



CAT TALES

Winter 2011 Issue

IN THIS ISSUE...

- It's the new year and after the municipal elections. The CRCA is making preparations for a new board. See page 4.
- Operations staff have been busy making improvements to our facilities this past fall. Read about our work on dams, boat ramps and conservation areas on pages 3 and 5.
- The late Ian Hodson was honoured by the Friends of Lemoine Point at the official opening of their new greenhouse in October. More on page 4.
- They stay around all year. They're colourful, noisy and sometimes act like bullies! Our Creature Feature on page 2 is the blue jay.
- Students in Brockville and Kingston got a chance to participate in some free conservation education programs thanks to some grants received by the CRCA. Read more on page 10.
- The Cataraqui Conservation Foundation held a successful fundraising event this past November and has plans for more activities this spring. See page 11 for details.
- We have some fish stories on pages 8 and 9.
- Community roundtables are planned for drinking water source protection and we need you to participate! More on page 12.
- Plus upcoming events on our What's Happening centrefold and on pages 9 and 10.

Give us your best shots

We're looking for your best shots or photos taken in our local conservation areas.

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

"The Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest has two purposes. First it will get people out exploring their local conservation areas. Second, it's a way for us to build our image library. We have over 260 Conservation Areas across Ontario that offer a variety of recreational opportunities and special events all year round. Because Conservation Areas are close to urban centres, they are accessible outdoor destinations and play an important role in the health and well-being of Ontario's residents," says Don Pearson, General Manager of Conservation Ontario, the main sponsor behind the contest.

Whether it's a close-up of a native wildflower, the view of a crystal blue lake in the Canadian Shield,



Conservation Ontario is looking for your best photos taken in Ontario's conservation areas throughout the seasons. Here's a robin in winter (yes, really!) on a search for berries at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

a shot an elusive white-tailed deer in the forest, or pictures of a family hiking along one of our many trails, the Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest is looking for your best photograph in three categories:

**People of All Ages
Enjoy Conservation Areas**

**My Favourite
Conservation Area**

**Wildlife is
Everywhere in
Conservation Areas**

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

The Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest runs from November 1, 2010 until October 31, 2011 and offers prize packages totalling more than \$1500.00.

"It might seem like a long wait to find out

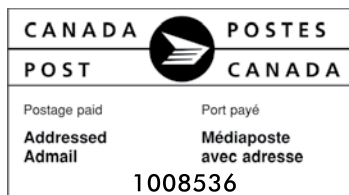
if you are one of the winners, but we wanted people to have a chance to send in pictures from each season and reflecting the range of activities and special events that we offer," Pearson said.

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

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



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



Creature Feature

Blue Jay, (*Cyanocitta cristata*)

You might describe the mischievous blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) as the self-proclaimed town crier of the forest. Its strident cries alert other birds and mammals to danger and disrupt the intentions of a skulking, stealthy stalker intent on mayhem.

The uninitiated are forgiven for assuming the blue jay's piercing scream heralds the presence of a larger bird. In hand, Mr. Jay measures 30 cm (nine to 12 inches) from beak tip to tail tip. Blue above and white below, his face is white bordered in black. His head is topped with a crest that can be manipulated to reflect the emotion of the moment.

Blue jays are members of the Corvidae family, related to crows and rooks. Fossilized

corvids have been found dating back some 25 million years.

Blue jays call a variety of habitats home. According to the Hinterland Who's Who website: "The blue jay early adapted to settlement conditions. Throughout its range it is generally more common in settled regions, provided there are a few trees, than in the wild."

They are common in conservation areas and other properties owned by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority.

The website goes on to note that blue jays in towns and cities may be "almost tame." In fact, one CRCA employee tells of sitting on his deck, flipping peanuts in the shell to a begging jay perched on a railing three feet away, who

adroitly caught them in its bill.

The usual blue jay diet consists of vegetable material including wild fruit and berries, nuts, grains, a variety of small invertebrates and insects. On occasion blue jays help control the harmful tent caterpillar.

"The destruction of cocoons . . . eliminates thousands of moth eggs due to hatch the following spring," according to Hinterland Who's Who.

Blue jays are accomplished thieves and may even steal food. That same CRCA employee once observed a grey squirrel industriously burying peanuts in the shell. From a perch 10 feet above the rodent, an uncharacteristically silent blue jay observed. As soon as the squirrel vacated each fresh burial

site, down swooped the jay to scratch in the soil and recover the nut. After eating several, he cached the rest by wedging them in tree forks and cracks in tree bark.

There is a less savoury aspect to blue jay cuisine; sometimes they prey on the eggs, or even the young, of other birds.

Hinterland Who's Who: "The fact that the blue jay sometimes prey on the young of other birds is no cause for its condemnation, for this bird plays a role in keeping bird populations, as well as some insect pests, under control."

Adaptable, aggressive and omnivorous, blue jays are common visitors at backyard bird feeders where they may bully smaller birds. And it's not uncommon for

the same bird to return to the feeder, year after year, based on banding information. This suggests, for instance, that an occasional wild jay may survive for 10 to 15 years, again according to Hinterland Who's Who.

These birds build a bulky nest measuring about 18 cm in diameter. It is composed of twigs, lichens, moss or grass, cemented with mud and lined with feathers. Male blue jays feed their mates who incubate the four or five eggs. Young jays are ready to leave the nest within 17 days and may be fledged by 21 days of age. They follow their parents and are occasionally fed, sometimes for as long as four months.

Blue jays, like some of their corvid cousins,

are capable of uttering a range of vocalizations beyond that shriek of alarm to herald danger. Apparently they may even learn to mimic human speech as well as the cries of a hawk, according to the website ngm.nationalgeographic.com/geopedia/animal_minds.

"Jays are some of the more intelligent birds," the website continues. "They will wait and watch for a person to put food down (then) . . . they will swoop down and steal it. Along with crows, jays will also watch a person planting seed crops and afterwards dig up and eat the seeds."

Two pieces of miscellany: the blue jay is the provincial bird of Prince Edward Island. And Toronto's major league baseball team is known as the Toronto Blue Jays.

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Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

Editor – Karla Maki-Esdon

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Contributors

Tom Beaubiah, Chris Cannon, Kimberly Denison, Stefan Foerster, Ron Gardiner, Rob Gerritsen, Peter Hebert, Jason Hynes, Tina Kilbourne, Rick Knapton, Steve Knechtel, Stana Luxford Oddie, Karla Maki-Esdon, Doug Mather, Angela McAnaney, Rob McRae, Jamie Morris, Erin Oogarah, Cheryl Rider, Andrew Schmidt, Mara Shaw, Michael Sykes, Sean Watt



Send Mail to:
Editor
c/o Cataraqui Conservation Authority
P.O. Box 160 Glenburnie ON K0H 1S0
E-mail: karla@cataraquiregion.on.ca
Phone: (613) 546-4228 Fax: (613) 547-6474
Toll-Free Phone (613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA (2722)

Member of



The CRCA's Cheryl Rider photographed this jay at her feeder.

