



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT





Photo: JENNY WOOD

## ABOUT US

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.

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.

*Front Cover Photo by: David Bishop*



Saugeen Conservation is a grassroots conservation agency that operates on a watershed scale.



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

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



Photo: Kendra McMillan

*It gives me great pleasure to highlight some of our accomplishments in 2019.*

A cold start to the first part of 2019 resulted in the **formation of frazil** ice in the upper reaches of the Saugeen River. Staff worked with the Municipality of West Grey in combating the accumulation and possible build-up in the river channel with the use of excavators and a bulldozer.

A great way to welcome in spring is with our annual **Arbour Day Tree Sale**. This very successful event attracts hundreds of watershed residents eager to purchase trees and shrubs for their properties. A **total of 6,553 trees and shrubs were purchased** during the event.

The arrival of warmer weather at Saugeen Conservation signals the arrival of **tree planting season**. Staff **planted 85,210 trees** in the spring of 2019, throughout the watershed.



One of the most popular additions to our conservation programming is the development of the **Greenock Swamp Tours**. Two different tours combine culture, history and the natural environment into an entertaining and unique package.



**Seven fully booked tours** were held in Ontario's single largest forested wetland – the Greenock Swamp. Local actors bring history alive and add fun and levity. The tours also feature a visit to an historic inn, local fare, stories and legends. The underlying theme is to educate people about the value of wetlands in a fun and entertaining fashion. All tours are listed on [eventbrite.ca](https://eventbrite.ca). The SVCA implemented a number of **stewardship efforts** over



the past year, projects that require 'boots on the ground' efforts. Initiatives in 2019 included conservation projects such as livestock exclusion efforts, alternative watering systems, the establishment of riverine systems, invasive species removal and tree planting. In addition, staff and volunteers coordinated the Yellow Fish Road Program in the Town of Mount Forest with the help of local schools. Staff also organized and attended numerous stewardship workshops and seminars.

A new '**communications plan**' was initiated for the Environmental Planning and Regulations Department in 2019 to help foster and build a positive public image and perception of this program. Efforts included social media posts, radio advertising, interviews, the sharing of questionnaire results, website improvements, and more.

The SVCA prides itself in having a very robust **conservation education program** which caters to over **11,000 students annually**. Staff work with school boards throughout both Saugeen and Grey Sauble Conservation jurisdictions. Many thanks to sponsors who make our programs possible, including Enbridge and Bruce Power.

Throughout the summer months, staff were very busy **sampling local rivers and streams** as well as groundwater, to assess its quality. Staff also collect and identify aquatic organisms which, like the proverbial 'canaries in the coal mine', can tell us a great deal about the quality of the waterways as well as changing trends.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Directors of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation for their efforts to raise additional funds for conservation. Their dedication is greatly appreciated.

Finally, we cannot forget the thousands of people who visit our **Conservation Areas and Lands** to experience the outdoors and to participate in the numerous recreational activities they provide. We are truly fortunate to live in this part of Ontario featuring some of the most scenic and picturesque natural areas in the province.



I invite you to peruse our pages and check out our accomplishments. As a public watershed organization, we are committed to keeping you informed about our conservation initiatives and our efforts to ensure a healthy environment for everyone involved.

