



CAT TALES

Fall 2011 Issue

IN THIS ISSUE...

Fall is nature's most colourful time of year. Why not get out and enjoy it with your family, friends or your students.

- We offer conservation education programs of various types for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as well as pre-school and adult programs. See page 8 for more information.
- The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation raises funds to help support the CRCA's conservation education programs and other programs. Read about their latest endeavours on page 11.
- Our efforts to protect local drinking water continue. Find out the latest information from our roundtables and our source protection plan on page 3.
- Tall, white and elegant best describes this issue's Creature Feature on page 2. Learn more about the Great Egret.
- Flooding, flood prevention and regulations are in the news. Read all about it on pages 5 and 8.
- The Friends of Lemoine Point are working to restore the forest habitat at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Read about their projects on page 9.
- We've got lots of great fall events on the Cataraqui Trail, Lemoine Point and Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Areas and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. See our What's Happening section on pages 6 and 7.
- A new Master Plan is being developed for Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. An open house is planned for September 29. See page 12.
- Plus staff news, improvements to our conservation areas and more in this issue of Cat Tales!

Lots of Opportunities to Explore and Learn This Fall

Fall is a great time to explore a new Conservation Area or trail, try a new activity or learn a new skill. We've got lots of great trails to hike and plenty of activities planned this fall.

If you prefer to explore on your own, five of our conservation areas have a well-developed network of hiking trails. You could also check out the Cataraqui Trail, a 104-km long multi-use trail for cyclists, hikers and horseback riders. In the winter it can also be used for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Teachers can also make a booking and bring their classes for a conservation education program that is geared to the provincial

curriculum. We offer both elementary and secondary school programs at our facilities at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville. We also offer pre-school and adult education school programs at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

New this fall are our Alternative Conservation Education (ACE) programs for pre-schoolers, children and retirees. Discover nature during a series of sessions that run during the months of September, November, January and April.

Our fall event calendar contains a wide variety of programs and events. It kicks off with



Catching a glimpse of wildlife like this red fox is always a good reason to get out and explore our Conservation Areas.

a Trails Open event at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area on September 18. Admission is free for this event. We are offering a series of guided hikes led by some of the community groups that work closely with the CRCA.

There are some old favourites like Bat Man Matt Saunders and geologist Mark Badham and some new programs too. Learn more about bees, nature photography or renewable energy.

We are also offering more public programs at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area this fall. We want the local community to get to know this wonderful facility. In addition to the fall festival, you can go stargazing and bird watching, make your own Christmas decorations or learn nature photography.

Find out more by exploring the pages of this newsletter or visiting our website www.cataraquieregion.on.ca.



A school group heads out for a mapping program at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.



**Cataraqui Region
Conservation Authority**
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Creature Feature

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*

Over the spring and summer CRCA staff have observed a number of large, white heron-like birds in the reservoir and in some of the smaller ponds at Little Cataraqui

Creek

these mystery birds as Great Egrets.

Jason Hynes, Lands Planner with the CRCA, spotted six Great Egrets just north of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. This sight was unusual, as these large elegant birds are not normally spotted in eastern Ontario.

The

Great Egret thrives in warmer climates and is usually seen along the southern tip of Canada, southward to Argentina, and in Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Local biologist Mary Alice Snetsinger confirmed that Great

Egret sightings are becoming more common in the Kingston area. "They seem to be pushing further north," said Ms. Snetsinger. "Their range seems to have expanded in the last 25 years."

We are lucky to still see this stately bird around today as it was hunted almost to extinction in the late 1800s and early 1900s

for its long white plum used for decorating hats. Populations of the birds went down by more than 95 per cent until the birds became protected by law. The conservation status of the Great Egret is now considered to be of

Conservation Area. As many as seven of them have been spotted together, sometimes intermingled with Great Blue Herons. We have now identified



Great Egrets enjoying a local pond just north of Kingston.

For a close-up view of a Great Egret visit <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/great-egret/>

least concern but they are still vulnerable to the loss of wetland habitat.

These large white herons are quite a sight with their bright lacy plumage, long necks, yellow bills and black legs and feet. They can reach up to one meter in length with a wingspan of up to 215 centimeters. They are a partially migratory bird, and while in flight, they keep their neck retracted to form an S curve and keep their legs extended beyond their tail. You can also recognize the birds by their loud hoarse croaks and low-

pitched *cuk cuk*s.

Great Egrets build their nests in shallow wetlands, including marshes, swamps, streams, riverbanks, ponds, lakeshores, canals, and flooded fields. Nesting usually takes place in colonies of five to 30 nests of other herons. The nest is often placed in trees or shrubs, is made of sticks, and is camouflaged with green foliage.

Clutch size varies from one to six eggs, which are a pale greenish-blue colour. Once hatched, the young are covered in long white down. Not all young that hatch

survive the nesting period; however, as aggression among nestlings is common and large chicks frequently kill their smaller siblings.

While hunting, Great Egrets stalk their prey by walking slowly or staying still in a forward-leaning posture and waiting for their prey to reveal themselves through motion. Once their prey is within reach, they extend their neck and stab or grab the prey with their bill. The primary diet for Great Egrets are fish, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and small mammals.

Cat Tales is published three times per year by the



Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

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Layout and Printing – Performance Printing

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Member of



New Environmental Planner at CRCA

The CRCA welcomed a new employee this summer. Christie MacIsaac takes over for Sara O'Neill as our new Environmental Planner. The Cat Tales team asked her a few questions so we could get to know her better.

Where did you grow up?
Peterborough, Ontario

What was your first job? What did you learn at that job that you still use in your career today?

McDonald's crew member – yay! Working fast food is a rite of passage that many of us have encountered. I continue to utilize teamwork, multi-tasking and customer service skills every day.

Where did you go to school?

BSc Environmental and Resource Science - Trent University, Peterborough
MPI Urban and Regional Planning - Queen's University, Kingston

What position did you hold before this one?

Policy Research Intern in Municipal Planning at the Ministry of Natural Resources



Christie MacIsaac is the new Environmental Planner replacing Sara O'Neill.

Why did you decide to take the position at the CRCA? How are you finding it so far?

I wanted to gain more "on the ground" planning experience to balance my policy research and analysis experience. So far, I have been exposed to a variety of planning applications in a broad landscape. I am quickly seeing, learning and participating in the planning process and each day I

learn something new.

