



# CAT TALES

Fall 2015 Issue

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## CRCA tree planting program has been a huge success



Even though there have been significant challenges, the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) continues to be a leader in tree planting and reforestation programs after more than three decades.

Since the CRCA tree planting program began in 1983, more than 3.4 million trees have been planted, as of the current planting year. A significant portion of that total has happened since 2008, when the Province of Ontario, in partnership with Trees Ontario, initiated the 50 Million Tree Program. From 2008 to 2014, the CRCA planted one million trees – one of only three organizations to hit or surpass the one million tree target (the others were another conservation authority and a private company).

“The 50 Million Tree Program came along at the right time. Back in the mid

1990s tree planting programs took a huge hit because the government at the time really dropped the axe on our budget. Overnight they shut down the provincial tree nurseries that had been established across Ontario for decades. And the subsidies that came from the government to help us provide the tree planting service were gone. It was not just the CRCA, but conservation authorities across the board that were affected,” said Rick Knapton, Forestry Technician for the CRCA.

“When the 50 Million Tree Program came along, it was a huge boost to our reforestation initiatives across Ontario and a big part of that was because there were financial incentives and large subsidies that became available to make it more feasible for private landowners to take advantage of a tree planting service.”

The program started as a partnership between the Ministry of Natural Resources and a non-profit group that was called Trees Ontario, which was given the task of administering the program throughout the province. The group has since changed its name to Forests Ontario, but the name of the program itself, the Trees Ontario 50 Million Trees Program, remains.

“What they did was sign up a variety of organizations and private companies to be what are called delivery agents, which is what we are here at the CRCA. And we deliver the program throughout our region on behalf of the 50 Million Trees Program. Initially we had to prove, for lack of a better term, our worthiness to provide such a service but it was really

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# CREATURE FEATURE:

## Rusty Crayfish, *Orconectes rusticus*

If you think of crayfish species as motorcycle clubs, the rusty crayfish (which actually kind of sounds like a biker bar in Louisiana) is that big, bad, intimidating gang with no compunction about invading the turf of any and all rivals.

One look at this native of the Ohio River Basin in the United States and you can see how it puts our native crayfish to shame size-wise, as well as being a whole lot scarier looking. They are now considered to be a serious threat by Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program.

Adult rusty crayfish average eight centimetres in length, although they have been known to reach up to 13 centimetres long. Their range of colours extends from greenish-gray to reddish brown, with their name coming from two easily-spotted 'rusty' reddish coloured spots on the sides of their back. Their claws have recognizable black bands close to the tips. Males of the species also have what appear to be small hooks on the first pair of hind legs which they use to hold onto a female during the mating process.

Scientists believe that rusty crayfish were introduced into Ontario waterways by anglers from other areas, who had discarded the crayfish they were using as bait. Another theory is that they may also have been put into lakes, either deliberately or accidentally, by individuals who were keeping them as pets or through the scientific supply trade.

They were first sighted in Ontario in the 1980s in the Kawartha Lakes region, not far from the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority watershed. They are now found in many areas of

southern, central and eastern Ontario as well as making inroads in northwestern Ontario – essentially in the areas that feed off the Great Lakes system.

South of the border, they have now moved into the northeast and Midwestern portions of the United States.

### Here's why they are a problem:

- Because they are larger and more aggressive than native species, rusty crayfish are difficult prey for many fish species that feed regularly on the normal, native crayfish. Essentially, Rusty crayfish fight back, turning to face the fish with claws extended, ready for attack. Most fish choose not to tangle with it at this point. The significance is that its population will thus grow at a much faster rate than that of native species. It also means if there was ever a claw to claw territorial dispute, the rusty crayfish would win.

- And because they are larger, they are simply too big for many of the native fish species to eat.

- Females can carry up to 200 fertilized eggs under their tail – a rare adaptation. This means one lone female can give birth to an entire new population in one area, again speeding up the invasion process.

- As they expand, rusty crayfish squeeze out the native species territory-wise. By eating much of the aquatic vegetation, they're also destroying spawning and nursery habitat for their local counterparts.

The consequences are significant because once a rusty crayfish population is established there is no practical way to get rid of them permanently. This has led to a significant decline in native



species such as the northern clearwater crayfish, virile crayfish and the obscure crayfish. None of these have the black band on the claws or the rusty patches on the shell.

The only tactic the Ontario government has at its disposal is a ban on overland transport of all species of crayfish, both alive and dead. Regulations state that crayfish can only be used for bait in the body of water from which they were retrieved.

As with any invasive species, whether plant or animal, there are things the public can do to help try and stem the tide.

Firstly, learn to identify rusty crayfish and ways to avoid accidentally spreading it. If you choose to use crayfish as bait, remember the regulation above about not transporting them. As well, you are only allowed to have a maximum of 36 live crayfish with you at any given time.

For more information on the rusty crayfish and other invasive species in Ontario, visit [www.invasivespecies.com](http://www.invasivespecies.com).

If you have any information regarding the illegal importation, distribution or sale of rusty crayfish, report it immediately to the Ministry of Natural Resource via their tip line, 1-877-TIPS-MNR toll free. You can also contact your local ministry office during regular business hours, or even call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

If you yourself find rusty crayfish or any other invasive species, call the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

Sources: [www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/invertbrates/rusty-crayfish](http://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/invertbrates/rusty-crayfish); [www.crayfishontario.com](http://www.crayfishontario.com); [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org).



CATARAQUI REGION  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

# CAT TALES

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# Area Source Water Risk Management Offices are Busy Implementing New Plan

The Province, municipalities, local health units and the CRCA continue efforts to implement the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan that became effective on April 1, 2015.

This Plan, made under the Clean Water Act, is part of a provincial initiative to provide clean and plentiful drinking water and complements the efforts of water treatment plant operators.

“Source protection is all about keeping pollution from affecting our drinking water, now and in the future,” said Steve Knechtel, General Manager of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA).

“Some types of pollution are very difficult and expensive to clean and treat. And in some cases, drinking water sources can be ruined forever.”

Keeping water clean is the best course of action to keep ourselves safe.

Some activities have the potential to harm the quality or quantity of drinking water sources, and these are called drinking water threats under the Clean Water Act. Part IV of the Act provides new management tools for municipalities in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area to make sure activities don't pollute sources of drinking water in locations that have been identified as more vulnerable.

