





## A Message from Our Chair

As in 2020, the last year has required the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) to quickly and efficiently adapt to the ever-changing restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Board of Directors continued to guide and govern Authority operations virtually and our staff served our watershed communities and member municipalities through the use of innovative technology, enhanced health and safety procedures, and altered programming.

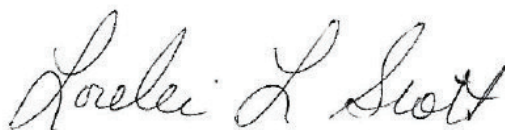
Challenges aside, 2021 was another successful year for the SCRCA. Our Conservation Areas continued to experience increased traffic, and camping was in high demand. The interest in tree planting projects was at an all-time high, and our biologists rescued and released a record number of turtle eggs and hatchlings as part of their Captive Hatch and Release Program. Shoreline protection projects continued to move forward along the Lake Huron shoreline to protect critical municipal infrastructure from flooding and erosion. And as COVID-19 restrictions lifted, our staff were able to hold several in-person events throughout the fall months – a welcomed opportunity to reconnect and reengage with our local communities.

The year 2021 also marked the SCRCA's 60th Anniversary. Although our celebrations were hampered by the pandemic, we were able to celebrate the Authority's history through our social media platforms and with a small event on National Tree Day to commemorate two significant milestones – the planting of over 4 million trees and the creation of 100 hectares of wetland throughout the St. Clair Region.

I would like to thank our staff and Board of Directors for their dedication during these challenging times and our partners for their unwavering support. We look forward to continuing our work together towards a healthy and sustainable natural environment in the St. Clair Region.



**Lorie Scott**  
**Chair, Board of Directors**  
**St. Clair Region Conservation Authority**



### Board of Directors

The SCRCA is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the 17 member municipalities we serve.

#### **Township of Adelaide Metcalfe**

Betty Ann MacKinnon

#### **Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston**

Frank Nemcek

#### **Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

Joe Faas

Aaron Hall

#### **Township of Dawn-Euphemia**

Alan Broad

#### **Township of Enniskillen/ Village of Oil Springs**

Kevin Marriott

#### **Municipality of Lambton Shores**

Lorie Scott

#### **Municipality of Middlesex Centre**

Dan McMillan

#### **Town of Petrolia**

Brad Loosley

#### **Town of Plympton-Wyoming**

Tim Wilkins

#### **Village of Point Edward**

Larry Gordon

#### **City of Sarnia**

Terry Burrell

Bill Dennis

Mike Stark

#### **Municipality of Southwest Middlesex/Village of Newbury**

Mark McGill

#### **Township of St. Clair**

Pat Brown

Steve Miller

#### **Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc**

John Brennan

Frank Kennes

#### **Township of Warwick**

Jerry Westgate



## About Us

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) is one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CA) responsible for the conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources within its watershed. The St. Clair Region includes the Sydenham River watershed and smaller watersheds that drain directly into southern Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, and northeastern Lake St. Clair.

Our programs aim to 1) reduce the risk of life and property from flooding and erosion; 2) improve water quality; 3) promote habitat creation and stewardship; 4) provide outdoor recreation opportunities; 5) increase environmental awareness and literacy; and 6) monitor and protect our most vulnerable species. We achieve this in cooperation and partnership with our member municipalities, government agencies, Indigenous communities, community groups, local landowners, and businesses.

## SCRCA Mission

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has as its mission, to provide leadership through coordination of watershed planning, implementation of resource management programs, and promotion of conservation awareness, in cooperation with others.

## SCRCA by the Numbers

**4,130 km<sup>2</sup>**

**14 subwatersheds**

**65 km of  
Lake Huron shoreline**

**81% agricultural landuse**

**9th largest CA by area**

**2 counties**

**1 regional municipality**

**147,082 residents**



### ◀ A Look Back (Early 1980s)

On January 12, 1961, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was founded. The Authority was originally known as the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority until the 1970s when the watershed expanded to include those that drained into the St. Clair River, southern Lake Huron and northern Lake St. Clair. The St. Clair Region watershed expanded again in 2005 with the addition of watersheds located in Lambton Shores.



## Water Resources

Our water resources team oversees the SCRCA flood forecasting and warning program, and the maintenance and operation of flood control structures, including the W. Darcy McKeough Floodway. We work closely with local municipalities to protect public infrastructure through shoreline protection works. Our team also administers the Drinking Water Source Protection program for the St. Clair Region which protects municipal sources of drinking water from contamination. Lastly, our water resources department monitors and reports on Great Lakes water levels and conducts groundwater sampling on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

## Erosion Control Projects

The SCRCA works closely with shoreline municipalities to protect critical infrastructure from erosion caused by high water levels and extreme waves triggered by strong storm events. In 2021, \$400,000 in funding was secured through the provincial Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure Fund, in addition to multi-year funding provided by the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to support shoreline protection projects along the Lake Huron (Helen to Kenwick - Phase 3A and Pine St. to Penhuron Avenue) and St. Clair River shorelines (Port Lambton Park Shoreline Restoration).



