





The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority was established in 1950 under Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources on a watershed scale, in partnership with its 15 member municipalities, the Province of Ontario and its watershed residents.

Saugeen Conservation is one of 36 Conservation Authorities across Ontario and is a member of Conservation Ontario.

SVCA's watershed jurisdiction covers 4,632 sq. km (1,788 sq. miles), consisting of the drainage basins of the Saugeen, Penetangore and Pine Rivers, as well as those watercourses along the adjoining Lake Huron shoreline. In delivering its programs, Saugeen Conservation has acquired over 8,498 ha (21,000 acres) of land for a variety of purposes, ranging from the protection of important wetlands and significant forests to the provision of recreation areas and campgrounds.

In addition to its main focus as a conservation agency, Saugeen Conservation is involved in provincial conservation issues, as a voting member of Conservation Ontario.

Front cover photo "Fox in the Field", by David Bishop





In April, staff worked diligently with the Township of Chatsworth in dealing with a significant **flood emergency**. In so doing, staff went above and beyond their job descriptions in service to the public and the Authority.

Over the course of the year, we invested in **3D** digital software to help decrease the number of site visits by our regulations officers and thereby increase the speed with which we process inquiries and permit applications. In addition, we reduced screening buffers from 50 meters to 30 meters, eliminating the need for SVCA's review of development proposals on approximately 20,000 hectares of land. As well, we developed and implemented a new planning and regulations file tracking system in order to increase the efficiency and speed with which we process inquiries and permit applications.

Another significant accomplishment in 2016 was our work on developing updated **Floodplain Mapping for the Community of Teeswater**. This mapping will be critical to allow the potential expansion of Gay Lea, a major industry in Teeswater and to the area.

We have also continued to work with **Grey Sauble Conservation, Grey and Bruce Counties, Parks Canada, City of Owen Sound, and Ministry of Natural Resourses and Forestry** to ensure that all watershed residents are kept informed about the invasive **Emerald Ash Borer**. Staff has been installing Emerald Ash Borer traps annually since 2014 to monitor its presence.

Looking ahead, we will continue to work with our partners to advance environmental and stewardship initiatives for the benefit of all residents of the Saugeen Watershed. In so doing, we expect to continue to protect and improve this watershed while striving to better serve the needs of the public and our member municipalities.

Yours in conservation,

Luke Charbonneau Chair

AR 2016.indd 5













In This Issue

Water

- 5 Water Management
- 6 Flood Warning
- 7 Drinking Water Source Protection
- Stewardship & Grassroots Conservation Efforts
- 12 Environmental Planning and Regulations
- 14 Water Quality



Lands

- 16 Forestry Services
- 18 Conservation Areas

Communications

- 20 Communications
- 22 Conservation Education
- 24 Saugeen Valley

 Conservation Foundation

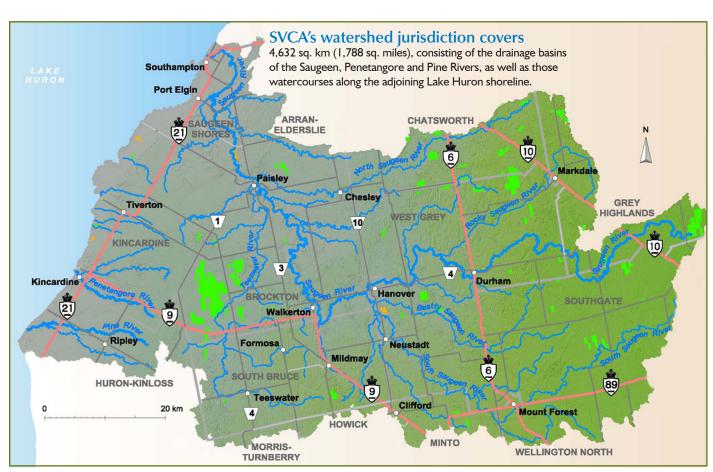


Affiliates

26 Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

Administration

- 27 Volunteers and Sponsors
- 28 Staff and Members









Capital Works

Staff continues to implement ongoing maintenance activities on capital projects that help to prevent loss of life and property damage from flood and erosion hazards.

Removal of trees, for example, was completed at the **Penetangore Slope Stability and Erosion Control Project** and on a portion of the **Walkerton Dyke system** to ensure the continued integrity of these structures.

Maintenance operations were also carried out at the **Lower Durham Dam** consisting of the placement of stone on the upstream side of the earthen embankment. This repair work was done to protect the embankment and to ensure longevity of the structure.

Dam Removal

The removal of the dam in in the **Village** of **Mildmay (Hamel Dam)** was completed along Otter Creek, a tributary of the Main Saugeen River. This completes year one of a two-year agreement between SVCA, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Municipality of South Bruce. The planting of trees and shrubs will be carried out in 2017 as well as the construction of a trail.

Staff is working with the Markdale Rotary Club and the Municipality of Grey Highlands on the removal of the **Markdale Rotary Park Pond Dam**, the fourth dam removal by the SVCA. Funding and support is provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Recreational Fisheries Conservation
Partnership Program, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Happy Trout Chapter of Trout

Unlimited, Canada Markdale Rotary Club, Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation and Stewardship Grey Bruce.

Restoration efforts continued on the reservoir of what was once the **Lockerby Dam**. Trees and shrubs were planted with the assistance of students from Paisley

Central School and volunteers with the Lake Huron Fishing Club (LHFC).

Affiliates

Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans
Municipality of South Bruce
Markdale Rotary Club
Municipality of Grey Highlands
Trout Unlimited Canada, Happy Trout Chapter
Lake Huron Fishing Club
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forests
Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
Stewardship Grey Bruce



Flood Warning



In April 2016, the North Saugeen River experienced flooding, estimated to be in the range of a 1 in 200-year flood, due to an excessive amount of rainfall.

The flows were the highest recorded discharge since the monitoring station went operational in 1986 and almost twice as much as a typical spring runoff event.

A State of Emergency was declared by

the Township of Chatsworth, remaining in effect for 11 days. Approximately 18 homes and businesses in the Community of Williamsford and 40 dwellings at nearby McCullough Lake were evacuated. Provincial Highway No. 6 was also closed.

SVCA staff was actively involved during the event, participating in the Chatsworth Emergency Control Group meetings. Although the event proved costly for both residents and municipal infrastructure, fortunately **no lives were lost**. The Township and its residents became the first in the province to apply for relief under Ontario's new Disaster Assistance Programs.