Under Part IV, significant drinking water threat activities are managed through 1) prohibition, 2) risk management plans and 3) restricted land uses:

- Prohibition is used to ensure that certain activities never become established in areas where there would be a significant drinking water threat. In the Cataraqui Source Protection Area, prohibition only applies to future activities. This means that an activity which is already occurring can continue to take place, if it is managed through a risk management plan.
- Risk Management Plans (RMPs) are used to manage existing and future drinking water threats through best management practices, while still allowing the activities of concern to occur. Homeowners, agricultural operators, and businesses might be required to negotiate an RMP if an activity is occurring on their property

which could be a significant drinking water threat. An RMP is an agreement between the person undertaking the activity and a risk management official about how to manage the risk associated with the activity of concern.

- The Restricted Land Use tool is used to flag specific proposed land uses that may be prohibited or require a risk management plan under the Clean Water Act, 2006. Any planning or building proposal which is submitted in a vulnerable area where significant drinking water threats can exist may be required to complete an additional step for source water protection during the processing of your planning or building application.

Risk management services are delivered in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area (CSPA) by two different offices. There is a regional risk management office hosted by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, supported by specially trained CRCA staff, that provides services to six lower-tier municipalities.

“We are glad to provide this new service to our municipalities during the first few years of implementation where most of the work will be completed,” said Knechtel.

The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands has its own risk management office to address risk management needs within the Township. Trained and appointed staff at both risk management offices continue to:

- Contact residents, agricultural operators and businesses where Part IV policies apply to discuss responsibilities under the Plan.
- Negotiate risk management plans where they are required under the Plan.
- Work with municipalities to support their work screening land use proposals.
- Provide interactive maps and resources to help proponents

understand how they might be affected by restricted land use policies in the Plan.

Holly Evans, Lead Risk Management Official/Inspector for the regional risk management office said, “my goal for 2015 is to have all needed risk management plans for existing activities in place by the end of the year. There aren't very many plans needed in the areas where I'm responsible and I think that it's important to maintain momentum in the source protection program.”

If you would like to find out more about risk management services in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area, please visit the resources page of our website ([www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca](http://www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca)) where you will find many helpful publications and resources, including:

- The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan Part IV Primer.
- FAQs: Part IV of the Clean Water Act, 2006.
- Tailored interactive maps to find out if restricted land use policies apply to any proposed land uses on your property.
- Tailored interactive maps to find out if any policies in the Plan apply to existing activities on your property.

If you have any questions about risk management in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area, please contact the Regional Risk Management Office:

613-546-4228 or 1-877-956-2722

Risk Management Official/Inspector Lead: Holly Evans (ext. 233) [hevans@crca.ca](mailto:hevans@crca.ca)

Risk Management Official/Inspector Support: Andrew Schmidt (ext. 244) [aschmidt@crca.ca](mailto:aschmidt@crca.ca)

If you have any questions about risk management in the Lansdowne Wellhead Protection Area, please contact the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands:

613-659-2415

Risk Management Official/Inspector: Andrew Day (ext. 217) or [andrew@townshipleeds.on.ca](mailto:andrew@townshipleeds.on.ca)

## Do activities on my property pose a risk to the drinking water supply?

Only a few activities in the CSPA require risk management:

- Storage of liquid fuel
- Handling and storage of certain chemicals (e.g. DNAPLs, organic solvents)
- Storage of small quantities of certain types of waste
- Storage and/or application of agricultural source material (e.g. manure)
- Application of fertilizer
- Application of pesticides
- The use of land for livestock

These activities are only significant drinking water threats in specific areas that have been identified as more vulnerable, such as the area closest to a municipal wellhead or intake pipe. If you would like to find out whether an activity on your property is affected by the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan, please refer to the interactive maps on the resources page of our website ([www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca](http://www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca)). The interactive maps identify the requirements that apply to properties within each vulnerable area/zone.

What will be required in a risk management plan?

A risk management plan will recognize good practices already in place, and might also include other best management practices. For example, an RMP for fuel might require: keeping your tank full in the summer and placing a drip pan under your oil tank. An RMP for the short-term storage of certain wastes might require: training staff and maintaining records of the types/amounts of waste being stored. If you have more questions about risk management, please contact your local risk management official, or visit the [www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca](http://www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca) website.



# CRCA tree planting program has been a huge success

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

no problem because we already had a long-standing history of providing those services, along with many other conservation authorities all over Ontario. So we signed up and it's been great ever since," Knapton said.

"And as the name says, the goal is to plant 50 million trees across Ontario by 2025. It's a boost for all of us to try and mitigate greenhouse gases and climate change. That's the main focus for the program and that's why it came into being."

But back in the 1980s, officials with the CRCA already understood the importance of planting trees in large quantities, and embarked on their own ambitious program. Putting their money where their mouth was, as the expression goes, lands already under the stewardship of the CRCA were the first to get a lot of attention in the early years of the tree planting service.

"The majority of the trees planted at that time were on our own conservation lands. Some did go to private landowners, but there was a big push in the early 1980s to reforest our own properties. Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area would have taken the biggest portion of that reforestation project in the early years for sure. But pretty much all of our conservation areas have had some reforestation in one form or another."

While folks are welcome to purchase trees in any quantity during the spring and fall potted stock sales at the nursery at

Lemoine Point Conservation Area, the 50 Million Tree Program and the CRCAs Private Land Forestry Programs focus on larger-scale plantings of seedlings.

"There are huge subsidies, up in the neighbourhood of 90 per cent, for private landowners to take part in the program. You must have at least one hectare (2.5 acres) of land. It's a wonderful program. If anybody is thinking about getting trees planted on their property they should definitely give us a call and I can explain the process from there," Knapton said, adding that for some landowners, it's become a yearly event to order hundreds of tree seedlings for their properties.

"It's literally been a spring ritual for folks. For years they may order 500, 750 or 1,000 trees each year, and each year they come and get a new batch for their property. And there are a lot of groups that come to us to plant trees over the years, like the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, individual companies and service clubs. It's been a really well received service."

Knapton believes that the increase in interest in tree planting has happened for a number of reasons: growing awareness of climate change being at the top of the list.

