



CAT TALES

FALL 2007 ISSUE

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- Plus our Creature Feature is cute, furry and small. See page 2.



A map and photo display drew the attention of many at the July 30 reception.

Marilyn Banting, left, and Andria Coward of the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston were among the guests at the celebratory reception. The Community Foundation was a significant contributor to the campaign.

CRCA celebrates Bayview Wetland fund-raising campaign

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, assisted by the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation, has purchased 700 acres of the ecologically significant Bayview Wetland.

"The Conservation Authority and the Foundation collaborated to raise \$1 million in four short months to buy this property," says CRCA General Manager Steve Knechtel.

He notes that numerous organizations and individuals 'caught the bug' and made the fund-raising campaign a high priority community project.

The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation doubled its fund-raising pledge to \$213,000. Foundation President John Morse says: "The Foundation is dedicated to raising funds for CRCA projects such as buying environmentally sensitive lands for protection through public ownership and for the outdoor education program."

Bayview Wetland is a regionally significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and a Provincially Significant Wetland. It is home to some 400 species of plants, 21 of which are significant species, plus numerous bird and animal species, some endangered.

Public ownership by the CRCA will allow for consistent conservation management says Mr. Knechtel.

"There is the potential for scientific research on this property," he adds.

The property was bought from the estate of the late Judge William Henderson.

Mr. Knechtel notes this acquisition strengthens the ecological linkage between Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, Lemoine Point Conservation Area and the Collins Creek corridor. Ecological linkages are important for species dispersal and for maintaining healthy gene pools, among many other reasons.

Next, the Conservation Authority will draft a plan to govern how the property will be managed. It is expected to focus on managing the property as a nature reserve primarily for scientific research.

This land acquisition, dubbed an ecological gem in news stories, was



celebrated at a reception for major donors on July 30 at the Outdoor Centre at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. About 30 major contributors were joined by CRCA staff and board members of the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation for the celebration.

Mr. Knechtel and Foundation Past President Lynne Kenny both thanked the more than 150 environmentally concerned individuals, corporations, clubs, organizations, businesses and government agencies that collaborated to help the CRCA acquire a portion of the Bayview Wetland.

Bayview Wetland has been termed 'a whole, functioning ecosystem' by noted a botanist.



**Cataraqui Region
Conservation Authority**
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Creature Feature

Mink, *Mustela vison*

A startled motorist on Kingston Mills Road slammed on his brakes early one morning as two gracefully elongated mammals undulated across the pavement, disappearing into a cattail marsh.

They were mink, *Mustela vison*, important predators in the food chain. What was unusual was to spot adults together. Mink tend to be solitary. What also struck the observer was their presence less than 100 metres from a busy Rideau Canal lock. The Canal plus the adjacent parkland experience heavy boat, vehicle and pedestrian traffic in summer.

Mink, it seems, are tolerant of human activity.

"In fact, there are more mink now than there ever has been," suggests James Dobson.

He should know. He's a trapper, a licensed trapper instructor, a director of the Ontario Fur Managers Federation and a

re-enactor who portrays a fur trader from a bygone era. Mr. Dobson is a walking encyclopedia about Canada's fur trade heritage.

"Yes," he muses, "there's a lot more mink and they seem to be finding a niche."

Mink are even found in the St. Lawrence River. A boater, who frequently anchors amidst the Thousand Islands, watches mink swim between islands. Late one afternoon, he observed a solitary animal hunt along an island shoreline for 15 minutes. Then, still on the prowl, the mink swam 100 meters to a large shoal and continued its hunt, aware and apparently unconcerned that it was under human observation.

Mr. Dobson recalls watching a mother lead her swimming flotilla of youngsters toward a dock in the Thousand Islands, chirping encouragement.

"They chirp and bark similar to an otter," he explains.

Once the family reached the dock, they

shed their "drowned rat" appearance with a monumental shake to fluff that rich fur.

Mink litters consist of three or four kits, but may range between two and 10.

The motorist, mentioned at the top of this article, spotted an adult mink in the water beside Kingston Mills Lock last October. This suggests the lock and surrounding shoreline are part of the animal's hunting ground.

Mink are found in lakes and rivers throughout the jurisdiction of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, indeed throughout most of the North American continent. Often described as wetland weasels, to whom they are related, mink are skillful carnivores and fierce predators who prey on rodents, crayfish, snakes, frogs, insects, fish, aquatic invertebrates and even muskrats. Sometimes if a mink kills more than it can eat, it caches it for future consumption.

The inclusion of fish in a mink's diet means their numbers may reflect pollution, if and where that is a factor.

Trapping for that luxurious fur is no longer a major factor in mink populations. Most fashion fur comes from commercial farms.

So in good habitat, mink thrive. If wild

mink populations face a challenge, it's development. An Ontario study reports that residential development around lakes causes decreased mink activity. It cites loss of trees, decreased shrub density, reduction of aquatic snags and removal of submergent and floating vegetation.

Mink glide sinuously on land and in water. Long and lean, they epitomize grace. A running mink is fast because that lean body is well suited to agile movement. The feet are partly webbed, the fur dense and waterproof so mink are equally at home in water.

Males range between 49 and 62 cm while females are between 16.5 and 23.5 cm.

Apparently the name mink is either Icelandic or Swedish and translates as "stinking animal" a reference to a musky odour secreted by an anal gland.

But perhaps the last word should go to Mr. Dobson who hands mink a left-handed compliment, noting their skill at trap avoidance.

"If something is not normal for them, they're not going to head into a trap. Trying to trap a mink is almost as hard as trying to catch a fox . . . they're just so wary."

Smart as a fox, the ultimate compliment.

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Anecdotal evidence suggests that mink populations within the region are healthy.

Photo Credit - Parks Canada

Learning More about Our Source Water

The term *source water* is used to describe the lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater aquifers that we use for drinking water. Drinking water source protection is a process through which studies are prepared to learn about water sources, plans are developed by watershed communities, and then actions are taken to protect the water. During and after the process it is important to monitor the amount and quality of the source water.

Drinking water source protection is being undertaken in Ontario under the *Clean Water Act*, which focuses on the source water for municipal supplies. CRCA staff are working with local municipalities, community partners, consultants, and our neighbouring conservation authorities to advance technical work on source water in the Cataraqui

Source Protection Area. The results will be used by the community to develop a Source Protection Plan. The Government of Ontario is paying for 100 per cent of the cost of this work, and is providing technical direction on the content of each report. Some of our current activities are described below.

- *The Eastern Lake Ontario – Upper St. Lawrence River Intake Protection Zone Study* is examining how water flows in the lake and the river, in order to assess how contaminants reach the municipal intakes in Brockville, Gananoque, the Town of Greater Napanee, Kingston, and Loyalist Township. Together these intakes provide water for almost 175,000 people. The work is being completed by CRCA



Sydenham Lake is the source of drinking water for the residents of Sydenham. The intake protection zone study will look at potential threats to the drinking water and how these can be minimized.