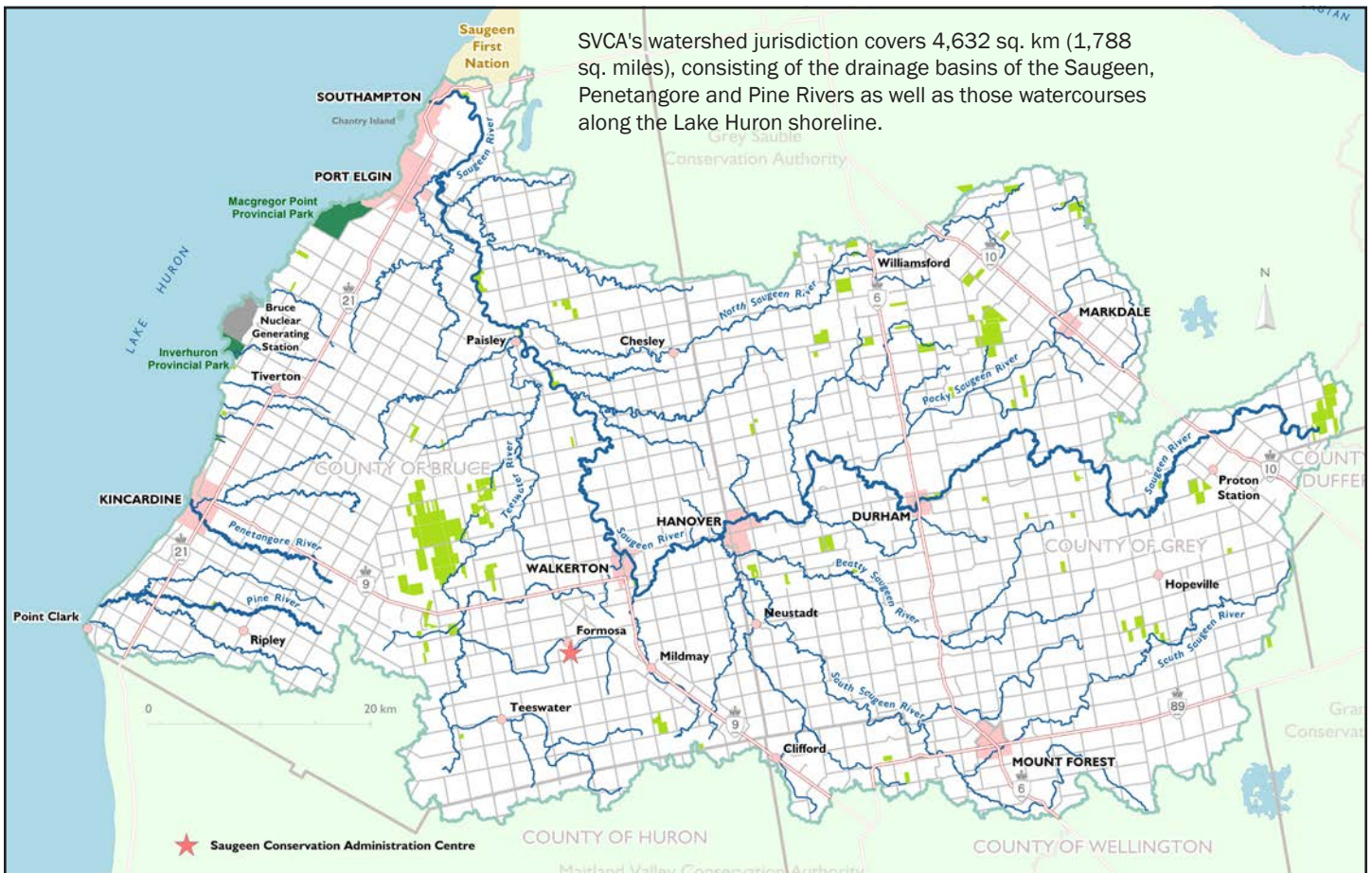
*Dan Gieruszak, Chair*

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Photo: David Bishop



# PROJECTS AND STRUCTURES THAT PROTECT US



*Staff conduct regular inspections throughout the year with respect to capital works. This is to ensure that there are no deficiencies with structures that might compromise their function in protecting life and property from natural hazards such as flooding.*

## Walkerton Dyke Stormwater Outlet

Repairs were made to a storm outlet that allows water to pass through a section of the **Walkerton Dyke** (above).

The pipe serves as the outlet for surface and stormwater from the land side of the dyke, allowing it to flow into the Saugeen River. This type of infrastructure is paramount to the protection of Walkerton citizens. Repair costs were shared between the Municipality of Brockton and the MNRF.

## Inverhuron Flood Control Project

**High water levels** on Lake Huron provide ongoing challenges to maintain an open outlet to help direct flood waters away from the current shoreline development and into the lake. Field staff worked diligently to keep this structure free from rock and debris and allow water to flow unimpeded to the lake.

## Penetangore River Shoreline Restoration

Work was completed on the repairs to the **Riggins Erosion Control Project** in Kincardine. The Riggins Project, initially completed in 1986 to protect residences at the top of the slope, had been compromised over time.

Funds were received from Bruce Power and the Municipality of Kincardine.



# FLOOD EVENTS IN 2019

*This Department continually monitors conditions throughout the watershed. The Saugeen River is the third largest river system in Southern Ontario, making the potential for flooding a real possibility.*

## Frazil Ice

**Frazil ice accumulation in the Town of Durham** (West Grey) was an issue in 2019. A prolonged deep, cold start to the winter caused the build up of frazil ice, a soft slush-like ice that forms in turbulent waters. The formation of this “sticky” ice tends to accumulate and can jam up the channel causing water to spill over the banks.

Municipal staff, working together with the SVCA, took proactive steps by utilizing three excavators and one bulldozer to keep the channel clear which prevented any significant flood damage.

## High Lake Levels

This past summer **Lake Huron reached near record-setting levels**, surpassed only once in 1986. While the majority of SVCA’s shoreline is resilient to high lake levels, strong winds and storm surges have shown the ability to beat back residents’ flood protection measures, as well as undermine lakeside roads and trails.

Initial forecasts for 2020 indicate that the Lake could reach similar levels.

## New Database

This year a new computer database, called a **Water Information System** (WISKI), was brought on-line to store streamflow and meteorological data.

According to recent data, **flood occurrences have become more frequent and severe** over the past few years, due to climate change. Ongoing monitoring and awareness is more important now than ever.



Affiliates

Conservation Ontario

MNRF (Surface Water Monitoring Centre)

SW Ontario Flood Forecast Alliance



Flood Messages issued

**4**

Meetings/Workshops/Webinars

**20**

Presentations

**5**



The Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region includes **38 residential drinking water systems**, **29 groundwater sources** and one combined system. The Region encompasses much of Grey and Bruce Counties and small portions of Wellington and Huron Counties.

There are **25 municipalities within our region**, **21 of which have vulnerable areas** where significant drinking water threat policies apply. Our Source Protection Region also includes the Chippewas of Saugeen, the Chippewas of Nawash and the Métis Nation of Ontario.

- In 2019, the Source Protection Committee approved for submission its first **annual progress report** to the Province of Ontario. This report documents the improvements made since the plan came into effect in 2016.
- Staff will be conducting **updates to the source protection plan** based on the amendments identified in the Section 36 workplan with a target date of March 2021. Consultations will take place with landowners, municipalities, etc., as specified under the Clean Water Act.

- The proposed review and necessary updates to the **Assessment Reports** and **Source Protection Plan** will be based on local scientific information as it relates to the protection of municipal drinking water sources per the Clean Water Act, 2006.
- Risk Management Plans** were established with landowners to ensure that drinking water threat activities are managed so that they cease to be a threat to the local municipal drinking water source.
- Conservation Ontario released several new communication resources** which were included in social media posts to Facebook, Twitter and on the website: [waterprotection.ca](http://waterprotection.ca)

## Meetings/Functions Attended

- The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival.
- Meeting with the Township of Huron-Kinloss and the Municipality of South Bruce involving the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) site selection process.

### Inspections

**183**

### Risk Management Plan compliance rate

**100%**

### DWSP signs installed

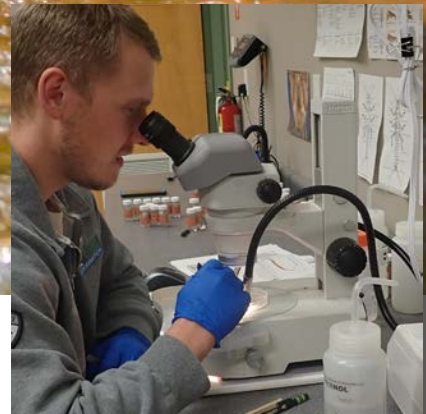
**152**

A Source Protection Committee of local representatives oversees this program.





