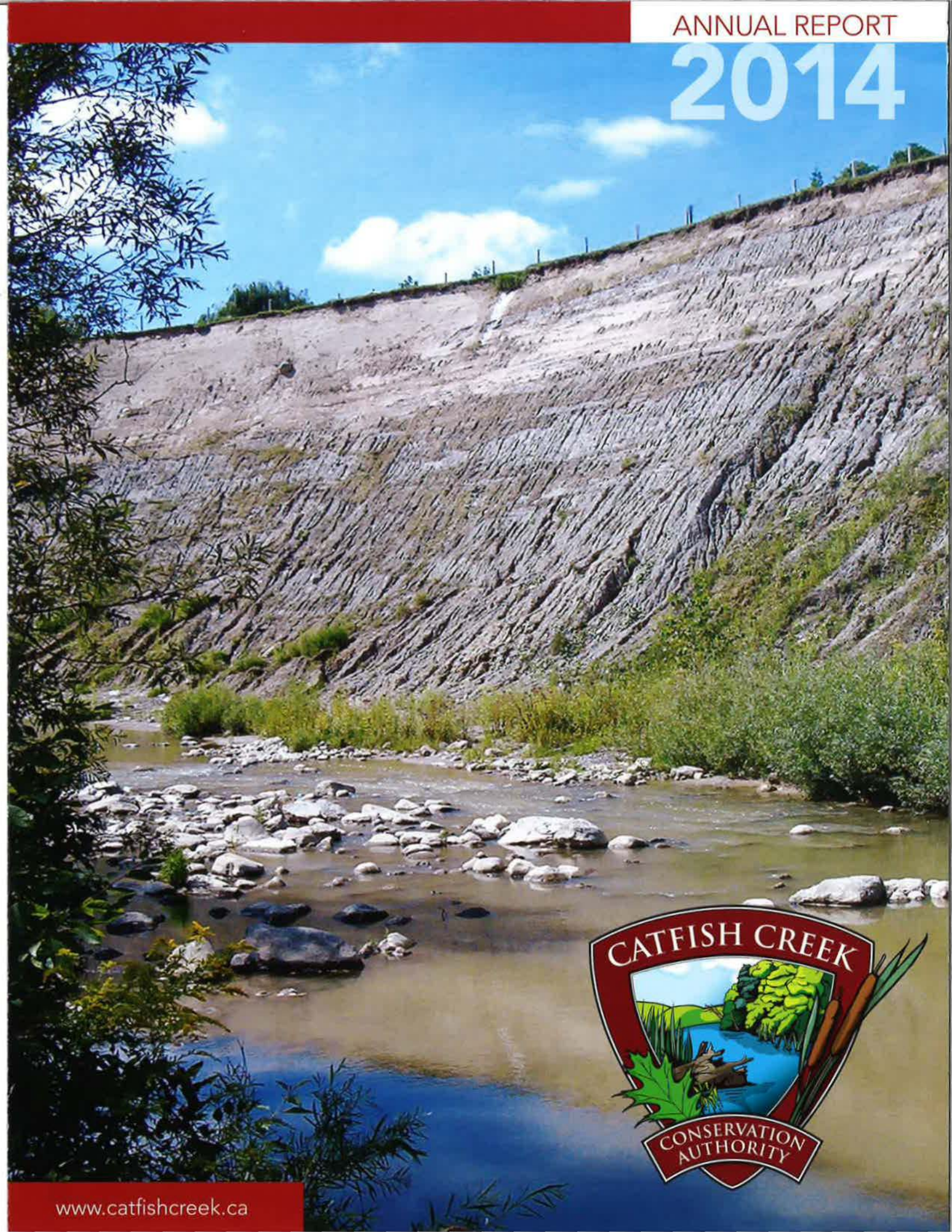




CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

It has been my privilege to serve on this Board for eight years and the last six as the Chairperson. Every member of the Board, all our staff, and the many committed volunteers work well together to keep the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) up-to-date and effective. I am proud of the environmental changes we have made during this time and the programmes we offer. Our Board Office is basic, but very functional and the chestnut table helps remind us of the challenges we have faced and will face with climate change and globalization. Serving on Conservation Ontario, a co-operative group of all 36 Conservation Authorities helps us to be effective, current, and scientifically informed.

The CCCA has an excellent record of preserving our natural heritage and offering interpretation of it for all as well as delivering our provincially mandated work. Because of this, we have been very fortunate to receive grant funding and donations of over \$300,000 for several special projects. We were also able to award landowner grants of over \$35,000 through the Elgin Clean Water Programme and Ducks Unlimited which help with the water quality in our watershed.

