

SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION MUNICIPAL WORKPLAN CASSELMAN



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Casselman,

Conservation Authorities are community-based environmental organizations dedicated to conserving, restoring, developing, and managing natural resources on a watershed scale.

South Nation Conservation (SNC) exists because of local initiatives and we recognize the importance of our continued partnership with our 16-member municipalities. In 2019, we look forward to building on these relationships and continuing to deliver key programs and services on your behalf.

Please review this summary document prepared for your Municipality by SNC staff.

Bill Smirle,
Interim Chair, South Nation Conservation



OUR VISION

Improved Water Quality for a Healthy Ecosystem: Our vision encompasses water levels which satisfy the needs of humans and the environment, healthy rivers and natural shorelines, and safe wastewater management practices.

OUR MISSION

To ensure that the management of natural occurrences, natural resources, and human activities results in the protection or improvement of water resources.

OUR EXPERTISE

Conservation is our core competency. SNC offers knowledge and experience to help our partners contribute to a healthy region.



SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, FINCH

FOSTERING LANDOWNER STEWARDSHIP



WHAT WE DO:

- Plant approximately 120,000 trees per year and provide subsidies on tree purchases for landowners. SNC has planted 3.2 million trees since 1990.
- Offer free site visits and resources to woodlot owners, and offer \$500 grants to help develop forest management plans.
- Provide over \$75,000 annually in funding to landowners for projects that protect water quality through the Clean Water Program.
- Own approximately 12,000 acres of land acquired through donation or purchase, following SNC's Land Securement Strategy.
- Manage over 20,000 acres of community forest in Eastern Ontario; 4,450 acres in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR).

TO-DATE, IN CASSELMAN:

- Offered woodlot owners our Woodlot Advisory Services since 2011, visiting 50 acres of land.
- Provided \$2,000 in funding to local property owners for projects that protect water quality since 1998.

2019 PRIORITIES:

- In 2018, SNC published a report on "Protecting and Increasing Forest Cover in the South Nation Conservation Jurisdiction" following two years of consultation and review with local stakeholder working groups. In 2019, SNC will be working with municipalities to review and implement report recommendations.
- Through the Forest Conservation Initiative, SNC will be hosting community free tree days, creating riparian tree buffer demonstration sites and will offer a new increased tree planting subsidy to help plant more trees along fields and watercourses.
- SNC will continue to plant trees, manage community lands, offer resources, work with partners, and help fund important water quality improvement projects.



3 MILLIONTH TREE
PLANTED SINCE 1990!



IN 2018, SNC PLANTED ITS 3 MILLIONTH TREE SINCE 1990

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY AND SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



WHAT WE DO:

- Map floodplains and other natural hazards, review construction and approve projects in and around watercourses, floodplains and wetlands.
- Conduct septic system inspections and permits for 13 municipalities.
- Work to protect drinking water through the Source Water Protection program.
- Flood Forecasting and Warning provides advance notice of flood conditions and updates on watershed conditions during flood events for the South Nation, Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers.
- Low Water Response provides declaration of drought conditions and offers guidance for reducing water consumption based on condition severity.
- Operate and maintain 7 water control structures.

TO-DATE, IN CASSELMAN:

- SNC maintains the Casselman Weir and the Seguinbourg Berm, important water control structures.
- 5.3 km of unstable slope is mapped.

LAST YEAR, IN CASSELMAN:

- 59 septic approvals issued.
- 5 Planning Act applications reviews.
- 2 permits processed.
- 5 low water advisory memos issued.
- 11 watershed conditions and flood statements issued.
- Completed the second year of the UCPR Infrastructure Assessment Study, which addressed County culvert vulnerability to flooding and climate change.

IN 2018, MAJOR PROJECTS WILL INCLUDE:

- Provide engineering services to member municipalities as needed.
- Continued maintenance of important water control structures.
- Provide emergency management services through Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response programs. SNC issues statements to allow member municipalities and the public to respond to flood and low water conditions; accessible online.
- SNC will continue to provide engineering services towards the UCPR Stormwater Management Facilities Project. Currently, SNC is developing tools and guidelines for stormwater management within the UCPR.
- A new partnership with the Federal Government will enhance landslide emergency preparedness within the Casselman to Lemieux Potential Retrogressive Landslide Area.
- Emergency preparedness support through annual delivery of the Crisis Communications Kit for the Potential Retrogressive Landslide Areas.



