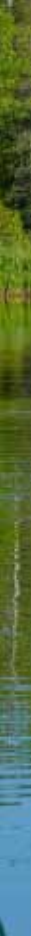




Annual Report 2014







Schmidt Lake: Telfer Wegg

Welcome to the 2014 Annual Report

As Chair of Saugeen Conservation
I would like to invite you to browse
through our 2014 Annual Report.
Enjoy reading about our programs,
services and grass-roots efforts that
aim to improve the environment in
which we live, work and play.

Everyone wants a clean, healthy
environment. Not only is it
conducive for healthy communities,
but it also contributes substantially
toward a vibrant economy through
the tourism and leisure industries.

We are extremely proud of
our accomplishments through
conservation efforts such as tree
planting, habitat rehabilitation,
stream improvements, education
programs, forest management, flood
warning, water quality testing, the
protection of our drinking water
sources and so much more!

It gives me great pleasure to present
to you our watershed achievements
for 2014. *Enjoy!*

Bill Scriven
Chair



2014 Highlights



A successful accomplishment in 2014 was certification of SVCA's forestry practices by the **Forest Stewardship Council of Canada (FSC)**. This certification acknowledges sustainable and competent forestry practices by meeting 10 of the established criteria, including forest monitoring and assessment, environmental impacts, a valid management plan and more. The official announcement was also mentioned in the Forestry Service of Canada's December Newsletter which was circulated **nation-wide**.



Federal funding approval was secured for two partner municipalities (West Grey and South Bruce), for the **removal of 2 dams**. Returning a waterway to its 'natural' channel helps provide valued fish habitat, improves overall river health and allows fish species to reestablish their natural spawning patterns.



Of particular interest was a **donation of land** made to Saugeen Conservation by the Greer Family. The property is 6.7 ha (16.7 acres), and is located within the provincially significant Glamis Bog in Bruce County. SVCA would like to acknowledge the Greer family for their incredible contribution.



Saugeen Conservation and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation work together with **hundreds of volunteers each year**. These individuals work tirelessly maintaining parks, tending gardens, building trails and volunteering for fundraising events.



Over 10,000 children and youth participate in SVCA's conservation education programs each year learning about the relationship we share with the natural environment around us.

In This Issue



Water

- 4 Flood Warning
- 7 Water Management
- 8 Environmental Planning & Regulations

- 10 Water Quality
- 12 Drinking Water Source Protection
- 13 Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
- 14 Stewardship & Grassroots Conservation Efforts

Lands

- 16 Grey Bruce Forestry Service
- 18 Conservation Areas



Communications

- 20 Communications
- 22 Conservation Education
- 24 Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation



Administration

- 26 Behind the Scenes
- 27 Volunteers and Sponsors
- 28 Staff and Directors



www.svca.on.ca





Flood Warning

Several roads were closed throughout the watershed as spring flooding ensued.

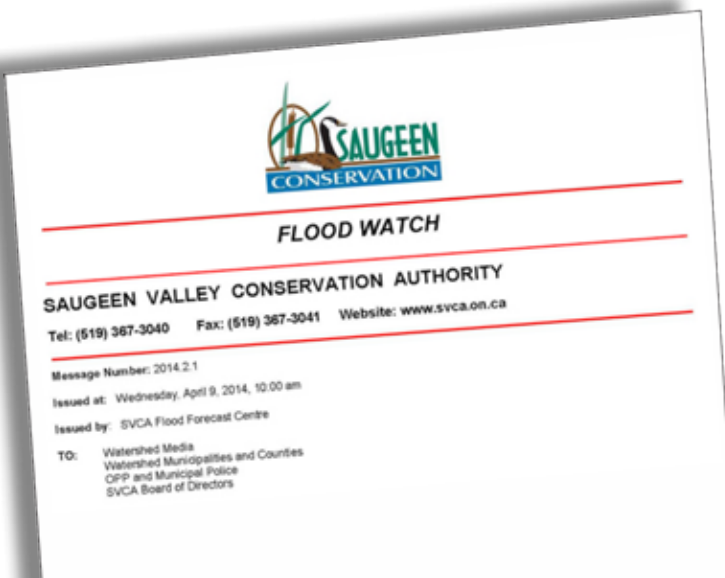
Staff in this department continually monitor watershed conditions to keep informed about possible flood occurrences. The Saugeen River is the third largest river in Southern Ontario at 192 km in length. It has flooded many times in the past and will continue to do so well into the future. A total of 25 automated monitoring stations are located at key points of the river system from the headwaters to the mouth to provide staff with the information they require in putting together timely flood messaging.

This was a significant year for **flooding in the SVCA watershed**, due in large part to the abundant snow pack that contributed to the spring melt.

