

March 4, 2010

The Board of Directors of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation met for their Annual Meeting, on the above date at the Administration Office at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Directors Present: Duncan Skinner, President
 Lyn Goddard, Vice President
 Melvin Dale, Treasurer
 Norm Giffen
 Cathy Evers
 Ottavio Colosimo
 Laura Margetts
 John Simmons
 John Mitchell
 Andy Bruziewicz

Directors Absent Shirley Warner
 Bill Bilton
 Ken Brooks
 Ted Butler
 Rex Crawford

Also Present: Ralph Coe, Executive Director
 Marlene Dorrestyn, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
 Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services

The President welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and welcomed Andy Bruziewicz and Cathy Evers to the Foundation Board. Andy was elected as Chair of the Conservation Authority at the Annual meeting on February 18th. Andy has been on the Authority Board for 11 years, having served as Vice Chair last year. He is a Councillor with the City of Sarnia since 1994. Andy is very active as a community volunteer. Cathy was born and raised on a farm in Wallaceburg. Her father, James McGrail was a Authority Board Director in the 1970's. Cathy currently resides in Bright's Grove and has a daughter and a son and owns a farm in Chatham Township.

The President advised that 2009 has been a very successful year for the Foundation and thanked the directors for their continued support.

A few of the highlights of 2009 included

- the Bates Conservation Lands Trust fund increased with an additional \$175,000 contribution from the estate. This trust fund now exceeds \$426,000.
- 528 trees were planted through the Memorial Forest Program added and has now planted over 10,700 trees in memory of others. Over 1200 people attended the memorial dedication services at Wawanosh, Henderson, Forest and Strathroy.
- our bingo volunteers raised over \$10,400 to support Authority programs.
- in memory of Mary Jo Arnold a new scholarship for young women pursuing post secondary education in the conservation field has reached over \$10,900.00
- Dow Chemical and SLEA continued their strong support for outdoor education with contributions of over \$55,000 .

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- 80 acres of conservation lands will be preserved for future generations through the commitment of land and funds for the Glenview Conservation Lands in Petrolia.
- a new workshop funded by the Foundation was constructed at the A.W Campbell Conservation area providing efficiencies, improved security and an improved and safer workspace for staff and volunteers.
- with 15 properties, the Foundations farmlands and woodlots provide revenue to support other programs of the Authority from Species at Risk, outdoor education equipment, trail development, recreation, benches, and a variety of visitor services programs for the campgrounds.

The President then requested that each Director declare a conflict of interest at the appropriate time, on any item within this agenda in that a Director may have pecuniary interest.

CF-10-001

Margetts - Dale

“That the agenda for the March 4, 2010 annual meeting be adopted.”

CARRIED

CF-10-002

Mitchell - Giffen

“That the minutes of the December 10, 2009 meeting be adopted as distributed.”

CARRIED

Laura Margetts, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the Nominating Committee report.

CF-10-003

Colosimo - Goddard

“That the 2010 Nominating Committee Report, setting out the 2010 membership, Board of Directors and committees for the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation, be adopted.”

CARRIED

The Executive Director presented the 2009 Annual Report through a power point presentation of 2009 projects.

CF-10-004

Goddard - Bruziewicz

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges 2009 Annual Report, outlining the progress of the Foundation.”

CARRIED

The 2009 audited statement was presented by the Director of Financial Services.

CF-10-005**Simmons - Goddard****“That the 2009 Audited Financial Statements, prepared by Woods Pearson & Associates, Chartered Accountants LLP, be accepted.”****CARRIED**

A list of disbursements dated December 31, 2009 and February 26, 2010 was reviewed.

CF-10-006**Dale - Margetts****“That the lists of disbursements, dated December 31, 2009 and February 26, 2010, be approved.”****CARRIED**

A status report outlining bingo profits and purchases for 2009 was presented. Also reviewed was the City of Sarnia’s approval of the Foundation’s 2010 budget submission.

- bingo made a profit of \$10,377.80
- last year donations to Authority from bingo
 - outdoor education - \$3,354.93
 - visitor services - \$3,533.65
 - forestry & Habitat Restoration - \$1,251.90
 - trail development - \$1,959.00

CF-10-007**Colosimo - Simmons****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report of the 2009 bingos, including the letter dated January 21, 2010, from the City of Sarnia approving the 2010 Foundation's budget submission in the amount of \$16,000.00.”****CARRIED**

The President presented this year’s service award. The Foundation is very fortunate to have many board members return year after year to support the work of the Foundation. Service awards are to recognize this commitment to conservation and to say thank you for donating your time to this very worthwhile cause. Laura Margetts has reached 5 years of valued contribution to our Foundation and we very much appreciate her, interest, insight and contribution.