## Groundwater Monitoring

In an effort to better understand Ontario's groundwater resources, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks implemented the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network to monitor water quality and quantity in local wells. The Network is a cooperative effort of the Conservation Authorities in Ontario, on behalf of the Ministry. The SCRCA monitors nine groundwater wells for water levels and eight groundwater wells for water quality as part of this program. The data gathered are reported in the Authority's Watershed Report Card, released every five years.



## Flood Operations

Flooding is a natural process and while the Authority has done much to reduce the risk to life and property, some flooding in developed and undeveloped areas is still inevitable. As such, the SCRCA operates a flood warning program designed to warn municipalities of flood conditions. Through a network of 11 stream gauges, five snow sampling sites, ice monitoring, and meteorological data, our staff monitor ice and streamflow conditions, and issue bulletins should a flood be imminent.

The five types of bulletins the SCRCA issues include:

1. **Normal Conditions** – no flood conditions exist
2. **Shoreline Conditions Statement**
  - Water Safety – watercourses could post a danger due to high water levels, wave action, and erosion – flooding not expected
  - Flood Outlook – early notice of the potential for flooding along shorelines
3. **Watershed Conditions Statement**
  - Water Safety – watercourses could post a danger due to fast flows and unstable banks – flooding not expected
  - Flood Outlook – early notice of the potential for flooding
4. **Flood Watch** – potential for flooding in some municipalities
5. **Flood Warning** – flooding is imminent or occurring

The Authority also monitors watershed conditions using Low Water Indicators to determine whether we are in a drought. Under drought conditions, the Authority meets with the Low Water Response Committee to issue a Level I, II, or III Low Water Condition. In 2021, a Level I Low Water Condition was issued in May.

## Drinking Water Source Protection

Residents living in the SCRCA watershed are protected from significant drinking water threats through the administration of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Water Protection Plan. The SCRCA houses a Risk Management Official/Inspector who works with local communities, industries, and municipalities to ensure risks to drinking water are identified and mitigated. All initially identified significant threats that were identified in 2014 have been mitigated through negotiated Risk Management Plans. Annual inspections continue in the Lambton and Chatham-Kent region for existing managed threats with ongoing review and screening for any potential new threats.

### A Look Back (1979) ►

The W. Darcy McKeough Floodway was built to protect the community of Wallaceburg from severe flooding. Completed in 1984, construction took approximately 6 years and cost \$30 million. The floodway consists of a dam embankment, vertical water control gates, and a 7 km diversion channel. When in operation, the dam control gates close and divert 37% of the North Branch of the Sydenham River down the diversion channel to the St. Clair River. The floodway has been operated ten times during its history.

## 2021 Flood Bulletins

### Shoreline Conditions

Water Safety - 5

Flood Outlook - 0

### Watershed Conditions

Water Safety - 4

Flood Outlook - 5

Flood Watch - 18

Flood Warning - 3





## Planning and Regulations

As a watershed management agency acting under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the SCRCA is responsible for ensuring that development is directed outside of areas prone to flooding and erosion. Under *Ontario Regulation 171/06, "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses"*, staff review permit applications for development within these areas to ensure that the proposed development will not result in future risk to lives or property. In addition, the SCRCA assists our member municipalities with review of development applications under the *Planning Act* to ensure that development adheres to the natural hazard and natural heritage policies identified in the Provincial Policy Statement.

### SCRCA Development Application Process Review

Development has been steadily increasing across many of the watershed's municipalities over the last several years. Comparing 2017 statistics to 2021, the number of *Planning Act* applications processed by SCRCA staff have increased by 200%, and permits under *Ontario Regulation 171/06* have increased by 124%.

In September 2020, SCRCA's Board of Directors retained Tim Dobbie Consulting to undertake a service delivery review of the Authority's Planning and Regulations Department to review efficiencies and provide recommendations to improve application processing times and customer service relations. After a series of interviews with SCRCA staff, board members, municipal staff, developers, builders, and other Conservation Authorities, recommendations were presented and approved by the Board of Directors at a special meeting in August 2021.

The report recommended that additional staff are required to keep up with the increased level of development within the watershed, with funding mechanisms established to support the additional staff. In addition, the report supported the use of additional technologies to further enhance service delivery.



Technologies, including web-based document management software, a detailed file management database, video networking software, and remote access to files, have allowed staff to continue to provide service to residents and developers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In late 2021, an online payment system was launched to facilitate easier and faster payment of fees.

Department staff continue to work on best practices with other Conservation Authorities, and undertake training to ensure efficiency and accuracy in our day-to-day operations. Three of our department staff are now certified as Regulations Officers under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. In 2022, we will continue to work towards establishing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with our partner municipalities, as per the updates to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, to further streamline development review.

