



CAT TALES

Winter/Spring 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

- Part wolf, part coyote - this scavenger has made eastern Ontario its home. See Page 2
- Read about the bird and animal friends that have taken up residence at the Nursery on Page 5
- Lots of fun, family-friendly winter recreation events in the offing. See Pages 6 & 7
- Part of Cataraqui Trail gets needed revitalization. Read about it on Page 9
- Find out the latest from the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation on Page 11

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Successful Climate Change Event Brings Together Key Partners



Judging by the interest from members of the public, as well as from key municipal and organizational stakeholders, and the free-flowing, informative discussions, the first ever Adapting to Climate Change in the Cataraqui Region event was a definitive success.

Hosted by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority in partnership with the City of Kingston and Queen's University, the event was held on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015 in a packed press lounge at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour facility. It was the third and final special event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the CRCA, and

focused on looking forward at one of the most profoundly important issues of the early 21st century – the predicted impacts of climate change. CRCA vice-chairperson Ross Sutherland welcomed guests to the event.

According to Rob McRae, watershed planning co-ordinator for the CRCA, the event was meant to initiate dialogue about climate change and how those of us living in the Cataraqui Region can prepare for it most effectively.

"The intent was to focus on tangible, practical aspects: for example, what does a warmer, wetter and more varied climate mean for everyday life for those of us who live in this region?"

said McRae, who added he was happy with both the public turnout and the media coverage generated by the event, with most of the media outlets in town covering the proceedings at some point in the day.

McRae said that both mitigation and adaptation efforts will continue to be relevant – in other words, reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also developing creative solutions to evolving challenges such as flooding, disruptions to fish and wildlife habitat and extreme weather. He noted that climate change will affect many aspects of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CREATURE FEATURE:

Eastern Coyote, *Canis latrans var*

To be a coyote, or not be a coyote? That is the question that many have asked when it comes to the populous canine that seems to be everywhere including even in some urban areas throughout much of the Cataraqui watershed, and indeed most of eastern North America.

It is best known as the Eastern Coyote, and exists in significant numbers in the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

But it is, in fact, not really a coyote. It is a hybrid. Some have even taken to calling it a Coywolf. At some point relatively recently, western coyotes began mixing their bloodlines with the eastern wolf, creating a mammal that is about 20 to 30 per cent larger and heavier than the smaller western coyote, but smaller than its wolf cousins.

Adult female eastern coyotes usually weigh between 13 to 16 kilograms, while males are between 16 and 18 kg. And that's still pretty small. When you see the animals out in the wild, they are often mistaken for being larger than they are because of their thick fur coats and big bushy tails.

It is interesting to note that, in general terms these animals are not long lived. If they were to be left alone in the wild, the lifespan of an eastern coyote is around 12 years. But in places like southern and eastern Ontario, where they are hunted and where they are often hit by motor vehicles while crossing roads, the average life expectancy is as low as five years.

Other than the size difference, the eastern coyote looks quite similar to the western coyote: both have erect ears,



a straight and bushy tail, a conspicuous supracaudal gland (the gland used for secreting scent chemicals to mark territory) and a narrow chest. Around our area, they tend to be grey-brown in colour with reddish ears, legs and flanks, but the colour can range from dark brown to reddish blonde.

The main difference between the eastern and western coyotes seems to be in the development process of their respective offspring. After about five or six weeks, eastern coyote pups have much longer legs than those from the west, while teeth begin showing and erupting later and in a different order for eastern coyotes than their western cousins. Eastern coyotes also don't reach sexual maturity until they are two years old, which is much later than western coyotes.

Mated pairs usually breed in February and the litters of five or six pups are

born in April and May. Both parents are involved in rearing the pups and begin showing them the basics of hunting when the pups are a mere eight to ten weeks old.

What we see as "packs" of coyotes are usually an adult breeding pair and their pups from the most recent litter.

Behaviourally, studies have shown that there are few differences in the level of aggression and predation between east and west, although it seems the eastern coyotes tend to fight less and are more playful.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources says that the main prey for the eastern coyotes are rabbits/hares and deer in the winter, and small animals, wild berries, birds, amphibians and even grasshoppers in the warmer months. They are considered to be "opportunistic omnivores" and will prey on whatever is close at hand and easy to kill or scavenge.

Hunting in pairs allows the eastern coyote the ability to take down larger deer, although they tend to get their venison fix more from deer who have had an unfortunate fatal or near-fatal collision with a motor vehicle. In fact, a study has demonstrated that 90 per cent of the deer eaten by coyotes were NOT killed by them – they were scavenged.

Even though there are large numbers of these animals in the area, they are far more likely to be heard than seen. Most live in open, agricultural areas that have periodic woodlots and brush to provide some cover. But, as anyone living in southeastern Ontario knows, they are coming into human-occupied areas more often – even larger centres such as Kingston and Belleville.

The sometimes chilling howls of the eastern coyote are also accompanied

by barks, growls and yelps that act as a territorial deterrent to other coyotes thinking of infringing on their turf. It's also how pack members keep tabs on one another if they are hunting or travelling alone. Some scientists believe the howling is a form of communication that helps the coyotes to co-ordinate their hunting activities when they are trying to flush out prey.

Normally, eastern coyotes are wary of humans, but have adapted and are now used to being in developed areas – although their activity in urban settings almost always happens at night. They have been known to attack family pets that are outdoors.

They are also known to attack livestock. Under Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, landowners are responsible for managing problem coyotes on their property by either dealing with the problem themselves through harassing, capturing or killing the animals, or by hiring an authorized third party to do so.

It is important to note that officials pouring over historic data have determined that systematic culls don't work. Targeting a limited number of problem coyotes in a specific area over a short period of time has proved to be more effective.

Interestingly, coyotes are actually seen as helping offset the spread of rabies because they often prey on other mammals – such as foxes – which are more likely to carry the disease. Mange is the most prolific disease to negatively impact the eastern coyote.

To deal with coyote problems, or to learn more about the animal, call your local office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.



CATARAQUI REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

CAT TALES

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Successful Climate Change Event Brings Together Key Partners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Conservation Authority's business, which includes flood forecasting and warning procedures as well as our popular outdoor education programs and the environmental planning services we provide to local communities.

"We have an interest to assist local communities with climate change mitigation and adaptation," he added.

Exhibitors at the event included the City of Kingston (with a focus on their ambitious Climate Action Plan), the CRCA, KFL&A Public Health, Queen's University, Sustainable Kingston and Utilities Kingston.

Students from the Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning gave three interactive presentations during the event. They highlighted the challenges and difficulties facing planners in the wake of accelerated climate change. They enlightened participants as to the many and varied impacts of climate change and its practical implications for infrastructure, development priorities and individual property owners.