Collecting bugs in the name of science

The things we do for science! Like donning hip waders on a 30 degree day, wading into a stream and collecting microscopic insects that live in the water. Scientists call these *benthic invertebrates*.

Aquatic insects are good indicators of the health of a stream. The number of and type of insects present in our area streams tell us about the relative type and health of their habitat. For example mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies are sensitive to pollution. If a stream is found to contain many of these species, then it is likely that the stream has good water quality.

The reason why we are collecting benthic invertebrates is to provide data for the production of a watershed report card and for source water protection planning. Other water sampling that we do measures water chemistry for nutrients like phosphorus or nitrogen content that can cause poor water quality.

We don't run around collecting bugs just anywhere. We choose our sampling locations very carefully. Sampling locations were strategically located to:

- maximize geographic coverage
- represent land use, geology and location within a stream (i.e. headwater, mid-watershed or outlet)
- coincide with sites measured under CRCA's stream flow monitoring program as well as previous sampling locations from other studies.

This provides the most useful data because it can be compared to data collected previously, as well as providing additional coverage of our watershed.

Collection and analysis of the samples for 12 sampling locations will occur twice each year during the spring and fall.

The sampling locations will be rotated on a yearly basis so that the headwaters, mid-watershed and outlet of each stream are sampled. For example, in 2007 the outlet of Millhaven Creek will be sampled. In 2008 the focus will be on the headwaters of Millhaven Creek and 2009 we will be sampling mid-watershed. The sampling location must be rotated so that there is always a mix of the three generalized sampling locations over the entire watershed. This ensures that not all headwater locations, for example, are sampled during a particularly wet or dry year.

So if you see one of our friendly staff wading in a stream, they're probably collecting bugs to see if the stream is healthy. Once we have enough data to determine some trends, we will be publishing the information on our website.



Nicole Irvine (left) and Holly Evans examine the catch of the day – aquatic insects called benthic invertebrates that provide an indication of stream health.

staff, the Queen's University Centre for Water and the Environment and the National Water Research Institute of Environment Canada.

- *A Groundwater Vulnerability Analysis Report* is being prepared by Dillon Consulting Ltd. and Malroz Engineering Inc. to define those areas in which water in aquifers is especially vulnerable to contamination from the surface, and also areas in which there is a large volume of water recharging into the ground. This work builds upon previous studies of groundwater in the Cataraqui area.
- *A Threats Inventory and Issues Evaluation Report* is being prepared by CRCA staff (with assistance from XCG Consultants Ltd.) to identify potential threats to drinking water sources (such as a location at which a chemical spill might occur) as well as issues with pollution in the source water. As part of this work we are monitoring water quality and benthic invertebrates in numerous locations.
- *The Village of Lansdowne Wellhead Protection Zone Study Phase 2* is improving our understanding of the groundwater that supplies the two municipal wells in the village. This work is being completed by Malroz Engineering Inc. in cooperation with the CRCA and Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.
- *The Village of Sydenham Intake Protection Zone Study* is examining the movement of water in Sydenham Lake, which is the source for the water

supply in the village. The study also includes consideration for potential threats to the quality of the source water. This work is being completed by XCG Consultants Ltd. in cooperation with the CRCA and Township of South Frontenac.

- *A Water Budget* is being prepared to illustrate how water moves through the 12 watersheds in the Cataraqui area, and to predict whether or not there will be any shortages of drinking water in the future. This work is being conducted by CRCA staff with assistance from Dillon Consulting Ltd. and other technical experts.
- *A Watershed Characterization Report* is being prepared by CRCA staff to summarize our understanding of the communities, landscapes, and water resources of the Cataraqui Source Protection Area.

All of the above findings will be summarized in an Assessment Report that will be published by the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee over the next few years. We expect that the Committee will hold public consultation sessions about the draft technical reports; information about the sessions will be posted on our website at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.



Seeking Members for a Source Protection Committee

The *Clean Water Act* sets out a process and requirements for developing plans to protect drinking water. The Cataraqui Source Protection Area, consisting of 12 municipalities, is the area for which a source protection plan will be developed. Guiding this process will be two bodies -- the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority and the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee. Each has different roles and responsibilities.

Source Protection Authority

This is comprised of 18 members -- the board of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, plus one representative from the Township of Frontenac Islands. The Source Protection Authority is mainly responsible for providing administrative and technical support to the Source Protection Committee.

Source Protection Committee

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) is made up of members of the community from various interests. The general composition and requirements of the SPC are set out in Ontario Regulation 288/07 made under the *Clean Water Act*.

However, source protection authorities have some flexibility in determining who would best represent their watershed communities and how those members should be appointed.

It is the job of the Source Protection Committee to prepare terms of reference, an assessment report and a source protection plan. They will be assisted in this process by a number of technical staff from the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, municipalities, health units and other government agencies with an interest in clean and plentiful drinking water.

Composition of the Cataraqui SPC

The Cataraqui SPC will consist of 16 members, including a Chair. The Minister appoints the Chair after considering the recommendations of the SPA.

For the members of the SPC, one-third must be from each of the following sectors: municipal; economic and other public interests. These require-

ments are set out in the regulations. The division of seats within these sectors and how these members will be selected has been left up to individual source protection authorities, so that the SPC can reflect local conditions.

The composition of the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee will be as follows:

Municipal Sector

- Municipalities - 5 seats

Economic Sector

- Agriculture - 2 seats
- Tourism and recreation - 2 seats
- Industry - 1 seat

Other Public Interest

- Environmental organization - 1 seat
- Lake Association - 1 seat
- Public - 3 seats

SPC Composition Rationale

The assignment of seats within each sector was done by the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority (SPA) based on land use characteristics, water use and potential influences on water within our area.

Municipal Sector

The five municipal seats are a requirement under the regulation. The Cataraqui SPA proposes to divide the seats up geographically as follows:

- One seat would be from the western area (Greater Napanee and Loyalist).
- Two seats would be from the central area (Frontenac Islands, Kingston and South Frontenac).
- Two seats would be from the eastern area (Athens, Brockville, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Front of Yonge, Gananoque, Leeds and Thousand Islands, Rideau Lakes).

This distribution was based on population, land area and the locations of municipal drinking water systems.

Economic Sector

The division of seats in the economic sector was done based on percentage of land use, water usage and potential impacts on water.

Since **agriculture** represents a significant percentage of the land area within the Cataraqui SPA, it has been assigned two seats.

Tourism and recreation represent the small business component of the economic sector. Because of the nature

of the area, there are a significant number of tourism and recreation businesses that depend upon the water for their activities. These include marinas, tour boat operators, campgrounds and resorts. The area also includes a significant number of golf courses. All of these recreational uses rely heavily on water. They can also have a significant impact on water due to their locations and the nature of their operations. Because of this, the tourism and recreation sector is assigned two seats.

