



# SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION DE LA NATION SUD

The year 2013 was full of notable accomplishments for South Nation Conservation (SNC). This Annual Report highlights SNC's critical research, science-based programming, and strong leadership necessary for ongoing success. The continued support of local partners has made these achievements possible.



Jessup's Falls Conservation Area, Plantagenet

## Monitoring Aquatic Biodiversity

SNC leads aquatic projects across the jurisdiction to protect ecosystems and biodiversity. Technical staff spearhead on-the-ground, monitoring programs aimed at the presence, abundance and longevity of an incredible variety of aquatic life, which are good indicators of stream health. The South Nation River supports 72 species of fish and six species-at-risk turtles.

### Highlights:

- SNC continued into the eighth year of working with partner municipalities to promote protection of species-at-risk turtles. The program was enhanced by a \$50,000 grant from Shell Canada.
- SNC, with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters helped control the spread of invasive species by removing 300 litres of mystery snails in North Dundas.
- SNC, local anglers, and First Nations partners monitored the presence of American Eels in the upper Watershed.
- Staff made a first-time catch of Black Crappie in the Spencerville Reach.



**2,500** The number of fish SNC caught and released to monitor species and stream health.

- SNC began work to expand a wetland into a more beneficial area for fish at the Port of Johnstown.

**Delivering High-Impact Education**

SNC's environmental education program is well established and flexible. Staff from across the organization deliver unique experiences that local students will carry with them forever. SNC's environmental education programs engage through hands-on learning experiences, in- and out-of-doors. SNC continues to build partnerships and collaborate for opportunities for young students to take environmental action within their own community.

**Highlights:**

- SNC's Maple Syrup Program drew in a record number with 1,154 participants tapping into the outdoor education at Sand Road Maple Farm in Moose Creek.
- SNC partnered with SD&G library staff to deliver curriculum-based Watershed Adventure programs to over 160 local children in the summer.
- A Casselman-based Scouting group is partnering with SNC in ongoing efforts to protect and enhance the local environment. Les Scouts de la 37e du bassin versant changed its name in 2013 to reflect its connection to the watershed—a first in SNC's 66-year history.
- SNC provided the skills and tools to fish responsibly to 12 young anglers at Cass Bridge Conservation Area in North Dundas, at a free, three-day camp in July.
- For the sixth year in a row, SNC's Youth Hunt was fully subscribed for 2013. SNC partners with the South Nation Branch of Delta Waterfowl to guide groups of first time youth hunters every fall.



Sand Road Maple Farm, Moose Creek

4,000

The number of students SNC engaged in environmental education.

**Protecting Drinking Water Sources**

Good water quantity and quality are essential for a healthy ecosystem and SNC is working with landowners and municipalities to ensure a clean and ample supply.

**Highlights:**

- Representatives from the Raisin and South Nation Watersheds completed the Source Water Protection Plan, which contains a number of policies that ensure certain activities are managed to keep municipal drinking water safe.
- SNC's committees approved \$148,336 in grants for landowner projects to improve local water quality.
- SNC and partners developed maps of groundwater quality and quantity in Clarence-Rockland with results from 127 private well samples.
- Quebec recognized the success of SNC's longstanding Clean Water Program at the Agri-Environment Symposium. Staff delivered a keynote speech on the partnership with rural property owners to improve and protect water quality on private lands, for the public benefit.



61

The number of landowners and groups completing environmental projects with SNC support.



**Land Stewardship**

SNC lands provide natural benefits for people and wildlife such as improved forest cover, river habitat, and public recreational areas. SNC plays a major role in sustainable forest management; provides forestry services to private landowners; and issues land-use permits for activities including hunting on SNC properties.

**Highlights:**

- With \$25,000 in provincial funding, SNC improved the trail system in Two Creeks Conservation Area—a 400 acre forest in South Dundas.

- Construction of a 400 m wetland boardwalk trail was completed at Findlay Creek in the City of Ottawa.

- SNC planted 118,950 seedlings on SNC land and on private land for owners who participate in forestry stewardship programs.

- SNC acquired lands in North Stormont and North Dundas to provide recreation and additional habitat for grassland birds and wildlife.

- SNC made 35 site visits to private woodlots in Prescott and Russell as part of its Woodlot Advisory Service. The Service provides owners with management options that aim to enhance woodlot potential in an environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. Expansion to Stormont, Dundas and Glengary will begin in 2014.

**11,136** The number of acres of land SNC owns (about nine times the size of the Village of Casselman).



Two Creeks Conservation Area. Iroquois

**Property Management**

The way we plan and build our communities and homes affects our natural environment. SNC provides Planning Reviews; Property Inquiry Services; and support to municipalities with development decisions. SNC strives to protect the natural features of the Watershed, while protecting people and property from natural hazards.

- SNC partnered with technical experts and municipal staff in Prescott and Russell to review the existing hazard mapping studies of the Lemieux potential landslide area. The panel applied updated research to ensure the best approach to managing these zones.

- SNC staff surveyed three reaches of the Shields Creek Sub-watershed to update floodplain mapping in the City of Ottawa along watercourses with existing and future development pressure. Ottawa and SNC will use this information to ensure that new

**300** The number of septic permits SNC issued.

- SNC began a pilot project that allows real-estate agents to access information about natural hazard and heritage features through Multiple Listing Service websites for properties in the City of Ottawa. Property buyers and sellers are encouraged to use SNC’s information services to help protect people, property, and the environment when making decisions for a site.

- The Town of Hawkesbury expressed interest in signing a contract for SNC’s septic service. SNC issues septic permits to install or alter private sewage systems on behalf of 11 member municipalities. The service will expand to Hawkesbury in 2014.



SOUTH NATION  
CONSERVATION  
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SNC is a local agency established under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario in 1947. Today, it protects and restores 4,200 km<sup>2</sup> of land in Eastern Ontario in partnership with 15 municipalities, comprising portions of: United Counties of Prescott and Russell; United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; and the City of Ottawa. The member municipalities appoint a 12-member, plus past chair, Board of Directors to govern all of SNC's work.

### 2013 Board of Directors:

Chair: Bill Smirle (United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry)

Vice Chair: Doug Thompson (City of Ottawa)

Past Chair: Lawrence Levere (United Counties of Leeds Grenville)

### Representatives:

#### City of Ottawa

Stephen Blais

Michael Brown

Alan Perks

#### United Counties of Leeds Grenville

Barclay Cormack

Glenn Mackey

#### United Counties of Prescott-Russell

Claude Levac

Francois St. Amour

Jean-Paul St. Pierre

#### United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Steven Byvelds

Tammy McRae

### Thank you!

SNC expresses sincere thanks to member municipalities and the many forward-thinking individuals, groups, and agencies who partner to achieve a healthier Watershed.

### Help SNC make a difference!

Visit [www.nation.on.ca](http://www.nation.on.ca) to make a donation or to learn more about important conservation work being undertaken locally.

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