

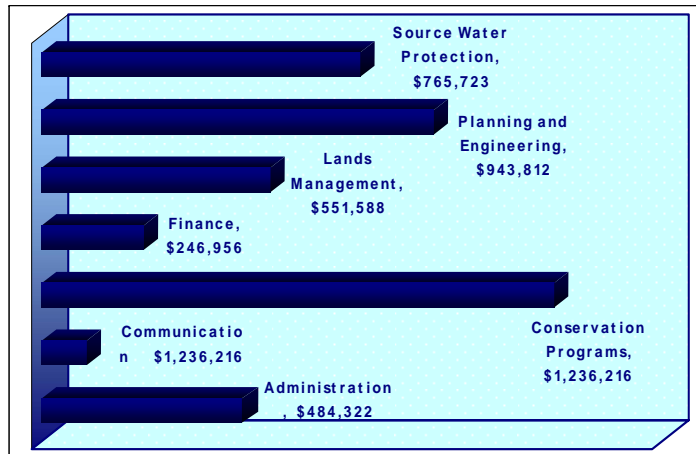
Rare Turtles

With support from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, SNC embarked on a study of five rare turtle species, (Blandings, Spotted Northern Map, StinkPot, & Spiny Softshell), within the South Nation River watershed. The project has achieved early success in building public awareness and disseminating information. The 2006 field season confirmed the status of known turtle populations and discovered a previously unrecorded population of the threatened Northern Map Turtle on the South Nation River.

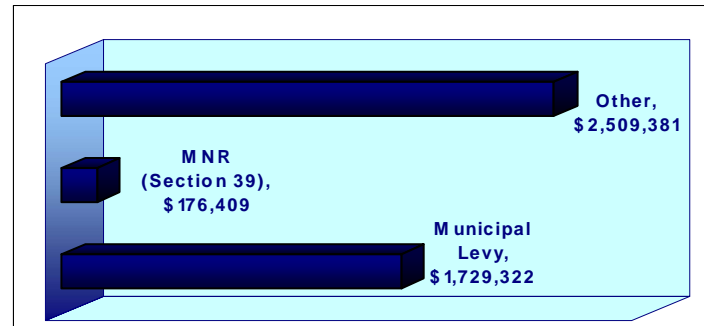


Spotted Northern Map Turtle

Financial Summary 2006



Expenditures: \$4,335,661



Revenues: \$4,415,112

SNC Governance

With, and because of, the continued support of watershed residents, member municipalities, private sector partnerships and tireless volunteers, SNC is able to develop and expand its conservation programs. We are looking forward to another year of remarkable successes in 2007....

South Nation Directors & Staff

2006 SNC Board of Directors

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

Claude Cousineau
Floyd Dingwall
Johnny Whitteker
Archie Byers

Prescott Russell

Gaston Patenaude
Denis Pommainville
Michael McHugh

City of Ottawa

Alan Perks
Rob Jellett
Doug Thompson
Bob Cox

SNC Citizen Committees

South Nation Conservation uses four Committees to guide programs:

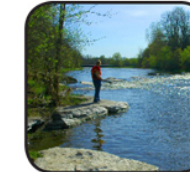
- ~ Clean Water
- ~ Communications / Fundraising
- ~ Forestry
- ~ Fisheries
- ~ Leitrim
- ~ McIntosh

Committees are a partnership of residents, farmers, community groups, industry, and government. To join please contact our office.

Our Local Environment. We're in it Together. Notre environnement. Nous le partageons.



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD



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ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification

South Nation Conservation is a partner in the management of 18 000 hectares of the public forest land in eastern Ontario. This includes SNC lands, and the lands owned by the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.



Logging operation at SNC 11, located north of Iroquois

Through the forest certification program of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, all forest lands managed by SNC have achieved Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. FSC is an international organization which sets forestry standards. FSC standards require an inclusive approach to forest management which addresses environmental, economic, social and First Nations values.

FSC certification confirms that well-managed forests can provide a diversity of benefits to the community, and provides added assurance to the public that these valuable forest lands are being managed to a world-class standard. FSC certification has also created new market and revenue opportunities for wood



Thinned White Pine located at Larose Forest Compartment 158, north of Lemieux Bridge

Indian Creek Fishway

The Indian Creek is a tributary of the South Nation River. Originally, the Indian Creek was dammed for a sawmill operation. Although we have not been able to determine when the dam was built, its construction has meant that several species of native fish cannot access historical spawning areas above the dam. Anecdotal information suggests there has historically been a reproducing population of Northern Pike *Esox lucius* above the dam on Indian Creek; however, minimum spawning activity has been reported above the dam since its installation.

In June 2006, South Nation Conservation (SNC) developed a plan to provide fish passage throughout the spring spawning period, which would maintain

normal flow conditions at the reservoir. This project was undertaken to restore spawning habitat for Northern Pike by constructing an off-line bypass channel allowing fish to pass the dam structure.

The fishway was constructed so that water will be diverted from the current impoundment above the dam only during high-flow conditions, like those typical during the spring melt (March and April). Added benefits of this design are the continued use of the dam structure by the landowner and the bypass will be designed in such a way that water will only be present in the bypass channel during the spring run-off period, a time when the Northern Pike and other warm water species are spawning.



This picture was taken on October 23, 2006 after six volunteers worked hard all day placing by hand, the stones along the fish passage located at Indian Creek, West of the village of Spencerville.

