



2018 Annual Report





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.



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.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) for the year 2018. Some of the highlights are as follows.

We continued to build a Conservation Authority focused on fulfilling its mandate; to **protect people and property** from the negative effects of flooding and erosion.

New flood warning software was installed. This investment will help the SVCA provide **accurate and timelier flood information** to our municipal partners and residents.

We completed the approval of new **regulation mapping for Teeswater and Walkerton** and progressed toward doing the same for the Town of Kincardine. This has resulted in a reduction in the amount of property subject to SVCA regulatory review and has further clarified our regulations; making it easier for property owners and municipal officials to understand and comply with the SVCA regulation.

I am pleased to have signed a new **planning services agreement** with **Huron County** and expect that the SVCA will sign planning services agreements with other watershed municipalities in the year to come.

The **SVCA committed \$40,000 to new agricultural stewardship** initiatives in 2018. My hope is that this funding will be used in developing **new stewardship programming** on private property to control erosion and manage storm water while also protecting sources of water and our region's extensive natural heritage resources.

I would like to thank the Authority and staff members for their dedication and continued commitment to serving the people of the Saugeen watershed.

Luke Charbonneau
Chair, 2018



A message from our Chair

Highlights



SVCA expanded its popular agricultural stewardship programs which focus on soil health and conservation. Farmers teaching farmers is what it's all about! (See page 11).



Staff worked together with the Municipality of Brockton, Regional Tourism RT07, Bruce County, as well as residents and volunteers, in setting up a Visitor Centre in the Village of Cargill to increase knowledge and awareness of the Greenock Swamp, the single largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario. The response was excellent. (See page 18).



Staff worked to restore approximately 33 metres (110 feet) of the shoreline along Silver Creek in the Town of Walkerton. The work involved the installation of a new product called Envirolok, designed to provide permanent vegetative solutions to erosion problems (See page 24).



A significant flood event occurred in several locations within the watershed beginning on February 20th when a cold winter was followed by warm temperatures and rain. This resulted in several major ice blockages which caused flooding in a number of locations.

One of the blockages was immediately upstream from the Village of Paisley and affected a major bridge and thoroughfare. Staff with both the SVCA and the County of Bruce monitored the situation around the clock. A bridge was also heavily damaged in the Village of Chesley on the North Saugeen River. (See page 6).

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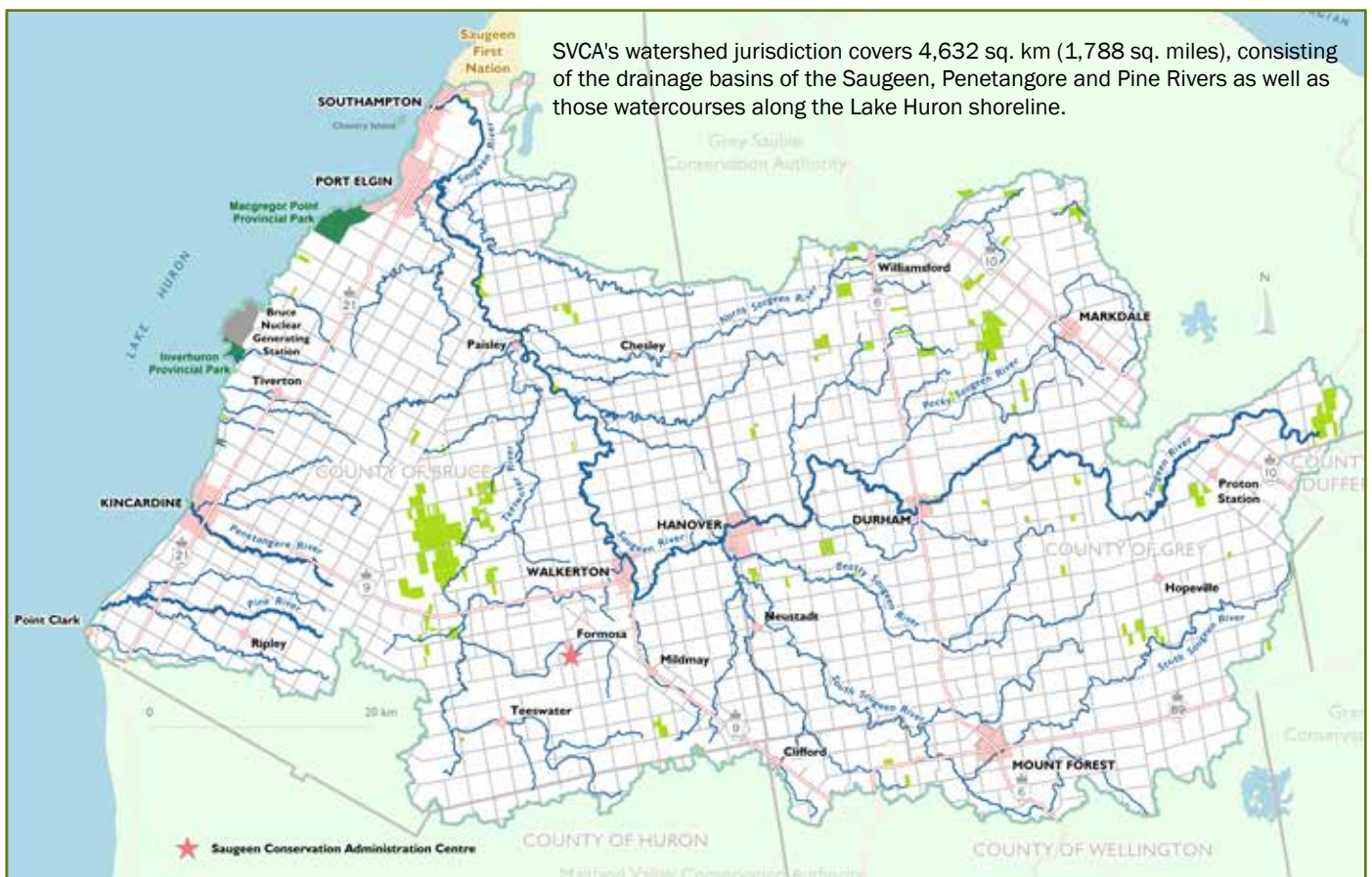
Fundraising

- 26 Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
- 27 Volunteers and Sponsors

Administration

- 25 Retirements
- 28 Staff and Members

Front Cover: Lisa Fotios - Pexels



Water Management Structures

Protecting residents from flooding and erosion hazards.