Improvements made at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area



CRCA operations staff spread gravel on Trail 1 at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. Trail 1 leads from the main parking lot off Highway 33 to the wildlife viewing platform.

In 2009, the CRCA board approved the Master Plan for Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. Implementation of this plan began in 2010, with a number of property improvements that were identified as priorities in the plan.

"People arriving at the property's main entrance, on Highway 33 west of Amherstview, will now see that pretty distinct changes have been made to some of the trails at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area," says Jason Hynes, CRCA Lands Planner. "Most noticeably, Trail 1 has had work done to upgrade the surface and improve the accessibility for those who may find the other trails at Parrott's Bay too challenging."

This trail leads from the parking lot at the main entrance and ends at the wildlife viewing platform on the south side of the bay.

"This work was completed by CRCA staff with significant help from the exceptional staff at Loyalist Township," adds Mr. Hynes. "My hearty thanks goes out to them."

Regular visitors to Parrott's Bay Conservation Area will also notice

that the wildlife viewing platform has now been completed. With the help of volunteers from the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, CRCA staff have been able to complete the remaining tasks.

"The keen interest and assistance of these volunteers was just what was needed to spur the completion of this lingering project," states Mr. Hynes.

Other improvements made throughout the property in 2010 included tree evaluations and hazard tree removals by CRCA Forestry Technician Rick Knapton and operations staff.

Strategic improvements to some problem areas along trails have also been made to improve ongoing surfacing and drainage challenges.

As 2010 leads into 2011 visitors to Parrott's Bay can expect to continue seeing ongoing trail improvements, as needs arise.

We will also be installing trail markers and "you are here" maps around the property over the next six months. These will help visitors to navigate the trail system.

Plans developing for Hay Bay Boat Ramp and Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

In 2010, CRCA staff have been evaluating the background, use and opportunity to develop or make improvements at the CRCA's Hay Bay Boat Ramp. The boat ramp is located on the south shore of Hay Bay near the historic Hay Bay Church. The boat ramp is popular with fishing enthusiasts year-round.

A report evaluating the future management and potential development of this property will be submitted for consideration by the CRCA board in early 2011.

Preliminary work has also begun that will result in an updated master plan for Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area



CRCA staff Holly Evans and Rick Knapton planting a buffer at Hay Bay Boat Ramp in 2006.

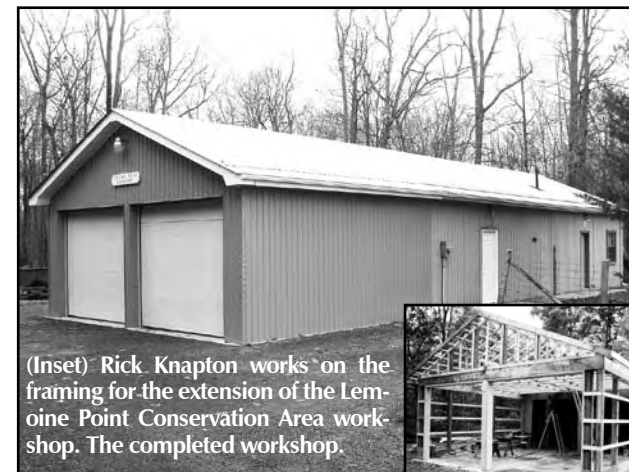
in Kingston. The current approved master plan was approved in the late 1970s. Background work was done on an updated plan in the 1990s, but the plan was never completed due to a lack of staff resources.

Work on the revised master plan will take place in 2011. The plan will help to identify

operating objectives and development projects to guide future management of this regionally important property and its facilities.

Stay tuned for more information about this project on our website (www.cataraquiregion.on.ca), in the local news media and in upcoming issues of *Cat Tales*.

Extension added to LPCA workshop



(Inset) Rick Knapton works on the framing for the extension of the Lemoine Point Conservation Area workshop. The completed workshop.

The unheated portion of the Lemoine Point Conservation Area workshop has doubled in size thanks to the construction skills of Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority field staff.

"We extended the existing workshop by another 20 by 24 feet," says Forestry Technician Rick Knapton. "Virtually all the work has been done by Clarence Shetler and myself with the exception that Ian Brown

helped us for half a day when we poured the concrete (floor)."

The unheated portion of the existing workshop is occupied by a tractor with a bucket attached, a grass mower and a four-wheel drive utility vehicle "so virtually the entire workshop was taken up by equipment."

To use the space during inclement weather, all the equipment had to be moved outside. Later, it

had to be returned to the workshop.

"So it was a lack of space that necessitated this addition," says Mr. Knapton.

The addition is finished with the same metal siding to match the existing workshop. The building has a metal roof.

Existing garage doors were moved and reinstalled on the new addition.

Although a forestry technician by profession, Mr. Knapton says he enjoys construction work.

"That's the beauty of working for a conservation authority," he jokes. "I thoroughly enjoy the variety of work and I love building things. Clarence loves it too, we enjoy the variety."



Private land tree planting programs are provided by the CRCA

Since 1983, the CRCA has provided tree planting assistance to private landowners throughout the region. In 2010, we provided assistance to a number of landowners through the provincial 50 Million Tree Program.

A total of 125,950 seedlings were planted on 64 hectares (158 acres) of land. This included 22 properties in eight municipalities. The number of properties and the municipalities are listed below:

- one in Greater Napanee
- three in Loyalist
- two in Stone Mills
- four in South Frontenac
- four in Kingston
- one in Frontenac Islands

- four in Leeds and the Thousand Islands
- three in Elizabethtown-Kitley.

"Some of these municipalities are outside of the CRCA jurisdiction," states Rick Knapton, CRCA Forestry Technician. "That's because the CRCA is responsible for administering the 50 Million Tree Program over a broader area."

In order to give the seedlings a good start, the program also provides for spraying the area surrounding the seedlings with herbicide. Just over 212,000 seedlings were spot-sprayed with glyphosate, which includes the properties planted in 2010 and 11 properties that were planted in 2009.



Mechanical tree planters are used to plant seedlings in large plots of land.

Landowners can also order trees from us and do their own planting. In 2010, 34 landowners bought 31,800 seedlings to plant on their own properties.

If you would like to order trees or have trees planted, please call Rick Knapton at (613) 389-3651 or e-mail rknapton@cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Greenhouse naming honours Ian Hodson

The Friends of Lemoine Point Conservation Area honoured the memory of the late Ian Hodson, a founding member, on October 12. They named a greenhouse to pay tribute.

"I'm very sad because Ian isn't here," said his wife Patricia in an interview, "but I think that (this event is) wonderful and he would be so pleased."

Mrs. Hodson and her son, Peter, cut a red ribbon to celebrate the building's official opening.

"On behalf of the family, I'd like to thank the Friends of Lemoine Point who honoured my father by naming this greenhouse after him," said Peter Hodson. "He looked upon Lemoine Point as one giant garden."