We also have 2 retiring Directors this year. Ted Butler completed 35 years of service to the Conservation Authority and Foundation and we were able to recognize this service at the Conservation Authority’s Annual General Meeting on February 18. Bill Bilton wore four hats that day as he represented the Authority, Foundation, Mayor of Ted’s municipality and friend and presented a gift recognizing Teds contribution. Shirley Warner, has served for over 18 with the Conservation Authority and Foundation. Shirley was a Government appointment to the Authority for 4 years beginning 1992 and soon after joined the Conservation Foundation in 1993 to serve for 17 years. Shirley is unable to attend the meeting, however we will make arrangements to recognize this significant contribution.

CF-10-008

Bruziewicz - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the service award presented to Laura Margetts (5 years) and acknowledges the retirement of Ted Butler (18 years) and Shirley Warner (17 years) and further that they be thanked for their years of dedicated service.”

CARRIED

CF-10-009

Colosimo - Mitchell

“That Ralph Coe conduct the elections for the 2010 President and Vice President of the Foundation.”

CARRIED

CF-10-010

Margetts - Simmons

“That Marlene Dorrestyn and Bill Dakin be appointed as scrutineers in the event of an election.”

CARRIED

The meeting was turned over to the Executive Director to hold elections. The position of President and Vice President were declared vacant.

Norm Giffen nominated Duncan Skinner for President

CF-10-011

Goddard - Colosimo

“That nominations for President be closed.”

CARRIED

Duncan Skinner accepted the nomination and was declared President of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation for 2010. Mr. Skinner thanked everyone for their support.

Laura Margetts nominated Lyn Goddard for Vice President.

CF-10-012

Mitchell - Simmons

“That nominations for Vice President be closed.”

CARRIED

Lyn Goddard accepted the nomination. Lyn Goddard was declared Vice President of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation for 2010.

The appointment of a Treasurer for 2010 was considered.

CF-10-013**Giffen - Colosimo****“That Melvin Dale be appointed Treasurer of the Foundation for 2010.”****CARRIED**

The appointment of the auditor for 2010 was considered.

Directors questioned if there was a conflict with the Authority and Foundation having the same auditor. After some discussion, it was felt that there was no conflict, but staff are to check with other Conservation Authorities to see what they do.

CF-10-014**Bruzewicz - Simmons****“That Woods Pearson & Associates LLP, Strathroy, be appointed auditor for the Foundation for 2010.”****CARRIED**

A status report on the 2010 budget, which was passed at the December 10, 2009 board meeting was reviewed. The Authority Board of Directors at their February AGM passed the 2010 Authority budget, in that budget the Authority is asking the Foundation for the following support:

- \$1,250 to support the Clark Wright and the Sinclair Conservation Areas
- \$3,750 in support for the HSP program for education and display material
- \$59,660 in support of the Education
- \$1,000 in support for Invasive Species program
- \$8,000 to cover expenses paid by the Authority on the Foundations behalf
- \$30,000 to upgrade playground equipment in the three regional CA

CF-10-015**Dale - Giffen****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2010 budget status report on the Foundation Budget passed at the December 11 2009 board meeting, which includes the 2010 special projects in the Authority budget passed February 18 2010.”****CARRIED**

The Executive Director’s Property Update was presented.

- Bates Conservation Lands - Road closing of an unopened road allowance to Lake Erie. (Kent Bridge Road) - Rob Waters has been directed by the solicitor representing Chatham-Kent to prepare the deed for transfer of the road allowance. We have provided Rob all the relevant information and documents should be ready for signing. Chatham Kent requires a revised by-law to close the road so currently awaiting this.
- Stewardship of the Bay – Phragmites – several stewardship meetings have been held in Rondeau area this winter to address the significant concerns and loss of habitat because of Phragmites in the bay. Our program on the Bates Conservation Lands has been very successful to date. The rolling and spraying program has essentially eradicated 15 acres of phragmites and returned them back to cattails and wetland species. In January, we arranged for rolling and preparation of

- approximately 3 acres for spraying again in 2010. The Bates Trust fund now sits at \$426,707.00
- Glenview Conservation Lands: the Trust Agreement is now fully executed by both parties. Gary provided a \$10,000.00 Trust Fund to begin the Stewardship fund for the property and has indicated the Trust fund will be developed prior to transfer of the lands. i.e. 5% of the sale of lots. Conservation Authority planning advice - has an agreement that Authority staff will be part of the planning reviews of land where there may be a perceived conflict of interest. The Environmental Impact Study for Phase 4 of the Glenview Subdivision was received in January 2010 and has been transferred to the Upper Thames staff for review and comment to the Lambton County planning department
- Moses Property: Caradoc Township: from our December meeting, followed up with the options recommended by the Board with respect to donation of lands at that site based on Bill Moses request, i.e. preferred was the 40 acres less the house, the other was the 10 acres and the 5 acres. These were presented to Bill. Bill had indicated that the option that his sister may acquire the land and the following email was received from Bill.
 “January 2, 2010 - Ralph - We now have a firm agreement to sell the 40 acres to my sister Agnes closing Feb 26. I am a little disappointed, but am glad that the property at least is staying in the family. Agnes does know that you are interested in the property. If she ever does approach you in this regard, please feel free to contact me regarding a donation. Of course I can't predict what my financial position will be in the future but you never know. Regards, Bill Moses
- All other Foundation lands - detailed report provided in the October meeting. No hunting signs have been installed on key properties with issues, such as Harrison Woodlot.
- Clean up of the Gawne Property is planned for spring when seasonal staff have returned.

