



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: March 25th, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Watershed Room, SNC

Address: 38 Victoria Street, Finch, ON K0C 1K0





Watershed Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

March 25th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

1. Traditional Land Acknowledgement and Traditional Opening: John
2. Chair's Remarks and Introductions
3. Approval of Agenda (Supplemental Agenda)
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
5. Approval of Watershed Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 26th, 2024 3-7
6. Staff Update: PowerPoint Presentation
7. Community Engagement: Roundtable
8. New Business:
 - a. Request for Approval: Grants Sub-Committee Appointments: Ronda 8-9
 - b. Update: Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of February 10th, 2025: Ronda 10
 - c. Update: 2024 SNC Annual Report: John 11-25
 - d. Update: Funding Submissions and Professional Services Agreements: Ronda 26-30
 - e. Update: Wetland Restoration Story Map: Michelle 31
9. Supplemental Agenda
 - a. Request for Approval: Community Environmental Grants Guidelines: John/Kelsey
 - b. Update: Annual Forest Operations Plan: Pat
10. Dates of Upcoming Meetings:
 - a. Watershed Advisory Committee
 - June 24th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., at SNC Office
 - September 23rd, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., at SNC Office
 - November 25th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., at SNC Office
 - b. Grants Sub-Committee
 - June 16th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office
 - September 15th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office
 - November 17th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office
11. Adjournment

Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

/rb



WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting No. 04/24

Tuesday, November 26th, 2024 1:00 p.m.

Watershed Room, SNC



Members Present: Steve Densham, SNC Chair, ex-officio, Acting Committee Chair
 Matt Alkerton, Member at Large
 Sarah Burger, Member at Large
 Jordan Graham, Member at Large
 Dave Grant, Leeds and Grenville Municipalities
 Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association – SDG Chapter
 Larissa Holman, Ottawa River Keeper
 Murray Inch, Volunteer of Oak Valley Pioneer Park (*electronic participation*)
 Alain Jaquemet, Member at Large
 Glenn Mackey, ALUS - Ontario East
 Pamela O'Donnell, Member at Large
 Louis Prevost, United Counties of Prescott & Russell (*electronic participation*)
 Tara Redpath, City of Ottawa
 Jean Saint-Pierre, Boisé Est
 Cindy Saucier, Member at Large
 Fred Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History
 François St. Amour, SNC Board of Directors (*electronic participation*)
 Kayla Sunday, Mohawks of Akwesasne
 Peter Young, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Regrets: George Darouze, SNC Past Chair, ex-officio
 Emilie DeRochie, St. Lawrence River Institute
 Greg Faaren, St. Lawrence Parks Commission
 Genevieve Lajoie, SNC Board of Directors
 Erica Louttit, Miitig Healing Lodge
 Jackie Kelly-Pemberton, Member at Large, Committee Vice Chair
 Erika Sheridan, Member at Large
 Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Committee Chair
 Adrian Wynands, SNC Vice Chair, ex-officio

Staff Present: Carl Bickerdike, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
 Sandra Mancini, Managing Director, Natural Hazards and Infrastructure
 John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and Community Outreach
 Erin Thorne, Communications Specialist

Guests: Linda Payant, SNC Board of Directors



TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands and Community Outreach, read an Indigenous land acknowledgement.

CHAIRS REMARKS

Steve Densham chaired the meeting in place of Bill Smirle who sent in his regrets.

Acting Committee Chair Densham welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-025/24

Moved by: Glenn Mackey
Seconded by: Pam O'Donnell

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the November 26th, 2024 Watershed Advisory Committee meeting main agenda and supplemental agenda as presented.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

STAFF UPDATE

Staff presented project and program updates.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: APPROVAL OF WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-026/24

Moved by: Jordan Graham
Seconded by: Dave Grant

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 24th, 2024 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Kayla Sunday joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

François St. Amour joined the meeting virtually at 1:50 p.m.



NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: WATERSHED-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND THE CONSERVATION LANDS STRATEGY [DRAFTS]

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-027/24

Moved by: Matt Alkerton
Seconded by: Cindy Saucier

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update on draft December 2024 Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy and draft December 2024 Conservation Lands Strategy; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee recommends the draft December 2024 Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy and the draft December 2024 Conservation Lands Strategy to the Board of Directors for approval.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed for a break at 2:55 p.m.

Kayla Sunday left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

The Committee reconvened from break at 3:02 p.m.

UPDATE: GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-028-/24

Moved by: Dave Grant
Seconded by: Glenn Mackey

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of November 18th, 2024 update.

CARRIED

SNC FORESTS: 5-YEAR OPERATING PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-029/24

Moved by: Dorothy Hamilton
Seconded by: Alain Jaquemet



RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the 2024-2028 SNC Forest Five-Year Operating Plan update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: SNC 2025 DRAFT BUDGET

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-030/24

Moved by: Jordan Graham
Seconded by: Murray Inch

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Draft 2025 SNC Budget and Levies update.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2025 COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-031/24

Moved by: Alain Jaquemet
Seconded by: Jean Saint-Pierre

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee approve the 2025 Committee meeting schedule as discussed.

CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

UPDATE: PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON SNC STRATEGIES

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-032/24

Moved by: Pam O'Donnell
Seconded by: Jordan Graham

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the update on the public consultation of the Draft Watershed Strategy and Draft Conservation Lands Strategy.

CARRIED



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: ROUNDTABLE

- Dorothy Hamilton – shared information on the upcoming December Forest Seminar on Wednesday, December 4th, 2024
- Jean Saint-Pierre – shared an update on the recent Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program session hosted by Boisés Est and also mentioned the wood fair in Riceville would be hosted in September 2025
- Fred Schueler – reminded members of “Muddy Puppy” night at Oxford Mills, Fridays at 8:00 p.m.
- Larrisa Holman – shared information on the Ottawa River Keeper’s recently released 5-year report regarding road salt

DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Grants Sub-Committee: Monday, February 10th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at SNC Office
- Watershed Advisory Committee: Tuesday, March 25th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at SNC Office

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. WAC-033/24

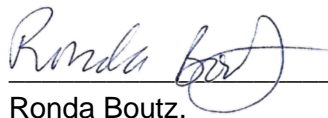
Moved by: Glenn Mackey
Seconded by: Pam O’Donnell

RESOLVED THAT:

The Watershed Advisory Committee meeting of November 26th, 2024 be adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

CARRIED

Steve Densham,
Acting Committee Chair.



Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

/lh



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: March 14, 2025
Subject: Request for Approval: Grants Sub-Committee Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee appoint six members to a Grants Sub-Committee with a term ending December 31, 2026; and

FURTHER THAT: the Watershed Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be appointed as Chair of the Grants Sub-Committee.

