



CAT TALES

Winter 2012 Issue

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- Warm up to winter by getting out and enjoying a new sport or trying a new activity. We have lots of great events coming up. See pages 6 and 7 for What's Happening.
- Our education programs got a boost from Union Gas. Read more about this and the types of programs we offer for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 on page 3.
- This issue's Creature Feature on page 2 might be more familiar as Rocky from the Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoon. Check it out!
- The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation raises funds to help support the CRCA's conservation education programs and other programs. Read about their fall activities and their spring plans on page 11.
- Work continues on the development of our source protection plan to protect drinking water. Our plan must be complete by August 2012. Read more on pages 9 and 12.
- Planting trees is a great way to make environmental improvements in your own backyard. Read what you can do on page 4 and what we have been doing on pages 1, 4 and 5.
- Interested in doing some wetland restoration on your property? You may qualify for a grant. More on page 5.
- Updated floodplain mapping, a new regulations policy and updated planning and regulations fees are all in the works. See page 8 for details.
- The CRCA is working with Queen's University civil engineers on two projects this year. See page 9.
- Plus conservation area projects and lots of interesting items in this issue of Cat Tales.

Climate Change Research Project

In 2012, the CRCA is partnering with a number of agencies to participate in a research project addressing climate change's impact on trees. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Forest Gene Conservation Association, Trees Ontario, Friends of Lemoine Point, local Stewardship Councils, Natural Resources Canada, and the CRCA are planting a 2 hectare (5 acre) site at the south end of Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

The site is being planted with Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), a tree species native to eastern Ontario and Lemoine Point. Other southern hardwood species will also be planted as well as a Norway spruce buffer around the entire planting site.

"We chose Bur Oak as the main tree species because it is a native oak species that is suitable for the clay soils at Lemoine Point," explains Rick Knapton, CRCA Forestry Technician. "It's also a species that

is native to warmer climate zones."

Seedlings for the planting will come from our own seed zone (Zone 36), southwestern Ontario (Zone 38) and from sources in Tennessee

we are expected to experience in the near future.

Secondly, the program will test how well the seedlings native to warmer climate zones grow in this area.



Conservation Area is helping to restore the forest on the property. In this photo, volunteers plant native tree species from the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery in October 2011. A new plantation that will help with climate change research will be planted in the spring of 2012. Photo Credit - Jerry Zabel

provide further proof that climate change may be affecting this area. These trees would also be used as a seed source to collect and grow trees for other parts of our region in the future.

Preparation for the project is already underway. The area at Lemoine Point already mown in strips and sprayed with herbicide to control vegetation around the trees, during the fall of 2011.

In the spring of 2012, the planting of the trees will take place, along with the installation of tree guards to protect the seedlings from vole damage.

A deer fence will be erected to keep the deer from browsing on the tree stock; and if needed, herbicide will be used in limited quantities to control competing vegetation and reduce vole inhabitation. (For more information about deer fencing or about planting trees on your own property see page 4.)

and Pennsylvania in the United States.

Firstly, the program will be testing how well the seedlings native to our area, which have adapted to our local climatic conditions over thousands of years, adapt to the relatively fast climatic changes that

"There will need to be long-term monitoring of the plantation over the next few decades," adds Mr. Knapton.

Should the project see the seedlings planted from the warmer seed zones eventually thrive here, this would

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



Creature Feature

Southern Flying Squirrel, (*Glaucomys volans*)

If you ever see a Southern Flying Squirrel in action, you will be impressed by how it can gracefully glide through the air for an amazing distance. Despite what its name suggests; however, the Southern Flying Squirrel cannot actually fly. It has a large membrane of skin extending from wrist to ankle, which catches air and allows it to glide between trees. It does so by launching itself from a tree trunk, extending its legs to spread the membrane, then glides diagonally downward to the next tree, scurries to the top, and jumps on a downward slant to the next one.

The flying squirrel also has a flat, furry tail that it uses as a rudder while gliding. The squirrel uses both its tail and mem-

brane to steer left and right, and even to make 180-degree turns. As it approaches its target, the flying squirrel banks upward, landing lightly and scrambling upward a little before coming to a stop. Quite a sight indeed!

The Southern Flying Squirrel's fur is mostly grey-brown; the membrane is very dark on top and pinkish-buff below; the cheeks and sides of the neck are buff; the under parts are white; and the tail is smoky-grey. It is comparable in size to a chipmunk.

It has large, dark, bulging eyes that are well adapted for night vision, as well as something called "feelers," which are sensitive whiskers used to make nocturnal travel easier. It has a long tail, long and pointed

ears, and tiny claws on its digits.

Unlike other squirrels, the Southern Flying Squirrel is nocturnal, and is seldom seen. It generally sleeps in tree cavities during the day and is most active between dusk and dawn. At night, it catches moths and Junebugs, and collects hickory nuts, fruits and seeds, which it hoards in its hollow-tree home.

It will forage the forest ground for food, but it runs slowly and clumsily, so this is rare. This squirrel's primary predators are the nocturnal owls, but in suburban areas the household cat can prey upon the squirrel when it ventures onto the ground.

The Southern Flying Squirrel is found throughout eastern parts of North America and

the southeastern parts of Canada. Its range extends from Nova Scotia, southern Quebec and Ontario, west to Nebraska and south to Florida. It is found mostly in mature, deciduous hardwood forests of oak, maple, beech and hickory.

Habitat loss is the ma-

jor threat facing Southern Flying Squirrels. Activities that reduce forest cover, such as conversion of forested land to urban development; or removing nesting or feeding trees, are the key threats to the Southern Flying Squirrel's survival. The Southern Flying Squirrel's status, provin-

cially and nationally, is of special concern. This means that it is sensitive to human activities or natural events.

If you happen to see a Southern Flying Squirrel, consider yourself lucky. It is not an everyday occurrence to see one of these fascinating creatures.



Did you know? Depending on the wind and takeoff height, the flying squirrel can glide through the air for 50 metres or more. Photo credit - Rick Horton



CRCA receives grant from Union Gas



The unofficial cheque presentation was held at the CRCA Administration Office in August 2011. Peter Siemonsen from Union Gas in Kingston (centre) presented a grant cheque to CRCA General Manager Steve Knechtel (right) and CRCA Education Officer Stana Luxford Oddie (left). Children and staff from the Nature Explorers Camp also participated in the cheque presentation.

The CRCA received a \$5,000 Community Signature Grant from Union Gas in 2011. The funds will be used to support the CRCA's conservation education programs, making improvements to the sugar bush displays at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, and purchasing equipment and materials to enhance our wetland,

insect, bird and animal conservation education programs for school children.

"The grant will help us improve our visitor experience for schools and for the public at Little Cataraqui Creek," said Steve Knechtel, CRCA General Manager. "We will be able to replace our interpretive signs in the sugar bush and

improve our display of nature artifacts at the Outdoor Centre."

The grant also provides some operating support for the CRCA's conservation education programs.

The cheque was officially presented to the CRCA at Union Gas headquarters in October as part of their 100th birthday celebrations.

CRCA to develop Work Plan

In 2012, it's time for the CRCA to develop a four-year work plan.

"The plan helps us to set our priorities for the next four years and assess what our budget needs will be to carry out those priorities," explains Steve Knechtel CRCA General Manager. "The work plan is based on our strategic plan Cataraqui to 2020 which sets out our mission, vision, goals and objectives."

The work plan takes these goals and objectives and turns them into specific tasks and projects and establishes timelines for their completion. This is then used when developing the CRCA's annual budget.

