

Chairperson's Message

Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting down to compose my Annual Chairperson's Message, and now here I am again looking back over 2005 and reflecting on all of the activities and accomplishments of the Authority. I have often commented that we may be a small Conservation Authority, but we think big and constantly strive to reach our goals and objectives, and I am proud to note our accomplishments in 2005 clearly were no exception.

The Ontario Geological Survey Groundwater Mapping Study is nearing completion for the Catfish and Kettle Creek watersheds. The 10 hectare Herb Kebbel Wetland located at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area was completed in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada, with the Official Opening planned for the spring of 2006. CCCA nominated several individuals and groups from our watershed for recognition in the field of conservation. Dr. Duncan Sinclair received the Conservation Pioneer Award at the A.D. Latonnell Conservation Symposium, and the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program won the inaugural Carolinian Canada Youth Conservation Award. The year 2005 saw the Authority celebrate the completion of the \$46,250.00 Springwater Forest Environmental Education and Ecotourism Project culminating in the Official Opening of our newly renovated Sugar Shanty.

CCCA continues to partner with the Kettle Creek, Long Point Region, and Grand River Conservation Authorities on source water protection initiatives. Every so often a unique parcel of land becomes available and the Authority was fortunate to be able to acquire 10 hectares of land adjacent to our Calton Swamp properties. This acquisition was made possible through a \$60,000.00 grant from Nature Conservancy Canada. Like all Authorities in the province, CCCA has adopted Generic Regulations and mapping for our entire watershed that will ensure development and activities adjacent or close to watercourses are appropriate.

Many of the special conservation and environmental projects undertaken by the CCCA would not have been possible if it were not for the over \$460,000.00 in funding that was sought out, and received over the course of the past year.

2005 marked our 55th year in the conservation business, but was marked by the loss of a good friend and a true conservationist. Phineas Pressey who served on the Board for more than 40 years passed away in April. His service to the CCCA will long be remembered.

As we look ahead into the final year of this Board's mandate, I am confident that the CCCA, through the efforts of the staff and the members, is well positioned to continue to provide quality conservation services to all within our watershed.

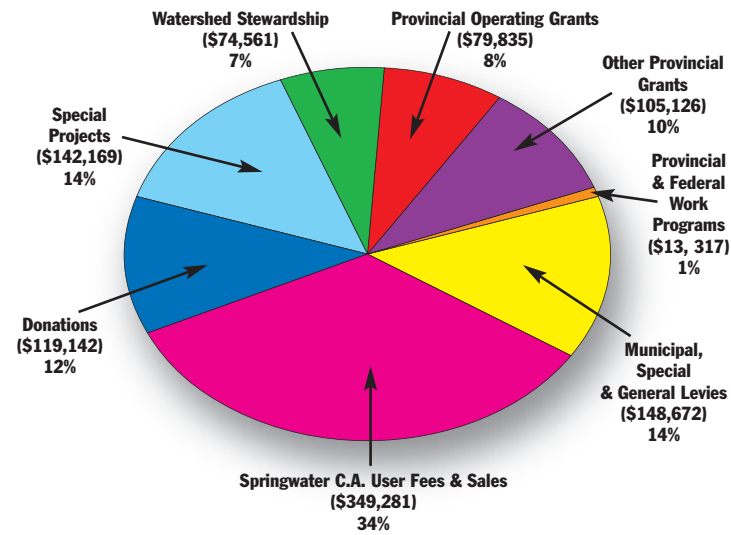
Danial R. Dale, CCCA Chairperson



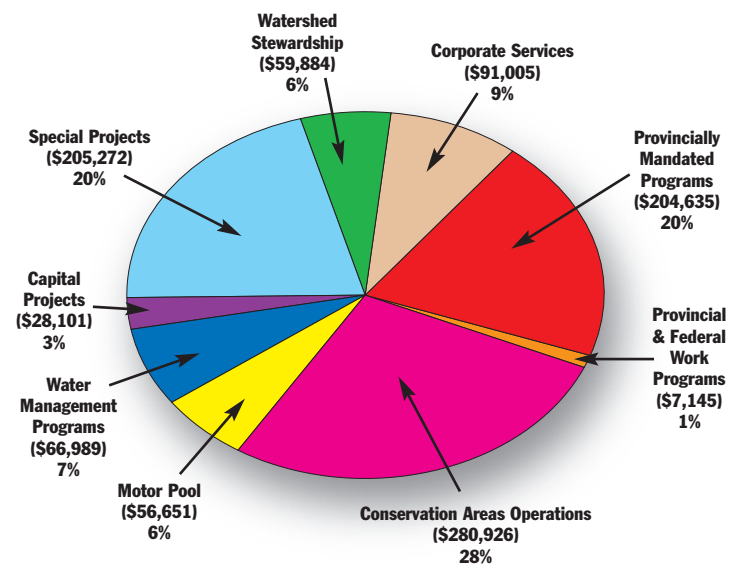
Land Securement Cheque Presentation - Chairperson Dan Dale, left, James Duncan, Nature Conservancy Canada

2005 Financial Report

Revenue \$1,032,103



Expenditures \$1,000,608



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.

