



# CAT TALES

FALL 2006 ISSUE

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**Ian Brown and Mike Ignas put the finishing touches on the roof of the new privies at Gould Lake Conservation Area.**

**New signs were also installed thanks to a grant from the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation.**



## Gould Lake Receives A Timely Facelift

Thanks to a generous grant from the Frontenac Community Futures



Development Corporation, the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's (CRCA) popular Gould Lake Conservation Area received a facelift this summer.

"It was a two-part grant, explains CRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator Robert Gerritsen. "One part was for the Cataraqui Trail and the other was for the Gould Lake Conservation Area."

Approximately \$10,000 was spent for various sections of the Cataraqui Trail in Frontenac County, from west of Chaffey's Locks to the Harrowsmith area," says Mr. Gerritsen. "It was a significant portion of the trail."

The balance of the grant, \$8,350, was spent at the Gould Lake property.

"That was for various improvements including a solar panel, battery and related equipment for the gatehouse; this will supply power to the cash register," says Mr. Gerritsen. "We also bought two new canoes and two new kayaks and assorted safety equipment."

A portion of the grant was invested in material for new privies and also for new signage.

Visitors now are greeted by a four foot

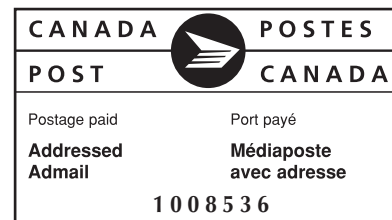
by eight foot sign at the gate and by other new signage at or near the gatehouse and by the parking lot.

Mr. Gerritsen is enthusiastic about the benefits to Gould Lake Conservation Area.

"Like any property that the CRCA owns, there is always degradation of equipment over time," he says. "It needs to be replaced but cannot always be accommodated in the current budget so any financial grant is greatly appreciated."



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# Natural Heritage Study Will Benefit the Environment

A comprehensive natural heritage study, conducted by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA), will help the City of Kingston and Loyalist Township plan for the future and protect the environment today.

Since early 2005, the CRCA has been working on the Central Cataraqui Regional Natural Heritage Study with the City of Kingston and Loyalist Township. The study identifies:

- a system of natural features and areas such as woodlands, wetlands and significant wildlife areas; and
- recommendations to maintain these natural features.

"The planning-related recom-

mendations will be used to update the Loyalist Township official plan and zoning bylaw," explains CRCA Ecological Planner Christine Woods. "The recommendations will be incorporated into the new city official plan policies while the CRCA will use the data to augment our stewardship and forestry programs."

The study was completed by the CRCA acting as a consultant for the municipalities. Study recommendations, when incorporated into municipal planning documents, will generate consideration of natural features when planning decisions are made.

"Residents of both munic-

ipalities will benefit because more consideration will be given to preserving natural features," says Ms. Woods. "This will be reflected in the ability to enjoy and appreciate these natural features."

Ms. Woods and CRCA Biologist Tom Beaubiah conducted the study. The extensive mapping required was done by CRCA Geometrics Technician Travis York.

Ms. Woods says she enjoyed working on the multi-year study.

"I learned a lot about natural heritage in general and our region in particular," she says.



From the left, CRCA employees Tom Beaubiah, Christine Woods and Travis York conducted public consultation meetings this past spring to get feedback about the natural heritage study.



In addition to two accessible trails, Lemoine Point Conservation Area features accessible washrooms and two picnic areas.

## New Trail, New Cycle Policy at Lemoine Point

A second accessibility trail has been completed at Lemoine Point Conservation Area and is already in use.

"The accessibility trails are about 99 per cent finished at both the north and the south end of the property," says Forestry Technician Rick Knapton of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority that owns the property.

The north end trail requires minor work to fix an erosion problem where it parallels Collins Bay, says Mr. Knapton. This trail opened last summer. The new, south end trail was completed this year.

Both trails are sufficiently wide and adequately surfaced to accom-

modate wheelchairs. And there are new gates at the trailheads.

"These are designed to allow walkers and the widest types of wheelchairs through," explains Mr. Knapton.