As part of the work plan we will be ensuring that we are meeting our legal responsibilities as well as providing services and facilities that the public supports.

Book now for outdoor and environmental conservation education programs

Spaces are still available from January to June 2012 for our curriculum-based, elementary and secondary school conservation education programs.

At **Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area** in Kingston over 1,900 Junior Kindergarten to grade 10 students participated in our fall conservation education programs from September to December 2011. These programs complement and enrich lessons taught in the classroom.

We offer winter programs in January and February, Maple Madness in March and spring programs from April to June. Students can experience hands-on learning in the natural world of wetlands, fields and forests.

Two classes are encouraged to attend to save on bussing costs. The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board and the Limestone District School Board provide a partial subsidy of the student fees for their schools.

You can make a booking at any time by e-mailing educate@cataraquieregion.on.ca or calling Stana Luxford Oddie at (613) 546-4228 ext. 251 or toll-free (613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA (2722) ext. 251.

Conservation education programs for elementary and secondary schools are

also offered at **Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville**. Winter programs can be conducted on snowshoes, weather permitting, and school classes are also welcome to stay for the whole day and make use of the skating rink.

Spring is the most popular time of the year to visit Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, so early bookings are recommended. Don't forget that we offer much more than just wetland programs and pond dipping. Check out our full range of programs on the CRCA website.

Bookings can be made by calling Brenda Graham at (613) 923-1526 or by e-mailing edmjwa@cataraquieregion.on.ca.

P.A. Day activities planned at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

Come and join us for a great day of fun in the snow on Friday, February 3, 2012 for our Winter Sports P.A. Day. The day will be filled with cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and more. Alternate activities are planned in case there is a lack of snow.

You can also sign up for a day of spring adventures on our Spring Fling P.A. Day on Friday, May 25, 2012. We'll be out and about searching for salamanders, dipping in our marsh and enjoying other spring activities.

P.A. day activities are for children ages 6 to 11. They run in all types of weather. Registration forms are available on the CRCA website, at the Administration Office and at the Outdoor Centre at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

Nature Explorers Camp 2012

Looking ahead to summer, our week-long day camp for children aged 6 to 11 is a great way for your children to learn about nature and the outdoors. The Nature Explorers Camp runs weekly from July 3 to August 17. Each week has a theme which includes guest speakers as well as outdoor activities and games.

There are a maximum of 24 campers each week. You may register your children for a maximum of two weeks.

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

Detailed information and registration forms will be available on the CRCA website by the end of January.



Opportunity for Landowners: 50 Million Tree Program

The Ontario government has committed to plant 50 million trees by 2020 to help fight climate change. The goal of the 50 Million Tree Program is to reduce carbon in the atmosphere; enhance and diversify southern Ontario's landscape; moderate local climate by providing shade; reduce flood-

ing; increase wildlife habitat; increase soil and water conservation; and provide local economic opportunities.

The program increases the number of trees planted in Ontario by significantly reducing landowners' costs of large-scale tree planting on their lands by providing a subsidy. Local

planting agencies work directly with landowners to arrange and complete the plantings, which is also an incentive for landowners.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority is the planting agency for landowners within the Cataraqui Watershed and we are actively involved in promoting the program. Currently, we are looking for private tree planting sites for spring 2012 and beyond. The minimum site requirement is 1 hectare (2.5 acres). The program provides the landowner with an initial site visit and soil evaluation, seedling costs, planting, pre or post-planting tending, a small sign on site, and 1st, 2nd, and 5-year assessments.

Costs to landowners are \$0.20 per tree for sites between 1 hectare (2.5 acres) to 2 hectares (5 acres). CRCA plants at

a density of 800 seedlings per acre, so 2.5 acres would hold 2000 seedlings for a total cost of \$400.00.

The price is reduced to \$0.15 per tree for sites 2 hectares (5 acres) and up. Five acres would hold 4000 seedlings for a total landowner cost of \$600.00.

The actual cost to provide the program is approximately \$1.45 per tree, so for a 5 acre property at 4000 trees, this large-scale planting would otherwise cost a landowner \$5,800.00.

Upon site approval by the CRCA, the landowner is responsible for the preparation of the site (generally by mowing the area in the fall previous to the spring tree plant). The landowner also must sign a 15 year contract, agreeing not to remove trees without permission from the CRCA.

Once the seedlings



Landowners with more than 1 hectare of land are eligible to participate in the 50 Million Tree Program. Here trees are being planted by machine instead of by hand, due to the large size of the property.

are planted, landowners may have the opportunity to save property taxes by applying for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). You can learn more about the MFTIP program by contacting Trees Ontario or the Ontario Woodlot Association.

If you are interested in the tree planting

program, please call Rick Knapton at (613) 389-3651, or email at rknapton@cataraquieregion.on.ca. If you call soon, you may be eligible for a site visit as soon as May 2012. The CRCA does have a limit to our tree allocation each year so it is best to contact us as soon as possible.

Forests Help Prevent Floods

Trees have many benefits: they absorb carbon dioxide, they raise property value, they provide stress relief, they reduce erosion, and they help prevent flooding.

In the spring time, trees slow snow melt allowing water to be slowly absorbed into the ground instead of quickly running off into

our rivers, creeks and streams. The quicker the water runs off, the higher the risk is for flooding. Trees absorb water from the soil, allowing it to store more rain and melt water. Rainwater also stays on the leaves and can evaporate directly into the air. Handy little multi-taskers to have around.

Trying a new type of deer fence at Lemoine Point Conservation Area

If you've visited Lemoine Point Conservation Area lately, you will have noticed an experimental deer fence erected at both the south end and the north end of the property (along the entrance roads to the parking lots). The deer fence is the latest attempt by the CRCA and the Friends of Lemoine Point to try to save planted seedlings from being eaten by the many deer that live

at Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

In the past, efforts such as invisible monofilament fencing, plastic green fencing, and 6 feet 'O' sections of drain pipe have been installed over the years to try to keep deer out of the plantations, but none have been successful. Some of the challenges to past efforts have been cost, staff and volunteer time, necessity for frequent re-application, or issues with removing the fence.

The current deer fence is planned to

be erected for a maximum of five years, at which point the plants will have had time to establish themselves and grow to a point where deer grazing won't cause harm. At that time, the fence will be removed and re-used at another planting site.

The CRCA and the Friends of Lemoine Point are trying a new type of deer fence at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. The plan is to keep this fence in place for at least five years to keep the deer from eating the newly-planted trees. Photo Credit - Jerry Zabel



The Lemoine Point Nursery in Winter

(Editor's note – Jane Murphy, nursery volunteer extraordinaire, provides this glimpse into taking care of the nursery over the winter months.)

I suppose most people think of this as leisure-time for plant growers. Not so!

Quite apart from the planning that is needed for any endeavour to succeed, there is actual physical labour involved. Meetings may be a little longer and require more coffee and cookies to appease those who really don't like meetings (myself included), but hardly a week that goes by without some chores needing attention.

We begin in late September, repotting and removing the liverwort that plagues the soil surface, and dealing with two other plagues - chipmunks and squirrels - both of which like to dig up small plants and throw them on the ground. It's hard to understand why they do this - they don't eat the plants but they make it necessary for someone to check the beds each day and firm the seedlings back into the soil. They're fast and sneaky. One might think the re-firming is done, then realize that some small creature has followed behind to create the disorder that they most admire.

By late October, the plants are entering dormancy so

it's time to look after winter protection. Only those in pots need assistance; those in the ground are fine on their own. The larger trees and shrubs are gathered into groups and surrounded by snow fencing, with bags of collected leaves sifted in. Once the roots are frozen we want them to stay that way. Freeze-and-thaw is what damages roots. The small stock in the wooden beds are given the same treatment, minus the snow fence.