Photo: Kendra McMillan



## THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERSHED

*Sampling our waterways allows staff to detect changes in water quality, identify sources of pollution, and prioritize areas for protection and restoration. This data is also used in SVCA's Watershed Report Cards, released every five years.*

### Surface Water Sampling

Staff conducted **monthly surface water sampling** at 29 sites within SVCA's jurisdiction during ice free periods. Samples are analyzed by the **Ministry of the Environmental Conservation and Parks** (MECP) and private laboratories for general chemistry, including phosphorus, nitrates, metals, and E. coli.

### Groundwater Monitoring

Staff monitor **23 aquifers in 13 locations** throughout the watershed. Ten wells monitor bedrock aquifers (deep wells), while thirteen monitor overburden aquifers (located within the sediment that sits on top of the bedrock). 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.

Knowing how groundwater level and quality is changing from year-to-year assists the SVCA in making decisions related to resource management. Rain gauges are incorporated into various well sites throughout the watershed to allow for a better understanding of the **interactions between precipitation and groundwater levels**. This data supports the groundwater component of the Low Water Response Program (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry).

## Biomonitoring

**Benthic invertebrates** (i.e. bottom dwelling insects, crustaceans, worms and mollusks) are collected in rivers and streams across the watershed on an annual basis. These organisms are excellent indicators of water quality. The presence or absence and relative abundance of different species can tell staff a great deal about water quality as well as the degree and sources of habitat degradation.



### Affiliates

Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network  
Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network  
Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network  
Healthy Lake Huron Technical Working Committee



Water Samples taken

**304**

Benthic Invertebrate Samples taken

**30**

Stormwater Samples taken

**40**

Meetings and Conference Calls

**16**

Presentations and Outreach

**6**



## Healthy Lake Huron

Since 2011 SVCA and other like organizations, have worked together to coordinate actions to protect and improve water quality in areas identified as requiring immediate action. Part of SVCA's contribution has been to collect **monthly baseline and storm-event (runoff) samples** from the South Pine River in Huron-Kinloss. In 2019, the SVCA collected 16 baseline and 40 storm-event samples.

This water chemistry data, together with meteorological data will be used in a computer-based model to allow us to better understand and predict how sediments and pollutants (e.g. nutrients) move from the land to watercourses.

Photo: Telfer Wegg

WATER QUALITY

# SOIL CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

*Establishing partnerships with local farmers, as well as agricultural groups and organizations has become extremely important in developing conservation programs where farmers teach farmers about initiatives that help protect the health of our soil.*

## Coffee Crops and Donuts

These workshop sessions are about farmers sharing experiences about various conservation practices. A total of **6 sessions** were held with 230 farmers in attendance, (below).

## Soil Compaction Project

**Soil compaction is a serious concern** for crop farmers. Not only does it limit crop growth, it also inhibits the uptake of nutrients and prevents the penetration of water and air. Soil compaction can lead to a severe decrease in crop yield.

Staff, in partnership with Bruce County Soil and Crop Improvement Association (BSCIA), local farmers, the OMAFRA Compaction Team and the University of Guelph have been working together to **produce academic and applied research** to soil compaction. Results will be analyzed and shared.

In addition, staff have partnered with the BSCIA to provide soil function assessments. They have shared findings with the U of G and the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario to benchmark soil health in Ontario.

Workshops

**6**

Farmers Participating

**230**

Research Sites

**25**



Affiliates

Bruce Grey County Federation, Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario





## KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE FROM FLOODING AND EROSION

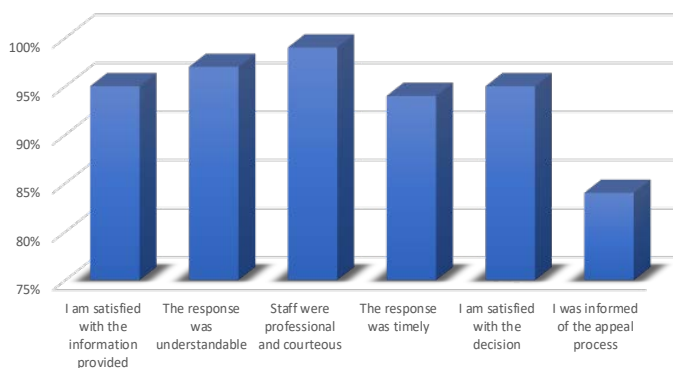
*This Department manages development proposals, property transactions, Planning Act applications, and development in and near natural hazard areas associated with flooding and erosion.*

### Planning Applications

The SVCA continued the review of the **Wellington County Natural Heritage System**, and the proposed Kincardine Official Plan. The Bruce County Natural Heritage System delineation process began as well in 2019.

### Customer Survey

This department circulates a customer satisfaction survey to individuals who receive an SVCA response or permit. Positive responses regarding SVCA performance **are shown below:**



### Drainage Act Review

**Nine new municipal drains and five maintenance projects** were reviewed. Staff continue to utilize the **Drainage Act Review Team Protocol** (DART) collaborating under the Conservation Authorities Act and the Drainage Act allowing both Acts to operate as intended, associated with Municipal Drain Maintenance projects and the required Conservation Authority approvals.

### High Lake Levels

Existing historical development along the Lake Huron Shoreline has been threatened by **high lake levels and erosion**. Lake Huron has remained at near record levels. This has created a rush of proposals for protection works to protect existing development. Fortunately, SVCA's review since the last high lake levels has ensured new development is not impacted by these conditions.



Staff, (above), had the opportunity to partake in a field session with Robin Davidson-Arnott (University of Guelph professor emeritus and coastal expert), where he passed along his wisdom on Lake Huron coastal processes. “It was an excellent opportunity”, stated Erik Downing, Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations. “We learned a great deal that day and it was especially helpful in the work we do”, he continued.

