

An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right. A steel truss bridge crosses the river in the middle ground. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields, brown harvested fields, and dense forests with some autumn-colored trees. A road winds through the fields. In the foreground, a large dark grey triangle is superimposed over the image, containing the title text.

SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTH NATION RIVER,
PLANTAGENET



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

MAPLE SYRUP EDUCATION PROGRAM AT OSCHMANN FOREST

Popular flagship program given a sweet face-lift

Since 2000, SNC has proudly hosted a bilingual Maple Syrup Education Program welcoming over 1,000 students annually.

In 2018, the program was redeveloped at its new home in Ormond at the Oschmann Forest, an 18-acre property donated to SNC that was actively managed for maple syrup production for 50 years by the Oschmann Family. A new parking lot, groomed trail, interpretive signage, and resting area are ready to greet students and families for sweet discoveries in 2019.



Opening of recent property donation, Oschmann Forest Conservation Area

SNC PUBLISHES REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROTECT AND INCREASE FOREST COVER

Plans in place to improve forest cover in jurisdiction

Roadside tree planting in Pendleton, providing a wind barrier and forest connectivity



In 2018, SNC published the report: “Protecting and Increasing Forest Cover in the South Nation Conservation Jurisdiction”. The report is a culmination of two years of consultation and review of forest cover loss in the region with local stakeholder working groups.

Recommendations include program enhancements, forest conservation initiatives, strengthened partnerships, review of legislative tools, policy changes and a strong focus on communications, education and outreach.

SNC will be working with member municipalities in 2019 to support local tree conservation initiatives. SNC has also expanded its tree planting program to offer additional tree planting subsidies for windbreaks and tree planting along watercourses.

CITY OF OTTAWA ASH TREE REPLACEMENT PILOT PROGRAM

Helping residents respond to invasive emerald ash borer



Invasive emerald ash borer

SNC and the City of Ottawa partnered in 2018 to launch the Ash Tree Replacement Pilot Program to assist Ottawa residents affected by the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB). Many property owners have been left with dead or dying ash trees, contributing to a decrease in local forest cover. The Program has made significant progress working with private property owners to replace hazard trees lost due to the EAB within the City. 96 Ottawa property owners received a 50% cost-share grant from SNC to replace 469 infected ash trees with a native tree.



LID demonstration site at SNC's Administration Office

ENHANCEMENT TO SNC OFFICE WITH DEMONSTRATION SITE

SNC puts low impact development technique to the test

Visitors to SNC's Administration Building in Finch will notice parking spots retrofitted with "permeable pavement", allowing rainwater to infiltrate through its pores instead of collecting pollution and litter and running off to a watercourse.

Rainwater infiltration helps maintain healthy rivers for recreation, safe drinking water, and habitat for wildlife. Permeable pavement is one approach to "Low Impact Development" (LID), minimizing the effects of development on the surrounding environment. The demonstration site will be tested by SNC and showcased when meeting with partners, developers, and consultants.

With partner support, SNC also hosted a first of its kind training conference in Eastern Ontario on LID which brought together regional municipal staff, engineers and conservation professionals.

2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ENDLESS RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT SNC CONSERVATION AREAS

In 2018, SNC's network of 14 Conservation Areas (CA) welcomed over 87,000 visitors to hike, geocache, picnic, kayak, canoe, launch their boat, bird watch, fish, and enjoy their local environment.

The most popular destinations?

J. Henry Tweed CA in Russell with over 21,500 visitors and W.E. Burton CA also in Russell with over 16,000 visitors.

2018 was a year of many CA upgrades! Improvement highlights included: a new bridge at J. Henry Tweed, new benches at Two Creeks Forest, tree planting, and trail enhancements at 35 km of trails.



New bridge at J. Henry Tweed CA



New bench at Two Creeks Forest CA



Improving shoreline tree cover at Jessup's Falls CA

LAND PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMY

SNC partners with area businesses and community members to sustainably harvest locally-sourced products from our land and to support the local economy.



