



South Nation Conservation 2008 Annual Report: Executive Summary



**SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD**

2008: A Year Of Change And Challenge

2008 will be looked upon as a landmark year in the history of South Nation Conservation. Many important projects were completed, and the groundwork for many more was laid.

2008 also marked a year that saw a new attitude from the public on environmental issues. Across Canada, studies and polls clearly indicate that the environment and the protection and preservation of our natural resources are now uppermost in the minds of the public. As environmental concern continues to grow, we can expect that demands for information, education and programs will increase. Our challenge will be to harness and maximize the new-found tide of environmental interest.

At South Nation Conservation, our staff includes engineers, foresters, planners and biologists as well as educational, communications and administrative professionals. We will continue to share our expertise and to work closely with municipal, provincial and federal levels of government, as well as landowners, community groups and our volunteers. Together, we can ensure that communities within the South Nation Watershed remain healthy, environmentally sound places to live and work.



Youth Hunting Day Photo:
Erin Gibson

Seven New Fish Species Discovered



Ryan Redmond, Fish Habitat Assessment Biologist,
holds a juvenile northern pike taken from McKinnon
Creek, near the village of Navan

Add another seven species to the already large variety of fish that can be found in the rivers and streams of the South Nation Conservation jurisdiction.

A team from South Nation Conservation participated in the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP) and visited several locations, primarily in the Bear Brook watershed between Casselman and Ottawa. The team captured seven species of fish not previously identified within the jurisdiction. Among the five new minnow species was the Cutlips, which is a species at risk. The other species were Brassy Minnow, Central Stone Roller, Eastern Silvery Minnow and Finescale Dace. Also discovered were the American Brook Lamprey and the Round Goby. The discoveries are important because identifying fish species and their habitats provides scientific data for future watershed planning, as well as a focus for biologists.

SNC will continue OSAP studies this year along the south branch of the South Nation River in South Dundas Township, and along the St. Lawrence River shoreline.

Our local environment. We're in it together. We're making a difference.

Protecting You And Your Property

South Nation Conservation's primary responsibility is the protection of human life and property from natural hazards. We continue to provide expert advice to municipalities on natural hazards in developments.

The South Nation watershed is very flat and prone to springtime flooding. SNC owns and maintains six dams and weirs that control water levels and minimize flood damage. SNC constantly monitors water levels, weather forecasts and ice and snow cover, to provide advance notice of impending floods to municipalities, police and landowners.

Current watershed conditions and advisories and bulletins are posted on www.nation.on.ca.



Preserving And Protecting Nature

South Nation Conservation owns 3000 hectares of forest land, and also helps manage another 13,000 hectares of county forests, enabling our partners to save thousands of dollars on professional forestry services.

SNC's seven conservation areas provide access to the South Nation River and give the public an opportunity to experience and enjoy nature. In 2008, through a partnership with Russell Township, SNC re-acquired the J. Henry Tweed Conservation Area in Russell and rebuilt the walking trails.

Each year, SNC receives donations of land from owners who want to protect it from development. Our goal is to reach 20,000 acres of protected land over the next 9 years.

How SNC Made a Difference

- Distributed almost \$170,000 through various grant programs to fund 102 water quality improvement projects with a combined value of more than \$1.1 million.
- Three Spill Response trailers and equipment supplied to Raisin - South Nation region through a \$163,500. Ontario Clean Water Act grant for faster and more effective containment of contaminant spills.
- Natural hazard risks to life and property reduced through the issuing of 109 permits related to new development and works in and around watercourses.
- Promoted responsible hunting and fishing practices to youth through our Family Fun Fishing Day, and our support of the Poutmasters Catfish Tournament and Youth Hunting Day.
- Planted over 137,00 trees throughout the watershed
- Continued public education through participation in health fairs, school visits, and community events.
- Reviewed and processed nearly 400 planning applications for municipalities

Healthy Home Guidebook: A Great Resource For Rural Residents

The Dundas Environmental Awareness Group's latest edition of the Healthy Home Guidebook has been selling well throughout Eastern Ontario and beyond. Updated and translated in partnership with SNC in 2008 and funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Guidebook is filled with both current and practical information on how to protect both family health and environment. Healthy Home Workshops and Fairs have also been popular. The Royal Winter Fair in Toronto hosted the project for the Agri-food Innovation School Program and well over 2000 children participated in the Healthy Home seminar.



The Healthy Home logo was designed in 2008 by NDDHS student Brendan Droppo of Chesterville.

Clean Water For Your Health

The water resources of the South Nation watershed supply our towns and farms with food, drinking water, and recreation. It's important to monitor these resources so that we can help ensure the safe and ample supply of water to our communities for many years to come. SNC's monitoring program provides valuable information about the health of our groundwater and rivers, and the potential stresses and pollution that could impact our water. Data is collected and used by South Nation Conservation on behalf of our partner municipalities for a variety of projects including subwatershed studies.



Find out more about what SNC does for you. Contact us today!

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South Nation Conservation

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Investing in our Environment

SNC Board of Directors

Prescott Russell

Chairman Ken Hill
Mayor, Township of Russell

Vice Chairman Denis Pommerville
Mayor, The Nation Municipality

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

Floyd Dingwall, Past Chairman
Past Mayor, Township of Finch

Lianne Acres-Hanna
Councillor, Township of North Stormont

Steven Byvelds
Councillor, Township of South Dundas

Alvin Runnals
Mayor, Township of North Dundas

Leeds & Grenville

Lawrence Levere
Councillor, Township of Edwardsburgh-Cardinal
Barclay Cormack BSCF, M.Sc.

City Of Ottawa

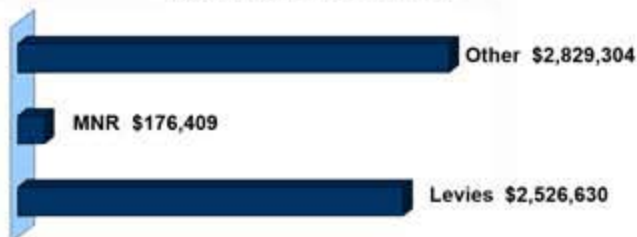
Michael Brown
Rob Jellet - Councillor
Doug Thompson - Councillor
Alan Perks P. Eng.



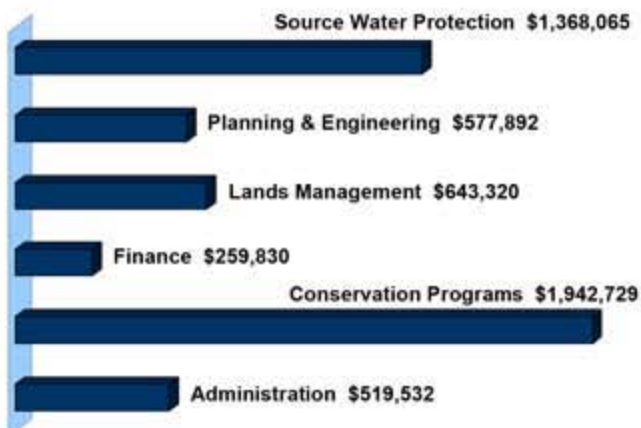
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South Nation Conservation Revenues & Expenses 2008

Revenues: \$5,532,343



Expenses: \$5,311,369



Committees

South Nation Conservation works with four citizen committees to provide direction for programs:

Clean Water Committee
Communications & Fundraising Committee
Forestry Committee
Fisheries & Wildlife Committee

Members are a partnership of residents, community groups, farmers, industry and government. To join and be part of protecting our environment, call us!

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