



2021 Annual Report

Chairperson's Message

I cannot say enough how honoured I am to be the Chairperson to a collaborative, fiscally responsible not-for-profit organization such as the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA). I have acted as the Chairperson for several years now and have been witness to many changes in the Conservation Authority world. From funding cuts to newly mandated regulations, the CCCA stays progressive and is continually moving forward fulfilling its obligations to deliver mandated programs and services on behalf of our member municipalities since 1950.

It was inevitably another tough year for operation. The Authority Board and Staff took a general approach to the challenges presented by COVID-19 with a premise on putting health and safety first as we move forward to fulfill our mandates under modified operating requirements and the stressors that are associated with today's economic conditions.

Springwater Campground was able to open on time this year by adapting to the measures put into place by the Southwestern Public Health Unit. Due to the global pandemic and provincial restraints, all major attractions such as the Maple Syrup Festival, Vanfest, Paws-tively Elgin, and the Fred Eaglesmith Charity picnic were cancelled for yet another year. The Carolinian Forest Festival, Envirothon and Marsh Quest environmental education programs were offered virtually, to be utilized as environmental education classroom outreach tools to inspire and motivate the youth of tomorrow. Passive day use numbers saw more than 7,500 visitors, relatively more than average, as the community found solace in the outdoors during these trying times.

The brand-new Audrey's Place Pavilion was constructed in the Springwater Conservation Area funded from a donation by Mr. Ken McEwen, a local watershed resident. The Evans' Sister's stage broke ground in September 2021 and will be completed in the Spring of 2022. The Art Trees and Trails Initiative, delivered in conjunction with the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre, was completed in September of 2021. The outdated Springwater Conservation Area Gatehouse/Store was replaced in the spring of 2021 with an updated, more centrally located Visitor Centre with upgraded entrance lanes and electronic gates. A successful fundraising campaign for this project was well-received by local residents and the CCCA is humbled by the generous show of support. The Evans' Sister Stage will support a Green Roof which can help

sequester carbon and assist in the combat of today's major climatic crisis. These are a just few examples of new amenities our local watershed residents and guests from afar can utilize. It is collaborative adventures like this that can attest for the love and admiration our local watershed residents have for the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.

Conservation Authorities have been mandated to continually address the Management of Natural Hazards, the Conservation and Management of Lands owned and operated by the Authority, and Other Programs and Services under municipal agreements, or that the Authority may determine to be Advisable on their behalf. While additional programs have been added to the mandated list of programs and services offered by Conservation Authorities, the basis of the mandate has not changed. What has changed with the introduction of these revised regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act are the complexities on how we deliver the programs to meet our watershed resident's expectations.

Finishing the 2021 term as Chairperson for the CCCA, I encountered a year filled with challenges and a multitude of successful activities established by our very small but very well complemented staff and volunteers. A longtime volunteer with the CCCA, Victor Herrington, was awarded one of 20 June Callwood Awards for 2021 which recognizes people and groups who have made outstanding contributions as volunteers in their communities. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Catfish Creek Board of Directors to congratulate this team of staff and volunteers for another great year of progress.

To conclude my speech, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the partners and supporters who make our work possible, and in particular I'd like to acknowledge the commitment of our member municipalities who provide and support the work of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority throughout the year.

Rick Cerna, CCCA Chairperson



Corporate Services

The activities of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of five (5) members appointed by the five (5) member municipalities of the Catfish Creek watershed.

Board Member	Municipality
Rick Cerna (Chairperson)	Township of Malahide
Lori Baldwin-Sands	City of St. Thomas
(Vice-Chairperson)	
Sally Martyn	Municipality of Central Elgin
Arthur Oslech	Town of Aylmer
Paul Buchner	Township of South-West Oxford

Staff Member	Position
Dusty Underhill	Acting General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (started September 2021) Conservation Areas Supervisor
Susan Simmons	Financial Services Coordinator
Kelsey Calman	Program Support Assistant
Tony Difazio	Resource Planning Coordinator
Peter Dragunas	Water Management Technician
Gerit Kremers	Field Technician - Lands
Austin Verbeek	Field Technician - Water
Emily Febrey	Community Outreach Technician (until August 2021)
Christopher Wilkinson	General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (until September 2021)

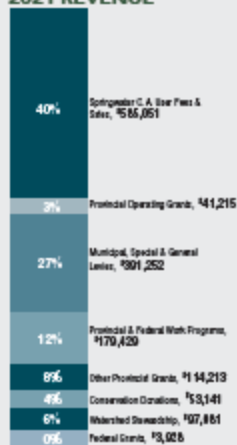
And our many seasonal staff and summer students

In Memoriam

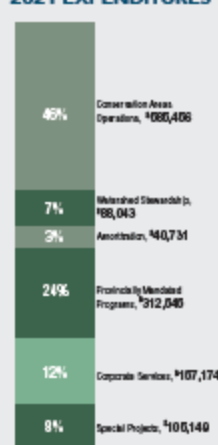
On June 20th, the CCCA was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of one of its former Board Members, Mark Tinlin. Mark was the representative for the City of St. Thomas on the CCCA Board of Directors from 2014 until the beginning of 2021 when he stepped down. His great sense of humour and professionalism will always be remembered.

2021 Financial Report

2021 REVENUE



2021 EXPENDITURES



Copies of the full 2021 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

Conservation Lands

In 2021, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) focused its conservation lands efforts on the enhancement of the Springwater Conservation Area with new buildings and attractions. We could not have taken on these projects without generous donations from local supporters. To cap off the year, we were humbled that the Springwater Conservation Area was voted the 94.1 MyFM "Favourite Campground".

Throughout the watershed, improving ecological health, curating an appreciation for nature, and ensuring our lands are protected and enhanced is always at the forefront of our activities. Thanks to the generous and financial support from different local and private organizations, government agencies, and our many community partners, the following was undertaken in 2021.

- The completion of the new Visitor Center and gated entrance at the Springwater Conservation Area. This was made possible thanks to the generous support of the community through a local fundraising campaign.
- The construction of the new "The Evans' Sisters Stage" in the Springwater Day Use Area is slated for completion in the spring and will include an environmentally friendly Live Roof. Thanks to the Donna Vera Evans Bushell Estate for their donation that made this possible.
- The completion of the "Audrey's Place Pavilion" located near the Springwater Maple Syrup Festival Area. This project was funded through a generous donation from Ken McEwen as he wished to honor the legacy of his family, who regularly enjoyed all that Springwater Conservation Area has to offer.
- In partnership with the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority and the St. Thomas Elevated Park, the "Arts, Trees, and Trails" project was

undertaken. The CCCA's deliverable was the installation of five (5) paintings with local connections from the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Centre permanent collection throughout the Springwater Forest. This was made possible through the donation received from the Donna Vera Evans Bushell Estate.

- The removal of all tree collars at Yamouh Natural Heritage Area (YNHA) with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program (ELP). The collars were put in place when the trees were planted in 2016. The trees have since grown to a suitable height and diameters that allows the collars to be removed without making them vulnerable to browse species (i.e. deer).
- Partnered with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program to plant native trees and shrubs along the re-stabilized banks of Catfish Creek through Archie Coulter Conservation Area (ACCA) through funding from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' "Great Lakes Local Action Fund".
- Completed various job placements through Canada Summer Jobs, Green Jobs, and the Ontario Job Creation Program, and began an internship with Career Launcher.
- Began the construction of a new parking lot located on the east section of the ACCA to provide a safe parking area for the growing number of visitors that visit.
- Entered into an agreement with MacKay Pay to offer contactless payment options to our clients, and installed parking signs at the three (3) main Conservation Areas (Springwater Conservation Area, ACCA, and YNHA) to allow visitors to pay their trail fees or day passes using their payment card(s).



Springwater Campground -
Audrey's Place Pavilion Opening
Photo: The Aynard Express



Springwater Campground
- New Sites Unveiled



Springwater Visitor Centre
Construction



Evans' Sister Stage Erection



2022 Special Events Calendar



Springwater Conservation Area traditionally hosts numerous special events throughout the operating season. Due to COVID-19, we were forced to cancel events during the last two seasons. Pending Provincial Regulations, we anticipate all events to resume this season.

All events will be posted on the CCCA website as well as our social media pages.

