



MISSION STATEMENT

*"To communicate and deliver resource management services and programs
in order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the watershed"*



WATERSHED

• NEWS AND INFORMATION •

2004 Annual Report



Springwater Forest & Pond

CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

8079 Springwater Road, RR#5 Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R4

Tel: (519) 773-9037 Fax: (519) 765-1489 Email: ccca@execulink.com Website: www.execulink.com/~ccca

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

My third term as Chair of the Board for the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority has been both enjoyable and enriching, particularly the opportunity to work closely with the members and staff to further our work in the watershed. In reviewing 2004, I was surprised at both the breadth of the issues and the sheer number of various projects.

The CCCA continues to partner with three neighboring Conservation Authorities in laying the groundwork for a new Source Water Protection Plan for each watershed. The year also saw the successful conclusion of the Irrigation Options Project for both Catfish and Big Otter Creeks in partnership with the Long Point Region Conservation Authority.

Over the past year, 31,000 new tree seedlings were planted in the watershed as part of a long-term agreement with Ontario Power Generation to improve air quality in the region. Four separate projects with the Ministry of Natural Resources under the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program enhanced our environment and wildlife habitat. We also submitted a status report on the rare and endangered Small Whorled Pogonia, found only in our watershed, and nowhere else in Canada. In addition, we planted new saplings of the threatened American Chestnut tree in hopes of reintroducing this distinctive Carolinian species to the area.

The Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area remains a primary focus for us, with the work to complete the new Herb Kebbel Wetland already underway in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada with expected completion this year.

The Authority has continued its work in environmental education with recent improvements to the interpretive trail at the Jaffa Environmental Education Centre. The Springwater Forest is now more accessible for a richer outdoor experience for the students.

In partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the MNR, we developed a Teacher's Kit for students in 20 watershed schools, including a video entitled: "The Critters of the Catfish". Our sugar shanty saw a major facelift in 2004 through the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation in partnership with the Rotary Club of Aylmer. It may draw even more people to the annual Maple Syrup Experience than the 3,500 who attended last year.

The Springwater Conservation Area continues to be a major gathering place for Ontarians with special events including the annual Fred Eaglesmith Concert with 1,200 people and the annual Spirit Walk, which drew more than 700 for the experience.

An important effort currently underway is CCCA's application to the COMRIF program to seek federal and provincial funding to facilitate upgrades to our drinking water and wastewater management systems in the Springwater Conservation Area.

As you can see, for a small Authority, we think big, aim high

and in all cases, strive to achieve positive results. For all the ratepayers within the watershed and for all our visitors, we are committed to making your contact with the Authority one where you will receive helpful, friendly and professional service. This year, you owe yourself an experience with Springwater and all the facilities provided by the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.

Danial R. Dale
CCCA Chairperson

2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Board Member	Municipality
Danial Dale (Chairperson)	Municipality of Central Elgin
George Cleminshaw (Vice-Chairperson)	Township of Malahide
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
Marie Turvey	City of St. Thomas
Gerry Richer	Town of Aylmer
Staff Member	Position
Mr. Kim Smale	General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Susan Mann	Financial Services Coordinator
Ed Pietrzak	Conservation Areas Supervisor
Tony Difazio	Resource Planning Coordinator
Ryan Smith (to April)	Water Management Technician
Alison Munro (from June)	Water Management Technician
Barry Martin	Operations Assistant
Loretta Luksys-Vinnai	Program Support Assistant
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising/Communications
Peter Dragunas	Hydrological Technician



Front Row (seated-left to right): George Cleminshaw, Marie Turvey, Danial Dale, Gerry Richer, Anne Vanhoucke

Back Row (standing-left to right): Barry Martin, Peter Dragunas, Ed Pietrzak, Susan Mann, Tony Difazio, Loretta Luksys-Vinnai, Ric Wellwood, Alison Munro, Kim Smale

