

—2010—

A N N U A L  
R E P O R T

*Celebrating 60 Years  
of Conservation*



# Chairperson's Message

It was an honour for me to be elected Chairperson for 2010 to help steer the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) through its 60th year of conservation.

Recognition of this significant milestone was officially launched at the Annual General Meeting with the unveiling of a new logo designed to represent the many Carolinian characteristics of the Catfish Creek watershed. The Board was also privileged to welcome Dr. Duncan Sinclair and Mr. Herb Kebbel, both well-known and highly respected sportsmen and conservationists as Honourary Chairs to participate in many of the special anniversary events planned throughout the year.

Our long-standing commitment to fostering environmental stewardship by connecting children with nature through innovative programs like Marsh Quest and the Carolinian Forest Festival was once again a top priority with the CCCA and its many community partners. The Elgin-St. Thomas International Plowing Match provided a bonus opportunity for our staff to work with the Kettle Creek, Long Point Region, Upper Thames River, and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities to reach out to an additional 20,000 people of all ages through the Watershed Adventure display located in the conservation tent. The entire display was interactive, challenging visitors to consider the importance of water to their lives, classrooms, and communities.

Other notable accomplishments from 2010 which I am extremely pleased to highlight include the release of our first ever Watershed Report Card, the approval of the Draft Drinking Water Source Protection Assessment Report for the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area, and our ongoing efforts to work toward a greener future by reducing our carbon footprint through leading-edge energy conservation projects.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize former members Gerry Richer and Bill Aarts for all their hard work and valuable contributions to the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority during their tenure on the Board of Directors. Also a special thanks goes out to all the many volunteers, sponsors, and organizations who helped to make 2010 a year to remember.

Sally Martyn, CCCA Chairperson

# Corporate Services

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

## BOARD MEMBER MUNICIPALITY

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

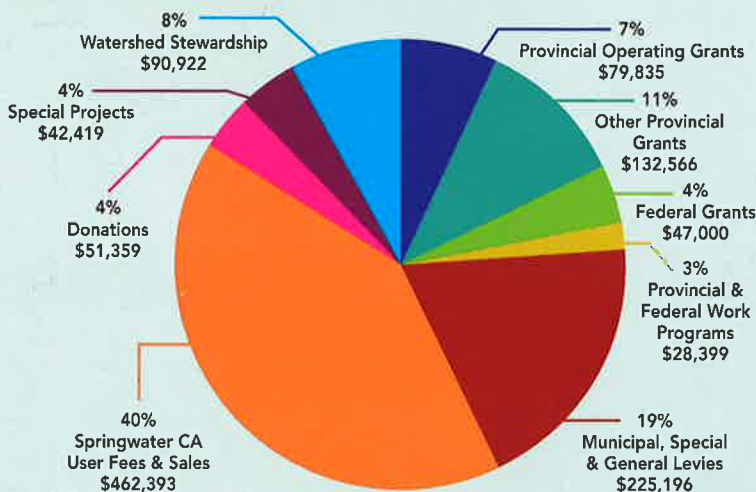
\* Alderman Lori Baldwin-Sands and Councillor Judi Wright were appointed to the Board of Directors in November replacing Bill Aarts and Gerry Richer respectfully.

## STAFF MEMBER POSITION

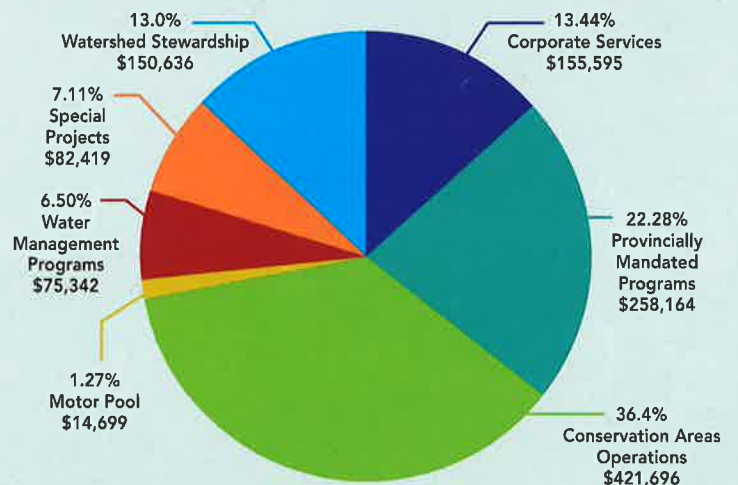
Mr. Kim Smale .....	General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Susan Mann .....	Financial Services Coordinator
Ed Pietrzak .....	Conservation Areas Supervisor
Tony Difazio .....	Resource Planning Coordinator
Peter Dragunas .....	Water Management Technician
Barry Martin .....	Operations Assistant
Laura Ronayne .....	Program Support Assistant
Ric Wellwood .....	Fundraising/Communications