During this same episode **high flows occurred at other locations in the watershed** including the Main Saugeen
River at Hanover, which experienced its
highest flows since the station began
operating 34 years ago.



- Meeting with the SW Ontario Flood Forecast Alliance
- 1 Conference: Provincial Flood Forecasting & Warning Workshop
- 6 Flood Messages issued
- 1 Tour of the Williamsford flood area
- 7 Meetings with the Chatsworth Emergency Control Group

Affiliates

Conservation Ontario MNRF (Surface Water Monitoring Centre) SW Ontario Flood Forecast Alliance



Drinking Water Source Protection

Drinking Water Source Protection is about protecting local municipal drinking water sources from both quality and quantity threats to ensure clean water for all of us.

Public Consultation on Water Quality Threats

Public consultations and municipal meetings were held regarding amendments to the Source Protection Plan. Revisions were submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for review and approval.

Amendments were approved on July 14, 2016.

Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

The **Water Festival** provides students with a number of fun, hands-on activities about the importance of clean water and water conservation. Staff participates in this event annually.

Road Signs

New road signs were erected in Source Protection Regions to foster awareness about the sources of our drinking water and how sensitive these areas can be to spills and contamination.

Source Protection Plan

The Minister of the Environment and Climate Change approved the amended Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports in 2015. The Minister also announced that over \$220,000 in funding would be provided to Meaford, Owen Sound and Saugeen Shores. All Source Protection Plan policies are currently in effect, meaning that municipalities and implementing bodies have responsibilities to implement them.



Presentations & Outreach

Staff conducted a presentation to the REALTORS® Association of Grey Bruce Owen Sound on Source Water Protection zones, policies and possible impacts for property owners and sellers.

Staff also attended their Annual Meeting and Tradeshow in October. Outreach with this sector was a great opportunity to exchange information and to assist them with information they may require as part of their realtor responsibilities.

Agriculture & Source Protection

A workshop was held at the Tara Legion and attended by regional agri-business staff, agronomy consultants, certified crop advisors, nutrient management consultants, conservation authority and Ministry staff. Topics of presentations and discussion included:

- Source Protection Planning Process, zones and maps
- ▶ Risk Management Plan templates
- Risk Management Measures and Best Management Practices
- Resources available to producers and consultants



- 2 Press releases
- 29 Meetings attended
- 3 Workshops organized
- 1 Mail-out to 144 landowners
- 2 Publications produced
- 15 Meetings hosted

A Source Protection Committee of local representatives oversees this program.













Hands-On Environmental Projects

Stewardship

The very act of helping and educating others and providing the necessary resource tools to enhance our natural resources are all aspects of stewardship and very much in keeping with the goals of Saugeen Conservation.

TD Tree Day

For the third year, staff organized the planting of 150 trees and shrubs in the Walkerton Cunningham Rotary Nature Park. TD coordinated volunteers, staff, their families and local residents. Support was also provided by the Municipality of Brockton and the Walkerton Rotary Club.

Riparian Wonders

Staff planted approximately **800 trees and shrubs** in a riparian area along a tributary
of the Formosa Creek, the site of a previous
project involving cattle restriction fencing.
SVCA partnered with Grey Bruce ALUS
(Alternative Land Use Services) and the
Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation.
The landowner's family also assisted with
the project.

WaterWORKS & CareerWORKS

Staff, in partnership with Grey Bruce
Sustainability Network, **delivered three WaterWORKS programs** to a total of
80 students from Walkerton Community
School, Kincardine and Saugeen District
Secondary Schools.

The day-long interactive program is curriculum related in the fields of science and geography and provides information on field-related occupations.

Assistance and support was provided by the Municipality of Brockton, the Town of Hanover, the Walkerton Clean Water Centre and the Schaus Land and Cattle Company.



RBC Blue Water Fund Donates \$10,000

The Royal Bank in Hanover donated \$10,000 towards the Grey Bruce
Sustainability Network CareerWORKS program. The SVCA and the Grey Bruce
Sustainability Network implement youth and career oriented programs throughout Grey and Bruce Counties. SVCA assists with delivery of the WaterWORKS and FoodWORKS Programs by sharing youth career paths in conservation and water resources programming.

Celebrating Earth Day

Staff held a successful **Community Stewardship Workshop** on Earth Day featuring topics such as river rehabilitation and grassroots stewardship efforts. Guest speakers included individuals from groups such as Trout Unlimited, Happy Trout, The Lake Huron Fishing Club, SauGreen, Beaver River Watershed Initiative Network, McCullough Lake Cottage Association and the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network.





Youth Expo

A total of 64 youth (ages 10 – 17), participated in the **2016 Youth Expo** held on June 4th at the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association's property south of Owen Sound. Activities included archery, aquatic studies, orienteering and more. This annual program is offered free of charge and is supported by the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association membership, MNRF, Stewardship Grey Bruce, Grey Sauble CA and Saugeen Conservation.

Wonders of Wetlands

In partnership with **Enbridge** and the **Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC)**, staff delivered this educational program at Brucedale Conservation Area in June. Approximately 75 students from Kincardine schools participated in interactive, hands-on activities focussing on the Lake Huron coastline, coastal wetlands and invasive species.

Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN)

Staff assisted the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network with the **planting of their 250,000th tree!** Saugeen Conservation has partnered with this organization since its inception in 2008.

The PRWIN organized funding for the purchase of 3,000 trees planted along the slopes of the Kincardine Creek with the help of Bruce Power, the Ontario Community Environmental Fund, the **Penetangore**Watershed Group, and students from local schools. Cattle restriction fencing was also erected as part of this project.

Photos: Top R: Youth learning about various aspects of the outdoors at the Youth Expo.

Middle R: Clean-up along the Saugeen River in Walkerton.

 ${\bf Bottom~R: Students~participating~in~the} \\ {\bf Regional~Envirothon~Competition.}$















L to R: Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario; Adrienne Mason, Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN); Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron Bruce; and Penny Faragher-Robertson, Office Administrator PRWIN recognize the planting of the 250,000th tree in the Pine River Watershed.

