

Annual Report 2012



A Year in Review

Conservation
Accomplishments



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Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2012 Annual Report for Saugeen Conservation.

Please take time to browse through our accomplishments over the past year. In keeping with our mandate as a Conservation Authority, our focus is on grassroots conservation and the well-being of the local environment.

Our on-the-ground efforts, with respect to environmental improvements, are constantly in the forefront. As always, we continue to work with our member municipalities, local residents and watershed groups in the planting of trees, the installation of cattle exclusion fencing, the rehabilitation of wetlands, habitat creation, water sampling and other conservation initiatives that help make this watershed a better place to live, work and play.

In addition, over the past year, we have put a special emphasis on improving our Conservation Areas, or those lands which are open to the public for a variety of recreational activities, as well as nature appreciation. In this regard, we have been busy with the installation of new fences, building repairs, trail improvements and much needed structural improvements on a variety of our buildings and facilities.

Additional emphasis was also directed to areas along the shoreline, in particular, the Pine River. The Pine River was identified as one of five priority watersheds along Lake Huron (by the Lake Huron Southeast Shore Group) as requiring immediate action in terms of environmental improvements. Saugeen Conservation assisted the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network in the implementation of a number of efforts, including tree planting, workshops and river improvements.

In summary, as a local organization, we are extremely committed to working with our stakeholders, and in particular, our watershed municipalities in continuing to address environmental concerns and issues on a watershed scale. The municipalities are the voices of the Conservation Authority, in helping to fulfill its goals and objectives as a grassroots conservation agency.

Bill Scriven
Chair



Saugeen Conservation is a corporate body established in 1950 under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario to manage renewable natural resources on a watershed scale in partnership with its 15 member municipalities, the Province of Ontario and its watershed residents.

Saugeen Conservation is one of 36 Conservation Authorities across Ontario and is a member of Conservation Ontario.

Our watershed jurisdiction covers 4,675 sq. km (1,805 sq. miles), consisting of the drainage basins of the Saugeen, Penetangore and Pine Rivers, as well as those watercourses along the adjoining Lake Huron shoreline.

In delivering its programs, Saugeen Conservation has acquired over 8,516 ha (21,000 acres) of land for a variety of purposes, ranging from the protection of important wetlands and significant forests to the provision of picnic areas and campgrounds.

In addition to its main focus as a conservation agency, Saugeen Conservation is involved in provincial conservation issues, as a voting member of Conservation Ontario.

2012 Highlights

Significant Land Donation

Saugeen Conservation was pleased to accept a donation of 17.8 ha (44 acres) of environmentally sensitive wetland from Mr. & Mrs. Pryde of Saugeen Shores.

The property, located in areas of sensitive shoreline habitat in the former Kincardine Township, supports a variety of significant wetland flora and fauna and is an important foothold for the Authority in its quest to conserve unique features along Lake Huron. Our gratitude is extended to the Pryde family for this incredible donation.



Painting the Town Yellow

Saugeen Conservation staff embarked on painting the Town of Walkerton yellow through the Yellow Fish Road™ storm drain marking program, supported by Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC). This program is a hands-on environmental project designed to remind residents and youth about storm drains and why they should not be used as outlets for waste disposal.

A total of 546 storm drains were painted with yellow fish with the help of 154 students and parent volunteers. In addition, 1,091 'fish door hangers' were distributed to local residents to inform them about the program.

Grey Sauble and Saugeen Conservation Host 2012 Biennial Tour

Saugeen Conservation was pleased to partner with Grey Sauble Conservation in the coordination of the 2012 Biennial Tour. This special event is hosted by different Conservation Authorities across Ontario every other year, as a way to showcase conservation lands, projects and issues.

Close to 100 delegates from across the province came to Saugeen and Grey Sauble watersheds to view the sites and learn about conservation accomplishments and challenges and by both Authorities.

Conservation Area Improvements

A number of improvements were made to the facilities at our various Conservation Areas. New fencing, painting, the installation of a new playground (thanks to a private donor), the upgrading of vault privies and the introduction of swans again at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area, were all welcomed improvements to the parks.



We've Got Bugs!

In 2012, staff and volunteers, utilizing plenty of imagination, created a new display called Creepy Crawlies in XL.

The larger-than-life exhibit provided visitors with a unique opportunity to learn about bugs, their lives, characteristics, and habitats. It was first featured at a major fundraiser hosted by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation, and then went on to the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre for a special four month exhibition. Various parts of the exhibit were also featured at the Bruce County office in the Town of Walkerton.



(Top) Co-op students hang a giant spider as part of the Creepy Crawlies exhibit.
(Above) Kids scramble to play in the giant ladybug at the Bruce County Museum.

