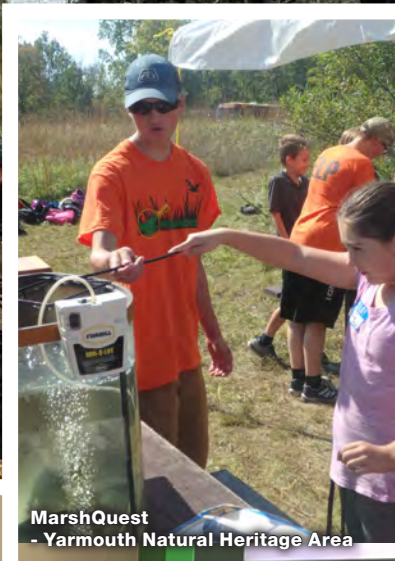


## Community Outreach / Environmental Education



Springwater Maple Syrup Program



MarshQuest  
- Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area



The Order of Good Cheer Trout Release  
-Springwater Pond  
Photo The Aylmer Express



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
Trail Restoration Project



Tree Planting - Community Participation

## Mission Statement

**"To communicate and deliver resource management services and programs in order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the watershed"**

The **CCCA** is a non-profit organization that needs your financial support and volunteerism to ensure locally driven environmental initiatives continue in the future. All donations are used for programs and projects within the Catfish Creek watershed.

**YES,** I would like to demonstrate my devotion and vision for a healthy environment by donating \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in support of the following initiative(s):

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protection & Preservation of Conservation Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Springwater Forest Preservation/Management      | <input type="checkbox"/> Commemorative Forest Program  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands Restoration |

Official tax receipt will be issued for minimum donations of \$20.00. **Commemorative gifts and land donations graciously received.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment in Cash, Visa, Mastercard, or Debit will gladly be accepted at the CCCA Office or please mail a cheque to:  
CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, 8079 Springwater Rd., R.R.#5, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4**



## 2017 Partners/Donors/Volunteers

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)



A1 Unique Installations  
Aaroc Aggregates  
Archer, Arliss  
Aylmer Area Community Foundation  
Aylmer Express  
Aylmer Optimists  
Aylmer Tire  
Babb Electric  
Biskup, Stefan  
Boehm, Susan  
Cam's Heating and Air Conditioning  
Casier, Ron  
City of St. Thomas  
Conservation Ontario  
Correctional Justice Services  
County of Elgin  
Dale Equipment Centre  
DeCraemer, Walter & Dorothy  
Dowler Karn Fuels  
Ducks Unlimited  
EESS - Environmental Leadership Program  
Elgin ALUS  
Elgin Hiking Trail Club

Elgin Stewardship Council  
Emery, George  
Eptcon Ltd.  
Exact Septic Installations  
Fick, Don & Rosina  
Fisheries & Oceans Canada  
Foster, Raymond & Robin  
Friends of Springwater  
Grand River C.A.  
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Heartland Farm Mutual  
Hill, Thomas & Cheryl  
Huron Tractor  
IGPC Ethanol  
Imperial Road Animal Hospital  
Inwood, Shauna  
Irwin, Sylvia  
Jakob, Joseph  
K&K Locksmiths  
Kettle Creek C.A.  
Kielstra, Henry & Ena  
Koolen Electric  
Laemers Excavating  
Lampman, Mary Jane

Lapchinski, Ron  
Lattanzio, Frank  
London District Catholic School Board  
Long Point Region C.A.  
Lower Thames Valley C.A.  
Maertens, Phyllis  
Mannix, F.P.  
Martyn, Sally  
McLachlin, Ian  
McPherson, Mary Lynn & Dave  
Miernicki, Tracy  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs  
Ministry of Environment & Climate Change  
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry  
Municipality of Central Elgin  
Mueller, David  
Natural Resource Gas Ltd.  
Ontario Police College  
Path of Honour

Ontario Power Generation  
Order of Good Cheer  
Parker Fuels Ltd.  
Regional Municipality of Peel  
Regional Municipality of York  
Riggs Engineering  
Rimnyak, Bill & Linda  
Rimnyak, Karin & Bob  
Rochus, Gary  
Ronald, Dick & Janet  
Salvation Army Corrections  
Sawdust Entertainment  
Service Canada  
Sinden, Tom  
Smale, Kim & DJ  
Sparta United Church Women  
Springwater Packers  
St. John's United Church Fitness Outreach  
St. Thomas Field Naturalists  
St. Thomas Wood Carvers

Steelway Building Systems  
Sweetman, Brian & Linda  
Taylor, John & Betty  
TD Friends of the Environment  
Tenhoor, Henry  
Thames Valley District School Board  
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Town of Aylmer  
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Township of South-West Oxford  
Vandenbrink Farm Equipment  
Wagler Mini Barns  
Wakely, Richard  
Waydan Auto Repair  
Weber, Dwight  
Williams Funeral Home  
Wilson Well Drilling  
Wiltsie Truck Bodies  
Yarmouth Crane  
YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin  
Zap's Tree Service

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# 2017 Annual Report



Chairperson’s Message

I am very honoured and privileged to be enjoying my first anniversary as Chairperson of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA). There are many organizations, staff and fellow directors to which due to their hard work and diligence makes us the envy of our fellow Conservation Authorities.