The event's master of ceremonies was Peter Butler, a long-time and early member of the Friends. He entertained the 20 people attending with humorous recollections. Then he introduced Mrs. Hodson and her son.

The event focused on fond memories of a hard-working volunteer described by his son as a life-long gardener.

"The Lemoine Point project exactly corresponded to what he wanted to do," said Mr. Hodson of his late father.

"Ian loved to grow things," recollected Friends' member Jane Murphy. "As far as I know, he was one of the first who thought we should be growing our own trees."

The Friends launched the native plant nursery project in 2004. The greenhouse is its latest addition. It was funded jointly by the Friends with

generous contributions from the Hodson family, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and a WalMart-Evergreen grant.

The nursery was established to ensure that native species are used as a stock source for habitat restoration. Native species are naturally adapted to the area and are genetically programmed to succeed. The success rate of native species exceeds that of traditional stock sources from outside this area.

The greenhouse, constructed in 2010, measures 16 feet by 30 feet. The metal framework is attached to a concrete pad; the framework is covered by a poly-carbonate skin.

A reception at the site followed the formalities.



Cutting the ribbon: Patricia Hodson and son Peter cut the ribbon at the official opening of the Ian Hodson Greenhouse at the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery.

Herbicide Tending Trial

As part of the 50 Million Tree Program, the CRCA is also participating in an herbicide-tending trial.

The 2010 planting program included a portion of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. A total of 8000 seedlings were planted on 4 ha (10 acres) of land at Parrott's Bay. The reforestation site is split into two areas located along the western edge of the property. The southern section which is approximately 6 acres is where the herbicide trial is taking place.

Two species of seedlings - white pine and white spruce - were planted in the trial area. Numerous plots were established within this

site, identified and numbered with metal pigtailed and coloured flagging tape. Various herbicides were used (along with control plots where nothing was used) within these plots, to determine their effectiveness in controlling vegetation in small circles around the seedlings.

Data will be collected over the next five years to determine the best approach.

"This is a joint effort with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Trees Ontario, local Ontario Stewardship Coordinators and the CRCA," says Mr. Knapton. "The idea behind this is to share our knowledge with others as our findings begin to surface."

New CRCA Board in 2011



The CRCA board is composed of directors appointed by our member municipalities. Past CRCA Chairs Stewart Fyfe and John Conley (left) and Ric Bresee and Geri Dickson (right) are shown with CRCA Chair Bob Morrison (centre).

Following the municipal elections held in October 2010, the CRCA anticipates a few new faces around the board room table in 2011. This is because the CRCA's board members are appointed by our 11 member municipalities.

The 11 municipalities that are served by the CRCA appoint a total of 17 members to the board. The number that each municipality appoints is based on the municipal population. The provisions are set out in the provincial Conservation Authorities Act.

"We anticipate that about one-third of our board members will be new to the CRCA," says CRCA General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Stephen Knechtel. "This means that early in 2011 we will need to hold orientation

sessions and long-term planning sessions for our board members. These sessions are needed to appreciate the breadth of CRCA programs and to provide future direction for maintaining appropriate service to municipalities, the public and other organizations. We're also providing orientation presentations to municipal councils on request."

The board's focus is on setting policy and direction for the CRCA. It looks at local resource management needs and how best to address those needs. In doing this, the board must consider the available resources including funding and staff, as well as properly managing our assets such as facilities and equipment.

The board also needs to consider long term issues

such as climate change and how it will affect natural resource management in the region.

"The CRCA has identified its long-term goals in a strategic plan and short-term actions to achieve those goals in a four-year work plan," explains Mr. Knechtel. "These plans are approved by our board."

The appointment of members following the municipal elections "provides a chance to take a fresh look at how the CRCA contributes to vibrant communities in the region," adds Mr. Knechtel.

The CRCA's annual general meeting will be held in January. This will be the first meeting of the new board. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please visit our website for more details and a copy of the agenda.



Improvements made to CRCA dams

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has made some improvements to two of our dams in the Gananoque River watershed.

The first project was to upgrade an access road to Temperance Lake dam in Athens Township.

"We share the access road to our Temperance Lake dam with a private landowner and both of us need access," explains Watershed Management Coordinator Mara Shaw.

Temperance Lake is at the very top of the Gananoque River system, located in the Township of Athens. Water from the lake flows over the dam, downstream to Centre Lake and into Graham Lake.

The Temperance Lake dam is one of 10 water control structures operated and maintained by the CRCA.

"It's one of our most remote dams, from the Temperance Lake Road the access road goes back at least a kilometre," explains Ms. Shaw.

The terrain is rugged, typical Canadian Shield country. The road tends to erode as time passes "so we paved the most eroded portions," says Ms. Shaw. "This is part of our on-going maintenance work on our dams."

Erosion control work on Marsh Bridge dam was also completed on the southeast embankment of the Marsh Bridge Dam in the Township of Front of Yonge this past fall. Marsh Bridge dam is located just south of Temperance Lake dam between Centre and Graham Lakes.

Erosion had been noted during CRCA biannual inspections of our water control structures. "The combination of boat launching, ATVs and foot traffic had eroded some of the soil from the bank," says Conservation Lands Supervisor Stefan Foerster.

"We first put up a turbidity curtain to contain any sediment that might enter Centre Lake," says Foerster. The site was then regraded, gravel was placed and erosion control product was installed. The product is called Terra-Grid. "It's an interlocking plastic tile grid that reinforces erosion-prone areas while still allowing vegetation growth, water infiltration and traction," adds Foerster. "This is the first time Authority operations have worked with this type of product."

Next, the CRCA will turn its attention this winter to the Buells Creek detention basin in Brockville.



These photos show the erosion adjacent to the dam before and after the regrading and erosion control work was completed.

Queen's Engineering students provide help with four projects

CRCA watershed management staff are directing four projects for fourth-year Civil Engineering students at Queen's this year.

"We give the students challenging local projects to work on and they give us great results," says Watershed Management Coordinator Mara Shaw. "Normally we oversee a project or two, but this year we've taken on four – and we're impressed by the students' engagement and technical approach to problem solving."

The projects include an investigation of the structural design needed for withstanding ice forces on the St. Lawrence River. Their challenge: the designs must be affordable by a typical boat-

house owner.

Another group is developing floodplain estimation techniques for inland lakes which do not have floodplain mapping. With over 200 inland lakes, an estimation technique will be very helpful for determining the elevations at which shoreline properties can be safely developed.

A third group is investigating the response of the Buells Creek Detention Basin in Brockville to major storm events. This basin is critical to protecting downstream homeowners from flooding.

The fourth group is assessing a 62 hectare cattail marsh on the Gananoque River. Large clumps of cattails break off periodically and block the river entirely, leaving fishing guides and pad-



Queen's Engineering students Anna Frackowiak, Michael Hack, Graeme Vass and Jamie Morris are working on a floodplain estimation technique project for inland lakes in the Cataraqui Region.

dlers unable to pass. The students are evaluating whether they can address this issue and simultaneously enhance habitat and perhaps generate

biofuel from some of the cattails with selective removal.

