

2020 ANNUAL 2020 REPORT

Kettle Creek
Conservation
Authority



Kettle Creek
Conservation Authority

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2020 IN REVIEW

A Message from the Board Chair

This year the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority— like all organizations in 2020 – navigated a broad range of interrelated issues all stemming from the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, what should resonate with the community is not our response to the pandemic but our level of achievement in spite of this global crisis.

Our network of green infrastructure, 24 km of hiking trails, day-use facilities and our campgrounds Dalewood and Lake Whittaker, more than any other year offered a welcome respite to the community. Over the coming years, KCCA will invest in additional capital to ensure that more of these areas can be accessed by the public.

We've already started that mission in 2020 with a \$155,000 donation from the Estate of Donna Bushell. She had a passion to plant trees – and \$20,000 will go towards planting trees in her memory. In addition, work began on the Evans Sisters' Water Trail - a trail that meanders through Dalewood Reservoir and Kettle Creek providing spectacular views of bald eagles, tranquil picnic areas and historic vistas such as Carr's bridge. It is a gift to the community at a time when escaping to nature is integral to our well-being and will connect the community in a new way with the local environment.

This year's list of accomplishments is a reflection of our Board's and staff's ability to pivot to a more hands-free virtual environment without losing sight of the important on-the-ground work the community has come to expect. Thousands of trees were planted, floods were monitored remotely, and additional weather stations installed. Meetings were conducted virtually involving more of the community in our decision-making and programs and services. As we drive forward into 2021 our efforts will focus on continuing to modernize our operations while enhancing delivery of KCCA's programs and services.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors. Your hard work and commitment to those in our watershed is greatly appreciated. This has been a challenging time for all of us, and I and the staff at KCCA appreciate your dedication. But most importantly thank you to our watershed community whether you hiked a local trail, planted a tree, heeded a flood advisory or attended a virtual meeting, you contributed to our success.



Stephen Harvey
Chair

OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS LIST

Thank you to the following for their financial and in-kind donations in 2020.

ALUS Elgin • Avon Automotive • Aylmer Tire • City of London • City of St. Thomas • Delores Schram • Don and Hazel Williams Foundation • Ducks Unlimited • Elgin County • Elgin Federation of Agriculture • Elgin Stewardship Council • Environment and Climate Change Canada • Erie Shores Wind Farm • Estate of Donna Bushell • Ferguson RV World • Forests Ontario • Forever Legacy Foundation • Graham Scott Enns • Green Lane Community Trust Fund • Hollandia Gardens • Huron Tractor St. Thomas • Kettle Creek Environmental Trust • Kettle Valley Pioneers • Krown Rust Control • Laemers Excavating • Lake Huron and Elgin Area Water Systems • Lions Club of Port Stanley • LS Putnam & Son • MacMillian Construction Belmont • Municipality of Central Elgin • Municipality of Middlesex Centre • Municipality of Thames Centre • Northern Casket • North Star Ice Ltd. • Ontario Power Generation • RBC Foundation • Riggs Engineering • Ron's Auto • Streib Trucking and Excavating Ltd. • TD Friends of the Environment Foundation • Thames Valley District School Board • Township of Malahide • Township of Southwold • Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada • Trojan UV

*Please notify our office of any errors or omissions.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TREE PLANTING

32,900 trees and shrubs planted in the watershed with an additional 2,090 seedlings sold through the Greening Communities Program. Of note, 5,400 seedlings were planted at the Port Stanley Sewage Lagoons as part of a multi-partner project to naturalize the land surrounding two of the decommissioned lagoon cells that were restored to wetland.



FLOOD FORECASTING



20 flood messages shared with the watershed community.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Received \$8,840 in funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to classify 15 Municipal Drains. 20 Species of fish were identified including two sensitive species: Rainbow Trout and Golden Redhorse.



STEWARDSHIP

5 wetland creation projects completed with funding from the EcoAction Community Funding Program. In addition, 3.5 acres of tallgrass prairie was planted at the Elgin County Administration Building.



PLANNING & REGULATIONS

KCCA issued 35 permits and 28 site clearances, totalling 63 permissions issued under Ontario Regulation 181/06. KCCA issued all permits within 21-days of receipt of a complete application – meeting the provincial service standard by 100%.

ENHANCED RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

KCCA received a \$155,000 donation from the Estate of Donna Bushell to create Elgin County's first water trail, enhance the Dalewood Reservoir Trail and plant trees throughout the watershed.



RESPONSIBLE RECREATION ON KCCA PROPERTIES

Responded to COVID-19 pressures for increased access to hiking trails, day-use and campgrounds while initiating increased cleaning and safety protocols for staff and users.



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LAUNCH OF GOOGLE AD GRANTS

Received \$12,000 USD of in-kind online search advertising through the Google Ad Grant program. This resulted in 73,000 ad views and 7,500 visits to the website at no additional cost to the Authority.

EDUCATION

Launched a Virtual Carolinian Forest Festival in partnership with the Thames Valley District School Board for 146 grades 6 and 7 teachers. Nine educational videos were filmed, edited and uploaded to YouTube resulting in 1011 page views. Follow-up activities for the classroom and a Virtual Field Trip in partnership with Birds Canada were also part of the Virtual Festival.

GIS / IT TECHNOLOGY



Staff acquired their basic pilot certificate to fly KCCA's UAV over most of the watershed.

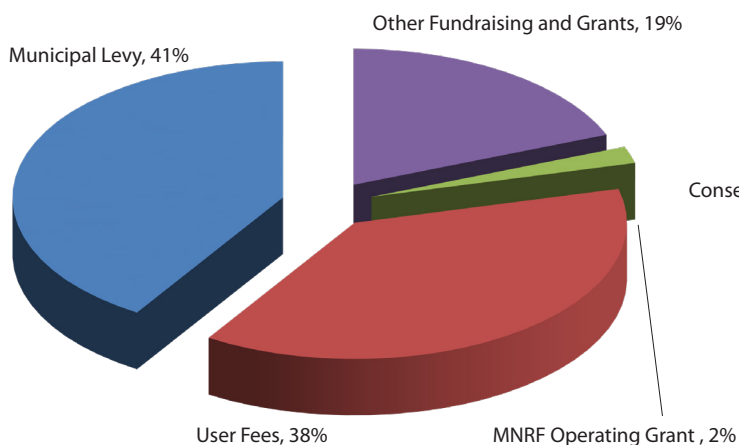
VIRTUAL PIVOT

Introduced new protocols and accounting practices to support a paperless work environment while also decreasing operational costs.



2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2020 REVENUES



2020 EXPENDITURES