## Floodplain Mapping

**Final approval** of the floodplain mapping for the geographic Town of Kincardine and surrounding area was approved.

## Planning Act Agreements

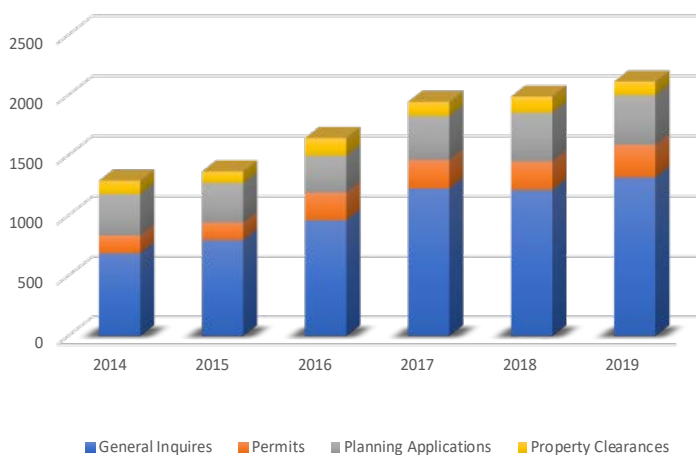
Planning Services Agreements clarify the SVCA's role in Planning Act comments. These agreements are being **renegotiated/negotiated for the first time with all member municipalities**. It is hoped that all member municipalities will have their agreements in place by the end of 2020.

## Natural Gas Pipeline Projects

Two large geographic natural gas line projects were reviewed and permits granted

## General Inquiries, Permits, Planning Applications and Property Clearances

A graph (below) indicating the number of general inquiries, permits, planning applications and property clearances.



## Making Things Better

A new **file management system** is underway. This system will represent a massive step forward for the department into 2020.

The EPR Department was pleased to accept a **Co-op student** from Saugeen District Secondary School in Port Elgin. Curtis Bender was a valuable team member and the first placement in this department.

Staff completed interviews and participated in advertising campaigns with CKNX, MyFM, and The Beach radio stations regarding high lake levels and challenges in 2019.

## Meetings/Workshops

- Several staff completed 'Client Centric' customer service training as required by the Provincial Government
- An additional Regulations Officer successfully completed Provincial Offenses Officer accreditation
- Regulations Officers have been working with area Drainage Superintendents and contractors about tile drainage challenges in the watershed
- Several meetings were held with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) on shoreline mapping and high lake levels
- Staff attended a Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) partnership meeting
- Staff met with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) regarding Drain Classification
- Staff attended Conservation Authority Coastal Working Group meetings
- Staff participated in the Latorell Conservation Symposium
- Staff took part in Environmental Project Management training
- Staff were involved with the Bruce County Natural Legacy Advisory Committee organizing the Bruce County Natural Heritage System initiative
- Several presentations were made to SVCA's Agricultural Outreach Committee associated with the new Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual, as well as other issues
- Staff met with Directors and staff from the Realtors Association of Grey Bruce Owen Sound (RAGBOS) to help streamline public information with respect to building permits and approvals

*Permits are required for works within Regulated Areas which include watercourses, floodplains, shorelines, wetlands, valleys, and areas next to these features.*

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation – Ontario Regulation 169/06 permits issued

**331**

Permits issued in accordance with approved timelines

**98%**

Violations investigated

**110**

Enforcement matters resolved

**82**

Planning Act comments submitted

**446**

Files initiated

**2,260**

Section 28 Hearing

**1**

Administrative Reviews of Permit Applications

**3**

Legal Enquiries

**153**



### Affiliates

Bruce and Grey Counties

Conservation Ontario

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)

Member Municipalities

Province of Ontario

Realtors Association of Grey Bruce Owen Sound



The Forestry Department is responsible for the management of over 21,000 acres (8,400 ha), of forest land owned by the SVCA. Management activities can include access control, property signage, trail maintenance, forest inventories, timber selection, harvest supervision, and other day to day activities.

This Department also provides forestry services to private landowners, such as tree marking, Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP), tree planting, timber sales, over-the-counter tree sales, and forestry advice in fulfilling its vision to ensure healthy and sustainable forests.

## Events & Meetings

- Bruce Grey Forest Festival
- Canadian Institute of Forestry
- Forests Ontario Annual General Meeting
- Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference
- Holstein Maplefest
- Ontario Professional Foresters Meeting
- Presentations to various school groups
- Sommerville stock viewing
- TD FEF Tree Planting
- Walkerton Rotary



(Above). The Annual Arbour Day Tree Sale was a huge success again this year. A total of **6,553 trees and shrubs** were sold.



## Affiliates

- Bruce Grey Forest Festival
- Bruce County Restoration Tree Planting
- Bruce Grey Woodlands Association
- Canadian Institute of Forestry
- Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference
- Grey County Forest Management Plan Advisory
- Maple Syrup Producers of Ontario

Saugeen Conservation's Forestry Department offers a number of forestry services for private landowners throughout the watershed.



Photo: Telfer Wegg

## Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference

As one of the founding members of this conference, staff are involved in planning and facilitating 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.

## Grey Bruce Chapter of the Maple Syrup Producers Association

For over **twenty 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.

Trees Planted

**85,210**

Seedlings, landscape stock and shrubs sold

**6,553**

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Programs

**29**

FORESTRY

# OUR NATURAL TREASURES



SVCA's Conservation Areas are utilized by thousands of people each year. As we become more knowledgeable about the benefits of green spaces to our own health and well-being, we realize how important it is to keep parks and natural areas available to the public.

Green spaces also provide substantial benefits to the environment in terms of erosion control, water and air purification, temperature modification, oxygen generation, carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat, just to name a few.

Saugeen Conservation owns 8,400 ha (21,000 acres) of significant woodlands and wetlands throughout the watershed jurisdiction.

Conservation Lands are made up of managed forest properties and/or provincially significant wetlands that protect precious riverine systems. These areas are conserved and protected for the benefit of present and future generations and the health of our watershed.