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WATER MANAGEMENT

- completed the Springwater Reservoir Water Quality Assessment and Rehabilitation Study
- undertook an Inspection and Operational Review of the Springwater Dam
- continual monitoring of stream flow and watershed conditions for flood forecasting and warning purposes
- maintenance and operation of four water level gauges and one weather station
- provided technical support to the Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team
- participated in the Provincial Surface Water Quality Monitoring Network
- initiated benthic invertebrate sampling at four locations in the watershed to help assess water quality conditions
- excavated approximately 2,000 cubic yards of material from Catfish Creek in Port Bruce for flood control purposes based on channel sounding and bathymetric mapping data
- monitored creek and lake ice conditions to determine the potential for flooding caused by ice jams
- coordinated ice breaking operations in Port Bruce
- partnered with the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS), to undertake a Groundwater Study for the Kettle Creek and Catfish Creek watersheds
- inventoried over 800 water wells to obtain reliable locations for the OGS Mapping Project
- completed the Big Otter/Catfish Irrigation Options Project
- collected groundwater quantity and quality data through the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network

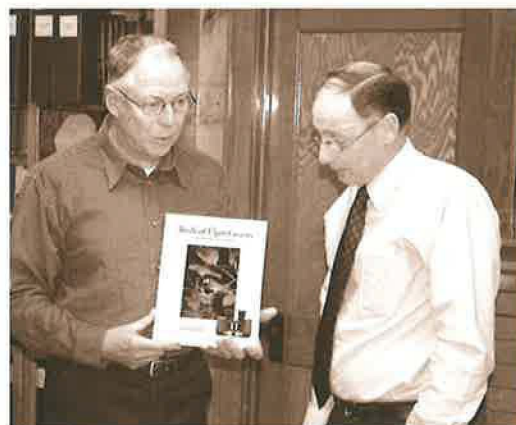
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- provided technical support and policy development to local municipalities and proponents by reviewing and commenting on over 85 Planning Act applications and development proposals
- received and provided comments on 10 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance Requests
- reviewed over 20 proposals including issuance of 13 permits relative to fill placement, construction or alteration to watercourses in accordance with Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act
- provided responses to over 70 property inquiries (legal, real estate, and general information requests)
- protected fish habitat and mitigated impacts to aquatic ecosystems in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) under a Level II Agreement
- completed the review and mapping for the Municipal Drain Classification Project
- started capacity building for Source Water Protection
- developed a Work Plan for the mapping of regulated areas under the new Generic Regulations
- joined as a member of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange

EXTENSION SERVICES

- (Reforestation/Woodlot Management/Soil Conservation)
- planted over 31,000 trees in the watershed
- ordered and delivered 200 large stock hardwoods to the Township of Malahide for the Municipal Roadside Tree Planting Program

- completed the third and final phase of the North Erie Forest Connections Project funded through Ontario Power Generation's Carbon Sequestration/Biodiversity Management Program
- provided certified staff to approve Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Plans for private landowners
- continued to manage a six hectare White Pine plantation for Imperial Tobacco Leaf Inc.
- assisted with several erosion control and fisheries rehabilitation projects on private lands
- rekindled the Municipal Woodlot Management Program
- partnered with the Elgin Stewardship Council to plant 500 trees at the Aylmer Wildlife Management Area



***Birds of Elgin County:
A Century of Change Book Presentation***

CCCA OWNED LANDS

- initiated plantation management activities at the Johnson Tract in conjunction with the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program students
- completed four fish and wildlife enhancement projects funded through the Ministry of Natural Resources Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP)
- planted a variety of native trees and shrubs at the various Conservation Areas
- provided recreational opportunities on CA owned lands for over 60,000 visitors
- improved the drinking water system at the Springwater Conservation Area to bring it into compliance with the new Provincial Drinking Water Regulations
- launched the Springwater Forest Environmental Education and Eco-tourism Project in partnership with the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Rotary Club of Aylmer
- upgraded the parking facilities and the electrical services in the Springwater Day Use Area to accommodate large events
- developed an Invasive Species Management Program for the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area with support from the Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund
- worked with Ducks Unlimited Canada to break ground on the construction of the Herb Kebbel Wetland Project at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY INFORMATION/ EDUCATION

