



CAT TALES

Winter 2014 Issue

IN THIS ISSUE

Winter is a busy time of year for the CRCA. We have lots of great stuff planned and we're celebrating our 50th Anniversary throughout the year. Here's what's in this issue of Cat Tales.

- Read about the formation of the CRCA from our founding Chair Jim McCowan on pages 1 and 12.
- What's our Creature Feature? Gobble, gobble on page 2.
- Find out the latest on the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan on page 3.
- Come outside and enjoy winter with us. See pages 6 and 7 for upcoming events and page 10 for school programs.
- Changes to the Canada Fisheries Act mean changes in how we do business. See page 9 for more.
- Also on page 9 the CRCA reviews the Enbridge Line 9 proposal.
- The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation has been busy raising funds. Read about their Forever Green fundraiser and their plans for spring on page 11.
- Planning ahead for spring? If you're planning to do some work near water, check out our information on planning and regulations on page 3. Thinking about planting trees? See page 5.
- The CRCA has a new website. See page 12 for a preview.
- Plus news from our conservation areas and all around the watershed.

CRCA celebrates 50 years of conservation in 2014

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority was formed in 1964 by a group of conservation-minded citizens from Napanee to Brockville. The first Chair of the CRCA was Jim McCowan.

In 2009, at Dr. McCowan's encouragement, CRCA staff interviewed a number of the early board members and staff to get their perspective on the formation of the CRCA. In this issue we present some excerpts from an interview of Dr. McCowan by former CRCA Communications and Marketing Assistant Michael Sykes.

CRCA: When did you first learn about conservation authorities?

Dr. McCowan: I don't know how I first heard about them, but I know when I first learned about them. They had come into existence in 1946. They got a tremendous amount of favourable publicity at the time of (Hurricane) Hazel. So I was aware, and the people I was talking to here were aware, that conservation authorities might offer solutions to some of the things that concerned us here around Kingston.

I went down and saw



CRCA founding Chair Jim McCowan (second from left) with Michael Bell, Cataraqui Conservation Foundation (left), Barbara McCowan, and Ian Wilson.

Herb Crown (a friend of my father and Director of the ARDA Branch in Ontario.) He did indeed convince me that we could do a lot of the things we wanted to do with an authority. He introduced

me to Alf Barnes who was Director of the Conservation Authorities Branch. Alf Barnes was enormously helpful and a whole slew of people who worked for him – Art Latornell, Johnny

Murray and others – so I became very knowledgeable about authorities over the course of six months at the end of 1963. I'd only come

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CREATURE FEATURE

Eastern Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestri*)

While some of us ponder animal sounds with the preschoolers in our lives, the musical comedy duo Ylvis from Bergen, Norway brought animal sounds to a new level with their song *The Fox (What Does the Fox Say?)*. It is more difficult to discern what a fox says, however, it is very easy to guess what the eastern wild turkey says.

According to Wikipedia wild turkeys make similar sounds to their domesticated cousins. They are known for their gobbles, clucks, putts, purrs, yelps, cutts, whines, cackles and kee-kees. In early spring a male's mating gobble can carry close to 1.6 kilometres away! The female wild turkey, known as a *hen*, yelps to let their loud, polygamous male counterparts know their location.

Due to over-hunting and habitat loss, the loud gobbles and yelps of the wild turkey that is native to Ontario were no longer heard from between 1909 to 1984. Thankfully, wild turkeys have made a comeback in the past 25 years. Credit goes to the conservation efforts of various groups and individuals and the cooperative work of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources that helped to reintroduce this bird.

Some of us might only think about turkey during the various festive seasons

and how sleepy the tryptophan seems to make us after a big feast and how tasty those turkey sandwiches or soup is in our lunches. Even those that partake in tofurky are acknowledging the bird. Perhaps, though if you happen to frequent past farmer's fields that have forests beside them you might catch a glimpse of a flock of wild turkeys pecking about during other times of the year. As you drive past, they are quite a sight to behold! And often require the driver to remind themselves to keep their eyes on the road.

They are a significant size for a wild bird, the *toms* or *gobblers* (males) are much larger than the hens. An adult tom normally weighs from 5 to 11 kg and measures 100 to 125 cm in length. Adult hens are typically much smaller at 2.5 to 5.4 kg and 76 to 95 cm long. The wings are relatively small. The wingspan ranges from 1.25 to 1.44 metres.

If you are lucky enough to get close to a colourful tom and they are feeling excited or emotional, you might see that "their bald head can change colour in seconds... The bird's heads can be red, (pink) white or blue" (Coyle, 2011). During the mating season, the toms are sure to strut their bright plumage of 5,000 to 6,000 feathers, drag their wing feathers, engage their heads, and

waggle their snoods to make them appear larger.

Believe it or not, wild turkeys roost at night (not roost!) in trees right up there with other furry and feathered friends. They are not strong flyers, but they can clumsily get themselves where they need to go such as their nighttime nest-like bunk on a tree branch. They are known to be fast runners – up to 88 km per hour. They require a mix of mature forest, with their favourite trees being oak and hickory, as well as field habitats. They are omnivores and will "...forage on forest floors, but can also be found in grasslands and swamps. They feed on nuts, seeds, fruits, insects, and salamanders" (National Geographic).

The importance of the mix of habitats is not only required for their dietary needs and nighttime roosting habits, but also for nesting and care to keep their young well hidden and safe. Hens will nest in the early spring on the ground in a nest bowl laying about 10 to 12 eggs in their first clutch and a second clutch later in the summer. Wild turkeys must watch out for predators such as coyotes, foxes, raccoons, great-horned owls, domesticated dogs and cats. The hens need to protect their nest eggs and young poults from skunks, snakes and crows. If the young make

it past the poult stage to the jake or jennie juvenile phase they could live up to as much as 10 years in the wild!

The key to tracking a wild turkey is to visit mixed forest and field spaces found at many of the CRCA's conservation areas. Look for their large 11 cm plus bird-like tracks that have three toes facing forward and one shorter rear toe facing the other direction and scat (droppings) in the shape of a 'j' formation. You might even notice some lost feathers. Frequent, observant or lucky visitors to the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area have had the good fortune to spot a flock of foraging wild turkeys well hidden by tree cover.

Come out and see if you can catch a glimpse of this beautiful bird yourself. Remember to do your "fox walk"... ever so quietly as this intelligent bird is very shy.

Sources for this article:
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources: www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wild_Turkey; www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/my-life...turkey/wild-turkey...; Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters: www.ofah.org/wildturkey; blog.nwf.org/.../twelve-unusual-and-fascinating-facts-about-wild-turkeys... 4 11/20/2011 // By Kevin Coyle; National Geographic: www.animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/wild-turkey/



Eastern wild turkeys have made a comeback over the last 25 years thanks to efforts by a number of conservation organizations.



