



CAT TALES

SPRING/SUMMER 2009 ISSUE

In This Issue

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. We have a busy spring schedule of open houses for the drinking water source protection program.

You can also catch up on what we have been doing over the winter and early spring.

- We had a successful Maple Madness program this past March at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. We reduced our waste (see page 1) while breaking our own flapjack flipping records (see page 9).

- Find out the latest on source water protection. Plan to attend an open house this spring. Coming soon to a community near you! More on page 3.

- Some love them and some hate them but just about everyone can identify them. Honk honk if you know our Creature Feature on page 2.

- Successful agriculture and well and septic workshops were held over the winter. See page 5 for details.

- The Friends of Lemoine Point educate people on what can be done about alien invaders. See page 10.

- Got a wetland? Want to improve it? We have a program for you! Also on page 10.

- Planning is featured on page 4. Read about our application fee increases and developing a Master Plan for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area.

- Plus Foundation News, a BioBlitz, our spring and summer calendar and much more sprinkled throughout this issue of Cat Tales.

Maple Madness gets a green makeover



(left) CRCA employees Peter Hebert and Erin Oogarah volunteered as recycling monitors during Maple Madness.

(above) This youngster participated in the CRCA waste diversion project during Maple Madness.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) Green Committee is celebrating its first major achievement . . . a huge reduction in garbage generated during Maple Madness.

"We got a lot of help from staff and volunteers who were quite generous with their time," says Green Committee chair, Jason Hynes, whose day job is CRCA lands planner.

In years past, the Maple Madness garbage bag count averaged six to nine daily, or 60 to 70 for the event. All went to landfill. This year, 92 bags were filled thanks to record attendance. The contents of 31 bags were recycled, 55 others went to compost leaving six for landfill. That's a 94 per cent

reduction.

"We set out to make an effective change," says Mr. Hynes who organized his Green Committee coworkers including: Forestry Technician Rick Knapton, Biologist Tom Beaubiah, Water Quality Specialists Holly Evans and Lauren Forrester, Receptionist-Clerk Stephanie Vinkle, Project Manager Rob McRae and Communications and Marketing Assistant Michael Sykes.

Maple Madness ran during March Break, March 15 to 22, plus two weekends, March 28-29 and April 4-5. More than 10,000 attended encouraged by favourable weather conditions.

The CRCA's Green Committee is a new initiative.

"It was formed to look at making changes to how the staff operates and conducts our business," explains Mr. Hynes. "We strive to make efficiency changes that produce positive results."

Committee member Rick Knapton first proposed 'greening' Maple Madness based on his experience with the event.

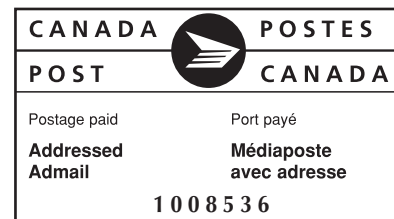
"He was really quite keen on the idea of doing what we could to reduce waste," recalls Mr. Hynes. "It wasn't a hard sell for the rest of us."

First the committee reviewed past efforts to divert waste from landfill. Then it refocused to consider how to reduce it.

continued on page 4



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



Creature Feature

Canada goose, *Branta canadensis*

Approach a Canada goose family at this time of the year and you will be confronted by a wing-flapping, hissing fury. Meet a typical Canada goose parent. Fiercely protective of its goslings and mate, a goose that feels threatened reacts with a display backed up by the threat of nips and wing slaps.

Wise is the person who respects Mother (or father) Goose, especially when goslings are present. Family matters to Canada geese. The young stay with their parents for a year so migrating flocks include families travelling together.

About this time of year, you can see goose families throughout the Cataraqui Region. Families are inseparable. On water, the female leads followed by a line astern of goslings with the male guarding the flotilla's back end.

Parents may be hostile to unfamiliar geese, but they band together with familiar

geese to form groups of families called crèches.

According to the Hinterland Who's Who website, there are 11 races of Canada geese. The smallest race, called the cackling Canada goose, weighs a little as 1.1 kg. The largest, the giant Canada goose, can weigh up to eight kg.

Newly hatched goslings sport yellow to olive down. But feathers gradually appear and by summer's end the youngsters are copies of their parents and ready to migrate.

Geese migrate in irregular "V" formations, both spring and fall. Often you hear them before you see them. Geese in formation maintain a steady chorus of honks, a sound described as resembling an old fashioned bicycle horn. Canada geese reportedly fly in "V" formation because of the so-called drafting effect, much like racing cyclists.

The Hinterland Who's Who website reports that researchers have determined that Canada geese have 13 different calls. These range from loud greetings and alarm calls to the low murmurs of feeding geese.

Geese are at home on most wetlands, but spend as much or more time on land as they do in water.

Canada geese breed throughout North America except in the high Arctic and at the extreme south of the continent.

These birds must eat large quantities of food to get sufficient nourishment and spend as much as 12 hours a day feeding. During fall and winter, they favour agricultural lands where grain from the summer's crop may be found on the ground.

Geese mate for life and select a mate in its second year. Between five and seven eggs are laid and are incubated for 25 to 28 days by the female while the gander

guards the nesting area. The female leaves the nest only to eat, drink and bathe.

Between six and nine weeks after hatching, the family is ready to fly. It has been estimated that only about half the goslings survive to this point. The lifespan of the average Canada goose is believed to be between 10 years and 24 years.

Because of their adaptability, Canada geese are found in parks, on golf courses, in parking lots and other human-altered areas.