BACKGROUND:

South Nation Conservation's (SNC) landowner stewardship and outreach programs offer several grants to residents and/or community organizations for initiatives that improve and protect our local environment. A sub-committee of the Watershed Advisory Committee reviews and approves applications under the following programs: Clean Water Program, Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program, and the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program.

The Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program (ORCWP) is funded by the City of Ottawa and delivered by the Ottawa Conservation Partners (Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley, and South Nation Conservation Authorities). Each Conservation Authority (CA) delivers in their respective jurisdiction. Applications are reviewed by the existing CA review committees which include representatives from the ORCWP, one City staff (Tara Redpath) and one ORCWP Committee appointment (Brendan Jacobs for SNC's committee).

A Grants Sub-Committee was established at the inaugural Committee meeting in April 2024; the following members were appointed for a one-year term:

- Tara Redpath, City of Ottawa (automatic appointment);
- Brendan Jacobs, Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program (automatic appointment);
- Glenn Mackey, ALUS-Ontario East;
- Jordan Graham, Member at Large;
- Alain Jaquemet, Member at Large; and
- Pam O'Donnell, Member at Large.

The Watershed Advisory Committee Vice-Chair, Jackie Kelly-Pemberton, chaired the Grants Sub-Committee in 2024. SNC's Executive Committee and the Watershed Advisory Committee Chair are ex-officio members to the Grants Sub-Committee.



DISCUSSION:

With the one-year term expiring for current Grants Sub-Committee members, appointments are required to fill the seats that are not automatically appointed. Staff are proposing a term until December 31, 2026; this coincides with the current term for the Watershed Advisory Committee.

Based on grant application intake, the Grants Sub-Committee will likely meet three times per year in June, September, and November.

Meeting dates and times for 2025 are below:

- June 16th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office
- September 15th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office
- November 17th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at SNC Office

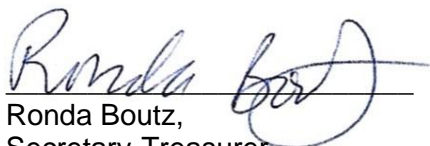
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Funding for the various grant programs is included in the 2025 Budget under the following sections:

- Resource Management: Landowner Stewardship and Outreach, pages 14-15
- Resource Management: Partner Programs, pages 16-17

SNC Policy Adherence: Payment of grants adheres to SNC's Purchasing Policy purchasing limits.

Programs and Services Category: Category 2 – Municipal Agreements and Category 3 – Watershed (Other) Programs: Private Land Stewardship and Outreach



Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: March 14th, 2025
Subject: Update: Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of February 10th, 2025

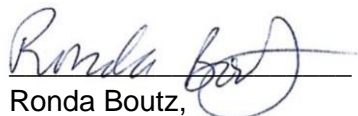
RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of February 10th, 2025 update.

DISCUSSION:

The Grants Sub-Committee held their first meeting of 2025 on February 10th. This report provides a summary of the meeting.

1. The Grants Sub-Committee approved:
 - Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program:
 - 2025 EOWRP Application Form, Guidelines, and Rating Criteria
 - Clean Water Program Projects:
 - Clean Water Program 2025 Grant Structure, Guidelines, and Rating Criteria with the following changes:
 - expanded Buffers eligibility to include windbreaks and fragile land retirement
 - adjusted cover crops grant rate to \$25/ac up to a maximum of 100 acres with higher priority to fields with riparian buffers
 - 2025 Clean Water Program Communications Plan
2. The Grants Sub-Committee received an update on:
 - Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program Financial Statement – as of December 31st, 2024
 - Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program - Marginal Lands Initiative
 - Clean Water Program 2025 Budget
 - Clean Water Program Summary 2015-2024



Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: John Mesman, Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands,
and Community Outreach
Date: March 18th, 2025
Subject: Update: 2024 SNC Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Watershed Advisory Committee receives and files the 2024 SNC Annual Report.

DISCUSSION:

Annual reports are an important way to highlight South Nation Conservation's (SNC) programs, services, and accomplishments throughout the preceding year. The report also provides partners and stakeholders with information regarding financial performance, Board of Directors membership, program implementation, and project updates.

Highlights from the 2024 Annual Report (attached) are summarized below:

- **Featured Topics:**
Conservation Land Securement, Restoration of the Riverbank at the Oak Valley Pioneer Park, New Strategies for Conservation Land and Watershed Management, SNC Approvals Programs, Floodplain and Erosion Mapping, Water Response Programs, Recreational Opportunities, Woodlot Management and Tree Planting, Invasive Species Removal, Wetland Restoration and the Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership
 - **Conservation Areas and Use of SNC Lands:**
Over 250,000 recorded visitors. Site improvements include upgrades at the sugar shack, a new play structure at Oschmann Forest, enhancements to the Findlay Creek Boardwalk and Two Creeks Forest trails, a new washroom at High Falls Park, and the reopening of the trail system at Jessup's Falls.
 - **Conservation Land Securement**
A total of 275 acres of land from 5 properties were secured through partial purchase and donation in North Dundas (26 acres), North Grenville (47 acres), Osgoode (98 acres), Cumberland (50 acres) and North Glengarry (54 acres).
 - **Environmental Stewardship Initiatives:**
Tree Planting Programs (140,000 trees planted), Woodlot Advisory Service, Clean Water Programs and Grasslands Stewardship.
 - **Natural Hazard Management – Protecting People and Property:**
Milestone year for natural hazard mapping with new floodplain maps created for
-



the Bear Brook, Castor River, and South Branch of the South Nation River.

- **Corporate Services:**
Financial summary and Board of Directors membership.

Bilingual copies of the Annual Report will be distributed to member municipalities, partner agencies and Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Committee members can assist in distributing through community or member organization events. The Report is also posted on SNC's website.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Funding for completing the design of the 2024 Annual Report is included in the 2025 SNC Budget under Corporate Services, Corporate Communications, on pages 38-39.

SNC Policy Adherence: All expenditures will adhere to SNC's Purchasing Policy. For purchases of \$500 up to \$10,000 competitive quotes will be obtained where practical.

Programs and Services Category: General Operating: Governance

John Mesman,
Managing Director, Property, Conservation Lands, and Community Outreach

Attachments: 2024 SNC Annual Report [English]



2024

Annual *Report*



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Message

from the Board Chair and Chief Administrative Officer

As we reflect on 2024, we take great pride in South Nation Conservation's (SNC) achievements over the past year. This year has been a testament to our shared commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable land management, and community collaboration.

Through innovative programs and strong partnerships, SNC continues to address evolving environmental challenges, from climate change resilience to development pressures. Our work in watershed management, environmental education, and land stewardship has had a meaningful impact across the communities we serve.