Large industries that use significant quantities of water, or rely on water transport, are located along the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River shoreline. Many of these industries are located in the western portion of the Cataraqui SPA. Large industry has been assigned one seat.

Other Public Interest Sector

In the other public interest sector, the Cataraqui SPA includes a large number of lakes and a significant population of cottagers. Cottagers and shoreline residents can have a tremendous impact on and be affected by the quality of the water in the lakes. Most of the lakes are in the headwaters of our watersheds. Water quality upstream can dramatically affect downstream water quality where many of the municipal drinking water sources are located. We are including one lake association representative on the SPC.

Environmental organizations have an important role to play in drinking water source protection. We are including one representative on the SPC.

We are also including three members of the general public on the SPC. We hope to have at least one urban and one rural representative, as well as geographic representation across the Cataraqui SPA.

SPC Member Selection Process

The selection process for Source Protection Committee members varies depending on the sector. For the **municipal sector**, members will be selected by the groupings of municipalities shown above.

The **agricultural sector** has selected its own representatives at meetings organized by **Ontario Federation of**

Agriculture.

For the **industry and tourism/recreation sectors**, we plan to work with business owners and industries to develop a self-selection process.

The existing Cataraqui Lake Stewards Network will be used to help the **lake associations** select a representative.

Applications from **environmental organizations** and the **general public** will be solicited by advertising for these positions. We will also be contacting environmental organizations by mail and e-mail to advise them of the opportunity to participate in the SPC.

For each position on the SPC, we are also planning to appoint a primary representative and an alternate representative to ensure that each of the sectors and community interests has a voice at every SPC meeting.

Timing and Schedule

The timing and notice requirements are set out in the *Clean Water Act* and Ontario Regulation 288/07.

- SPA accepting applications to the SPC for economic and other public interest sectors - **until October 10, 2007**
- SPA appoints members to the SPC - **by November 13, 2007**
- Notice of appointments to the SPC published on the Internet - **after November 13, 2007**
- First meeting of the Source Protection Committee - **late November/early December**

Source Protection Committee Member Requirements

The following requirements for SPC members are set out in Ontario Regulation 288/07:

- You must reside, own property, rent property, be employed in, operate a business in, or be employed by a municipality that is located within the boundaries of the Cataraqui Source Protection Area.
- You cannot be a current Conservation Authority



The Cataraqui Source Protection Area includes 12 municipalities from Greater Napanee to Brockville. We are looking for interested people to serve on our Source Protection Committee

board or staff member.

- SPC members, once appointed, must regularly attend SPC meetings and comply with the committee's code of conduct.

A complete job description is provided on the CRCA website.

How to Apply for Appointment to the SPC

If you are interested in being considered for an appointment, please visit our website or pick up a copy of the SPC member requirements and job description at the CRCA Administration Office or the Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre. Applications are being accepted for the SPC until 4:00 p.m. on October 10, 2007. Application forms are available on the website or at the CRCA Administration Office and Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre. Please submit application forms, together with a resume and covering letter, to the:

Cataraqui Source Protection Authority
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P.O. Box 160
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For more information about the Source Protection Committee please call **Rob McRae**, Project Manager at (613) 546-4228 ext. 224 or e-mail robmcrae@cataraquiregion.on.ca.

John Williamson appointed Chair of the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee

We're pleased to announce that John Williamson has been appointed Chair of the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee by the Minister of the Environment. John has extensive agricultural and environmental experience, as an employee and a volunteer.

After graduating from University of Guelph with a degree in Agriculture spe-

cializing in Fish and Wildlife Management, John worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources across Ontario as a biologist and manager. He then transferred for three years to the Canadian Wildlife Service as Chief of Enforcement.

He and his wife Shirley purchased his grandparents' farm in Inverary raising purebred Gelbvieh cattle.

Since retirement John has worked as a consultant on resource management issues for various agencies.

John served on the Canadian Gelbvieh Association Board, the South Frontenac Police Services Board and as President of the Frontenac Federation of Agriculture.

We welcome John as the first member of the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee.

John Williamson (right) helps Canadian Wildlife Service biologist, Jack Hughes band a goose at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area



Wetlands and Wildlife Day celebration marks program wrap-up improvements made at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area



A new entrance sign for Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area is installed.

beaver dam on the Little Cataraqui Creek that parallels the trail's outward route. An interpretive brochure was created. It relates to points of interest marked by numbered posts along the trail.

- Another interpretive brochure was printed describing Little Cataraqui Creek watershed and its importance to the City of Kingston.
- Bird, plant and animal checklists were printed for the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Now, visitors may conveniently record their sightings.
- New signage included a new lighted entrance sign on Perth Road (Division Street), two interpretive signs, enhanced trail markers and 'you are here' maps. The parking lot information kiosk was renovated and also bears new signage.



Matt Lieberknecht of the Central Ontario School of Falconry wowed the crowd with his birds of prey including this Harris Hawk.



A new map kiosk is unveiled by (left to right) Bret Colman, Frontenac Stewardship Coordinator; Lynne Kenny, Cataraqui Conservation Foundation Past President; Bob Morrison, CRCA Chair; and Lynette Mader, Ducks Unlimited.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority celebrated completion of improvements and enhancements to Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area at a special event on May 13.

"These improvements help visitors understand the importance of the wetlands and wildlife habitat that this conservation area provides," CRCA Chair Bob Morrison told assembled guests. "They will also learn about the concept of watersheds and how this area is an important part of the Little Cataraqui Creek watershed."

The improvements resulted from a multi-agency funded program called *Healthy Wetlands Healthy Communities*. They included the following:

- Trail 5 was upgraded making it wheelchair-accessible. Some 370 tons of aggregate, compacted gravel and stone dust, resurfaced the trail's 0.91 km length. A viewing platform was constructed overlooking an old

- Interpretive backpacks were assembled containing field guides, check lists mentioned above as well as binoculars. These so-called Nature Packs are rented to visitors.
- Portable displays and display materials were purchased.
- The program also funded repairs to the Outdoor Centre bridge and deck.

The Healthy Wetlands Healthy Communities involved funding from: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Cataraqui Conservation Foundation, CRCA and the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston.

The official opening ceremony was followed by a frog presentation by the CRCA's Stana Luxford, a bat presentation by Matt Saunders, and a birds of prey demonstration by Matt Lieberknecht of the Central Ontario School of Falconry.

CRCA joins newspaper environmental editorial board

Conservation and journalism in Kingston have joined forces in what may be a unique creation among community newspapers.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) is a member of Kingston This Week's (KTW) environmental editorial board.

"I know a lot of newspapers today are starting to cover the environment more, but I don't know of another community paper that has an environmental (editorial advisory) board," says KTW staff writer Steve Petrick. "I think the reader response has been good."

Many newspapers today have editorial advisory boards. These serve the dual role of reaching out to constituencies within a community served by a newspaper, and, as a source of news, views and ideas that might not otherwise be tapped.