## Planning Activity 2021

Inquiries	107
Active Files	206
Application Types (Note: Active files may have multiple applications)	314
Minor Variances	26
Severances	67
Site Plan	37
Subdivision/Condominium	62
Zoning By-law	85
Official Plan	38
Files with Natural Heritage	29%

## Regulations Activity 2021

Legal Inquiries	48
Permits Issued under Ontario Regulation 171/06	244
Inquiries under Ontario Regulation 171/06	414
Compliance/Enforcement Matters under Ontario Regulation 171/06	27
Hearings	0

## Drainage Act and Section 28 Regulations Team (DART) Protocol Activity 2021

Total Drainage Projects Reviewed	106
Standard Compliance Requirements (SCRs) Issued	86





Freshwater Mussels

## Biological Monitoring

The Sydenham River, located within the St. Clair Region, is recognized provincially, nationally, and even internationally for its biodiversity. SCRCAs biologists work with government agencies and non-profit organizations to monitor populations of local aquatic and terrestrial species (including Species at Risk) throughout the Sydenham River watershed and the smaller watersheds that make up the St. Clair Region. Staff also collect important data (e.g., water quality, benthic invertebrates) to assess the health of local habitats and overall watershed health. This data is used by both the SCRCAs and our partners to help guide policy development, prioritize research efforts, and implement rehabilitation and protection measures.

## Water Quality Monitoring

Every year, the SCRCAs monitor local water quality through the chemical analysis of surface water samples collected from 22 sites throughout the watershed and the collection and identification of bottom-dwelling biological indicators (benthic invertebrates) from 14 sites. In 2021, over 144 surface water samples were collected and analyzed for nutrients, *E. coli*, and metals between the months of May and November, in addition to 30 benthic invertebrate samples. Water quality data is shared with partner agencies and organizations and reported on in our Watershed Report Card, released every five years.



Benthic Invertebrate Sampling



Dobsonfly Larvae

◁ Benthic invertebrates are bottom-dwelling animals found in the sediment of lakes and rivers, including insects, worms, and crustaceans. Each type of benthic invertebrate has a pollution tolerance, which can help biologists learn about the health of a watercourse (Pictured left: Dobsonfly larvae — an indicator of good water quality).



## Fish Monitoring

The Sydenham River is home to at least 82 of the 129 native freshwater fish species found in Ontario – all of which are threatened by habitat loss, pollution, and invasive species. The SCRC monitors fish communities in local watercourses to obtain important information on species distribution to help guide policy development and research efforts. The 2021 fish monitoring season saw the collection, identification, and release of 3,759 fish from 25 sites.

### 2021 Fish Monitoring Highlights

**46 different fish species**

**1 invasive species (Round Goby)**

**3 Species at Risk (Grass Pickerel, Northern Sunfish, Blackstripe Topminnow)**

## Captive Hatch and Release Turtle Program

The St. Clair Region watershed is home to six of eight different species of turtle found in Ontario – all of which are considered Species at Risk. The SCRC's Captive Hatch and Release program aims to increase turtle hatchling survivorship by eliminating threats to turtle eggs posed by nest predation, shoreline development, and human activities. Efforts focus on the collection and incubation of eggs laid by the Eastern Spiny Softshell turtle – an endangered species facing imminent extinction. The 2021 program saw the rescue of a record-breaking number of turtle eggs. In total, 2,451 eggs were collected from at-risk nests throughout the watershed and 2,188 turtle hatchlings were released back into the wild.

### 2021 Turtle Species

**1,187 Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtles**

**343 Snapping Turtles**

**590 Northern Map Turtles**

**56 Midland Painted Turtles**

**12 Blandings Turtles**

## Freshwater Mussel Monitoring

No other river in Canada has greater freshwater mussel diversity than the Sydenham River. Thirty-four of the 41 mussel species native to Ontario have been historically found in the North and/or East Branch of the Sydenham River. To further close knowledge gaps on the distribution and diversity of freshwater mussels, the SCRC under the direction of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and with financial support from the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk, partnered with the University of Windsor's Healthy Headwaters Lab to survey 2.5 kilometres of the East branch of the Sydenham River. Over the course of the study, 1,436 individual mussels were recorded, representing 22 different species.

**498 mussels recorded during the 2021 study were Species at Risk, representing 8 species (Kidneyshell, Mapleleaf, Northern Riffleshell, Purple Wartyback, Rainbow, Rayed Bean, Round Pigtoe, and Snuffbox).**

## Snake Monitoring

Human persecution, road mortality, and habitat loss are major threats to Ontario's 15 snake species. The SCRC installs and monitors artificial nesting boxes to provide protection and promote the successful reproduction of local snakes, including the endangered Eastern Foxsnake. In 2021, 36 Eastern Foxsnake eggs successfully hatched from two of the ten artificial nesting structures monitored throughout the St. Clair Region.

