

CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

2008 Annual Report



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Website: www.catfishcreek.ca

Chairperson's Message

The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA), incorporated since 1950, has observed significant changes, not only on how we do business but also on how we deliver our environmental programs and services.

Conservation Authorities were originally mandated to address watershed management issues. This mandate has not changed. What has changed are the complexities on how we deliver the programs to meet the evergrowing expectations of our watershed clients.

Traditionally, the Authority Board and staff have always maintained, and will continue to maintain, its financial standing...this will not change! But now with worldwide economies facing difficult times, we once again see ourselves stepping up to the plate to be fiscally observant and to be prepared to adjust and adapt to changing priorities. How we will adapt or change only the future will tell, but adapt and change we will.

Throughout 2008 we achieved many inaugural accomplishments, beginning with our participation in the St Thomas-Elgin Children's Water Festival, the Marsh Quest Program, and the Carolinian Forest Festival. These three new initiatives provided hands-on sharing of information with some 2500 students, speaking to the need of wetlands, forests, and daily conservation practices. Educating today's youth will shape tomorrow's environmental leaders.

I am optimistic for the future, we have to be. It has been said by someone that in the last thirty years we have experienced three significant recessions, and each time we recovered to have years of prosperity. Nonetheless, the conservation and environmental initiatives and programs of the CCCA will continue to be a model of past years during these challenging times.

I wish to conclude my message with special recognition and thanks to the many volunteers, sponsors and partners who supported and assisted the CCCA in achieving its many goals. The great successes of 2008 would not have been obtainable had it not been for their dedication and commitment.

Gerry Richer,
CCCA Chairperson



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Maple Syrup Festival - Springwater Conservation Area

2008 Board of Directors & Staff

Board Member

Gerry Richer
(Chairperson)
George Cleminshaw
(Vice-Chairperson)
Bill Aarts
Anne Vanhoucke
Sally Martyn

Municipality

Town of Aylmer
Township of Malahide
City of St. Thomas
Township of South-West Oxford
Municipality of Central Elgin

Staff Member

Mr. Kim Smale

Susan Mann
Ed Pietrzak
Tony Difazio
Peter Dragunas
Barry Martin
Laura Ronayne
Loretta Luksys-Vinnai

Ric Wellwood

Position

General Manager /
Secretary-Treasurer
Financial Services Coordinator
Conservation Areas Supervisor
Resource Planning Coordinator
Water Management Technician
Operations Assistant
Program Support Assistant
Program Support Assistant
(Maternity Leave contract)
Fundraising/Communications



photo supplied by CCCA

Front Row (seated-left to right): Sally Martyn, Bill Aarts, George Cleminshaw, Anne Vanhoucke

Middle Row (standing-left to right): Susan Mann, Gerry Richer, Loretta Luksys-Vinnai

Back Row (standing-left to right): Barry Martin, Ed Pietrzak, Kim Smale, Peter Dragunas, Tony Difazio

Absent: Ric Wellwood, Laura Ronayne

Program Highlights



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Ice Management - Port Bruce



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Wildlife Habitat Restoration - Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area

Water Management

- conducted an in-depth review of historic Catfish Creek streamflow and watershed precipitation data to assist in determining new Flood Advisory threshold criteria
- improved the channel hydraulics of Catfish Creek in Port Bruce through the annual removal of sediment
- continual monitoring of streamflow and precipitation data as elements of our Flood Forecasting and Warning responsibilities and Low Water Response condition reporting
- provided consultation services concerning riverine / lake effect ice management strategies and options
- reviewed the Catfish Creek Water Budget and Water Quantity Stress Assessment Interim Report as a potential tool to be used for Flood Forecasting and Low Water Response
- provided technical advice to Permit To Take Water applicants
- participated in the Lake Erie Nearshore Water Quality Monitoring Project in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment
- received funding support through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI) to install a fall arrest and portable stop log jacking system for the Springwater Dam
- installed two new ISCO water samplers to increase the capacity of the CCCA to fully characterize the water quality impacts during spring runoff events within the watershed

Environmental Planning

- reviewed and commented on 34 Planning Act applications and development proposals
- issued 15 permits relative to the Conservation Authorities Act, Ont. Reg. 146/06, under O. Reg. 97/04
- received and provided comments on 23 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance requests
- provided responses to 86 property inquiries (legal, real estate, general information requests)
- completed a Plant Inventory and Vegetation / Habitat

