



Annual Report 2015



Allan Park Conservation Area



The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, was established in 1950 under Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of 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 8,498 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 recreation areas and campgrounds.



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

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.

SVCA's watershed jurisdiction covers 4,632 sq. km (1,788 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.

Front cover photo of a young Great Horned Owl by David Bishop



Welcome to the 2015 Annual Report

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for the year 2015.

I came into this job understanding the importance of the Conservation Authority as a watershed regulatory agency and recognizing our basic mandate to protect the people and the property from flooding and the effects of erosion. It is essential for our region to maintain this Conservation Authority with the capacity to fulfill its mandate on a watershed-wide basis.

That said, this Authority continues to face challenges that impair its ability to effectively fulfill its mandate specifically as related to our planning and regulations services. Working together, Authority Members and Staff have made important progress in this area in 2015. I believe that we have set ourselves upon a path that will see major improvements come into effect and bear fruit in the months to come.

The Authority also continues to deliver and support multiple projects and programs that contribute to the overall health of our watershed and to the benefit of our communities.

These are some 2015 accomplishments of which we are particularly proud:

- ▶ successful removal of the Lockerby Dam, on time, and under budget restoring the natural flow of the river, improving fish habitat, fish migration and water quality
- ▶ development of a new lease agreement with the Saugeen Children's Safety Village, allowing that important project to get underway in 2016 and making good use of the Authority's buildings at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area
- ▶ the initiation of a new five year Phragmites eradication project, funded by Endbridge, at the Bruce Dale Conservation Area
- ▶ implementation of a budget that contained a general levy increase of less than 2% and achieved a significant operating surplus in 2015
- ▶ completion of a new floating boardwalk and trail improvements in the Greenock Swamp with the help of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
- ▶ acquisition of 40 hectares (100 acres) of forested land in a particularly sensitive part of our watershed through the generosity of the Martyn Family



As we head into 2016, we will continue to implement programming in support of our mandate to protect and improve this watershed.

The commitment of Authority staff to this mandate never ceases to amaze me. These individuals go endlessly beyond their job descriptions to support events and initiatives that advance the message of conservation.

I am looking forward to a busy and productive year ahead and I am very optimistic about what we can accomplish together in 2016.

Luke Charbonneau
Chair

An Open House was held in October where the public was encouraged to come out, meet with the staff and learn about SVCA programs and services.

2015 Highlights



Now you See it, Now you Don't!

One of the highlights of 2015 was the removal of SVCA's Lockerby Dam on the North Saugeen River. There had been a dam at this location for over 100 years. The river is now free to flow in its natural channel removing any impediment to fish migration.



Lockerby Dam removal.

A Swamp with a View

The Greenock Swamp is the single largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario. For years, individuals have been asking to visit this massive feature which is steeped in colourful history. As of spring 2016 the public will be allowed to take the self-guided tour through a part of this incredible wetland complex on a newly installed floating boardwalk system.

Phragmites Pull

The SVCA began a five year eradication project along parts of the Lake Huron Shoreline, including SVCA's very own Brucedale Conservation Area. The first phase of the project in 2015 was very successful and resulted in the removal of thousands of plants. The project was funded by Enbridge.

Aiming for Accountability

The Planning and Regulations Department provided customers with an opportunity to fill in an anonymous questionnaire with regard to the level of services, timing, clarity and detail. To date, 90% of respondents stated that they were pleased with the level of service.

Source Protection Plan Approved

The Drinking Water Source Protection Plan was submitted in June to the Province and approved in October by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.



Students prepare to haul floating boardwalk sections to a bog at Schmidt Lake (Greenock Swamp).

In This Issue



Water

- 5 Water Management
- 6 Flood Warning
- 7 Stewardship & Grassroots Conservation Efforts
- 10 Environmental Planning & Regulations
- 12 Water Quality
- 14 Drinking Water Source Protection
- 15 Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

