



AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION

CREATING AWARENESS | TAKING ACTION

2021

The Year at a Glance

Highlights and featured projects
from the 2021 Annual Report

Visit abca.ca for the full report.



Conservationists of the Year 2021

From left to right in photo, are Keith Strang; Jeff Den Otter; Mike Strang; and Geoff Strang, of Strang Farms, shown in front of a constructed wetland at Geoff Strang's property. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) named Keith, Mike, and Geoff Strang as Conservationist of the Year Award winners in 2021. The agricultural producers from this family farm at RR 3 Exeter build soil health and prevent soil erosion by using cover crops, crop rotation, vegetative cover as well as innovative conservation tillage, variable seeding, and fertilizing. They also share their experiences with peers and have restored a wetland and established watercourse buffers.

Featured projects and highlights from 2021 in Ausable Bayfield Conservation watersheds

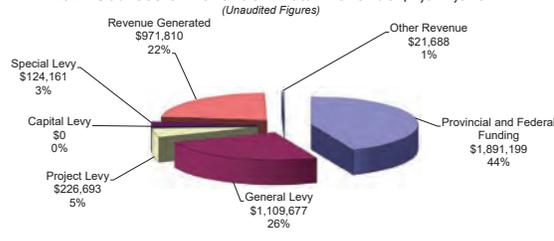
Welcome to *At a Glance (2021)*, which briefly showcases some highlights and featured projects from 2021 in Ausable Bayfield Conservation watersheds.

Visit <https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports> for the complete report.

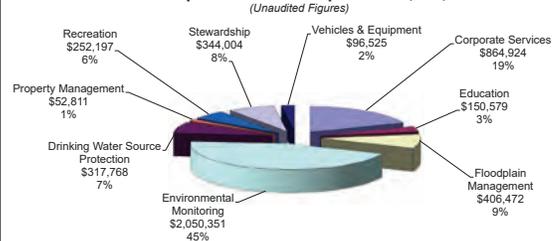
The full online report includes:

- Letter from the ABCA Chair
- Letter from the ABCA General Manager
- Feature articles on conservation in our 12 member municipalities.
- Highlights from ABCA 75th anniversary (1946-2021).
- Departmental reports for Corporate Services; Conservation Education; Water Management; Drinking Water Source Protection; Healthy Watersheds; Conservation Land Management; and Watershed Stewardship.
- Annual Reports for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy.
- ... and much more!

2021 Sources of Revenue – Total Revenue \$4,341,879



2021 Expenses – Total Expenses \$4,535,630



For the 2021 Financial Summary, go to Page 4 of the full *Annual Report* online at: <https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Nature areas provide outdoor learning classrooms

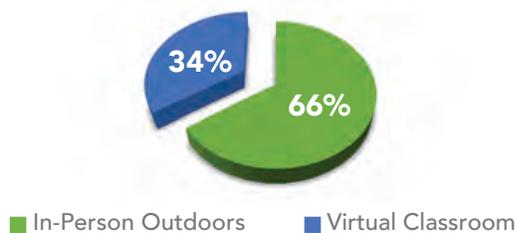
In 2021, conservation educators from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) delivered programs both in-person and virtually and adapted with flexibility to the challenges of an ongoing pandemic (COVID-19).

When conservation educators were not able to meet certain classes in the school they were able to turn nearby natural areas into classrooms.

Read Page 7 of the **Annual Report** for the full education report:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

2021 School Program Delivery –
Outdoors vs. Virtual



Student Participation in Autumn Programs



Flood Warning issued for whole watershed September 21-22 flood results in road closures

The most significant flood event of 2021 occurred September 21-22.

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) staff issued an unprecedented watershed-wide Flood Warning on September 22.

For the full Flood Forecasting report, go to Page 11 of the **Annual Report**:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

By the numbers – Planning 2021

Minor Variances	28
Severances	40
Official Plan Amendments	3
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	30
Lawyer Inquiries	72

Water Management

2021:

- 219 applications for permission
 - 123 minor works permits
 - 15 drain reports reviewed
 - 33 drain maintenance reviews
- (Standard compliance requirements)

Shoreline messages added to flood program

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) staff presented, in 2021, on high lake level impacts and criteria for high-wind shoreline messages at the annual Flood Emergency Planning Meeting.

Read pages 8-16 of the **Annual Report** online for the full Water Management report:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Drinking Water Source Protection

Video series has 19,000 views

Members of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee (SPC) reached out to the public through seven videos with more than 19,000 views.

To learn about this project, and about proposed amendments to source protection plans, read Page 16 of the **Annual Report** online for the full Drinking Water Source Protection report:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>



Fourth Progress Report

The annual report documented source protection plan implementation:

Policy Implementation	97%
Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw	69%
Amendments incl. Source Protection	99%
Septic Inspections in Vulnerable Areas	99%
Risk Management Plans	88
Drinking Water Protection Signs	88

Watershed producers have 'got it covered'

New cover crop signs, saying 'We've Got it Covered' are in place at the farms of several participating landowners in Bayfield and Lake Huron tributary watersheds.

