

CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

2008 Annual Report



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Chairperson's Message

The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA), incorporated since 1950, has observed significant changes, not only on how we do business but also on how we deliver our environmental programs and services.

Conservation Authorities were originally mandated to address watershed management issues. This mandate has not changed. What has changed are the complexities on how we deliver the programs to meet the evergrowing expectations of our watershed clients.

Traditionally, the Authority Board and staff have always maintained, and will continue to maintain, its financial standing...this will not change! But now with worldwide economies facing difficult times, we once again see ourselves stepping up to the plate to be fiscally observant and to be prepared to adjust and adapt to changing priorities. How we will adapt or change only the future will tell, but adapt and change we will.

Throughout 2008 we achieved many inaugural accomplishments, beginning with our participation in the St Thomas-Elgin Children's Water Festival, the Marsh Quest Program, and the Carolinian Forest Festival. These three new initiatives provided hands-on sharing of information with some 2500 students, speaking to the need of wetlands, forests, and daily conservation practices. Educating today's youth will shape tomorrow's environmental leaders.

I am optimistic for the future, we have to be. It has been said by someone that in the last thirty years we have experienced three significant recessions, and each time we recovered to have years of prosperity. Nonetheless, the conservation and environmental initiatives and programs of the CCCA will continue to be a model of past years during these challenging times.

I wish to conclude my message with special recognition and thanks to the many volunteers, sponsors and partners who supported and assisted the CCCA in achieving its many goals. The great successes of 2008 would not have been obtainable had it not been for their dedication and commitment.

Gerry Richer,
CCCA Chairperson



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Maple Syrup Festival - Springwater Conservation Area

2008 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
Loretta Luksys-Vinnai	Program Support Assistant (Maternity Leave contract)
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising/Communications



photo supplied by CCCA

Front Row (seated-left to right): Sally Martyn, Bill Aarts, George Cleminshaw, Anne Vanhoucke

Middle Row (standing-left to right): Susan Mann, Gerry Richer, Loretta Luksys-Vinnai

Back Row (standing-left to right): Barry Martin, Ed Pietrzak, Kim Smale, Peter Dragunas, Tony Difazio

Absent: Ric Wellwood, Laura Ronayne

Program Highlights



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Ice Management - Port Bruce



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Wildlife Habitat Restoration - Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area

Water Management

- conducted an in-depth review of historic Catfish Creek streamflow and watershed precipitation data to assist in determining new Flood Advisory threshold criteria
- 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
- provided consultation services concerning riverine / lake effect ice management strategies and options
- reviewed the Catfish Creek Water Budget and Water Quantity Stress Assessment Interim Report as a potential tool to be used for Flood Forecasting and Low Water Response
- provided technical advice to Permit To Take Water applicants
- participated in the Lake Erie Nearshore Water Quality Monitoring Project in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment
- received funding support through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI) to install a fall arrest and portable stop log jacking system for the Springwater Dam
- installed two new ISCO water samplers to increase the capacity of the CCCA to fully characterize the water quality impacts during spring runoff events within the watershed

Environmental Planning

- reviewed and commented on 34 Planning Act applications and development proposals
- issued 15 permits relative to the Conservation Authorities Act, Ont. Reg. 146/06, under O. Reg. 97/04
- received and provided comments on 23 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance requests
- provided responses to 86 property inquiries (legal, real estate, general information requests)
- completed a Plant Inventory and Vegetation / Habitat

- Mapping Project at Calton Swamp on several Authority owned properties as part of the Species at Risk Recovery effort for the Small Whorled Pogonia
- worked in partnership with Conservation Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources to complete an inventory of all the known dams within the watershed
- participated in the preliminary talks with the County of Elgin concerning the shoreline erosion problem along Dexter Line

Watershed Stewardship

- provided technical expertise and financial incentives to watershed landowners for erosion control and fisheries rehabilitation projects on private lands
- implemented the first year 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
- continued with the management of two woodlots owned by the Town of Aylmer and the Township of Malahide
- provided certified staff to approve Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Plans for private landowners
- initiated forest management activities on private lands with the assistance of the students from the Environmental Leadership Program at East Elgin Secondary School
- participated as technical advisors on the Elgin Stewardship Council
- acted as the designated local resource agency to provide technical advice to farmers interested in undertaking environmental projects through the Greencover Canada Program
- assisted the Township of Malahide with the delivery of their Municipal Roadside Tree Planting Program
- arranged several site visits to encourage and educate landowners about using Best Management Practices when irrigating during the summer months