Lands

- 16 Forestry Services
- 18 Conservation Areas



Communications

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

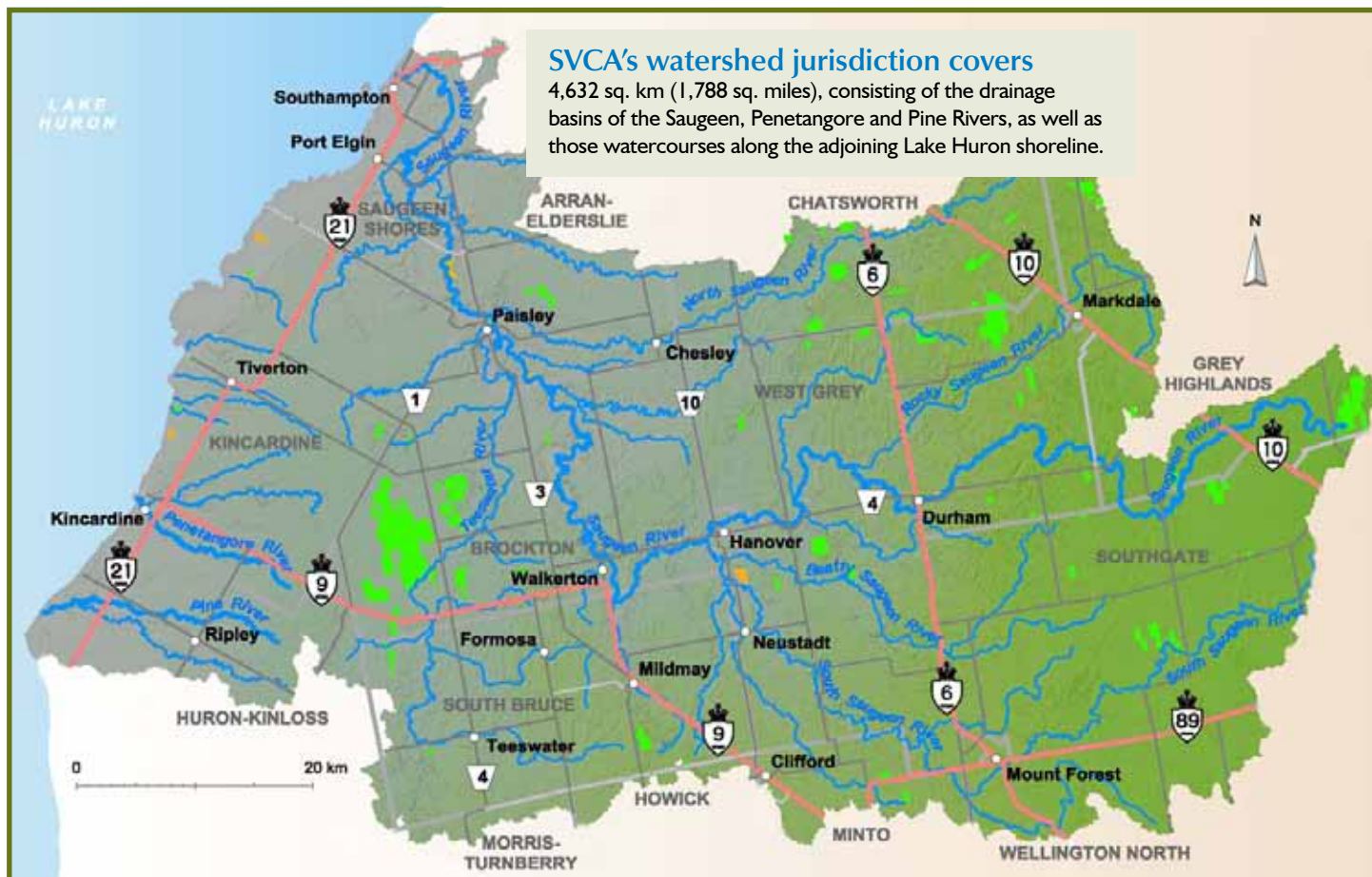


Administration

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



www.svca.on.ca





Water Management

Saugeen Conservation saw the completion of the following projects in working toward a better and healthier watershed

Removal Of The Lockerby Dam

An important project in 2015 was the removal of SVCA's Lockerby Dam on the North Saugeen River.

Work began on the dam removal in August. All the concrete and parts of the dam below water were removed then rip-rap was placed along the north and south sides of the river. The construction of two vortex weirs was completed upstream of the former dam site to provide additional fish habitat, forming part of the reservoir rehabilitation.

SVCA Capital Works Program

Yearly inspections of capital projects were completed and recommendations for minor repairs were completed.

SVCA had an engineered Dam Inspection Report completed for the Upper and Lower Durham Dams in the municipality of West Grey. The report makes recommendations to be implemented over the next 5 to 10 years.



BEFORE



AFTER

Before and after photos showing the removal of the Lockerby Dam, a significant Water Management Capital Project.



The Numbers

LOCKERBY DAM

528 tonnes of rip-rap placed as erosion control along the banks

170 tonnes of field stone used to create the vortex weirs for fish habitat and reservoir rehabilitations



Flooding in 2014.

Flood Warning

There was no significant flooding in 2015. Fortunately, the extensive and thick river ice melted before spring flows peaked, avoiding ice jamming. A “Watershed Conditions Statement” was issued.

- 1** An SVCA Snow Survey Manual was produced by staff in 2015.
- 2** During the winter fourteen stations are monitored every two weeks measuring snow depth and water equivalent. The data is used to help predict potential runoff conditions and is sent to the Surface Water Management Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) for compiling provincial conditions.

- 3** SVCA's Flood Contingency Plan was updated to recognize current operational procedures and terminology. This Plan is provided to appropriate staff in all Watershed municipalities and counties, as well as other agencies involved with emergency response and protective services.

SVCA owns and operates 10 stream gauge stations and three meteorological stations located throughout the Watershed. Staff obtain real-time flow data from these river stations to monitor Watershed conditions on an on-going basis.



Gary Senior, Sr. Manager of Flood Warning and Land Management.



The Saugeen River is the third largest river system in Southern Ontario making the risk of flooding a regular concern. (flooding 2014).



The Numbers

- 1 press release
- 1 newspaper article
- 2 conferences attended
- 1 workshop held
- 2 publications
- 1 open house
- 1 watershed conditions statement



SVCA organized a community tree plant called Brockton TD Tree Day. This initiative helped TD meet TD's commitment to plant 50,000 trees in Canada.

Hands-On Environmental Projects

Stewardship Efforts

Youth Expo

Staff organized a Youth Expo at the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association near Owen Sound. Youth participated in a number of activities designed to nurture their understanding of the environment.