# 2010 Financial Report

## 2010 REVENUE



## 2010 EXPENDITURES



PLEASE NOTE: Copies of the full 2010 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.



# Year In Review...



Water is critical to all aspects of our lives and it is important that we ensure there is a safe and reliable source of water for all our uses – now and in the future. We need to be proactive to protect our watersheds and as a result, the Great Lakes upon which we depend.

The Grand River, Long Point Region, Kettle Creek, and Catfish Creek Conservation Authorities have partnered under the umbrella of the Lake Erie Source Protection Region to coordinate the development of Assessment Reports which will form the basis of preparing Source Protection Plans for each of the respective watersheds.

In 2010, the Catfish Creek Source Protection Authority was pleased to announce that the Draft Assessment Report for the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area was one of the first such documents to be approved in the Province of Ontario.

## ENERGY CONSERVATION



Reducing our carbon footprint was one of the main goals of the CCCA in 2010. A wide variety of energy saving projects were successfully completed throughout the year including the commissioning of solar water-heating panels, a complete changeover to energy efficient lighting in all our buildings, and the installation of a Geothermal Heating and Cooling System for the Administration Building.

The energy and cost savings derived from these energy conservation initiatives will benefit both the CCCA and the environment in the future.

## WATERSHED FOREST COVER



The CCCA understands the significance of watershed management and conservation strategies to enhance air and water quality and protect areas within the watershed susceptible to erosion. Through reforestation, the Authority in association with our member municipalities, landowners, and special interest groups coordinate to provide direction for the enhancement of interior forest habitat and the extension of natural heritage corridors throughout the Catfish Creek watershed.

The opportunity to partner with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) on the Watershed Forest Cover Enhancement Project encouraged the CCCA to implement an improved and focused Carolinian species planting strategy. This partnership also granted the opportunity for the support and establishment of new Carolinian mixed species plantations.

The OPG partnership allowed our staff to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to 15 landowners to establish a variety of Carolinian

hardwoods, wildlife shrubs and conifer tree species on 39.5 hectares of land.

We consider the continued partnership with OPG as a vital component in assisting the CCCA with reforestation, increasing wildlife habitat, and prevalent bio-diversity within the watershed. Without the financial incentives and support provided through OPG, many landowners would be unable to participate in helping us reach our forest cover goals and milestones.

## WATER QUALITY



Throughout the Province, Conservation Authorities are developing standardized approaches to sampling and monitoring stream health.

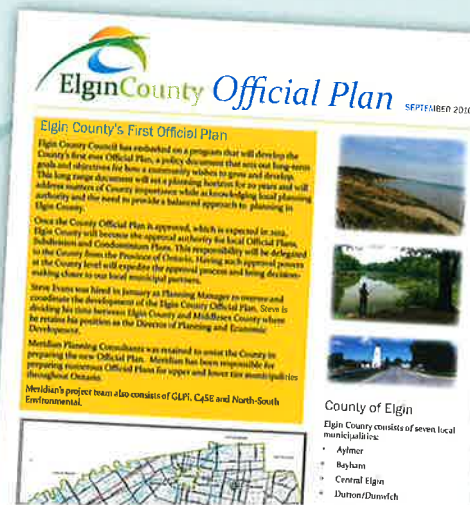
The CCCA's first Watershed Report Card was released in 2010 and was developed to summarize the overall health of the watershed. Fish communities are one of the key indicators which provide a means of communicating the health of local watersheds to residents. Fish are continually adjusting to changing chemical, physical, and biological factors in streams. Different fish species have adapted in different ways to tolerate or adjust to environmental factors in their habitats.