Additional Partners

Brockton Fisheries Task Force
Bruce County Federation of Agriculture
Community Foundation Grey Bruce
Grey County Federation of Agriculture
Healthy Lake Huron
Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
Lake Huron Fishing Club
Markdale Rotary Club
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and
Rural Affairs

Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Ontario Envirothon Penetangore Watershed Group Pine River Watershed Initiative Network Saugeen River Fisheries Task Force SaugGreen Stewardship Grey Bruce Walkerton Rotary Club Watershed Schools



- L Press release
- 5 Radio interviews
- 4 Conferences attended
- 21 Events hosted
- 12 Shows attended
- 7 Presentations conducted
- 1 Tou
- 2 Webinars
- 27 Meetings, one of which involved a meeting between Jo-Anne Harbinson, Manager of Water Resources and Stewardship Services; Wayne Brohman, General Manager/
 Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario; Lisa Thompson MPP Huron-Bruce; Ian MacRobbie, Enbridge Inc.; and Les Nichols, Bruce County Federation of Agriculture to discuss issues associated with the invasive Phragmites plant.

Partners















 \bigoplus





























Stewardship in the Field

Saugeen Conservation works closely with local and provincial agricultural groups, organizations and agencies in furthering the work of stewardship in the field. Below are a few of the initiatives implemented in 2016:

Coffee, Crops & Donuts

- ➤ SVCA was pleased to work with agricultural partners in hosting 11 in-field, farmer-to-farmer workshops on a wide variety of soil conservation topics. Coffee, Crops and Donuts focussed on specific management techniques and also allowed farmers to share their experiences and expertise.
- Staff also worked with 10 farmers to put cover crop demonstration plots in place, focussing on various seeding approaches, germination timing and crop rotations.
- SVCA had the opportunity to pilot a cover crop incentive program to support farmers wanting to improve their soil health.



Above: Tori Waugh, Agricultural Outreach Coordinator, talks to local students about the benefits of cover crops and soil conservation.

Education Outreach

Staff also developed **Ontario Curriculum-**related **Soil Conservation Modules** for Grades 1 through 12 and delivered them at events such as CareerWORKS. It is anticipated that more students will be involved in educational programming focussing on agricultural issues in the coming year.

Students from Kincardine District Secondary School attended Grey-Bruce Sustainability Network's WaterWORKS Program as well, to learn about the connection between water quality and soil health.









Affiliates

Speare Seeds, Harriston
Quality Seeds, Vaughn
Mapleseed
Bruce County Plowmen's Association
Osprey Bluffs Honey Company, Singhampton
Germar Farms, Mildmay
North Wellington Co-op, Hanover
Sprucedale Agromart, Hanover
Parrish and Heimbecker, Goderich
Harry Bierman, Paisley
Peter Kotzeff, Paisley
Salford Group, Salford
J & H Sales, Chesley

Huron Tractor, Walkerton
Stoltz Sales and Service, Mildmay
Robert's Farm Equipment, Chesley
Harrison Burgsma, Dungannon
Regan Millian, Dungannon
Thomas Lennox, Deemerton
Practical Precision, Tavistock
Woodrill, Guelph
Agronomy Advantage, Dundalk
Schaus Land and Cattle Company, Elmwood
Ag Business and Crop, Palmerston
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network,
Walkerton



- 21 Farmers re: Cover Crop Incentive Program
- 11 Coffee, Crops & Donut sessions involving 310 farmers
- 887 ha (2192 acres) of farmland protected in cover crops through the Ag Outreach program
- 8 Soil Health Modules developed, through the Ag Outreach Program







Environmental Planning and Regulations

What's it all About?

Some of the highlights within this department in 2016 include:

- An additional Regulations Officer was hired in November 2016 to aid with increased workload.
- Early in 2016 staff initiated a comprehensive SVCA EPR Policies Manual. A draft document was ready for Authority approval and circulation in December 2016. The process will continue through 2017.
- In July, the Authority reduced the SVCA's 50 metre screening area around the Hazard Land mapped portions of the watershed to 30 metres with respect to Ontario Regulation 169/06. This reduced the area of interest to the SVCA by over 20,000 hectares across the watershed.
- In July, SVCA began a study to update **flood plain mapping** in the Community of Teeswater, following a request from the Municipality of South Bruce. The updated floodlines will replace the original 1986 mapping and explore the option of a Two Zone Floodway-Flood Fringe Policy. The project is expected to be completed in early 2017.





And the Survey Says...

SVCA provides individuals (those who apply for a permit or are involved in a general inquiry), the option of filling out a survey to measure the degree of their satisfaction, with regard to customer service and thoroughness. To date, 108 responses were received.



95% of respondents were satisfied with SVCA's decisions



85% were pleased with the staff response time



94% rated staff professionalism as good/excellent

SVCA reviews all planning applications such as severances and subdivisions and provides natural hazard recommendations, representing provincial interests, with regard to natural hazards on planning applications.

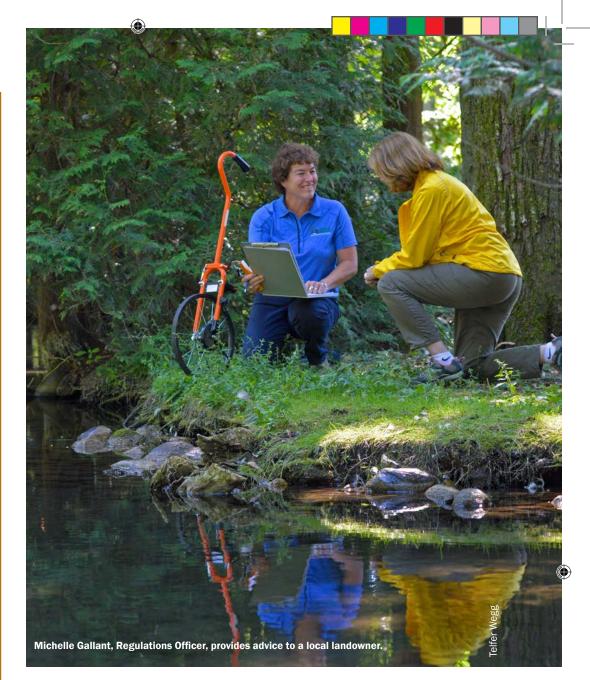
The SVCA, via service agreements with member municipalities, provides recommendations on natural heritage policies associated with planning applications (significant woodlands, valleylands, wetlands, etc.)

