



Restoring the Shore for Fish



Essex-Erie Recovery Region

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Threatened by habitat loss and poor water quality, fifteen fish species are at risk in the Essex-Erie region. Thankfully, landowners in the area have a “restore-the-shore attitude” and are voluntarily completing tree planting and shoreline stabilization projects in several tributaries that drain to Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie.

Planting native trees and shrubs along riparian (streamside) areas, excluding livestock from streams using fencing, and eliminating eroding streambanks through soft shoreline engineering techniques stabilizes the shoreline, provides habitat for fish and aquatic life and improves the appearance and land values of project sites. Vegetated shorelines also filter sediments and pollutants and absorb nutrients before entering the water – keeping water clean for everyone, including the rare fish that inhabit those waters.

The Essex-Erie Recovery Team provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners who want to restore their properties and stabilize their shoreline. To date, over 40 hectares (100 acres) of privately owned riparian habitat has been restored, and over two kilometres of streambank has been stabilized.

The Essex-Erie Recovery Team includes the drainage area of four Conservation Authorities (Essex Region, Kettle Creek, Catfish Creek and Long Point Region) and that portion of

the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority that drains into Lake Erie. This area covers 6,300 square kilometres of land in south-western Ontario. Conservation Authorities and two Stewardship Networks (Essex and Kent) are working with landowners to implement various activities from the Detroit River to Long Point Bay.



The best part of the whole experience for us was watching the wide variety of trees growing larger, looking more like a woodlot every year. It's a great feeling knowing that we are improving the environment.

Mark Bovenkamp, who planted 32 acres of trees on his farm near the townsite of Essex in Essex County

Partners:

- Essex Region Conservation Authority
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
- Catfish Creek Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
- Long Point Region Conservation Authority
- Essex County Stewardship Network
- Stewardship Kent
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Parks Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



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