According to various websites, Canada geese have reached northern Europe as evidenced by the recovery of banded birds. They also are found on the Kamchatka Peninsula in eastern Siberia, in eastern China and throughout Japan. Goose populations have also been introduced in Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Scandinavia and New Zealand.



Goose honking: This Canada goose is warning the photographer that he has approached too closely for the bird's comfort.

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Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

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You're Invited! Source Protection Open Houses in May and June

The Cataraqui Source Protection Committee will host a series of source protection open houses in May and June in seven locations across the area. The two purposes of the events are to:

- 1. share our findings from the technical studies about specific communities, and
- 2. seek local knowledge from residents in each community about their drinking water.

Each of the seven open houses will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with a brief presentation by staff and consultants at 7:30 p.m. The events at the Cana Subdivision in Kingston and Miller Manor Apartments in Mallorytown will feature a free barbecue dinner for guests. We invite you to join us!

Technical Study	Date	Location
Sydenham Intake Protection Zone Study	Thursday, May 21	Township of South Frontenac Office, Sydenham
Miller Manor Apartments Wellhead Protection Area Study	Wednesday, June 3	Front of Yonge Community Centre and Library, Mallorytown
Cana Subdivision, Wellhead Protection Area Study	Thursday, June 4	Holy Name Church, Kingston
Eastern Lake Ontario Upper St. Lawrence River Intake Protection Zone Study	Wednesday, June 17	Arthur Child Heritage Museum, Gananoque
	Thursday, June 18*	Loyalist Golf and Country Club Bath
	Tuesday, June 23	Kingston Yacht Club, Kingston
	Wednesday, June 24	Brockville Rowing Club, Brockville

*Joint meeting with Quinte Source Protection Region.

Drinking Water Stewardship Program a Success

In recent months the CRCA has allocated almost \$89,500 in Ontario government funding for drinking water stewardship projects near municipal intakes and municipal wells. The funding can be used by businesses and residents to prevent erosion, to replace outdated septic systems, and to help small businesses to prevent pollution from their operations. So far, eight projects have been approved. Seven are septic system replacements and one is a pollution prevention review. The projects are located in the communities of Amherstview, Bath, Sydenham and Gananoque.

The voluntary projects are being completed under the Early Actions component of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. We anticipate that more funding will become available for businesses and residents in eligible areas during summer 2009.

Detailed information about the program is available at www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca. You can also call Lauren Forrester at (613) 546-4228 ext. 290 or 1-877-956-CRCA.

Technical Studies Underway at the Cana Subdivision and Miller Manor Apartments

The Cana Subdivision and the Miller Manor Apartments both have municipal water systems serving a small community.

The Cana Subdivision is a small residential community in the northeastern part of Kingston that was established as a cooperative development in the early 1950s. It is located in the triangular area that is west of Highway 15, south and east of the Rideau Canal, and north of Kingston Mills Road. Utilities Kingston operates a well and a sewage treatment plant that provides service to about 32 households in the community.

The Miller Manor is a 17 unit retirement home, owned and operated by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, in the village of Mallorytown. Mallorytown is located in the Township of Front of Yonge near Brockville. Drinking water for the Manor comes from a well on the property.

These studies will tell us about the area that contributes water to the municipal well for the Cana Subdivision and the Miller Manor.

Both studies are being done by Golder Associates Ltd. of Ottawa.

The studies include the use of a computer model to delineate a wellhead protection area around each well, and determining how vulnerable this area is to pollution.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority is coordinating the studies. Project funding has been provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The project is being managed by the CRCA and is being guided by a Technical Advisory Group includes representatives from the municipalities, Utilities Kingston and the CRCA. The work began in fall 2008 and will be completed by the summer of 2009.

Draft findings from both studies will be presented at upcoming open houses (see above). The Cataraqui Source Protection Committee will also be hosting a community barbecue at each location.



Cana Subdivision has a municipal well that serves 32 households. It is located in the City of Kingston on Kingston Mills Road. A public open house to discuss the findings of a technical study on the well will be held on June 4.

Miller Manor Apartments is a 17 unit apartment building located in Mallorytown. A public open house to discuss the technical study findings on its well will be held on June 3.



New Faces on the Source Protection Committee

We have two new faces on the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee! Wendy Lavender is our new liaison from the Ministry of Environment (MOE). Ms. Lavender works out of the MOE office in Belleville.

Mr. Jacques Labelle of Rockport is the newest member of the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee. Mr. Labelle was appointed by the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority in late March, filling a public representative seat that had become vacant during the winter. Mr. Labelle brings extensive experience to the Committee table, including 16 years as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ottawa General Hospital.

The 15-member Source Protection Committee is responsible for the preparation of a technical assessment report and a source protection plan for local watersheds.

CRCA Staff Participating on Fractured Bedrock Working Group

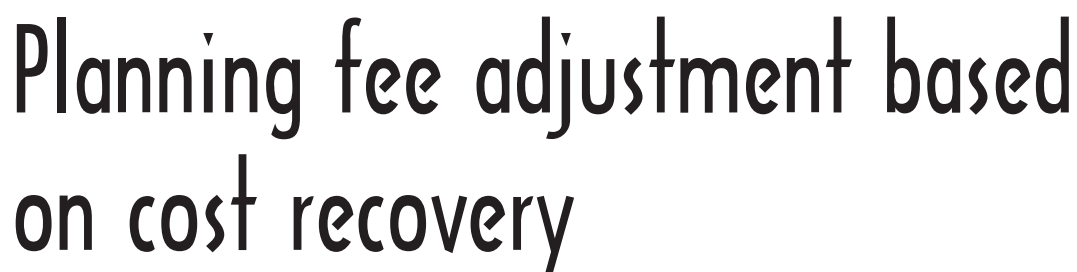
Two members of the CRCA source protection team are working with a group of experts from across Ontario to figure out how groundwater sources can be most easily mapped and protected. Jana Levison and Titia Praamsma, P.Geo are representing the Cataraqui on the Fractured Bedrock Working Group. The focus of the work will be on groundwater that exists in fractures (crevices) in bedrock. Water in fractured bedrock is known to flow quickly under the ground, and it is easily polluted by activities on the land surface.