But KTW carried this a step further and established a board dedicated to environmental issues. Its eight members represent disciplines such as engineering, education, science and communications.

"The environmental initiative is aimed at educating the community and encouraging practical lifestyle changes," wrote former KTW editor Steve Serviss who created the environmental advisory board.

Mr. Serviss is now an editor at Kingston's Whig-Standard.

Board members met monthly through most of 2007. As consensus emerged from discussion, stories were assigned to those most qualified to research and write them. The newspaper reserved its prestigious opposite editorial page for the ongoing series of environmental articles

that also included news stories by KTW staff and letters from readers.

To date, CRCA staff-authored articles included:

- the economic value of the environment;
- the 100-year storm, what does it mean;
- an overview of legislation governing management of the Great Lakes;
- teaching environmental lessons by example; and
- the argument for public ownership of environmentally sensitive lands.

"We feel that the CRCA has been an excellent contributor to the section," says Mr. Petrick. "We really like the stories you've provided and hope to keep partnering with you."

Enjoy the fall colours in our conservation areas! Cycle the Cataraqi Trail. Picnic at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Go on a nature hike at Parrott's Bay or Gould Lake Conservation Areas. See the swans at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Take in a great fall program or check out our new interpretive trail at Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area. Visit our website at www.catarequiregion.on.ca to find the conservation area closest to you.

Entry Fees

Gould Lake and Little Cataraqi 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
- maximum fee of \$10.00 per car.

Annual passes are available for \$60.00 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 Cataraqi Creek Outdoor Centre
• 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday to Friday
• 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Sundays and holiday Mondays
• Closed Saturdays during the fall

International Plowing Match Crosby, Ontario

September 18 to 22 (8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.)
While at the IPM, be sure to visit all the

friendly folks in the **Conservation Tent**. Learn about good land and water stewardship and source water protection. See the raptor demonstration. Visit our best management practices display, take a tour of the woodlot or listen to one of our guest speakers. For more information, visit the CRCA website.

Mac Johnson Wildlife Festival

Mac Johnson Wildlife Area - Brockville
Sunday, October 14
(11:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.)
Admission is \$5 per car.
Join the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area for their annual fall wildlife festival. Go on a tour of the reservoir in a Voyageur canoe courtesy of the Rideau River Roundtable. Hike the trails and enjoy the fall colours. Bring the kids out for pond dipping, pumpkin carving and other outdoor adventures. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy or buy something at the Friends' barbecue. All proceeds from this event help to support Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Lemoine Point Conservation Area Brown Bag Seniors' Program Late Summer Wildflowers

Thursday, September 20 (10:30 A.M.)
Please meet in the Coverdale Road parking lot at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. We'll check out the late summer flowers. Bring cameras, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and water to drink. Dress for the weather and don't forget your lunch.

Cataraqi Trail Bike and Hike

Saturday, October 13
Choose from one of the following:
• 59 km cycle – 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. (Beer Store)

to Chaffeys Locks
• 37 km cycle – 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. (Perth Road to Chaffeys Locks)
• 33 km cycle – 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. (Portland (Kin Park) to Chaffeys Locks)
• 8 km hike (one way) – 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. (Highway 15 to Chaffeys Locks)

Collect pledges and cycle or hike and raise money for the Cataraqi Trail. Choose from one of three bicycle trips or one hike. Pledge forms are available at the CRCA office, on the CRCA website and on the Cataraqi Trail website.

If you collect \$25.00 or more in pledges, you will receive a free lunch coupon and a ticket for a prize draw. Lunch will be available at the Chaffeys Locks Community Hall. Washrooms are also located there.

For more information, call (613) 546-4228 ext. 304 and leave a message with your name, address and phone number. Or visit www.rideau-info.com/cattail/ or www.catarequiregion.on.ca. You can also register at the start of the ride/hike. Proceeds from this event help to maintain the Cataraqi Trail.

Brown Bag Seniors' Program Fall Colours on the Cataraqi Trail

Thursday, October 18 (10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.)
Please meet Bill Murdoch at Kingslake Plaza at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to the Cataraqi Trail just past Perth Road village. Dress for the weather and bring water to drink. Lunch at Brooks Landing. Cost is \$6.00 per person. Register by calling Moira at (613) 353-3099 before October 9. See you on the Trail!

Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area Gardening Weedfest

Saturday, September 15 (9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.)

Rain date: Sunday, September 16 (9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.)

Free Admission to Volunteers

Come out and help us weed and prepare our Outdoor Centre gardens for fall. Bring your own gardening gloves, trowels and garden tools if you have them.

Fall Colours Celebration

Sunday, October 7 and Monday, October 8
(1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)
Come and celebrate the Thanksgiving weekend at Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area. Catch a wagon ride back to the sugar bush where you can go on a fall colours tour.

Get your face painted or have our favourite balloon artist, Randy the Clown create something special for you. Satisfy your sweet tooth and stop by our canteen for some pie and cider which taste great on a crisp fall day.

Fly Fishing 101

Saturday, October 13
(10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)
Join us for an introductory workshop on the basics of fly fishing. Why fly fish; equipment, rods, reels, lines, leaders and tippets; knots; basic casting techniques; fly presentations for surface and sub-surface fishing; selecting a fly (wet, dry, streamer, nymph or terrestrial); reading the water.

The cost is \$20.00 per person per session (ages 12 and up), plus the gate entry fee. All equipment is provided. Please bring a lunch. Pre-registration is required. Registration forms are available on our website or by calling (613) 546-4228 ext. 221.

Preparing for the Big Freeze

Sunday, October 14 (2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)
We see wildflowers bloom in spring, insects start to buzz at the first hint of warmth, birds arrive from somewhere in large numbers, and reptiles and amphibians on the move again. But, did you ever wonder how these plants and animals prepare for the winter, much less survive it? This presentation by Prince Edward County naturalist Terry Sprague looks at the process and reminds us that we really don't have to worry much about their survival. Following the presentation we will take a short hike and check out some early signs of wildlife as they prepare for winter.

Volunteer for Nature - Fall Trail and Garden Clean-up

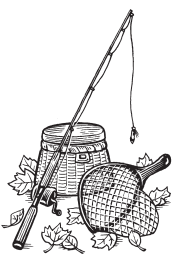
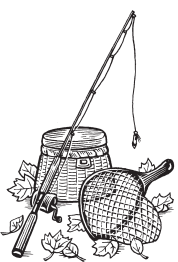
Saturday, October 20 (9:30 – 11:30 A.M.)
Rain date: Sunday, October 21 (9:30 – 11:30 A.M.)
Free Admission to Volunteers

Come to the Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area and volunteer for nature by helping the Friends of Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area prepare the trails and butterfly gardens for winter. Bring work gloves, safety glasses, pruning shears, garden tools and water bottles, labelled with your name on it. We have extra if you need to borrow tools.

