



CATFISH  
CREEK  
CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY

# Environmental Education

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS GUIDEBOOK

### Mission Statement

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





# Information & Fees



## PROGRAMS

### Outdoor Programs

\$9 per student with a minimum of \$100. Each additional program is \$5 per student.

\$17 per student for our Watershed Education Program with a minimum of \$200.

\$200 flat rate for a Wagon Ride.

\$5 per birdhouse if you wish to add birdhouse building to your education program.

### In-class Programs

\$9 per student with a minimum of \$100. Each additional program is \$5 per student.

## TO MAKE A BOOKING

Please call: 519-773-9037 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or email [communications@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:communications@catfishcreek.ca)

## CANCELLATIONS

A \$75 fee is charged for groups that cancel and do not provide the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority with a minimum of two weeks notice. Programs are facilitated light rain or shine. Cancellations due to inclement weather will not be penalized.





# Catfish Creek Conservation Authority



The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) is dedicated to providing a safe and fun learning environment for all those wishing to curate an appreciation for nature. The CCCA provides in-class and active outdoor classroom experiences at Springwater Conservation Area, Archie Coulter Conservation Area or Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area. These conservation-owned lands are home to some of Elgin County's largest Old-Growth Carolinian forests, a range of ecosystems, and some of the province's most endangered and rare species; making it a perfect place for students to learn.

This guidebook is designed to inform the public of our education programs and activities. Single or multiple programs are available for all ages and can be targeted specifically to the education curriculum in science, geography, and social studies from the elementary to university level. We also provide programs for scouts and girl guides, adult groups and anybody who is interested in learning more about their local environment, conservation efforts or how to be a good steward of the land.



For more information  
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[communications@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:communications@catfishcreek.ca)

# LIST OF AVAILABLE PROGRAMS



Program	Time Frame	Curriculum Alignments	Page Number
Adventure Hike	All year	Grade 1: Needs and Characteristics of Living Things; Daily and Seasonal Changes Grade 2: Air and Water in the Environment; Growth and Changes in Animals Grade 3: Growth and Changes in Plants Grade 4: Habitats and Communities Grade 6: Biodiversity Grade 7: Interactions in the Environment	5
The Forest Through the Trees	April-June Sept-Nov	Grade 1: Needs and Characteristics of Living Things; Daily and Seasonal Changes Grade 2: Air and Water in the Environment Grade 3: Growth and Changes in Plants Grade 4: Habitats and Communities Grade 6: Biodiversity Grade 7: Interactions in the Environment Grade 9: Map and Globe Skills (Geography)	6
Explore the Aquatic World	April-June Sept-Nov	Grade 1: Needs and Characteristics of Living Things; Daily and Seasonal Changes Grade 2: Air and Water in the Environment; Growth and Changes in Animals Grade 4: Habitats and Communities Grade 6: Biodiversity Grade 8: Water Systems	7
The Earth Beneath My Feet	May-June Sept-Nov	Grade 3: Soils in the Environment Grade 4: Habitats and Communities Grade 6: Biodiversity	8
Maple Syrup*	March	Grade 1: Needs and Characteristics of Living Things; Daily and Seasonal Changes; Heritage and Identity; and People and Environments Grade 2: Air and Water in the Environment; Heritage and Identity Grade 3: Growth and Changes in Plants; People and Environments; Heritage and Identity Grade 4: Habitats and Communities; Heritage and Identity Grade 5: Properties and Changes in Matter; Heritage and Identity Grade 6: Heritage and Identity	9
Program	Time Frame	Information	Page Number
The above listed programs	See above	These programs are also available to groups that are not school groups. Please contact the CCCA Admin Centre for more details.	5-9
<b>*NEW*</b> P. A. Days	Contact Office	Focused for students in grades 1-6 Dates will be based on local school board P. A. Day Schedule Contact the CCCA Admin Centre for more details	10
<b>*NEW*</b> Camp Programs	July-August	For children ages 7-12 Week-long programs in the summer Contact the CCCA Admin Centre for more details	11
Youth & Community Programs	All year	For any group interested in a program, please refer to page # and contact the CCCA Admin Centre today!	12
<b>*NEW*</b> In-Class Programs	Nov-April	Just because the seasons have changed does not mean we cannot learn and still grow an appreciation for nature! Contact the CCCA Admin Centre to learn more about bringing an educator to you!	13
<b>*NEW*</b> Watershed Program	April-June Sept-Nov	Learn more about our unique watershed and more of what the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority does to keep our watershed healthy! Contact the CCCA Admin Centre today to learn more.	14

\*This program only has select days open. Call the CCCA Admin Centre early January to avoid disappointment.