**Blanding's Turtle**







## Stewardship and Forestry

The SCRCA promotes and supports activities that will create healthy watersheds and improve local water quality and soil health. Conservation Authority staff achieve this by providing educational opportunities, technical advice, and financial assistance to local landowners interested in establishing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and stewardship projects on their properties, such as tree planting and wetland creation. The SCRCA also offers several forestry services to promote sustainable woodlot practices including the development of woodlot management plans and certifying woodlands under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP).

### Environmental Stewardship

Environmental stewardship projects are completed annually throughout the St. Clair Region watershed to improve and protect rural water quality and soil health. SCRCA staff actively seek grants to provide funding to support the efforts of local landowners. In 2021, \$293,500 in grant funding was secured to support 42 projects, with participating landowners contributing an additional \$102,000.

#### 2021 Stewardship Projects

- 26 tree planting projects (30.5 hectares)**
- 3 wetland projects (0.6 hectares)**
- 5 erosion control projects**
- 1 grassed waterway**
- 5 cover crop projects (262 hectares)**
- 1 creek crossing/alternative watering source project**
- 1 septic system upgrade**

#### Wetland Creation





## Tree Planting

The demand was high for seedling and large-stock trees in 2021, with 79,000 seedlings and 1,433 large-stock trees planted throughout the St. Clair Region watershed. A total of 65,000 tree seedlings were planted by SCRCA staff on 29 properties. Large-stock trees and the remaining 14,000 seedlings trees were provided to 83 local landowners and 4 municipalities for plantations, windbreaks, and roadside plantings, among others.

### Tree Seed Collection

Every fall, SCRCA staff collect seeds from native trees throughout the watershed. These seeds grow into trees that will be used in future afforestation projects in the SCRCA region to ensure the trees produced are genetically adapted to our local growing conditions. In 2021, 3,700 litres of seed were collected from native tree species including white, bur, and red oak; shagbark hickory; and sugar maple. Trees sourced from the seeds collected in 2021 will be used for 2023 and 2024 afforestation projects.



## National Tree Day 2021

As part of the SCRCA's 60th Anniversary celebrations, two significant milestones were acknowledged on National Tree Day – the planting of over 4 million trees and the creation of over 100 hectares of wetland throughout the watershed. To honour this achievement, a small event was held at a local landowner's property where Authority Chair and staff reflected on the success of our tree planting and stewardship efforts and unveiled a commemorative sign. The success of these programs is due in large part to the many funding partners who have supported the SCRCA over the past 60 years.



### ◀ A Look Back (1974)

In the beginning, the SCRCA tree planting program focused on restoring forests and habitat in the newly established Conservation Areas and helping landowners establish windbreaks on erosion-prone lands. Many of these trees were planted by volunteers, including local students and Boy Scouts. In 1980, the SCRCA expanded its tree planting services to local landowners with the bulk of plantings done by experienced tree planting crews.



## Conservation Areas

Research has shown that spending time in nature has many positive effects on both mental and physical health. The SCRCA owns and maintains 15 Conservation Areas that span a total of 620 hectares throughout the watershed. Visitors can enjoy numerous recreational activities that include hiking along one of our over 40 km of trails, camping at our three regional campgrounds, fishing, and bird watching. In addition, the SCRCA manages seven natural areas for Lambton County.

Restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic continued to alter the operations of the SCRCA's three regional campgrounds. Transient camping was once again limited to 50% capacity and health and safety measures implemented in 2020 continued throughout the 2021 season. SCRCA staff organized safe and family-friendly activities to engage campers including photo contests, scavenger hunts, and a family fishing derby. The SCRCA campgrounds brought in over \$1.28M in gross revenue in 2021.



New Coldstream Boardwalk

### Coldstream Boardwalk Upgrades

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of volunteers from the Envirofriends of Coldstream, the SCRCA replaced 550 feet of raised boardwalk at the Coldstream Conservation Area. Funded by the Great Lakes Local Action Fund, the new boardwalks allow for greater safety and trail accessibility – they are wider, have gradual slope changes, and were installed with edge protection. Staff continue to seek funding opportunities to replace the remaining 650 feet.

### A Look Back (1980) ►

The Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area was named after former Lambton MPP, and Enniskillen resident, Lorne Henderson, who held office between 1967 and 1985. The property was purchased by the SCRCA in 1973 but officially opened in 1980 with Lorne Henderson and Ontario Premier William G. Davis in attendance. Today, the Conservation Area is home to 155 campsites, 5 km of hiking trails, and the SCRCA's Conservation Education centre.





## Special Projects

### Healthy Lake Huron

To improve water quality and promote clean beaches along the southeast shores of Lake Huron, the Healthy Lake Huron (HLH) program was launched in 2011. Since then, the SCRCa has partnered with all levels of government, local health units, other Conservation Authorities (CAs), and community groups to retain nutrients on land and reduce the risk of harmful algal blooms between Sarnia and Tobermory. In 2021, the HLH team continued to run a social media campaign called #PieceofthePuzzle to connect communities with the lake and highlight the role we play in keeping Lake Huron healthy. In cooperation with other Lake Huron CAs, and through funding provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, SCRCa GIS staff created an erosion potential mapping tool to help understand the risk of soil erosion and subsequent impacts to water quality. This tool will help identify priority areas for stewardship.

### Sydenham River Watershed Phosphorus Management Plan

Through funding provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the SCRCa has been coordinating the development of a phosphorus management plan for the Sydenham River to reduce the loading of this nutrient to waterways, which contributes to degraded local water quality and algal blooms in Lake Erie. The objective of this program is to work with local stakeholders to identify sources of phosphorus, determine best-value solutions, and develop an outreach strategy.

### Sydenham River Aquatic Species at Risk Threat Inventory

Through funding from the Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk, the SCRCa is completing a Threat Inventory for aquatic species at risk in the Sydenham River. The Sydenham River supports a wide diversity of plants and animals, has been identified as one of 13 freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in Canada, and contains critical habitat that is important to the persistence of globally threatened species. For this project, the SCRCa will be synthesizing data on local threats to the aquatic environment that can be used to direct stewardship and recovery efforts.

### St. Clair River Area of Concern

The St. Clair River was identified as an Area of Concern (AOC) in 1987 due to a lengthy history of urban and industrial development. For over 30 years, the local community, Indigenous Peoples, and government have been working together to improve local water quality and aquatic habitat to remove the river from the list of Great Lakes AOCs. Guided by the 2017-2022 Work Plan, a seventh Beneficial Use Impairment was redesignated in June 2021 to not impaired. In addition, the Engineering and Design Plan for managing mercury-contaminated sediment at three priority areas was completed. The goal of this project was to design a plan to address the sediments while promoting local risk reduction and limiting downstream transport of contaminated sediment. Project oversight was provided by representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Dow Canada, and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

### Lambton County Phragmites Partnership and West Nile Control Program

Through funding provided by Lambton County, the SCRCa has assumed the coordinator role for the Lambton County Phragmites Partnership to increase local awareness of the threat of invasive Phragmites and support the implementation of eradication measures to reduce its spread. The SCRCa was also contracted by Lambton Public Health to treat catch basins as part of the West Nile Control Program. In 2021, 17,000 catch basins were treated three times during the summer with a larval growth regulator to prevent mosquito larvae from developing into adult insects throughout the County of Lambton and in a separate agreement, catch basins owned by Aamjiwnaang First Nation.




## Education and Outreach

Education is an important part of shaping tomorrow's environmental leaders and teaching communities about local conservation efforts. Our conservation education program offers a variety of hands-on, curriculum-based, indoor, and outdoor programs geared towards both elementary and secondary school students. Local media outlets and social media are utilized to enhance and expand conservation awareness throughout the St. Clair Region watershed and beyond. Additionally, staff organize and attend local events to introduce communities to the SCRCA, what we do, and how we can assist them in becoming more environmentally minded in their everyday lives.

### Conservation Education

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to alter the way our conservation educators were able to connect with students in 2021. The suite of virtual and school-yard programs developed in response to the pandemic in 2020 continued to be popular and in high demand by teachers, parents, and students throughout the watershed. New in 2021 was the development of webinar-style conservation education programming that saw hundreds of students engaged at the same time.



#### Live-stream with a Naturalist

### 2021 Conservation Education by the Numbers

**929 students**

**Nature in Your Neighbourhood**

**2,571 students**

**Live-stream with a Naturalist**

**1,808 students**

**Webinar-style Programs**

**755 students**

**Field trips to Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area**

**1,838 students**

**Sponsored Programs**



## Great Lakes Virtual Field Trip

In collaboration with other Conservation Authorities, Indigenous communities, and environmental organizations, the SCRCA education team created an online Virtual Field trip to engage students on the ecosystem services provided by the waters of the Huron-Erie Corridor and local threats facing their future.

Funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the resource takes viewers on a trip through the Huron-Erie Corridor from the southern shores of Lake Huron to Lake Erie, with stops at the St. Clair River, Bkejwanong/Walpole Island, Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit River. Participants Learn, Care, Protect, and Connect with water through insights from Indigenous Water Protectors, community activists, and inspirational individuals. The Huron-Erie Corridor Great Lakes Virtual Field Trip was accessed more than 748 times in 2021 at <https://bit.ly/GLHuron-ErieCorridor>.

