



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2010 - March 2011

VICTORIA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This is my first year as Chair requiring me to write the Chairperson's remarks for the Annual Report. In reviewing our activities for my comments over the past year it made me realize how important our Stewardship Council is for our community but most of all for our environment.

Take time to read the report you will be amazed at what the Council has accomplished, from environmental planning, water protection, education and with the various conservation projects we have either funded or assisted all ultimately have helped to sustain our area. They also served to promote our Council's work and ensure our relevance.

Stewardship Coordinators are the backbone to the success of any Stewardship Council. Our Coordinator is no exception we are able to make a difference in our area because of dedication of Doug van Hemessen. As well, each Council member brings to the table a new and fresh perspective. It is their ideas and their personal commitment to their roll that has helped to guide the growth and development of the Council over the years.

2011-12 will be a busy year – our work plan identifies numerous stewardship projects, land/water protection activities, education, and community planning projects and initiatives all to be done throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes.

We will continue to work towards the protection and sustainable management of our lands and waters but more importantly we will work with all the communities throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes to ensure we leave a healthy environmental legacy.

Al MacPherson, Council Chair

this Annual Report is also available at:

http://www.ontariostewardship.org/councils/victoria/files/Annual_Report_10_11.pdf

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

This Annual Report covers the highlights of our Council's work over the past year. As you read it I hope what's articulated and what's "between the lines" comes through: the hard work and enthusiasm of our volunteers, partners, and the landowners I have the privilege of working with.

I'm especially proud of achieving community and municipal endorsement of the Food Charter. As time goes on I hope and expect the values and principals expressed in that document lead to action and results that benefit farming, the community, and the environment.

I look forward to another productive year for our Council!

***Doug van Hemessen,
Stewardship Coordinator***



Our new logo, designed and approved in 2010!

BACKGROUND

The **Victoria Stewardship Council** is part of the Ontario Stewardship program of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Council first met in February of 1996, and has operated since 1997 according to an Annual Work Plan.





Lindsay Salvador and Jenny Fulton volunteered at the registration desk at the Lindsay Woodlot Conference & Trade Show



Council member Glenn Baxter talks beef to grade 3 students at the annual "Taste of the Kawarthas"



Council member Tracy Logan (foreground) at the Central Zone stewardship fall meeting field trip



Lakeland Alliance coordinator Mike Gibbs at the RBC Bluewater presentations at the Canoe Museum



Mark Trealout, farmer and coordinator for the Kawartha Ecological Growers, and Lauren Baker, Toronto Food Policy Council, ham it up at a CKL Food Charter gathering



Tracy Logan has a laugh as Dave Simser gets a lift from Laurel Whistance-Smith at the annual BBQ get-together for Stewardship Council members and spouses.

COUNCIL VISION

An informed community cares for the lands and waters of the City of Kawartha Lakes for the benefit of the natural environment and sustainable human needs.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Victoria Stewardship Council will provide a forum for improving long term environmental health and sustainability in the City of Kawartha Lakes. The Council will provide leadership and collaboration with other concerned groups, associations and individuals; enable community members to direct the focus of environmental efforts, and enhance the strength of the community.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Thirteen Council Directors represent various agriculture, forestry, cottage and land interest (naturalists, hunters, fur harvesters) organizations. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources provides significant support to several projects and our Stewardship Coordinator.

Council Director Information - March 2011

Al MacPherson: <u>Chair</u> Lindsay	Kawartha Trans Canada Trail
Glenn Baxter Ops	Victoria Cattlemen's Association Victoria Sheep Producers
Tracy Logan Peterborough	Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations
John Snider: <u>Past - Chair</u> Fenelon	Victoria Sheep Producers
Dave Simser – <u>Past Chair</u> Fenelon	Lindsay District Fur Harvesters Victoria Cattlemen's Association
Ron Fevang Lindsay	Kawartha Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association
Laurel Whistance – Smith Manvers	Rural landowner, Manvers Township; MNR Biologist, retired
Terry Parker Mariposa	Victoria Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Dan Bone <u>Past - Chair</u> Verulam	Kawartha Field Naturalists
Shalin Abbott Lindsay	Kawartha Conservation
Tim Webster Mariposa	Farmer
Brian Vanderkleyn Verulam	Lindsay Fur Council
<u>Observers</u>	
Kelly Maloney Agricultural Development Officer	City of Kawartha Lakes
Lou Probst	CKL Environmental Advisory Committee

ACTIVITY SUMMARIES – April 2010 – MARCH 2011

Agricultural Stewardship

A Food Charter for the City of Kawartha Lakes

The Food Charter received community endorsement at a February gathering. Lauren Baker, Executive Director of the Toronto Food Policy Council, gave a presentation entitled “So You Have a Food Charter. Now What?”