What are your interests outside of work?

I like to stay active and enjoy the outdoors. My top activities include running, Yoga, hiking, mountain biking and spending time with family, friends and pets. When possible, I also like to travel. I recently traveled to Barcelona, Amsterdam and Cozumel. I am an avid board game player!

More Trail Improvements Coming this Autumn at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area

The Parrott's Bay Conservation Area (PBCA) is one of the CRCA's newest properties. Following the completion of the land assembly in 2006 and the approval of a master plan in 2009, CRCA staff is continuing to move forward with the implementation of the master plan.

This fall staff will be installing "you are here" maps and navigation markers along the trails at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. Similar to other CRCA conservation areas, these markers will be placed at trail intersections to help visitors in their

exploration of this conservation area.

The additional "you are here" maps will be installed at property access points as well as strategic locations along the trails to ensure that people unfamiliar with the area are able to navigate the property. These maps will include gentle reminders of property regulations so that the conservation area remains safe and healthy.

Trail upgrades will also be made this fall, and these will focus on seasonal problem areas. No significant impacts to users are expected during the upgrades; however, visi-

tors will be made aware of the work activities through property signage and notices on the CRCA website.

Parrott's Bay Conservation Area has 117 hectares (289 acres) of woods and wetlands with beautiful waterfront views. It's a great place to get out and enjoy nature with more than 5 km of trails for hiking, bird-watching and nature appreciation.

You can contact Jason Hynes, Lands Planner at (613) 546-4228 ext. 223 if you are interested in upcoming volunteer opportunities being planned for this autumn.

Staff on the Move



Brenda Graham (right)
Ron Gardiner (left)



Andrew Schmidt



Clarence Shetler

Some staff changes have occurred recently at the CRCA. Mara Shaw, Watershed Management Coordinator, has taken a one-year leave of absence to move to Oxford, England with her family. Mara will be enjoying English culture while her husband, Mark Chen, teaches at Oxford University.

Filling in for Mara while she is away, is Andrew Schmidt. As Interim Watershed Management Coordinator, he will be responsible for supervising the day-to-day operations of the CRCA's watershed management team. His team includes two engineers, two plan-

ners, two regulations staff and a biologist. He will also maintain his duties as a regulations officer.

Andrew's role change will involve additional administrative responsibilities, as well as providing leadership for a number of special projects in 2011 and in 2012.

Also on the move is Ron Gardiner, CRCA Education Officer at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville. Ron is spending the next year teaching English as a second language in China. Brenda Graham, long-time Education Assistant, is filling in during Ron's absence.

Also in Brockville,

Stephanie Fergusson, joins the CRCA staff as a part-time Marketing Assistant. This position is shared with Brockville Tourism and she works from their office in downtown Brockville. Stephanie will be focused on helping raise the profile of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Long-time CRCA operations employee Clarence Shetler is at home recovering from heart surgery. Hope you're feeling better, Clarence!

CRCA Staff Service Milestones Recognized

The CRCA board recognized the long service of three CRCA staff at their annual general meeting held in January.

Conservation Lands Coordinator Rob Gerritsen and Forestry Technician Rick Knapton were acknowledged for 20 years of service. Education Assistant Angela McAneney was recognized for 10 years of service.



Staff members Rick Knapton (left), Angela McAneney and Rob Gerritsen were recognized for their long service to the CRCA at the annual general meeting held in January.

Drinking Water Protection Work Continues



Holly Evans (left) CRCA Water Quality Specialist and Sue Cumming facilitator work with participants at the Mallorytown community roundtable.

The Cataraqui Source Protection Committee and CRCA staff continue to work towards developing a source protection plan. Here are the latest updates on this project.

Revised assessment report submitted for final approval

A revised draft version of our report of source protection technical findings has been submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for final approval. The Cataraqui Source Protec-

tion Authority submitted an *Amended Proposed Assessment Report: Cataraqui Source Protection Area* at the end of June. A response from the Ministry is expected later this fall.

New items in the report included revised intake protection zone and wellhead protection area maps for some communities, more detailed information on the amount of water available for residents of Sydenham, and clarifications to the assessment of risks for all 12 municipal water treatment

systems in our area. The report includes recommendations for further research to improve our understanding of local water sources.

The Assessment Report was prepared over the past few years by the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee (SP Committee) with support from CRCA staff and consultants. It was prepared in accordance with detailed standards from the Ministry, and the background studies used to prepare the report were all subject to review by third-party experts.

The report was the subject of four rounds of consultation with municipalities, organizations, and the public. There were very few comments received during the most recent consultation in spring 2011.

The Assessment Report will be used as the basis for policies in the forthcoming source protection plan (see below). The report is available for viewing at www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca/assessmentReport.html.

Community roundtables a success!

In order to seek input on how to best protect our sources of drinking water, the SP Committee hosted 12 roundtables in local communities between January and June of this year. We're pleased to report that they were a success!

Each roundtable event focused on a specific vulnerable area, for example, an intake protection zone or wellhead protection area, and the most common risks to the source water within that area. One roundtable was held at Marysville, on Wolfe Island, since the Township of Frontenac Islands is part of our study area for source protection.

Over 200 people participated in the events, including public officials and staff, landowners, business operators and community groups.

The roundtables were an important part of the SP Committee's strategy to prepare a proposed source protection plan. The participants contrib-

uted local knowledge of water challenges and solutions, made suggestions for the plan, and provided feedback on some early ideas that were shared by the SP Committee members and staff. The roundtables also helped to raise the profile of the source protection process in our area.

We wish to thank our facilitator, Sue Cumming of Cumming + Company in Kingston, who greatly contributed to the success of the events.

Draft source protection plan now being written

The SP Committee is busy working on the first-ever source protection plan for our area. Draft policies are being prepared in consultation with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, local municipalities and others.

The source protection plan for the Cataraqui area will outline how local sources of drinking water should be protected, who should be responsible for the efforts and when

those efforts should occur. The SP Committee aims to prepare a plan through an open and transparent process, and to ensure that it is appropriate, effective and economical for local communities.

The proposed version of the plan will be subject to approval by the Ontario Minister of the Environment. It must be submitted to the Minister by August 2012.

A draft proposed version of the source protection plan will be posted for review and comment in winter 2012. Open houses will be held so that people have a forum in which to review and ask questions about the policies.

