

Conservation Update

June, 2009



Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Evergreen Foundation Community Tree Planting Grant Program

A \$3,500 grant was received by the Conservation Authority to help cover the costs of tree and shrub planting at Bridgeview Conservation Area and several properties in Strathroy-Caradoc. The grants, along with funds already supplied by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, are being used in community planting projects held this spring and for events planned for this fall.

Bridgeview Tree Planting Day: Forty members of the community including Boy Scouts, Young Naturalists, TD Bank employees and local residents joined Conservation Authority and the Town of Petrolia staff in planting trees and shrubs around the reservoir at Bridgeview Conservation Area on April 18.



Strathroy Community Clean-Up and Tree Planting Day: Students from five Strathroy schools scoured the parks in Strathroy, cleaning up garbage and planting trees and shrubs. About 200 volunteers took part in this annual event. Strathroy-Caradoc staff, several businesses and organizations participated in the project which was organized by the Conservation Authority and Fanshawe College. Langs Bus Lines donated a bus to help transport students to and from the parks. The Strathroy Lion's Club looked after refreshments.

SCRCA Awarded Grants for Species at Risk Projects

- \$144,000 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.
- \$40,000 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Fund will be used to subsidize similar stewardship projects for local landowners.
- \$8,250 awarded by the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Fund to undertake projects to enhance the habitat for reptiles including snakes and turtles in the Sydenham watershed. It is hoped these projects will help improve the populations of eastern foxsnake, Butler's garter snake and eastern spiny softshell turtle.

The St. Clair River RAP Video

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, in partnership with the Friends of the St. Clair River, will be producing a music RAP Video to promote the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). Developed by SCRCA educators, this music video was conceived as a unique way to develop public awareness of St. Clair River RAP which was developed by the Bi-national Public Advisory Council. The RAP video will be used as part of an education program offered by the Conservation Authority to local schools.

Memorial Forest Dedication

The Denning Bros. Funeral Home held their annual dedication in Strathroy on May 24. About 500 people attended the ceremony which commemorated the trees which were planted as part of the Conservation Foundation's Memorial Forest Program. Denning Bros. joined the program in 1997. Since that time 1,647 trees have been dedicated in the Strathroy-Caradoc community through donations received from the funeral home.

Sydenham River Canoe Race

The Sydenham River Canoe Race was a great success this year with 136 people in 73 canoes and kayaks participating. Thanks to generous participants and their sponsors, \$2,700 was raised for Outdoor Education. The race, which was held on April 19, included nine classes ranging from the very competitive 19 km expert class to the relaxing downstream 8 km recreation class. The fastest 19 km time was 1 hour 25 minutes by Dave Johnston and Keir Johnston.



Bill Bilton presents the trophy for most money raised for conservation education to Mike Schnare and Emery Huszka from the Township of Dawn Euphemia.

Conservation Areas Receive Face Lift

- Work is completed on a new workshop for the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area. Funds to construct the facility were donated by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation.
- In order to meet the growing demand for campsites, 19 sites were upgraded with hydro and water at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area
- Washrooms were renovated at the Warwick and A.W. Campbell Conservation Areas
- Conservation Areas provide 522 serviced campsites at 3 regional campgrounds

Highland Glen Boat Ramp Dredged

The entrance and the harbour to the Highland Glen Conservation Area Boat Ramp were dredged this spring to allow for safer access into the harbour. This area is heavily used by boaters as Highland Glen is the most southerly public access for boats directly into Lake Huron.

Innovative Design for Great Lake Shore Protection

Guthrie Park, St. Clair Township: This project involved the replacement of a failing steel sheet pile wall with a revetment comprised of stepped armour stone and sloped rip rap. The design of the wall includes stretches that incorporate enhanced fish and wildlife habitat. This project was funded through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, the provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program, Canada-Ontario Agreement through the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and St. Clair Township. Engineering was supplied by ShorePlan Engineering and construction was undertaken by Coores Construction Incorporated.

Mission Park, City of Sarnia: Mission Park is located near downtown Sarnia just south of Centennial Park. This project involved the replacement of broken concrete and asphalt with stepped armour stone and sloped rip rap. The design of the wall includes stretches that incorporate enhanced fish and wildlife habitat. Funding for this project was provided by the City of Sarnia with support from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation and Canada-Ontario Agreement through Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Engineering was supplied by ShorePlan Engineering and construction was undertaken by Goodfellow Construction Limited.



This innovative construction design provides for effective shore protection. Incorporated into the design is a planting pod which enhances shoreline habitat for fish and wildlife.

Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

**Thursday, June 11, 2009, 12:30 pm
Gateway Room, Sarnia**

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