

Annual Report 2009
of the
Community Stewardship
Council of Lanark County



Who We Are and What We Do

The Community Stewardship Council was formed in 1996 under the auspices of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource's Ontario Stewardship Program. Our Stewardship Council works with and in the community to identify local stewardship needs. In partnership with other organizations we initiate and support projects that help to address these community needs. Stewardship Council members are community volunteers who believe in:

- Partnering
- Consensus decision making
- Influencing community action by example



Tom Richardson speaking about the History of Logging in Lanark County at the Mississippi River Heritage Festival

Our Mission

To sustain and enhance the natural environment of Lanark County through the combined efforts of all.

Our Goals

- Work with and in the community to identify and address local stewardship needs;
- Promote a stewardship ethic and partnership;
- Utilize the expertise of the local community;
- To resolve issues through compromise and respect.

Our Stewardship Council



*Kristy Giles
assisting at
Envirothon*

Kristy Giles

After 6 years on our Council, Kristy has decided to step down. For anyone that knows Kristy you know how busy she is and how strongly she feels about her commitments. Thank you Kristy from all the Stewardship Council for your contributions, energy and support.

Council

Franziska von Rosen – Chair

Peter McLaren

Tom Richardson

Wendell Crosbie

Paul Egginton

Andy Kerr-Wilson

Barbara King

David James

Mary Vandenhoff

Kim Hall

Karen Ballentine

Susan Sentesy

Jane McCann

Jeff Ward – Coordinator

Advisors

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture

Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Mississippi Valley Conservation

Chair's Message

The 2008/2009 report on the environment, by the Ontario Commissioner for the Environment, would probably not win an *Ontario Reads* competition, but nevertheless it should be essential reading for us all. At issue is the *resilience* of environmental systems- fundamental systems like air, water, sustainable resources that support life as we know it. By resilience the commissioner is referring to the ability of environmental systems to withstand severe stresses without collapsing.

In the past year we experienced a devastating global financial meltdown, the near collapse of the North American car industry, and huge job losses. Globally, governments responded by providing massive stimulus packages to try to shore up collapsing systems, knowing that if they let them fail it could have severe impacts. But doing more of what already led to failure may not be the most effective solution.



Environmental systems like economic systems are subject to stresses and potential collapse. Financial bailouts will do little for restoring systems that have taken millions of years to develop.

You may ask what all this has to do with the Lanark Stewardship Council? Well stewardship is also a system, one that functions well when groups representing a broad cross section of interests work together for a common good. So for anyone reading our annual reports, it will be obvious that here in Lanark County we are doing well. The diversity of projects and the range of partnerships that keep expanding from year to year point to the resilience and health of stewardship here in our county.

The Partners Discussion Forum, organized by our Council in the spring of this year was a particular highlight for me. We had just finished writing "*A Place in Time*" the *Natural Resources of Lanark County*. So the Forum brought groups from across Lanark together to explore ways in which we can strengthen our partnerships even more to meet some of the environmental challenges that we identified while doing the research for the book. I hope that together with our partners we can make this an annual event.

Franziska von Rosen

Coordinator's Message

When it comes time to sit down and summarize our year, I am always amazed at what our Stewardship Council has been able to accomplish. I really should not be, as our Council members are VERY active in and around our community.



In 2009 we continued our partnership with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and their support of our forestry works crew. With this added “people power” we were able to assist many community conservation projects and really move them forward. Species at Risk projects were also a focus for our Council this year. Along with our Ontario Stewardship Ranger crew, during our busy field season we had 14 people working out of our office juggling many different projects. It is remarkable what these people were able to accomplish. We could not have done this without Susan Sentesy and Karen Ballentine creating products and tracking progress. They have both worked hard at giving our Council a real professional look.

Congratulations to Mary Vandenhoff and Franziska von Rosen, two of our council members who received environmental awards this year. Mary received the Eco-Stewardship Award and Franziska received the Tri Valley Conservation Award. These recognitions are well deserved.

Kristy Giles, who has been a member of our council since 2004, stepped down this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her involvement on the council. You have to know Kristy to understand the energy that she brings to her commitments. She has a great understanding of the issues and the people of Lanark County. While she may not be sitting directly around our stewardship council table, Kristy continues to be a very active and supportive of our projects.

As we move towards 2010, I would also like to thank all our council members and community partners for their continued support of our Stewardship Council, our projects and look forward to another successful and busy year.

Jeff Ward

Workshops, Conferences, Fairs and Festivals

Lanark County continues to be very active with workshops, conferences, festivals and fairs. Our Council is pleased to be able to help make these events happen. Our role changes depending on the need of each event. In all cases we take an active role to ensure the event's success.

