



# Forests for the Future

*The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



St. Clair Region Conservation Authority



# Forest for our Future

The St. Clair Region lies within Ontario's agricultural heartland. While this is very important, it has resulted in the clearing of much of the natural forests that once carpeted the region. Now, only 11.5 % of the original forest cover remains. Environment Canada recommends a forest cover of 30%. While this may be beyond a reasonable target for our region, we can take steps to establish tree cover in key places to help prevent erosion and to protect our waterways. We can also take steps to preserve our remaining forests.



## Preserve the Forests We Have

The Conservation Authority provides woodlot management services that can help keep your woodlot healthy and even become an on-going source of revenue.

Services include:

- woodlot management plans
- woodlot marking
- preparing/approving Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plans (MFTIP)



## Create New Forests - Reduce your Carbon Footprint

Planting trees can help create the forests of the future. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, one of the key greenhouse gases contributing to climate change. By planting trees, you help offset your carbon footprint, helping toward the global effort to stem the tide of climate change – everyone doing their part.



## Plant Trees

Planting trees have many benefits. The Conservation Authority offers technical advice, can arrange for the purchase and planting of trees and can help you maintain them until they can grow on their own. In many cases, grants are available to help cover the costs of establishing new forests. Trees for the spring need to be ordered the fall before. Authority staff can recommend appropriate species for your tree planting project.

## Protect your Crops and Reduce Heating and Cooling Costs

Trees can be planted as windbreaks along the edge of fields and around homes and barns. Reduced wind helps increase crop yields and protects homes from cold winter winds. The shade from trees can also reduce the cost of air conditioning.

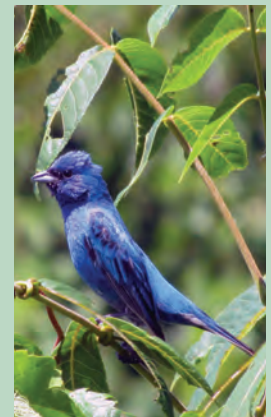


## Protect Your Streams

Trees can be planted as a buffer along streams and drains. Buffer strips help keep soil on the field and not in the stream where it causes pollution damaging the local aquatic habitat. Conservation Authority staff can design and plant your buffer strip with appropriate tree species.

## Create Habitat

Tree planting, whether it is a windbreak, buffer strip or a plantation, all create new habitat for a variety of wildlife. Increasing natural areas can be as simple as planting a variety of different native trees and shrubs. Nut trees provide a great source of food for many types of wildlife. Evergreen trees provide excellent year-round shelter. Deciduous trees add organic matter to the soil when its leaves drop in the fall.



S. Nethercott

# Community Tree Planting ... Get on the Wagon

Many people are helping their communities go green by planting trees and shrubs. Schools, service clubs, youth groups, businesses and individuals are pitching-in to make communities healthier and more beautiful.



## You May Qualify for Funding

The Conservation Authority continually seeks grants that can be passed on to landowners to plant trees and shrubs. In addition, grants may also be available to implement other Best Management Practices such as fencing livestock from streams, decommissioning wells, creating buffer strips, stream bank stabilization and creating wetlands.

## To Get Started

Contact the St. Clair Region  
Conservation Authority

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