For the fortunate others, there is a trip to the cold-frame greenhouse to spend the winter on the metal benches where ravaging voles can't reach them. Rick Knapton said he'd never seen a vole that could climb up a steel table-leg and so far, he's right. We'd like the temperature to stay under 4 degrees C, which can usually be attained by the ventilation system and now by the shade panels which were installed this year.

Beginning in the spring and through the fall months, we've been gathering seed of every species that we can find. Each has its own schedule for germination. Some want to be planted as soon as collected, some need particular warm and cold periods, some need light and others prefer the dark. A few, such as nannyberry are peculiar and spout better if they've been dry-stored until

June. Research tells us when to plant which seeds for best results. The mist irrigation system stays on until freeze-up, then we rely on barrels of water so someone must visit every day to moisten the pots, brush excess snow off the greenhouse and check for vole damage. It's interesting to watch the faces of passersby who see one of us shoveling a path from the road to the fence. They must think we're totally mad.

February is dormant cuttings time - a group activity which involves slogging through sometimes waist-high snow drifts to reach a tree species that we need to propagate. Fortunately, we can process the cuttings inside the office or our hands would freeze. After eight to 12 weeks, roots will appear and the growing season is upon us once more. By early April, some seedlings will be evident in the pots and leaves will start to break on the mature stock.

Time then to reverse the fall procedure: remove everything from the greenhouse, take off most of the leaves guarding the plants outside, find out how much has survived the winter, and plan for the spring forest planting. Seasons flow into one another with little interruption, requiring workers to be available year-round. Bribing them with cookies works very well!

CRCA offers Wetland Care Stewardship Grant Program

The Ontario Wetland Care Program is a partnership between Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the CRCA to provide funding and technical expertise to landowners who wish to protect, enhance or restore wetlands on their property.

The program provides 50 per cent of the project construction costs up to \$5,000 for low intensity wetland creation or restoration projects within DUC priority habitat areas. Some projects may qualify for higher funding based on their size and their value for waterfowl.

Those projects that are in non-priority areas are still eligible for funding (25 per cent or more depending on the benefit to waterfowl or wetland conservation).

Projects that are eligible for funding include:

- wetland restoration, enhancement and/or creation of pairing ponds (excavations or impoundments)
- nest box projects (includes poles, predator guards and wood duck nest box)



Ponds can provide excellent habitat for waterfowl and are eligible for funding under the Wetland Care Program. Photo credit – Ducks Unlimited Canada

- livestock wetland fencing and alternative crossings
- buffer strip plantings.

All projects must demonstrate value to waterfowl. Landowners are required to sign a conservation agreement with DUC and to obtain any permits that may be required. CRCA and DUC staff will assess potential projects and provide support for landowners throughout the permitting and construction phases of their project.

Please note that farmers can match the funding available under the Wetland Care Program with other grant programs available through the Environmental Farm Plan.

If you would like to participate in this program or would like additional information, please contact Kimberly Denison at (613)546-4228 ext. 288 or toll free 1-877-956-CRCA (2722) ext. 288 or email kdenison@cataraquieregion.on.ca

Lots of small improvements in our conservation areas this fall

A number of improvements were made in our conservation areas during the fall months and many more are underway.

At Lyn Valley Conservation Area in Lyn, northwest of Brockville, a new guardrail was installed along a steep section of trail. The main entrance sign and regulations sign, which were damaged by vandals, were also re-installed.

Eloida Lake Boat Ramp north of Athens now has a spiffy new entrance sign.

At Hay Bay Boat Ramp near Adolphustown a concrete pad was installed to provide a surface and anchor point for the privy that is provided during the summer months.

Installation of trail markers and directional signs continued at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area west of Amherstview.

Thanks to a lot of help from the Rideau Trail Association (RTA), a new boardwalk along the shore at Gould Lake Conservation Area near Sydenham is nearly complete. Jim Lorimer and his crew of volunteers from the RTA are to be commended for their design and construction assistance. We couldn't have done it without you!

The well at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Outdoor Centre had to be replaced. The original well, which was located in the basement of the building, began to leak. It has been decommissioned. A new well was drilled outside of the building, but a temporary road had to be built to bring in the drilling equipment. The road will be removed once the ground is frozen. The site will be restored in the spring.



A new boardwalk along the shore of Gould Lake will provide safe access from the beach area to the swimming dock. The boardwalk was built by CRCA staff with a lot of help from Rideau Trail Association volunteers.



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

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

Fees

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

- \$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 entry to both of these conservation areas.

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

Hours of Operation Conservation Areas

7:30 a.m. to dusk daily

Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre

- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday
- 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends from January 1 to April 1
- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends from April 7 to April 28



- Closed Good Friday and Easter Monday
- Closed weekends from May to September. Available for room rentals.

Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

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

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and community volunteers will be serving hot chocolate and coffee at the skating shelter on Saturdays in January and February from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting).

Winter Fun Day Saturday, January 28

(11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) Enjoy the festivities at our tenth annual Winter Fun Day at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Enjoy dog sled races by the Mush Larose Association – Training Division, skating on the pond, cross-country skiing, free snowshoeing for children, lunch and refreshments. Admission is \$5.00 per car.



Spring Tree Sale Saturday, May 12

(10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) Buy some native, locally-grown trees to plant in your yard at the Friends’ annual spring tree sale.

The sale takes place in the Centennial Road (south) parking lot at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

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

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

Winter Activities Cross-country Ski Lessons

Learn how to ski or improve your technique. Cross-country ski lessons are offered on Saturdays from January 7 to March 3, weather permitting. Register in advance, or on the day of the lesson, at the Outdoor Centre. Cost is \$16.00 per person. Group lessons are one-hour in length. Lesson times are 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$5.00 per car.

Equipment Rentals

Cross-country skis, skates and snowshoes are available for rent at the Outdoor Centre. Rentals are available from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All rentals must be

returned by 4:00 p.m.
Ice Rink Rental
Host your own evening skating party! Rink rental includes access to the warming huts. Call Shannon Fleming at (613) 546-4228 ext. 222 for more information or to make a booking.

Little Cat Classic Ski Loppet

Sunday, January 15
Register for each event 30 minutes before start time. (Registration fee is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per team.) The day’s events include:

- 10:00 a.m. - Cross-Country Ski Loppets, 5 km or 10 km.
- 1:00 p.m. - Family Fun Relay, skate, snowshoe and ski.

This annual winter fun day is hosted by the Canadian Ski Patrol Frontenac Zone (If poor ski conditions exist, the alternate date is Sunday, February 12). Skis and snowshoes are available to rent at the Outdoor Centre.

Introduction to Owls Sunday, January 22

(2:00 p.m.) Come and learn about owls from Bud Rowe, an avid birder and member of the Kingston Field Naturalists. Bud’s presentation will include information about the natural history of owls found in the Kingston region and a demonstration of owl calls. There will also be a display of taxidermy, owl pellets and owl parts.

Owl Hoot and Coyote Howl

Saturday, January 28
(6:00 p.m.)
Bring your family out on a night walk to learn a bit more about owls and coyotes. We will be hooting for owls and howling for coyotes. We will not see these animals, but if we are lucky, they might call back.