Phone: (519) 773-9037

Website: www.catfishcreek.ca

Facebook: [Springwater Conservation Area & Catfish Creek Conservation Authority](#)

Instagram/Twitter: [@catfishcreekca](#)



Springwater Campground - New Gates and
Seasonal Staff Leah Moore, Mya Talan,
& Alex White
Photo: The Aynard Express



Springwater Community
Activity - UnSmoke Clean Up



Bank Stabilization - Environmental
Leadership Program Students -
Archie Coulter Conservation Area
Photo: The Aynard Express

Stewardship Services

Over the course of the year Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) undertook environmental stewardship projects on nine (9) different private landowner properties. There were twelve (12) different projects undertaken consisting of wetland habitat, tall grass prairie habitat and erosion control. Nine (9) of the twelve (12) stewardship projects have been completed as of the end of December 2021, with the remaining 3 projects still to be completed. The CCCA worked with Elgin Stewardship Council, Ducks Unlimited, ALUS Elgin, and the Elgin Clean Water Program on majority of these projects.

CCCA also completed streambank restoration work at Archie Coulter Conservation Area (ACCA). This project consisted of regrading and re-vegetating highly problematic erosion sites along Catfish Creek throughout the ACCA. CCCA partnered with East Elgin Secondary Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) to locate the various sites and assisted in the re-vegetating efforts. A variety of different native trees and shrubs were planted along the creek during this project.

Environmental Planning

In 2021, the Province continued to approve amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, the main piece of legislation that guides a coalition of 36 Conservation Authorities (CA's) within jurisdictional watersheds in Ontario. As CA's pivot to the new Provincial Mandated Programs administrative framework, we also continued to define roles and responsibilities with member Municipalities to meet the needs of watershed residents as a local, environmental resource management agency.

One of The Cattfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA's) core mandates continues to be the delivery of programs and services to protect public safety and property damage in proximity to Natural Hazards such as flooding, erosion, shorelines and wetlands. The CCCA can draw upon 70 plus years of experience to help the public and Municipalities mitigate the effects of an ever-changing global climate on our day-to-day lives.

In 2022, It is anticipated the Province of Ontario will introduce Phase 2 of the Regulatory amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act. This may include changes to Section 28 which allow CA's to direct development away from hazardous lands or undertakings that may aggravate natural processes. Specifically, in 2021 CCCA staff reviewed and provided information on the following:

- Assisted Municipalities with the review of over 70 Planning Act applications such as Severances, Minor Variance & Zone Change Applications, Plans of Condominium/Subdivisions and Official Plan Amendments.
- Provided input on over 75 inquiries from landowners, consultants, real estate agents.
- Issued 35 Permits, authorizations or letters of opinion on Section 28 applications.



Stewardship Services -
Ferguson Erosion Control Project



Stewardship Services -
Vannord Erosion Control Project



Stewardship Services -
Coak Wetland / Wildlife Habitat Creation

Water Quality Monitoring

Several program partnerships with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks depend on water quality data collected by CCCA. The Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN), and the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) support CCCA and our partners to monitor the changing watershed conditions and facilitate data-led management of our water resources. 2021 sampling saw a delayed start, however CCCA collected surface water from four (4) PWQMN sites, and measured groundwater levels at two (2) PGMN wells.



Water Quality - Field Sampling

Water Management

Fresh water has always been a natural resource crucial to the environmental and economic well-being of the Cattfish Creek Watershed. Water supports many familiar livelihoods such as agriculture activities, industrial development, and recreation to mention a few. Historically, periods of extreme weather patterns were infrequent, and excessive water levels were unique. However, as demand for water increases and climate changes occur, severe water level fluctuations are becoming more common and are replacing lower historical normals with more frequent, elevated and intense surface water volume patterns through more recurring storms with unprecedented intensities.



Water Management -
Ice and Flood Management

The Cattfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) is aiming to help mitigate the unsettled climate change variables through various science based environmental and biodiversity rehabilitation programs/projects coupled with a more comprehensive understanding of an improve local environmental biodiversity.

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. Reforestation efforts saw 10 acres of

seedlings planted in 2021. 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 Cattfish Creek Watershed.

