

CCCA In The Community



National Trails Coalition
Funding Announcement
Photo The Aylmer Express



Environmental Education Programs
– Springwater C.A.
Photo The Aylmer Express



Ducks Unlimited Canada
– Conservation Partner
Photo The Aylmer Express



National Recreational Fisheries Award Presentation
– Environmental Leadership Program
Photo The Aylmer Express



Rotary Club of Aylmer
– Community Partnership
Photo The Aylmer Express



Springwater Maple Syrup
Education Program
Photo The Aylmer Express



Federal Enabling Accessibility Fund
– Springwater Washroom Renovations
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**



2015 Partners/Donors/Volunteers

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)



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Aylmer Express
Aylmer Tire
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Biskup, Steve
Boehm, Dan & Susan
Briggs (Ride To Remember)
Calvar, Yves
Casier, Kelly
Casier, Ron & Pauline
City of St. Thomas
Conservation Ontario
Correctional Justice Services
Corinth Christian School
County of Elgin
Dowler-Karn Fuels
Ducks Unlimited
EESS - Environmental Leadership
Program
Elgin Hiking Trail Club
Elgin Stewardship Council
Emery, George
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Exact Septic Service
Fick, Don & Rosina

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Gall, Johan
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K & K Locksmiths
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Lattanzio, Frank

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Lower Thames Valley C.A.
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McConnell, Elizabeth & William
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Affairs
Ministry of the Environment & Climate
Change
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Misty River Photography
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Municipality of Central Elgin
National Trails Coalition
Natural Resource Gas Ltd
Ontario Police College Path of Honour
Ontario Power Generation
Order of Good Cheer
Palmer, Dorothy Fay (Estate)
Parker Fuels
Riggs Engineering
Rochus, Gary
Ronald, Janet
Sawdust Entertainment
Secord Home Building Centre

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Sinden, Tom
Smale, Kim & DJ
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St. Thomas Wood Carvers
Taylor, John & Betty
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Foundation
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Thames Valley District School Board
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Township of Malahide
Township of South-West Oxford
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2015
Annual Report

Chairperson’s Message

I continue to count it as a privilege to serve on this Board. The chestnut table in our board room helps remind us of the challenges we have faced and will face with climate change and globalization. Every member of our Board, all our staff and our many committed volunteers work well together to keep the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) up-to-date and effective. Our partnership with Conservation Ontario keeps us current and offers support. Through them, we took part in the review of the Conservation Authorities Act initiated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The CCCA works hard to preserve our natural heritage and offer interpretation of it, as well as doing all our provincially mandated work. Because of this, we have been very fortunate to receive grant funding and donations for several special projects. We received \$35,000 from the Dorothy Fay Palmer Estate for recreation infrastructure improvements and environmental education at the Springwater Conservation Area and the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area. We also received \$14,000 from the National Trails Coalition for investment in improving trails on conservation lands to keep them safe for public use. In our efforts to make all parts of our properties accessible, we were pleased to receive \$50,000 from the federal government through the Enabling Accessibility Fund to improve the public washroom facilities at the Springwater Conservation Area.

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, as

is our work hosting the Envirothon for area high schools. 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. It was my honour to attend a ceremony to present the National Recreational Fisheries Award to Duncan and his Environmental Leadership Class. Our environmental education programmes involve staff and many dedicated volunteers. We participated in Doors Open Port Stanley/Sparta again by having the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area open to the public. Our four Conservation Areas open for hiking with interpretive signage help promote an understanding of our ecosystems and healthy living through exercise.

In closing, I want to thank the Grand River CA, the Long Point Region CA, the Lower Thames Valley CA, and the Kettle Creek CA for all the work we do together. 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. Also, a special thanks to all of the staff who work tirelessly to make all our programmes work. Without steady and consistent leadership, we would not be the strong Authority 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



Environmental Planning & Regulations

The Conservation Authorities Act was passed in 1946 by the Ontario Government in response to severe flooding and erosion problems experienced throughout the Province. This legislation provided a terms of reference and guidelines for watershed municipalities to voluntarily establish partnerships for managing land and water resources.

To help fulfill its mandate, the CCCA works closely with all levels of government to enhance watershed health by coordinating and implementing a variety of programs and services to improve water quality, protect natural areas and biodiversity, reduce flood damages, facilitate watershed planning, provide environmental education and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Permission from the CCCA is required to develop in river or stream valleys, wetlands, shorelines and adjacent to other natural hazards; or, alter a watercourse such as rivers and streams or interfere with a wetland. In 2015, CCCA staff issued 16 permits pursuant to the Conservation Authority Regulation. Staff also reviewed and commented on 60 inquiries from landowners, lawyers and the general public with respect to property restriction, natural hazard mapping or natural heritage information in the watershed.

In addition to its regulatory role under the Conservation Authorities Act, the CCCA has a significant advisory role to watershed municipalities and the general public under the Planning Act. CCCA staff reviewed and commented on 60 municipal planning documents, such as development proposals, severances, zoning bylaws and environmental assessments.

The CCCA Board of Directors adopted a revised Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan (W.F. Baird and Associates, October 13, 2015). This collaborative guidance document will provide the legislative and policy framework for the identification and protection of natural hazards and processes along the Lake Erie shoreline fronting Elgin County.

In the coming year staff and the Board will work with landowners in the watershed to update the CCCA's 'Land Use Planning/ Regulations Policies' to reflect updates to The Provincial Planning Policy, amendments to the Conservation Authority Regulations and new Guideline documents such as the Shoreline Management Plan.



