



MISSION STATEMENT

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



WATERSHED

• NEWS AND INFORMATION •

2003 Annual Report Issue



Millpond Trail and Boardwalk - Springwater Conservation Area

CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



It's hard to imagine another year has come and gone, and I am once again preparing my Chairperson's Message for the Annual Report. Before I reflect on the past year, I would first like to recognize two members who are not returning to the Board. Roger Vandierendonck from the Town of Aylmer and Carl McQueen from the Township of South-West Oxford have a combined 18 years of service to the people in the Catfish Creek watershed. Thank you gentlemen for your time and many contributions.

The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority continued to implement proactive flood control measures in Port Bruce through annual dredging and ice breaking operations, resulting once again in no reported flood damage in 2003.

The Authority also partnered in a number of community and watershed projects this past year. In the Town of Aylmer we undertook a Fisheries Rehabilitation Project in Catfish Creek adjacent to Steen Park. A continuation of the Big Otter/Catfish Creek Irrigation Options Project in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Elgin and Oxford Federations of Agriculture, and the Long Point Region Conservation Authority resulted in 54 projects being completed totalling \$317,085.00. As well, an additional 35,000 trees were planted in the watershed in partnership with Ontario Power Generation.

With water front row and centre these days, the Authority was actively involved in a number of water related projects such as the Municipal Groundwater Study for Elgin/Middlesex, the Provincial Surface Water Quality Monitoring Network Program, and the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network, all coordinated through the Ministry of the Environment. Closer to home, we initiated major upgrades to our drinking water system at Springwater as well as to the electrical distribution network within the Conservation Area.

The CCCA continued to maintain its Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team and faced Level II low water conditions throughout the entire summer months, resulting in a voluntary 20% reduction in the taking of water by all potential users.

This past summer saw the Official Opening of the Millpond Trail and Boardwalk as a feature which adds significantly to the accessible trails throughout the Springwater Conservation Area. The Yarmouth Natural

Heritage Area was also the site of some significant restoration work with the establishment of 1.2 hectares of Tallgrass Prairie in an effort to return the property to its natural state.

The year also marked another milestone in the history of conservation along the north shore of Lake Erie. CCCA signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kettle Creek, Grand River, and Long Point Region Conservation Authorities to establish a Source Protection Planning Area to develop and implement Source Protection Plans on a watershed basis.

Many of these events and projects would not have been possible if it were not for our many partners, a Board with vision and a passion for conservation, but more importantly if it were not for our highly skilled and competent staff. The upcoming year, will no doubt bring with it a new set of challenges along with some of the old. I have no doubt that whatever comes our way, we will meet each and every challenge with the same determination and zeal, and in doing so, fulfill our Mission Statement of "communicating and delivering resource management services and programs in order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the Watershed".

Danial R. Dale
CCCA Chairperson

SOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNING



Left to right: Don McCall, Chair KCCA; Dan Dale, Chair CCCA; Cliff Evanitski, Chair LPRCA, and Paul Emerson, CAO GRCA

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WATER MANAGEMENT

- continual monitoring of stream flow and watershed conditions for flood forecasting and warning purposes
- maintenance and operation of four water level gauges and one weather station
- excavated approximately 1,000 cubic yards of material from Catfish Creek in Port Bruce for flood control purposes based on channel sounding and bathymetric mapping data
- creek and lake ice monitoring and assessment to determine the potential for flooding caused by ice jams
- coordinated ice breaking operations in Port Bruce
- regular inspections, operation, and maintenance of the Springwater Dam
- Chaired the Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team. Issued a Level II Situation calling for a voluntary 20% reduction in water taking throughout the watershed
- drilled and equipped five new wells in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment to monitor groundwater levels
- participated on the Steering Committee for the Middlesex-Elgin Municipal Groundwater Study
- worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Elgin and Oxford Federations of Agriculture, and the Long Point Region Conservation Authority to complete the Big Otter/Catfish Creek Irrigation Options Project
- established the first Catfish Creek Irrigation Advisory Committee to resolve water taking conflicts in the agricultural community
- participated in the Provincial Surface Water Quality Monitoring Network by establishing and collecting water samples from four separate stations in the watershed

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- provided technical support and policy development to local municipalities and proponents by reviewing and commenting on over 75 Planning Act applications and development proposals
- received and provided comments on 21 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance Requests
- issued six permits relative to fill placement, construction or alteration to watercourses in accordance with Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act
- provided responses to over 32 property inquiries (legal, real estate, and general information requests)
- maintained a Level II Review Agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to protect fish habitat and mitigate impacts to aquatic ecosystems
- signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Grand River, Kettle Creek, and Long Point Region Conservation Authorities to jointly deliver source protection planning initiatives along the north shore of Lake Erie
- continued to work on enhancing the Authority's GIS mapping capabilities and database