Collaboration with our member municipalities remains at the heart of our efforts. In 2024, we celebrated exciting partnerships that advanced wetland restoration, helped landowners recover from storm damage through the Woodlot Recovery Program, and secured historic funding to expand protected conservation lands. These initiatives not only preserve and restore natural spaces but also ensure the long-term ecological health of our region for future generations.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff, volunteers, municipal partners, and the communities we serve. Your continued support and collaboration make a tangible difference in protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to conserve and protect the natural resources that define our region. With the support of our partners and the dedication of our team, we are confident that SNC will continue making a lasting impact in the years to come.

Thank you for your commitment to conservation. Together, we are building a healthier, more sustainable future for our watershed.

Sincerely,

Steve Densham
Chair, SNC Board of Directors

Carl Bickerdike
Chief Administrative Officer



2024 Year in *Review*

Conservation Land Securement

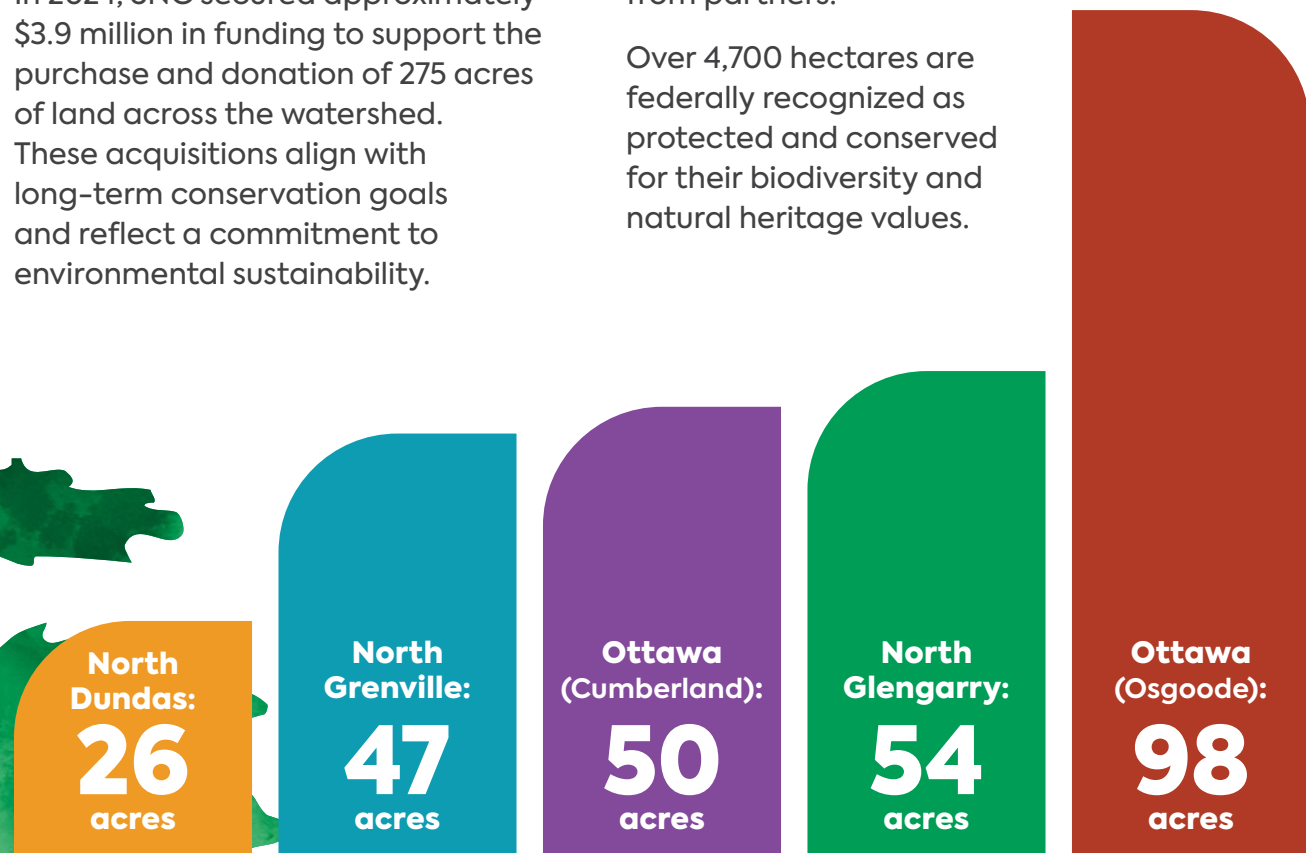
Purchasing and donating land is a meaningful way to contribute to local conservation efforts. South Nation Conservation (SNC) strategically acquires properties in accordance with its Land Securement Strategy, ensuring the protection of natural heritage, enhancing forest cover, safeguarding waterways, and expanding public recreational spaces.

Whether for conservation, recreation, or community benefit, both land purchases and donations leave a lasting natural legacy. Donating land offers a powerful way to support conservation initiatives, contribute to charitable organizations, and ensure land protection for future generations.

Forty percent of SNC's lands are donated in whole or in part, while the remaining 60% are acquired with financial contributions from partners.

Over 4,700 hectares are federally recognized as protected and conserved for their biodiversity and natural heritage values.

In 2024, SNC secured approximately \$3.9 million in funding to support the purchase and donation of 275 acres of land across the watershed. These acquisitions align with long-term conservation goals and reflect a commitment to environmental sustainability.



Restoring the Riverbank at the Oak Valley Pioneer Park

Severe erosion at Oak Valley Pioneer Park in North Dundas was causing tree loss, parkland degradation, and threatening both habitat and visitor access.

To address this, SNC partnered with river restoration experts and contractors to re-slope and stabilize the riverbank, ensuring long-term protection. This section of the South Nation River, owned by SNC, has historically supported river channelization efforts to improve water flow and drainage. Today, SNC continues to manage the area with a focus on conservation and habitat restoration.

The project transformed a steep, 2-meter vertical drop into a stable, gradual slope using bioengineering techniques. SNC reinforced the shoreline, seeded native grasses, and planted over 2,000 willow live stakes to strengthen the bank. Removed trees were strategically placed at the river's edge to absorb high water flows and prevent further erosion.

SNC will continue monitoring the site and adjust erosion control methods as needed. Future enhancements, including tree planting, interpretive signage, and trail upgrades, will further improve the park for both visitors and wildlife.





New Strategies for Conservation Land and Watershed Management

In 2024, SNC developed two key strategies to guide its conservation efforts: the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy and the Conservation Lands Strategy. As required under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ont. Reg. 686/21, all Conservation Authorities must complete these strategies by December 2024.

The Watershed Strategy provides a comprehensive review of SNC’s programs, services, and technical studies, outlining key principles, objectives, and monitoring initiatives. It also establishes a process for periodic updates, ensuring an adaptive approach to resource management.

