



SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

ROEBUCK,
AUGUSTA



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1947-2017

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

TOP INTERNSHIP EMPLOYER Opportunities for 16 Students and 14 Recent Graduates in 2016

SNC is committed to creating jobs and providing practical experience in the environmental sector for students and recent graduates.

With the support of various provincial and federal funding agencies, SNC recruited 30 young adults, most of which were local talent.

Mentored every step of the way, the interns applied their institutional knowledge to the local landscape and municipal priorities.

SNC Summer Interns at the SNC Administration Office, in Finch.



ONTARIO POWER GENERATION BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

3 Year Wrap-Up

With Ontario Power Generation (OPG)'s financial support of over the last 3 years, SNC and landowner partners improved biodiversity and species at risk habitat in the region through a combination of protection and enhancement of woodland, grassland, and wetland ecosystems.

Major accomplishments include the creation of wildlife ponds and vernal pools, the sowing of 300 lbs of wild rice, and the installation of wood duck boxes and turtle nesting platforms. These initiatives led to the restoration of 150 acres of grassland, enhancement of over 300 acres of wetland, and SNC's Woodlot Advisory Services was offered on over 10,000 acres of private forested land.

OPG and SNC visit an enhanced grassland ecosystem site at the Reveler Conservation Area, in Berwick.



STREAM OF DREAMS New Environmental Education & Community Art Program

Only Rain Down the Drain is the big take home message for Stream of Dreams program participants - untreated water directed to drains leads straight to our rivers, lakes, and streams. After presentations on the value of healthy, clean water for us to drink and for fish to swim in, participants paint their 'Dreamfish' which form an outdoor mural on a chain link fence for the entire community to enjoy.

In 2016, SNC was certified to deliver this important national Stream of Dreams program. We look forward to bringing this science-driven art program to other schools and groups across the region and to inspire the next generation of watershed protectors!

The first installation site for the Stream of Dreams Community Art Mural in the SNC jurisdiction at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School, in Rockland.



STRONG MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthening and Protecting Communities with Science

In 2016 SNC and member municipalities showcased their ability to tackle water resource challenges across the jurisdiction by evaluating flood risks through [floodplain mapping in the City of Ottawa](#), [assessing infrastructure for vulnerabilities in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell](#), and providing guidance on [maintaining stormwater infrastructure in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry](#).

SNC can help Municipalities and residents prepare for future landscape changes, a changing climate, and improve safety.

SNC Technical Staff surveying a culvert as part of a "Resilience of County Culverts to Climate Change" study.



2016 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ENDLESS RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AT SNC CONSERVATION AREAS

In 2016, SNC's network of 14 Conservation Areas (CA) welcomed over 106,000 visitors to hike, geocache, picnic, launch their boat, fish, bird watch and enjoy their local environment.

The most popular destinations?

High Falls CA in Casselman: with 26,102 visitors and J. Henry Tweed CA in Russell with 21,241 visitors.

2016 was a year of many CA upgrades! Some of the improvements include: 2 new bridges at Two Creeks Forest CA, new horse fencing at Warwick Forest CA, new accessible dock at High Falls CA, 10 partnership docks maintained, and interpretive signs installed along the Findlay Creek Boardwalk in Ottawa.



Warwick Forest Conservation Area, in Berwick



High Falls Conservation Area, in Casselman



Two Creeks Forest Conservation Area, in Iroquois

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; 50 permits issued in 2016.



TRAPPING

Nearly 9,000 acres of land is used by trappers; 8 permits issued in 2016.



HONEY

SNC is gifted 10 lbs of honey annually from local bee keepers; 1 land lease in 2016.



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 maple syrup!



CROP PRODUCTION

30 acres of SNC land is leased to local farmers.



SNC staff experienced bee keeping first-hand at Ambrosia Apiaries, in Berwick.

Partnerships with First Nations ensure the protection of culturally significant species through the guidance, wisdom and holistic perspective of First Nations.

Tree Planting, Woodlot Management & Grants

In 2016, SNC:

- Planted **148,310 trees** adding to the **2.8 million trees** planted since 1990.
- Worked with **16 forest stewards** to monitor forest activity and report on management and maintenance actions for 49 SNC properties.
- Completed **23 free Woodlot Advisory Service** site visits providing management advice to woodlot owners.
- Disbursed over **\$138,000 in grants** through the Tree Planting and Woodlot Advisory Service programs.
- Disbursed over **\$23,000 in grants** to 48 landowners for the Ontario Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program to help create 10 year forest management plans for nearly 2,700 acres of land.
- Assessed 595 acres for the occurrence of **species at risk**.
- Selectively harvested approximately 100 acres of forest for \$5,300 in profit. SNC yields approximately **\$21,500 annually** through its sustainable harvest practices.
- Awarded over **\$23,000 in cost share grants** to residents through the **Clean Water Program** for projects that improve water quality.
- Hosted 9 community tree planting events with nearly 100 volunteers.

Land Securement

Three new properties were acquired through donation or purchase in 2016:

Blom Property, Township of North Dundas

This unique 56 acre forest near Mountain, previously owned by the Blom family, is home to beautifully aged trees, wildlife, and a rustic sugar shack.

Rubenok Property Donation, Township of North Dundas

Located along the South Nation River at River Road, this 0.59 acre property provides public access to the river for shoreline fishing.

White Property, Township of Edwardsburgh-Cardinal

This 30 acre property borders the South Nation River and Weir Road and offers species at risk habitat for Least bittern and Blanding's turtles. Culturally significant Black ash can also be found on the property.

RESPONDING TO FOREST COVER LOSS



In 2016, SNC completed a forest cover analysis revealing an average of **1 million trees are lost per year** in SNC's jurisdiction between 2008 and 2014, citing nearly **20,000 acres of forest loss**.

SNC and municipal partners are committed to enhance forestry programs to help address forest cover loss.

SNC Staff with a Sugar Maple along the North Castor River, in Ottawa.

2016 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

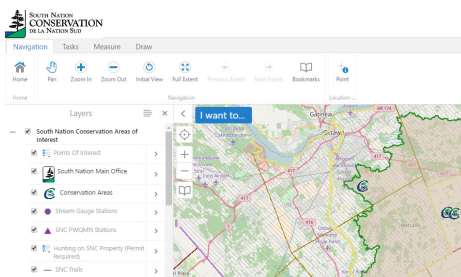


Source Water Protection Signage, Finch

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

In 2016, the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Team inspected over 340 properties and worked with landowners to develop plans to mitigate risks to drinking water.

Education and outreach is an essential tool to bring awareness to the protection and conservation of source water. SNC facilitated the installation of nearly 100 “Drinking Water Protection Zone” road signs, distributed best practice resources to local marinas, and launched the Stream of Dreams Program to engage local communities in water protection.



South Nation Conservation's Geoportal

SNC GEOPORTAL: ONLINE MAPPING TOOL

Discover SNC’s jurisdiction through our Geoportal—an online interactive mapping tool that allows users to view all that SNC has to offer from Conservation Areas to SNC’s resource monitoring network! New updates allow users to access real-time stream flow data, view additional public forests, and compare forest cover changes from 2008 to 2014 using an interactive forest cover slider.

The Geoportal can be accessed on SNC’s homepage at www.nation.on.ca.



Chesterville Kayak Club, South Nation River

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Grants are offered to community groups to support events that emphasize nature, outdoor recreation, and maintaining a healthy watershed.

In 2016, over \$7,000 in grants were awarded to community groups across the jurisdiction to support local fishing derbies, festivals, agricultural events, canoe and kayak runs, and heritage events.



Cedar Crib Bed, Shields Creek, City of Ottawa

HABITAT RESTORATION

The ability to track and reports changes to an ecosystem is dependent on a sound science-based monitoring program. SNC collects information on surface and ground water—quantity and quality; and native, invasive, and at-risk species.

In 2016, our monitoring efforts guided over 5 restoration projects to improve water quality, stream flow, protect people and property and enhance ecosystems including sites at Shields Creek and along the Castor River in the City of Ottawa.



SNC Septic Inspection, North Dundas

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SNC reviews development applications and provides technical advice on environmental aspects of projects. In 2016, over 400 applications were submitted for review, over 160 technical reviews were completed, and 150 permits were issued. SNC septic officials conduct septic inspections for 12 Municipalities. Both septic officials and regulations staff manage over 50 complaints annually.



2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

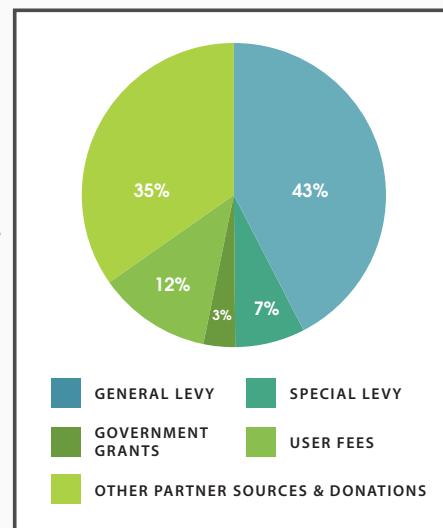
SNC's Board of Directors consists of 12 appointed representatives from SNC's 16 member municipalities who govern and provide direction for all the work completed by SNC staff.

Front Row: Past Chair: Bill Smirle (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry), Chair: Doug Thompson (City of Ottawa), Vice Chair: François St. Amour (Prescott-Russell)
 Second Row: George Darouze (City of Ottawa), Pierre Leroux (Prescott-Russell), François Landry (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry), Fernand Dicaire (Prescott-Russell), Lawrence Levere (Leeds Grenville), Glen Mackey (Leeds Grenville), Archie Mellan (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry)
 Not pictured: Stephen Blais (City of Ottawa), Alan Perks (City of Ottawa)

2016 SNC BUDGET SUMMARY

2016 Budget: \$7,137,467

- General Levy: \$3,046,156
- Special Levy: \$530,241
- Government Grants: \$222,987
- User Fees: \$852,935
- Other Partner Sources and Donations: \$2,485,148



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