Water Management

The winter of 2014 – 2015 recorded above average snowfall totals and depth of ice throughout the Catfish Creek watershed. The capacity for critical flooding continued in an increased state throughout the winter. The ice breaking operations in Port Bruce, municipal emergency preparedness, and the moderate

weather conditions experienced during the spring breakup all aided to lessen the threat of any significant flood events / damage from happening. The CCCA issued one (1) Watershed Condition Statement, two (2) Flood Outlook Statements and one (1) Flood Watch over the course of 2015.

Source Water Protection

As a result of the Clean Water Act, Communities in Ontario are required to develop Source Protection Plans in order to protect their municipal sources of drinking water. These plans identify risks to local drinking water sources and develop strategies to help reduce or eliminate these risks.

In 2015, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change officially announced the approval of all Source Protection Plans in the Province of Ontario. The Grand River, Long Point Region, Kettle Creek, and Catfish Creek

Source Protection Authorities that compose the Lake Erie Source Protection Region will now be entering the Implementation Phase of the program.

The Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan 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 Catfish Creek Source Protection Authority will be working with Oxford County to ensure the protection of the Brownsville water system.

Conservation Lands

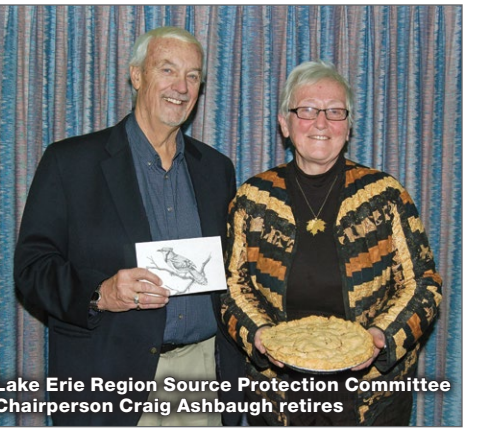
In 2015, the CCCA focused its efforts on initiatives that promoted habitat restoration and improved accessibility on lands owned and managed by the Conservation Authority. Thanks to the generous financial support from 10 different government agencies and community partners, the following projects were realized...

- 8 hectares of marginal farmland at the Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area (YNHA) was planted with native trees, wildlife shrubs, and prairie grasses

- Approximately 100 metres of eroded streambank was stabilized and rehabilitated at the Archie Coulter Conservation Area (ACCA) and the YNHA

- 10 kilometres of walking trails were restored at the ACCA, the YNHA, and the Springwater Forest to keep them accessible and safe for the public to enjoy

- Work to improve the public washroom facilities at the Springwater Conservation Area was initiated thanks to the Federal Enabling Accessibility Fund



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
Arthur Oslach (Vice-Chairperson)	Town of Aylmer
Mark Tinlin	City of St. Thomas
Rick Cerna	Township of Malahide
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
Pete Barbour (alternate)	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
Peter Dragunas	Water Management Technician
Laura Ronayne	Program Support Assistant
Dusty Underhill	Field Technician
Ric Wellwood	Fundraising/Communications

2015 Financial Report

REVENUE		EXPENDITURES	
20%	Municipal, Special & General Levies, \$258,168.00	38%	Conservation Areas Operations, \$490,985.00
2%	Provincial & Federal Work Programs, \$25,668.82		
11%	Federal Grants, \$142,080.00	18%	Provincially Mandated Programs, \$239,483.00
9%	Other Provincial Grants, \$118,741.39	11%	Corporate Services, \$145,736.70
6%	Provincial Operating Grants, \$79,835.00	4%	Water Management Programs, \$47,914.08
7%	Donations, \$90,139.82	23%	Watershed Stewardship \$294,929.98
6%	Watershed Stewardship, \$76,221.92	3%	Special Projects, \$39,714.19
39%	Springwater C.A. User Fees & Sales, \$518,446.41	3%	Amortization, \$33,803.00

Copies of the full 2015 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

Watershed Stewardship

The Watershed Stewardship Program at the CCCA had another successful year in assisting landowners complete wildlife enhancement and water quality improvement projects. In partnership with neighbouring CAs in Elgin County, we participated in the delivery of the Elgin Clean Water Program (ECWP). Since the program began in 2012, almost one million dollars has been spent across Elgin County, with ECWP contributing almost \$250,000 toward 76 projects.

Along with other long-term funding partners such as Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Elgin Stewardship Council, and the Federal and Provincial Governments, the CCCA worked with 10 landowners throughout the watershed on stewardship initiatives in 2015. Seven wetlands were constructed or enhanced to provide over 3 hectares of the most diverse ecosystems available. The majority of the wetland projects incorporated associated upland wildlife habitat, such as 1.6 hectares of tall grass prairie, tree planting, and buffer strips. The CCCA also assisted with the construction of its first “over wintering snake hibernaculum” between a created wetland and Catfish Creek, just east of Aylmer.

Staff at the CCCA also assisted landowners to implement over 150 metres of stream bank

erosion protection, diversion berms/terraces, water retention ponds, and other best management practises to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health and water quality throughout the watershed.

In order to increase forest cover and biodiversity within the watershed, the CCCA provided 16,000 native Carolinian trees to 14 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.

Looking toward 2016, the CCCA looks forward to expanding the scope of environmental stewardship by assisting with the delivery of the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Program in Elgin County. The ALUS Program “recognizes the important role farmers are playing as stewards of the land by conserving public resources like clean water, clean air, and habitat for fish and wildlife and areas for outdoor recreation”.

Farmers and landowners in the Catfish Creek watershed have demonstrated a positive leadership role in implementing restoration projects to help create a healthier Lake Erie Basin.