

2022: The Year at a Glance

Annual Report Highlights

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AUSABLE BAYFIELD
CONSERVATION

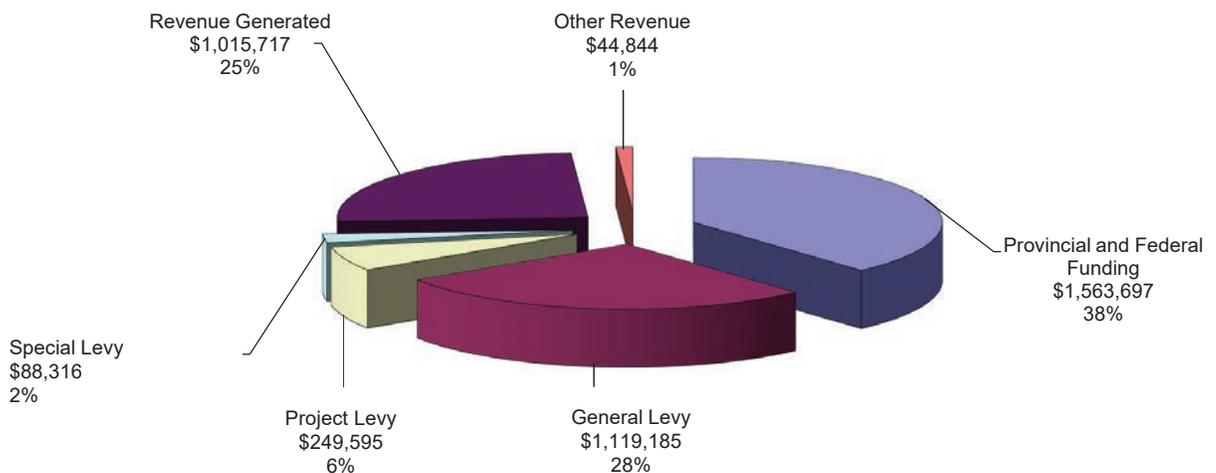
CREATING AWARENESS | TAKING ACTION



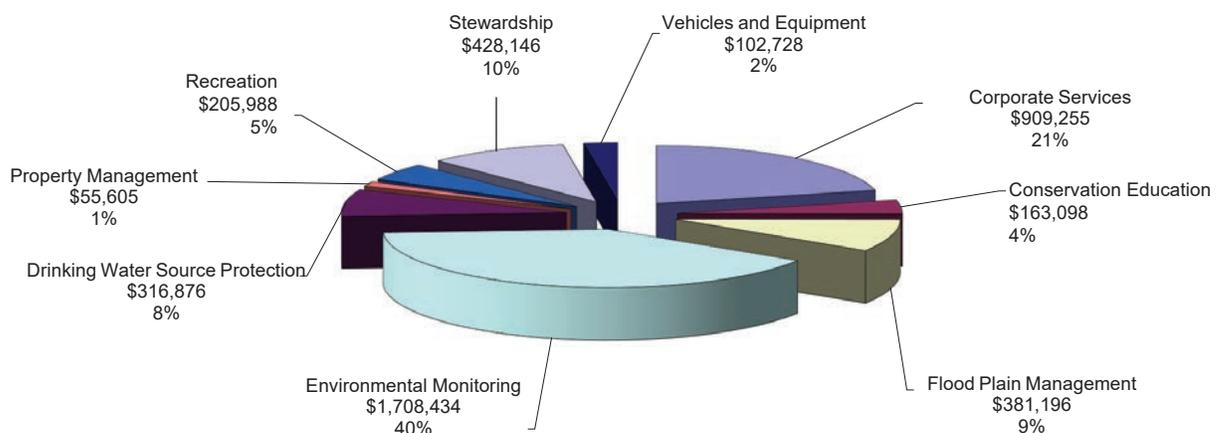
Conservationists of the Year – Denys Farms Inc. – Jim, Dan and Mike Denys

Presenting the Conservationist of the Year Award, for 2022, on behalf of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), are (from left to right) Adrian Cornelissen (ABCA director), Municipality of North Middlesex, and Nathan Schoelier, ABCA Stewardship Manager. Accepting the award, at the farm north of Parkhill, are: Dan, Mike, and Jim Denys.

