



Minesing Reeds

The Friends of Minesing Wetlands Newsletter

Volume 29

Spring 2007

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Welcome to a new format for *Minesing Reeds*! As the Conservation Lands Pass is now applicable to all Conservation Areas in the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's jurisdiction, the newsletter will reflect that with information on lands around the watershed.

Friends of Minesing Wetlands has found a new partner in conservation, in Bradford Greenhouses. When shopping for your native groundcover and eco-friendly garden products, please remember to say "I support Friends of Minesing Wetlands" before your purchases are rung through the cash. Friends will receive a portion of total sales back from Bradford Greenhouses, which will be directed towards conservation initiatives in the Wetlands. Bradford Greenhouses is located west of Barrie on Cty. Rd. 90 at Hwy. 27.



The recently completed Flora and Fauna Inventory has hit the press! While a pdf version is expected to be posted on the internet, a hard copy may be ordered for \$40. Please contact the NVCA for more information.

Minesing Unplugged

Organizers are very excited with how this year's Minesing Unplugged event is coming together. Held the weekend of June 16th and 17th at Tiffin Centre, festival participants can enjoy the musical lineup, take part in an array of environmental workshops, browse the juried artisan market, and learn about health and wellness. Camping is available under Tiffin's impressive natural canopy, and a beverage garden will be set up.

The musical lineup features Lynn Miles, Luther Wright and the Wrongs, Suzie Vinnick, Hayes Carll, Ken Whiteley, Greg Hobbs Trio, Old Man Luedecke, Matt Masters, The Sundowners, Irie Band, Don Bray, Adam Olmstead, Pat Robitaille, Dan Frechette, Roman Riccio, The Schomberg Fair, and Nicole Scott.

The workshop series includes guided nature hikes, orienteering, a scavenger hunt, the survival game, "Stalking the Wild Asparagus," a wetland walk, pond dipping for critters, nature games, "Create a Marsh Creature," Ecological Footprint, organic lawn care, 100 Mile Diet, artistic journaling, fly tying (perfect for the Father's Day weekend), Tai-Chi, Yoga, Kids Yoga, "Festival Fun with Treasa Levasseur," drumming circle, songwriting workshop, and more. Several of the

workshops are being provided by Beyond the Horizon Outdoor Adventures. All workshops are suitable for all ages.



Festival passes are now available. A weekend pass is \$30, a Saturday pass is \$25, and coming for Sunday's events is \$10. Youth passes are \$20 for the weekend, \$15 for Saturday, and \$10 for Sunday. Children under 10 are free, and camping is \$5 per person. Adult Ticket prices will increase by \$5 at the gate so be sure to secure yours in advance! Tickets are available in Barrie at Sojourn (31 Commerce Park Dr.), BJ's Records & Nostalgia (13 Clapperton St.), or the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority office at 8195 Line 8, Utopia. You can also order your tickets online at the festival website, www.minesingunplugged.ca.

The event continues to be organized by volunteers, with funds raised directed to conservation initiatives in the Minesing Wetlands. For more information, check out the Festival website, www.minesingunplugged.ca, or contact Tina at the NVCA, 705-424-1479, ext. 241, or tdesroches@nvca.on.ca.

For more information on the Minesing Wetlands or for Friends of Minesing Wetlands membership information, please contact the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, 8195 Line 8, Utopia, ON, L0M 1T0, (705) 424-1479



Wander through the Watershed

Follow along in the next few issues of *Minesing Reeds* as we highlight the various Conservation Areas in the Nottawasaga River Watershed.

Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Close to 500 acres make up the Tiffin Conservation Area. The property is known for its diverse forests, wheelchair-accessible trail system, environmental education program, and annual "Spring Tonic" maple syrup festival.

Tiffin has much to offer visitors including a mixture of wetlands, forests, open meadows, ancient lake beds and glacial shorelines. All can be found as you hike over 17 kilometers of looped return trails. Home to the NVCA John Hix Administrative Centre and the John L. Jose Environmental Education Centre, Tiffin welcomes people young and old to enjoy all it has to offer.

Organizations are encouraged to contact the NVCA regarding use of the pavilion or group campground, and the Centre's staff are available seven days a week for interpretive assistance. The new Low Ropes Challenge Course will be complete by July 1st, and will be incorporated into such activities as corporate retreats. Take advantage of the impressive natural surroundings of Tiffin, with options for active or passive recreation activities, for your organization's event.

Tiffin Centre is located between the City of Barrie and the community of Angus, 4km south of Cty. Rd. 90, at 8195 Line 8 (Utopia). Please call the NVCA at 705.424.1479 for more information on facility bookings.

Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area

With close to 161 hectares (400 acres) of countryside vistas, hardwood and coniferous forests, open meadows, and a series of caves, the Nottawasaga Bluffs offers a full day of exploration and adventure. The area is steeped in local history; pioneers once toiled to cut a living out of the wilderness. Timber and limestone proved to be big business for this area and as such, small communities like Singhampton and Glen Huron were established.