CAT TALES

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Member of





Update on the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan

Approval of the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan is just around the corner! We expect that it will proceed through the review process during the first part of 2014, and take effect later in the year.

The plan has been prepared to guide efforts that will protect the sources of drinking water for local cities and towns. It also includes some provisions for the protection of groundwater sources across the area.

A proposed version was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for review in August 2012. It is available at [www.cleanwa-](http://www.cleanwa-tercataraqui.ca/sourceProtectionPlan.html)

[tercataraqui.ca/sourceProtectionPlan.html](http://www.crcacataraqui.ca/sourceProtectionPlan.html).

Ministry staff are now discussing the content of the plan with the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority, which oversees local source protection planning work, and the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee, which prepared the plan. The Cataraqui Source Protection Authority is composed of the CRCA board plus a representative from the Township of Frontenac Islands. The multi-stakeholder committee includes representation from the municipal, economic and community sectors from

across the area.

The source protection plan for the Niagara Source Protection Area was approved in December 2013. This was the second of about 20 regional plans that will be forthcoming across Ontario. We look forward to announcing the approval of the Cataraqui plan in a future issue of Cat Tales.

Municipalities to receive provincial funding for drinking water source protection

As we shared in the previous issue, CRCA staff are helping our municipal partners get ready to imple-

ment the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan. Related efforts were given a substantial boost last November with the announcement of the Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has promised to provide \$13.5 million to small and rural municipalities across the province as they begin to implement source protection plans. Over \$600,000 has been allocated to local municipalities in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area.

The funding is intended to address significant risks to the drinking water sources

for cities and towns. It must be used by December 2015. Municipalities can apply the funds to such activities as updates to land use plans and other relevant documents (such as emergency response plans), risk management planning and education programs.

Celebrating the success of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program helped people to undertake on-the-ground projects that prevent harm to drinking water sources for local cities and towns. Grants were

provided for improvements to septic systems, fuel tanks, wells and other infrastructure at homes and businesses.

There was a provincial investment of almost \$400,000 in the Cataraqui area over the past five years. Projects were completed at Amherstview, Bath, Brockville, Cana (Kingston Mills), Gananoque, Greater Napanee, Lansdowne, Malorytown, Sandhurst Shores (in Greater Napanee) and Sydenham. No new funding has been allocated to the program at this time.

Planning and regulations fees to change on February 1

The CRCA has approved changes to our fees for planning applications and permits effective February 1, 2014 to keep pace with increased costs.

Staff did a detailed analysis of the time and effort involved in reviewing planning applications and

permit applications under our regulations in 2011. As a result of this comprehensive review, the fees were changed in 2012.

The increase to the fees in 2014 is approximately 2.5 per cent. For example, the fees for a zoning by-law amendment will increase

from \$250 to \$295. A severance (consent) application will go from \$340 per lot to \$350 per lot.

For our regulations application fees, letters of permission, property inquiries and clearance letters will increase from \$150 to \$155. Application fees for major

projects such as buildings and structures of more than 464 square metres in size will increase to \$1515 from the current \$1480.

A complete list of the revised fee schedules is on our website at www.crca.ca/planning-permits/.

Working near water? Give our staff a call first

If you are planning a building project or making a planning application near a wetland, watercourse or shoreline it's a good idea to have a look at our website to see if you could be affected by our regulations.

Our new maps page on our website has a series of screening maps for each municipality. These maps will

give you an idea of whether your project is within an area affected by our regulations. You can find our maps page at www.crca.ca/maps.

We do recommend that you call our staff to see what permits and approvals you might require for your project. A phone call can save you a lot of time and money.



CRCA biologist Tom Beaubiah inspects an ice-damaged shoreline on Lower Beverley Lake.

Who to call

CRCA Administration
Office (613) 546-4228 or
toll-free (in 613 area code)
1-877-956-CRCA (2722)

For planning applications, regulation permits or development inquiries:

Andrew Schmidt, Development Review Manager
at ext. 244 (municipalities of Greater Napanee and Loyalist)

Michael Dakin, Resource Planner
at ext. 228 (municipalities of Kingston, South Frontenac, Front

of Yonge, Gananoque, Elizabethtown-Kitley and Brockville)

Jason Messenger, Resource Planner
at ext. 286 (municipalities of Rideau Lakes, Athens and Leeds and the Thousand Islands)

For shoreline and in-water works (e.g. docks, shoreline retaining walls) and inquiries:

Tom Beaubiah, Biologist
at ext. 240 (all of the above mentioned areas).



Progress made on updating Collins Creek floodplain mapping

In recent years, the CRCA has been working to update our floodplain mapping products. Floodplain mapping has been prepared for a number of watersheds in the CRCA jurisdiction over the years, starting in the late 1960s, and the most recent done in the mid-1990s, before the recent push for updates. In 2011, the CRCA approved for use an updated floodplain mapping study for Little Cataraqui Creek, and started the next watershed update, Collins Creek.

The original 1975 Collins Creek floodplain mapping study extended from the mouth of the creek at Bath Road, where it outlets to Collins Bay, upstream to Highway 401, including a short stretch of Glenvale/Westbrook Creek from the confluence to just upstream of Westbrook Road. In 1979, this mapping was extended upstream from Highway 401 to upstream of Unity Road on both the main Collins Branch, and the Burr Creek tributary that joins the main creek near Bur Brook Road.

In 1993, as part of the Collins Watershed Study, the flow data for the mapping was re-evaluated, and using

an additional 15 years of flow records, the flows used for the mapping were able to be reduced, resulting in a slightly lower floodplain elevation. However, the maps themselves were never updated.

In ranking the various existing floodplain mapping products in the CRCA, the fact that the Collins data was one of the oldest, and had undergone some updates over the years, but had never been remapped, it was ranked as the next study to be updated once the Little Cataraqui Creek work was completed. Collins Creek is in an area of projected development in the City of Kingston, and the City is in the process of updating their official plan, which also influences the push to get this mapping updated.

During 2011, the flow records were again examined to consider whether they should again be updated, as an additional 20 years of data had been gathered. As part of that exercise, it was found that the statistical flows had not changed much between the 1993 evaluation and the 2011 evaluation, so the flow rates used

in the floodplain update would not have to be modified by much, if at all.

In 2012, CRCA staff conducted field surveys at the road crossings along the creek to confirm the shape of the channel, and measure all the details of the bridges and culverts that cross the creek. In some cases, these crossings have changed since the original mapping, and it is important to have up-to-date information on culvert size, elevation, etc., to properly model the creek geometry.