The Catfish Creek Source Water Protection Plan has been approved and was implemented as of January 1 of this year. This work has been in progress for the past seven years, but we are confident that we have a good plan.

Our continued commitment to education through Marsh Quest, the Carolinian Forest Festival, and the Maple Syrup Programme in partnership with the Thames Valley District School Board, is important for the future. Our excellent long-term working relationship with the

East Elgin Secondary School 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. We participated in Doors Open Port Stanley/Sparta again by having the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area open for visitors. Our four Conservation Areas open for hiking with interpretive signage help promote an understanding of our ecosystems and healthy living through exercise. The University of Guelph used our lands to conduct active surveillance for deer ticks in this area and Laurentian University did a study on bacterial transmission on wildlife.

In closing, I want to thank the Grand River, the Long Point Region, Lower Thames Valley, and the Kettle Creek Conservation Authorities for all the work we do together. The new Shoreline Management Plan has been a co-operative effort with our neighbouring CAs and the County of Elgin. It will be finished in this coming year. All of our Board of Directors are a pleasure to work with and I want to thank them for their commitment to conservation and the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority. I especially want to thank Jim Jenkins and Lori Baldwin-Sands for their years of service. We will miss their input and ideas. Also a special thanks to all of the staff who work tirelessly to make all our programmes work. Without them, we would not be the strong Authority that we are. As a Board, we are also very thankful for the volunteers, sponsors, donors and organizations that supported and assisted the CCCA in achieving its many goals. The success of the work that is done would not be possible without their 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.

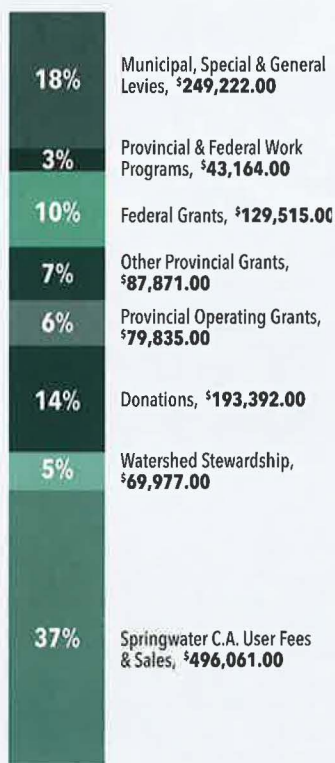
BOARD MEMBER	MUNICIPALITY
Sally Martyn.....	Municipality of Central Elgin (Chairperson)
Lori Baldwin-Sands*.....	City of St. Thomas (Vice-Chairperson)
Jim Jenkins.....	Township of Malahide
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
Arthur Oslach.....	Town of Aylmer
Pete Barbour.....	Town of Aylmer (alternate)

*Councillor Mark Tinlin was appointed to the Board of Directors in November replacing Lori Baldwin-Sands.

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
Laura Ronayne.....	Program Support Assistant
Dusty Underhill	Field Technician
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising/Communications

2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



Copies of the full 2014 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

YEAR IN REVIEW...

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

The Conservation Authorities Act was created in 1946 in response to erosion and drought concerns, recognizing that these and other natural resource initiatives are best managed on a watershed basis. In 1956, in response to severe economic and human losses associated with Hurricane Hazel (1954), the Conservation Authorities Act first empowered CAs to make Regulations to prohibit filling in flood plains. Since then, the Regulations have undergone a series of amendments to provide CAs with the legislative framework to protect and prohibit development in proximity to a wide range of Natural Hazards. Aside from flood prone areas, CAs now protect and regulate activities near watercourses, wetlands, eroding / unstable slopes, and shorelines around the Great Lakes.

Staff from the CCCA reviewed and provided comments on the following development applications, inquiries and land use planning applications in 2014:

- Reviewed and commented on 61 Planning Act applications and Environmental Assessments;
- Received and issued 10 permits relative to the Conservation Authorities Act, Ontario Regulation 146/06 under O. Reg. 97/04; and,
- Provided responses to 60 property inquiries (legal, real estate, general information requests).