The planned recovery of our local watershed biodiversity is intended to help moderate the impact of the aforementioned increased storm events. Through our reforestation and land reclamation programs the increased forest and associated ground cover will assist with increased water level induced erosion impacts from increased storm intensities/frequencies, lessen the number of flood related Watershed Condition Statements identifying flood related concerns issued by the Conservation Authority.

In 2021 the CCCA has issued thirteen (13) Watershed Condition Statements based on government agency concerns and local knowledge of environmental and physical conditions of the Cattfish Creek watershed.



Water Management -
Ice and Flood Management
Photo: The Ayrer Group

Environmental Education

Again, this year due to COVID-19 the delivery of the Authority's Environmental Education Programs had to be shifted online. This created challenges, but also created content that can be utilized for years to come.

- With the help of the East Elgin Secondary School's Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) the second virtual Marsh Quest was filmed.
- Provided an Internship placement for an Educational Assistant from Fanshawe College's Early Childhood Leadership Program.
- Hosted the W.I.L.D. Rangers Summer Camp for two (2) weeks in August.
- Acquired the W.I.L.D. Rangers logo, designed by Paige Stirling.
- Acquired many new and exciting props for outdoor and indoor educational programs, thanks to grants from TD Friends of the Environment Fund and the Aylmer & Area Community Foundation.
- Updated all education material & programming to match the current Provincial curriculum.
- Assisted in the Western Lake Erie Student Summit with other Southwestern Conservation Authorities.



Springwater Forest Enjoyment
Photos The Aylmer Express



Environmental Education
-W.I.L.D. Rangers Logo
(designed by Paige Stirling)



Conservation Scholarship Recipient -
Carley Wilson



Long Time Volunteer Victor Harrington with the
June Caldwell Outstanding Achievement Award
for Volunteerism



Environmental Education - W.I.L.D.
Rangers Day Camp



Bank Stabilization - Environmental Leadership Program Students



Conservation Award Recipient -
Fred Neukamm (right)

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):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protection & Preservation of Conservation Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Springwater Forest Preservation/Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Commemorative Forest Program | <input type="checkbox"/> 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



2021 Partners/Donors/Volunteers

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)



ALUS Elgin
Armstrong, Naomi
Aylmer Area Community
Foundation
Aylmer Express
Aylmer Lioness Club
Aylmer Tire
Baillargeon, Mariette
Bode, Paul & Margo
Boersema, Debbie
Campbell, Bill
Canada Helps.Org
Canada Parks & Recreation
Association
Canada Summer Jobs
Career Launcher
Carrie, Greg
Casler, Ron & Pauline
City of St. Thomas
Clark, Todd & Denise
Conservation Ontario
County of Elgin
Dale, Abbie
Dale, Peter & Janis
Daniel, Judy
Darlington, Annie (VanFest
Crew)
Donna Evans Bushell -
Estate
Ducks Unlimited

Dunn, Colton
East Elgin Concrete
Forming
EES-Environmental
Leadership Program
Elgin Clean Water Program
Elgin Stewardship Council
Environment and Climate
Change Canada
Essex Region C.A.
Evans, Kieron
Falco Construction
Febrey, Linda & Jim
Ferguson, Marie
Ferguson, Sarah
Fick, Don & Rosina
Fisheries and Oceans
Canada
Forests Ontario
Goetzmeier Hunting
Group
Gould, Beth
Grand River C.A.
Great Lakes Local Action
Fund
Griesbach, Robert
Gubbels, Matt & Marie
Hamilton Ward Caters
Hare, Jennifer & John
Henderson, Debra

Herrington, Victor
Hulst, Jim
Irwin, Stacie
K&K Locksmith's
Kampos, Vclav
Kelly, Shaun
Kerr, Wayne
Kettle Creek C.A.
Kielstra, Henry & Ena
Kitta, Dean
Klassen, Melody
Koolen Electric
Krahn, Michael
Kresta, Emily
Kyle, Susan
Laemers' Excavating
Lampman, Mary Jane
Lang's Contracting
Lattanzio, Frank
London Quality Dairy
Long Point Region C.A.
Lukays-Vinnai, Loretta
Martyn, Sally
McConnell, Elizabeth &
William
McEwen, Ken
McKenney, Tom
McLachlin, Ian & Anne
McLeod, Gary & Wallace,
Ruth