The Conservation Lands Strategy focuses on property management, setting a framework for decision-making, conservation priorities, and future goals. It highlights land ownership, management activities, and the importance of natural heritage systems, while identifying risks and opportunities for stewardship and education programs.

Together, these strategies reinforce SNC’s commitment to environmental sustainability, responsible resource management, and community engagement in protecting natural areas across the watershed.

Learn more:
nation.on.ca/resources/publications/watershed-strategies



SNC Approvals Programs

Planning and Development Reviews, Conservation Authority Regulations, and Municipal Septic Services

The way we plan and build our communities affects our natural environment. Environmental planning is an important part of protecting our land and water resources.

SNC ensures people and property are protected from natural hazards by participating in local planning and development review to support local municipalities.

With expertise in natural hazards and natural heritage, municipal drinking water source protection, and private servicing, the team also supports development projects and environmental studies.

SNC's Regulations Program enables staff to work with municipal and agency partners, developers, landowners, and contractors, to safeguard human life and property from natural hazards.

SNC's Septic Program through the Ontario Building Code (Part 8 - Sewage Systems) is delivered in 16 municipalities; working with landowners and contractors to ensure proper installation and repair of septic systems.



The following summary includes the development applications reviewed in 2024.

Planning and Development

- ▶ 331 development applications
- ▶ 49 property inquiries
- ▶ 303 technical reviews completed
- ▶ 19 applications reviewed for threats to municipal drinking water
- ▶ 0 risk management plans established to protect municipal drinking water

Technical Reviews

- ▶ 303 reviews were completed, including:
 - 52 stormwater management reports
 - 12 geotechnical, geomorphology and landslide reports

Conservation Authorities Act: Section 28 Permits

- ▶ 164 permits
- ▶ 55 occurrence reports investigated
- ▶ 69 drain maintenance notifications

Sewage Systems Review

- ▶ 432 permits
- ▶ 146 septic record searches
- ▶ 46 renovation reviews
- ▶ 20 occurrence reports investigated

2024 Highlights:

- ▶ Hosted the Annual Information Day for partner municipalities
- ▶ Worked with partner Conservation Authorities in Eastern Ontario for consistent policy, regulatory and municipal projects
- ▶ Public consultation for updates to the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan
- ▶ Implementation of regulatory and legislative changes under the Conservation Authorities Act and Planning Act
- ▶ Hosted the annual septic contractor meeting
- ▶ Offered septic installer and designer training to local contractors





For all planning applications, timelines are established by municipalities depending on the type of development, applicable legislation, and municipal policies.

Conservation Authorities Act permit timelines are established by the Province of Ontario, including 21 days to determine Complete Applications, 30 days to review Minor Applications and 90 days to review Major Applications. SNC communicates with clients during the review process, and additional time is provided for resubmissions. The following summary notes the number of permits issued within established timelines.



Protecting People and Property

Floodplain and Erosion Mapping

SNC updates natural hazard maps on behalf of municipalities, focusing on areas facing development pressures. In 2024, SNC completed updates for three areas:

- ▶ South Branch of the South Nation River (Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry and Edwardsburgh Cardinal) – 33 km of the Main Branch, 16.8 km of the South Branch, and 3.8 km of Black Creek.
- ▶ Bear Brook Watershed (City of Ottawa and Prescott-Russell) – 200 km of watercourses.
- ▶ Castor River (City of Ottawa and Prescott-Russell) – 51.5 km, covering a 740 km² drainage area.

Public consultation concluded in March 2024, ensuring updated maps reflect the latest data for flood risk management and development planning.

Water Response Programs

SNC monitors water conditions year-round to help municipalities and residents prepare for floods and droughts. In 2024, SNC issued 12 flood notices under the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program but did not issue any low water advisories under the Low Water Response Program.

Upgrades to climate monitoring stations continue to improve SNC’s watershed model and forecasting capabilities.

To enhance municipal preparedness, SNC expanded its training efforts in 2024. In addition to its annual municipal flood preparedness workshop, SNC began co-hosting specialized training for the City of Ottawa with the Ottawa Conservation Authority Partners.

Water Control Structures

SNC operates several water control structures including dams, weirs and berms to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In 2024, investments were made at the Chesterville Dam to repair the log lifter and improve operations. New Operation Plans were also developed for all dam structures.



2024 Program Highlights

Endless Recreational Opportunities at SNC Conservation Areas

In 2024, SNC’s network of Conservation Areas (CA) welcomed a new record of over 250,000 visitors to hike, geocache, picnic, kayak, canoe, launch their boat, bird watch, fish, and enjoy their local outdoor environment.

The most popular destinations?

Year-Round Sites:

W.E. Burton CA in Russell	54,603 visitors
J. Henry Tweed CA in Russell	43,279 visitors
Findlay Creek Boardwalk in Ottawa	42,541 visitors
Warwick Forest CA in North Stormont	17,203 visitors

Seasonal Sites:

High Falls CA in Casselman	29,751 visitors
Jessup’s Falls CA in Alfred-Plantagenet	20,452 visitors
Cass Bridge CA in North Dundas	9,382 visitors

In 2024, SNC was able to:

- ▶ Restore the original sugar shack at the Oschmann Forest
- ▶ Replace the original section of the Findlay Creek Boardwalk
- ▶ Create a new 1 km trail at the Two Creeks Forest
- ▶ Open the first fully serviced accessible washroom at the High Falls Park
- ▶ Restore trails and control invasive species at the Robert Graham Forest
- ▶ Reopen the trail system at the Jessup’s Falls Park
- ▶ Install a new play structure at the Oschmann Forest

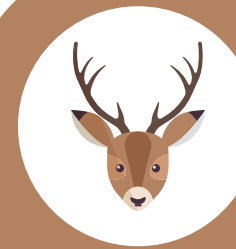
Land Partnerships

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

MAPLE SYRUP



In 2024, a record 9,626 gallons of sap was collected from the Oschmann Forest and sold to a local producer. 33 acres of land is also leased for sugar bush operations.



HUNTING

Nearly 9,000 acres of SNC land is used by hunters; 124 permits issued in 2024.

TRAPPING

Nearly 9,000 acres of land is used by trappers; 11 permits issued in 2024.



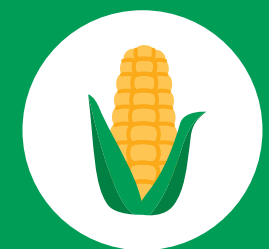
HONEY

SNC is gifted 10 lbs of honey annually from local beekeepers; 1 land lease in 2024.



FIRST NATIONS

Support for the “The Healing Place” and the “Miitig Healing Lodge” provide community access to public lands. Partnerships through the Eastern Ontario First Nations Working Group incorporate Traditional Knowledge and a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to conservation efforts and ensure the protection of culturally significant species.