THE CASSELMAN WEIR

PROVIDING NATURAL SPACES AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



WHAT WE DO:

- Own and manage over 12,000 acres of public, natural spaces.
- Operate 14 day-use parks and trails, including 9 public river access points.
- Protect environmentally significant properties and accept land donations.
- Protect over 7,000 km of fish habitat which support 72 fish species, offering endless recreational fishing opportunities.

RECREATIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS IN CASSELMAN:

In Casselman, SNC maintains 17 acres of community land including 1 Conservation Area encouraging residents to enjoy local nature:

- **High Falls:** This Conservation Area features convenient river access thanks to an upgraded boat launch. Visitors can also enjoy the ruins of Coupal's 1910 dam, visible from across from the South Nation River in Casselman. Last year, over 9,000 visitors enjoyed High Falls.

LAST YEAR, IN THE SNC JURISDICTION:

In 2018, SNC's network of 14 Conservation Areas welcomed over 80,000 visitors to hike, geocache, picnic, kayak, canoe, launch their boat, bird watch, fish, and enjoy their local environment.

- SNC installed 100 new signs across its Community Lands to identify ownership and promote sustainable, proper management of forests; another 100 signs will be installed in 2019.
- An asset inventory was completed on SNC lands to help guide future management decisions, maintenance plans and park upgrades. The continuation of the park monitoring program will review visitor impact and help create memorable visitor experiences.

2019 PRIORITIES:

- SNC will continue to work with partner municipalities to increase visitor safety and enhance emergency preparedness at Conservation Areas.
- SNC is committed to regular maintenance and upkeep of parks and trails to ensure accessible recreation for residents. This includes grooming year-round to ensure safe trails during every season.



THE ACCESSIBLE DOCK AT HIGH FALLS CONSERVATION AREA

MAKING SCIENCE BASED DECISIONS



WHAT WE DO:

- Collect water quality, stream health, fisheries and forestry data to support stewardship programs and guide sustainable development.
- Invasive species management and species at risk habitat assessments.
- Produce Subwatershed Report Cards and other reports on environmental health.
- Monitoring weather and water with groundwater and surface water stations.

TO-DATE, IN CASSELMAN:

- 1 site monitored through the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP).
 - Sites have been evaluated for factors such as channel morphology, bank stability, stream flow, water quality, invertebrate composition, and fish community composition. Data guides habitat restoration priorities.
- 1 surface water monitoring station located on the South Nation River at High Falls Conservation Area.
- 1 groundwater monitoring station located at High Falls Conservation Area.
- 1 stream gauge and one rain gauge located in Casselman on the South Nation River.
- In 2018, SNC released its South Nation Watershed Report Card: State of the Nation. This document provides watershed health information on natural resources and habitat features within the region.
- SNC has developed a new hydrological model for the South Nation Watershed which enhances Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response Programs. In 2019, SNC will be seeking funding to expand the model to make results publicly accessible online.
- SNC completed the UCPR Infrastructure Assessment Study; 29 culverts within UCPR were assessed for vulnerabilities.

2019 PRIORITIES:

- Subwatershed Report Cards are produced annually in different regions following a year of monitoring; reporting on surface and groundwater quality along with forest and wetland cover. The recently published report on the Lower South Nation Subwatershed highlights conditions in northern municipalities; SNC will be working on the Upper South Nation Subwatershed Report Card in 2019. Reporting is based on a 5-year rotation of monitoring programs.



ELECTROFISHING ON THE SOUTH NATION RIVER

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND YOUTH



WHAT WE DO:

- Deliver curriculum-based education programs to over 2,000 local youth every year; including Youth Fish Camps, Youth Hunt Apprenticeships, the Stream of Dreams Community Art and Environmental Education Program, and the newly relaunched Maple Syrup Education Program.
- Regularly attend community events and fairs to network with residents and highlight SNC's programs and services.
- Offer over \$10,000 in Community Environmental Grants to non-profit community groups.
- Partner with school boards to deliver environmental high school program certifications.

