



2026 Approved Budget

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St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

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.

Vision Statement

The vision of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority reflects the future desired state of our region. "A healthy and sustainable natural environment in the St. Clair region."

Mission Statement

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.

2026 Budget Highlights

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) has operated with a single operating budget that included both operating and capital expenditures. However, recent legislative changes and strategic planning initiatives have prompted a shift in our budgeting approach. Beginning in 2026, SCRCA will reclass capital expenditures from operating budget and implement a separate capital budget.

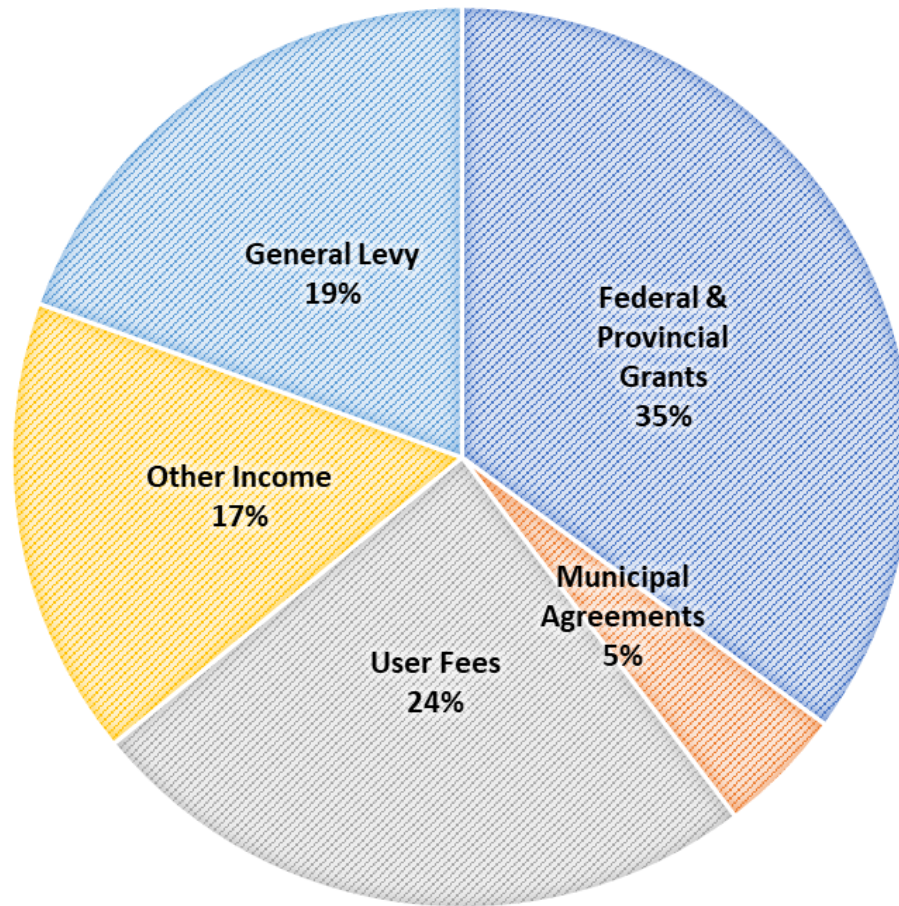
We offer the following highlights for your information:

- General Operating Levy for 2026 is \$1,743,739 and General Capital Levy is \$16,691 shared by the 17-member municipalities, resulting in a total increase of \$84,480 or 5.0% from 2025 (see General Levy Assessment).
- The primary financial pressures and cost drivers in the General Operating Levy include:
 - \$83,650 – Compensation and benefits increase for category 1 program staff. SCRCA completed a joint compensation review with Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA), and the Executive Committee approved to use the 50th percentile in the 2026 budget.
 - \$54,966 – Reduction on land lease revenue from the new tender cycle, direct award, pasture, and land retirement.
 - \$23,000 – Reduction on planning and regulation fees from the fee freeze, CA Act change, and reduction of large projects like fibre line network or pipeline installation.
- Mitigation measures to reduce the operating levy increase include:
 - \$37,146 – Staffing savings from category 1 program.
 - Suspend the 2% increase to fund General Operating Expenses and Category 1 mandatory programs and services that have previously been funded through self-generated revenue or internal charges approved in 2023.
 - \$56,681 – Grant funding and self-generating revenue to fund some cost increases.
- The net impact on 2026 General Operating Levy is \$67,789 or 4.0%
- General Capital levy for mandatory and general capital programs and services except for water control structures is \$16,691 (Approved December 12, 2024).
- Total Municipal Funding summarizes total funding from each municipality, including special infrastructure projects and category 2 & 3 programs.

