

# Conservation Update

## St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

November 2015

### TD Friends of the Environment Supports Community Tree Planting

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation supported tree planting efforts in Strathroy and Sarnia through TD's Green Streets Program and TD Tree Days, totalling \$16,500. Thanks to the many partners and volunteers including the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, City of Sarnia, Trees Canada, and the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation, 700 native trees were planted.



### SCRCA Receives Grants to Study Wetlands

The SCRCA received \$30,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as well as a \$3,000 grant from the J.P. Bickell Foundation through The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company to undertake evaluations of wetlands in the region. "This helps us better understand a number of key wetlands and to determine their provincial significance," said Kelli Smith, Biological Technician with the Authority.



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### Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Students Participate in Education Program

Grades 3 - 5 students from the Hillside School at Kettle and Stony Point First Nation were educated on aquatic bugs, fish, and their environmental significance. The day consisted of an in-class portion where SCRCA staff delivered material on life cycles and biology of these species and why the Kettle and Stony Point area is so unique with regards to species at risk. Afterward, the classes spent time at Shashawandah Creek where they were able to capture aquatic bugs and check minnow traps.



*"working together for a healthy environment"*

## North Lambton Students Experience Hands-On Learning

SCRCA staff conducted an aquatic inventory program for Grade 12 Biology students at North Lambton Secondary School. The students were first educated on species at risk reptiles in the area and how good water quality and ecosystem health is important to support species at risk. Following the quick introduction, students were led down to Hickory Creek.

A water quality probe was used to gain a snapshot of watercourse health. Students learned of the importance of conductivity, pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. From the bank, students assessed the stream characteristics - they noted factors influencing stream health such as siltation, erosion, barriers to fish movement, and riparian area to name a few.

Finally the students were able to enter the creek and perform their own assessment using the benthic macroinvertebrates. It was determined that the creek was not as healthy as it could be and therefore more is needed to be done to improve and clean Hickory Creek. Both the students and the teacher thoroughly enjoyed the program and once again, we were asked to come back for future programs.



## Foundation Supports Conservation Work

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation raises funds to support the work of the Conservation Authority. At a recent meeting, the Foundation approved support for a number of projects.

- \$6,000 for trails at Conservation Areas
- \$8,000 to finance an intern position
- \$5,000 to support the 3D mapping project
- \$5,000 to support water quality monitoring
- \$8,000 for fishing platforms and dock
- \$50,000 for Conservation Education

We thank the Foundation for all its efforts to support conservation initiatives in our region. They have made our Conservation Areas better, helped to bring Conservation Education to thousands of students, improved the health of our watershed by supporting tree planting and species at risk research, provided thousands of dollars for conservation scholarships and helped improve our technical capabilities by supporting new mapping tools. The Foundation has had 16 property donations totalling 455 hectares - protecting these areas for future generations.

## Pollinator Garden Gets Some Help

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation donated \$2,000 to help enhance a Pollinator Garden at the Warwick Conservation Area. The garden was originally created in honour of Mac and Barbara Ferguson and Ron and Mary Jane Van Horne through a private donation.



## Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, November 12 10:00 a.m.

### St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

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