

# Conservation Update



July, 2010

## RBC Donates to Water Trail

RBC, through the Blue Water Project, donated \$5,000 to expand the work being done on the Strathroy Water Trail. The funds will be used to improve the access points along the trail and to provide interpretive signs. This is a joint project between the Conservation Authority and the Township of Strathroy-Caradoc.



*Justin Pasichnyk, Branch Manager for the Strathroy RBC presents Strathroy-Caradoc Mayor Mel Veale and Kevan Baker, Director of Conservation Areas with a \$5,000 cheque.*

## Shoreline Open Houses Held

About 100 people attended two open houses in July to review the work undertaken to update the Lake Huron Shoreline Management Plan.

In 2005, a portion of Lambton Shores (southwest Bosanquet) was added to the area under jurisdiction of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. The Lambton Shores' shoreline consists of bluffs, coastal provincially significant wetlands and dynamic beach (Ipperwash Beach) and as such is regulated by the Authority under its "Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses" Regulation. An update to the Authority's Shoreline Management Plan is needed so that this stretch of shoreline can properly implement planning and regulation policies similar to what has been done for the remainder of the Lake Huron shoreline. Part of the plan update will also include housekeeping changes to the existing plan to ensure consistency between provincial and local documents.

## Conservation Scholarships Awarded

The Conservation Scholarship program rewards graduating high school students continuing their post secondary studies in a conservation related field based on their academic achievement and their demonstrated interest and involvement with the environment. In total, \$3,000 was awarded across the St. Clair region this year.

Allanah Vokes from Lambton Central Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Caitlyn Weir from Strathroy District Collegiate Institute were selected as the recipients of the 2010 A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarships and each received \$1,000.

Stipe Vicente Jelovcic from St. Patrick's High School won the \$500 Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship.

Allison Taziar from Lambton Kent Composite School won the \$500 Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship.

The scholarships are made possible through trust funds established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and its donors.



*Andy Bruziewicz, Chair of the SCRCA, presents the A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship to Allanah Vokes.*



*Lyn Goddard, Vice-President of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation presents the A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship to Caitlyn Weir.*



*Andy Bruziewicz, Chair of the SCRCA, presents the Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship to Stipe Vicente Jelovcic.*



*Steve Arnold, Vice-Chair of the SCRCA, presents the Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship to Allison Taziar.*

## Federal and Provincial Grants Awarded to Conservation Authority

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has been awarded two grants to continue its work in protecting Species at Risk. These grants provide an important source of funds for landowners in the region to undertake conservation projects on their land. The projects through these programs are specifically targeted at improving water quality to protect aquatic species at risk.

- \$120,000 has been granted to the Conservation Authority to continue its work on aquatic species at risk in the Sydenham River watershed. The grant from the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk will be used to subsidize stewardship projects for local landowners such as fencing cattle from watercourses, tree planting and stream buffers. The grant will also be used to provide information to the public about Species at Risk in the Sydenham River watershed.
- \$50,000 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Fund will be used to subsidize similar stewardship projects for local landowners.

## West Nile Control Project

Lambton County Community Health Services contracted the Conservation Authority to undertake the Lambton County Larvicide Program as part of its overall West Nile Virus Control Program. Round one of the treatment was completed on July 16 with 14,800 catch basins treated with a pelletized larvicide called methoprene. The treatment is designed to prevent mosquito larvae from becoming adult biting flies and reduce the risk of spreading West Nile Virus throughout the community. Round two will begin in early August.

## Protecting Drains

Authority staff will be working with municipal drainage superintendents on the maintenance of 50 kilometres of drains later this year in the municipality of Southwest Middlesex and Township of St. Clair. The herbicide applications assist in controlling Phragmites and woody vegetation, decreasing the frequency of drain clean-outs and the sedimentation that results.

## Students Gain Experience Working in Conservation

Thirty-four young people are working this summer, gaining experience by working in Conservation Areas, tree planting, maintaining stream gauge buildings, sampling water courses, developing computer-based maps and much more. This is a great opportunity for the students to work alongside regular staff, developing job skills and learning about the environment. Grants from the Summer Experience Program, Summer Job Service and Career Focus have provided funding to support many of these positions.



## St. Clair Region Source Protection Area Proposed Assessment Report Submitted to Province

In late June, the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area Proposed Assessment Report was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment. This was a significant milestone. The Assessment Report is a technical document which describes the local watershed, assesses available water supply, maps vulnerable areas and determines if there are threats in these vulnerable areas that are risks to our drinking water. Once the Assessment Report is accepted, work will commence on the Source Protection Plan which will develop policies to protect the municipal sources of drinking water in the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area.

### Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2010, 1:00 p.m.  
Administration Office

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