In 2013, CRCA staff brought all this information together to build a hydraulic model of the creek, and estimate the floodplain elevations along the creek. The CRCA took part in a lidar (light radar) acquisition project in 2009 which gathered elevation data across about one-third of the CRCA jurisdiction. With this elevation data, we were able to use the GeoHEC-RAS software to build a geometric model of the watershed. This model was then exported to the HEC-RAS software, the hydraulic model, which was used to actually estimate the elevation of the floodplain



The CRCA is updating floodplain mapping for Collins Creek, shown here flooding Bur Brook Road in Kingston. When complete the mapping will be used by municipalities for their official plans and zoning by-laws and by the CRCA for our regulations.

throughout the creek system.

With the floodplain update, we were able to extend the mapping further upstream than the previous studies, all the way to Collins and Inverary Lakes on Collins Creek, and upstream to Highway 401 and Unity Road on Glenvale/Westbrook Creek. With the new modeling software, we are also able to easily make changes to the model over time, or extend the model further upstream, as needed, and as changes happen

in the watershed, such as new culverts or bridges, or changes along the banks.

The draft results of the mapping update so far suggest that the floodplain elevations will be slightly lower than the previous studies, but that the lateral extent of the floodplain will be located in much the same location as the existing mapping.

While the floodplain update is not yet finished, the CRCA board has approved the draft versions (subject to some revisions and fine tun-

ing) for review by the City of Kingston, Township of South Frontenac and an outside peer reviewer, with the expectation that any changes required by this technical review will be completed early in 2014. After that a public open house will be held later in 2014 to give the public a chance to see the draft maps. The open house will be publicized in the local media and on the CRCA website.

Improvements made to the Buells Creek Detention Basin in Brockville

Good land use planning and regulations prevent development in floodplain areas, but what do you do when there is already development in the floodplain? Sometimes it can be helped by putting in a flood control structure. The Buells Creek Detention Basin helps to reduce flooding in Brockville especially during heavy rainstorms and spring runoff.

The basin has a sluice gate at the main culvert, which is used to control water flowing

out of the detention basin. This has always been operated manually and can be a time-consuming and difficult operation.

Five years ago the CRCA installed an actuator on the gate to make it easier to operate. This past December an automation device was fabricated and installed by Hewitt Brockville. This newest modification enhances the actuator so that it can be operated by attaching a battery-operated power drill

which can raise and lower the sluice gate. What used to take one hour to open and close can now be done in just a few minutes.

Staff from Hewitt Brockville fabricated and installed an automation device on the sluice gate at the Buells Creek Detention Basin in Brockville making it faster and easier to operate.



Updating our map schedules for floodplain regulations

Once floodplain mapping is updated it then has to be incorporated into our map schedules for our *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations* (Ontario Regulation 148/06) made under the Conservation Authorities Act. This is the final step in implementing our mapping.

We will need to update eight of our mapping schedules including new floodplain delineations for both the

Little Cataraqui Creek and Collins Creek floodplain mapping projects. Other changes will include the addition of:

- revised erosion and wave uprush information
- top of bank and toe of slope calculations
- provincially significant wetlands.

This will be used by CRCA staff to support our review of planning and permit applications. Revised screening maps will also be provided to the affected municipalities.



Visitors to Lemoine Point Conservation Area learn to respect, protect and enjoy



Lisa Osanic (left) and Dorothy Hector of the Lemoine Point Advisory Committee show one of the new signs and natural barriers that have been installed at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. These have been installed to encourage and educate visitors about the importance of staying on the trails to reduce their impact on the environment.

You may have noticed a lot of new signs and natural barrier features popping up along the trail network at Lemoine Point Conservation Area over the past few months. These are part of a trail restoration and education project launched by CRCA staff and the Friends of Lemoine Point to help preserve habitat, reduce human impact and educate the public on the effect going off trail has on the Conservation Area.

Lemoine Point is one of the most used CRCA Conservation Areas and with thousands of visitors each year it is important for people to stay on the marked trails and understand why venturing off trail can be hazardous to the natural environment. When people and their pets go off trail, through the woods and natural meadows this can:

- create new paths over time and cause wildflowers and young trees and shrubs to get trampled and stop growing
- compact soil and cause erosion, especially along the shoreline
- spread invasive species
- disturb wildlife and their natural habitat.

Many users simply don't understand the damage they can cause when using unofficial trails and part of this project is to highlight the impact to the environment

and how people can help stop it. Natural barriers of logs and brush were installed to discourage access to unofficial paths allowing the trees and plants to grow.

Accompanying these barriers are some fun new signs! Frogs, foxes, ducks, trees and geese explain to people how venturing off trail will hurt their homes and friends.

Brochures and posters have also been installed at entrance kiosks highlighting important environment features of the Conservation Area and how users can do their part and help us protect the ecology of Lemoine Point Conservation Area for future generations.

A launch of this initiative was held on the weekend of November 16 and 17. Participating in the launch were CRCA staff Rick Knapton, Donna Campbell, Karla Maki-Esdon and Krista Fazackerley; volunteers Peter Butler of the Friends of Lemoine Point; and Meera Manghani, Molly Teather, Colleen Burliuk and Leslie Usher of the Society for Conservation Biology at Queen's University. The visitors that we spoke to that weekend were pleased to hear about the initiative and liked the signs and trail improvements.

There is still time to arrange for spring tree planting

Interested in planting trees on your property? There is still time to order trees for spring 2014 planting.

The CRCA offers a tree planting program to rural landowners in our watershed on a cost-sharing basis. We deliver reforestation programs in partnership with Trees Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources. You must have a minimum of 1 hectare and be willing to sign a 15 year planting agreement with the CRCA to qualify for this program.

Landowners can also order trees with us and do the planting themselves. There is a minimum order of 500 seedlings and individual species can be ordered in multiples of 50. Group orders are welcome. Get together with your neighbours and plant some trees!

To find out more about the tree planting program visit the CRCA website at www.crc.ca. New this year, order your trees online! Visit www.crc.ca/online-services to fill out our online tree order form.

Staff comings and goings

In November we welcomed back Erin Oogarah from maternity leave. As Geomatics Technician, Erin's role at the CRCA is to assist with the compilation, analysis, maintenance and map preparation of data in support of all Conservation Authority programs. "I am looking forward to working on many exciting GIS projects approved under our 2013 to 2016 work plan,"

said Erin. Welcome back Erin!

On January 6, 2014 CRCA Resource Planner Christine Woods also returned from maternity leave. Christine is one of three resource planners that review planning and regulation permit applications throughout the watershed. Welcome back Christine!

As we welcome back staff we have also had to say goodbye to CRCA Resource

Technician Kimberly Denison. Kimberly's contract with the CRCA came to an end in November 2013. Kimberly contributed to a variety of CRCA projects over the past four years including Conservation Area lands inventory, drinking water source protection and stewardship and watershed monitoring. Kimberly was a valuable member of the team and we wish her well in her new endeavours.



