

Community Outreach



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

2016 Partners/Donors/Volunteers

(please notify our office of any errors or omissions)

A1 Unique Installations
Aaroc Aggregates Inc.
Alus Elgin
Aylmer Express
Aylmer Tire
Biskup, Steve
Calvar, Yves
Cam's Heating and Air Conditioning
Casier, Ron & Pauline
City of St. Thomas
Conservation Ontario
Correctional Justice Services
County of Elgin
DeCraemer, Walter & Dorothy
Dowler-Karn Fuels
Ducks Unlimited
Duffy, John
EESS - Environmental Leadership Program
Elgin Hiking Trail Club
Elgin Stewardship Council
Emery, George
Environment Canada
Exact Septic Service
Fairservice, George
Fick, Don & Rosina

Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Foster, Raymond & Robin
Friends of Springwater
Gall, Johan
Grand River C.A.
Hamilton Ward & Cathers
Hill, Thomas & Cheryl
IGPC Ethanol Incorporated
Inwood, Shauna
Irwin, Sylvia
Jakob, Joseph
JDS All Season Power
K & K Locksmiths
Karda, Mike & Margo
Kebbel, H.A. Funeral Home
Kettle Creek C.A.
Kielstra, Henry & Ena
Koolen Electric
Laemers Excavating
Lapchinski, Ronald
Lattanzio, Frank
London District Catholic School Board
Long Point Region C.A.
Lower Thames Valley C.A.
Martyn, Sally

Miernicki, Tracy
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Municipality of Central Elgin
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
Rimnyak, Bill & Linda
Rochus, Gary
Ronald, Janet
S. J. Fitness Outreach
Sawdust Entertainment
Secord Home Building Centre
Service Canada
Sinden, Tom
Smale, Kim & DJ

Spencer, Geraldine
Springwater Packers
St. Thomas Field Naturalists
St. Thomas Wood Carvers
Steelway Building Systems
Taylor, John & Betty
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Tenhoor, Henry
Thames Valley District School Board
Tim Hortons, Aylmer
Town of Aylmer
Township of Malahide
Township of South-West Oxford
Vandenbrink Farm Equipment
Wagler Mini Barns
Wakely, Richard
Waydan Auto Repair
Weber, Dwight
Williams Funeral Home Ltd.
Wilson Well Drilling
Wiltie Truck Bodies
Yarmouth Crane
YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin
Zap's Tree Services

Thanks to the following businesses for their support toward the printing of the 2016 Annual Report:

RIGGS ENGINEERING LTD.

Peter Crook, P.Eng.
Brian Riggs, P.Eng.

Tel: (519) 657-1040 • Fax: (519) 657-8631
1240 Commissioners Rd. W.
Suite 205, London, Ontario N6K 1C7
www.riggsengineering.com

AYLMER EXPRESS GRAPHICS GROUP
Aylmer | London | Woodstock | Toronto

aegg.ca | 519-773-3126 | since 1880

for the **best**

print | news | design | mail

Hamilton Ward & Cathers
INSURANCE SERVICE LIMITED

519.773.8471
www.hwcinsurance.ca
Aylmer • Port Stanley • St. Thomas • Tillsonburg



Chairperson’s Message

It is a privilege and a joy to serve on this Board of Directors. The chestnut table in our board room helps remind us of the challenges we have faced and will face with climate change, invasive species and globalization. Every member of the 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 work with Conservation Ontario keeps us current and offers support. The Conservation Authorities Act review and the importance of developing a long-term funding model that is equitable and sustainable for smaller rural based Conservation Authorities has been a key focus this year.

We want to thank the County of Elgin for their sustained support of the Elgin Clean Water Programme through a commitment to financially support the work. This is an initiative equally shared by the Kettle Creek, Long Point Region and Lower Thames Valley CAs and ourselves to provide financial incentives and technical expertise for landowners to implement strategic habitat restoration projects on the ground which will protect and enhance the biodiversity of our watershed which is extremely important. The introduction of ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) has also meant more uptake. There appeared to be a greater trend by landowners in 2016 to demonstrate a willingness to embrace strong stewardship practices on their properties. We can only hope that this trend continues to build for the future.

The importance of environmental 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 Competition for area high schools. Ron Casier heads this programme and is an excellent role model for our youth. Our great long-term working relationship with the East Elgin Environmental Leadership Programme is vital to our education programmes and we very much value the leadership of Teacher Duncan Sinclair. Our four (4) main Conservation Areas were open for hiking with interpretive signage to help promote an

understanding of our ecosystems and healthy living through exercise. We are working on making our trails accessible to all citizens and co-operating on the Trails Master Plan for Central Elgin to link many trails.

In closing, I want to thank the Grand River, the Long Point Region, the Lower Thames Valley and the Kettle Creek CAs for all the work we do together. All of our members 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 the staff who work tirelessly to make all our programmes work. 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