The SP Committee will then revise the document based on the comments received, and will post a proposed version for comment in spring 2012. At the same time, an explanatory document will outline the SP Committee's rationale for each policy in the plan. All documents will be made available on the www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca website.

CRCA Staff Install Fibre Optics Cable

The CRCA operations staff recently undertook an important project that will help the CRCA become more efficient in its electronic data storage and online networking.

The CRCA team installed a 375 metre long fibre optic cable that will connect the network at the CRCA's Administration Office to the

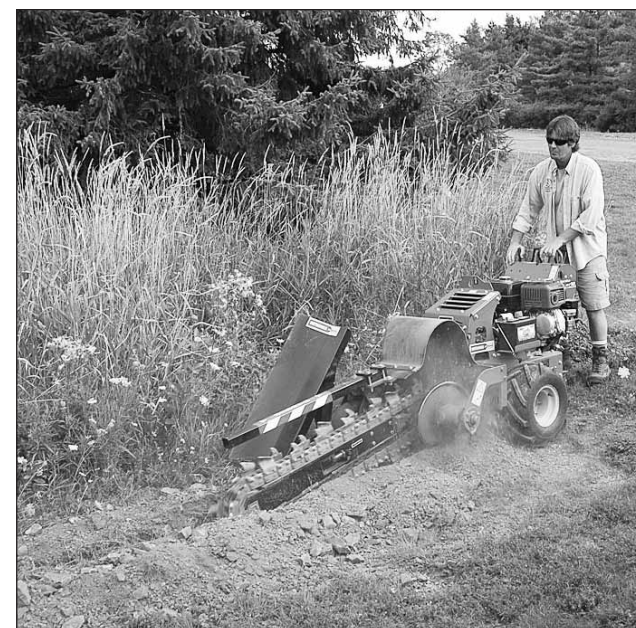
network at the Outdoor Centre at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. This new connection will improve information flow between the two offices, will speed up the Internet connection at the Outdoor Centre and will enable automatic data back-up of all the CRCA computers and servers located at the administration building to a new backup server located at the Outdoor Centre.

In order to lay the enormous cable, four members of the operations staff, Richard Horton, Ian Brown, Larissa Walker and Zack LaClair, spent a day and a half digging a trench 45 cm in depth and 335 metres long. It then took a few more days to lay the cable in the ground, test the connections and, finally, to bury it.

Travis York, Geomatics Technician, who spearheaded the

project, says "all staff will benefit from this enhancement to our network. It will improve our internal and external communications, and will keep the CRCA's information more secure."

CRCA operations staff Richard Horton digs a trench for a fibre optic cable linking the CRCA Administration Office to the Outdoor Centre at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.



Storm Floods Downtown Kingston

On Friday July 29, 2011, Kingston experienced a very intense rainfall event. There was flooding in the streets, surcharging storm sewers (underground pipes flowing full and forcing water onto the road surfaces), and flooded basements. Many people were left wondering, what happened?

The rainfall was widely spread across eastern Ontario, but it was very much concentrated on the Kingston area, specifically the downtown area of the city. The intense rainfall extended in an east-west band across the city, and moved directly east across the city, so the same locations just kept receiving rain as

the storm passed over. Much more rain fell in a short period of time than has been usual for Kingston.

During most rain events, pipes under the roads called storm sewers carry the water from the surface to either Lake Ontario or the Cataraqui River, or in the case of the combined sewer areas of the downtown, to the storage tanks at the foot of Collingwood Street and in Emma Martin Park, and then through the sanitary sewer system to the Ravensview Wastewater Treatment Plant.

But storm sewer pipes are only designed to carry the water from smaller storm events, 50 per cent to 10 per

cent probability events (those rain events that are statistically expected to happen in 10 per cent to 50 per cent of all years), and smaller. Storms that are larger than this will typically cause the storm sewers to back up onto the streets. The water will either pool in the street for a time and then drain back into the sewer system, or it will flow along the streets to an eventual outlet to Lake Ontario or another watercourse or storm-water pond. Newer subdivisions are built with surface drainage routes that can have a depth of as much as 30 cm (shallow enough to safely drive through), while older parts of the

city may have low areas that can cause deeper ponding of water.

The rainfall on July 29 was well above the design capacity of the storm sewers of Kingston, and the sewers surcharged to the streets, or the rainfall could not drain via catch basins into the already full sewers. In many cases, as described above, that meant water pooling in low areas until it could drain back into the sewer network, in others it meant water flowing in the streets.

You may ask why the City doesn't just make the pipes big enough to handle all the water under the roads, so that we don't have problems of water in the streets

during large storm events. The answer is cost. The cost of installing pipes large enough to handle all the flows, and of maintaining them, and replacing them, compared to the cost of providing on-the-surface flow routes, is just not practical. Such huge pipes would rarely be needed, and the extra costs to install them would be a financial burden on the municipality and the residents. Sizing pipes for the more frequent/smaller events is standard design protocol for storm sewers across the U.S. and Canada.

Some may also ask whether this kind of rain event is due to climate change. While the event

itself may not be directly related to climate change, one of the expectations of a changing climate is that events like the July 29 storm may become more common. This storm event may one day be something we see much more frequently.

The July 29 rain event is being studied by both the CRCA and the City of Kingston, and the hope is that we will be able to provide some more detailed information on how much rain actually fell on the city, how it was distributed, and whether any changes to the landscape, or design guidelines, are warranted.

Brockville Detention Basin gets a Cleaning

There's nothing like a good housecleaning to keep things running smoothly. That's certainly the case for structures that are built to help control flooding.

The Brockville Detention Basin was built in 1980 to help control flooding on Buells and Butlers Creeks in the City of Brockville. It works by holding back water during flood events and releasing it slowly so that downstream properties and homes are not flooded.

The detention basin is one of three flood control structures in Brockville that are operated and maintained by the CRCA. The other two structures are the Broome-Runciman

Dam and the Booth Falls Diversion. In order to make sure that these structures work properly they require regular maintenance. Together, these structures protect about 100 homes that would otherwise be in the floodplain.

Over time the detention basin fills in with sediment and debris. Vegetation including trees and shrubs can even start to grow. This reduces the capacity of the basin to hold back floodwater and that means that it's time for a clean-up.