- circulated over 4,500 copies of the Annual Report throughout the watershed
- provided environmental education programming and outdoor experiences to approximately 3,500 students
- completed the production of a video and Teacher's Kit to educate the public about the fisheries in the Catfish Creek watershed
- participated in the 5th Annual Waterfowl Weekend hosted by the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program
- provided Cooperative Education Work Placements for secondary school students in the Thames Valley District School Board
- awarded the 2nd Annual Conservation Scholarship
- provided financial assistance for the newly published book titled "Birds of Elgin County: A Century of Change"
- submitted a successful nomination of the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program for the Ontario Heritage Foundation Youth Heritage Leader's Award
- hosted several community oriented special events such as the 1st Annual Baden-Powell Scouting Association Jamboree and VON's Great Community Walk and Volunteer Appreciation Day
- acquired additional environmental education tools thanks to the generosity of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the Community Fund of Elgin-St. Thomas
- helped honour Dr. Duncan Sinclair with the Conservation Pioneer Award at the A.D. Latonell Conservation Symposium

CORPORATE SERVICES

- administered a 2004 approved budget of \$1,119,416.00
- provided employment opportunities for over 70 individuals during the course of the year
- participated as a member of Conservation Ontario
- continued to develop corporate and strategic planning, policy development, and implementation

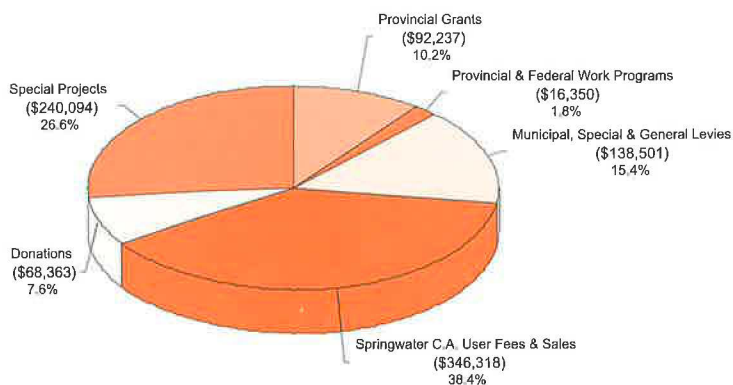
- provided support to the CCCA Board of Directors and liaison with member municipalities
- offered training and work experience placements for a variety of community agencies
- maintained partnerships with external organizations like Volunteer Elgin, Leave A Legacy, and the Elgin-Middlesex-Oxford Purchasing Cooperative
- joined the Aylmer and Area Chamber Of Commerce
- participated on the Lake Erie Watershed Region Source Protection Planning Management Committee along with the Kettle Creek, Long Point Region, and Grand River Conservation Authorities
- encouraged an active Workplace Health and Safety Program



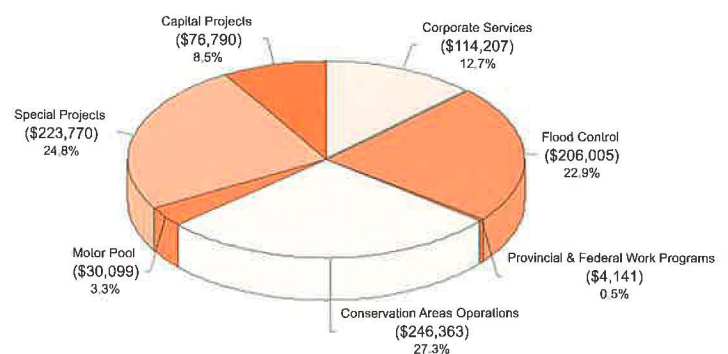
1st Annual Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby

2004 FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Revenue = \$901,863



Total Expenditures = \$901,375



Copies of the full 2004 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER



Ken & Martha Laing



*Electro-fishing
Environmental Leadership Program Students*

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Recipient – Garrett Ashton



Sugar Shanty - Springwater Conservation Area



Tree Planting - 1st Springfield Scouting Group



2005 EVENTS CALENDAR

March 12-27	Maple Syrup Festival
April 30-May 31	Tim Hortons Trout Derby
June 18	Van Fest
July 10	Springwater Auto Show
July 8-10	Ontario Family Fishing Weekend
July 30	Kids, Cops & Canadian Tire Fishing Derby
August 6-7	Family Fishing Derby
August 19-21	Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
September 3	Friends of Springwater Carnival & Fireworks
December 3	Christmas Spirit Walk

*For more information contact our office at (519) 773-9037 or
visit our website at www.execulink.com/~ccca*

Working Together Today For A Healthier Environment Tomorrow!