Groundwater is an important source of drinking water for residents in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area. The CRCA is completing research about groundwater resources at a regional scale. We are also conducting research with a greater level of detail at the Cana Subdivision in the City of Kingston, at Lansdowne in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, and at the Miller Manor Apartments in Mallorytown (Township of Front of Yonge). Most of the groundwater sources are located in fractured bedrock, leaving them vulnerable to pollution.



Fractured bedrock is a common feature throughout the Cataraqui Source Protection Area.





"We're now beginning to take a look at initiating a regular compost program for Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area," Mr. Hynes adds.



CRCA listens to the agricultural community

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) is seeking to ensure it does what it can to support farmers in its jurisdiction, starting with engaging them in dialogue.

"There is a lot of overlap between what the Conservation Authority does and the agricultural community," says Watershed Management Coordinator Mara Shaw explaining why the CRCA organized three agricultural workshops early in 2009.

"We were very glad to hear from the farmers and we learned a lot," says Ms. Shaw. "This was a great opportunity to learn about their business and its challenges."

Workshops took place at Napanee on January 27, Elgin on February 10 and Glenburnie on February 25. About 20 farmers attended each workshop that included presentations on municipal planning, stewardship funding opportunities, CRCA regulations and the Clean Water Act. Municipal planners and stewardship coordinators also participated in the workshops.

"Each meeting reflected interest in different topics," says Ms. Shaw.

But participants at all workshops expressed interest in continuing discussions

next year. Ms. Shaw says she is already planning next year's follow-ups.

For instance, she will ask the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to talk about issues around drainage and the Ministry of Natural Resources to speak about beavers and beaver dams.

Another item Ms. Shaw says may be on next year's agenda is the Species at Risk Act because it is causing concern within the agricultural community. "Clarity about the Act and its regulations would be helpful for all rural landowners."

Another point for further discussion is farm drains. Ms. Shaw says she is sensitive to the need to balance the regulatory function with the important role farm drainage plays.

"We (the CRCA) can't walk away from what we've been mandated to do by the province, which is to ensure natural hazards including flooding and erosion are not increased by changes made to the landscape," says Ms. Shaw. "But we recognize that drainage is critical to successful farming."

She says she's working on ways the issue of regulation of drainage might best



The agriculture workshop hosted by the CRCA in Napanee was attended by around 20 area farmers. Workshops were also held in Elgin and Kingston.

be resolved.

"Our interest in drainage is twofold," explains Ms. Shaw, "erosion control and ensuring that wetlands aren't drained because they are a very important hydrologic sink that minimizes downstream flooding."

The issue reflects perceptions about farm regulation.

"We heard, loud and clear, that farmers are overregulated," says Ms. Shaw.

Groundwork for these workshops was laid at a November meeting with the agri-

cultural community.

"The workshops were well received and I think people appreciated the chance to communicate, even if there isn't always complete agreement," notes Ms. Shaw.

In acknowledging the farmers' participation at the workshops, she links their interests to relations with the CRCA.

"Their feedback is going to affect how we do our business," she says. "Our staff learned a lot. We will hope to keep the communication going so we can work towards continual improvement."

Well and septic workshops well received

More than 300 people attended five well and septic system workshops organized by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) in partnership with Well Aware and municipalities.

"We covered a lot of information in the three-hour sessions," says CRCA Watershed Management Coordinator Mara Shaw in summarizing the workshops. "We shared lots of hands-on experience of regional groundwater, wells and septic systems. There were some great questions, too. Everyone seemed to value what they learned from the sessions."

Four of the five public education workshops stemmed from the Western Cataraqui Region Groundwater Study. It contains recommendations on how study findings should be implemented.

"The primary recommendation was to get information out to well and septic system owners about their water," explains Ms. Shaw. "This includes water quality and availability specific to this region, what well owners can do to protect and treat their drinking water and what testing they might want to do."

Study participants included the municipalities of Kingston, Loyalist Township,

Greater Napanee, South Frontenac Township as well as Provincial ministries, Public Health and the CRCA. The study considers general groundwater patterns in the western end of the CRCA jurisdiction. It addresses questions about depth, flow, quality and quantity of groundwater. An important finding is the regional groundwater's susceptibility to contamination.

The study concludes with emphasis on non-regulatory approaches to problems, specifically public education.

Workshops took place in Athens, Greater Napanee, Loyalist Township, South Frontenac Township and Kingston. The Athens workshop was organized at the request of the Township of Athens.

Each workshop included speakers from the CRCA, Well Aware and experts from private companies working with wells and septic systems.

"We'd like to express our gratitude to all of the experts who shared their experience with our community," says Ms. Shaw. "The municipalities really assisted as well, providing meeting sites and refreshments."

Each workshop addressed what constitutes good well location, water treatment options, well maintenance and source

(right) The CRCA hosted five well and septic workshops this past winter. The Athens workshop attracted more than 100 participants.

(below) Mark Green of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit explained water testing and septic system maintenance at the Athens well and septic workshop.



water protection. Next came discussion about septic system construction and maintenance.

"We answered lots of questions," says Ms. Shaw. "We also addressed lots of folklore, including whether it is good practice to kick-start your septic system by putting an animal carcass in it. (Answer: No need. Your septic system is kick-started the minute you start using it.) People went away feeling that it was a very good use of their mornings."

Another workshop will be organized this summer in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands. While open to everyone, it will be aimed at summer residents and cottagers.



Spring and summer are ideal for visiting our conservation areas! Hike the trails at Gould Lake, Lemoine Point, Little Cataraqui Creek or Parrott's Bay Conservation Areas. Cycle the Cataraqui Trail. Birdwatch at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Cool off with a refreshing swim at Lyn Valley, Lemoine Point or Gould Lake Conservation Areas. Want more information about our conservation areas? Call our office or visit our website at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Fees

Gould Lake and Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Areas daily entry fee:

- \$4.50 per person for adults and children over 12;
- \$2.00 per person for children 12 and under;
- Maximum fee of \$11.00 per car.
- A \$65.00 annual vehicle pass provides you with unlimited opportunities to enjoy our facilities. It's a great value!
- During July and August, entry fees to Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area are reduced to \$3.00 per car.
- All other conservation areas and boat ramps have donation boxes. Please make a contribution each time you visit.
- Some of our programs have additional fees and require advance registration.

Hours of Operation

Conservation Areas are open from

- 7:30 A.M. to dusk daily
- Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre**
- 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday to Friday
- Closed weekends from May until September. Available for room rentals.

General information about upcoming programs and events is available on our information hotline at (613) 546-4228 ext. 500 or on our website at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area Fly Casting for Beginners Saturday, June 13

(10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

The Kingston and Area Fly Fishing Club is offering a one-day introduction to fly fishing and fly casting course. The emphasis will be on casting technique with hands-on instructions. Some time will be spent on related concerns such as equipment, safety, and other topics associated with fly fishing in the Kingston area.

The cost is \$24.50 per person (ages 12 and up), which includes the gate entry fee (\$20.00 per person for annual pass holders). Necessary equipment will be provided but you may also bring your own. Bring a lunch and wear weather appropriate clothing. A hat is a good idea. Participants under age

15 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required. Registration forms are available on our website or by calling (613) 546-4228 ext. 221.

Canoe and Kayak Rentals

Explore the reservoir and wetland at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. From early May to mid-September, canoe and kayak rentals are available at the CRCA Administration Office. Rentals are available Monday to Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Rental rates begin at \$7.00 per hour. Rentals include paddles, lifejackets and safety kits.

Lemoine Point Conservation Area Wildflower Walk

Sunday, June 7, 2009
(1:00 p.m.)

Join the Friends of Lemoine Point for a guided trail hike to see the spring wildflowers in bloom. For more information call David McMurray at (613) 634-0453.

Gould Lake Conservation Area Summer Operations

Cool off at Gould Lake Conservation Area this summer with a picnic, refreshing swim or go for a paddle in a canoe or kayak.

There are also 20 km of hiking trails maintained by the Rideau Trail for you to enjoy, many with spectacular views of the lake. CRCA staff are available at Gould Lake on weekends from Victoria Day to Canada Day. From July 1 to Labour Day staff are available from Wednesday to Sunday and all Statutory Holidays. Visit our website for details.

Daily admission fees apply or buy an annual pass and visit us often!

Canoe, Kayak & Pedal Boat Rentals

Explore the cool clear waters at Gould Lake Conservation Area. Rental rates begin at \$7.00 per hour. Rentals include paddles, lifejackets and safety kits.

Mac Johnson Wildlife Area BioBlitz

Friday, June 5 to
Saturday, June 6
(3:00 p.m. to
3:00 p.m.)

A BioBlitz is an inventory of plants and animals done over a 24-hour period. The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville are organizing this event to update the resource inventory for the Wildlife Area. Volunteers are needed. For more information call Claire Lefrancois at (613) 342-9364 or visit www.perso.b2b2c.ca/brockvillebioblitz/default.html.

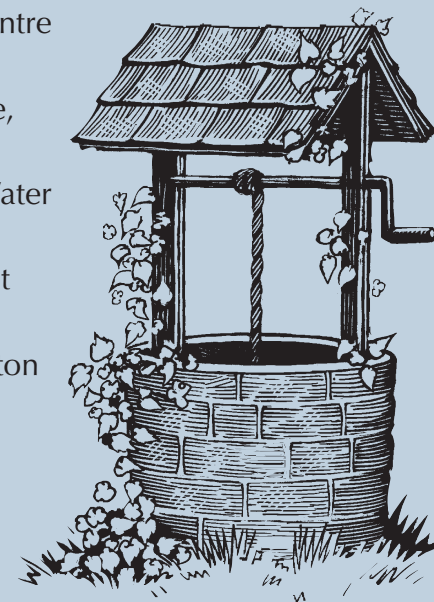
Summer Camp

Registration forms for our summer camps are available at the CRCA Administration Office, Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre and on our website. The Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre is home base for both camps.

Nature Explorers Camp

Ages 6 to 11
Weekly from July 6
to August 21
8:30 A.M. to
4:30 P.M.

Little Cataraqui Creek and Gould Lake Conservation Areas
Cost is \$160 per week per child.
Have a great summer exploring nature and learning outdoor skills with our enthusiastic and qualified instructors. Each week has a different theme with activities, games and guest speakers. Two days each week is spent at Gould Lake Conservation Area! Before and after care is available at the Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre for an additional charge of \$40.00 per week. Space is limited to 24 campers per session.