Results will be presented by the students in April 2011.

Vehicle shed repaired and gas tanks removed at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area



(Below) Underground gasoline tanks were removed adjacent to the vehicle shed. (Above) The equipment shelter at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area was rebuilt in December. The original support posts were rotted and needed to be replaced.



The vehicle shed at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area is undergoing major repairs.

The original structure was built in the early seventies as part of the development of the property and serving other properties in the western and central portions of the CRCA's jurisdiction.

"The shed is essentially a steel clad pole barn," says Rob Gerritsen, CRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator. "All of the original posts have rotted out and require partial replacement. The Authority retained a consultant to do the assessment of the building and to design and engineer a repair option acceptable to the Building Code of Ontario."

A contractor is carrying out the approximately \$65,000 in repairs. This includes steel replacement

on the entire perimeter of the structure other than the roof.

The building was lifted off the ground to allow for the installation of new concrete footings and supports. Once in place, engineered 6x6 filler pieces replaced the rotted portions of the posts and the building was lowered and secured.

The project also included the removal and replacement of two underground gasoline and diesel tanks with two above ground units. "Although the tanks were installed in 1973, they were fortunately still in good shape and there have been no environmental concerns," adds Mr. Gerritsen.





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

tribution 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 3
- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends from April 9 to April 24
- 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. The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and community volunteers will be serving hot chocolate and coffee at the skating shelter every Saturday and

Sunday in January and February from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting).

Winter Fun Day

Saturday, January 29 (11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Enjoy the festivities at our ninth 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, snowshoeing and winter activities for children, displays and refreshments. Admission is \$5.00 per car.



Family Day Skate

Monday, February 21 (11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Come out and skate on the pond on Family Day. The bonfire will be on and the skating shelter will be open. Warm up with hot chocolate or coffee served up by the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and community volunteers.

Spring Tree Sale

Friday, May 6 (2:00 to 6:00 p.m.)
Saturday, May 7 (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 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 8 to March 5, weather permitting. Register in advance, or on the day of the lesson, at the Outdoor Centre. Cost is \$15.00 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.

Little Cat Classic Ski Loppet

Sunday, January 16
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. - Family Fun Relay, skate, snowshoe and ski.
1:00 p.m. - Cross-Country Ski Loppets, 5 km or 10 km.

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 6). Skis and snowshoes are available to rent at the Outdoor Centre.

Evening Skate

Saturday, January 22 (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.)
Bring your family and skate under the stars on Kingston's largest natural ice rink. We'll have the rink lights on and the woodstove burning so you'll be able to enjoy a fantastic evening outdoors. You can stop by the Outdoor Centre for a cup of hot chocolate. Skate rentals will also be available.

Introduction to Owls

Sunday, January 23 (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. This is a great introduction to next week's Owl Prowl.

Evening Skate

Saturday, February 12 (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.)
Bring your family and skate under the stars on Kingston's largest natural ice rink. We'll have the rink lights on and the woodstove burning so you'll be able to enjoy a fantastic evening outdoors. You can stop by

we go on an evening hike in search of owls at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Meet at the Outdoor Centre for the 6:00 p.m. hike.

Little Cat Classic Ski Loppet

(Alternate Date)
Sunday, February 6
This will be our alternate ski loppet date if the weather doesn't cooperate in January. For details, see the January listing.

Winter Sports P.A. Day

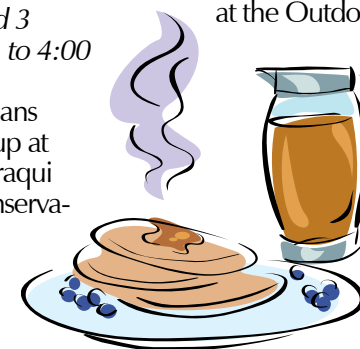
Thursday, February 3 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
Ages 6 to 11
Give your child(ren) an opportunity to have a P.A. Day full of winter adventure and fun. We'll be cross-country skiing, sledding and snowshoeing through the fields, forests and wetland areas of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Drop-off 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.

Mardi Gras

Sunday, March 6 (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 12 to 20 (March Break)
March 26 and 27
April 2 and 3 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)



Our energetic and fun puppets explain all about the sugar bush and how maple

the Outdoor Centre for a cup of hot chocolate. Skate rentals will also be available.

Bird Identification

Monday, February 21 (2:00 p.m.)
Improve your birdwatching skills this Family Day. The Kingston Teen Naturalists will share some information and hands-on activities that will help you identify and understand birds. Then take your new skills and see how many birds you can identify on our trails.

Navigating the Winter Sky

Saturday, February 26 (7:00 to 9:00 p.m.)
Stargazers gain some of the basics of beginner observing tools and star hopping with the Royal Astronomical Society of Kingston Centre (RASC). Weather permitting, there will be an outdoor sky tour.

Mardi Gras

Sunday, March 6 (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.

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 12 (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 light-hearted way. We have a puppet show at 11:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m.

Guided Tours

Sunday, March 13 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
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.

Puppet Shows

Monday, March 14 to Friday, March 18 (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.

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 14 to Friday, March 18 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
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 19
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 12 description for more information about our puppet shows.

Guided Tours

Sunday, March 20 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
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.

Puppet Shows

Saturday, March 26 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
We have puppet shows at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. See Saturday March 12 for more information.

Guided Tours

Sunday, March 27 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Take a guided tour of the sugar bush and learn about sweet water. See how maple syrup was made in the olden days

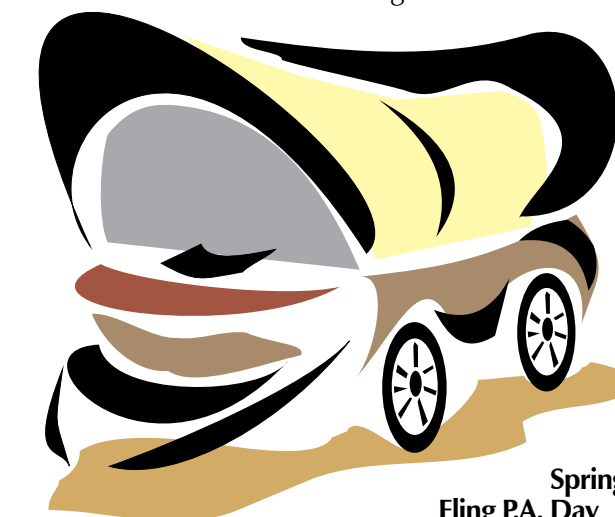
and how we make it now.

Olde Thyme Sugar Bush Chores

Saturday, April 2 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Try your hand at some "olde thyme" sugar bush chores today. You can try log sawing, emptying sap buckets, tapping trees and butter

Egg Dip and Stick

Sunday, April 24 (1:00 to 4:00 p.m.)
Enjoy an Easter outing on our trails. Be sure to visit the Outdoor Centre and decorate an egg for 50 cents at our decoration stations. It's fun for kids of all ages.