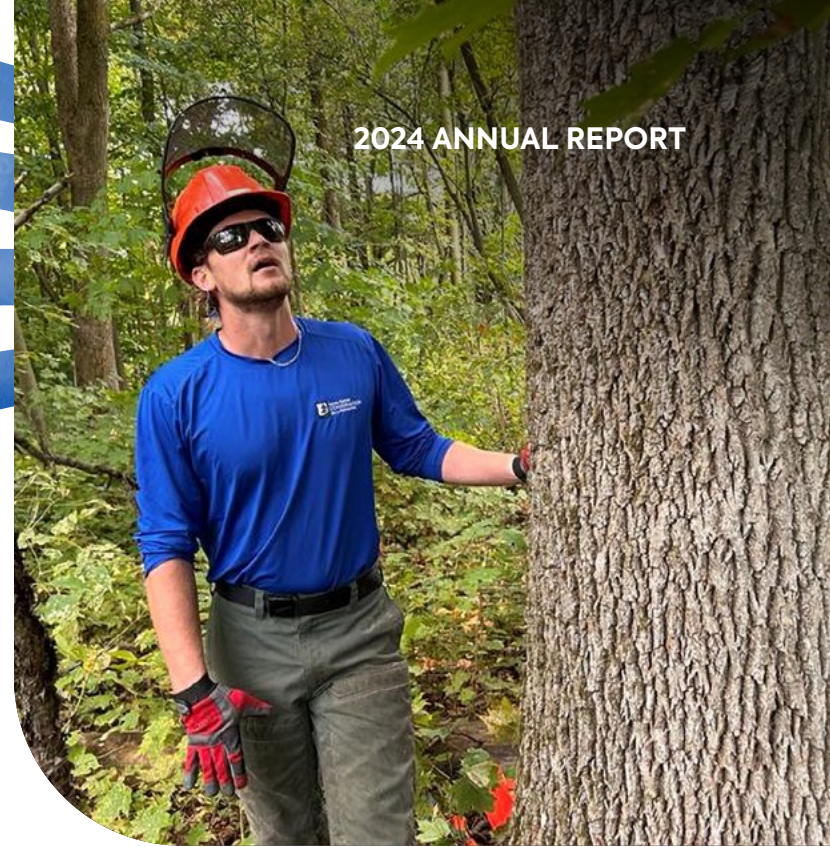
CROP PRODUCTION

30 acres of SNC land is leased to local farmers.

Woodlot Management and Tree Planting

In 2024, SNC:

- ▶ Planted over 140,000 tree seedlings, adding to the 4 million trees planted since 1990.
- ▶ Provided \$144,000 in grants from Forests Canada to help plant trees on private land.
- ▶ Provided \$84,624 in grants for 49 projects in the City of Ottawa that helped recover from storm damage and the invasive Emerald Ash Borer.
- ▶ Completed free Woodlot Advisory Service site visits in Prescott-Russell (UCPR) and Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG).
 - In UCPR, \$23,180 of funding was distributed through 48 grants to support the management of 1,987 acres of privately owned forests.
 - In SDG, \$12,400 of funding was distributed through 25 grants to support the management of 1,600 acres of privately owned forests.
- ▶ Delivered the new Woodlot Storm Recovery Program:
 - Supported 140 properties with restoration efforts (126 in Prescott-Russell and 21 in Ottawa) and engaged over 30 local businesses in storm recovery efforts.
 - Restored over 40 hectares (100 acres) of forest within the Township of Alfred-Plantagenet and the City of Clarence-Rockland.
 - Provided \$300,000 to 32 property owners in Prescott-Russell for eligible forest restoration expenses from the May 2022 Derecho Storm.
 - Planted over 57,000 trees (included in the 140,000 total) including fall planting activities for the first time.



- ▶ Received \$25,000 in land use permits, maple sap collection and the sale of wood products.
- ▶ Due to mild winter conditions, forest operations were suspended to protect the sites from damage. No timber harvest revenues were received.
- ▶ The SNC Forest is managed sustainably with forest operations certified under the Forest Stewardship Council. A second international certification is being established under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- ▶ SNC established forestry service agreements with member municipalities to support forest management and tree planting projects on municipal land.
 - Over 150 large trees were planted in the City of Clarence-Rockland.
 - Over 30 large trees were planted in the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal.
- ▶ 18 Forest Steward volunteers helped monitor forest activity on 45 SNC properties.
- ▶ SNC partnered with municipalities to fundraise \$4,000 and provide over 10,000 free tree seedlings to watershed residents.



Watershed Monitoring and Reporting

Our environmental monitoring programs focus on the 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

Water quality improvement programs and farm stewardship projects have helped provide cost-share funding (\$1,000 - \$8,000) to improve the environment on private property.

\$130,757 in cost-share grants supported 40 projects within the City of Ottawa and were delivered on behalf of the three Conservation Authority partners (South Nation, Rideau Valley and Mississippi Valley).

\$16,653 in cost-share grants supported 5 projects within the SNC jurisdiction outside of Ottawa.

Projects included wetland and grassland restoration, erosion control, cover crops, tree planting, and septic system replacements.

Habitat Restoration

SNC collaborates with funding partners to restore habitat on public and private lands, supporting both species at risk and locally significant wildlife.

Through the Grassland Stewardship Initiative, funding was available to help property owners create, enhance, or maintain grasslands, benefiting grassland bird populations such as the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.

With support from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, SNC continues to restore pollinator habitat across the watershed. Wildflower meadows were established on newly acquired conservation lands in the City of Ottawa, with additional restoration efforts at SNC properties in North Dundas and Augusta Townships. These meadows provide critical habitat and food sources for pollinators, enhancing local biodiversity.



Education and Outreach

SNC delivers a range of education and outreach programs designed to foster environmental stewardship and raise awareness about local conservation efforts. These programs provide hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages, helping communities connect with natural resources, wildlife, and sustainable practices.

Programs like Summer Fish Camp give youth the chance to explore their local waterways and wildlife. In 2024, 100 youth participated, gaining a deeper understanding of aquatic ecosystems. SNC also offers school programs, field trips, community events, and volunteer opportunities, engaging the public in conservation education and the importance of protecting the environment.

In 2024, SNC supported 20 community-led projects through the Community Environmental Grants Program. These grants helped fund local environmental initiatives, strengthening the connection between people and nature while encouraging shared responsibility for protecting the watershed.



Invasive Phragmites Control Fund

Invasive species continue to threaten Ontario’s ecosystems. In 2024, SNC secured funding through the Invasive Species Action Fund and Invasive Phragmites Control Fund to manage invasive plants on conservation lands.