2022 Sources of Revenue – Total Revenue \$4,081,353 (Unaudited Figures)



2022 Department Expenses – Total Expenses 4,271,325 (Unaudited Figures)



Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority continues to be a leader, across Ontario, in leveraging local levy dollars to garner additional funding for greater public benefit. Read more on Page 4 of the full Annual Report: <https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Conservation educators plant seeds of knowledge

Conservation educators with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) connected with 11,000 people in 2022.

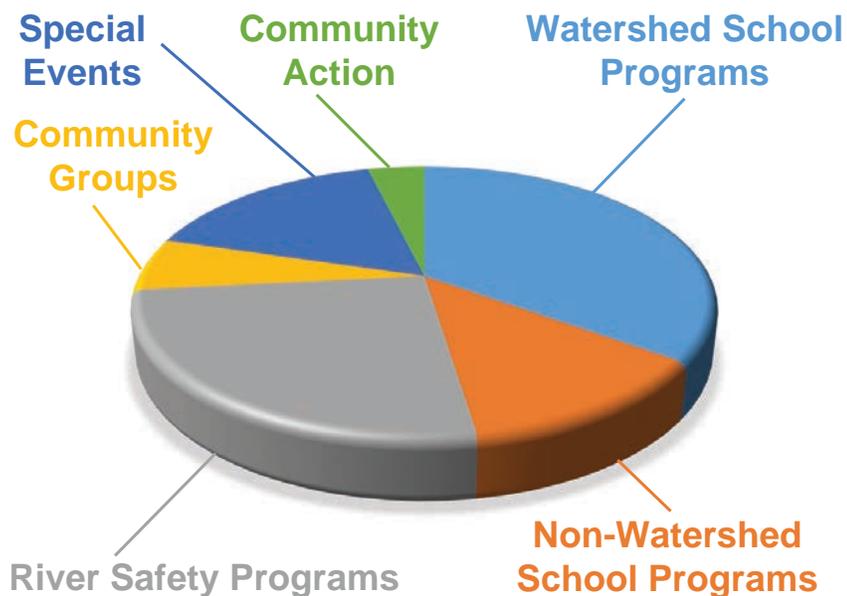
- Twenty-one of twenty-nine watershed schools, with 3,800 students, took part in a field trip, virtual program or schoolyard program.
- 2,800 students took part in learning about how to make good decisions around water so that they will stay safe.

Read pages 6-7 of the Annual Report for the full education report:

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



Conservation Education Programs 2022



Working to keep residents safe

On a daily basis Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) monitors its rain gauge network and watershed conditions in order to provide early warning for flood events.

As part of emergency preparedness, ABCA also held a meeting for its municipal and other partners which was attended by more than 30 participants.

In order to further help protect against the effects of natural hazards such as flooding and erosion ABCA staff reviewed more than 325 proposals for work in a flood plain or an erosion-prone area.

For the Flood Forecasting and Warning report, read Annual Report pp. 11-12: <https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

2022:

- 128 Level 1 or 2 Permits issued
- 95 Minor Works Permits issued
- 10 drain reports reviewed
- 33 drain maintenance reviews
(Standard compliance requirements)

By the numbers – Planning 2022

Minor Variances	21
Severances	30
Official Plan Amendments	4
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	21
Lawyer Inquiries	49

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority is upgrading electrical equipment at Parkhill Dam.

Water Management

Water Response Team issues Level 1 Low Water Advisory in response to dry spring, summer

Dry conditions were reported during the spring and summer months of 2022, resulting in a Level 1 Low Water Advisory being issued in July, for the entire Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) watershed area, and remained in place through October.