## Communications

### Social Media



**2,246 Followers**  
**273 Posts**



**409 Tweets**  
**232 Retweets**  
**807 Followers**  
**4,987 Engagements** (clicks, retweets, replies, follows, and likes)

### Media Relations

**16 media releases**  
**625 news article mentions**

### Website

**182,000 website views**  
**NEW Species at Risk in the Sydenham River**  
**website ([www.sydenhamriver.on.ca](http://www.sydenhamriver.on.ca))**



## SCRCA Events 2021

**Crops & Conservation - Bio-strips**  
Virtual Webinar

**Special Presentation - Dr. Dianne Saxe**  
Virtual Webinar

**Ipperwash Beach Shoreline Clean-up**  
Lambton Shores

**Coldstream Fish Day**  
Coldstream Conservation Area  
Middlesex Centre

**Coldstream Boardwalk Replacement**  
Volunteer Event

Coldstream Conservation Area  
Middlesex Centre

**A Geocaching Adventure**  
Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area  
Petrolia

**National Tree Day**  
Komoka

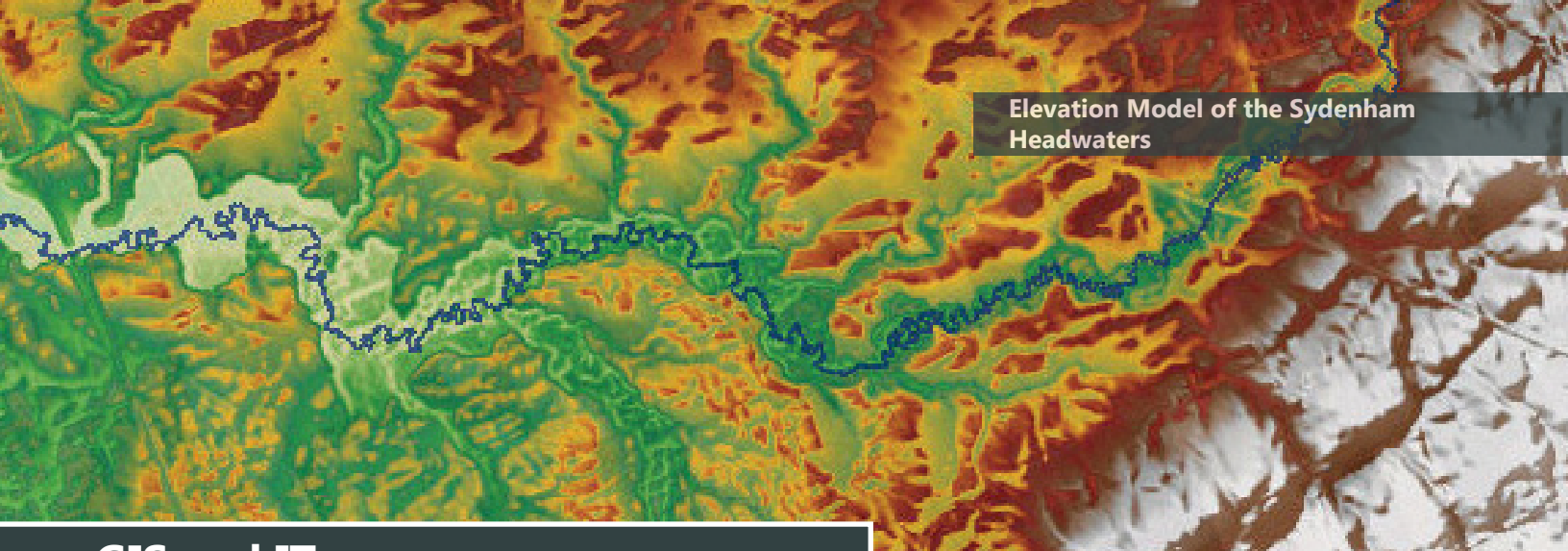
**Bridgeview Community Planting Event**  
Bridgeview Conservation Area  
Petrolia

**Strathroy Rotary Trail Guided Hikes**  
Strathroy

### ◀ A Look Back (1985)

Conservation Education programs were established in 1967 at the former Sydenham Valley Outdoor Education School located at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area. In its first year, 1,400 students participated in outdoor education. Today, over 10,000 students are engaged annually through both in-school programs and field trips to local Conservation Areas.





## GIS and IT

Our Geographic Information System (GIS) and Information Technology (IT) experts provide essential support services to all SCRCa departments and programs. In addition to maintaining important technological infrastructure (i.e., computers, servers), our GIS and IT staff create, update, and manipulate geographic data into a form that other departments and programs can easily comprehend and utilize. Our GIS/IT staff also research and investigate new and exciting technologies to improve efficiencies within the Authority.

### 2021 GIS and IT Highlights

#### GIS Project Highlights

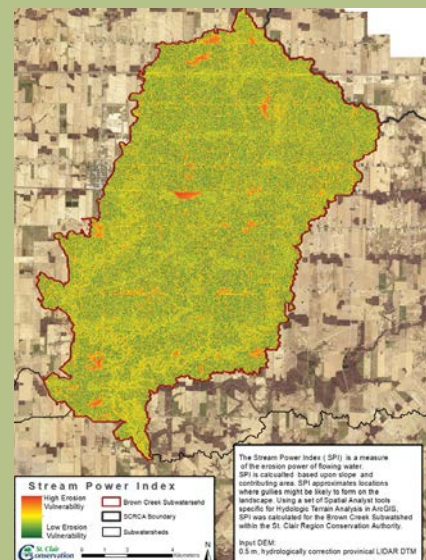
- Brown Creek Erosion Potential Analysis
- Lake Huron Tributary Collaborative Project