Turning to cycling, he says the CRCA established a new policy on bicycles for the Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

"We are restricting bicycle access to the main service roads on the property," he explains. "This is because there was too much conflict on trails too narrow or too rough for both cyclists and walkers."

The new policy will eventually be reflected through new signage.

"We hope that people will understand our reasons for doing this, it's to keep the property safe for all users," he adds.

"We plan to install bike racks because we still want cyclists to park their bicycles and lock them and continue on a walk through the property," says Mr. Knapton.

## Peter Milliken Opens Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery

The Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery is a cost-effective example of volunteerism for the public good, according to Frontenac and the Islands Member of Parliament Peter Milliken.

"This nursery operation may be unique because it is run entirely by volunteers," he said at the nursery's official opening on September 7. "I know of no other operation blending localized seed collection, nursery growing and volunteers operating the facility."

The nursery is the creation of a sub-committee of the Friends of Lemoine Point, and is owned by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA). The nursery exists to provide native reforestation materials for the CRCA and its conservation partners.

"This nursery is also good science: local, native plant materials adapt to local growing conditions over time," Mr. Milliken noted. "Genetically, they are best suited to local conditions; their seedlings are more successful in contributing to, and sustaining, biodiversity."

The nursery sub-committee volunteers, fewer than a dozen retirees, invested 2,200 hours of labour between April and November 2005. Statistics Canada says the average Canadian wage for natural and applied science and related occupations is \$23.07 per hour; so their collective contribution may be valued at a staggering \$50,754, Mr. Milliken noted.

These volunteers raised more than \$37,000 to build the nursery. They are: Peter Butler, Larry McCurdy, Myles McCabe, Jerry Zabel, Millie Belyea, Barry Robertson, Lou Mullin, Jane Murphy, Darlene Cullimore and Dave McGill. CRCA Forestry

Technician Rick Knapton also is a sub-committee member and link to the conservation authority.

Among the dignitaries joining Mr. Milliken to speak were: Gerry Mulder of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; John Conley, CRCA Chair; Floyd Patterson, vice chair of the CRCA's Lemoine Point Advisory Committee; President John Diemer of the Friends of Lemoine Point; and General Manager Steve Knechtel of the CRCA.

Among the invited guests were representatives of major donors to the project including: TD Canada Trust; City of Kingston Healthy Community Fund; Society for Conservation Biology, Kingston Chapter; Community Foundation of Greater Kingston; Friends of Lemoine Point; CRCA Potted Trees Program; Lennox and Addington Stewardship Council; Frontenac County Stewardship Council; Native Plant Nursery Committee; Lennox Fencing; Atkinson Home Building Centres; Vanden Bussche Irrigation Ltd.; Frontenac Institution; and Mulrooney Trucking Ltd.



Jane Murphy of the Friends of Lemoine Point gives Anthony Agostino of CKWS-TV a guided tour of the Native Plant Nursery. The interview and tour were featured on a segment of Agostino's Newswatch@5:30.





## A New Look for the CRCA – Coming Soon to a Conservation Area, Boat Ramp and Dam Near You

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) is replacing property identification and regulatory signage with a contemporary design on new material.

The CRCA has installed new property and regulatory signage at Kingston's Marshlands Conservation Area. Next, site identification signage at Brockville's Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and Gould Lake Conservation Area were replaced. New regulatory signs were also included at Gould Lake.

These new signs are digitally printed on an aluminum composite material. Each sign is protected by a sheet of Lexan and is built into a timber frame. This same design will be used for CRCA

boat ramp signage as it is replaced, as resources permit.

The new signs feature bold, black lettering on a wood grain background symbolizing the natural resource focus of the conservation authority.

The CRCA owns several conservation areas; eventually each will have new identification signage. They are: Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Kingston; Lemoine Point Conservation Area, Kingston; Lyn Valley Conservation Area, near Brockville; Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, between Amherstview and Bath and those mentioned above.

The same design has been incorporated for new dam identification signs.

The CRCA owns and operates seven dams within its jurisdiction and six of them will receive new site identification signs over the fall and winter. These are: Fred Grant Dam, Little Cataraqui Creek Dam, Marsh Bridge Dam, Millhaven Dam, Sydenham Dam and Temperance Lake Dam. A seventh dam, Brockville's Broome-Runciman, has a relatively new sign that will be replaced when and as required.