Read pages 8-15 of the Annual Report for the full Water Management report: <https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Drinking Water Source Protection

Proposed updates to source protection plans

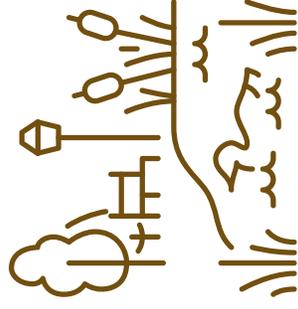
Allan Rothwell, source protection committee municipal representative (shown in photo), presents in a video about proposed changes, to source protection plans, including new policies for storage of fuel, snow and salt.

To learn about proposed amendments to source protection plans, read Page 16 of the Annual Report online for the full source protection report:

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



3,784 native plants
planted



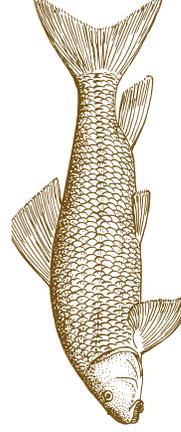
Exceeded goal of 100
wetlands enhanced



1,874 people
engaged during
in-person events

50+ km

of drains assessed



4,814 fish inventoried



291 of 1,253 mussels
surveyed were
Species at Risk



For the full Healthy Watersheds report, read pages 17-23 of the **Annual Report**:
<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>



Conservation Areas

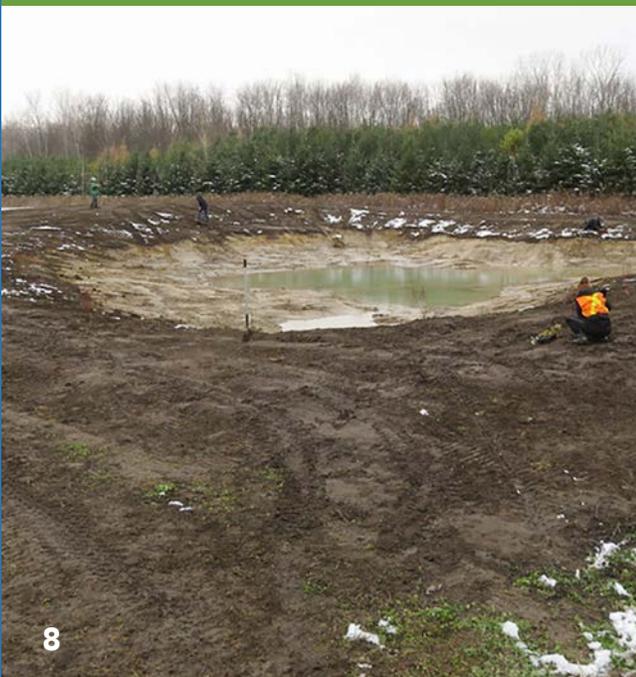
- Maintained nine conservation areas, across the watershed. These areas have significant environmental and recreational benefits.
- Worked with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) conservation educators to host conservation education events at three conservation areas.

Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA)

- 34,500 people attended RGCA.
- 49 annual passes purchased for RGCA.
- 166 school groups and other events.

Conservation Land Restoration

- Restored 15 acres of marginal agricultural lands at Triebner Tract, adjacent to Hay Swamp Provincially Significant Wetland complex, by:
 - Planting 8,000 trees.
 - Creating four wetlands.
- Completed 60 acres of forest management to improve conditions for forest regeneration.
- Worked with Healthy Watersheds department to complete mussel surveys at Sadler Tract.
- Managed more than 30 acres of invasive Phragmites in Port Franks, in collaboration with the Municipality of Lambton Shores, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group.