Cattle Exclusion Fencing

SVCA in partnership with SVCF and the Grey Bruce Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) assisted a landowner in the construction of 2600 feet (790 metres) of cattle exclusion fencing along a tributary of Formosa Creek. Staff will be planting shrubs and trees in spring 2016.

Wonders of Wetlands

Staff, together with Enbridge and the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC), hosted the first annual Wonders of Wetlands event. A total of \$100,000 has been committed over a 5 year period to help control the growth of phragmites along the lakeshore near Brucedale CA.

As part of the day Port Elgin students participated in shoreline activities to learn about the unique coastal ecosystem and the impact of invasive species. A video was also completed by Enbridge and is now featured on the SVCA website.

Allan Park Tall Grass Prairie Ecosystem

Staff organized a controlled burn of the Tall Grass Prairie at Allan Park Forest Management Unit. This is a necessary management tool for the successful development of a tall grass prairie. It removes and reduces competing invasive plants and rejuvenates seed stock.



Environmental Projects



Soil Health

A Cover Crop and Soil Health Day hosted by Parrish and Heimbecker, the SVCA, MVCA, ABCA and the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network was held at the Amberley Grain Elevators.

Approximately 50 participants from the rural agricultural community and industry attended a number of demonstrations and presentations geared to understanding the benefits of good soil structure.

Maintaining soil and nutrients will improve the water quality in our creeks, streams as well as in Lake Huron.

The following workshops were a cooperative effort between the Grey Bruce Sustainability Network and SVCA.

WaterWORKS is a series of hands-on workshops for students that focus on life within rivers and streams, drinking water systems, waste water treatment facilities and more. Emphasis is also placed on careers in the water-related field.

Food WORKS Day

Soil health was the focus of this day helping students realize the importance of topsoil in providing the food we eat.

CareerWORKS This workshop was held for students from area schools. Career themes included water, food and agriculture, energy and climate change. 120 youth were involved.

Participants learned about the value of cover crops in protecting topsoil and improving soil health.

Partners



SVCA assists the following organizations with their incredible efforts to improve both the Pine and Penetangore watersheds.

Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN)

Work was done on the Pine River Watershed which is considered a priority watershed by the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative. This watershed has experienced impaired surface water quality and algal blooms along Lake Huron at its outlet.

In 2015 PRWIN projects included:



tree planting (24,765 seedlings)



the creation of three water and sediment control berms located in the South Pine River watershed



the installation of 7 km (4.3 mi.) of exclusion fencing, the planting of 7,000 trees and an alternative water source completed on Royal Oak Creek in the former Huron Township



the construction of bank stabilization project (for fish habitat), exclusion fencing and a culvert for livestock crossing on the South Pine River



SVCA staff worked with the Municipality of South Bruce and Teeswater schools to paint the town yellow. The Trout Unlimited Yellow Fish Road Stormdrain™ Marking Program is an educational initiative to raise awareness about the potential of pollution entering local waterbodies through stormdrains.

Penetangore Watershed Group



The Penetangore Watershed Group planted over 6,000 trees throughout that watershed. They also planted a number of native plants to increase biodiversity at an urban stormwater pond in the Town of Kincardine.

Partnerships

Bruce County Federation of Agriculture
Community Foundation Grey Bruce
Grey Bruce Alternative Land Use Services
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Four County Labour Market Board
Grey County Federation of Agriculture
Healthy Lake Huron
Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
Lake Huron Fishing Club
Markdale Rotary Club
Municipalities of Brockton, Kincardine,
South Bruce, Saugeen Shores, Hanover
Ontario Envirothon
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and
Rural Affairs

Parrish & Heimbecker Grain Elevators
Penetangore Watershed Group
Pine River Watershed Initiative Network
RBC Bluewater Project (Grey, Bruce)
Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
Saugeen River Fisheries Task Force
Sobey's Retail Outlet
Stewardship Grey Bruce
TD Friends of the Environment
Trout Unlimited Canada
Walkerton Rotary Club
Watershed Schools
Yellow Fish Road Stormdrain Marking
Program



The Numbers

- 6 shows / events attended
- 6 radio interviews
- 8 events hosted
- 12 presentations
- 7 workshops hosted
- 7 workshops attended
- 5 municipal presentations
- 1 open house



Above: A watercourse had been filled without SVCA permission resulting in a flooded municipal roadway. The fill area was so unstable that the excavator could not get solid footing in attempting to fix the problem. Eventually the SVCA was able to work with the contractor and landowner to resolve the matter.

Environmental Planning and Regulations

This department reviews planning documents and building proposals to ensure the protection of lives and property.



This department saw the following accomplishments in 2015:



A thorough review was conducted within this Department. As a result a number of recommendations were made to improve speed, quality, transparency, traceability, tools available, customer service, staff skillset, and accuracy. Some items were assigned high priority such as mapping improvements, a tracking system, modernization of internal process, review policy, planning services agreements and customer service.



As part of the improvement process, an anonymous customer service survey was established for customers applying for permits. Results have been positive.



Staff made approximate Regulated Area maps available online, (associated with SVCA's Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation 169/06, as amended).



SVCA reviewed updates to the Hanover Comprehensive Hanover Zoning By-law, Hanover Official Plan, Saugeen Shores Comprehensive Zoning By-law, Grey Highlands Official Plan, and Chatsworth Comprehensive Zoning By-law. The Grey County Transportation Master Plan was also reviewed.