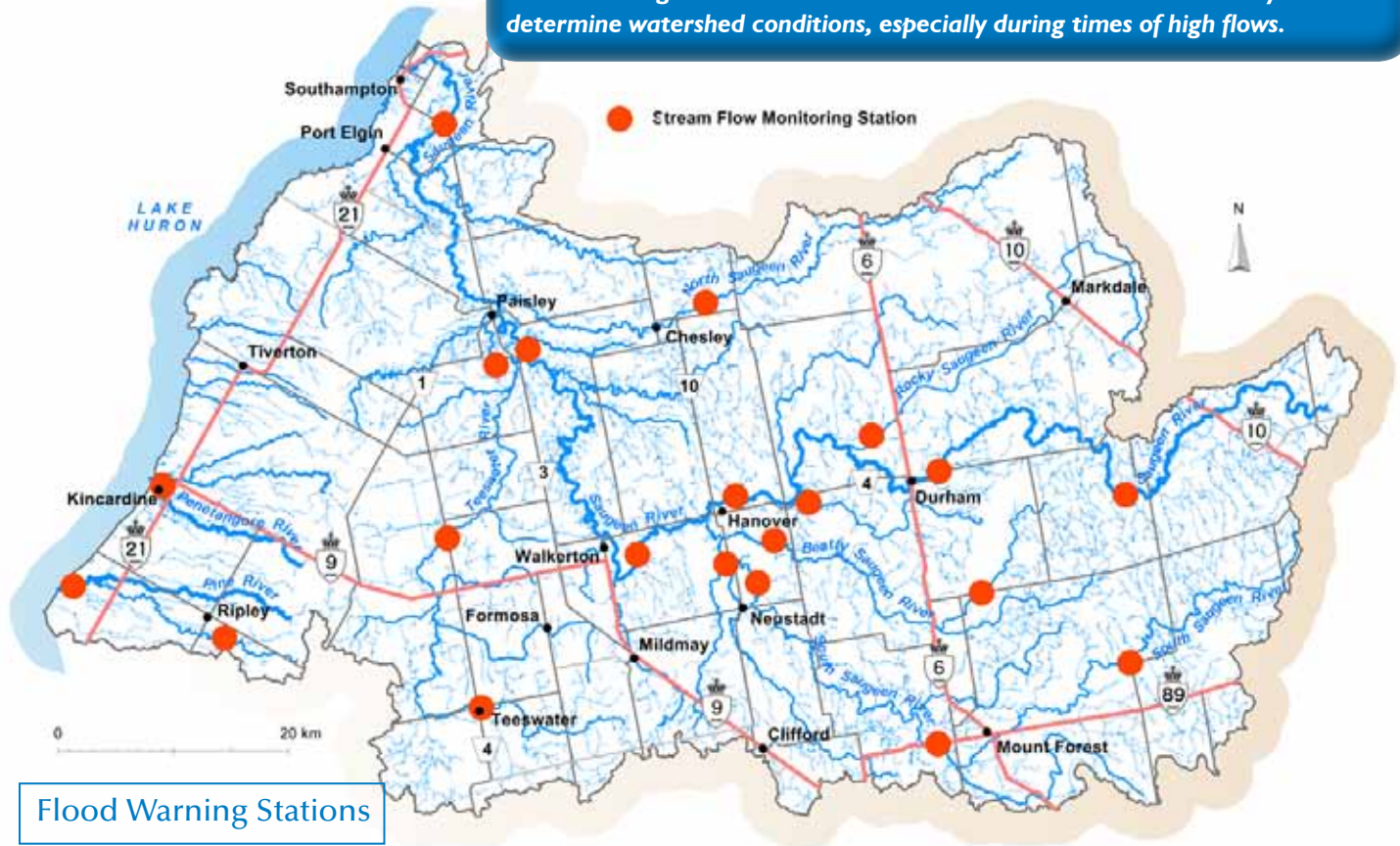
Flooding began in early April with steadily increasing flows over the following seven days. Rainfall added to the snowmelt. Although river ice throughout the Watershed was thick and stayed intact through the winter, most of it had been flushed out of the system prior to peak flows.

The Authority issued a **“Flood Watch”** message on April 9th. That status remained in effect until April 16th, including a 24-hour flood duty cycle on Sunday, April 13th. It had been many years since the Authority had to implement a 24-hour status.

Despite the noteworthy flooding, there was **no loss of life or significant river flow related damages**. This can be attributed to the decades-long efforts by Saugeen Conservation in controlling the location of new development, the effective operation and maintenance of the Authority’s dyke systems, and communicating about flood hazards.



Saugeen Conservation has a total of 25 stream gauge and metrological stations located throughout the Watershed. From these stations the Authority is able to determine watershed conditions, especially during times of high flows.



Numbers

- At Walkerton the peak flow of 450 cubic metres per second was the 8th highest since records began in 1915, and hadn't been that high since 1977
- The flow on the Main Saugeen River was approximately a 1 in 15-year flood
- At Hanover the peak flow of 204 cubic metres per second on the Main Saugeen River was the highest since data collection started there in 1983
- The peak flow for the Teeswater River was the highest for the 28-year length of record
- In Paisley the flow was one of the highest since construction of the dykes in 1986. The 3 kms of dykes performed well and virtually no damage to structures occurred



Flooding in the Village of Paisley in the spring of 2014. This building is not within the area protected by dykes.

In the Field

Many of the staff of Saugeen Conservation work out in the field as part of what they do, obtaining data, conducting site visits, undertaking rehabilitation work, tree planting and countless other jobs in getting to know the watershed and implementing programs designed to further the health of this watershed. Take some time to get to know us!



Catherine Billings
As Graphic Artist / Communications Assistant, Catherine is responsible for the design of SVCA's publications, promotional materials and displays.



Erik Downing
As Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations, Erik oversees a program ensuring the protection of life and property by preventing people building in floodplains or hazard areas.



Paul Elston
Paul has worked for various Conservation Authorities and private consulting firms as a regulations officer. His experience is invaluable, as well as his great sense of humour.



Michelle Gallant
Michelle has worked in various environmental fields for many years. She comes to the SVCA with much experience and knowledge.



Nancy Griffin
Nancy has been with SVCA for 25 years as Conservation Education Coordinator and teaches over 10,000 children per year.



Candace Hamm
Candace began her career as a student with SVCA and has moved up the ranks to Environmental Planning Coordinator.



Jo-Anne Harbinson
As Manager of Water Resources and Stewardship Services Jo-Anne works with many groups and organizations on stewardship efforts.



Donna Lacey
Donna's training and experience provides her with a thorough knowledge of SVCA's forests and lands. Her enthusiasm shows in her forestry activities.



Valerie Lamont
Val takes her role as Environmental Planning Technician very seriously and is never without a smile and willingness to help out.



Michael Oberle
Mike has always been interested in a career in the environmental field. His background and education brought him to SVCA's Planning and Regulations Department.



Jim Penner
A seasoned employee of Saugeen Conservation Jim has a thorough knowledge of forest management practices and issues.



Jennifer Prenger
Jenn holds a Masters in International Public Policy. She also has a genuine interest in the outdoors which landed her a position in the Planning and Regulations Dept.



Rick Rowbotham
As Field Services Coordinator, Rick is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all of SVCA's day-use areas.



Gary Senior
Gary has over 30 years experience with SVCA, first in the Planning and Regulations Dept., and now as Sr. Manager of Flood Warning and Lands.



Shannon Wood
Shannon has been the Manager of Communications for over 25 years. She enjoys working with the media, organizing events and working with volunteers.