Erin Oogarah
– Geomatics Technician



Christine Woods
– Resource Planner



Kimberly Denison



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Enjoy the great outdoors this winter and spring in one of our conservation areas. Visit our website at www.crca.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.

ENTRY FEES

Could 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 unlimited access to both of these conservation areas.

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

HOURS OF OPERATION

Conservation Areas

- 7:30 a.m. to dusk daily

Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre

- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday
- 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends from Jan 4 to March 31
- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends from April 5 to April 27
- 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 Debrugge 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. For trail and rink conditions please call (613)345-1990.

Saturday Skates

Saturdays in January and February

(11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)



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 (weather permitting). Come out and enjoy a skate with your family and friends.

Family Day Skate

Monday, February 17

(11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

Join us for a special day of family activities. Bring out your skates and skis and skate on the pond or ski on the cross-country ski trails. The ice slide will be open. You can bring your lunch or buy something at the barbecue hosted by the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Trumpeter Swans

Saturday, April 26

(10:00 a.m.)



Join us at the Nature Centre to learn more about the Trumpeter Swans. Stefan Foerster, CRCA Conservation Areas Supervisor will be giving a presentation on Trumpeter Swans. After the presentation, walk down to the Buells Creek Reservoir to see if you can spot the swans and catch them feeding at the swan feeder.

History Hike

Saturday, May 17

(11:00 a.m.)

Join us at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area to take part in a history hike. Learn about the resources available to the early settlers in the natural environment as well as some history about the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. This hike will begin at the Nature Centre and it will be led by Amy Mackie of the Brockville Museum. Donations are welcome and will be split between the Brockville Museum and 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 4 to March 1, weather permitting. Register in advance at www.crca.ca/online-services, or on the day of the lesson, at the Outdoor Centre. Cost is \$18.00 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.

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.

Snowshoe Demonstration

Sunday, February 2

(2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)



Come out and try snowshoeing. It's fun and easy to do. No experience necessary. Trailhead staff will provide a hands-on demonstration on how to snowshoe.

Valentine's Evening Skate

Friday, February 14

(6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Enjoy a romantic evening skate on Kingston's largest natural ice rink (weather permitting). The rink lights will be on and the fire will be lit in the warming hut. We will also have recorded music at the Outdoor Centre where you can warm up and purchase a hot drink and a snack. Skate rentals will be available at the Outdoor Centre.

Scat and Tracks Hike

Sunday, February 16

(2:00 p.m.)

Bundle up and get outside to discover what animals have been visiting our trails this winter. Learn how to be a wild animal detective to find out how to read tracks, scats and signs.

Family Day Skate

Monday, February 17

(9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)



Bring the family out for a skate on Kingston's largest natural ice skating rink (weather permitting)! 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. Skate rentals will also be available at the Outdoor Centre.

Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, February 22

(6:30 p.m.)

Join us for an easy snowshoe trek under the light of the moon. Please register in advance as there is limited space. Registration forms can be found at www.crca.ca/online-services and registration will close on Friday, Febru-

ary 21 at noon. Cost is \$12.00 per person for annual pass holders and \$17.50 for non-pass holders (this includes the gate fee and snowshoe rental). Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase after the hike at the snack bar.

Trumpeter Swans

Sunday, March 2

(2:00 p.m.)



Learn all about the CRCA's Trumpeter Swan reintroduction program in eastern Ontario, specifically in the Brockville and Athens area. Today's presenter will be Stefan Foerster, CRCA Conservation Areas Supervisor. Enjoy photos of swans in various stages of growth, social interaction and behavior.

MAPLE MADNESS

March 8 to 16 (March Break)

March 22 and 23

March 29 and 30

(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.

The sugar bush is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day of the Maple Madness program. Be sure to check out some of our special activities like puppet shows, sugar bush demonstrations, our annual Bake Sale and Olde Thyme Sugar Bush Chores. Check our schedule below for the times and dates for these activities. You'll want to visit us more than once!

Puppet Shows

Saturday, March 8

(11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.)

Take in one of our fun puppet shows geared towards the whole family. Meet some of our new and favourite puppet friends that share with us the secrets of the sugar bush.

First Nations Display

Saturday, March 8

(10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Join Paul Carl for an interactive presentation at our First Nations maple syrup display in the sugar bush. Paul will explain how his ancestors harvested and used sweet water in ceremonies to make maple syrup and sugar.

Sugar Bush Demonstrations

Sunday, March 9

Visit our displays in the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was

OPENING 2014



made in the olden days and how we make it now. Be sure to visit our new tapping demonstrations from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn how to identify a sugar maple tree, measure it and use a brace and bit hand drill to practice your tapping skills on a log.

Puppet Shows

Monday, March 10 to Friday, March 14
(Daily at 10:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.)

Take in one of our fun puppet shows geared towards the whole family. Meet some of our new and favourite puppet friends that share with us the secrets of the sugar bush. There are daily puppet shows from Monday through Friday during the March Break.

Sugar Bush Demonstrations

Monday, March 10 to Friday, March 14

Visit our displays in the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now. Be sure to visit our new tapping demonstrations from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn how to identify a sugar maple tree, measure it and use a brace and bit hand drill to practice your tapping skills on a log.

Foundation Bake Sale

Saturday, March 15

Pick up some sweet treats at the annual Foundation Bake Sale at the Outdoor Centre.

Puppet Shows and First Nations Display

Saturday, March 15

See Saturday, March 8 for details.

Sugar Bush Demonstrations

Sunday, March 16

See Sunday, March 9 for details.

Puppet Shows and First Nations Display

Saturday, March 22

See Saturday, March 8 for details.

Sugar Bush Demonstrations

Sunday, March 23

See Sunday, March 9 for details.

Olde Thyme Sugar Bush Chores

Saturday, March 29

Try your hand at some "olde thyme" sugar bush chores today. You can try log sawing, emptying sap buckets and tapping trees. We'll also have taffy-making demonstrations with samples.

Puppet Shows and First Nations Display

Saturday, March 29

See Saturday, March 8 for details.

Sugar Bush Demonstrations

Sunday, March 30

See Sunday, March 9 for details.

Spring Activities

All About Bees

Sunday April 6

(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. After the talk, plant your own native flower seed that bees and other pollinators would appreciate finding in your garden.

Stained Glass Mosaic Workshop

Sunday, April 13

(1:00 to 4:00 p.m.)

Come and spend an afternoon exploring the beauty of stained glass mosaic. Create a colourful mosaic piece inspired by the coming of spring and the wonders that nature has to offer. Lynda MacRae, glass artist and owner of The Glass House, will guide you through the mosaic process as you create a colorful hanging to take home and enjoy. Cost is \$30.50 or \$25.00 for annual pass holders which includes all materials. Register online or pick up a registration form at the Outdoor Centre or CRCA Administration Office.

Save the Salamanders

Sunday, April 27

(2:00 p.m.)



