. (1966.) *Lower Thames Valley Conservation Report. Summary.*)

Department of Planning and Development. (1952.) *Upperw Thames Walley Conservation Report.*w

Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources. (1975.) *The wThames wRiver wBasin wWatershedw Management wStudy.*w

Thames River Background Study Research Team. (1998.)  
e) *Thames wRiver wWatershed: wA wBackground wStudy wforw Nomination under the Canadian Heritage wRivers system.* Published by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority for the Thames River Coordinating Committee.) ISBN 1-894329-00-7 (CD ROM) and ISBN 1-894320-01-5 (Binder.)

Thames River Designation Project. (1999.) *The wThamesw River wDirectory: wA wListing wof wCommunity wGroupsw andw Agencies with wan interest in wNatural wHeritage, wRecreationw and wHuman/Cultural wHeritage in the wThames wRiverw Watershed.* w39 pp. Published by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.)

## Resources Available

There are several products available that feature the Thames River. All can be ordered through the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, 1424 Clarke Rd., London, Ont., N5V 5B9, Phone (519) 451-2800, Fax (519) 451-1188, E-Mail: infoline@thamesriver.org.)

### Reports

*The wThames River Directory: wA Listing of Community Groupsw and wAgencies with wan interest in wNatural wHeritage, wRecreation and wCultural wHeritage in the wThames wRiverw Watershed.* w 1999. Thames River Designation Project, Canadian Heritage Rivers System.)

*The wThames wRiver wWatershed: wA wBackground wStudy wforw Nomination under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, 1998.*w This document is available in CD-ROM or 3-Ring Binder. (Fee)

### Posters

*State of the Thames River Watershed (1998).* A 2x3 foot poster with illustrations and text describing various aspects of our local environment (including land, air, river and groundwater quality.)

### Maps

*The Thames wOur Heritage* is a 3 foot Heritage Style Map of London and the Thames River watershed (highlights key features, dates and illustrations.) Produced by the Celebrate the Thames Committee.)

### Booklets

*Thames Topics.*w Produced by the Celebrate the Thames Committee. This is a series of eight booklets that focus on history, anecdotes, and facts relating to the Thames River Valley. Available at London schools and libraries or on the web at <http://thamesriver.org>.)





UTRCA

Great Blue Heron, a common site on the Thames



UTRCA

The ample dock facilities at Chatham are a popular attraction for boaters



L. Best

Skiing on the multi-use trail at Springbank Park, London



UTRCA

The Thames watershed supports one of the most successful agricultural economies in Canada



UTV A

Visiting the longhouses at Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and museum



Photo: hatham Daily News, May 31/97

Pow wows are held annually at the First Nation Reserves of Delaware, Chippewa and Moraviantown

# Appendix A

## Letters of Correspondence Received 1997-1999

### Municipalities

Blanshard ) wp)	South Easthope ) wp)
Bothwell)	South-West Oxford ) wp)
Camden ) wp)	St. Marys)
Caradoc ) wp)	Stratford)
Chatham, City of)	Amesville)
Delaware ) wp)	Elbury)
Dover ) wp)	Elbury East ) wp)
Downie ) wp)	Wardsville)
East Zorra-Tavistock ) wp)	West Nissouri Twp)
Ellice ) wp)	Woodstock)
Fullarton ) wp)	Zone ) wp)
Glencoe)	Zorra ) wp)
Harwich ) wp)	
Highgate)	
Howard ) wp)	
Ingersoll)	
Kent Co. Council)	
Lobo ) wp)	
Logan ) wp)	
London ) wp)	
London)	
Middlesex Co. Council)	
Mitchell)	
Mosa ) wp)	
North Dorchester ) wp)	
North ) Elbury ) wp)	
North Easthope ) wp)	
Norwich ) wp)	
Oxford County Council)	
Perth County Council)	
Raleigh ) wp)	
Ridgetown)	

### Other Members

- Canadian Wildflower Society, London Chapter)
- Carolinian Canada)
- Celebrate the Thames ) Steering Committee)
- Chatham-Kent Museum)
- Elgin Stewardship Council)
- Fairfield Museum)
- Fanshawe Pioneer Village)
- Fanshawe Nature Club)
- Ingersoll Nature Club)
- Lighthouse Cove Chamber of Commerce)
- London Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee)
- London Advisory Committee on Heritage)

- London Museum of Archaeology)
- London and Area Council of Women)
- London Rowing Club)
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority)
- McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Inc.)
- Middlesex Stewardship Committee)
- National Water Research Inst., Aquatic Ecosystem Protection Branch)
- Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, London)
- Oxford Sailing Club)
- Perth Stewardship Network)
- Pleva, Dr. E.G., Prof. Emeritus, UWO)
- Resources Improvement Oxford)
- Stewardship Kent)
- Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce)
- Stratford Field Naturalists)
- Stratford Civic Beautification and Environmental Awareness Committee)
- Thames Valley ) Rail Association)
- University of Western Ontario Rowing Club)
- University of Western Ontario)
- Upper Thames ) River Conservation Authority)
- Urban League of London)
- West Elgin Nature Club)
- Wildwood Nature Club)
- Woodstock Field Naturalist Club)

### Members of Provincial Parliament

- Bert Johnson, Perth-Middlesex)
- Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Oxford)
- Peter North, Elgin)
- Bruce Smith, Middlesex)
- Honourable Diane Cunningham, London North Centre)
- Marion Boyd, London Centre)
- Bob Wood, London South)
- Frank Mazzilli, London-Fanshawe)
- Jack Carroll, Chatham-Kent)
- Pat Hoy, Essex-Kent)
- Marcel Beaubien, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex)
- Caroline DiCocco, Sarnia-Lambton)
- Steve Peters, Elgin-Middlesex-London)

