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
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).

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).

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).
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 Lake Huron shoreline.
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.

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

(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.
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.

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.
**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.

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

**Meeting, 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/Mari Lake Joint Quality Water Committee Meeting on February 17, 2018.

**Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100</th>
<th>Risk Management Plans</th>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
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</table>
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).
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.

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
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.

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
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 |
In 2018 the final Environmental Planning and Regulations Policies Manual was amended.

During the year, 411 planning applications were submitted. Response time was 99.75% on or before the due date.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

New Regulation floodplain mapping was approved for the Town of Walkerton and surrounding area.

There were 108 inquiries by legal firms involved in property transactions. A total of 97% were responded to on-time.

Planning & Regulations

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

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

271 Development permits issued
80 Violations of Regulation 169/06 investigated
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

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

Public Questionnaire

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<th>Question</th>
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<td>Were you satisfied with the information provided?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Was the response thorough?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Was the response timely?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Were you satisfied with the decision?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Was the appeal process explained to your satisfaction?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The number of public inquiries since 2015.

2015 2016 2017 2018

Public Inquiries

1306 1206 1195 950

Healthy Watersheds, Healthy People
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.
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.

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.
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

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.

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.

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.

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 – 7 pm. A total of six tours were held in 2018. The response was excellent. All tours are registered on eventbrite.ca

Staff, volunteers, the Municipality of Brockton, Regional Tourism Grey Bruce Simcoe, 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

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
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 focuses on the importance of coastal wetlands to over 75 grade 4 students and takes place at Brucedale 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 focuses on trees and how they grow. Students also plant additional trees at the Arboretum during the program.
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 **flooding 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.

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<td></td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Youth Expo</td>
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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.

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.
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!

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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

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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.

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**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.

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

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 Brucedale 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.
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.

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.
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, MECP
- 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 Aran-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)
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 Gowling 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, Bruce Dale 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 Henhoeffer 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.