Fly Fishing 202

Saturday, October 20
(10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)
This course is aimed at those who have already taken our *Introduction to Fly Fishing* courses given in the fall of 2006 and the spring of 2007 or *Fly Fishing 101*. A basic knowledge of fly fishing is a prerequisite and participants are expected to have their own equipment, but for those who do not, it can be provided. The major emphasis will be on improving the student's casting techniques and identifying and correcting faults.

The cost is \$20.00 per person per session (ages 12 and up), plus the gate entry fee. Please bring a lunch. Pre-registration is required. Registration forms are available on our website or by calling (613) 546-4228 ext. 221.



Halloween Haunted Hike

Saturday, October 27
5:00 to 6:00 P.M. - Pumpkin Carving
6:00 to 8:00 P.M. - Campfire and Haunted Hike
The first 30 cars will get one free pumpkin per car to carve here. Additional pumpkins can be purchased at the Outdoor Centre. Please bring your own carving tools.

After your pumpkins are carved, join us for an early evening campfire and haunted hike from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The campfire is the starting point for our haunted hike. The haunted hike follows the service road to Trail 5, crosses the wobbly wooden bridge and ends at the Outdoor Centre. Activities are geared to younger children, but all ages are welcome. Be sure to come dressed in a costume!



The Real Bat Man

Sunday, October 28 (2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)
Bats are cool! Find out why as bat expert Matt Saunders introduces you to their fascinating world. Seating is limited, so be sure to come early! Buy a bat house kit to build at home.



Turtle Conservation

Sunday, November 4 (2:00 to 4:00 P.M.)
Join turtle conservationist, Matt Ellerbeck at the Outdoor Centre to learn about turtles, the many threats they face, and what can be done to help our shelled friends. Matt's presentation will feature a special live turtle friend.



Brown Bag Seniors' Program Hiking the Hardwood Trails

Thursday, November 15 (10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.)
Meet at the Little Cataraqi Creek Outdoor Centre. We'll hike on the hardwood trails. Dress for the weather. Bring drinking water and a lunch to eat at the Outdoor Centre.



The Geological Roadshow

Sunday, November 18 (2:00 to 4:00 P.M.)
Think you have a meteorite? Got a rock, fossil or a mineral that you want to know more about? Take this opportunity to bring your unknown geological samples to this event, based on the popular antiques roadshow format, and have them identified by Mark Badham, curator of the Miller Museum of Geology at Queen's University. Please note that no monetary appraisals will be given for samples, only identifications.

Christmas Sing-a-long and Craft

Sunday, December 9 (2:00 to 4:00 P.M.)
Join us for this family event to celebrate the Christmas season. Sing Christmas carols led by members of *She Sings* and make a fun craft for the winter birds.



Brown Bag Seniors' Program Christmas Potluck

Thursday, December 13 (10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.)
It's time for a short winter walk and our annual Christmas potluck. Please bring a dish to share. Bon appetit!



Forever Green

Saturday, November 10 (6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.)
Royal Military College Senior Staff Mess
\$90.00 per person (tax receipt for a portion of the ticket price)



Come out to the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation's annual fundraising gala dinner for the CRCA's conservation education and land acquisition programs.

Enjoy great music while you browse through the silent auction tables. Experience the excitement of the live auction. Pick up some early Christmas presents and help support conservation.

For tickets and information, please call (613) 546-4228 ext. 221.



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New staff join the CRCA



**Environmental Planner
Lindsay Closs**

Lindsay Closs has joined the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) as an environmental planner.

"Working for the CRCA has been great so far," she says. "I certainly enjoy the balance between my work in the office and out in the field. I am also impressed with the team approach in reviewing watershed issues."

Lindsay's family is from Kingston but she has lived in Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton. Now she's in Sunbury and says she considers herself "a city girl slowly adjusting to rural life."

She earned a B.A. (Honours) in urban studies and sociology from the University of Toronto. Lindsay has a Master's degree in planning from the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's University with a focus on land use and real estate development.

Lindsay worked as a planning intern for the City of Kingston then as assistant planner for the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley.

She lists her many pets among her interests as well as membership in a knitting and craft club and gardening.

"I have taken up the game of golf this year which has been both frustrating and fun at times," she says. "And I am a longtime fan of the greatest hockey team ever . . . the Detroit Red Wings."

In other personnel news, GIS Technician Luke Eades, who acquired his master's degree shortly after joining the CRCA, has returned to academia. He moved to Montreal to enroll in the McGill

University's doctoral program in the geography faculty. He will specialize in public participation geographic information systems.

Luke says he will be working with Cree from Wemindji, Quebec, on James Bay to help map traditional and current land uses. He will also assess the uses of mapping technologies by indigenous groups in a rapidly globalizing world.

He says he plans someday to use his education for research or teaching.

Luke will be missed for many reasons, among them, his skill in the kitchen, especially when it comes to creating mouth-watering guacamole.



**GIS Technician Luke
Eades, off to Montreal**



**GIS Technician Erin
Lockridge, joins the team**

Luke's replacement is Erin Lockridge who becomes the new GIS Technician. Erin earned a BA in geographic analysis from Ryerson University.

"As part of a student internship program last summer, I was employed with the environmental emergencies division at Environment Canada," she says.

Erin is a local resident.

"I grew up just outside of the village of Newburgh where my parents own and operate a dairy farm," she says. "I've always enjoyed outdoor activities such as sports."

Erin says she welcomes the chance to join the CRCA team.

Also new to the CRCA regulation enforcement team are Andrew Schmidt and Tyler Graham.

Andrew is the new Development Officer and has an extensive background in regulation enforcement.

A graduate of Carleton University, he also is a certified technician with the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists. Before coming to the CRCA, Andrew spent 15 years at Quinte Conservation. Before that he worked for Kettle Creek Conservation Authority in southwestern Ontario.

His interests include hunting, hiking and outdoor activities. He also volunteers as a minor league hockey coach.

Working with Andrew is Tyler Graham who recently graduated from St. Lawrence College's civil engineering technology program after spending 15 years as a general contractor.

Working as the CRCA's



**Development Officer
Andrew Schmidt**

Development Technician, he helps Andrew implement the CRCA regulations relating to fill, wetlands, shorelines, watercourses and valleys.



**Development Technician
Tyler Graham**

Keeping tabs on Mother Nature using remote monitoring technology

Remote monitoring technology helps Water Resources Engineer Sean Watt of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) protect your water supply.

Okay, maybe it's not quite that simple, but technology enables him to remotely obtain information relating to that supply.

"Because we need data for our water budget work, we are purchasing and installing these sensors to fill our data gaps," explains Mr. Watt.

A water budget resembles its financial counterpart that documents money in and out. Instead of money, think water. To protect the water supply, you need to know how much there is; hence Mr. Watt's interest in establishing a water budget.