The CCCA is a non-profit organization that needs your financial support and volunteerism to ensure locally driven environmental initiatives continue in the future.

YES, I would like to demonstrate my leadership and vision for the environment by donating \$_____ in support of the following initiative(s):

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Protection of Conservation Lands | ☐ Youth Environmental Programs | ☐ Reforestation |
| ☐ Springwater Forest Preservation/Management | ☐ Commemorative Forest Program | ☐ Wetlands Restoration |

Commemorative gifts and land donations graciously received
(An official tax receipt will be issued for minimum donations of \$10.00)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Please mail to: Catfish Creek Conservation Authority, 8079 Springwater Road, RR#5, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R4

2004 PARTNERS / DONORS / VOLUNTEERS

Please notify our office of any errors or omissions

Anything Used Arthur Voaden Secondary School Aylmer & Area Chamber of Commerce Aylmer & District Museum Aylmer Area Community Foundation Aylmer BIA Baden-Powell Scout Association Button, Christopher & Nancy Calvar, Ives Canadian Tire Corporation Carolinian Canada Caverly, William Central Elgin Collegiate Institute Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Christmas Spirit Walk Volunteers City of St. Thomas Community Fund of Elgin-St. Thomas Conservation Ontario County of Elgin Dancy, Mary Ducks Unlimited Canada East Elgin Secondary School (EESS) EESS Environmental Leadership Program Eaglesmith Music Festival EJLB Foundation	Elgin Federation of Agriculture Elgin Hiking Trail Club Elgin Stewardship Council Family Campers & RV'ers Fisheries & Oceans Canada Fishing Forever Foundation Formet Industries Friends of Springwater Grand River C.A. Green Lane Community Trust Fund H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home Hamilton, Ward, & Cathers Insurance Hennessey, Bowsher, Gibson & Carrie Hill, Thomas & Cheryl Human Resources Development Canada Imperial Tobacco Leaf Inc. Jaffa Environmental Education Centre Jakob, Joseph Karda, Mike & Margo Kettle Creek C.A. Kielstra, Henry & Ena Kinsmen Club of Aylmer Koolen Electric K&K Locksmiths Long Point Region C.A. McMaster, Evelyn & James	Ministry of Agriculture & Food Ministry of the Environment Ministry of Natural Resources Municipality of Central Elgin Natural Resource Gas Ltd. Nesbitt, Sandra Northern Casket Ontario Geological Survey Ontario Police College Ontario Power Generation Ontario Trillium Foundation Ontario Works, St. Thomas-Elgin Ooms, Gerald Order of Good Cheer Oxford Federation of Agriculture Parker Fuels Police Association of Ontario Port Bruce Ratepayers Association Pressey, Phineas & Lela Real Fishing, Bob Izumi Rice, Jennie Richer, Gerry Riggs Engineering Ltd. Ronald, Janet Rotary Club of Aylmer Rush Creek Wines Scott, Don Scouts Canada - Elgin Area Second Home Hardware, Aylmer Semple, Brenda	Shell Canada Limited Shakir, Scott Sheppard, Robert Sinclair, Dr. Duncan Springwater Forest Supporters St. Thomas Field Naturalists St. Joseph's High School TD Friends of the Environment Tenhoor, Henry Thames Valley District School Board The Aylmer Express The Salvation Army, St. Thomas Tim Hortons, Aylmer Town of Aylmer Township of Malahide Township of South-West Oxford Thompson, Darren Vandenbrink Farm Equipment Inc. VanFest - Kevin Lundy Volunteer Elgin VON Middlesex-Elgin Wildlife Habitat Fund Williams, Terry Wilson Well Drilling Wilson, Susan YMCA St. Thomas
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