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For more information go to the  
corresponding page number.



# Adventure Hike

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Our Adventure Hike focuses on the relationship between plants and animals and how they form a community ecosystem. Springwater Forest, Archie Coulter Forest and Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area each allow for a unique hike that is full of diverse habitats, wildlife and experiences for students and visitors. This is an interactive hike featuring the sights, sounds and smells of the forest. It is amazing what you can find when you stop to take a moment to look and listen.

During our hike you can play **nature bingo** which is a great way to keep students searching their surroundings with more enthusiasm than your average walk in the woods. We can also adapt our hike to focus on "The Birds of the Carolinian Forest", which could include **building a birdhouse** after the hike! Furthermore, we can include the famous game of **Predator and Prey**; a great way to physically engage the students in their learning and create long-lasting positive memories. Finally, don't hibernate this winter, step into nature and experience the winter wonderland of one of Conservation-owned properties using our **snowshoes!**



Photo: B. Acheson



# A Forest Through the Trees

During a hike through a unique mature, Carolinian forest, students will learn about forest ecology and how these systems work together to create habitats and communities for a network of living things. We focus on the role that the many types of trees in the forest play to support this community. Throughout this walk students will have opportunities to consolidate their learning and relate what they have discovered to the impact humans have on our environment, the importance of land stewardship and what students can do at home to help.

**Orienteering** can be included in this program. Students will be instructed on how to use a compass and a map together to determine direction and finding locations. An activity will be included for students to follow directions to specific investigation areas of our forest and then re-orienting themselves to find the next location.

For more information  
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# Explore the Aquatic World



It is truly fascinating the amount of unique and alien-like creatures you find in the bottom of a pond. Students will learn all about the rich diversity of animals and plants that exist in a wetland ecosystem. Students will learn about the role these invertebrates play in the food chain and how scientists use the presence of certain insects to determine the health of the waterways. We will discuss the life cycle of a variety of animals and how the speed of insect development is determined by the weather.

Students will take part in an inquiry activity by going to the wetlands equipped with dip nets! We will use appropriate safety gear and handle our animals humanely so we can return them to the water and keep our aquatic ecosystem healthy. We will investigate the importance of a healthy watershed. Afterwards students will learn what they can do at home to help prevent negative impacts. This activity is sure to have a lasting and powerful impact on student's perception of animals, plants, and the importance of keeping our watershed clean.



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# THE EARTH BENEATH MY FEET

In The Earth Beneath My Feet program students will be lead through an interactive set of activities that investigate the different types of soils and how they are formed. The program will also examine the ways in which plants influence the soil during their lifetime.

This hands-on exploration will have students observing the different horizons of soils in the forest. It will cover the relationship between soils and other living things including humans. This will cover the role of a healthy soil ecosystem and its impact on our lives. For example: without healthy soil we cannot have crops and we need productive soils and crops to feed the world population.

Students will help investigate issues facing Southwestern Ontario soils today. Prepare to get your hands dirty as it's time to discover the world beneath our feet.



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# Maple Syrup

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Everybody loves maple syrup!! Come and discover how maple syrup is collected and produced in a modern day and historical context by taking a tour through Springwater's Sugar Shanty. Students will have an opportunity to learn how to tap a tree and why trees produce these delicious sugars we eventually turn into our famous liquid gold. Thames Valley District School Board schools should contact the Jaffa Environmental Education Centre for bookings. Other groups, please contact the CCCA Admin Centre. Public Days are held during weekends in March and everyday during the March Break.





# Professional Activity Days

COMING SOON: We are excited to offer Springwater Nature Professional Activity (P.A.) Day Camps during the professional activity days set by the London District Catholic School Board and the Thames Valley District School Board.

