

CAT TALES

Winter 2003 Issue

In This Issue

Attention All Farmers!

Our Winter 2003 issue is packed full of information about the CRCA's programs and activities. Read about what we did this past fall and what we have planned for the winter and spring.

- Are you a farmer interested in making some environmental improvements on your farm? Be sure to check out pages 1 and 5.
- Water is a main interest of the CRCA. Read about the Walkerton Report on page 9, and dams and wells on page 5.
- Baby it's cold outside! See page 10 for more information about enjoying winter and find out about winter and spring programs and events on pages 6 and 7.
- We've been going crazy over Maple Madness for 20 years! More on page 12 and our events calendar on pages 6 and 7.
- Wildlife are featured on pages 2 and 8. Our Creature Feature (page 2) is about the White-tailed Deer. Read about our Trumpeter Swans on page 8.
- Education is important for the future of all conservation activities. Environmental Connections is hoping to connect more in the Brockville area. See page 8. The CRCA's winter education programs are featured on page 10. Our work with Athens District High School is on page 12.
- Forestry, Friends and the Foundation activities are on pages 3, 4 and 11.
- Plus news about planning, biosphere reserve and day camps from around the CRCA watershed.

If your farm is in the CRCA watershed and you would like to make some water quality improvements, we have a program for you! The *Healthy Watershed Program: Agriculture* deadline has been extended from March 2003 to December 2003.

Eligible water quality improvement projects (also known as *best management practices*) include: planting windbreaks and buffers, installing an alternative watering device, livestock restriction, constructing low level crossings, managing surface water runoff and repairing eroded stream banks.

Winter is the perfect time for planning projects. Since the program doesn't end until late 2003, farmers have all year to complete some great projects to improve their farm operation and the natural environment.

Grant rates range from 50 to 75 per cent with a grant ceiling of \$5,000. In-kind contributions such as landowner labour, materials and equipment, can be counted for up to two-thirds of the landowner's share.

So, what's the catch? You must have an approved, peer-reviewed Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to be eligible.

If you want to take the EFP workshop, or need to fill out your work book, take the time this snowy season so that you can access the time limited funds offered under the Healthy Watershed Program: Agriculture. Representatives of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association hold EFP workshops regularly. To find out when a workshop is being held in your area, call Rita Vogel, Leeds County, at (613) 275-1342 or John Wise,



Photo Credit - Kevin Bovey

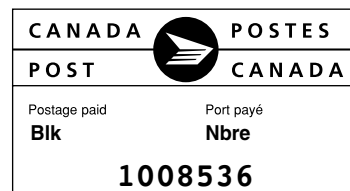
Installing an alternative watering device, such as this unit, can provide a source of water for livestock and protect the health of a stream.

Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Counties, at (613) 378-2583.

If you have questions or would like more information about this program, please call Holly Evans at the CRCA office at (613) 546-4228 ext. 244.



**Cataraqui Region
Conservation Authority**
P.O. Box 160,
Glenburnie, Ontario
K0H 1S0



Creature Feature

The White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

The white-tailed deer is named for the large white tail. The tail has a broad base and is almost a foot long. When lowered, it is brown with a white fringe. This graceful deer is well known to most North Americans. They are extremely agile and may bound at speeds of up to 30 miles per hour through tangled terrain in a forest or leap as high as 10 feet in the air.

White-tailed deer are relative newcomers to much of the range they now occupy. When Europeans first explored the northern half of the continent they found deer in only the most southerly parts of Canada.

Since then human activities, including tree cutting, the seedling of crops, the winter feeding of cattle, the reduction of the

deer's natural competitors, and the restriction of hunting have helped this deer to extend its range northward and westward. Long-term easing of the severity of winters may also be an important factor. Whatever the causes, the range of the white-tailed deer extended considerably.

The northern white-tailed deer is now found throughout eastern Canada, from about the Ontario-Manitoba border eastward to Cape Breton. Of all North America's large animals, the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is the most widely distributed and the most numerous.

The colour of the deer's upper body and sides changes with the season, from a reddish-brown in summer months to a darker gray

in the winter. Deer shed their hair twice a year, their heavy winter coat giving way to a lighter one in spring which is replaced again in early fall.

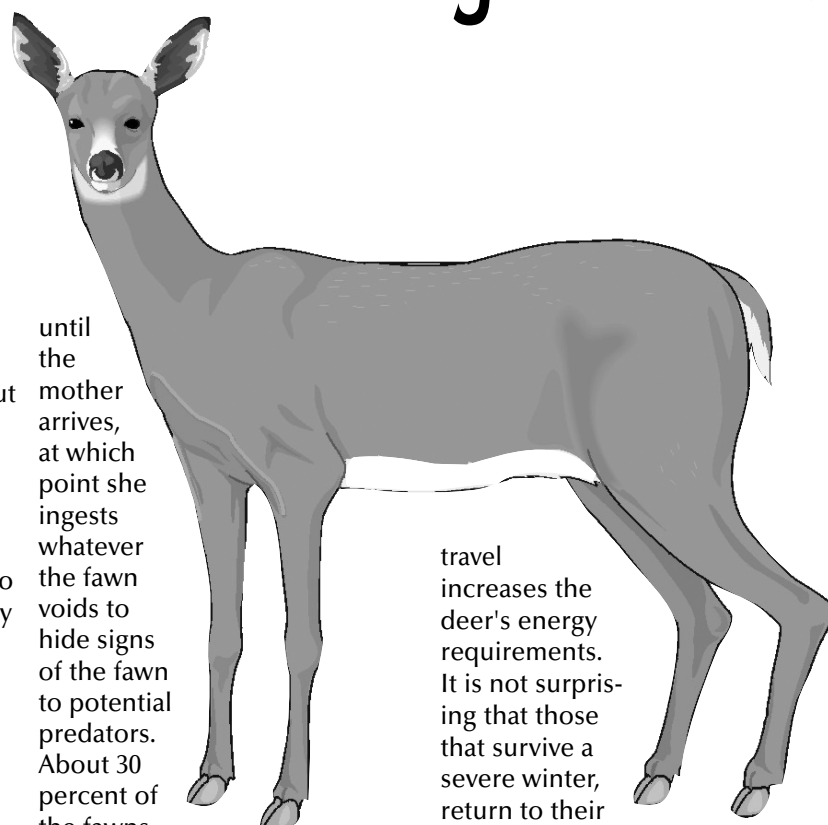
Males, or bucks, grow antlers in April to early May. The new antlers are tender and covered with velvet, which is shed in early September. Antlers are shed annually in January or February and regrow throughout the summer. Although it is a common belief, the number of points are not an indication of age, however, they can be an indicator of the animal's health.

