

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

As the Chairperson for the last year, I am pleased to be part of this strong, responsible and adapting Conservation Authority. Every member of the Board and all our staff work well together to keep our programs current and effective. We are proud of who we are and what we have accomplished in our 60 years of existence. We may be small, but we have accomplished a lot.

The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) has an excellent record of preserving our natural heritage and offering interpretation of it for all. We are proud to maintain and offer educational opportunities on many of our conservation lands. Calton Swamp, the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area, the Springwater Forest and the Archie Coulter Conservation Area are fine examples of our natural Carolinian Life Zones.

Initiating new programs like Marsh Quest and the Carolinian Forest Festival demonstrates our commitment to education as well as our long-term working relationship with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program. This is in addition to the many students we teach each spring during our annual Springwater Maple Syrup Program. Many of our lands are also under study by the Universities of Guelph and Western Ontario and we are pleased to help further research.

The CCCA is working toward a greener future by reducing our carbon footprint. To this end, we have installed a solar hot water heating system at one of our campground washrooms and are working toward solar hot water for all the washrooms. We are replacing old lighting fixtures in the main office building with new energy efficient lighting and are looking into geothermal heating. The CCCA continues to be a very fiscally responsible Authority receiving only 15.5% of our funds from municipal levies and 18.2% from provincial funding. The remaining 66.3% is self-generated.

Looking forward to 2010, we will be participating in Doors Open Port Stanley/Sparta by having the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area open for guided tours on October 2nd. The International Ploughing Match is being held in our watershed this September and will serve as one of the many venues to promote our 60th Anniversary. Our first ever Watershed Report Card has gone to the printers and will be available shortly.

In closing, I want to thank all the volunteers, sponsors and organizations that supported and assisted the CCCA in achieving its many goals. The success of all the work that is done would not be possible without their dedication and commitment.

Sally Martyn
CCCA Chairperson



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Fred Eaglesmith Charity Picnic – Springwater

2009 Board of Directors & Staff

Board Member	Municipality
Sally Martyn (Chairperson)	Municipality of Central Elgin
George Cleminshaw (Vice-Chairperson)	Township of Malahide
Bill Aarts	City of St. Thomas
Gerry Richer	Town of Aylmer
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
Staff Member	Position
Mr. Kim Smale	General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Susan Mann	Financial Services Coordinator
Ed Pietrzak	Conservation Areas Supervisor
Tony Difazio	Resource Planning Coordinator
Peter Dragunas	Water Management Technician
Barry Martin	Operations Assistant
Laura Ronayne	Program Support Assistant
Loretta Luksys-Vinnai	Program Support Assistant (Maternity Leave contract)
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising/Communications
Barbara Pimsl	Special Projects Technician
Dusty Underhill	Land Management Technician
Adrian Smith	Land Management Technician
Dean Tolton	Water Resources Technician



photo supplied by CCCA

Front Row (seated-left to right): Gerry Richer, Anne Vanhoucke, Sally Martyn, George Cleminshaw, Bill Aarts
Middle Row (standing-left to right): Ric Wellwood, Kim Smale, Susan Mann, Barry Martin, Laura Ronayne, Barbara Pimsl
Back Row (standing-left to right): Tony Difazio, Ed Pietrzak, Dusty Underhill, Adrian Smith, Peter Dragunas, Dean Tolton

2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

photo supplied by The Aylmer Express



Conservation Award Winner – Bob and Deb Bishop

photo supplied by The Aylmer Express



Environmental Leadership Program – TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup - Catfish Creek

photo supplied by The Aylmer Express



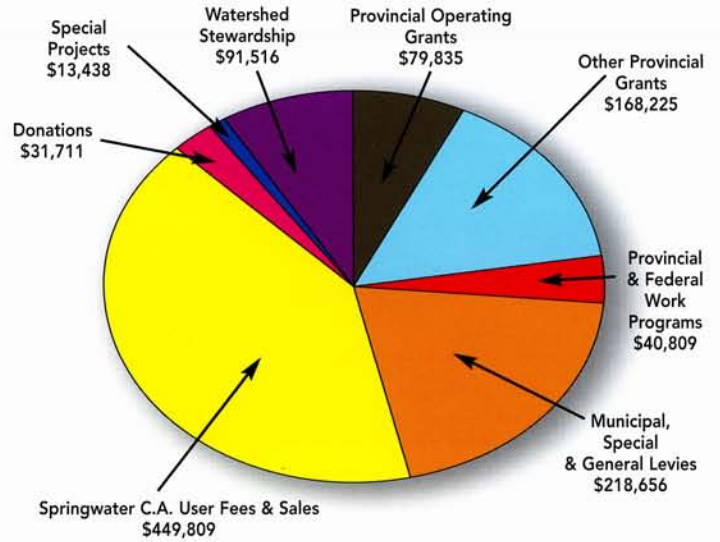
Student Scholarship Award Recipient – Jaelyn Kloepfer

photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

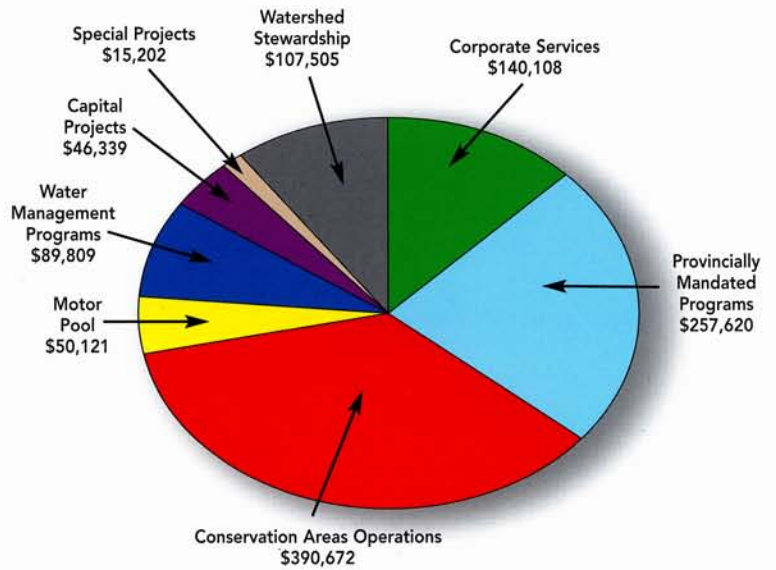


Environmental Education Outings – Springwater Forest

Revenue



Expenditures



Copies of the full 2009 audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.



60 YEARS OF CONSERVATION



The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority is celebrating its 60th Anniversary on February 23, 2010. Special commemorative events will be announced throughout the year.

YEAR IN REVIEW



photo supplied by Gord Walker

Springwater Conservation Area



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Carolinian Canada Coalition Awards of Recognition

Conservation Lands

- partnered with the Friends of Springwater to secure a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to complete the barrier free washroom facility at the Springwater Conservation Area
- welcomed a record number of visitors to the Springwater Maple Syrup Festival
- constructed a new access footbridge at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area with financial support from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Green Lane Community Fund and Shell Canada
- installed a new solar water heating system at one of the main shower buildings at the Springwater Conservation Area
- provided lands for outdoor recreation opportunities and activities to over 70,000 users

Community Outreach/Education

- afforded environmental education opportunities to 5,600 students
- provided participants from the Ontario March of Dimes with a quality training and work placement
- provided 15 students from the local community with summer employment
- received the support and generosity of 100+ partners, donors, and volunteers over the past year
- provided Cooperative Education Work Placements for secondary school students in the Thames Valley District School Board
- continued our partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association-Elgin Branch to operate the Springwater Concession Booth
- worked with the Ontario Police College to further develop the Path of Honour Project
- hosted the highly successful Marsh Quest Program and the Carolinian Forest Festival

- received two prestigious Awards of Recognition from the Carolinian Canada Coalition
- initiated a cleanup of Catfish Creek through the Town of Aylmer in conjunction with the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Program
- provided technical training and hands-on work experience for students enrolled in the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program

SPRINGWATER



2010 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| March 6-28 | Maple Syrup Festival
*Weekends & March Break |
| April 24-May 8 | Tim Hortons Trout Derby |
| June 12 | Van Fest |
| July 9-11 | Family Fishing Weekend |
| July 10 | Balls Bike Rally |
| July 24 | Kids, Cops & Canadian Tire
Fishing Days |
| August 7-8 | Family Fishing Derby |
| August 20-22 | Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival |
| September 4 | Friends of Springwater Carnival
and Fireworks |
| December 4 | Christmas Spirit Walk |

For more information contact
our office at 519-773-9037
or visit our website at www.catfishcreek.ca

