



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

As the Chairperson for the last three years, I continue to be pleased to share in the work of this strong, environmentally responsible and adapting Conservation Authority. Every member of our Board, all our staff and our many committed volunteers work well together to keep Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) up-to-date and effective.

The CCCA has an excellent record of preserving our natural heritage and offering interpretation of it for all as well as doing all our provincially mandated work. We have undertaken a Sedimentation Study under our Ice Management Programme to help reduce flooding in Port Bruce, repaired the dam at Springwater and done restorative work on the banks of Catfish Creek in the Town of Aylmer.

Continuing our commitment to Marsh Quest, the Carolinian Forest Festival, and the Maple Syrup Programme in partnership with the Thames Valley District School Board, demonstrates our strong mandate to educate. Our excellent long-term working relationship with the Environmental Leadership Programme is vital to our education programmes and we very much value the leadership of Duncan Sinclair. Our staff, co-op students and volunteers work hard to provide excellent environmental education programmes. As well our lands continue to offer excellent study opportunities for both the University of Western Ontario and the University of Guelph.

Once again, we participated in Doors Open Port Stanley/Sparta by having the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area open for guided tours October 1st. Our new geothermal heating and cooling ground source unit has proved very beneficial both environmentally and fiscally saving us over \$2,000 in its first year. We are a very fiscally responsible Authority receiving only 21% of our funds from municipal levies and 22% from provincial funding with the remaining 57% being self-generated. We will continue to face many challenges with the cutbacks being mandated provincially.

This year, Ric Wellwood officially announced his retirement and as an Authority we have very much appreciated his hard work for us during his tenure. He acquired in grants over one and a half million dollars for the work we do including a Celebrate Ontario Grant last year to improve and expand our Maple Syrup Festival.

It is with difficulty, I have to acknowledge the retirement from our Board of George Cleminshaw. George has been a valuable asset to our Board, serving for 17 years as Malahide's representative and my Vice-Chair for the last three years. He has been a knowledgeable, sensible and reliable member to work with and will be sorely missed. We wish both George and Ric all the best.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the excellent working relationship that has developed between the Grand River CA, the Long Point Region CA, the Kettle Creek CA and ourselves through the Source Water Protection Committee. We learn a lot from each other and work well together. Also a special thanks to the staff as well as all the volunteers, sponsors and organizations that supported and assisted CCCA in achieving its many goals. The success of the work that is done would not be possible without your dedication and commitment.

Sally Martyn, CCCA Chairperson

CORPORATE SERVICES

The activities of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of five members appointed by the five member municipalities of the Catfish Creek watershed.

BOARD MEMBER MUNICIPALITY

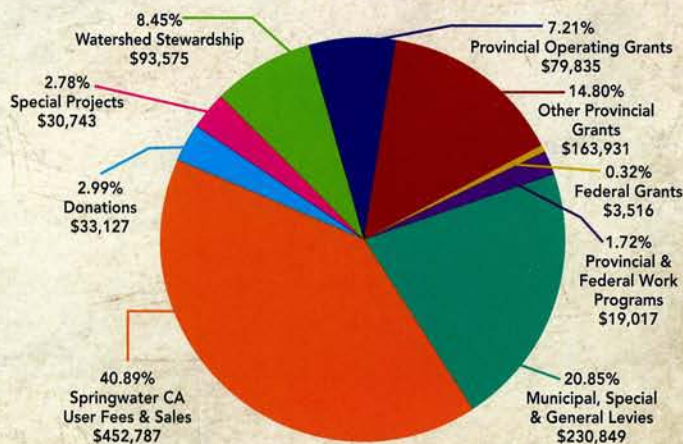
Sally Martyn, Chairperson	Municipality of Central Elgin
George Cleminshaw, Vice-Chairperson	Township of Malahide
Lori Baldwin-Sands	City of St. Thomas
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
Judi Wright	Town of Aylmer
Gerry Richer	Town of Aylmer (alternate)