Local food producers provide snacks and refreshments at the event. The next step is to present to municipal council for their endorsement. It’s likely that a Food Policy Council will develop later in 2011 to help push the Food Charter principles into action.



Partners on the working group were: Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Victoria Stewardship Council, City of Kawartha Lakes Economic Development Office, Toward Balance Support Network, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, Kawartha Field Naturalists, Kawartha Conservation.

Agricultural stewardship projects for surface water quality

The Stewardship Council allocated \$10,000 for the support of agricultural stewardship projects that protect and improve surface water quality. 2010 saw the emergence of the **Kawartha Farm Stewardship Collaborative**, a partnership of the stewardship councils of Victoria, Peterborough, and Northumberland, Environmental Farm Plan representatives from those three counties, Kawartha, Otonabee, Ganaraska, and Lower Trent conservation authorities, the Lakeland Alliance, Ducks Unlimited, the Community Stream Steward Program, and Farms at Work (a regional non-government not-for-profit organization).

Funding from these partners provides additional money for farmers making certain kinds of improvements to their farms. Appropriate technical assistance is also provided, which aids farmers by giving them advice on how to carry these projects through to completion. Projects are identified by landowners through their Environmental Farm Plan.

The Collaborative collectively supported thirty-one projects in 2010 valued at \$239,884. Farmers contributed \$62,583 of that in cash or their own labour or materials.

In the City of Kawartha Lakes, four projects were completed: invasive species (buckthorn) removal from a section of stream in Emily, a wetland pond restoration project also in Emily, a bed-level stream crossing in Fenelon and livestock restriction fencing in Mariposa. The Stewardship Council contributed \$2863 to the last two.

This program continues in 2011.



Andrea Hicks, Community Stream Steward Program, talks with the landowner at the bed-level crossing site (pre-construction).

Support of Environmental Farm Plan

Display collaboration at Lindsay Exhibition, the Lindsay Woodlot Conference & Trade Show, and the East Central Farm Show. Landowner referrals between the Stewardship Coordinator and the EFP representative. The EFP representative is also on the Kawartha Farm Stewardship Collaborative committee.

Water Quality & Quantity

Kawartha Lakes Shoreline Naturalization Program

Our Council provided \$3,000 dedicated to on-site activities for this core program of Kawartha Conservation. \$500 grants are provided to interested landowners to provide planting material for their shoreline naturalization. \$500 is also provided by Kawartha Conservation and the landowner also puts in \$500.

In the City of Kawartha Lakes thirty-four shoreline site visits resulted in 20 projects; 458.8 m of shoreline protected with an average width of 2.4 meters buffer.

Other partners include the City of Kawartha Lakes, schools, youths, volunteers, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Lakeland Alliance

The Stewardship Council provides \$1000 a year as a partner in this collaborative that addresses water quality and aquatic

habitat concerns in the Kawartha Lakes and the near north lakes. Eight shoreline owners outside of the Kawartha Conservation watershed participated in the Alliance's shoreline visit program. Overall, 79 shoreline visits occurred under through the Lakeland Alliance in 2010.



The Lakeland Alliance was a featured RBC Bluewater grant recipient at a special event at the Canoe Museum in Peterborough. Doug van Hemessen, Chair of the Alliance, speaks to the recognition.

Sturgeon Lake Management Plan

The goal of the Sturgeon Lake Management Plan is to maintain and enhance the environmental health and economic sustainability of Sturgeon Lake and its surrounding watershed.

The Stewardship Coordinator sits on the Steering Committee. The 2011 season may see some stewardship projects begin with Council participation.

Woodlands & Forests

Tree Planting Services

This annual project is completed in partnership with Kawartha Conservation and volunteers from the Kawartha Field Naturalists and the Kawartha Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association.

15,770 trees were sold and distributed to 86 CKL landowners for planting on abandoned land, wildlife habitat enhancement, windbreaks, and for shoreline stabilization projects.