(Right). SVCA's Inverhuron Flood Control Project was impacted by high Lake Huron water levels, resulting in the accumulation of debris, cobbles and boulders up against the large outflow culvert. This presented a possible flood risk to nearby residents. Large quarry stones were placed at the shoreline to reduce materials from being pushed ashore and potentially blocking the outflow pipe.

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Staff provide ongoing maintenance on capital projects in partnership with the Province of Ontario, municipal governments and landowners.

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(Right). Maintenance operations on the flood control dykes in both the Village of Paisley and the Town of Walkerton were completed in 2018. Four outflow channels were cleaned out enabling these structures to provide positive outflow of stormwater to the Saugeen River. These channels are subject to flooding from the Saugeen River during extreme runoff events and over time fill up with sediment reducing their effectiveness.



Affiliates

Municipality of Kincardine
Municipality of Brockton
Envirolok Vegetated Environmental
Solutions
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Water



A main bridge in the Village of Paisley during the February 2018 flood.



A few weeks following the February flood.

Flood Warning

February Flood Event

A significant **flood event occurred on February 20 – 24** of 2018, requiring around-the-clock monitoring in the Towns of Durham and Paisley. A long, cold start to the winter resulted in a thick layer of surface ice being established throughout the Saugeen River and its tributaries. This was followed by a brief warm period in January creating several ice jams. In addition, a subsequent warming, combined with significant rainfall and a melting snowpack, resulted in high flows, further complicated by ice jams.

A large ice jam formed in the Teeswater River upstream from the Village of Paisley, threatening the integrity of a main bridge on a busy county thoroughfare. Staff were **on duty 24/7** at this time. Thankfully, the ice jam progressed downstream with little damage.

Flood waters, during this same event, on the North Saugeen River caused **extensive damage** to the Chesley Main Street Bridge, causing its closure for almost one year.

Flooding has always been a concern on the Saugeen River and this past year was no exception.

Numbers

- 5 Presentations
- 4 Workshops attended
- 5 Flood messages issued

Affiliates

Conservation Ontario
MNR (Surface Water Monitoring Centre)
SW Ontario Flood Forecast Alliance
Member Municipalities

Meetings

In November, staff assisted with an Emergency Management Training Exercise for the Municipality of Brockton which focused on emergency measures during the February flood event.

Drinking Water Source Protection

Municipal Implementation Meetings

DWSP staff made **presentations to 16 municipalities** in preparation for Annual Reporting to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on the Source Protection Plan policies.

The Source Protection Plan (SPP)

Amendment was approved. This was the first SPP amendment approved by the Hon. Rod Phillips, (new Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks). The Amendments included **new and updated wellhead protection areas for the Villages of Ripley and Point Clark.**

Approximately 100 Risk Management Plans

have been established since the Source Protection Plan came into effect in 2016. These plans are established with landowners to ensure that confirmed drinking water threats (22 Provincial Drinking Water Threats), that take place on properties in wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones, are **not a threat to the local municipal drinking water source.**

Meetings, Functions

✓ *DWSP staff attended* the Simcoe County Realtors Association Annual General Meeting.

✓ *Management staff* met with **MPP Bill Walker** in September to discuss the role of conservation authority programs including drinking water source protection.

✓ *DWSP staff attended (and presented to)* the Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake Joint Quality Water Committee Meeting on February 17, 2018.



Conservation Ontario released several new communication resources in 2018, utilized on social media posts, websites, etc. A new Drinking Water Source Protection video was also released on YouTube and has been added to the home website, **waterprotection.ca**



RETIREMENT

Nancy Guest, Administrative Assistant retired in October and continues to work one day per week. She has been a key staff member with the program for 11 years. We wish her the very best!

Numbers

100	Risk Management Plans
16	Presentations
12	Committee members

Memorial

We were saddened by the loss of **Carolyn Day**. Ms. Day represented the Public sector on the Source Protection Committee. She was a valued contributor with a passion for the Great Lakes and a keen interest in stewardship and education activities. She will be missed.

A Source Protection Committee of local representatives oversees this program.



Water

Water Quality

Surface Water Sampling

Saugeen Conservation conducts monthly **surface water quality sampling at 29 sites** within the Saugeen and lake-fringe watersheds during ice free periods. These samples are analyzed for general chemistry, including phosphorus, nitrates, metals, and E. coli.

Data is used in SVCA's Watershed Report Cards. The collection of data over several years also allows SVCA to detect changes in water quality, identify sources of pollution, and **prioritize areas for protection** and restoration. Sampling has occurred at some of these sites since the 1970s.

Groundwater Monitoring

Knowing how **groundwater level and quality is changing from year-to-year** assists the SVCA in making **wise decisions in resource management**. Rain gauges are also 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).

The SVCA monitors 23 aquifers in 13 locations throughout the watershed. Ten wells monitor bedrock aquifers (deep wells), while thirteen monitor overburden aquifers (shallow wells). 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 funds from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MECP).



Brittany Taylor, Water Quality/Stewardship Technician, samples bottom dwelling organisms in a local waterway to help determine water quality.