Daniel Shipp, Sustainable Initiatives Co-ordinator for the City of Kingston, spoke of the significant amount of work that went into the City's Climate Action Plan. Published in 2014, it features mitigation and adaptation efforts by numerous municipal departments and partner organizations. There are a number of public education and outreach initiatives in the plan to encourage people to act on climate change. The City is now hosting a speaker series on climate change and is also working to reduce the volume of greenhouse gas emissions from municipal and community sources.

The keynote speaker for the evening was long-time Kingston resident Chris St. Clair, a popular anchor and presenter from The Weather Network.



CRCA's Rob McRae introduces students from Queens.

His message was that climate change was not something being forecasted, it was something that was happening right now. St. Clair reported that the climate of southeastern Ontario is already demonstrating the effects of climate change and will continue to do so. Our region is expected to become not only warmer, but wetter and that the weather will become less predictable.

He explained that there is still a lot of uncertainty over the pace and long-term effects of climate change locally but that there is expected to be an increasing frequency in the number of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. He made particular mention of an increase in the number of ice storms that are likely to hit southeastern Ontario – evoking memories of the 2013 storm and especially the massive

and devastating ice storm of 1998 that enveloped a large part of eastern Ontario and Quebec.

McRae and the other speakers made the audience aware of the vast swath of impacts that climate change will have on our daily lives: from the food we eat, recreational activities such as boating and fishing, the health and changing nature of the ecosystems that surround us to how communities are planned and the infrastructure requirements in an age of rapid and disruptive climate change.

To this end, the students from Queen's – all second-year graduate students in the School of Urban and Regional Planning - were given a project for the fall term. With direction from McRae and departmental faculty the project was to answer the question: "Are

the current land use planning policies in the Cataraqui Region supportive of climate change adaptation?"

To address this, they looked into leading practices from across Canada and beyond, reviewed local municipal and county official plans and developed boilerplate policy text for a final report that will be published in 2016.

It was yet another example of the mutually beneficial relationship that has existed between the CRCA and Queen's in areas of environmental planning over many years.

The School of Urban and Regional Planning is part of the Queen's Department of Geography. The project work being done by the students is an integral element of the two-year Masters of Urban and Regional Planning degree program.

For more information on the Kingston Climate Action Plan, visit www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/environment-sustainability/climate-change-energy/climate-action-plan

For more information on the Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning, visit www.queensu.ca/geographyandplanning/surp

For more information on the various programs and activities of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, visit www.crca.ca.



Daniel Shipp, Sustainable Initiatives Co-ordinator for the City of Kingston (left). CRCA staff with Chris St. Clair (far right).

MAPLE MADNESS

Coming Soon to Little Cataraqui Creek CA



There are few things as identifiable with Canada and late winter as maple sugar and maple syrup. And there are few events in the Kingston area as popular as the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's annual Maple Madness festivities.

Visitors numbering in the thousands flock to the sugar bush and Outdoor Centre at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston to take the tractor-drawn wagon ride back to the sugar shack, where they can explore the ages-old skill of turning maple sap into delicious sweet treats made from maple syrup and maple sugar.

As with past years, Maple Madness runs through the entirety of the March Break week (including both weekends), which is March 12 to March 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, as well as the weekends of March 26 and 27 and April 2 and 3. There are always fun activities happening each day, as well as some special one-time only events that folks are encouraged to check out.

Before heading back to the sugar bush, families with kids are encouraged to sit in on one of the fun and informative puppet shows that happen in the Outdoor Centre. They take place each Saturday throughout Maple Madness, at 10:45

a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1 p.m. During March Break (Monday through Friday) they happen at 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Tree Tapping Demonstrations also take place each day of March Break, from March 14 to 18, continuously from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as on each Sunday of Maple Madness, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The popular First Nations Display shows how the original inhabitants of the Cataraqui region would process maple syrup. Led by First Nations elder and teacher Paul Carl, these education demonstrations take place each Saturday during Maple Madness, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Saturday, March 19, the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation hosts its annual bake sale in the Outdoor Centre at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area as part of the Maple Madness festivities. All funds raised go to support CRCA conservation education programs.

On Saturday, April 2, you can try your hand at some old tyme sugar bush chores as part of a special demonstration day. Visitors can try sawing logs with pioneer tools, emptying sap buckets and tapping trees like the 19th century settlers did. You can also see how maple taffy is made – with samples for sale for a donation. For more information, visit our Facebook page, follow the [@CataraquiRCA](#) on Twitter or go to www.crca.ca/maple-madness.

Winter Trail Etiquette

Winter walking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are great ways to get outdoors and enjoy the winter. When conditions permit, trails 1, 2, 3 and 4 at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area are groomed and track set for classic cross-country skiing. Walkers are permitted to use these trails, but should avoid walking in the ski track to keep it in good condition and to allow skiers to pass. Trail 5 and the service roads to the Dam and Sugar Bush are available for walking and snowshoeing.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE FOR SKIERS:

- Ski on the right hand side of the trail
- Ski single file, not side by side
- Give descending skiers the right of way
- Allow faster skiers to pass
- Do not obstruct trails or intersections
- Do not stop where you are not visible to oncoming skiers

TRAIL ETIQUETTE FOR SNOWSHOEING AND WALKERS

- DO NOT walk or snowshoe in the groomed ski track
- DO NOT walk your dog on the groomed ski track
- Walk or snowshoe in the middle of the trail
- Step off the trail to allow skiers to pass
- Dogs must be leashed and under control at all times

Tons of Winter Recreation Fun Planned for the New Year

It's the most wonderful time of the year – especially if you're a winter outdoor recreation enthusiast and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has the facilities, trails, programs and services to help you get the most out of your winter fun. All of our conservation areas remain open throughout the winter months, but only Little Cataraqui Creek and the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area have programs and groomed trails. Walking trails at the others are open, but not maintained.

The Little Cataraqui Creek

Conservation Area will be a hub of activity as soon as the snow starts to fly, as 13 kilometres of trails will be groomed and track-set for cross-country skiing and others will be prepared for walking, hiking and snowshoeing.

But that's not all; there's also the largest natural outdoor skating rink in the Kingston area, along with warming huts in order to lace up your blades or take a short break. Families, businesses or other organizations are also able to rent the outdoor rink for an evening skating party. The rental includes the

use of the warming huts.

Inside the cozy confines of the Outdoor Centre there are always refreshments, as well as a bevy of seasonal programs for folks of all ages. Cross-country skis, skates and snowshoes are available to rent from the Outdoor Centre.

Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville also has great facilities for those looking to get outside this winter. Enjoy hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on 11 km of groomed trails and skating on the pond (weather

permitting). One of the highlights of the winter season will be the 14th Annual Winter Fun Day at the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, Saturday, Jan. 30, featuring the popular Mush Larose Association sled dog races.