McPherson, Dave & Mary
Lynn
McQuigan, Tim & Mary
Miernicki, Tracy
Ministry of Environment
Conservation & Parks
Ministry of Labour, Training
& Skills Development
Municipality of Central
Elgin
Nature Smart Climate
Solutions Fund
Navarro, Scott
Nesbitt, Sandra
Neufeld, Lori
Ontario Police College-
Path of Honour
Pelsoczi, Frank
Pineau, Mark & Michelle
Pringle, Jan
Project Learning Tree
Raddatz, Rebecca
Railway City Tourism
(Relish! Local)
Rice, Jason & Family
Rimnyak, Karin
Roth, Brian & Davidson,
Heather
Russell, Gavin
Simmons, Mark

Smale, Kim & DJ
Sommers, Geoffrey
Southwest Ontario Tourism
Corp.
St. Thomas Field
Naturalists
Stirling, Paige
Studer's Ice
Taylor, Betty & John
TD Friends of the
Environment Foundation
Tenhoor, Henry
Thames Valley District
School Board
Town of Aylmer
Township of Malahide
Township of South-West
Oxford
Trojek, Bernadette
Vinnai, Jesse
Wagler Mini Barns
Walker, Sharlene
Weisler, Jaime & Kathryn
Wharram, Heather &
Cobus, Brian
White, Amy
Wildeman, Alan
Zap's Tree Service
Zimmer, Patricia

Thanks to the following businesses for their support toward the printing of the 2021 Annual Report:



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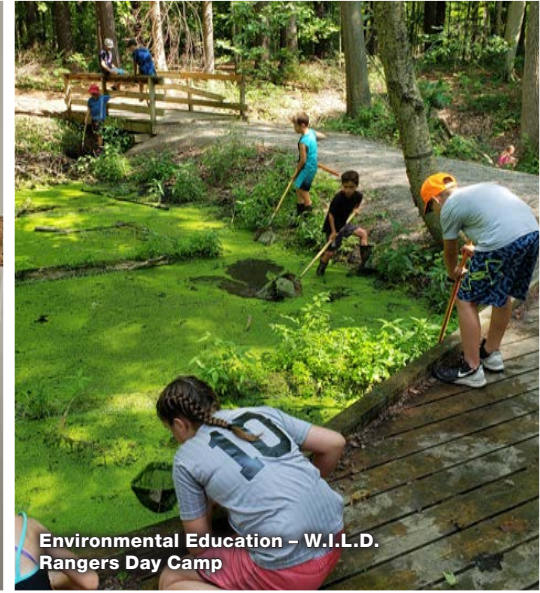
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Photo Frank Pelsoczi

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sequester carbon and assist in the combat of today's major climatic crisis. These are a just few examples of new amenities our local watershed residents and guests from afar can utilize. It is collaborative adventures like this that can attest for the love and admiration our local watershed residents have for the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.

Conservation Authorities have been mandated to continually address the Management of Natural Hazards, the Conservation and Management of Lands owned and operated by the Authority, and Other Programs and Services under municipal agreements, or that the Authority may determine to be Advisable on their behalf. While additional programs have been added to the mandated list of programs and services offered by Conservation Authorities, the basis of the mandate has not changed. What has changed with the introduction of these revised regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act are the complexities on how we deliver the programs to meet our watershed resident's expectations.

