



CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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2007 Annual Report

W A T E R S H E D



*Photos contributed by (clockwise from upper left):
Jenelle Smale, Ena Kielstra, Ena Kielstra, Gord Walker*

Chairperson's Message

Across North America and throughout the world, the environmental/conservation movement has never been more visible. With natural events such as Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans or tsunamis devastating the Pacific nations, people are now starting to understand the relationship between environmental health and the health of society. Climate change is now a common conversation topic in every country. Subsequently, Conservation Authorities are at the head of many organizations that have stepped forward to address these issues, each tending to specific problems on a watershed basis.

Finishing 2007 as Chair of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA), I encountered a year filled with challenges and a flurry of activity demonstrated by the committed and happy energy of our small staff. It is through their pursuit of excellence in conservation and environmental protection that we enjoyed many achievements in 2007.

Our year began with one of the most successful Maple Syrup Festivals on record, welcoming thousands of visitors to the Springwater Conservation Area. Water and land management initiatives still continue to be a priority of utmost importance to the landowners throughout the watershed. Projects were launched ranging from reforestation, drinking water source protection, tallgrass prairie restoration at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area, low water response, watershed stewardship, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, riverine/shoreline bank stabilization/restoration works, and of course, environmental education.

As in past years, we continued to host special events, such as fishing derbies, the Fred Eaglesmith Charity Picnic, and the Christmas Spirit Walk which attract hundreds of new and repeat visitors every year, making the outdoor recreational and educational experience at Springwater one-of-a-kind.

We are now entering 2008 and the CCCA will remain focused on addressing our water quantity and quality issues throughout the watershed. We will continue with our strong public education and awareness campaign that is vital to the successful completion of any undertaking.

In closing, we would not have reached many of our program successes without the generous financial and logistical support of the hundreds of partners, stakeholders and volunteers who have helped and aided the CCCA with its many environmental endeavors.



(supplied by The Aylmer Express)

Communities In Action Fund Grant - Ministry of Health Promotion

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Board Member	Municipality
Gerry Richer (Chairperson)	Town of Aylmer
George Cleminshaw (Vice-Chairperson)	Township of Malahide
Bill Aarts	City of St. Thomas
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
Sally Martyn	Municipality of Central Elgin

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
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising/Communications
Patti Reichstein	Administrative Clerk
Ronnee Sykes	Water Resources Technician
Becky Lidster	Property Management Technician
Brad Millinger	Forestry/Land Technician
Calvert Walters	Forestry/Land Technician



Front Row (seated-left to right): Bill Aarts, Sally Martyn, Gerry Richer, George Cleminshaw, Anne Vanhoucke
Back Row (standing-left to right): Tony Difazio, Ronnee Sykes, Ed Pietrzak, Becky Lidster, Kim Smale, Patti Reichstein, Ric Wellwood, Laura Ronayne, Peter Dragunas, Susan Mann



New Watershed Orthophotography - Calton Swamp



Bradley Creek Rehabilitation Project

WATER MANAGEMENT

- installed a new hydrometric streamgauge station on Silver Creek
- continual monitoring of streamflow and watershed conditions for flood forecasting and warning purposes
- received funding assistance through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI) to improve the channel hydraulics at the mouth of Catfish Creek in Port Bruce
- collected groundwater data through the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
- participated in the Provincial Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program by taking samples once a month at seven stations in the watershed
- provided technical support to the Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team and the Catfish Creek Irrigation Advisory Committee
- received and reviewed the Draft Catfish Creek Watershed Characterization Report
- participated in an Emergency Planning Exercise with the Township of Malahide by staging a mock flood disaster in Port Bruce
- partnered with the Kettle Creek, Long Point Region, and Grand River Conservation Authorities to identify drinking water source protection issues within the Lake Erie Region Planning Area

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- coordinated the undertaking of two Biological Studies and Inventories in Calton Swamp as part of the Species at Risk recovery efforts for the endangered Small Whorled Pogonia
- provided technical support and policy development to local municipalities and proponents by reviewing and commenting on over 64 Planning Act Applications and development proposals
- received and provided comments on 26 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance requests

- reviewed over 22 proposals including issuance of 13 permits relative to fill placement, construction or alteration to watercourses in accordance with Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act
- provided responses to over 62 property inquiries (legal, real estate, and general information requests)
- obtained new orthophotography for the entire Catfish Creek watershed including the Lake Erie shoreline
- worked with the Elgin Stewardship Council and the Ministry of Natural Resources to update the Management Plan for the Calton Swamp Wildlife Management Area