Winter Sports P.A. Day Friday, February 3

(8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
Ages 6 to 11
Give your child(ren) an opportunity to have a P.A. Day full of winter adventure and fun. We’ll be cross-country skiing on the trails and snowshoeing through the fields, forests and wetland areas of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program runs until 4:30 p.m. Bring your lunch, snacks, drinks, warm and extra clothes, and sleds. The program will run regardless of weather; we have alternate plans for interactive games and activities if there is not enough snow. Cost is \$40.00 per child and includes equipment rentals. You must register in advance. Space is limited for this popular program, so register early. For more information call (613) 546-4228 ext. 251.

Snowshoe Demonstration Sunday, February 5

(2:00 p.m.)
Learn all about modern snowshoes from Kingston’s outdoor store, Trailhead. Find out what’s new in snowshoes as Trailhead staff provide a demonstration of the latest in snowshoes.

Little Cat Classic Ski Loppet (Alternate Date)

Sunday, February 12
This will be our alternate ski loppet date if the weather doesn’t cooperate in January. For details, see the January listing.

Coyote Talk Sunday, February 19

(2:00 p.m.)
Join Ministry of Natural Resources Biologists to learn all about

coyotes. This talk is geared towards ages 12 and up. Find out about historical and current distribution of coyote and wolf populations in Ontario. Discover the difference between wolf and coyote biology and behaviour. Also, learn why bounties are ineffective and the reasons for conflicts between people and coyotes within urban and rural areas.

Family Day Skate Monday, February 20

(2:00 p.m.)
Bring the family out for a skate on Kingston’s largest natural ice skating rink! We’ll have the fire going in the warming hut by the rink or you can drop by the Outdoor Centre for a cup of hot chocolate or coffee.

Mardi Gras

Sunday, February 26
(1:00 to 4:00 p.m.)
Come and celebrate Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) with us even though it’s Sunday. You can make yourself a mask and make s’mores by the fire. It’s a great way to get rid of the winter blahs.

Maple Madness March 10 to 18 (March Break) March 24 and 25 March 31 and April 1



(9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
March means maple syrup at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Take a tractor-drawn wagon back to our sugar bush to see how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Enjoy pancakes with real maple syrup and buy some maple syrup or sugar to take home.

We’ve got special activities happening on different days throughout the program. You’ll want to visit us more than once!

Puppet Shows Saturday, March 10

(11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.)
Start your visit to the sugar bush with a puppet show at the Outdoor Centre. Our energetic and fun puppets explain all about the sugar bush and how maple syrup is made in an entertaining and lighthearted way. We have a puppet show at 11:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m.

Guided Tours Sunday, March 11

Take a guided tour of the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Tours are

available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Puppet Shows Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 16

(Daily at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.)
Start your visit to the sugar bush with a puppet show at the Outdoor Centre. Our energetic and fun puppets explain all about the sugar bush and how maple syrup is made, in an entertaining and lighthearted way. There are daily puppet shows from Monday through Friday during the March Break.

Guided Tours Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 16

Take a guided tour of the sugar bush to see how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Sugar bush tours are offered from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday during the March Break.

Foundation Bake Sale Puppet Shows Saturday, March 17

Pick up some sweet treats at the annual Foundation Bake Sale at the Outdoor Centre. We have a puppet show at 11:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. See Saturday, March 10 description for more information about our puppet shows.

Guided Tours Sunday, March 18

Take a guided tour of the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Tours are available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Puppet Shows Saturday, March 24

We have puppet shows at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. See Satur-

day March 10 for more information.

Guided Tours Sunday, March 25

Take a guided tour of the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Tours are available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Olde Thyme Sugar Bush Chores Puppet Shows Saturday, March 31

Try your hand at some “olde thyme” sugar bush chores today. You can try log sawing, emptying sap buckets, tapping trees and butter making. We’ll also have taffy-on-the-snow demonstrations with samples. Tours are available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We have puppet shows at the Outdoor Centre at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. See Saturday March 10 for more information.

Guided Tours Sunday, April 1

Take a guided tour of the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Tours are available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Spring Awakenings Scavenger Hunt Sunday, April 8

(1:00 to 4:00 p.m.)
Bring your family and friends to go on a self-guided eyes-only scavenger hunt. See how many items you can find while hiking on our trails.

Volunteer for Nature - Spring Trail and Garden Cleanup

Sunday, April 15
(2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)

Free admission for volunteers
Celebrate spring by volunteering for nature at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Help prepare the trails and butterfly gardens for spring. Bring your work gloves, safety glasses and any trimming and digging tools labeled with your name. We have extra if you need to borrow tools.

Earth Day Sunday, April 22

(2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)
The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation is sponsoring our Earth Day activities. At 2:00 p.m. local snake expert Matt Ellerbeck will be presenting a talk on snakes. Following the talk you can take part in a guided nature hike with CRCA staff.

The Foundation will also be presenting their annual Conservation Awards.

Spring Nature Photography Workshop Sunday, April 29

(2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)
Join local photographer Meredith Westcott for a beginner outdoor nature photography workshop. 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. Registration forms are available on the CRCA website. Cost is \$10.00 for annual pass holders and \$15.50 for non-pass holders (this includes the gate fee). Dress for being outdoors.

Frog Night Hike Friday, May 4

(7:30 p.m.)
Bring everyone in the

family out to our annual frog hike. You’ll learn about the different frogs that live at Little Cataraqui Creek and go on a short walk to listen for frog calls.

Spring Fling P.A. Day Program

Friday, May 25
(8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
Ages 6 to 11
Give your child(ren) a P.A. Day full of spring adventure and fun. We’ll be exploring the fields, forests and marshes of the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Our activities will include searching for salamanders, making friends with frogs, singing with the birds, playing games, and having wonderful experiences in the great outdoors.

Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program runs until 4:30 p.m. Bring your own snacks, drinks and lunch as well as suitable outdoor clothes. The program will run regardless of the weather. We have alternate plans which include interactive games and activities. Cost is \$30.00 per child. Advance registration is required. Space is limited for this popular program, so register early. Registration forms are available on our website, at the CRCA Administration Office and the Outdoor Centre. For more information call (613) 546-4228 ext. 251.

Lemoine Point Conservation Area

Join the Friends of Lemoine Point in their efforts to keep the environment of Lemoine Point Conservation Area healthy.

Spring Clean-up Day Saturday, April 21

(9:00 a.m. to Noon)
Come out and help the Friends of Lemoine Point give the Conservation Area a good spring

cleaning. Volunteers will be in both parking lots handing out garbage bags to people who want to participate in the clean-up.

Native Plant Nursery Start-up Wednesday, April 25

(9:00 a.m.)
It’s time to wake up the nursery for spring! Volunteers are needed for various tasks at the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery. If you are interested please come to the nursery at the Coverdale Drive entrance at 9:00 a.m.

Spring Tree Planting Saturday, May 5

(9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
The annual spring tree planting will take place at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Meet at the north parking lot (Coverdale Drive) to help plant trees. Bring your shovel, work gloves and your energy. For more information call Larry at (613) 389-6427.



Updated floodplain mapping prepared for Little Cataraqui Creek

Floodplain mapping for the Little Cataraqui Creek watershed was completed in 1987. Since that time, changes have occurred in a number of locations throughout the watershed including new or rebuilt road crossings and areas of fill.

We also have better floodplain modelling software and improved topographic information than we had in the 1980s.

You may be wondering how we go about preparing floodplain mapping. First, a model is created that calculates flows in the creek based on the land use in the watershed, and various extreme rainfall and snowmelt events. Second, these flows are used along with the geometry details of the creek, to calculate the water levels that result from the extreme rainfall and snowmelt events. The final step is to show these water levels on topographic maps, which identify the extent of land that is considered to be part of the floodplain.

