

Tangible Capital Asset Reporting

In 2009, KCCA was required to adopt Section 3150 of the Public Sector Accounting Board Handbook which requires government organizations to record and amortize their legal capital assets on their financial statements. This form of reporting allows the public to learn more about KCCA's investments in its tangible capital assets and the changes in those investments over time.

In order to accomplish this goal, an inventory of KCCA's assets was developed including the exact location and a photograph of each asset. The historic value of each asset was then determined and documented. Finally, a Tangible Capital Assets Policy and Procedures document was developed to prescribe the thresholds for which each asset is capitalized and each asset's life expectancy.

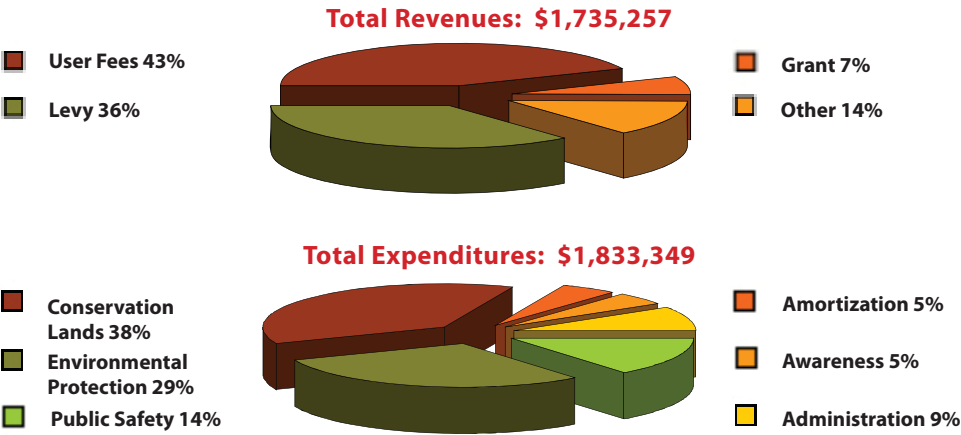
KCCA's auditors have reviewed both the asset inventory and the Tangible Capital Assets Policy and Procedures. The auditors agreed that the methods used to determine KCCA's tangible capital assets and the values assigned to each were fair.

In the future, an asset that meets KCCA's prescribed definition of a tangible capital asset will be capitalized on acquisition and its cost allocated to future accounting periods through an annual amortization expense.

In 2009, KCCA had a positive cash flow of \$1,897. However, when all of KCCA's tangible capital assets are reported and their depreciation accounted for, KCCA sits at a deficit of \$98,092. This means KCCA is not investing in infrastructure at the same rate that it is depreciating.

2009 Financial Statements

Source: Audited Financial Statements 2009



Our Donor List...

Thank you to the following for their financial donations to Kettle Creek Conservation Authority in 2009:

C.A.W. Local 1520 • Doris Lester • Graham Scott Enns • Hennessey Gibson Hogan • Janet Baker • Katherine Wagner • Kettle Valley Pioneers • Kiwanis Club of St. Thomas • Ministry of the Environment • Ontario Power Generation • Optimist Club of St. Thomas •

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Photo Credit: Jennifer Dow



Annual Report 2009

Kettle Creek Conservation Authority



Photo Credit: Shay Redmond/Yellow Sulphur

The Challenge of Change

Change. No one particularly cares for the idea; but it is often through change that an organization is able to reach higher and surpass previous goals. 2009 was not only a year of significant change in our local economy, it was also a year of significant change at Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA). The Board and Staff were challenged to re-think how we communicate with the public, cultivate new tree planting techniques, uncover new funding sources and embrace a new accounting system. Change is the challenge to make things better; KCCA met that challenge in 2009.



Kettle Creek
Conservation Authority

Education & Awareness

KCCA launched a new web site in March of 2009. The site now provides the community with access to more in-depth information about their watershed including: regulation mapping, meeting minutes, technical studies and application forms.

The site was established using a Content Management System which means staff members can update their respective sections of the web site without the assistance of an outside technician. This has resulted in more efficient communication of relevant information.



Web Site Launched: KCCA's new web site was well received with an average of 1,000 unique visitors and 4,981 page views per month. Thirty percent of all visitors to the new KCCA website in 2009 became repeat users.

KCCA staff coordinated the Carolinian Forest Festival in October of 2009. This was the second year for this festival which allows students to connect to their local natural environment through interactive displays. 1,200 students attended the festival, hosted by the Jaffa Environmental Education Centre and Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.