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

- Protection of Conservation Lands Youth Environmental Programs Reforestation
 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: _____

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

2005 PARTNERS/DONORS/VOLUNTEERS

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Angling Outfitters | EJLB Foundation | Marsland, Bernice | Shakir, Scott |
| Anything Used | Elgin Federation of Agriculture | McKenna, Barbara | Shell Canada Limited |
| Aylmer & Area Chamber of Commerce | Elgin Hiking Trail Club | McQueen, Carl & Margaret | Sheppard, Robert |
| Aylmer & District Museum | Elgin RV Sales & Service | McQueen, Janet & Doug | Silcox, Helen |
| Aylmer Area Community Foundation | Elgin Stewardship Council | McQueen, Jennifer | Sinclair, Dr. Duncan |
| Aylmer BIA | Enright, William & Audrey | Ministry of Agriculture & Food | Springwater Forest Supporters |
| Baden-Powell Scout Association | Evergreen Canada | Ministry of the Environment | St. Thomas Field Naturalists |
| Beard, Deb & Greg | Family Campers & RV'ers | Ministry of Natural Resources | St. Joseph's High School |
| Bouris, Irene | Fick, Don | Municipality of Central Elgin | Steelway Building Systems |
| Bowman, John & Helen | Fisheries & Oceans Canada | Natural Resource Gas | Sykes, Don & Dora |
| Bowsher + Bowsher Law Firm | Formet Industries | Nature Conservancy Canada | TD Friends of the Environment |
| Canadian Tire Corporation | Foster, Raymond | Nesbitt, Sandra | Tenhour, Henry |
| Carolinian Canada | Friends of Springwater | Ontario Police College | Thames Valley District School Board |
| Caverly, William & Laura | Grand River C. A. | Ontario Trillium Foundation | The Aylmer Express |
| Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce | Green Lane Community Trust Fund | Ontario Works, St. Thomas-Elgin | The Salvation Army, St. Thomas |
| Christmas Spirit Walk Volunteers | Hamilton Ward & Cathers Insurance | Order of Good Cheer | Tim Hortons, Aylmer |
| City of St. Thomas | Hill, Thomas & Cheryl | Parker Fuels | Toth, Michael |
| Community Fund of Elgin-St. Thomas | Imperial Tobacco Leaf Inc. | Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited | Town of Aylmer |
| Conservation Ontario | Jaffa Environmental Education Center | Port Bruce Ratepayers Association | Township of Malahide |
| Costea, Daniel & Margaret | Jakob, Joseph | Pratt, Linda | Township of South-West Oxford |
| County of Elgin | Jensen, Bill & Ruth | Pressey, John Paul & Tracy | Thompson, Darren |
| County of Oxford | K&K Locksmiths | Richer, Gerry | Tupper, Clara |
| DeBlieck, Ardean | Karda, Mike & Margo | Riggs Engineering Ltd. | Tupper, James & Irene |
| Dickhout, Ward | Kettle Creek C.A. | Ronald, Janet | Uher, David |
| Durkee, Don & Judy | Kielstra, Henry & Ena | Rotary Club of Aylmer | Vandenbrink Farm Equipment |
| Ducks Unlimited Canada | Kinsmen Club of Aylmer | Rush Creek Wines | VanFest - Kevin Lundy |
| East Elgin Secondary School | Koolen Electric | Sawdust Entertainment | Volunteer Elgin |
| EESS Environmental Leadership Program | Kowal, Helen & Walter | Scott, Don | VON Middlesex-Elgin |
| | Lafontaine, Dennis | Scouts Canada - Elgin Area | Wetland Habitat Fund |
| | London Community Foundation | Secord Home Hardware, Aylmer | Wilson Well Drilling |
| | Long Point Region C.A. | Seeds, J. | Wilson, Layne & Diana |
| | | Service Canada | Wilson, Mary |

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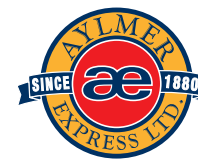
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WATERSHED

2005 Annual Report



YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE AREA

Program Highlights



Ontario Guiding 95th Anniversary Picnic, Springwater Conservation Area.