Staff reviewed larger updates and documents associated with the planning process such as:

- Grey County and Huron County Natural Heritage System Studies
- Grey County Official Plan (5 year review)
- Huron-Kinloss Comprehensive Zoning
 By-law
- Howick Official Plan
- Walkerton Community Official Plan (5 year review).
- Morris-Turnberry Official Plan
- Huron-Kinloss Official Plan



- 237 Development permits issued
- 99% Planning Act comments submitted on time
- 95 Violations of Regulation 169/06 investigated
- 40 Enforcement matters resolved
- 20% Increase in Planning Act comments by the SVCA
- 6 Charges laid associated with Violations of Ontario Regulation 169/06
- Search Warrant executed associated with Violations of Ontario Regulation 169/06
- 1 Section 28 hearing held
- 0 Permit denials
- O Conditions of SVCA approval appealed by proponents
- 364 Planning applications reviewed
- 1,195 General inquires responded to by SVCA, an increase of 26% over 2015
- 20 New municipal drains reviewed
- 15 maintenance projects reviewed



Meetings, Presentations & Partnerships

- Attended and participated in Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings associated with the Grey County Natural Heritage Systems Study currently underway.
- Attended 'Is the Coast Clear?' Conference.
- Attended two Coastal Working Group meetings for Conservation Authorities with shoreline areas.
- Conducted presentations at SVCA's Agricultural Advisory Committee Meetings.
- Participated in numerous Webinars associated with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans,
 Conservation Ontario, Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol, and workshops for the development of a template regarding an agricultural guide to conservation authority permits.
- Attended Mapping Working Group meetings between appointed municipal staff and Councilors to investigate improved watershed mapping.





Water Quality

Surface Water Sampling

Saugeen Conservation conducts **monthly surface water quality sampling** at 29 sites within the Saugeen and lake-fringe watersheds. Sampling has occurred at some of these sites since the 1970s.

Samples are analyzed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) and private laboratories for general chemistry, including phosphorus, nitrates, metals and E. coli.

Data collected allows staff to detect changes in water quality, identify sources of pollution, and prioritize areas for protection and restoration.



Phosphorus contributes to algae growth which is harmful to the aquatic environment.

Our data shows that phosphorus has been increasing in the Saugeen River over the past 15 years and is above the Provincial Water Quality Objective.

Sources of phosphorus include runoff of household fertilizers, soaps and cleaners, agricultural runoff, industrial effluent and faulty septic systems.

Groundwater Monitoring

The SVCA monitors 23 aquifers in 13 locations throughout the watershed. Ten wells monitor bedrock aquifers and 13 monitor overburden aquifers. Overburden aquifers are those located in loose soil, sand or gravel overlying solid rock or bedrock. Bedrock aquifers tend to be deeper. Knowing how groundwater levels and quality is changing from year-to-year assists the SVCA in making wise comments with regard to land-use development and aggregate extraction proposals.

Rain gauges have also been incorporated into various well sites throughout the watershed to allow for a better understanding of the correlation between precipitation and groundwater levels. This data supports the groundwater component of the Low Water Response Program (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry).

Within these wells, water level is logged hourly, while water quality samples are collected annually in the fall. Any exceedances of the Ontario Drinking Water Standards are reported to municipalities and the local Health Unit for follow-up. This program is supported by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

Biomonitoring

Benthic invertebrates (i.e. bottom dwelling insects, crustaceans, worms and mollusks) are collected at surface water sampling sites across the watershed on an annual basis. These organisms are excellent indicators of local water quality due to their differing tolerances to pollution. The presence or absence and relative abundance of different species can also tell staff a great deal about the degree and sources of habitat degradation.

Recent results (over the past five years), indicate that the type of benthos have changed across the watershed, favouring those which are more tolerant of polluted conditions. Saugeen Conservation will continue to closely monitor these organisms and investigate possible causes of water quality deterioration.

Low Impact Development

Low Impact Development (LID) is the term used to describe an engineering approach to **managing stormwater runoff**. LID's, for example, can be incorporated into municipal infrastructure such as green spaces and permeable pavement.

Partners















Rain Garden (LID)

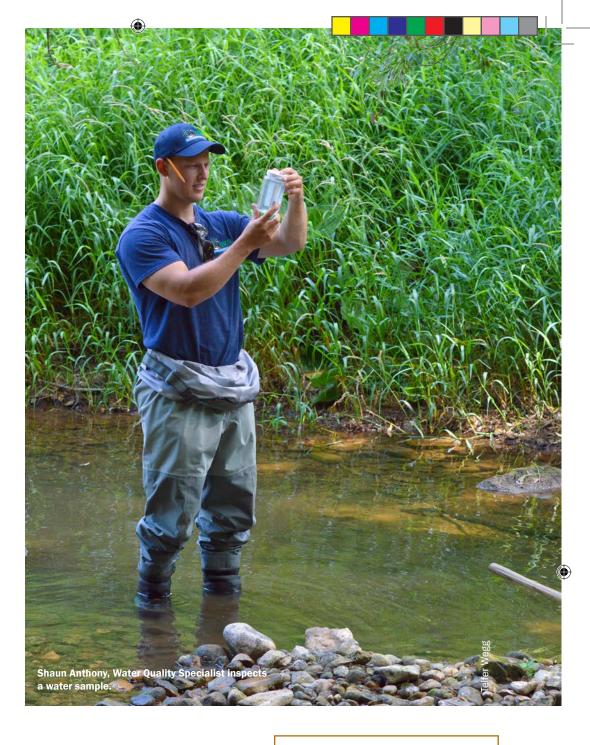
This year, staff coordinated the installation of an LID feature known as a "rain garden" in the Municipality of Brockton. The garden is situated at the Walkerton Heritage Water Garden and is designed to slow down and capture stormwater runoff before it enters municipal storm sewers and rivers. It also serves as a demonstration plot for homeowners.



Watershed Report Cards

Watershed report cards provide residents with an excellent summary on the quality and rating of local resources, such as **wetlands, forests, and water quality** (both surface and groundwater).

The **third set of Watershed Report Cards** will be released in **2018**. The ultimate goal is to compare report cards to observe changes in the grades for all parameters. More information on previous report cards can be found on our website.



Affiliates

Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund Grey Bruce Sustainability Network Healthy Lake Huron Technical Working Committee

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ministry of the Environment and Climate
Change

Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network



- 232 Samples taken at 29 surface water sampling sites
- 26 Samples taken from 23 different monitoring wells
- 30 Benthic invertebrate samples taken at 10 sampling sites
- 60 Rural Stormwater Management Model samples taken



Forestry

The Forestry Department is responsible for the management of over 21,000 acres (8,500 ha) of SVCA forest land. Management activities include access control, property signage, trail maintenance, forest inventories, timber selection and harvest supervision.

This Department also provides services to private landowners as part of an initiative between Saugeen and Grey Sauble Conservation Authorities, called the Grey Bruce Forestry Service (GBFS). The GBFS offers services such as tree marking, managed forest planning (MFTIP), tree planting, Emerald Ash Borer innoculations, timber sales, tree sales, and forestry advice in fulfilling its vision to ensure healthy and sustainable forests.