STAFF MEMBER POSITION

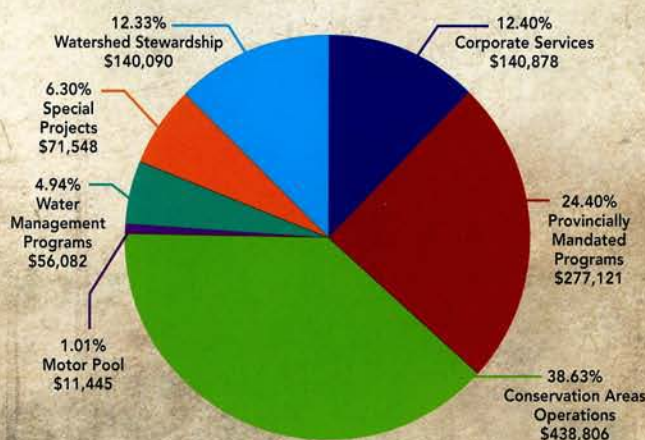
Mr. Kim Smale	General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer
Susan Mann	Financial Services Coordinator
Ed Pietrzak	Conservation Areas Supervisor
Tony Difazio	Resource Planning Coordinator
Peter Dragunas	Water Management Technician
Barry Martin	Operations Assistant
Laura Ronayne	Program Support Assistant
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising/Communications

2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

2011 REVENUE



2011 EXPENDITURES



**PLEASE NOTE: Copies of the full
2011 Audited Financial Statements
may be obtained by contacting
the Authority Administration Centre.**

YEAR IN REVIEW...

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- Reviewed and commented on 52 Planning Act applications and development proposals
- Issued 18 permits relative to the Conservation Authorities Act, Ontario Reg. 146/06, under O. Reg. 97/04
- Received and provided comments on 7 Municipal Drain Reports and Drain Maintenance requests
- Provided responses to 59 property inquiries (legal, real estate, general information requests)
- Commented on the Official Plans being revised for the Township of Malahide and newly developed for the County of Elgin
- Assessed the impacts of the new provincial Endangered Species Act to conserve, enhance and recover endangered and threatened species in the watershed.



DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

In 2006, the Ontario government passed the Clean Water Act to protect the wells, rivers and lakes that are sources of municipal drinking water. Under the Act, the Grand River, Long Point Region, Kettle Creek and Catfish Creek Conservation Authorities have continued their partnership under the umbrella of the Lake Erie Source Protection Region to complete Assessment Reports which will form the basis of preparing Source Protection Plans for each of the respective watersheds.

The Assessment Report for the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area is now complete and was one of the first in the Province of Ontario to receive final approval under Section 17 (2) of the Clean Water Act, 2006.

The next step is to decide what to do about the significant threats identified in the Assessment Reports.

The Drinking Water Source Protection Plans will contain the policies and programs needed to address these issues and are scheduled to be completed by August, 2012.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

- Worked in partnership with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to enhance the interior forest habitat and extend the natural heritage corridors throughout the Catfish Creek watershed by planting 30,000 native trees and wildlife shrubs

- Implemented woodlot management activities on private and public lands with the assistance of the students from the Environmental Leadership Program
- Provided approvals of Managed Forest Plans for private landowners applying to the provincial Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- Worked with a number of community environmental partners to complete several fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects through the Community Fisheries / Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP)
- Received funding support from the Environment Canada "EcoAction Community Funding Program" to assist The Rotary Club of Aylmer with the second phase of the restoration of Catfish Creek in the Town of Aylmer
- Acted as the designated local resource agency to provide technical advice to farmers interested in undertaking environmental projects through the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP)
- Provided technical expertise and financial incentives to watershed landowners for erosion control, wetland construction, and fisheries rehabilitation projects on private lands
- Re-established the Catfish Creek Irrigation Advisory Committee to monitor water taking by landowners needing irrigation for their agricultural crops



WATER MANAGEMENT

Average surface temperatures are increasing which in turn increases change to precipitation patterns and extent. Changes in climate conditions are expected to include general warming, decreased snow cover, increase in the amount of temperature extremes, and the intensity of localized precipitation. These climate changes are expected to adversely affect local communities through increased flooding and

YEAR IN REVIEW...



Ice Breaking – Port Bruce Harbour

Photo CCCA

longer durations of low water conditions. The CCCA attempts to mitigate the impacts of climate change through water management activities such as flood forecasting and low water response.

The CCCA informs partner municipalities and residents of associated water level risks. CCCA monitors and maintains a series of hydrometric stations within the Catfish Creek and neighbouring watersheds to determine the effects of precipitation, snow melt, and ice migration on water levels. Using data collected through the hydrometric network, the CCCA is able to monitor water levels and forecast channel flows which are used to notify watershed municipalities and residents of potential floods and low water conditions.