One of the main reasons for our success over the past is the leadership of Sally Martyn who had been the Chairperson for the last eight (8) consecutive years prior to 2017. Her knowledge and guidance throughout that time has indeed made us a stronger organization.

Our partnerships with other Conservation Authorities as well as the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) enhances our role to bring education and the environment to the forefront. Programs such as Marsh Quest, the Carolinian Forest Festival, and the Springwater Maple Syrup Program are all attributes to this ongoing endeavour. Our work in hosting the Envirothon competition for area high schools is always well attended and again makes the educational part of learning about the environment fun. The longstanding relationship with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) is also vital to our success. These students are great young leaders and under the excellent care of Mr. Duncan Sinclair must bring much pride to his profession.

The CCCA planted over 12,000 native trees and wildlife shrubs on both conservation lands as well as private holdings to enhance both wildlife habitat and biodiversity. We also worked in conjunction with organizations such as MainStreet Aylmer, Ducks Unlimited, The Aylmer Area Community Foundation, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and the aforementioned ELP to undertake many non-

mandated projects throughout the watershed. The CCCA continued to be very active participants in the Elgin Clean Water and Elgin Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) programs which provide stewardship services for projects on private land which help reduce sediment and nutrient loadings from entering Lake Erie.

We welcomed the Royal Assent of Bill 139, the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017. Only time will tell if the Bill will benefit Conservation Authorities and our partners in the future. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the lack of provincial and federal funding as well as the downloading of mandated programs which makes it very difficult in these economic times. To offset this, we exceeded our projected camping and day-use revenue for the Springwater Conservation Area and the total overall number of visitors to the Archie Coulter Conservation Area and the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area.

All is not good news this past year as we do mourn the passing of our fellow director from the Township of South-West Oxford, Anne Vanhoucke. Anne was very diligent in her duties and was always well prepared for the meetings. Her insight and expertise on environmental issues was always welcomed and she will be very much missed.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their hard work and oversight to make the CCCA an excellent place to be throughout the year.

Rick Cerna, Chairperson



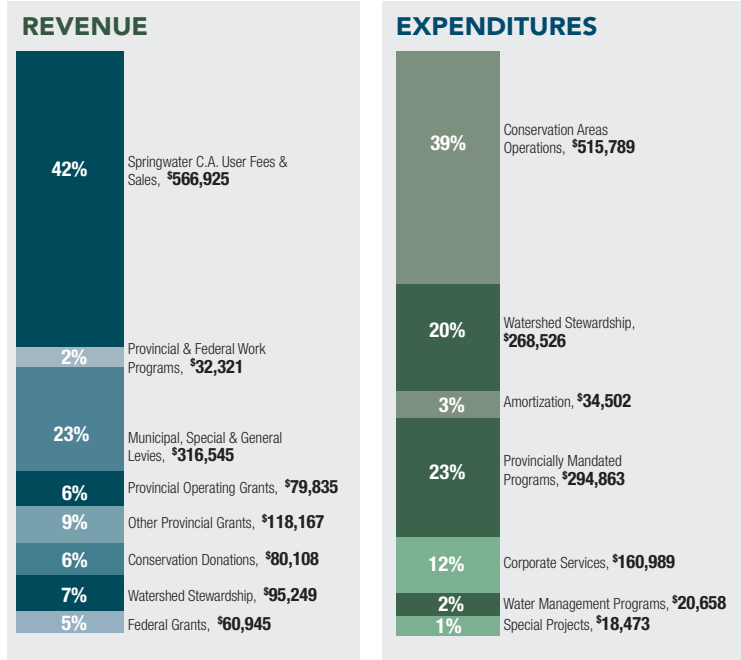
Corporate Services

The activities of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of five (5) members appointed by the five (5) member municipalities of the Catfish Creek watershed.

| Board Member                   | Municipality                  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rick Cerna (Chairperson)       | Township of Malahide          |
| Mark Tinlin (Vice-Chairperson) | City of St. Thomas            |
| Sally Martyn                   | Municipality of Central Elgin |
| Arthur Oslach                  | Town of Aylmer                |
| Anne Vanhoucke                 | Township of South-West Oxford |

| Staff Member                 | Position                            |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Kim Smale                | General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer |
| Susan Simmons                | Financial Services Coordinator      |
| Ed Pietrzak                  | Conservation Areas Supervisor       |
| * retired January 5, 2018    |                                     |
| Tony Difazio                 | Resource Planning Coordinator       |
| Peter Dragunas               | Water Management Technician         |
| Laura Ronayne                | Program Support Assistant           |
| * up until November 17, 2017 |                                     |
| Dusty Underhill              | Field Technician                    |
| Ric Wellwood                 | Fundraising/Communications          |

2017 Financial Report



Copies of the full 2017 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

Conservation Lands

The CCCA undertook a number of environmental and recreational projects on its land holdings in 2017 to raise the awareness and experience of the natural wonders of these properties.