Water Management

Staff in the Water Management Department are responsible for inspecting the major flood and erosion control works of the Authority, including dykes, dams and other structures, to ensure their integrity in protecting people in floodplain and hazard areas. Staff also assist the Flood Warning Department and participate in other initiatives that fall under this category.

Middle Durham Dam

Located in the Town of Durham this dam is owned by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF), and operated and maintained by the SVCA. **Four stop logs were replaced** in 2014 paid for by OMNRF as well as new fencing installed to protect the public from potential hazards.

Rural Stormwater Management Model (RSWMM) – Pine River Priority Watershed

As part of the Healthy Lake Huron, Clean Water, Clean Beaches initiative, the **Rural Stormwater Management computer model was finalized in 2014**. With Ausable Bayfield CA as the lead, the model was developed through Computations Hydraulics International (CHI) and Emmons and Olivier Resources Inc. (EOR).

SVCA's role was to gather and provide information on water quality and quantity for the Pine River (with the help of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment

and Climate Change and the County of Bruce), one of five priority watersheds along the southeast shoreline of Lake Huron included in the project.

The goal of the computer model is to better understand and manage rural stormwater runoff. Management practices can then be applied to reduce water runoff, helping to conserve precious topsoil, limit erosion, and ensure better water quality for local waterways and, ultimately, Lake Huron. A video was also produced on the project. See it at www.ruralstormwater.com

Groups & Affiliates

- Municipalities of Brockton, Arran-Elderslie, Saugeen Shores, West Grey and Kincardine
- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC)
- Bruce County
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF)

Lockerby Dam Removal

The **SVCA made a successful funding application** to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program to support the decommissioning of the Lockerby Dam. It is hoped the SVCA can successfully attain matching funds to remove the dam in 2015.

SVCA Flood Preparedness Municipal Workshop

Staff held a **Flood Preparedness Workshop** in Formosa for member municipality representatives, emergency management personnel and new staff. The intent was to review the roles and responsibilities of SVCA's Flood Contingency Plan.

Numbers

1 Flood Preparedness Workshop for member municipalities

1 Public Meeting: Lockerby Dam Removal

4 Funding applications



Environmental Planning and Regulations

This department is responsible for reviewing planning documents and building proposals throughout the Watershed to ensure the protection of lives and property from flood and erosion processes and assist in the protection of the natural environment. Permits are required for works within Regulated Areas, such as flood plains, wetlands, and valleys, as well as for altering watercourses.



Telfer Wegg

Erik Downing, Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations, conducts one of many site visits in 2014.

In 2014 there were **146 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.

A total of **56 violations** were investigated by staff. **Sixteen such enforcement matters were resolved** in 2014 with many on the way to being resolved in 2015.

On April 30, 2014 the new **Provincial Policy Statement** was brought into effect. Modifications were made to Natural Heritage and Natural Hazards sections associated with Planning Act matters.

During the year **328 planning applications submitted** under the Planning Act were reviewed. Providing responses in a timely manner is always of importance and in 2014 the SVCA continued to achieve a high standard, with **98.2% of comments being submitted on time**. The SVCA also reviewed updates to the Hanover Comprehensive Zoning By-law, Hanover Official Plan, Dufferin County Official Plan, Township of Melancthon Official Plan, and Saugeen Shores Official Plan.

In 2014 a **Regulation 169/06 enforcement matter was resolved**. In 2013 and 2014 alterations to a wetland occurred without SVCA permission at a rural property. The property owners were charged with contravention of the SVCA's Regulation. The defendants plead guilty to one charge each with court orders to restore the wetland.



The collapse of a headwall on a road culvert. The culvert was eventually replaced and new sheet pile walls installed.

Meetings, Presentations & Partnerships

- Grey County Natural Heritage Systems Study – attended committee meeting
- Presentation made to the Grey Bruce Woodlot Association regarding SVCA's Regulation and wetlands
- Participated in numerous webinars associated with Department of Fisheries and Oceans Fisheries Act
- Conservation Authorities, including the SVCA, and County of Bruce staff, met to discuss service improvement matters
- Attended three Coastal Working Group meetings for Conservation Authorities with Great Lakes shoreline areas
- Attended Planning and Regulation Managers Meeting coordinated by Conservation Ontario to see how they could assist with regulation and planning issues
- Attended the Conservation Ontario, Conservation Authorities Act Section 28, 29 Compliance Training Session. The Environmental Planning Technician attended an Environmental Land Classification Training Seminar



Numbers

146	Permits granted
56	Violations investigated
98.2%	Planning comments submitted on time
16	Enforcement matters resolved
1	Major presentation made
2	Training sessions completed by staff
1	Radio interview conducted



The Water Quality Department is responsible for regular surface and groundwater sampling. Staff also collect data, write reports and sample aquatic organisms to determine water quality.

Telfer Wegg

Water Quality

Surface Water Sampling

Saugeen Conservation **monitors 29 sampling sites** within the Saugeen, Lake Fringe, Pine and Penetangore River Watersheds. Sampling is completed eight times a year during ice free conditions at all 29 sites.

In addition, Saugeen Conservation established two sampling sites on the main Pine River (designated by the **Rural Storm Water Management Model**) to determine peak flow periods. This project was financially supported by the County of Bruce.

ISCO Sampler

The **ISCO Sampler** was installed in 2014 on the Pine River to take water samples during peak flows. An ISCO Sampler has the **capacity to take numerous water samples, which are then analyzed for sediment, nitrates and phosphorous.**

There were, however, no summer rain events (peak flows), to trigger the ISCO sampler in 2014.

Sampling for Pesticides

The pesticide monitoring program is a cooperative effort between the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as well as Conservation Authority partners. **Samples are taken by SVCA staff on the Saugeen River near Port Elgin** and shipped to the University of Guelph for analysis.

Partners





Groundwater Sampling

Understanding how and why groundwater levels change in aquifers assists the SVCA in making wise decisions in areas such as applications for Permits to Take Water, land-use development and aggregate applications. This program is supported by funds from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC).

