

# Conservation Update

March, 2008



## Conservation Foundation Holds Annual Meeting

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation held their annual meeting on Wednesday, March 6. Duncan Skinner was elected President and Norm Giffen, Vice President. Last year \$84,348 was donated to the Authority through a direct donation and through items and services purchased through bingo funds. In 2008, the Foundation has committed to:

- donate up to \$57,000 for the construction of a visitor's centre at the Warwick Conservation Area
- donate \$10,000 toward the construction of a workshop/cold storage facility at the Clark Wright Conservation Area (the cold storage is used to store trees between the time they are delivered and are planted).
- donate \$14,275 to support species at risk projects
- continue to work with corporations to raise \$59,000 to support the Conservation Authority's conservation education program.



A pack of Brownies learn about aquatic insects and water quality during the River Bottom Critters program sponsored by the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association.

## Authority Expands Species at Risk Program

Through funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is implementing a program to address woodland species at risk including the Kentucky coffee tree, American chestnut, blue ash, butternut, Shumard oak and dwarf hackberry. Specifically, the project involves:

- inventory of woody species at risk on Conservation Authority owned properties
- development of a species at risk education program focusing on woody species
- creation of a website
- development of a presentation that can be given to groups throughout the region



For a brochure on woody species at risk in the St. Clair region, visit our website at [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca) or call Donald Craig at 245-3710, ext. 17

## 60,000 Trees to be Planted

The spring tree planting season will begin in mid-April. There are orders for 60,000 tree seedlings. About 6,000 of these will be planted by the landowners and the remaining 54,000 by Authority crews. The largest project this year is through a contract with Union Gas to plant 350 large stock evergreen and deciduous trees and 9,000 seedlings as part of their tree replacement program.

Our tree stock is now sold out for this spring. For more information on fall 2008 large stock tree planting and 2009 seedling and large stock tree planting, contact Steve Shaw, Conservation Services Specialist or Tim Payne, Forest Management Technician at 519 245-3710.

## 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 two \$1,000 awards and up to three \$200 awards 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](http://www.scrca.on.ca) under downloads or from the guidance departments at local secondary schools. Deadline for applications is May 30, 2008.

## Drinking Water Source Protection

Water is critical to all aspects of our lives and it is important that we ensure there is a safe and reliable source of water for all our uses - now and in the future. Our municipal drinking water comes from lakes, rivers, streams or underground sources (aquifers) located across the province. In this area, the Upper Thames River, Lower Thames Valley and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities have partnered together to coordinate the development of Source Protection Plans for our watersheds. We are committed to work with our municipalities, other stakeholders and the public to develop Source Protection Plans that serve to protect our drinking water while taking into account the other needs of our communities.

**Stewardship Fund:** As part of its commitment to safe drinking water and in conjunction with the Clean Water Act, the Ministry of the Environment has established the Drinking Water Stewardship Fund, a drinking water support program to help landowners take action to reduce threats to local municipal drinking water sources. Across the region, open houses were held in February and March for all of the surface water intake zones and many of the wellhead protection areas. In the St. Clair region, open houses were held in Point Edward, for the Lambton and Area Water Supply System intake; Bright's Grove for the Petrolia intake and Wallaceburg for its intake.

## Campgrounds Open April 25

Staff are busy preparing the campgrounds for the April 25 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 476 serviced campsites. We expect to attract about 350 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**

## Employment Ontario Approves Job Creation Partnership Program

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority recently received approval for a contribution agreement for \$256,000 with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities under the Job Creation Partnership initiative to provide employment training for 12 people for 34 to 51 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. More information on position descriptions will be posted soon at [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca).

## Canoe Race - April 20

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](http://www.scrca.on.ca) or call Sharon at 519 882-2399.



**Next Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 17, 2008**

**1:00 pm.**

**Administration Office**

**St Clair Region**  
**Conservation Authority**

205 Mill Pond Cr.

Strathroy, ON, N7G 3P9

(519)245-3710, (519)245-3348 FAX

E-Mail: [stclair@scrca.on.ca](mailto:stclair@scrca.on.ca)

Website: [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca)