



SOUTH NATION  
CONSERVATION  
DE LA NATION SUD



## ANNUAL REPORT 2004

### Message from the Chair: Working Together for a Healthy

In 2004, South Nation Conservation (SNC) continued its work with partners, municipalities, and local communities in protecting and enhancing natural areas within the South Nation watershed. I would particularly like to highlight a new, exciting partnership between SNC and local First Nations, as it is the first of its kind for SNC. SNC priorities for watershed management include improving water quality, increasing environmental awareness and community involvement, fish and wildlife habitat management, and the sustainable management of forests and wetlands. As Chairman of SNC, I am pleased to present to you our

2004 Annual Report, in which you will find examples of how SNC staff are working together towards achieving these priorities while continuing to be *your local environmental experts*. As we continue to work towards our mission of ensuring the management of natural occurrences, natural resources, and human activities results in the protection or improvement of our water resources, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors, Committee members, member municipalities, staff, and volunteers for their continued support in working together for ensuring a healthy South Nation watershed.



Chairman of South Nation Conservation, Mr. Claude Cousineau, discussing innovative environmental partnerships at the Tartan Community Day at Findlay Creek Village in the City of Ottawa.

### Corporate Sponsorships Support Water Quality Initiatives and Expand Volunteer Opportunities

In 2004, St. Albert Cheese Factory and R.W. Tomlinson Limited made significant contributions to SNC through corporate sponsorships. These contributions will financially support key water quality initiatives and expand volunteer opportunities within the South Nation watershed. In July 2004, St. Albert Cheese Factory pledged its support to SNC's Clean Water Program, by donating \$21,000 over a three-year period. These funds are granted directly to landowners in the community to undertake water quality projects on their properties. Examples of projects eligible for 2004 grants include: abandoned well plugging; fertilizer, chemical, and fuel storage and handling; barnyard runoff diversion; creating buffer strips; restricting livestock access to waterways; and septic system upgrades.

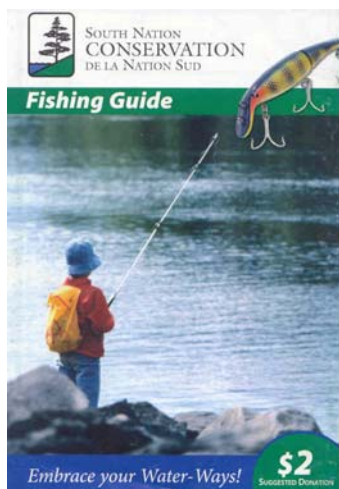
On World Water Monitoring Day (October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004), a community demonstration of SNC's volunteer RiverWatch Program was held at Andy Shields Park in Greely. Local business- R.W. Tomlinson Ltd., was on hand to present SNC's Water Quality department with a \$10,000 sponsorship with future instalments, over the next few years totalling over \$25,000. SNC's RiverWatch programme encourages landowners within the watershed to keep an eye on local stream health by testing water samples and recording their data. South Nation Conservation provides each volunteer with the training materials, and the equipment needed to conduct testing. Having volunteers monitor smaller stream compliments the data collected by SNC technical staff on the South Nation River and other tributaries.

RiverWatch provides a community link for environmentally concerned people and South Nation Conservation. This critical funding from R.W. Tomlinson Ltd. will ensure the continued success of this community program.



President of R.W. Tomlinson Ltd., Ron Tomlinson works with SNC Water Resource Specialist, Jennifer Havelock on World Water Monitoring Day.

## Embrace Your Water-Ways! SNC Introduces New Colourful Pamphlets



Canoe & Kayak, Conservation Areas & Trails, and Fishing Guide Pamphlets all with SNC watershed map. Contact SNC for your copy!

SNC has released three new, updated pamphlets designed to give users a better knowledge of the great, natural attractions within the South Nation watershed. Residents and visitors alike are often surprised at the extent of what's to see and do within the watershed. Each fully-bilingual pamphlet bears the cover message: "Embrace your Water-Ways". It is a reminder to get out and enjoy the attractions while remembering to be environmentally responsible. Together, these three pamphlets provide a comprehensive overview of the watershed. The first pamphlet is a guide to sport fishing in the South Nation River. The guide has thumbnails of 14 of the most popular game fish in the river, including walleye, northern pike, and channel catfish.

With 43 species of fish, it is a healthy river and a top destination for angling in Eastern Ontario. The second guide-canoes and kayak routes of the South Nation river, contains a map, safety tips and full descriptions of five trips complete with start and finish points, distances, and estimated completion times. The South Nation River's popularity as a canoe/kayak destination is the result of the 180 km long, flat-water paddle making it ideal for all skill levels. The third pamphlet in the series of recreation guides describes publicly accessible conservation areas and trails along with a map to help you plan your next picnic or hike in any of the 12 possible conservation destinations.