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WATER



Flood Warning

Watershed Conditions

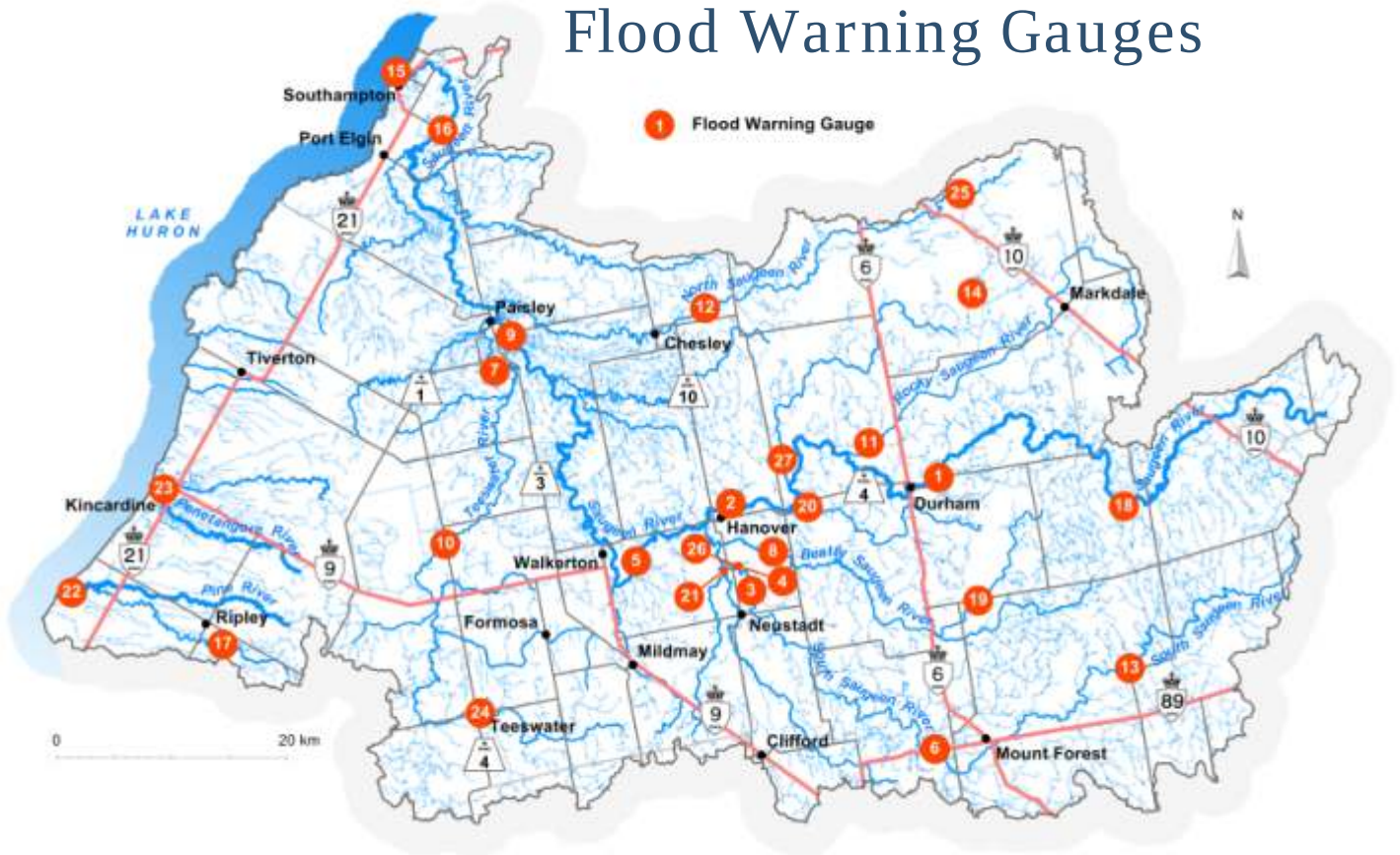
2012 was one of the driest years since Saugeen Conservation began collecting meteorological data in 1984. Total snowfall measured at the Town of Hanover, for example, was 123 cm, which represents only 40% of normal winter snowfall. In addition, after a relatively wet spring, June, July and August were uncharacteristically dry with rainfall amounts well below normal.

No significant heavy rainfall events occurred in 2012, and as a result, no flood messages were issued. However, given the lack of summer rainfall combined with little precipitation in the spring to replenish groundwater reserves, flows that did exist in local creeks and streams were a direct result of groundwater reserves.

It is extremely fortunate that the Saugeen Watershed enjoys healthy groundwater reserves as a result of headwater areas that are well forested and contain an abundant supply of wetlands. These wetlands help to recharge groundwater reserves and play an integral role in supplying consistent base flows that keep the Saugeen River and its five main tributaries supplied with water, year-round.

Groundwater levels in wells sampled by Saugeen Conservation began to rebound later in the year, due to fall rains and periodic snowmelt.

Flood Warning Gauges



Keeping an Eye on Watershed Conditions

Saugeen Conservation has a total of 27 flood monitoring gauges across the watershed that monitor a variety of different parameters, including water levels, precipitation, wind speed, air and water temperature, etc. This data is instantaneous and extremely important to staff in determining potential flood conditions across the watershed.

Did You Know That...

the Saugeen River is the third largest river system in Southern Ontario at 193 km in length
the Saugeen River (on average) dumps 110 bathtubs full of water into Lake Huron per second
Saugeen Conservation's jurisdiction includes the watersheds of the Saugeen, the Penetangore, the Pine and the Lake Fringe Rivers
of the top 10 high water occurrences since the early 1900's, Hurricane Hazel ranked #8 in severity



Flood Preparedness Workshop for Municipal Staff and Directors

In January 2012, Saugeen Conservation staff held a one-day workshop for member municipalities, Saugeen Conservation Directors, Road Superintendents, Public Works Managers, Fire Chiefs and Police Services.

Staff presented information on the Saugeen Conservation Flood Contingency Plan and the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved. Information was also presented on its Flood Warning Department and how data is collected and analyzed.



Upper Durham Dam

Managing the Projects that Protect Us From Flood Events and Erosion

All Saugeen Conservation flood and erosion control structures were inspected as part of the routine duties of the Water Resources Department to ensure their ongoing integrity.

Major repair works completed on capital projects receive 50% funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources under the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI). Annual maintenance receives 40% funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

Extensive maintenance was completed on the Southampton Erosion Control Project with the removal of small trees and shrubs. What may seem contradictory to many individuals is actually a very real threat to the integrity of an erosion control project. Tree roots grow into the project slopes splitting soil particles and threatening the project.

Saugeen Conservation received approval for a Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program application for safety upgrades to the Upper and Lower Durham Dams.

Upgrades included warning signs at the dams as well as a float barrier at the Upper Durham Dam.



Water

Sound environmental planning is “Keeping the people away from the rivers and the rivers away from the people”.



Environmental Planning and Regulations

In 2012 there were 166 permits granted under the Authority's Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation, Ontario Regulation 169/06. No permit applications were denied by the Authority. Permits are required for works within Regulated Areas, such as flood plains, wetlands, and valleys, as well as for altering watercourses.

Saugeen Conservation and all other Conservation Authorities, continued with the process of amending the Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation. The amended Regulation will streamline the approval process, allow permits to be valid for longer than 24 months where warranted, and include some housekeeping changes. It is anticipated that the Minister of Natural Resources will approve the amendment early in 2013.

Planning staff participated in the Planning Officials Working Group established under the Drinking Water Source Protection Committee for the Saugeen, Grey Sauble and North Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region. The Working Group reviewed and commented on the policies proposed in the Source Protection Plan prior to the document's adoption by the committee.