White-tails have keen senses to help them avoid predation. They have good eyesight and acute hearing, but depend mainly on their sense of smell to detect danger. Their large white tail is often used to signal other deer when danger is present. Scent glands on their legs and feet are used to communicate with one another.

The basic social unit is a female (called a *doe*) and her fawns. Females generally follow their mothers for about two years, but males leave the group within the first year. Bucks travel alone or band together in bachelor's clubs for most of the year. Males begin rutting as early as September, and at this point become entirely preoccupied with obtaining a mate.

Most white-tailed deer mate in their second year. Mating occurs from October to December and gestation is approximately 6 and a half months (201 days).

Fawns are born in May or June. At birth, fawns weigh between 1.5 and 2.5 kg. After it is first born, it has essentially no scent and cannot be smelled by predators. When foraging, females leave their offspring in dense vegetation for about four hours at a time. While waiting for the female to return, fawns lay flat on the ground, camouflaged against the forest floor. Fawns withhold their feces and urine



until the mother arrives, at which point she ingests whatever the fawn voids to hide signs of the fawn to potential predators. About 30 percent of the fawns do not survive until fall. The life span of a white-tailed deer in the wild is 10 years, but they have lived up to 20 years in captivity.

White-tailed deer feed on a variety of vegetation, depending on what is available in their habitat. In eastern forests, buds and twigs of deciduous trees, acorns, clover, alfalfa, apples, berries and mushrooms are consumed, as well as many shrubs. Abundant food makes almost any forested or bushy area suitable for summer occupancy, but as snow deepens the deer concentrate in "deer yards," which provide food and shelter from storms and deep snow.

Even the most favourable winter areas have a limited food supply. Deep snow aggravates the problem. At snow depths greater than 40 cm, deer find it increasingly difficult to move about freely and tend to follow previously broken trails. The quantity and quality of food that can be reached from these trails further limit the food that is available. Intense cold and difficult

travel increases the deer's energy requirements. It is not surprising that those that survive a severe winter, return to their summer ranges thin and weak.

In much of their range, their natural predators, such as the timber wolf, coyote, bobcat, and mountain lion, have been greatly reduced in number. Free-roaming dogs take a heavy toll on deer of all ages, particularly in late winter when crusted snow aids the dogs but hinders the weakened deer. Human activity also assists in maintaining deer populations.

White-tails are active at night, and are most active at dawn and at dusk. The best chances for seeing deer are on early morning walks and car rides in the country. Careful driving and alertness are required when driving at night, as many people have hit deer that have suddenly burst from the fields and thickets in front of their vehicles. White-tailed deer occasionally hang around certain spots along the highway and are seen again and again. These areas are often marked by the deer crossing signs along the roadside.

CAT TALES

Winter 2003 Issue

Cat Tales is published three times per year by the



Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

Editor

Karla Maki-Esdon

Design, Layout and Printing

Brockville Recorder and Times

Contributors

Tom Beaubiah, Moira Drummond, Holly Evans, Rob Gerritsen, Rick Knapton, Stephen Knechtel, Claire Lefrancois, Stana Luxford, Karla Maki-Esdon, Andrew Marshall, Rob McRae, Mara Shaw, Sean Watt, Don Wright

Send mail to: Editor,

c/o Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority,
P.O. Box 160, Glenburnie, ON, K0H 1S0

E-mail: kmakiesd@cataraquiregion.on.ca

Phone: (613) 546-4228

Fax: 547-6474



Improvements to Area Forests

This is our third and final year for our Tree Replacement and Management Strategy. Funding for tree planting and forestry improvements was provided by the Ontario Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Natural Resources as part of their ice storm funding assistance program.

This fall, 270 caliper deciduous tree stock were planted at the following CRCA properties: Gould Lake Conservation Area, Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Lemoine Point Conservation Area, Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, Lyn Valley Conservation Area, Cataraqui Trail, Charleston Lake Boat Ramp.

Most of the planting was done by CRCA operations staff, with some assistance from the administration office staff at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area planting site.

Work is underway to complete improvements to our existing forest stands at Eden Grove Agreement Forest and the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Most of this work entails the removal of ice

damaged trees to allow the undamaged trees to continue growing. CRCA staff will be working to the end of 2002 to complete this work.

Habitat Improvements at Owl Woods

This past spring, 2500 seedlings were planted at our Owl Woods property located on Amherst Island. Planting assistance was provided by the CRCA staff, Kingston Field Naturalists and Junior Naturalists, Girl Guides and the Trees For Peace program. Over 50 people were involved with this planting, which we hope will increase the owl roosting habitat at the site.

An assessment of the planting this fall showed that 60 per cent of the jack pine survived, 25 per cent of the white pine and very few of the white cedar. The grass is tall and the voles are thick, but jack pine appear to be the way to go!



CRCA administration staff Cheryl Rider (left), and Karla Maki-Esdon mulch newly-planted trees at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

Heritage Forest - The Sequel

The Friends of Lemoine Point have the second phase of the Heritage Forest program demonstration site well underway as of November 2002. You may recall that the first phase demonstration site at the north end of Lemoine Point Conservation Area was officially opened in spring of 2002.

The second phase, which is located at the south end of the property is now well underway with the planting of 35 caliper trees, 100 shrubs and 50 potted seedlings and small whips. All were planted this fall with the help of 25 Friends of Lemoine Point volunteers, CRCA staff and family members. Financial assistance for this project came from donations through the Friends of Lemoine Point and others.

Conifer seedlings and larger conifer stock will be introduced in the spring of 2003 to complete this

second demonstration site. Once the project is completed, a sign will also be produced and erected to identify the site.

Red Oak Plantation Project

Site preparation for spring 2003 planting of red oak seedlings at Lemoine Point Conservation Area was completed earlier this fall. Three hundred additional red oak seedlings will be introduced to the site next May. CRCA staff and the Friends of Lemoine Point help to plant these seedlings each spring.

The project has been ongoing for the past four years. Rodents and drought have proven to be a difficult problem during the past with this project. However, we are beginning to see some results of our toils and troubles and expect to continue each spring for many years to come!

Vandalism at Lemoine Point

While the Friends of Lemoine Point have been working hard to make improvements, vandals have been hard at work destroying signs at the conservation area. Both kiosk signs at the north and south entrances to the property have been either heavily damaged or destroyed recently. The kiosk sign at the north parking lot was actually chopped down with an axe! Handicapped parking signs have been stolen, and special use area markers have also been chopped down and burned. All of the vandalism has taken place at night.

Local police have been informed and given keys to access the property through our locked gates at the area. Our enforcement officers have also been apprised of the situation.