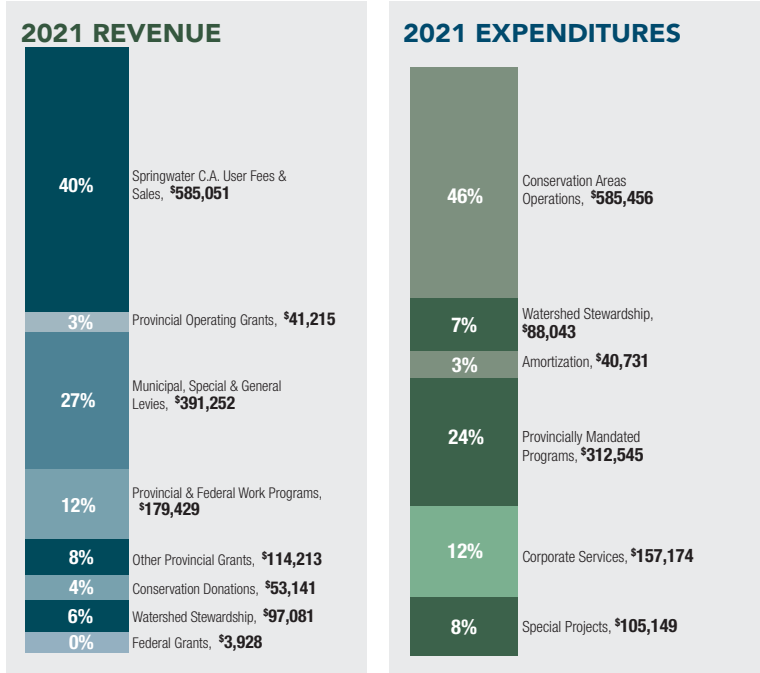
Finishing the 2021 term as Chairperson for the CCCA, I encountered a year filled with challenges and a multitude of successful activities established by our very small but very well complemented staff and volunteers. A longtime volunteer with the CCCA, Victor Herrington, was awarded one of 20 June Callwood Awards for 2021 which recognizes people and groups who have made outstanding contributions as volunteers in their communities. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Catfish Creek Board of Director's to congratulate this team of staff and volunteers for another great year of progress.

To conclude my speech, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the partners and supporters who make our work possible, and in particular I'd like to acknowledge the commitment of our member municipalities who provide and support the work of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority throughout the year.

Rick Cerna, CCCA Chairperson



2021 Financial Report



Copies of the full 2021 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

Conservation Lands

In 2021, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) focused its conservation lands efforts on the enhancement of the Springwater Conservation Area with new buildings and attractions. We could not have taken on these projects without generous donations from local supporters. To cap off the year, we were humbled that the Springwater Conservation Area was voted the 94.1 MyFM "Favourite Campground".

Throughout the watershed, improving ecological health, curating an appreciation for nature, and ensuring our lands are protected and enhanced is always at the forefront of our activities. Thanks to the generous and financial support from different local and private organizations, government agencies, and our many community partners, the following was undertaken in 2021.

- The completion of the new Visitor Center and gated entrance at the Springwater Conservation Area. This was made possible thanks to the generous support of the community through a local fundraising campaign.
- The construction of the new "The Evans' Sisters Stage" in the Springwater Day Use Area is slated for completion in the spring and will include an environmentally friendly Live Roof. Thanks to the Donna Vera Evans Bushell Estate for their donation that made this possible.
- The completion of the "Audrey's Place Pavilion" located near the Springwater Maple Syrup Festival Area. This project was funded through a generous donation from Ken McEwen as he wished to honor the legacy of his family, who regularly enjoyed all that Springwater Conservation Area has to offer.
- In partnership with the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority and the St. Thomas Elevated Park, the "Arts, Trees, and Trails" project was



2022 Special Events Calendar

Springwater Conservation Area traditionally hosts numerous special events throughout the operating season. Due to COVID-19, we were forced to cancel events during the last two seasons. Pending Provincial Regulations, we anticipate all events to resume this season. All events will be posted on the CCCA website as well as our social media pages.

Phone: (519) 773-9037

Website: www.catfishcreek.ca

Facebook: [Springfield Conservation Area & Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.](#)

Instagram/Twitter: [@catfishcreekca](#)



Stewardship Services

Over the course of the year Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) undertook environmental stewardship projects on nine (9) different private landowner properties. There were twelve (12) different projects undertaken consisting of wetland habitat, tall grass prairie habitat and erosion control. Nine (9) of the twelve (12) stewardship projects have completed as of the end of December 2021, with the remaining 3 projects still to be completed. The CCCA worked with Elgin Stewardship Council, Ducks Unlimited, ALUS Elgin, and the Elgin Clean Water Program on majority of these projects.