Candace Hamm, Environmental Planning Coordinator



The Numbers

230	Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation permits issued
97.4%	Planning Act comments submitted on time
102	violations of Regulation 169/06 investigated
29	enforcement matters resolved
3	presentations
305	planning applications reviewed
20	radio advertisements
2	radio interviews

Meetings, Presentations & Partnerships

- ▶ Attended and participated in Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings associated with the Grey County Natural Heritage Systems Study currently underway
- ▶ Participated in numerous webinars associated with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Conservation Ontario, Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol, and workshops for the development of a template agricultural guide to conservation authority permits
- ▶ Conducted monthly Mapping Working Group meetings between appointed Municipal Staff and Councilors. SVCA Staff to investigate improved watershed mapping
- ▶ Presented new mapping to South Bruce Council
- ▶ Attended four Coastal Working Group meetings for Conservation Authorities with shoreline areas
- ▶ Presented SVCA's Regulation and Planning Act role to Brockton Council
- ▶ Met with Grey and Bruce County Wardens and CAOs with regard to service delivery associated with SVCA Planning and Regulations work
- ▶ Presented to the Grey County Realtor's Association in October regarding the Regulation and Planning Act role
- ▶ Continued to participate in customer service training



The Water Quality Department is responsible for groundwater sampling, collecting data and sampling aquatic organisms to determine water quality.

Water Quality

Watershed Report Cards

Staff continue to analyze data and make observations necessary for the third set of watershed report cards which will be released in 2018. The report cards provide watershed residents with a rating of local wetlands, forests and water quality.

The ultimate goal from one set of report cards to another is to compare grades for all parameters in order to assess improvements or possible environmental issues.

Surface Water Sampling

Staff monitor 29 sites within the Saugeen, Lake Fringe, Pine and Penetangore River Watersheds monthly during ice free periods. These samples are analyzed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and private laboratories for general chemistry, including phosphorus, nitrates and E. coli.

Biomonitoring

Benthos (i.e. bottom dwelling insects, crustaceans, worms and mollusks), are collected at test sites across the watershed as excellent indicators of water quality and ecological conditions.

Results over the past five years indicate that the benthos has changed across the watershed favouring those which are more tolerant of polluted conditions. Staff will closely monitor these organisms and investigate possible causes of water quality deterioration.

Nutrient Management Monitoring

Since 2004, 15 streams in agricultural watersheds across Southwestern Ontario have been monitored for water quality, flow, and benthic invertebrates. Of particular interest are E. coli, suspended solids, and nutrients such as nitrates and phosphorus. This program is on-going and led by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. A long-term goal of this project is to examine trends in water quality in relation to changing agricultural practices.

Partners





Water Quality

Groundwater Monitoring

Understanding how and why groundwater levels change assists the SVCA in making wise decisions with regard to land-use development and aggregate development expansion applications. This program is supported by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

The SVCA monitors 21 aquifers in 16 wells throughout the watershed. Ten wells monitor bedrock aquifers, while 11 monitor overburden aquifers. Overburden aquifers are those that have been located in loose soil, sand, or gravel overlying solid rock or bedrock. Aquifers tend to be deeper and located in parent materials such as bedrock.

Within these wells, water level is logged hourly, while water quality samples are collected annually in the fall. Any exceedances of the Ontario Drinking Water Standards are reported to municipalities and the local Health Unit for follow-up. Rain gauges are incorporated into 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. The SVCA has three rain gauges associated with this program.

The ISCO Sampler

An ISCO sampler is an automated device that samples water. One such device was installed on the South Pine River in 2014 to sample water during peak flows. Once programmed, the device takes samples at set time intervals with a capacity to take 24x1L samples. The data collected will be used to help calibrate the Rural Stormwater Management Model.



The Numbers

- 232 samples taken at 29 surface water sampling sites (15 SVCA, 14 Provincial as part of the PWQMN)
- 26 samples taken at 13 groundwater sampling sites (20 aquifers total as part of the PGMN)
- 45 benthic invertebrate samples taken at 15 sampling sites
- 24 Rural Stormwater Management Model samples taken (event based and monthly grab via ISCO automated water sampler)
- 3 electrofishing fish collection events in co-operation with Happy Trout Chapter (Trout Unlimited Canada)

Groups and Affiliates

Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network

Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol

Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Southwestern Group (PGMN)

Healthy Lake Huron Technical Working Committee

Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)

Shaun Anthony, Water Quality Specialist, describes the process involved with groundwater sampling.





2015 Highlights and Accomplishments

Source Protection Plan Approved

The Source Protection Plan was submitted in June to the Province and approved on October 16, 2015 by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. The Revised Assessment Report (part of Source Protection Plan), was also approved in October of 2015. It includes threat analysis for all municipal drinking water systems in the Source Protection Area. The effective date for the Source Protection Plan is July 1, 2016.

Municipal Implementation Workshops

Municipal workshops were hosted in September for staff and councils from across Grey, Bruce and Wellington Counties to assist municipal staff with the implementation of the Source Protection Plan. Municipal staff are encouraged to visit <http://www.waterprotection.ca/municipal.htm> for further information.

Technical Advisory Working Group

A working group was formed to assist the Source Protection Committee with Events-Based Areas (EBA) to address significant drinking water threats and fuel spills to Great Lakes intakes. This work affects Lion's Head, Wiarton, Owen Sound, Meaford, Thornbury, Southampton, Kincardine and Georgian Bluffs.