Although no one has been caught, no further incidents have taken place over the past month, and staff hope that the culprits have finally had their fun!



A Busy Year for the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

The CRCA is very lucky to have a group of volunteers as dedicated as the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. In 2002, the Friends invested more than \$10,000 in materials and volunteered labour to improve the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Way to go!

This included activities like maintaining trails and flower beds, erecting signs, hosting events, participating in the Community Watch program and building fences.

Fencing - Phase 2

The major project this year was fencing along Centennial Road at the south boundary of the Wildlife Area. The second phase was completed this fall during the week of September 30 to October 5. Seventeen volunteers spent 123 hours brushing out, removing old fencing and installing about 400 metres of new fencing along Centennial Road. That brings the total fencing installed this year to almost one kilometre.

There is still more that needs to be done. The City of Brockville has agreed to provide some financial assistance and has already completed the brushing to Windsor Drive. If you would like to contribute some time or money to this project, the Friends would be pleased to hear from you! Call Don or



The Friends of the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area completed the second phase of a major fencing project along Centennial Road in Brockville, the south boundary of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Linda Wright at (613) 342-6399 if you would like to make a contribution.

Fall Open House

The Friends also host a spring and fall open house each year to attract new visitors to the area and to recruit new members. This year's fall open house was held on Ontario Hiking Day, October 6. Approximately 100 people came out to enjoy the beautiful fall day which included bird watching, pond dipping and a presentation on nuisance bears.

Thanks to Jason Ritchie of the Ministry of Natural Resources in Kemptville for the nuisance bear presentation, Dan Clifflen of the Brockville and Area Field Naturalists for the birding tours and Ron Gardiner of Environmental Connections for the pond dipping activities. Also thanks to

Ann, Lisa and Betty for looking after the food and refreshments.

Winter Activities

Despite a poor winter in 2002, the Friends will once again be playing host to skiers and skaters on winter weekends in 2003. Each Saturday and Sunday from 12:30 to 3:30, the Friends will be selling refreshments at the skating hut. Warm up with a hot chocolate and meet a new friend!

Circle January 25 on your calendar. It's going to be a winter fun day with afternoon and evening skating, dog sled races and other outdoor activities. Break out your winter woolies and plan to attend! Stay tuned to your local media or visit our web site at www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca for the most up-to-date news on this exciting event.



Jason Ritchie, MNR biologist, gave a presentation on Nuisance Bears at the fall open house.

Local Planners Kept Busy with Official Plan and Zoning By-law Updates

Land use planners in the Cataraqui Region have been busy during the last two years, as recently amalgamated municipalities have begun to update and consolidate their official plans and zoning by-laws. Official plans act as a blueprint for land use and development in a municipality, normally over a twenty year period, and are approved by the provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. They contain general policies for development, and maps showing proposed land uses. Zoning by-laws define specific land use zones throughout a municipality and include provisions

to regulate development patterns. These documents are intended to reflect local priorities and issues, but must comply with provincial policies.

CRCA staff provide extensive input to official plans and zoning by-laws at the draft stage, with special attention to policies and provisions concerning natural hazards such as flooding and erosion, as well as those related to fish and wildlife habitat, surface and ground water quality and quantity, and conservation lands. We consider these planning documents to be important for advancing the conservation goals of our communities, and for carrying out the recommendations of technical studies such as watershed plans.

The breadth of issues considered in typical official plans and zoning by-laws has increased in recent years, especially as the province has established new planning policies. However, not everything of conservation interest in a municipality can be addressed through this process. For example, the use of personal watercraft on a lake cannot be dealt with through the municipal planning process, since it does not relate directly to the arrangement of land uses, or pattern of development, in a municipality.

New official plans and zoning by-laws have now been adopted in Loyalist Township and the Town of Greater Napanee. The Township of South Frontenac has adopted a new

official plan, and is currently working on a new zoning by-law. The Townships of Elizabethtown-Kitley, Leeds and the Thousand Islands, and Rideau Lakes are beginning work on their official plans. If you live in one of these municipalities, watch for advertisements in the local newspaper about public meetings to discuss the official plan. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of your municipality.

For more information about the role of CRCA staff in providing input to an official plan or zoning by-law for your municipality, please call either Rob McRae, resource planner at (613) 546-4228 ext. 224 or Andrew Marshall, environmental planner at ext. 236.



Dams - Maintaining Our Infrastructure

The province of Ontario is chock full of dams. There are approximately 2200 dams in Ontario, 15 per cent (325) are owned by the provincial government, 13 per cent (288) by Ontario Power Generation, 10 per cent (219) by conservation authorities (7 by CRCA), 7 per cent (150) by the federal government, and the rest are either privately owned or unattended.

Dams have been built for thousands of years, many in Ontario date back to the 1700s. They are usually built to hold back water, but the purpose(s) of holding back this water varies greatly. Power generation, habitat creation, recreation, flood control, and erosion control are just a few of the environmental and economic reasons dams are built.

Dams have normally been built of concrete, steel, earth and rock fill. While these materials last a long time, they require ongoing maintenance to ensure stability and ease of operation over the long-term.

The CRCA completes maintenance work every year on our structures. This includes relatively simple items such as painting, sign replacement, concrete patching, and gear lubrication. Bigger maintenance projects such as safety fencing, improved winches, replacement of stop-logs, relief wells, shore protection, and structural competency inspections, are carried out on a less frequent basis.

Unfortunately, given the funding cutbacks to conservation authorities since the mid-1990s, many of these bigger maintenance repairs are not being completed on a timely basis. Consequently, some dams are deteriorating and may soon be unsafe to operate, unable to be repaired (need to be rebuilt or removed) or may fail unexpectedly.

Currently, there is no legislation that requires dam owners to maintain their dams to set standards. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has prepared a draft guideline that

outlines these standards and they may soon be a requirement of all dam owners in the province of Ontario.

It has been estimated that the CRCA would need to almost double its watershed management budget for the next four years just to catch up on the maintenance works needed at our dams. While this is not likely to happen, we will continue to ensure that our dams continue to be safe and operable by making regular repairs and conducting ongoing maintenance.

A Healthy Future for Wilton Creek

After a long wait, the CRCA is pleased to announce that we will be delivering a program, on behalf of the Wilton Creek Association, to improve the health of the Wilton Creek watershed and beyond. Funds are from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture through the *Healthy Futures for Ontario Agriculture* program.