Spring
Fling P.A. Day

Program

Friday, May 27 (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.

making. We'll also have taffy-on-the-snow demonstrations with samples.

Guided Tours

Sunday, April 3 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
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.

Volunteer for Nature - Spring Trail and Garden Cleanup

Sunday, April 17 (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 bor-

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.

Frog Night Hike

Friday, May 6 (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.

Lemoine Point Conservation Area

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

Invasive Species Control

Beginning Tuesday, May 3 (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.)
Help the Friends of Lemoine Point remove garlic mustard, an invasive species, from the wooded areas of Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Meet at the north (Coverdale Rd.) parking lot. For more information call Chris Hargreaves at (613) 389-8993.

Spring Tree Planting

Saturday, May 7 (9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
Meet at the north parking lot to help plant trees at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. For more information call (613) 389-3651.

Shoreline work restricted during fish spawning season

The CRCA would like to remind anyone considering construction in or near rivers, streams or lakes that work is restricted at this time of year to protect fish spawning.

Construction in or near the water can affect spawning activity by disturbing soil, causing erosion and sediment runoff into the water. This can result in the death of fish and disturbance of spawning grounds.

The timing restrictions vary depending on the location and species of fish.

Within the CRCA jurisdiction these include:

- September 15 to June 30 for Lake Ontario
- October 1 to June 30 for mixed fish communities such as those in Charleston, Red Horse, Buck and Loughborough Lakes
- October 1 to May 31 for cold-water fish communities
- March 15 to June 30 for warm water fish communities such as Dog, Bass or Sydenham Lakes

- March 15 to July 15 for the St. Lawrence River.

This is not a complete list. You are advised to contact the CRCA and get the necessary permits before starting work on any projects in or near the water.

For more information, call CRCA Biologist Tom Beaubiah at (613) 546-4228 ext. 240 or toll-free (613 area code) at 1-877-956-CRCA ext. 240 or e-mail beaubiah@cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Number of permits up, new policy being developed

Despite a global economic downturn, the CRCA planning and development staff reviewed a record number of applications for development under our Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses regulations (Ontario Reg. 148/06) in 2010.

"As of the beginning of December, we had 364 permit applications," says Andrew Schmidt CRCA Development Officer. "In 2009, we had 340 applications and in 2008 there were 275 applications."

Regulations staff will be updating the policies for implementing these regulations over the winter.

"Staff are always thinking of ways to make the regulation work best in the Cataraqui Region," says Watershed Management Coordinator Mara Shaw. "We need to protect people and infrastructure from natural hazards like flooding and shoreline erosion, while making the permitting process as straightforward, transparent and easy for applicants. Our update will seek to improve our

current implementation."

In addition, the province has developed some new guidelines to be incorporated into the policy.

Staff will be announcing an open house in spring 2011 for the public to review and comment on the proposed policy revisions.

For more information please call Andrew Schmidt at (613) 546-4228 ext. 244 or toll-free (613 area code) at 1-877-956-CRCA ext. 244 or e-mail aschmidt@cataraquiregion.on.ca.



Healthy fish of all sizes are important for the health of our lake and stream ecosystems. Keeping spawning areas undisturbed also ensures that there are fish to catch.

CRCA to host Annual Conservation Authorities Curling Bonspiel

In the lead up to the 2013 *Scotties Tournament of Hearts* being hosted here in Kingston, the CRCA is hosting the 2011 Conservation Authorities Bonspiel in March 2011. The annual bonspiel brings together CA staff rinks from across Ontario for one day. While CRCA rinks have travelled to a number of bon-

spiels over the years, this is the first time the CRCA has hosted the event.

Twenty-four teams will congregate at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club for a knock-down, drawn out fight for the declaration of supremacy on the pebbled sheet. One team will slide away the overall winner, and everyone else will have

to be satisfied with an enjoyable day filled with laughs.

Participants at the 2010 bonspiel, hosted by the Hamilton Conservation Authority, were excited to learn they would be travelling to Kingston in 2011. CRCA staff hope to run a fun and entertaining event, and maybe even win a game or two!

New staff welcomed at CRCA Administration Office

The CRCA is pleased to introduce Dianne Doyle our new Receptionist who replaced Stephanie Vinkle. Dianne started with the CRCA in October 2010. She has 20 years experience in administration with corporations in the Kingston area. In her spare time, she enjoys taking care of the horses on her family's hobby farm.

Casey Sharp is the new Communications and Marketing Officer replacing Michael Sykes who retired in the fall. Casey comes to the CRCA with four years of communications, marketing and advertising experience. Casey most recently worked as a Communications Specialist for Empire Life in Kingston. Prior to that, she served as an Account Executive at an advertising agency in Toronto. Other previous experience includes event planning, promotions and media relations. Casey holds an Honours B.A. in Communications from the University of Ottawa.



Diane Doyle



Casey Sharp



CRCA participates in Eastern Ontario Bio-Criteria Reference Project

The goal of this project is to gain background knowledge regarding the presence or absence of Species at Risk (SAR) as well as information about fish species, benthic invertebrates (bugs in the water) and general water chemistry in our area streams.

Species at risk include any naturally-occurring plant or animal in danger of extinction or of disappearing from Ontario.

The Eastern Ontario Bio-Criteria Reference Project has been initiated by the Ontario Ministry of Environment through Chris Jones, Benthic Biomonitoring Scientist for the Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Branch in Dorset, Ontario. It

is being undertaken because there is a general lack of information about stream health in eastern Ontario.

The Bio-Criteria Project will take place over the next five years and will consist of partners visiting selected streams twice a year – once in July or August and again in September or October. The sites are randomly selected based on physiographic data and land use patterns such as the percentage and proximity to urban areas, woodlots, wetlands and agricultural areas.

Project partners include the eastern conservation authorities (CAs) including Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Quinte

Conservation, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, South Nation Conservation as well as the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Ministry of Environment. Each CA and project partner is assigned sampling reference and impacted sites based on location and the above criteria.

This past fall the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority sampled 10 sites to collect benthic species, sample for fish and to search for mussel species. The SAR portion of the project required a search for the presence or absence of species.

The species at risk that are of interest for this project include:

- Eastern Pondmussel

- Rainbow Mussel
- Bridle Shiner
- Pugnose Shiner
- Channel Darter
- Cutlip Minnow
- Rapids Clubtail (dragonfly)

With the exception of benthic collection, any species found are identified, photographed and returned to the stream. Benthic samples are gathered each year as part of our Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network and sent to a lab for processing.

This project was coordinated at the CRCA by Mara Shaw with Holly Evans, Kimberly Denison and Jason Messenger.

No species at risk fish were found at the sites



Jason Messenger, CRCA Development Technician, examines a mussel sample as part of the Bio-Criteria reference project

sampled. Of the other species at risk, Eastern Pondmussel is known to

exist in Lyn Creek. Benthic and mussel analysis is in progress.