EXTENSION SERVICES

(Reforestation/Woodlot Management/Soil Conservation)

- 35,000 trees planted throughout the watershed in 2003
- provided certified staff to approve Managed Forest Tax Incentive

- Program Plans for private landowners
- delivered large stock hardwoods to local municipalities for road-side tree planting
- managed a six hectare White Pine plantation for Imperial Tobacco Leaf Inc.
- assisted with several erosion control and fisheries rehabilitation projects on private lands
- contracted by local municipalities to carry out vegetation and erosion control measures along municipal roadsides and drains
- completed Phase II of the three year, \$112,500 North Erie Forest Connections Project funded through Ontario Power Generation's Carbon Sequestration/Biodiversity Management Program



Tallgrass Prairie Restoration-Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area

CCCA OWNED LANDS

- finalized the Management Plan for the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area
- Officially Opened the Millpond Trail and Boardwalk located at the Springwater Conservation Area
- completed plantation management activities at the Bromley and Aylmer Tracts in conjunction with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program students
- undertook several fisheries rehabilitation and invasive species management projects through the Ministry of Natural Resources Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP)
- planted a variety of native trees at the various Conservation Areas through the Community Forest Program
- initiated a Recovery Plan for the Nationally Endangered Small Whorled Pogonia
- provided recreational opportunities on CA owned lands for over 60,000 visitors
- planted 1.2 hectares of the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area with Tallgrass Prairie species to create scarce wildlife and butterfly habitat
- committed over \$30,000 to bring the water system at the Springwater Conservation Area in compliance with the new Provincial Drinking Water Regulations

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY INFORMATION/ EDUCATION

- circulated over 4,500 copies of the Annual Report throughout the watershed
- implemented the CCCA's long-term operating objectives and strategy statements
- revamped the educational component of the Springwater Maple Syrup Program to focus more on eco-tourism opportunities and the health of the Springwater Forest
- constructed a wheelchair accessible teaching platform for students to participate in a variety of aquatic programs
- co-hosted the annual provincial Women In The Outdoors initiative in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation - Elgin Chapter
- provided environmental education programming and outdoor experiences to approximately 3,500 students
- initiated the production of a CD to educate the public about the fisheries in the Catfish Creek watershed
- participated in the 4th Annual Waterfowl Weekend hosted by the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program
- promoted the Environmental Education and Activity Guidebook for students ranging from elementary school to the university level, as well as for scout, guide, and adult groups
- provided Cooperative Education Work Placements for secondary school students in the Thames Valley District School Board
- initiated the 1st Annual Conservation Scholarship Award



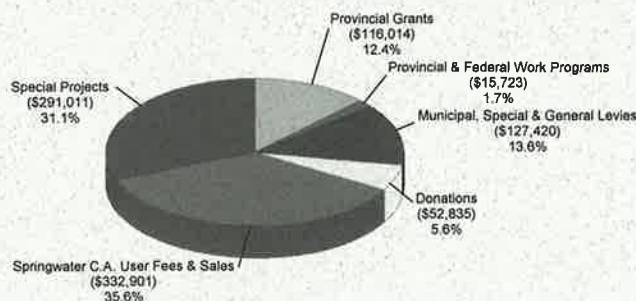
Environmental Education Programs

CORPORATE SERVICES

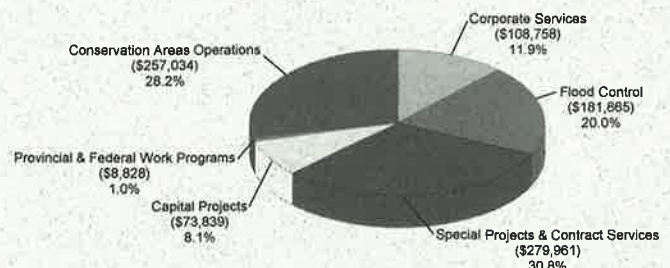
- administered a 2003 approved budget of \$1,169,519.00
- provided employment opportunities for over 65 individuals during the course of the year
- participated as a member of Conservation Ontario
- continued to develop corporate and strategic planning, policy development, and implementation
- provided support to the CCCA Board of Directors and liaison with member municipalities
- offered training and work experience placements for a variety of community agencies
- maintained partnerships with external organizations like Volunteer Elgin, Leave A Legacy, and the Elgin-Middlesex-Oxford Purchasing Cooperative

2003 FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Revenue = \$935,904



Total Expenditures = \$910,285



Copies of the full 2003 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

BOARD MEMBER

Danial Dale
(Chairperson)
George Cleminshaw
(Vice-Chairperson)
Carl McQueen
Marie Turvey
Roger Vandierendonck (Jan-Nov)
Gerry Richer (December)

MUNICIPALITY

Municipality of Central Elgin
Township of Malahide
Township of South-West Oxford
City of St. Thomas
Town of Aylmer
Town of Aylmer