So why does it fill up with sediment? It's actually designed to do that. When there is rainfall or snow-melt, soil, sand and sediments from park-

ing lots and roads is washed into the creek system. The detention basin is designed to hold this extra water, allow all of the sediment to settle to the bottom and release the water slowly.

If no regular maintenance occurred, the basin would fill in and would not be able to perform its flood control function. To make sure that it keeps working, the City of Brockville and the CRCA have a recurring major maintenance program. We are now in the process of completing this clean-up ensuring that the detention basin is able to continue protecting homes in the City of Brockville.



Regular maintenance of the Brockville Detention Basin is required to make sure that it can continue to perform its flood control function. Here sediment and vegetation are being removed to restore the capacity of the detention basin.



Enjoy the beauty of autumn in our conservation areas. Each area offers places to enjoy nature, relax outdoors or to get active. You can even take part in some fun activities or learn some new outdoor skills. For maps, information about our conservation areas and to find out more about the Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority please visit our website at www.catarquiregion.on.ca.

Entry Fees

Could Lake and Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Areas have a daily entry fee. The fee is:

- \$5.50 per person for adults and children over 12
- \$3.00 per person for children 12 and under
- maximum fee of \$14.00 per car.

Annual passes are available for \$80.00 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 from September 18 to November 26
- 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends beginning December 3
- Closed Saturdays in the fall except during scheduled programs.

Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area

Trails Open

Sunday, September 18 (1:00 to 4:00 p.m.) Free admission

We're kicking off our fall season with an open house to introduce newcomers and old friends to our facilities. Get to know us and some of the groups we work with. There will be displays and information at the Outdoor Centre and a series of guided hikes on our trails. The CRCA, Ducks Unlimited, the Friends of Lemoine Point, Kingston Field Naturalists and the Rideau Trail will be participating in this event and leading a series of short themed hikes suitable for the

whole family.

Nature Photography Workshop

Sunday, October 2 (2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)

Join local photographer Meredith Westcott for a beginner nature photography workshop at the Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area. Owner of Memories Done Wonderfully Photography and short-listed for National Geographic's Travel magazine, Meredith is excited to pass on some tips and tricks of nature photography.

Please register in advance as there is limited space. Cost is \$10.00 for annual pass holders and \$15.50 for non-pass holders (this includes the gate fee).

Fall Colours Weekend

Sunday, October 9 and Monday, October 10 (1:00 to 4:00 p.m.)

Celebrate Thanksgiving and fall colours with us. Catch a wagon ride or hike back to the sugar bush for a fall colours tour. Stop by the Outdoor Centre to enjoy some pie and apple cider.

Volunteer for Nature - Trail and Garden Clean-up

Sunday, October 16 (9:00 to 11:00 a.m.) Free Admission to Volunteers

Come to the Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area and volunteer for nature by helping to 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 them. We have extra if you need to borrow tools.

All About Bees!

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

Come join Seldom Fools Apiculture and learn about the

humble honey bee. We can attribute at least one third of each bite of our food to this little pollinator and the important role they play in our daily lives. In recent years, both the domestic and the wild populations have been declining at an alarming rate and no one knows why. What can you do about it? How can you help? Come learn about the honey bee and its place in our society and our lives.

Creatures of the Night Hike

Saturday, October 29 (6:00 p.m.)

Get out for a breath of brisk fall air. Bring your family for a fun sunset walk to learn about the creatures that come out at night at Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area. Meet at the Outdoor Centre.

The Real Bat Man

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

Bat expert Matt

Saunders is back by popular demand. Matt will introduce you to the fascinating world of bats. Seating is limited, so be sure to come early! Matt's one-hour presentation is suitable for ages seven and up. Bat house construction follows. Kits will be available to purchase (while supplies last) after the talk. You can stay and assemble your bat house with us (please bring a hammer) or take it home to build.

Ski Swap and Open House

Saturday, November 12 10:00 a.m. to 5:00



p.m.

Free Admission

Get ready for winter by picking up some new or used skates, snowshoes or skis. Vendors include Sepp's Ski Shop, Play it Again Sports, Trailhead and the CRCA.

If you have used equipment you would like to donate, we are accepting donations from Monday, November 7 to Wednesday, November 9 only. We

will not be accepting equipment the day of the event.

You can also get information about our winter programs at Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area. Sign up for ski lessons

Forever Green

Saturday, October 29 (6:00 p.m. for dinner; 9:00 p.m. for dance) St. Lawrence College
\$125.00 per person for dinner, auction and a Halloween Hop for Conservation (charitable receipt for a portion of ticket price)
\$35.00 for Halloween Hop only - dance starts at 9:00 p.m.
Come out to the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation's annual fundraising gala for the CRCA's conservation education and land acquisition programs.

This year's gala features a new addition – a Halloween Hop from 9:00 p.m. to 12 midnight with a live band. Wear your favourite Halloween costume!

Your full price ticket

provides you with a gourmet dinner and a chance to bid on some fabulous goods and services at our live and silent auctions.

Or you can join us for the dance only for just \$35 per person.

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

Forever Green

or our winter P.A. day program. Check out our rental equipment and our winter schedule of events.

This event is sponsored by the Canadian Ski Patrol – Frontenac

Zone and the CRCA.

How to be More Sustainable

Sunday, November 20 (2:00 p.m.)

Learn how to be more sustainable from the experts at SWITCH. Their presentation will

able energy generation and transmission including geothermal, bio-energy, solar, wind and more.

Geology of the Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area

Sunday, November 27 (2:00 p.m.)

Underlain by rocks formed in an ocean 460 million years ago and ultimately shaped by the actions of glaciers over 10,000 years ago, Little Cataraqi Creek has an interesting geological history. Join Mark Badham, curator of the Miller Museum of Geology at Queen's University, for a talk in the Outdoor Centre followed by outdoor exploration (weather permitting).

Lantern Night Hike

Saturday, December 3 (6:30 p.m.)

Take a night time stroll with your family and explore the beauty of Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area by moon and lantern light. Afterwards warm up with a hot drink by our fireplace back at the Outdoor Centre.

