



Update on CONSERVATION

A quarterly publication
Summer 2007

Leading the way to abundant clean water within a healthy landscape

Fund to Aid Landowners in Improving Lake Scugog

Kawartha Conservation has established a new fund for landowners in Scugog Township who undertake projects to improve the health of Lake Scugog.

The Scugog Water And Terrain Environmental Restoration Fund, (Scugog WATER Fund), will make up to \$8,000 dollars available to landowners for eligible improvements. These include beneficial management practices, erosion control, private septic systems, clean water diversion, well decommissioning, well upgrades and manure storage. Most work will be matched at 50% of cost, while well decommissioning qualifies for 100%, with a \$1,500 ceiling.



All residents living within the Kawartha Conservation Watershed in Scugog Township are eligible for funding. We invite everyone, whether they own a rural or urban property, to apply for assistance through the WATER program. Applications are accepted year round, with grants dispersed spring and fall. For information, contact Kristie Virgoe at 705 328-2271, ext. 223 or email kvirgoe@kawarthaconservation.com.

Something is Fishy



Robin Lecraw identifies, measures and weighs fish before releasing them back into the creek.

The seasonal fisheries team is hard at work evaluating conditions in the Blackstock Creek. Having already completed water quality testing using benthics, they are now doing fish counts and fish habitat assessment. The team is also working on Lake Scugog tributaries and East Cross Creek. Evaluation will support watershed studies for the Oak Ridges Moraine.



'MISSING' from Conservation Area

An uncommon showy lady's slipper was removed from the Boardwalk Trail in Ken Reid Conservation Area, Lindsay in June. A disappointed visitor reported the theft to conservation staff. Sadly, experts say the plant has no chance of surviving transplanting.

If you see anyone removing plants or animals from the conservation area, please contact us, as we will prosecute offenders.

Youth Bettering Local Environment

Students from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Lindsay recently helped plant over a hundred wildflowers along the shore of the Scugog River at Rainbow Bridge Park. The youth were new to gardening, but claimed it was 'kind of cool.'

The Rainbow Bridge Shoreline



Naturalization project is one of six undertaken through a federal EcoAction grant received by the Friends of Kawartha Conservation in 2006. Two sites have already been completed while two projects in City of Kawartha Lakes and two in Scugog Township are in progress.

The main function of the garden, or buffer strip as it is called, is to improve the water quality of the nearby Scugog River.

To learn more about the Shoreline Naturalization Program, contact Melissa Thompson at 705 328-2271 ext. 224 or visit www.kawarthaconservation.com.

Up and Coming:

- July 18 Caesarea Shoreline Workshop, Caesarea
- July 19-21 City of Kawartha Lakes Communities in Bloom
- July 23-25 Scugog Communities in Bloom
- Sept 19-21 Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival
- Sept 20-24 Lindsay Central Exhibition

For details about these events, visit www.kawarthaconservation.com

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Also in this issue:

- ◆ East Cross Forest clean up
- ◆ Kawartha wins DEAC award
- ◆ Flood Forecasting Training
- ◆ Blue Canoe back for season
- ◆ FAST FACTS on Lake Scugog



Community Turns Out for Clean Up in East Cross Forest

Over 70 people turned out to collect 60 yards of garbage at the East Cross Forest Community Clean Up on June 9th in the Township of Scugog. The site is a 557 acre piece of property located in the East Cross Forest that was donated to Kawartha Conservation last fall. It is undergoing restoration now and is slated to open as a conservation area in 2009.

Over the course of the day volunteers removed several vehicles, 37 tires, roofing shingles, car parts, household items and hazardous waste. A BBQ followed the clean up.

Kawartha Conservation lead, Kristie Virgoe extends her thanks to everyone who contributed to the event's success, including Scugog Mayor Marilyn Pearce and Councillor Lynn Philip Hodgson who attended, Reid's Independent, M & M's Port Perry, and the Port Perry and Lindsay Canadian Tire stores, and recreational groups who rallied their members, friends and families to help out as well as the many individuals who pitched in.

For more information on East Cross Forest, visit www.kawarthaconservation.com.



Volunteers take a quick break during a clean up of the future East Cross Forest Conservation Area.



Partnering Recognized

At the recent 2007 Environmental Achievement Awards sponsored by the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee, Kawartha Conservation was awarded the **Jessica Markland Partnership Award** for 'cooperative efforts to enhance the natural environment.'

The award was given for our leadership in the initiation of restoration work in the area of Scugog Township now known as East Cross Forest.

Erast Huculak, who donated a 552 acre property to Kawartha Conservation for the project, was recognized with the George A. Scott Stewardship Award.

With public support, the East Cross Forest Conservation Area will open in 2009.



Kristie Virgoe, centre, displays the partnership award presented at Durham Council. On hand were Scugog Mayor Marilyn Pearce (left), our Vice Chair Lynn Philip Hodgson, and Chair Larry O'Connor (right).



Flood Forecasting and Warning Training

To ensure that we are ready should a flooding event occur in the Kawartha Watershed, Kawartha Conservation Hydrologist Iryna Shulyarenko conducted a team training session in late June. She provided an overview of the impact of flooding worldwide; local and provincial emergency response protocols; and team roles and responsibilities.

Blue Canoe Crew Returns to Lake Scugog

The Blue Canoe will be back on Lake Scugog this summer, talking to residents about water quality and how they can help improve lake health.

Kawartha Conservation launched the Blue Canoe program in 2006 to support the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan, a five-year study looking at the sources of nutrients entering Lake Scugog. The Plan is funded through the Township of Scugog, Region of Durham and is



CHEXTV reporter Kim Coulter gets a ride along with crew members Jenna Dunn and Andrew Ridley.



The Blue Canoe crew are out on Lake Scugog again, already providing valuable data that will include recommendations for improving this important resource.

From June through August, the Blue Canoe crew will visit waterfront properties to distribute information on water-related topics including naturalizing shorelines, nuisance geese, and septic systems.

For more information on the program, visit www.kawarthaconservation.com.

FAST LAKE FACTS

Lake Scugog is a warm, shallow, man-made lake that was formed in 1834 when William Purdy dammed the Scugog River at Lindsay to power his grist mill. It has a surface area of 63.5 square kilometres, and the average depth is 1.4 metres.

The lake lies within the Township of Scugog and the City of Kawartha Lakes, and is the source of Lindsay's drinking water.