

May, 2011

Guthrie Waterfront Shore Protection Opening

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Township of St. Clair will be opening the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Project on Thursday, June 16 at 11:30 am in Corunna Ontario.

The Guthrie Park Shore Protection Project started in 2008 and has involved 700 metres of new shore protection. The new armour stone and sloped rip rap replaces a failing steel sheet pile wall. A unique feature of the shore protection is the creation of shoreline habitat pods to address one of the Beneficial Use Impairments identified in the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan.

This project was coordinated by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and is funded through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources - Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Grant; Environment Canada - Great Lakes Sustainability Fund; Ontario Ministry of Environment - Canada-Ontario Agreement; Industry Canada/FedDev Ontario - Community Adjustment Fund; and the Township of St. Clair. Approximately \$2.5 million have been invested to improve this shoreline.

Tree Planting Along Highway 402

Last December, a major snow storm stranded more than 300 people along Highway 402. This has helped move forward plans to create tree windbreaks along this corridor. The Ministry of Transportation and Trees Ontario partnered last fall with a plan to green a corridor from Cornwall to Windsor along 400 series highways. The December snow storm shifted MTO's focus to Highway 402. This spring, the Conservation Authority planted 5,300 trees along Highway 402 from Strathroy to Sarnia as part of this initiative. This project addresses one of the goals in the newly released report from Lambton County on the impacts of the December storm.

Also this spring about 60,000 trees will be planted through the Conservation Authority tree planting program. To find out more about SCRCA tree planting programs and grants available for landowners please contact Steve Shaw or Tim Payne at 519 245-3710.

Plan a Green Meeting **carbonconscious**

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation has launched a new program to help businesses and organizations reduce their carbon footprint for their events. Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere can be reduced by actually reducing our emissions and by trapping carbon in natural "carbon sinks" such as forests and wetlands. Trees, shrubs and other plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air and use it as their energy source, producing oxygen for us to breathe. Carbon is stored in the organic layers of forest floors and wetlands. The most important solution to global warming is to reduce our CO² emissions. Once you have reduced your emissions as much as possible, you can go further. Help offset your emissions caused by the your event by supporting green projects such as tree planting.

The first step in reducing your carbon footprint is to calculate your carbon dioxide emissions from activities related to your event. Event organizers can contact us to get an estimate of the total amount of Greenhouse Gases produced and the number of trees needed to offset your event based on the number of participants and where they come from. The trees will be planted on lands within the St. Clair region. We will supply a **Carbon Conscious** logo to help promote your event.

Paddle Day on May 28

The second annual Paddle Day is being held as part of Trails Open and is run in partnership with local scouts and Canoe Water Adventuring. The event runs from 9:00 am - 1:00 p.m. at Centennial Park in Strathroy (near the skateboard park). People may bring their own canoe or kayak but a number of canoes and life jackets will be available to use.

From April through October each year, Trails Open Ontario promotes trail use and education, natural heritage conservation, stewardship, as well as physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Inspired by the successful Doors Open Ontario program, Trails

Open Ontario provides Ontarians with an opportunity to access and enjoy the trail systems that exist throughout our Province. For other trail events visit www.conservationontario.ca



Celebrating
50
Years
1961 - 2011

Spring Time Events

Reel Film Festival: April 15 - Over 120 people attended the Reel Film Festival on April 15 hosted by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Canoe Water Adventuring. Several award winning films on canoe and kayak adventure around the world featuring wildlife encounters, personal adventure and stunning scenery were screened. Thanks to all those who attended, we were able to raise \$900 which is going toward helping species at risk in the Sydenham River Watershed.



Sydenham River Canoe Race: April 17 - Sixty-seven canoes and kayaks braved the cold on April 17 to participate in the 38th Annual Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race. Over \$4,000 was raised for Conservation Education.



Strathroy Tree Planting Day: May 11 - Students from five Strathroy schools participated in the 15th annual Strathroy Tree Planting Day. About 200 students and 20 volunteers planted 70 trees around the sports fields at the Gemini Sports Complex. Volunteers from the municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, Libro Credit Union, Fanshawe College and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority helped the students plant the trees and led them in a variety of environmental games. Langs Bus Lines donated buses to help transport students to and from the parks. The Strathroy Lion's Club looked after lunch. The trees were supplied by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation through the Denning Memorial Forest Program.



Follow us on Facebook

The Conservation Authority has launched its new Facebook Page. Followers can be kept up to date about the latest happenings. Photos from our events are posted regularly. You can check out our facebook page by clicking on the Facebook icon on the main page of our website or by searching Facebook for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.



Campgrounds Full for the Long Weekend

The first big weekend of the summer featured sunny skies - at last. The campgrounds were full and visitors to the Conservation Area enjoyed a great long weekend.



Denning Memorial Forest Dedication

The dedication of 120 trees for the Denning Bros. Memorial Forest Program will be held on Sunday, May 29 at 2:00 p.m. at Centennial Park, Strathroy.

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

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member of

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2011
1:30 p.m.
St. Clair Township Office