Tree Trimming Party

Sunday, December 11 (2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)

Come join us to trim our Christmas tree. Make a festive ornament, string popcorn and cranberries or decorate a cookie for \$1.00. You can take your ornament home or leave it on our tree.

include information on the development of a more sustainable energy system in eastern Ontario. You will also learn about energy conservation from a homeowner's perspective. Find out about renew-

Cataraqi Trail

Bike and Hike

Scenic Wagon Ride

Saturday, September 24

Chaffey's Locks Area Enjoy a scenic day on the Cataraqi Trail and help raise funds to maintain the Trail. Choose from one of the following bike or hike routes:

- 5 km hike – 11:00 a.m. Chaffey's Locks
- 13 km cycle – 11:00 a.m. Chaffey's Locks
- 37 km cycle – 10:15 a.m. Perth Road to Chaffey's Locks
- 33 km cycle – 10:15 a.m. Portland (Kin Park) to Chaffey's Locks

Collect donations and pledges or pay \$40 per family, \$25 per adult or \$10 per child under 18. This includes a barbecue lunch at Chaffey's Locks Community Hall.

Not interested in biking or hiking? Join the scenic wagon ride tour. A tractor-drawn wagon will take you on a tour of the Cataraqi Trail. Cost is \$30 per person, which includes a barbecue lunch. Reservations



are required by calling (613) 546-4228 ext. 221.

Lemoine Point Conservation Area

Native Plant Nursery Sale

Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25

(10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

Buy trees, shrubs and wildflowers grown from local seed sources at the Friends of Lemoine Point's Native Plant Nursery. Proceeds from the sale go to the Friends of Lemoine Point and are put back into the nursery to grow more native plants. For details please visit the CRCA website.

Tree and Shrub Planting

Saturday, October 1 (9:00 a.m. to Noon)

Meet at the south parking lot and help to plant trees and shrubs at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. We will also be doing some maintenance of the existing plantations. For more information, call Larry McCurdy at (613) 389-6427, Jerry Zabel at (613) 389-1323 or Rick Knapton at (613) 389-3651.

Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

All programs and events take place at the north end of the Wildlife Area. The entrance is located at 4649 Debruge Road just

2 km east of Tincap on Highway 29. There is no admission charge except where noted. Admission



donations are welcome. **Feathered Friends Hike**
Saturday, September 17 (9:00 to 10:00 a.m. or 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.)
Bring your binoculars and join local birding expert Dan Clifflin on a casual stroll through Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Spot local species and learn more about our local bird population. Early risers can join us from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. or come a little later for our 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. walk.

Stargazing

Wednesday, September 28 (8:00 to 10:00 p.m.)

Check out some interesting sights in the night sky with local stargazer Paul Bullock. At this time of year we should be able to see Jupiter, M31

The Andromeda Galaxy, double stars and many more interesting sights.

Fall Festival

Saturday, October 1 (11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) Admission is \$5 per car.

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area invite you to their annual celebration of fall. Watch the waterfowl on the reservoir in a canoe or kayak courtesy of the CRCA. The day's activities will also include pumpkin carving, geocaching, apple bobbing and a bird watching hike. Food and refreshments will also be available or you can bring a picnic lunch. All proceeds help to support Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Nature Photography Workshop

Saturday, November 5 (11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Bring your camera and learn about taking superior nature shots from our photography specialist. Try out your new photography skills by exploring the Wildlife Area.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Saturday, December 3 (11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Drop in to Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and get into the Christmas spirit! Create your very own Christmas crafts to take home or help decorate our Christmas tree. We will also have a limited number of Christmas trees available for sale, so you can help support your local conservation area.

Teachers Can Book Now for CRCA Conservation Education Programs

The CRCA is ready for back-to-school!

We are now accepting bookings for the 2011-2012 school year for our conservation education programs. We offer programs at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area (LCCCA) in Kingston and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area (MJWA) in Brockville. Our programs are geared to the provincial curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

Our programs include a wide variety of subjects including birds, ecosystems, maple syrup, mapping, snowshoeing, water and wetlands.

At Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, we also offer pre-school programs for day care centres and nursery schools and adult programs for post-secondary and English as a Second Language (ESL) students.

Details about our programs are available in the calendars mailed



CRCA education staff Stana Luxford Oddie and Angela McAnaney teach students how to use a map and compass on the trails at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

out to area schools in August and on the CRCA website www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca.

To make a booking for the programs at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, please e-mail Stana Luxford Oddie at educate@cataraquieregion.on.ca or call (613) 546-4228 ext. 251. Our toll-free number is 1-877-956-CRCA (2722) ext. 251.

To make a booking for Mac Johnson Wildlife

Area, please e-mail Brenda Graham at edmjwa@cataraquieregion.on.ca or call (613) 923-1526.

We are encouraging teachers to book by e-mail this year as it's faster and easier to communicate this way. In your e-mail, please include your contact information, name of school, grades, numbers of students, possible dates, and the names of the programs you are interested in booking.

Floodplain Regulations Being Updated by Provincial Government

The provincial government is in the process of updating the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations for conservation authorities across the province.

The goal is to improve service and to reduce the waiting time for permits. Changes being pro-

posed include allowing conservation authority staff to issue permits that comply with our policies and increasing the time limit for permits. The current maximum time for a permit is two years. Major projects will be able to be issued a permit for a maximum of five years.

In order to comply with these updated regulations the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority needs to update our policy documents. We will also need to post

all of our municipal planning service agreements on our website.

We anticipate that all of the changes will be in place and ready to implement by spring of 2012. Watch our website for details.

If you're not sure whether you might require a permit from the CRCA here are some general rules of thumb. If your project is located in one of the following areas you may need a permit:

in the channel of a wa-

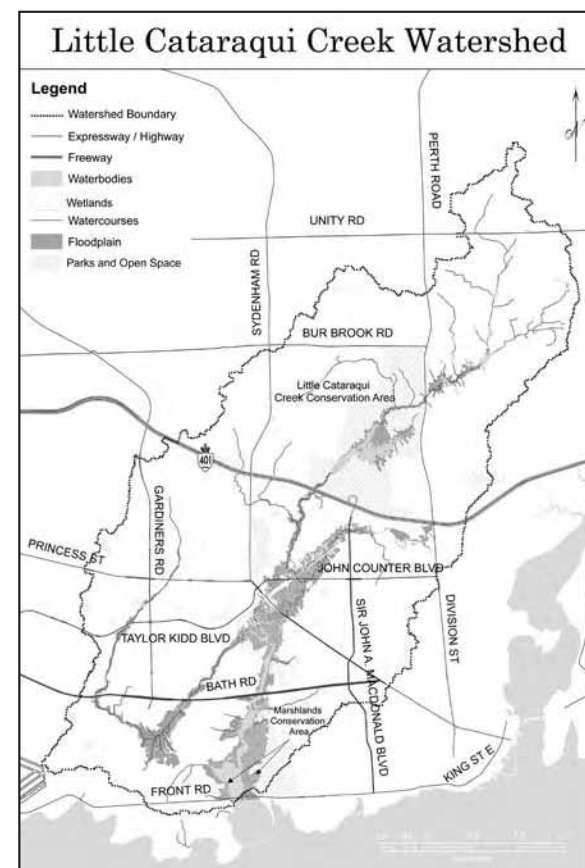
Little Cataraqui Creek Floodplain Mapping Gets an Update

Little Cataraqui Creek flows through the City of Kingston from its headwaters near Glenburnie to its mouth where it empties into Elevator Bay on Lake Ontario. Its watershed drains about 3,840 hectares of land (see map).

