

# SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

CRYSLER DOCK ON THE  
SOUTH NATION RIVER,  
NORTH STORMONT



SOUTH NATION  
CONSERVATION  
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# 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

## MUNICIPAL TREE GIVEWAYS

Extending a branch to member municipalities in support of SNC's Forest Conservation Initiative

SNC partnered with their 16 member municipalities to host a free tree giveaway for residents to help reinforce a local commitment to improving forest cover. A variety of seedlings and potted stock were available, over 5,000 trees were given out to watershed residents. Some municipalities made additional financial contributions to help give out extra trees.

*Municipal tree giveaways brought joy to residents of all ages*



## STREAMLINING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SNC working continuously to improve permit efficiencies



In 2019, our planning staff processed:

- 350 development applications
- 38 property inquiries
- 140 technical reviews
- 219 Conservation Authorities Act regulations permits
- 28 applications reviewed for threats to municipal drinking water
- 40 complaints managed by septic officials and regulations staff

In 2019, SNC published regulation lines and limits on its website and adopted several client-centric policies and procedures available online.

SNC continues to work with municipal and agency partners, developers, landowners, and contractors, to safeguard human life and property from natural hazards.

## STABILIZING MUNICIPAL DRAINS WITH FRUIT AND NUT TREES

Federal funding supports boots on the ground community project demonstration sites

SNC planted over 3,000 native trees and shrubs along watercourses in partnership with local landowners, secondary schools and First Nations.

Through this work, SNC monitored local streams and identified 4 farms in Casselman, North Dundas, Nation and the City of Ottawa that could benefit from edible tree buffers being planted around watercourses.

SNC worked with the landowners and 5 secondary schools to arrange demonstration planting events for over 100 students receiving Specialist High Skills Major Certifications towards their high school diplomas. This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.



*Students and SNC staff planting an edible tree buffer in St. Isidore*

## PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY AND SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Federal and Provincial funding supports a half million-dollar upgrade to the Chesterville Dam



*Chesterville Dam on the South Nation River, North Dundas*

SNC operates several water control structures including dams, weirs and berms to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In 2019, Federal and Provincial funding supported nearly \$500,000 worth of upgrades at Chesterville dam, including concrete and electrical repairs, generator installation and automatic gate repairs.

Staff also met with Special Advisor on Flooding Douglas McNeil, to discuss the findings of the independent review of the Spring 2019 flood. SNC looks forward to maintaining and improving flood management programs and assisting the Province in implementing the recommendations outlined in the Flood Advisor's report.

Through Federal and Municipal partnerships, SNC continues to update floodplain maps - with a record number of floodplain and erosion projects undertaken in 2019.

# 2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## ENDLESS RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT SNC CONSERVATION AREAS

In 2019, SNC's network of 14 Conservation Areas (CA) welcomed over 92,500 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 in Russell with over 19,800 visitors and Jessup's Falls in Plantagenet with over 14,000 visitors.

2019 was a year of many CA upgrades! Improvement highlights included: a new bridge at J. Henry Tweed along with new trees being planted, a new dock installed in Cardinal and maple sap pipelines installed at Oschmann Forest.



*New bridge at J. Henry Tweed Conservation Area*



*New dock installed in Cardinal on the St. Lawrence River*



*Maple Sap pipelines at Oschmann Forest Conservation Area*

## 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; 93 permits issued in 2019.



### TRAPPING

Nearly 9,000 acres of land is used by trappers; 4 permits issued in 2019.



### HONEY

SNC is gifted 10 lbs of honey annually from local bee keepers; 1 land lease in 2019.



### MAPLE SYRUP

33 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.



*Pumphouse at Oschmann Forest Conservation Area, North Dundas*

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

## WOODLOT MANAGEMENT AND TREE PLANTING

In 2019, SNC:

- Planted 136,890 seedlings, adding to the 3 million trees planted since 1990.
- Worked with 19 Forest Stewards to monitor forest activity on 46 SNC properties.
- Provided over \$95,000 in grants through the Forest Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program to help plant trees on private property.
- Provided \$21,917 in grants to 44 property owners to create forest management plans for 2,790.54 acres of land.
- Provided free Woodlot Advisory Service visits to 23 landowners and assessed 1,873 acres of land for species at risk.
- 593 ash trees were replaced with native trees in the City of Ottawa on private property.
- Worked with member municipalities to help provide recommendations on ways to improve forest cover.
- Through donation and partial purchase, SNC added 124 acres of forest to its public lands inventory.

## WATERSHED MONITORING AND REPORTING

Our environmental monitoring programs focus on quality and quantity of our land and water ecosystems including: surface and ground water; native, invasive and at-risk species; stream assessments; and municipal drains. SNC collects and provides scientifically accurate data for stakeholders and municipalities to make informed decisions; data also helps guide SNC stewardship projects and programs.

## CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

SNC approved \$55,250 in cost-share grants to residents for 23 projects that improve water quality.

The Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program approved nearly \$200,000 for 51 projects to improve water quality within the City of Ottawa.

## CITY OF OTTAWA ASH TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Approved \$197,593 in cost-share grants to residents for 94 projects to control the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) while maintaining urban tree cover. SNC remains committed to controlling EAB within its forest properties by removing infected Ash trees.



*SNC staff collecting water samples at Andy Shield Park in Greely*



*SNC staff planting trees as part of our Forest Conservation Initiative*

## FOREST CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

SNC engaged municipal partners, all local federations of agriculture, forestry partners like Forest Ontario, Ontario Woodlot Association, Boisés Est, and local stewardship and environmental groups to review the state of forest cover and deliver recommendations to Conservation Authorities and Municipalities on ways to conserve area forests.

Forests are important natural resources, vital to our communities and the environment. They provide important environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits - and they're worth conserving, restoring and managing.

SNC worked with municipalities in 2019 on the recommendations within its Forest Conservation Report.

# 2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## COMMUNITY ECO-EDUCATION

With the help of over 1,100 students, SNC installed a Stream of Dreams mural on 3 school fences in 2019 reminding students and the community to protect our water resources and fish habitat. SNC is a licensed delivery agent of Stream of Dreams, a nation-wide community art and environmental education program.

SNC also expanded its Recreational Fishing Program to offer 5 fish camps throughout the summer at 3 Conservation Areas.

*Along with Vimy Ridge Public School and municipal representatives, SNC celebrates the installation of 9 Stream of Dreams murals in the jurisdiction to date*



## SNC'S MUNICIPAL SEPTIC PROGRAM

SNC septic officials conduct septic inspections for 13 municipalities. In 2019, 406 septic permits were issued to residents across the jurisdiction, marking the most septic permits issued by SNC in 1 year to date.

*SNC staff conducting septic inspections*



## LAROSE FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

As part of a three-year partnership with Ontario Power Generation and the United Counties of Prescott-Russell, SNC worked to restore an area of Larose Forest where red pine plantations deteriorated due to wet conditions.

Habitat was restored by creating pit and mound topography, planting trials of Carolinian species and testing alternative native species in sandy soils and wet-prone sites; projects like this provide invaluable information to guide future site techniques and restoration efforts.

*Blue Spotted Salamander discovered while monitoring at Larose Forest*



## FLOODPLAIN MAPPING AND FLOOD FORECASTING

SNC is continuously enhancing monitoring programs to advise municipalities and residents of potential emergencies. Under the Flood Forecasting and Warning program, which advises potentially unsafe conditions due to flooding, SNC issued 43 notices in 2019. Under the Low Water Response Program, which advises of possible drought conditions, SNC issued 1 notice in 2019.

In 2019, SNC worked with municipal partners in the City of Ottawa, the Township of Russell and the City of Clarence-Rockland to update floodplain maps for 109 km of streams in areas subject to increased development pressures.

*South Nation River at Chrysler during March 2019 high water conditions*



## 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 2019, over \$6,300 was awarded to 23 groups across the jurisdiction supporting local fishing derbies, agriculture events and canoe and kayak runs. River events supported by this program now occur on the South Nation, Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers.

*Youth Fish Camp participant proudly displaying a Smallmouth Bass at High Falls Conservation Area*

## 2019 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): Doug Thompson, Past Chair; Bill Smirle, Chair, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; George Darouze, Vice Chair, City of Ottawa.

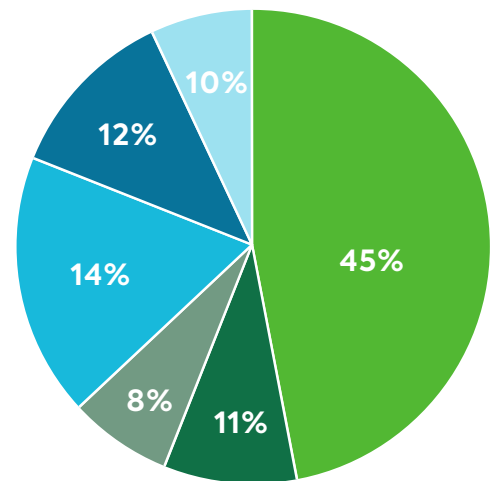
Back (left to right): Stephen Blais, City of Ottawa; Gerrie Kautz, City of Ottawa; Stéphane Sarrazin, Prescott Russell; Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, SNC; Michael Brown, City of Ottawa; Dana Farcasiu, Leeds Grenville; Archie Mellan, Stormont Dundas Glengarry; Pierre Leroux, Prescott Russell; Daniel Lafleur, Prescott Russell; and Peggy Taylor, Leeds Grenville.

Missing from photo: Steve Densham, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

## 2019 SNC BUDGET SUMMARY

**2019 Budget:** \$7,511,977

- 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: \$727,898



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