In cooperation with the Municipality of Central Elgin and the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System Board, KCCA received \$47,500 from the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program to coordinate an outreach and education program for Port Stanley. A variety of communication products were developed to increase public awareness of the Intake Protection Zone in Port Stanley and the importance of the Clean Water Act.

Forestry & Stewardship

Together with the ongoing financial support of its member municipalities, landowners and Ontario Power Generation, KCCA planted another 100,000 trees in 2009, bringing the total number of trees planted under this partnership to 600,000. KCCA is committed to becoming the tree planting agency of choice among local landowners and is on track to plant its one millionth tree by 2013.

As part of that commitment to excellence, KCCA uses a mixture of forty native tree and shrub species to ensure high levels of biodiversity to buffer against climate change and invasive species. Excellent weather conditions and a new on-site cooling unit helped to increase seedling survival rates to 90 percent.



Tree Planting: Sixty to seventy percent of trees planted in 2009 were planted using a newly upgraded machine planter. The average site planted was 2.4 acres.

Planning & Regulations

KCCA's land use planning and regulations programs work together to ensure that human development occurs outside hazardous areas while maintaining the local natural resources.

In 2009, KCCA provided input into over 130 planning and development applications within the watershed. As well, 51 permits and five violations were issued under Ontario Regulation 181/06.

With funding support from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) Job Creation Program, KCCA was able to hire a GIS Technician on a one-year contract. An up-to-date and accurate watershed base map reflective of the most recent aerial photography (2006) was generated. In addition, specific GIS mapping and products were created to support departmental needs.

Environmental Monitoring

In February of 2009, KCCA released its first Watershed Report Card. The report, which included data from 2003 - 2007, awarded the watershed an overall rating of "C-minus" based on surface water, groundwater, terrestrial, climate and forest conditions. The Watershed Report Card creates a benchmark both for the public and KCCA from which to set goals and objectives for improvement. Future Watershed Report Cards, to be released every five years, with yearly updates, will show trends, positive or negative change over time, or if a particular indicator has remained stable. In this way, the Report Card is not only a communication tool but a management tool allowing staff to target funding dollars to stewardship projects for optimal results.

KCCA received the final results from the Ministry of the Environment Pesticides Monitoring Project. In order to understand the concentrations of specific pesticides (glyphosate, metolachlor, atrazine and 2,4-D) in Kettle Creek, including the frequency of detection and the range of concentrations relative to water quality objectives, a 20 ml sample was collected monthly from Kettle Creek in 2007. Pesticide levels in Kettle Creek were all well below the water quality guidelines or were not detected. While minimal concentrations were found, staff will still evaluate the results and relate the data to land use activities.



Whitespotted Sawyer: A type of longhorned beetle whose larvae damage trees by eating the wood under the bark of conifer trees.

KCCA also partnered with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to collect invasive forest pest samples from nine Lindgren Funnel traps that were placed in the Bucke Conservation Area. Thirty-six different species of forest pest insects were collected from the traps including the Whitespotted Sawyer.

Flood Forecasting

Mid-winter flooding was one of the top weather stories in 2009 as determined by Dave Phillips, senior climatologist for Environment Canada. The mid-winter flooding was attributed to a record wet November and December - 80 percent more than normal in the KCCA watershed. Surface runoff from melting snow, rain and an ice jam in Port Stanley all

contributed to a spectacular two-day flood event on February 11 - 12, 2009. The Kettle Creek watershed received approximately 48 mm of rain in two days. The maximum flow recorded at the Fingal Line stream gauge station was 167 cubic metres per second, or 23 cubic metres per second faster than the January flood event in 2008.

Conservation Areas

KCCA continued to invest in the conservation areas' infrastructure in 2009. Upgrades at Dalewood Conservation Area included converting eight 15-amp sites to 30-amp sites bringing the total number of 30-amp sites to 102. A 3,000 gallon septic holding tank was also installed, which will address Dalewood's future septic requirements.

At Lake Whittaker Conservation Area material for three new fishing platforms was purchased and a design conceived to enable staff to remove the structures from the water during the winter, avoiding seasonal ice damage.

KCCA received a \$15,000 grant from ECO Canada to hire and train a transitioning worker from the automotive industry as part of the Environmental Career Transition Project. The Authority also took advantage of funding from Ontario Hydro's Power Saving Blitz to upgrade the lighting in all Authority buildings to energy efficient lighting, a cost savings of over \$4,500.

Retirements

In 2009, two valued employees of the Authority retired. Bryan Hall, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer retired in October after 30 years of service. Bryan Steele, Conservation Areas Supervisor retired in November after eight years of service. The Authority wishes to thank each employee for their dedicated service and extends best wishes on their retirement.



Bryan Hall:
30 years of service.



Bryan Steele:
8 years of service.