Construction of the Hydro One Networks Bruce to Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project was essentially completed in 2012. Authority staff conducted compliance monitoring of the works throughout the year for items of relevance to the Authority. This project consists of a 180 kilometre double-circuit 500,000 volt (500 kV) transmission line from the Bruce Power facility in Kincardine to Hydro One's Milton Switching Station in the Town of Milton. The transmission line is situated along the east-west axis of the Saugeen Watershed and involved many watercourses and Regulated Areas.



A local property owner (left) and Valerie Lamont, Resources Information Technician, discuss planning options for a rural property.



Staff work with hundreds of landowners each and every year on various planning issues. (Above) Gary Senior, Sr. Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations, and a local landowner talk about development options.

The Authority reviewed the proposed revised Saugeen Shores Official Plan, including the associated report on Significant Woodlands for the area generally in the northern portion of Southampton. Comments were also provided on the final version of the West Grey Official Plan. The Municipality of Brockton Comprehensive Zoning By-law update was reviewed as well.

Meetings Attended:

Species at Risk Workshop
Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) Partnership Conference
Kincardine Council
Natural Heritage Reference Manual Training
Planning Officials Working Group (DWSP)
Ice Management Workshop
Local Planners Meeting, Grey County
Planning & Regs Best Management Practices

WATER

Water Quality



Surface Water Sampling

Saugeen Conservation monitors 29 sites within the Saugeen, Lake Fringe, Pine and Penetangore River watersheds monthly during ice free periods. These samples are analyzed at Ministry of the Environment and private laboratories for general chemistry (including phosphorus and nitrates) and *E. coli*.

Nutrient Management Monitoring

Since 2004, 15 streams in agricultural watersheds across southwestern Ontario have been monitored for water quality, flow, and benthic invertebrates. Of major interest are *E. coli*, suspended solids, and nutrients such as nitrate and total phosphorus. This program is ongoing and is led by the Ministry of the Environment.

A long-term goal of this project is to examine trends in water quality in relation to changing agricultural practices. A report on this study was released by the Ministry of the Environment in 2012.

Biomonitoring

Benthos (bottom dwelling insects, crustaceans, worms and mollusks) are collected at test sites across the watershed. These organisms can be excellent indicators of local water quality. Some, for example, have a high tolerance for pollution (e.g., mosquito larvae), while others have a very low tolerance and survive in pristine waters only.

Recent results (over the past five years), indicate that the type of benthos has changed across the watershed, favouring those which are more tolerant of polluted conditions. Saugeen Conservation will continue to closely monitor these organisms and investigate possible causes for water quality deterioration.



The Water Quality Programs are conducted in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment.

Groundwater Monitoring

Understanding how and why groundwater levels change in aquifers will assist in making good decisions in areas such as applications for Permits To Take Water, land-use development and aggregate development expansion applications, and allow for the recognition of groundwater level trends.

Saugeen Conservation monitors 23 groundwater aquifers in 17 wells throughout the watershed. Ten wells monitor bedrock aquifers, while thirteen monitor overburden aquifers. Overburden aquifers are those that have been located in loose soil, sand, or gravel overlying solid rock or bedrock, while bedrock aquifers tend to be deeper and located in parent materials such as bedrock.

Within these wells, water level data is logged hourly, while water quality samples are collected annually in the fall. Any exceedences of the Ontario Drinking Water Standards are reported to municipalities and the local Health Unit for follow-up.

Rain gauges are incorporated into the network at various well sites throughout the province to allow for a better understanding of the correlation between precipitation and groundwater levels. This data supports the groundwater component of the Low Water Response Program. Saugeen Conservation has three rain gauges associated with this program.



Telfer Wegg



Telfer Wegg

Staff collect bottom dwelling organisms or 'benthos' to help determine the quality of water in streams and rivers across the watershed.

Watershed Report Cards

The Water Quality Specialist sat on a committee with other specialists from across Ontario in developing a set of standardized guidelines for provincial report cards. This was coordinated by Conservation Ontario, the umbrella organization for all 36 CA's in Ontario.

Conservation Ontario will be launching the release of all report cards across the province on March 18, 2013 for World Water Day.

Groups and Affiliates:

Technical Advisory Committee for the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network

Technical Advisory Committee for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network

Watershed Report Card Implementation Committee

Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Southwestern Working Group

Dorset Environmental Science Centre

Healthy Lake Huron Technical Working Committee

Drinking Water Source Protection

Drinking Water Source Protection is a program which aims to protect the sources of our local drinking water from both contamination and overuse. Protecting the *sources* of our drinking water helps to ensure enough clean water for everyone!



Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program - Early Response

The Early Response Program (under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program) was launched in 2011 and continued through 2012. The program offered grants to eligible landowners for projects aimed at reducing threats to municipal drinking water. As of December 2012, over \$275,000 in grants was distributed locally to eligible landowners. The types of projects included septic system upgrades, manure storage facilities, well upgrades, and fuel and chemical storage.

Source Protection Plan

The Source Protection Committee achieved an important milestone in 2012 with the submission of the Proposed Source Protection Plan (PSPP) to the province. The PSPP contains a series of policies that, when implemented, will help manage activities that pose a possible risk to the sources of our drinking water.

Two rounds of the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan (DPSPP) consultation involved the following:

- over 3,000 information packages mailed to landowners affected by the DPSPP policies
- Five public meetings held throughout the region, with an attendance of 155 people
- 50,700 copies of a publication was inserted into area newspapers providing program information

The PSPP was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) on August 8, 2012. Ministry approval of the Plan is anticipated to take place in the latter part of 2013.

Source Protection Plan Municipal Implementation

It is important for municipalities to begin planning for the implementation of the Source Protection Plan (SPP) policies for which they will be responsible.

The Drinking Water Source Protection program hosted two local workshops in November 2012 regarding SPP implementation. The workshops were well-attended by municipal councilors and staff. Topics of discussion included municipal roles and responsibilities, risk management plans and reporting requirements. An implementation guide was also distributed to each municipality and follow-up sections will be added as they are completed.

Note: The Drinking Water Source Protection office can provide information to municipalities related to SPP implementation. Staff members have made presentations to local councils as requested.

This is a joint program of



www.waterprotection.ca



Partners in Conservation

Saugeen Conservation works closely with the LHCCC on conservation issues along the Lake Huron shoreline.

The mission of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC):

“To provide leadership and expertise, in collaboration with partners, to achieve a healthy Lake Huron coastal ecosystem”

2012 Highlights

LHCCC hosted its seventh biennial “Is the Coast Clear?” Held at the CAW Family Education Centre in Port Elgin, the event covered numerous topics dealing with shoreline issues, such as water quality, lake levels, pollution, algae, etc.

Green Ribbon Beach is a new community outreach program aimed at engaging communities in 'Best Beach Conservation Practices'. Beach communities can get involved by implementing stewardship initiatives that improve beach quality. After evaluating the success of stewardship measures, the LHCCC presents successful participants with the Green Ribbon Beach Award. In 2012, the Township of Huron-Kinloss and Lurgan Beach Association were the recipients of the award.

The LHCCC delivered its “Living Beaches” coastal studies program in the Municipality of Kincardine and Township of Huron-Kinloss in 2012. Through the program, local schools learn about coastal issues, both in and out of the classroom. Field activities involved the planting of coastal vegetation to restore beach quality. Restoration was undertaken at Station Beach, Kincardine and Blair's Grove, Huron-Kinloss.

As a member of the Great Lakes regional jury for the international Blue Flag Program, LHCCC staff evaluates Blue Flag applicants from communities around the Great Lakes.



Grassroots Conservation Efforts

Stewardship Projects

Allan Park Conservation Area Tall Grass Prairie

Staff continues to monitor progress on the Allan Park Tall Grass Prairie, initially planted in June of 2011. This project is supported by the Bruce to Milton Hydro One-Biodiversity Opportunity Initiative. A new sign has been installed to identify the project.

Healthy Lake Huron Clean Water, Clean Beaches



Staff worked closely with a number of ministries, agencies and county personnel on the Lake Huron South East Shores Working Group under the program name of Healthy Lake

Huron Clean Water, Clean Beaches, www.healthylakehuron.ca

Under this program five 'priority' or low quality watersheds were identified along Lake Huron as requiring immediate environmental attention. In the Saugeen Watershed, the Pine River was identified as one of these priorities.

Showcasing Water Innovation Program

The Healthy Lake Huron Program, funded by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), focuses on issues involved with agricultural and rural drainage. Funding will be utilized to develop a Rural Stormwater Management Model to assess variables such as the amount of runoff during storm events, soil loss, contaminant loadings, etc. The model will be tested on all five priority watersheds, including the Pine River.

Staff completed the following in 2012:

- installation of flow and weather monitoring stations
- development of a discharge / water depth relationship on a smaller subwatershed within the Pine River system
- installation of an automated water quality sampler (ISCO sampler), to collect data near Ripley in conjunction with a Saugeen Conservation flood warning station
- compilation of Geographic Information System (GIS) data to be utilized in the rural stormwater management model with assistance from the County of Bruce

Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN)

In the spring of 2012, the PRWIN, with assistance from Saugeen Conservation staff, planted approximately 35,000 trees (ten project sites) in the Pine River Watershed

Over 3,500 metres of cattle exclusion fencing was completed

A first-time effort was the construction of agricultural berms and a new wetland to retain water on the landscape, in addition to filtering nutrients and preventing soil loss

Funding for the efforts of the PRWIN was supported through ecoACTION, Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) and MOE's Canada Ontario Agreement (COA).



Stewardship Projects

Penetangore Watershed Group (PWG)

Staff assisted the Penetangore Watershed Group with a number of projects, in addition to the securement of funding.

over \$24,000 was raised (thanks to the Municipality of Kincardine, Bruce Power, Ontario Power Generation, TD Green Streets and private donations, as well as in-kind volunteer hours

the group planted 10,000 trees in the Penetangore River Watershed together with the assistance of the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network, the group enabled the construction of cattle exclusion fencing and a cattle access crossing along Kincardine Creek, a tributary to the Penetangore River the group worked with over 300 students from local schools on tree planting projects. They were also involved with the rehabilitation of a municipally-owned stormwater management pond, through the planting of native plants and shrubs to eradicate invasive, non-native plants



Yellow Fish Road™ Storm Drain Marking Program

Saugeen Conservation staff embarked on painting the Town of Walkerton yellow through the Yellow Fish Road™ storm drain marking program, supported by Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC). The program is a hands-on environmental project designed to remind residents and youth about storm drains and how the drains should not be used as an outlet for waste disposal and hazardous waste.

This project involved three elementary schools (154 students and parent volunteers). Over three days 546 storm drains were painted with yellow fish. There were 1,091 'fish door hangers' distributed to local residents to inform them about the program.



(Above) Jo-Anne Harbinson, Manager Water Resources & Stewardship Services, conducts a field study.

Groups and Affiliates:

- Member on the Board of Directors of Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC)
- Member on the Board of Directors of the Bruce Resource Stewardship Network (BRSN)
- Member on the Board of Directors of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Committee Member on the Drinking Water Source Protection Early Response Review Committee
- Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN), the Penetangore Watershed Group
- Grey and Bruce County Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)
- Wellington County Rural Water Quality (WCRWQ) program
- The Huron Clean Water program

Events:

- Sydenham Sportsman Youth Expo Day
- Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival
- Bruce Grey Forest Festival
- Walkerton Water WORKS Day
- 2012 Experience Green Environmental Fair



A Co-operative Program of



(Below) Jim Penner, Manager of Forestry (*centre*) with Donna Lacey, Forestry Technician (*far right*) provide three co-op students with tree planting experience.



Telfer Wegg

The Grey Bruce Forestry Service (GBFS) is a cooperative program between Saugeen Conservation and Grey Sauble Conservation. The purpose of the GBFS is to provide professional forestry services to landowners throughout the two jurisdictions.



Forestry

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

The MFTIP program is available to landowners who wish to properly manage their forest properties. They must own four hectares or more of forested land and agree to prepare and follow a Managed Forest Plan. Under the MFTIP agreement, landowners will have their property reassessed and classified as Managed Forest. Not only is this working towards sustainable forestry practices, but landowners are then taxed at 25% of the municipal tax rate set for residential properties

A total of 12 MFTIP Plans were created, approved or updated for landowners in 2012.

Saugen Conservation Forestry Services (management on our own lands)

During 2012 there were two plantation thinning operations completed. In addition, two properties were marked for a second thinning. The material, amounting to 517 full cord of White Pine and White Spruce, was sold for a total value of \$19,698.

An improvement harvest on Tract #41-010-05, a 43.3 ha (107 acre) upland hardwood forest stand, was tendered out in 2012. A total of 137,682 board feet of Hard Maple, White Ash, Beech and Basswood sawlogs were marked for removal as well as 169.55 full cord of fuelwood. The successful tender resulted in \$142,450 of revenue.



Telfer Wegg



The Numbers

2012 Tree Planting Season

Planted a total of 186,000 trees (177,000 by machine / 9,000 by hand)
161,000 trees planted under the 50 Million Tree program where landowners receive a subsidy of approximately 90%
15,000 trees supplied to 26 private landowners to complete their planting
12,600 trees planted for the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network

Arbour Day Tree Sale (last weekend in April)

201 orders filled for a total of 7,653 trees and shrubs

Landscape Stock

12 orders processed for a total of 654 coniferous or deciduous trees

Events / Shows Attended:

Annual Forest Health Review
Community Forest Managers' Annual Meeting
Grey-Bruce Woodlot Conference
Holstein Maple Syrup Festival
Midwestern Agri-Fair
Tree Planting and MFTIP Workshops
Welbeck Wood Expo
Ontario Forestry Association Conference
Experience Green Environmental Fair

Affiliates / Memberships:

Bruce Grey Forest Festival
Bruce County Woodlot Association
Grey County Woodlot Association
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Woodlot Association
Bruce Resource Stewardship Network
Grey County Forest Stewardship Network
Ontario Professional Foresters Association
Ontario Professional Foresters Association's Career Awareness Committee
Ontario Invasive Plant Council
Ontario Maple Syrup Producer's Association

Conservation Areas



Telfer Wegg



Working to Provide You with a Great Experience!

The Numbers

What Do Our Conservation Areas Mean to the Local Economy?

Information (attendance, visitor location, etc.) from all three of our camping parks was analyzed to determine local economic impact (according to the Province of Ontario's TREIM Model (Ontario's Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model). Results are interesting!

Park	Attendance	Economic Impact	Advertising Investment	Investment in Infrastructure
Bruce's	11,309	\$ 631,858	\$ 0	0
Durham	22,522	\$1,872,826	\$1,200	\$18,926
Saugeen Bluffs	22,609	\$2,156,409	\$1,500	\$ 6,829
Total	56,440	\$4,661,093	\$2,700	\$25,755



Two students were hired during the summer months to assist with maintenance at Sulphur Spring, Harwood Hill, Kinghurst, Varney, Allan Park, and McBeath Conservation Areas.

Improvements and Developments

Staff continued to work with the Kincardine Ski Club in the maintenance of Stoney Island Conservation Area (day-use park), including the replacement of a bridge and hazard tree removal

Additional "C" signs were purchased for highways

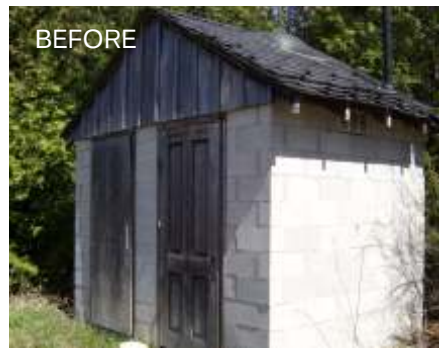
The entrance road and parking lot were re-gravelled at Allan Park Conservation Area

A new entrance road was constructed to the maintenance complex at Durham Conservation Area

Shower stalls at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area were re-tiled

Replacement picnic tables were acquired for the campgrounds

Improvements were made at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area, including reconstruction of the wildlife enclosure fencing, installation of a new steel roof on both the picnic shelter and workshop, painting of the garage and bird pen roofs, and the installation of a new playground (made possible by a private donation)



Improvements made at McBeath Conservation Area included the addition of picnic tables, fire pits and upgrading of the existing vault privy (above)

A new vault privy was constructed at Durham Conservation Area for the group campground



2012 Campground Guidebook (One major publication for all three camping parks)

Total Revenue (through advertising):	\$4,826
Total Cost:	\$1,985
Profit:	\$2,840

Public Outreach

Meetings Attended:

Conservation Area Working Group Committee
Conservation Areas Geneva Park Workshop
Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village Board and Organizing Committee meetings
Bruce County Trail Association
Saugeen Conservation Health & Safety Committee meetings as Management Representative
Grey Bruce Health Unit-Owen Sound
WSIB auditor meetings
OSG Safety Consultants
Saugeen Conservation Parks Advisory Committee
Saugeen Conservation Property Committee
Dawley Engineering meetings
Colleen Lantz Run 4 Youth

Affiliates:

Director with Bruce County Trail Association
Founding Director with Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village
Committee member with the Conservation Areas Working Group Committee of Conservation Ontario
Committee member for Conservation Areas Geneva Park Workshop

Events & Tours:

2012 Biennial Tour
Walkerton EXPO show
Waterloo Children's Safety Village

Presentations:

Palmerston Lions
Colleen Lantz Run 4 Life
Grey Bruce Health Unit
Chiefs of Grey County
Police Services Boards of Grey and Bruce County
Blyth Lions
Wellington County Council
Chesley Rotary Club
Conservation Ontario Conservation Areas Workshop, Geneva Park
Neustadt Lions Zone Advisory Meeting
Mildmay/Elmira Lions
Two day student orientation & training

Other:

Health & Safety inspections at three Saugeen Conservation work sites
Health & Safety consultant meetings and training

Communications



The role of the Communications Department is to raise awareness of Saugeen Conservation, its purpose, programs and services as well as lands, properties and local conservation issues.

Throughout 2012, communication efforts consisted of a number of different mediums, depending on the issue and the event.

2012 Communication 'Tools of the Trade'

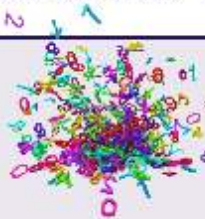
The Numbers

Events:

Attendance at 5 major events	16,180
Active Volunteers	275
Volunteer Appreciation Evening	100
Attendance at shows organized by others	27,200
Doors Open Visitors	42
Seminars / Workshops Attended	4

Functions:

Presentation to interest groups, etc.	9
Shows/Fairs attended	12
Evening Conservation Tours	4



Publications/Promotional Materials:

Family Camping Guide	6,000 copies
Promotional Material Distribution	62,000 copies
Advertising in Local Publications	12
Feature Newspaper Articles	12
Annual Report	350 copies
Green Side Up Newsletters	3 issues
Advertising in Tourism Publications	12
Newspaper / Media Coverage in 2012	187 articles
Total Press Releases	16

Radio / Television:

Television Interviews	15
Radio Advertising for Events and Functions	6 weeks

EXPERIENCE Green Environmental Fair 2012

Staff from a number of related organizations, including Grey Sauble Conservation, Drinking Water Source Protection, MNR, MOE, OMAFRA, the Grey Bruce Health Unit and the Grey Bruce Sustainability Network, organized the first Experience Green Environmental Fair in Owen Sound. Foodlink Grey Bruce participated as well, featuring local farmers and their products as part of the 'Eat Local' Awareness Program.



Creepy Crawlies in XL

Saugeen Conservation partnered with the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre to develop a life size exhibit on 'creepy crawlies!' The larger-than-life bugs were designed to educate youth and adults about insects, their identification, habits, and benefits to humans. The exhibit was featured at one of SVCA's main events, and then sent to the Bruce County Museum for a four month showing. It was a great success and funded entirely by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation.



2012 Biennial Tour

Staff from both Grey Sauble Conservation and Saugeen Conservation worked together to host the 2012 Biennial Tour in September. Approximately 90 staff and Directors from Conservation Authorities across Ontario came together for a 2 1/2 day tour of both the Grey Sauble and Saugeen watersheds.



Work is continually on-going with respect to social media updates and input. Each year, it plays a larger part in the marketing, awareness and profile of our organization.

www.svca.on.ca



Affiliates:

- Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
- Conservation Ontario
- Member Municipalities
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
- Asable Bayfield Conservation Authority
- Drinking Water Source Protection (Saugeen, Grey Sauble and Northern Bruce Peninsula)
- Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
- Six Area Tourism Associations
- Local Media
- Watershed School Boards
- Lake Huron South East Shore Working Group
- Durham Homecoming Committee
- Bruce Power
- Ontario Power Generation
- Over 25 Watershed Businesses
- Watershed Interest Groups
- Grey Bruce Health Unit
- Grey Bruce Sustainability Network
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Doors Open Brockton / Ontario
- Saugeen Conservation Health & Safety Committee meetings (Worker Representative - Communications Assistant/Graphic Artist)



Conservation Education

The Natural Way to Learn

The goal of the Conservation Education Program is “to help youth develop an awareness of, and the knowledge, skills and commitment to make informed decisions and constructive actions concerning the wise use of our natural resources.”

This program caters to over 10,000 youth per year and falls into the following categories:

The WREN Program

A partnership between Saugeen Conservation and Grey Sauble Conservation, this program offers schools throughout Grey, Bruce and parts of Wellington and Huron Counties over 50 different hands-on curriculum-based studies.

Flood Waters and You Program

A cooperative effort with Ontario Provincial Police and St. John Ambulance, this is a hands-on program offered to elementary schools dealing specifically with water safety issues.



The DEER Program

A partnership between Saugeen Conservation and Bruce Power. Over 30 different curriculum-based programs are available to all schools in the Bluewater District and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Boards, grades 2 to 12. Bruce Power provides funding for the program, equipment and bussing. Programs are held at their Visitor Centre and Inglis Falls and Sulphur Spring Conservation Areas.

Wild Encounters Nature Day Camp

A cooperative effort between Hanover Recreation Department and Saugeen Conservation, this week-long camp is offered during the summer months. The goal is to get kids outside, have fun and learn about conservation and the environment.

Earth Week Program

Initiated in 2007, this program was created to take advantage of Earth Week awareness and to provide educational opportunities for elementary students based on five main themes: forests, water, environmental games, endangered species and reducing your environmental footprint.

The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

Saugeen Conservation is proud to be a founding partner in this excellent educational program. This festival features five main themes: water conservation, water science, water technology, water protection and changing attitudes. Offered to all grade four students in Grey and Bruce Counties, it includes 46 different curriculum-based hands-on demonstrations and activities.



March Break Program

Initiated in 2007, this program was developed to provide outdoor fun and educational opportunities during the March break, geared to environmental themes.



The Bruce Grey Forest Festival

The second of its kind in the province! Initiated by Saugeen Conservation in 2010, this festival is based on the successful format of water festivals. A committee comprised of 17 different organizations oversees the event and assists in the fundraising. Hosted at Allan Park Conservation Area, it offers grade 7 students from Grey, Bruce, Wellington and Huron Counties, an opportunity to participate in 35 different hands-on activities. Themes include: our forest resources, climate change, forest ecosystems and interactions, biodiversity, species at risk, and stewardship and conservation. In total, 1,000 students participated over three days, including 300 secondary students and industry representatives leading the activity centres.

Youth Expo

Initiated in 2006, this is a collaborative program developed by a number of like-minded organizations to offer youth the opportunity to explore the outdoors. Young people aged 9 to 14 gather to experience hands-on outdoor activities ranging from fishing to hiking to archery.

The Numbers

School Board	# of Students
Bluewater District	6,560
Bruce Grey Separate	2,256
Wellington	35
Community Youth Groups	190
Other Groups	1,825



Programs	# of Students	# of Presentations
WREN	2,481	137
DEER	2,773	180
FloodWaters and You	1,755	70
Summer Programs & Day Camp	350	12
Earth Week	460	18
March Break	120	3
Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival	12,000	46
Bruce Grey Forest Festival	1,000	33
Youth Expo	73	10
Total	10,866	509





Telfer Wegg

Communications & the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation



Saugeen
Valley
Conservation
Foundation

The Communications Department works with the Foundation and its volunteers. Programs and events of the Foundation accomplish a number of objectives, namely public awareness and fundraising.

Events

Christmas in the Country

This is the largest interactive Christmas event in Grey and Bruce Counties. Held at the end of November each year, it attracted over 6,400 people to the Sulphur Spring Conservation Area in 2012. In addition to thousands of lights and hundreds of candle lanterns, activities take place in each of the buildings, making this a hands-on event from beginning to end. The highlight, of course, is visiting with Santa in his very own igloo along with Vixen, one of his live reindeer.

Old Tyme Maple Syrup Festival

This is the largest outdoor maple syrup event in Grey and Bruce Counties. It plays host to approximately 7,000 people each year at the end of March. Attractions are many and varied. This event is hosted at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area.

Memorial Grove Ceremony

A touching tradition, this ceremony takes place at the Sulphur Spring Conservation Area at the end of June. Over 700 people come out to honour loved ones and observe the ceremonial tree planting. The event is held for the families, friends and acquaintances of those who have had trees planted in their honour. A total of 154 trees were requested by loved ones in 2012.

Programs

Memorial Grove Program

A total of 154 donations were made for trees to be planted in memory of loved ones.

Celebration Forest

This program provides individuals with an opportunity to dedicate a mature tree to someone special for any of life's celebrations, including anniversaries, birthdays, retirements, etc. The trees are located in a mature forest at the Sulphur Spring Conservation Area and are priced according to size. Individuals are free to choose their own tree in this program. Once purchased, all trees are permanently signed with an attractive plaque.

ThinkRecycle

This program encourages the recycling of used ink and laser cartridges, as well as cell phones and cameras. In return, each organization, school or business that participates in the program realizes financial returns on all applicable items.

Evening Conservation Tours

Directors, staff and municipal officials are invited each year to participate in these special tours.

Four tours were conducted in 2012 highlighting various conservation programs, lands and projects, as well as local attractions across the watershed.

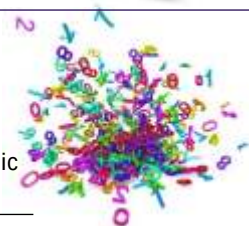
The tours take place in the evening to facilitate attendance and participation.



The Numbers

Information (attendance, visitor location, etc.) from each event was analyzed to determine local economic impact.

Event	Attendance	Communities Represented	Economic Impact
Christmas in the Country	6,454	91	\$502,247
Maple Syrup Festival	6,675	69	\$497,409
Total	13,129	80 (avg.)	\$999,656



* Figures obtained through the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's TREIM Formula (Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model)

Raising Money For...



A Self Interpretive Trail through the Greenock Swamp

This 8,500 ha swamp is the single largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario. It is also a Class 1 Wetland.

Conservation Education

The Foundation has always assisted with this program where over 10,000 children throughout the watershed participate in hands-on activities. Saugeen Conservation offers over 60 different types of outdoor programs, all curriculum related.

Watershed Reforestation (through the Memorial Grove Program)

There are a number of Memorial Groves and Forests throughout the watershed being planted in trees each year.

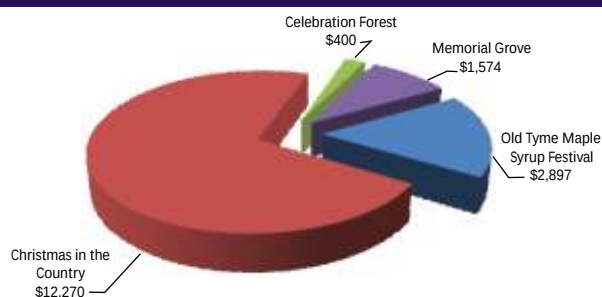
Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area

Each year the SVCF receives funding through the generosity of the Sutherland Family in Guelph. Robert Sutherland was instrumental in obtaining the land for the park in the 1970's.

Saugeen River Improvements

The SVCF has a number of funds to which people can contribute depending on their own interests. Donations to this fund assist with canoe and fishing improvements along the river.

Funds Raised in 2012



Volunteers and Sponsors

Due to the Access to Information Act, we are no longer able to publish the names of all the incredible volunteers we have worked with over the course of the year. Please know that your help and dedication has been greatly appreciated. Many of the accomplishments mentioned in this report would not have been possible without you.

Groups, Organizations and Businesses

1st Chesley Scouts
1st Walkerton Scouts and Ventures
1st Walkerton Medvents
AgVise, Crop Advisory, Ripley
Bruce County Campers
Bruce County Family Living Centre, Walkerton
Bruce County Heritage Association, Paisley
Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre, Southampton
Bruce County Trappers and Crappers, Paisley
Durham / West Grey Lion's Club
Kincardine Ski Club
Saugeen Field Naturalists
Steelheader's Association
West Grey Police Department
West Grey Fire Department

In-Kind Sponsors

Bayshore Broadcasting, Owen Sound
Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre, Southampton
CKNX Radio, Wingham
Coffee Culture, Hanover
Eastlink Communications, Listowel
Emke Schaab Climate Care, Walkerton
Gibby's Grub, Paisley
Grant's, Your Independent Grocer, Hanover
Ground Effects Landscaping, Hanover
Habitat for Humanity, Re-Store, Hanover
Hanover Typocraft
J&J Sandblasting, Elmwood
Johanna's Sewing, Hanover
Ken and Monika Kienapple, Waterloo
Martin's Animal Barn, Chepstow
Mike Hunter, Ripley (Ag-Vise)
Paisley Kinsmen
Robert's Farm Equipment, Chesley
Ross Young Bus Lines, Tiverton
Saugeen Field Naturalists
Shel-run Livestock, Hanover
Skyway Printing, Hanover
South Bruce Bucksinnors
St John Ambulance, Hanover
The Post, Hanover
Voisin's Maple Syrup, Formosa
Welbeck Sawmill, Durham
Whinny Acres, Priceville



Cash Contributors (over \$1,000)

Bruce Power, Tiverton
Estate of Douglas James McCulloch
Grant's Your Independent Grocer, Hanover
John Sutherland and Sons, Guelph
Ontario Power Generation, Tiverton
Scotia Bank, Hanover

Cash Sponsors (under \$1,000)

Bruce Telecom, Tiverton
Bud Rier Chev Olds, Paisley
Caldecott Millwright Services, Inc., Hanover
Genivar, Owen Sound
Hanover Chrysler
Hanover Pharmasave
Paisley Kinsmen
Royal LePage, Hanover
Teeswater Concrete
Union Gas, Waterloo
Weiler's Cleaning Service, Walkerton
Whitehead Financial Services, Hanover



Thanks to Our Special Volunteers!