### Members of Parliament

- John Richardson, Perth)
- John Finlay, Oxford)
- Gar Knutson, Elgin-Middlesex-London)
- Patrick O'Brien, London-Middlesex)
- Joe Fontana, London-East)
- Sue Barnes, London West)
- Rose-Marie Ur, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex)
- Jerry Pickard, Kent-Essex)



Volunteers collected garbage in the Skunk's isey Forest

ITVCA



Tallgrass Prairie naturalization project at the Sharon Creek Conservation Area

ITVCA



Installing peizometers to test nitrate movement on an Embro area farm, UTRCA

UTRCA



Fanshawe Pioneer Village re-creates life in a 19th century Ontario Village



Participants aboard the HMS Razzamajazz on the Avon River, Stratford

Douglas Bingham



Benthic Invertebrate study, UTRCA

UTRCA

# Appendix

## Interview Participants

- African-Canadian Association Kent, Daniel Ayim and Larry Robbins)
- Carolinian Canada, Don Gordon)
- Chatham Historic Downtown Committee, Tom Storey)
- Chatham Heritage Days, Jim Gilbert)
- Chatham-Kent Museum Board, Jim Gilbert)
- Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, Chief Joe Miskokomon)
- Downtown Action Team for Heritage, John H. Lutman)
- Elgin Stewardship Council, Bret Coleman)
- Elgin Historical Society, Donna Rupert)
- London Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, Jack Lorimer and Barbara Bain)
- Grand Trunk Rail, Carol Robinson-Todd)
- Grassroots Woodstock, Cathy Mott and Eleanor Hart)
- Historic Sites, London Public Library Board, John H. Lutman)
- Ingersoll Nature Club, Gord Phillips)
- JJ Palmer Regional Collection, JWOC, Theresa Regnier and John H. Lutman)
- Kent Military Re-enactment Society, John Saylor and Jim Gilbert)
- Kent Historical Society, Jim Gilbert)
- Kent Stewardship, Jim Boothby and Council Members)
- London Advisory Committee on Heritage, Theresa Regnier)
- London Museum of Archaeology, Jeremy Saylor)
- London Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society, Neal Ferris)
- London Advisory Committee on Heritage, Mark Gladyz)
- London District Chapter Archives Assoc. of Ont., Theresa Regnier and John H. Lutman)
- London Regional Art and Historical Museum, Mike Baker)
- London-Middlesex Historical Society, Theresa Regnier)
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board, Ken Brooks)
- McIlwraith Field Naturalists, Barb Yurkoski)
- Middlesex Stewardship Committee, Dan Schaeffer)
- Mill Pond Advisory Committee (Dorchester), Doris Kanter)
- Millennium Eco-community Initiative, Cathy Mott and Eleanor Hart)
- Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation, Christine Houghton)
- Moravian of the Thames Band, Caroline Oritz)
- Mossley Post Heritage and Citizenship Society, Ruth and Donald Axford)
- Munsee-Delaware First Nation, Patrick Waddilove)
- North Dorchester LACAC, Ruth and Donald Axford)
- Oneida Nation of the Thames, Chief Harry Doxtator)
- Ontario Tallgrass Prairie and Savanna Association, Don Gordon)
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ron Lackey)
- Oxford Historical Society, Jack Hedges and Eleanor Gardhouse)
- Oxford Rail Association, Gord Phillips)
- Oxford County Genealogical Society, Eleanor Gardhouse)
- Resources Improvement Oxford, Roger Boyd)
- St. Marys LACAC, Mary Smith)
- St. Marys Historical Society, Mary Smith)
- St. Marys Museum, Mary Smith)
- Stratford Civic Beautification and Environmental Awareness, Ted Blowes)
- Stratford Education and Recreation Centre, Ted Blowes)
- Stratford-Perth Archives, Carolyn Bart-Riedstra)
- Thames River Anglers, Paul Noble)
- Thamesville Historical Society, Shirley Bain)
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (parks), Chris Hachey)
- Woodstock Field Naturalists, Roger Boyd)
- Woodstock LACAC, Eleanor Gardhouse)
- Woodstock Environmental Committee, Cathy Mott and Eleanor Hart)



## Photographs

**Opposite** (*Clockwise from top left*):

- Sailboats docked at the Thames River Yacht Club in Lighthouse Cove (Photo: Cathy Quinlan)
- The Historic Perth County Court House and the Huron Street bridge over the Avon River (Photo: Tourism Stratford)
- Enjoying the "Splash Pad" and beach at Pittock Conservation Area in Woodstock (Photo: UTRCA)
- Lizard tail, a Carolinian plant, growing in the Thames River near St. Marys (Photo: Cathy Quinlan)
- The stage at Stratford's Festival Theatre (Tourism Stratford)
- Peregrine Falcons now regularly nest on downtown London office towers (Photo: Harald Schraeder)
- Plaque erected in Delaware describing Ebenezer Allan, a colourful 18<sup>th</sup> Century settler (Photo: Cathy Quinlan)
- Enjoying a trip down the Thames on the *London Princess* near Springbank Park (Photo: Cathy Quinlan)

## Back

*The Thames River Lighthouse at the mouth of the Thames River in the Hamlet of Lighthouse Cove.* (Photo: Cathy Quinlan)

First constructed of wood in the late 1700s, the lighthouse was destroyed by fire during the War of 1812. The current structure was erected in 1818 from limestone quarried in Amherstburg. At the time of Confederation, the height was increased to its present level. By 1972 the structure leaned to the east at a fifteen degree angle and the walls were cracked. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority acquired the lighthouse in 1973, dismantled it stone by stone, moved it slightly, and rebuilt it. The restored lighthouse is a monument to the ingenuity and spirit of Kent County pioneers.

