

# Conservation Update

## St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

August 2014

### Ontario Trillium Foundation Supports Conservation Work

Thanks to a major grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, more will be learned about Lambton County streams and creeks flowing into Lake Huron. Partners on the project include Carolinian Canada Coalition, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. Students participating in the program will conduct a stream investigation, learn about aquatic monitoring techniques and make pledges to protect aquatic habitats.

Aquatic surveys are also being conducted as part of this program. Starting in early June biologists began visiting creeks and rivers that drain to Lake Huron to identify, measure, and weigh fish before releasing them back to the water. Late in the summer biologists will re-visit the area looking for freshwater mussels. Information collected will be published in Watershed Report Cards which summarize the current state of St. Clair Region's watersheds. The report cards track and report on the surface and groundwater quality and forest conditions in the watersheds.



Students get a chance to experience nature first-hand.

### Bonduelle Supports Conservation

The Strathroy Conservation Area received a helping hand thanks to the efforts of Bonduelle employees and a donation of \$10,000. The project began with a clean-up of the park and trail area followed by the construction of trails, benches and picnic areas including a wheel chair accessible picnic table.

Through this project 400 metres of new trail were constructed along the lake, four picnic tables on cement pads (including one wheel chair accessible table) were constructed and two park benches were installed along the new lake trail.



Butch Siebenmorgen, Strathroy Plant Manager, for Bonduelle presents Kevan Baker, Director of Lands for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority with a donation to support improvements at the Conservation Area.



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## From The Photo Gallery



Major repairs to the trail bridge crossing the Sydenham River at the Strathroy Conservation Area were undertaken. An eroding stream bank threatened the integrity of the bridge. The bridge was lengthened and new approaches were installed.



Authority staff introduced kids at "Camp Blast" to aquatic species living in their own community. The program was a big hit!



As part of our annual members bus tour, staff performed an electrofishing demonstration. It was clear from the interest from the participants that this was the highlight of the tour.



Thanks to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, a class set of binoculars was purchased. It brings nature close up!



Thanks to Union Gas for buying and planting 30 Carolinian Trees at the McLean's Conservation Lands near Rondeau Bay through the Helping Hands In Action Program. We had a great time!



Brake for Snake signs were installed at the McKeough Floodway to warn motorists to be careful to avoid running over snakes. The McKeough property is known to support a wide variety of snake species.

## Conservation Scholarships Awarded

The Conservation Scholarship program rewards graduating high school students continuing their post-secondary studies in a conservation-related field based on their academic achievement and their demonstrated interest and involvement with the environment. In total, \$3,000 was awarded across the St. Clair region this year. The scholarships are made possible through trust funds established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and its donors. Steve Arnold, Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority presented the awards.



*Emily Marchand, Lambton-Kent Composite School, won the \$500 Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship. Emily will be studying Agriculture at the University of Guelph*



*Devan Spradbrow and Erich Maxfield, both from St. Clair Secondary School, were selected as the recipients of the \$1,000 A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship. Devan will be studying Geography at The University of Guelph and Erich will be studying Ecological Restoration at Flemming College.*



*Lindsey Boere, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, won the \$500 Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship. Lindsey will be studying Agriculture at The University of Guelph*

### Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.

#### St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

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