CF-10-016**Goddard - Margetts**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Executive Director’s report dated February 24, 2010 on the Foundation property updates.”

CARRIED

A staff report on Conservation Education was presented.

- In School Programs: the following in-school programs are on-going at this time of year. 1,262 students have participated in these curriculum based programs since the start of the New Year.
 - Go with the Flow - 998 students
 - River Rap – 264 students
- Duck’s Unlimited “Project Webfoot”: Stephanie Walker, Ontario Education Specialist has confirmed 8 out of the 10 bookings for this spring at the Dow Wetlands. British Petroleum, Sarnia Site, is this year’s sponsor and will pay for the bussing costs. The program will be free to the 10 participating classes. D.U. will pay the Authority \$125.00 per class for delivering Project Webfoot program on their behalf.
- Horticultural Society Presentation Jan. 20th : presentation took place in Dresden. The topic for the evening was “Growing Native.” Very few were native gardeners but showed a great interest after the presentation. A list of native/Carolinian trees, shrubs and plants were available to members and a list of garden centres that grow native/Carolinian were also available.
- Cogeco TV interview with Barry Wright Feb. 10th , 7:00 – 7:30 pm : a TV interview on One Shot: The River Rap video was highlighted on The Barry Wright Show. This video is used in the River

- Rap program that is sponsored by The Friends of the St. Clair River.
- Young Naturalists Feb. 20th Meeting: the Young Nats have been very busy at The Raptor Rehab Centre operated by Lynne Eves. The students clean all the cages, clean out the mice building, cut up frozen mice and any other maintenance/ work that's needed on site. This is a great help to the staff working on site and gives the children the opportunity to be involved with the rehabilitation of Hawks and Owls. This month the Naturalists will be visiting Ska Nah Doht Village at Longwoods Conservation Area.

CF-10-017**Goddard - Colosimo**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the progress report on conservation education, dated February 23, 2010 including outdoor and indoor programs, new bird orienteering program, Young Naturalist Club, Project Webfoot and the Yellow Fish Road Program.”

CARRIED

A progress report on special events was reviewed.

- Annual General Meeting: February 18, 1:00 pm, SCRCA Office
- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Annual Meeting, March 4, 10:00 am, Strathroy
- Maple Syrup Festival: March 20 – 21, 9:00 am – 4 pm, A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: April 15, 1:00 pm, Strathroy
- Sydenham River Canoe Race: April 18, registration starts at 10:00 am, Mossie Line at the Sydenham River – race ends at the Shetland Conservation Area
- Campgrounds Open – April 30
- Strathroy River Clean-Up, April 22, Strathroy Conservation Area
- Denning Bros. Memorial Forest Dedication: May 30, 2:00 pm Centennial Park, Strathroy
- Forest Chapel Memorial Forest Dedication: June 6, 2:00 pm
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: June 10, 1:00 pm, Strathroy
- Members Bus Tour: June 10, details tba
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: September 16, 1:00 pm, Strathroy
- McKenzie and Blundy Memorial Forest Dedication: September 19, 2:00 pm, Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area
- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication, September 26, 2:00 pm, Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
- Campgrounds Close October – 11
- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Meeting, October 21, 10:00 am, Strathroy
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: November 18, 1:00 pm, Strathroy
- Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting: December 9, 10:00 am, Strathroy
- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Meeting, December 9, 1:30 pm, Strathroy

CF-10-018**Bruzewicz - Margetts**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the list of 2010 special events.”

CARRIED

A report on scholarships was considered.

- in February, scholarship packages were sent to each secondary school within our region, with copies supplied for guidance and the science and geography departments. Included with the packages was a supply of posters for the school to post. A media release will be issued in April reminding students of the upcoming deadline (end of May).
- the applications are scored based on marks; interest and activities as they relate to conservation and the environment; future studies as they relate to conservation and the environment; their reference letter(s); and other comments offered by the applicant.
- this year, the scholarship program was revised to: two \$1,000 A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarships will be awarded for the top two candidates. The third place candidate will receive the Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship of \$500 and of the remaining applications from women, one applicant will receive the Mary Jo Arnold Memorial Conservation Scholarship of \$500
- the successful candidates are recommended by a team to the Conservation Authority Board in June.