- Lake Links (80+ participants)
- Watershed Discovery Day (80+ participants)
- Children's Water Festival (150 participants)
- Mississippi River Heritage Festival (500 participants)
- Art of Being Green Festival (3000 participants)
- Science Teachers Association of Ontario Conference (promotion of Our Incredible World) (3000 participants)
- Lanark & District Maple Syrup Conference (300 participants)
- Winter Woodlot Conference (600 participants)
- Forestry Fair (600 participants)
- Carleton Place Environmental Days (300 participants)



*Promotion of Our
Incredible World at
STAO Conference*

Involving Youth

Working with our local young people has been a highlight for our Stewardship Council. Throughout the year, our Council supports many local initiatives to engage youth in outdoor activities and environmental education. We have been involved with the Ontario Stewardship Rangers program for the past 12 years.

This program provides community based environmental work experience for local youth. We are very proud of this partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources Youth programs and our local MNR office.

Throughout the year we have opportunities to involve youth through various projects. We have supported Otty Lake Kids fishing day, Children's Water Festival, the Environmental Education programs of Perth and Carleton Place High Schools and the Smiths Falls High School Trailblazers.



2009 Lanark Stewardship Rangers

March and April are very busy supporting Envirothon. In this program there are approximately 80 high school students and teachers that get hands-on experience and learn from local experts about the natural environment.

Students participate in after-school presentations, two hands-on workshops and then are tested on their knowledge, first at a regional and then a provincial competition. We receive excellent comments from the students and teachers on this program. We are also very thankful for the support from local resource agencies and community volunteers.



Students learn about aquatic life at Envirothon

On the Job Experience

2009 saw our Council secure another Job Creation Partnership with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU). With this contract we were able to hire 5 people for a Forestry Works Crew along with the services of an Administrative Assistant. Like our past projects with the MTCU, this has given participants important work experience while it gives our Council the “people power” to assist with many community conservation projects. This partnership with the MTCU has been extremely valuable to the participants, our community and the Stewardship Council.



Working with the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds and the YWCA, we have been able to hire a Bio-Blitz Intern for 9 months, beginning at the end of 2009.

Our intern will develop protocols for Bio-Blitz inventories. This project will assist landowners and/or community groups that want to carry out a bio-blight with an easy to follow planning guide.

Our Council also continues to support Co-Op placements for Algonquin College and our local high schools.



Volunteers inventory aquatic species at O'Brien Lake Bioblitz

Education and Awareness Landscape Projects

In April we sponsored a Partners Discussion Forum utilizing the information that we compiled while writing *A Place in Time: The Natural Resources of Lanark County*. This discussion forum was an excellent opportunity for groups from across Lanark to meet, to get a feeling for what is happening on the landscape and to consider common goals and partnership opportunities. The information that we gained from this session will be used to help us form new partnerships and set some of our future direction.

Our Incredible World continues to be an important project for our Council. This series is now being used by various school boards and outdoor educators from across the country. We had an opportunity to promote this program at the Science Teachers Association of Ontario's Annual Conference as well as the Green Teachers seminars. At both events, OIW was very well received. Our Council received funding from the province, as well as federally, to produce E-newsletters on Species at Risk and Invasive species. These newsletters have been added to the website and are a great addition to the series. Check out the material in both French and English on the website www.incredibleworld.ca.

*Incredible
Species
Newsletter
about
turtles at
risk*

Did You Know?
Turtles are the only animals that can breathe through their skin.

Turtles on Tremble: How often? Turtles were on the edge of being extinct in the 1970s. They were almost completely wiped out by the 1980s. Today, thanks to the efforts of many people, they are making a comeback.

Hiding Turtles: One type of turtle is a water snake. It is called a water snake. It is found in the Great Lakes region. It is a very common turtle. It is found in the Great Lakes region.

Think a turtle would make a great pet?
Turtles are often called "pets" for the pet store. But they are not really pets. They are wild animals. They need a lot of care. They need a lot of space. They need a lot of money.

Caring for a Turtle:
Like most other turtles, the turtle needs a lot of care. It needs a lot of space. It needs a lot of money. It needs a lot of love.

A turtle the size of a car?
The largest turtle in the world is the Galapagos tortoise. It is about the size of a car. It is found in the Galapagos Islands.

How old do you need to be to help protect an owl?
You need to be at least 16 years old to help protect an owl. You need to be at least 16 years old to help protect an owl.