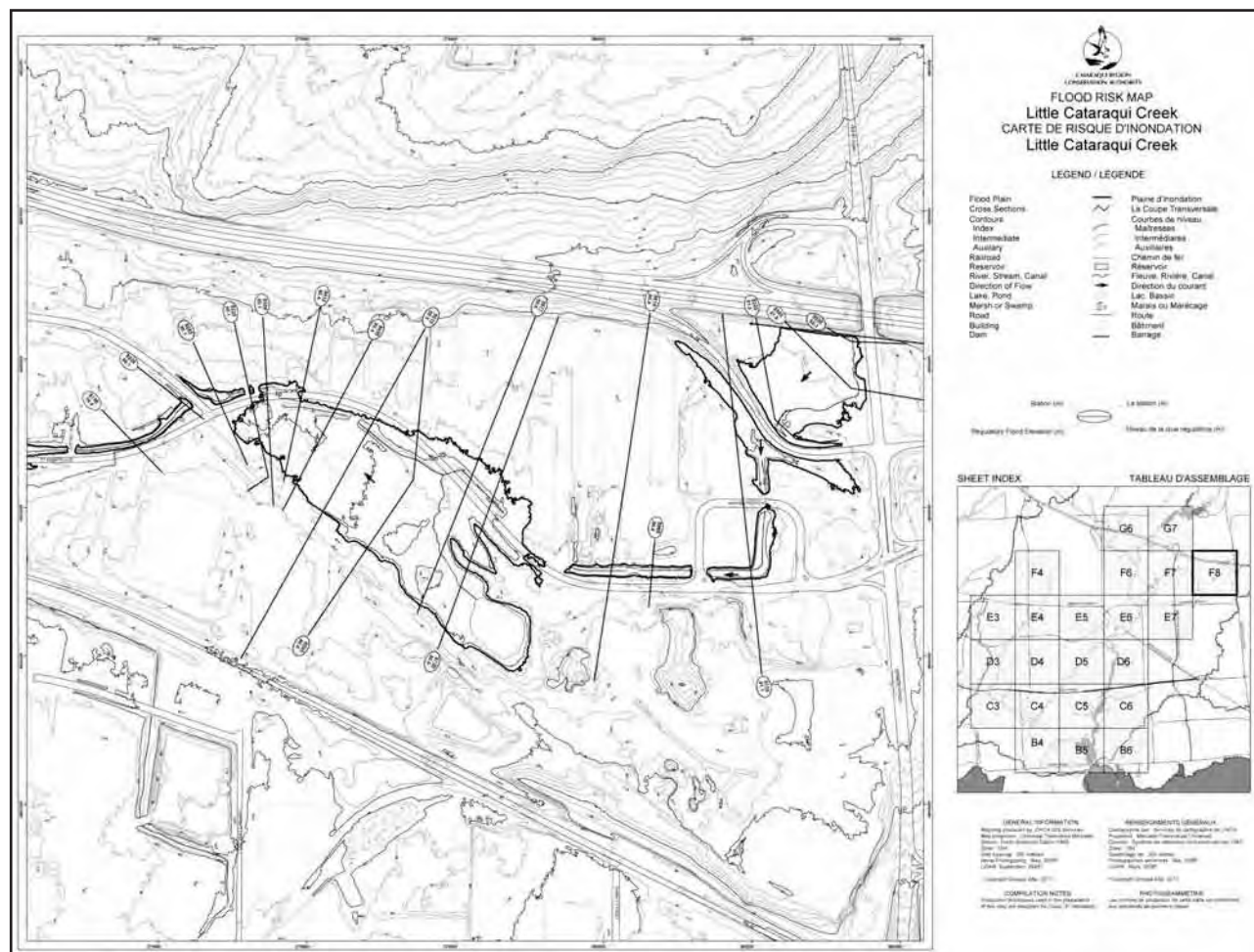
For the most part, the updated floodplain mapping shows that

the floodplain hasn't changed too much. This is a good indication that the CRCA, City of Kingston and developers have done a good job in protecting the floodplain over the last 25 years. It also indicates that work done around the creek, such as road crossings, have been done properly.

There are four locations where there has been a significant change in the water level between the 1987 study and the current study:

- east of Sir John A. MacDonald Boulevard on the east branch
- north of John Counter Boulevard and the CN rail line on the main branch
- southwest corner of Gardiner's Road and Princess Street on the west branch
- north of the CN rail line near Bath Road and Vista Drive on the west branch.

In all of these locations, the horizontal extent of the floodplain changes very little even though the actual elevation of the floodplain



Updated floodplain mapping has been prepared for Little Cataraqui Creek in Kingston. This is a section of the new mapping showing the area near Division Street and Highway 401

changes significantly. There are no existing developments that are at risk of flooding as a result, but new developments will need to

take the revised floodplain levels into account.

The floodplain study update has been prepared and peer-

reviewed, based on accepted practices and recommendations.

A public open house was held on November 1, 2011 to advise

the public of the new study and the resulting changes to the mapping. Maps are still being finalized as Cat Tales goes to press.

New regulations policy, changes to planning and regulations fees will happen this spring

Every few years the CRCA reviews its regulations and planning policies and the fees that are charged for planning and

permit applications. In 2011 we plan to update our regulations policy and our regulations and planning fees.

"Our regulations policy is being updated to bring it more in line with Conservation Ontario's," explained

Andrew Schmidt, CRCA Acting Watershed Management Coordinator.

Conservation Ontario is a provincial umbrella organization for all conservation authorities across Ontario.

"The CRCA board has reviewed the draft

policy and has adopted it for public consultation," said Mr. Schmidt. A public open house to review the draft policy has been scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15, 2012 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at the Outdoor Centre at

Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. The draft policy is also available for review on the CRCA website www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca

Next up are changes to both the planning and regulations application fees.

New fees will be in place by spring 2011. Public notice must be provided before the fees are changed, so watch the CRCA website and your local newspapers for more information later this winter.



CRCAs partnering with Queen's University Civil Engineering Department

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has been working with the Civil Engineering Department at Queen's University since 2003 to provide design projects for the 4th year Civil Engineering Design course. During the design projects, the CRCA acts as a client for a project team as they try to solve a particular engineering design problem. The students benefit from getting practical experience working with a client and the client receives an engineering proposal at the end of the project.

This year students are working on two projects for the CRCA:

- potential for renewable energy at CRCA properties and the re-design of the trail 1 boardwalk at the Outdoor Centre, Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.
- The renewable energy project has been underway since mid-September. During this time, Queen's students have been examining the CRCA's 4,000 hectares of land, many large-roofed buildings and seven water control structures that may present an opportunity for renewable energy.

The properties vary from recreational land with a mix of forest, wetland, open space, and buildings such as Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Lemoine Point Conservation Area and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area; to environmental protection areas such as the wetlands of Little Cataraqui Creek Valleylands; to forest management properties such as the Eden Grove and Bastard and South Burgess Forests. The buildings on the properties range from office buildings, large garage/drivesheds, and meeting halls, to warming huts and privies.

Based on the CRCA's many assets, the opportunity for renewable energy generation exists, but has not been quantified. Roof space and open land space may be appropriate for solar projects and open areas may be worthwhile for wind generation.

While examining which renewable energy technologies may be appropriate for CRCA properties, Queen's students will consider the size of properties, location, access to power grid, development of the property, infrastructure and ongoing costs, environmental impacts and revenue generation.