For more information on these, or any of the other CRCA winter recreation events, visit our page on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or visit www.crca.ca/events. Or see pages 6 and 7 in this edition of Cat Tales.

Lemoine Point Nursery Becoming Popular With Our Wildlife Neighbours

The Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery regularly receives human visitors who are looking to add native plants to their gardens. But we also have various visitors of the winged and four-legged variety that would like to make this protected area their home.

Some are looking for a soft place to build a nest, while others are more interested in eating everything in sight. In this latter category are the deer that patrol around the perimeter of the fence, squirrels which dig industriously in any likely looking plant pot and the chipmunks who seem determined to evict small trees because it looks like a good place to hide a nut.

Unfortunately the chipmunks and squirrels aren't satisfied with using just one site. Having chosen a pot to plant in, they then apparently have second thoughts: perhaps another one would be better? Maybe over here, or there? It's a wonder they don't drop from nervous exhaustion. Then there are the rabbits which persist in making a home inside the fence where there are lots of hiding places and good eating.

We are reluctant hosts to all of these creatures but we do try to coexist to the best of our ability.

This spring, we noticed a pair of mallard ducks inspecting the paths and beds but thought nothing of it until a few weeks later when we found two mother ducks sitting on nests. One was under a pine tree, the other, more creative one had made her way to the top of a compost pile into a garbage bag filled with pine needles and there she laid her eggs. Rain and wind weren't going to affect her, but the fact that she shared her home with our resident weasels which also live in the compost bin gave us concern.

In early June, the pine-tree ducklings hatched - all nine of them - and could be seen swimming in a flat of water that had been provided (we are very hospitable towards our guests.) As the nursery is fenced in, there was some concern as to whether or not the ducklings and their mother could get out and make the walk to Collins Bay. We decided they indeed need some assistance, so on an appointed day three volunteers caught all the ducks (easier said than done) and carried them to the



water's edge where they were decanted into the shallows. Away they swam, mama still indignant and quacking her displeasure at the affront to her dignity.

The second duck met a less pleasant end. Before her eggs hatched, we found she had been killed, probably by the raccoon that was hanging around. Her eggs did not survive despite the efforts of our group.

Then there was the raccoon: a very large specimen was first seen running into a drainage pipe under the service road. Days later we saw that it had got into our small refrigerator and ate all the cookies, except the chocolate ones which were discarded on the ground. Now began a battle of wills - us against a persistent raccoon. Putting bungee cords around the whole fridge kept it from opening the door, but it did his best to get in by tearing off the gasket. The garbage pail was no impediment, as it simply ripped holes in the lid. I think it must have eaten the pieces of plastic because they were nowhere to be found. We eventually discouraged any more visits by ensuring no food was left in the pail and I think it has moved on to greener pastures - but not before we had to buy a new refrigerator!

The weasel family, which I am told by our resident experts is of the short-tailed variety, has been living in the nursery for several years. They were first seen one summer day when they ventured very, close sitting up on their hind legs to survey the much bigger creatures that also stood on two legs. They obviously had no fear of their human visitors and I actually think they were wondering if we were edible.

Since then we often see them running among the pots, chasing one another around the top rails of the compost bins and diving under the metal shelves at the rear of the shed. One day, we saw the mother weasel trying to persuade one of her youngsters to climb up on a wooden bin. First she demonstrated how it was done, then she sat on the top rail and chattered encouragement to the baby. He was having none of it, preferring to stay on the gravel and look for bugs. His mother, however, was insistent that he obey and he finally gave in after she nipped him a few times. Since voles are one of their favourite meals, we're perfectly happy to have them as house-guests.

Most years, one or two snapping turtles make their way from the waters

of Collins Bay to the gates of the nursery. Twice they have laid eggs in the gravel outside the fence after trying to get inside it. I suppose we built on top of their usual nesting site. It's a long way to travel so this year, our biodiversity chairperson David McMurray spearheaded the construction of a gravel and sand bed close to the water where we hope the turtles will choose to lay their eggs as an alternative. Little painted turtles also attempt to climb through the chain-link fence and some of them do make it.

Salamanders, garter snakes, frogs and toads are present in abundance. More than once we have been startled to see eyes looking back at us from the bottom of a plant pot, courtesy of large dark-brown American toads.

The snakes like to live in the gravel under the wooden bins and beneath the filter cloth on the paths. Due to this, we've learned to be careful where we walk. The salamanders have a favourite spot next to the greenhouse wall where it's cool and damp year-round.

An amazing number and variety of birds use the fence to roost, especially in the early morning when all is quiet. There's good eating for them in the form of insects and seed-heads of the native flowers that we grow. But all grew quiet when the red-tail hawk, which we named The Terminator, was a regular visitor. It would perch on the top of the shade bed until it spied a vole which had ventured out, then pounce and grab a quick take-out lunch.

A merlin uses the tallest tree in the copse next to the nursery as his look-out spot. Over the meadow next door we are sometime privileged to see the harriers swooping to catch their prey. Turkey vultures have an interesting habit: they fly very high and only descend when they spy something of interest. One day there was no sign of them until one of our volunteers lay on the ground to rest his aching back. Very quickly, a pair of vultures appeared spiraling overhead. Needless to say, that individual sprang to his feet and the birds disappeared to look for more accommodating prey.

This just proves where wildlife is in abundance, there's never a dull moment in the Nursery.

WHAT'S HAP

Enjoy the great outdoors this winter and spring in one of our conservation areas. Visit our website at www.crca.ca to find the conservation area closest to you.

There are special winter and spring activities at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville and at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston. Lemoine Point Conservation Area in Kingston hosts special activities in the spring.

MAC JOHNSON WILDLIFE AREA

SATURDAY SKATES

Saturdays in January and February
Starting Saturday January 9
(11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)
The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and community volunteers will be serving hot chocolate and coffee at the skating shelter on Saturdays in January and February (weather permitting). Come out and enjoy a skate with your family and friends.

WINTER FUN DAY

Saturday, January 30
(10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Enjoy the festivities at our 14th annual Winter Fun Day at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Enjoy skating on the pond, cross-country skiing, free snowshoeing for children, lunch and refreshments. The dog sled races are back again this year by the Mush Larose Association. The Anne Melrose Memorial Race will start at 11:00a.m. Admission is just \$5.00 per car.

FAMILY DAY SKATE

Monday, February 15
(10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Join us for a special day of family activities. Bring out your skates and skis and skate on the pond or ski on the cross-country ski trails. The ice slide will be open. From 10:00 a.m. to noon join in on the cross-country ski and snowshoe challenge – age awards will be presented. You can bring your lunch or buy something at the barbecue hosted by the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

WORK-BEE WEDNESDAYS

Starting in April
(8:30 a.m. to noon)
Calling all volunteers! Starting in April join the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area for Work-Bee Wednesdays. Help out at the tree nursery, brushing or working on the trails. Locations and duties to be determined each week and will be posted on the CRCA's Facebook page at facebook.com/CataraquiRegionCA

TRUMPETER SWAN TALK

Saturday April 23

(10:30 a.m. to noon)

Join CRCA Conservation Areas Supervisor Stefan Foerster at the Nature Centre to learn more about the Trumpeter Swans. After the presentation, walk down to the Buells Creek Reservoir to see if you can spot the swans and catch them feeding at the swan feeder.

MOTHER'S DAY TREE SALE

Saturday May 7
(10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)
Come out and support our annual spring tree sale just in time for Mother's Day. All trees and shrubs are native stock grown at the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area nursery. The sale takes place at the Centennial Rd. (south entrance) parking lot.

LITTLE CATARAQUI CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

WINTER ACTIVITIES

EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Cross-country skis, skates and snowshoes are available for rent at the Outdoor Centre. Rentals are available from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All rentals must be returned by 4:00 p.m. Rental prices (including tax): set of cross-country skis, boots and poles \$16, snowshoes \$10, skates \$8.

ICE RINK RENTAL

Host your own evening skating party! Rink rental includes access to the warming huts. Call Shannon Fleming at (613) 546-4228 ext. 222 for more information or to make a booking.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI LESSONS

Learn how to ski or improve your technique. Cross-country ski lessons are offered on Saturdays from January 9 to February 27, weather permitting. Register in advance at www.crca.ca/online-services, or on the day of the lesson at the Outdoor Centre. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Group lessons are one-hour in length. Lesson times are 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

SCAT AND TRACKS HIKE

Sunday, January 17
(2:00 p.m.)
Bring your family out for an afternoon of winter fun. Conservation Area staff will help you discover the clues that animals leave behind in the snow to tell their stories. Be sure to dress warmly as this hike takes place outdoors.

OWL HOOT AND COYOTE HOWL

Saturday, January 23
(6:30 p.m.)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Bring your family out on a night walk to learn a bit more about owls and coyotes. We will not see these animals, but if we are lucky, we might hear them. To ensure we have enough hike leaders for participants registration is required. Registration forms can be found online at www.crca.ca/online-services. Cost is \$2 per person plus regular gate fee.

SKI WAXING CLINIC

Sunday, January 24
(2:00 p.m.)
Join the Canadian Ski Patrol for this hands-on workshop on ski waxing. Learn all about waxing techniques for different snow conditions. Bring your skis and waxing gear and think snow!

LITTLE CAT CLASSIC SKI RACE

Sunday, January 31
Register for each event 30 minutes before start time. (Registration fee is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per team.)
The day's events include:
10:00 a.m. - Cross-Country Ski Race, 5 km or 10 km.
1:00 p.m. - Family Fun Relay Race (skate, snowshoe and ski).
This annual winter fun day is hosted by the Canadian Ski Patrol Frontenac Zone. Skis and snowshoes are available to rent at the Outdoor Centre.

WINTER SPORTS P.A. DAY

Thursday, February 4
(8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
Ages 6 to 11
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Give your child(ren) an opportunity to have a P.A. Day full of winter adventure and fun. We'll be cross-country skiing on the trails and snowshoeing through the fields, forests and wetland areas of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area (weather permitting). Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program runs until 4:30 p.m. Bring

your lunch, snacks, drinks, and warm and extra clothes. The program will run regardless of the weather. We have alternate plans for interactive games and activities if there is not enough snow.

Cost is \$40.00 per child and includes equipment rentals. You must register in advance. Space is limited for this popular program, so register early. Online registration is available or pick up a form at the Administration Office or Outdoor Centre. For more information call (613) 546-4228 ext. 251.

VALENTINE'S EVENING SKATE

Sunday, February 14
(6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)
Enjoy a romantic evening skate on Kingston's largest natural ice rink (weather permitting). The rink lights will be on and the fire will be lit in the warming hut. We will also have recorded music at the Outdoor Centre where you can warm up and purchase a hot drink and a snack. Skate rentals will be available at the Outdoor Centre.

FAMILY DAY SKATE

Monday, February 15
(9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
Bring the family out for a skate on Kingston's largest natural ice skating rink (weather permitting)! We'll have the fire going in the warming hut by the rink or you can drop by the Outdoor Centre for a cup of hot chocolate or coffee. Skate rentals will also be available at the Outdoor Centre.

SNOWSHOE DEMONSTRATION

Sunday, February 21
(2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)
Come out and try snowshoeing. It's fun and easy to do. No experience necessary. Trailhead staff will provide the snowshoes for you and your family to test out around the outdoor centre! Remember if you can walk you can snowshoe.

STARLIGHT SNOWSHOE HIKE

Saturday, February 27
(6:30 p.m.)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Join us for an easy snowshoe trek under the stars. Please register in advance as there is limited space. Registration forms can be found at www.crca.ca/online-services and registration will close on Friday, February 26 at 4:00 p.m.. Cost is \$12.00 per person for annual pass holders and \$17.50 for non-pass holders

OPENING 2016

(this includes the gate fee and snowshoe rental). Please bring along your flashlight or headlamp. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase after the hike at the snack bar.

MAPLE MADNESS

March 12 to 20 (March Break)

March 26 and 27

April 2 and 3

(9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

March means maple syrup at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Take a tractor-drawn wagon back to our sugar bush to see how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Enjoy pancakes with real maple syrup and buy some maple syrup or sugar to take home.

The sugar bush is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day of the Maple Madness program. Be sure to check out some of our special activities like puppet shows, tree tapping demonstrations, our annual Bake Sale and Olde Thyme Sugar Bush Chores. Check our schedule below for the times and dates for these activities. You'll want to visit us more than once!

PUPPET SHOWS

Saturday, March 12

(10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.)

Take in one of our fun puppet shows geared towards the whole family. Meet some of our new and favourite puppet friends that share with us the secrets of the sugar bush.

FIRST NATIONS DISPLAY

Saturday, March 12

(10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Join Paul Carl for an interactive presentation at our First Nations maple syrup display in the sugar bush. Paul will explain how his ancestors harvested and used sweet water in ceremonies to make maple syrup and sugar.

TREE TAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS

Sunday, March 13

Visit our self-guided displays in the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Be sure to visit our tapping demonstrations from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. learn how to identify a sugar maple tree, measure it and use a brace and bit hand drill to practice your tapping skills on a log.

PUPPET SHOWS

Monday, March 14 to Friday, March 18

(Daily at 10:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.)

Take in one of our fun puppet shows geared towards the whole family. Meet some of our new and favourite puppet friends that share with us the secrets of the sugar bush. There are daily puppet shows from Monday through Friday during the March Break.