"This (remote monitoring) also is a start on the expected monitoring component of the source water protection work," adds Mr. Watt. "This will hopefully be a longer term project of the Conservation Authority."

Protecting Ontario's drinking water in the wake of the Walkerton tragedy motivated pas-

sage of the *Clean Water Act*. The CRCA, and Ontario's other 35 conservation authorities, are conducting intensive research into water supplies (the water budget) to enable planning to protect water sources.

Mr. Watt relies on his remote monitoring devices to measure air temperature, water temperature, humidity and precipitation across the CRCA jurisdiction.

There are air temperature sensors installed at four well locations and air temperature/humidity sensors at two well locations.

"The air temperature and humidity sensors will help to compare to the water temperature sensors, but also to help identify evapotranspiration across the jurisdiction and where it may be higher or lower and how it changes over the course of the year."

Evapotranspiration is the combination of evaporation (from surface water and soil) and transpiration (water released from the leaves of plants). It is estimated

using precipitation, temperature, soil and latitude data, and in some methods, cloud cover, hours of sunshine, and solar radiation as well.

There is also one air temperature and one air temperature/humidity sensor at the CRCA Administration Office.

There are water temperature sensors deployed at 12 sites across the watershed at places likely to experience groundwater discharge.

"The water temperature data will give an indication of groundwater discharge in the stream," explains Mr. Watt. "If the water is considerably cooler than the air temperature, there is probably some groundwater discharge. This tells us where the water may come from and that leads into possible protection schemes."

And there are six precipitation gauges in place as part of the CRCA flood forecasting and warning network, two precipitation gauges at well locations, and a few additional gauges to be installed.

"Precipitation gauges help relate water level changes to precipitation events and hopefully give us a better understanding of recharge to the groundwater table from rain events," says Mr. Watt.

Data collected will be compared to longer term data from Environment Canada climate stations.



**Water Resources Engineer Sean
Watt downloads data from a
remote weather monitoring
device at Little Cataraqui Creek
Conservation Area.**



CRCA honours conservation partners, volunteers

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority celebrated partnerships with its volunteers and funding agencies on June 27.

This was billed as a celebration of the contributions of 37 past CRCA members, donors and volunteers. Conservation Authority Chair Bob Morrison started with presentations to former board members with more than five years of service. These included: John Conley – 31 years (1975-2006); George Sutherland – six years (2000-2006); and Ric Bresee – six-plus years (2000 - 2007).

Mr. Morrison then recognized other former CRCA board members including: Michael Brown, Ron Smith, Derek

McKeown, Floyd Patterson, Ed Smith, the late Dennis Arrowsmith, Neil Patterson and Gary Davison.

Next to be recognized were major donors to CRCA programs.

These included: Community Foundation of Greater Kingston, Cataraqui Conservation Foundation, The Davies Foundation, Trans Canada Pipeline Limited, Invista – both the Brockville and Kingston plants, NPIF Cogen Kingston Inc., Ducks Unlimited Canada, City of Kingston, TD Friends of the Environment, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Lennox Snow Fence Company Ltd., Procter and Gamble Ltd., Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation,

Ontario Aggregate Resources Corp., Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada and Trees Ontario Foundation.

Then Mr. Morrison named major volunteer contributors that included: Ian Hodson, Lemoine Point Ad Hoc Committee; Don Coulter, Cataraqui Trail; Cataraqui Trail Management Board; Canadian Ski Patrol; Friends of Lemoine Point; Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area; and The Rideau Trail Association.

The event included a dinner and was held at the Outdoor Centre at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.



Former CRCA Chair John Conley, CRCA General Manager Steve Knechtel and CRCA Chair Bob Morrison enjoy the festivities.

Stewart Fyfe, representing the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation, presents a \$213,000 cheque to CRCA Chair Bob Morrison at the partner appreciation event.



CRCA Chair Bob Morrison welcomed Laura Mousseau representing the Greenlands Program that contributed to two land assembly projects.



Pat Hodson, Ian Hodson and John Diemer share a moment after Mr. Hodson was honoured for service to the Friends of Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Mr. Diemer is the Friends' chair.



Ingrid and John Conley were among the guests; Mr. Conley served 31 years on the CRCA board, twice as its chair.

CRCA partners with Queen's on important projects

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) and Queen's University are collaborating on projects providing practical experience for students and research for the conservation authority.

"We will have at least four projects and possibly five," says the CRCA Watershed Management Coordinator Mara Shaw.

Fourth year engineering design students will determine whether repairs are needed to the footings of an old railway bridge now part of the Cataraqui Trail at Yarker.

"The project will start with an underwater analysis to determine how much scouring has occurred, then evaluate whether repairs are required," explains Ms. Shaw. "The CRCA will end up with an engineering design of how footings can be repaired."

The engineering design students will investigate replacing another

bridge, this one located on the K&P Trail at Millhaven Reservoir.

"Currently only two concrete abutments remain," says Ms. Shaw. "We will need to replace the bridge to reconnect the trail."

Students will design and cost the project.

The engineering design students also will take a critical look at an existing design for replacement of the deteriorating Babcock Mill dam.

"We would like the students to consider the design, evaluate options and see if they can propose a dam that would have a more reasonable cost," says Ms. Shaw.

Here's how these first three projects work. At the end of the academic year, each group will act as a design firm and present its findings to civil engineering professors and CRCA staff acting as the client. This is directed by

Queen's Professor Dave Turcke.

"Thank you very much for being part of our team of industry clients," he writes to Ms. Shaw in an e-mail. "The projects look exciting and challenging."

The CRCA also works with the School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) at Queen's.

"SURP graduate students will tackle a CRCA planning project as a year-long exercise," says Ms. Shaw.

The project focuses on the Collins Creek greenway.

"The students will consider all available information, meet with stakeholders and make recommendations for a trail network, connections, easements and land purchases and this will constitute their final report," explains Ms. Shaw.

Queen's law students will take on two CRCA projects. First, they will investigate whether rural municipalities can enact water

conservation by-laws.

"The Ministry of Natural Resources is very interested in the outcome of this project," says Ms. Shaw.

The final report will contain no legal advice, but legal information.

The other project will determine ways to improve on the current CRCA planning and regulation implementation policies.

Finally, the Queen's law and land use and planning class may become involved in a project yet to be established.

CRCA personnel involved in these projects, in addition to Ms. Shaw, include: Conservation Lands Coordinator Rob Gerritsen, Watershed Engineer Abdullah Hossain, Environmental Planner Lindsay Closs, Development Officer Andrew Schmidt and Ecological Planner Christine Woods.



Assessing the condition of the Yarker bridge on the Cataraqui Trail is one of several projects being undertaken by Queen's University students this year.

Groundwater study to be presented to municipal councils

Five years of study and discussion have been invested into an important groundwater study that will be presented to four municipal councils in October.

"The study tells us what we have in groundwater and whether there may be issues with the availability of water," explains Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) General Manager Steve Knechtel. "Another benefit is that groundwater is 'out of sight-out of mind' so this study reminds us that what we do on the ground's surface may impact on water below."