The bridge replacement project at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area has also been underway since mid-September. The objective is to prepare a proposal for the replacement of an approximately

70 m footbridge across a wetland at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. The wooden bridge across the wetland was originally built in the mid to late 1970s, and was rebuilt in the early 1990s. The bridge connects an accessible trail from the Outdoor Centre to across the wetland where the trail continues. At this time, the bridge is in need of major repairs or replacement. The existing bridge is a "floating" wooden structure; three composite wooden beams run lengthwise under the deck, with an outside beam on either side that supports the railing structure. Students will consider load requirements (walking/hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, wheelchairs, trail grooming equipment); sizing (accessibility, equipment access); bearing capacity of footings in the wetland; construction methods (floating, cribs,

post piles, augered post, clear span); maintenance, monitoring, and building costs.

Previous Queen's engineering projects have involved examining some of the CRCA dams, looking at

floodplain modelling, and studying ice forces along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Sean Watt, CRCA Water Resources Engineer, is the staff member overseeing these projects.



Civil engineering students from Queen's are looking at the replacement of the bridge from the Outdoor Centre to the trail network at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. The bridge is the main access to the hiking and ski trails and is extensively used by school groups and the public.

Grants to help with the Cost of Protecting Source Water are Now Available

Is your septic system or holding tank older or having problems?

Do you have an older or buried well?

Do you know if your furnace oil tank is in good condition?

The Ontario Ministry of Environment has established the Drinking Water Stewardship Fund to help landowners and businesses make changes to reduce threats of pollution to local drinking water sources. Under this program, grants are available to those who would like to reduce existing threats to local municipal drinking water sources that have been identified as significant in the Cataraqui Source Protection Assessment Report.

Funding is available to the wellhead protection areas for the **Cana Subdivision, Lansdowne**

and **Mallorytown**. Priority funds are available for the following significant drinking water threats:

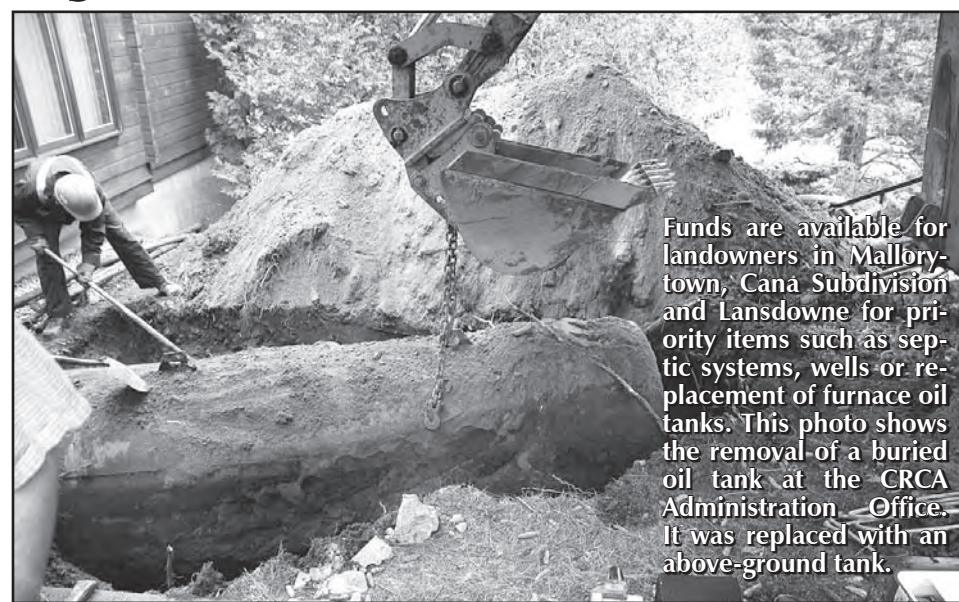
- inspect and upgrade or replace aging septic systems or holding tanks (80 per cent up to \$7,000 for a conventional system; \$15,000 for an advanced system);
- inspect and repair or upgrade furnace oil tanks (70 per cent up to \$2,500 residential);
- upgrade wells, e.g. extend well casings to the regulated height as per the Ontario Water Resources Act (80 per cent up to \$2,000 for upgrades, \$4,000 for plugging).

This is an excellent opportunity for you and your neighbours to protect your

drinking water source from contamination. If you think that your sewage system, well or furnace oil tank could require improvement, it is important to take advantage of the grant program now. Currently, no additional funding source has been identified once this program ends in December 2012.

If you have completed a project after December 1, 2010, you may also be eligible to apply for retro-active funding depending on the location of the project.

The grant program has been created to help provide financial assistance to people that want to address risks to their source water. In the future, projects that are eligible for funding under the current grant program may be required without any



Funds are available for landowners in Mallorytown, Cana Subdivision and Lansdowne for priority items such as septic systems, wells or replacement of furnace oil tanks. This photo shows the removal of a buried oil tank at the CRCA Administration Office. It was replaced with an above-ground tank.

financial assistance.

Additional information about the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program and maps showing eligible areas can be found at www.cleanwater-

cataraqui.ca/stewardship or by contacting Kimberly Denison, Resource Technician at (613) 546-4228 ext. 288 or by email at kdenison@cataraquiregion.on.ca.



Cataraqui Trail projects completed this past fall

Annual Bike and Hike Fundraiser

Despite poor weather, and an even poorer weather forecast, the 2011 Annual Bike and Hike event on September 24 was a great success. A total of \$2400 was raised, which is the highest amount ever raised at this event. Funds came from participant registration fees, the silent auction, the bake sale and the lunch donation bin.

Many thanks to the Cataraqui Trail Management Board and volunteers for organizing and running the event. In particular, thanks to Neil Kundrinko of Kudrinko's Fresh Foods for donating barbecue lunch items; to the Skate the Lake volunteers who cooked lunch; to Anders Carson who arranged the lunch; to Karen Smith for organizing the silent auction; to Bob Cheetham for donating the bicycles; and to the CRCA staff who made the bake sale a success.

Trail improvements completed

Thanks to the Lennox and Addington Ridge Run-

ners Snowmobile Club, the Cataraqui Trail has a new and improved surface along two sections.

Using a grant from the Ontario Snowmobile Association, stone dust has been applied to the sections of the Trail from Yarker to the Stone Mills/Frontenac Boundary Road as well as from Newburgh to Strathcona. The work was done by volunteers from the local snowmobile club.

Work at Harrowsmith Hub anticipated in 2012

Harrowsmith, located north of Kingston, is where two local railway lines used to meet. As both of these former railways are being converted into trails, plans are underway to create improvements and facilities at the intersection of the Cataraqui Trail and the K&P Trail.

A concept plan was developed and presented at a public open house in 2011. While it hasn't been finalized yet, work is going to proceed on at least two of the suggested improvements in 2012. The Township of South Frontenac plans to pro-

ceed with street improvements in the vicinity of the hub. The County of Frontenac, owner of the K&P Trail in this location, and the Cataraqui Trail plan to undertake trail improvements this year.

A new website for the Cataraqui Trail

The Cataraqui Trail now has its own website at www.cataraquitrail.ca. You can now find all sorts of information about the Trail including maps, permitted uses, trail rules and governance as well as what you can see along the Trail.

A productive fall and a busy winter planned for Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

We're pleased to report that our new and improved canoe launch off Centennial Road at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville will be ready to launch this spring!

CRCA Conservation Areas Supervisor Stefan Foerster led a team of dedicated volunteers to make a number of im-

provements to this well-used part of the Wildlife Area. During the fall a new entrance sign, interpretive sign and memorial bench were installed. Additional landscaping was also completed.

There is still a bit more work to do in the spring, but the canoe and kayak launch and picnic area will be ready for use as soon as the weather warms up.