## Affiliates

Bruce County Campers  
Canada Summer Jobs  
Horse Friends of Saugeen Bluffs  
Kincardine Cross Country Ski Club  
Lake Huron Fishing Club  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)  
Ontario Steelheader's Association  
Seasonal Campers  
Stoney Island Ski Club  
Sydenham Sportsman Club  
Volunteers



Photo: Kendra McMillan

Bruceale CA Campers

**11,815**

Durham CA Campers

**39,393**

Saugeen Bluffs CA Campers

**34,620**

*Each year, Saugeen Conservation implements improvements to our parks.*

## Allan Park Conservation Area

- The MNRF stocked brown trout at the Allan Park trout pond

## Durham Conservation Area

- The MNRF stocked 700 - 2lb. brook trout at the Middle Durham Dam in April. The fish were grown at the Chatsworth MNRF hatchery and paid for with funds from Ontario Fishing licenses. Volunteers from the Sydenham Sportsman Club helped to release the fish
- Improvements to seasonal sites
- The installation of new pressure tanks to the water system to increase water pressure
- Improvements to the washrooms
- Hazard tree removal on trails
- Upgrades to the day-use pavilion
- Hydro improvements
- Repairs to outdoor stairway to the day-use washroom

## Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area

- Replacement of the septic system at the trailer dumping station
- New clear roofs installed on the vault privies to facilitate light penetration
- The purchase of a new tractor
- Trail development
- Hydro improvements
- Horse Friends of Saugeen Bluffs, with help from the seasonal campers, hosted the annual Trails and Tunes event at Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area. This weekend event features live music, candlelight horse rides, a pig roast and more, (below).



Photo: Courtesy of the Fischer family.

Julia Fischer and sons (above), enjoy an afternoon at Sulphur Spring CA.

## Sulphur Spring Conservation Area

- Reconstruction of the boardwalk on the Sulphur Spring Trail

## Stoney Island Conservation Area

- Members of the Kincardine Cross Country Ski Club continue to work on trail improvements. A short-cut called the Rollercoaster was created close to the shore to avoid a rough section of trail. Minor improvements were made to help make the trails more accessible in all seasons. New ski trail signs were also installed.



## GETTING THE WORD OUT

### Greenock Swamp Visitor Centre

Staff were involved in the setting up of a **Visitor Centre** in the community of Cargill to educate visitors about the largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario, the Greenock Swamp.

The Centre was open for the months of July and August with the assistance of students hired through the Canada Summer Jobs program. It was very successful.

*"Companies and organizations can have the greatest business in the world, however, without promotion, no one will know we exist." (Why Good Companies Go Bad, Harvard Business Review)*

### Greenock Tours

Staff worked with the Municipality of Brockton, Regional Tourism GreyBruceSimcoe in the development of specialized **tours of the Greenock Swamp**, called Legends of the Great Swamp; Bootlegging Lore of the Great Swamp and The Bank Heist.

The tours feature local actors playing out the history, culture and stories of the area. Staff find that it's a fun and entertaining way to pass along the importance of wetlands. All tours were fully booked in the 2019 season.

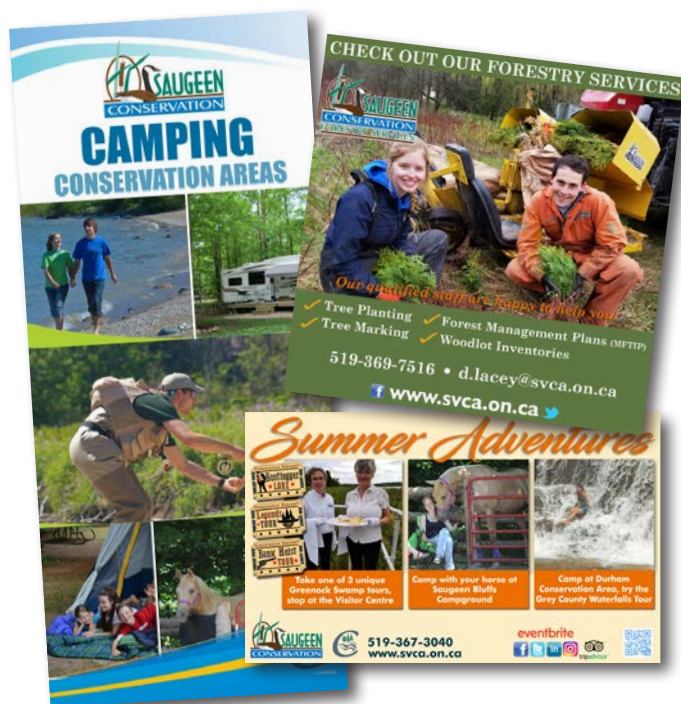
### Guidebook

Staff have been working on a new **guidebook** for all SVCA Lands and Conservation Areas. It will be available in the spring of 2020.



## Staff Efforts in 2019

- Managing SVCA's website and social media channels, engaging with people, groups and organizations
- Writing articles, press releases, advertising, and radio spots to help promote the SVCA and its programs
- Designing promotional campaigns for various departments
- Hosting events, special functions and workshops
- Attending shows, fairs and events
- Overseeing media relations
- Public speaking, including presentations to local interest groups, municipalities, organizations, etc.
- Writing, designing and publishing all marketing materials, including brochures, newsletters, flyers, advertising, etc.
- Fundraising efforts through the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
- Creating and implementing communication plans for other departments
- Overseeing both external and internal company communications
- Staff host various workshops throughout the watershed such as this Bird Feeder workshop, (right).