The study participants are the municipalities of Kingston, Loyalist Township, Greater Napanee and South Frontenac Township. Other partners were the Ministry of the Environment and the CRCA.

The study, launched in 2002, looked at general groundwater patterns in the western part of CRCA jurisdiction. It addresses questions about depth, flow, quality and quantity. The study also considers the susceptibility of groundwater to contamination, so there are vital public health overtones.

Water sampling disclosed the existence of bacteria in a high percentage of wells and the report reflects this concern, says Mr. Knechtel.

Possible remedies include the wise application of land use planning.

"The study raises awareness because a lot of people in our jurisdiction depend on wells for their water supplies and some



Once a well has been drilled, it has to be maintained. By taking care of your well and septic system you can ensure that you continue to have safe drinking water.

don't necessarily understand the relationship between wells and septic systems," says Mr. Knechtel.

The study emphasizes a need for more public education about both.

"You don't just install them, you've got to look after them," says Mr. Knechtel.

The report contains recommendations that emphasize non-regulatory approaches to problems. And with its completion, the four municipalities, the CRCA and the local health unit are charged with drafting an implementation plan. Landowner education programs are expected to follow.

CRCA joins 5 other conservation authorities to participate in the International Plowing Match

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) and five other eastern Ontario conservation authorities will share booth space in the Conservation Tent at the International Plowing Match (IPM) September 18 to 22 at Crosby.

The last time an IPM was held in Leeds County was 1939. Each year, the event host, the Ontario Plowman's Association, partners with a local association to organize and host the event. It is billed as the largest event ever staged within Leeds and Grenville Counties.

This five-day event includes a massive, tented city consisting of farm and rural-related exhibits and vendors. This includes antique and historical displays, educational areas, a huge recreational vehicle park and a variety of entertainment in addition to the plowing competition.

Some 52 committees are working together to stage this mammoth event. The CRCA is involved with the Grenville Stewardship Council that coordinates the conservation tent.

Organizers say they expect to draw more than 20,000 people daily with total attendance expected to exceed 80,000 over the five days of the event. To cope with the crowds, more than

1,500 volunteers are trained for a variety of roles.

IPM literature suggests the economic impact will exceed \$25 million to the local economy. It will cost in excess of \$3 million to stage it but organizers are hoping it will leave a major fund-raising legacy.

The IPM operates from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Admission is \$12 at the gate while children, ages six to 15, are admitted for \$6. Children under five are admitted free.

The participating conservation authorities include the CRCA, Quinte Conservation, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, South Nation Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority.

The conservation authorities' booth will feature information on land and water stewardship, information about source water protection and Professor Trout, an animated fish that talks to visitors who ask questions. A highlight of the conservation tent program will be daily performances by the birds of the Canadian Raptor Conservancy.

Plan to attend the IPM and look for the conservation authorities' booth in the Conservation Tent.

Cataraqui Trail volunteers plan busy fall

The Cataraqui Trail will also be at the IPM. Not only will they have a booth, but the Trail is located immediately adjacent to the IPM site. Guests in the on-site RV park will be encouraged to hike or cycle along the trail. Horseback riders are also welcome! Be sure to drop by the Cataraqui Trail booth in the Conservation Tent at the IPM.

New signs and trail surface improvements will also be undertaken this fall, courtesy of a grant from the Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation. Large signs will be installed at the intersections of the trail with Highway 15 and Highway 42.

More signs will be installed at other locations this fall, once funding has been confirmed.

The Cataraqui Trail is operated

and maintained by a group of volunteers directed by the Cataraqui Trail Management Board. All funds for the operation and maintenance of the Trail have to be raised. Trail volunteers are organizing another **Bike and Hike** fundraiser for **Saturday, October 13**, with lunch and a pit stop at the Chaffey's Locks Community Hall. Collect pledges and raise funds for the Trail by hiking or biking. For details, see the *What's Happening* section on pages 6 and 7. Pledge forms are available on the CRCA website, at the CRCA Administration Office or by calling (613) 546-4228 ext. 304 and leaving a message.

Cataraqui Trail volunteer Kay Cartwright gets ready to ride for the annual Bike and Hike fundraiser.



Foundation News

As we ease into a new season, we both look back to recent Foundation achievements and look forward to our November Forever Green gala evening and other future happenings. Let's talk about the future first, and then describe our recent accomplishments.

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation's major fundraising event of the year is the **Forever Green gala dinner and auction**, scheduled this year for **Saturday, November 10, 2007**, at the Royal Military College Staff Officers' Mess. The event also features a live auction and silent auction. It's a great place to do some early Christmas shopping while supporting the CRCA's conservation education and land acquisition programs.

Dinner tickets are \$90 each, and be sure to reserve yours early since this is a popular event. We also invite you to contribute financially toward the dinner, donate an item for the Forever Green auction, or advertise your business in the Forever Green program. Contact Lynne Kenny at (613) 544-8068 for more information about the gala.

The Foundation will also reach out to you shortly for assistance in sponsoring students or entire classes for the CRCA's conservation education programs. Expect a *Partners in Education* letter later this month. Last year, your generous contributions helped more than 8,000 area school children take part in the CRCA's conservation education programs at Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area in Kingston, as well as supporting Environmental Connections' education programs at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville. We need your support again this year to help these programs continue.

Now for the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation's recent accomplishments. Since we last gave you an update on its activities, the Foundation has:

- given the 2007 Conservation Award to the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery Committee
- convened its annual general meeting and elected a new board
- raised over \$200,000 toward the CRCA's acquisition of the Bayview Wetland
- forged close linkages with the Community Foundation for Greater Kingston to enhance management of endowment funds
- held a Foundation board retreat focusing on long range planning.

Here's a bit more information about each of these accomplishments.

The Foundation conveyed its 2007 **Conservation Award** to the Friends of Lemoine Point's Native Plant Nursery Committee, honouring their years of volunteer effort constructing and managing a native tree nursery in order to propagate seedlings suitable for reforestation and shoreline enhancement at the Lemoine Point Conservation Area. The Conservation Award is given annually to a community member or group who has volunteered time to promote conservation through education, direct conservation action or advocacy. The Lemoine Point nursery committee continues to make a remarkable contribution to the ecological health of Lemoine Point Conservation Area and so serve future generations.

At the Foundation's **Annual General Meeting**, members elected a new board of directors. Let us thank outgoing board



The 2007 Conservation Award was presented to the Friends of Lemoine Point's Native Plant Nursery Committee. Liz Evans, left, and Lynne Kenny, right, of the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation flank Nursery Committee members Jane Murphy and Myles McCabe.

members and introduce those who joined the board in 2007.

Those retiring from the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation in 2007 include Dan Atack, Annie Barwise, John Conley, and Liz Evans. These four individuals provided strong leadership during their tenure on the board and we thank them for their efforts.