The working group is comprised of Source Protection Committee members and representatives from each of the eight municipalities affected, including water system operators and municipal staff with knowledge of this area.

Water Budget Work Completed

Matrix Solutions Inc., Environment & Engineering Consulting, completed the Hanover and Lake Rosalind Tier 3 Water Budget to determine whether the municipality is able to meet its planned water quantity requirements. The technical work summary will appear in the Assessment Report section of the Amended Source Protection Plan. Water quantity threat policies will be added to the Plan to manage threats to water quantity in the Lake Rosalind area of the Municipality of Brockton.

It's all about protecting
municipal water sources from threats to
water quality to ensure
clean water for all of us.

A Source Protection Committee of local representatives oversees this program.





Mission:

The Coastal Centre is a charitable non-profit organization "providing leadership and expertise through research, education and stewardship outreach, with partners for healthy coastal communities."



The Coastal Centre worked in partnership with SVCA, Municipality of Kincardine and Enbridge on a control program for the invasive European Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) at Bruce's Bay Conservation Area. The program included cutting, pesticide application (where appropriate), and manual removal.

As part of the day students were invited to learn about coastal wetlands and the problem of invasive species infestations. This is a \$100,000 project funded by Enbridge over five years.

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

2015 Highlights and Accomplishments

- ▶ The Coastal Centre also assisted the Municipality of Kincardine and Bruce Power with *Phragmites* control programs in the Scott Point to Baie du Dore area, part of a provincially significant coastal wetland complex
- ▶ The Coastal Centre continued its beach and dune education program, partnering with Saugeen Shores to provide residents with summer evening 'Beach Talks,' a popular lecture series on ways to improve beach health

- ▶ The LHCCC continues to provide shoreline municipalities and their residents with technical advice related to coastal processes and stewardship efforts
- ▶ The LHCCC implemented its "Butt Free Beach" program at Station Beach in Kincardine. This program aims to reduce cigarette pollution through education and public engagement as part of a larger plastics reduction program (filters are composed of plastic - cellulose acetate)

Through this program, smokers are provided with personal ash trays that they can use for disposal of filters and butts. This program will continue in 2016-17 thanks to a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).



Forestry

While tree planting is still a large component of this program, there are many other issues staff find themselves addressing today including invasive species, diseases, pests and other forestry related problems.

SVCA's Forestry Department functions much like a business and services have adapted accordingly with the changing times. A number of forestry-related services are offered to the public for a fee, including tree marking, tree planting, tendering, Emerald Ash Borer Control and assistance with the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program or MFTIP.

Programs and services within the Forestry Department have certainly changed since the SVCA was established in 1950.

Forestry

As always, 2015 was a busy year for this department with the completion of the following:

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

There were 18 participating landowners who had new plans created or former plans renewed totalling 1,036 acres (419 hectares).

Area amendments were also made to Saugeen Conservation's MFTIP to include an additional 144 acres (58 hectares).

The New Greenock Swamp Trail

The Forestry Department spearheaded an initiative to develop a trail system in a portion of the Greenock Swamp which is the single largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario.

The SVCA owns approximately half of the Greenock Swamp. As of spring 2016, the public will be encouraged to take the self-guided trail system and learn about the incredible features of this wetland.

Funds for the trail system were raised by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation and Ontario Power Generation.



Emerald Ash Borer Control
44 ash trees treated for 25 clients throughout the Saugeen watershed. Of this number, half were new clients while the remainder were repeat clients who had their trees initially treated in 2013. EAB treatments expire after two years.



The Numbers

Greenock Trail

200	feet (60 metres) of floating boardwalk installed in the wetlands at the north east end of Schmidt Lake
120	feet (36 metres) of wood boardwalk and 440 feet (134 metres) of gravelled trail constructed to connect the floating boardwalk to existing trails
120	feet (36 metres) of new snake rail fence constructed and double gates relocated to control vehicle access

Trees

74,471	seedlings machine planted under the 50 Million Tree program for 12 landowners
16,281	seedlings provided to 32 landowners to do their own planting
23,765	seedlings provided to the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network for planting projects
5,000	seedlings provided to the Penetangore Watershed Network Group
5,440	seedlings, 213 wildlife shrubs, 131 hardwood whips and 161 landscape stock sold during the Arbor Day Tree Sale

Events and Show Attended

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
Southern Ontario FSC
Working Group Meetings

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



Conservation Areas & Lands

Working to Provide You with a Better Experience!

Conservation Area Improvements:

Allan Park CA

- ✦ opening of a new trail
- ✦ a new kiosk display sign was installed at the parking lot
- ✦ 29 new metal trail map signs (You Are Here), were installed throughout the property

Varney CA

- ✦ two washroom roofs were replaced
- ✦ improvements were made to the footbridge over Camp Creek

Durham CA

- ✦ improvements were made to the shower building, including three new water heaters and energy efficient lighting

Sulphur Spring CA

- ✦ an agreement was signed with the Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village to lease the previous administration building and surrounding grounds. A small village will be constructed on site where children can learn about everyday safety practices.



SVCA purchased a used Kut Kwick Slopemaster lawnmower used to maintain grass on the flood control dykes. This is a specialized piece of equipment designed specifically for traversing slopes.