The data collected during the 2010 round of fish sampling will be used as a baseline to track changes in the numbers and diversity of fish communities in various streams throughout the watershed. Staff sampled at 24 locations throughout the watershed and identified over 17 different species of fish. This information, along with the monitoring of other environmental indicators such as forest cover, water quality, and quantity will support and develop future management practices and conservation programs.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

In order to take advantage of the local planning expertise on natural hazards, Conservation Authorities (CA) have been delegated Municipal Plan Review functions by the Province on matters such as flooding, erosion, unstable slopes, and shoreline processes. The CCCA assists municipal staff and watershed residents by providing input and review of various proposals under the Planning Act such as Official Plan Amendments, Zoning By-Laws and Severance Applications.

In accordance with the Conservation Authorities Act, the CA also regulates development in proximity to natural hazards while conserving our forests, soils, and waters. CA staff review general landowner property inquiries and permitting of development proposals in proximity to valley lands and shorelines. The delivery of local,





# Year In Review...

watershed based programs and services by the CCCA support the broader Provincial Interest in safeguarding communities from natural hazards.

Planning staff from the CCCA were asked to participate on a Technical Advisory Committee to assist the County of Elgin in the development of its first Official Plan. The land use policy document will set out the long-term goals and objectives in how communities will grow and develop from a County wide perspective. The Conservation Authority will assist the County, and all the member municipalities with the identification, mapping, and protection of natural physical processes.

## WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP



Thanks to a \$47,000.00 grant from the Environment Canada "Eco-Action Community Funding Program", the CCCA was able to assist The Rotary Club of Aylmer and the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program with the restoration of approximately 500 metres of Catfish Creek in the Town of Aylmer. This creek restoration project provided in-stream habitat for fish, stream bank naturalization, and wildlife habitat enhancement with plantings of native shrubs and trees. Focused along the footpaths through the parks system, this project will allow people to experience the naturalization of their creek.

Other watershed stewardship initiatives included the naturalization of a stormwater management pond on behalf of the Town of Aylmer; stream bank stabilization on the west branch of Catfish Creek and Bradley Creek; and riparian habitat enhancement projects on the main branch of Catfish Creek.

## WATER QUANTITY

Fresh water is a natural resource crucial to the environmental and economic well-being of any watershed. Water supports agriculture activities, industrial development and recreation. Historically, periods of extreme weather conditions and pronounced fluctuations, (low or high) in water levels were relatively uncommon. However, as extreme weather conditions intensify, demand for water increases and extreme seasonal water level fluctuations are more prominent.

It is essential to develop and communicate practical management and monitoring programs in order to achieve a harmony between water use and environmental needs. Integration with landowners, applicable government agencies, and special interest groups within the watershed is critical to maintaining sound "Best Management Practices".

The CCCA works closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources to deliver effective Low Water Response and Flood Forecasting and Warning Programs. Water level condition reporting is the use of real-time information to calculate channel flow rates and water levels for specified periods of time. Depending on the numeric interpolations, low water or flood messages are issued by the Conservation Authority to provide information regarding the possibilities of flood occurrences or water use restrictions.

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is responsible for the monitoring and



approvals to take water from Ontario's ground and surface water supplies. Generally anyone taking more than 50,000 litres of water in a day must obtain a Permit to Take Water from the MOE. The purpose of the Permit to Take Water (PTTW) program is to ensure the conservation, protection, sensible use, and management of the water in the province.

Fortunately 2010 was a good year for maintaining critical water levels with minimum human intervention. CCCA staff only needed to issue one Flood Advisory and one Level I Low Water declaration while assisting with 23 Permit To Take Water applications.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION EVENTS



Marsh Quest (Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area)