2026 Operating Budget		
Operating Expenditures	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Flood Control Operations and Maintenance	\$ 430,380	\$ 422,450
Natural Hazard Technical Study	\$ 66,000	\$ 30,000
Planning & Regulations	\$ 915,377	\$ 945,870
Land Management	\$ 324,546	\$ 280,680
Conservation Area	\$ 1,827,180	\$ 1,871,765
Conservation Services	\$ 437,110	\$ 396,098
Source Water Protection & Risk Mgmt	\$ 217,685	\$ 223,582
Watershed monitoring and Stewardship Program	\$ 2,522,550	\$ 2,946,438
Area of Concern Mgmt	\$ 120,050	\$ 131,166
Education	\$ 146,727	\$ 156,410
Foundation	\$ 37,605	\$ 38,209
Corporate Services	\$ 1,112,497	\$ 1,177,093
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 8,157,707	\$ 8,619,760
Operating Revenues	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
General Levy	\$ 1,675,950	\$ 1,743,739
Federal & Provincial Grants	\$ 2,669,618	\$ 3,098,242
Municipal Agreements (formerly Special Levy)	\$ 328,995	\$ 334,250
User Fees	\$ 2,118,161	\$ 2,210,221
Other Income	\$ 1,264,983	\$ 1,233,309
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 8,057,707	\$ 8,619,760
Total Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$ 100,000	\$ -

2026 Capital Budget						
Capital Projects	Costs	2026 General Levy	2026 Special Levy	Other Funding	Reserve	Net
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	\$ 155,580		\$ 77,790	\$ 77,790		\$ -
Conservation Area	\$ 142,000				\$ 142,000	\$ -
IT, Equipment, and Vehicle	\$ 117,413	\$ 8,906		\$ 117,413		\$ 8,906
Buildings, Furniture & Fixtures		\$ 7,785				\$ 7,785
Total	\$ 414,993	\$ 16,691	\$ 77,790	\$ 195,203	\$ 142,000	\$ 16,691

TOTAL REVENUE BY SOURCE



General and Category 1 Programs Operating Budget		
	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Expenditures		
Flood Control Operations and Maintenance	\$ 430,380	\$ 422,450
Natural Hazard Technical Study	\$ 66,000	\$ 30,000
Planning & Regulations	\$ 915,377	\$ 945,870
Land Management	\$ 211,160	\$ 166,419
Conservation Area		
Conservation Services		
Source Water Protection & Risk Mgmt		
Watershed monitoring and Stewardship Program	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000
Area of Concern Mgmt		
Education		
Foundation		
Corporate Services	\$ 1,112,497	\$ 1,177,093
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,769,414	\$ 2,775,832
Revenues		
General Levy	\$ 1,675,950	\$ 1,743,739
Federal & Provincial Grants	\$ 160,038	\$ 160,038
Municipal Agreements (formerly Special Levy)	\$ 77,450	\$ 77,450
User Fees	\$ 313,000	\$ 290,000
Other Income	\$ 442,976	\$ 504,605
Total Revenues	\$ 2,669,414	\$ 2,775,832
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$ 100,000	\$ -

General and Category 1 Programs 2026 Capital Budget					
Capital Projects	Costs	2026 General Levy	Other Funding	Reserve	Net
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure					\$ -
Conservation Area					\$ -
IT, Equipment, and Vehicle	\$ 25,990	\$ 8,906	\$ 25,990		\$ 8,906
Buildings, Furniture & Fixtures		\$ 7,785			\$ 7,785
Total	\$ 25,990	\$ 16,691	\$ 25,990	\$ -	\$ 16,691

Category 2 Programs Operating Budget		
	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Expenditures		
Flood Control Operations and Maintenance		
Water Erosion Control Infrastructure		
Natural Hazard Technical Study		
Planning & Regulations		
Land Management		
Conservation Area	\$ 131,820	\$ 137,075
Conservation Services		
Source Water Protection & Risk Mgmt		
Watershed monitoring and Stewardship Program		
Area of Concern Mgmt		
Education		
Foundation		
Corporate Services		
IT, Equipment, and Vehicle Capital Spending		
Total Expenditures	\$ 131,820	\$ 137,075
Revenues		
General Levy		
Federal & Provincial Grants		
Municipal Agreements (formerly Special Levy)	\$ 131,820	\$ 137,075
User Fees		
Other Income		
Total Revenues	\$ 131,820	\$ 137,075
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ -	\$ -