Public Open Houses — Drinking Water Source Protection

The Cataraqui Source Protection Committee is hosting a series of open houses to review the findings of our technical studies on municipal wells and intakes in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area.

Each open house will be held from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** with a presentation at **7:30 p.m.** You're invited to drop by, talk to our staff and Source Protection Committee members and learn about drinking water source protection in your community.

- **Thursday, May 21** - South Frontenac Township Council Chambers, 4432 George St., Sydenham
- **Wednesday, June 3** - Front of Yonge Township Community Centre and Library, 76 County Road 5, Mallorytown
- **Thursday, June 4** - Holy Name Parish, Monsignor Raby House, 950 Old Kingston Mills Rd., Kingston
- **Wednesday, June 17** - Arthur Child Heritage Museum, 125 Water St., Gananoque
- **Thursday, June 18** - Loyalist Golf and Country Club, 1 Loyalist Blvd., Bath
- **Tuesday, June 23** - Kingston Yacht Club, 1 Maitland St., Kingston
- **Wednesday, June 24** - Brockville Rowing Club, 1 Ferry St., Brockville

Meeting details and additional information about our technical studies is available on our website www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca.

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Bioblitz brings nature lovers together in Brockville

It's all about getting together to find out what is in our own backyard.

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area (MJWA) are partnering with area organizations, businesses and individuals to host a science festival like no other. Specialists and visitors from around the province will come to MJWA June 5 and 6 for 24 hours of scientific sleuthing to document as many different plant and animal species as possible.

"Passion cannot be duplicated," says Claire Lefrancois, bioblitz coordinator. "As a teacher, I have seen the powerful impact a specialist's enthusiasm can have on another person. This is the opportunity of a lifetime."

MJWA lies in both Elizabethtown-Kitley

Township and the City of Brockville.

The bioblitz concept incorporates carefully monitored scientific data collection into an educational and fun event for the whole community. The data collection is important to MJWA for ongoing habitat protection and sustainable project planning. The data is also helpful to other organizations that require species information.

There are two ways for the community to participate. First, some specialists will be looking for volunteers to help identify species throughout the 24 hours. Secondly, for the event's last four hours, MJWA will host a festival where visitors can learn from the specialists, observe their work, and participate in other educational displays and activities for all ages.

The Mac Johnson Wildlife Area is owned and operated by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA). In 2007, the CRCA completed a Master Plan to guide its use and development for the next 20 years.

"The Brockville bioblitz is part of that plan and the foundation for a number of other projects" says Steve Knechtel, CRCA general manager. "We want to provide the local community and visitors a venue for outdoor activities, focusing on environmental learning experiences, healthy living and caring for the environment."

The MJWA is part of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, the most biologically diverse area in all of Canada. A perfect spot for species identification, MJWA is

also a great place to get involved in creating a more sustainable community.

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area invite the public to help make the Brockville bioblitz a success. Volunteers are needed for site set-up, parking, food service, providing on-site information and support, poster/media distribution, registration, closing ceremonies and general help.

A bioblitz fundraiser was held May 2. It was a concert fundraiser featuring Katie Baker and Jeff MacMillan.

Call Claire Lefrancois at (613) 342-9364 or e-mail bioblitz@b2b2c.ca for more information.

Rent canoes and kayaks at Gould Lake and Little Cataraqui Creek

Both canoes and kayaks can be rented at two Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) conservation areas.

"Normally, canoe and kayak rentals are available at both Gould Lake and Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Areas from Victoria Day weekend, or shortly thereafter, until Labour Day," says the CRCA's Conservation Lands Coordinator Rob Gerritsen.

Rentals at Gould Lake may not be always available until after the July 1 weekend due to the availability of student staffing. Check the CRCA website for details.

Rentals are available at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area now. Hours of availability at Little Cataraqui Creek are 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Rentals may be arranged at the Administration Building. Two canoes and two kayaks are available for rental.

"They're provided with paddles, lifejackets and all appropriate safety equipment," says Mr. Gerritsen.

In addition to canoes and kayaks, Gould Lake also rents pedal boats. To reserve a canoe, kayak or pedal boat there, call (613) 546-4228 ext. 222. Rental reservations may be booked with your Visa or Mastercard.

Reservations are not necessary at Little

Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area where there is a 40-plus acre reservoir for canoeing and kayaking.

"For somebody wishing to try it out, here is a good opportunity," says Rob. "Most of the time the reservoir is wind-sheltered."

Rentals rates begin at \$7.00 per hour.



Canoes and kayaks are also available to rent at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

(below) Canoes, kayaks and pedal boats are available to rent at Gould Lake Conservation Area during the summer.



Volunteer Week kicked off at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

On April 19, the Leeds and Grenville Volunteer Bureau and the CRCA kicked off Volunteer Week at the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

About 25 high school students, six members of the Eco Crew, three members of the Youth Volunteer Corps and six members of the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area did a variety of chores at the Wildlife Area.

The volunteers worked in the nursery doing maintenance and potting trees for the Friends' Tree Sale which was held on May 2 and 3.

They also planted wildflowers at the main entrance to the Wildlife Area on Debruge Road.

While the turn-out wasn't as large as originally planned, it was a good day and much was accomplished.



Youth volunteers kicked off Volunteer Week in Leeds and Grenville by planting wildflowers at the entrance to Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

(below) Volunteers pot trees from the nursery at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. The trees were sold by the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area at their spring tree sale on May 2 and 3.