Program Highlights

CCCA Owned Lands

- worked with a number of community based environmental organizations to complete six fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects
- established an American Chestnut seed research plot at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area in partnership with the University of Guelph and the Canadian Chestnut Council



photo by Ena Kielstra

Pileated Woodpecker - Springwater Forest

- implemented major electrical and septic capital development improvements at the Springwater C.A.
- upgraded the trail bridges in the Springwater Forest thanks to the support of the Aylmer Area Community Foundation
- partnered with the Friends of Springwater to secure a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to construct a barrier free washroom facility at the Springwater Conservation Area
- continued with the Garlic Mustard Eradication Program for the Springwater Forest
- erected new interpretive signage along the trails in the Springwater Forest with support from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- hosted several new fundraising events at Springwater
- installed new playground equipment donated by the Friends of Springwater
- published a Trail Guide of the properties owned by the Conservation Authority



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Streambank Stabilization Projects – Community Partner Involvement (East Elgin Sportsmen's Association)

Community Outreach / Education

- organized a Source Water Protection Public Open House for the Lake Erie Source Protection Region to outline the work plan for the research and studies that are required under the Clean Water Act to develop a Source Protection Plan for the Catfish Creek watershed
- hosted Robyn Atatahak of Kugluktuk from the Northern Youth Abroad Exchange Program
- provided environmental education opportunities to 5,500 students
- worked in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association to operate the Springwater Concession Booth during the summer months
- provided two participants from the Ontario March of Dimes with quality training and work placements
- continued to foster our partnership with the Ontario Police College to develop the Path of Honour Project
- assisted with the planning and implementation of the St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Water Festival, the Marsh Quest Program, and the Carolinian Forest Festival
- toured a Rotary International cultural and business exchange team from India through the Springwater Forest and Conservation Area
- provided fifteen students from the local community with summer employment opportunities
- 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
- maintained a Website about the many programs and services available at the CCCA