CF-10-019

Mitchell - Goddard

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the scholarship report dated February 22, 2010.”

CARRIED

A report on Dow Wetlands was presented:

- over the last 10 years the Conservation Authority has been working with Dow to enhance the Dow Wetland property by planting trees and shrubs. In addition, over 15,000 students have taken part in an education program funded by Dow and taught by SCRCA staff.
- at the Conservation Authority’s Annual Meeting, Catherine Creber from Dow Chemical announced plans for the long-term management of the Dow Wetlands. Under the proposed plan, which would include funding from Dow, the SCRCA would work toward assuming ownership and management of The Dow Wetlands, including the preservation of crucial wildlife habitat and related woodlots, recreational areas, as well as on-going educational programs.
- once acquired it will be transferred to the Foundation. Several issues still need to be worked out including ensuring there will be no environmental liability associated with the property transferred to the Authority and/or Foundation and that there will be sufficient funds to support the maintenance of the area. Dow is also committed to providing funds to allow for the continuation of the education programs taught at the Dow Wetlands.

The directors expressed a concern regarding responsibility of environmental issues which may be with the property. The Executive Director explained that Dow has indicated they will retain the responsibility. We are waiting to see the agreement, which will provide the terms and which will undergo staff and legal review.

CF-10-020

Bruzewicz - Goddard

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 23, 2010 on the Dow Wetlands.”

CARRIED

A report on support received from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation was reviewed.

- in 2009, the Foundation was successful in obtaining a donation from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. In the spring, we received \$3,000 to support tree planting at Guthrie Park and at several locations throughout the Strathroy parks system. This grant was combined with a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Evergreen Foundation Community Tree Planting Program. Several groups were involved with this project including Katimavik and students from Strathroy Schools.
- an application has recently been submitted to Friends of the Environment for \$1,200 to support the purchase of seed collection and germination equipment to support our native tree seedling program.
- the Conservation Authority will be developing a display again this year at the Lambton Mall branch of the TD Canada Trust for Earth Day promoting conservation projects completed by the Conservation Authority with support from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.
- application will be developed and submitted to TD Friends of the Environment to support various projects throughout 2010.

CF-10-021

Giffen - Simmons

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated February 22, 2010 on the TD Friends of the Environment.”

CARRIED

An update on the upcoming Canoe Race, which is a project of the Foundation, was discussed. Funds raised through this event go towards the Education program.

CF-10-022

Goddard - Giffen

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Canoe Race Flyer included in the meeting package and further notes that all directors of the Foundation are invited to attend this fund raising event on April 18.”

CARRIED

An update on the 2009 project was explained and a report on 2010 Foundation Projects was considered.

2009 A.W. Campbell Workshop:

- in February 2009 the Foundation accepted the A.W. Campbell Workshop as a project for 2009.
- plans were prepared, the project was advertised and 7 local contractors provided quotations to build the workshop.
- Van Ver Construction of Watford was awarded the contract and completed the work shop on May 28th
- the workshop has received many positive comments from CA users
- costs to construct, service and landscape around the building was \$38,000.00
- 2010 Playground Equipment:
 - in October 2009 the Foundation agreed to donate \$ 30,000 to install playground equipment at our 3 regional campgrounds.

- in January, an invitation to quote was sent to 5 playground equipment manufacturers, with two responding.
- the quotation from Active Playground Equipment from Point Edward to supply and install the equipment at A.W. Campbell and Henderson CA's was accepted and the equipment has been ordered to be installed by May 15th (weather permitting)
- quotation price was \$ 9,345.20 for each set
- L.C. Henderson and Campbell to have equipment installed similar to what is shown, Warwick CA to have climbing equipment installed adjacent to the existing playground installed in the mid 1990's. Warwick's layout and pricing to be determined but will be installed within budget.

CF-10-023

Goddard - Colosimo

"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on 2010 Foundation Projects."

CARRIED

The Board of Directors annually presents the President's Award to individuals or organizations that make significant contributions to further the goals of the Conservation Foundation or Authority.

CF-10-024

Margetts - Dale

"That the Board of Directors award the 2009 President's Award to Gary Ingram, Pran Mehta, Murray Kemp, and John Williams for their commitment to conservation through the dedication of the Glenview Conservation Lands and Stewardship funds to support this legacy."

CARRIED

The President advised of an upcoming 4-H Greenbelt Youth Forum. Rural and urban high school students explore a variety of issues such as environmental stewardship, resource preservation, land use planning, and local food. Following the forum, they complete a project within their community. Mr. Skinner asked staff for a list of projects that the local club could complete. He advised that the local group is also looking for donations to assist with transportation.

CF-10-0225

Evers - Margetts

"That the meeting be adjourned."

Duncan Skinner
President

Ralph Coe
Executive Director