We welcome the following new members of the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation board of directors: Betty Boone, Karen Cullum, Cathy McCart, and CRCA Chair Bob Morrison. These new board members join several members continuing from last year. The 2007 Cataraqi Conservation Foundation board is as follows:

John Morse, President
Michael Bell, Vice-President
Jean Churchill-Wilson, Treasurer

Barbara Bradfield, Secretary
Directors: Betty Boone, Christine Cannon, Karen Cullum, Ross Forrest, Stewart Fyfe, Lorna Hendry, Lynne Kenny, Graham Lodge, Cathy McCart, Bob Morrison, and Bill Warwick. Honourary directors are Moira Drummond, Marian Ellis, and Anne Hutchison.

Thanks to the leadership of its 2006 board, the Foundation galvanized public interest early in 2007 and raised well over \$200,000 toward acquisition of the Bayview Wetland in a brief three-month fundraising campaign. This is more than double the Foundation's original target of \$100,000. We thank many individuals and organizations in the Kingston community and beyond for having the vision and financial resources to assist us in acquiring this valuable property.

Trees are prominent in the Friends of Lemoine Point's fall plans

When you think of Lemoine Point Conservation Area, two things probably come to mind – the beautiful shoreline along Collins Bay and the magnificent hardwood forest. The Friends of Lemoine Point have a number of projects underway to help maintain this natural area for future generations.

Each year, the Friends plant trees and shrubs to enhance the existing forest. Volunteers are always welcome to join them. This year's planting is being held on Saturday, November 3 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Most of the trees and shrubs for this year's planting have been grown in the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery. Since 2005, more and more of the stock has been provided by the Nursery. This is their biggest year yet!

"Fall is a beautiful time to visit Lemoine Point,

and what better reason than to come out and help us plant these trees and shrubs" says Friends' volunteer Larry McCurdy.

"You can admire your handiwork every time you walk at Lemoine Point," adds McCurdy. "The deer, the birds, the squirrels, and other critters will also thank you."

If you are interested in helping and would like more information, please call:

- Larry McCurdy (613) 389-6427
- Jerry Zabel (613) 389-1323.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the north parking lot off Coverdale Road.

Fall is also a great time to plant some trees and shrubs in your own backyard. The Friends are also planning a Native Plant Nursery Sale to share some of their bounty and to raise funds for the nursery.

The sale is being planned over two weekends:

- September 29 and 30
- October 13 and 14.

You can purchase trees, shrubs and wildflowers grown at Lemoine Point Conservation Area from local seed sources. Plants grown from local sources are hardier and grow better than those that come from far away.

Prices range from \$2.00 to \$12.00 per plant. Trees and shrubs are at least two years old. Many varieties are available. A complete plant list is available on the CRCA website.

Proceeds from the sale go to the Friends of Lemoine Point and are put back into the nursery to grow more native stock.



News from Mac Johnson Wildlife

Where would we be without our Friends? Probably even further behind than we are! With only four full-time operations staff to take care of over 4,000 hectares of land, the CRCA relies heavily on its volunteers.

The Friends of Mac Johnson have done a lot of work on trails and installing signage this year at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville. They helped to get the trails ready for the cross-country ski races as part of the Senior Winter Games this past winter, have helped with several events, built map kiosks and installed trail markers and other

Another successful summer for CRCA camps



Two trips to Gould Lake Conservation Area each week rounded out the fun for campers during the Nature Explorers Camp.

Children ranging in ages from six to 11 years old had a blast at our Nature Explorers Camp. Each week had a different theme filled with games, hikes, adventures, crafts, guest speakers, swimming at Gould Lake and much more. The camp staff want to thank all the camp participants. All camp staff are returning and are gearing up for another great summer in July and August of 2008. Watch for camp photos to be posted soon on the CRCA website!

Youth aged 12 to 14 enjoyed the Wilderness Backpacking Experience once again this summer. They developed their backpacking and no-trace camping skills in the wilds of Frontenac Provincial Park. Despite some scary thunderstorms, a good time was had by all.

The Wilderness Backpacking Experience will take a hiatus next summer as our education officer Stana Luxford will be on maternity leave. However, we will be providing an opportunity for 12 to 14 year-olds to become counselors in training. Watch for more details in January 2008:



signs. Their hard work has made a tremendous improvement in the Wildlife Area.

The Friends' efforts were recognized in a small way at the CRCA's partner appreciation event held in June 2007. They also make an effort to recognize their hard-working and long-serving volunteers. Don Wright is one of these people. He was recognized at a Friends meeting in February 2007.

Don was a founding member of the Friends and continues to be a very active volunteer. He has done everything from building fence and clearing trails to



researching the history of the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Way to go, Don!

We hope to see you at the Friends' annual Mac Johnson Wildlife Festival on Sunday, October 14. From 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. you can enjoy the beautiful fall colours at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. This year we are featuring Voyageur canoe tours of the reservoir courtesy of the Rideau River Roundtable. Children of all ages will enjoy pond dipping, pumpkin carving and other great activities. You can bring a picnic lunch or buy something at the Friends' barbecue. Admission is just \$5 per car and all proceeds help to support Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Our Trumpeter Swan population continues to grow! There were two new cygnets born this spring.

CRCA board member and Friends volunteer Colin Boag helps to build one of the map kiosks at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.



Don Wright, a founding member of the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, was honoured for his efforts in February 2007.

More Trumpeter swan cygnets were born in spring 2007.



CRCA offers Conservation Education programs at two conservation areas this fall

Beginning this fall, the CRCA will be offering conservation education programs for area school children at two of its facilities – Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville.

The programs in Brockville were previously run by Environmental Connections, but they decided to stop running the programs effective June 30, 2007. The CRCA board agreed that education is a priority and have agreed to run the programs on a trial basis from September 2007 to June 2008.

Although the CRCA is taking over the programs, schools won't see a lot of changes this year. Ron Gardiner will still be running the programs and all bookings will be made through Ron. He will continue to share his keen interest in nature and the environment with Brockville area school children. Call Ron at (613) 342-5824 to make a booking or e-mail ron.gardiner@sympatico.ca.

The CRCA's 2007 Conservation

Education programs at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area have, so far, been a great success. A diversity of ages from preschoolers to adult learners from the Limestone District School Board, Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, and local private schools participated in our winter, Maple Madness and spring programs. Classes leave the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area with big smiles after participating in one of our many programs, be it dipping for creatures in the marsh to navigating their way around the trails using maps and compasses.

We are now accepting bookings for 2007-2008 school year. All of our programs connect to the provincial curriculum for kindergarten to grade 12 students. We also have special programs for preschool and adult learners. Visit our website for more details at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca or call (613) 546-4228 ext. 251 to make a program booking.



Ron Gardiner, shown here during a wetland program, is continuing to teach conservation education programs at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. The programs will now be offered by the CRCA.