- Mapping Project at Calton Swamp on several Authority owned properties as part of the Species at Risk Recovery effort for the Small Whorled Pogonia
- worked in partnership with Conservation Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources to complete an inventory of all the known dams within the watershed
- participated in the preliminary talks with the County of Elgin concerning the shoreline erosion problem along Dexter Line

Watershed Stewardship

- provided technical expertise and financial incentives to watershed landowners for erosion control and fisheries rehabilitation projects on private lands
- implemented the first year of the Watershed Forest Cover Enhancement Project funded through the Ontario Power Generations' Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Management Program
- planted over 26,000 native trees and wildlife shrubs throughout the watershed
- continued with the management of two woodlots owned by the Town of Aylmer and the Township of Malahide
- provided certified staff to approve Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Plans for private landowners
- initiated forest management activities on private lands with the assistance of the students from the Environmental Leadership Program at East Elgin Secondary School
- participated as technical advisors on the Elgin Stewardship Council
- acted as the designated local resource agency to provide technical advice to farmers interested in undertaking environmental projects through the Greencover Canada Program
- assisted the Township of Malahide with the delivery of their Municipal Roadside Tree Planting Program
- arranged several site visits to encourage and educate landowners about using Best Management Practices when irrigating during the summer months

Program Highlights

CCCA Owned Lands

- worked with a number of community based environmental organizations to complete six fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects
- established an American Chestnut seed research plot at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area in partnership with the University of Guelph and the Canadian Chestnut Council



photo by Ena Kielstra

*Pileated Woodpecker -
Springwater Forest*

- implemented major electrical and septic capital development improvements at the Springwater C.A.
- upgraded the trail bridges in the Springwater Forest thanks to the support of the Aylmer Area Community Foundation
- partnered with the Friends of Springwater to secure a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to construct a barrier free washroom facility at the Springwater Conservation Area
- continued with the Garlic Mustard Eradication Program for the Springwater Forest
- erected new interpretive signage along the trails in the Springwater Forest with support from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- hosted several new fundraising events at Springwater
- installed new playground equipment donated by the Friends of Springwater
- published a Trail Guide of the properties owned by the Conservation Authority



photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

Streambank Stabilization Projects – Community Partner Involvement (East Elgin Sportsmen's Association)

Community Outreach / Education

- organized a Source Water Protection Public Open House for the Lake Erie Source Protection Region to outline the work plan for the research and studies that are required under the Clean Water Act to develop a Source Protection Plan for the Catfish Creek watershed
- hosted Robyn Atatahak of Kugluktuk from the Northern Youth Abroad Exchange Program
- provided environmental education opportunities to 5,500 students
- worked in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association to operate the Springwater Concession Booth during the summer months
- provided two participants from the Ontario March of Dimes with quality training and work placements
- continued to foster our partnership with the Ontario Police College to develop the Path of Honour Project
- assisted with the planning and implementation of the St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Water Festival, the Marsh Quest Program, and the Carolinian Forest Festival
- toured a Rotary International cultural and business exchange team from India through the Springwater Forest and Conservation Area
- provided fifteen students from the local community with summer employment opportunities
- received the support and generosity of 100+ partners, donors, and volunteers over the past year
- provided Cooperative Education Work Placements for secondary school students in the Thames Valley District School Board
- maintained a Website about the many programs and services available at the CCCA