Hike the Ian Lang Heritage Trail and discover traces of an old stage coach road and limestone kiln. Signs of an original homestead are still visible, and a fine patch of rhubarb bordering the old stone foundation still thrives. Connect with the Bruce Trail as it makes its way through the property or venture down one of its side trails to catch a variety of unique features.

To get to the Bluffs, turn south on Milltown Rd. from Cty. Rd. 124 just east of Singhampton. Then immediately left onto Ewing Rd. Follow Ewing to 17/18 Sideroad; turn left. At the next stop sign at a T-intersection, turn left. Continue for 500m and watch for the parking lot on your right.

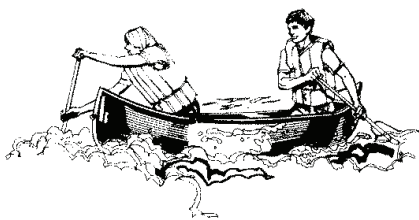
For more information on the Bruce Trail, please visit that Association's website at www.brucetrail.org, or the Blue Mountains Bruce Trail Club's site at www.bmbtc.org.

CANOE RAFFLE

*The annual Canoe Raffle draw date
is quickly approaching!*

Drop into Sojourn in Barrie, the NVCA office,
the Georgian Mall Community Booth June 2 & 3,
or the Minesing Unplugged Wetland Festival
to purchase your raffle tickets.

*The winning ticket will be drawn on the afternoon of June 17
at the Minesing Unplugged Wetland Festival.*



GOOD LUCK!

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Garlic Mustard, an herb introduced to the Ontario countryside by pioneer settlers, is now an invasive plant. This annual, winter annual or biennial plant is most commonly found in moist woodlands, ditches and fencerows. First-year rosettes with kidney-shaped green leaves with scalloped edges grow close to the ground. The flower stalks grow 2 to 3-1/2 feet tall with clusters of small white flowers, with four petals in the shape of a cross. Seeds are produced in erect, slender, four-sided pods, called siliques, beginning in May. By late June, most of the leaves have faded away and garlic mustard plants can be recognized only by the dead stalks with pale brown seedpods that may remain and hold viable seed through the summer. Each plant produces between 150 and 850 seeds, which are shed in June and may remain viable for up to 5 years. *(please see next page for continued information)*

For Immediate Release

May 16, 2007

Ontario Passes Best Endangered Species Act in the Country All parties vote for strong legislation



Toronto, Ontario - Today, Ontario's leading environmental organizations are hailing Ontario's new Endangered Species Act as the best in the country. The new law balances a strong, science-based approach to protecting endangered plants and animals with the flexibility needed to address socio-economic concerns.

During today's final vote in the Legislature, the new law received broad support from all of the province's major political parties. The Act replaces outdated and ineffective legislation dating from 1971 and offers new hope for over 200 endangered plants and animals found in Ontario.

"We'd like to thank all the MPPs who voted for this Bill," says Dr. Rick Smith, Executive Director of Environmental Defence. "Support crossed party lines, demonstrating that Ontarians of all political stripes care deeply about our natural heritage and are committed to preserving it for future generations."

The new legislation is the first in Canada to combine mandatory habitat protection with a science-based approach to listing species for protection. It also requires the development of strategies to help species recover to healthy population levels.

"This new law is, without a doubt, the best Endangered Species Act in Canada," says Robert Wright, Counsel for Sierra Legal. "It empowers the government and all Ontarians to be stewards, and ensures the protection of the endangered plants and animals in the province."

"From an ecological perspective, the new law covers the critical bases," concurs Rachel Plotkin, Policy Analyst for the David Suzuki Foundation. "Ontario is home to about 40 per cent of Canada's endangered species, and the Act sets a high bar for their protection."

The new legislation also addresses socio-economic concerns in a number of ways. It provides for permits and agreements to accommodate resource development under certain circumstances. It also comes with an \$18 million stewardship fund to help ensure that the cost of protecting species does not fall unfairly on the shoulders of landowners.

"The new legislation provides for fair, balanced decision-making," says Wendy Francis, Director of Conservation and Science for Ontario Nature. "Nevertheless, we will have to be vigilant to ensure that the permitting provisions are not treated as loopholes for activities that might jeopardize a species' survival or recovery."

"The proof of the Act's effectiveness will lie ultimately in its implementation," agrees Janet Sumner, Executive Director of CPAWS-Wildlands League. "There are a number of species, such as woodland caribou, that are suffering ongoing, drastic declines due to habitat loss. They require immediate attention. The Ministry of Natural Resources needs to prioritize these species to ensure that strong habitat regulations and recovery strategies are put in place and implemented without delay."

GARLIC MUSTARD (*cont'd*) Also known as *Alliaria petiolata*, hedge garlic, sauce-alone, jack-by-the-hedge, poor man's mustard, jack-in-the-bush, garlic root, garlicwort, or mustard root, don't confuse this invader with other white-flowered native plants, including toothworts, sweet cicely, and early saxifrage.

While this herb may have once been used to flavour foods, and has been considered to possess many valuable medicinal properties (being used to clear infections and "encourage healing"), Garlic Mustard is the "purple loosestrife" of woodlands and fencerows. It competes with native wildflowers that also flower in the spring, stealing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. Wildlife and insects that depend on these early plants for food soon disappear.