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

CCCA Trail Guide Publication – Ministry of Health Promotion

2008 Financial Report



photo supplied by CCCA

Conservation Award Winner Murray Alward



photo supplied by The Aymer Express

Student Scholarship Award Recipient - Sara Howe



photo supplied by The Aymer Express

Marsh Quest Program



photo supplied by The Aymer Express

Robyn Atatahak - Northern Youth Abroad Program



photo supplied by The Aymer Express

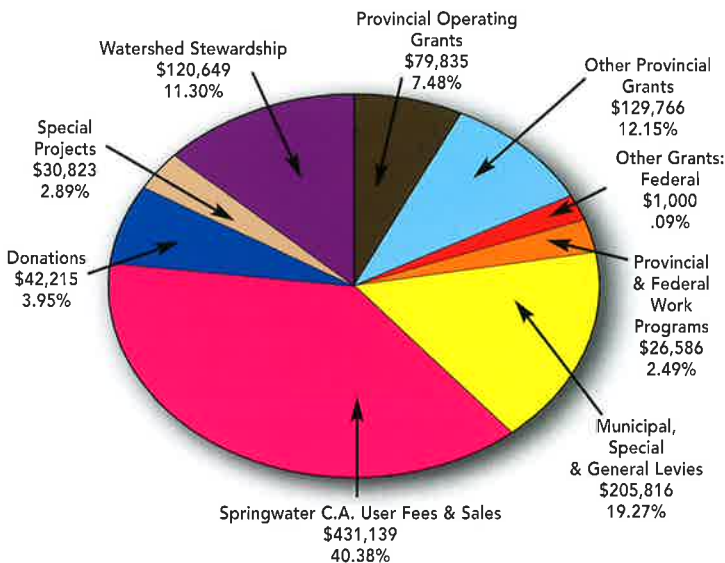
Carolinian Forest Festival



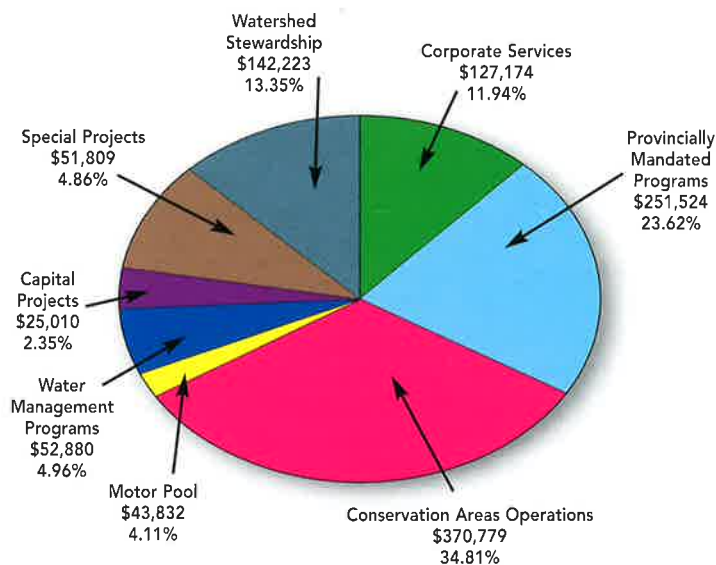
photo supplied by The Aymer Express

Youth Fishing Derbies - Springwater Conservation Area

Revenue



Expenditures



Copies of the full 2008 audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

2009 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| March 7-29 | Maple Syrup Festival
*Weekends & March Break | July 25 | Kids, Cops & Canadian Tire Fishing Days |
| April 25-May 3 | Tim Hortons Trout Derby | August 8-9 | Family Fishing Derby |
| June 13 | Van Fest | August 14-16 | Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival |
| July 3-5 | Family Fishing Weekend | September 5 | Friends of Springwater Carnival and Fireworks |
| July 4 | Balls Bike Rally | December 5 | Christmas Spirit Walk |

SPRINGWATER



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**

2008 Partners/Donors/Volunteers

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)



Alisar Aggregates
Alward, Murray
Angling Outfitters
Aylmer Area Community Foundation
Aylmer & Area Chamber of Commerce
Calvar, Yves
Calvin's Forestry Services
Canadian Chestnut Council
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canadian Tire Corporation
Carolinian Canada
Carolinian Forest Festival Sponsors
Christmas Spirit Walk Volunteers
City of St. Thomas
Conservation Ontario
County of Elgin
County of Oxford
Debrabandere, Glen & Annette
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Durkee, Donald & Judith
East Elgin Secondary School
East Elgin Sportsmen's Assoc.
Elgin Federation of Agriculture
Elgin Hiking Trail Club
Elgin Stewardship Council

Environment Canada
Environmental Leadership Program
Fairservice, George
Fick, Don
Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Foster, Raymond & Robin
Friends of Springwater
Grand River C. A.
Great Lakes New Holland Inc.
Hamilton Ward & Cathers Insurance
Hill, Thomas & Cheryl
Jaffa Environmental Education Center
Jakob, Joseph
K&K Locksmiths
Karda, Mike & Margo
Kettle Creek C.A.
Kielstra, Henry & Ena
Koolen Electric
Long Point Region C.A.
Maltby, Kirk
Martyn, Sally
McConnell, William & Elizabeth
Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Health Promotion
Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministry of Training, Colleges, & Universities

Municipality of Central Elgin
National Wild Turkey Federation - Elgin Chapter
Natural Resource Gas Ltd.
Nature Conservancy Canada
Northern Youth Abroad Program
Ontario March of Dimes
Ontario Police College
Path of Honour Supporters
Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Ontario Works, St. Thomas-Elgin
Order of Good Cheer
Parker Fuels
Parkside Collegiate Institute
Port Bruce Ratepayers Association
Presstran Industries
Quai du Vin Estate Winery
R&J Log Buyers
Richer, Gerry
Riggs Engineering Ltd.
Ronald, Janet
Rotary Club of Aylmer
Scouts Canada - Elgin Area
Second Home Hardware, Aylmer
Smale, Kim & DJ

Springwater Forest Supporters
Springwater Maple Syrup Volunteers
St. Joseph's High School
St. Thomas Field Naturalists
St. Thomas Wood Carvers
Steelway Building Systems
Sweetwater Music
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Tech-Net Professional Auto Service
Tenhour, Henry
Thames Valley District School Board
The Salvation Army, St. Thomas
The Aylmer Express
Tim Hortons, Aylmer
Town of Aylmer
Township of South-West Oxford
Township of Malahide
Traditional Explorers
Tri-County Bass Masters
University of Guelph
Van Fest - Kevin Lundy
Vandenbrink Farm Equipment
Volunteer Elgin
Wilson Well Drilling
Wiltsie Truck Bodies

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