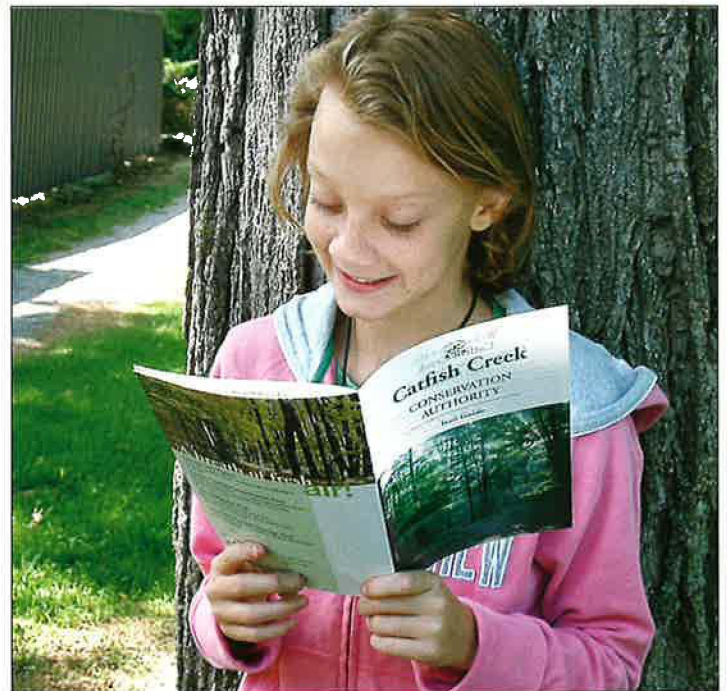


photo supplied by The Aylmer Express

CCCA Trail Guide Publication – Ministry of Health Promotion

2008 Financial Report



Conservation Award
Winner Murray Alward



Student Scholarship Award
Recipient - Sara Howe



Marsh Quest Program



Robyn Atatahak - Northern
Youth Abroad Program

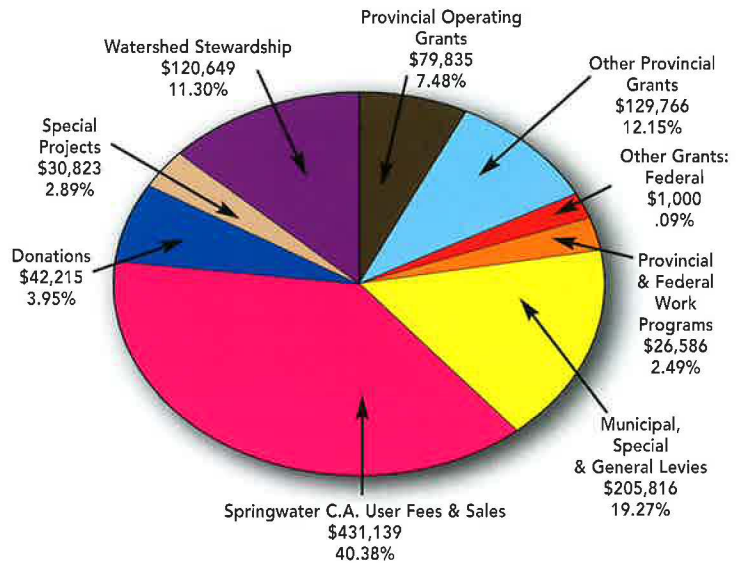


Carolinian Forest Festival

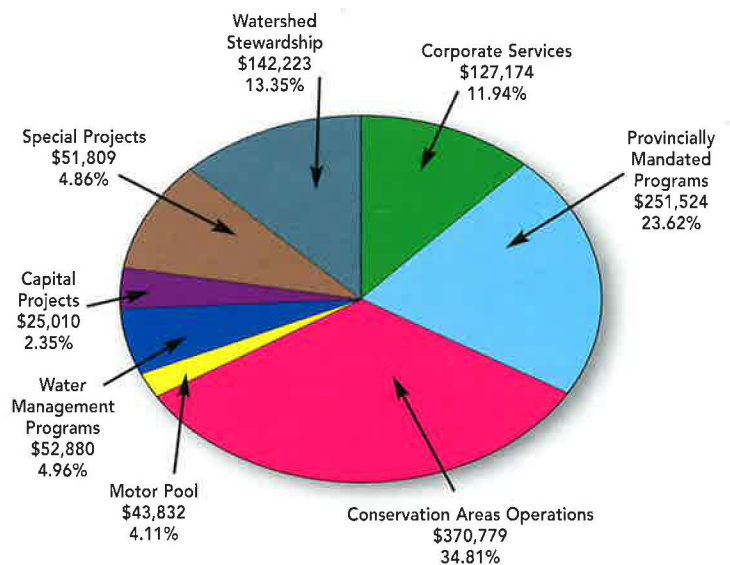


Youth Fishing Derbies -
Springwater Conservation Area

Revenue



Expenditures



Copies of the full 2008 audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

2009 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

March 7-29	Maple Syrup Festival *Weekends & March Break	July 25	Kids, Cops & Canadian Tire Fishing Days
April 25-May 3	Tim Hortons Trout Derby	August 8-9	Family Fishing Derby
June 13	Van Fest	August 14-16	Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
July 3-5	Family Fishing Weekend	September 5	Friends of Springwater Carnival and Fireworks
July 4	Balls Bike Rally	December 5	Christmas Spirit Walk

SPRINGWATER



For more information contact
our office at 519-773-9037
or visit our website at
www.catfishcreek.ca

MISSION STATEMENT

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

The CCCA is a non-profit organization that needs your financial support and volunteerism to ensure locally driven environmental initiatives continue in the future. All donations are used for programs and projects within the Catfish Creek watershed.