Salamanders are among the most endangered animal groups in the world. Several Ontario salamanders are now listed as Species at Risk. Join Matt Ellerbeck and learn about the conservation and protection of salamanders. Presentation includes live salamanders, both local and exotic species! After the talk join Matt for a specialized salamander search. The search will include a 2 km hike. Space is limited.

Frog Night Hike

Friday, May 2

(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. To ensure we have enough hike leaders to participants registration is required. Registration forms can be found online at www.crc.ca/online-services. Cost is \$2 per person plus regular gate fee.

Spring Fling P.A. Day Program

Friday, May 23

(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. Activities 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. Cost is \$40.00 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.

Nature Explorers Camp

Register your children (ages 6 to 11) for our week-long summer day camp during July and August. Registration forms will be available on our website by the end of January.

LEMOINE POINT CONSERVATION AREA

Lemoine Point Conservation Area is located in the west end of Kingston on the shore of Collins Bay. There are entrances off Front Road and Coverdale Drive.

Join the Friends of Lemoine Point in their efforts to keep the environment of Lemoine Point Conservation Area healthy. If you are interested in volunteering please call (613) 546-4228 ext. 306 and leave a message.

Spring Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 26

(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 gloves and garbage bags to people who want to participate in the clean-up.

Spring Tree Planting

Saturday, May 3

(9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)

Our annual spring tree planting will take place at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Meet at the south parking lot (Front Road) to help plant trees. Bring your shovel, work gloves and your energy. For more information call Peter at (613) 389-4187 or Rick at (613) 389-3651.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 24

(9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Buy some trees, shrubs or wildflowers for your home garden. All plants are grown at the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery. Proceeds from the sale help to support the nursery and the tree stock grown to support local forestry programs.

CRCA 50th Anniversary

The CRCA turns 50 in 2014 and we're celebrating in a number of ways.

Many of our programs and events throughout the year will have a 50th anniversary component.

We will also be sharing some great old photos and interesting facts from our archives on our website and on Facebook and Twitter. If you have some photos or memories that you would like to share, please post them on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CataraquiRegionCA or on Twitter @CataraquiRCA. If you would like us to come to your community event email info@crc.ca.





New boardwalk completed at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area



Kingston-Frontenac Rotary Club representative Bernie Breen presenting CRCA General Manager Stephen Knechtel with a \$30,000 to cover the cost of materials for the construction of the new boardwalk.



A new boardwalk was built over the summer at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. It was complete and ready to use by the fall.

Thanks to a donation of \$30,000 from the Kingston-Frontenac Rotary Club the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area has a new

boardwalk. The new boardwalk, located north of the Outdoor Centre, consists of 18 sections that are 12 feet long by 6 feet wide. Each section is built like a floating dock, with plastic flotation underneath and wood decking on top.

The boardwalk features two new viewing platform areas allowing people to stop and take in the scenery without blocking passage for other users. "The viewing platforms have also been a great addition and aid for our school programs", said CRCA Education Officer Stana Luxford Oddie. "They allow students to better interact with one another and give them different vantage points for their pond dipping experiments".

The generous contribution by the Kingston-Frontenac Rotary Club will be recognized at the official boardwalk opening that will take place in the spring.

Lemoine Point Painting Bee

Volunteers joined CRCA staff and the Friends of Lemoine Point in September for a painting bee to spruce up and fix picnic tables at Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

Thanks to a grant from the Benjamin Moore Community Foundation, the CRCA received \$1,000 for supplies and \$750 for paint. With this grant and community labour, we were able to refurbish and paint 24 picnic tables.

The Benjamin Moore Community Restoration Pro-

gram is a granting program to support heritage restoration and community projects in Canada. Local community foundations identify restoration and renovation projects and Benjamin Moore provides paint, expertise and financial support. The program is offered in different target communities each year and is administered by the Community Foundation of Canada.

The program was administered locally by the Community Foundation of Kingston and Area.



A grant from the Benjamin Moore Community Foundation plus a painting bee involving volunteers from the Friends of Lemoine Point and the local community helped to refurbish 24 picnic tables at Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

Lots of activities at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

Fall was a busy time at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area this year and with the help of Marketing Intern Laura Burton our fall events were a great success.

The September outdoor movie night drew 43 people to watch *Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark*. It was a beautiful night with a clear sky full of stars. The coyotes were close by and you could hear them howl on and off throughout the evening. Movie-goers warmed up with hot chocolate and snacks provided by the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

In October the fall foliage was on display at the an-

nual Fall Festival. About 125 people came out to see the dog cart races, carve pumpkins, paddle the reservoir and enjoy a barbecue lunch with entertainment by Fiddlers Plus.

Many thanks to those who braved the weather and came out to our Winter Walk in early December. It was a really cold day but we started out warm in the Nature Centre for a puppet play and then made our way outside for a hike where attendees learned about migration, hibernation and winter active animals on the property. We were even lucky enough to see a few

places where a squirrel hid some of their food along the trail. The walk ended back at the Nature Centre where there were yummy treats and hot chocolate provided by the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Local radio host Bruce Wylie from Bell Media was back this fall to lead his enjoyable and informative lunchtime hikes. Participants were led on an easy hike with commentary about the area. Mr. Wylie is a long-time supporter of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Each fall before the onset of winter the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area hold

a work bee at the nursery to winterize stocks of over 1,000 potted trees. Winterizing consists of tightly grouping potted trees together and then packing straw around the groups to minimize winter kill. This is something that occurs at times when deep frost penetrates the roots systems which are sometimes vulnerable in above ground pots. It is also the time when the Friends of Mac Johnson plant acorns, walnuts and hickory nuts into smaller pots. Last fall we planted over 400 acorns and nuts!

Stay tuned for the annual Mac Johnson Wildlife Area Spring Clean-Up, part of

Brockville's community wide clean-up coming up in April. We are in the planning stages and will post event details on our website and Facebook page.

Don't miss our exciting winter and spring line-up of events at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. See pages 6 and 7 for details or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Skating on the pond is a popular winter activity at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. The Friends are hosting Saturday skates during January and February and a Family Day Skate on February 17.