Students will explore and discover the natural world through active outdoor play. This program is ideal for young people who love being outdoors, who enjoy exploring, and who like to get their hands dirty!

Programs proceed rain, snow, or shine. Please be sure to dress your child appropriately for the weather, as we will be outdoors for most of the activities. In the case of severe inclement weather such as heavy rain, thunderstorms, snowstorms, or high winds programs will proceed indoors.

Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until camp is full. Please contact the CCCA Admin Centre at 519-773-9037 or email [communications@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:communications@catfishcreek.ca) for more information.





# Camp Programs



This summer at Springwater Conservation Area we are going to get WILD (Wonder, Investigate, Learn and Discover) with the Springwater Enviro Camp! The CCCA Educators have created a week full of fun, engaging, educational and nature-based activities. Campers will explore and discover the natural world through active outdoor play. This program is ideal for young people who love being outdoors, who enjoy exploring, and who like to get their hands dirty!

Programs proceed rain, or shine, therefore be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. In the case of severe inclement weather such as heavy rain, thunderstorms, extreme heat, or high winds programs will proceed indoors. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until camp is full. Please contact the CCCA Admin Centre at 519-773-9037 or email [communications@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:communications@catfishcreek.ca) for more information.





# YOUTH & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Do you have a Girl Guide group or a Scouting group interested in learning about the Carolinian Life Zone or how human interactions impact wildlife?

Do you want to bring your organization for a guided interpreted hike and learn about the famous Pileated Woodpecker?

Are you interested in bringing your home school group to learn about what lives in a marsh?

Need a speaker for a meeting or an educational day? We are pleased to provide presentations to any groups interested in finding out more about our programs, services and local conservation issues.

You do not need to be a public school group to come and appreciate a knowledge-building day! Contact us at the CCCA Admin Centre today to learn more about bringing your group!



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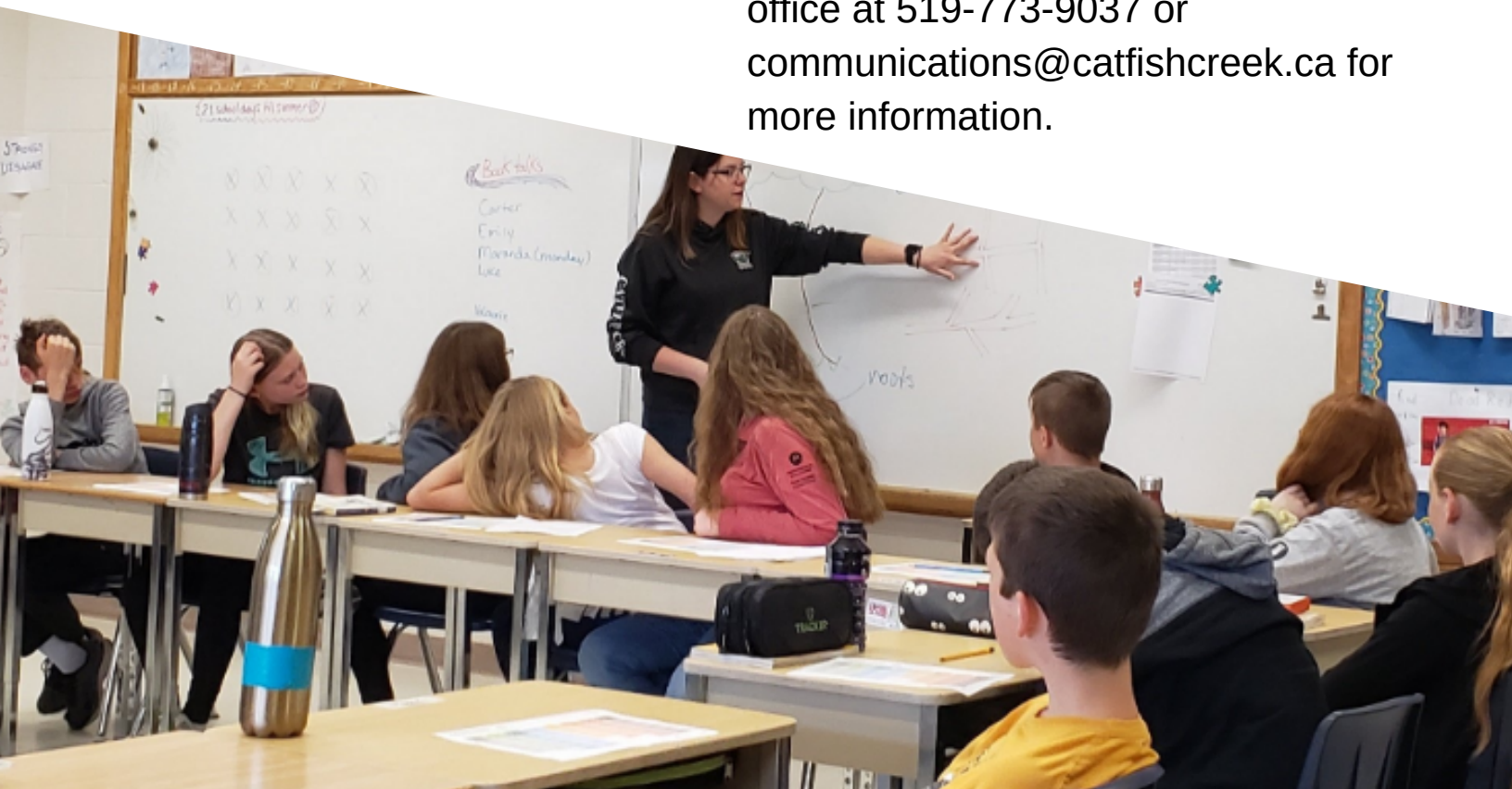