For the full Healthy Watersheds report, read pp. 29-35 of the **Annual Report**:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Healthy Watersheds



NEW SIGNS RECOGNIZE COVER CROP PLANTING BENEFITS – Margaret Kroes, who farms with her husband, Jack, near Clinton, Ontario, is one of the local agricultural producers planting cover crops. Here, Margaret stands beside a new 'We've Got it Covered!' sign.

Green Infrastructure

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Healthy Watersheds staff worked with the Township of Biddulph to reduce sediment and nutrients entering the Little Ausable subwatershed.

For the complete Healthy Watersheds report, read pages 29-35 of the **Annual Report**:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Table 1: 2021 ABCA Water Quality and Bio-monitoring Stations

Type of station	# of stations
Dry weather – water quality	37
Wet weather – water quality	14
Best Management Practices Verification	10
Citizen Science	6
Fish	23
Reptiles (turtles)	5
Benthic macroinvertebrates	20

The number of stations reflects the funding commitments from year to year and there may be overlap between types. This does not include dissolved oxygen, temperature sites or vegetation plots.



Conservation area use increased during pandemic

An invasive species management program, addressing invasives such as Phragmites, continued in 2021.

For the Conservation Land Management report go to page 36 of the 2021 **ABCA Annual Report**:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>



A Fishing Tackle Recycler receptacle was donated by Blue Fish Canada and installed at Morrison Dam Conservation Area, in 2021, by Matt Fryer, of Lucan.

Stewardship Projects and Grants by Municipality

Municipality	Projects	Grants
Bluewater	30	\$49,139
Central Huron	12	\$32,627
Huron East	18	\$19,998
Lambton Shores	8	\$25,435
Lucan Biddulph	7	\$14,248
Middlesex Centre	6	\$23,671
North Middlesex	29	\$70,598
South Huron	25	\$47,498
West Perth	2	\$1,250
TOTALS	137	\$284,464

NOTES: Totals do not include funding from programs delivered by Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) that did not receive assistance from Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff members.

Landowners reach new heights with cover crop enrolment

Landowners in Ausable Bayfield watersheds enrolled almost 5,000 acres of cover crops into 2021 cover crop incentive programs.

For the full Watershed Stewardship reports read pp. 37-41 of the **Annual Report**: <https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Cover Crop enrolment in the Ausable Bayfield watershed from 2016-2017 until 2021-2022

Cover Crop Over-Winter Season	Acres of Cover Crops
2016-2017	2,768
2017-2018	2,864
2018-2019	2,824
2019-2020	2,929
2020-2021	3,919
2021-2022	4,982

Klondyke Commemorative Woods opened

The year 2021 saw the opening of the new Klondyke Commemorative Woods at the Klondyke Sports Park in Grand Bend.

For the full Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation (ABCF) report, read Page 42 of the **Annual Report**:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>



Winters family members at the arbour at the entrance to Klondyke Commemorative Woods. The arbour and mounted *Winters Walk* sign are in memory of the inspiration for this project, Hank Winters, a founder of Lakeshore Eco-Network. The Eco-Network erected the Arbour thanks to a Community Vibrancy Grant. The Arbour houses plaques for the founding donors of the Klondyke Commemorative Woods in Grand Bend.

Land trust permanently protects important nature areas

Thanks to generous public donations of land and money over the past decade, the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC) protects the following important areas of nature preservation:

Heaman Tract (2019); Woodburne Farm (2018); Bayfield River Flats (2017); and Mayhew Tract (2015).

In the coming year, the land trust looks forward to its second decade of land preservation in this historic part of Ontario.

For the full Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy report, go to Page 44 of the **Annual Report**:

<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Huron Tract
Land Trust
Conservancy

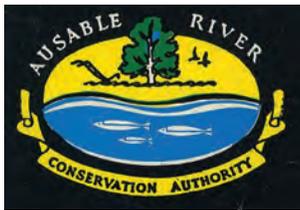
Ensuring a land legacy



The year 2021 was an exciting one for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) as we celebrated the organization's 75th anniversary (1946-2021) and 75 Years of Conservation in partnership with the community.



Above is the anniversary wordmark created and shared for our 75th anniversary year in 2021. Below are the different logos, over the years, of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.



At bottom left is a the 2021 **Annual Report** cover with photos from over the years. At bottom right is a map of the watershed. To learn more, read the full 2021 report: <https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

The cover of the 2021 Annual Report features the ABCA 75th Anniversary logo at the top. Below it is a grid of 45 small photographs arranged in 5 rows and 9 columns, representing different years from 1946-1950 to 2021-2026. At the bottom left is a photo of a child making a heart shape with their hands. To the right of the photo is the text: "... and we look forward to the next 75 years of protecting life and property, water, soil, and habitat for the next generations!"