A Healthy Future for Your Well

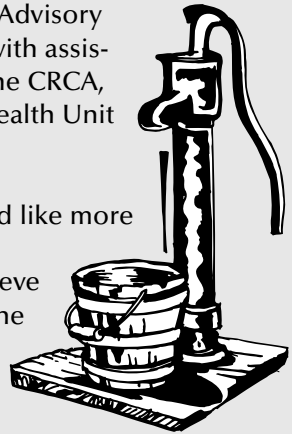
If your water comes from a well and you live in the Kingston area, plan to attend a water workshop on **Saturday, January 25** at Glenburnie United Church on Unity Road. From **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** you can learn all about your well and septic system.

Speakers will include experts on topics such as groundwater, constructing and maintaining a well, water treatment systems, water conservation, and septic system design, construction and maintenance. There will also be displays from local agencies, well drillers, consultants and septic system installers. All this for the low, low price of \$5.00 per person,

which also includes lunch!

The workshop is being sponsored by the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum and the Rural Affairs Advisory Committee with assistance from the CRCA, the KFL&A Health Unit and Queen's University.

If you would like more information, please call Steve Knechtel at the CRCA office at (613) 546-4228 ext. 239.



Wilton Creek meanders through villages, farms and woodlots in three different municipalities before emptying into Hay Bay.



What's Happening 2003

Enjoy the outdoors during the winter and spring in our conservation areas. Visit our web site at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca to find the conservation area closest to you.

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

Entry Fees

Gould Lake and Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Areas have a daily entry fee. The fee is

- \$4.00 per person for adults and children over 12,
- \$2.00 per person for children 12 and under, with a maximum fee of
- \$10.00 per car. Annual passes are available for \$50.00 per year and provide unlimited access to both of these conservation areas.

Donation boxes are located at our other conservation areas and at our boat ramps. Your donations help to maintain these facilities, so please make a contribution each time you visit.



Hours of Operation Conservation Areas

- 7:30 a.m. to dusk daily

Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre

- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday
- 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays from January 1 to May 5

Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

Take Highway 29 north from Brockville to Tincap, turn east on Debruge Road and drive for 2 km to the main entrance. Enjoy 11 km of hiking and cross-country ski trails, a Nature Centre, picnic facilities and a skating rink.

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area will be serving hot chocolate and coffee at the skating shelter every Sunday in January and February from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. (weather permitting).

Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

Try out a new winter sport! We have great facilities including 13 km of groomed cross-country ski trails, a natural ice rink, warming huts and an Outdoor Centre with lots of great programs for the whole family.



In the early spring, plan a visit to our sugar bush to enjoy the sweet taste of maple syrup. As the snow melts and nature awakens, join us for great spring activities.

Winter Activities at Little Cataraqui Creek

Cross-country Ski Lessons
Learn how to ski or improve your technique. Cross-country ski lessons are offered on *Saturdays from January 4 to March 1*, weather permitting.

Register in advance, or on the day of the lesson, at the



Outdoor Centre. Cost is

- \$11.00 per person or
- \$8.50 per person for annual pass holders.

Group lessons are one-hour in length. Private lessons can also be arranged. Group lesson times are as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. - lessons for children 14 and under (children must be able to put their own equipment on or a parent must be available to assist the child)
- 11:30 a.m. - all ages
- 1:30 p.m. - all ages

Full day ski equipment rentals are available at the half-day rate for all lesson participants (registration receipt must be shown to receive special rental rates).

Equipment Rentals

Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available for rent at the Outdoor Centre. A limited selection of ice skates is also available.

Ice Rink Rental

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

Programs and Activities

The following programs and activities take place at **Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston.**

Ski Waxing Clinic - Part 2

Sunday, January 5 (2:00 p.m.)

The Canadian Ski Patrol - Frontenac Zone will be hosting a waxing and training clinic for all people interested in cross-country skiing and winter sports. Bring your skis, waxes and

wear comfy clothing to this interactive and hands-on presentation. So if you missed the first clinic, or you want a refresher to build on from the last one be sure to join us at the Outdoor Centre.

Winter Camping Clinic

Sunday, January 12 (2:00 p.m.)
Jack Wolfskin and the Peak Experience will be hosting a winter camping clinic. Join knowledgeable staff on the tips and tricks of modern winter camping and playing it safe during winter wilderness adventures. The clinic will be held at the Outdoor Centre in the General Purpose Room.

Brown Bag Seniors' Program

Winter Adventure
Thursday, January 16 (10:30 a.m.)

Meet at the Outdoor Centre for a winter walk or, if there is enough snow, for cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing with instruction. Dress for the weather with lots of layers and remember to bring your lunch and water to drink. If you will be taking a cross-country ski lesson, there will be a \$10.00 fee which can be paid at the Outdoor Centre.

Little Cat Classic Ski Loppet

Sunday, January 19

Pre-register for each even 30 minutes before start time. The day's events include:

- 10:00 a.m. - Winter Relay Triathlon, skate, snowshoe and ski. Registration fee is \$5.00 per team.



1:00 p.m. - Cross-Country Ski Loppets, 5 km or 10 km. Registration fee is \$2.50 per person or \$5.00 per team.

This annual winter fun day is hosted by the Canadian Ski Patrol - Frontenac Zone. (If poor ski conditions exist, the alternate date is Sunday, February 16).

The Oceans of Kingston - Fossils From 450 Million Years Ago

Sunday, January 26 (2:00 p.m.)

Trilobites, snails, brachiopods and corals, these are only a few of the amazing fossils found in the Kingston area. Come and hear Mark Badham, curator of the Miller Museum of Geology at Queen's University talk about the amazing life of Kingston's watery past, and also the recently described oldest definite land tracks found anywhere in the world.



P.A. Day Winter Sports and Adventure Day

Friday, January 31 (8:30 - 4:30 p.m.)

Ages 6 to 11

Give your child(ren) an opportunity to have a P.A. Day full of winter adventure and fun. We'll be cross-country skiing, skating, sledding, snowshoeing through the fields, forest, wetland areas of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Bring your lunch, snacks, drinks, warm and extra clothes, sleds and skates. The program will run regardless of



weather, we have alternate plans involving interactive games and activities, if there is not enough snow. Cost is \$30.00 per child and you must pre-register. Space is limited for this popular program, so register early. For more information call 546-4228 ext. 251. Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. and pick is at 4:30 p.m.

Fireside Talent Night and Evening Skate

Friday, January 31 (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)

You still have a chance to share your talents in a comfortable, relaxed and fun atmosphere. Sit by the fireside with a hot chocolate or coffee and enjoy the performances of your friends, family, and fellow community members. All ages are welcome. If you play an instrument, sing, write poetry, tell stories, or simply enjoy being a part of a supportive and easygoing audience, then the Fireside Talent Night is for you! The regular entry fee applies to entertainers and spectators alike.