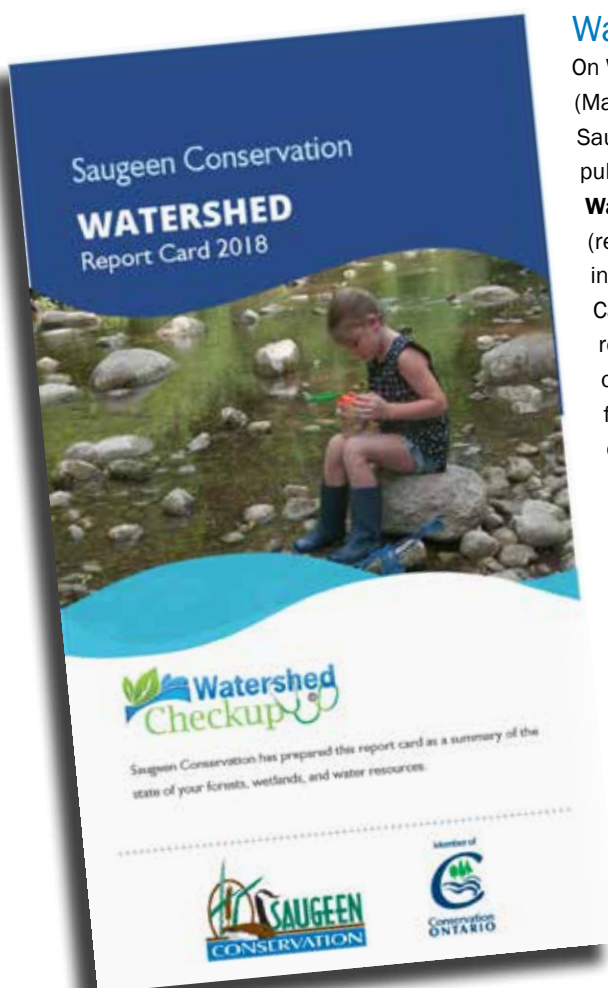
Healthy Lake Huron

Since 2011, Saugeen Conservation and other organizations, including Conservation Authorities, government agencies and NGOs, have **worked together** to coordinate actions that aim **to protect and improve overall water quality** along the southeast shores of Lake Huron.

Part of SVCA's contribution has been to collect monthly baseline and storm-event (runoff) samples from the South Pine River. In 2018, the SVCA collected 14 baseline and 54 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.



The on-going collection of data from local waterways helps staff determine trends in water quality and where conservation measures are best targeted.



Watershed Report Cards

On World Water Day (March 22nd, 2018), Saugeen Conservation published a **third set of Watershed Report Cards** (released in five-year intervals). The Report Cards provide watershed residents with a rating of local wetlands, forests, and water quality for both surface and groundwater sources.

The main goal is to compare data from one set of report cards to another and observe possible changes.



www.conservationontario.ca

Water



Photo: Tony Ferreira, Pexels

Biomonitoring

Benthic invertebrates (i.e. **bottom dwelling insects, crustaceans, worms and mollusks**), are collected from various local streams and rivers from 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 tell researchers a great deal about the degree and sources of habitat degradation.

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*We all depend on
a healthy environment in
which to live, work and play.*

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Numbers

- 203 Water samples taken at 29 surface water sampling sites
- 26 Water samples taken from 20 groundwater monitoring wells
- 30 Benthic invertebrate samples taken at 15 sampling sites (OBBN)
- 54 Healthy Lake Huron (rural stormwater) samples taken
- 12 Meetings and conference calls
- 6 Presentations and outreach engagements



Agricultural Outreach

Coffee, Crops and Donuts

Saugeen Conservation organized and hosted six **Coffee, Crops and Donut workshops** in 2018 with the goal of creating stronger community partnerships within the agricultural community. Over **275 participants** attended these sessions to learn, share and network with their peers.

SVCA increased support by partnering with various groups and local farmers.



Soil and Water Passport Program

A **Soil and Water Passport Program** was initiated in Bruce and Grey Counties which resulted in 809 ha (2,000 acres) of land **protected from wind and water erosion**. The Passport Program also provided an opportunity for **25 farmers** to become engaged with other farmers to learn about innovative practices and ways to reduce nutrient loss and protect water quality. TD Friends of the Environment and the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund also supported the implementation of this project. Results will be monitored over the next three years.

Soil Health and Infiltration Project

A **Soil Health and Infiltration Project** was initiated in 2018 involving 20 different fields. The assessments included water infiltration tests, worm counts, soil tests, soil particle size analysis, topsoil depth measurements and residue counts.

Participants received a report afterwards on how they fared compared to others. Many **interesting facts and correlations** were found between the amount of organic matter, soil type, erosion rates, crop rotations and tillage practices.



Numbers

- 20 Fields involved in the Soil Health and Infiltration Project
- 6 Coffee, Crops & Donut Workshops involving 275 farmers
- 809 ha (2000 acres) of farmland protected in cover crops through the Ag Outreach Program



Planning & Regulations



(Left) Public meetings were held and new SVCA Regulation mapping was approved to reflect the updated floodplain mapping.

- 1** In 2018 the final Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual was **amended**.
- 2** During the year, 411 planning **applications were submitted**. Response time was 99.75% on or before the due date.
- 3** The SVCA continued its review of the newly proposed **Grey County Official Plan**, and initial stages of the Wellington County Natural Heritage System and reviewed the proposed Township of Huron-Kinloss Zoning By-law.
- 4** A **Two Zone Floodplain Policy Area** was implemented in the geographic Village of Teeswater, resulting in the preparation of **new floodplain mapping**. The Authority utilized the new mapping to approve an expansion for a major business within this Village. Regulatory Mapping for Teeswater was updated in the spring of 2018, with a public meeting completed.

- 5** In 2018 updated floodplain mapping for the geographic Town of Kincardine was prepared and **approved by the Authority** for public comment. Final approval is pending with the Authority in 2019.
- 6** A new **file management system** is being created by the SVCA's Information Technology Department to assist all facets of Environmental Planning and Regulations Department work.

- 7** 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 involved with Planning Act process.

- 8** New Regulation floodplain mapping was approved for the Town of Walkerton and surrounding area.
- 9** There were 108 inquiries by legal firms involved in property transactions. A total of 97% were responded to on-time.

Staff Attended the Following:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) on shoreline mapping and high lake levels.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) workshop on drain classification.

Conservation Authority Coastal Working Group for Conservation Authorities with Shoreline Areas.

DFO Drain Classification meetings.