TREE TAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS

Monday, March 14 to Friday, March 18

Visit our self-guided displays in the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Be sure to visit our tapping demonstrations from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn how to identify a sugar maple tree, measure it and use a brace and bit hand drill to practice your tapping skills on a log.

FOUNDATION BAKE SALE

Saturday, March 19

Pick up some sweet treats at the annual Cataraqui Conservation Foundation Bake Sale at the Outdoor Centre. All proceeds from the bake sale support the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's Conservation Education School Programs.

PUPPET SHOWS AND FIRST NATIONS DISPLAY

Saturday, March 19

See Saturday, March 12 for details.

TREE TAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS

Sunday, March 20

See Sunday, March 13 for details.

FIRST NATIONS DISPLAY

Saturday, March 26

See Saturday, March 12 for details.

TREE TAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS

Sunday, March 27

See Sunday, March 13 for details.

PUPPET SHOWS AND FIRST NATIONS DISPLAY

Saturday, April 2

See Saturday, March 12 for details.

OLDE THYME SUGAR BUSH CHORES & MAPLE TAFFY DEMO

Saturday, April 2

Try your hand at some "olde thyme" sugar bush chores today. You can try log sawing, emptying sap buckets and tapping trees. You can also see hoe maple taffy is made – samples will be available for a donation.

TREE TAPPING DEMONSTRATIONS

Sunday, April 3

See Sunday, March 13 for details.

SPRING ACTIVITIES

What's That Bird?

Sunday, April 10

(2:00 p.m.)

Join Mark at 2 p.m. on a quest to help you answer this common question. With a quick indoor introduction into the basics of bird identification, he will take you for a short walk (weather permitting) to put your new skills into action. Bring binoculars if you have them, and make sure to come dressed for the weather.

SALAMANDERS & SNAKES

Sunday, April 17

(2:00 p.m.)

Salamander Conservationist Matt Ellerbeck (A.K.A the Salamander Man) and Reptile Educator Kenny Ruelland will be giving a special presentation on salamanders, snakes, and more as part of their Reptile and Amphibian Advocacy Project! Come out and see live species, both local and exotic!

SMUDGING CEREMONY FOR MOTHER EARTH

Saturday, April 23

(2:00 p.m.)

Come to out to celebrate Earth Day. Our celebration will start with a shadow puppetry show by Full Moon Productions: A Children's Shadow Puppetry Troupe. They are presenting "Toad Visits the Cloud Emperor." The story tells why a toad's croak usually precedes a thunderstorm. After the presentation, gather with Paul Carl to cleanse your mind and body and offer good thoughts for Mother Earth. By smudging we allow the smoke to rise into Father Sky and ask that the Eagle take those thoughts to the creator for a healthier Mother Earth and all of our relations on her.

FROG NIGHT HIKE

Saturday, May 7

(6:30 p.m.)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Bring everyone in the family out to our annual frog hike. You'll learn about the different frogs that live at Little Cataraqui Creek and go on a short walk to listen for frog calls. To ensure we have enough hike leaders to participants registration is required. Registration forms can be found online at www.crc.ca/online-services. Cost is \$2 per person plus regular gate fee.

SPRING FLING P.A. DAY PROGRAM

Friday, May 20

(8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Ages 6 to 11

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Give your child(ren) a P.A. Day full of spring adventure and fun. We'll be exploring the fields, forests and marshes of the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Activities include searching for salamanders, making friends with frogs, singing with the birds, playing games, and having wonderful experiences in the great outdoors.

Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program runs until 4:30 p.m. Bring your own snacks, drinks and lunch as well as suitable outdoor clothes. The program will run regardless of the weather. Cost is \$40.00 per child. Advance registration is required. Space is limited for this popular program, so register early. Registration forms are available on our website, at the CRCA Administration Office and the Outdoor Centre. For more information call (613) 546-4228 ext. 251.

LEMOINE POINT CONSERVATION AREA

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 30

(9:00 a.m. to Noon)

Come out and help the Friends of Lemoine Point give the Conservation Area a good spring cleaning. Volunteers will be in both parking lots handing out gloves and garbage bags to people who want to participate in the clean-up.

SPRING TREE PLANTING

Saturday, May 7

(9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)

Our annual spring tree planting will take place at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Meet at the north parking lot (Coverdale Drive) to help plant trees. Bring your shovel, work gloves and your energy. For more information contact Verna Corlett at 613-549-1724.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 21

(9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Buy some trees, shrubs or wildflowers for your home garden. All plants are grown at the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery. Proceeds from the sale help to support the nursery and the tree stock grown to support local forestry programs.

If a Tree Falls in the Forest ...

At the Friends of Lemoine Point's Annual General Meeting last November, Rick Knpton of the CRCA made a presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer. This is the invasive beetle that has been spreading throughout Southern Ontario since 2002 and killing untold millions of ash trees. It is currently threatening those at Lemoine Point.

Rick, the CRCA Forestry Technician responsible for the Lemoine Point Conservation Area, estimates that about 25-30 per cent of its trees are ash species, now threatened by the Borer's larvae which kill by tunneling under the bark and choking off the ash tree's flow of nutrients. While it is possible to inoculate ash trees against the infestation, it is prohibitively expensive and only five or so particularly significant specimens might be treated. In short, it is expected that most of the Lemoine Point's ash trees could die within the next few years. When the invader is established within an area, 98 to 99 per cent of ash trees in a stand will likely die.

Rick's main concern, other than the great loss to Lemoine Point's forest, is that all those dead ash trees will become highly unstable and at risk of falling or losing branches, posing a potentially significant threat to visitors. To meet that threat, he started to develop a risk management plan.

Over several weeks last fall, he conducted a survey and assessment of nearly 1,400 ash trees at Lemoine Point that border and/or are within falling distance of trails and other public areas. With the help of volunteer Bob Martin, essential data on size, location, and general health of each such tree was collected and analyzed, leading to the identification of 568 trees that may need to be cut down. Those were marked with individually numbered metal tags

(they can be spotted when walking along the trails), and a map was created showing every tree surveyed in order to determine which trails or portions of trails will be particularly at risk.