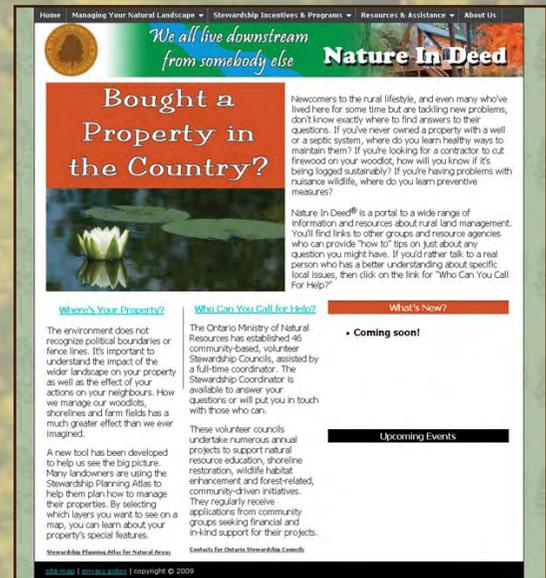
Use this Turtle!
Use this turtle to help protect the environment. Use this turtle to help protect the environment.

Celebrate World Turtle Day - May 23

Ontario
Canada

Education and Awareness Landscape Projects

Nature in Deed has had a slow year in moving forward, but it is beginning to pick up some steam. We have produced a promotional brochure, secured a host for its website and are now in the process of populating the website with information. This project targets new and some not so new people to rural living and link them to natural resource information as well as important community contacts. We are looking forward to this project really moving forward in 2010.



*Nature In Deed website is
now under construction*



*Demonstration of hand-hewing at the
Mississippi River Heritage Festival*

This year we worked closely with the MacDonald's Corners Elphin Recreation Association on the Mississippi River Heritage Festival. This Festival highlighted the importance of logging in Lanark County as well as the development of the River and Streams Act of 1884. As a feature of this Festival we produced a brochure and guided tours to highlight the natural features along the Mississippi River.

Our Stewardship council is supportive of our local lake associations and the work that they are doing in developing local Lake Management Plans. These plans are an excellent way to get lake community partners working together on a common goal.

On the Ground

Our Stewardship Council continues to support tree-planting initiatives throughout our County. Scoutrees plants between 3500-5000 seedlings near Drummond Centre annually. With other community partners, Scoutrees helps educate youth on the importance of trees and their positive effect on the environment. With this site being planted over many years, it is interesting for the participants to see the success of previous year's efforts. There are near 100 volunteers that take part in this tree planting each year.



Tom Richardson helps the Scout troop with tree planting



Even the Beavers can help with planting

In partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority our Stewardship Council plants approximately 4000 additional seedlings with local high schools. This year both Carleton Place and Perth and District helped out with 70 energetic students teachers and volunteers.

With assistance of the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, our Council supported a monitoring project for the American eel on the Ottawa and Mississippi Rivers. Our field crew's primary focus was on the tail water ponds of hydro generating dams. This project will provide valuable information to MNR and dam operators on eel in these water systems.



Project Coordinator, Jane McCann, displays a damaged eel

On the Ground

Our Council partnered with three different community groups in supporting Bio-Blitz inventories in our County. The first was held at the Alba Wilderness School in Lavant, the second at the Bell Property just outside of Almonte and the third was at a property on O'Brien Lake. All of these events had excellent community participation and gathered much needed inventory information. We hope to sponsor a minimum of three new Bio-Blitz inventories in 2010.



Bioblitz helps discovered this unusual Ghost Pipe Plant (Indian Pipe) which does not have any chlorophyll



Community volunteers assist with O'Brien Lake Bioblitz

In the later parts of 2009 we have begun planning for the building and the distribution of six artificial Black Rat Snake nesting boxes. This project will provide predator-proof nesting sites as well as participation from community volunteers to assist with the monitoring of this threatened species.

Committee Assistance

Apart from project work, our Council members are very active in our community assisting with other initiatives. Our Council is represented on these important initiatives;

- Lanark County Community Forest Working Group
- Rideau Rural Clean Water Program Steering Committee
- Ontario Youth Programs
- Mississippi Rideau Source Water protection Committee
- Lake Links Steering committee
- Regional Forest Health committee
- Big Ben Memorial Trail Steering Committee
- Eastern Region Stewardship Network



Valley Highlands Scout Troup gather for the tree plant adjacent to Drummond/North Elmsley landfill site

Teamwork

We have been fortunate to be able to maintain our “Stewardship Team” over the past year. This has provided much-needed assistance to our project administration, as well as to how much we can accomplish as a council. Our administrative team has been able to produce many communications products for our council and partners. We have also worked in partnership with the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy to assist them in moving their program ahead. Effective teamwork has clearly increased our productivity in 2009.



Front Row: Susan Sentesy, Special Project Coordinator; Jeff Ward, Stewardship Coordinator. Back Row: Karen Ballentine, Administrative Assistant; Meaghan McDonald, BioBlitz Intern, Kim Hall, Administrative Assistant

Revenue and Expenses for 2009

Revenue

Balance Forwarded from 2008	\$114,406.43
2009 Revenue	\$228,238.33
Total Revenue	\$342,644.76

Expenses

2009 Expenditures	\$213,672.01
Balance Forwarded to 2009	\$128,972.75