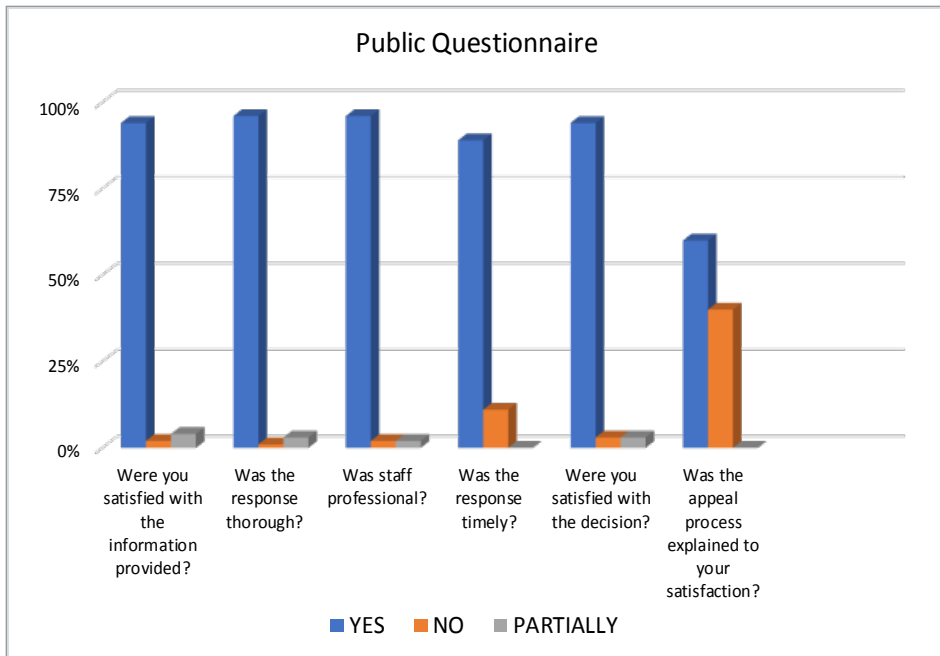
Conservation Ontario Section 28 Compliance group in November.

Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) partnership meeting.

Staff collaborated with SVCA Forestry, Stewardship, Flood Warning, Lands, Community Relations, and Information Technology departments for their continued support.

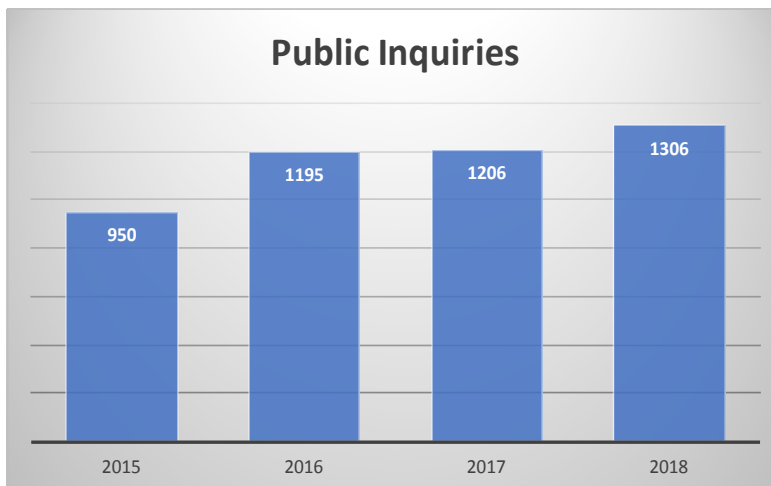
Regulations Officers have been working with area superintendents and contractors around tile drainage challenges in the watershed.

Planning & Regulations



To help monitor the satisfaction of SVCA's customers during the permit process, this department initiated a voluntary questionnaire process. Results are illustrated above.

Numbers	
271	Development permits issued
80	Violations of Regulation 169/06 investigated
66	Enforcement matters resolved
411	Planning Act comments issued (99.75% submitted on time)
2100	Files processed in 2018
0	Charges laid associated with Violations of Ontario Regulation 169/06, as amended, in 2018
1	Section 28 Hearings held by SVCA
0	Permit denials by SVCA
0	Decisions, or conditions of SVCA approval, appealed by proponents associated with Section 28 permission
12	New municipal drains reviewed and 15 maintenance projects
2	Presentations to SVCA's Agricultural Advisory Committee
1	Presentation to the Realtors Association of Grey-Bruce AGM



The number of public inquiries since 2015.



Lands

Forestry

This department manages over 21,000 acres (8,400 ha), of forest land owned by the SVCA.

We depend on forests for our survival, from the air we breathe to the wood we use.

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 a number of services to private landowners, such as **tree marking, Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)**, tree planting, timber sales, tree sales, and forestry advice, in fulfilling its vision to ensure **healthy and sustainable forests**.

Forest Health Collaborative

In 2014, SVCA Forestry staff **joined other professionals from Grey and Bruce Counties in creating the Emerald Ash Borer Working Group**, to help inform residents about the status of the emerald

ash borer (EAB). The group continues to work together and now focuses on all forest health issues.

Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference

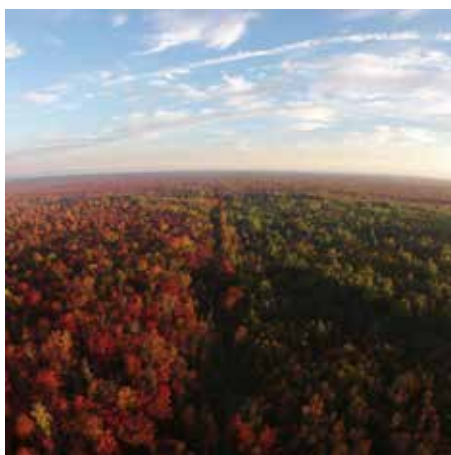
As one of the Founding members of this conference, staff are heavily involved in the planning and facilitating of this two-day event which focuses on educating forest owners. The **Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference attracts hundreds of people** from across the province to learn about all aspects of forests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



Drone Training

SVCA was able to **purchase a drone thanks to the generous support of Bruce Power.**

The use of the drone is a **time saving** method of gathering information, including forested wetland surveillance, the preliminary inventory of difficult areas, promotional videos and photos, flood surveillance, forest health surveys, invasive species monitoring, and more.



The Annual Arbour Day Tree Sale was a huge success again this year. A total of 6,671 trees and shrubs were sold to the public during the four hour event.

Certified Seed Collector Workshop

The SVCA was very proud to host a two-day **certification workshop for the Forest Gene Conservation Association.** Over **twenty potential tree and shrub seed collectors attended the workshop** and took part in the field tour to prepare for the certification exam and to look for tree seed. Allan Park CA was chosen as it is mapped in the Ontario Seed Collection Area Network for its Bitternut Hickory and Hemlock seed.