CRCA reviews Enbridge Line 9 proposal

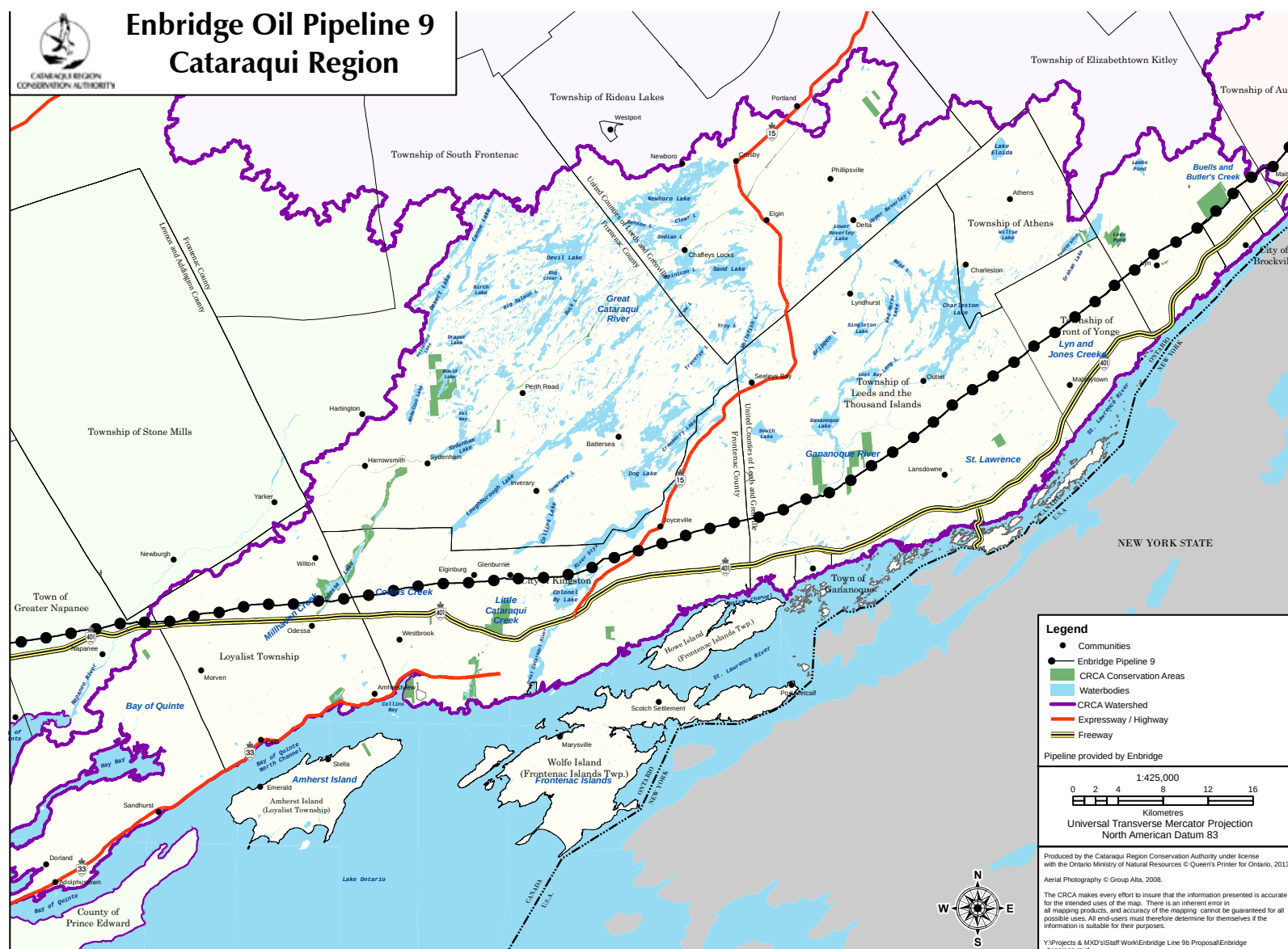
There has been a lot of public interest in the proposal by Enbridge to reverse the flow of its existing Line 9 pipeline (so that it flows west to east), increase the volume carried and allow the company to ship diluted bitumen (heavy crude) in the pipeline. They have applied to the National Energy Board (NEB) for approval.

Line 9 runs for 639 kilometres from Sarnia, Ontario to Montreal, Quebec. The pipeline crosses four CRCA properties — Millhaven Reservoir, Marble Rock Forest, Eden Grove Forest and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. It also crosses numerous watercourses, environmentally sensitive areas and communities such as Odessa, Glenburnie, Lyn and Brockville in the Cataraqui Region.

The CRCA submitted a letter of comment to the National Energy Board. Our comments included the following:

- the interests of the CRCA in the proposal (landowner, watershed manager, regulatory agency)
- the environmental sensitivity of the Cataraqui Region to leaks and spills, related to surface water, groundwater, wetlands, woodlands and drinking water sources
- recommendations that as part of its activities to modify Line 9, Enbridge should work with CRCA staff and others to ensure that its spill prevention and response plans properly account for natural features and functions, drinking water sources and local knowledge.

The CRCA participated in the public hearing by the NEB. A decision is expected by early 2014.



The CRCA provided comments on the Enbridge Line 9 proposal to the National Energy Board. We also participated in the public hearing. The line crosses four of our properties, numerous watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas as shown on this map.

Changes to the Canada Fisheries Act affect CRCA watershed

The Conservation Authority had an agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada since the late 1990s to review potential impacts on fish habitat as a result of work along the shoreline. Where the impacts of a project on fish habitat could be mitigated, we acted on behalf of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and worked with the applicants.

As of the end of November 2013, the agreement is no longer valid and the CRCA is unable to provide formal advice to proponents. Fisheries

and Oceans Canada is developing new partnerships that will reflect the changes to the legislation. In 2014 the CRCA will explore opportunities for a new arrangement covering our region. In the interim, CRCA staff will continue to help people comply with the *Fisheries Act*. Some details are provided below.

Notable changes to the *Canada Fisheries Act* are:

Scope of fish habitat

- Former approach: conserve all fish habitat (i.e. any waters that supported a fish popula-

tion were considered to be fish habitat).

- New approach: conserve fish habitat that supports a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery (i.e. the harvesting of fish by people).
- * We consider almost all waterbodies and watercourses in the Cataraqui Region to directly or indirectly support a fishery.

Habitat protection provisions

- * Former approach: people conducting work in or near the water needed to either

avoid the "harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat", or obtain an authorization from the federal government.

* New approach: people conducting work in or near the water need to avoid causing "serious harm to fish", which means: the "death of fish or any permanent alteration to, or destruction of, fish habitat", or obtain an authorization from the federal government.

Additional information is available on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website at

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppw/index-eng.html.

Under the amended legislation applicants are being asked to assess their own proposals for impacts on fish habitat – details are available on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website.

Applicants may also contact the Central and Arctic Region Office of Fisheries and Oceans Canada via telephone at 1-855-852-8320 or by e-mail FisheriesProtection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

CRCA staff will continue

to assist applicants. While we are unable to issue letters of advice at this time, we will continue to help people to navigate the amended legislation and review process.

The CRCA will continue to explore more formal partnership opportunities with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the coming months. For more information call Tom Beaubiah, CRCA biologist at (613) 546-4228 ext. 240 or e-mail tbeaubiah@crca.ca.