Press Releases

**16**

Radio Advertising

**12 weeks**

Media Coverage and Articles

**187**

Tourism Publication Advertising

**12**

Tours Conducted

**8**

Seminars/Workshops

**3**

Presentations

**28**

Newsletters

**2**

Work Bees

**4**



## Affiliates

Bruce County Tourism	Horse Friends of Saugeen Bluffs
Bruce Power	Maitland Valley Conservation
Canada Summer Jobs Program	Member Municipalities
Conservation Ontario	Ontario Power Generation
Communication's Group/Grey Bruce	RT07 (Tourism Grey, Bruce, Simcoe)
Formosa Community Groups	Saugeen Bluffs Seasonal Campers
Greenock Swamp/Cargill Committee	Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network	Treasure Chest Museum, Paisley
Grey Bruce Tourism Association	Watershed Interest Groups
Grey Sauble Conservation	Watershed School Boards



@saugeenca

#saugeenca

#svcastewardship

#saugeenforestry



COMMUNICATIONS



Photo: Kendra McMillan

*The goal of the education program is “to assist students in developing an awareness of, and the knowledge, skills and commitment required, to make informed decisions and constructive actions concerning the wise use of our natural resources.”*



Nancy Griffin, SVCA's Conservation Education Coordinator was the recipient of an Outstanding Achievement Award in 2019, awarded by her fellow conservation education counterparts across Ontario.

## WREN Program

A cooperative effort between Saugeen and Grey Sauble Conservation, this program offers schools throughout Grey, Bruce, Wellington and Huron Counties with **40 different hands-on studies**. Each unit investigates interactions within ecosystems, biodiversity, sustainability, and the responsibility of everyone to protect and conserve our natural environment.

## Floodwaters & You Program

This program focusses on **flooding and cold-water safety**. It is offered free of charge to watershed elementary schools and community youth groups.

## DEER Program

Sponsored by Bruce Power, over **30 different curriculum-based programs** are available to schools in the Bluewater District and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Boards, grades 2 to 12. These full day courses take place at the Bruce Power Visitors' Centre, Inglis Falls and Sulphur Spring Conservation Areas.



Presentations

**630**

Bluewater School Board

**65,484**

Bruce Grey Catholic School Board

**1,770**

Community Youth Groups

**235**

WREN & DEER

**5,154**

Floodwaters & You students

**2,860**

Summer Program Participants

**260**

Earthweek

**1,115**

Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

**1,450**

Bruce Grey Forest Festival

**1,200**

## Wonders of Wetlands

Enbridge sponsored this program again in 2019 which focusses on the **importance of coastal wetlands** and takes place at Brucedale Conservation Area (above). Students learn about wetlands and wildlife habitat. This program complements Enbridge's on-going support for the removal of Phragmites.

## Earth Week Program

Sponsored by Enbridge, these in-school lessons were first developed in 2007 in response to a growing interest in Earth Week celebrations. **Six different presentations** offer students the chance to learn about local ecosystems and how we all play a role in caring for the planet.

## Wild Encounters Nature Day Camp

This week-long camp is a cooperative effort between the Hanover Recreation Department and Saugeen Conservation. Its goal is to **get kids involved in the outdoors**, having fun, and learning about conservation and the environment.

## Youth Expo

This program is geared to youth aged 9 to 16 and offers a wide variety of **outdoor activities** from fishing and hiking to archery, bird watching and more. The 14th annual Expo was held in June at the Sydenham Sportsmen's Club and is hosted by several organizations.

## Bruce Grey Forest Festival

Initiated by Saugeen Conservation, this Festival was the second of its kind in the province. Grade 7 students from Grey and Bruce participate in **35 hands-on activities, focused on forests**. This three-day festival takes place in October at Allan Park Conservation Area.

## Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

This Festival is held each May for **grade 4 students** in Grey and Bruce and features 46 different hands-on demonstrations and activities focused on water.



## GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

### Stream & Livestock Exclusion Projects

Bruce Power, in partnership with ALUS Grey Bruce, assisted Saugeen Conservation with the construction of three **stream and livestock exclusion** improvement projects:

- Staff worked with a landowner to assist with the development of an **alternative watering system** and installation of pasture management fencing (725 m), to exclude cattle from a tributary of Pearl Creek (a tributary of the Main Saugeen River). This project involved a gravity fed, piped watering system, (below).



- **Fencing was erected** for a landowner to keep cattle out of the South Penetangore River.
- The third project involved the planting of approximately **1000 trees and shrubs** along 230 metres of Otter Creek, a tributary of the main Saugeen River, helping to improve a natural buffer. Stewardship Grey Bruce assisted with this project.

### Youth Expo

Staff worked together with the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters on the **annual Youth Expo**. A total of 55 youth participated in the event near Owen Sound.

### Wellington Heights Secondary School

An interactive **wetland program** was developed with senior students that they, in turn, taught to local grade school students. Approximately 60 students were part of the Community Environmental Learning Program (CELP). Supplies and support were received from the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited Mount Forest.

### Yellow Fish Road

Students in Mount Forest painted 84 storm drains with '**Rainwater Only**'. A total of 167 fish hangers were also delivered to nearby residents.

### Saugeen River Access Improvement Project

Staff assisted the Municipality of Brockton with the installation of a **cable concrete mat and infiltration gallery** (similar to a french drain), at Lobie's Park in Walkerton to enable easier access to the river. The specialized mat helps to reduce erosion from surface water. The infiltration gallery will intercept parking lot runoff before reaching the Saugeen River.





## Roots of Bruce/Grown in Grey

Staff set up interactive displays at the Roots of Bruce and Grown in Grey. Both events are over two days and provide a learning platform for approximately **1,200 grade 5 and 6 students** in Bruce and Grey Counties to better understand **farming practices, soil conservation** and the agricultural community.

## TD Tree Days

Volunteers and TD employees assisted **tree planting efforts in Walkerton and Port Elgin**, planting 150 trees and shrubs at each site, (below). Many thanks to the TD staff, municipal staff, volunteers, Walkerton Rotary Club and the Saugeen Rail Trail Group for their help and support!



## Redside Dace Habitat Improvement Project

Staff reached out to landowners in and near **critical habitat** for reddsides along the upper reaches of the Saugeen River interested in participating in tree planting and cover crop efforts. This project was funded by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the Habitat Stewardship Program, as well as support from Stewardship Grey Bruce.



## Low Water Response Team (WRT)

The SVCA is the local delivery partner with the MNRF for Low Water Response in this watershed.

The role of the WRT is to communicate to watershed residents and member municipalities issues involved with low water and to encourage drought **conservation practices**.