#### IT Project Highlights

- Enhanced SCRCa online payment system to efficiently accept payment for seasonal camping fees, tree orders, and planning and regulations fees.
- Continued to arrange and maintain Virtual Private Networks (VPN) and remote access to enable staff to work remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Brown Creek Erosion Potential Analysis

Through the use of Primary Terrain Analysis tools including flow direction, flow accumulation, and slope, SCRCa GIS staff identified areas of low, medium, and high soil erosion potential throughout the Brown Creek sub-watershed. The results of this analysis will be used to prioritize future Best Management Practices (BMPs) and stewardship efforts throughout the Brown Creek sub-watershed.



#### ◀ A Look Back

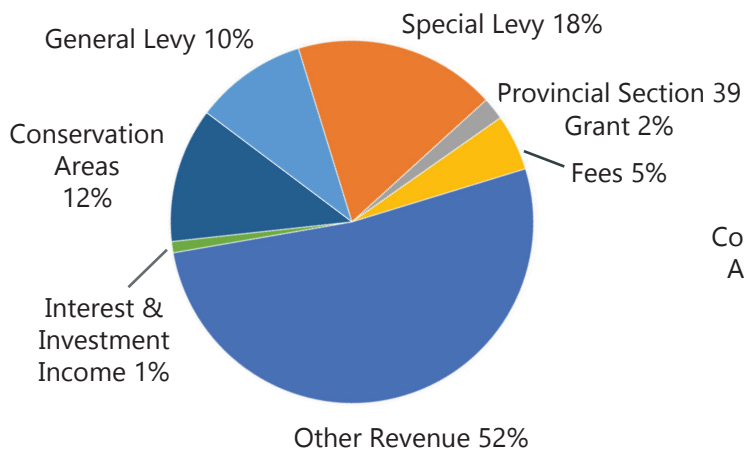
Prior to the introduction of GIS software in 1998, SCRCa regulation limits were calculated using aerial photography prints, stereoscopes, and survey data obtained in the field. Hand-drawn maps were utilized to display this information with final regulation maps completed using pen and ink on mylar. Today, regulation limits are calculated using a digital 3D computer system, specialized software, and GIS models.



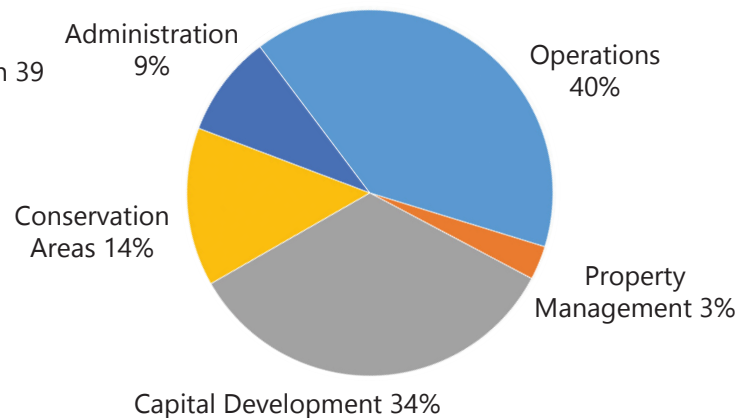
## Administration

The administration and finance team at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority plays an integral role in fostering a positive and safe workplace for all Authority employees and managing the Authority budget. Our team continuously updates and improves SCRCA policies to achieve business excellence and sustainability while maintaining a positive corporate atmosphere.

### 2021 Revenues – \$8,501,373\*



### 2021 Expenditures – \$8,634,181\*

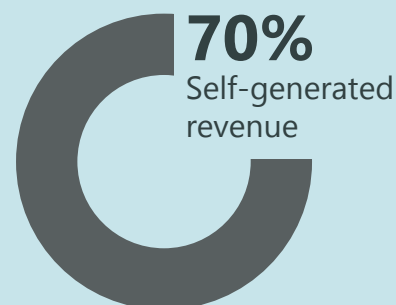


\*unaudited

Over **\$3.8 million** in funding secured by the SCRCA from 34 organizations, contracts, and/or government funding streams (2021-2022 fiscal year).

### **\$7.97 per person**

Cost of SCRCA programs and services supported by municipal levy per person in the SCRCA watershed.





## Conservation Foundation

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation is a registered, charitable organization with the purpose of raising funds to support the conservation programs of the Authority. The organization accepts donations and raises funds through the dedication of volunteers and staff that support several initiatives including conservation education; tree planting; the protection of wetlands, soils, and forests; and upgrades to conservation area facilities and amenities. In 2021, \$98,500 was provided by the Foundation to support Conservation Authority programs.

The Foundation also accepts land donations that further the objectives of the Authority by preserving important natural areas. To date, 17 land donations have been received totalling 461 hectares.