# In-Class Programs

The CCCA Educators are dedicated to building relationships between youth and their natural world. These programs are typically offered at your school from November to April. Educators may also be able to develop and deliver specialized programs to meet your curriculum needs. Activities can include multimedia presentations, games, nature exploration or investigation of natural specimens.



In addition to the programs, a regular outdoor program may be delivered in your schoolyard (depending on the site and/or program). Please contact the office at 519-773-9037 or [communications@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:communications@catfishcreek.ca) for more information.

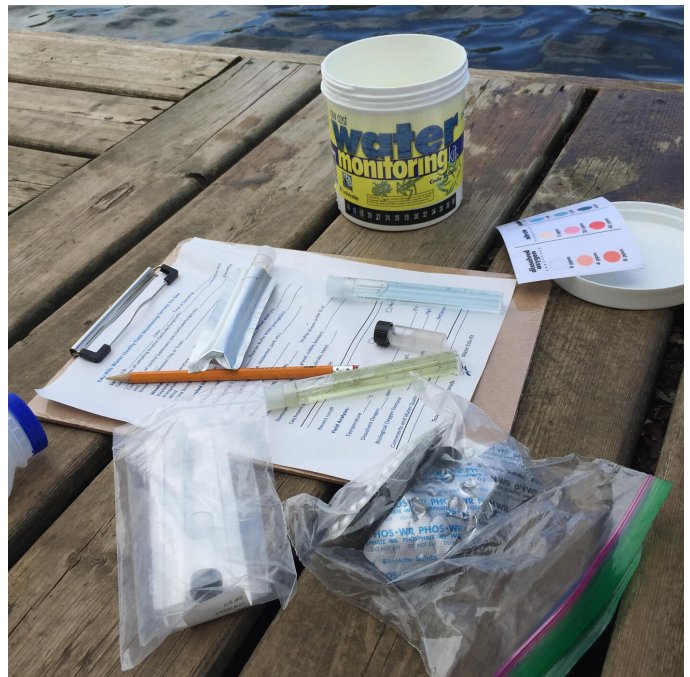




# Watershed Program

The CCCA Educators have created a new Watershed Education Program that focuses on the health of our watershed, the Catfish Creek, the roles and responsibilities of a Conservation Authority, and the role humans have in keeping our watershed healthy.

This program involves a hike through Springwater Forest discussing the importance of forest cover, taking water samples from different water sources in Springwater Conservation Area to explore the impact of water quality AND quantity, a presentation on watershed report cards and Conservation Authorities and investigating macrobenthic invertebrates by using dip nets and getting your hands a little dirty.



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