## MORE GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

### World Water Day

Staff assisted with a week-long hands-on educational event at the **Walkerton Clean Water Centre** involving **over 800 students**. The theme for World Water Day was "Water for All". The focus was on positive steps taken by individuals, industry and farmers to reduce pollutants and sediment from reaching waterways. Discussions also revolved around surface water and how it is connected to our drinking water.

### Stewardship Grey Bruce

Staff continue to work with Stewardship Grey Bruce on several projects. Focus in 2019 was the funding for **cover crop programs**, as part of the Grey Bruce Soil and Water Program, a conservation farming initiative designed to reduce erosion, protect soil and to establish ongoing soil nutrients.

### Dam Removal

Through the SVCA, Bruce Power provided funds to support the Municipality of Grey Highlands in the removal of the **Markdale Town Pond dam** located on Armstrong Creek, a cold-water fishery and the headwaters of the Rocky Saugeen River. Preliminary efforts to date included design work, soil samples, applications and reports. Saugeen Ojibway Nations attended the site to discuss possible issues. Public consultation has also taken place in cooperation with the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

### Shoreline Clean-up

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC), and the Canadian Conservation Corps **organized a successful cleanup** of the **Lake Huron shoreline** in Kincardine with 75 volunteers, (below). Staff, volunteers and the Kincardine Rotary Club removed over 200 pounds of garbage from the shoreline.



Events and Workshops

**46**

Presentations

**17**

Trees Planted

**3,000**

Demonstrations

**20**

TD Day Trees Planted

**300**

Cover Crop Program

**1,500 acres**

Students Involved

**1,600**



### Affiliates

Bruce County Federation of Agriculture  
CWF Canadian Conservation Corps  
Ducks Unlimited  
Grey County Federation of Agriculture  
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network  
Highland Custom Farming, Dundalk

Invasive Phragmites Control Centre  
Kincardine Rotary Club  
Municipality of Brockton  
Municipality of Grey Highlands  
Penetangore Watershed Group  
Saugeen Ojibway Nation

Saugeen Rail Trail  
Trout Unlimited Canada  
Walkerton Clean Water Centre  
Walkerton Rotary Club

**BrucePower**  
Innovation at work



TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation



GREY BRUCE  
SustainabilityNetwork  
gbnetwork.org

**ONTARIOPOWER**  
GENERATION



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada



Photo: Kendra McMillan

## STAFF RETIREMENTS

**Paul Elston** was one of SVCA's Regulations Officers and had been with the authority on two separate occasions during his work career.

Paul was an exceptional employee, extremely dedicated to his job and always going above and beyond the call of duty. He was always a source of inspiration and always found time to share a joke or two with his fellow workers. Paul's knowledge and experience was a valuable asset to the authority. He was a great employee to work with.



**Wayne Brohman** was the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of Saugeen Conservation for six years. He came to the Authority with very little knowledge of conservation authorities but was more than willing to learn. He took the time and made the effort to learn about the various departments and to attend functions, special events, school programs, conservation projects, etc. He also proved himself a willing volunteer, ready to take on any job.



## BEHIND THE SCENES

In the latter part of 2019, Saugeen Conservation was proud to welcome Dick Hibma as the interim General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer.

Dick came to Saugeen Conservation with a wealth of knowledge about conservation authorities, both on the local and provincial scale. Dick was Chair of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority for 18 years and Chair of Conservation Ontario for 12 years.

"I see this as a unique opportunity to utilize some of the talents and knowledge I've gained over the years and to work with staff and members in furthering the grass-roots efforts of Saugeen Conservation", stated Dick upon his arrival to the SVCA.





*The Foundation is the fundraising arm of Saugeen Conservation. Its Board of Directors consists of watershed residents who have a keen interest in conservation.*

## Christmas in the Country

We moved! The **largest interactive Christmas event** in Bruce and Grey Counties moved from its location at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area to the Hamlet of Formosa.

The event, which features hundreds of candle lanterns, thousands of Christmas lights, activities, demonstrations, Christmas vendors, train and duck rides, cookie decorating, horse-drawn wagon rides and so much more, had grown over the years and required a new setting with additional hydro and services.

The new venue worked out very well with over **7,000 people in attendance.**

Event Attendees

**8,000**

Volunteers

**426**

Memorial Grove Trees Planted

**180**

Events

**3**

## Memorial Grove Ceremony

Each year the Foundation organizes a special ceremony for the **families, friends and acquaintances** of those who have had trees planted in their memory. This annual function is attended by hundreds and is very meaningful for all involved.

For the first time since 1990, this event changed venues and was held at the Community Centre in the Town of Durham, instead of outdoors. The **new venue** worked out extremely well and eliminated the unpredictable weather factor.

## Funds

The Foundation has a number of 'funds' to which people can donate, depending on their interests: *Education Fund, Wetland Fund, River Fund, Conservation Areas, Memorial Fund.*

## Witch's Ride

Foundation Directors were looking for a new and different fundraising event, (right). Individuals dressed in **costume and rode bikes or walked** for conservation. Many thanks to the Town of Hanover and the Hanover Police for assisting with the first Annual Witches & Warlocks Ride.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Major Sponsors (over \$1,000 cash or In-kind)

Bruce County  
Bruce Co. Soil & Crop Improvement Assoc.  
Bruce Power  
Enbridge Inc.  
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network  
Ontario Power Generation, Tiverton  
Regional Tourism GreyBruceSimcoe (RT07)  
TD Friends of the Environment

## Major Event Sponsors (over \$1,000 cash or In-kind)

Grant's Your Independent Grocer, Hanover  
Howick Mutual Insurance Company  
Municipality of South Bruce  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (Community Liaison Committee)  
Ontario Power Generation, Tiverton  
Regional Tourism GreyBruceSimcoe (RT07)  
Shawday Automotive Inc., Formosa  
Sunbelt Rentals, Walkerton  
Trillium Mutual Insurance, Listowel  
The Post, Hanover  
Weiss Drive Subdivision Ltd.