(supplied by The Aylmer Express)



Springwater Dam Stability Assessment

- received funding for a new precipitation monitoring station to be installed in the north part of the watershed
- continual monitoring of streamflow and watershed conditions for flood forecasting and warning purposes
- removed approximately 1,911 cubic metres of sediment from Catfish Creek in Port Bruce for flood control purposes based on channel sounding and bathymetric mapping data
- collected groundwater quantity and quality data through the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
- implemented over \$40,000.00 worth of stability improvements on the Springwater Dam
- participated in the Provincial Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program
- partnered with the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) to complete a Groundwater Study for the Kettle Creek and Catfish Creek watersheds
- provided technical support to the Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

- planted over 25,000 trees in the watershed
- provided certified staff to approve Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Plans for private landowners
- signed two Woodlot Management Agreements to manage a total of 28 hectares of forested land owned by the Town of Aylmer and the Township of Malahide
- assisted the Elgin Stewardship Council with the development of the Elgin Landscape Strategy document
- provided technical expertise on several 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



Generic Regulation - Hazard Prevention Main Branch Catfish Creek

CCCA OWNED LANDS

- worked in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada to complete construction of the Herb Keibel Wetland Project at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area
- provided recreational opportunities and facilities on CA owned lands for over 65,000 visitors
- celebrated the completion of the Springwater Forest Environmental Education and Ecotourism Project in partnership with the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Rotary Club of Aylmer
- received financial support from the Wetland Habitat Fund to undertake wetland restoration projects at the Springwater Conservation Area and the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area



Erosion Control - Keibel Wetland Project Environmental Leadership Program Students

- undertook woodlot management activities at the Aylmer and Johnson Tracts in conjunction with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program students
- hosted several large corporate and special events at the Springwater Conservation Area
- purchased a 10 hectare parcel of land in the Calton Swamp thanks to the generous support of Nature Conservancy Canada
- co-operated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to detect and deter the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer into forested areas owned and managed by the CCCA

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- hosted Public Information meetings to present and review the new Generic Regulation (Section 28) and associated mapping for the watershed. The intent of this new legislation is to allow Conservation Authorities to provide a stronger role in regulating development along the Great Lakes shoreline, wetlands, and watercourses
- provided technical support and policy development to local municipalities and proponents by reviewing and commenting on over 65 Planning Act applications and development proposals
- received and provided comments on 12 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance requests
- reviewed over 25 proposals including issuance of 19 permits relative to fill placement, construction or alteration to watercourses in accordance with Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act
- provided responses to over 125 property inquiries (legal, real estate, and general information requests)
- worked with the Kettle Creek, Long Point Region, and Grand River Conservation Authorities to initiate source water protection initiatives within the Lake Erie Source Protection Region



Springwater Wetland Restoration - Cattail Plantings



CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER - Dr. Duncan Sinclair

(supplied by The Aylmer Express)



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - Recipient - Katie Bond

(supplied by The Aylmer Express)



2006 EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 11-26 Maple Syrup Festival
- April 29-May 31 Tim Hortons Trout Derby
- June 17 Van Fest
- July 7-9 Family Fishing Weekend
- July 29 Kids, Cops & Canadian Tire Fishing Days
- August 12-13 Family Fishing Derby
- August 18-20 Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
- September 2 Friends of Springwater Carnival and Fireworks
- December 2 Christmas Spirit Walk

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

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

| Board Member | Municipality |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Danial Dale (Chairperson) | Municipality of Central Elgin |
| George Cleminshaw (Vice-Chairperson) | Township of Malahide |
| Anne Vanhoucke | Township of South-West Oxford |
| Marie Turvey | City of St. Thomas |
| Gerry Richer | Town of Aylmer |

| 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 |
| Alison Munro | Water Management Technician |
| Barry Martin | Operations Assistant |
| Loretta Luksys-Vinnai | Program Support Assistant |
| Ric Wellwood | Fundraising/Communications |
| Peter Dragunas | Hydrological Technician |



Sugar Shanty Official Opening

(supplied by The Aylmer Express)



Front Row (seated-left to right): George Cleminshaw, Marie Turvey, Danial Dale, Gerry Richer, Anne Vanhoucke
Back Row (standing-left to right): Barry Martin, Peter Dragunas, Ed Pietrzak, Susan Mann, Tony Difazio, Loretta Luksys-Vinnai, Ric Wellwood, Alison Munro, Kim Smale