LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION


# Education and Outreach Programs

## About Us

Lower Trent Conservation established in 1968 is a non-profit, community based environmental protection organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and restoring local natural resources within the Lower Trent Watershed Region.

Lower Trent Conservation recognizes that the students of today are the environmental stewards of tomorrow. We place a large importance on educating students, to help ensure that our environment is healthy, and vibrant for many years to come.

## Background

Lower Trent Conservation has offered a variety of educational programs since 1971, and continues to do so today. *Connecting KIDS with NATURE,* established in 2016, is a community sponsored umbrella program offering numerous educational activities to local students entirely **free of charge.** (Transportation where applicable not included.)

This program was developed with the focus of educating students, through a variety of presentations and experiential activities, about the importance of environmental protection and stewardship of our natural world.

## Programming

The programs that we offer have been designed to closely match the curriculum demands set out by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The lessons and activities we facilitate are all in-class or within your school community, with exception to the Tri-County Children's Water Festival which happens annually in the village Batawa. All of these programs provide children with hands-on, interactive activities working to connect them with nature.

A conservation educator will come to your school to offer any of these programs. Alternatively, you can come and visit us at our Goodrich-Loomis Outdoor Education Centre, or local conservation area of your choice.

Cannot find what you are looking for? Numerous programs can be altered to accommodate curriculum needs, or specific interests. Please let us know in advance and we will work to make accommodations.

***"Healthy Watersheds for Healthy Communities"***

# Our Focus Programs

## Tri-County Childrens's Water Festival

**Grade(s):** 4 (including split 3/4 & 4/5 classes)

**Length:** Full day

**Availability:** Spring

**Location:** Village of Batawa

**Description:** The Tri-County Children's Water Festival is an annual two-day event held in the village of Batawa. Students will engage in becoming better water stewards in their homes, classrooms and communities. This youth environmental education program features close to 35 interactive, hands-on learning activity centres, providing youth with opportunities to learn about our most precious natural resource – water!

You must pre-register for this festival. Registration opens to schools the beginning of March. Please visit www.LTC.on.ca/events/education/waterfestival/toregister.

## Caring for Our Watersheds™

**Grade(s):** 7, 8, and 9

**Length:** 1.5 hours introduction to the program. Project is an ongoing process with mentorship available.

**Availability:** Fall, Winter and Spring

**Location:** In-class and within the community

**Description:** How it works? Students must answer the question: What can you do to improve your watershed? Students are required to research the local watershed, identify an environmental concern, and develop a realistic solution. Students are encouraged to discuss their ideas with parents, teachers, friends and local experts. Students must submit proposal (~1000 words). Finalists will be selected to make a five minute verbal presentation to a panel of judges.

Students have an opportunity to win **cash awards** for themselves and their school. Additionally, special funding is available for students to implement their ideas.

Caring for Our Watersheds™ is a joint program between Lower Trent Conservation and Nutrien Inc. The contest is open to all students in Grades 7 - 9 in the Lower Trent watershed region. See Contest Details for more information. www.LTC.on.ca/events/education/cfow/

## Yellow Fish Road™

**Grade(s):** 2 - 12

**Length:** 2 - 2.5 hours

**Availability:** Fall, Spring and Summer

**Location:** Within the schools community

**Description:** Students paint yellow fish beside storm drains to build awareness regarding the importance of local water quality within their community. The yellow fish are a reminder that roadway run-off can be harmful to local waterways. Participants will go door-to-door and hang yellow fish-shaped information pamphlets explaining why the fish are painted beside the storm drains.

Students will learn why runoff can be harmful to the water quality, as well as ways to prevent harmful things from entering into the storm drains.

Yellow Fish Road™ is a nation-wide environmental education program designed and managed by Trout Unlimited Canada. Since 1991, thousands of Canadians have become leaders in their community by raising awareness about pollution entering local waterways through storm drains.

# Wondrous Watershed Programs

All of these programs can be tailored to different grade expectations and to the curriculum for:

- Science and Technology
- Social Studies
- Geography
- The Arts
- Language

## Pollinator Seed Balls

**Length:** 1-2 hours

**Availability:** Spring and Summer

**Location:** In-classroom workshop/ school yard

**Description:** Through interactive learning and presentation students will learn about the different parts of plants, various native pollinator species, their habitat, how pollination occurs, and the benefits to our ecosystem. The class will then go outside to make clay seed balls to take home. All seeds and equipment are provided.