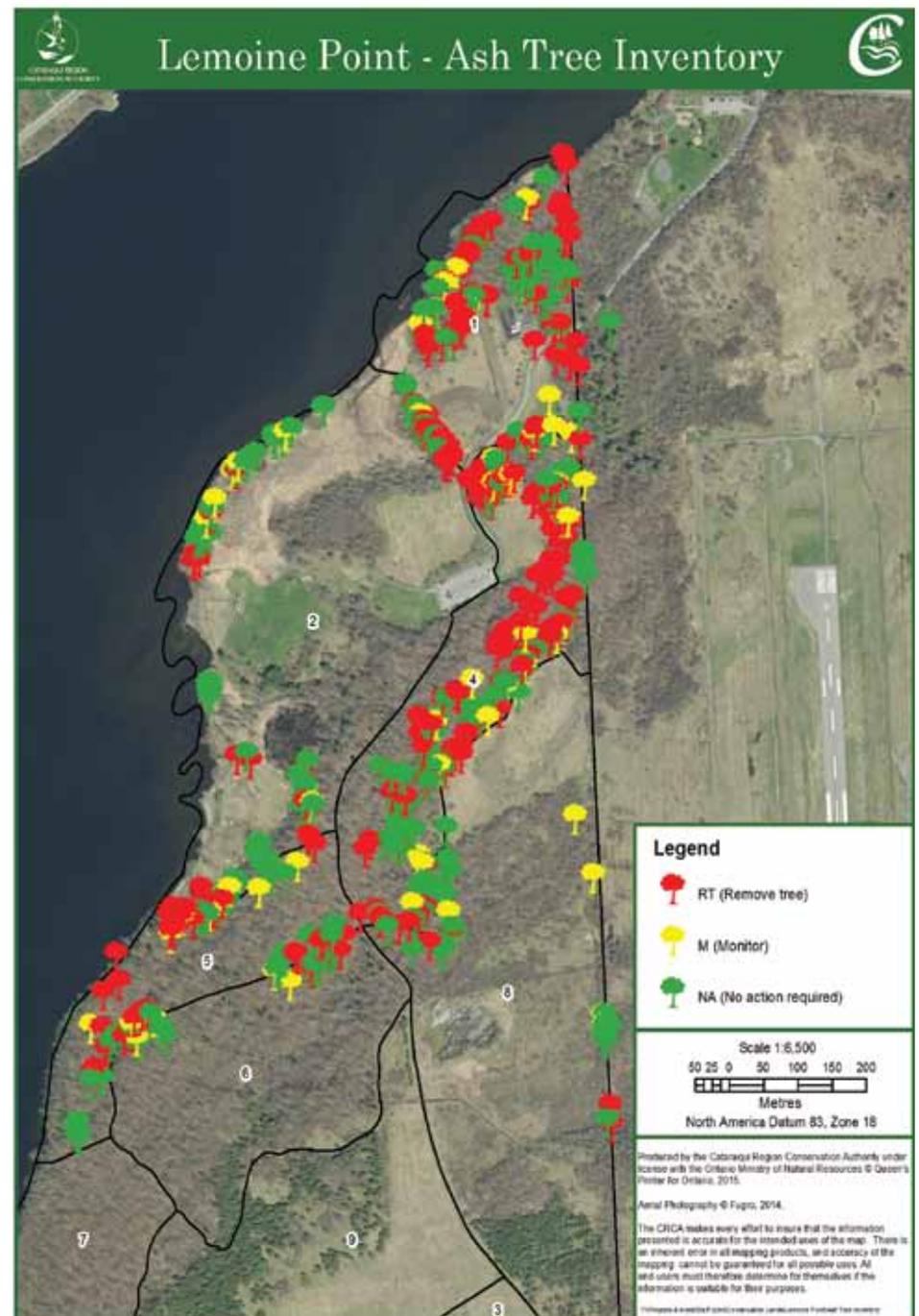
Rick will use that survey method as the model for assessing other CRCA conservation areas with similar risk management concerns.

The next step will involve decisions by the CRCA as to how to deal with the identified trees. The options range from cutting them down immediately, selective cutting (dealing first with the largest trees or with those on the highest-use trails), or doing nothing. Consideration may also be given to closing some trails, at least temporarily, until the threat to visitors has passed.

Staff has said that dead trees would not be sold as firewood as there is too great a risk of spreading the Borer to other areas not infested at this time. However, potential sale of saw logs is a possibility should portable saw mill operators wish to purchase and mill on site, reducing the risk of spreading the Borer.

The loss of so many trees will undoubtedly have a significant impact on Lemoine Point's forested areas and understory vegetation. However, once the Borer has left the area, ash trees are expected to slowly grow back. In addition to the several inoculated specimen trees, Rick hopes that there may be some that are resistant to the Borer than can help start that revitalization process.

Also, the volunteers from the Friends of Lemoine Point's Native Plant Nursery have already collected seeds and cuttings from the Point's various ash tree species and will grow them into stock to be used for replanting, both along the trails and in the interior.



Snapshot of the Ash Tree Survey, north end of Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

There is still time to arrange for spring tree planting

Interested in planting trees on your property? There is still time to order trees for spring of 2016.

The CRCA offers a tree planting program to rural landowners in our watershed on a cost-sharing basis. We deliver reforestation programs in partnership with Trees Ontario (now Forests Ontario) and the Ministry of Natural Resources. You must have a minimum of 1 hectare and be willing to sign a 15 year planting agreement with the CRCA to qualify for this program.

Landowners can also order trees with us and do the plantings themselves. There is a minimum order of 500 seedlings and individual species can be ordered in multiples of 50. Group orders are welcome. Get together with your neighbours and plant some trees!

To find out more about our planting program visit www.crca.ca or order your trees online at crca.ca/online-services (order form coming soon).

Upgraded Stretch of Cataraqui Trail Re-opened at Nov. 19 Event

A special presentation was held on Nov. 19 at the South Elmsley Municipal Complex in the Township of Rideau Lakes to mark the completion of major upgrades to a five-kilometre stretch of the Cataraqui Trail from Rideau Lakes into Smiths Falls.

The work was done over the summer of 2015, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the National Trails Coalition, matched by both the Township of Rideau Lakes and the Town of Smiths Falls. Officials from those municipalities, the NTC as well as CRCA staff and members of the Cataraqui Trail Management Board were on hand for the presentation.

“Out trail networks are a great way to enjoy the outdoors in all seasons and promote an active lifestyle,” said Leeds-Grenville MP Gord Brown back in February when the grant was announced. “I am pleased the grant will be benefitting the members of our community by improving the condition and access to the trail.”

At the Nov. 19 event CRCA Lands Planner Jason Hynes talked about the work done on the portion of trail, showing numerous before and after photos. After the presentation, he led a tour of the revamped trail which is now wider, more solid and flatter, allowing for more optimal usage by those on foot or those on bikes.

Smiths Falls Mayor Shawn Pankow brought greetings on behalf of the municipality and spoke of the



importance of the Cataraqui Trail for both community and economic development.

“The trail helps link us to every community along the way, which is beneficial for bringing people into our community,” he said, adding that trails and outdoor recreation in general are keys for “healthy communities and healthy lifestyles.”

Township of Rideau Lakes Ward 2 Coun. Arie Hoogenboom represented Mayor Ron Holman, and commented on how projects such as the Cataraqui Trail are great examples of how partnerships between municipalities and other organizations, as well as the

chairperson and Township of Rideau Lakes councillor Doug Good thanked the participating municipalities, volunteers, the CRCA and NTC for partnering on the project.