Further, another 48 warning signs will be installed at CRCA dams. These reflect various warnings using a combination of wording and pictographs that communicate specific risks.



The warning sign is typical of the style used on CRCA dams. Pictographs are used to convey specific threats.

This dam identification sign is typical of the six to be erected on CRCA dams throughout its jurisdiction.



## Aliens Also Invade Waterways

By now we've all heard of the zebra mussel and how it's invaded our waterways. There are lots of other plants and animals that are alien invaders and they have also taken up residence in our lakes, rivers and streams. Where do they all come from?

We know that some invasive species, like the zebra mussel, have been introduced to the Great Lakes through foreign ships. From there they are spread into inland lakes and rivers mainly through recreational boating. However, other potential sources of invaders are aquariums and water gardens.

Most of us don't think much about proper disposal of plants and animals from our water gardens or aquariums, but these could potentially become the alien invaders of the future.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are trying to determine how much of a potential problem exists. They are working on the following:

- compiling a list of the aquatic plants and animals in the Canadian trade
- determining the ability of these species to survive in the wild if released
- determining the handling and disposal practices of the average Canadian through an online survey.

To take the online survey for water gardens go to: [www.surveymonkey.com/water\\_garden\\_survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/water_garden_survey). The online survey for aquariums is available at: [www.surveymonkey.com/aquarium\\_survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/aquarium_survey). Links to these surveys are also available on the CRCA website ([www.cataraquiregion.on.ca](http://www.cataraquiregion.on.ca)).

For more information about invasive species, visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com).

## Invaders Raise Concern at Lemoine Point Conservation Area

The Friends of Lemoine Point continue their ongoing effort to limit the spread of two invasive plant species, dog-strangling vine and garlic mustard.

These are aggressive and difficult to control although the Friends have accepted the challenge. Jane Murphy is one of those leading the charge and she provided the information for this article.

Dog-strangling vine, *Vincetoxicum Nigrum* syn *Cynanclum Nigrum* or black swallow-wort is found in abundance in this area. This plant is native to western Europe but appeared in Canada about 1889. It has become a problem here in the past 30 years. It belongs to the milkweed family and can be recognized in fall by milkweed-like seed pods.

Dog-strangling vine forms dense colonies, twining around other plants, out-competing native plants for water and nutrients. It can affect grassland plants on which certain birds depend for nesting. It has no natural predators and is known to devastate alvars.

First year plants can be pulled but you must remove the entire root; it can regenerate from a remnant. Cut off the seed pods before they are ripe and release their seeds then dispose of the pods by burning them, or bagging them for garbage pickup.

Second year plants are killed by cutting to the base and painting the cut with herbicide. You must treat the plant for two or three years to eliminate new seedlings. Dig up the crown and destroy it.

Dog-strangling vine is not limited to Lemoine Point. It also grows along the service road to the dam at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

The other significant invader is *Alliaria Petiolata* or garlic mustard, a European invader in Canada since 1879. It out-competes native plants and tends to replace spring ephemerals.

In its first year, it forms a rosette; the stalk and flowers appear in the second year. It's a biennial, but because an infestation has plants in three growth stages, there will be flower and seed production every year.

Its leaves emit a powerful garlic smell when crushed. Its seed banks hold three to seven years' worth of seeds so eradications will take at least that long. Garlic mustard, like dog-strangling vine, also has no natural predators. Its seeds are dispersed by animals and humans. Unfortunately it is a pretty plant and has been given a place in some local gardens.

Control of garlic mustard is aimed at preventing seeds from dispersing. Small plants can be cut close to the ground or pulled. Pulling has the unfortunate effect of disturbing the soil which may make it easier for seeds to germinate, but cutting is harder for the average person to do. Glyphosate is effective against garlic mustard. In some localities, controlled burns are used to destroy the plants and their seed-banks.

A word of caution about these invaders: don't compost the plants. Burn them

or dispose of them in the garbage. Most compost piles will not be hot enough to destroy the seeds. Controlling both species is a long-term project and requires many hours of effort.