Groundhog Day Winter Tracking and Adventures

Sunday, February 2 (2:00 p.m.)

Come out for an hour of tracking and adventures on our beautiful trails. The program starts at the Outdoor Centre in the General Purpose Room. All ages are welcome. Dress in layers for the weather. Bring your keen sense of wonder and join us on this fun adventure.



What's Happening 2003

Mid-Winter Celebration

Sunday, February 9

Mid-winter is a traditional time for the aboriginal people to celebrate their community. We will be hosting along with Eartha from the Native Studies Centre at St. Lawrence College. More details to come. Visit our web site at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.



Little Cat Classic Ski Loppet (Alternate Date)

Sunday, February 16
(See January 19 listing for more details.)

Brown Bag Seniors' Program

Winter Wonderland
Thursday, February 20
(10:30 a.m.)

Meet at the Outdoor Centre to go out for a snowshoe, ski or hike, depending on snow conditions. Dress for the weather bring water and lunch for yourself and the chickadees!

Antarctica - The Continent of Ice and Mystery

Sunday, February 23
(2:00 p.m.)

Join CRCA's education officer, Stana Luxford, and Lachlan Oddie for a slide show and talk about their experience as volunteer chaperones for a Students On Ice expedition to Antarctica. Catch a glimpse of what Antarctica is like during the austral summer.

Fireside Talent Night and Evening Skate

Friday, February 28
(7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)
(See January 31)

Maple Madness

March 8-16 (March Break)
March 22 and 23; March 29 and 30

(9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Take a tractor-drawn wagon ride back to our sugar bush to see how maple syrup was made in the past and how we make it now. Enjoy fresh, hot pancakes with real maple syrup and take some syrup or maple sugar home to enjoy. It's our 20th anniversary, so we have lots of great activities planned on different days. You'll want to visit us often!



20th Anniversary Maple Madness Kick-Off

Saturday, March 8
(9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) We're going to have a grand opening day for our 20th season including music and special guests! Watch our web site (www.cataraquiregion.on.ca) for more details as they are finalized.

Guided Tours

Sunday, March 9
(10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.) Join us back at the sugar bush for guided tours of our facilities. Learn how maple syrup is made now and long ago.



Puppet Shows

Monday, March 10;
Wednesday, March 12;
Friday, March 14
(10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.)

The zany and knowledgeable puppet friends will provide you with an introduction to the sugar

bush. These shows are sure to entertain and give you a laugh. Be sure to join us at the Outdoor Centre at the scheduled times and dates offered.

French Heritage Day

Tuesday, March 11
(10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.)

The sugar bush is an important part of French Canadian culture. We're celebrating this at our annual French heritage day. Join CRCA education staff and guests at the Outdoor Centre to learn vocabulary, songs, and dances.

Puppet Shows

Wednesday, March 12
(see March 10)

Guided Tours

Thursday, March 13
(See March 9.)

Puppet Shows

Friday, March 14
(see March 10)

Bake Sale

Saturday, March 15

Pancakes and maple syrup not sweet enough? The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation is hosting a bake sale at the Outdoor Centre. There will be goodies baked with maple syrup and lots of other great stuff.



Sugar Bush Mystery Characters

Sunday, March 16

Try to track down mystery characters roaming around the sugar bush, Outdoor Centre, and on the wagons. They may have a treat or riddle to share with you. Get your face painted too!

Brown Bag Seniors' Program

Sugar Bush Adventure
Thursday, March 20
(10:30 a.m.)

Maple Madness is back. Meet at the Outdoor Centre at 10:30 a.m. and hike out to the sugar bush for some pancakes and a hot drink. Dress warmly for a good hike and bring water to drink. The cost for pancakes is \$1.25 per pancake.



Guided Tours

Saturday, March 22
(See March 9)

Sweet Water Celebration

Sunday, March 23
Maple trees and the "sweet water" that they produce have a special significance in aboriginal culture. Eartha from the Native Studies Centre at St. Lawrence College and other community members will be on hand for a special celebration of sweet water.

Old Thyme Sugar Bush Chores

Saturday, March 29
Pioneer children were expected to help out around the sugar bush during sugaring off season. Today you can help empty sap buckets and do other chores back in the sugar bush. Try your hand at log sawing or tree tapping from between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Music in the Maples

Sunday, March 30
10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
- David Archibald
2:00 p.m. - The Griggs Family

We finish our Maple Madness season with a

musical celebration! At the Outdoor Centre at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., join musician and songwriter David Archibald for two entertaining shows for children of all ages. Then at 2:00 p.m., in the sugar bush, the Griggs family will perform on bagpipes and drums, bringing a little Celtic flavour to Maple Madness.



Wildlife Week Celebration Survival Game

Sunday, April 6
(2:00 p.m.)

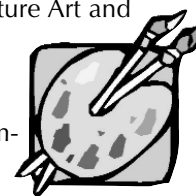
Celebrate Wildlife Week by becoming a wild animal in this predator prey simulation game called the Survival Game. Learn about basic food chains and human impacts. Make a commitment to reducing your impact on animals. Space is limited, so please come early to make sure you have a spot.



Nature Art and Hobbies Show

Sunday, April 13
(11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

The Nature Art and Hobbies Show strives to allow community members to make contact with local crafters and artists to inspire them and to share their beautiful work. Some pieces of work may be available for sale. Last year's show included stained glass, print making, scrap booking, wood sculpting, wood working, and nature painting.



Come out to our show, we're sure that you'll be refreshed and full of inspiration and ideas.

Brown Bag Seniors' Program

Spring Hike
Thursday, April 17
(10:30 a.m.)

Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Outdoor Centre and dress for the weather. Bring lunch and water to drink.

Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop

Saturday April 19
(1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Lisa Morriss-Andrews and two helpers will be teaching the intricate art of Ukrainian egg decorating. Pre-register for this workshop at the Outdoor Centre or the CRCA Administration Office. Cost is \$3 per person which includes all supplies. This program is suitable for ages 12 and up.



Fun Egg Dip and Stick Decorating

Sunday, April 20
(11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Bring your family out to the Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area for egg decorating suitable for all ages. Hop by for a quick hand at the self-serve dip and stick egg decorating and then celebrate the awakening of spring by taking a hike on the trails.



Environmental Connections Hoping to Become Better Connected

Swans aren't the only attraction at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. *Environmental Connections* is a group of enthusiastic local educators who provide curriculum-based education programs to the local community in the Brockville area. Now they are hoping for a little help from that community.