Grey Bruce Chapter of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association

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

Staffing

Late in the spring of 2018, Aaron Swayze was hired as a Forestry Technician and has proven to be an asset to the department.

Special Events / Functions Attended

Mildmay Restoration Tree Planting
Markdale Rotary Park Tree Planting
TD FEF Tree Planting, Walkerton and Port Elgin
Bruce Grey Forest Festival, Allan Park CA
Markdale Horticultural Society
Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference
Holstein Maplefest
Certified Seed Collector Workshop
Hosted and lead numerous hikes and workshops

Numbers

80,000	Trees planted by the SVCA for 11 landowners with funding from the 50 Million Tree Program
649	Landscape trees provided to 8 landowners and municipalities
6,671	Trees and shrubs sold during the annual Arbour Day Tree Sale in April
19	Landowners involved with the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) at a total of 800 acres or 324 ha.

Affiliates

Bruce Grey Forest Festival
Bruce Grey Woodlands Association
Forest Health Collaborative
Forests Ontario
Ontario Invasive Plant Council
Ontario Professional Foresters Association
Ontario Woodlot Association
Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association
Watershed Schools

Lands



Conservation Areas



Summer students worked on the construction and replacement of the boardwalk at Allan Park Conservation Area.

Allan Park Conservation Area and Management Property

- The **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry** (MNRF), stocked the Allan Park pond once again with **2,500 Brown Trout**. The pond is enjoyed by locals and visitors as a favourite fishing locale.

Bells Lake Management Property

- The MNRF stocked a total of 3,000 Brook Trout.

Numbers

11,910	Campers at Brucedale CA
33,819	Campers at Durham CA
36,520	Campers at Saugeen Bluffs CA
2	Open Houses

Brucedale Conservation Area

- In August, a truxor machine was utilized, again this year, to **remove invasive Phragmites** from the near shore area. This resulted in a remarkable change to the viewscape.
- The **Wonders of Wetlands Study** was held once again at Brucedale CA in 2018. Funded by Enbridge Inc., it provides an excellent opportunity for **students to learn about wetlands** and to take part in a variety of hands-on activities.
- Installation of 2 new benches** at the playground was completed as well as an **update on the plumbing system**.
- An **information kiosk** was erected which highlights the importance of shoreline health and information on the invasive Phragmites.

Improvements were made to SVCA's various Conservation Areas in 2018.

Carrick Tract

- A new section of fence was installed in this 132 ha property to prohibit ATV's and other motorized vehicles.

Durham Conservation Area

- An **open house** was held in May to showcase this beautiful park and its features. New WiFi was installed.
- The MNRF **stocked 1,500 Brown Trout** in the Saugeen River at this location.

Kinghurst Conservation Area and Management Property

- A new trail was constructed to replace one that was frequently under water.

Affiliates

Bruce County Campers
 Bruce County Tourism
 Bruce Power
 Chesley Saddle Club
 Conservation Ontario
 Enbridge Inc.
 Grey County Tourism
 Horse Friends of Saugeen Bluffs
 Kincardine Ski Club
 Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
 Ontario Steelheader's Association
 RT07 (Tourism Grey, Bruce, Simcoe)
 Saugeen Bluffs and Durham Seasonal Campers
 Trails Ontario
 Canada Summer Jobs Program

Lands

Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area

- An Open House was held in June.
- A **new boardwalk** was constructed in addition to new signage, the installation of a new dock, general maintenance in the shower building, the replacement of vault privy roofs, and the addition of a new horse-riding trail.
- Horse Friends of Saugeen Bluffs and the seasonal campers held the first annual **Trails and Tunes Concert & Pig Roast**. It was a huge success!
- Erosion control work was completed along the park shoreline, funded by Bruce Power.



Schmidt Lake (Greenock Swamp)

- Installation of new signage and completion of a new trail.

Sulphur Spring Conservation Area

- Boardwalks and bridges were repaired.
- The removal of the aged Pheasant Barn was completed.

General Park Information

Funding was received from the Canada Summer Jobs Program and Ontario's Summer Experience Program to assist with hiring students at both Durham and Saugeen Bluffs CA.

Hazard trees were removed at many of the Conservation Area and Lands.

53,265 trees were planted at Bells Lake, Schmidt Lake, the new Woods Property as well as the Administrative property in Formosa.



Communications



Tours of the Legendary Greenock Swamp

Staff have been directly involved (as part of the Greenock Swamp Promotional Committee), in the development of formal **tours of the Greenock Swamp**, Southern Ontario's single largest forested wetland.

Two major tours were developed; **Legends of the Great Swamp** and **Bootlegging Lore of the Great Swamp**. Each tour includes visits to historical inns and mills, local theatre actors, beer and wine tasting, and a full course meal. Visitors are also treated to 'surprises' along the way!

All tours take place on Saturdays from 2 – 7pm. A total of six tours were held in 2018. The response was excellent. All tours are registered on [eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca)

In the past 20 years, communications and marketing has changed drastically. The internet, for example, has **empowered many organizations** in ways that seemed unimaginable 20 years ago.

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Communications is important for any business, agency or corporation. It helps to ensure that goals are achieved and fosters good working relationships with all partners involved.

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Communications, back and forth, is done **closer to real time** and the internet has also provided 'social friendly' options not possible years ago.



Saugeen Conservation utilizes many sources of **social media and the internet** in getting the word out about various programs, events, functions and newsworthy items. Today's media provides flexibility, feedback, and access to hundreds, if not thousands of people each day.

Social Media

Staff work with many social media platforms in promoting programs, services and opportunities. **FACEBOOK** is the largest social media platform with over 2.23 billion users monthly. **YOUTUBE** is close behind with 1.9 billion users and **INSTAGRAM**, with 1 billion users. **TWITTER**'s platform attracts approximately 335 million users. (Stats provided through Buffer Marketing Library).

Saugeen Conservation utilizes all these platforms and more, each and every day.