Record numbers flock to Maple Madness



Every March CRCA Forestry Technician Rick Knapton takes on a new role as head pancake chef in the sugar bush at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. This year he cooked nearly 12,000 pancakes.

This 2009 event set records.

Maple Madness attracted more than 10,000 visitors, thanks in large measure to mostly balmy weather conditions.

"This was the busiest Maple Madness that I have worked in the 12 or so years that I've been here," says Outdoor Centre Supervisor Shannon Fleming who manages the event.

Attendance in 2008 was 8,300. But this year, another 1,700 visitors came to raise the total to 10,000 visitors to Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area between March 15 and 22 and for March 28-29 and April 4-5.

One of the main attractions is the pancakes and maple syrup. This year, the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's (CRCA) master pancake flipper, Forestry Technician Rick Knapton, flipped all but 1,100 of the 13,000 pancakes served.

"On one day alone he flipped a new daily record – 1,600,"

says Ms. Fleming. "He worked really hard and I find it truly amazing that he was able to do 1,600 in one day. That night he was very tired, but still smiling."

For comparison purposes, Rick Knapton flipped 9,400 pancakes during the entire 2008 Maple Madness.

Another first, the CRCA Green Committee accepted the challenge of diverting waste from landfill (see page 1).

Thanks to an early spring, weather during this year's Maple Madness celebration was sunny and dry except for one or two days. Ms. Fleming says she's pleased with the results.

"Overall we had a successful year and hopefully everyone went home happy," she says. "The staff certainly worked hard to make sure everyone was served as quickly as possible and we couldn't have done it without all our volunteers."

Eight full-time CRCA staff and 11 part-timers helped make it happen. This does not include staff volunteers working as recycling monitors. Also there were more than 20 volunteers from outside the CRCA. Volunteers helped with duties including being puppeteers and tour guides, collecting sap, serving pancakes, and helping with recycling and composting.



Waste reduction was part of this year's Maple Madness program thanks to assistance with composting from Norterra Organics, a local Kingston firm.

CRCA staff participates in Pitch-In Day

Almost all of the staff of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) participated in the annual Pitch-In Day in Kingston on April 24.

This is the annual community clean-up day and individuals and groups pick up trash in their respective areas. CRCA employees picked trash from ditches along Bur Brook Road and a portion of Perth Road. These roads form part of the boundary of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston.

The event is coordinated by the Kingston Chamber of Commerce.



CRCA employees pose during Pitch-In Day activities. From the left are: Rob Gerritsen, Andrea Gummo, Sean Watt, Steve Knechtel, Donna Cellini and Erin Oogarah.

Students gain practical job experience with the CRCA

According to St. Lawrence College carpentry student Ben Hogeboom, working at the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority is "a step to the real world."

The 17-year-old is one of several students gaining work experience with the conservation authority's operations department.

"We just started putting in footings for stairs back in the sugar bush," explains another SLC carpentry student named Alex Swan.

CRCA operations employee Richard Horton supervises them.

"I appreciate having them because they are a couple of good workers," he says. "Both

of them have been through the building internship program that lets them figure out whether this is what they like to do."

Alex is working on his volunteer hours requirement for community service while Ben is volunteering "just to help out," according to Richard.

Last year, the CRCA planned to replace wooden stairs located on a hillside in the sugar bush.

"But we weren't able to do so due to the early start of winter," recalls CRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator and operations manager Rob Gerritsen.

Now that Maple Madness is over, the project is underway thanks to the help from the students.



CRCA operations employee Richard Horton (centre) is flanked by students Alex Swan, left, and Ben Hogeboom, right.

Invasive Species Workshop

The Friends of Lemoine Point and the CRCA co-hosted a one-day workshop on controlling invasive species on April 15 at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area Outdoor Centre. The workshop featured a number of speakers from across Ontario sharing their experiences about invasive species and how to control them.

Chris Hargreaves and Jane Murphy of the Friends of Lemoine Point shared their successes and failures with controlling Garlic Mustard, Dog-strangling Vine and European Buckthorn. All three of these plants can be found in substantial numbers at Lemoine Point Conservation Area in Kingston.

Mr. Hargreaves gave a number of practical examples of different methods and techniques which have been tried at Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

Rachel Gagnon of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council provided an overview of the province in her presentation What's Happening Across Ontario? Many parks and environmental organizations are grappling with the problem of invasive species.

As part of her presentation, What's Happening in the Water? Hayley Anderson, Outreach Liaison for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters presented a number of preserved specimens of aquatic invasive species. These included the Round Goby, the Sea Lamprey, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed and Rusty Crayfish.

There has been a lot of damage done by aquatic invasives. In the United States it is estimated that the yearly cost due to economic losses and the impact on the envi-



Jane Murphy, a volunteer with the Friends of Lemoine Point, demonstrates pulling Dog-strangling Vine at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. It is an invasive species that spreads very quickly, choking out native plants.

ronment is over \$100 billion (according to the Isaac Walton League of America).

The spread of the invasives is due not only to large ocean-going ships that dump ballast and sewage or carry organisms like zebra mussels on their hulls. The fisherman who dumps his/her bait bucket into the lake at day's end, the camper who carries firewood into our parks and woodlands, the aquarium owner who disposes of fish into waterways, and the boater who launches his boat into a waterway without first thoroughly cleaning the hull can all cause the spread of invasive species.

The final speaker was Dr. Emily Gonzales is an Ecosystem Scientist for

Parks Canada, stationed at the St. Lawrence Islands National Park. She presented a talk on the role of squirrels and deer in spreading invasive species.