YEAR IN REVIEW

Water Management

- improved the channel hydraulics of Catfish Creek in Port Bruce through the annual removal of sediment
- continual monitoring of streamflow and precipitation data as elements of our Flood Forecasting and Warning responsibilities and Low Water Response condition reporting
- recorded the highest water volumes in 50 years of recording water levels in the Catfish Creek watershed
- assisted the Township of Malahide with the implementation of their Flood Emergency Plan for Port Bruce
- provided technical advice and assistance to Permit To Take Water applicants
- participated in the Lake Erie Tributary Water Quality Monitoring Project in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment and the Grand River C.A.
- installed a fall arrest system at the Springwater Dam
- prepared a Low Water Response Information Report for the Catfish Creek and Silver Creek watersheds

Environmental Planning

- reviewed and commented on 52 Planning Act applications and development proposals
- issued eight (8) permits relative to the Conservation Authorities Act, Ont. Reg. 146/06, under O. Reg. 97/04
- received and provided comments on 14 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance requests
- provided responses to 93 property inquiries (legal, real estate, general information requests)
- worked on drafting the first ever CCCA Watershed Report Card for release in 2010
- participated in Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk in the Essex - Erie Recovery Project

Drinking Water Source Protection

- represented the Catfish Creek Source Protection Authority on the 24 Member Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee
- received a copy of the Draft Catfish Creek Source Protection Area Assessment Report which summarizes the technical studies undertaken in the Catfish Creek watershed to delineate areas around municipal drinking water sources that are most vulnerable to contamination and overuse
- participated in Public Consultation meetings to present and receive comments on the Draft Assessment Report
- completed Water Quality, Water Use, and Water Budget Studies for the watershed

Watershed Stewardship

- provided technical expertise and financial incentives to watershed landowners for erosion control and fisheries rehabilitation projects on private lands
- completed the final phase of the Watershed Forest Cover Enhancement Project funded through the Ontario Power Generations' Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Management Program
- planted over 26,000 native trees and wildlife shrubs throughout the watershed
- implemented forest management activities on private and public lands with the assistance of the students from the Environmental Leadership Program at East Elgin Secondary School
- acted as the designated local resource agency to provide technical advice to farmers interested in undertaking environmental projects through the Canada - Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP)
- worked with a number of community environmental partners to complete six (6) fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects through the Community Fisheries / Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP)
- managed two woodlots owned by the Town of Aylmer and the Township of Malahide
- approved four (4) Managed Forest Plans for private landowners under the provincial Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)



February Flood – Port Bruce

photo supplied by The Aylmer Express



Marsh Quest – Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area

photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

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):

- Protection & Preservation of Conservation Lands
 Youth Environmental Education
 Wildlife Habitat
 Springwater Forest Preservation/Management
 Commemorative Forest Program
 Wetlands Restoration

Commemorative gifts and land donations graciously received
(An official tax receipt will be issued for minimum donations of \$10.00)

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, RR#5, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4



2009 Partners/Donors/Volunteers

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)



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 Barnsley, Hugh
 Basson, Arlene
 Bentham, Carole
 Brown, Lawrence & Shirley Ann
 Calvar, Yves
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 Association
 Canadian Tire Corporation
 Carolinian Forest Festival
 Sponsors
 Carolinian Canada
 Christmas Spirit Walk Volunteers
 City of St. Thomas
 Conservation Ontario
 County of Elgin
 County of Oxford
 Dale, Shirley & Danial
 Dowler Karn
 Ducks Unlimited Canada
 East Elgin Sportsmen's
 Association
 East Elgin Secondary School
 Elgin Stewardship Council
 Elgin Federation of Agriculture
 Elgin Hiking Trail Club
 Ellis, Richard & Katherine
 Environment Canada
 Environmental Leadership
 Program

Fairservice, George
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 Grand River C. A.
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 Ministry of Training, Colleges, &
 Universities
 Municipality of Central Elgin

National Wild Turkey Federation
 - Elgin Chapter
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 Ontario Power Generation
 Ontario Soil and Crop
 Improvement Association
 Ontario Works, St. Thomas-
 Elgin
 Ontario March of Dimes
 Ontario Police College
 Order of Good Cheer
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 Parkside Collegiate Institute
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 Association
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 Wilson Well Drilling
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 Woods, Karen

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Brian Riggs, P.Eng.

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