

# Conservation Update

January 2021

## St. Clair Celebrates 60 Years of Conservation in 2021

The year 2021 marks 60 years of watershed management and conservation in the St. Clair Region. Formally the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was founded on January 12, 1961, in cooperation with the Province of Ontario and local municipalities.



For 60 years, the SCRCA has implemented watershed management principles to ensure development occurs in safe and sustainable locations. Staff have also delivered conservation education programs to elementary and secondary students, worked with private landowners and organizations to create and enhance local habitat, and have become leaders in flood management and mitigation in the St. Clair watershed.

Our 60th Anniversary will look a little different than originally planned as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We invite our watershed community to keep updated on our anniversary celebrations that will occur over the next year by visiting our social media and website.

The success of the SCRCA over the last 60 years is due, in large part, to the support of our watershed communities, our member municipalities, and local, provincial and federal partnerships. In the spirit of conservation, we look forward to our continued collaboration over the next 60 years and beyond.

## Community Partner Spotlight – Bonduelle Foods, Strathroy

For over five years, the employees and management at Bonduelle Foods in Strathroy have donated time and money to help maintain and improve the Strathroy Conservation Area.

Their generous donations have allowed for trail improvements, the installation of boardwalks and the construction of park benches and picnic areas, including a wheelchair accessible table.



A sign will be placed along the trails at the Strathroy Conservation Area to acknowledge the long-standing support Bonduelle has shown to the SCRCA and Strathroy Conservation Area. We thank them for their commitment to encouraging healthy lifestyles in our community and to local conservation.



**Follow us on Facebook and Twitter**  
Check out our website at [scrc.on.ca](http://scrc.on.ca)



## SCRCA Response to Schedule 6 of Ontario Bill 229

In November 2020, the provincial government introduced Bill 229 in the Ontario legislature. Titled the *"Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act"*, the Bill also contained changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* in Schedule 6 that would significantly alter the roles and responsibilities of Authorities across Ontario. Essentially, the new legislation will limit the oversight and expertise provided by Conservation Authorities that ensures development is conducted in a safe and sustainable manner that protects people and property from natural hazards and conserves important natural ecosystems.

Despite pleas by Conservation Authorities, municipalities, environmental law firms and local conservation groups to repeal Schedule 6, the government passed Bill 229 in its entirety on December 8, 2020.

While the SCRCA is not in support of the changes outlined in the Bill, we are encouraged that a working group that includes Conservation Authority representation has been established to provide input into the development of new regulations. In moving forward, the SCRCA is hopeful that future discussions will result in constructive dialogue and the productive continuation of our long-standing partnership with the province.

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### Tree Seedling Orders Now Being Accepted

Are you or your organization looking to plant some trees this spring? The SCRCA is currently accepting orders for our seedling and large stock tree planting programs. Order forms that outline 2021 prices and inventory can be found on our website at <https://www.scrca.on.ca/conservation-services/tree-planting-woodlot-services/>. Order forms are due by March 19, 2021 (seedlings) and March 26, 2021 (large stock).

The SCRCA also offers a tree planting and maintenance program for eligible projects (e.g., windbreaks, buffer strips, wildlife corridors) that includes:

- A site visit and development of a comprehensive tree planting plan;
- Planting services and application of pre-emergent herbicide at the time of planting;
- A one-year growing season survival assessment.

For more information on our tree planting services, please contact:

Steve Shaw  
Manager of Conservation Services  
[sshaw@scrca.on.ca](mailto:sshaw@scrca.on.ca); (519) 245-3710 Ext. 213

Jeff Sharp  
Conservation Services Specialist  
[jsharp@scrca.on.ca](mailto:jsharp@scrca.on.ca); (519) 245-3710 Ext. 217



## Canada Nature Fund supports Aquatic Species at Risk in the St. Clair Region

In April 2021, the SCRCA will enter the third year of a four-year agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to protect aquatic species at risk in the St. Clair Region.

Through the Canada Nature Fund grant program, the SCRCA was awarded a total of \$1,227,000 in funding over four years to support the monitoring and recovery of aquatic species at risk in the Sydenham River and the implementation of stewardship projects within five priority sub-basins of the East Sydenham River.

The Sydenham River is the only river in Ontario that lies solely within the Carolinian life zone and supports one of the most species-rich watersheds in all of Canada. To date, this funding has supported the implementation of Best Management Projects (BMPs) on landowner properties to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, reduce soil erosion and enhance or create wetland habitat. In addition, the funding has supported extensive water quality monitoring and fish and freshwater mussel surveys along the River.



### Donate to the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Today!

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation was established to support the activities and programs of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. In addition to fundraising efforts, donations can be made to support conservation programs that will help create healthier communities for ourselves and future generations.

We hope you will consider a donation to the Foundation in 2021. Donations can be made by phone, mail and now online by visiting <https://www.scrca.on.ca/foundation/donate/>. Your donation can be allocated to programs where funds are most needed or directed to specific areas or programs that are of importance to you (e.g., tree planting, species at risk, education).

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and Authority thank all our past, current and future donors who have supported local conservation in the St. Clair Region.

### Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting Annual General Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:00 am  
(Virtual Meeting)

**St. Clair Region Conservation Authority**  
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