

Conservation Update



April, 2010

St. Clair Region Drinking Water Source Protection Assessment Report Posted.

The draft proposed Assessment Report for the St. Clair Region Source Protection Area has been posted at www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca for comment.

The St. Clair Region Source Protection Area Draft Proposed Assessment Report includes:

- the identification of vulnerable areas associated with municipal drinking water sources,
- the types of activities which would be considered threats in those vulnerable areas,
- any water quality issues associated with the raw (untreated) water to municipal drinking water systems which could be addressed through source protection planning,
- a water budget which assesses areas where the quantity of water available for the municipal drinking water source may be stressed, and
- general background material which might be useful in developing a Source Protection Plan.

Three open houses have been held in Sarnia and Wallaceburg. These open houses were locally focused and provided information on the vulnerability and threats assessment of proposed Intake Protection Zones for the Lambton Area Water Supply System, Petrolia Water Treatment Plant and Wallaceburg Water Treatment Plant. Almost 4,400 individual invitations were mailed to those living within the Intake Protection Zones. Approximately 110 people attended the open houses. Information collected from these open houses was considered by the Committee during the preparation of the Draft Proposed Assessment Report. Three more open houses are planned for April to allow another opportunity for the public to make comment on the report.

Maple Syrup Festival

Over 2,000 people visited the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area to experience the sights, sounds and smells of one of the oldest industries in Canada. The 38th Annual Maple Syrup Festival was held on March 20 - 21. Visitors were able to witness the First Nations method of boiling maple syrup by placing hot stones into the cold sap. Early and late pioneer methods of making syrup and demonstrations of modern syrup production were also highlighted. The Alvinston Firemen's Association provided the traditional pancake and sausage meals at the Alvinston Community Centre.



2,000 people visited the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area during the 38th annual Maple Syrup Festival held March 20 - 21.

76,000 Trees and Shrubs to be Planted

The spring tree planting season will begin in mid-April. There are orders for 76,000 tree seedlings. About 8,000 of these will be planted by the landowners and the remaining 68,000 by Authority crews. In addition to the seedling program staff will continue to work on the Twin Creeks Landfill site in Watford to establish a "green" screening berm. Last fall more than 850 large stock coniferous trees were planted and this spring another 450 large coniferous and deciduous trees are planned for the site.

Municipalities interested in ordering trees for this fall should call Tim Payne at 519 245-3710 ext. 24.

Conservation Scholarships Available

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is offering scholarships for graduating high school students who are continuing in post secondary studies in a conservation field (biology, ecology, geography, forestry, fish and wildlife etc.). Applicants must be from one of the schools within the jurisdiction of the SCRCA. There are up to three \$1,000 awards and one \$500 award available for successful candidates. These scholarships are provided by trust funds established through the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation. Applications can be found at www.scrca.on.ca under downloads or from the guidance departments at local secondary schools. Deadline for applications is May 31, 2010.

Campgrounds Open April 30

Staff are busy preparing the campgrounds for the April 30 opening. The Authority operates three regional campgrounds: Lorne C. Henderson C.A., Enniskillen Township; Warwick C.A., Warwick Township; and the A.W. Campbell C.A. in Brooke-Alvinston and Southwest Middlesex Townships. In total, there are 500 serviced campsites. We expect to attract about 380 seasonal campers with the rest of the sites available for overnight camping. Overnight campsites are booking up quickly so you may wish to make your reservation soon. The campgrounds offer sites serviced with hydro and water, swimming pools, playgrounds and nature trails.

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area 519 847-5357
L. C. Henderson Conservation Area 519 882-2280
Warwick Conservation Area 519 849-6770

Conservation Authority Receives Grants for Employment Programs

Job Creation Partnership

The SCRCA recently received approval for a contribution agreement worth \$163,000 with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities under the Job Creation Partnership program to provide employment training for 9 people for 34 to 50 weeks. The purpose of the Job Creation Partnership program is to provide individuals with opportunities through which they can gain work experience which leads to ongoing employment, while helping to develop the community and the local economy.

Career Focus

Two post secondary school graduates will be able to gain valuable work experience through this federal program. The SCRCA received \$14,500 to hire two technical positions for a period of 26 weeks.

Summer Experience Program

Two summer students will be working out of the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area under the Summer Experience Program assisting with a number of projects including maintenance of the Conservation Authority stream gauge network. The grant of \$5,400 will employ these students for 7 weeks.

Summer Job Service

Application has been made for wage subsidies for 14 summer positions including tree planters and campground staff.

More information on these positions is posted at www.scrca.on.ca

Canoe Race - April 18

The Sydenham River Canoe Race is fast approaching. Each year, about 70 canoes and kayaks compete in one of several classes. There are classes ranging from the 12-mile competitive races to the 5-mile recreation race. Funds raised from the canoe race go toward conservation education. Conservation Authority board members and municipal councilors are invited to join the VIP class for some friendly inter-municipal competition. To find out more, visit our website at www.scrca.on.ca or call Sharon at 519 882-2399.



Next Board Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2010
1:00 pm
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