Her background includes a study of the effects of squirrels and deer on the Garry oak ecosystem in British Columbia and invasion by exotic plant species. One her most concentrated studies was on the squirrel population of a B.C. channel island, and she studied the effect of deer overpopulation extensively. Where the deer populations were high, there were low concentrations of native plants, allowing the invasive species to take over.

Approximately 45 people attended the



In addition to trying to control Dog-Strangling Vine, the Friends of Lemoine Point have also focused on controlling Garlic Mustard, shown here.

workshop. Participants included members of the Lemoine Point Invasive Species group, lake association members, a representative from the Cataraqui Trail, members of the Queen's University Biology Department, a consulting ecologist and Conservation Authority staff.

Copies of the presentations will be available shortly on the CRCA website www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.

CRCA offers Wetland Stewardship Program

The Ontario WetlandCare Program is a partnership between Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources that aims to provide funding and technical expertise to landowners who wish to protect, enhance or restore the wetlands on their property.

The program runs until March 31, 2010 and provides 50 per cent funding up to a maximum of \$5,000 for approved low intensity stewardship projects and small wetland creation or restoration projects.

Potential projects include the installation of Wood Duck nest boxes, livestock fencing, wetland buffers, tree planting, and small wetland creation/restoration. All projects must

have a wetland component and landowners will be required to sign a Conservation Agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada.

CRCA staff are assisting with the implementation of the Ontario WetlandCare Program within the CRCA watershed. We're working closely with interested landowners and Ducks Unlimited staff to assess potential projects and provide support for landowners throughout the permitting and construction phases of their project.

CRCA staff will also be providing assistance to interested landowners who wish to create a Stewardship Plan for their property. A Stewardship Plan will help landowners to learn more about their property, determine the objectives for their property, plan and schedule activities, and ensure the consistent long-term management direction for their property.



Photo: Cheryl Rider

Conserving wetlands is the main focus of the Wetland Stewardship Program. The program provides grants to landowners for a variety of small scale stewardship projects.

Stewardship Plans can be created as part of an individual stewardship project,

for an entire property, or for a group of properties in union with your neighbours.

If you would like to participate in this program or would like additional information please contact Sara O'Neill at (613) 546-4228 ext 286 or toll-free (613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA ext. 286 or e-mail soneill@cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Ms. O'Neill recommends that you get in touch with her quickly if you want to get a project started. "There is limited time for the funds and some of the projects like wetland creation or restoration will require permits," advises Ms. O'Neill. "It takes time to get all of the necessary permits and get the work done in time to meet the funding deadline."

You can also visit our website at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca/services/index.htm for more details about the program.



Foundation News

The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation has had a busy winter. Achievements included building a Prospector canoe, holding an Earth Day celebration as a thank you to its members, and firming up plans for its November gala evening. We are also launching a campaign to expand the Foundation's membership base.

The "Mapleloft" Canoe

Haven't you ever wished for a perfect wilderness canoe? Later this year a spectacular handmade Prospector canoe will go to some lucky prizewinner in a Conservation Foundation fundraising initiative. Foundation board member Lorna Hendry's husband Bill led a small team of fine crafters as they constructed the hand-laid cedar strip canoe and named it after Rev. Hendry's woodsy acreage. The canoe is now finished and was on display at the Foundation's Earth Day celebration.

Tickets are now on sale for an opportunity to win this splendid canoe. Call (613) 546-4228 ext. 221 if you wish to purchase one or more. The winner will be the person who most closely guesses the labour time involved in crafting this canoe. Join us at the Forever Green gala dinner on November 14, 2009, and listen as the winner is announced.



Foundation secretary Barbara Bradfield gets a close-up look at the Mapleloft canoe. You can win this canoe by correctly guessing the time it took to build it.

with wine, cheese and conversation as participants watched the sun set over the ponds.

The Forever Green gala evening

Plans are well underway for the Foundation's major annual fundraising event, the **Forever Green** gala evening. This year's gala evening will be on **Saturday, November 14, 2009.**

The Vimy Officers' Mess will serve as the setting for this year's gala evening. The Vimy facility is ideal for this popular event as it has a large dining room, gracious bar area, and plenty of room for attendees to

Forever Green is our major fundraiser and makes a vital contribution to the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's education, conservation, and land acquisition programs. We are most grateful for the tremendous support of our community for our past fundraising and look forward to your continued support for **Flora and Fauna 2009.**

Please circle **November 14, 2009** on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there.

Annual general meeting

The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation's annual general meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 4:00 pm**, at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area Outdoor Centre off Division Street just north of Highway 401. Please join us in electing new board members, hearing about our achievements over this past year, and chatting with other Foundation members.

Conservation Award

The Foundation presented the 2009 Conservation Award was presented to trailblazer Doug Knapp on Earth Day. Mr. Knapp was recognized for "his vision and persistence in the creation of the Rideau Trail and the Cataraqui Trail as means to stimulate public interest in, and concern for, our natural environment."

Doug Knapp was a founding member of the Rideau Trail Association in 1971. The Rideau Trail is a hiking trail that stretches from Kingston to Ottawa. It links together many communities in between, crossing public and private lands, with the permis-

sion of the landowners.

Mr. Knapp's involvement in the Rideau Trail Association has included service on the executive, trail maintenance, authoring the Rideau Trail Guidebook, and the Rideau Trail Maintenance Handbook, and generally enjoying organizing hikes and ensuring that people were aware of this wonderful natural resource.