"People are becoming more educated on the need for reforestation and the positive role trees play in climate change. But to be honest with you, I think a lot of it is aesthetically motivated as well – people just like trees. Over the years people



Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area 1981, before reforestation projects.

from more urban areas come here and buy land out in the country, land that maybe used to be agricultural, and they want to bring that property back to how it was before the farming took place," he explained.

"And there are also practical reasons from an agricultural and ecological point of view. It's been proven that planting windbreaks around field helps reduce soil erosion, regulates temperature and winds and helps retain moisture. So even though it seems counterproductive to use up

arable land by planting trees, it's been shown that it actually increases the overall yield of those fields over time than what you would have produced without the trees.

"And the plantings can help provide corridors through which wildlife can travel between wood lots. It provides cover for animals and also provides places for birds to nest. So it helps preserve and enhance wildlife habitat."

The vast majority of the trees planted as part of this program are of the coniferous variety, and Knapton said there is a very good reason for that.

"Species like spruce, pine, cedar and tamarack establish themselves more easily than deciduous trees. Those are more expensive and are not as readily available. They are also highly susceptible to deer predation and from meadow voles and rabbits. So we don't use them for our larger scale planting programs. But what's nice is that when folks come and buy say

50 or 100 sugar maple or oaks over the counter, they can put the extra effort into taking care of them," he explained.

"We don't have that option for our broader scale reforestation projects where we're planting dozens of acres on a landowner's site. And we also plant the conifers because if there is a woodlot or seed source nearby they can actually provide a better natural habitat for the deciduous to come later."

The CRCA staff would like to congratulate Rick Knapton on his hard work and dedication in building our tree planting program and being one of the first CA's to reach one million trees planted under the 50 Million Trees Program. Great job Rick!

For more information on the CRCAs forestry programs, visit [www.crca.ca/conservation-programs](http://www.crca.ca/conservation-programs)

For more information on the 50 Million Trees Program, visit [www.treesontario.ca](http://www.treesontario.ca).

## Tree planting events coming this fall

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority will be hosting two TD Tree Day events in the early autumn.

The first one takes place on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. Area residents are invited to join the Friends of the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, CRCA staff and TD for a

fall tree planting session at the Gord Watts Municipal Centre, 251 North Augusta Rd., in Brockville.

A second tree-planting event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon. Kingston and area residents are invited to join the Friends of Lemoine Point for their annual

fall tree-planting session at the Lemoine Point Conservation Area. Meet at the south parking lot, off Front Road to help plant trees.

Participants are advised to bring a shovel, work gloves and their enthusiasm. Register online for both events at [www.tdtreedays.com](http://www.tdtreedays.com).

# From heavy industry to natural wonder – The Mine Loop Trail

As part of the ongoing Amazing Places Project by the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (FABR), the Mine Loop Trail at Gould Lake Conservation Area was designated as one of 10 Amazing Places.

The FABR is one of four UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) biosphere reserves in Ontario, and is also one of three chosen to participate in the Amazing Places pilot project, which was created to highlight specific places that shape the ecological and cultural landscapes of a community.

A total of 54 nominations were received, and 10 were selected from that field. The one most pertinent to the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) is the Mine Loop on our Gould Lake property.

Nominations for the next 10 sites for the FABR are underway and are open until Sept. 31. To nominate your own 'amazing place' visits [www.visitamazingplaces.ca/nominate](http://www.visitamazingplaces.ca/nominate). The 10 places selected for 2016 will be announced on Oct. 15.

As part of the FABR Amazing Places promotional program, the CRCA hosted an **Open Trails Day on Aug 22**. Visitors had free access to the Conservation Area and a chance to hike the Mine Loop with many other enthusiasts. It was a great day to enjoy the outdoors and learn about local history.

So why is it called the Mine Loop?

At the height of the Industrial Revolution in the late 1800s, Eastern Ontario was one of the mica mining capitals of the world. The area around Gould Lake in particular became an integral site for the mining industry as a



whole from 1870 up until 1910.

Mica is a shiny silicate mineral found in crystals or in sheets of thin, nearly transparent layers. Mica was used in creating thermal glass for lanterns, but mostly it was used to make electrical insulators. It had to be blasted out of the rock and sent to be split at trimming factories that had been constructed in and around Kingston. It is believed that much of the material was sent to Kent Bros. on Brock Street.

The mica that came out of the Gould Lake area was called phlogopite or 'amber' mica that has turned greyish green because of contact with the granite in the area. The world's largest documented single crystal of mica was found in the Gould Lake area, weighing

in at an impressive 330 tonnes.

In the late 1860s and early 1870s, phosphate was the original material that was mined for, primarily by Snider & Freeman of Perth. When the firm of McClatchey and Hayden of Belleville took over in 1901, they switched to mica mining. But they only held the property for a year before it was acquired by J.W. Trousdale of Sydenham.

It was a successful operation and was worked steadily until a flood irreparably damaged the main shaft in 1913. That shaft, which was more than 100 feet deep, can still be seen today along the Mine Loop trail, part of which follows an old mining road. Several smaller pits also dot the property.

Overall, from 1886 to 1920, Canada

was the world's top supplier of amber mica, but the discovery of cheaper sources of mica in other parts of the world brought the era of mica mining to an end quite rapidly in this area.

Starting in 1967 the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority began its process of acquiring the land from the then Loughborough Township as well as neighbouring private landowners, completing what would become the Gould Lake Conservation Area we see today by 1972.

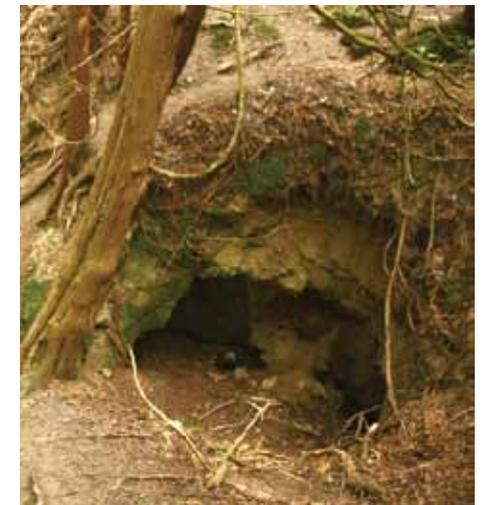
Besides the cultural significance of the Mine Loop due to its relationship to the industrial past of this part of Canada, the Mine Loop also offers a spectacular nature experience. It is nestled into 589 hectares of wilderness on the southern fringe of the Canadian Shield, which provides a rich habitat for plants and wildlife.