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
Grey Bruce Regional Tourism (RT07)
Province of Ontario
Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village

The SVCA was pleased once again to be the recipient of grants under the Province of Ontario's Summer Jobs Service (SJS) program, in providing summer job opportunities.

Students assisted with a variety of jobs at Sulphur Spring, Durham, Greenock and Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Areas. The SJS program provides a wage subsidy for these positions. This program is an exceptional experience for students in terms of future job prospects.



In April the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) stocked brook trout at Allan Park, Bell's Lake and Durham Conservation Areas. In each of those locations 2,500 brook trout were stocked with an average size of 25 cm in length. The number of visitors to Allan Park increased noticeably after the opening day of trout season, indicating the popularity of the improved angling experience.



Many Thanks

to our incredible volunteers and organizations who look after our Conservation Areas and Lands, including:

- Ontario Steelheader's Association
- Kincardine Ski Club
- Gary Senior
- Seasonal campers

Happy Retirement



Caralynn Kamerman, Superintendent of Brucedale Conservation Area retired after eight years of hard work and dedication.



Ron McManus, Superintendent of Durham Conservation Area retired after 43 years. His friendly personality and experience will be missed.



The Numbers

11,088	Campers at Brucedale Conservation Area
28,820	Campers at Durham Conservation Area
29,054	Campers at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area



Communications

(From the Latin *communicare*, meaning “to share”) *Com-mu-ni-ca-tion* – the act or process of using words, sounds, signs or behaviors to express or exchange information.

1 It is extremely important for any organization to practice good communications, inside and outside the organization. Today, technology provides numerous avenues to relay information in interesting and thought-provoking ways to engage audiences.

This department is responsible for promoting programs and services throughout the year.

Tools of the Trade and progress for 2015:

2 Publications and Promotional Materials

Each year, this department writes and produces a number of printed products for all the programs and services of the organization. Flyers, brochures, pamphlets, cards, leaflets, reports, guidebooks and hand-outs are just a few examples.



“Of all of our inventions for mass communication, pictures still speak the most universally understood language.”

Walt Disney

3 Social Media

Each year social media plays a larger part in the marketing, awareness and profile of Saugeen Conservation. On-going updates and research are critical.



4 Presentations

Staff conducted presentations to various interest groups throughout the year. Topics vary according to the group and theme. Staff attempt to accommodate all requests.

5 Advertising

There is always a need to advertise and promote programming, events and services. This is an on-going job of this department and serves all programs within the organization.

6 Shows

Staff attend many shows and functions throughout the watershed. This participation is key to proper communication and outreach. Talking face-to-face with watershed residents, interest groups and various organizations is very effective in promoting programs and services.

7 Events

Staff coordinate and organize events and functions for both the Authority and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation, the latter for fundraising purposes. In 2015 staff organized an Open House, the purpose of which was to invite the public to meet with the staff and learn about SVCA's programs and services.

This department also organizes three major events for the Foundation; The Old Tyme Maple Syrup Festival, the Memorial Grove Ceremony and Christmas in the Country.



Staff take a local group on a tour of the Greenock Swamp.

8 Evening Conservation Tours

Each year, the Foundation and Authority coordinate a number of Evening Conservation Tours, focusing on conservation projects, programs, lands or initiatives.

Tours feature a different part of the watershed and include a local attraction or business as part of the familiarization process. It's a great way for Members to learn about the watershed.

Affiliates

Ausable Bayfield Conservation
Authority
Bruce County
Bruce Power
Bruce County Museum and Cultural
Centre
Community Living (Walkerton and
District)
Conservation Ontario
Drinking Water Source Protection
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network
Grey Sauble Conservation
Healthy Lake Huron
Hydro One – Discovery Centre
Lake Huron Centre for Coastal
Conservation

Lake Huron Fishing Club
Maitland Valley Conservation
Media
Member Municipalities
Ontario Drifboat Guides
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change
Ontario Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry
Ontario Power Generation
Saugeen Valley Conservation
Foundation
Tourism Associations (6)
Walkerton BIA
Walkerton Fisheries Task Force
Watershed Schools



The Numbers

Radio/Television/Print

24 Press releases
14 Weeks of radio advertising for
events, functions and
programming
12 Display ads

Functions/Events

5 Seminars / workshops attended
49 Meetings
14 Presentations and hikes
3 Evening Conservation Tours
(SVCA / SVCF staff & Members)
1 Volunteer appreciation evening
6 SVCA/SVCF major events,
(14,000 combined attendance)
17 Shows, events and fairs
attended by SVCA / SVCF
organized by others

Publications & Promotions

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



Communications

Conservation Education - *The Natural Way to Learn*

Educating our youth is one of the most important measures in ensuring the continuation of conservation efforts and environmental appreciation.

The goal of the education program is “to assist youth to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed decisions and constructive actions concerning the wise use of our natural resources.”

The WREN Program

A cooperative effort between Saugeen and Grey Sauble Conservation Authorities, this program offers schools throughout Grey, Bruce and parts of Wellington and Huron Counties over 50 different hands-on curriculum based studies. The program investigates interactions within ecosystems, biodiversity, sustainability and everyone's responsibility to protect and conserve our natural environment for future generations.

Flood Waters & You

Offered in conjunction with the OPP and St. John Ambulance, this is a hands-on program focused on flooding and cold water safety issues. Programs are offered free of charge.