Each year the Authority and Foundation host a barbeque to acknowledge the incredible efforts of volunteers and the remarkable support of local sponsors. These dedicated individuals and financial providers assist with the following:

Spring park preparations
Park maintenance
Trail development and maintenance
Development and upkeep of Conservation Area gardens
Assist with special events
Conservation projects, such as tree planting
Construction and the coordination of displays
Manning of displays at shows and special functions
Filing of conservation-related newspaper articles
Administrative tasks
Errands
Research and development





Behind the Scenes

Where would any organization be if it weren't for the hard working staff behind the scenes?

Administration and Finance staff work to ensure that everything runs smoothly on a day-to-day basis. From answering inquiries to processing bills and payments, all these duties, and more, fall to them.

The maintenance staff, as well, do their fair share of the work looking after capital projects, keeping our Conservation Areas well maintained, building trails, repairing fences and many other duties too numerous to mention.

In addition, our GIS Coordinator works continuously in the quest to provide the most up-to-date mapping for staff to assist them with their daily programs and services.

All these individuals play a pivotal role at Saugeen Conservation in each and every one of our accomplishments!



Administration & Finance



Directors

Bill Scriven, Chair, Municipality of West Grey
 Luke Charbonneau, 1st Vice Chair, Town of Saugeen Shores
 Carl Zettel, 2nd Vice Chair, Municipalities of Morris-Turnberry/
 South Bruce/Township of Howick
 Ron Coristine, Municipality of Kincardine
 Dan Kerr, Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
 Roland Anstett, Municipality of Brockton
 Brian Gamble, Township of Chatsworth
 David Kell, Municipality of Grey Highlands
 Peter Hambly, Town of Hanover
 Jim Hanna, Township of Huron-Kinloss
 Mike Leggett, Municipality of Kincardine
 Doug Gowanlock, Town of Saugeen Shores
 Glen Irwin, Township of Southgate
 *Mark MacKenzie, Township of Wellington North/Town of Minto
 John Eccles, Municipality of West Grey

*Mark MacKenzie resigned in June.



**Saugeen
Valley
Conservation
Foundation**

Directors

Ed Moric, Chair, Durham
 Dennis McCracken, Vice Chair, Hanover
 Laura Molson, Treasurer (staff)
 Shannon Wood, Secretary and Manager, Communications (staff)
 * Jim Coffey, (Chief Administrative Officer, Saugeen Conservation)
 Bill Scriven, (ex-officio and Chair of Saugeen Conservation)
 Jack MacLeod, Hanover
 Rick Pake, Hanover
 Gary Thomas, Hanover
 Catherine Dickison, Mildmay
 Ron McGhee, Priceville
 Darlene Schnurr, Mildmay
 Marg Parker, Mildmay

* Jim Coffey retired in June.

Staff

ADMINISTRATION	*Jim Coffey Laura Molson Bonnie Sherman Dale Schaefer Les McKay	Chief Administrative Officer Manager, Accounting Executive Secretary Accounting Clerk Manager, Information Technology
COMMUNICATIONS	Shannon Wood Catherine Bould Nancy Griffin	Manager, Communications Graphics & Communications Assistant Conservation Education Coordinator
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING	Gary Senior Cherie Leslie Erik Downing **Kalena Metcalfe ***Candace Hamm Nathan Garland	Sr. Manager, Environmental Planning & Regulations Environmental Planning Coordinator Environmental Planning Technician/Acting Coordinator Resources Information Technician Regulations Officer Regulations Officer
FORESTRY	Jim Penner Donna Lacey ****Rene Kleinecke	Manager, Forestry Forestry Technician GIS Co-ordinator
LAND MANAGEMENT	Al Leach Ron McManus Ron Kaufman Caralynn Kamerman Bruce Martin Brian Grice Stuart Byers Robert Burrell	Manager, Lands Park Superintendent, Durham CA Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA Park Superintendent, Bruce Dale CA Assistant Park Superintendent, Durham CA Assistant Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA Field Services Coordinator Maintenance Coordinator
MAINTENANCE	Dave Pybus Jo-Anne Harbinson Martha Nicol	Sr. Manager, Flood Warning & Land Management Manager, Water Resources & Stewardship Services Water Quality Specialist

*Jim Coffey retired in June. ** Kalena Metcalfe left in February. *** Candace Hamm left on maternity leave.

**** Rene Kleinecke left on paternity leave.

Special Assistance Staff: Julie Henhoeffter and Community Living Support Worker, Melissa Henkusens, help each week with various chores and duties.

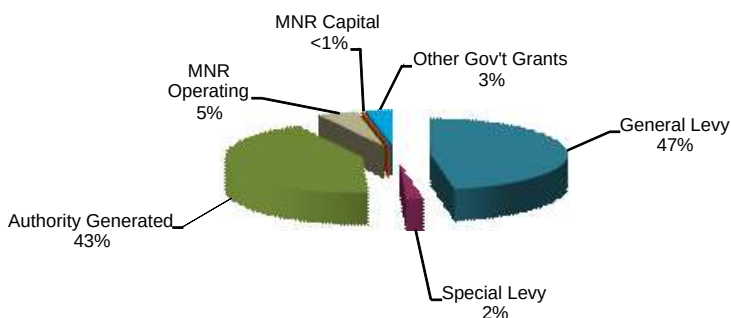
Staff - Drinking Water Source Protection

Don Smith	Project Manager	Nancy Guest	Administrative Assistant
David Ellingwood	Program Supervisor	Emily Vandermeulen	GIS/Database Specialist
*Sara Pickard	Water Quality Technician	Elly Ward	Communications Specialist

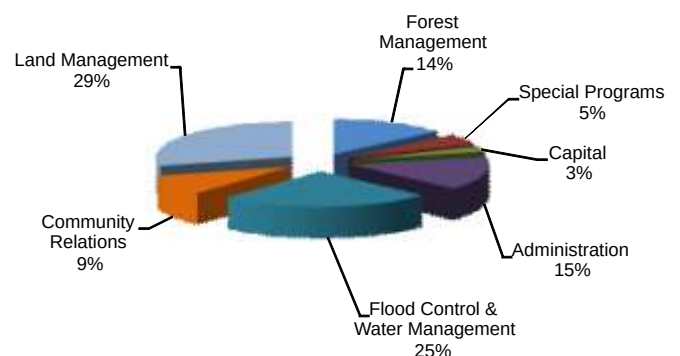
*Sara Pickard left in June.

2012 Financial Summary (unaudited)

REVENUE \$3,170,917



EXPENSES \$3,136,833





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