The wetlands, woods and shoreline areas of the property provide excellent opportunities for nature appreciation and recreation. More specifically, the Mine Loop Trail features a number of high ridges that offer spectacular views of Gould Lake.

The Mine Loop Trail also connects with the Rideau Trail, which spans 387 km from Kingston to Ottawa. While traversing the Mine Loop, be aware that you will still be able to see mica in the rock faces or the trail's edge.

For more information on Gould Lake CA, visit [crca.ca/gould-lake-conservation-area/](http://crca.ca/gould-lake-conservation-area/)

For more information on the FABR and the Amazing Places program, visit [www.visitamazingplaces.ca/frontenac-arch](http://www.visitamazingplaces.ca/frontenac-arch).



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



*Enjoy the beauty of fall in one of our Conservation Areas. Each area offers places to enjoy nature, see the fall colours, relax outdoors or get active. You can even take part in some family friendly activities or learn a new outdoor skill. For more information and to find a Conservation Area near you visit [www.crca.ca](http://www.crca.ca)*

*There are special fall activities at Little Cataraqui Creek and Lemoine Point Conservation Areas in Kingston and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville.*

## FEES

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

- \$5.50 per person for adults and children over 12
- \$3.00 per person for children 12 and under
- maximum fee of \$14.00 per car.

Annual passes are available for \$80.00 per year and provide entry to both of these conservation areas.

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

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Conservation Areas

- 7:30 a.m. to dusk daily

Little Cataraqui Creek Outdoor Centre

- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday – other times by appointment
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays and holiday Mondays from October 4 to November 29
- 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends beginning December 6
- Closed Saturdays in the fall except during scheduled programs

## LITTLE CATARAQUI CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

### BUG SAFARI

Sunday, October 4  
(2 p.m.)

Join in on the bug safari and see what friends live in the marsh and on land at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. You'll even get to use some of our cool bug catching equipment. All of our bug friends get put back gently in their homes. The program runs for approx. 1.5 hours.

### FALL COLOURS WEEKEND

Sunday October 11 &  
Monday, October 12  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enjoy the fall foliage from the water, paddling the Little Cataraqui Creek reservoir. Canoe and kayak rentals will be available at the Outdoor Centre or bring your own to launch off our dock. Out full rental fleet will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; the last boat must be in by 4 p.m. Rental rates begin at \$8 per hour. If canoeing is not for you, take a hike on our trails. CRCA staff will be on hand to suggest routes and provide maps. Come into the Outdoor Centre and purchase a slice of pie and a mug of cider, or just sit and enjoy the colourful view from the West Hall.

### PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 18  
2 p.m.

*Registration required*

Explore the possibilities of nature photography in every season. Join local photographer Rob Mooy on an autumn walk in search of photographic treasures. Learn tips and tricks on how to see nature's art through a lens. Bring your own digital camera. The session will be cancelled if the weather conditions are poor. Registration is required for this workshop. Cost is \$15 for annual pass holders and \$21.50 for non-pass holders

(this includes the gate fee). Registration online at [crca.ca/online-services](http://crca.ca/online-services).

### THE REAL BAT MAN

Sunday, October 25  
2 p.m.  
For ages 7 and up

Bat Expert Matt Saunders is back by popular demand. Matt will introduce you to the fascinating world of bats. Seating is limited, so be sure to come early! Matt's one hour presentation is suitable for ages seven and up. Bat house construction follows. Kits will be available to purchase for \$20 (while supplies last) after the talk. You can stay and assemble your bat house with us (please bring a hammer) or take it home to build.

### TIME TO BE KNOTTY

Sunday, November 1  
2 p.m.  
For ages 10 and up

Join Rob Chisnel for a knot tying workshop – Time to be Knotty, everything you wanted to know about knots, but were afraid to ask.

### CREATURES OF THE NIGHT HIKE

Saturday, November 14  
6:30 p.m.

*Registration required*

Enjoy the brisk fall air and learn about the creatures that come out at night

# OPENING 2015

at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Cost is \$2 per person plus the regular gate fee and registration is required. Be sure to register early – this popular program fills up fast! Register online at [crca.ca/online-services](http://crca.ca/online-services).

**HOLIDAY CRAFTING**  
Sunday, November 29  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us in the West Hall and turn your old holiday cards and wrapping paper into unique new holiday cards, tags and ornaments. Bring your own supplies or use some of ours.

**LANTERN WALK**  
Saturday, December 5  
6:30 p.m.  
*Registration required*

Join us under the stars as we explore the trails of Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Afterwards warm up with a hot drink by the fireplace back at the Outdoor Centre. Cost is \$2 per person plus the regular gate fee. Registration is required – register online at [crca.ca/online-services](http://crca.ca/online-services).

**OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE ANIMALS**  
Sunday, December 13  
2 p.m.

Take a break from the bustle of this busy season with some time outdoors. Bring your family out and join us for an outdoor celebration. We will feed the birds, play some games and have a great old time. We will also leave a nature present for our animal friends.

## MAC JOHNSON WILDLIFE AREA

**FALL TREE PLANTING – TD TREE DAYS**  
Saturday, September 26  
9 a.m. to noon

Join the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, CRCA Staff and TD for a fall tree planting at the Gord Watts Municipal Centre in Brockville (251 North August Rd). Bring your shovel, work gloves and your energy! Register online at [www.tdtreedays.com](http://www.tdtreedays.com)

**FALL FESTIVAL**  
Saturday, October 17  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is \$5 per car. The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area are hosting their annual fall celebration. Lots of great activities for the whole family! You can enjoy the fall colours on a hike, watch the waterfowl on the reservoir in a canoe or kayak courtesy of the CRCA, carve a pumpkin at the picnic shelter and enjoy live music. If the fresh air makes you hungry, the Friends will have a barbeque lunch available at the Nature Centre. Dog cart races by the Mush Larose Association to be confirmed. Please visit [crca.ca/event-calendar](http://crca.ca/event-calendar) for further details and updates.