Seven Years Growth

It has been seven amazing years, and in that time *Environmental Connections* has provided outdoor education opportunities for over 8700 Brockville area students. What started as a vision, to see the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area used as a resource where children could experience nature and make a personal connection with it, has become a reality. Shelley Gallagher, the founder of *Environmental Connections*, has used her skills as an educator to help others become stewards of the environment. From her students and staff to her business partners and volunteers, she has expanded Brockville's understanding of outdoor education and made a significant impact on how the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area is used.

In the fall of 1995, with help from the CRCA, *Environmental Connections* began offering over a dozen curriculum-based outdoor education programs. The CRCA helped fund some of the initial program costs and currently maintains the nature centre and wildlife area for program use. It is through similar partnerships and dedicated staff that *Environmental Connections* has maintained its ability to offer inspiring primary, intermediate and senior level programs.

Hands-on, meaningful activities take the children out of the classroom and into an environment where they can make discoveries for themselves, learn

environmental concepts, and develop values of respect and connection with the natural world. When pri-

mary students take time to think about how another living creature lives and breathes during programs like *Pond Communities* or *Critters and Minibeasts*, they begin to understand how they too are a part of nature. Intermediate and senior students learn about topics such as conservation or orienteering.

In 1996, *Environmental Connections* launched a one-week summer camp. The campers, between the ages of seven and 11, follow a purposeful progression from hands on activities to learning environmental concepts and finally implementing environmental action projects. Three hundred and sixty campers have now participated!

Nature Buddies preschool program is *Environmental Connections*' newest program. Initiated in 2000, the program is available twice a year for parents and caregivers who want guidance and ideas of outdoor activities they can do with their toddlers. Through games, experiments, hikes, crafts, music, puppets and other activities, children are introduced to the beauty and importance of plants and animals. Their caregivers have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors through the simple and wonderful eyes of their children.

New Financial Challenge

In the past, *Environmental Connections* has survived primarily on the \$3.00 fee charged for each visiting student. This pays for the instructional time of the staff. Donations have also come from The Grenville Stewardship Council, The Kiwanis Club of Brockville, Canada Trust, and the South Nation River Conservation Authority to help purchase supplies and offset some of the administration costs. This year, the program faces a new challenge. In previous years, *Environmental Connections* has been able to access limited liability coverage through the CRCA and participating school boards. Today, the growing concern of companies and individuals is to make sure there are no gaps in

Trumpeter Swan Update



A pair of Trumpeter Swans with their cygnet (far right) at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. The immature swans have grey-brown feathers and a pink bill.

After a disappointing spring at the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area swan compound, the wild trumpeters, introduced into the area in 2000, have returned adding five new members to the swan population! This helps to offset our disappointment with our captive breeding pair's lack of success with their hatch this past spring.

With gray-brown feathers and pink bill, the immature swans display a distinct contrast from their parents. In total, all but one of the wild swans have returned, and can be periodically observed throughout the area.

One other unidentified pair have also been seen at the compound and are believed to be members of the Big Rideau Lake population introduced five years ago by the Trumpeter Swan

Restoration Program. These swans have been observed over-wintering near the Ivy Lea bridge on the St. Lawrence River. This is the first indication that the two populations may be integrating, increasing their flight range, and becoming more independent.

Local residents, in both the Kingston and Brockville areas, have reported swan sightings to the CRCA which has greatly helped with population identification. If you would like more information about the CRCA's participation in the Trumpeter Swan program or would like to submit swan sighting information or make a donation, please visit our web site at

www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca or send an e-mail to Stefan Foerster at foerster@cataraqueregion.on.ca.

that coverage. As a result, a new demand is being placed on our finances. It will cost an additional \$3000 for liability insurance to run our programs each year, a cost that we cannot afford.

Creating Partners in Education

With help from area businesses like the Brockville Cybermall and local organizations, we hope to increase community awareness of the program. We are currently pursuing funding from new sources and are busy compiling a directory of organizations and individuals whose involvement in education and the environment may complement the services we are providing.

Environmental Connections can no longer sustain itself through student fees and the generosity of its founder and employees. It is now time to look at *Environmental Connections* as truly

connected to the community we serve. There are so many stakeholders in environmental education. It's time that we brought them together to strengthen the programs that are available in the Brockville area.

If you have a concern for the future of our environment and believe that educating our young is one way to strengthen that future, please consider lending your time and talents to our community initiative. Creating a secure foundation of support is paramount to the longevity of the program. The more individuals we have looking out for the future of environmental education, the more likely it will remain a powerful tool in creating environmental stewards for the future.

For more information, call Claire Lefrancois at (613) 342-9364 or write Shelley Gallagher at enviroconnect@aol.com.



Cat News in Brief

News tidbits from around the watershed

The CRCA Administration Office has lost one of its valued staff. After more than 30 years of service, Mary Lee retired at the end of September. A very capable secretary and receptionist, Mary's cheerful and competent manner will be missed by the staff, board members and the public. We wish her a long and happy retirement!

In a cooperative partnership between the Limestone District School Board, the Township of South Frontenac and the CRCA, extensive improvements were made to the entrance road to the Gould Lake Conservation Area. Ditching and regrading will reduce the erosion of the road and potholes. Rock blasting has also resulted in sight-line improvements at several corners. Additional gravel was placed and graded as well. The improvements will also help with snowplowing allowing for

better access for the Limestone Board's winter education programs.

The CRCA has completed phase 1 of its three year computer upgrade program. The entire office network has been replaced and is now faster and more stable. Staff with the oldest and slowest computers received new equipment. The next two phases of the upgrade will deal with communications and software improvements and continuing to replace aging equipment.

At the Water Response Team (WRT) meeting in December, a Level 1 drought was declared. This is an improvement from the previous Level 2 drought. Water levels have been rising since September due to near normal precipitation this fall and also due to water conservation measures. Inland lakes are at or near normal levels, however, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River are still about 30 cm below normal.

Implementing the Walkerton Report Recommendations

Conservation Ontario, the provincial organization that represents Ontario's 36 conservation authorities, has been pushing the provincial government to include provisions to protect drinking water at the source. One of the key recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry report was to protect drinking water sources by developing and implementing watershed-based source protection plans. Conservation authorities were the agencies recommended to do these plans, since they are set up on a watershed basis.

The provincial government passed two pieces of legislation in early December to help implement the Walkerton Inquiry report – the *Safe Drinking Water Act* and the *Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act*.

The *Safe Drinking Water Act* deals mainly with the treatment and distribution of drinking water. It affects municipalities and local utilities involved in supplying water services. The *Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act* will make it mandatory

for municipalities to assess and report on the full costs of providing water and sewage services and to prepare and implement plans for recovering those costs. A last-minute amendment to this legislation ensures that municipalities can also finance activities to protect drinking water at its source.