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

- ☐ Protection & Preservation of Conservation Lands
 ☐ Youth Environmental Programs
 ☐ Wildlife Habitat
☐ 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: _____

**Payment in Cash, Visa, Mastercard, or Debit will gladly be accepted at the CCCA Office or please mail a cheque to:
 Catfish Creek Conservation Authority, 8079 Springwater Rd, RR#5, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4**

2008 Partners/Donors/Volunteers

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)



Alisar Aggregates
 Alward, Murray
 Angling Outfitters
 Aylmer Area Community
 Foundation
 Aylmer & Area Chamber of
 Commerce
 Calvar, Yves
 Calvin's Forestry Services
 Canadian Chestnut Council
 Canadian Mental Health
 Association
 Canadian Tire Corporation
 Carolinian Canada
 Carolinian Forest Festival
 Sponsors
 Christmas Spirit Walk
 Volunteers
 City of St. Thomas
 Conservation Ontario
 County of Elgin
 County of Oxford
 Debrabandere, Glen & Annette
 Ducks Unlimited Canada
 Durkee, Donald & Judith
 East Elgin Secondary School
 East Elgin Sportsmen's Assoc.
 Elgin Federation of
 Agriculture
 Elgin Hiking Trail Club
 Elgin Stewardship Council

Environment Canada
 Environmental Leadership
 Program
 Fairservice, George
 Fick, Don
 Fisheries & Oceans Canada
 Foster, Raymond & Robin
 Friends of Springwater
 Grand River C. A.
 Great Lakes New Holland Inc.
 Hamilton Ward & Cathers
 Insurance
 Hill, Thomas & Cheryl
 Jaffa Environmental Education
 Center
 Jakob, Joseph
 K&K Locksmiths
 Karda, Mike & Margo
 Kettle Creek C.A.
 Kielstra, Henry & Ena
 Koolen Electric
 Long Point Region C.A.
 Maltby, Kirk
 Martyn, Sally
 McConnell, William &
 Elizabeth
 Ministry of the Environment
 Ministry of Health Promotion
 Ministry of Natural Resources
 Ministry of Training, Colleges,
 & Universities

Municipality of Central Elgin
 National Wild Turkey
 Federation - Elgin Chapter
 Natural Resource Gas Ltd.
 Nature Conservancy Canada
 Northern Youth Abroad
 Program
 Ontario March of Dimes
 Ontario Police College
 Path of Honour Supporters
 Ontario Power Generation
 Ontario Soil and Crop
 Improvement Association
 Ontario Works, St. Thomas-
 Elgin
 Order of Good Cheer
 Parker Fuels
 Parkside Collegiate Institute
 Port Bruce Ratepayers
 Association
 Presstran Industries
 Quai du Vin Estate Winery
 R&J Log Buyers
 Richer, Gerry
 Riggs Engineering Ltd.
 Ronald, Janet
 Rotary Club of Aylmer
 Scouts Canada - Elgin Area
 Second Home Hardware,
 Aylmer
 Smale, Kim & DJ

Springwater Forest Supporters
 Springwater Maple Syrup
 Volunteers
 St. Joseph's High School
 St. Thomas Field Naturalists
 St. Thomas Wood Carvers
 Steelway Building Systems
 Sweetwater Music
 TD Friends of the
 Environment Foundation
 Tech-Net Professional Auto
 Service
 Tenhoor, Henry
 Thames Valley District School
 Board
 The Salvation Army, St.
 Thomas
 The Aylmer Express
 Tim Hortons, Aylmer
 Town of Aylmer
 Township of South-West
 Oxford
 Township of Malahide
 Traditional Explorers
 Tri-County Bass Masters
 University of Guelph
 Van Fest - Kevin Lundy
 Vandenbrink Farm Equipment
 Volunteer Elgin
 Wilson Well Drilling
 Wiltsie Truck Bodies

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