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

The CCCA completed another year of working with adjacent CAs in Elgin County with the delivery of the Elgin Clean Water Program. This program is structured to encourage landowners to implement a suite of best management practises on their land to improve water quality in the Great Lakes. In conjunction with other project partners, including Ducks Unlimited Canada and the National Wild Turkey Federation, some \$35,000 in funding was provided to seven (7) landowners throughout the watershed. Along with contributing matching funds, local landowners provided hours of in-kind labour, and equipment to enhance several new wetlands, improve degraded watercourses and establish four (4) new, tall grass prairie upland habitat sites.

In order to increase forest cover and biodiversity within the watershed, the CCCA provided 18,000 native Carolinian trees, to 22 landowners throughout the watershed. The CCCA Tree Planting Program provides landowners with technical support along with full tree planting services and tending options to suit their site conditions and interests.

The completion of phase one, of an ambitious two year stream and riparian habitat enhancement project was realized at the Archie Coulter Conservation Area. This important restoration effort near the confluence of the West and Main Branch of Catfish Creek was made possible thanks to the generous support from two (2) major funding



partners: Environment Canada's 'Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program' and Ontario Power Generation's 'Biodiversity Management Program'.

To date, this joint effort has restored over 200 metres of aquatic habitat, stream bank protection and associated riparian habitat along Catfish Creek. The 'Water'sedge Environmental Solution Team' prepared comprehensive restoration plans to incorporate natural channel design principles for this project. The various bank protection treatments and in-stream fish habitat enhancement features were constructed and will allow the CCCA to utilize this property as a watershed protection demonstration site.



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

In 2014, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority partnered with the County of Elgin and the other three (3) Conservation Authorities (Lower Thames Valley, Kettle Creek and Long Point Region) along the north shore of Lake Erie, to develop a new, county-wide, Shoreline Management Plan.

To date, with the assistance of our retained consultants, Baird and Associates, the CAs have collected new data from over 50 site assessments while reviewing existing local and provincial practices, standards and guidelines. Three (3) Open Houses were held to initiate dialogue, exchange preliminary findings and allow the general public to provide local knowledge of shoreline processes throughout Elgin County.

The collection of new information, and review of historical studies and data, will lead to the development of new, comprehensive mapping of natural hazards associated with Lake Erie. The delineation of the various coastal processes such as erosion rates, dynamic beaches, flood susceptibility and wave uprush, will help conserve and enhance the natural resources of Elgin County along Lake Erie.

In 2015, this collaborative effort will lead to the development of consistent new policies and procedures to allow CA and Municipal staff to effectively manage and mitigate natural hazards associated with Lake Erie.

YEAR IN REVIEW...

WATER MANAGEMENT

With above average snowfall amounts and ice thickness throughout the Catfish Creek watershed, the potential for serious flooding remained in a heightened state. Thanks to the ice breaking operations in Port Bruce, municipal emergency preparedness and the moderate weather conditions experienced during the spring months all helped to alleviate the threat any significant flood events from occurring. The CCCA issued two (2) Flood Outlook Statements, three (3) Flood Watches and three (3) Flood Warnings over the course of 2014



Catfish Creek Ice Breakup – Village of Port Bruce
Photo The Aylmer Express

SPECIES AT RISK

The CCCA was fortunate to have been able to protect an additional 18 hectares of Species at Risk habitat through a land purchase adjacent to a large, contiguous natural area under public ownership in the lower reaches of the Catfish Creek valley. The acquisition adds to the needed refugia in which significant and sensitive species are protected and conserved as part of the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area. Being located in the heart of the Carolinian Canada life zone and strategically placed between the Springwater Forest and the Catfish Creek Slope and Flood Plain Forest, the subject property provides added connection of these properties as natural corridors and linkages.

Financial support for the purchase was generously provided by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Echo Foundation, the Estate of Dorothy Fay Palmer and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. The project would not have been possible without their dedication and vision for a healthy environment.



Eaglesmith Charity Picnic – Springwater Conservation Area

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION



The Catfish Creek Source Protection Authority received the final approval of the Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on September 19th, 2014. The document outlines the policies and programs that will protect two (2) municipal wells serving the 500 residents of Brownsville in the Township of South-West Oxford. The Brownsville water system is owned and operated by Oxford County.

The source protection planning process began in 2006 when the Ontario government passed the Clean Water Act to protect the sources of municipal drinking water throughout the province. The Act was passed in the wake of the Walkerton tainted water tragedy.