Floodplain mapping for Little Cataraqui Creek was updated during the 1980s. The mapping is based on the topography of the land, ground surveys and a computer model that calculates which areas would flood based on a 1 in 100 year flood event.

The 1 in 100 year flood has a one per cent chance of occurring in any given year. It is the minimum standard for floodplain mapping and regulations in Ontario.

Since the mapping



The watershed of Little Cataraqui Creek stretches from its headwaters near Glenburnie to its mouth at Elevator Bay on Lake Ontario. The entire 3,840 hectare watershed is within the City of Kingston.

was completed in the 1980s there have been many changes in the City. New roads and developments have been built and upgraded. It was time to make sure that the floodplain mapping reflected what exists on the ground.

This was a cooperative project with the City of Kingston. They provided the base mapping and CRCA staff did field checks and tested the computer modeling to make sure that it works. The mapping is nearly complete and will

be available to be viewed at a public open house later this fall. Details will be available on the CRCA website www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca.

When completed, the new floodplain mapping will be used for the CRCA regulations. "We want to make sure that we are regulating the right areas — not too much or too little," said Steve Knechtel, CRCA General Manager.

The mapping will also be used in the City of Kingston's official plan and zoning by-law.



The Impact of Deer on Lemoine Point

Lemoine Point Conservation Area has a gradually increasing number of white-tailed deer. They often cross over from areas such as Amherst Island and Wolfe Island, attracted by the lush vegetation, the protected environment and the lack of predators such as human hunters.

There are now estimated to be more than 30 deer in the area, and that number is expected to become overwhelming for a 136-hectare property. It's estimated that an area of about the size of Lemoine Point's forest would normally be able to naturally sustain deer damage from only several deer.

Although the sight of deer right within an urban area such as Lemoine Point is a joy to behold, they do create a bit of a problem.

That is because of the large amount of vegetation that they eat are young saplings and forest floor plants that are necessary for Lemoine Point's forested areas and other native species to prosper. Unfortunately, they don't eat invasive species such as garlic mustard and European buckthorn, which instead thrive. At times there does not even seem to be sufficient food for the deer, as during some winters they have looked rather scrawny.



A buck (male deer) grazes in the forest at Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

For the Friends of Lemoine Point who plant young saplings several times a year to extend the forest and keep

the area natural, the deer present a real problem. They eat or cause major damage to those saplings in spite of efforts to

protect them, so that they don't get a chance to get established. Re-planted areas frequently show a lack of successful growth. Further, where seedlings do manage to grow taller than deer browsing height, male deer damage the trunks of the small trees as they tear the bark off while they rub the velvet off their antlers in the fall.

The Friends have tried various measures to counter deer impact. They use plastic sleeves and spiral wraps to protect saplings, and have even tried using monofilament fishing line around plantings (deer are very sensitive about things they can't see that touch them).

They are currently experimenting with a deer repellent whereby strips of cloth are dipped in animal blood and hung on seedlings and trees so the smell will ward off the deer. They encourage visitors not to bring food to feed the deer. And they are considering establishing a deer enclosure, a small area protected by a very high fence (deer can jump eight or so feet) to allow saplings and other native plants to grow as a demonstration of what would be possible.

Their concern is that the attempt to build Lemoine Point's forest undergrowth may be overwhelmed by the deer population.

L&A Stewardship Rangers Help Friends of Lemoine Point

For one or two days each of the past four years, the Friends of Lemoine Point have enjoyed the assistance of a group of fine young people from the Lennox and Addington Stewardship Rangers. In the past, they have laid filter cloth and gravel paths, potted seedlings and removed a multitude of weeds.

This year, their leader, Lisah Palmateer was able to give us two days, one in July and one in August.

In July, the Rangers: Michael Pieczonka, P.J. Garrett, Marise Meiklejohn, Anne-Marie Trickey and Lisah joined the Friends Heritage Forest group of Larry McCurdy, Jerry Zabel, Barry Robertson, Rick Knapton and Marc Bourque to do much-needed maintenance of the Community Foundation planting site.

On a very hot and humid day, they cleared grass

away from the trees and shrubs and applied brush mats around the trunks to lessen competition for water and sun. The plants were no doubt grateful.

After a short lunch break, the group returned to the site to remove unneeded trunk guards and stakes from the Red Oak plantation, wading through high grass, grey dogwood thickets and water to do so. Despite the threat of an oncoming storm, the job was finished by late afternoon and a tired group of young [and old!] people left for home.

In August, the Native Plant Nursery was the lucky recipient of the Rangers' help. These hard-working youngsters spent an entire morning removing weeds, a job that really needed to be done because the high grass hides the movement of the voles and chipmunks that like to feast on our plants.

It's a daunting task when first surveyed but the Rangers set to with willing hands and strong backs and were finished by noon. In the afternoon, they transplanted willows and white spruce to an overgrown area outside the Nursery fence, adjoining the windbreak. Not willing to leave until all was done, the group did some more weeding and helped to clean up the shelter/potting area.

We are grateful to Steve Pitt, Coordinator of the Lennox and Addington Stewardship Council, for suggesting that the Rangers become involved with the activities at Lemoine Point. The Friends truly appreciate having such assistance. Apart from the fact that much work is accomplished, it's heartening to know that young people do care about the environment and are willing to be caretakers of the great outdoors.