CRCA proudly supports the new Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter

The new Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter (OCOC) is an advocacy tool developed by a coalition of organizers led by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Back to Nature Network to get children outside and to discover the wonders of nature. The new charter is a great complement to the CRCA's Conservation Education programs that aim to connect learners of all ages to the natural world through their head, hearts and hands.

Spending time outdoors is essential to every child's development, health and well-being and builds a con-

nection to our rich natural and cultural heritage. The Children's Outdoor Charter is a great building block for getting kids outside and excited about nature. Visit the Children's Outdoor Charter website, www.childrensoutdoorcharter.ca, to print off your very own Activity Passport and have some fun! The Passport lets kids track their outdoor experience and highlights outdoor activities that children and their families can enjoy together, such as: following a trail, swimming in a lake, observing plants and wildlife, camping under the stars, paddling a canoe, playing in the snow

and much more! The CRCA encourages families to visit their local conservation areas with their children in the spirit of the charter.

Be sure to take part in the CRCA's 50 Things to do on our 50th Anniversary. In celebration of our 50th Anniversary we have created a 50 things to do outdoor passport with activities to do and take part in each month from January to December 2014!

Parents, grandparents and teachers are encouraged to visit www.back2nature.ca for more great ideas on what to do with your children in the outdoors.



The Children's Outdoor Charter has been developed to encourage parents and children to get outdoors. The CRCA supports this aim.

Teachers are encouraged to make an conservation education program booking

Spaces are still available for our winter and spring programs at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Our programs are connected to the curriculum and will help to enrich your class's experience with hands-on, outdoor learning. You are encouraged to share the cost of the bus and bring a second class and make a day of it by eating lunch at our Outdoor Centre. You may choose to do the same program(s) or opt for different ones.

In February, get your

students outdoors to experience winter at its finest. We have excellent snowshoeing programs at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and cross-country skiing opportunities as well as Kingston's largest natural skating rink at Little Cataraqui Creek.

No snow... don't worry, we've got it covered with our famous *Instincts for Survival Program* or navigate around our trails with our new *Orienteering: Map and Compass* program. We even have *Kinderscience* in winter and

Nature in Winter Programs that are adaptable to any kind of winter weather that Mother Nature brings us!

In March visit our beautiful sugar bush at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and experience how syrup was discovered and made long ago and how it is made today.

From April to June, you and your students have excellent opportunities to discover creatures and cattails through marsh dip-netting by taking part in our *Marsh Mysteries*, *Pond Water Ecology*, *Biodiversity Bonanza*, *Wetland*

Conservation or *Merry Metamorphosis* programs or experience the spring awakenings in our forests with a new twist to both our *Kinderscience* and *Secrets of Spring* programs.

For a full list of programs and descriptions visit www.crca.ca.

To make a program booking:

Little Cataraqui Creek – (613)546-4228 ext. 251 or email educate@crca.ca

Mac Johnson Wildlife Area – (613) 923-1526 or email edmjwa@gmail.com



CRCA conservation education programs include great activities like snowshoeing or skiing in the winter and visiting the sugar bush or pond dipping in the spring. We have lots of other great school programs to choose from and all of them meet curriculum requirements.

Nature Program for Early Learners

The CRCA offers Nature Programs for both early learners (ages 2.5 to 5) and home learners (ages 6 to 11) at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

In September, we learned all about Monarchs and Milkweed. In November, nature program participants learned all about our friends that are either Migrants or

Hibernators.

The nature programs continue in April 2014 with Wonderful Waterfowl and Magnificent Marsh.

Be sure to sign up early in the spring for the September 2014 to April 2015 programs as spaces are limited. See our website www.crca.ca/education.

Nature Explorers Camp 2014

Based at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, campers experience the great outdoors through our fun nature-inspired theme weeks, hands-on exploration, outdoor activities and a weekly guest speaker. For two days a week, campers get loads of time to swim, play on the beach and explore Gould Lake Conservation Area! We're also adding a new outdoor wilderness skill - how to build a matchless fire!

About the Camp

Qualified, experienced and returning instructors will teach campers in groups (ratio 1:8) ranging from 6 to 11 years old with a maximum of 24 campers per week. Each day will be filled with adventures, games and fun. Campers will come away with a greater awareness and connection to the natural world.

- July 2-4 Habitat Heroes uncover the super powers of plants and animals
- July 7-11 Outdoor Olympians celebrate animal Olympians for speed and agility
- July 14-18 Planet Protectors learn how to be an eco-hero
- July 21-25 Insect Investigators detect clues of insect life from bark miners to flying dragons!
- July 28-August 1 Swamp Superstars explore rockin' wetland creatures
- August 5-8 Meadow Monsters seek animals at the top of the meadow food chain
- August 11-15 Woodland Wizards unearth the mysteries of creatures in the forest
- August 18-22 Reptile Rescuers discover how to help reptiles and amphibians

Fees and Hours of Operation

Nature Explorers Camp is \$185.00 per 5-day week, \$115.00 for the July 2 to 4 week, and \$150.00 for the August 5 to 8 week.

Before and after care is available at the Outdoor Centre from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for an additional charge of \$25.00 per week (\$20.00 for the short weeks).



Foundation News

The Forever Green Gala, the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation's major fund raising event of the year, was a great success. The Senior Staff Mess at RMC was abuzz with good cheer on the evening of November 9, 2013 as those attending were serenaded by Cliff Edwards, enjoyed a delicious meal, did some early Christmas shopping at our silent auction, and bid enthusiastically for the tempting items in

our live auction. The many compliments received from the guests were testimony to the hard work of all the volunteers and staff who, with the leadership of Karen Bach and Margo Warner, ensured that everything ran without a hitch.

Also as a result of the dedication of staff and volunteers, our revenues from this event substantially exceeded projections. Although the number of guests

was higher than last year, the most significant change was increased support from the corporate community. We would like to thank all our supporters, and extend a special thank you to our event sponsors - Homestead Landholdings Limited and TransCanada: Napanee Generating Station.

Each year at the Gala, the Foundation honours individuals or groups that have advanced the understanding

of the interdependence of all life in the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's watersheds and have actively promoted the protection of the natural environment. This year, we were pleased to present the Education Award to Matt Ellerbeck, also known as the Salamander Man, for his advocacy for species at risk.

The Corporate Award was presented to Cruickshank, one of the top Green 30

companies in Canada, for corporate practices which minimize their impact on the natural environment. Congratulations! We will be looking for nominations for next year's award. There is a nomination form on our website, address below. Let's hear from you about people, businesses and projects that make our natural environment better.

Looking ahead to springtime, we have begun plan-

ning for the Maple Madness Bake Sale on March 15. We will have a wide variety of tasty offerings from muffins and loaves stuffed with nutritious goodies, to cheerful cupcakes with colourful icing, yummy cookies and candy sticks for the kids. As we did last year, we will also be offering a draw for some exciting prizes. We hope that you will join us there.