Groundwater sampling was conducted at 17 wells (23 aquifers) in the fall. The MOECC eliminated the telemetry units in 2014 which were used to access the well data. Staff now have to visit well sites more frequently to retrieve necessary data.

Reports and Investigations

Staff assisted Bruce County in **investigating the causes of excessive algae** in a pond at the County Building location in Walkerton. A report was submitted afterwards outlining results and recommendations which included additional aeration and the planting of vegetation.

Staff also investigated the occurrence of excessive algae at Lake Rosalind, north of Hanover and Fairy Lake in Southampton.

Funding and Partners

- Bruce County, Technical Advisory Committee for the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network
- Technical Advisory Committee for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
- Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Southwestern Group
- Healthy Lake Huron Technical Working Committee
- Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- University of Guelph

Numbers

- | | |
|----|---|
| 17 | Groundwater wells sampled (23 aquifers) |
| 29 | Surface water sampling sites |
| 3 | Investigations or site visits |
| 1 | Report completed |



Telfer Wegg



DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

Drinking Water Source Protection, (DWSP) is the protection of local municipal drinking water sources from both contamination and overuse to ensure enough clean water for all of us.

In the Field



David Ellingwood is Program Manager of DWSP. He has worked in the environmental field for many years.



Karen Gillam uses her communication skills to better communicate the details of DWSP.



Nancy Guest looks after all the administrative duties at DWSP. She is organized and never without a smile!



Alex Millanetti organizes all of the geographic data for DWSP. She is quiet and always surrounded by a variety of maps.



As Program Supervisor, Emily Vandermeulen supervises the mapping work.



Elly Ward is the Technical Analyst looking after details associated with DWSP.

2014 Highlights

Municipal Implementation Guide

Municipal workshops were hosted with staff and councils from across Grey, Bruce and Wellington Counties.

A “Municipal” tab on the DWSP website links to the Implementation Guide as well as documents and templates, etc., useful for implementing the Source Protection Plan.

After careful review of recent data on nitrate levels in the Walkerton area, the Committee made a decision to remove the ‘**nitrate issue designation**’ for the Walkerton municipal wells.

The decision was made “based on the evidence of the scientific research presented to us,” stated SPC Chair Mike Traynor. This means that the Assessment Report will be revised and nitrate policies deleted from the Proposed Source Protection Plan.

The **Source Protection Committee updated the Proposed Source Protection Plan (UPSPP)**, after consideration of comments from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), as well as additional background information. The UPSPP and Revised Assessment Reports will be going to Public Consultation in 2015 for comment and review and are targeted for resubmission to the Ministry at that time.

Technical Work

Additional technical work has been carried out and results incorporated into of the **Assessment Reports and the Source Protection Plan**.

Data on spill modelling has been completed for local intakes, including the modelling of fuel and sewer treatment plant spills during storm events. Policies have been drafted to address significant drinking water threats in these areas. Some areas have been re-delineated based on new and improved information.



The jurisdiction of Drinking Water Source Protection includes the watersheds of Saugeen and Grey Sauble Conservation as well as the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. A Source Protection Committee of local representatives oversees this program.



David Bishop

©2014 David Bishop



Saugeen Conservation works closely with the LHCCC in implementing programs specifically designed for the Lake Huron shoreline environment.

2014 Highlights and Accomplishments

Publications Completed

Southern Georgian Bay Shoreline Stewardship Guide and Caring for our Coast



Approximately **140 people** attended the **8th Annual 'Is the Coast Clear' Conference** in Grand Bend, to hear informative speakers talk about some of the challenges facing Lake Huron, including algae blooms, water quality, water stewardship programs, lake levels, etc.

The LHCCC embarked on its **3rd consecutive six-month research internship** investigating how climate change could affect coastal bluffs with respect to erosion and slope instability. The study was sponsored by Environment Canada.

In keeping with the times and ever changing issues, the **LHCCC updated their Strategic Plan in 2014.**



Stewardship Projects

Grassroots Conservation Efforts

This department works together with local groups, organizations, businesses, ministries and federal partners in implementing environmental projects. The goal of these projects is to improve the environmental health of the watershed. Some projects completed in 2014 are listed below.



BEFORE



AFTER

These photos show the difference that rehabilitation measures (bottom) can make to a local stream. In just a few years the manicured environment has been transformed into a healthy riparian habitat, beneficial to both land and aquatic species.

Pine River Watershed Stewardship Efforts

SVCA worked with the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN) on a number of successful stewardship endeavours in a watershed with only 7% forest cover and 3% wetland habitat.

Over 22,000 trees were planted involving 12 landowners on projects such as riparian plantings, windbreaks and block plantings.

Two berms were also constructed for two separate landowners (referred to as Water and Sediment Control Basins

(WaSCob). Both projects will act to temporarily store water behind the berms and reduce sediment and nutrients from reaching downstream streams.

PRWIN also completed a wetland pond, referred to as the McLarty Experiential Property, west of the Village of Ripley. This area was enhanced with an outdoor amphitheatre for educational purposes.

CAREERWORKS: WaterWORKS

WaterWORKS is a day-long interactive program for high school students, **designed to demonstrate the water cycle in rural Ontario** from source to tap. Two day-long interactive sessions were held in conjunction with the Grey Bruce Sustainability Network and schools within the Towns of Walkerton and Kincardine.

Students were involved in tours of water treatment facilities, waste water treatment plants, the Clean Water Centre in Walkerton and more. They also learned about careers in water occupations.

CAREERWORKS: FoodWORKS

Similar to WaterWORKS, students engaged in hands-on sessions **designed to learn about food-related careers and skills.**

Focus was also placed on the importance of topsoil as a non-renewable resource. Students learned how soil is lost from fields if not protected, as well as various conservation efforts that can be implemented to ensure precious topsoil stays on the land.

Tree Planting with Sacred Heart Students along the Saugeen River

A total of **35 landscape stock trees** were planted along the Saugeen River in Walkerton. Students from Sacred Heart SS assisted in this effort to help improve the riparian zone.



In the fall, SVCA organized a community tree plant of 150 trees and shrubs in the Town of Walkerton. This was part of TD's commitment to plant 50,000 trees throughout Canada in 2014.