## SNC Selected for Federal Microbial Source Tracking Study

In 2004, a section of the South Nation River was selected as the study region for a four-year, federally funded microbial source tracking project involving Ontario, Alberta, and New Brunswick. Focused on Casselman and area, the DNA-based research project is being coordinated by SNC in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada, and Environment Canada. The study will provide a better understanding of contamination affecting water quality in

rural Canadian watersheds. It will develop and validate microbial-based testing techniques to pinpoint causes of water pollution. This study aims to identify potential bacteria sources and determine how far downstream pathogens travel and for how long. A reference library will be created from potential sources and analyzed using DNA-based methods. The library will be invaluable in determining sources of potential contamination, helping to prevent false accusations.

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*"As we've seen in the past, the agricultural community is often blamed without scientific support when contamination occurs. This study is designed to narrow the field of possible pollution origins."*

*Dennis O'Grady  
SNC General Manager*

## 2004 Was Another Active Tree Planting Year for SNC



A highlight of the 2004 Spring Plant was SNC's involvement with Scouts Canada. Trees were planted by over 200 boy scouts on three sites.

It was another active tree planting year in 2004 for SNC. Together with our private landowner tree planting partners, South Nation Conservation introduced 103,500 new seedlings into the watershed area. A new tree planting program was introduced to landowners in the summer of 2004. The Forest 2020 Plantation and Demonstration initiative, which is a partnership between Natural Resources Canada, Trees Ontario, and Conservation Ontario, is designed to illustrate the effectiveness of fast growing tree plantations as in conjunction with Canada's climate change mitigation, and also further demonstrates the investment

potential of tree plantations to landowners. Site visits to landowners interested in the program were conducted throughout the summer and site preparation was completed on five properties in preparation for our 2005 spring planting. SNC's involvement with Scouts Canada saw hundreds of trees planted by over 200 boy scouts on three sites. Two large sites were made available from Lafarge Canada, the other site was on private property. SNC staff were present at all three sites and helped with the smooth delivery of tree planting initiatives.

## Innovative Partnership Between Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and SNC

The Black Ash Management partnership is an innovative partnership between the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and SNC. The project will develop a methodology for the assessment of the sustainability of non-timber products derived from Black Ash trees. Over the next two years, the program will receive \$150,000 in funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Program objectives include: preserving and enhancing the natural regeneration of black ash species, which has been declining over the past several decades; development of management plans and protocols, which will help determine the number of black ash trees per hectare in a specified area; and an educational component to teach students the non-timber

values of forest resources and their cultural, economic, and ecological significance to different community groups. Many groups will benefit from this project including watershed residents, as Black Ash is a component of many of the lowland forests managed by SNC. The role of these lowland forests along with other wetland areas is crucial in the management of water resources. Youth will learn about non-timber values and have informal opportunities to share knowledge with First Nations elders. In addition, First Nations communities will benefit from the development of effective economic strategies for non-timber products while establishing conservation goals for this natural resource. Parts of the entire, 3,900

square-km South Nation River watershed are slated to expand black ash stands to ensure a sustainable supply for future generations.



**Black Ash ceremony to announce this new, innovative partnership, on Cornwall Island in June of 2004.**

## SNC Partners with RRCA for Source Water Protection Planning

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 the Minister of the Environment announced provincial funding for Source Protection Planning. Locally, South Nation Conservation and Raisin Region Conservation Authorities will be working in partnership to begin preparing a Plan to protect drinking water in the region. Source Protection Planning (SPP) will determine if there is enough, clean drinking water for the future. SPP is a provincial initiative, to be delivered by Conservation Authorities across Ontario.

The province has committed to fund 100 per cent of the program's costs. Funding will be used to develop projections of how much water residents and industries can use before it begins to disappear or becomes of poor quality. These plans will also help ensure that the water people drink from the ground and streams will stay clean and protected. South Nation Conservation encourages all watershed residents and interest groups to discuss the importance of protecting our water.

A citizens committee, called the Source Protection Planning Committee, will be formed later in 2005, and will be a key part of this project. This Committee will help direct what should be in the plan. It will be composed of elected officials, agriculture, environmental groups, public health, industry, First Nations, and other watershed residents. Protecting water at the source is an important way to ensure the health of humans, ecosystems and economies.

## SNC Has had the Pleasure to Work With 3 National Stewardship Award Winners in 2004

Wildlife Habitat Canada sponsors national awards for land stewardship, forest stewardship, and urban stewardship. SNC is proud to have had partnerships with award winners in each category. Mr. Bruce Nicol, of Tartan Land Development in Ottawa, received an Urban Stewardship Award for his work in protecting natural habitat as part of his company's Findlay Creek housing development in Ottawa, which SNC is involved with. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Nicol and his firm contributed over \$40,000 to SNC for maintenance of the wetland area and have also committed \$200 from the sale of every home sold in Findlay Creek to fund wetland education

and support programs. Mr. Denis Perrault of Navan received a Land Stewardship Award for his work with SNC and other environmental organisations and farm groups for his efforts in strengthening conservation practices in the agricultural sector. In addition, Dr. Robert Jackson of Ottawa received a Forest Stewardship Award for his forestry work and donation of two valuable tracts of land to SNC to keep them in their natural state. SNC accepts land donations from landowners who want to keep their lands forever green. Donations of this kind are also eligible for a tax credit through the Federal Government's Ecological Gifts program.