## Major Volunteer Groups

(over 100 hours)

1st Chesley Scouts  
1st Hanover Scouts  
5th Mildmay Scouts and Ventures  
Bruce Co. Campers  
Durham CA Seasonal Campers  
Horse Friends of Saugeen Bluffs  
Kincardine Ski Club  
Ontario Steelheader's Association  
Saugeen Bluffs CA Seasonal Campers  
Municipality of South Bruce Fire Dept.

*Please note: Due to the privacy issues, the names of individual volunteers are not included. We feel, however, that it is extremely important to pass along our sincere gratitude and heart-felt thanks to each and every one of them.*

### Photos:

*Top right:* Major sponsors gather for the annual recognition ceremony.

*Middle right:* Volunteers having fun at the annual Volunteer Evening held in August.

*Bottom right:* Foundation Directors host a charity BBQ at Grant's Your Independent Grocer in Hanover.



Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation

Saugeen Conservation and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation are extremely proud to report that over 400 volunteers and sponsors help and support the conservation work of both organizations. It would be impossible to accomplish all the conservation efforts that currently take place without our amazing volunteers.

SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS



## Members

Dan Gieruszak, Chair, *Municipality of Brockton*  
 Maureen Couture, 1st Vice Chair, *Municipality of Kincardine*  
 Barbara Dobreen, 2nd Vice Chair, *Township of Southgate*  
 Mark Davis, Member at Large, *Municipality of Arran-Elderslie*  
 Christine Robinson, *Municipality of West Grey*  
 Paul Allen, *Municipality of Grey Highlands*  
 Mark Goetz, *Municipality of South Bruce, Township of Howick, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry*  
 Cheryl Grace, *Town of Saugeen Shores*  
 Tom Hutchinson, *Municipality of West Grey*  
 Steve McCabe, *Town of Minto, Township of Wellington-North*  
 Don Murray, *Township of Huron-Kinloss*  
 Mike Myatt, *Town of Saugeen Shores*  
 Sue Paterson, *Town of Hanover*  
 Diana Rae, *Township of Chatsworth*  
 Bill Stewart, *Municipality of Kincardine*



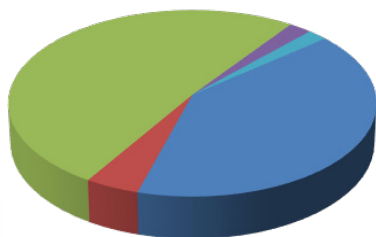
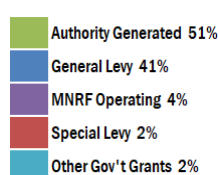
**Saugeen  
Valley  
Conservation  
Foundation**

## Directors

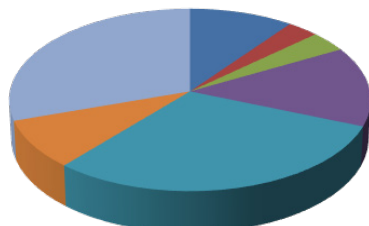
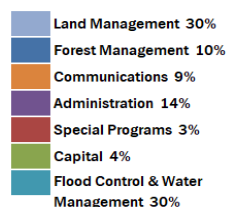
Ed Moric, Chair, *Durham*  
 Catherine Dickison, 1st Vice Chair, *Walkerton*  
 Tara Lantz 2nd Vice Chair, *Hanover*  
 Laura Molson, Treasurer (staff)  
 Shannon Wood, Secretary (staff)  
 \*Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer  
 Dick Hibma, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (Interim)  
 Dan Gieruszak, (Chair, SVCA, ex-officio)  
 Sherri Hachey, *Walkerton*  
 Jack MacLeod, *Hanover*  
 Ruby McCracken, *Hanover*  
 Jim & Barbara Potts, *Clifford*  
 Gary Thomas, *Hanover*

## 2019 SVCA Financial Summary (unaudited)

### Revenues



### Expenses



## Staff

### Corporate Services

*Wayne Brohman	General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Dick Hibma	General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (Interim)
Laura Molson	Manager, Accounting
Janice Hagan	Administrative Assistant/Accounts Payable
Dale Schaefer	Accounting Clerk

### Communications

Shannon Wood	Manager, Communications
Nancy Griffin	Conservation Education Coordinator
Catherine Billings	Communications Assistant/Graphic Artist

### Environmental Planning and Regulations

Erik Downing	Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Matt Armstrong	Regulations Officer
*Paul Elston	Regulations Officer
Elise MacLeod	Regulations Officer
Alyssa Gowing	Regulations Officer
Brandi Walter	Environmental Planning Coordinator
Michael Oberle	Environmental Planning Technician
Megan Stansfield	Resources Information Technician

### Information Technology & GIS

Rene Kleinecke	GIS Coordinator
Lauriss Detzler	Scanning Clerk/Environmental Planning Assistant

### Forestry

Donna Lacey	Forestry Coordinator
Aaron Swayze	Forestry Technician

### Land Management

Lee Watson	Park Superintendent, Durham CA
Elijah Wilson	Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA
Cheryl Skingley	Park Superintendent, Brucedale CA
Bruce Martin	Assistant Park Superintendent, Durham CA
Jim Leask	Assistant Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA

### Maintenance

Rick Rowbotham	Field Services Coordinator
Lorne Chamberlain	Sulphur Spring CA Attendant

### Water Management

Jo-Anne Harbinson	Manager, Water Resources and Stewardship Services
Shaun Anthony	Flood Warning/Water Quality Coordinator
Brittany Taylor	Water Quality/Stewardship Technician
Tori Waugh	Agricultural Outreach Coordinator

### Special Assistance Staff

Julie Henhoeffter and Community Living Support Worker, Melissa Henkusens

\* Retired

### Drinking Water Source Protection Staff

Carl Seider	Project Manager
Bill Twaddle	Committee Chair
Nancy Guest	Administrative Assistant
Justine Lunt	GIS/Database Specialist
Karen Gillan	Program Supervisor/Communications Planner



### Mission

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



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