Winter recreation and Maple Madness programs delight visitors to Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

Plans are made, equipment is ready and staff are all prepared. Now all we need is the winter weather to cooperate!

It's time for the annual celebration of winter at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. As soon as the cold weather and snow arrive, it will be time to get out and enjoy all the fun that winter has to offer. You can try skating, skiing or snowshoeing and you don't even have to have your own equipment.

At Kingston's Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, there are 13 km of groomed, cross-country ski trails.

If you don't know how to cross-country ski the CRCA offers group lessons on Saturdays starting January 8 and continuing (weather permitting) to March 5. The cost is \$15 per person and the lessons last one hour. Lesson times are 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Trail 5 is reserved for

snowshoers and walkers. Visitors are asked not to walk or snowshoe on the groomed ski trails. You can also rent snowshoes at the Outdoor Centre.

Weather permitting, Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area is home to Kingston's largest, natural ice skating rink. And yes, you can also rent skates at the Outdoor Centre.

The CRCA has two scheduled evening skating sessions on Saturday, January 22 and Saturday, February 12. Or, you can rent the rink and hold your own evening skating party. Call Shannon Fleming at (613) 546-4228 ext. 222 to make a booking or for information.

Your family dog is also welcome to come for an outing, but he or she must be leashed at all times. Please remember to stoop and scoop.

There are fun and educational activities for the whole family every weekend during the winter and spring at Little

Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Please refer to the calendar of events in the centerfold of this newsletter.

Entry fees apply. Effective January 1, 2011, they are:

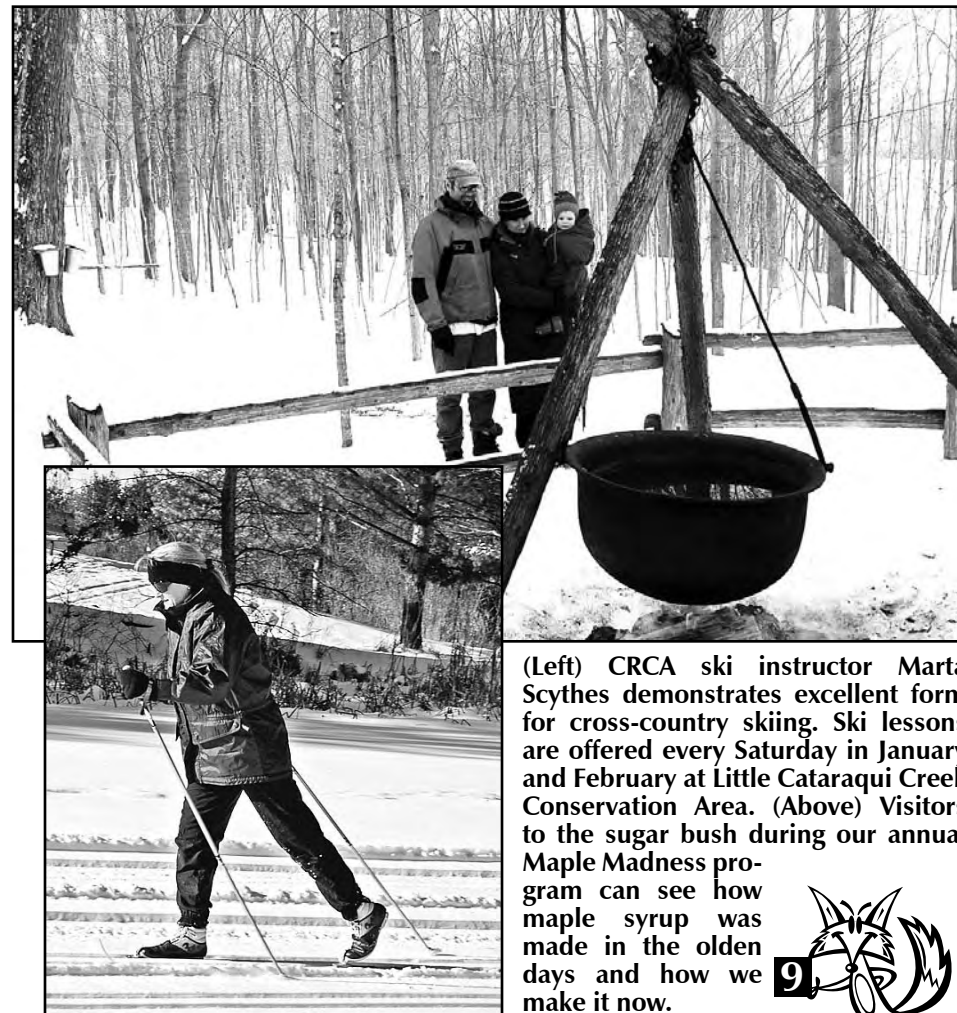
\$5.50 per person for adults and children over 12

\$3.00 per person for children 12 and under with a maximum fee of \$14 per vehicle.

Annual passes may be purchased for \$80. These provide unlimited access to both Little Cataraqui Creek and Gould Lake Conservation areas. Donation boxes are located at other CRCA conservation areas and visitors are asked to make contributions each time they visit.

Hours of operations at all CRCA conservation areas are 7:30 a.m. to dusk daily.

For a full listing of winter and spring events please turn to the events calendar in the centerfold of this newsletter.



(Left) CRCA ski instructor Marta Scythes demonstrates excellent form for cross-country skiing. Ski lessons are offered every Saturday in January and February at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. (Above) Visitors to the sugar bush during our annual Maple Madness program can see how maple syrup was made in the olden days and how we make it now.



Book now for Winter, Maple Madness and Spring school programs

The CRCA offers a wide range of outdoor, curriculum-based conservation education programs for elementary and secondary school students. These programs fully compliment the programs taught in the classroom.

At Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston we offer winter programs in January and February, Maple Madness in March/April and spring programs from April to June. Students can experience hands-on learning in a variety of areas including the natural world, such as wetlands and food chains, physical activities like cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, or even how to make maple syrup. Visit the CRCA website for more details and program dates.

Two classes are en-

couraged 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 calling Stana Luxford Oddie at (613) 546-4228 ext. 251 or toll-free (613 area code) 1-877-956-CRCA (2722) ext. 251 or e-mailing educate@cataraqueregion.on.ca.

Elementary and secondary school programs are also offered at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville. Choose from our winter programs in January and February or our spring programs from April to June. There are a wide variety of programs to choose from. Call Ron Gardiner at (613) 342-5824 to make a booking.

Special funding provided for conservation education programs

The CRCA received grants from three different organizations to provide conservation education programs to schools that aren't always able to participate in our programs.

"The grants provided an opportunity for schools that don't have the financial resources to attend our programs," explains Karla Maki-Esdon Communications Coordinator for the CRCA. "Our focus was on getting some of our inner city students out to learn about nature and enjoy the outdoors."

Funding was received from TransCanada Pipelines, the Ontario Wildlife Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for

this initiative. "We would have been thrilled to receive one grant, but we received three," says Ms. Maki-Esdon.

