

Conservation Update

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

March 2017

Maple Syrup Festival

About 700 people visited the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area to experience demonstrations of syrup production from times past. Tours included a story of how maple syrup was discovered by our First Nations people who later taught pioneers the wonders of this important staple. This year, we added horse-drawn wagon rides which were a big hit with visitors to the park. The Alvinston Firemen's Association provided their traditional pancake and sausage meals at the Alvinston Community Centre.



Healthy Watersheds Program: North Sydenham River Recovery

Funding supplied through Environment and Climate Change Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program Prevention Stream is contributing towards stewardship and monitoring work on the North branch of the Sydenham River. A three-year grant was approved for 2016/17 through 2018/19 that will help fund projects that are aimed at preventing sensitive species (fish, mussels, and birds) from becoming "at risk." The program targets aquatic restoration projects such as wetland creation, riparian buffer creation, and in-stream habitat improvements. Water quality monitoring includes surface water sampling, benthic macro-invertebrate sampling, and freshwater mussel surveys.

The program got off to a great start in 2016 supporting four wetland creation projects and one in-stream habitat creation project. We are looking forward to two more years of funding to help support habitat restoration on the north branch of the Sydenham River.



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"working together for a healthy environment"

Foundation Supports Conservation Authority

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation raises funds to support programs and projects for the Conservation Authority. The Foundation recently held its Annual General Meeting and elected Duncan Skinner as President and Norm Giffen as Vice President.

In its budget, the Foundation committed \$90 000 to support the following Conservation Authority Programs:

- Conservation Education - \$50 000
- Scholarships - \$3000
- Memorial Forest - Tree Planting - \$7000
- Trails - \$7000
- Watershed Report Cards - \$10 000
- Conservation Intern Position - \$8000
- 3-D Mapping Project - \$5000

Spring Tree Planting About to Begin

Spring has officially arrived and with it, warmer weather. Tree nurseries are anticipating a slightly earlier tree seedling lift date this spring which means trees could arrive by mid-April. Approximately 75 000 trees have been ordered and will be planted on private lands throughout the watershed by Conservation Services staff. A number of landowners have chosen to plant their own trees and approximately 5000 trees will be held in cold storage until these landowners are ready to pick up and plant them.

Grants from Forests Ontario, Habitat Stewardship, Ontario Power Generation, and the Lambton County Tree Replacement Fund are available to landowners to help provide significant subsidies for those undertaking larger scale stewardship and tree planting projects on their properties. Not all projects qualify for funding, however, this spring more than \$120 000 in grants will be provided to landowners planting trees on their properties as part of an overall conservation habitat and stewardship initiative.

To find out more about the Conservation Authority's tree planting program and grants available for landowners, please contact Steve Shaw or Jeff Sharp at 519 245-3710.

Plains Midstream Donates to Conservation

We are pleased to welcome Plains Midstream Canada into our sponsorship program for Conservation Education. Their donation of \$3500 will help the Conservation Authority continue to provide hands-on environmental programs to students throughout the region.

Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race

The 43rd annual Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race will take place on April 23. The race begins on Mossie Road just west of County Road 79 north of Cairo and features 11 classes and three different race lengths. All classes finish at the Shetland Conservation Area on Bentpath Line (County Road 2).

This event is co-sponsored by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and its Foundation. Participants are being asked, on a voluntary basis, to seek sponsors for their efforts. The funds raised will be used to help support outdoor education for school children in the St. Clair region.

For more information and to download a poster and sponsor sheet visit www.scrca.on.ca



Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 10:00 a.m.

member of

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

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