Partners and Funders: Municipality of Brockton, Walkerton Rotary Club, TD Friends of the Environment, Community Foundation Grey Bruce, employees from TD Canada Trust.

Penetangore Watershed Group

The Penetangore Watershed Group (PWG), in conjunction with the SVCA organized the **planting of 7,000 trees** in 2014, including riparian tree planting (1,000 trees), along a tributary of the Penetangore River, with the students of Kincardine District SS.

In June, students from the Kincardine SS Robotics Team **planted a number of native species at the stormwater pond** at Sobeys' Retail Outlet in Kincardine. This planting was followed-up in July by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Stewardship Rangers who provided additional mulching and weeding.



Staff worked with the Municipality of Kincardine and local students to paint the town yellow! The **Yellow Fish Road Stormdrain™** marking program resulted in the painting of 350 storm drains with yellow fish marked with the wording 'Rainwater Only'. This program teaches students and residents that water entering stormdrains is not treated before reaching nearby creeks and rivers.

Numbers

59	Meetings
16	Workshops
4	Events
14	Presentations
350	Storm drains painted
30,000	Trees planted

Partners and Funders

- Pine River Watershed Improvement Network
- Grey Bruce Sustainability Network
- Environment Canada
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- County of Bruce
- Bruce Power
- Ontario Power Generation
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
- Walkerton Clean Water Centre
- Four County Labour Market Board
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Watershed schools
- Penetangore River Watershed Group
- Sobeys' Retail Outlet
- Envirothon
- McCullough Lake Cottage Association
- OMNRF Stewardship Rangers
- Municipalities of Brockton and Kincardine
- Yellow Fish Road Stormdrain Marking Program
- Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation

Forestry



The role of Saugeen Conservation's Forestry Department is to implement best forest management practices throughout the watershed.

In so doing, it involves two separate divisions:

1) The Grey Bruce Forestry Service provides forest services to private landowners and is a shared program of the SVCA and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

2) Saugeen Conservation looks after the management of its own properties, totalling over 21,000 acres of land.



Kyle Dickert (above) one of SVCA's Co-op students, enjoys an opportunity to plant trees as part of his work experience.

Tree Planting

One of the major roles of the Grey Bruce Forestry Service is to **offer forestry services to watershed landowners.**

Over the past few years, various tree planting incentive programs have been available to encourage the planting of trees. The Ministry of Natural Resource's and Forestry 50 Million Tree Program, coordinated by Trees Canada and implemented by Conservation Authorities such as the SVCA, is but one venue that helps ensure additional tree planting in many watersheds across Ontario.

In 2014, Saugeen Conservation planted **41,000 trees** through the 50 Million tree program. In addition, a total of **18,280 trees** were ordered for watershed landowners.

SVCA Receives Forest Certification

Perhaps one of the largest accomplishments for the SVCA in 2014 was the recognition and certification of SVCA's forestry practices by the **Forest Certification Program (FSC)**. Certification is awarded by following world-class forest management practices aimed to protect and maintain natural communities and high conservation value forests.

Controlling the Emerald Ash Borer

Once again, in 2014, forestry staff were busy treating local ash trees against the Emerald Ash Borer. A total of **89 trees were treated** during the designated treatment period.

Treatment for the Emerald Ash Borer involves injecting ash trees with a naturally derived product called TreeAzin. This provides up to two years of protection.



Emeral Ash Borer

Numbers

41,000	Trees planted (50 Million Tree Program)
18,280	Trees supplied to private landowners
17	MFTIP Plans approved (652 acres)
89	Trees treated (27 properties) for the Emerald Ash Borer
135	Landscape stock orders for 5 clients
7,320	Trees sold at the Arbour Day Tree Sale



Donna Lacey, Forest Technician (above) proudly holds a sign denoting the Certified Forest Classification.

Events and Shows Attended

- Annual Meeting, Grey Bruce Chapter of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producer's Association
- Annual Forest Health Review
- Community Forest Manager's Annual Meeting
- Forests Ontario Annual Conference
- Grey-Bruce Woodlot Conference
- Holstein Maple Syrup Festival
- Midwestern Agrifair
- Tree Planting and MFTIP Workshops
- Welbeck Wood Expo

Affiliates and Memberships

- Bruce Grey Forest Festival
- Bruce Grey Woodlot Association
- Emerald Ash Borer Working Group
- Forests Ontario
- Ontario Invasive Plant Council
- Ontario Professional Foresters Association
- Ontario Woodlot Association
- Ontario Maple Syrup Producer's Association
- Stewardship Grey Bruce



Every year staff hold an **Arbour Day Tree Sale** typically during the last Saturday of April at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area. Landowners across the watershed come out to purchase their prized trees. Over 7,300 trees were sold that day.



Conservation Areas & Lands

Working to Provide You with a Better Experience!

Staff within this department look after the many Conservation Areas owned and managed by SVCA including day-use areas and campgrounds. Conservation Areas attract thousands of visitors throughout the year and provide numerous recreational opportunities for watershed residents and visitors alike. They also provide a significant economic benefit to the local area through tourism dollars.

Thousands of visitors enjoy the Conservation Areas owned and managed by Saugeen Conservation. Each park offers different opportunities and attractions within Saugeen Country, where you're 'close to everything, but far from ordinary'!

Each year the SVCA implements a **number of improvements** to ensure that visitors experience a quality stay and that parks are well maintained and manicured. Improvements consisted of the following in 2014:

- ✓ **Emergency generators** were installed at Durham and Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Areas. Should the municipal electrical service be interrupted, the generators allow for critical facilities to continue operating.
- ✓ New **playground equipment**, a new **steel roof** on the shower building and **new fencing** around the horseshoe pit were installed at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area.
- ✓ **Students were hired** for the summer season (left) to assist with maintenance and grounds work at various Conservation Areas.