Category 2 Programs 2026 Capital Budget					
Capital Projects	Costs	2026 Special Levy	Other Funding	Reserve	Net
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	\$ 155,580	\$ 77,790	\$ 77,790		\$ -
Conservation Area					\$ -
IT, Equipment, and Vehicle					\$ -
Buildings, Furniture & Fixtures					\$ -
Total	\$ 155,580	\$ 77,790	\$ 77,790	\$ -	\$ -

Category 3 Programs Operating Budget		
	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Expenditures		
Flood Control Operations and Maintenance		
Water Erosion Control Infrastructure		
Natural Hazard Technical Study		
Planning & Regulations		
Land Management	\$ 113,386	\$ 114,261
Conservation Area	\$ 1,695,360	\$ 1,734,690
Conservation Services	\$ 437,110	\$ 396,098
Source Water Protection & Risk Mgmt	\$ 217,685	\$ 223,582
Watershed monitoring and Stewardship Program	\$ 2,488,550	\$ 2,912,438
Area of Concern Mgmt	\$ 120,050	\$ 131,166
Education	\$ 146,727	\$ 156,410
Foundation	\$ 37,605	\$ 38,209
Corporate Services		
IT, Equipment, and Vehicle Capital Spending		
Total Expenditures	\$ 5,256,473	\$ 5,706,853
Revenues		
General Levy	\$ -	\$ -
Federal & Provincial Grants	\$ 2,509,580	\$ 2,938,204
Municipal Agreements (formerly Special Levy)	\$ 119,725	\$ 119,725
User Fees	\$ 1,805,161	\$ 1,920,221
Other Income	\$ 822,007	\$ 728,704
Total Revenues	\$ 5,256,473	\$ 5,706,853
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ -	\$ -

Category 3 Programs 2026 Capital Budget					
Capital Projects	Costs	2026 Special Levy	Other Funding	Reserve	Net
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure					\$ -
Conservation Area	\$ 142,000			\$ 142,000	\$ -
IT, Equipment, and Vehicle	\$ 91,423		\$ 91,423		\$ -
Buildings, Furniture & Fixtures					\$ -
Total	\$ 233,423	\$ -	\$ 91,423	\$ 142,000	\$ -

2026 Total Municipal Funding

Total Municipal Funding Including Special Infrastructure Projects and Category 2&3 Programs

Municipality	2026 General Levy		2026 Special Benefitting Levy and MOU					2026	2025
	General Operating Levy	General Capital Levy	Head St. Dam Decommissioning Study (WECI)	Coldstream Dam Decommissioning Study (WECI)	Water Control Structure Maintenance (McKeough & ARDA)	Conservation Areas	Tree Planting, Stewardship & Education Programs	Total Municipal Funding	Total Municipal Funding
Adelaide Metcalfe Tp	\$ 33,526	\$ 321						\$33,846	\$32,761
Brooke-Alvinston Tp	\$ 29,827	\$ 286					\$2,000	\$32,113	\$31,048
Chatham-Kent M	\$ 227,573	\$ 2,178			\$73,630	\$31,050	\$37,154	\$371,585	\$360,981
Dawn-Euphemia Tp	\$ 45,134	\$ 432				\$1,225	\$500	\$47,291	\$45,242
Enniskillen Tp	\$ 32,846	\$ 314						\$33,161	\$31,468
Lambton Shores M	\$ 89,566	\$ 857				\$1,200	\$9,288	\$100,911	\$96,840
Middlesex Centre M	\$ 42,019	\$ 402		\$38,895		\$30,850	\$2,000	\$114,166	\$72,176
Newbury V	\$ 2,743	\$ 26					\$285	\$3,054	\$2,924
Oil Springs V	\$ 3,611	\$ 35					\$360	\$4,005	\$3,857
Petrolia T	\$ 45,169	\$ 432				\$2,350	\$2,500	\$50,451	\$48,115
Plympton-Wyoming T	\$ 100,665	\$ 964						\$101,629	\$96,664
Point Edward V	\$ 35,926	\$ 344					\$3,819	\$40,089	\$38,881
Sarnia C	\$ 636,481	\$ 6,092				\$26,250		\$668,824	\$1,639,223
Southwest Middlesex M	\$ 20,176	\$ 193					\$1,334	\$21,704	\$20,779
St. Clair Tp	\$ 200,339	\$ 1,918			\$3,820		\$31,694	\$237,770	\$620,265
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	\$ 158,987	\$ 1,522	\$38,895			\$44,150	\$26,291	\$269,845	\$223,382
Warwick Tp	\$ 39,150	\$ 375					\$2,500	\$42,024	\$40,340
	\$ 1,743,739	\$ 16,691	\$38,895	\$38,895	\$77,450	\$137,075	\$119,725	\$2,172,470	\$3,404,945

Note :

WECI (Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure) Projects are considered if there is matching funds from both the Province and the benefitting Municipality and vary from year to year based on granting approval process, and Municipal matching funds.

DMAF - Diaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund - Government of Canada investment in large-scale infrastructure projects.

NDMP - National Disaster Mitigation Program - Government of Canada funding to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from flood-related events.

2026 General Levy Assessment (Draft)								
	2024	2025	2025		2026		2025/2026	
Municipality	Weighted CVA Apportionment %	Weighted CVA Apportionment %	General Operating Levy	General Capital Levy	General Operating Levy	General Capital Levy	General Operating Levy Increase	General Capital Levy Increase
Township of Adelaide Metcalfe	1.9548%	1.9226%	\$ 32,761		\$ 33,526	\$ 321	\$ 765	\$ 321
Township Brooke-Alvinston	1.7332%	1.7105%	\$ 29,048		\$ 29,827	\$ 286	\$ 779	\$ 286
Municipality Chatham-Kent	13.0760%	13.0509%	\$ 219,147		\$ 227,573	\$ 2,178	\$ 8,426	\$ 2,178
Township Dawn-Euphemia	2.6130%	2.5884%	\$ 43,792		\$ 45,134	\$ 432	\$ 1,343	\$ 432
Township Enniskillen	1.8776%	1.8837%	\$ 31,468		\$ 32,846	\$ 314	\$ 1,378	\$ 314
Municipality Lambton Shores	5.1465%	5.1364%	\$ 86,252		\$ 89,566	\$ 857	\$ 3,314	\$ 857
Municipality Middlesex Centre	2.3972%	2.4097%	\$ 40,176		\$ 42,019	\$ 402	\$ 1,843	\$ 402
Village Newbury	0.1575%	0.1573%	\$ 2,639		\$ 2,743	\$ 26	\$ 104	\$ 26
Village Oil Springs	0.2086%	0.2071%	\$ 3,497		\$ 3,611	\$ 35	\$ 114	\$ 35
Town Petrolia	2.6114%	2.5903%	\$ 43,765		\$ 45,169	\$ 432	\$ 1,404	\$ 432
Town Plympton-Wyoming	5.7677%	5.7730%	\$ 96,664		\$ 100,665	\$ 964	\$ 4,002	\$ 964
Village Point Edward	2.0921%	2.0603%	\$ 35,062		\$ 35,926	\$ 344	\$ 864	\$ 344
City Sarnia	36.7715%	36.5009%	\$ 616,273		\$ 636,481	\$ 6,092	\$ 20,209	\$ 6,092
Municipality Southwest Middlesex	1.1602%	1.1571%	\$ 19,445		\$ 20,176	\$ 193	\$ 732	\$ 193
Township St. Clair	11.0237%	11.4890%	\$ 184,751		\$ 200,339	\$ 1,918	\$ 15,588	\$ 1,918
Township Strathroy - Caradoc	9.1513%	9.1176%	\$ 153,371		\$ 158,987	\$ 1,522	\$ 5,616	\$ 1,522
Township Warwick	2.2578%	2.2452%	\$ 37,840		\$ 39,150	\$ 375	\$ 1,310	\$ 375
	100%	100%	\$ 1,675,950	\$ -	\$ 1,743,739	\$ 16,691	\$ 67,789	\$ 16,691
\$16,760 equals approx. 1% change in levy								
CVA Apportionment is based on information provided from the Ministry of Natural Resources (2025 CVA)								



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