This is very good news. Without a way to pay for the development of source protection plans, it is unlikely that they would get done. This new legislation will provide a mechanism for generating the revenue to pay for these plans.

Based on Conservation Ontario's submission to the Walkerton Inquiry in March 2001, it is estimated that it would cost about nine cents per day per household to be able to provide adequate water source protection. That's not a lot to pay for clean water. It's also important to keep in mind that it's much easier and cheaper to prevent a water pollution problem, than it is to fix one!



This wind-swept island on Charleston Lake is a good illustration of the character of the landscape in the newly-designated biosphere reserve.

Biosphere Reserve Designated in Thousand Islands Area

An ecologically important area, most of which is within the Cataraqui Region watershed, was designated as a biosphere reserve in November by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The area between Brockville, Gananoque and Westport has been designated the Canadian Thousand Islands-Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve.

The designation does not put any legal restrictions on the lands within this area, but it does focus attention on the area's unique natural and cultural features. Local organizations and agencies involved in conservation and stewardship hope that it will help to bring people together in a cooperative effort to preserve these special features. Loss of wildlife habitat and wet-

lands are key areas that will need to be focused on.

The new biosphere reserve contains a number of publicly-owned and protected areas including St. Lawrence Islands National Park, two provincial parks, conservation areas, land trust holdings and the Rideau Canal. However, most of the land is privately-owned. Conservation groups and agencies hope to work closely with local landowners to maintain the features that make this area so unique.

The push to obtain the biosphere reserve designation was spearheaded by the Canadian Thousand Islands Heritage Conservancy and The Watershed Nature and History Network. Congratulations to all the volunteers who have worked so hard on this project!



Wild About Winter

Not everyone enjoys winter, but we love it! You too can enjoy our trails at Gould Lake, Parrott's Bay, Lemoine Point, and Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Areas and at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Ski, snowshoe, hike, feed the birds or have a winter picnic.

At Little Cataraqui Creek we offer 13 km of groomed cross-country ski trails and a natural ice skating rink. We also have cross-country skis, snowshoes and a limited number of skates available for rent at the Outdoor Centre. Cross-country ski lessons are available on Saturdays. And we've got a great line-up of winter programs (check out our calendar on pages 6 and 7).

We will also be maintaining a skating rink at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area this winter and the Friends will be hosting skating parties on the weekends (see page 4 for details).

So get up off the couch, bundle up and come on outside! It's a winter wonderland out there.



Enjoy skiing, snowshoeing and skating this winter at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. You can also take in a program or just warm up at the Outdoor Centre.

Understanding Winter Weather Terminology

Most Canadians are obsessed with the weather. Particularly in the winter, we check the weather forecast before heading off on an outing, mainly to find out about driving conditions and what to wear. However, the different terms Environment Canada uses during their weather forecasts can be confusing at times, so we thought it would be a good idea to provide some definitions here.

Through the media, Environment Canada issues severe weather advisories, watches and warnings. Here's what those terms mean.

Weather Advisory

Actual or expected weather conditions may cause some inconvenience, but are not a serious enough threat to warrant a weather warning. An advisory is also issued when the weather could become severe, but it's not definite enough or too far in the future to justify a warning.

Weather Watch

One step up from a weather advisory, this means that conditions exist for the development of severe weather. Watch the skies and listen to the radio or television for updated watches or weather warnings.

Weather Warning

This one means that severe weather is happening or that it is very likely to happen. Severe thunderstorm

or tornado warnings may be issued less than one hour in advance. Other warnings may be issued six to 12 hours in advance.

During the winter, you are most likely to hear about the following types of weather warnings.

Freezing Rain Warning - slippery walking and driving conditions. Avoid travel.

Blizzard Warning - snow or blowing snow with severe windchill and visibility reduced to less than one km, for four hours or more. Stock up on food and fuel and stay indoors.

Heavy Snowfall Warning - snowfall of 15 cm or more in 12 hours or less. Travel could become hazardous.

Winter Storm Warning - two or more winter conditions become hazardous, e.g. wind and snow, or freezing rain followed by snow. Be prepared to cancel travel plans and stay indoors.

Windchill Warning - very cold temperatures and wind with outdoor conditions hazardous to human activity. Stay indoors.

Brrr! It makes me cold just thinking about it! There's a wealth of weather information available on Environment Canada's weather web site, including the information provided above. Just surf (or ski!) over to www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca and follow the links to the different pages.

Warm Up to Winter Education Programs

Winter is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and to learn about the natural environment. The CRCA offers a wide range of curriculum-based environmental education pro-

grams to classroom teachers and their students.

Listed below are our winter programs along with their specific links to the school curriculum.

- Climatic Encounters (Grades 2 and 5 - Science & Technology) - weather
- Feathered Friends (Grades 2, 4, 6 and 7 - Science & Technology) - birds
- Home Sweet Home (Grades 3 and 4 - Science & Technology) - wildlife habitat
- Instincts for Survival (Grades 4 and up - Science & Technology) - food chains and food webs
- Kinderscience - Winter Magic (JK and SK - Science & Technology) - changes, adaptations and seasons
- Nature in Winter (Grades 1 to 3 - Science & Technology) - tracking, changes, adaptations and seasons
- Ski or Snowshoe Lessons (all grades - Health and Physical Education)
- Taking A New Bearing - A) Mapping It Out (Grades 1 to 3 - Social Studies, Health & Physical Education) - B) Map and Compass (Grades 4 to 8 - Social Studies, Geography, Health & Physical Education) - mapping and orienteering
- Wild World (Grades 1, 2, 4, and 6 - Science & Technology) - animal adaptations, tracking

Winter is here so be sure to sign up soon for our excellent, experiential education programs. Our winter programs run from January 13 to February 21, 2003.

Two classes can take part in our programs to help reduce bussing costs. Program costs are \$3.00 per person for students from the Limestone District School Board and the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School

Board and \$5.00 per person for all other students.

Call Stana Luxford at (613) 546-4228 ext. 251 or send an e-mail to educate@cataraquiregion.on.ca to make a booking. We are also taking bookings for our Maple Madness and Spring Fever education programs. For more information, visit our web site at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.



Foundation News

We have come to believe that maintenance of wildlife habitat, through our conservation authorities, is a birthright of Canadians. Were it only true.

Provincial funding to conservation authorities, including the CRCA, has been cut by roughly 90 per cent in the last ten years. These cuts are staggering and the CRCA has done much to accommodate them, including downsizing and limiting property acquisition. Meanwhile, the municipal levies have not kept up with rising costs, which include a 30 to 40 per cent increase in the CRCA's insurance rate in the last year alone. Neither are they sheltered from the staggering increase in fuel costs and utilities we all are

experiencing. As with our public schools, we expect parks and conservation areas to be funded by the government. Natural spaces seem a Canadian birthright. But, as we see in our schools, provincial funding has dramatically diminished. Financial support from individuals is critical to the continued functioning of these institutions.

