Lakeshore Eco-Network

MAKE THE PLANET GREAT AGAIN!

What's Inside

- Tree People project funded
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LEN Celebrates Tree People Grant by Hosting Rob Johnson of Green Legacy

Thanks to generous support from the Lambton Shores Vibrancy Fund, more than 12,000 trees will be planted in local communities over the next four years. To kick off this exciting project, Rob Johnson, Manager of the award-winning Wellington County Green Legacy program, will speak in Grand Bend on October 29.

· In September, Lambton Shores council approved a $42,000 grant for Tree People, a project of Lakeshore Eco-Network (LEN) and its partners. The goal of Tree People is to plant one tree for every resident of Lambton Shores. Trees store carbon, reducing emissions that enter the atmosphere and cause our climate to warm. They also help us adapt to changes in the climate by reducing temperature, providing shade, and absorbing excess moisture. The total cost of the project is approximately $120,000. LEN is currently seeking private and grant funding to complete the project.

"We're thrilled that the Municipality has endorsed and supported this project," says Pat Morden. Chair of Lakeshore Eco-Network. "When we see what has been achieved in Wellington County, we know that this is just the beginning. We hope to inspire other municipalities to launch ambitious tree-planting projects – after all, it's one positive thing we can do to create a healthier environment for all."

Rob Johnson has managed the Green Legacy program since its inception in 2004. Through the program, more than 3.5 million trees have been planted in Wellington County. The program has developed a strong partnership with local schools board, with thousands of students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 participating in planting activities.

Some 50 people attended the presentation.. Says Morden, "Rob's energy and passion provided inspiration as LEN launches its project."







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Active Transportation Survey Report

by Carolyn Young

From May to October 2026, community members, families, and local businesses participated in an Active Transportation Survey led by Lakeshore Eco-Network's Active Transportation Committee. The goal was to better understand local walking and biking habits, motivations, barriers, and priorities for future improvements.

The results show strong community interest in walking and cycling, driven by health and enjoyment. However, the survey also highlights significant infrastructure and safety challenges that limit participation and comfort.

Total respondents: 213
Community: 142
Families: 46
Businesses: 25



Key Takeaways

- Health and enjoyment are the top reasons people walk or bike.
- Safety and infrastructure are the main barriers.
- The community wants more sidewalks, bike lanes, and traffic-calming measures.
- Downtowns, trails, and neighbourhoods are the highest priority areas for improvement.
- Families benefit most from safe routes, crosswalks, and route maps.
- Businesses see value in better bike parking and employee incentives.

The Active Transportation Survey shows that respondents already value walking and biking for health, enjoyment, and environmental reasons. However, they face barriers related to safety and limited infrastructure. Community members are clearly calling for more sidewalks and bike lanes, traffic-calming measures, better lighting, and improved crossings. Addressing these needs will make walking and biking safer, easier, and more enjoyable—helping to build healthier, more connected, and sustainable communities throughout the region.



Recent Events

The air was buzzing with native plant excitement at the Fall Native Tree and Plant Sale on October 4! Our four amazing vendors had fabulous stock on offer and shoppers were in the mood.

Two climate cafes were held this fall, using Project Drawdown's Climate 101 videos as a starting point. We were delighted to welcome participants from as far away as Stratford. As always the conversation was fascinating.

We're planning more Climate Cafes this winter and of course, our spring tree and plant sale in early May. We're also planning tree planting opportunities as part of our Tree People project. Stay tuned for details.









Invasive plant of the month: English Ivy

by Renee Sandelowsky and Helen Verekamp

English Ivy is native to Europe, western Asia and northern Africa; it was introduced to Canada in the 1800s as an ornamental plant. It has been developed into hundreds of varieties and can now be found in gardens throughout North America.

Although technically a vine, this evergreen perennial is commonly used as a groundcover in dense shade. Whether in shade or sun, English Ivy will persist and spread vegetatively through its long vines that root at the nodes in almost any soil type, and will block sunlight from other plants. It is easily identified by its dark green three-lobed leaves, placed alternately on its flexible woody vine.

