

Chairperson's Message

Over the years, each of my Chairperson's Messages would give a brief overview of the various activities and accomplishments of the Authority for the past year. I see no reason not to continue that approach and let the folks in our watershed know of the great things that we have accomplished or are working on in the Catfish Creek watershed.

Again we have experienced another great year at the Springwater Conservation Area with such activities as the Christmas Spirit Walk, Friends of Springwater Carnival and Fireworks, and Fred Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival to name a few. In addition, there have been various conservation projects that all ultimately helped to sustain our watershed. They also served to promote the Authority and ensured a successful bottom line. We continue to work on source protection planning with our neighbouring Conservation Authority partners, and I am pleased to say we are recognized as being a leader in the Province in that regard.

Of greatest pride for me is the ongoing work at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area. This past summer we officially opened the Herb Kebbel Wetlands in partnership with several partners, principally Ducks Unlimited Canada. We are developing an entire trail system around the wetlands and are currently working with the Ministry of Natural Resources to establish eagle and osprey nesting platforms. This YNHA project is a legacy that will be enjoyed for generations to come. Through research and interviews, the Authority also assisted Carolinian Canada in the development of one of its latest scientific publications.

As I write this message, I am reminded of an old saying which I will paraphrase just a bit. "Seasons come and seasons go but the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority will always remain". My season as a member of the Board came nine years ago and it has been one of the most satisfying experiences in my life. I have always had an appreciation for our natural environment and the outdoors in general. This appreciation has been heightened greatly as a result of my participation on the Board, but more so because of the many people that I have met and worked with who share the same love and passion for conservation of our natural environment.

Of all these people the staff of the CCCA are at the top of my list. They are without question the most dedicated, knowledgeable and professional individuals I have had the opportunity to work with. They have taught me much about true conservation and I will be forever grateful. Next on my list are the Board members themselves. Each one brings to the table a new and fresh perspective. It is their ideas and their personal commitment to their roll that has helped to guide the growth and development of the Authority over the years. It is now my season to go. I leave the CCCA as a member of the Board but remain an avid supporter. I will always keep an eye on the Authority and when and where possible I'll keep involved, if only by just walking through the Springwater Forest. I now join a long list of past Chairpersons of the Authority and I trust that the work I have done during my time on the Board and in particular as Chairperson over the past five years makes me worthy to be counted among such astute leaders as Phineas Pressey, Helen (Grawburg) Silcox, Bill Caverly, and the many others who have shared their leadership with, their vision of, and their passion for the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.

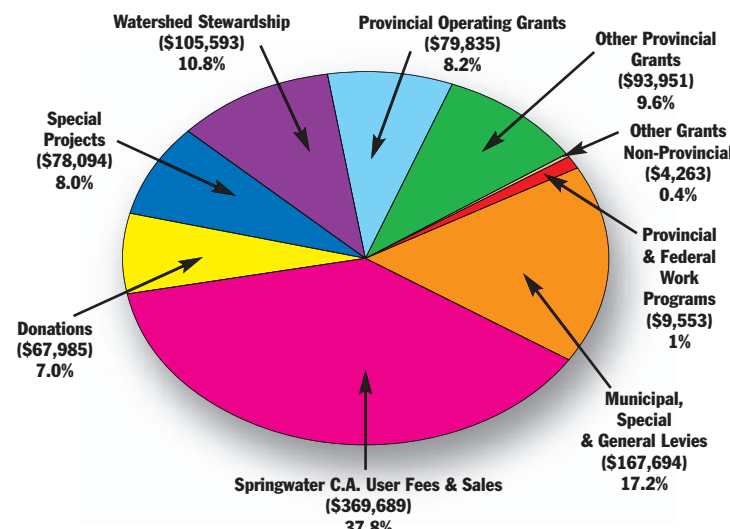
Danial R. Dale
Chairperson Catfish Creek Conservation Authority



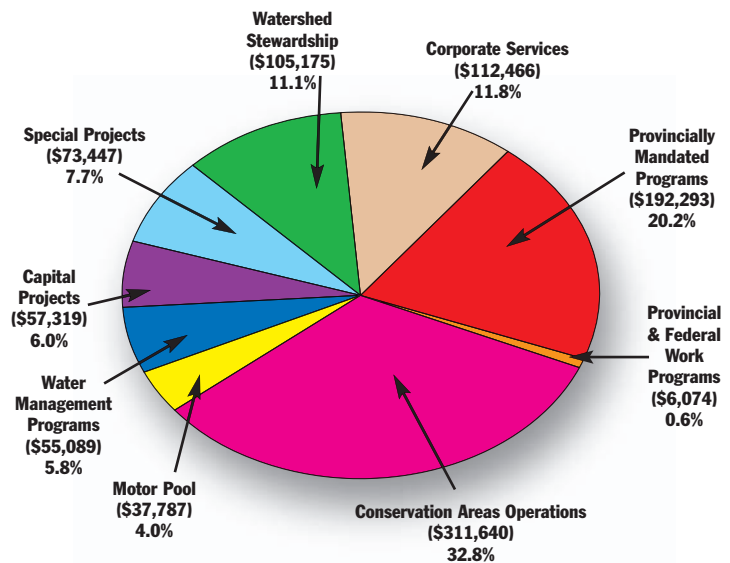
Official Opening - Herb Kebbel
Wetlands Project

2006 Financial Report

Revenue \$976,657



Expenditures \$951,290



You can make a difference – Please Donate

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 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

2006 PARTNERS/DONORS/VOLUNTEERS

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)

Angling Outfitters
Anything Used
Aylmer Area Community Foundation
Aylmer BIA
Aylmer & Area Chamber of Commerce
Aylmer & District Museum
Baden-Powell Scout Association
Canadian Tire Corporation
Carolinian Canada
Christmas Spirit Walk Volunteers
City of St. Thomas
Conservation Ontario
County of Elgin
County of Oxford
Crosby, Sharon
Ducks Unlimited Canada
East Elgin Secondary School
EESS Environmental Leadership and Work
Internship Programs
EJLB Foundation
Elgin Federation of Agriculture
Elgin Hiking Trail Club
Elgin RV Sales & Service
Elgin Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Elgin Stewardship Council

Environment Canada
Fairservice, George & Elaine
Family Campers & RV'ers
Fick, Don
Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Formet Industries
Foster, Raymond
Friends of Springwater
Grand River C. A.
Green Lane Community Trust Fund
Hamilton Ward & Cathers Insurance
Henderson, Norah
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Imperial Tobacco Leaf Inc.
Jaffa Environmental Education Center
Jakob, Joseph
K&K Locksmiths
Karda, Mike & Margo
Kettle Creek C.A.
Kielstra, Henry & Ena
Kinsmen Club of Aylmer
Koolen Electric
London Community Foundation
Long Point Region C.A.
Maltby, Kirk
Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources

Municipality of Central Elgin
National Wild Turkey Federation - Elgin Chapter
Natural Resource Gas Ltd.
Nature Conservancy Canada
Nooren, Casey & Frances
Ontario Police College
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
Quai du Vin Estate Winery
Richer, Gerry
Riggs Engineering Ltd.
Ronald, Janet
Rotary Club of Aylmer
Salamander Foundation
Sawdust Entertainment
Scouts Canada - Elgin Area
Secord Home Hardware, Aylmer
Service Canada
Sinclair, Dr. Duncan
Springwater Forest Supporters
Springwater Maple Syrup Volunteers

Smale, Kim & DJ
St. Joseph's High School
St. Thomas Field Naturalists
St. Thomas London Serve
St. Thomas Wood Carvers
Steelway Building Systems
Taylor, Ralph & Marlene
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Tenhoor, Henry
Thames Valley District School Board
The Aylmer Express
The Howe Family
The Salvation Army, St. Thomas
Tim Hortons, Aylmer
Town of Aylmer
Township of Malahide
Township of South-West Oxford
Uher, David
Underhill, Dorothy
Vandenbrink Farm Equipment
Van Fest
Volunteer Elgin
Ward, David & Denise
VON Middlesex-Elgin
Wetland Habitat Fund
Wilson, Ken
Wilson Well Drilling

Thanks to the following businesses for their support toward the printing of the 2006 Annual Report

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WATERSHED

2006 Annual Report



MISSION STATEMENT

"To communicate and deliver resource management services and programs in order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the watershed"

Program Highlights



Flood Control Dredging - Port Bruce

(supplied by The Aylmer Express)



Fish Habitat Assessment- Main Branch Catfish Creek



Tallgrass Prairie Restoration
Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area

CCCA OWNED LANDS

- officially opened the Herb Kebbel Welands Project at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area
- co-operated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to monitor for the Emerald Ash Borer in forested areas owned and managed by the CCCA
- completed the improvements to the drinking water system at the Springwater Conservation Area to bring it into compliance with the new Provincial Drinking Water Regulations
- celebrated the opening of the Poplar Hill Campground Enclosed Pavilion
- provided recreational opportunities and facilities on CA owned lands for over 65,000 visitors



Electroshocking
Environmental Leadership Program Students

- undertook woodlot management activities on a number of Authority properties in conjunction with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program
- constructed a new shower facility at the Springwater Conservation Area
- worked with a number of environmental partners to complete several wetland and fish and wildlife restoration projects
- planted a variety of native trees and wildlife shrubs at the various Conservation Areas
- received funding to develop a new trail network at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area

COMMUNITY OUTREACH / EDUCATION

- provided training and work experience for students enrolled in the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership and Work Internship Programs
- 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 Signature Sites booklet
- presented the 4th Annual Student Scholarship Award to Rachel Morse
- provided environmental education opportunities to approximately 3,500 students
- submitted a successful nomination of three community volunteers for recognition by the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards Program
- worked with students from the newly formed Earthquest Field Assistant Training School
- spearheaded the concept of developing a Path of Honor in partnership with the Ontario Police College
- selected Glenn and Monica Howe as the recipient of the CCCA Conservation Award
- fostered the support and generosity of 100+ partners, donors, and volunteers from the local community



Municipal Woodlot Management Program -
Malahide Woodlot Commercial Harvest



CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER - Glenn and Monica Howe

(supplied by The Aylmer Express)



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - Recipient - Rachel Morse

(supplied by The Aylmer Express)



Christmas Spirit Walk- Springwater Conservation Area

(supplied by The Aylmer Express)

2007 EVENTS CALENDAR

March 10-25	Maple Syrup Festival
April 28-May 31	Tim Hortons Trout Derby
June 16	Van Fest
July 6-8	Family Fishing Weekend
July 28	Kids, Cops & Canadian Tire Fishing Days
August 11-12	Family Fishing Derby
August 17-19	Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
September 1	Friends of Springwater Carnival and Fireworks
December 1	Christmas Spirit Walk

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

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Board Member	Municipality
Danial Dale (Chairperson)	Municipality of Central Elgin
Marie Turvey (Vice-Chairperson)	City of St. Thomas
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
George Cleminshaw	Township of Malahide
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
Peter Dragunas	Water Management Technician
Barry Martin	Operations Assistant
Laura Ronayne	Program Support Assistant
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising/Communications
Annie Fehr	Project & Admin. Assistant
Tara Jones	Resource Technician
Jonathan Martyn	Resource Technician
Conrad Bain	GIS Technician



Front Row (seated-left to right): George Cleminshaw, Marie Turvey, Danial Dale, Anne Vanhoucke, Gerry Richer
Back Row (standing-left to right): Jonathan Martyn, Annie Fehr, Tony Difazio, Tara Jones, Kim Smale, Ric Wellwood, Laura Ronayne, Peter Dragunas, Susan Mann, Ed Pietrzak, Conrad Bain, Barry Martin

Cover photo taken by Jenelle Smale

WATER MANAGEMENT

- finalized the location and design plans for the installation of a new hydrometric streamgauge station on Silver Creek
- installed a new precipitation monitoring station in the north part of the watershed near the Village of Springfield
- 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
- provided technical support to the Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team
- secured funding from the Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program to formalize the Catfish Creek Irrigation Advisory Committee
- helped prepare the Draft Catfish Creek Watershed Characterization Report in partnership with the Lake Erie Source Protection Program Technical Team

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- adopted the new Generic Regulation (Section 28) and associated mapping for the watershed. The new legislation will 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 51 Planning Act Applications and development proposals
- received and provided comments on 10 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance requests
- reviewed over 30 proposals including issuance of 20 permits relative to fill placement, construction or

alteration to watercourses in accordance with Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act

- provided responses to over 99 property inquiries (legal, real estate, and general information requests)
- continued to work with the Kettle Creek, Long Point Region, and Grand River Conservation Authorities to identify source water protection issues within the Lake Erie Watershed Region Planning Area
- approved the purchase of new orthophotography for the entire Catfish Creek watershed including the Lake Erie shoreline
- assisted the Elgin Stewardship Council and the Ministry of Natural Resources with updating the Management Plan for the Calton Swamp Wildlife Management Area

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

- completed the first phase of the East Elgin Landscape Restoration Project funded through Ontario Power Generation's Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Management Program
- planted over 25,000 trees in the watershed
- provided certified staff to approve Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Plans for private landowners
- implemented the management prescriptions at the woodlots owned by the Town of Aylmer and the Township of Malahide
- 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
- initiated an update of the Authority's Watershed Management Plan
- completed work on the CCCA Fish Habitat Management Plan