Ms. Murphy reports there are several locations at Lemoine Point where garlic mustard had replaced wildflowers. After four years of aggressive control efforts, the wildflowers have returned. However, she adds that many areas remain infested and more work needs to be done.



Close-up of dog-strangling vine.





## Wilton Restoration Project Seeks Landowner Participation

Wilton Creek from the air.

Scenic Wilton Creek meanders from Harrowsmith to Hay Bay. Holly Evans says she hopes those who live along its banks will support plans to improve the creek's health.

"My main goal is to increase the buffered area on either side of the stream through planting," says this environmental technician for the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA).

Project benefits are to improve water quality and to encourage residents to value the stream's natural aspects, she says. The first step is preparing a stewardship plan unique to each participating property.

"We'll look at the special features of your property and help you establish objectives," she explains. "I have already connected with a number of landowners through the stewardship planning process."

She collaborates with the Frontenac Stewardship Council and the Lennox and Addington Stewardship Council represented by Bret Colman and Steve Pitt respectively.

Stewardship involves planning as well as planting.

"We helped landowners by providing free seedlings," says Ms. Evans.

She tells of one property owner who intends to invite school groups to his property.

"He would like to have someone from the conservation authority there to teach the kids about stream health, what makes a healthy stream," she adds.

She calls this the Wilton Restoration Project and it has many facets. At Hay Bay, where Wilton Creek empties, she says she is planning shoreline restoration work at the CRCA boat ramp. This will include a demonstration project about erosion control and interpretive signage designed to inform people about good shoreline stewardship.

If you live along Wilton Creek and would like to learn more about this project, call Ms. Evans at (613)546-4228 ext. 244



CRCA Environmental Technician  
Holly Evans.

## Up Close and Personal With Geese at Little Cataraqui Creek

Early in July, Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area's resident flock of Canada geese are flightless because of a seasonal feather moult. That's why the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) chose to round up the 80-odd geese and band them.

CWS staff were assisted by Rick Robb of Ducks Unlimited and John Williamson of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Canoes were used to gently herd the flightless geese into a narrow bay. CWS staff, wearing chest waders, entered the water and continued herding the birds to shore.

Meanwhile, an enclosure constructed from poles and netting, was erected near the shore. The birds were herded from the water and guided into the open side of the enclosure which then was closed.

Each goose was examined to determine its sex then banded and released.



John Williamson, right, of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Canadian Wildlife Service waterfowl biologist Jack Hughes, left, collaborate to band a honker.

## Snakes are in Trouble Around the World

By Matt Ellerbeck (The Snake Man)



Garter Snakes are a common snake found all across Canada from the east coast to the west coast.

Snakes are in trouble. Over 60 species of snakes are now listed on the World Conservation Union's red list of threatened species, and all these snakes could be facing global extinction. This is not the whole of it though, there are still many more threatened and endangered snakes all over the world, and certain snakes are already thought to be extinct.

In Canada things are not much better. There are now 19 snakes listed as a Species at Risk under the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. This is well over half of all the snake species in Canada! Two of these snakes are now extinct in Canada (extirpated) and more of these snakes are also in trouble.

There are a few main contributing factors to snakes becoming endangered. The biggest factor to snakes is the loss of natural habitat. Many areas that were once suitable for snakes are now heavily settled by people, and these areas are densely populated with buildings, developments, and highways. Even cottage country habitats are being affected by lake-shore cottage development, boat houses, and the degradation of wetlands and shorelines.

Habitat loss is also a huge problem for snakes that live in climates that experience cold winters. In the winter snakes hibernate in dens known as hibernacula. When these dens are destroyed through construction or development the snakes are left without a winter shelter and may freeze to death and die. If this doesn't happen the snake may take up refuge in a basement, infiltrating through a broken window or cracked foundation. This once again puts the snake in danger of coming in contact with people, and thus setting themselves up to be needlessly killed! Almost all surprise encounters between snakes and humans end with the snakes dying.

This is another contributing factor to snakes becoming endangered, direct persecution, due to fear and ignorance. I cannot tell you how many times people have come up to me and told me how they have killed a snake that they have seen in their yard.