Despite its pervasiveness in gardens and nearby natural areas, not a single North American animal uses English Ivy for food. Indeed, this is one of the causes of its invasive nature, the other being its considerable adaptability. More surprisingly, English Ivy is still readily for sale in garden centers.

The fruits are toxic to humans and livestock, and its sap can irritate skin. Birds eat the berries and are responsible for long-distance spread of English Ivy, since the seeds within the fruit pass through the bird without damage. The Ivy can also reproduce vegetatively from broken or cut vines that root easily.

IMPACT ON TREES:

English Ivy attaches to trees by sticky rootlets that develop along the stem, which can be up to 12” in diameter and can climb to 100’ in the canopy, eventually killing the tree by impeding photosynthesis. It can grow in dense patches in open woodland, forest openings and forest edges, therefore suppressing native tree seedlings.

It can engulf and kill lower branches of trees, due to heavy shade, while the weight of the vines and evergreen leaves causes the host tree to be much more susceptible to blow down from winds or heavy rain, snow, or ice. It may also harbour a plant disease, called Bacterial Leaf Scorch, harming Oak, Elm and Maple trees.

HOW TO MANAGE ENGLISH IVY

Managing English Ivy is challenging but achievable with persistence and a multi-step approach:

Manual Removal: Small patches can be dug out by using a shovel. This is most effective when the soil is moist. Gloves and protective clothing are recommended since the sap can cause a reaction in some people.

Do not put plants in compost or municipal green waste; put in garbage instead.

Smothering: Small or larger patches can be covered with a tarp or cardboard to block sunlight.

Herbicide Treatment: Older leaves have a waxy coating that resists herbicide. Spraying young leaves in spring is more effective. You can also increase the effectiveness of herbicides by applying it to cut stems. If the ivy is growing on a tree, cut the stems at ground level and treat, being careful not to apply herbicide to the tree trunk.

Use herbicides only as a last resort, following local regulations to minimize environmental harm.

After removal, replant the area with regionally appropriate native plants and monitor it for several years. This step is essential to prevent reinfestation and to restore ecosystem health. Native plants will also attract pollinators and wildlife, improving biodiversity in your garden.

A good choice would be Wild Strawberry – Fragaria virginiana (https://onplants.ca/shop/fragaria-virginiana/).

Canada and COP 30

Remember when Justin Trudeau announced, “We’re back” at COP in 2015? It felt like a real sea change, a cause for optimism. Since then, not so much.

According to Environmental Defence, Canada has amongst the worst emissions per capita in the G20. Canada is also among the top four countries that have increased oil and gas production by nearly 40 per cent in the past ten years since the Paris Agreement was signed. Canada is on track to be the world’s second largest developer of new oil and gas extraction projects between 2023 and 2050. Canada alone could be responsible for 10 per cent of planned expansion globally. We have less solar and wind generation than other countries in the G7, G20, or OECD. The Government of Canada’s current commitment to reduce emissions by 40 - 45 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030 falls far short of Canada’s fair share target: a 60 per cent reduction by 2030. Yet, Canada is still not on track to meet even its current insufficient climate targets. Canadian banks are the largest financiers of fossil fuels globally, financing fossil fuel production and expansion both at home and abroad. And we feel superior to our neighbors to the south, whose leader is a climate denier! We can’t do anything about that but ***Canada must do better***. *To learn what better could look like, visit https://environmentaldefence.ca/report/expectations-for-canada-at-cop30/*

COP30 BRASIL AMAZÔNIA BELÉM 2025

Few Fans for Ontario’s Bill 5

At our recent climate cafes, we were delighted to be joined by folks from Stratford who are leading a local effort to pressure the government to repeal Bill 5. That’s the legislation that introduces Special Economic Zones where development can proceed unfettered by environmental regulation and Indigenous input, and eliminates the Endangered Species Act. Turns out, they’re not the only ones who aren’t excited about this patently anti-democratic law. At a glance, the following groups are opposed: Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature, the David Suzuki Foundation, the Ontario NDP, the Green Party of Ontario, and the Chiefs of Ontario. And Lakeshore Eco-Network, of course! What should we be doing to make our voices heard? (P.S. If you’d like to display one of these beautiful lawn signs, go to repealbill5.ca to order.