Thank you to our Forever Green 2013 Donors and Sponsors

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• Janati Yoga School • Jeff Scott, CRCA board member • Joanna Mazzeo from Lulu's • Katherine Cartwright • Kingston Symphony • Lemoine Point Nursery • Linda Coulter • Liz Munt • Margo Warner • Miranda Clark • Neil's Flowers • Patricia Frontini • Paul Copland from Atmosphere • P'lovers • Pyke Farms • Queen's University • Random House Canada • Rideau Lakes Golf & Country Club • Riley's Garden Centre • River Mill • Sandbanks Vacations and Tours • Stewart Fyfe • Sun Harvest Greenhouses • Sweet Days Bake Shop • Ted Hsu • The Glass House • Thirty Three Vines • Tom McAneney • Via Rail • Weese Tree Preservation • Wellington Foreign Exchange • Wendy Cain • Windmills Restaurant



Steve Cruickshank (left) of Cruickshank Construction won the Corporate Conservation Award and Matt Ellerbeck won the Education Award. They are shown here with Forever Green Gala MC Lisa Ray.

Board news

Betty Boone, our president for the past two and a half years, stepped down from the position in the autumn for personal reasons. Betty provided enthusiastic leadership. We will miss her cheerful presence. For the balance of her term Michael Bell, past president, is stepping back into the chair until the May 2014 Annual General meeting, when Karen Bach, vice-president will assume the office.

The Foundation also wishes to thank Thornley Stoker, who decided to spend more time travelling and consequently, could not reasonably fulfill the responsibilities of membership on the board.

We are pleased to welcome Adam Clow to the board. Adam brings youth and new ideas to the board. Adam is a member of the local Union Gas team.

You will notice that the

CRCA is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014. Keep an eye on the Foundation which will mark its 50th anniversary in 2015. Keep up with the news on the Foundation website www.cataraquiconservationfoundation.org. This site will be used in the future to manage our fundraising and contacts, providing new tools to communicate with our "friends of conservation".



Cliff Edwards provided the musical entertainment at the Foundation's Forever Green Gala held in November.



Two bidders having fun at the Forever Green Gala silent auction.

Upcoming Foundation Events

Maple Madness Bake Sale – March 15 at the Outdoor Centre
Earth Day – April 22, 4 to 6 p.m. at Outdoor Centre, speaker TBA
Annual General Meeting – May 6
President's Council – fall 2014



CRCA celebrates 50 years of conservation in 2014

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to Kingston in 1962.

In February of 1964 Gerry Dyer (another founding member of the CRCA) and I decided we were going to try and get an authority. There was a local group, the Association of Women Electors, trying to get a conservation authority for the Little Cataraqui Creek which we thought was well meant, but totally impractical. It was such a small area, it couldn't

possibly be financially viable. It only had two municipalities and it was only a small part of both of them. So we persuaded them to join us and look for something much bigger.

Then we started asking our friends because we knew this couldn't be a Kingston-led thing, it mustn't be Kingston-dominated. We found like-minded people all over the place: Ken Buell in Brockville, Archdeacon Creegan in Gananoque, Bill Elliot in South Fredericks-

burgh, Alden Strong up in Westport and several others. These were all people who had done some quite neat things in their lives in related areas and who were enthusiastic about what we were doing. We had a meeting and printed a brochure. We divided up the councils and went off and visited them over the summer of 1964. In the fall, the province announced that the necessary number of municipalities had requested a meeting to decide about an authority so

they scheduled that meeting. We needed a two-thirds majority; there were 30 voting members. Twenty-eight to two was the vote. Neither of the two were strongly opposed either, they probably just thought they wouldn't get their money's worth out of it. In December of 1964 the order-in-council was passed forming the Authority and on the first of February in 1965 we had our first meeting. It was almost exactly one year after Gerry and I said we would do

something about getting an authority that we had one.

CRCA: Are you comfortable with the notion that you and Gerry Dyer fathered the CRCA?

Dr. McCowan: Comfortable I am not. There is no doubt in my mind that it wouldn't have happened the way it did without us, but there is also absolutely no doubt in my mind that it wouldn't have happened just with us. All kinds of people got involved in this and they carried their own areas, their

own councils, their own enthusiasms and without that it couldn't be done.

If it had been a couple of guys from Kingston out there telling the people in Kitley or South Fredericksburgh what they should do, it wouldn't fly at all. You needed people who were real believers, who took the time to find out what was going on, who got all enthusiastic themselves and that's what made it work. Gerry and I lit the fuse but a whole lot of people made it happen.

CRCA launches new website

We have a shiny new website! In December the CRCA launched its new website at www.crc.ca. Proposals were received from several companies and the new site design was awarded to Kingston web design and development company CaricDesign.

The new site, which features both enhanced content and a redesigned format, provides a better overall user experience, particularly for those accessing the site on mobile devices. The site

employs responsive design, which automatically optimizes the viewing experience so it fits perfectly on various displays and resolutions from regular desktop screens to tablets, iPads and smart phones.

A new feature to our website that many visitors are finding useful is our online services page. On this page you will find links to all of the forms to sign up for an education program, book a conservation area, register for an event, make a dona-

tion, order your CRCA annual passes and much more! We use Paypal for all of our online payments making it quick and easy for you to register and pay for events, passes and memberships.

The CRCA is also on Facebook and Twitter. Our new website allows us to highlight our social media channels making it easier for you to connect with us and keep you up-to-date on news, watershed conditions, and events in our Conservation Areas.

Watershed conditions normal

In early 2013, there was concern that the dry weather of 2012 would be continuing throughout the year. The spring freshet came and went, and the stream flows in late February and early March were well below normal. Even with some rainfall in March and April, the flows still stayed low, rising and falling with each rain event, a sure sign of a deficit in the water balance.

Then we had twice the normal amount of rain in June, and continued through the summer to get close to normal, or above normal rainfall, which kept the stream flows up into the fall. Currently, the stream flows

are a little below normal, from slightly less rain over the fall, but not too far below.

With the low flows in the spring, most of the water managers tried to bring lake levels up early, to hold some extra water in case we had a dry summer. With the rainfall in June and through the summer, we ended up having high water levels through much of the summer, higher than normal, and from time to time some nuisance flooding from intense rain events. Even Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River moved up from being almost 30 cm below normal in the spring-time to just above normal

in the summer, and by early December 2013, the levels were still right about normal.

Overall for the year, we received about the average amount of rainfall (concentrated over the summer months), and the stream flows were about average overall as well, again higher than normal in the summer, lower than normal in the spring and late fall.

The long term forecast from Environment Canada is for normal temperatures and normal precipitation into the spring of 2014, which bodes well for a continuation of the normal conditions we saw in 2013.