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

- completed the final phase of the East Elgin Landscape Restoration Project funded through Ontario Power Generation's Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Management Program
- planted over 30,000 trees in the watershed
- provided certified staff to approve Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Plans for private landowners
- implemented the management prescriptions at two municipal woodlots under Agreement with the CCCA
- provided technical expertise and financial incentives to several landowners for erosion control and fisheries rehabilitation projects on private lands
- designated as the local resource agency to provide technical input to landowners interested in undertaking environmental projects through the Greencover Canada Program. This new cost-share opportunity for Ontario farmers is being delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- organized a creek cleanup through the Town of Aylmer utilizing volunteers from the local community
- participated as technical advisors on the Elgin Stewardship Council
- developed a list of potential fish habitat projects identified in the CCCA Fish Habitat Management Plan



Hiking Trails -
Springwater Forest

CCCA OWNED LANDS

- worked with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to monitor for the Emerald Ash Borer in forested areas owned and managed by the CCCA
- provided recreational opportunities and facilities on CA owned lands for over 70,000 visitors
- carried out woodlot management activities on a number of Authority properties in conjunction with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program
- worked with a number of environmental partners to complete five fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects
- implemented major capital development improvements at the Springwater Conservation Area with better access and electrical upgrades for ten campsites
- completed construction of the Herb Kebbel Wetland Trail at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area
- received a grant from the Communities In Action Fund to develop a booklet that will encourage wider use of the trail systems on Authority owned lands
- benefitted from the use of a new Global Electric Motorcar donated by Daimler-Chrysler for operation in the Springwater Conservation Area
- re-surfaced .5 km of roads through the Springwater Conservation Area campground
- received funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to upgrade the interpretive signage in the Springwater Forest
- completed a commercial timber harvest cut at the Hawkins Tract



Daimler-Chrysler Global Electric Motorcar Presentation

COMMUNITY OUTREACH / EDUCATION

- provided training and work experience for students enrolled in the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program
- participated in the Communities In Bloom competition with the Town of Aylmer and the Municipality of Central Elgin
- contributed to the publication of the Carolinian Canada Caring for Nature in Elgin factsheet
- presented the 5th Annual Student Scholarship Award to Stephanie Ungar
- provided environmental education opportunities to approximately 3,800 students
- constructed Phase I of the Path of Honor Project in partnership with the Ontario Police College
- selected Ron Casier as the recipient of the CCCA Conservation Award
- fostered the support and generosity of 100+ partners, donors, and volunteers from the local community
- employed five individuals through the Job Creation Partnership Program of the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities
- worked in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association to provide an opportunity to operate the Springwater Concession Booth
- recognized the contributions of Member Danial Dale who served nine years on the CCCA Board of Directors, five as Chairperson
- participated in the dedication of the Ducks Unlimited Canada Calton Swamp Project to Dr. Duncan Sinclair
- partnered with the Township of Malahide for improvements to the recreation facilities in Port Bruce
- initiated discussions with the Jaffa Environmental Education Centre to establish a Carolinian Forest Festival
- worked with the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority to organize a Children's Water Festival for Elgin County in 2008



Streambank Stabilization "Greencover Canada Program"



Kids, Cops, & Canadian Tire Fishing Days - Springwater Conservation Area



Conservation Award Winner Ron Casier



Student Scholarship Award Recipient Stephanie Ungar

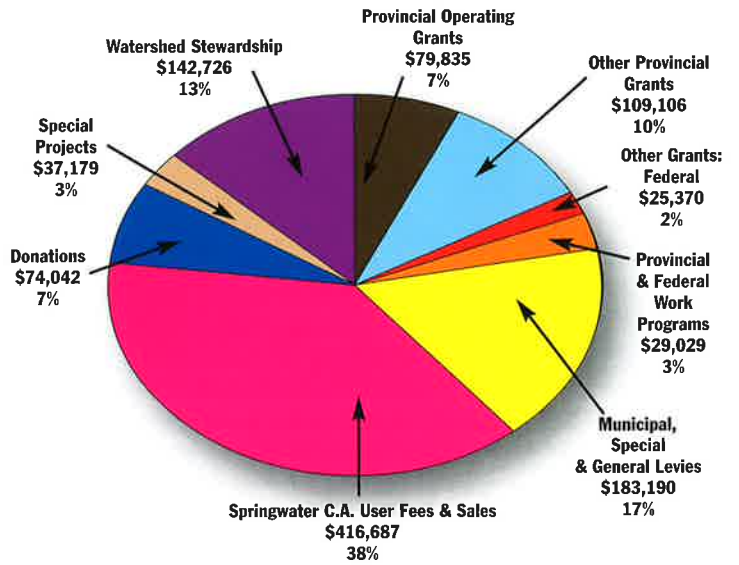


Middlesex-Elgin VON Volunteer Appreciation Tree Planting Ceremony - Springwater Conservation Area