**FALL WALK**  
Saturday, October 24  
1:30 p.m.

Come out for a fall walk and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. Meet at the

Debruge Road (main entrance) parking lot. The full walk will be approx. one hour with the option for walkers not wishing to go the full hour to take a shorter route back (30 mins).

**WINTER BACKYARD BIRDING**  
Saturday, November 21  
1:30 p.m.

Our program starts with a short informal talk on backyard birding followed by making bird feeders. Our talk will include some information on how to identify your backyard guests and tips on what to do to attract them to your backyard. Crafting materials will be supplied.

## LEMOINE POINT CONSERVATION AREA

**FALL TREE PLANTING – TD TREE DAYS**  
Saturday, October 3  
9 a.m. to noon

Join the Friends of Lemoine Point for their annual fall tree planting. Meet at the south parking lot (Front Road) to help plant trees. Bring your shovel, work gloves and your energy! Register online at [www.tdtreedays.com](http://www.tdtreedays.com).

**FRIENDS OF LEMOINE POINT AGM**  
Wednesday, November 18  
7:30 p.m.

Join the Friends of Lemoine Point for their Annual General Meeting Wednesday, November 18 at the Ongwanada Centre. The meeting will

include a report on their activities and a special presentation. For more information on the Friends of Lemoine Point and their activities visit [crca.ca/friends-of-lemoine-point](http://crca.ca/friends-of-lemoine-point).

## CATARAQUI CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

**FOREVER GREEN GALA**  
Saturday, November 7 – Italo-Canadian Club  
6 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 per person, \$200 per couple and \$800 per table of 10.

Join the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation for their annual fundraising gala for the CRCA's conservation education programs. The CRCA offers a wide range of quality curriculum-based environmental education programs for early and home learners, day care and nursery schools, elementary and secondary schools and adult learners. Programs offered strive to be relevant to learners so that they can connect to the natural world through their head, heart and hands.

Enjoy a night out for a good cause. Bid on some great items at the silent auction and over 30 items at the live auction. The conservation awards will also be presented. For tickets and information please call 613-546-4228 ext. 221. A tax receipt will be issued for a portion of your ticket price.



# Tree Planting Program is Worth All of the Challenges

By John Diemer - President, Friends of Lemoine Point

Although we can all agree that tree planting is a good thing, for the Friends of Lemoine Point it certainly has not been easy.

Starting in 1998, the Friends wanted to help preserve the Lemoine Point Conservation Area's forest. Even though it's the largest public-access waterfront forest in our region, it had been seriously degraded by its previous long-term use as a cow pasture. The idea was to help restore it by infilling and extending the existing woodland through tree planting - certainly a large and long-term challenge.

We started slowly, initially with just a few trees purchased locally, but always doing two plantings per year (spring and fall). Each year we've gradually increased the numbers planted so that by now, 18 years later, we plant approximately 1,000 seedlings per year. But that progress has certainly not been in a nice straight line, as success was threatened at various times by problems of both lack of resources and the unpredictability of Mother Nature.

In terms of resources, we started by using young trees from local nurseries. One significant problem was how to fund those purchases (the CRCA, which owns Lemoine Point, was not able to provide financial support). In the first few years we sought donations for specific plantings from individuals and some corporations. The plantings grew from relatively small ones to within two years starting to think of working towards larger ones in the form of so-called 'Heritage Groves.' We also began to use seedlings rather than young trees to ensure greater success in growing.

However, buying tree stock of unknown origin from local nurseries had its problems, and the Friends began to think about growing its own stock using the Lemoine Point's own seeds and cuttings so as to make for better adapted and healthier trees. It would also be less expensive.

Some experimentation led to the development of the Friends' own on-site nursery. By 2004 the Native Plant Nursery was underway and through the hard work and ingenuity of its volunteers, grew to become a very successful operation that now provides all the stock for the Friends' tree planting. It is funded by the Friends through its membership fees as well as from donations. The security of an affordable supply of quality stock was a critical step in creating a sustainable, long-term reforestation program.

But there were also obstacles created by the predation by Lemoine Point's plant-eating creatures. This seriously threatened the survival of the seedlings being planted, an issue compounded by the sometimes poor growing conditions.

For example, when the Friends first started part of the plan was to plant red oaks to re-establish a woodland that had previously existed there. However, after a number of annual plantings and constant problems with almost total predation by deer and voles, as well as the excessive wetness of the area, the Friends decided to leave that area as is and to refocus their tree planting resources to other areas of Lemoine Point.

We have always tried to minimize the damage done by voles and rabbits by putting plastic spiral wraps



around seedlings, with some degree of success. But the main problem is reducing predation caused by deer. The Point has an excessive number of deer for its size (due in large part to visitors who feed them), and their heavy browsing reduced the ability of seedlings to get established.

Numerous attempts were made over the years to counter that, including installing plastic sleeves around saplings and 'Big O' plastic piping around some larger trees, as well as creatively experimenting with different applications such as deer repellents and monofilament fencing. But the results were generally disappointing. Last year, the Friends finally decided to install special deer fencing around two potentially large groves, one in the north and one in the south. The fences are 7½ feet high and cover a number of acres each, so as to allow for many more future plantings there. The forecasted higher survival rates should justify the extra expense and labour.

One challenge that the Friends did not have to face; one that has been critical to the success of this program, was having a good co-operative relationship with the CRCA, owner and operator of Lemoine Point Conservation Area. While the Friends provided volunteer labour and fund-raising support (without which there could be no significant tree planting program), the CRCA provided the necessary staff support to make for a truly collaborative venture. Of particular note is the key role played by Rick Knapton, the CRCA's Forestry Technician and main keeper of



Lemoine Point. He and the Friends together planned, experimented, and generally worked diligently to ensure the effective development of both the tree planting program and the Nursery.

Thanks are due to the Friends' team of volunteer planters, as well as to the many members of the public of all ages who, in recent years, have taken up their shovels with great enthusiasm to participate in what have now become enjoyable community tree planting events.