New Methods Tried For Controlling European Buckthorn



These photos show the results of testing the effectiveness of different techniques of trying to control re-growth of European Buckthorn at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. The photos are of (left to right) an untreated stump, one treated with *Path Clear* and one treated with *Weed Be Gone*.

European Buckthorn is an invasive shrub that the Friends of Lemoine Point have been fighting to control at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Smaller shrubs can be successfully removed by pulling it up from the roots. Larger Buckthorn can be cut down, but it will re-grow from the stump or the roots.

Based on information received through

the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, the Friends conducted some tests last fall with the approval of the CRCA.

In November 2010 Buckthorn stumps were treated with two different types of herbicides:

Path Clear which has a vinegar and lemon juice base and

Weed be Gone which has an iron compound base.

Some of the stumps were left untreated to provide a control group for the test.

The test plot was evaluated in May 2011. *The Weed be Gone* was found to be the most effective in suppressing the growth of new shoots.



Do you canoe?

We do and we'd like to encourage you to come out and try our new and improved canoe launch.

The CRCA operations staff and volunteers from the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area have been hard at work this summer making improvements to the canoe access point at the southeast corner of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville.

This small area provides a picnic spot for workers in the Brockville industrial park and nearby residents, a place to enjoy views of the reservoir and wetland, a place to launch a canoe or kayak and access for CRCA staff to the Broome-Runciman Dam.

The actual launch area was completed in July, with a new dock and new concrete steps to access the dock, making it much easier to put in and take out canoes and kayaks. From here, visitors can gain access to the Buells Creek Reservoir, known locally as the Back Pond. It's a great place to view wildlife, especially waterfowl.

A lot of work has also been done on the parking lot and landscaping. The parking lot has been enlarged, regraded and surrounded by large boulders to



Taken at the beginning of June, this photo shows the newly-poured concrete steps at the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area canoe launch.



By mid-July the steps and dock were complete and much of the parking lot and landscaping work were also complete.

keep vehicles off the grass.

The old Broome-Runciman Dam sign, flower garden and wooden borders have been removed. This area has been freshly seeded with grass and two small spruce trees have been planted close by. Brush has been cleared and new seedlings have been planted.

As we go to press, a new entrance sign and interpretive

signage are being installed, so users can learn a little about the history of the area. Also being planned in the next few months is the installation of a commemorative bench that was donated by a local family and the placement of large boulders along the southern edge of the property to separate the conservation area from Centennial Road.

Still Time to Enter the Conservation Areas Photo Contest

There's still plenty of great photo weather ahead, but you only have until October 31, 2011 to enter Conservation Ontario's photo contest.

People across Ontario are being encouraged to show off their talents as well as their favourite Conservation Area by getting out and taking pictures for the 2011 Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest.

So send in your photos of a close-up dragonfly or interesting rock formation, the view of fall colours in the forest, or pictures of your family or friends enjoying a trail hike. The Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest is looking for your best photograph in these three categories:

- People of All Ages Enjoy Conservation Areas
- My Favourite Conservation Area
- Wildlife is Everywhere in Conservation Areas.



It's a great time to take some colourful fall photos for Conservation Ontario's 2011 Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest.

The most important thing is that the image is taken at a Conservation Area in Ontario. Judges will be looking for outstanding images that showcase the best of what Ontario's Conservation Areas have to offer.

The Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest runs from November 1, 2010 until October 31,

2011 and offers prize packages totalling more than \$1500.00.

For more information on the prizes, rules, regulations and how to submit your photograph, go to www.ontarioconservationareas.ca.

To find the CRCA's conservation areas, please visit our website at www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca.

Cataraqi Trail Fundraiser Ready for September

Circle Saturday, September 24 on your calendar. That's the date for the Cataraqi Trail's annual Bike and Hike fundraiser.

A few changes have been made for this year's event.

It's still taking place around the Chaffey's Locks area and there are still three different bicycle rides and one hike to choose from. However, if you want to participate and don't want to collect pledges,

you can just make a payment of \$25 per adult, \$10 per child under 18 or \$40 for a whole family.

This year's event has also been combined with a wagon ride tour along the Trail. If you don't want to or aren't able to walk or cycle along the Trail, you can enjoy the scenery from our tractor-drawn wagons. The cost for this is \$30 per person, which includes a barbecue lunch. You must reg-

ister in advance by calling Dianne Doyle at (613) 546-4228 ext. 221 or 1-877-956-CRCA (2722) ext. 221.

All of the proceeds go directly to the upkeep and development of the Cataraqi Trail. The Trail relies on the funds to operate so please make a generous contribution.

Registration forms for the Bike and Hike are available at www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca.

FOUNDATION NEWS

After enjoying a memorably sunny summer, it's time to relieve the stress of drought and take care of our natural environment. The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation undertakes major fundraising each year towards this goal of protecting our natural environment. Funds are directed in two ways – educating our young people so that future generations may enjoy a healthy natural environment, and contributing toward acquisition of natural spaces so that they may be protected forever.

Two Foundation initiatives constitute our major fundraising events of the year, and we seek your help and participation with both initiatives. Let's learn a bit more about Partners in Education and the Forever Green Gala Evening.

Partners in Education

Each year we ask you and others to help us build our most important program, conservation education. Your gift to Partners in Education ensures that we will have sufficient funds for conservation education to all ages through a variety of programs.

The school programs bring students from throughout the region to Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area in Kingston and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville for half-day education programs. The programs are developed and delivered by qualified

and enthusiastic teachers who integrate learning activities into the provincial curriculum requirements. These programs help young people understand the interdependence of all life in our bio-region and instill in them the importance of protecting our natural environment. Without your support many young students would not have the opportunity to attend.

Last year our conservation education pro-

St. Lawrence College, Kingston. Dinner tickets are \$125 each, and our popular local auctioneer Tim Potter will conduct the live auction. A tax receipt will be provided for a portion of the ticket price.

This year the Forever Green gala evening will include live music and dancing. Those who do not wish to join us for dinner may purchase a dance ticket for \$35. Dancing begins at 9:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence College. Come in cos-



Tim Potter is the auctioneer again this year for the Foundation's annual fundraising gala Forever Green.

grams reached nearly 7,000 people of all ages. Please join others in our community in generously supporting the conservation education programs.

Forever Green Gala Evening

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation's major fundraising event of the year is the Forever Green gala dinner and – new for this year – a Hallowe'en Hop with dancing. The gala evening takes place **Saturday, October 29, 2011**, at Davies Hall,

tume if you wish, and we encourage masquerades.