The grants paid for bussing costs, a healthy snack for the students and extra equipment to accommodate the larger school groups. The CRCA contributed the facilities and the staff time.

In the Brockville area, 315 grades 4 and 5 students participated in the Instincts for Survival program at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. The programs were held on October 18, 19 and 20.

In the Kingston area, 235 grades 4 and 5 students participated in the same program at Little Cataraqui Creek Con-



Students race to avoid becoming prey during the Instincts for Survival program at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

servation Area. Program dates were November 3 and 4 and December 3.

Each of the students was also provided with a nutritious snack of lo-

cal foods. Many thanks to our volunteers who helped to prepare and serve the snacks and who also helped with crowd control.

Winter and spring activities planned for Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

In Brockville's Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, there are 11 km of cross-country ski trails as well as a skating rink. Both are maintained when the weather conditions permit.

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and community volunteers serve hot chocolate and coffee at the skating shelter every Saturday in January and February, weather permitting, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

And the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area are holding their ninth annual Winter Fun Day on Saturday, January 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This event is known for its very popular dog sled races, but you can also go cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or skating. There are winter activities for children as well as displays and refreshments at the

Nature Centre.

Admission is \$5 per vehicle.

The Friends are also hosting a Family Day Skate from on Monday, February 21. Admission is by donation and hot chocolate and coffee will be available at the skating shelter.

The Friends' Spring Tree Sale is back by popular demand. This year it takes place on Friday, May 6 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The sale takes place in the Centennial Road parking lot at the south end of the property.

You can buy native, locally-grown trees and shrubs to plant in your yard. Help the environment and beautify your backyard at the same time.

Last year the trees sold out quickly, so be sure to get there early!

Plans are also being

made for improvements to the canoe access area on Centennial Road adjacent to the Broome-Runciman Dam. The CRCA and the Friends are planning to replace the dock, improve the parking area and install additional signage. Watch for a new and improved canoe launch later this year.

You will also be seeing and hearing more

about Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in 2011. A new marketing plan has been developed and the CRCA will begin implementing this plan in early 2011.

The annual Winter Fun Day at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area includes dog sled races, skating, cross-country skiing and much more. It's being held on January 29



Maple Madness at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area continues to be a very popular program for area schools. The CRCA offers many other school programs at our facilities in Kingston and Brockville.



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 our volunteer board, membership in 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 2011 conservation awards close on March 1, 2011.

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, or sending us an email at foundatn@cataraquiregion.on.ca.

More details are available on the CRCA website www.cataraquiregion.on.ca.

Earth Day

Come celebrate Earth Day with us on April 20,

2011 at the CRCA Outdoor Centre. Join others interested in local conservation as we partake of refreshments from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Earth Day event will feature an environmental expert speaker and provide a platform for announcing the 2011 conservation awards.

Foundation annual general meeting

Make sure you mark May 17, 2011 as the date



Foundation Vice-president Betty Boone bids on an item at the Forever Green fundraiser. Betty was in charge of organizing this year's event.

for the next Cataraqi Conservation Foundation annual general meeting.

Recent fundraising activities

Forever Green gala dinner

The Cataraqi Conser-



Accelerondo provided the musical entertainment at Forever Green. The members are (left to right) Sara McCourt, Wolfgang Rau, Mara Shaw and Mark Allen.

vation Foundation's major fundraising event of the year is the Forever Green gala dinner, held this year on November 6, 2010 at St. Lawrence College. The gala dinner featured exciting live and silent auctions, beautiful music and a first class meal. Jack Thompson served as master of ceremonies, Tim Potter contributed his skilled auctioneering services, and Mara Shaw, a CRCA employee, brought three colleagues to entertain diners with a cello quartet.

The new gala dinner venue was a resounding success – excellent acoustics, appropriate lighting, generous accommodation of display for auction items, and most of all an outstanding dinner. We are confident that everyone went home happy. Although the final accounting is not complete at press time, we exceeded last year's fundraising total.

Thank you to all those individuals and organizations who supported this fundraising endeavour through donation of goods, services, and advertising. And thank you to all who joined us on November 6.

Our list of donors is provided on this page. Please show your appreciation by giving these people your business.

Partners in education

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

Education campaign. The 2010 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 Foundation board

With each issue of *Cat Tales* we introduce to you one or two members of the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation board. We feature one new board member today.

Mary Moreau's passion for the out-of-doors led her to the Foundation. She enjoys canoeing, kayaking, hiking, cross country skiing, and golf. Mary moved to Kingston a few years ago to join Empire Life Insurance, and is now Director, Group Claims for Empire. She has a long history of volunteering, and currently serves on the board of Ongwanada. Mary has recently agreed to take on the challenge of chairing the membership committee.

Membership in the Conservation Foundation

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation is a member-driven organization. Vital funds come from membership fees as well as monies earned through special fundraising efforts. Also our Board members and volunteers come from our body of membership. Thus we need a robust and growing membership. And we need members who are willing to serve on the Foundation Board. Please ensure you renew your membership annually, and ask your like-minded friends and neighbours to join as well. Contact foundatn@cataraquiregion.on.ca for further information and

volunteer opportunities.

Raising awareness of conservation

Foundation Board president Michael Bell holds an amateur radio operator's license. During November 2010, Michael employed a special amateur (ham) radio

call sign VE3IYOB to highlight the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

Michael logged over 1,300 contacts while he hit the airwaves as VE3IYOB, in at least 101 countries. With each amateur radio contact, Michael enhanced awareness of biodiversity. Congratulations Michael!

Thank you to our Forever Green Contributors

Our thanks to all those individuals and businesses who contributed so generously with their goods and services and to our sponsors and advertisers.