Did you know that the forests owned and managed by Saugeen Conservation have achieved Forest Stewardship Council®(FSC®) certification (FSC® C018800) through the Eastern Ontario Model Forest's Forest Certification Program? The FSC® is an international, membership-based, non-profit organization that supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.





Bruce Grey Woodlands Association

Staff has been actively involved in this Association, promoting proper forest management and educating the public on the importance of maintaining healthy woodlands. This group holds numerous workshops and day trips throughout the year.

Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference

As one of the founding members of this conference, staff is involved in the planning and facilitating of this two-day event which focuses on educating forest owners. The Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference attracts hundreds of people from across the province to learn about all aspects of forests and forestry.





133,050 Trees ordered including 95,440 trees planted for 13 landowners under the 50 Million Tree Program

437 Landscape trees provided to 5 landowners as well as member municipalities

4,030 Trees and shrubs sold at the 12th Annual Arbour Day Tree Sale

20 Private landowners involved with the Managed Forest
Tax Incentive Program
(MFTIP) at a total of 376 ha
(931 acres)



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Group, which also includes representatives from Grey Sauble Conservation, Grey and Bruce Counties, Parks Canada, City of Owen Sound, and MNRF to ensure that **all watershed residents are kept informed about the Emerald Ash Borer**. This Working Group will be expanding its focus to help raise awareness of other invasive forest pests. Staff has been installing Emerald Ash Borer traps annually since 2014 to monitor for the presence of this insect, with support from Bruce Power.

Staff is an active part of the EAB Working

Grey Bruce Maple Syrup Producers Association

For over 40 years, staff has been involved with this organization. Producers from all over Southern Ontario come to the Annual General Meeting to gain knowledge and share ideas.

Arbour Day Tree Sale

This was the 12th year for the popular spring tree sale. A total of 4,030 trees and shrubs were sold to the public consisting of a variety of species and sizes. Expenditures were \$13,134 while the revenues were \$21,293 resulting in a profit of \$8,159.

Qualifications

Forestry staff are qualified members of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, Certified Ontario Tree Markers, licenced pesticide applicators and Certified MFTIP Plan approvers.

Events and Shows Attended

Annual MMNRF Somerville Stock Viewing Brockton Horticulturalists
Bruce Grey Forest Festival
Community Forest Managers Meeting
EAB Working Group Meeting
Forests Ontario - AGM
Forests Ontario - Post Plant Meeting
Forest Health Review
FSC Southern Ontario Certification
Greenock Directors Tour
OFAH Zone H

Affiliates

Bruce Grey Forest Festival Bruce Grey Woodlands Association Emerald Ash Borer Working Group Forests Ontario Ontario Invasive Plant Council Ontario Professional Foresters Association Ontario Woodlot Association Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association School Groups

Projects

Financial Ecological Assessment of Forests for Bruce Power Lockerby Tree Planting TD FEF Walkerton Tree Planting









Conservation Areas & Lands

Providing You with a Quality Outdoor Experience

SVCA's Conservation Areas and Lands are comprised of over 8,500 ha (21,000 acres) of diverse wetlands, ecologically significant forests, rich riverine systems and more!

Providing access to some of these natural 'gems' is part of what Conservation

Authorities do in helping to showcase the unique natural areas and features that exist across the province.

Of particular note was the development of a 'The Cambell Horse Campground' at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area. This new venture, one of only three in Ontario, resulted in higher visitation to the park.

It also sparked a whole new level of awareness and encompassed a new clientele to a camping market that is growing.

Various upgrades were made at Saugeen Bluffs CA including renovations to the park store, washroom /shower building, the development of over 12 km of additional trails, new signage, the inclusion of Wi-Fi, the provision of an activity centre for visitors and bunkie and RV rentals.

An interesting change in 2016 was the development of a Children's Safety Village at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area. The Saugeen Valley

Conservation Area. The Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village (SVCSV), is now leasing SVCA's former administrative centre.

The building underwent major renovations as it was retrofitted for its new purpose.

The SVCSV also leases Sulphur Spring's Resource Centre for classroom space.

This venture very much complements the programming and events currently taking place at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area.



AR 2016.indd 20 3/14/2017 4:48:56 PM



Changes & Improvements

- Brown trout was stocked in the pond at Allan Park CA by the MNRF.
- The reconstruction of a boardwalk at Schmidt Lake (Greenock Swamp), was completed summer, providing a safe avenue by which visitors can make their way to the viewing platform.
- The recreation pond at Varney Conservation Area was cleaned out and refitted with fresh sand lining.
- A new kiosk was installed at McGowan Falls (Durham Conservation Area), by Grey County Tourism highlighting the scenic falls and its inclusion in their Falls of Grey County brochure.
- A new pay-by-phone parking system was implemented at Allan Park and Sulphur Spring Conservation Areas.
- The replacement of a major walking and skiing bridge at Stoney Island Conservation Area.
- The drinking water system at Sulphur Spring CA was upgraded.



Staff work on the construction of a new boardwalk system at Schmidt Lake, part of the Greenock Swamp complex.

Brucedale Conservation Area, located along Lake Huron, was the site of a special program involving the removal of the invasive Phragmites plant which has choked out sections of the shoreline. This effort is part of a fiveyear commitment made by Enbridge. In addition, an educational segment

was offered to grade four students called the Wonders of Wetlands Program, the aim of which was to teach youth about the importance of wetland ecosystems. The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation also helped with this important initiative.





Partners, Groups, Volunteers and Agencies

Bruce County Campers Bruce County Tourism Bruce County Innovation Program Chesley Saddle Club Conservation Ontario Enbridge Inc. Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund **Grey County Tourism** Kincardine Ski Club Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation Municipality of Arran-Elderslie Ontario Steelheader's Association RT07, Tourism Grey, Bruce, Simcoe Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village

Saugeen Bluffs and Durham Seasonal

Campers

Town of Saugeen Shores Trails Ontario Canada Summer Jobs Program

Major Sponsors (over \$1,000) **B&L Farm Services, Chesley** Cedarwell Excavating, Hanover Enbridge Inc. Henry Equestrian Insurance Brokers, Markdale MEI Paving, Chesley Morry's Trailer Sales, Hanover Shore to Shore Glass and Mirror, Allenford

Meetings Attended

Economic Committee of the Town of Saugeen Shores Saugeen Bluffs Maple Syrup Committee



9.230 Campers at Brucedale Conservation Area

29,860 Campers at Durham Conservation Area

34,865 Campers at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area



Communications



Above: Jayne Thompson, Communications Coordinator, Maitland Conservation, stands proudly at the entrance of the Conservation Tent on the opening day of the International Plowing Match in Harriston, Ontario. SVCA staff was pleased to be a partner in this exciting endeavour.