## Water Cycle

**Activity Length:** 1 hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** In-classroom workshop

**Description:** A brief introduction will demonstrate the water cycle and show students up close the process water takes when it evaporates, condenses and precipitates. Students will become a part of the water cycle as they transform into water droplet and travel between different areas to understand the journey a water droplet really makes.

## Soil Recipes

**Activity Length:** 1 hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** In-classroom

**Description:** Students will learn about pore space and the various types of earth materials that are key factors in determining how groundwater moves. Through a water model, students will be encouraged to investigate the surface water and groundwater, how it moves through various soils and how it is extracted for our use.

## Erosion Busters

**Length:** 1 hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** In-classroom workshop

**Description:** Students create an interactive model to help understand the role that plants and trees play in stabilizing our shorelines and preventing erosion. Students create different planting scenarios to understand the importance of the vegetation in our environment and community.

## What is a watershed?


**Length:** 1 hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** In-classroom workshop

**Description:** Through interactive models students will explore what is and makes up a watershed. They will experiment how all of the water is interconnected, while learning the rivers and tributaries within their community. Students will take a closer look at the Lower Trent watershed region through a 3D model to help understand the natural features within it.

## Enviroscape (wetlands)

**Length:** 1 hour

**Availability:** Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer

**Location:** In-classroom workshop

**Description:** Students will work with a hands-on model building their community. The facilitator then introduces the concept of pollution within our community, and explains how we can all help to prevent it. This enables students to identify environmentally responsible actions that they can implent in their daily lives to keep their watersheds clean and healthy.

## Pond Dipping/Water bugs

**Activity Length:** 1 hour

**Availability:** Fall, Spring, and Summer

**Location:** Offered at Goodrich-Loomis Education Centre or off-site at schools where suitable.

**Description:** Through hands-on investigation students will explore a water system and the wonderful benthic invertebrates, or "water bugs" that live in the water. Students will learn about some of the adaptations these bugs have to survive in these spaces, how the needs of these bugs are met, and how these bugs play an important role in indicating water quality to scientists.

## Forest Senses

**Activity Length:** 1 hour

**Season Availability:** Fall, Spring, and Summer

**Location:** Offered on-site at Goodrich-Loomis Education Centre or off-site at schools where suitable.

**Description**: In this hands-on activity students will explore Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area to discover a variety of trees and their defining features. Students will then use their senses to investigate and identify different parts of trees and discover the types of trees at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area. This activity culminates with the creation of a beautiful bark and foliage rubbing.

## Thank you to our Sponsors for supporting Connecting Kids With Nature

RBC Foundation

Nutrien

Drossbach Protective Products. Responsive Service.

Cascades GREEN BY NATURE

ENBRIDGE

H Huff Estates A GROWING TRADITION IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

CRH Group Canada Proud Community Supporter

Friends Of The Trail

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION

Mystical Distributing Company Ltd.

QUINTE FIRST CREDIT UNION

Wilson Family Foundation

Legion

Rotary Club of Trenton

**To donate to Connecting Kids With Nature please visit http://www.LTC.on.ca/about/waystogive/ or contact Sandi Ramsay 613-394-3915 ext.216**

## Macro-Micro Hike

**Activity Length:** 1 hour

**Availability:** Fall, Spring, and Summer

**Location:** Offered on-site at Goodrich-Loomis Education Centre or off-site at schools where suitable.

**Description:** Students will investigate a macro and micro habitat, and learn about some of the animals that live there and how their needs (shelter, space, water and food) are met in these two different habitats. Students will take part in a hike within a macro (big) habitat and then investigate a micro (small) habitat though a scavenger hunt of pictures.

## Coming Soon.... Augmented Reality Sandbox

**Activity Length:** 1 hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** In-classroom

The Augmented Reality Sandbox is used as a hands-on interactive tool to help students understand the importance of water resources and earth science concepts. Colours depicting land formations with various elevations with detailed contour lines are projected onto the sand. As students interact with the sand, the unit detects the movement to the sand and alters the colours and contour lines in real time. Simulation of rainfall, flooding and drought is controlled by students helping them understand the nature of the water flow within landforms.

LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

714 Murray Street, Trenton ON K8V 5P4

613.394.4829 ▪ information@LTC.on.ca ▪ www.LTC.on.ca

Member of Conservation ONTARIO Natural Champions