The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation believes that protection and wise use of the natural environment is a crucial public concern. We on the Foundation board of directors are dedicated to raising funds for conservation-related activities of the CRCA. The Foundation operates independently from the CRCA and is governed by a board of volunteers who dedicate large amounts of time raising funds to support quality programs like outdoor education.

The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation is working hard to raise funds and improve how we function. In October we began the process of focussing our efforts through strategic planning. All the board members were in attendance as we tackled our mission and goals. As an outcome, we continue to define how best to reach our financial goals. With the fantastic and active mem-



Foundation director, Peelu Hira (right), leads the other Foundation directors through a strategic planning session held in October at the Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre.

bers of our board, we are making strides.

Your support is critical to the continuance of conservation programs like outdoor education. The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation appeals to you to support conservation in the region. For information about our programs or membership, you can call the Foundation at (613) 546-4228 ext. 231.

"Without habitat, there is no wildlife. It's that simple."
--Wildlife Habitat Canada

Conservation Award

Do you know an inspiring person who is active in conservation? Now is a perfect time to think about your nomination for the Foundation's Conservation Award. Call the Foundation for information on how you can nominate a conservation leader for our annual award. Winners of the award receive recognition both at an awards ceremony and in the local media and have their name included on a Conservation Award plaque at the Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre.

See You at Maple Madness

Members of the Foundation look forward to seeing you at the Maple Madness days in March! We have always helped out as volunteers, but

this spring we're doing something special. On Saturday, March 15, we'll be hosting a bake sale at the Outdoor Centre. You're invited to take home some tasty treats and help support our conservation cause.

Forever Summer a Big Success!

Our big fundraising event, *Forever Summer*, held on November 29 was a smashing success! This year, we decided to do something a little bit different. Instead of a dinner and auction, we had a dance and auction with a summer theme. Everyone was asked to come in their summer clothes of yesterday or today and the Ambassador Hotel ballroom was decorated on a beach theme. Great dancing music was provided by the band *Endangered Species* and Barry Gordon provided the auction services.

Sponsors, advertisers, donors, live and silent auctions, raffles and ticket sales all helped to generate revenue for our event. Although final figures are not available at press time, we raised at least \$15,000 for conservation education and the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

A complete list of our donors, sponsors and advertisers will appear in our Spring-Summer edition of *Cat Tales*. Thank you to all of the contributors, the organizing committee and the volunteers who helped make this event such a success.



Sean Watt and Pat Hudson Mills, CRCA staff, show off their summer garb while volunteering for the Foundation/CRCA fundraiser "Forever Summer".



Volunteers Alice Kendall, Courtney Donovan and Rob McRae (left to right), get ready to deliver raffle prizes to winners at the "Forever Summer" Fundraiser.



Twenty Years of Maple Madness!



Tom Beaubiah (left), CRCA staff, takes a group of visitors on a guided tour of the sugar bush at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

It's hard to believe, but as of this coming March, we've been going crazy over maple syrup for 20 years! Yes, that's right. Our ever-popular sugar bush program at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston is 20 years old and you're invited to celebrate with us.

Maple Madness begins on March 8 and runs daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout the March Break until March 16. It also runs on the weekends of March 22 and 23 and March 29 and 30.

Our demonstration sugar bush will be

in full swing! See the different techniques for making maple syrup from olden days to present day. You can enjoy fresh hot pancakes with real maple syrup, everyone's favourite bumpy wagon ride back to the sugar bush, and lots of great activities for the whole family during the Maple Madness program. Most of the activities are listed on our Winter/Spring Calendar on pages 6 and 7, but some are still to be confirmed. Visit our web site at www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca for the most up-to-date information about upcoming events.

Coming Soon

CRCA Summer Day Camps

Although it's the middle of winter, we are now working on plans for our summer day camps for children aged six and up. To make sure that our programs stay fresh and current, we're planning some changes to both our **Outdoor Adventure Camp** and our **Wilderness Backpacking Experience**. Campers that completed our evaluation forms were very helpful with their suggestions for improving our camps.

New and returning campers will be able to develop new outdoor skills and have a terrific experience learning about the natural world. Outdoor Adventure Campers will be learning about tracking, plant and animal identification, survival skills and nature lore. In addition to developing their backpacking and camping skills, Wilderness Backpackers will learn tracking, basic first aid and how to minimize their ecological footprint.



Outdoor Adventure Campers cool off during their weekly field trip to Gould Lake Conservation Area.

Watch for more information in our Spring/Summer edition of *Cat Tales* and on our web site www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca.

Winter Sports and Adventure P.A. Day

January 31 is a P.A. Day. Why not give your child(ren) an opportunity to have a day of winter adventure and fun at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area! We'll be cross-country skiing, skating, sledding, and snowshoeing. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we have alternate plans involving interactive games and activities.

The program is for children aged 6 to



11. Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program runs until 4:30 p.m. Bring your lunch, snacks, drinks, warm clothes, sleds and skates.

Cost is \$30.00 per child and you must pre-register. Space is limited for this popular program, so register early. For more information call 546-4228 ext. 251.

Athens District High School a Finalist in the Global Junior Challenge

A project created by a team of students from Athens District High School (ADHS), with assistance from the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, has been named a finalist in the Global Junior Challenge. The awards ceremony for this competition was held in Rome, Italy on December 12, 2002. (At press time results were not yet available.)

The Global Junior Challenge is a international event recognizing the best projects that use information communication technology for education. Entries come from schools, public and private institutions, non-profit and youth associations, large and small companies, and research centres. The challenge was taken up by 433 entries from around the world.

The ADHS entry, EEZONE, is a web site consisting of five educational environmental simulations. The work

was done by a team of senior students in consultation with the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. Simulations and games for a walk in the woods, farm management, flooding and erosion problem solving, the water cycle and environmental awareness can be found at www.ucdsb.on.ca/athens/eezone/index.htm.

EEZONE is one of 15 finalists in the category for projects with a target audience of people under 29 years of age. Other finalists include projects

from the United Kingdom, Macedonia, Indonesia, Italy, Germany, Spain, the United States, Sweden, India and Namibia. Entries encompass the City of Glasgow, a Spanish Business Center for Information Technology, United Nations Information Technology Service and The Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination of Research. More information about the Global Junior Challenge can be found at www.gjc.it.

