

Conservation Update



March, 2009

Dresden Open House

An Open House was held in Dresden on March 26. About 40 people attended to find out more information on floodplain regulations. Dresden has a wide floodplain and includes part of its downtown and several residences and businesses. The purpose of the open house was to provide landowners an opportunity to ask questions about floodplain regulations and how they impact future development on their properties.

Maple Syrup Festival

Over 1,800 people visited the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area to experience the sights, sounds and smells of one of the oldest industries in Canada. The 37th Annual Maple Syrup Festival was held on March 21 - 22. 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 Fireman's Association provided the traditional pancake and sausage meals at the Alvinston Community Centre.



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170,000 Trees and Shrubs to be Planted

The spring tree planting season will begin in mid-April. There are orders for 70,000 tree seedlings. About 10,000 of these will be planted by the landowners and the remaining 60,000 by Authority crews. In addition, 100,000 poplar trees will be planted for Waste Management of Canada in Warwick Township. Leachate from the landfill will be treated on site via a new treatment plant and the end product (water) will be sent to the poplar trees by drip irrigation. This will protect the treated leachate water from entering groundwater and nearby creeks. Another 80,000 trees are to be planted in 2010.

A number of community tree planting events are also scheduled. On April 18, the community is invited to help plant trees and shrubs at the Bridgeview Conservation Area. Details will be posted on our website. Schools will be pitching in to plant trees and shrubs at a number of parks throughout the community of Strathroy on April 21.

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 under downloads or from the guidance departments at local secondary schools. Deadline for applications is May 30, 2009.

Photo Contest

Conservation Ontario is holding a photo contest which runs from March 1, 2009 - January 31, 2010. The first prize is a \$1,000 SLR digital camera. To be considered in the contest, all submissions must be original, unpublished photographs taken of or in an Ontario Conservation Area and submitted by the amateur photographer who took the photo. Details for the contest can be found at www.ontarioconservationareas.ca

St. Clair Shoreline Projects Near Completion

Three projects along the St. Clair River (Mission Park, Sarnia, Guthrie Park and Mooretown Park, St. Clair Township) should be completed this spring. Application has been made for phase two of the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Project.



Following the placement of stone at Guthrie Park, the old steel sheet pile is being removed. This approach was taken to minimize the disturbance to the sediment along the shore of the river.

Campgrounds Open May 1

Staff are busy preparing the campgrounds for the May 1 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 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 tentative approval for a contribution agreement for \$130,000 with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities under the Job Creation Partnership initiative to provide employment training for 7 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.

Canoe Race - April 19

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 16, 2009
1:00 pm.
Administration Office

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