As part of this initiative, 1,156 acres were mapped for invasive phragmites as part of a regional collaboration in Eastern Ontario. Control efforts focused on invasive buckthorn removal at the Robert Graham Forest and Oschmann Forest Conservation Areas. Early detection, integrated control strategies, and post-removal restoration are key to reduce spread and re-establishment.

Invasive Water Chestnut Control Efforts

In 2022, invasive European Water Chestnut was discovered in the South Nation and Castor Rivers, outside its previously known range in Ontario. This fast-spreading species forms dense floating mats with barbed spines, threatening aquatic ecosystems and recreational access.

Since its discovery, SNC has prioritized monitoring and control efforts. In 2024, approximately 18,000 plants were hand-pulled to limit its spread.

Given the plant’s persistence, long-term monitoring and management will be essential to prevent re-establishment and protect local waterways.



Findlay Creek Boardwalk

Over \$1.7 million was invested in the two-year revitalization project (2023–2024) to rebuild aging sections and expand public access to the Findlay Creek Boardwalk in the Leitrim Wetland, in the City of Ottawa. This project was supported by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

In 2023, the boardwalk was extended by 540 m, completing a 1 km looped pathway with two entry points and multiple viewing platforms.

In 2024, SNC rebuilt 340 m of the boardwalk, which was originally constructed in 2012, ensuring long-term sustainability and improved visitor experience.

This enhanced trail provides improved access to the 570-acre Leitrim Wetland, a Provincially Significant Wetland and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.

Bear Brook Characterization Study

SNC is working with the City of Ottawa on a multi-year Bear Brook Watershed Study due to the urban expansion near the headwaters of the Bear Brook. The plan seeks to balance socioeconomic and environmental systems to ensure the long-term health of the watershed.

In 2024, SNC focused efforts on a Characterization Report developed from fieldwork, analysis, and environmental assessment processes to identify the existing conditions of the Bear Brook Watershed.

Scenario modelling, assessment and implementation plans will be completed in 2025.



Ducks Unlimited Canada

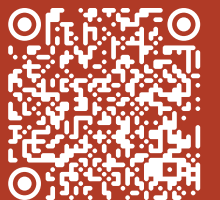
Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership

The revitalization of lost and degraded wetlands in Eastern Ontario has been the focus of a three-year restoration project, led through a partnership between SNC and Ducks Unlimited Canada, with support from the Government of Canada’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

SNC collaborated with municipalities, public agencies, and landowners to implement restoration efforts on both public and private lands. In 2024, SNC completed the partnership’s final phase, delivering four new projects, including a 7-acre mega-wetland on SNC property in The Nation Municipality.

These projects included pond design, construction, native seeding, and planting of trees and shrubs to enhance habitat and biodiversity. SNC will continue monitoring these sites to assess water retention, vegetation growth, and wildlife use in the coming years.

View the Eastern Ontario Wetland Restoration Story Map





2024 Board of Directors

The 2024 Board of Directors include:

- ▶ Steve Densham, Chair, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry
- ▶ Adrian Wynands, Vice-Chair, Leeds & Grenville
- ▶ George Darouze, Past Chair, City of Ottawa

City of Ottawa:

- ▶ Catherine Kitts, Matthew Luloff, Linda Payant

United Counties of Prescott-Russell:

- ▶ Geneviève Lajoie, François St. Amour, Mike Tarnowski

United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry:

- ▶ Bill Smirle, Tom Smyth

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville:

- ▶ Deb Wilson

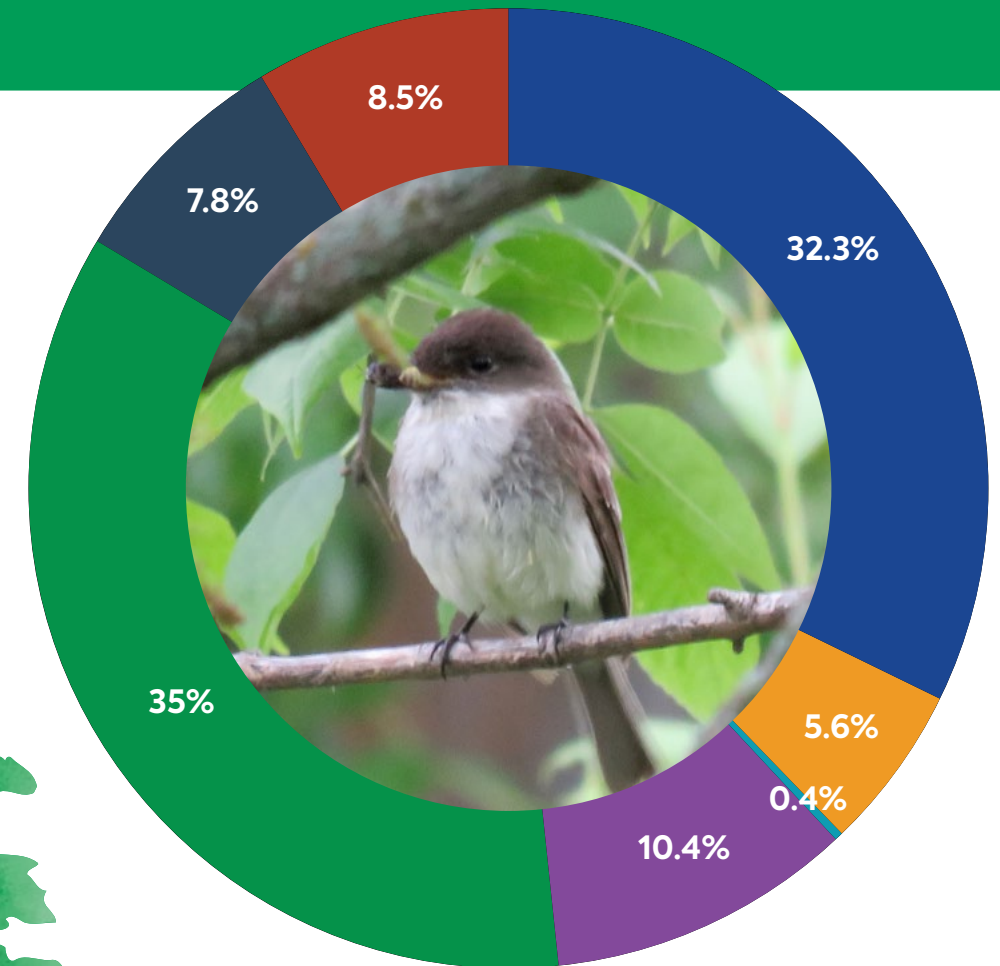
SNC's Board of Directors consists of 12 appointed representatives from SNC's 16-member municipalities who govern and provide direction for all the work completed by SNC staff.

Budget Summary



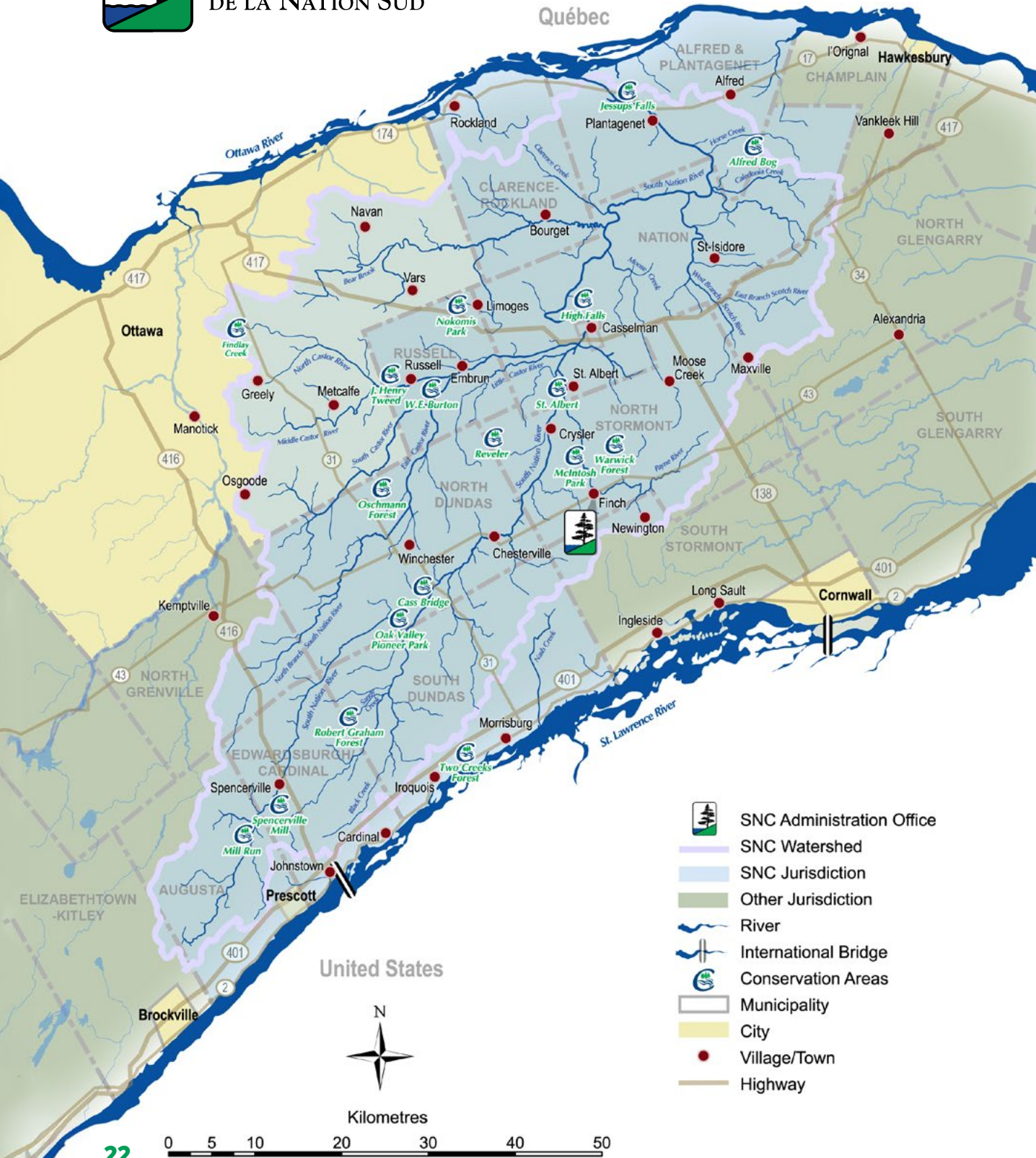
2024 Budget: \$13,759,129

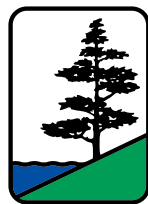
- General Levy: \$4,439,413
- Special Levy: \$763,868
- Capital Levy: \$50,000
- Government Grants: \$1,430,021
- Partners: \$4,825,860
- User Fees: \$1,068,577
- Other Sources and Donations: \$1,181,390





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To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: March 10th, 2025
Subject: Update: Funding Submissions and Professional Services Agreements

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Funding Submissions and Professional Service Agreements update.

DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation (SNC) staff are very successful in obtaining funding from external sources (e.g., government, industry, and non-governmental organizations) to support the Authority's programs and projects.

When submitting funding requests, SNC staff target applications to projects already in the Authority's work plan to maximize opportunities to offset program or project costs. When cost-share is required by a funder, SNC utilizes staffing and other resources included in the Budget as the matching contribution. Cost-share ratios vary depending on the funding agency.

In addition to external grants, SNC provides professional services to its member municipalities and partner organizations, upon request, on a 100% cost-recovery basis. Recent services include: stormwater management facilities inspections and maintenance; forestry services; services related to the *Endangered Species Act*, and delivery of landowner stewardship programs on behalf of municipalities or partners.

For the Committee's information, a summary of 2024-2025 funding submissions and professional services agreements is attached.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: This report has no impact on budget, provided for information purposes. Unbudgeted revenue offsets SNC levy requirements and typically accounts for the majority of year-end surplus.

SNC Policy Adherence: Not applicable.

Programs and Services Category: Category 1: Mandatory Programs, Category 2: Municipal Agreements, and Category 3: Watershed (Other) Programs.

Ronda Boutz,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Attachment: 2024-2025 Funding Submissions
2024-2025 Professional Services Agreements



2024-2025 Funding Submissions

Funder	Program/Project	Amount Requested	
		2024	2025
Federal			
2 Billion Trees Program	Woodlot Storm Recovery Program	\$550,000	\$1,695,000
Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund	Land Acquisition and Restoration (2024-2025)	\$1,026,300	
Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund	Land Acquisition and Restoration (2025-2027)	\$4,973,700	
Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario	Findlay Creek Boardwalk Revitalization	\$200,000	
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Screen SNC properties for inclusion in the Canada Protected and Conserved Areas Database	\$35,000	
Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program	Regional flood modelling and mapping in the South Nation River Basin: Using new and innovative tools to map floods and build knowledge of flood risk under different flood scenarios (3 years).	\$540,000	
Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program	Assessing Increased Flood Risk due to Landslides in the Bear Brook Watershed	\$136,000	
Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program	Delineating Flood Hazard and Associated Impacts in the Quaille Creek Watershed	\$139,500	
Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program	South Nation River Hazard Mapping Update		\$900,000
Canada Summer Jobs	Employment Grant	\$15,988	\$22,000
Eco Canada	Employment Grant	\$45,000	\$35,000
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Municipal Drain Classification	\$8,800	\$8,800
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Oak Valley Shoreline Stabilization	\$95,000	
Sub-Total		\$7,765,288	\$2,660,800
Provincial			
Emergency Management Ontario	Hazard Surveillance and Response in the SNC Jurisdiction - purchase of drone	\$17,000	
Ministry of Natural Resources - Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Chesterville Dam Safety Upgrades	\$11,500	