He said the improvements along this five-kilometre stretch of the trail will “be a great stimulus in the local economy because it will substantially increase the number of users at the Smiths Falls end of the trail.”

He commented that the project is ongoing and that more funds need to be raised, more partnerships entered into and countless more volunteer hours incurred to improve the Cataraqui Trail from one end to the other, noting that the cost of upgrades works out to about \$11,000 per kilometre.

The Cataraqui Trail is a multi-use trail along a former railway line that stretches 104 kilometres from Strathcona (Greater Napanee) through to Smiths Falls. Permitted uses on the trail including hiking, cycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. For more information, visit www.cataraquitrail.ca.

The National Trail Coalition represents Canada’s snowmobile, ATV and non-motorized trail systems and is looking after a recreation trails infrastructure program as part of the former Conservative government’s Economic Action Plan. For more information, visit www.ntc-canada.ca.

work of a dedicated cadre of volunteers, particularly the members of the Cataraqui Trail board of management, can accomplish great things.

Patrick Connor represented the National Trails Coalition project partner at the event. He said the work on the trail was an example of putting taxpayers dollars to good use as the trail is beneficial in so many ways to the communities through which it passes, as well as the entirety of Eastern Ontario.

He said the success of the Cataraqui Trail and its various restoration projects “energizes” him and his fellow NTC members across the country.

Cataraqui Trail Management Board

Other Updates to the Trail in 2015



Ditching and resurfacing from Smiths Falls to Golf Course Road



Fencing on Rutledge Road and Chaffey's Lock bridges



2016 Nature Explorers SUMMER CAMP



Let your child experience the great outdoors at the CRCA's Nature Explorers Summer Camp. Based at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, campers get unplugged and discover the outdoors through fun, nature inspired theme weeks, hands-on exploration and outdoor activities. For two days a week, campers get loads of time to swim, play on the beach and explore Gould Lake Conservation Area.

Each day of camp will be filled with outdoor adventures, games and fun. Guided by staff, the campers will come away with a greater awareness and connection to the natural world.

2016 dates and themes are:

July 4-8: Wilderness Musicians – Rock out to all that nature has to offer

July 11-15: Adventurous Athletes – Discover the sporty side of plants and animals

July 18-22: Nature Nuts – Get you fill of cool nature facts

July 25-29: Wild Wild Wetlands – Calling all cowboys n' cowgirls to learn about wetlands

August 2-5*: Swamp Superheroes – Adventure into the wild world of water

August 8-12: Eco Engineers – Learn all about nature's builders

August 15-19: Nature's Painters – Find out about the artsy side of nature

August 22-26: Weather Wizards – Unleash the mysteries of weather

Cost is \$190 per week for 6 to 11 year olds and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Before and after care is available for \$25 per week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration is required and forms can be found online at www.crca.ca/online-services in early 2016. * August 2-5 is a short week and \$152.

Nature Programs for Early Learners

Get outside and experience nature with your little one. The CRCA offers Nature Programs for early learners, ages 2.5 to 5 at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston.

In September, we learned all about monarchs and milkweed. In November nature program participants learned all about our animal friends that are either migrators or hibernators.

CRCA Staff News:

We bid welcome to Paul Kendall who has joined the CRCA's Operations Team. Paul was part of our student crew

The Nature Programs continue in January and April 2016 with "Winter Wonderland" and "Sensational Spring". To learn more about our programs please visit www.crca.ca/nature-programs. Registration is required for this program and you can join at any time. Visit www.crca.ca/online-services to register for this program.

in the summer and started full time in September.



Teachers – book now for winter, Maple Madness and spring school programs

Spaces are still available for our winter and spring education programs based at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville.

Our education programs are connected to the curriculum and will help to enrich your class's experience with hands-on, outdoor learning. You are encouraged to share the cost of the bus and bring a second class and make a day of it by eating lunch at our Outdoor Centre. You may also choose to do the same program(s) or opt for different ones.

In January and February, get your students outdoors to experience winter at its finest. We have excellent snowshoeing at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and cross-country skiing opportunities and Little Cataraqui Creek. If there's no snow, don't worry, we've got it covered with our famous Instincts of Survival Program or navigate around our trails with our mapping tree-sure hunt - Mapping it Out, Orienteering: Map and Compass or Take a Bearing Programs. We even have Kinderscience - Winter and Nature

in Winter for the kinder learners. Our programs are adaptable to any kind of winter weather that Mother Nature brings us.

In March visit the beautiful sugar bush at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and experience how maple syrup was discovered and made long ago and how it is made today.

From April to June, you and your students have excellent opportunities to discover spring awakenings. Go on an adventure in our forests with Kinderscience and Secrets of Spring

programs or discover creatures in the marsh with Marsh Mysteries, Habitats and Communities, Biodiversity Bonanza and Wetland Conservation programs.

For a full list and descriptions of programs offered in Kingston and Brockville please visit our website at www.crca.ca and click on the education tab.

To make a program booking contact: Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area – 613-546-4228 ext.251 or email educate@crca.ca Mac Johnson Wildlife Area- 613-923-1526 or email edmjwa@gmail.com

Cataraqui Conservation Foundation News



On November 7, 2015 the Foundation held its major fundraising effort – the Forever Green Gala. Thanks to the generous support of the people and businesses listed below all of the proceeds from the event went directly to support the conservation education programs and land acquisition efforts of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority.

The Italo-Canadian Club provided a lovely venue in which guests were able to mix and mingle as they greeted old friends, made new ones, and bid on the many beautiful silent and live auction items donated by a wide range of local businesses and

individuals.

As in past years, it was the Board's pleasure to present conservation awards to groups and individuals who have proven their commitment to conservation. Ted Hsu, Red Squirrel Conservation Services and The City of Kingston – Climate Action Plan were the worthy recipients this year. If you would like to nominate a group, business or individual for the 2016 conservation awards please visit cataraquiconservationfoundation.org and use the nomination form. Nominations are taken at any time throughout the year.

2016 FOUNDATION HAPPENINGS:

The Foundation will once again have delicious baked goods and other goodies for sale at the Foundation Bake Sale on the second weekend of Maple Madness, March 19. We hope that you will be sure to drop by to see us at the Outdoor Centre when you come to Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area to enjoy a first-hand experience of 'sugaring off'.

In May, we will hold our Annual General Meeting at which time we will welcome new Board Members. Keep up with the news on the Foundation website: cataraquiconservationfoundation.org.