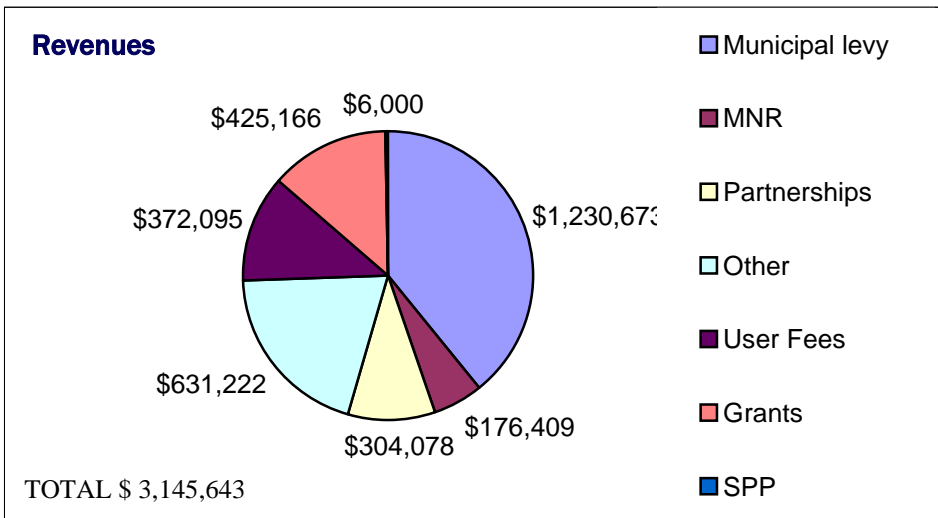
**Mr. Bruce Nicol receiving a National Stewardship award on behalf of Wildlife Habitat Canada for his work with the Findlay Creek housing development South of Ottawa.**



## SNC Board of Directors

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 Bob Cox, City of Ottawa  
 Rob Jellett, City of Ottawa  
 Doug Thompson, City of Ottawa  
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## Financial Summary 2004

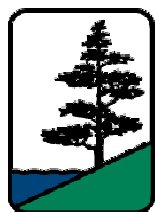


## Committees

South Nation Conservation works with four Committees to provide direction for programs:

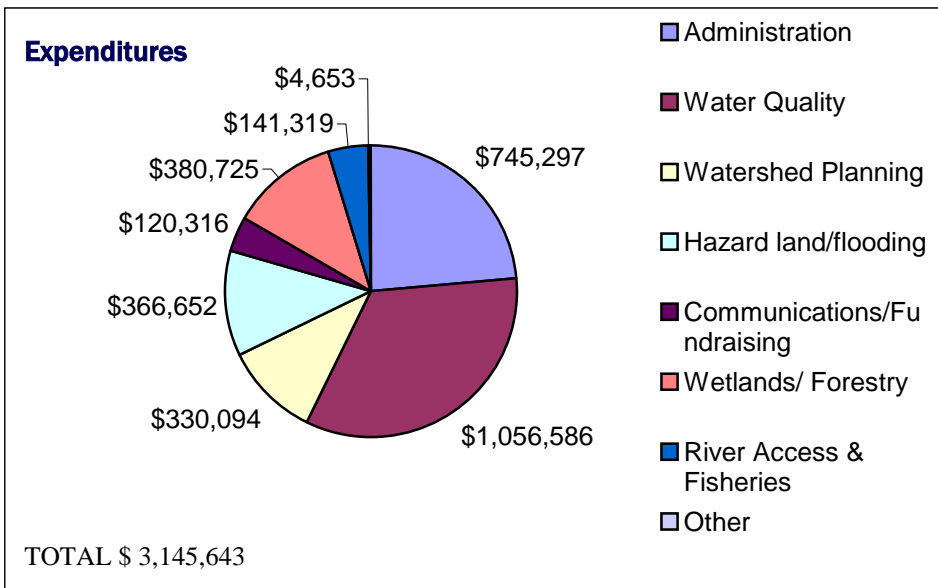
- Clean Water Committee*
- Communications Committee*
- Forestry Committee*
- Fisheries Committee*

Members are a partnership of residents, farmers, community groups, industry, and government. For information on memberships and activities please contact our office.



**SOUTH NATION  
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We continue today with the generous support of watershed residents, member municipalities, and private sector partnerships. 2004 was a great year of working with long-time friends, while securing new partnerships.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!  
[WWW.NATION.ON.CA](http://WWW.NATION.ON.CA)

*Copies of the 2004 Audited Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting the South Nation Conservation Director of Finance.*