LAST YEAR, IN THE SNC JURISDICTION:

- SNC released its Community Lands Geopassport, guiding users through a real-life geocaching adventure on SNC Community Lands to learn more about the important benefits of forests.
- SNC hosted high school students at various project sites for Specialist High Skills Major certifications towards their high school diplomas.
- SNC delivered the Stream of Dreams program to nearly 1,000 local students.
- Thanks to support from Federal and Provincial funding agencies, SNC hires several local summer students every year from across its 4,384 square-kilometer jurisdiction in Eastern Ontario.
- SNC hosted dozens of local youth at its annual Fish Camps and Hunt Apprenticeship Programs.
- SNC worked with its local partners to help organize and host community events across the jurisdiction.

2019 PRIORITIES:

- SNC is relaunching its Maple Syrup Education Program for the 18th season at the Oschmann Forest in North Dundas. The not-for-profit education program hosts hundreds of local students a year, providing them with a hands-on environmental learning experience at a local sugar shack.
 - Students learn about the process of maple syrup production as it has evolved from First Nations traditions through to modern day production techniques. The program supplements the Ontario science curriculum and includes key teachable moments in areas of natural heritage, forest management, and ecosystem habitats.
- SNC will continue to work with its regional partners and member-municipalities to deliver meaningful environmental education and host community events across the jurisdiction.
- SNC will work with partners to create a new strategic vision and plan to position the Authority beyond the year 2020.



IN 2018, SNC HOSTED A YOUTH FISHING CAMP AT HIGH FALLS CONSERVATION AREA

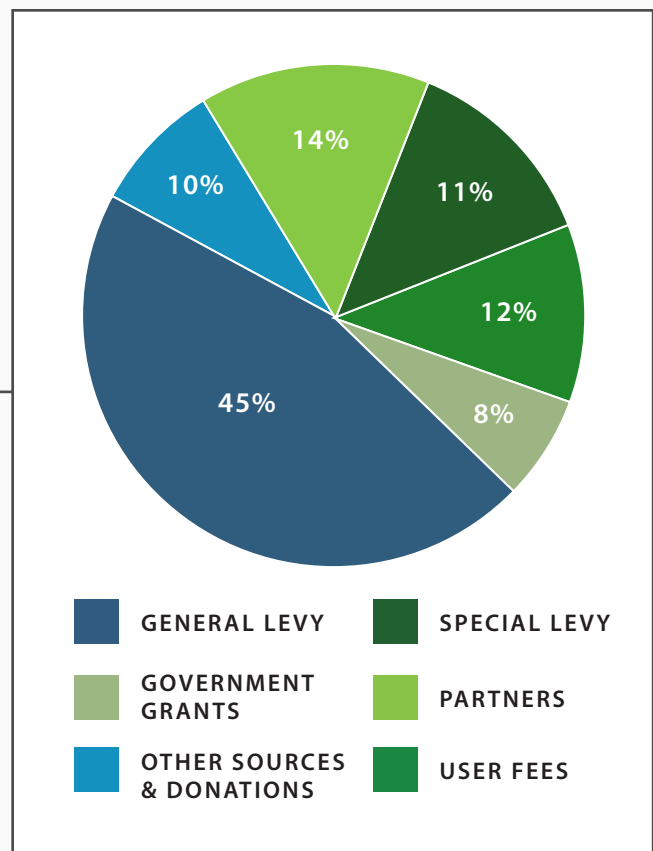
YOUR PARTNER IN CONSERVATION

South Nation Conservation (SNC) contributes to the local environment thanks to the funding support of SNC's 16 member municipalities and self-generated revenue from donations, partnerships, and government grants.

2019 SNC BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget: \$7,494,977

- General Levy: \$3,360,323
- Special Levy: \$829,853
- Government Grants: \$592,852
- Partners: \$1,065,351
- User Fees: \$935,700
- Other Sources and Donations: \$710,898



For every \$100,000 in household assessment, your municipality contributes \$5.61 on average to South Nation Conservation. These contributions allow SNC to provide programs and services that promote watershed management, sustainability, and the protection of people and property.



SNC STAFF TREE PLANTING AT WARWICK FOREST



HOOP NETTING FISH SURVEYS ON THE SOUTH NATION RIVER



SNC'S FIRST STREAM OF DREAMS IN ROCKLAND



STAFF SURVEY WILD RICE ALONG THE SOUTH NATION RIVER



BEE-KEEPING ON SNC COMMUNITY LANDS AT AMBROSIA APIARIES IN BERWICK



SNC RAIN GAUGE FOR COLLECTION OF PRECIPITATION DATA

OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT; WE'RE IN IT TOGETHER.