Thanks also to the Friends' members and donors for their financial support over the years. We are also grateful for corporate/organizational support from the likes of TD Bank, the Community Foundation, the Evergreen Foundation, and Forests Ontario and its financial partner the Canadian Automobile Association. All the tree planters also appreciated the coffee and donuts provided by Tim Hortons.

The result of all these efforts is that after 18 years of tree planting, parts of the Point's forest are gradually on the way to being restored. But much work remains, with many more plantings to come. It is also vital to understand that there is still an ongoing need to address other aspects of ensuring the long-term health of the Point's forest.

*Note* –The next tree planting at Lemoine Point is on Saturday, October 3, starting at 9:00 from the south parking lot. For info about the Friends, go to [www.crca.ca/friends-of-lemoine-point](http://www.crca.ca/friends-of-lemoine-point).

# New CRCA environmental planning policies now in place

After an extensive process, planning staff at the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority have finished updating its official Land Use Planning Policy.

They were approved by senior staff and the CRCA board of directors in April, 2015. The process to get to that stage not only included a lot of research and re-drafting of the original 2005 policy by CRCA planning staff, but also extensive public consultations.

If you are planning to build or alter land near a wetland, watercourse

or along a shoreline within the jurisdiction of the CRCA, you need to consult with our staff as you may require planning approval or a permit.

The Land Use Planning Policies provide the 11 municipalities that comprise the CRCA watershed territory, as well as developers, private landowners and special interest groups with a clear understanding of the CRCAs role, mandate and responsibilities as it pertains to reviewing a host of planning documents and applications made

under the auspices of the Ontario Planning Act.

It also details the CRCAs official position on land use planning matters, natural heritage and water resources. The policies are all designed to reflect the most current provincial legislation and planning policies as well as the accepted best technical practices of the various professional disciplines that relate to these policies. They also reflect the distinct nature and characteristics of the Cataraqui watershed.

The point of these policies and regulations is to ensure responsible development, protection from natural hazards (i.e. flooding and erosion), protection of plant and animal life, safe drinking water as well as promoting the overall sustainability of our various communities within the CRCA jurisdiction.

Our staff is ready and willing to answer all your questions and concerns. Visit [www.crca.ca/planning-permits](http://www.crca.ca/planning-permits) for staff contact information and to view the CRCA Planning Policy.

## Conservation Authorities Act Under Discussion and Review

### Conservation Ontario Media Release

- Conservation Authorities are pleased to participate in the discussion and review of the Conservation Authorities Act as announced by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

"The role of Conservation Authorities around Ontario's natural resources has changed significantly over the years in response to increasing challenges to our water and land resources," said Kim Gavine, General Manager of Conservation Ontario.

"Stresses such as climate change, rapid growth, and changing land uses significantly challenge the health of Ontario's watersheds. The work of Conservation Authorities has had to change in order to reflect this and we expect to see this discussed through the review of the Conservation Authorities Act."

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities are local watershed management agencies that deliver a wide variety of services and programs that protect and manage water and other natural resources in partnership with all levels of government, agencies, industry, and landowners.

The original Conservation Authorities Act was established in 1946. Some amendments have been made over time, including those in the 1990s which addressed local programs, fees, partnerships and other areas. In 2006,

the scope of Conservation Authorities' regulatory responsibilities changed to encompass additional water related hazards.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry has posted a discussion paper for a 91 day comment period. The Ministry states that the objective for this review is to 'improve the legislative, regulatory and policy framework that currently governs the creation, operation and activities of conservation authorities that may be required in the face of a changing environment'.

The discussion paper highlights and solicits feedback around three areas of interest: governance, funding mechanisms, and roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities.

"We look forward to having discussions with many different partners throughout this process," said Gavine. "Conservation Authorities are committed to improving and streamlining watershed management in Ontario in order to ensure sustainable natural resources which are needed to support a vibrant economy, strong environment, and healthy people."

For more information about Conservation Authorities and their programs: [www.conservationontario.ca](http://www.conservationontario.ca)

For information about the programs, services and events of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, visit [www.crca.ca](http://www.crca.ca), or email [info@crca.ca](mailto:info@crca.ca).

## 11 Reasons why Conservation Authorities are a good deal for Ontario:

1. Conservation Authorities protect people and property from flooding
2. Source Protection programs protect important drinking water sources
3. Conservation Authorities employ 3,600 part and full time staff and pump approximately \$300 million into local economies every year
4. Watershed management programs help local communities to adapt to climate change and plan for sustainable growth
5. Conservation Authorities leverage local and provincial partnerships to deliver cost effective, practical programs across the province
6. Watershed plan protect Ontario's water
7. People can 'step into nature' at more than 270 conservation areas
8. Monitoring programs and watershed report cards track and report on conditions in local watersheds
9. Conservation Authority staff provide technical advice for sustainable land use planning to municipalities and other levels of government
10. Rural and urban stewardship programs manage stormwater and protect fish, forests, wetlands, wildlife, and important natural features such as the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine
11. Conservation Authorities run 47 outdoor education facilities and through environmental education programs, teach 430,000 students in almost 4,000 schools a year

## Nature Explorers Camp another hit with area kids

The summer of 2015 has flown by and proved to be another excellent year at the CRCA's Nature Explorers Camp (NEC).

Both new and returning staff spent each day singing, dancing and sharing their passion for the natural world with our campers. Daffodil (Holly Ottenhof) and Chickadee (Katey Day) were excited to be back at the NEC for yet another fun-filled summer. They were thrilled to welcome Orion (Abby Caldwell) and Monarch (Kendra MacGillivray) to the camp family.

Campers spent each day, rain or shine, outside in the beautiful settings of both the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and Gould Lake Conservation Area, learning about everything from rocks to stars, the tiniest insects to the largest mammals, creatures that swoop through the sky or live deep in the marsh – and all things in between.

Our campers had the opportunity to

use their senses to connect with nature, create nature artwork, and learn to build campfires and shelters, get up close and personal with our animal friends during marsh dipping and insect catching, as well as be silly in our numerous camp games and songs.

And of course a week at NEC would not be complete without lots of time spent swimming at Gould Lake and a game of Capture the Flag on Friday – two traditions that are well loved by all campers and staff.