Our Partners



Wellington Catholic
District School Board
We Have Faith in Education



Upper Grand
District School Board



Saugeen
Valley
Conservation
Foundation

The Deer Program

Fully sponsored by 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. These full day, hands-on conservation education programs take place at the Bruce Power Visitors' Centre, Inglis Falls and Sulphur Spring Conservation Areas.

Earth Week Program

Sponsored by Enbridge in 2015, these in-school programs were first developed in 2007 in response to a growing interest in Earth Week celebrations. Six different curriculum based presentations offer students the chance to learn how each of us can help look after the planet.

Wild Encounters Nature Day Camp

A long-standing cooperative effort between Hanover Recreation Department and Saugeen Conservation, this week long camp is always filled to capacity. The goal is to get kids outside having fun and learning about conservation and the environment.

Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

Saugeen Conservation is proud to be a Founding member of this organization. Originally planned for September, this year's festival was rescheduled to spring 2016. This festival features 46 different curriculum based hands-on demonstrations and activities geared to grade 4 students, all focused on our water resources.



Bruce Grey Forest Festival

Initiated in 2010 by Saugeen Conservation this Festival was the second of its kind in the Province. Grade 7 students from across Grey Bruce participate in thirty-five different hands-on curriculum based activities all focused on our forest resources.

Youth Expo

For youth aged 9 to 16, this event features a wide variety of outdoor activities ranging from fishing to hiking to archery, bird watching and more. The 10th annual Expo was held in June at the Sydenham Sportsmen's Club and was hosted by a number of like-minded organizations interested in offering young people the opportunity to explore the outdoors.



Saugeen Conservation

has a diverse and extensive education

program, involving thousands of

youth each year.



The Numbers

24	presentations
310	classes
58	different programs

Participating Students

5,704	Bluewater School Board
1,159	Bruce Grey Catholic School Board
74	Community Youth Groups
1,339	Other Groups



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



Old-Tyme Maple Syrup Festival

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

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 attracts thousands of people to Sulphur Spring Conservation Area, just south of Hanover. It's a great way to get into the festive spirit and has become a family tradition for many!



The Numbers

- 90 different communities were represented at Christmas in the Country, the Maple Syrup Festival and Memorial Grove Ceremony
- \$961,842 in economic returns to local communities from all events*
- 11,000 people attended Authority and Foundation events throughout the year
- \$12,500 funds raised

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

What Are We Raising Money For?

The Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation (SVCF), is made up of a number of interested and active Directors who have a genuine concern and interest for local conservation.

Money raised by the Foundation is utilized for projects deemed important by Saugeen Conservation. Projects funded by the Foundation in 2015 included the following.

1 New Animal Housing Facility

SVCF's newest endeavor is to raise funds for a new Animal Housing Facility at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area. The facility will incorporate education in terms of local wildlife species, and include a special component on Species at Risk. The current structure houses various pea fowl.

2 Conservation Education

The SVCF has always supported the Authority's Conservation Education Programs. Over 12,000 children and youth are involved in the over 75 different curriculum related programs on various aspects of the environment.

3 Cattle Exclusion Fencing

The SVCF supported the construction of cattle exclusion fencing on a farm in Formosa. Staff will be planting trees within the confines of the fencing to promote the growth of a healthy riverine system.

4 Lockerby Dam Removal

Funds raised by the Foundation also assisted the SVCA in the removal of the Lockerby Dam on the North Saugeen River. This river channel has reverted back to its natural state, eliminating any barriers for migrating fish.



5 Greenock Swamp Trail Project

After years of raising funds at a number of different events, funds were finally available to implement the floating boardwalk system across a part of Schmidt Lake, one of 9 lakes in the Greenock Swamp.

The Greenock Swamp is Southern Ontario's single largest forested wetland. The first phase of the self-interpretive trail system will be officially opened in spring 2016.



Behind the Scenes

Corporate Services

It takes a number of dedicated staff to ensure that Saugeen Conservation runs smoothly. It is these individuals upon whom staff depend for the implementation of virtually every single program and aspect of the Authority.

The administration staff handle's the day-to-day operations, greet visitors and look after the complexities of the organizational budget, finances, billing, etc. They also answer inquiries, look after the Camis reservation system and the booking of campsites and so much more!

Field Staff

The job of the field staff is often challenging and rigorous. Whether it's -30 or +30 degrees C, much of their work is done outdoors. These individuals look after all of our parks, ensure trails are safe and well maintained, work on flood control structures, look after dams and a myriad of other tasks too numerous to mention.

They work behind the scenes and are invaluable to the entire workings of the organization.

Information and Technology

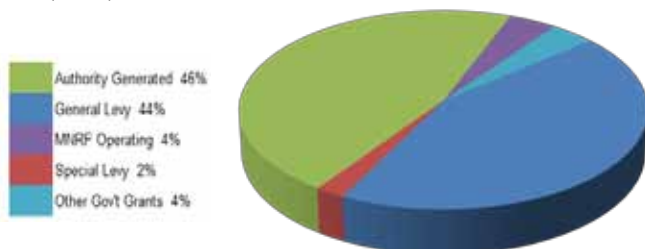
No work would be possible without the maintenance of our computer systems and programs. This, of course, is integral to our day-to-day operations.

Today, virtually every department depends on technology to get their job done or to make their jobs easier. We would be remiss, as well, if we didn't mention our GIS staff who provide us with accurate mapping resources for our programs and services.

