

Conservation Update

March 2019

SCRCA Holds 2019 Annual General Meeting

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) held its 2019 Annual General Meeting on February 28, 2019, in Wallaceburg where outgoing Chair and Director, Steve Arnold, along with Vice-Chair, Andy Bruziewicz, presented the annual Conservation Awards to community members who have significantly contributed to the environmental health of the St. Clair Region.

Darrell Randell was honoured for his longtime commitment, advocacy, and partnership for wetland and habitat restoration projects that have resulted in the improved environmental quality of our region. In addition, Darrell has been an active member on the Thames-Sydenham Region Source Protection Committee and numerous committees for the St. Clair River Area of Concern program.

The second Conservation Award was presented to the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group (LSPCG). Established in 2012, the community group has worked tirelessly to control the invasive grass Phragmites in the Municipality of Lambton Shores. The group has also spearheaded a number of outreach initiatives that have extended well beyond the borders of Lambton Shores.

The SCRCA welcomed ten new Directors to their 2019 Board in addition to new leadership – Joe Faas, representing the Regional Municipality of Chatham-Kent, was elected Chair and Larry Gordon, representing the Village of Point Edward, was elected Vice Chair.



2019 SCRCA Chair, Joe Faas (right), and Vice Chair, Larry Gordon (left).



Six members of the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group Executive were in attendance to receive their Conservation Award.



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Plains Midstream and Union Gas Support Conservation Education Programs



Each March our educators offer a Spring Water Awareness Program that teaches children about the hazards of spring floodwaters and the importance of avoiding dangerous situations. Our 2019 program was made available free of charge to local schools thanks to a generous donation by Plains Midstream Canada (from left to right: Brian McDougall, General Manager, SCRCA; Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Coordinator, SCRCA; Ian Forster, Community Relations Advisor, Plains Midstream; Emily Turner, Scheduler, Plains Midstream).



Union Gas continues to support our conservation education programs. At the 2019 Annual General Meeting, Chris Young, Union Gas Administrative Manager presented a cheque to SCRCA Conservation Educators, Melissa Levi and Sharon Nethercott, and SCRCA Chair, Joe Faas.

Maple Syrup Festival

Once again, the weather was perfect for the annual SCRCA Maple Syrup Festival held on March 16th and 17th at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area near Alvinston. Over 800 people visited the Conservation Area to see demonstrations on the different methods of maple syrup production used throughout history and to learn about the significance this resource has had in the lives of First Nations people and pioneers.

Our guests were also welcome to explore the over 8 km of trails at the Conservation Area, sample homemade maple taffy and take a scenic horse-drawn wagon ride through the park. Proceeds from this event go towards maintaining and improving the facilities throughout the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area.



Visitors were taught about how maple syrup was discovered by First Nation people (right) and were also introduced to pioneer methods of transporting sap from the sugar bush (pictured above).





Camping Season Just Around the Corner

The camping season is almost here – opening weekend for the Authority's three regional campgrounds is April 26th. Park staff are completing facility updates and preparing the sites for another busy year. For more information on how to reserve a campsite, visit www.scrca.on.ca/camping.

Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race

The 47th Annual Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 28, 2019. The race begins at Mossie Road just west of County Road 79, north of Cairo. The race features 11 classes and three different race lengths. All races finish at the Shetland Conservation Area on Bentpath Line (County Road 2).

The event is co-sponsored by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and its Foundation. Participants can choose to collect pledges that will help support outdoor education for school children in the St. Clair region. For more information, visit www.scrca.on.ca/events.



Survey Work to be Conducted Throughout the St. Clair Region Watershed

In 2018, the SCRCA was granted funding through the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) with support from the City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township to initiate a floodplain mapping project. Staff acquired high-resolution LIDAR point cloud data and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data courtesy of the Southwestern Ontario Orthophotography Project (SWOOP) program. As part of this project, the SCRCA is in the process of hiring two GPS/Survey Technicians to validate the model's output. Staff will be in the field collecting elevation data near drains, creeks and rivers throughout the City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township this summer. Results from this project will assist in the development of accurate floodplain mapping for use in flood risk management and planning and regulations.



Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2019 10:00 am

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