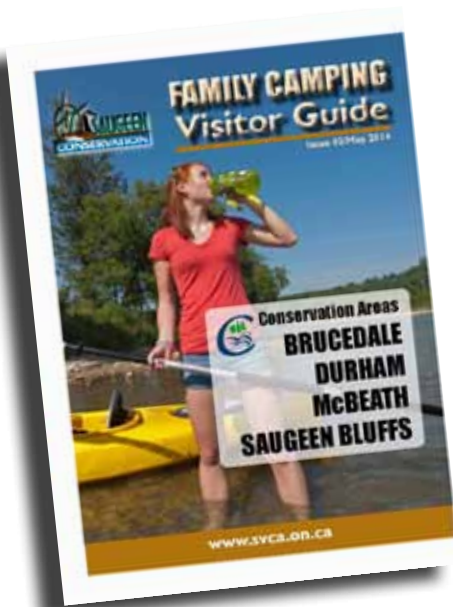
Telfer Wegg

Students have a little fun while working at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area.

A temporary shoreline boardwalk was installed at Brucedale Conservation Area so that visitors could easily access Lake Huron. The boardwalk can be rolled up each year and stored off-site, thereby causing minimal disturbance to the beach and preventing winter damage to the structure. This project was initiated by SVCA Stewardship Services with assistance from the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation and funded by Great Lakes Guardian Fund.

Telfer Wegg

Meet the Superintendents



- ✓ Published annually the **Family Camping Visitor Guide** highlights attractions and services for each of the three camping parks owned and managed by the SVCA. This is a free publication for visitors to the parks. Local advertisers contribute to the publication, which realizes a **profit of approximately \$2,000 annually.**



Ron Kaufman, Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area



Caralynn Kamerman, Brucedale Conservation Area



Ron McManus, Durham Conservation Area

Affiliates

- Bruce County Trail Association
- Bruce County Tourism
- Grey County Tourism
- Saugeen Country Tourism
- Grey Bruce Simcoe Tourism
- Trails Ontario
- Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
- Great Lakes Guardian Fund

Events Attended

- Kitchener/Waterloo-RV Show
- Bruce County Heritage Fair
- Teeswater, Ripley and Paisley Fall Fairs

Numbers

11,736 Campers at Brucedale Conservation Area

28,788 Campers at Durham Conservation Area

29,012 Campers at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area



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 initiatives.

Throughout 2014, communication efforts consisted of a number of different mediums, depending on the issue and the messaging.

Publications and Promotional Materials

Each year, various publications are produced by the Communications Department including the **Annual Report**, program flyers and projects, promotional materials, the Campground Visitor Guide and much more depending on the requests and requirements.

Shows

Staff attend a number of shows, events, festivals and other attractions across the watershed throughout the year.

Every Tuesday, for example, during the summer months, staff of both Saugeen and Grey Sauble Conservation Authorities combine efforts to man a booth at the popular **Keady Market** which attracts thousands of visitors each week.

Depending on the show or event, displays are designed to be fun, interactive and vary from event to event.

Events

Staff in this department **work closely with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation (SVCF)**, in the coordination of **four major events**; The Old-Tyme Maple Syrup Festival, The Memorial Grove Ceremony, the Evening for Conservation (fundraising dinner and auction) and Christmas in the Country.

Presentations

Staff conduct **presentations throughout the year** to various interest groups, organizations, companies and municipalities, as requested. Topics include SVCA programs, conservation history, environmental issues and more.



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

Education Signage

Staff worked together with many other partners in the completion of **educational signage along the Saugeen River** (right) which focused on increased awareness and education of the fisheries resources within the river system.

It was funded by Bruce Grey Simcoe Tourism and initiated by Bruce County Tourism. Staff assisted with the writing of the signage and completed the design work.

Sixteen of these signs were erected at access points along the Saugeen River.



Evening Conservation Tours

Each year, the Foundation and Authority organize Evening Conservation Tours for Directors of both organizations as well as staff, spouses and volunteers each month from May to September.

Tours begin at 5:00pm and feature an authority project or land, a local attraction or business and a neighbouring restaurant. The idea is to get to know the watershed attractions and environmental projects implemented by the Authority.

One of the featured tours last spring included a canoe trip to Bells Lake Conservation Area, (right).



Catherine Dickison, (above) SVCF Director, partakes in the Bells Lake Evening Conservation Tour in May.

Affiliates

- Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
- Conservation Ontario
- Member Municipalities
- Grey Sauble Conservation
- Maitland Valley Conservation
- Ausable Bayfield Conservation
- Drinking Water Source Protection
- Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
- Six Area Tourism Associations
- Bruce County
- Local Media
- Watershed School Boards
- Lake Huron Southeast Shore Working Group
- Bruce Power
- Ontario Power Generation
- Over 25 Watershed Businesses
- Watershed Interest Groups
- Grey Bruce Sustainability Network
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Over 275 Volunteers

Numbers

Radio/Television/Print

- 13 Press releases
- 12 Weeks radio advertising for events, functions and programming
- 80 Newspaper / media coverage (articles) on SVCA or SVCF

Functions

- 4 Seminars / workshops attended
- 13 Presentations to watershed interest groups
- 1 Volunteer appreciation evening

Publications & Promotions

- 6,000 Campground Guidebooks
- 33,000 Produced and distributed (flyers, placemats, coupons, etc.)
- 4 Newsletters (Green Side Up)
- 1 Annual Report (350 copies)
- 12 Advertisements in tourism publications

Events

- 4 SVCA/SVCF major events, (14,000 combined attendance)
- 13 Number of shows, events, fairs attended by SVCA / SVCF organized by others

Tours

- 3 Evening Conservation Tours (SVCA / SVCF staff & Directors)



Communications

The goal of SVCA's Conservation Education Program is to assist watershed youth to develop an awareness of, and the knowledge, skills and commitment necessary to make informed decisions and constructive actions concerning the wise use of our natural resources.

Conservation Education - *The Natural Way to Learn*

Programs in the following categories cater to over 10,000 students each year:

The WREN Program

A cooperative effort 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**. Each program investigates interactions within ecosystems, biodiversity and sustainability.

Flood Waters and You Program

This program is **offered by Saugeen Conservation free of charge**. Sponsored in part by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation, this is a hands-on program offered to elementary schools throughout the watershed dealing specifically with **water safety issues**. This program is offered in conjunction with OPP and St. John Ambulance.

