



2013

ANNUAL REPORT



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Being the Chairperson of this strong, environmentally responsible and adapting Conservation Authority for the past five years has been a privilege and an honour. Every member of our Board, all our staff and our many committed volunteers work well together to keep the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) up-to-date and effective. I am proud of the environmental changes we have made during this time with our new ground water heating system, our solar heated water and our education programs. Our office is not as fancy or elaborate as some other community buildings are but it functions well and serves the purpose without added costs. The Chestnut table in our boardroom helps remind us of the challenges we have faced and will face with climate change and globalization. Serving on Conservation Ontario on behalf of the CCCA has also been a privilege and very enlightening. This co-operative group of all 36 Conservation Authorities helps us be effective, up-to-date and scientifically informed.

The CCCA has an excellent record of preserving our natural heritage and offering interpretation of it for all as well as undertaking our provincially mandated work. Because of this, we have been very fortunate to receive grant funding for several special projects from private groups and different levels of government this year. The Bradley Creek Watershed Renewal Project funded by the Ministry of the Environment's Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, the Invasive Species Mitigation Project funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Backyard Habitat Experience Project funded by Shell Canada and the Environmental Water Studies Platform Project funded by the Libro Financial Group are a few examples of the partnerships that made such a difference in the work we are able to accomplish in the watershed.

Our Source Water Protection Plan is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment and could be approved as early as March of 2014. This work has been in progress for the past six years and has taken a long time but we are confident that we will have a good plan.

Continuing our commitment to education through Marsh Quest, the Carolinian Forest Festival, and the Maple Syrup Program in partnership with the Thames Valley District School Board, is important for the future. Our excellent long-term working relationship with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program is vital to our education programs and we very much value the leadership of Duncan Sinclair. We continue to work with both the University of Western Ontario and the University of Guelph on research on our lands involving tree diseases and invasive plants and insects. Our four main Conservation Areas are open for hiking with interpretive signage to help promote an understanding of our ecosystems and healthy living through exercise.

In closing, I want to thank the Grand River, the Long Point Region, and the Kettle Creek Conservation Authorities for all the work we do together. We learn a lot from each other and this has strengthened our organizations. This year we welcomed a new Board Member, Arthur Oslach who has very ably represented the Town of Aylmer and his alternate Pete Barbour. All of our members are a pleasure to work with and I want to thank them for their commitment to conservation and the CCCA. Also, a special thanks to the staff who work tirelessly to make all our programs successful. As a Board, we are also very thankful for the volunteers, sponsors and organizations that supported and assisted the CCCA in achieving its goals. The success of the work that is done would not be possible without their dedication and commitment.

Sally Martyn, CCCA Chairperson

CORPORATE SERVICES

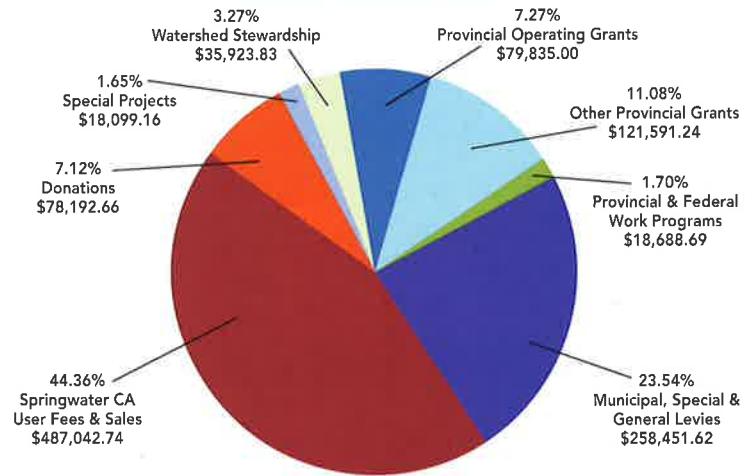
The activities of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of five members appointed by the five member municipalities of the Catfish Creek watershed.

BOARD MEMBER	MUNICIPALITY
Sally Martyn.....	Municipality of Central Elgin (Chairperson)
Lori Baldwin-Sands	City of St. Thomas (Vice-Chairperson)
Jim Jenkins.....	Township of Malahide
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
Arthur Oslach.....	Town of Aylmer
Pete Barbour.....	Town of Aylmer (alternate)

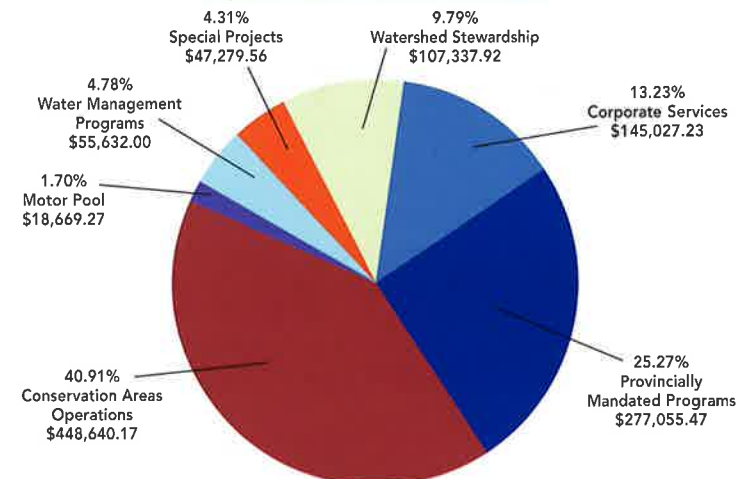
STAFF MEMBER	POSITION
Mr. Kim Smale	General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Susan Mann	Financial Services Coordinator
Ed Pietrzak	Conservation Areas Supervisor
Tony Difazio	Resource Planning Coordinator
Peter Dragnas	Water Management Technician
Barry Martin.....	Operations Assistant
Laura Ronayne.....	Program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

2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

2013 REVENUE



2013 EXPENDITURES



Copies of the full 2013 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/PARTNERSHIPS

One of the most successful and rewarding aspects of the CCCA is the development and nurturing of new and existing partnerships throughout the community. The following list provides a snapshot of the 100+ partners that the CCCA had the privilege of working with in 2013.

- Collaborated with the Thames Talbot Land Trust, the Carolinian Canada Coalition and Ontario Nature to develop a Greenway Conservation Action Plan for the Lake Erie coastline in Elgin County.
- Worked with the Thames Valley District and London District Catholic School Boards to provide environmental education opportunities to approximately 6,500 students.
- Continued to develop the Path of Honour at the Ontario Police College under the leadership of the Path of Honour Committee.
- Provided technical training and hands-on work experience for students enrolled in the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program.
- Participated in the launch of the Active Elgin Guide with members of the Active Elgin Coalition and Elgin St. Thomas Public Health.
- Hosted the Annual Candlelit Christmas Spirit Walk in partnership with the Elgin Hiking Trail Club.



Stewardship Projects – Environmental Leadership Program

- Renewed our longstanding partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association-Elgin Branch to operate the Springwater Concession Booth.
- Participated as a member of the Oxford County Study Team to develop the Oxford County Trails Master Plan.
- Helped organize the Extreme Elgin event held at Springwater in partnership with the Elgin St. Thomas Community Foundation.
- Received financial support from the Libro Financial Group and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for environmental education and invasive species mitigation at the Springwater Conservation Area.



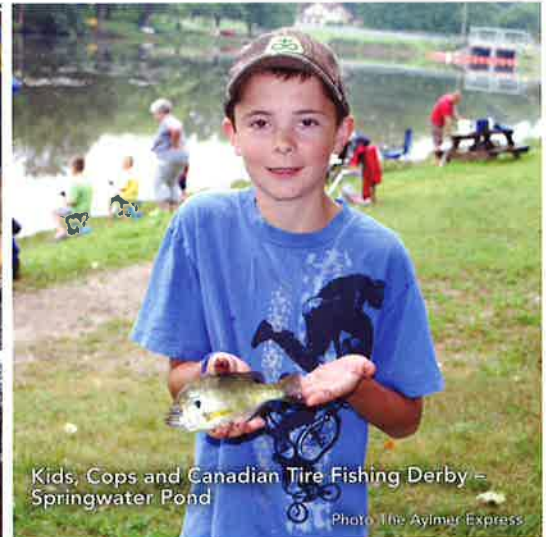
Tri-County Cross Country Championships
Springwater Conservation Area
Photo: The Aylmer Express



Carolinian Forest Festival
Photo: The Aylmer Express



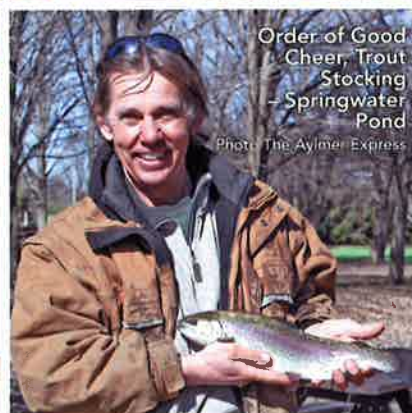
Ontario Envirothon Workshop
– Springwater Conservation Area
Photo: The Aylmer Express



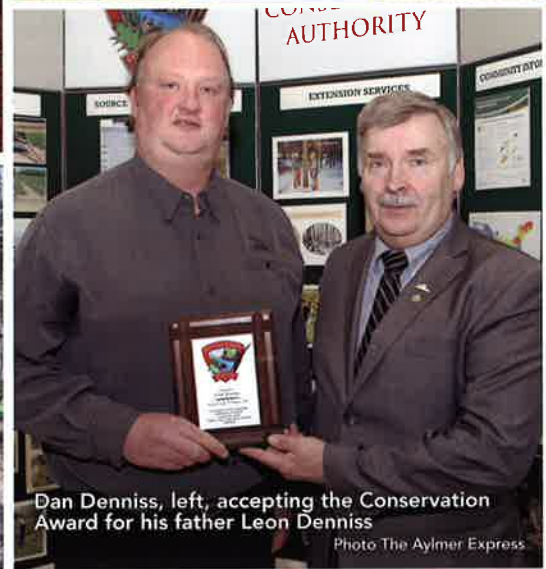
Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby – Springwater Pond
Photo: The Aylmer Express



Cassandra Young – Student Scholarship
Photo: The Aylmer Express



Order of Good Cheer, Trout Stocking – Springwater Pond
Photo: The Aylmer Express



Dan Denniss, left, accepting the Conservation Award for his father Leon Denniss
Photo: The Aylmer Express

YEAR IN REVIEW...

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

On March 4th, 2011, as part of the provincial 'Open For Business' initiative, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) proposed amendments to O.Reg. 97/04 (the CA's Generic Regulations). Since that time, MNR staff have worked with Conservation Ontario and the 36 Conservation Authorities on several amendments and their implementation.

A number of 'housekeeping' amendments were made to the Regulation to provide clarity, consistency and conformity to the original intent of Ontario Regulation 97/04. Four (4) of the more pertinent changes include:

- Provide clarity to the wording of the regulation and to resolve the misinterpretations of certain sections;
- Streamline the process by delegating positive decisions to staff for Permit approval;
- Extend the validity of permits past two years under specific circumstances; and,
- Enable Conservation Authorities to require technical studies to support Permit submissions.

The individual Regulations were signed by the Minister of Natural Resources and posted on eLaws on February 12th, 2013. The revised Regulation officially came into effect on February 23rd, 2013, when published in the Ontario Gazette.

Staff from the CCCA reviewed and provided comments on the following development applications, inquiries and land use planning applications in 2013:

- Reviewed and commented on 55 Planning Act applications and Environmental Assessments;
- Received and commented on 3 Municipal Drain Reports and 3 Drain Maintenance Requests;
- Issued 18 permits relative to the Conservation Authorities Act, Ontario Regulation 146/06 under O. Reg. 97/04; and,
- Provided responses to 50 property inquiries (legal, real estate, general information requests).



Scouts Canada Tree Planting – Elgin Clean Water Program

Photo: The Aylmer Express



Bradley Creek Watershed Renewal Project

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

More than \$250,000 was spent on stewardship initiatives within the Catfish Creek watershed in 2013. Technical and financial assistance was provided to 15 different landowners to implement restoration projects that helped to improve and protect water quality, enhance waterfowl and wildlife habitat and benefit the overall health of the watershed. The CCCA was also able to plant over 10,000 native trees and wildlife shrubs to increase interior forest habitat and extend the natural heritage corridors throughout the watershed. Eleven (11) landowners participated in our Reforestation Assistance Program helping the CCCA to reach its tree planting target.

The following partners were instrumental in making watershed stewardship a huge success this year.

- RBC Blue Water Project - \$96,306
(Elgin Clean Water Program)
- Ducks Unlimited Canada - \$20,000
- Elgin Stewardship Council - \$15,395
- Ministry of the Environment - \$24,565
- Private Landowners - \$87,337
- Environment Canada - \$5,630

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Drinking Water Source Protection Plans for the Grand River, Long Point Region, Kettle Creek and Catfish Creek watersheds in the Lake Erie region were submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in late 2012 and early 2013.

All four (4) plans are currently under review by the MOE to see if they fulfill the requirements of the Clean Water Act. If the province proposes substantial changes to any of the respective plans, a public information or consultation process may take place in 2014.

A total of 38 Source Protection Plans have been produced across Ontario. So far, just the plan for the Thunder Bay area has been approved. The Ministry of the Environment anticipates that it could take until the end of 2015 before all the plans are officially approved for implementation.

YEAR IN REVIEW...

WATER MANAGEMENT

The CCCA implemented several preventative measures related to water management in 2013, even though the watershed did not experience any significant flood events or low water conditions.

The Ministry of Natural Resources provided financial assistance through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program to enlarge the capacity of the Catfish Creek Sediment Retention Structure in Port Bruce by approximately 40 percent. The completion of this natural hazard prevention work is intended to lessen the potential for serious flooding caused by ice jams.

New Flood Status Terminology was instituted to provide the public and our member municipalities with more consistent and informative



flood messaging. This new terminology has been adopted by the 36 Conservation Authorities across the province.

CCCA staff continued their efforts to maintain an ongoing dialogue with the members of the Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team and the Catfish Creek Irrigation Advisory Committee with regards to irrigation stewardship and low water conditions.

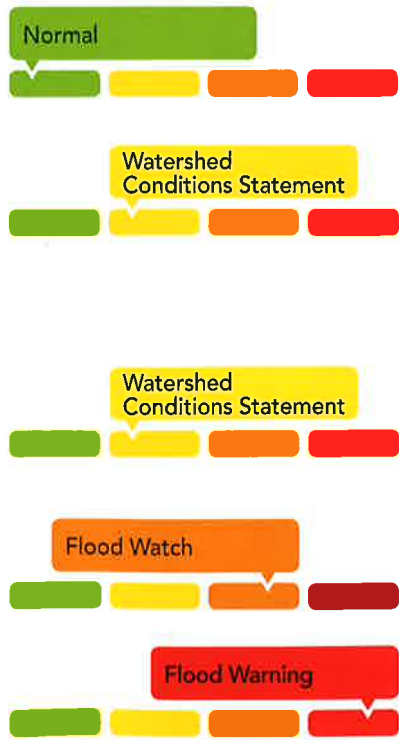


2014 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 8 - 30 Maple Syrup Festival
* weekends & March Break
- April 26..... Opening Day of Trout Fishing
- May 10..... Tim Hortons Kids Trout Derby
- June 13 - 15 Van Fest
- June 21 Extreme Elgin
- June 22..... Home Building Centre Horseshoe Tournament
- July 4 - 6 Balls Bike Rally
- July 26 Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby
- August 15 - 17 Fred Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
- August 30..... Friends of Springwater Fireworks
- December 6..... Christmas Spirit Walk

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

FLOOD STATUS TERMINOLOGY



Normal:
Conditions are within NORMAL limits. No flooding is expected.

Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety
High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook
Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

Flood Watch
Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

Flood Warning
Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific water courses or municipalities.



CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY,
8079 Springwater Rd., R.R.#5, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4

PHONE: 519-773-9037 **EMAIL:** admin@catfishcreek.ca **WEBSITE:** 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 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

Official tax receipt will be issued for minimum donations of \$20.00. Commemorative gifts and land donations graciously received.

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



2013 PARTNERS/DONORS/VOLUNTEERS



(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Aaroc Aggregates | Greenlane Community Fund | Marshall, Dan | Smale, Kim & DJ |
| Aylmer Express | Gremoprez, Mildred | Martyn, Sally | Soper, Sharyn |
| Biskup, Steve | Hamilton Ward & Cathers | McConnell, Bill & Elizabeth | Springwater Packers |
| Calvar, Yves | Hayes, Colin & Elfriede | Miernicki, Tracy | Stinson, Bob |
| Canadian Mental Health Association | Henderson, Norah | Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs | St. Thomas Field Naturalists |
| Carnahan, Mary | Hill, Thomas & Cheryl | Ministry of the Environment | St. Thomas Wood Carvers |
| Casier, Ron | Hollingshead, Cynthia | Ministry of Natural Resources | Taylor, John & Betty |
| City of St. Thomas | Hunter, Norah | Ministry of Tourism and Culture | TD Friends of the Environment |
| Conservation Ontario | IGPC Ethanol Incorporated | Municipality of Central Elgin | Thames Valley District School Board |
| County of Elgin | Imperial Road Animal Hospital | Natural Resource Gas Ltd. | Thayer, Ron & Janice |
| Cook, John | Jakob, Joseph | Ontario Police College Path of Honour | Tim Hortons Aylmer |
| Cooper, Brian | Jenkins, Jim & Jeanette | Order of Good Cheer | Tirecraft Auto Centre |
| Dale, Danial & Shirley | Karda, Mike | Parker Fuels | Town of Aylmer |
| Dowler-Karn Fuels | Kebbel, H.A. Funeral Home | Quai Du Vin Estate Winery | Township of Malahide |
| Ducks Unlimited Canada | Kettle Creek C.A. | Riggs Engineering | Township of South-West Oxford |
| East Elgin Secondary School - Environmental Leadership Program | Kinczyk, Mary | Rimnyak, William & Linda | Vandenbrink Farm Equipment |
| Emery, George | Klassen, Peter & Lindsay | Rochus, Gary | Wagler Mini Barns |
| Fick, Don & Rosina | Koolen Electric | Ronald, Janet | Wakely, Richard |
| Foster, Raymond | K&K Locksmiths | Sawdust Entertainment | Waydan Auto Repair |
| Friends of Springwater | Laemers Excavating | Schnieder, Reinhard | Williams Funeral Home |
| Grand River C.A. | Lattanzio, Frank | Scouts Canada | Wilson Well Drilling |
| | Libro Financial Group | Secord Home Building Centre | Wiltsie Truck Bodies |
| | Long Point Region C.A. | | Zap's Tree Services |
| | Maltby, Kirk | | |

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