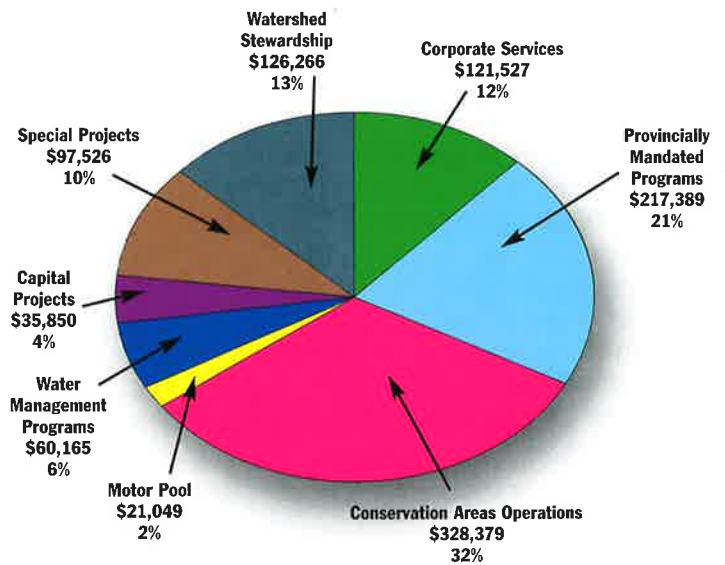
(supplied by The Aylmer Express)

2007 Financial Report

Revenue



Expenditures



Copies of the full 2007 audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

2008 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

SPRINGWATER



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| March 8-30 | Maple Syrup Festival | August 3 | Great Canadian Beaver Run |
| April 26-May 4 | Tim Hortons Trout Derby | August 9-10 | Family Fishing Derby |
| June 14 | Van Fest | August 15-17 | Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival |
| July 4-6 | Family Fishing Weekend | August 30 | Friends of Springwater Carnival and Fireworks |
| July 26 | Kids, Cops & Canadian Tire Fishing Days | December 6 | Christmas Spirit Walk |

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

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 vision for a healthy environment by donating \$ _____ in support of the following initiative(s):

- Protection & Preservation of Conservation Lands Youth Environmental Programs 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: _____

**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**

2007 PARTNERS/DONORS/VOLUNTEERS

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Angling Outfitters | Fisheries & Oceans Canada | Ministry of Training, Colleges, & Universities | Springwater Forest Supporters |
| Aylmer Area Community Foundation | Foster, Robin & Raymond | Municipality of Central Elgin | Springwater Maple Syrup Volunteers |
| Aylmer & Area Chamber of Commerce | Friends of Springwater | National Wild Turkey Federation - Elgin Chapter | Smale, Kim & DJ |
| Canadian Mental Health Association | Grand River C. A. | Natural Resource Gas Ltd. | St. Joseph's High School |
| Canadian Tire Corporation | Green Lane Community Trust Fund | Nature Conservancy Canada | St. Thomas Field Naturalists |
| Carolinian Canada | Hamilton Ward & Cathers Insurance | Ontario Police College | St. Thomas Wood Carvers |
| Christmas Spirit Walk Volunteers | Hunter, Nora | Ontario Power Generation | Steelway Building Systems |
| City of St. Thomas | Hydro One | Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association | TD Friends of the Environment Foundation |
| Conservation Ontario | Jaffa Environmental Education Center | Ontario Works, St. Thomas-Elgin | Tenhour, Henry |
| County of Elgin | Jakob, Joseph | Order of Good Cheer | Thames Valley District School Board |
| County of Oxford | K&K Locksmiths | Oxford Mutual Insurance | The Aylmer Express |
| Crosby, Sharon | Karda, Mike & Margo | Parker Fuels | The Salvation Army, St. Thomas |
| Ducks Unlimited Canada | Kettle Creek C.A. | Port Bruce Ratepayers Association | Tim Hortons, Aylmer |
| East Elgin Secondary School (EESS) | Kielstra, Henry & Ena | Presstran Industries | Toronto Community Foundation (Peacock) |
| EESS Environmental Leadership Program | Kinsmen Club of Aylmer | Quai du Vin Estate Winery | Town of Aylmer |
| EJLB Foundation | Koolen Electric | Riggs Engineering Ltd. | Township of Malahide |
| Elgin Federation of Agriculture | London Police Association | Ronald, Janet | Township of South-West Oxford |
| Elgin Hiking Trail Club | Long Point Region C.A. | Salamander Foundation | Traditional Explorers |
| Elgin RV Sales & Service | Martyn, Sally | Scouts Canada - Elgin Area | Vandenbrink Farm Equipment |
| Elgin Stewardship Council | McConnell, William & Liz | Secord Home Hardware, Aylmer | Van Fest - Kevin Lundy |
| Environment Canada | MicroEnvironments Landscape Design | Shell Canada | Volunteer Elgin |
| Fairservice, George | Ministry of Agriculture & Food | Sheppard, Robert | VON Middlesex-Elgin |
| Fick, Don | Ministry of Environment | Silcox, Helen | Wilson Well Drilling |
| | Ministry of Health Promotion | | Zap's Tree and Lawn Service |
| | Ministry of Natural Resources | | |

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