Eight weeks, 192 smiling campers, 50 frogs, 100 dragonflies, six guest speakers, 16 trips to Gould Lake, 24 skits around the campfire, four instructors, two volunteers and countless camp songs all made for another incredible summer at NEC.

Thank you to everyone who makes Nature Explorer Camp the best place to spend the summer.

We are already counting down the days until next year.



From left to right: Kendra, Katey, Holly and Abby.



## CRCA Nature Programs for Pre-Schoolers, Home Schoolers and Adults

Register now for our Nature Programs at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area! Our Early Learners Program (ages 2.5 to 5) allows children to experience a connection to nature through songs, puppetry, touch tables, exploring, stories, games and hands-on activities.

Our Home Learners Program (ages 6 to 11) teaches children valuable outdoor skills and nature awareness such as weather watching, map reading, basic shelter and fire building. Children 12 to 14 can participate in a leadership and training program, assisting the Conservation Education Staff. Children

will come away with new nature skills and a greater connection and appreciation to the nature world.

The CRCA also offers a wide range of environmental education programs for adult learners such as Birds of Ontario to The Nature of Kingston. Advance registration is required for all of our Nature Programs. For details visit [www.crca.ca/education](http://www.crca.ca/education), pick up a registration form at our Administration Office, register online at [www.crca.ca/online-services](http://www.crca.ca/online-services) (for Early and Home Learners) or register by contact Dianne Doyle at (613) 546-4228 ext 221 or email [info@crca.ca](mailto:info@crca.ca).

## CRCA School Programs Ready to Book for the 2015-16 School Year

The CRCA offers a wide range of quality curriculum based environmental education programs to classroom teachers and their students at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area in Kingston and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville. We offer programs for elementary and secondary students that range from Marsh Mysteries to Kinderscience and Wetland

Conservation to Snowshoe Excursions.

Make a day of it! Combine your program with other great activities for a terrific day in the outdoors. We also welcome and encourage two classes or larger groups to participate at the same time to help save on bus costs and the environment. Consider giving you students the opportunity to connect with

nature for either a half-day for even a full day.

Booking is now open for all of our programs throughout the school year. Program calendars were mailed to area schools and day care centres late in August and program information can also be found online at [www.crca.ca/education](http://www.crca.ca/education). Booking is quick and easy,

choose your program, pick a date and call or email our education staff. To book a program at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, contact Stana Luxford Oddie at [educate@crca.ca](mailto:educate@crca.ca) or call (613) 546-4228 ext. 251. To book a program at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, contact Brenda Graham at [edmjwa@gmail.com](mailto:edmjwa@gmail.com) or call (613) 923-1526.

## Foundation News

# Get to know our new board members:

### JIM BARNETT

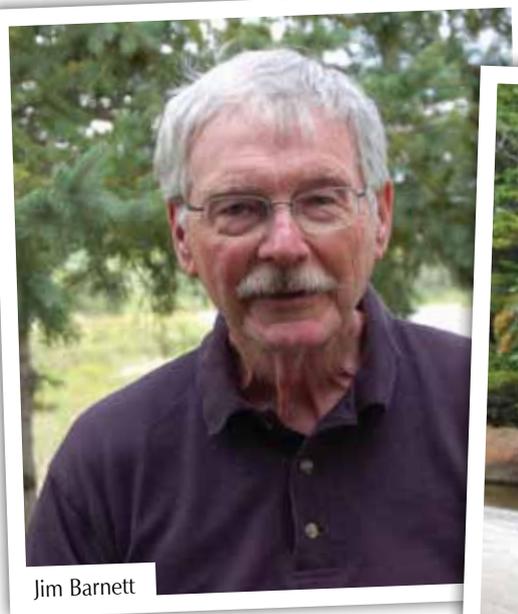
I volunteered to join the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation board of directors because of a genuine desire to contribute to this vital conservation education effort in our community.

And I have found that there is always room for more good folks to get on board. So why don't you come and join me? We will give you something to do and we will all get better at conservation together.

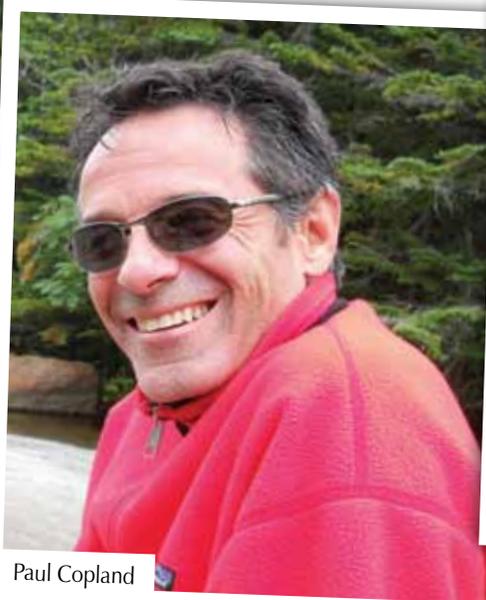
There can be no better invested conservation dollar than one spent on the youngsters who live in, and enjoy, the outdoor wonders of Eastern Ontario. Conservation education and involving young people in environmental research will give us a richer community and a better informed group of friends and neighbours in the years to come.

My family has lived in this community for over 40 years, and undoubtedly you will have seen the Barnetts out raising money for many organizations - from health care to politics to Ducks Unlimited. Fundraising is fun, and when the efforts can positively impact both the educators and the youth who want to know about the great outdoors in our community, we are happy to do it.

My first task is to chair the Foundation's fall gala, entitled 'Forever Green.' It is an opportunity to honour the individuals, companies and organizations that have demonstrated a responsible and positive contribution to conservation efforts within our community. Therefore, we will be throwing a party at the Italo-Canadian Club of Kingston, with lots of prizes, good food, a live auction, music and a chance to commemorate our 50th anniversary as a fundraising organization within this



Jim Barnett



Paul Copland



Carol Murphy

community. I encourage you to find some friends and join us on Saturday, Nov. 7. To obtain your tickets, please call the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority at 613-546-4228 ext. 221.

I am not entirely new to the CRCA, having served as a board member representing the City of Kingston in the late 1990s. I am happy to once again donate some more time to this organization and help it to continue to grow and fulfill its important mandate.