Many people who see snakes on the road (where they go to soak up heat) will purposely swerve to run the snakes over. In Australia a study found 109 dead snakes on a 9,000 km stretch of road. It is estimated the tens of thousands of snakes die on the road every year worldwide.

So why are people killing snakes? The main reason is probably fear. Many people simply do not like snakes and associate them with being evil or dangerous. This is simply not true! There are close to 3,000 kinds of snakes in the world and only around 400

are equipped with toxic venom which can be potentially dangerous to people. The fact is though most snakes (including venomous ones) are very secretive and try to avoid people.

Snakes have venom as a way to subdue their prey and as part of their natural digestive process (snakes don't chew their food, so the venom breaks the food down). Their venom can be used for defense as a secondary function. Proof of this is many people that are bitten by venomous snakes receive dry bites (a bite from a venomous snake in which no venom has been injected. Most snake bites that happen to people, happen when someone is trying to capture or kill the snake, and the snake is merely defending itself. Snakes do not purposely go out of their way to harm humans. The same cannot be said about us!

The final factor contributing to the death of snakes is money. Hundreds of thousands of snakes are killed every year for their skin and for snake products. Many more snakes are captured for the pet trade, including critically endangered snakes like the San Francisco Garter Snake.

People who want to buy pet snakes should make sure their pet was bred in captivity. Many of these pet snakes ultimately end up dead. Over 60,000 Ball Pythons (one of the most popular snakes kept as pets) die in the US every year due to improper care from their owners.

When you combine all of the above factors, it makes for an astounding number of snakes killed either directly or indirectly by humans. This is in sharp contrast to the good things snakes do for us.

The so called scary venomous snakes are helping save the lives of millions of people every year.

Snake venom is being used in the medical field to treat all sorts of ailments like heart and stroke disease, cancer, blood clots, and more.

Snakes help control rodent populations. Without snakes, rodents would run rampant, spreading disease, destroying crops, and affecting health and food industries.

Despite all they do for us, we as people go out of our way to kill snakes, and most people that are harming snakes have never even had a bad experience with one! We must all do our part to educate others about the good things snakes do, as snakes do not have many supports, so everyone counts in snake conservation. Together we can make a difference for nature's most misunderstood creature.

To find out how you can help snakes go to <http://www.savethesnakes101.tk>





# Foundation News

As summer quietly loses steam and we drift into the crispness of fall, the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation celebrates recent accomplishments and looks forward to our key fundraising event of the year.



Lynne Kenny, Foundation President, chairs the annual general meeting held in June 2006.

## Gala Fundraiser Forever Green

The *Forever Green* gala evening is scheduled for **Saturday, November 18, 2006**. This key fundraising dinner and silent/live auction will take place at the Staff Officers' Mess, Royal Military College. Funds attracted through sponsorships and attendance at *Forever Green* help the Cataraqi Region Conservation Authority to acquire environmentally significant land, and educate the public, especially school children, about the importance of the environment.

Invitations to the *Forever Green* gala evening go to a broad spectrum of the Kingston community, including individuals and local businesses. Through this gala evening, the Foundation aims to raise a significant sum for CRCA land acquisition and education programs.

## Foundation Names New Board

A board of directors guides the Cataraqi Conservation Foundation. We thank our retiring board members for their dedicated service to the Foundation. Retiring board members include Don Beckett, Harry Cleghorn, Pamela Dodd, and Susan Miklas.

A new board was elected at the Foundation's annual general meeting. New members of the Foundation board include Dr. Michael Bell, Christine Cannon, Diane Bradley-Smart, and Bill Warwick. This year the executive includes Lynne Kenny, president, Dr. John Morse, vice president, Jean Churchill-Wilson, treasurer, and Barbara Bradfield, secretary.

## AGM Tells us Where the Money Went

Over the past year, the Foundation raised funds for several critical activities:

- \$5,500 toward purchase of the Cowan property near the Bayview wetland;
- \$1,521 toward land transaction fees for this acquisition;
- eight bursaries for children to attend summer camps at the Little Cataraqi Creek and Gould Lake Conservation Areas.