## 2011 Special Events Calendar

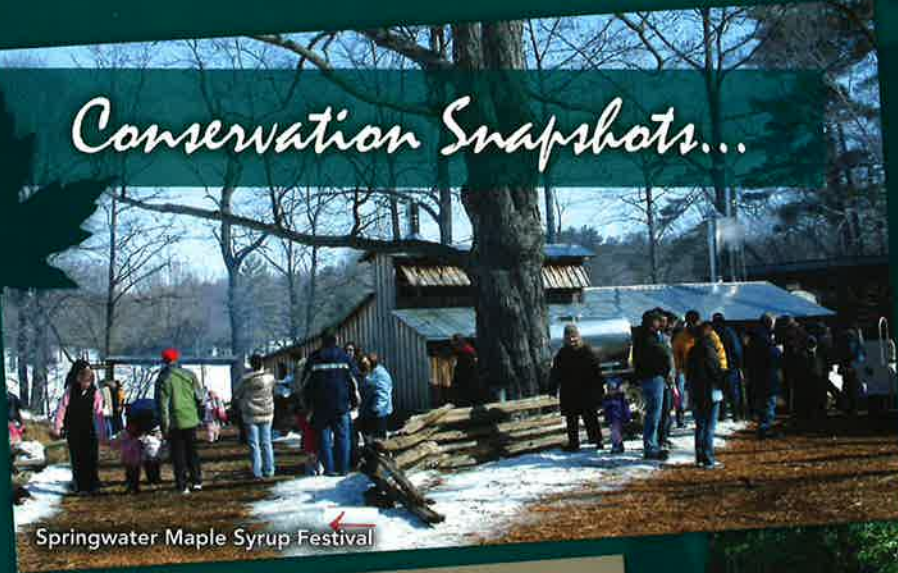
- March 5-27 ..... Maple Syrup Festival (weekends & March Break)
- April 30-May 31... Tim Hortons Trout Derby
- June 10-12..... Van Fest
- July 8-10..... Balls Bike Rally
- July 23 ..... Culinary Camping
- July 23 ..... Kids, Cops & Canadian Tire Fishing Days
- August 6-7 ..... Family Fishing Derby
- August 19-21..... Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
- September 3 ..... Carnival & Fireworks
- December 3..... 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)





# Conservation Snapshots...



Springwater Maple Syrup Festival



Student Scholarship



Conservation Award Recipients



EcoAction Funding Announcement



60th Anniversary Concert



Carolinian Forest Festival



Environmental Leadership Program



Anniversary Celebrations



# 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  
 Springwater Forest Preservation/Management  
 Youth Environmental Education Wildlife Habitat  
 Commemorative Forest Program Wetlands Restoration

Commemorative gifts and land donations graciously received (An official tax receipt will be issued for minimum donations of \$20.00)

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., R.R.#5, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4



## 2010 Partners/Donors/Volunteers



(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)

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Alward, Murray  
Aylmer & Area Chamber of Commerce  
Basson, Robert & Arlene  
Beharrell, John & Fran  
Brooks, Cathy  
Button, Christopher & Nancy  
Calvar, Yves  
Canadian Mental Health Assoc.  
Canadian Tire Corporation  
Carolinian Forest Festival Sponsors  
Catt, Thelma  
Christmas Spirit Walk Volunteers  
City of St. Thomas  
Conservation Ontario  
County of Elgin  
County of Oxford  
Dale, Daniel & Shirley  
Dowler-Karn Fuels  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
East Elgin Secondary School –  
Environmental Leadership Program  
& Co-Op Program  
East Elgin Sportsman's Assoc.  
Elgin Federation of Agriculture  
Elgin Hiking Trail Club  
Elgin Stewardship Council  
Elgin Wild Turkey Chapter

Ellis, Richard & Katherine  
Environment Canada  
Fairservice, George  
Fick, Don & Rosina  
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Foster, Raymond & Judy  
Frew, Bruce  
Friends of Springwater  
Grand River C.A.  
Green Lane Community Trust  
Hamilton Police Retirees Assoc.  
Hamilton Ward Cathers Insurance  
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Hunter, Norah  
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IGCP Ethanol Incorporated  
Jaffa Environmental Education Centre  
Jakob, Joseph  
K & K Locksmiths  
Kebbel H.A. Funeral Home  
Kettle Creek C.A.  
Kielstra, Henry & Ena  
Koolen Electric  
Laemers Excavating  
London Police Association  
Long Point Region C.A.  
Martyn, Sally  
McGlynn, Sean

McKenna, Barbara (estate)  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Ministry of the Environment  
Municipality of Central Elgin  
Natural Resource Gas Ltd.  
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Ontario March of Dimes  
Ontario Police College  
Ontario Power Generation  
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Assoc.  
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Springwater Maple  
Syrup Festival Supporters  
Springwater Packers  
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St. Thomas Field Naturalists  
St. Thomas Wood Carvers  
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TD Friends of the Environment  
Tenhour, Henry  
Thames Valley District School Board  
The Aylmer Express  
The Family Shed  
The Salvation Army, St. Thomas  
Tim Hortons, Aylmer  
Tirecraft Auto Centre  
Town of Aylmer  
Township of Malahide  
Township of South-West Oxford  
Traditional Explorers  
Tri-County Bassmasters  
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