

Conservation Update



St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

May 2016

Climate Change Research at Warwick Conservation Area

In cooperation with Forests Ontario, the Forest Gene Conservation Association, and the Southwest Afforestation Technical Team (SWATT), the Conservation Authority is undertaking an assisted tree migration project at Warwick Conservation Area.

The project involves the creation of a 5 acre plantation consisting of a number of tree species from genetic stock from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and local stock from Ontario. Over the years, the 1,500 trees planted this spring will be monitored to compare their relative survivability and growth success.



From left to right: Ravi Singh, Forests Ontario; Steve Shaw, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and SWATT; Greg Greer, Forests Ontario and SWATT; and Suzanne Perry, Forests Ontario, help plant trees as part of an assisted tree migration study at the Warwick Conservation Area.

Spring Tree Planting Underway

For Conservation Authorities, spring time means tree time. This year we received 85,000 trees in the last week of April and work continues to get all of these trees into the ground within a short 3 to 4 week planting time frame. Three crews are working to put in the lion's share of the trees using tree planting machines and hand planting in places where the tree planter cannot be used. An additional 750 large stock trees have been secured for 17 landowners and several hundred for the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston for their municipal tree planting program.

Approximately \$186,000 have been secured through multiple funding sources this year in order to subsidize the cost of the trees, planting operations and long-term vegetation control for most landowners taking part in the program.

Campgrounds Kick off Long Weekend

Excellent weather helped kick off the camping season on the Victoria Day weekend. Our campgrounds were full to capacity. Thanks to the assistance of our volunteer camper associations, a number of events will be held at the campgrounds this summer including crafts and games for kids, adult bingo and hayrides.

A number of improvements have already been completed including improved WIFI, upgraded trails and renovated washrooms.



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"working together for a healthy environment"

Aamjiwnaang Earth Day Celebration

SCRCA staff participated in Aamjiwnaang's Community Earth Day celebrations. Information was shared with community members on the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan and a number of Conservation Authority programs including the unique and valuable wildlife found within our watershed, our programs to protect Species at Risk, critical habitat, and vulnerable ecosystems. Community members were encouraged to search through our benthic invertebrate sample to see what kind of life can be found in a healthy creek.



Sydenham River Canoe Race

Thanks to a beautiful day, 78 canoes and kayaks participated in the Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race on April 17. Thanks to all those who made donations; we raised \$2,400 for Conservation Education. Norm Giffen won the award for the most money raised and the fastest time for the 17 km competitive race was won by Rene Boogeman and Keir Johnston at 1 hour 25 minutes and 40 seconds. Our sincere thanks to all who participated.



Healthy Lake Huron Newsletter Available

The Healthy Lake Huron: Clean Water, Clean Beaches has announced the release of the 2016 newsletter to let you know about work taking place to protect and improve water quality along Lake Huron's southeast shore. The southeast shore is a largely rural area that stretches from Sarnia to Tobermory. The newsletter is available online at healthylakehuron.ca. Print copies of the newsletter are also available by contacting your local conservation authority.

Healthy Lake Huron: Clean Water, Clean Beaches is a partnership of federal and provincial ministries, local government, local public health and conservation agencies, landowners and residents, and community groups.

Healthy Lake Huron
Clean Water, Clean Beaches
Newsletter 2016

This Issue:

- Ways you can protect Lake Huron
- Water level fluctuations and how to reduce erosion
- Finding out about *E. coli* levels before swimming
- How soil health and plant cover on gardens and fields can benefit water quality in Lake Huron
- Phragmites control by Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
- ... and much, much more!

Healthy Lake Huron:
Clean Water, Clean Beaches
A partnership of landowners, communities.

Community volunteers help to maintain 'clean water, clean beaches' along Lake Huron's southeast shores. Above, volunteers and members of the Centre Ippervash Beach Association take part in a shoreline cleanup, part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. To learn more visit healthylakehuron.ca and shorelinecleanup.ca.
Lake Huron communities help to clean up shoreline

Denning Memorial Forest Dedication

The dedication of 120 trees for the Denning Bros. Memorial Forest Program will be held on Sunday, May 29 at 2:00 p.m. at Centennial Park, Strathroy.

Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 1:00 p.m.
L. C. Henderson Conservation Area

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

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