The Foundation celebrated these successes at a June 6, 2006 annual general meeting featuring musical entertainment from Susan LeBaron on flute and Judy Wolfe Labbe on clarinet.

Lynne Kenny, the Foundation president, identified a goal of raising an additional \$10,000 toward completing the purchase of the Bayview wetland. Lynne proudly announced that the Foundation raised a record amount at the 2005 gala evening, with net profit of \$30,000. The bulk of these funds support the CRCA's conservation education programs.

Through the Foundation's *Partners in Outdoor Education* drive for 2005, the CRCA also received \$12,000 toward education programs at the Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area in Kingston and the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville.

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation thanks everyone for their continuing support.

## Exploring the Night Sky

Terence Dickinson led the audience through an exciting evening in early May 2006. Mr. Dickinson, an internationally known astronomy writer, took attendees on a fascinating tour of the spring sky with an exciting talk and slide show.

This Foundation-sponsored event took place at the Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area Outdoor Centre. Mr. Dickinson capped the evening with star watching from the lawn of the Outdoor Centre.

## Conservation Award Given

The Cataraqi Conservation Foundation annually recognizes a member of the community or group who has made a real difference in our area through voluntary efforts to promote conservation through education,



Vicki Schmolka (right) receives Conservation Award from Pamela Dodd.

direct action, or advocacy.

This year the Foundation honoured Vicki Schmolka with its Conservation Award. Pamela Dodd chaired the award selection committee and worked together with Harry Cleghorn and Graham Lodge to choose this year's award recipient.

Vicki Schmolka has contributed significantly to the Kingston area community through her tireless advocacy and leadership on environmental issues facing our local area. Vicki is a founding member of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, and is active in a number of local civic and community organizations.

## Partners in Outdoor Education Campaign

We are once again gearing up for our annual *Partners in Outdoor Education* campaign. Every September we ask our members, past donors and people interested in conservation to donate to the CRCA's conservation education programs.

These programs are supported, in part, by fees paid by the students when they attend education programs run by the CRCA at Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area or by Environmental Connections at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. However, the fees alone don't cover the costs of the program. The Foundation considers conservation education to be a priority and raises funds every year to assist with these programs.

One of the ways that we do this is through *Partners in Outdoor Education*. You can sponsor one student or a whole class to attend one of the wonderful outdoor education programs. It is often the first opportunity that children have to connect with the natural world and it's a lesson that stays with them forever.

So watch for our *Partners* letter in your mailbox. If you don't receive one and would like to contribute, please call us at (613) 546-4228 ext. 231 and leave a message or visit our website at [www.cataraqiregion.on.ca/foundation](http://www.cataraqiregion.on.ca/foundation).

## Wanted – Hummingbird Monitors

**The Ontario Hummingbird Project is looking for volunteers to participate in a hummingbird monitoring project.**

The project was started by Cindy Cartwright in 2005 to learn more about the life cycle of Ontario's hummingbirds. The project is trying to answer a number of questions including:

- When do hummingbirds arrive in the spring?
- When do they leave to go south?
- How many hummingbirds are in Ontario?
- How far north do hummingbirds go?

There are a number of ways that you can

participate. It can be as easy as reporting the first hummingbird you see in the spring or as involved as allowing research to take place on your property.

Findings can be reported online, by e-mail or by mail. Details about the project are available on their website: [www.ontario-hummingbirds.ca](http://www.ontario-hummingbirds.ca).





## Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area Celebrate 10 Year Milestone



Fencing along Centennial Road has been a major project of the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

It's hard to believe, but the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area are celebrating

their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They're celebrating this milestone at the Mac Johnson Wildlife Festival on Saturday, October 14.

In addition to a photo contest, which wraps up that day, the Friends are planning games, displays, story tellers, a hawk demonstration and horse-drawn wagon rides. From 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., you can bring the whole family out to Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and enjoy a great day of activities in the outdoors.

One of their objectives is to promote Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and one of the ways that they do this is by hosting special events like the Wildlife Festival. However, the Friends are about more than special events.

Over the past 10 years, they have contributed thousands of hours of volunteer labour at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. If the CRCA needs extra hands and don't have staff available, the Friends organize a work bee by telephone and e-mail. Some of their projects include: fencing along Centennial Road; trail maintenance and brushing; installing signs; and building and structure repairs and maintenance.

They also provide eyes and ears on the property and help to patrol trails, speaking to visitors about all of the great features of the property as well as providing a place to warm up after skating. The Friends are great ambassadors for Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

The Friends are always looking for more

members and volunteers. If you are interested in making a contribution or becoming a member, visit their website at [www.cybertap.com/macjohnson/](http://www.cybertap.com/macjohnson/).



Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area special events always include great food served up by smiling volunteers



Procter & Gamble employee Heather Gardiner builds a box for firewood at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

Procter & Gamble employee Jason Visser applies stain to a building at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area.

## Procter & Gamble Employees Help CRCA

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) welcomed some free extra labour compliments of Brockville's Procter & Gamble employees on June 23.

"The benefit for the conservation authority is that we accomplished a lot of work in a short time period," said CRCA Conservation Areas Supervisor Stefan Foerster.

Almost 30 Procter & Gamble employees worked at a variety of projects at the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Brockville. These included: installing fencing; installing a new sign at the north entrance; painting; landscaping and some miscellaneous tasks.

This is the second time P&G's corporate generosity has assigned employees to help the conservation authority. Six years ago, P&G sent 250 employees to the Mac Johnson site and donated \$15,000 toward the cost of project materials. This year, P&G sent 28 employees and donated approximately \$1,300.

"Another benefit for us is that some of the employees were unfamiliar with the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area before they came to work at the site," said Mr. Foerster. "Now, they are regular visitors and bring their families."

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area provided lunch for the workers although the cost was underwritten by P&G.



## CRCA Completes Parrott's Bay Acquisition



Steve Knechtel, General Manager of the CRCA

acquisitions for this Conservation Area in Loyalist Township.

"There was a plan, about 20 years ago, to acquire all the land fronting on Parrott's Bay," recalls CRCA General Manager Steve Knechtel. "This most recent acquisition, the Lewis/Bos property, completes the plan to acquire those lands so we've reached a milestone and that's why we're organizing this donor recognition event."

Significant donors include: Loyalist Township, the John M. Parrott Foundation, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation, Kingston

The Parrott's Bay Conservation Area land acquisition is finally complete! The CRCA and partners are planning to recognize donors who made possible key property

Field Naturalists, Lafarge Canada, AES Kingston, Ducks Unlimited, the M. Davies Foundation plus hundreds of other smaller donations.

Mr. Knechtel also notes there have been significant contributions from the Loyalist Chapter of the National Turkey Federation. This organization adopted a trail, is making it accessible and is building a 12 by 20-foot viewing pavilion.

"These property acquisitions represent the best way to protect this unique ecosystem – through public ownership by the CRCA," says Mr. Knechtel.

Parrott's Bay Conservation Area now occupies 117 hectares of land with beautiful waterfront vistas. It fronts on Highway 33, The Loyalist Parkway; its northern boundary is defined by Taylor Kidd Boulevard. It includes another 19 ha of water and five ha of provincially significant wetland.

"In fact, this property is a provincially significant coastal wetland and an area of natural and scientific interest (ANSI)," says Mr. Knechtel. "Parrott's Bay is important because it's home to provincially significant species."

The event's date, probably dur-



A view of Parrott's Bay Conservation Area from Taylor-Kidd Blvd.

ing October's second week, will be announced once a commemorative bronze plaque is cast to honour the memory of the Parrott family that colonized the area.

Work on the final property acquisition was handled by Loyalist Township. The municipality acquired the land then transferred it to the CRCA "so they were very actively involved with the process," says Mr. Knechtel.

The CRCA has five other major conservation areas throughout its jurisdiction.

## Invista Makes Donation to Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

Invista, based in Maitland near Brockville, has made a major donation to the Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. A cheque presentation will take place during the Mac Johnson Wildlife Festival on Saturday,

October 14.

The funds will be used to replace trail markers, signs and map kiosks at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area. It will also be used to purchase new tables and chairs for the Nature Centre,

allowing more flexibility in the use of the facility for school programs and other events.

Thank you Invista! Stay tuned for more details in the Winter 2007 edition of *Cat Tales*.