Trees Ontario Workshop

In October the Stewardship Council co-hosted a tree planting workshop with the Trees Ontario Foundation at Coronation Hall in Omemee. Thirty-five landowners learned about tree planting programs and the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

Lindsay Woodlot Conference & Trade Show - Feb 2011

The third year the event was held at the Farmers' Mutual Exhibition Building enabling a format that includes a greater number of exhibitors and the opportunity for them to talk to attendees during the show without disrupting the speakers.

"Bats, Burls, and Biomass" featured presentations by Dr. Paul Elliott, Trent University (Bats: Myths, Truths, and Ecology), Darren Allen, Canadian Forest Service (Hybrid Poplar and Willow Trials and Opportunities for Woodlot Owners), and Dave Sexsmith, Upper Canada Woods Cooperative (Burls: Treasures in the Woodpile).



Over 200 people attended the event and thirty-five exhibitors were present.

Organizing partners include local community volunteers, Lands & Forest Consulting, Ontario Woodlot Association, Maple Syrup Producers Association, and Stewardship Councils from Peterborough, and Northumberland.

Kawartha Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association

The Stewardship Coordinator assists this volunteer group as a resource advisor on

the board of directors and by helping out with Chapter activities.

The 2010 Annual General Meeting was at the Haliburton Forest.



Peter Schlieffenbaum, Executive Director of the Haliburton Forest (2nd from left) leads a tour of part of the centre's facilities. .

Fish and Wildlife

Community Stream Steward Project

This program originated in the headwaters of the Pigeon River, in the City of Kawartha Lakes, and is based on the premise that more streams can be improved if an individual or community group takes the lead on individual streams.

In the City of Kawartha Lakes CSSP did five stream restoration projects in 2010. The Stewardship Council makes an annual contribution of \$1000 to this program.



Andrea Hicks, again, talking to a landowner at a fencing project site (pre-fence).

Youth Environmental Education

Recreational Trail Stewardship

Stewardship Council Chair Al MacPherson organized Mariposa and Jack Callaghan public schools adjacent to the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail, to plant wildlife shrubs and install bird boxes. Forty students planted 300 trees and wildlife shrubs.

The Stewardship Council also provides trees and shrubs (at cost) and technical advice to Kevin Adams at Scott Young PS in Omemee. Kevin has been leading the planting on school board property behind the school (and adjacent to the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail).



Kevin Adams fighting the clover. Scott Young school is in the background with the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail within the treeline between...

Credit For Product

The Ecosystem Management program at Fleming College in Lindsay requires third-year students to form teams that undertake hands-on projects proposed by conservation organizations. This “Credit For Product” is a course requirement.

The Victoria Stewardship Council mentored a student team in the fall term for the establishment of long-term dog-strangling-vine monitoring plots. Eight plots were set. Future Credit for Product teams will monitor those plots and establish new ones. Over time, we will get a better idea of the population biology of this invasive plant.



(l. to r.) Fleming students Kristina Lee, Emily Howell, Anne Grimes, and Matt Lapointe establish a dog-strangling-vine monitoring plot in the Orono Crown Forest.

Ontario Stewardship Rangers

The Stewardship Councils of Victoria, Peterborough, and Northumberland again shared an Ontario Stewardship Rangers team in 2010. The Rangers are four 17 year old students – two male and two female - from the local area who are hired to work on a variety of stewardship projects for the summer.

The Ranger team was based in Peterborough. They undertook projects throughout the CKL, Peterborough, Northumberland region. Four projects were done in CKL including the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail, Emily Park, Community Stream Steward Program work.



The Stewardship Rangers helping kids assemble bird boxes at the Hastings Plowing Match.

Support of Local Volunteer Groups

The Stewardship Council made contributions to the following activities:

- \$300 to the Haliburton-Kawartha- Pine Ridge Children's Water Festival
- \$400 to the Kawartha Field Naturalists for wetland signage to be installed in 2011
- \$380 to the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail to support the new map and brochure

Also, the Kawartha Field Naturalists continued with their multi-year Floral Inventory of the City of Kawartha Lakes (\$2700 provided in 2008). Thirty-five locations were inventoried in nine CKL townships in 2010.

Particularly exciting was the discovery of some Atlantic Coastal Plain flora. This disjunct population is a new one for Ontario. The Royal Ontario Museum will be housing the pressed specimens from this project.

Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

The province has estimated that the population of the City of Kawartha Lakes will grow to over 100,000 people by the year 2031. There are concerns that this projected growth may have implications on the current environmental, economic, social and cultural facets of the community. Furthermore, the City wants to ensure that future growth is managed and developed in a sustainable manner that ensures the integrity of the community for future generations.

Accordingly, the City has initiated the preparation of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). This ICSP will identify a path forward for a 'sustainable community' and identify and close gaps in the existing policy framework to achieve the vision and goals that will be developed in the Plan. The ICSP will ultimately develop a results oriented program (a Local Action Plan) that will identify various projects and further policy initiatives that implement the ICSP directions.

The Stewardship Council will be assisting this project in 2011.

Natural Heritage System Strategy

A new project that emerged in 2010, a Natural Heritage System assesses and maps natural features: wetlands, woodlands, lakes, streams, meadows, and plants and animals they contain and inks these features and areas with natural connections and corridors.

The Kawartha Heritage Conservancy is leading a partnership including the Ministry of Natural Resources to develop a community-based natural heritage system for the Kawarthas. The Stewardship Coordinator is participating on the Steering Committee.

Stewardship Display

The Stewardship Council display was at the Carden Nature Festival, the Fenelon Fair, and the Lindsay Central Exhibition as a stand-alone and in partnership with the Stewardship Councils of Peterborough, and Northumberland at the Lindsay Woodlot Conference & Trade Show and the East Central Farm Show.



Victoria Stewardship Council coordinator Doug van Hemessen (left) and Derrick Luetchford, Stewardship Coordinator for Northumberland, at the East Central Farm Show.

Project Partners

Bancroft Area Stewardship Council
City of Kawartha Lakes
City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee
City of Kawartha Lakes Agricultural Advisory Committee
Community Stream Steward Program
Couchiching Conservancy
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Durham Region Stewardship Council
Environmental Farm Plan
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fleming College
Forest Gene Conservation Network
Haliburton Highlands Stewardship
Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit
Kawartha Conservation
Kawartha Field Naturalists
Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association
Lakeland Alliance
Lake Simcoe Protection Program
Lindsay District Fur Harvesters
Northumberland Stewardship Council
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
Ontario ALUS Alliance
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs
Ontario Invasive Plant Council
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Ontario Nature
Ontario Stewardship
Ontario Stewardship Rangers
Ontario Woodlot Association
Otonabee Conservation
Parks Canada - Trent Severn Waterway
Peterborough County Stewardship Council
Peterborough Green-Up
Trees Ontario Foundation
Trillium Lakelands District School Board
Victoria Cattlemen's Association
Victoria Dairy Producers
Victoria Haliburton Federation of Agriculture
Victoria Sheep Producers
Victoria Soil and Crop Improvement Association
...and hundreds of landowners in the City of Kawartha Lakes

Financial Report

The total value of all Stewardship Council partner contributions (financial support, project supplies and staff / volunteer time) **exceeds \$250,000**. The Victoria Stewardship Council would like to thank these partners for their contributions to local stewardship activities.

VICTORIA LAND & WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

FOR FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2010 - MARCH 31, 2011

CHEQUING ACCOUNT - 65-02814

ITEM	DEPOSITS	CHEQUES	BALANCE
Balance forward Apr. 1, 2010			\$9,410.82
Deposits	\$31,854.74		
Expenses		\$31,658.51	
Balance at March 31, 2011			\$9,607.05

CIBC GICs

ITEM	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	BALANCE
FLGIC00019	\$6,827.61		\$6,827.61
Matures Nov. 30/2011 (Int. At maturity \$27.31)			
FLIGC-043	\$21,790.51		\$21,790.51
Matures Dec. 30/2011 (Int. At maturity \$89.55)			
FLGIC00035	\$10,072.08		\$10,072.08
Matures Sept. 29/2011 (Int. At maturity \$50.36)			
Current Balance of GICs			\$38,690.20

NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDS CHEQUING ACCOUNT 20-31035

ITEM	DEPOSITS	CHEQUES	BALANCE
Opening Balance			\$24.07
Service Charges		\$3.75	
Balance at March 31, 2011			\$20.32
Service Charges		\$1.25	
Transferred to 65-02814 June 7, 2010		\$19.07	\$0.00

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