

Conservation Update

May, 2006



Ontario Regulation 171/06

Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses Regulation

Effective in May 2006, Ontario Regulation 171/06 (under 97/04) – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses passed Provincial approval and is in effect. The main objective of this Regulation is to ensure public safety with regards to natural hazards through issuance of permits for works within or in proximity to lakes, rivers, streams or wetlands, as may be required.

Volunteers Clean Parks and Plant Trees

In two separate events, students from six Strathroy schools, clients from Middlesex Community Living and the Friends of the Sydenham scoured the parks in Strathroy, cleaning up garbage and planting trees and shrubs. About 250 volunteers took part in these annual events. Township staff, several businesses and organizations participated with the project which was organized by the Conservation Authority and Fanshawe College. Local businesses supplied funds to purchase trees and Langs Bus Lines donated a bus to help transport students to and from the parks. Cuddy Farms supplied tools and vehicles and the Strathroy Lion's Club looked after refreshments. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the schools by Strathroy-Caradoc Mayor Mel Veale. In a separate event, the Friends of the Sydenham planted 60 shrubs along the shore of the Strathroy Reservoir.



Students from Colborne Public School planted shrubs along the shore of the Strathroy Reservoir.

Sydenham River Canoe Race

The Sydenham River Canoe Race was a great success this year with 142 people in 79 canoes and kayaks participating. Luckily, the rain held off and \$2,100 was raised for Outdoor Education. The race, which was held on April 23, 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 Rene Boogemans and Stan Anusiewicz. Scott Gawley, Emery Huszka from Dawn-Euphemia Township not only won the award for most money raised, but also the 8 km VIP race.

Strathroy Home and Leisure Show

The Conservation Authority participated in the Strathroy Home and Leisure Show on April 29 to promote Conservation Areas. There were 68 exhibitors and approximately 500 people attended the event.

Authority Staff Receives Award

Kim Gledhill, Conservation Education Instructor received the President's Award from the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association. Ms Gledhill won the award based on her life long involvement in conservation including her role as an educator and her efforts to preserve and protect wildlife.



Kim Gledhill receives the President's Award from Rick Van Hemmen, President of the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association.

Hike at Dow Wetlands

Thirty people joined us for a hike on the Victoria Day Weekend at the Dow Wetlands. Visitors had an opportunity to witness a "wetland in progress." The Dow Wetland project began in 2002 and continues today. As the wetland develops, habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species is improving. The Dow Wetlands will soon become a must-stop by local nature enthusiasts.

Meeting with Christian Farmers

Members of the Source Water Protection (SWP) team met with a number of farmers at the April Meeting of the Middlesex Christian Farmers Association to discuss local initiatives around the proposed Clean Water Act. There was a lively discussion and excellent questions raised. The Conservation Authority made a commitment to ensure farmers were kept informed about the planning process and that farmers would have a voice through the SWP Committee to be formed should the legislation become law later in the year.

Conservation Areas Receive Face Lift

The parking lot at the Highland Glen Conservation Area was expanded by a 90' x 90' extension. This new parking area will help alleviate a chronic shortage of parking for vehicles and boat trailers using the boat ramp to gain access to Lake Huron.

A new well was put into service at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area, doubling the water supply to the campground. This was made necessary by increased demand for camping during peak periods.

Nine new seasonal campers have already made a home on new campsites constructed at the Warwick Conservation Area. Twenty-seven sites with water and hydro were constructed this spring to help create more spaces for a campground that frequently is filled to capacity.



Twenty-seven new campsites were constructed at the Warwick Conservation Area.

Sydenham River Species at Risk

Newsletter to 49,000 homes - The annual species at risk newsletter was distributed to 49,000 homes throughout the region in early April. The newsletter highlights the activities of the Recovery Team as they work to protect the 17 aquatic species currently at risk in the Sydenham River watershed. Copies of the newsletter can be found on the website at www.sydenhamriver.on.ca or by contacting the Conservation Authority.

Signs erected throughout region - Twelve signs, describing the species at risk in the Sydenham are being installed at key locations through the watershed.

Turtle nesting habitat created - Through funding from the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, a new nesting area for the eastern spiny softshell turtle was constructed this spring. A sand and gravel mix was spread over a 15 square metre section along the banks of the Sydenham River. The habitat was created in an area where there has been confirmed sightings of the turtle but a lack suitable areas for the turtles to nest. Conservation Authority staff and volunteers will be monitoring the site to determine the success of this project.



Nesting habitat for the eastern spiny softshell turtle was constructed along the banks of the Sydenham River.

Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 2006

1:00 pm.

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

Website: www.scrca.on.ca