Communications involves the use of a multitude of tools in orchestrating both internal and external communications aimed at creating a favourable profile among stakeholders.

Some of the highights of this department over the past year include:

The International Plowing Match The SVCA was very proud to be involved with the International Plowing Match in Harriston, Ontario, along with the Grand River, Halton and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities. Maitland Conservation Authority was the lead agency in this effort.

Over 14,000 people ventured through the Conservation Tent to participate in handson activities, learn about conservation programs and to find out the latest news on the conservation authorities involved.

Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area Marketing Plan

This Department had the opportunity to develop a Business/Marketing Plan for Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area, SVCA's largest campground.

The plan addressed the changing camping market and included a number of recommendations designed to improve the park in keeping with current trends.

After much planning, consultation and research, one of the group camping areas was reconfigured to accommodate horse camping.

Response during the first year was extremely positive. Currently, Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area is one of only three horse camps in the province. This market has attracted an entirely new clientele to the park and breathed new life into a rather outdated campground. This endeavour also made it possible to update and upgrade other facilities in the park to newer standards and accessibility.

Website Modernization

Last year SVCA's website underwent a total upgrade. We are pleased to say that the website is now accessible to many different users and in a variety of mobile devices.

In terms of communications for any organization there are seven major benefits of websites; instant communication,

cost effectiveness, accessibility around the clock and around the world, convenience, business presence, marketing and visibility.



Ongoing Presentations, Hikes and Shows

Each year this department provides countless presentations and hikes to watershed interest groups and organizations. Staff also attends numerous shows, workshops, fairs and special events in promoting the accomplishments of the SVCA.

















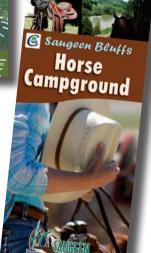
Publications & Promotional Materials

This Department writes, designs and produces a number of products for all the programs and services of the organization. Signs, brochures, display advertising, reports and guidebooks are just a few examples.













Bruce County Innovation Program

Community Living (Walkerton and District)

Conservation Ontario

Grey Bruce Sustainability Network

Grey Sauble Conservation

Healthy Lake Huron

Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

Lake Huron Fishing Club

Maitland Valley Conservation

Watershed Media

Member Municipalities

Ontario Driftboat Guides

Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Ontario Power Generation

Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation

Grey Bruce Tourism Associations

Walkerton BIA

Walkerton Fisheries Task Force

Watershed Groups and Organizations

Watershed Schools



Radio/Television/Print

- 14 Press releases
- 14 Weeks of radio advertising for events, functions and programming
- 12 Display ads

Functions/Events

- 5 Seminars / workshops
 - attended
- 45 Meetings
- 17 Presentations and hikes
- 3 Evening Conservation Tours (SVCA / SVCF staff & Members)
- 1 Volunteer appreciation evening
- Volunteer/SponsorRecognition ceremony
- 2 SVCA/SVCF major events, (10,000 combined attendance)
- 16 Shows, events and fairs attended by SVCA / SVCF organized by others
- 1 IPM
- 1 Campground Open House
- 1 Campground Grand Opening
- 2 River Clean-up Operations
- 1 TD Tree Plant
- 1 Memorial Tree Ceremony

Publications & Promotions

6,000 Campground Guidebooks
33,000 Produced and distributed
(flyers, placemats, coupons,

etc.)

- 3 Newsletters (Green Side Up)
- 1 Annual Report (350 copies)
- 12 Advertisements in tourism publications
- 1 Horse Campground brochure
- 3 Trade show displays





Conservation Education The Natural Way to Learn

Educating our youth is probably one of the most important elements in ensuring the continuation of conservation efforts well into the future.

Saugeen Conservation has a diverse and extensive conservation education program which involves over 10,000 youth each year. Programs fall into the following categories:

The WREN Program

A cooperative effort between Saugeen and Grey Sauble Conservation Authorities, this program offers schools throughout Grey, Bruce and parts of Wellington and Huron Counties with over **50 different** hands-on curriculum based studies. Each program investigates interactions within ecosystems, biodiversity, sustainability and the responsibility of everyone to protect and conserve our natural environment for future generations.

Flood Waters & You Program
Offered in conjunction with the OPP and
St. John Ambulance, this is a **hands-on program focused on flooding and cold water safety issues**. These programs are
offered free of charge to all watershed
elementary schools and community youth
groups.

The DEER Program

Fully sponsored by Bruce Power, over 40 different curriculum based programs are available to all schools in the Bluewater District and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Boards, grades 2 to 12. These full day, hands-on programs take place at the Bruce Power Visitors' Centre, Inglis Falls or Sulphur Spring Conservation Area.

The goal of SVCA's Education
Program is "to assist watershed
youth with the resources, tools
and knowledge necessary to make
wise and informed decisions about
the future health of our natural
resources."

Earth Week Program

Fully sponsored by Enbridge for the second year, these in-school programs were first developed in 2007 in response to a growing interest in Earth Week. Six different curriculum based presentations offer students the chance to learn about our resources and how we can all help look after the planet.

Wild Encounters Nature Day Camp

A cooperative effort between Hanover Recreation Department and Saugeen Conservation this program has been offered for over 20 years. The goal of this week long day camp is to get kids active outside, having fun and learning about conservation and the environment.

Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

Saugeen Conservation is proud to be a founding member of this program. In 2016, this festival celebrated its 15th year and moved from its September timing to May. This festival is aimed at grade four students in Grey and Bruce and features 46 different curriculum based hands-on demonstrations and activities all focused on our water resources.

Our Partners -































Youth Expo

This program provides an opportunity for young people, aged 10 to 17, to participate in a wide variety of outdoor activities ranging from fishing, hiking, archery, bird watching and more. This was our 10th annual Expo held in June at the Sydenham Sportsmen's Club and hosted by a number of like-minded organizations interested in offering youth the opportunity to explore the outdoors.

Bruce Grey Forest Festival
Initiated in 2010 by Saugeen Conservation,
this Festival was the second of its kind
in the province. Grade 7 students from
across Grey Bruce participate in thirtyfive different hands-on curriculum
based activities all focused on our forest
resources. This year's four-day Festival
took place in early October at Allan Park
Conservation Area.

Wonders of Wetlands

Enbridge has generously sponsored this one day program held at Brucedale Conservation Area. The program focuses on the importance of coastal wetlands.

Over 75 grade 4 students come to learn about the importance of wetland ecosystems. This program complements Enbridge's on-going support for the removal of phragmites (an invasive species) on site and in and around the area.

The World of Trees

This program is presented in cooperation with Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's Arboretum Alliance. The **program is delivered over two days to Owen Sound area grade 3 students** and focuses on the many aspects of trees and their importance to the environment. Students also help plant additional trees at the Arboretum during the program.



presentationsclasses

58 different programs

Participating Students

7,959 Bluewater School Board2,439 Bruce Grey Catholic School

Board

45 Community Youth Groups

968 Other Groups





Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation

The Communications Department works hand-in-hand with the Foundation and its volunteers. A win-win situation, programs and events of the Foundation accomplish a number of objectives, such as public awareness, increased profile and fundraising.

Fundraising Events



The Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation was established in 1973 and is the fundraising arm of Saugeen Conservation.

The SVCF's Board of Directors consists of three staff persons, and individuals from across the watershed who have a sincere interest and dedication to conservation. The Foundation hosts two major fundraising events:

Saugeen Bluffs Maple Syrup Festival

This festival has been ongoing since 1969. Between 5,000 – 7,000 people attend this event annually. It is the **largest event** of its kind in Grey and Bruce Counties!

Christmas in the Country

This incredible event is hosted at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area each year during the last full weekend in November. Treelined pathways are adorned with hundreds of candle lanterns to set the mood of this one-of-a-kind event. Trees and buildings throughout the park are festooned with thousands of lights and activities are featured throughout.



Appealing to People's Interests

The Foundation has established 'funds' to which people can donate, depending on their interests. They are as follows:

Education Fund Saugeen Conservation teaches well over 10,000 students per year through the conservation education program. There are over 75 curriculum programs from which teachers can choose. Donations help to provide additional resources for this program, depending on need and requirements.

Wetland Fund Monies in this fund are utilized for the purchase of significant wetlands throughout the watershed.

Conservation Area Fund Monies directed to this fund are utilized for Conservation Area improvements including trail development, signage, the construction of new bridges, and much more.





Above: Gord Ripley, piper, plays the bagpipes for the Annual Memorial Grove Ceremony where families, friends and aquaintances gather together to pay homage to all those individuals who have passed on but to whom trees have been planted in their memory. Approximately 700 - 800 people attend each year.

Celebration Forest Fund This program provides people with a unique opportunity of purchasing a full grown tree for dedication or the celebration of a special event. Prices vary according to tree size and each purchased tree is identified with a permanent plaque. Celebrations have included anniversaries, retirements, etc.

Memorial Fund Donations made to this program go toward the planting of a tree in memory of a loved one.

River Fund Individuals who contribute to this fund can specify whether they would like their donation to go to river improvements for either canoeists or anglers. Projects can consist of signage, river clean-up, educational material and more.

MBER 268 Active volunteers

10,000 People attended Authority and Foundation events throughout the year

3 **Evening Conservation Tours**

210 Memorial Grove trees planted

Left: Joan Roseborough poses with the tree she dedicated to a loved one through the Celebration Forest Program.





Mission:

The Coastal Centre is a charitable non-profit organization "providing leadership and expertise through research, education and stewardship outreach, with partners for healthy coastal communities."

About Us

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation was founded in 1998 with the goals of protecting and restoring Lake Huron's coastal environment and promoting a healthy coastal ecosystem.

The Coastal Centre is the only grassroots organization focussed on protecting the coastal environment lake-wide. The Centre has conducted projects and outreach initiatives along the shorelines of Lake Huron, Southern Georgian Bay and Southern Manitoulin Island.

Our Programs

The Coastal Action Plan

A comprehensive plan of the waterfront from Sarnia to Tobermory to benefit citizens and government was initiated in 2016. Work will continue on this in 2017.

Coast Watches

This program encourages volunteers to monitor and record local enviornmental conditions. Data is then forwarded to the Centre where it is collated and analyzed.

Butt Free Beach

The LHCCC has been actively involved with the educational 'butt free beach' program. Specialized green receptacles have been developed and provided to beach goers to encourage the proper disposal of cigarette butts.



Shoreline Clean-ups

Ongoing clean-up operations are scheduled all along the Lake Huron lakeshore to help keep beaches and lakeshore areas clean. Volunteers and youth are actively involved in these endeavours.

Protecting Species at Risk

This educational program focuses on Species at Risk along the lakeshore including coastal wetlands.

Invasive Species Management

This educational program involves hands-on activities to manage invasive species with a particular focus on Phragmites australis.

Green Ribbon Champion

This initiative involves shoreline stewardship and education programs designed to provide advice, resources and support to residents along the Lake Huron coastline.



In Memoriam

Prior to the release of this report, we were incredibly saddened by the loss of Geoff Peach in January 2017. Geoff was the co-founder of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation in 1998 and worked tirelessly on shoreline issues for the betterment of the Lake Huron shoreline. Geoff and his staff implemented countless education campaigns and projects over the years. His incredible dedication, enthusiasm and easy-going nature will be sorely missed. Rest in peace our fine friend.

Volunteers & Sponsors

Major Sponsors

B & L Farm Services, Chesley Bruce Power, Tiverton Cedarwell Excavating, Hanover Community Foundation Grey Bruce Department of Fisheries and Oceans Enbridge Inc.

Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, MOECC

Grey Bruce Sustainability Network GSS Engineering, Owen Sound Henry Equestrian Insurance Brokers, Markdale

John Sutherland and Sons, Guelph Lake Huron Fishing Club Morry's Trailer Sales, Hanover Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Ontario Power Generation Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

RBC Bluewater Fund Shore to Shore Glass and Mirror, Allenford Stewardship Grey Bruce TD Friends of the Environment

Due to the Access to Information Act, we are unable to publish individual names of all our incredible volunteers. Their help and dedication has been greatly appreciated.