The CCCA is responsible for providing Advisories and Warnings of potential flooding events which pose a threat to watershed residents. Based on watershed conditions, the most appropriate flood message is sent to the municipalities who have the responsibility to respond and ensure the safety of their residents.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has developed a Low Water Response Plan to assist with low water conditions and support local low water response. The CCCA coordinates a Low Water Response Team which is comprised of representatives from local water user groups, member municipalities, farmers / landowners, recreation users, industry and government agencies. Within the realm of the Low Water Response Plan, the local Water Response Team makes decisions on the appropriate measures and conservation actions to be implemented.

CONSERVATION LANDS

- Partnered with staff from the Jaffa Environmental Education Centre and the East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program to deliver the Carolinian Forest Festival and Marsh Quest to over 2,000 students
- Hosted the South West Region Envirothon Competition at the Springwater Conservation Area
- Received funding support from Shell Canada, Celebrate Ontario and the Food Safety and Traceability Initiative to enhance the Springwater Maple Syrup Festival and the trails in the Springwater Forest
- Provided technical training and hands-on work experience for students enrolled in the Environmental Leadership Program and the Cooperative Education Work Placement Program in the Thames Valley District School Board



Marsh Quest – at Herb Kebbel Wetland
Photo The Aylmer Express

- Planted two hectares of tallgrass prairie at the Archie Coulter Conservation Area
- Hosted a Doors Open event for the public to tour the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area
- Managed and operated over 535 hectares of land for the purposes of active and passive recreation, species at risk protection, water recharge, environmental education, wildlife habitat and forest products.



Springwater Maple Syrup Festival
Photo The Aylmer Express



2012 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 3 - April 1..... Maple Syrup Festival
* weekends & March Break
- April 28..... Opening Day of Trout Fishing
- May 12 Tim Hortons Kids Trout Derby
- June 8 - 10 Van Fest
- July 6 - 8..... Balls Bike Rally
- July 28 Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby
- August 5..... Culinary Camping Music Event
- August 11 Home Building Centre Horseshoe Tournament
- August 17 - 19 Fred Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
- September 1 Friends of Springwater Carnival and Fireworks
- December 1..... Christmas Spirit Walk

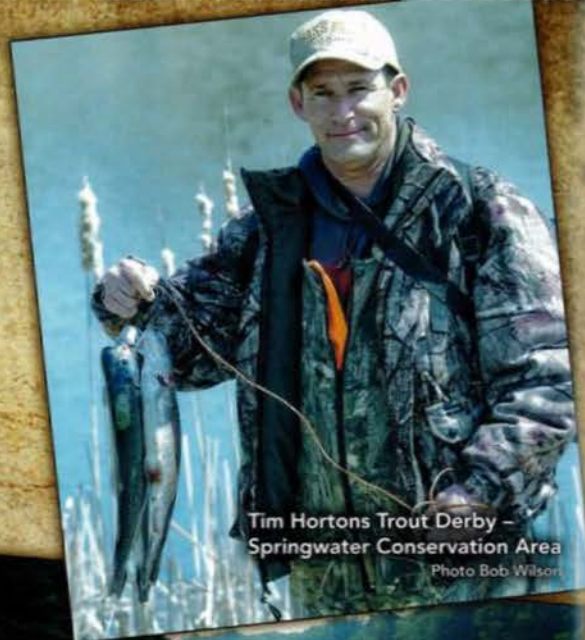
For more information contact our office at (519) 773-9037
or visit our website at www.catfishcreek.ca

CONSERVATION SNAPSHOTS...



Watershed Reforestation Program

Photo: CCA



Tim Hortons Trout Derby –
Springwater Conservation Area

Photo Bob Wilson



Student Scholarship – Scott Bossuyt

Photo The Aylmer Express



Family Fun – Springwater Conservation Area

Photo The Aylmer Express



Stained Glass Logo Presentation

Photo CCA



Conservation Award Recipient – The Aylmer Rotary Club

Photo The Aylmer Express



Tallgrass Prairie Reforestation Program

Photo The Aylmer Express



Eaglesmith Charity Picnic – Springwater Conservation Area

Photo The Aylmer Express

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 devotion and vision for a healthy environment by donating \$ _____ in support of the following initiative(s):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Protection & Preservation of Conservation Lands | ☐ Youth Environmental Education | ☐ Wildlife Habitat |
| ☐ Springwater Forest Preservation/Management | ☐ Commemorative Forest Program | ☐ Wetlands Restoration |

Official tax receipt will be issued for minimum donations of \$20.00. Commemorative gifts and land donations graciously received.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

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., R.R.#5, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4



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