The DEER Program

This is a cooperative effort between Saugeen Conservation and Bruce Power. Over **40 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 programming, equipment and busing as well as locations at their Visitors' Centre. Inglis Falls and Sulphur Spring Conservation Areas are the other locations where these programs are held.

Earth Week Program

Developed in 2007 in response to growing interest in Earth Week celebrations in schools, this in-school program offers curriculum based presentations for elementary classes. Themes include Water; Reducing our Environmental Footprint; Forests; Invasive Species; and Endangered Species. User fees cover program costs and staff mileage.



Wild Encounters Nature Day Camp

A cooperative effort between Hanover Recreation Department and Saugeen Conservation, this program is a fun-filled activity held during the summer months. The goal is to get kids outside, having fun and **learning about conservation and the environment.**

The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

Saugeen Conservation is proud to be a partner in this excellent program. Hosted at the end of September, this festival features **five main themes; water conservation, water science, water technology, water protection and changing attitudes.** Offered to grade four students from throughout Grey and Bruce Counties, it includes **46 different curriculum based hands-on demonstrations and activities.**

Youth Expo

Initiated in 2006, this is a **collaborative program** developed by a number of like-minded organizations interested in offering young people, age 9 -16, the opportunity to **explore the outdoors.** Youth gather to experience hands-on outdoor activities ranging from fishing to hiking to archery to bird banding.

“Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.”

— Thomas Berry



Corey Lacey (above) has fun checking out Monarch caterpillars.

Bruce Grey Forest Festival

Initiated in 2010, this was the second of its kind in the Province. Based on the successful model of the water festivals, grade 7 students from across Grey and Bruce Counties gather at Allan Park Conservation Area each October to learn about **forest resources.** Thirty-five different hands-on curriculum based activities fall under the themes of: **forest resources; forest ecosystems and interactions; climate change; biodiversity and species at risk; forest stewardship and conservation.**

Numbers

445	Presentations
310	classes
58	different programs

Participating Students

7,135	Bluewater District School Board
1,824	Wellington School Board
25	Other school Boards
535	Community Groups
153	Other Groups

Our Partners



Wellington Catholic
District School Board
We Have Faith in Education



Upper Grand
District School Board



Saugeen
Valley
Conservation
Foundation



Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation

The Communications Department works hand-in-hand with the Foundation and its volunteers. A win-win situation, programs and events of the Foundation accomplish a number of objectives, such as public awareness, increased profile and fundraising.

Fundraising Events



Memorial Grove Program and Ceremony

Under this program, individuals purchase trees in memory of loved ones. Thousands of trees have been planted through the Watershed since the program began in 1989.

Once a year, as a tribute to those involved with the program, a touching ceremony is held on the last Sunday in June at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area. **Over 700 people** come out to honour loved ones and observe the ceremonial tree planting.

A **total of 117 trees** were requested by loved ones in 2014.

A New Fundraising Initiative

In 2014, the Foundation decided to undertake a **new fundraising initiative**, the design and creation of a new animal housing facility at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area.

Dinner & Auction - Back to the 50's!

In October the Foundation held it's biennial **Evening for Conservation**. The Twist Tops kept everyone dancing well into the evening with their 50's and 60's music while proceeds from the various auctions resulted in a net profit of over \$10,000. Of particular note was a donation from the MacPherson Family for \$5,000 additional dollars. All monies raised will go toward a new animal housing facility at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area.





The 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 and has been on-going for over 35 years. It has become very much a family tradition within the local area.

Detailed demographics are kept on all events. The Maple Syrup Festival, for example, attracts visitors from over 90 different communities and contributes over \$300,000 to the local economy.

Numbers

90 different communities were represented at both Christmas in the Country and the Maple Syrup Festival

\$700,000 in economic returns to local communities from both events*

11,000 people attended Authority and Foundation events throughout the year

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



Christmas in the Country

Perhaps the Foundation's most festive event, Christmas in the Country is the **largest interactive Christmas event in Grey and Bruce Counties**. Held at the end of November each year, it attracts thousands of people to Sulphur Spring Conservation Area, just south of Hanover. Activities take place in each building on the grounds making this event unique and hands-on in every way.

Corporate Services



Wayne Brohman, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer. Wayne is relatively new to the world of conservation, but enjoys the outdoors and nature.



(Left to right), Janice Hagan, Administrative Assistant, Laura Molson, Manager of Accounting and Dale Schaefer, Accounting Clerk.

Behind the Scenes

Administration Staff

The administration staff do an excellent job of keeping track of all the particulars that make each department run smoothly and efficiently from day to day. Departments are dependent on these individuals to keep accurate records, look after finances, answer inquiries, prepare and monitor budgets and countless other duties.

Information Technology and GIS Mapping

Information technology is key to the day-to-day operations of any organization. Les helps to ensure that computers are running efficiently.

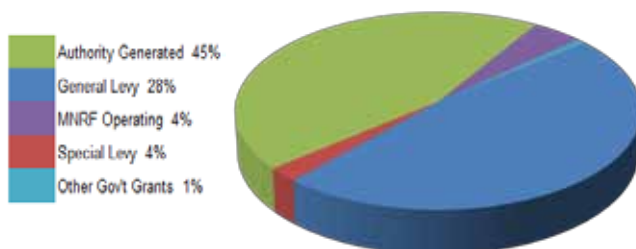
Geographic Information System mapping is key in virtually every department of the SVCA. It helps to combine data, patterns and trends that allow information to be presented in the form of maps, reports and charts.