These dedicated individuals and financial providers assist with the following:

- · Conservation projects
- Spring park preparations
- · Park maintenance
- Trail development and maintenance
- · Development and upkeep of Conservation Area gardens
- Assistance with special events
- Conservation projects, such as tree
- Construction and the coordination of displays
- Assisting at shows and special
- · Filing of conservation related newspaper articles
- Administrative tasks and errands
- Research and development

Major Event Sponsors (over \$1.000.00)

Bruce Power, Tiverton CRS, Walkerton Grant's Your Independent Grocer, Hanover Hi Berry Farms, Port Elgin Love's Sweetness Maple Syrup, Holstein Municipality of Saugeen Shores Ontario Power Generation, Tiverton Ross Young Bus Lines, Tiverton The Post, Hanover Walkerton Rotary Club





Major Volunteers (over 100 hours)

1st Chesley Scouts 1st Hanover Scouts 1st Walkerton Scouts and Ventures **Bruce County Campers** Bruce County Family Living Centre, Walkerton

Bruce County Trappers and Crappers Chesley Saddle Club Kincardine Ski Club Ontario Steelheader's Association Sacred Heart Secondary School Co-op

Students, Walkerton South Bruce Buckskinners Byer's Family, Hanover Dickison Family, Walkerton Fleming Family, Neustadt Fraser Family, Ayton Gilroy Family, Chesely Grubb Family, Walkerton Hardy Family, Hanover Henkusens Family, Ayton Hodgins Family, Paisley Kraft Family, Hanover Kroetsch Family, Walkerton Kuntz Family, Elmwood Lacey Family, Walkerton Leask Family, Paisley Luyten Family, Teeswater MacLeod Family, Hanover Martin Family, Chepstow McCracken Family, Hanover Montag Family, Carlsruhe Moric Family, Durham Oberle Family, Carlsrhue Potts Family, Clifford Shelley Family, Hanover Ward Family, Neustadt Yorke Family, Teeswater Zettel Family, Walkerton West Grey Police Department West Grey Fire Department



Photos: Top: Volunteer Lin Fleming.

Middle: Brian Hicks, Staff Counsel & Corporate Secretary and Joe Deitrich, CEO, Trillium Mutual Insurance.

Bottom R: Julie Henhoeffer and Melissa Henkusens, Community Living Support Worker.











Members

Luke Charbonneau, Chair, Town of Saugeen Shores Dan Gieruszak, 1st Vice Chair, Municipality of Brockton Maureen Couture, 2nd Vice Chair, Municipality of Kincardine Robert Buckle, Municipalities of Morris-

Robert Buckle, Municipalities of Morris-Turnberry/South Bruce/Township of Howick Andrew White, Municipality of Kincardine Dan Kerr, Municipality of Arran-Elderslie Brian Gamble, Township of Chatsworth Stewart Halliday, Municipality of Grey Highlands Sue Paterson, Town of Hanover Wilf Gamble, Township of Huron-Kinloss Mike Smith, Town of Saugeen Shores Barbara Dobreen, Township of Southgate Steve McCabe, Township of Wellington North/Town of Minto John Bell, Municipality of West Grey Kevin Eccles, Municipality of West Grey

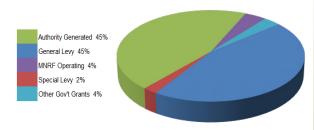


Directors

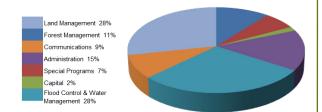
Catherine Dickison, Chair, Walkerton
Ed Moric, Ist Vice Chair, Durham
Gary Thomas, 2nd Vice Chair, Hanover
Laura Molson, Treasurer (staff)
Shannon Wood, Secretary (staff)
Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (staff)
Luke Charbonneau, (Chair, SVCA, ex-officio)
Rick Pake, Hanover
Jack MacLeod, Hanover
Ruby McCracken, Hanover
Jim Potts, Clifford
Carol Kraft, Hanover

2016 Financial Summary (unaudited)

Revenues \$3,576,413



Expenses \$3,499,378



Staff

Corporate Services

Wayne Brohman General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Laura Molson Manager, Accounting

Janice Hagan Accounts Payable/Administrative Assistant

Dale Schaefer Accounting Clerk

Communications

Shannon Wood Manager, Communications
Nancy Griffin Education Coordinator

Catherine Billings Communications Assistant/Graphic Artist

Information Technology & GIS

Les McKay Manager, Information Technology

Rene Kleinecke GIS Coordinator Lauriss Detzler Scanning Clerk

Environmental Planning and Regulations

Erik Downing Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

Paul ElstonRegulations OfficerMichelle GallantRegulations OfficerMatt ArmstrongRegulations Officer

Candace Hamm

Jennifer Prenger

Valerie Lamont

Michael Oberle

Andrew McIntyre

Environmental Planning Technician

Environmental Planning Technician

Environmental Planning Technician

Resources Information Technician

Forestry

Jim Penner Manager, Forestry
Donna Lacey Forestry Technician

Land Management

Barry Skinn Park Superintendent, Durham CA
Ron Kaufman Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA
Caralynn Kamerman Park Superintendent, Brucedale CA
Bruce Martin Assistant Park Superintendent, Durham CA
Elijah Wilson Assistant Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA

Maintenance

Rick Rowbotham Field Services Coordinator
Brian Oberle Sulphur Spring CA Attendant

Water Management

Gary Senior Sr. Manager, Flood Warning and Land Management
Jo-Anne Harbinson Manager, Water Resources and Stewardship Services

Shaun Anthony Water Quality Specialist

Tori Waugh Agricultural Outreach Coordinator

Special Assistance Staff: Julie Henhoeffer and Community Living Support Worker, Melissa Henkusens.

Drinking Water Source Protection Staff

Carl Seider Project Manager
Emily Vandermeulen Program Supervisor
Nancy Guest Administrative Assistant
Karen Gillan Communications Specialist
Alexandra Milanetti GIS/Database Specialist



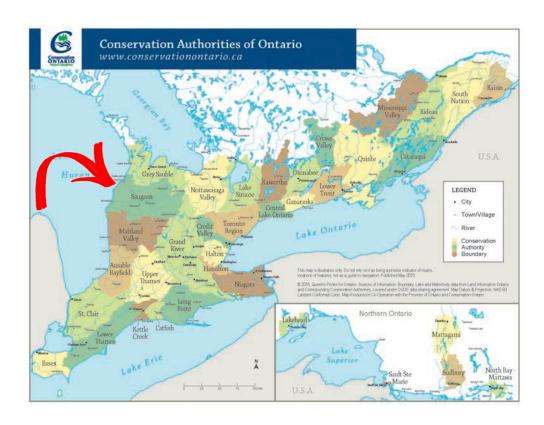






Mission

To provide leadership through coordination of watershed planning, implementation of resource management programs, and the $\,$ promotion of conservation awareness, in cooperation with others.



1078 Bruce Rd. 12, P.O. Box 150, Formosa ON N0G IW0 Tel. 519-367-3040 Fax 519-367-3041

www.svca.on.ca