STAFF MEMBER

Kim Smale

Susan Mann
Ed Pietrzak
Tony Difazio
Ryan Smith
Barry Martin
Loretta Luksys-Vinnai
Ric Wellwood
Alison Munroe

POSITION

General Manager/Secretary
-Treasurer
Financial Services Coordinator
Conservation Areas Supervisor
Resource Planning Coordinator
Water Management Technician
Operations Assistant
Program Support Assistant
Fundraising/Communications
Irrigation Options Project
Coordinator
Resource Technician
Resource Technician
File Management Technician
Community Education Specialist
Resource Planning Assistant

Jill Mandigo

Bill Bain

Sonja Brushetto

Linda Irving

Peter Dragunas



Front Row (seated-left to right): George Cleminshaw, Carl McQueen, Danial Dale, Gerry Richer, Marie Turvey
Middle Row (standing-left to right): Peter Dragunas, Tony Difazio, Barry Martin, Kim Smale, Ric Wellwood, Ryan Smith
Back Row (standing-left to right): Jill Mandigo, Alison Munroe, Linda Irving, Sonja Brushetto, Susan Mann, Loretta Luksys-Vinnai, Ed Pietrzak

SPRINGWATER MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL



CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER



East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program

Photo reprinted with permission of The Aylmer Express.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Recipient - Chad Matthews



2004 EVENTS CALENDAR

March 13-18	Maple Syrup Festival
April 24-May 31	Tim Hortons Trout Derby
June 12	Van Fest
July 4	Hot Rods & Harleys Show
July 9-11	Family Fishing Weekend
July 19-23	YMCA Environmental Day Camp
August 7-9	Family Fishing Derby
August 20-22	Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
September 4	Friends of Springwater Carnival & Fireworks
December 4	Christmas Spirit Walk

For more information contact our office at (519) 773-9037 or
visit our website at www.execullnk.com/~ccca

Working Together Today For A Healthier Environment Tomorrow!

The CCCA is a non-profit organization that needs your financial support and volunteerism to ensure community driven environmental initiatives continue in the future.

YES, I would like to demonstrate my leadership and vision for the environment by donating \$_____ in support of the following initiative(s):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of Environmentally Significant Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education/Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Reforestation Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Springwater Forest Preservation/Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Commemorative Forest Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Commemorative gifts and land donations graciously received.

An official tax receipt will be issued for minimum donations of \$10.00.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Please mail to: Catfish Creek Conservation Authority, 8079 Springwater Road, RR#5, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R4

2003 PARTNERS / DONORS / VOLUNTEERS

Please notify our office of any errors or omissions

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
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Anything Used
Aylmer & District Museum
Aylmer & Area Community Foundation
Ball, John & Shirley
Barrow Jamboree
Button, Chris & Nancy
Calvar, Yves & Bev
Carolinian Canada
Central Elgin Collegiate Institute
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Christmas Spirit Walk Volunteers & Performers
City of St. Thomas
Conservation Ontario
County of Elgin
Ducks Unlimited Canada
East Elgin Secondary School (EESS)
EESS Environmental Leadership Program
Elgin Federation of Agriculture
Elgin Hiking Trail Club
Elgin Stewardship Council
Family Campers & RVers
Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Forest City BMW Riders | Formet Industries
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Kettle Creek C.A.
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Koolen Electric
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Maloney, Elizabeth
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Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources | Municipality of Central Elgin
National Wild Turkey Federation – Elgin Chapter
Natural Resource Gas Ltd.
Northern Casket
Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Ontario Works, St. Thomas-Elgin
Ooms, Gerald
Order of Good Cheer
Oxford Federation of Agriculture
Parker Fuels
Port Bruce Ratepayers Association
Pressey, Phineas
Presstran Industries
Richer, Gerry
Riggs Engineering Ltd.
Ronald, Janet
Rotary Club of Aylmer
Rush Creek Wines
Scouts Canada – Elgin District
Semple, Brenda
Shell Environmental Fund
Silcox, Helen
Sinclair, Dr. Duncan
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TD Friends of the Environment
Tenhour, Henry
Thames Valley District School Board
The Aylmer Express
The Salamander Foundation
The Salvation Army, St. Thomas
Tim Hortons, Aylmer
Town of Aylmer
Township of Malahide
Township of South-West Oxford
Uhr, Dave
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VON Middlesex-Elgin
VanPelt's Stationery
Vandenbrink Farm Equipment Inc.
Van Fest – Kevin Lundy
VanPatter, Margaret
Volunteer Elgin
White, Jim (New Sarum Diner)
Wilson Well Drilling
Wilson, Susan |
|--|--|--|--|

Thanks to the following businesses for their support toward the printing of the 2003 Annual Report

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Asst: Pam Huber ext. 404

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