Four successful public events were also held at Mac Johnson Wildlife

Area this past fall in addition to the annual Fall Festival. Brockville area residents participated in a bird hike, stargazing evening, nature photography workshop and a Christmas crafts day.

Over the winter, the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area will once again be hosting skating on the pond every Saturday in January and February (weather permitting). The skating shelter will be open and hot drinks will be avail-

able to purchase.

The 10th annual Winter Fun Day will be held on Saturday, January 28. Come out and enjoy the dog sledding races and other winter activities.

Looking ahead to spring, the Friends will be hosting their annual native tree sale on Saturday, May 12. You can pick up some native trees and shrubs just in time for Mother's Day. See our events calendar on pages 6 and 7 for more details.

Highgate Creek gets a clean-out in 2012

Over the winter Highgate Creek in Kingston is going to get a clean-out.

"We're going to create a dredged channel at the south end of the creek so that the water can flow better into Collins Bay," said Steve Knechtel, CRCA General Manager.

The work is needed in order to ensure that the flood control structure built in the 1970s continues to work. The structure, which is a concrete channel, was built to alleviate flooding in an existing residential neighbourhood in the west end of Kingston.

In 2009, citizens living adjacent to the creek raised concerns about potential flooding as they had noticed rising water levels. The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) conducted an assessment of water conditions and evaluated possible methods to address them.

It was found that years of sediment accumulation had reduced the capacity of the creek. CRCA staff proposed that the removal of sediment and the creation of channels at strategic locations along the creek would increase



The dark line on this aerial photo shows the location of the dredging that will take place on Highgate Creek this winter. The dredging will ensure that the water flowing through the creek flows into Collins Bay more quickly.

the flow of water through these areas.

In 2010, the CRCA completed the first phase of the Highgate Creek project. The first phase involved excavating the natural channel of the creek to improve depth and the passage of water in the area north of Hillview Drive.

The work this winter will involve the creation of a channel through the cattails south of Hillview

Drive.

The work will be done with a drag line excavator that is operated from a mat of chained logs. These log mats create a small island which allows the contractors to move in front of the equipment to perform the excavation.

"The best time to do the work is during the winter when water levels are low and the ground is frozen," said Mr. Knechtel.



A new memorial bench, entrance sign and interpretive sign were installed at the canoe launch at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area this past fall. The canoe launch, which is located on Centennial Road in Brockville, will be ready for use in the spring.



FOUNDATION NEWS

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation supports conservation in the local watersheds through raising funds for Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority education programs and acquisition of conservation lands. A volunteer board of conservation-minded residents guides the Foundation in its fundraising activities, and a number of activities provide an opportunity to achieve financial objectives.

We recently completed two major fundraising endeavours and also have news to relate about membership in the Foundation, establishment of a President's Council, honouring donors to the Foundation, and events scheduled over the next few months.

Looking ahead

Conservation Awards

Since 1995 the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation has annually honoured an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to conservation in the region. This last year the awards were announced at our Earth Day Celebration in April. Nominations for the 2012 conservation award close March 1, 2012.

We ask for your help. What we are asking you to do is to identify people or organizations that you think might be suitable recipients of a conservation award. If you could suggest who might be a suitable person to make the actual nomination and write the citation, we will do the asking. Just let us know by calling Donna Campbell at CRCA offices, (613) 546-4228 ext. 229, or sending us an email at foundation@cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Earth Day

Come celebrate Earth Day with us at the Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area Outdoor Centre. This year Earth Day will provide entertainment for the entire family. Please mark your cal-

endar for Sunday, April 22, 2012 and bring your family for an afternoon of exciting activities.

Recent fundraising activities

Forever Green gala dinner

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation's major fundraising event of the year is the Forever Green gala dinner, held on October 29, 2011 at St. Lawrence College. The gala dinner featured exciting live and silent auctions, beautiful music,

Thank you to all those individuals and organizations who supported this fund-raising endeavour through donation of goods, services, and advertising. A special thanks to Scott Environmental Group for its gift of the live band. And thank you to all who joined us on October 29.

Partners in education

The Foundation raises funds for CRCA conservation programs through its annual Partners in Outdoor Education campaign. The



Guests at the Foundation's 2011 Forever Green fundraising gala were treated to an evening of live and silent auctions, dinner and a dance.



Past and current Foundation directors got together in September to form a President's Council. The Council will provide advice to the Foundation board and serve as a way to keep past directors involved in the organization.

and a first class meal.

Jack Thompson served as master of ceremonies, Tim Potter contributed his skilled auctioneering services, and a live band, 80s Enuff topped off the evening with dance music from the 1980s. We are confident that everyone went home happy.

2011 campaign is nearly complete. We thank those who generously support this program and encourage others to donate now and help educate the young people of the area concerning the values of conservation. We will provide a more complete report in the next edition of

Cat Tales.

Cataraqi Conservation Foundation updates

Agreement with Community Foundation for Kingston and Area

The Foundation is nearing execution of an updated agreement with the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA). The CFKA's professional investment experts will manage the Foundation's endowment funds, account for this management, and convey the endowment earnings to the Foundation for CRCA programs.

Note that the endowment fund principal will remain with CFKA for the term of the agreement, while earnings accrue to the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation. Donors may direct any donations to the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation to this CFKA-managed endowment fund, or may donate directly to the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area and earmark their donation for the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation endowment fund. Charitable receipts are issued for all donations to the endowment fund.

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation President's Council

As we reported in the last edition of Cat Tales, the Foundation recently established a President's Council to serve as a valuable sounding board for the Foundation. The President's Council first met on September 29, 2011, and former board members who sit on the President's Council offered wise counsel to the current board. Plans are to meet with the President's Council at least annually.

Supporting the Conservation Foundation

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation is a supporter-driven organization. Vital funds come from

supporters' contributions as well as monies earned through special fundraising efforts. Also our Board members and volunteers come from our body of supporters. Thus we need a robust and widening circle of supporters. And we need supporters who are willing to serve on the Foundation

board.

Please ensure you extend your support at least annually, and ask your like-minded friends and neighbours to help as well. Contact us at foundation@cataraquiregion.on.ca for further information, financial contribution, and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to our Forever Green Contributors

80s Enuff, AECOM, Ali Azfal, Angela & Tom McAneney, Arbre Care Tree Services, Aroma's, Audrey and Herwart Helmstaedt, Bergeron Estate Winery, Barbara Bradfield, Buffet Taylor & Associates, Betty and Miranda Clark, Betty Boone, Brian Mantrop, Brunet Plumbing, Camera Kingston, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Canadian Museum of Nature, Canadian Tire Cataraqi, Canadian Tire Kingston Centre, Canadian War Museum, Carolyn Hetherington and Fred Euringer, Cataraqi Golf and Country Club, Cataraqi Conservation Foundation Board, Charleston Lake Provincial Park, Clearwater Designs, Creative Gifts and Baskets, Collins Bay Marina, Cove Inn, CRCA, Cruickshank Construction, Dan and Marion Attack, Davies Charitable Foundation, Dave Sexsmith, Desert Lake Gardens, Diane Fittell, Dorothy Hector, Doug & Christine Radford, Doug Snyder, Festival Players of Prince Edward County, For Every Season, Four Points Sheraton, Frameworks, Frontenac Provincial Park, Gary Osborne, Glen Supply, Glenburnie Grocery, GoodLife Fitness, Hendrix Restaurant Equipment, Hotel Belvedere, Janet Scott, Jani-King, James Brett Coiffure, James Reid Furniture, Janet Pentney, Jeff Banks, Jeff Scott, Joe Jordan, John Allan, John Kitney, John Morse, Kingston YMCA, Kimberley Jewellery Appraisal, Kingston Frameworks, Lemoine Point Nursery, Leon Doucet, Leon's Furniture Kingston, Lesley Bell and Rod Morrison, Loyalist Township, Michael Bell, Michael Greenwood, Mikaela Hughes, Minos Village Restaurant, Miranda Clark, Neil's Flowers, Olivea Restaurant, 102.7 The Lake, Pan Chanco, Patricia Frontini, Pilot House, P'Lovers, Pyke Farms, Queen's Performing Arts Office, Ramekins Casual Fine Dining, Random House, Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow, Rideau Lakes Golf and Country Club, Riley's Garden Centre, Robert Bateman, Ron Vandewal, Rose & Crown Restaurant, Ryder-Burbidge Hurley Fasano, Scott Environmental Services, Scott Wentworth Landscape Group Ltd, Secker, Ross & Perry, Shoalts and Zaback Architects Ltd., Smokey Joe's Deli, Stewart Fyfe, Sue and Greg Dodds, SunHarvest Greenhouses, Talia Pennachetti, Ted Hsu, Thirty-Three Vines Vineyard, 1000 Island Kayaking, Thousand Islands Playhouse, Trailhead, Urban Paws, R.B. Van Winkle, Via Rail, Weese Tree Preservation, Wellington Foreign Exchange, Wendy Cain



Assessment Report approved!

Our Assessment Report of source protection technical findings was approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in early October 2011. This was a major milestone in the drinking water source protection project.

The key findings of the report are illustrated on maps that show:

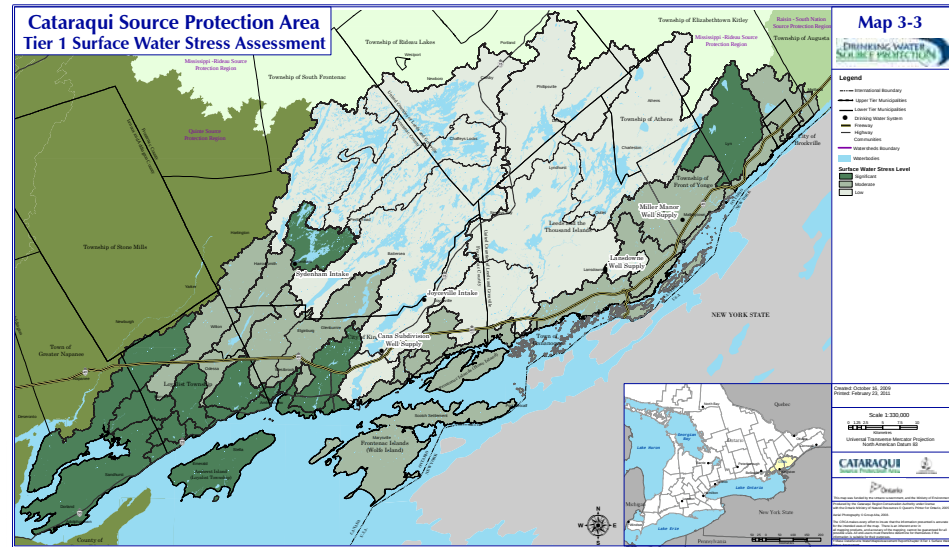
- 13 vulnerable areas around municipal water treatment plants (i.e. intake protection zones, wellhead protection areas) that supply our cities and towns; together these areas

- cover less than one per cent of the Cataraqui Source Protection Area; highly vulnerable aquifers and/or significant groundwater recharge areas underlying about 90 per cent of the Cataraqui area, and requiring us to be very careful about how we prevent leaks and spills from human activities on the surface of the land; and
- the amount of water that is available each year in each river or stream watershed compared to the demand for various uses,

and the resulting stress on surface water and groundwater resources.

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 will be updated in the future to reflect our improving knowledge of local water sources.

The Assessment Report: Cataraqui Source Protection Area (June 2011) is now available for viewing at: www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca/assessmentReport.html



This map shows the areas where local lakes, rivers and streams are experiencing significant, moderate and low stress. The areas of significant stress are shown in dark green indicating potential problems for sufficient water supply in these areas.

Draft source protection plan coming soon

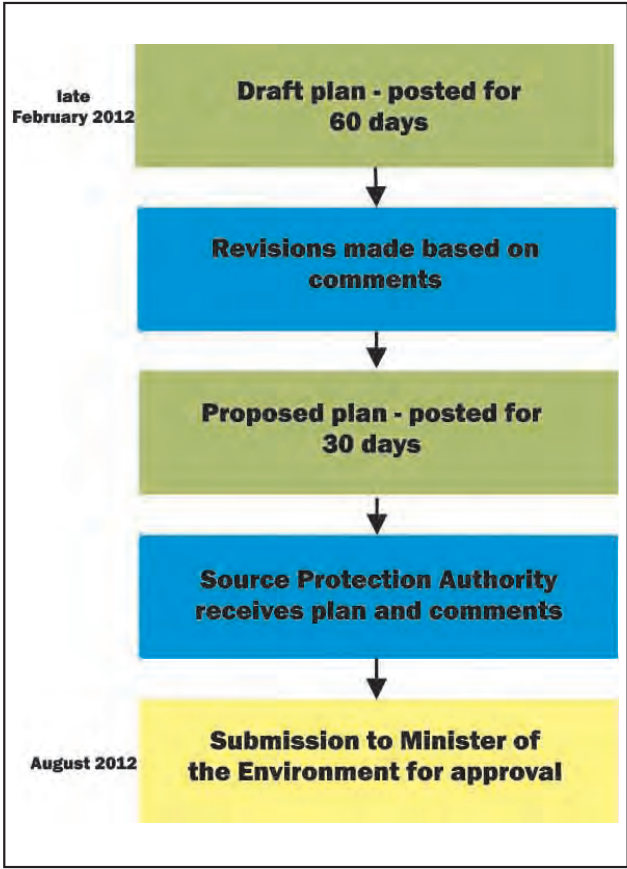
The SP Committee is preparing to share a draft of the first-ever source protection plan for our area. Draft policies are now being finalized by the 16-member group.

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 they should occur. The SP Committee aims to prepare a plan that it is appropriate, effective and affordable. 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.

period. Comments will be welcomed from residents, community organizations, municipalities, the two local public health units, provincial ministries and others.

Three open houses will be held so that people have a forum in which to ask questions about the policies. The SP Committee plans to host events in the western, central and eastern parts of the Cataraqui area, likely in late March. Watch our website and local newspapers for dates and details about these open houses.

The SP Committee will then revise the document based on the comments received, and will submit a proposed version to the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority (SP Authority). The SP Authority will receive comments from during a 30 day comment period in spring 2012. They are unable to make further changes to the document at that stage in the process. The SP Authority is responsible for submitting the proposed plan (and comments received) to the Minister.



This flow chart shows the process we will be following this year to complete our source protection plan. The plan must be submitted to the Minister of Environment by August of this year.

Readers interested in the work of the Source Protection Committee are welcome to attend any of their upcoming meetings. All meetings are open to the public. The next two meetings will both be held at the Outdoor Centre, Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area at 1655 Perth Road, Kingston:

Thursday, January 19, 2012
Thursday, February 9, 2012

SP Committee members and CRCA staff will also be delivering presentations at council meetings across the Cataraqui Source Protection Area over the next few months. Check the meeting agendas on your municipal website or visit our website at www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca to see when we are coming to your community.