In 1990 Mr. Knapp helped found the South Eastern Ontario Rails to Trails Association to promote the acquisition and development of abandoned railway rights of way for the purpose of creating year-round multi-purpose recreational trails. He was president of this organization throughout the 1990s and the product of their advocacy is apparent today in the Cataraqui Trail. This organization renamed itself the K&P Trail Group and Mr. Knapp has chaired this group since 1998.

The leadership of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority along with their successful partnership with the City of Kingston, South Frontenac Township and other municipalities along the trail, has made these trails available for residents and visitors today and for generations to come. Doug Knapp is a persistent advocate for trails and has left an important environmental legacy. These achievements were recognized by presenting him with the 2009 Cataraqui Conservation Foundation Conservation Award.



Foundation President John Morse (left) presents the 2009 Conservation Award to Doug Knapp in recognition for his dedication to developing regional trails.



Foundation directors Lynne Kenny and Don Workman sell canoe tickets at the Earth Day celebration.

Earth Day celebration

Over 60 members and friends of the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation attended the Earth Day Celebration in the spectacular setting of the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area Outdoor Centre on the evening of April 22, 2009.

Renowned scientist and Queen's University Biology Professor John Smol, gave an informative and stimulating talk to the group on climate warming in the Canadian Arctic. The 2009 Conservation Award was announced. The evening ended

examine the featured auction items.

This year's **Forever Green** gala evening theme focuses on flora and fauna. Attendees enjoy a free cocktail, multi-course dinner, and an opportunity to bid on silent and live auction items contributed by Foundation supporters. A celebrity MC will welcome participants, and we hope to attract up to 220 people to this festive event. Each ticket costs \$100, unchanged from last year.



Summer day camp is almost full

The Nature Explorers Camp for children aged six to 11 is filling rapidly. Only a few spaces remain.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has offered a summer day camp since 1993. The camps have changed over the years, but the CRCA has maintained a focus on learning about nature and the outdoors.

This year's camp consists of seven one week sessions with a maximum of 24 campers each week. You may register a child for a maximum of two weeks. Each week has a unique theme.

Home base for the Nature Explorers Camp is the Outdoor Centre at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Each weekly session features two trips to Gould Lake Conservation Area for water activities.

Every theme week includes guest speakers as well as outdoor activities and games.

The price is \$160 per week per child. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For another \$40, before and after care is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Nature Explorers Camp begins July 6 and ends August 21. The camp is run by enthusiastic and well-qualified instructors.

To register a child, complete the registration form you find on the CRCA website at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca. Or you may drop by the Administration Building at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and complete a registration form.



Campers enjoy beach activities at Gould Lake Conservation Area.



Pond dipping is a popular day camp activity.



CRCA offers tree planting programs for landowners

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) promotes three tree planting programs and is looking for interested landowners for spring 2010.

"We're looking for landowners with property in our jurisdiction who are interested in having trees planted on their properties, or in planting their own," says CRCA Forestry Technician Rick Knapton.

CRCA jurisdiction ranges from Napanee on the west to Brockville on the east, north to Newboro.

50 Million Tree Program

Program One is called the 50 Million Tree Program. To qualify, you must have a minimum of five acres to plant and the planting area must be contiguous. Trees are planted at six to eight feet apart that works out to 800 seedlings per acre.

"The cost to the landowner is 15 cents per tree and that includes planting plans, trees, planting, post-planting and survival assessments in subsequent years," explains Mr. Knapton. "For example, if you plant five acres, that's about 4,000 seedlings so at 15 cents per tree the cost to the landowner is \$600 with taxes included."

The landowner must sign a 15-year planting agreement with the CRCA.

Full Service Program

Program Two is called the Full Service Program. An ideal property is between two and five acres and again the planting areas must be contiguous. The cost to the landowner is 80 cents per seedling and about 800 trees are planted on each acre.

The price tag includes planting plans, trees, planting and survival assessment in year one. Again, a 15-year planting agreement must be signed between the landowner and the CRCA.

"For example," explains Mr. Knapton, "if two acres are planted, that's 1,600 seedlings at 80 cents per tree so the cost to the landowner is \$1,280 with taxes included."

Over-the-Counter Program

The third program is called the Over-the-Counter Program and offers more than 25 tree and shrub species for selection. The minimum order is 500 seedlings and that will cover slightly more than a half acre.

"Group orders are welcome, but availability is on a first-come, first-served basis," says Mr. Knapton.

Prices range from 45 cents to 85



Rick Knapton is busy organizing spring 2009 planting programs and is looking for landowners who want to plant trees in spring 2010.

cents, depending on the species. An order form can be downloaded from the CRCA website at www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Individual species must be ordered in multiples of 50.

Call Rick Knapton for more information at (613) 389-3651 or e-mail him at rknaption@cataraquiregion.on.ca to set up a site visit.

"I am looking at sites now in preparation for planting in the spring of 2010," says Mr. Knapton.

Spring education programs now underway

Attention teachers! Are you looking for a spring program that ties into the science, geography, social studies or physical education curriculum? We can help you out.

The CRCA offers curriculum-based conservation education programs at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville and at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston. However, our spring programs are very popular, so we recommend booking early.

Schools in the Brockville area can call Ron Gardiner at (613) 342-5824 or by e-mail mrgardiner@cogeco.ca.

If you are closer to Kingston, please call Angela McAneney or Stana Luxford at (613) 546-4228 ext. 251 or toll-free (613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA ext. 251.

For full program descriptions and other details please visit our website www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.



Wetland exploration is one of the many activities that students can participate in during our conservation education programs at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.