Engaging the Community

- Worked with Lambton Shores Nature Trails to maintain hiking trails at Ausable River Cut Conservation Area, Mystery Falls Management Area, and L-Lake Management Area.
- Worked with Friends of South Huron Trail to maintain and fundraise for the trail.
- Worked with students from EcoExeter to plant more than 500 native plants at Triebner Tract.



Tree Planting Program

- 223 landowners participated in ABCA's tree planting program to plant 56,760 trees
- Tree planting efforts established treed windbreaks, riparian buffers and reforested marginal lands across the watershed
- The largest reforestation site was 13 acres!



Cover Crops

- Worked with 45 landowners, across the watershed, to support more than 4,000 acres of over-wintered cover crops.

Erosion Control

- Worked with landowners to install 10 Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCoBs) to mitigate erosion in agricultural fields.

Phragmites Management

- Worked with 12 landowners and land managers to control invasive Phragmites in road allowances, meadows, and adjacent to wetlands.



Stewardship Projects

- Stewardship projects, including tree planting, wetland restoration, erosion control and over-wintered cover crops help to improve watershed health.
- Worked with landowners to implement 137 projects in 2022.
- ABCA works with several funding partners to support stewardship.
- \$487,739 in grant funds supported stewardship. The total reported value of stewardship projects was \$836,660.
- Environmental monitoring by the Healthy Watersheds department helped to determine effective stewardship approaches and qualified areas of the watershed for additional funding.

Stewardship Projects and Grants by Municipality		
Municipality	Projects	Grants
Adelaide Metcalfe	1	\$1,480
Bluewater	32	\$126,286
Central Huron	10	\$22,575
Huron East	24	\$74,408
Lambton Shores	6	\$41,168
Lucan Biddulph	8	\$35,206
Middlesex Centre	3	\$10,425
North Middlesex	22	\$110,357
South Huron	26	\$63,951
West Perth	5	\$1,883
TOTALS	137	\$487,739
Total Project Value: \$836,660		



AUSABLE BAYFIELD
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS | SUPPORTING ACTION

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation (ABCF) continues to support needed conservation projects thanks to the generous support of donors. For the full report, read Pages 30-31 of the Annual Report online: <https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>

Foundation supports community

In 2022, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation donated:

- \$5,000 for developing wetlands, hiking trails and bird watching opportunities at Triebner Tract, a 100-acre property west of Airport Line and south of McDonald Road.
- \$2,000 each to the following programs: subsidizing spaces for students to take part in conservation education; and community programs for non-profit groups.
- \$1,000 each to each of these programs: Old Ausable Channel for community engagement and biomonitoring; Port Franks Species-At-Risk Turtle Monitoring program; and Species-At-Risk monitoring within the Ausable Bayfield watersheds.

The Conservation Foundation also provided a \$1,000 Student Environmental Award bursary for a post-secondary student. ABCF also donated to the Junior Conservationist job experience program for a secondary school student entering post-secondary education in a conservation-related field. (That's our 2022 Junior Conservationist, Jada Burt, on the cover of this document!)

Land trust in second decade preserving natural areas with donor support

Thanks to generous donors, the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC) preserves important natural areas including Mayhew Tract (2015); Bayfield River Flats (2017); Woodburne Farm (2018); and Heaman Tract (2019). Coming soon is the Warner Wildlife and Nature Preserve in Grand Bend, to be donated by Peter Warner and his late wife Esther.

Huron Tract
Land Trust
Conservancy



Ensuring a land legacy

This aerial photo shows the Grand Bend property to be donated by Peter Warner and his late wife Esther, for purposes of conservation and education. Peter recently planted more than 7,000 native trees including 16 different species at the site to restore the property to natural forest conditions. This photo was taken in early May, 2022, immediately following the tree planting, and the rows of trees can be seen etched into the bare ground of the open fields.

Find the full HTLTC report read page 32 of the Annual Report online:
<https://www.abca.ca/about/annualreports>



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AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION

CREATING AWARENESS | TAKING ACTION

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