

# Conservation Update

October, 2006



## Source Water Protection

Following a series of public hearings, the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Environment, has passed the Clean Water Act (Bill 43) to provide for a mechanism to ensure a safe and dependable supply of drinking water through municipal drinking water systems throughout the province. The act delivers on 12 of Justice O'Connor's recommendations resulting from the judicial inquiry into the Walkerton tainted water tragedy. It ensures communities are able to protect their municipal drinking water supplies through developing collaborative, locally driven, science-based protection plans.

Communities will identify potential risks to local water sources and take action to reduce or eliminate these risks. The act will better protect the quantity and quality of water in aquifers, rivers and lakes, including the Great Lakes. The legislation is rooted in the Walkerton Inquiry's recommendations that Ontario needs multiple barriers to protect drinking water starting with the sources.

The province announced an amendment to the Clean Water Act that would "enshrine the financial assistance program in the legislation." The financial assistance program would initially invest \$7 million to support farmers and small rural businesses for activities that reduce threats to drinking water.

This amendment provides \$5 million to support early action to protect land and water surrounding water wells (well head protection areas) and close to municipal water intakes (intake protection zones) and provide \$2 million to support local education and outreach related to source protection planning.

Conservation Authorities will be working with the province, local stakeholders and the public to facilitate the development of a local Source Water Protection Plan.

## Regulations Help Protect Landowners

A principal mandate of Conservation Authorities is to prevent the loss of life and property due to flooding and erosion, and to conserve and enhance natural resources. The Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses Regulation is a key tool in fulfilling this responsibility because it prevents or restricts development in areas where the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land may be affected by development. "This regulation is all about protecting people and protecting our environment," Patty Hayman, Director of Planning for the Conservation Authority said. "We are there to help - just give us a call if you plan on doing work in a regulated area".

Regulated areas include:

- ravines, valleys, steep slopes
- wetlands including swamps, marshes, bogs, fens and ponds
- any river, creek, floodplain or valley land
- lake shorelines



*Regulations along the shoreline helps to protect people from making unwise decisions regarding building in hazardous locations.*

## Point Edward Waterfront Work Near Completion

Work is nearly complete on the final phase of the Point Edward Waterfront Project. This 265-metre project continues the shore protection and public access for the Point Edward waterfront. In total, just over one kilometre of waterfront has been protected and made available for public use. This phase extended the waterfront protection from the Blue Water Bridge Authority property to the Point Edward Casino.

Public access to our waterfront and long term protection of the shoreline will pay big dividends to the residents of Point Edward and to the broader community. Many partners have made this project possible over the last decade including the Village of Point Edward, Blue Water Bridge Authority, Lambton Area Water Supply System, Province of Ontario, Ontario Lottery and Gaming and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Funding for this latest phase has been provided by the Village of Point Edward and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure funding.

The waterfront protection and public access projects began in 1995. The stepped and sloped armour stone provides natural and durable shore protection. The walking trail connects the Waterfront Park to the Casino and to a network of trails leading into the Village, the City of Sarnia and to Canatara Park.



*This project completes the shore protection which stretches from the Lambton Area Water Supply System to the Point Edward Charity Casino.*

## EcoAction Grant Received

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is very pleased to receive a grant from Environment Canada through the EcoAction Community Funding Program. The \$5,050 grant will be used to enhance the shoreline of the Strathroy Reservoir with additional shrub and tree planting along the shore and planting of wetland plants along the edge of the island that is forming at the top of the reservoir. The goals of this project are to: enhance the water quality in the upper Sydenham River; discourage Canada geese from congregating in the reservoir, to reduce the number of droppings in the water and on the shorelands; to improve the aquatic habitats in the reservoir and river by shading the banks to reduce evaporation and keep the water cooler, to provide more woody debris for insect life which feeds the fish and to reduce sediment inputs.

## Great Lakes Sustainability Fund Supports two Authority Projects

The Great Lakes Sustainability Fund approved \$80,000 in grants to the Conservation Authority for two projects:

The first project continues our efforts in creating upland habitat in the St. Clair River Area of Concern. The \$20,000 grant will be used to perform vegetation control on 26 hectares of newly planted trees and shrubs and to plant an additional .5 hectares with tree seed.

A \$60,000 grant will be used to inventory the Canadian side of St. Clair River shoreline to document the condition of shore protection and to identify opportunities for shore line habitat improvements.

Next Conservation Authority  
Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 16, 2006  
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)

member of