#saugeenca
#svcastewardship
#saugeenforestry



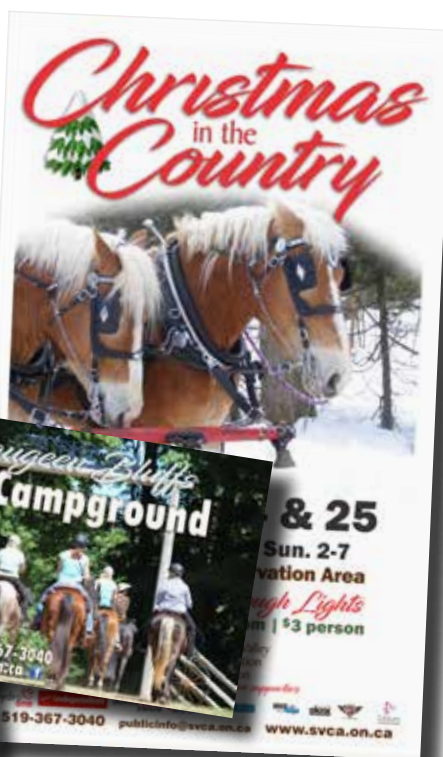
Staff, volunteers, the Municipality of Brockton, Regional Tourism GreyBruceSimcoe, Bruce County and many other partners established a **Visitor Centre** in the Village of Cargill. The Centre included information on the 8,400 ha (20,000 acres), swamp and its value to the local economy and environment. Two students were hired under the Canada Summer Jobs Program to man the Visitor Centre.



Staff attended the following:

- ~ Bluewater Regional Science Fair
- ~ Bruce County Heritage Farm Show
- ~ Can Am Equine Expo
- ~ Doors Open, Brockton
- ~ Teeswater Fall Fair

Communications



Numbers

Radio/Television/Print

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

Functions/Events

- 10 Presentations
- 6 Hikes
- 1 Volunteer appreciation evening
- 1 Volunteer/Sponsor Recognition ceremony
- 12 Shows, events and fairs attended by SVCA/SVCF, organized by others
- 2 Campground Open Houses
- 1 River Clean-up Operation
- 1 Memorial Tree Ceremony
- 2 Trade shows

Publications & Promotions

- 6,500 Campground Guidebooks
- 8,000 Flyers, placemats, coupons, etc.
- 2 Newsletters (Green Side Up)
- 1 Annual Report (350 copies)
- 15 Advertisements in tourism publications



The Communication Department hosts an annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner for the hundreds of volunteers who assist both Saugeen Conservation and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation.

(Left) Joyce Rose and Lin Fleming, dedicated volunteers.

Affiliates

Brockton Fisheries Task Force
Bruce County Tourism
Canada Summer Jobs Program
Community Living (Walkerton and District)
Conservation Ontario
Greenock Swamp Committee
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network
Grey Bruce Tourism Association
Healthy Lake Huron
Horse Friends of Saugeen Bluffs
Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
Lake Huron Fishing Club

Maitland Valley Conservation
Watershed Media
Member Municipalities
Ontario Driftboat Guides
Ontario Power Generation
RT07 (Tourism Grey, Bruce, Simcoe)
Sacred Heart Secondary School
Saugeen Bluffs Seasonal Campers
Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation
Watershed Groups and Organizations
Watershed Schools

Communications

Conservation Education

The Natural Way to Learn

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.”

2018 Highlights

Enbridge sponsored the Wonders of Wetlands program again in 2018. This one-day program focusses on the importance of coastal wetlands to over 75 grade 4 students and takes place at Bruce’s Conservation Area. Students learn about the importance of wetlands and wildlife habitat. This program complements Enbridge’s on-going support for the removal of *Phragmites*.

This year marked the **seventh anniversary of The World of Trees program** 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 focusses on trees and how they grow. Students also plant additional trees at the Arboretum during the program.



Communications

The WREN Program

A cooperative effort between Saugeen and Grey Sauble Conservation, this program offers schools throughout Grey, Bruce, Wellington and Huron Counties **40 different hands-on curriculum based studies**.

Each unit investigates interactions within ecosystems, biodiversity, sustainability, and the responsibility of everyone to protect and conserve our natural environment.

Flood Waters & You Program

This is a hands-on program focussed on **floodings and cold-water safety**. It is offered free of charge to watershed elementary schools and community youth groups.

The 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, hands-on programs take place at the Bruce Power Visitors' Centre, Inglis Falls and Sulphur Spring Conservation Areas.

Earth Week Program

Fully sponsored by Enbridge, these in-school programs were first developed in 2007 in response to a growing interest in Earth Week celebrations. **Six different curriculum based 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 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.

The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

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

Youth Expo

This program is geared to **youth aged 9 to 16** and offers a wide variety of **outdoor activities** from fishing and hiking, archery, bird watching and more. The 12th annual Expo was held in June at the Sydenham Sportsmen's Club and is hosted by several 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 Grey and Bruce participate in **35 hands-on curriculum based activities**, focussed on forests. This three-day festival takes place in October at Allan Park Conservation Area.



Numbers

397 Presentations

87 Education programs

Participating Students

6,823 Bluewater School Board

2,627 Bruce Grey Catholic School Board

1,123 Community Youth Groups

5,088 WREN & DEER

2,684 Floodwaters & You Students

423 Summer Program Participants

1,217 Earthweek

1,306 Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival

1,000 Bruce Grey Forest Festival

80 Youth Expo



Wellington Catholic
District School Board
We Have Faith in Education



Upper Grand
District School Board



Saugeen
Valley
Conservation
Foundation

Environmental Projects

Grey Bruce Sustainability Network (GBSusNet)

Staff assisted with the implementation of a **WaterWORKS program** (part of CareerWORKS). A total of **65 students** were involved. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness about water management and issues in urban areas. The students also participated in identification of aquatic organisms and water quality sampling.

Genesis

Staff worked together with the Grey Bruce Sustainability Network and Sacred Heart Secondary School on this **new outdoor education program**. Students learned about the intricate relationships involved in a watershed, including drainage area, riparian areas, flow regime, adjacent land use and ecological features.

Youth Expo 2018

The Water Management and Education Departments worked together to host the annual Youth Expo, for 80 youth, ages 10 to 17. The day featured **hands-on experiential activities**, including archery, the collection of aquatic bugs, orienteering and more! The Expo is held at the Sydenham Sportsman Association's property near Owen Sound. Other partners included the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Sydenham Sportsman Association and Ontario Power Generation (OPG).

Penetangore Watershed Group

Staff is proud to work together with the Penetangore Watershed Group on the implementation of several environmental efforts. In 2018, **3,500 trees were planted** within this watershed. This group is also involved with the Tall Tree and the Shade Tree Initiatives in the Municipality of Kincardine. We congratulate them on securing \$15,000 from Bruce Power and \$2,500 from Ontario Power Generation to be utilized for these environmental initiatives.



A viewing platform was also constructed at Brucedale CA, thanks to the students of Kincardine District Secondary School.



Reconnecting Headwaters to the Saugeen River

Saugeen Conservation completed a large-scale fisheries enhancement project, with support from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program, Bruce Power and private funding. A 16.8 acre 'online' pond in Southgate Twp. was restricting fish migration to upstream habitat, causing the upstream cold-water tributary to warm significantly before discharging to the Saugeen River. To take the pond "offline," **a berm was constructed** at the upper end of the pond to divert water into a newly constructed 700m channel that connects directly to the Saugeen River. It is estimated that this project opened up approximately 8km of previously inaccessible migration and spawning, cold-water species habitat.

Environmental Projects

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation – TD Tree Days

The Water Management and Forestry Departments coordinated two TD Tree Day plantings in 2018. A total of **150 trees and shrubs were planted** in both the Town of Walkerton and the Town of Port Elgin. The turn-out of volunteers was excellent!

Outreach

Staff participated in the following events and functions, demonstrating the benefits of soil conservation and best management practices:

- ~ Roots of Bruce, Agricultural Fair
- ~ Hanover Fall Fair
- ~ Teeswater Fall Fair
- ~ Paisley Heritage Steam Show



Saugeen Conservation hosted the annual Wonders of Wetlands at Brucedale Conservation Area. A total of 80 local students participated with hands-on activities focussed on Lake Huron's biodiversity, the benefits of coastal wetlands, and the impacts of invasive Phragmites along the shoreline.

Numbers

225	Students involved in stewardship endeavours
240	Volunteers involved in stewardship projects
1,500	Trees planted by SVCA
13	Events
15	Presentations
13	Workshops/Conferences
37	Meetings
4	Conferences
13	Webinars

Environmental Projects



Staff worked to restore approximately 33 metres (110 feet), of the Silver Creek embankment in Walkerton owned by the SVCA. An Envirolok vegetated environmental product was installed to provide permanent vegetative solutions as an alternative to a rock faced restoration.

Phragmites Control

In partnership with the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC), Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC), Municipality of Kincardine and funding from Enbridge Inc., phragmites control at Bruce Dale Conservation Area had marked success in 2018. IPCC had two Truxor aquatic cutting machines on site.

New, also for 2018 the SVCA established an equipment loan out program for community groups that face invasive phragmites in their ponds and lakes.

In 2018, Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN) implemented the following:

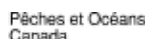
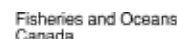
- Planted over 22,000 native tree seedlings for 165 separate orders
- Assisted shoreline residents in the replacement of diseased and dying ash trees, delivering 64 large, 7 gallon mature trees since 2017
- Three livestock exclusion fencing and crossings were completed as well as one alternate watering system
- Three water and sediment control berms were installed to reduce soil and nutrients from reaching the watercourses.



Yellow Fish Road

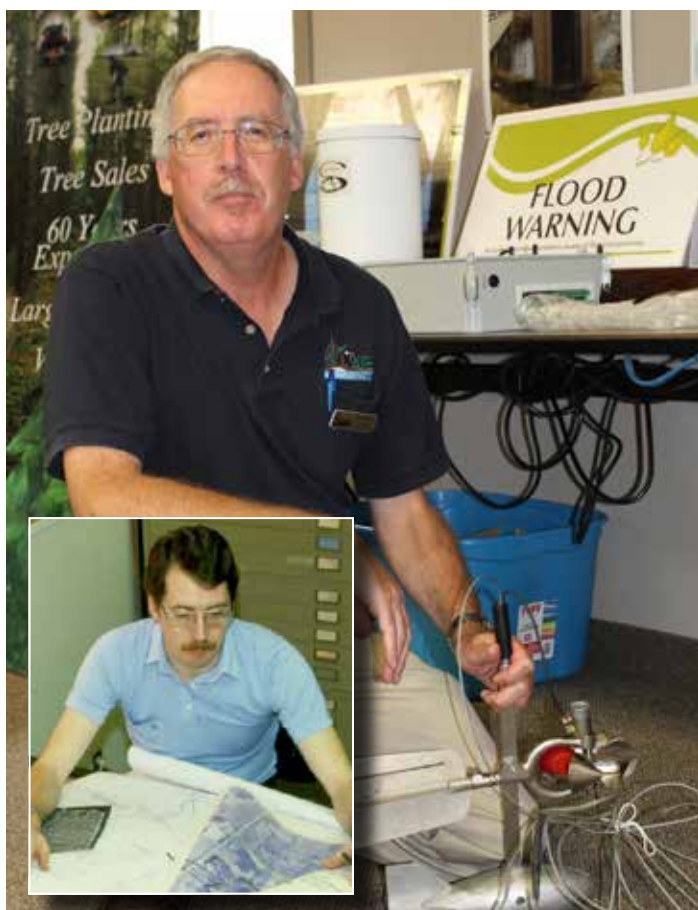
This program was implemented in the former Town of Mount Forest in partnership with Township of Wellington North and the students and parents from Victoria Cross Public School.

- 82 storm drains were painted with words Rain Water ONLY and the Yellow Fish
- 174 information Yellow Fish door hangers were distributed to homes to inform the public about the need to protect our waterways



Retirement

Saugeen Conservation said goodbye to two long-time employees in 2018; Gary Senior and Jim Penner.



Gary Senior was Sr. Manager of Planning and Regulations for almost 30 years, then Sr. Manager of Flood Warning and Parks until his retirement this year.

Gary was an extremely dedicated employee, who took his occupation very seriously. He had a very thorough understanding and knowledge of his field. His attention to detail was exemplary and he always gave 100% to everything he did.



Photo Telfer Wegg

Jim Penner arrived at Saugeen Conservation in 1973. Throughout his time, Jim was responsible for SVCA's Forestry Department. He witnessed many changes and developments in the forestry field over the years.