CCCA also completed streambank restoration work at Archie Coulter Conservation Area (ACCA). This project consisted of regrading and re-vegetating highly problematic erosion sites along Catfish Creek throughout the ACCA. CCCA partnered with East Elgin Secondary Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) to locate the various sites and assisted in the re-vegetating efforts. A variety of different native trees and shrubs were planted along the creek during this project.

undertaken. The CCCA's deliverable was the installation of five (5) paintings with local connections from the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Centre permanent collection throughout the Springwater Forest. This was made possible through the donation received from the Donna Vera Evans Bushell Estate.

- The removal of all tree collars at Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area (YNHA) with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program (ELP). The collars were put in place when the trees were planted in 2016. The trees have since grown to a suitable height and diameters that allows the collars to be removed without making them vulnerable to browse species (i.e. deer).
- Partnered with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program to plant native trees and shrubs along the re-stabilized banks of Catfish Creek through Archie Coulter Conservation Area (ACCA) through funding from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' "Great Lakes Local Action Fund".
- Completed various job placements through Canada Summer Jobs, Green Jobs, and the Ontario Job Creation Program, and began an internship with Career Launcher.
- Began the construction of a new parking lot located on the east section of the ACCA to provide a safe parking area for the growing number of visitors that visit.
- Entered into an agreement with MacKay Pay to offer contactless payment options to our clients, and installed parking signs at the three (3) main Conservation Areas (Springwater Conservation Area, ACCA, and YNHA) to allow visitors to pay their trail fees or day passes using their payment card(s).



Environmental Planning

In 2021, the Province continued to approve amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, the main piece of legislation that guides a coalition of 36 Conservation Authorities (CA's) within jurisdictional watersheds in Ontario. As CA's pivot to the new Provincial Mandated Programs administrative framework, we also continued to define roles and responsibilities with member Municipalities to meet the needs of watershed residents as a local, environmental resource management agency.

One of The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA's) core mandates continues to be the delivery of programs and services to protect public safety and property damage in proximity to Natural Hazards such as flooding, erosion, shorelines and wetlands. The CCCA can draw upon 70 plus years of experience to help the public and Municipalities mitigate the effects of an ever-changing global climate on our day-to-day lives.

In 2022, it is anticipated the Province of Ontario will introduce Phase 2 of the Regulatory amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act. This may include changes to Section 28 which allow CA's to direct development away from hazardous lands or undertakings that may aggravate natural processes. Specifically, in 2021 CCCA staff reviewed and provided information on the following:

- Assisted Municipalities with the review of over 70 Planning Act applications such as Severances, Minor Variance & Zone Change Applications, Plans of Condominium/Subdivisions and Official Plan Amendments.
- Provided input on over 75 inquiries from landowners, consultants, real estate agents.
- Issued 35 Permits, authorizations or letters of opinion on Section 28 applications.



Water Quality Monitoring

Several program partnerships with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks depend on water quality data collected by CCCA. The Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN), and the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) support CCCA and our partners to monitor the changing watershed conditions and facilitate data-lead management of our water resources. 2021 sampling saw a delayed start, however CCCA collected surface water from four (4) PWQMN sites, and measured groundwater levels at two (2) PGMN wells.



Water Management

Fresh water has always been a natural resource crucial to the environmental and economic well-being of the Catfish Creek Watershed. Water supports many familial livelihoods such as agriculture activities, industrial development, and recreation to mention a few. Historically, periods of extreme weather patterns were infrequent, and excessive water levels were unique. However, as demand for water increases and climate changes occur, severe water level fluctuations are becoming more common and are replacing lower historical normals with more frequent, elevated and intense surface water volume patterns through more recurring storms with unprecedented intensities.



The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) is aiming to help mitigate the unsettled climate change variables through various science based environmental and biodiverse rehabilitation programs/projects coupled with a more comprehensive understanding of an improve local environmental biodiversity.

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. Reforestation efforts saw 10 acres of

seedlings planted in 2021. 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 planned recovery of our local watershed biodiversity is intended to help moderate the impact of the aforementioned increased storm events. Through our reforestation and land reclamation programs the increased forest and associated ground cover will assist with increased water level induced erosion impacts from increased storm intensities/frequencies, lessen the number of flood related Watershed Condition Statements identifying flood related concerns issued by the Conservation Authority.

In 2021 the CCCA has issued thirteen (13) Watershed Condition Statements based on government agency concerns and local knowledge of environmental and physical conditions of the Catfish Creek watershed.