Conservation Foundation Photo Contest

The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation is delighted to announce that it is sponsoring a photography contest to help celebrate its 50th Anniversary. We are looking for you to share your favourite photos with us! There are three categories for the contest: flora & fauna, landscapes, and an open category. The winning entry in each category will receive an Annual Pass from the CRCA which is good for entry into Little Cataraqui Creek and Gould Lake Conservation Areas

for one year. Overall grand prize a pair of binoculars donated by Camera Kingston. The submission deadline is March 31, 2016. Details and entry instructions are available on the Foundation's website at www.cataraquiconservationfoundation.org. Thank you for helping us to commemorate this special occasion through your photographs.



Thank you to our Forever Green 2015 Donors, Sponsors, and Contributors

PINE SPONSORS: Jane Bayly, Michael & Elaine Davies, Glen Supply Co. Ltd., Homestead Land Holdings, Nancy Simpson.

DONORS, SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS: Aecom, Bernard Altshuller, Avanta Salon & Spa, Janie Barnett, Michael Bell, Blossoms Florist & Boutique, Buffet Taylor, Capital Moving and Storage, Cataraqui Golf and Country Club, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, John Carwright, CCF Board of Directors, Classic Custom Framing, Clear Water Design, Collins Bay Marina, Colonnade Golf and Country Club, Cruickshank, Cunningham & Poupore, Cunningham Swan, Days on Front, Ducks Unlimited, James Fraser and Lisa Simpson, Glen Supply, Glenburnie Grovery, Greek Town, Dolf and Jeri Harmsen, Carolyn Heatherington, Homecraft Brew & Wine, The Isabel Bader Center for the Performing Arts, Jani-King of Eastern Ontario, Kimberley Jewellery Appraisal, The Kingston Brewing Company, John and Karen Kitney, Living Rooms, Robert Morrison, Dr. Carol Murphy, Bob and Eileen Potts, Douglas and Christine Radford, Ramekins, Riley's Garden Centre, The River Mill Restaurant, Dr. Matthew Sawchuck, Secker, Ross and Perry LLP, Shoalts and Zaback, Snip and Clip, Doug Snyder, Sun Harvest Greenhouses, The Landings Golf Course and Teaching Centre, Trailhead Kingston, Laruel Trull, Union Gas, Urban Paws, Glenn C. Warner, Wellington Foreign Exchange.

New Source Water Protection Website

Source Water Protection staff are pleased to announce that we have a shiny new website – www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca. The website has been updated to a new format that we hope you will find easier to navigate and we have also been working hard on new content to help you protect your drinking waters supplies.

HOME CONTACT US 613.546.4228 info@cleanwatercataraqui.ca

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

CATARAQUI
Source Protection Area

HOME ABOUT US STUDIES & REPORTS MAPS & RESOURCES RISK MANAGEMENT NEWS & OFFICIAL NOTICES CONTACT US

Use this website to learn about the *Cataraqui Source Protection Plan*, made under the *Clean Water Act*.

This Plan was developed locally to protect sources of drinking water in the *Cataraqui Source Protection Area*.

Learn More About Source Water Protection
What does it mean to live in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area? How will the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan be implemented? Answer to your questions can be found here.

Download the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan
Approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (November 26, 2014). Effective April 1, 2015.

Interactive Maps
Find your property, click on the map and find out how you might be affected by the Source Protection Plan.

Risk Management Office
Do you require a Risk Management Plan? Are you proposing a new activity in a vulnerable area? Find out more about requirements in vulnerable areas.

Home About Us Studies and Reports Maps & Resources Risk Management News & Official Notices Contact Us

Contact Us
1541 Perth Road
P.O. Box 160
Glenburnie, Ontario, Canada
K0H 1S0
Telephone: (613) 546-4228
Toll-free Telephone (613 area code):
1-877-956-CRCA (2722)
Fax: (613) 547-6474
E-mail: info@cleanwatercataraqui.ca

What's Happening:
• SPMIF deadline extended - municipalities to apply to the province for an extension (PDF)
• Resources page updated - learn more about drinking water source protection
• Cataraqui Source Protection Plan comes into effect - April 1, 2015 (PDF)
• Source Protection Implementation Workshop - March 31, 2015

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Search our site:

CATARAQUI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Conservation ONTARIO
Natural Champions

WORKING NEAR WATER?

- You may need a permit.

Are you planning a building project or doing some work along your shoreline in the spring? If you are going to build or alter land near a wetland, watercourse or along a shoreline, you may require a permit or planning approval from the CRCA.

Planning and permitting staff would like to remind residents, developers and others that shorelines, flood plains, wetlands and lands adjacent to them can be affected by natural hazards such as flooding and erosion. Development projects, including construction, filling, and site alteration as well as alterations to watercourses (e.g. shoreline erosion protection) may require a planning approval from your municipality and may also be located in an area that is subject to Ontario Regulation 148/06, thus requiring a CRCA permit. It is recommended that proponents of these activities pre-consult with a CRCA resource planner in order to make the process as smooth as possible.

The CRCA planning staff is accessible, easy to talk to and can help guide you through the permit process. So if you are planning an addition to your lakeshore home, changes to your dock or any other projects that may be within 50 metres of water please give them a call. Assistance from CRCA planning staff can save you time and money.

For planning applications, regulation permits or development inquiries please call: 613-546-4228

• **Andrew Schmidt, Development Review Manager** – ext. 224 (Greater Napanee, Loyalist and South Frontenac)

• **Michael Dakin, Resource Planner** – ext. 228 (Leeds and the Thousand Islands, Athens, Front of Yonge, Elizabethtown-Kitley and Brockville)

• **Christine Woods, Resource Planner** – ext. 235 (Rideau Lakes, Kingston, Gananoque)

For shoreline, in-water works (e.g. docks, shoreline retaining walls) and enforcement call:

• **Jason Messenger, Development Officer** – ext. 286 (all of the above mentioned areas)

For information on CRCA policy and guidelines or to find a fee schedule and application form please visit our website at www.crca.ca/planning-permits

Why should we protect our drinking water sources?

• **Water treatment isn't always enough:** water treatment systems cannot always remove all contaminants (including chemicals such as liquid fuels and solvents).

• **Prevention saves money:** it is much easier and cheaper to keep water clean than it is to try and clean it up after it has been polluted. For example, a 2010 spill from a home heating oil tank in eastern Ontario cost

approximately \$1 million to clean up, while preventative changes to the tank and supply lines could have been completed for as little as \$1,500.

• **Contamination can ruin a water source forever:** If it is not possible to clean up the water after it has been contaminated, water supplies will have to be shut down. In the 1990's a new drinking water supply had to be found for the community of Manotick because the

groundwater was polluted by a chemical spill from a dry cleaning business. Safe drinking water had to be piped from the City of Ottawa at a significant cost.

• **Source water protection has other benefits:** keeping sources of drinking water clean and plentiful supports tourism and recreation and provides good fish and wildlife habitat.