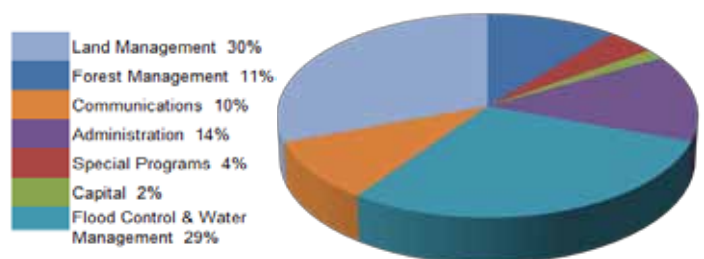
Les McKay, Manager of Information Technology (left), and Rene Kleinecke, GIS Coordinator

2014 Financial Summary (unaudited)

Revenue



Expenses



Volunteers & Sponsors

Volunteer Groups, Organizations, Businesses and Families

1st Chesley Scouts
1st Hanover Scouts
1st Walkerton Scouts and Ventures
1st Wingham Scouts and Ventures
Bruce County Campers
Bruce County Family Living Centre,
Walkerton
Bruce County Heritage Association, Paisley
Bruce County Trappers and Crappers,
Paisley
Emke Schaab Climate Care, Walkerton
F.E. Madill Secondary School Co-op
Students, Wingham
Kincardine Ski Club
Sacred Heart Secondary School Co-op
Students, Walkerton
Saugeen Conservation Staff
South Bruce Buckskinners
St John Ambulance, Hanover
Steelheader's Association
The Caldecott Family, Chesley
The Dickison Family, Walkerton
The Fleming Family, Neustadt
The Fraser Family, Ayton
The Grubb Family, Walkerton
The Hardy Family, Hanover
The Henkusns Family, Ayton
The Kroetch Family, Walkerton
The Kuntz Family, Elmwood
The Lacey Family, Walkerton
The MacLeod Family, Hanover
The Martin Family, Chepstow
The McCracken Family, Hanover
The Moric Family, Durham
The Moore Family, Durham
The Potts Family, Clifford
The Shelly Family, Hanover
The Ward Family, Neustadt
The Yorke Family, Teeswater
The Zettel Family, Formosa
Walkerton District Secondary School
Co-op Students, Walkerton
West Grey Police Department
West Grey Fire Department



Major In-Kind Sponsors

Bayshore Broadcasting, Owen Sound
Bruce Power, Tiverton
CKNX Radio, Wingham
Love's Sweetness Maple Products, Holstein
The Post, Hanover

Major Cash Contributors (over \$1,000)

Bruce Power, Tiverton
Grant's, Your Independent Grocer, Hanover
John Sutherland and Sons, Guelph
Ontario Power Generation, Tiverton
Paisley Kinsmen
Ross Young Bus Lines, Tiverton
Scotia Bank, Hanover
The MacPherson Family, Ayton

Land Contributions

The Greer Family, Kincardine

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
- Assistance 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 and errands
- Research and development

Sponsor and Volunteer Recognition

Each year the Authority and Foundation host a barbeque to acknowledge the incredible efforts of volunteers and the remarkable support of local sponsors. In 2014, approximately 100 volunteers came out to enjoy the meal.

Due to the Access to Information Act, we are unable to publish individual 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.



Directors

Bill Scriven, Chair, Municipality of West Grey
 Carl Zettel, 1st Vice Chair, Municipalities of Morris-Turnberry/South Bruce/Township of Howick
 *Ron Coristine, Municipality of Kincardine
 *Maureen Couture, 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
 Wilf Gamble, Township of Huron-Kinloss
 Mike Leggett, Municipality of Kincardine
 Doug Gowanlock, Town of Saugeen Shores
 Diane Huber, Town of Saugeen Shores
 Glen Irwin, Township of Southgate
 Terry Fisk, Township of Wellington North/Town of Minto
 John Eccles, Municipality of West Grey

* Partial term



Directors

Ed Moric, Chair, Durham
 Dennis McCracken, 1st Vice Chair, Hanover
 Jack McLeod, 2nd Vice Chair, Hanover
 Laura Molson, Treasurer (staff)
 Shannon Wood, Secretary and Manager (staff)
 Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (staff)
 Bill Scriven, (ex-officio and Chair of Saugeen Conservation)
 Rick Pake, Hanover
 Gary Thomas, Hanover
 Catherine Dickison, Walkerton
 Ron McGhee, Priceville
 Ruby McCracken, Hanover
 Jim Potts, Clifford
 Darlene Schnurr, Mildmay

Just prior to this report going to print, we lost a valued and cherished friend and member of our Foundation, Dennis McCracken. Farewell Dennis, we will miss you very much.



Staff

Corporate Services

Wayne Brohman	General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer
Laura Molson	Manager, Accounting
*Bonnie Sherman	Executive Secretary
**Valerie Wilkins	Accounts Payable/Administrative Assistant
**Janice Hagan	Accounts Payable/Administrative Assistant
Dale Schaefer	Accounting Clerk

Communications

Shannon Wood	Manager, Communications
Nancy Griffin	Education Coordinator
Catherine Billings	Communications Assistant/Graphic Artist
**Elijah Wilson	Conservation Assistant

Information Technology & GIS

Les McKay	Manager, Information Technology
Rene Kleinecke	GIS Coordinator

Environmental Planning and Regulations

Erik Downing	Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Paul Elston	Regulations Officer
Michelle Gallant	Regulations Officer
***Candace Hamm	Environmental Planning Coordinator
Jennifer Prenger	Environmental Planning Technician
Valerie Lamont	Resources Information Technician
Michael Oberle	Resources Information Technician
**David VanDeVyvre	Regulations Officer

Forestry

Jim Penner	Manager, Forestry
Donna Lacey	Forestry Technician

Land Management

Ron McManus	Park Superintendent, Durham CA
Ron Kaufman	Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA
Caralynn Kamerman	Park Superintendent, Brucedale CA
Bruce Martin	Assistant Park Superintendent, Durham CA
Brian Grice	Assistant Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA

Maintenance

Rick Rowbotham	Field Services Coordinator
Brian Oberle	Sulphur Spring CA Attendant

Water Management

Gary Senior	Sr. Manager, Flood Warning and Land Management
Jo-Anne Harbinson	Manager, Water Resources and Stewardship Services
***Martha Nicol	Water Quality Specialist
**Sara Pickard	Water Quality Specialist

Special Assistance Staff: Julie Henhoeffter and Community Living Support Worker, Melissa Henskens.

Drinking Water Source Protection Staff

David Ellingwood	Project Manager
Emily Vandermeulen	Program Supervisor
Nancy Guest	Administrative Assistant
Karen Gillan	Communications Specialist
Elly Ward	Technical Analyst
Alexandra Milanetti	GIS/Database Specialist

* Retired, ** Part year, ***On leave



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.

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.



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

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