

# Conservation Update

## St. Clair Region Conservation Authority



October 2008

### Donald Craig Retires after 37 Years with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Donald Craig, Water Operations Manager/Forester retired from the Conservation Authority this month after 37 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Craig has carried out many roles for the Conservation Authority. In the early years he helped purchase and develop Conservation Areas, undertook planning duties related to municipal drains and subdivision reviews, organized summer employment programs, was our public relations officer, acted as our flood coordinator, surveyed lands, started the Sydenham River Canoe Race and helped develop relationships with farmers and woodlot owners.

Mr. Craig started our Conservation Services Program in 1980. Over 2.5 million trees have been planted since then. He expanded this program to include a woodlot management service for landowners. Over the last few years, Mr. Craig completed our first complete forest inventory and management plans for all of the Authority owned lands – a monumental task. Over this period, he also was responsible for the management of our McKeough Upstream lands and the operation of the McKeough Floodway, Ontario's largest Flood Diversion project.



Bev Shipley, M.P. for Lambton, Kent, Middlesex, presented Donald Craig with a certificate recognizing his 37 years of service to the community.

Mr. Craig is known throughout Ontario for his forestry expertise and this recognition has helped to place this Conservation Authority in the provincial spotlight when it comes to forest management. Donald has represented the Authority on many committees including Bi-national Public

Advisory Council for the St. Clair River, the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network, Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee, Wildlife Habitat Council and the Lambton County Woodlot Owners Association which he founded. Donald's expertise and experience are certainly going to be missed.

### Memorial Forest Dedications

Two events were held in the month of September to recognize trees dedicated in memory of loved ones over the last year. The McKenzie and Blundy dedication was held on September 21. A Tulip Tree was planted as a symbol for all trees dedicated over the last year through the McKenzie and Blundy Funeral Home.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation dedication was held on September 28. A Kentucky Coffee Tree was planted to represent all trees dedicated over the last year through donations from individuals not associated with a funeral home program. Approximately 1,200 people attended the two ceremonies.



The Strangway family planted this year's ceremonial tree at the Lorne C, Henderson Conservation Area to represent all trees dedicated over the last year.

## Watershed Report Cards

The Conservation Authority has completed a set of watershed report cards for the 14 subwatersheds in the St. Clair region. A Watershed Report Card evaluates key indicators of watershed health, using provincial standards. It uses current monitoring programs to generate grades for portions of the region. It helps watershed residents and agency staff to evaluate the health of our watercourses and their individual watersheds, and identifies gaps in the monitoring programs.

The grades have been set using provincial guidelines. High scores indicate a watershed supports the full range of native fish, wildlife and birds and watercourses where people can fish, swim, boat and drink the water. Low scores reflect poor water quality from urban and rural land uses and loss of natural forest cover. Our grades are low compared with the province-wide standards and are similar to the neighbouring Thames River and Ausable River watersheds.

This region has been affected by urban, industrial and agricultural development but it supports an extraordinary number of rare plant and animal species. In the St. Clair Region over 80 endangered, threatened or special concern species are recognized under federal or provincial legislation. Likewise, although the region has very little forest cover, it contains many significant tree and bird species that do not thrive in most of Ontario. The St. Clair Region hosts a mosaic of farmland and forests, urban areas, industrialization and natural areas with extraordinary biological diversity. Residents, agencies and municipalities must act to protect and improve this region of Canada which is "uniquely St. Clair".

**For a complete set of Watershed Report Cards visit our website at [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca).**



## St. Clair River Projects

**Guthrie Park, St. Clair Township:** Tenders closed on October 22 for this project that will replace a failing steel sheet pile wall with a revetment comprised of stepped armour stone and sloped rip rap. This project will be funded through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, the provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program and St. Clair Township. Construction is expected to begin in mid-November.

**Mooretown Boat Ramp, St. Clair Township:** Utilizing an existing slip on the St. Clair River, the Conservation Authority is working with St. Clair Township to create a new boat launch for Mooretown. It is hoped that construction will begin in early December.

**Mission Park, City of Sarnia:** Mission Park is located near the Sarnia downtown just south of Centennial Park. This project involves replacing broken concrete and asphalt with stepped armour stone and sloped rip rap. Funding for this project is provided by the City of Sarnia with



*Mission Park, Sarnia*

support from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, Great Lakes Renewal Foundation, the Imperial Fund and the Canada Ontario Agreement through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Construction is expected to begin in mid-November.

### **Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting**

Thursday, November 20, 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)