Funder	Program/Project	Amount Requested	
		2024	2025
Ministry of Natural Resources - Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Crysler Dyke Infrastructure and Safety Upgrades	\$29,000	
Ministry of Natural Resources - Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Russell Weir Safety Upgrades	\$13,500	
Ministry of Natural Resources - Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Seguinbourg Berm Embankment Restoration		\$17,500
Ministry of Natural Resources - Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Plantagenet Weir Rehabilitation and Improvement Study		\$32,500
Ministry of Natural Resources - Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Crysler Dam Engineering Inspection		\$15,000
Sub-Total		\$71,000	\$65,000
Municipal			
City of Ottawa	Environmental Stewardship on SNC Properties in Rural Ottawa		\$186,500
Sub-Total		\$0	\$186,500
Non-Governmental Organization			
Invasive Species Action Fund	Invasive terrestrial plant monitoring and control work on South Nation Conservation properties	\$5,000	\$15,844
Federation of Canadian Municipalities - Growing Canada's Community Canopies	Municipal Tree Planting Partnership (2025-2027)		\$369,907
Eastern Ontario Water Resources Program Grant	Hazard Surveillance and Response in the SNC Jurisdiction - purchase of drone	\$10,000	
Invasive Phragmites Control Fund	Mapping and control of invasive Phragmites in the South Nation Conservation jurisdiction	\$20,000	\$30,000
Invasive Species Action Fund	Monitoring and removal of European Water Chestnut from the South Nation and Castor Rivers	\$35,500	\$15,000
Conservation Ontario - Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP) - Marginal Lands	Eastern Ontario Farm Stewardship Collaborative - Landowner Cost-Share Grants (2025-2027)		\$500,000
Wildlife Habitat Canada	Two Creeks Forest Wetland Restoration	\$36,000	\$9,000



Funder	Program/Project	Amount Requested	
		2024	2025
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Two Creeks Forest Wetland Restoration	\$20,000	\$45,000
Canadian Wildlife Federation	Snake Island Forest Pollinator Meadow Creation	\$7,500	\$1,500
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Wetland Restoration in SNC Jurisdiction	\$125,000	
Sub-Total		\$259,000	\$986,251
Industry Partner			
Trans Canada Pipelines	Two Creeks Forest Conservation Area	\$5,000	
Enbridge Gas	Field Laptop	\$2,500	
Ontario Power Generation's Regional Empowerments Grants Program	Healing Place - Thanksgiving Harvest	\$1,500	\$1,500
Ontario Power Generation's Regional Empowerments Grants Program	Municipal Free Trees (South Dundas and Edwardsburgh Cardinal)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Ontario Power Generation's Power for Change Project	Creating Resilient Forests in Eastern Ontario - A Tree Planting Initiative (2025-2027)		\$400,000
TD Tree Days	South Nation River Shoreline Planting	\$4,444	
TD Tree Days	Leitrim Wetland Tree Planting		\$4,500
Honda Canada Foundation	Invasive Species Mapping with Drones		\$8,000
Sub-Total		\$14,444	\$415,000
TOTAL		\$8,109,732	\$4,313,551
In Progress		\$0	\$1,313,300
Submitted		\$4,973,700	\$2,682,751
Approved		\$3,136,032	\$259,500
Denied		\$0	\$58,000



2024-2025 Professional Service Agreements

Signed Contracts	Program/Project	2024	2025
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Woodlot Storm Recovery Program	\$337,449	\$0
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Hawkesbury Creek Natural Hazards Mapping		\$273,000
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Woodlot Advisory Service	\$23,605	\$20,000
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Larose Forest Tree Planting	\$41,221	
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Woodlot Advisory Service	\$16,544	\$20,000
City of Ottawa	Castor River Natural Hazard Mapping		\$412,000
Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal	Forestry Services		
Township of Augusta	Professional Services under the <i>Endangered Species Act</i> and scoped Environmental Impact Study	\$2,785	
Township of South Stormont	Professional Services under the <i>Endangered Species Act</i>	\$5,322	\$2,385
Township of Alfred-Plantagenet	Storm Recovery Forestry Services	\$100,000	
Lindsay Solar	Grassland Habitat Management	\$18,300	\$11,820
Township of Russell	Stormwater Management Facilities Inspections and Maintenance	\$7,000	\$6,000
Municipality of Casselman	Stormwater Management Facilities Inspections and Maintenance	\$9,000	
	Sub-Total	\$561,226	\$745,205
Pending Contracts	Program/Project	2024	2025
City of Ottawa	Lepaeger Creek Natural Hazard Mapping	\$0	\$300,000
	Sub-Total	\$0	\$300,000
TOTAL		\$561,226	\$1,045,205

NOTE: above list does not include SNC/Municipal agreements for Part 8 (Ontario Building Code) Sewage System Program or Risk Management services for Source Water Protection.



To: Watershed Advisory Committee
From: Michelle Cavanagh, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: March 18, 2025
Subject: Update: Wetland Restoration Story Map

RECOMMENDATION:

The Watershed Advisory Committee receive and file the Wetland Restoration Story Map update.

DISCUSSION:

South Nation Conservation (SNC) has been partnering with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) for the past several years to complete wetland restoration projects within our jurisdiction. SNC has created, restored, and protected over 260 acres of wetlands since 2021.

To highlight this partnership and increase awareness of the importance of wetlands, SNC staff created a web-based story map that will be shared publicly. The story map provides an overview of SNC and DUC, discusses the partnership and the various roles of wetlands on the landscape, details some of the restoration projects and the steps to planning a successful project, and highlights land securement as a key measure for wetland protection.

The partnership with DUC is featured in SNC's 2024 Annual Report with a QR code included to access the story map. A press release highlighting the story map will be prepared to coincide with the completion of the Two Creeks Forest wetland restoration project this Spring.

The Story Map will be presented to the Committee during the meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: This report has no impact on budget, provided for information purposes. The wetland restoration projects highlighted in the Story Map were supported with funding from Ducks Unlimited Canada.

SNC Policy Adherence: Not applicable.

Programs and Services Category: Category 1: Mandatory Programs – Conservation Lands and Category 3: Watershed (Other) Programs – Landowner Stewardship.

Michelle Cavanagh,
Team Lead, Special Projects.