The development of the Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan was led by the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, one of 19 created across the province. Craig Ashbaugh, Chair of the Committee said he's "pleased the Catfish Creek Plan has been formally approved for implementation. Staff of the CCCA and Oxford County have put a lot of effort into ensuring Brownsville residents will continue to have access to safe, high-quality municipal drinking water." Sally Martyn, Chair of the Catfish Creek Source Protection Authority said "we are very thankful to have the plan finished and approved. It has been a lot of hard work and taken a long time but is well worth the effort."



Springwater Maple Syrup Festival
Photo The Aylmer Express



2015 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 7 - 29 Maple Syrup Festival
* weekends & March Break
- April 25 Opening Day of Trout Fishing
- May 9 Tim Hortons Kids Trout Derby
- June 19 - 21 Van Fest
- June 27 Extreme Elgin
- June Home Building Centre Horseshoe Tournament
- July 3 - 5 Balls Bike Rally
- July 25 Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby
- August 14 - 16 Fred Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival
- September 5 Friends of Springwater Fireworks
- December 5 Christmas Spirit Walk

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



CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY,

8079 Springwater Rd., R.R.#5, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4

PHONE: 519-773-9037

EMAIL: admin@catfishcreek.ca

WEBSITE: www.catfishcreek.ca



CCCA IN THE COMMUNITY...



Environmental Leadership Program Students



Fisheries and Oceans Funding Announcement – Archie Coulter
Conservation Area - Photo The Aylmer Express



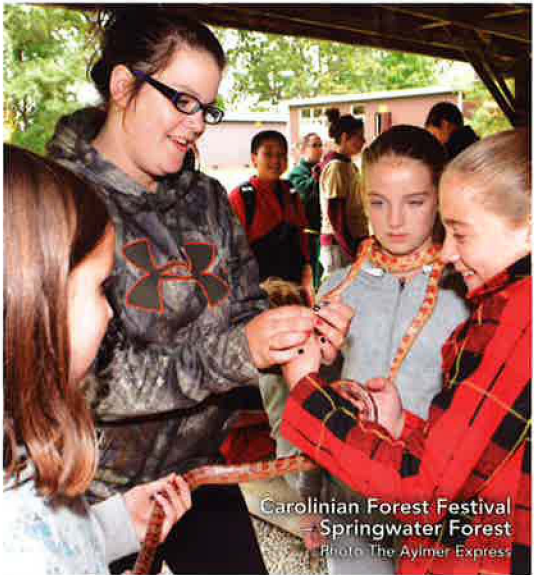
Conservation Award Recipients
– Dick and Margaret Brown
Photo The Aylmer Express



Environmental Education
– Springwater Conservation Area



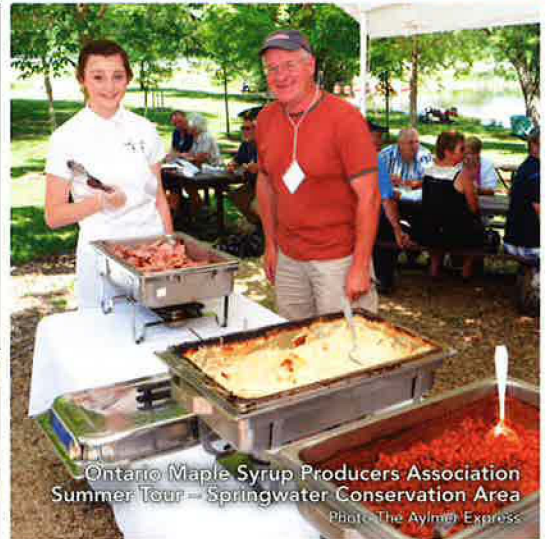
Marsh Quest – Yarmouth Natural
Heritage Area



Carolinian Forest Festival
– Springwater Forest
Photo The Aylmer Express



Springwater Christmas Spirit Walk
– Elgin Hiking Trail Club



Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association
Summer Tour – Springwater Conservation Area
Photo The Aylmer Express



Matthew Bossuyt – Student Scholarship Award
Photo The Aylmer Express



South Western Region Envirothon
Certificate of Appreciation
Presentation - Photo The Aylmer Express



Shoreline Management
Plan Open House
Photo The Aylmer Express



Co-Operative Education Placement Program
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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Casier, Ron & Pauline
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County of Elgin
Correctional Justice Services
Desloges, Michel
Dowler-Karn Fuels
Ducks Unlimited Canada
East Elgin Secondary School -
Environmental Leadership Program
Echo Foundation
Elgin-St. Thomas Community
Foundation
Elgin Stewardship Council
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Environment Canada
Fairservice, George
Fick, Don & Rosina
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