Evaluation of the South Branch of the South Nation River

SNC is conducting a Greencover Canada demo project along the channelized South Branch of the South Nation River to compare current conditions to past, determine the degree of success of past projects, and identify areas in need of improvement. The assessments include evaluations of the buffer strip, fish mitigation structures, and maintenance requirements. In the 90's, landowners implemented a buffer of trees along the South Branch in efforts to stabilize banks, clean water, and improve wildlife habitat. SNC is now working with landowners to re-establish the buffer and promote these activities as viable, cost-effective best management practices. This spring, we plan to re-establish 4.5kms of buffer with native trees and shrubs. Landowners have been very accommodating in allowing this project to unfold in their backyards and have been eager to participate and hear about our findings. We extend our thanks to the landowners for participating, providing input, and granting us access for this ongoing evaluation.



Collecting fish data, (electro-fishing) along the South Branch located near Brinston

Water Quality Grants

South Nation Conservation (SNC) facilitated the delivery of \$263,371 to area landowners and organizations in 2006. The funding was distributed through SNC's Clean Water Program, and 2 additional programs co-managed by SNC; the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program and the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee (EOWRC).



Well decommissioning

The grant money went to a variety of on-the-ground projects, including: landowner grants for best management practices (manure storages, septic system upgrades, well decommissioning, etc.), educational initiatives (Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival, Alternative Energy on the Farm Workshop, Water Efficiency Team, Protect Your Well Project, etc.), and research (Septic Reed Bed

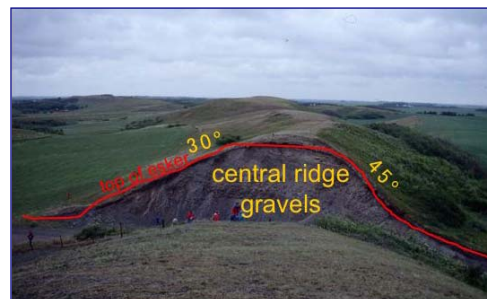
Study, Watershed Environmental Resources Assessment Project, etc.). In total, 163 landowner projects received a cost-share grant and 8 organizations received funding for their water quality initiatives.

The majority of the funding for these programs comes from upper and lower tier municipalities; the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program is financed through a special levy from the City of Ottawa. Similarly, funding for the EOWRC is provided by the 5 Counties of Prescott, Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and the City of Ottawa. In addition to the municipal levy contribution for SNC's Clean Water Program, several local businesses provided donation in 2006, including St. Albert Cheese (\$7,000) and Parmalat Canada (\$5,000).

\$2 Million Flows to Watershed Municipalities

The Ontario government announced it would provide a total of \$51 million over five years to municipalities under the Source Protection Technical Studies Grant Program. The first group of grants totaling \$10 million, were issued in April 2006.

About \$2 million of that came to municipalities in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region. The money has been used to study municipal water supplies, such as the esker complex and surface water intake areas. The work involves mapping the areas and evaluating the land use activities going on close to the wellhead and intake protection zones. The Raisin Region and South Nation Conservation Authorities are managing all technical studies on behalf of our member municipalities. Working groups involving municipal staff and political representatives provide direction to the Conservation Authority staff to best meet the needs of watershed residents. To date the technical studies have provided essential information to ensure proper management of drinking water in Eastern Ontario as we look toward future planning and development.



Eskers are long, ridges of sand and gravel, and are important sources of drinking water

Black Ash Logs in Short Supply

In 2006, SNC completed a two-year study to inventory the supply of Black Ash logs for non-timber forest products and provide strategic direction to forest managers. The study showed that the current supply of logs could not meet demand and makes recommendations to alleviate shortfalls in the future.

Black Ash is an important element of lowland hardwood forest in eastern Ontario. The physical characteristic of Black Ash makes it the wood of choice in traditional Mohawk basket-making art. Black Ash baskets are an important cultural and economic component of this First Nation community.



Measuring Tree Diameter

Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program



The Chesterville Dam was constructed in 1979 and controls a total drainage of 1050 km². It consists of an automatically controlled steel gate and 5 stop log bays. Its main purpose is flood control but the structure also provides optimum water levels upstream during normal and low flows.

Some \$228,000 worth of major repair and erosion protection projects are currently underway in the South Nation Conservation watershed thanks in part to a provincial funding program.

Since 2003, the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI) provides Ontario's conservation authorities a total annual allocation of \$5 million.

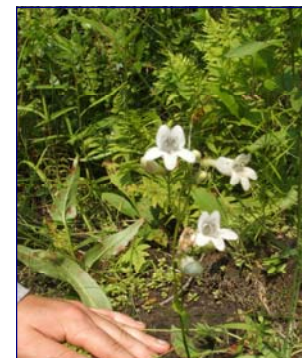
When matched with Conservation Authority and/or municipal funding, some \$10 million worth of watershed infrastructure work is completed annually across the Province.

Many of SNC's structures are older and require major repairs. The program makes repairs possible by covering 50 per cent of costs. Prior to 2003, limited funding was available for minor repairs.

SNC projects underway include purchase of new stop logs for the Chesterville Dam; repairs to the dam's steel gate and log bays; and erosion repairs at the Casselman Weir, near Bourget and along the St. Lawrence River shoreline in Morrisburg.

Since 2003, SNC has submitted and received approval for repairs and studies totaling \$662,000 covering the combined provincial and local contributions.

Medicines from the Woods



Foxglove Beard Tongue
SNC Compartment 12

Through a project made possible by the Trillium Foundation, First Nation communities, and other partners, SNC is conducting a study of the plants that grow on its managed forests. The project utilizes inventory methods established under the Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario and traditional knowledge from the First Nations. A medicinal plant database is being developed to assist in management for this traditional use. Early results of the project have confirmed the presence of over 300 medicinal plants on SNC-managed lands.



The Eastern Ontario First Nation Working Group