Jim took on many other duties, including general building maintenance, SVCA fleet management, computer repairs, erosion control projects and much more. He was also responsible for the planting of 5.5 million trees during his career.

Fundraising



Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation

Christmas in the Country

This is the **largest interactive Christmas event** in Bruce and Grey Counties. It features hundreds of candle lanterns and thousands of Christmas lights adorning Sulphur Spring Conservation Area. Activities include cookie decorating, bannock making, historical reenactments and more. Also included are horse-drawn wagon rides, train rides, and a visit with Santa in his very own igloo. Approximately 6,000 people attend this beautiful event.

Appealing to People's Interests

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

-  *Education Fund*
-  *Wetland Fund*
-  *River Fund*
-  *Conservation Area*
-  *Memorial Fund*

Numbers

286	Active volunteers
8,500	People attended Foundation events throughout the year
2	Major events
200	Memorial Grove trees planted

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



Sponsors

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

Bruce County
Bruce County Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Enbridge Inc.
Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, MECF
Grey Bruce Sustainability Network
RBC Bluewater Fund
Saugeen Bluffs Seasonal Campers
TD Friends of the Environment

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

Grant's Your Independent Grocer, Hanover
Ontario Power Generation, Tiverton
Sunbelt Rentals, Walkerton
The Post, Hanover

Volunteers

Major Volunteer Groups (over 100 hours)

1st Chesley Scouts
1st Hanover Scouts
5th Mildmay Scouts and Ventures
Bruce Co. Campers
Bruce County Family Living Centre, Walkerton
Chesley Saddle Club
Greenock Swamp Promotional Committee
Horse Friends of Saugeen Bluffs
Kincardine Ski Club
Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
Ontario Steelheader's Association
Saugeen Bluffs Seasonal Campers
West Grey Police Department
West Grey Fire Department



Saugeen Conservation and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation are fortunate to have the assistance of over 286 volunteers who work to support the efforts of both organizations. It would be impossible to accomplish all the conservation work currently undertaken if it were not for these amazing volunteers.

Due to the privacy issues, we cannot list individual names. It is extremely important, however, to express our sincere gratitude to each one of them.

In Memorial

It is with sad hearts, that we announce the loss of a dedicated volunteer and Director with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation, Rick Pake.

Rick was a Director on the Foundation for over 10 years and contributed greatly to fundraising programs, projects and initiatives. Rick was a 'jack of all trades'. He was extremely dedicated and could be counted on for virtually every task. Rick was happiest when he was involved and working. He will be greatly missed.





Members

Luke Charbonneau, Chair, *Town of Saugeen Shores*
 Dan Gieruszak, 1st Vice Chair, *Municipality of Brockton*
 Maureen Couture, 2nd Vice Chair, *Municipality of Kincardine*
 Kevin Eccles, Member at Large, *Municipality of West Grey*
 John Bell, *Municipality of West Grey*
 Robert Buckle, *Municipalities of Morris-Turnberry/South Bruce/Township of Howick*
 Mark Davis, *Municipality of Arran-Elderslie*
 Barbara Dobreen, *Township of Southgate*
 Brian Gamble, *Township of Chatsworth*
 Wilf Gamble, *Township of Huron-Kinloss*
 Stewart Halliday, *Municipality of Grey Highlands*
 Steve McCabe, *Township of Wellington North/Town of Minto*
 Sue Paterson, *Town of Hanover*
 Mike Smith, *Town of Saugeen Shores*
 Andrew White, *Municipality of Kincardine*

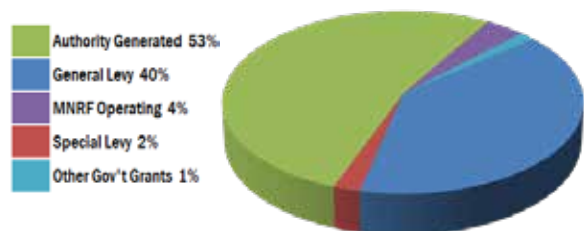


Directors

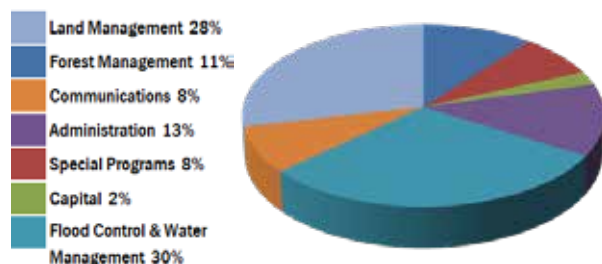
Ed Moric, Chair, *Durham*
 Catherine Dickison, 1st Vice Chair, *Walkerton*
 Carol Kraft 2nd Vice Chair, *Hanover*
 Laura Molson, Treasurer (staff)
 Shannon Wood, Secretary (staff)
 Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (staff)
 Luke Charbonneau, (Chair, SVCA, ex-officio)
 Sherri Hachey, *Walkerton*
 Jack MacLeod, *Hanover*
 Ruby McCracken, *Hanover*
 Rick Pake, *Hanover*
 Jim & Barbara Potts, *Clifford*
 Gary Thomas, *Hanover*
 Tara Lantz, *Ayton*

2018 SVCA Financial Summary (unaudited)

Revenues



Expenses



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	Conservation 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
Matt Armstrong	Regulations Officer
Paul Elston	Regulations Officer
Alyssa Gowing	Regulations Officer
Candace Hamm	Environmental Planning Coordinator
Michael Oberle	Environmental Planning Technician
Emily Payton	Environmental Planning Technician
Valerie Lamont	Resources Information Technician
Megan Stansfield	Resources Information Technician

Forestry

Jim Penner	Manager, Forestry
Donna Lacey	Forestry Coordinator
Aaron Swayze	Forestry Technician

Land Management

Barry Skinn	Park Superintendent, Durham CA
Sandra Howe	Park Superintendent, Saugeen Bluffs CA
Cheryl Skingley	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
Lorne Chamberlain	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	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

Drinking Water Source Protection Staff

Carl Seider	Project Manager
Bill Twaddle	Committee Chair
Nancy Guest	Administrative Assistant
Karen Gillan	Communications 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.



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