2015 Financial Summary (unaudited)

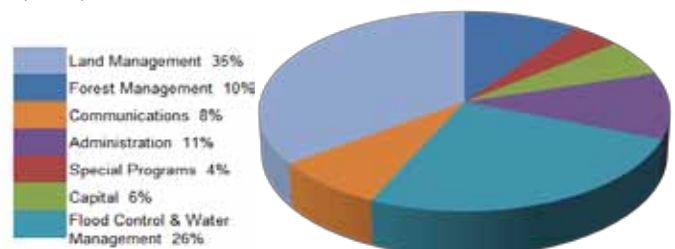
Revenue

\$3,638,721



Expenses

\$3,524,302



Volunteers & Sponsors

Volunteer Groups, Organizations, Businesses and Families

Ist Chesley Scouts
Ist Hanover Scouts
Ist Walkerton Scouts and Ventures
Ist Wingham Scouts and Ventures
Bruce County Family Living Centre,
Walkerton
Bruce County Heritage Association, Paisley
Bruce County Trappers and Crappers,
Paisley
Kincardine Ski Club
Sacred Heart Secondary School Co-op
Students, Walkerton
Saugeen Conservation Staff
Seasonal Campers
South Bruce Buckskinners
St John Ambulance, Hanover
Steelheader's Association
The Buyers Family, Hanover
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 Henkusens 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 Shelley Family, Hanover
The Ward Family, Neustadt
The Yorke Family, Teeswater
The Zettel Family, Formosa
Walkerton District Community School
Co-op Students, Walkerton
Watershed Schools
West Grey Police Department
West Grey Fire Department

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.

Major In-Kind Sponsors

Bayshore Broadcasting, Owen Sound
CKNX Radio, Wingham
Lake Huron Fishing Club
Love's Sweetness Maple Products, Holstein
Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
Municipality of Saugeen Shores
The Post, Hanover
Walkerton Rotary Club

Major Cash Contributors (over \$1,000)

Bruce Power, Tiverton
Enbridge
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
Grant's, Your Independent Grocer,
Hanover
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network
John Sutherland and Sons, Guelph
Ontario Power Generation, Tiverton
Paisely Kinsmen
RBC Bluewater Fund
Ross Young Bus Lines, Tiverton
Scotia Bank, Hanover
Stewardship Grey Bruce
TD Friends of the Environment
Trillium Mutual Insurance Co., Listowel

These dedicated individuals and financial providers assist with the following:

- Conservation projects
- 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

In Memoriam



Marian Wersh

We were extremely saddened to say goodbye to an old friend and volunteer who contributed her time and efforts for more than 20 years. Marian looked after the gardens at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area, volunteered at events, photographed our functions, cooked for volunteers, sewed props for displays and much more. She will be sorely missed.



The North Pole Express

Many thanks to John Kuntz and Stu Buyers, two of our dedicated volunteers who spent the summer of 2015 constructing a train for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation's Christmas in the Country.



Members

Luke Charbonneau, Chair, Town of Saugeen Shores
 Dan Kerr, 1st Vice Chair, Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
 Maureen Couture, 2nd Vice Chair, Municipality of Kincardine
 Robert Buckle, Municipalities of Morris-Turnberry/South Bruce/Township of Howick
 Andrew White, Municipality of Kincardine
 Dan Gieruszak, Municipality of Brockton
 Brian Gamble, Township of Chatsworth
 Stewart Halliday, Municipality of Grey Highlands
 Sue Paterson, Town of Hanover
 Wilf Gamble, Township of Huron-Kinloss
 Mike Smith, Town of Saugeen Shores
 Barbara Dobreen, Township of Southgate
 Steve McCabe, Township of Wellington North/Town of Minto
 John Eccles, Municipality of West Grey
 Kevin Eccles, Municipality of West Grey



Directors

Jack MacLeod, Chair, Hanover
 Catherine Dickson, 1st Vice Chair, Walkerton
 Ed Moric, 2nd Vice Chair, Durham
 Laura Molson, Treasurer (staff)
 Shannon Wood, Secretary (staff)
 Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (staff)
 Luke Charbonneau, (Chair of Saugeen Conservation)
 Rick Pake, Hanover
 Gary Thomas, Hanover
 Ron McGhee, Priceville
 Ruby McCracken, Hanover
 Jim Potts, Clifford
 Carol Craft, Neustadt
 Darlene Schnurr, Mildmay



Staff

Corporate Services

Wayne Brohman	General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Laura Molson	Manager, Accounting
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

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	Environmental Planning Technician

Forestry

Jim Penner	Manager, Forestry
Donna Lacey	Forestry Technician

Land Management

*Ron McManus	Park Superintendent, Durham CA
Barry Skinn	Assistant Park Superintendent Durham CA
Ron Kaufman	Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA
*Caralynn Karmern	Park Superintendent, Brucedale CA
Bruce Martin	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
Shaun Anthony	Water Quality Specialist

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

Drinking Water Source Protection Staff

Carl Seider	Project Manager
Emily Vandermeulen	Program Supervisor
Nancy Guest	Administrative Assistant
Karen Gillan	Communications Specialist
Alexandra Milanetti	GIS/Database Specialist

* Retired in 2015



Mission

To provide leadership through coordination of watershed planning, implementation of resource management programs, and the promotion of conservation awareness, in cooperation with others.

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 recreation 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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