Be sure to put your name in early since the gala evening is a popular event. We count on individuals and local businesses to contribute financially toward the dinner, donate an item for the evening's auction, or advertise a business in the Forever Green program. Contact Betty Boone at (613) 353-8704 for more information about the gala dinner, or email foundatn@cataraquiregion.on.ca. For tickets please call (613) 546-4228 ext. 221.

Cataraqi Conservation Foundation Board News

At its May 2011 annual general meeting, the Foundation board elected a new executive and confirmed a new board of directors.

The executive committee consists of President Betty Boone, Past President and Secretary Michael Bell, Vice President Paul Copland, Treasurer John Kitney, and member-

tion remain engaged in the affairs of the Foundation.

Current plans call for the Foundation president to convene a meeting of the President's Council at least annually. Members of the council have demonstrated with their past board endeavours that they share similar values and visions of conservation in our community. The President's Council will serve as a valuable sounding board for the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation. The first President's Coun-

and Friends \$25 to \$49 in a year. For corporate donors, annual donation categories include Diamond (\$5,000 or more), Platinum (\$2,500 to \$4,999), Gold (\$1,000 to \$2,499), Silver (\$750 to \$999), Bronze (\$500 to \$749), and Copper (\$250 to \$499).

In closing our board report, we would like to introduce one more board member to the Cat Tales reader community. New board member Thornley Stoker is 25-year resident of Kingston, Thornley is married to Susan and has two delightful offspring, grown young men that both live in Whistler, BC.

Thornley is a retired marketing professional. His career has exposed him to clients like Hiram Walker, Jeep, Coca-Cola, the Toronto Blue Jays, McDonald's, Burger King, Arby's and DuPont. While in Kingston Thornley has, or continues to volunteer for the Kingston Family YMCA, Almost Home, RKY Camp, the 1000 Islands Association, the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and the Kingston Symphony and now the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation. Thornley has also taught part time at St. Lawrence College for the last 12 years in the business faculty.

Thornley considers the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation and its support of the Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority a worthy cause. And he has "put his money where his mouth is" by volunteering to join the Foundation board.

Thank you Thornley Stoker.



Foundation director Ian Wilson and a group of his friends attended a Kingston Frontenacs game in January 2011 in box seats donated by the Four Points Sheraton at last year's Forever Green Gala. The package also included overnight accommodation and breakfast at the Four Seasons.

at-large Chris Cannon.

The Foundation board for 2011/2012 includes the executive committee plus John Allan, Mary Moreau, Brent Raycroft, Thornley Stoker and Ian Wilson. We welcome the addition of new board members. Please let us know if you would be interested in assisting the Foundation by joining its board.

In an earlier issue of Cat Tales we outlined the rationale for convening a President's Council. The purpose of this new council is to ensure past board members of the Founda-

cil meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2011.

In other Foundation board news, the board will unveil a new Foundation website shortly, and the board has recently adopted a formal schedule of supporter categories to clarify levels of support for all fundraising initiatives.

For individual donors, Benefactors contribute \$5,000 or more in a year. Champions give \$2,500 to \$4,999, Ambassadors \$1,000 to \$2,499, Advocates \$500 to \$999, Partners \$250 to \$499, Participants \$125 to \$249, Contributors \$50 to \$124,



An Open House to Help Plan the Future of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) is completing an update to its Master Plan for Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area (LCCCA). A master plan is important because it helps to guide the protection, management and operation of the property over the next 20 years.

Little Cataraqui Creek is one of the most important properties owned and managed by the CRCA, as it fulfills a number of valuable local and regional roles. In addition to being part of a major green corridor through the City of Kingston, which protects habitat

and provides flood control, these lands provide visitors opportunities for outdoor recreation and leisure activities.

The LCCCA also acts as the base for the CRCA's operations and Administration Offices, as well as the outdoor education programs.

As part of working to protect the ecological integrity of the property and ensuring that the infrastructure and services are well-regarded in the community, the CRCA is asking for the public's input on how the property should be developed over the next 20 years.

An open house is being

held to give the public an opportunity to meet with staff and discuss their ideas, concerns and expectations for the future of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. This process will help us to consider community interests for the LCCCA when preparing a draft Master Plan document later this year. CRCA staff is anticipating that this plan will be presented to partners and the public through a second open house in early 2012.

As a community member, your input is welcome and important. Be sure to attend this meeting and take part in discussions about directing the future of this valuable community asset. Please contact Jason Hynes, CRCA Lands Planner by phone at (613) 546-4228 ext. 223 or toll-free 1-877-956-CRCA (2722) ext. 223 or by e-mail at jhynes@cataraquiregion.on.ca with any questions or to RSVP.

The open house details are as follows:

Date: Thursday September 29, 2011

Time: 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Location: Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area Outdoor Centre
1655 Perth Road (Division Street, just north of Highway #401)**

Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area is an important property in the Kingston area. It provides recreational and educational opportunities, wildlife habitat and flood control. It also serves as the headquarters for the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority.

CRCA Boat Ramps Provide Public Access to Water



The donation box at Hay Bay Boat Ramp is located adjacent to the dock and ramp (on the right side of this photo).

The CRCA has eight boat ramps located around our watershed that provide public access to the area's lakes and rivers.

One of our busiest boat ramps the Hay Bay boat ramp, located on the south shore of Hay Bay, had a management plan approved by the CRCA board earlier this year. A management plan examines the property and looks at the potential future development and uses of this property.

There are no major changes anticipated for this boat ramp as there is not much land available

to provide any additional facilities. There will be some interpretive signage installed as well as a number of small improvements to the property. The ramp and docks will be upgraded as needed.

All of our boat ramps, and a number of our other properties contain donation boxes. These donation boxes are getting quite old and recently some have been targets for vandals. Our plan is to replace and upgrade these boxes as time and money permits.

The next time you encounter one of our

donation boxes when you are using one of our facilities, please stop and make a contribution. Every little bit helps to keep these facilities operating.

If you prefer to make a contribution and receive a charitable receipt, you can make a donation either to the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation or the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. We are both registered charitable organizations. Call our office at (613) 546-4228 ext. 221 or toll-free 1-877-956-CRCA (2722) ext. 221 for more details.