1000 Islands Kayaking, Aecom, Ahoy Rentals, Allison Shannon, Anchor Concrete Products, ArbreCare Tree Service, Barbara Bradfield, Belvedere Hotel, Bergeron Estate Winery, Betty Boone, Brian Mantrop, Brunet Plumbing Supply, Burt's Greenhouses, Cakes by Krista, Camera Kingston, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Canadian Museum of Nature, Canadian Tire Cataraqi, Canadian Tire Kingston Centre, Carolyn Hetherington and Fred Euringer, Cataraqi Golf and Country Club, Cataraqi Conservation Foundation Board, Charleston Lake Provincial Park, Chez Piggy, Chien Noir, Christine Woods, Classic Custom Framing, Clearwater Design, Clermont Venture Corp., Collins Bay Marina, CRCA, Creative Framing, Cruickshank Construction, Curry Original, Cycle Path, Doug & Christine Radford, Doug Snyder, Dwell Boutique, Earthworx Landscape Products, F.A.B. Hair and Esthetics, Festival Players For Every Season, Four Points Sheraton, Frameworks, Frontenac Outfitters, Frontenac Provincial Park, Glenburnie Grocery, Hans & Marion Westenberg, Healthy Plates, Hearthmakers Energy Cooperative, Ian Wilson, Jack Thompson, James Reid Furniture, James Sayeau, Janet Pentney, John and Betty Boone, John Morse, John and Karen Kitney, Josette Arassus, Katherine Stone, Kay Cartwright, Kingston 1000 Island Cruises, Kingston Symphony Association, Klaus Stegemann, Lemoine Point Nursery, Liz and Peter Munt, LSP Designs, Lynne Kenny, Betty Boone and Casey Shea, Mara Shaw, Mark Allen, Mary Moreau, McLaren Landscaping, Michael Sykes, Minaker's Nurseries, Miranda Clark, Nancy Foster, Neil's Flowers, Nicolette MacGraw, Olivea Restaurant, Partners Auto Shop, Pat Frontini, Pat Hudson Mills, Peter Milliken, Pilot House, Potter's Nurseries, Queen's Performing Art Centre, Random House Canada, Renewable Energy of Plum Hollow, Rideau Lakes Golf and Country Club, Robert Bateman, Roger and Joan Shaw, Ryder-Burbidge Hurley Fasano, Sara McCourt, Shea Construction, Sheila Tremblay, Smokey Joe's Deli, Stewart Fyfe, Sunharvest Greenhouse, Templeman Menninga, Thirty Three Vines, Tim Potter, Tom McAneney, Trugs, Urban Paws, Via Rail, Vera Kettner, W.J. Henderson Recreation Centre, Wellington Foreign Exchange, Wendy Cain, Wilton Cheese Factory, Wilton Pottery, Wolfgang Rau



Policy roundtable dates announced

The Cataraqui Source Protection Committee (SP Committee) has announced the dates and locations for a series of policy roundtable events that it will host in 2011.

The roundtables are an important part of the SP Committee's strategy to prepare a proposed source protection plan by August 2012. They are intended to be opportunities for local communities to provide input on draft policies. Municipal officials and staff, landowners, business operators, and community groups are all likely to participate.

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 proposed version of the plan will be subject to approval by the Ontario Minister of the Environment.

One or more vulnerable areas such as intake protection zones and wellhead protection areas will be discussed at each roundtable event.

Regional groundwater sources will be the focus of the three roundtables at Athens, Marysville, and Greater

Napanee.

Facilitator Sue Cumming will engage the participants in interactive discussions that will address key source protection topics. SP Committee members and CRCA staff will share some draft policy ideas for discussion by the group.

Up to 12 roundtable events are planned, as shown in the table below.

Each roundtable will start at 6:00 p.m. and run until about 9:00 p.m.. The later dates and locations are subject to change, so please visit www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca to confirm the specific details for the roundtable in your community.

If you wish to participate at the roundtable(s) in your community, please send an e-mail message to roundtables@cataraquieregion.on.ca at least two weeks prior to the event(s). We will provide you with background material to help you prepare for the discussion.

The outcomes from each roundtable will be reviewed by the SP Committee as it prepares draft policies for each vulnerable area. They will be posted for review and comment on the www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca website before being added to the draft plan.

Updated assessment report coming this winter!

An updated assessment report for the Cataraqui Source Protection Area will be posted for public review and comment this winter. Assessment reports summarize what we know about the source water for our area.

The reports are prepared by the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee (SP Committee) with assistance from the CRCA, consultants and municipalities. They are prepared in accordance with detailed technical rules under the Ontario Clean Water Act, 2006, and are subject to approval by the provincial Ministry of the Environment. The updated report must be submitted to the Ministry by this June.

The SP Committee published a Proposed Assessment Report: Cataraqui Source Protection Area in July 2010. It was submitted to the Ministry in September and remains under review at this time. A draft update to the three-volume report will be posted in either February or March. The posting will be announced in local newspapers, on the Internet, and elsewhere.

As previously reported in *Cat Tales*, this update will include proposed improve-

ments to the extent of intake protection zones and well-head protection areas, and updated knowledge about activities that could harm our drinking water sources. It will also include the findings of the Tier 3 water budget that is being completed for the Sydenham area.

One example of the proposed improvements is the revised extent of the intake protection zone 2 at Bath (see the map on this page). CRCA staff gathered information about the tile drains from which water is expected to flow to the municipal water treatment plant within a period of two hours. The fields with the relevant tile drains are shown in maroon red on the map; they will be added to the existing zone that is shown in teal blue. The source water is treated in the plant and then distributed to the community.

All of the proposed changes to the text of the report will be highlighted for the reader, and an overall list of proposed changes will be included at the beginning of the first volume.

You will be able to access a draft version of the update by:

- Downloading a copy



This map of the Bath Intake Protection Zone shows the location of the intake for Bath's drinking water, the two current intake protection zones (in yellow and teal) and the area being considered for an update in maroon.

of the summary and/or relevant PDF sections on our website at www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca;

- Reviewing a printed copy at the CRCA Administration Office, which is located at 1641 Perth Road, Glenburnie between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and/or
- Attending an evening public open house that will be hosted in Kingston by the SP Com-

mittee.

Written comments will be received within 30 days of the posting date. Each comment will be carefully considered by the SP Committee as it prepares a "proposed" version of the update for submission to the Ministry.

CRCA staff are hopeful that research on local drinking water sources will continue over the coming years, so that our understanding of these important water sources can further improve.

Roundtable Dates, Times & Locations

Date	Subject	Time and Location
Monday January 31	James W. King (Gananoque) Intake Protection Zone	Gananoque Kinsmen Hall 400 Stone St North, Gananoque
Tuesday February 1	Miller Manor Apartments Wellhead Protection Area	Front of Yonge Community Centre and Library 76 County Road 5 South, Mallorytown
Monday February 28	Cana Wellhead Protection Area	Holy Name School 370 Kingston Mills Road
Tuesday March 1	Brockville Intake Protection Zone	Brockville Rowing Club 1 Ferry Street, Brockville
Monday April 4	Sydenham Intake Protection Zone	South Frontenac Council Chambers 4432 George Street, Sydenham
Tuesday April 5	Lansdowne Wellhead Protection Area	Township of Leeds and the Thousand Island Community Centre 1 Jessie Street, Lansdowne
Monday May 16	A.L. Dafoe (Napanee), Bath, and Sandhurst Shores Intake Protection Zones	St John's Hall 216 Church Street, Bath
Tuesday May 17	Highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas (Athens, Brockville, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Front of Yonge, Gananoque, Leeds and Thousand Islands, Rideau Lakes)	Joshua Bates Centre 1 Main Street West, Athens
Monday May 30	Kingston Central and Point Pleasant Intake Protection Zones	Kingston Front Lounge, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour 53 Yonge Street, Kingston
Tuesday May 31	Highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas (Frontenac Islands)	Wolfe Island Town Hall Main Street (Road 96), Marysville (Wolfe Island)
Thursday June 16	Highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas (Greater Napanee, Kingston, Loyalist, South Frontenac)	Strathcona Paper Centre 16 McPherson Drive, Napanee
Monday June 20	Fairfield (Amherstview and Odessa) Intake Protection Zone	Amherstview Community Hall 108 Amherst Drive, Amherstview