HUNTING

Nearly 9,000 acres of SNC land is used by hunters; 70 permits issued in 2018.



TRAPPING

Nearly 9,000 acres of land is used by trappers; 4 permits issued in 2018.



HONEY

SNC is gifted 10 lbs of honey annually from local bee keepers; 1 land lease in 2018.



MAPLE SYRUP

15 acres of SNC land is leased for sugar bush operations.
SNC land has the potential for approximately 2,200 taps, which could make 825 gallons of sweet maple syrup!



CROP PRODUCTION

30 acres of SNC land is leased to local farmers.

The guidance, wisdom, and holistic perspectives shared through partnerships with First Nations ensure the protection of culturally-significant species.



Take a tour of SNC's Community Lands with SNC's newest Geopassport

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT AND TREE PLANTING

- Planted 127,450 seedlings, adding to the 3 million trees planted since 1990.
- Worked with 17 Forest Stewards to monitor forest activity on 39 SNC properties.
- Provided over \$115,000 in grants through the Forest Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program to help plant trees on private land.
- Provided \$20,147 in grants to 42 property owners to create forest management plans for 2,363 acres of land.
- Provided a free Woodlot Advisory Service to 46 landowners and assessed 1,374 acres of land for species at risk.
- 469 ash trees were replaced with native trees in the City of Ottawa.
- Worked with local stakeholders and farm producers and agricultural organizations to help provide recommendations on ways to improve forest cover.

3 MILLIONTH TREE

SNC reached a major milestone in 2018, planting its 3 millionth tree since 1990. The milestone was celebrated at SNC's Camp Sheldrick in the Township of North Dundas, with the planting of a 1,500-tree windbreak backed by more than 200 regional Scouts. In a vision to the future, SNC planted its 3 millionth and one tree in the office backyard: a reminder of the important work left to be done.

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Awarded over \$118,580 in cost-share grants to residents for 33 projects that improve water quality.

WATERSHED MONITORING AND REPORTING

Surface water, groundwater, and fisheries sampling was conducted to produce the Lower South Nation Subwatershed and State of the Nation report cards.



An eastern white pine marks SNC's official 3 millionth tree



ALVIN RUNNALLS FOREST

SNC and the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) unveiled the new Alvin Runnalls Forest in 2018, which includes parcels of land owned by SDG and SNC.

The forest honors Alvin Runnalls for his 40-years of community involvement and leadership including four terms on the North Dundas Council, warden of SDG, seven-year term as a SNC Board Member and involvement on SNC's Communications Committee. Runnalls passed away in 2016 at the age of 76, following a tree felling accident. The Alvin Runnalls Forest is located north of Chesterville in the Township of North Dundas.

Unveiling of Alvin Runnalls Forest

2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Grants are offered to community groups and non-profit organizations to support events and projects within SNC's jurisdiction that promote recreational use of our river, protect the environment, and celebrate the natural heritage of the area.

In 2018, over \$10,000 were awarded to 26 groups across the jurisdiction supporting local fishing derbies, festivals, agriculture events, canoe and kayak runs, and heritage events.

Cardinal Non-motorized Canoe and Kayak Poker Run, Recipient of 2018 Community Environmental Grant



COMMUNITY ECO-EDUCATION

With the help of 844 students, SNC installed a Stream of Dreams mural on the chain link fence of 3 schools in 2018 reminding students and the community to protect our water resources. SNC is a licensed local delivery agent of Stream of Dreams, a nation-wide community art and environmental education program.

Along with Roxmore Public School and municipal representatives, SNC celebrates the installation of 6 Stream of Dreams murals in the jurisdiction to date.



SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SNC reviews development applications and provides technical advice on environmental aspects of projects. In 2018, 390 planning and 134 regulations permits were issued.

SNC septic officials also conduct septic inspections for 13 municipalities. In 2018, 401 septic permits were issued to residents across the jurisdiction, marking the most septic permits issued by SNC in 1 year.