- Created an additional 2.5 hectares of wetland and wildlife habitat at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area (YNHA);
- Constructed 40 new steel frame picnic tables to meet the increased demand for camping and day-use activities at the Springwater Conservation Area;
- Improved the 5.6 kilometres of walking trails at the YNHA for the health and safety of the public;
- Planted 20 large caliper Sugar Maple trees throughout the Springwater Conservation Area to replace several mature Ash trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer; and
- Submitted a new Stewardship Plan to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the 113 hectares of forest area owned and managed by the CCCA.



Environmental Planning

In conjunction with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the CCCA undertook aquatic surveys from 75 sites along watercourses designated as Municipal Drains under the Drainage Act in the watershed. Information collected in accordance with updated DFO Protocols on classifying Ontario Municipal Drains, will be used to identify and classify the extent and type of fish habitat. This information will be used to assist municipalities plan drain maintenance projects to better protect sensitive fish species and habitat.

Staff from the CCCA reviewed and provided comments on the following development applications, inquiries and land use planning applications in 2017:

- Reviewed and commented on 60 Planning Act applications (Environmental Assessments, Plans of Subdivision, Severances, Municipal Zoning By-laws);
- Provided 45 work permits, clearance letters or authorizations for projects pursuant to the Conservation Authorities Act & the Drainage Act; and,
- Provided responses to 40 property inquiries (legal, real estate, general information requests).



Stewardship Services

A number of private landowners in the watershed made 2017 another outstanding year for the enhancement of wild spaces and soil health by undertaking restoration projects on their properties. Programs and funding assistance are flexible to the specific needs of each property, however, everyone in the watershed and throughout the Lake Erie Drainage Basin benefit from the actions of these progressive minded individuals. Landowners and staff from the CCCA partner with a variety of groups such as the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the Elgin Stewardship Council, the Elgin Clean Water Program, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Elgin Alternative Land Use Services, and local Naturalist Clubs to implement stewardship initiatives. Specifically in 2017, seven (7) landowners carried out 14 restoration projects to enhance or connect natural features throughout the landscape. These activities resulted in the creation of over 16 hectares of new forests, wetlands and tall grass prairie habitats in the watershed. Approximately 200 metres of eroded streambank was restored along with several hectares of fragile farm land incorporating soil conservation practices to reduce phosphorus and sediment loadings into waterways. Once again, students enrolled in the Environmental Leadership Program at East Elgin Secondary School assisted with a number of the restoration and forest management projects throughout the fall and winter months.



Water Management

The winter of 2017 produced below average snowfall amounts and moderate ice thickness throughout the Catfish Creek watershed, lessening the potential for serious flooding. One (1) Flood Watch and three (3) Watershed Condition Statements were issued during 2017. Recognizing the effectiveness of the ice breaking operations and mitigation efforts in Port Bruce, municipal emergency preparedness and the moderate weather conditions experienced during the freshet runoff helped to alleviate the threat of significant flood occurrences within the watershed.

As requirements for water increase and climate changes occur, severe water level variability is increasingly widespread. CCCA staff work closely and provide current water level data to the Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team and a local Irrigation Advisory Committee to assist them in making decisions on the appropriate conservation measures and actions for irrigators to achieve provincially outlined water conservation criteria. In the low water season of 2017 (last spring to early fall), the Catfish Creek watershed received below average precipitation and the water flows within the watershed were below seasonal averages. This combination prompted the CCCA to issue a Level 1 Low Water Condition Statement in August, 2017.

Other notable water management activities in 2016 included:

- Continual monitoring of streamflow and watershed physiological conditions for flood forecasting and low water to assist with water management initiatives;
- Collected groundwater data through the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network;
- Provided technical advice and assistance for Permit To Take Water applications;
- Participated in the Ontario Domestic Action Plan Reducing Phosphorus to Minimize Algal Blooms in Lake Erie;
- Completed the Catfish Creek Flood Disaster Mitigation Infrastructure Project with funding support through the joint Small Communities Fund; and,
- Reviewed the CCCA's Flood Warning, Flood Operations and Ice Management Plans.



In Memoriam

On December 22nd, the CCCA was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of one of its current Board Members, Anne Vanhoucke. Anne was the representative for the Township of South-West Oxford on the CCCA Board of Directors since 2004. Her passion for conservation, great sense of humour, and dedication to youth environmental education will always be remembered.

2018 Special Events Calendar

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| March 3-25   | Maple Syrup Festival                   |
|              | * weekends & March Break               |
| April 28     | Opening Day of Trout Fishing           |
| May 12       | Tim Hortons Kids Trout Derby           |
| June 8-10    | Van Fest                               |
| July 28      | Paws-itively Elgin                     |
| August 17-19 | Fred Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival |
| December 1   | Christmas Spirit Walk                  |

For more information contact our office at 519-773-9037 or visit our website at [www.catfishcreek.ca](http://www.catfishcreek.ca)