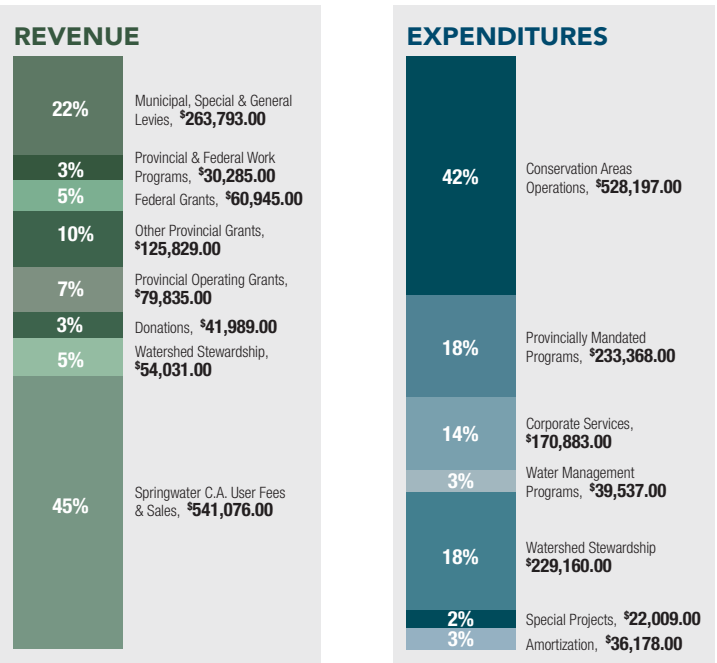
Springwater Forest

Corporate Services

The activities of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of five (5) members appointed by the five (5) member municipalities of the Catfish Creek watershed.

Board Member	Municipality
Sally Martyn (Chairperson)	Municipality of Central Elgin
Rick Cerna (Vice-Chairperson)	Township of Malahide
Arthur Oslach	Town of Aylmer
Mark Tiniin	City of St. Thomas
Anne Vanhoucke	Township of South-West Oxford
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

2016 Financial Report



Copies of the full 2016 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the Authority Administration Centre.

Conservation Lands

For the second year in a row, the CCCA focused its efforts on projects that promoted fish, wildlife, and wetland habitat restoration and accessibility improvements on lands owned and managed by the Conservation Authority. It is very important to recognize the financial generosity and support from the following partners who helped make these special projects a reality in 2016 by contributing over \$212,380.00 in funding.

- Ducks Unlimited Canada;
- The Dorothy Fay Palmer Estate
- Federal Enabling Accessibility Fund;
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation;
- MOECC Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund;
- Ontario Power Generation Wetland Biodiversity Program;
- MNRF Land Stewardship & Habitat Restoration Program;
- Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship for Species at Risk;
- DFO Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program



Fish Habitat Restoration - Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area



Observation / Fishing Platform - Springwater Pond



Streambank Stabilization - Catfish Creek



Washroom Accessibility Improvements - Springwater Conservation Area

Environmental Planning

The CCCA, one of Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities, was established to protect Natural Hazards such as creeks, wetlands, eroding / unstable slopes and shorelines along Lake Erie, on a watershed basis. We are a community based environmental protection agency that works with municipal, provincial and federal government partners, to help landowners who wish to undertake work near natural hazards or environmentally sensitive features. These features, and the benefits they provide, are vital to human well-being and to the health and safety of our communities.

Staff from the CCCA reviewed and provided comments on the following development applications, inquiries and land use planning applications in 2016:

- Reviewed and commented on 53 Planning Act applications and Environmental Assessments;
- Received and issued nine (9) permits relative to the Conservation Authorities Act, Ontario Regulation 146/06 under O. Reg. 97/04; and,
- Provided responses to 56 property inquiries (legal, real estate, general information requests).



Wetland Restoration - Environmental Leadership Program



Species at Risk Protection - Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area



Tree Planting - Riparian Habitat Enhancement



Tall Grass Prairie Restoration - Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area

Stewardship Services

In 2016, the ‘Alternative Land Use Services’ (ALUS), a national program which helps farmers take marginal agricultural lands out of production and restore natural habitats, expanded into Elgin County. The CCCA, in partnership with ALUS, assisted landowners to establish a number of wetlands, tall grass prairie, buffers and habitat for pollinators through the watershed. These projects, that now extend onto former agricultural lands have allowed the expansion of core natural features such as woodlots, wetlands and meadows, and connect them with neighbouring natural features on the landscape. The resulting interconnected system, or natural heritage system, will be more resilient to human impacts, effects from climate change and provide additional bio-diversity within the watershed. The benefits can include soil retention, improved water and air quality, while providing wildlife habitat, and places for outdoor recreation. The CCCA recognizes the role that farmland and sustainable farming practices plays in protecting the environment and working together to restore ecosystems for those species “most at risk” in the watershed.

Water Management

The winter of 2016 delivered above average snowfall amounts and ice thickness throughout the Catfish Creek watershed, and the potential for serious flooding remained at a heightened state. Recognizing the effectiveness of the ice breaking operations and mitigation efforts in Port Bruce, municipal emergency preparedness and the moderate weather conditions experienced during the freshet runoff helped to alleviate the threat of significant flood occurrences within the watershed.

As requirements for water increase and climate changes occur, severe water level variability is increasingly widespread. CCCA staff work closely and provide current water level data to the Catfish Creek Low Water Response Team and a local Irrigation Advisory Committee to assist them in making decisions on the appropriate conservation measures and actions for irrigators to achieve provincially outlined water conservation criteria.

Other notable water management activities in 2016 included:

- Continual monitoring of streamflow and watershed physiological conditions for flood forecasting and low water to assist with water management initiatives;
- Collected groundwater data through the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network;
- Provided technical advice and assistance for Permit To Take Water applications; and
- Participated in the Ontario Domestic Action Plan Reducing Phosphorus to Minimize Algal Blooms in Lake Erie.



Ice Breaking - Port Bruce Harbour



Private Landowner Assistance Programs - Stewardship Services



Ice Thickness Monitoring - Port Bruce

SPRINGWATER

CATFISH CREEK

2017 Special Events Calendar

March 4-26Maple Syrup Festival

.....* weekends & March Break

April 22..... Opening Day of Trout Fishing

May 13Tim Hortons Kids Trout Derby

June 16-18Van Fest

June 24Extreme Elgin

July 8Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby

August 18 - 20Fred Eaglesmith Charity Music Festival

September 2Friends of Springwater Fireworks

December 2Christmas Spirit Walk

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