



Minesing Reeds

The Friends of Minesing Wetlands Newsletter

Volume 26

Spring 2006

Minesing Unplugged

The second annual Minesing Unplugged Wetland Festival, being held Saturday, June 10th in Grenfel (just northwest of Barrie) is sure to be a treat for all who attend! With an eclectic mix of musical talent, an artisan craft market, music and yoga workshops, family activities and environmental and alternative energy displays, there will be no shortage of fun for festival-goers. The musical line-up includes The Silver Hearts, DALA, The Undesirables, Jory Nash, Greg Hobbs, Angie Nussey, Treasa Levasseur, Rae Spoon, Don't Panic, R.T. Cooke, Telihard Frost & Sam Alison, and Clifford Rutledge.



SOJOURN

a seasonal experience



The winners of our current raffle will be drawn at the Festival. Be sure to purchase your tickets for a chance to win a 16ft Prospector Canoe and two Grey Owl paddles, graciously donated by Sojourn. (Tickets are available at the NVCA and Sojourn, and will be sold at the Festival.)

The event will go on, rain or shine. (There is a pavilion on-site.) Tickets for the Festival may be purchased in advance, in Barrie at BJ's Records and Nostalgia and at Music Pro (in the south end), or in Toronto at Sam the Record Man (Yonge St.) and Tranzac Club. Tickets are \$30 each; children under 10 are free. Group packages for 10 or more are available.

This event is an important fundraiser for the Minesing Wetlands, bringing awareness to the importance of conserving this internationally significant ecosystem. Funds raised will be directed towards the completion of an intensive inventory of flora and fauna.

This event is organized completely by volunteers: kudos to those involved!

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The Minesing Wetlands

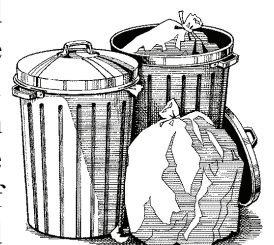
Welcome to the Minesing Wetlands! Yes, "The Swamp" has gone through a bit of rebranding. The new name reflects the diverse nature of the systems within the boundaries, which include swamps, fens, bogs, and forest.

It was quite a process to have the name changed. First, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's Full Authority supported the name change proposal. Friends of Minesing Swamp then lobbied the three municipalities, Essa, Springwater and Clearview Townships, for support and received it. Letters of support were gathered from Nature Conservancy Canada, Ducks Unlimited, the Brereton Field Naturalists, NVCA, and local naturalists. A support package was sent to the Ontario Geographical Name Change Board for its consideration. It was supported at this level, and forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources. A confirmation letter was received in February of this year.

Brochures, maps and signs are being updated and in due time the new name will be quite recognizable. Friends of Minesing Swamp will now be known as Friends of Minesing Wetlands. Please contact Byron Wesson, Director of Land and Water Stewardship Services at the NVCA, for more information on the process.

Roadside Cleanup

This spring's Roadside Cleanup, part of FOMS' commitment to the Adopt-A-Road program, took place on Wednesday, May 10th. The midweek date was chosen to incorporate students from Elmvalle High School who were to take part in community projects for the day. Half a dozen students enjoyed a sunny day, improving their environment. Due to construction along George Johnston Road, only the section north of the Willow Creek to the edge of the community of Minesing was cleaned up, but the crew did visit the trail and creek area off of Vespra Valley Road. The Esso station in Minesing graciously provided refreshments and access to amenities for the students: thank you!



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS PROTECTED IN BILL 16

Please visit www.ontarionature.org for more information on Federation of Ontario Naturalists activities and involvement.



This past December, Ontario legislators gave a gift to Ontario's nature by passing Bill 16, the Duffins-Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act. This legislation reinstates conservation easements on 800 hectares of land in the City of Pickering. Ontario Nature had been fighting to have the conservation easements reinstated since the City unilaterally revoked them the previous February. Pickering tried to remove the easements so that the lands could be developed. The Agricultural Preserve is a key component of the Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt that protects green space surrounding the GTA.

The passage of this bill strengthens all conservation easements in Ontario. Conservation easements are legal agreements between a landowner and a government agency or non-profit organization that permanently limits development of the land. Now, no conservation easement can be amended or revoked without the consent of the Minister of Natural Resources. This will prevent any unscrupulous easement holder from cancelling or amending these important conservation tools.

"This legislation shows that the Government of Ontario is ready to act decisively when there is a direct attack on such an important conservation mechanism," notes Caroline Schultz, Ontario Nature's Executive Director. "Now these valuable farmlands are protected in perpetuity," she adds.

In the Nottawasaga Valley watershed, conservation easements are important tools in conserving areas with significant natural features, including those in and around the Minesing Wetlands. For more information on how conservation easements work in our region, please contact staff in the Planning Department at the NVCA.



Friends of Minesing Wetlands hosted two canoe tours this spring: April 8th and 15th. These paddlers are traveling through on a typically grey early spring day against a backdrop of heron nests.

(photo: Jolene Laverty)

Are you interested in becoming a "Friend of Minesing Wetlands?" Do you frequently visit the Minesing Wetlands, or would someone you know appreciate the gift of a membership and annual pass? Funds raised are directed towards conservation, promotion, and future enhancement projects within the Wetlands. Members receive an annual pass and one year of mailings of "Minesing Reeds." Memberships are valid for the current calendar year.

Please check the appropriate box for your pass and membership category:

- \$20 for an individual \$30 for a family \$100 for a Club \$300 for a corporation

Please return this form, with a cheque payable to the Friends of Minesing Wetlands, to the N.V.C.A., 8195 Line 8, Utopia, ON, L0M 1T0.

Name _____

Address/Phone/email _____