The first step to reduce the threat of this invader is to prevent it from establishing itself. Watch for your first invader, and seek and destroy it immediately. Scout field edges now, and pull or hoe out invaders. Once garlic mustard is established, the goal is to prevent seed shed for several years until all viable seed is exhausted. Plants can be pulled out easily, especially if soil is moist, but new sprouts will grow if the plant breaks off. Remove pulled plants to prevent seed shed. Plants can be cut off to prevent further spread, but watch for sprouts below the cut.

Locally, NVCA staff are working on an infestation at Tiffin Centre, and the southern portion of the watershed is heavily infested. For more information you may contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, at 1-877-424-1300.

Source: OMAFRA website, www.omafra.gov.on.ca



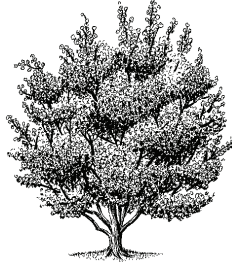
UPCOMING MINESING WETLANDS EVENTS

Sat. & Sun. June 16 & 17 Minesing Unplugged, Tiffin Centre
 Friday, October 19 Friends Annual General Gathering, Fort Willow

Please call the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority 705-424-1479 for more information and to register for these events. Events may be weather dependent. Please be advised that the Minesing Wetlands complex is a wilderness area and outdoor experience is expected of participants for trekking-type excursions.

Hey Kids!

Learn about the importance of trees in the environment as you work your way through this crossword puzzle.

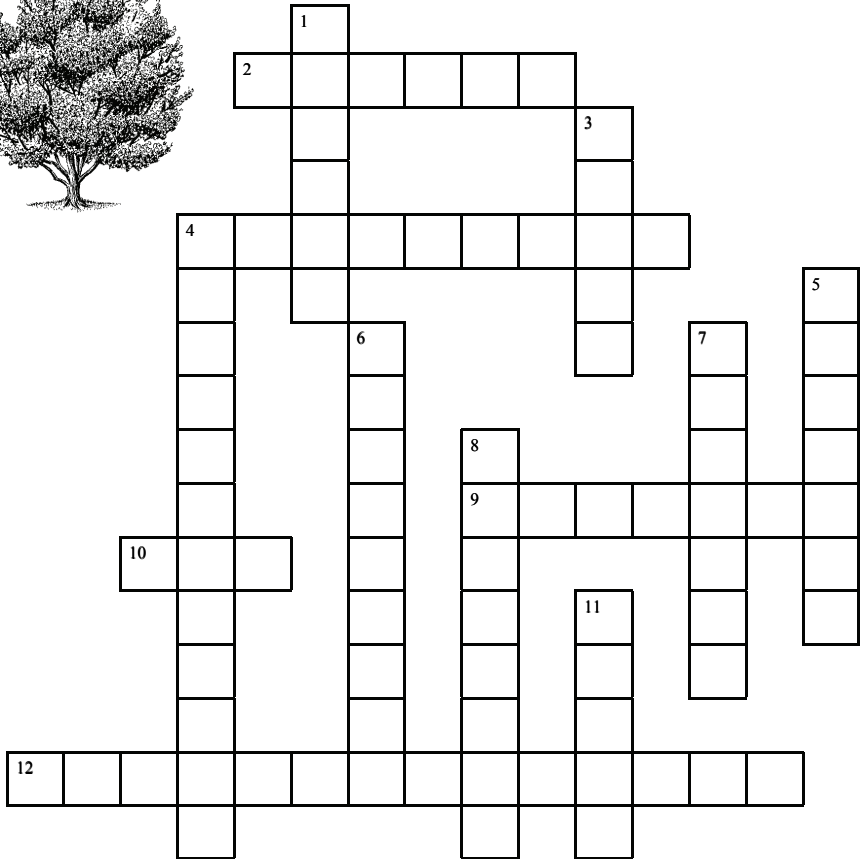


ACROSS

- 2 When trees are used to protect crops from drying and erosion, this increases.
 4 A row of trees planted to reduce wind erosion and provide wildlife food and shelter.
 9 When wind is slowed, the rate of soil _____ also decreases.
 10 What children have when they climb trees, build forts, and play in the shade.
 12 The process that trees use to make energy and produce oxygen

DOWN

- 1 Woodlands provide people with opportunities to participate in many outdoor activities including this.
 3 Planting trees around your home helps keep the air cooler by providing this.
 4 This is improved as roots filter water as it moves toward streams (2 words).
 5 Trees add _____ material that helps improve the soil.
 6 Trees encourage species _____, as many different organisms depend on trees for their survival.
 7 In acting as a source of food and cover, trees provide this for wildlife.
 8 Branches and leaves slow wind _____.
 11 Landscapers have many choices when using these to improve aesthetics.



Words to choose from: Hiking, Yields, Shade, Organic, Photosynthesis, Fun, Water Quality, Velocity, Trees, Diversity, Windbreak, Habitat, Erosion.

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 to the Conservation Lands Reserve. Members receive an annual pass for all Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority lands, 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 \$50 for a family \$200 for a Club \$400 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 _____