SNC staff investigating a slope stability concern



PROTECTING DRINKING WATER SOURCES

In 2018, on behalf of 14 municipalities, SNC worked with 83 property owners to ensure their planned activities do not impact the quality of municipal drinking water sources.

SNC working with landowner to mitigate risks to drinking water sources



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

SNC is continuously enhancing monitoring programs to advise farmers, municipalities, and residents of potential emergencies. Under the Flood Forecasting and Warning program, which advises potentially unsafe conditions due to flooding, SNC issued 10 notices in 2018. Under the Low Water Response Program, which advises of possible drought conditions, SNC issued 4 notices in 2018.

SNC also operates several water control structures including dams, weirs, and berms to reduce risk to life and damage to property.

South Nation River at Chrysler during July 2018 low water conditions

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SNC's Board of Directors consists of 13 appointed representatives from SNC's 16-member municipalities who govern and provide direction for all the work completed by SNC staff.

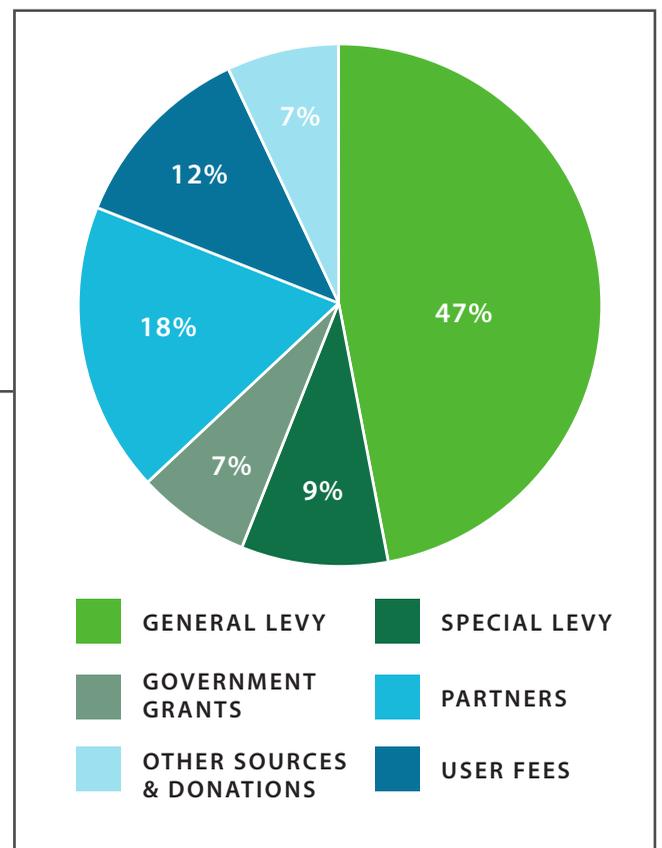


Front (left to right): Bill Smirle, Vice Chair, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Fernand Dicaire, Chair, Prescott-Russell; Doug Thompson, Past Chair.
 Back (left to right): George Darouze, City of Ottawa; Pierre Leroux, Prescott-Russell; Magda Kubasiewicz, City of Ottawa; Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, SNC; François St. Amour, Prescott-Russell; Peggy Taylor, Leeds and Grenville; Glenn Mackey, Leeds and Grenville; Archie Mellan, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.
 Missing from photo: Stephen Blais, City of Ottawa; François Landry, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Michael Brown, City of Ottawa.

2018 SNC BUDGET SUMMARY

2018 Budget: \$6,922,192

- General Levy: \$3,252,156
- Special Levy: \$620,221
- Government Grants: \$483,701
- Partners: \$1,224,596
- User Fees: \$830,035
- Other Sources and Donations: \$511,483



OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT; WE'RE IN IT TOGETHER.
 NOTRE ENVIRONNEMENT LOCAL, PROTÉGEONS-LE ENSEMBLE.