## Conservation Scholarships

Every year, the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation rewards graduating high school students who are pursuing post-secondary studies in a conservation-related field. The 2021 recipients were:

### **A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000 awards**

Nicole Guthrie, Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational School  
Zachary Zavitz, Strathroy District Collegiate Institute

### **Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship - \$500 award**


Lucie Slakmon, Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational School

### **Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship - \$500 award**

Johanna Ni Xiu deKoning, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School



### Scholarship Recipient - Nicole Guthrie



### 2021 Ceremonial Tree Tulip Tree

## Memorial Forest Programs

Through the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program, donations can be made to have a tree planted in memory of a loved one. In 2021, 74 trees were planted at local Conservation Areas through this program.

Additionally, for over 20 years, the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation has partnered with Denning's Funeral Home to establish the Denning's Memorial Forest Program. Through this program, Denning's makes donations on behalf of the families they serve which support tree planting efforts and conservation education. In 2021, a donation of \$6,225 was made to the Foundation to support these programs.



## Our Staff

### Administration Office

Kandyce Affleck, Conservation Lands Clerk (Jan - Feb), Lands Technician (Mar - Dec)  
Bradley Berg, GIS Projects Technician (Nov - Dec)  
Laura Biancolin, Planner  
Donna Blue, Manager of Communications  
Erin Carroll, Director of Biology  
Brooke Ciuman, Drainage Clerk (Jan - Feb)  
Stephen Clark, Risk Management Official/Inspector  
Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist  
Melissa Deisley, Regulations Coordinator (Jan - Jul),  
Director of Planning and Regulations (Aug - Dec)  
Nicole Drumm, Special Projects Technician  
Chris Durand, Manager of IT/GIS  
Roland Eveleens, FishCAST Intern (Mar - Jul)  
Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator  
Jordan Fuller, Planning and Regulations Clerk (Jan - Feb)  
Sarah Hodgkiss, Planning Ecologist (Jan - Jul), Manager of  
Planning and Natural Heritage (Aug - Dec)  
Sarah Hume, Payroll and Accounting Clerk  
Natalie Johnston, Planning and Regulations Clerk (Apr - Sep)  
Brian McDougall, General Manager (Jan - Nov)  
Mike Moroney, Project Manager  
Rashida Naznin, Engineering Technician (Jul - Dec)  
Krista Nicolson, Species at Risk Technician (Oct - Dec)  
Craig Paterson, Conservation Biologist  
Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry  
Ken Phillips, General Manager (Nov - Dec)  
Natasha Pozega, St. Clair River RAP Coordinator  
Tracy Prince, Director of Finance  
Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources  
Alison Seidler, GIS Specialist  
Jeff Sharp, Conservation Services Specialist  
Steve Shaw, Manager of Conservation Services  
Kelli Smith, Watershed Biologist  
Sarah Snetsinger, Watershed Health Technician (May - Dec)

Celia Terry, GIS Data Migration Technician (Jan - Jul)  
Kirsten Van Goethem, Co-op Student (Jan - Apr)  
Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist  
Janice Vegh, Planning and Regulations Document Archivist  
Jeff Vlasman, Regulations Officer  
Meagan Weber, Planning and Regulations Clerk  
Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

### Drinking Water Source Protection

John Campbell, Senior Information Management Analyst  
Deb Kirk, Administrative Assistant  
Linda Nicks, Hydrogeologist (Jan - Oct)

### Field Offices

#### McKeough Floodway

Shane White, Maintenance Foreman, McKeough Floodway

#### A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

Mike Tizzard, Superintendent (Jan - Feb)  
Don Skinner, Assistant Superintendent (Jan - Feb),  
Superintendent (Mar - Dec)  
Maryanne Nieuwenhuizen, Assistant Superintendent  
(Mar - Dec)

#### Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area

Terry Barrie, Superintendent  
Luke Derks, Assistant Superintendent  
Melissa Levi, Conservation Education Coordinator  
Myra Spiller, Conservation Education/Community  
Partnership Technician

#### Warwick Conservation Area

Glenn Baxter, Superintendent  
Jessy VanderVaart, Assistant Superintendent (Jan - Aug)  
Derek Thompson, Assistant Superintendent (Aug - Dec)

#### McLean Conservation Lands

Scott O'Brien, Superintendent

### Staff Retirements

At the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, we have been fortunate to benefit from the experience and knowledge of long-term staff members. In 2021, Mike Tizzard, Superintendent at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area and Brian McDougall, General Manager, retired after dedicated careers with the Authority. We wish both Mike and Brian the best in their next chapters.



**Brian McDougall**  
30 Years with SCRCA



**Mike Tizzard**  
29 Years with SCRCA





St. Clair Region Conservation Authority  
 205 Mill Pond Crescent  
 Strathroy, ON N7G 3P9  
 t. 519-245-3710  
 f. 519-245-3348  
 stclair@scrca.on.ca



@StClairConservation



@SCRCA\_water



[www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca)