

# Conservation Update

## St. Clair Region Conservation Authority



October 2009

### St. Clair River Sediment Committee Open House

Delisting the St. Clair River as an area of concern under the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is the ultimate goal of Ontario, Canada, local industry and other stakeholders. In 2007, the Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Implementation Committee (CRIC) asked the St. Clair River Sediment Technical Committee (on which the SCRCA participates) to assess the sediment contamination in an area just upstream of the Dow-Suncor property line and extending to the southern tip of Stag Island. The initial risk assessment on the sediments is now completed and has helped to identify priority areas within the area of study. The next step is to develop options for managing the contaminated sediments.

Together with Ontario and in consultation with local stakeholders and residents, Canada will develop a sediment management strategy for the site. The clean-up project is expected to begin 2012 and be completed by 2014.

An open house was held on October 26 at the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Attendance was excellent with over 50 people participating with this opportunity to provide input.



### Sediment Study Open House

There will be a second public open house on Thursday, November 26 from 3:00 – 7:00 at the Township of St. Clair council chambers at 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, ON. There will be displays and a presentation highlighting the findings of the report and opportunities to provide input to the sediment committee.

### 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 20. An American Beech 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 27. A Blue Ash Tree was planted to represent all trees dedicated over the last year through donations from individuals not associated with a funeral home program. Approximately 900 people attended the two ceremonies.

### Guthrie Park Shoreline Project

Work is continuing on the shoreline protection at Guthrie Park in St. Clair Township. This project which started in 2008 with an initial 265 metres of shore protection, will replace a failing steel sheet pile wall with a revetment comprised of stepped armour stone and sloped rip rap. The second phase, which began in October, will provide an additional 235 metres of protection. This project is being coordinated by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and is funded through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, Ontario Ministry of Environment - Canada-Ontario Agreement, Industry Canada/FedDev Ontario - Community Adjustment Fund and the Township of St. Clair.

## One Last Shot - St. Clair River RAP Video

The Conservation Authority Education Program staff has been working with a production team to produce a RAP video highlighting a new program developed in conjunction with the Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) on the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The goal of Remedial Action Plan is to restore and protect beneficial uses in the in the St. Clair River Area of Concern.

Over the last two years the FOSCR has donated \$2,000 each year to support an in-class education program on the activities related to the Remedial Action Plan for the River. This video will be used to introduce the program and to promote the program in the community.

The production included children from Sarnia to Florence. The main sites used along the river were Centennial Park, Guthrie Park, Willow Park, and Branton Cundick Park. Background shots highlighted some of the impairments to the water and some of the positive projects underway.

## Yellow Fish Road

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is reaching out to local groups to "paint the town yellow". Trout Unlimited Canada's Yellow Fish Road Program is a nation-wide storm drain marking program that has reached over 220 communities. This October, Sarnia became one of the latest communities to paint yellow fish symbols on storm drains.

The program consists of two main parts. Yellow fish symbols are stencilled next to storm drains. The yellow fish are a daily reminder to not pour chemicals down storm drains and to properly dispose of any hazardous household chemicals like used motor oil. For the public education component, fish shaped door knob hangers are distributed to the neighbouring households explaining the purpose of the painted yellow fish.



## Tree Planting at Warwick Landfill Continues

The Conservation Authority is working with Waste Management Canada to develop a natural barrier along the property boundary of the expanding landfill site in Warwick Township. The screening berm was completed in August and has been planted with 850 large stock trees. In 2010, tree and shrub planting will continue along the side slopes of the berms. This work will help to provide a buffer for the landfill and will add wildlife habitat to the site.



## St. Clair Conservation Foundation to Donate Playground Equipment

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation agreed to donate up to \$30,000 to construct and expand playground equipment at our campgrounds.

The Conservation Authority operates 3 regional campgrounds (Warwick, L. C. Henderson, and A. W. Campbell Conservation Areas). There are over 500 campsites with more than 370 seasonal campers. Most weekends during the summer our campgrounds, which cater to families, are either full or near full. In order to continue to offer excellent customer service, there was a need identified for additional playground equipment to provide young children with a safe place to play. The equipment will be installed next spring.

### Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2009, 1:00 pm.  
Administration Office

### St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

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