Have a good autumn and be sure to enjoy the season by taking a walk outside at one of our Conservation Areas.

### PAUL COPLAND

Paul comes to the board of the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation with a long and diverse "wilderness inspired" background.

Educated in Environment and Resource Studies at the University of Waterloo, Paul also spent that period of his life as a professional arctic wilderness guide. His specialty was longer expeditions on technically difficult and

very remote white-water rivers and in high alpine mountains in Canada's arctic, with skilled clients from around the world.

Paul's continuing interest in wilderness then led him to move to Kingston with his new wife Viviane and open North Ridge Wilderness, which a decade later became Trailhead.

More recently, Paul became a corporate manager for a growing wilderness activities national retailer - Atmosphere.

Finally, Paul's career has led him to shift away from wilderness and spearhead (this fall) the opening and operation of Lee Valley Kingston.

Throughout his career Paul has always been involved in promoting wilderness preservation and environmental education

efforts. He is a returning board member, having left to work up in Ottawa for several years. He is very much looking forward to picking up where he left off with the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation.

### CAROL MURPHY

I am a local chiropractor who has practised in Kingston for 33 years. I am strongly committed to an active and healthy lifestyle for myself and my community.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has been a part of my life in many ways over the years. I have enjoyed numerous school field trips accompanying my children, participated in a variety of activities hosted by the CRCA, including the Easter Egg Hunt and Maple

Madness, and I have attended informative lectures by a variety of guest speakers.

I have enjoyed both hiking and snowshoeing on the trails, as well as sitting and reflecting by the quiet of the marsh. My family has celebrated a number of special occasions hosted at the Outdoor Centre, including a wedding anniversary, family reunion and birthday parties.

The CRCA has been an integral part of my family's life. It represents a special place in our lives to enjoy and learn about nature and be together.

I am looking forward to working together with a group of people committed to the mission statement and supporting the CRCA in their valuable work.

## Foundation board full of energy and new ideas

Life is never dull at the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation, but right now it is more energizing than ever.

There is a buzz around the board table as both our existing and new members offer some

great, novel ideas for how to properly celebrate the board's 50th Anniversary this year.

We're also excited that our fundraising gala, which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, will take place at a new venue and

will feature some new elements that are designed to make the evening fun for all, as well as a financial windfall for the CRCA's Conservation Education programs.

# CRCA launches All Along the Watershed blog to keep residents in the loop

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority already has an excellent website that provides important information about every aspect of our mandate, programs and services. The site is also a wonderful conduit between the staff and board of the authority, and the general public.

But there is always room for improvement. The already solid online experience at [www.crca.ca](http://www.crca.ca) needed a little more of a personal touch, we felt. It needed something that accentuated the human element by adding some 'personality' to the website in the form of a series of blogs. Like columns in a newspaper or magazine, these blogs will be published under the bylines of individual authority staff members and will focus on a specific aspect of the CRCA's job. It discusses, in a very conversational style, issues, programs, services, policies and special events – or even just cool observations relating to that person's job.

After an extensive survey of our staff, we came upon the name All Along the Watershed for the blog – yes it's a Bob Dylan rip-off, but who better than Bob, right?

You can find it at [www.crca.ca/blog](http://www.crca.ca/blog)

Thus far we have enlisted CRCA biologist Tom Beaubiah, who will be blogging about topics such as invasive species, species at risk, plants and animals, and assorted other topics under his purview. His debut blog was about Ticks which has been of great concern and consternation this past summer.

Our development review manager Andrew Schmidt will write about the various planning guidelines, policies and regulations that are under the jurisdiction of the CRCA. He will talk about different scenarios regarding major residential developments down to if you want to put in a dock, as just a couple of examples.

Environmental technician Holly Evans will blog about the varied work she does relating to source water

protection and water quality, while Rick Knapton, our forest technician, will blog about trees, CRCA tree planting programs and how they not only benefit small and large landowners but also the environment.

Along the way we will add other blogs, including ones about our various education programs and some general blogs about various conservation-related information, activities and program.

The CRCA has also engaged what we are calling a 'citizen' or guest blogger to augment our staff. Well-known local lifestyle blogger Catherine Tang will bring her unique and evocative view of life to All Along the Watershed, writing about her interactions with our various conservation areas with her family.

We hope you will follow one or all of our bloggers and engage with them on topics that may be of interest to your or your family.



Meet our bloggers: CRCA staff Tom Beaubiah, Holly Evans, & Andrew Schmidt with guest blogger Catherine Tang

## \$25,000 Grant Helps With Cataraqui Trail Improvements

Back in February, Leeds-Grenville Member of Parliament Gord Brown announced that The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority was the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the federal government through the National Trails Coalition.

The money, combined with a matching \$25,000 sourced from local municipalities, is being used to make improvements to nearly five kilometres of the Cataraqui Trail from the Town of Smiths Falls to the Township of Rideau Lakes.

"Our trail networks are a great way to enjoy the outdoors in all seasons and promote an active lifestyle," said Brown. "I am pleased the grant will be benefitting the members of our community by improving the condition of access to the Trail."

The application for the grant was developed by the CRCA with the support of the Cataraqui Trail Management Board, a volunteer organization comprised of municipal representatives, community members and trail users.

"We are pleased that the application was approved

and will allow us to undertake the much needed upgrades to this section of the trail," said Doug Good, speaking on behalf of the Cataraqui Trail Management Board.

"The work will primarily include clearing of brush, grading and reshaping the former rail bed, and the addition of a new stone surface."

The project was developed in partnership with the Town of Smiths Falls and the Township of Rideau Lakes, both of which committed the matching funds required under the grant program. Work has been taking place all summer and is expected to be completed in the early autumn.

The Cataraqui Trail is a multi-use trail that runs 104 kilometres between Smiths Falls and Strathcona (within the Town of Greater Napanee) along a former railway line. Permitted uses on the trail include walking, hiking, cycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. For more information about the trail visit [www.cataraquitrail.ca](http://www.cataraquitrail.ca).

The National Trails Coalition (NTC) represents

Canada's snowmobile, ATV and non-motorized trail systems, and is looking after a recreation trails infrastructure program part of the federal government's Economic Action Plan. Visit [www.ntc-canada.ca](http://www.ntc-canada.ca).

