



MINESING REEDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MINESING WETLANDS

Volume 35

Spring 2011

Tree Planting in the Watershed

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority offers a program that provides tree planting services to landowners throughout the watershed. The NVCA has offered this program since 1964, and it is an integral part of ongoing efforts to protect and enhance water quality throughout the valley. In an effort to expand forest cover in the watershed, the NVCA has numerous grant programs that enables planting at subsidized rates.

While the trees are only planted in the spring, landowners are encouraged to call anytime. Calling well in advance of spring planting will ensure access to the widest selection of trees and site preparation options. Due to the popularity of the program, and the limited number of trees, the program is normally fully booked 8 to 12 months in advance of spring planting.

The cost varies widely depending on the species of trees planted, method and degree of site preparation, planting method, and intensity of post planting care required. Landowners should be prepared to pay between \$120 and \$1000 per acre. The minimum

order is 1500 trees. This requires 2.2 acres, or 0.9 hectares of land available for planting.

Forests

- **help to moderate the effects of both drought and flooding**
- **reduce the extent of soil erosion**
- **provide habitat for wildlife**
- **are an important economic resource**



Landowners wanting to purchase small numbers of trees and shrubs (1-100) should visit one of NVCA's Arbour Day Tree Sales. These sales are usually held every spring on the second Saturday in May. A wide variety of trees and shrubs for the home and garden will be available for sale at the Tiffin Center. Sales are also held in partnership with various community groups throughout the watershed. An up to date listing of these sales will be available on our website at www.nvca.on.ca in April.

At this time, the NVCA does not retail tree seedlings. Landowners wishing to plant their own tree seedlings are urged to contact our seedling supplier, Somerville Nurseries, at 1-877-708-7337 or through their website at www.treeseedlings.com.

For more information on the NVCA's tree planting programs, please contact Rick Grillmayer, Forestry Program Coordinator at 705-424-1479 ext. 230, or email rgrillmayer@nvca.on.ca.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

🗓️ On Saturday, May 7th the Friends of Minesing Wetlands will be doing our annual Roadside Cleanup along George Johnston road south of Minesing. The road side clean-up is part of FOMW's commitment to protecting the Minesing Wetlands as well as our commitment to the County of Simcoe towards their Adopt-A-Road initiatives. The day will start at the canoe corral on George Johnston road and participants will be broken into groups to cover ground more quickly. Any one is welcome to join in. If you are interested or require more information please contact Adam Scott at 705-424-1479 ext 259.

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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 *please visit minesingwetlands.ca*

Your Directors

Adam Scott	Chair
Jim Anderson	Vice-Chair
Lynn Brennan	Past Chair
Lori McLachlan	Secretary
Byron Wesson	NVCA Liaison
Iona Anderson, Tina DesRoches,	Directors-at-
Ross Money, Harold McMaster,	Large
Harold Parker	

Important Acquisition: Part I

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, in partnership with Nature Conservancy of Canada, has recently secured an additional 94 acres of land within the Minesing Wetlands boundary through two separate land acquisitions. Both properties are located in highly sensitive areas, including 80 acres within the fen.

The Minesing Wetland Acquisition program has been active for more than 40 years. A multitude of partners have provided funding over the years including MNR, Toronto Sportsman Show, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Nature Conservancy of Canada. The NCC and NVCA work closely together to identify properties, meet with landowners and undertake land value appraisals. Some landowners have close ties to their land and want to ensure it remains protected. Others have owned their land for a lifetime but have never set foot on it.

Land values can vary depending on their location within the Wetlands. Properties with road or water frontage will net more than those found deep in the interior of Minesing. Appraisals are necessary to ensure fair and transparent compensation for all.

The total acquisitions to date now exceed 10,000 acres. The entire wetland encompasses an approximate 15,000 acres. There remains several hundred acres within Minesing Wetlands that are considered high priority for acquisition. Beyond the high priority land (being typically interior), there are several hundred more that almost make up the entire wetland complex. After 40 years of success one might think that the program has reached its maturity and any interested landowners have come and gone. This thought is usually short-lived as the phone rings and we all scurry to make the next deal!

Heronry Counts

On February 5th directors from the Friends of Minesing Wetlands, along with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's Ecologist, Dave Featherstone, snowshoed into the western side of the Minesing Wetlands. The purpose was to conduct a pre-scouting trip of heron rookeries that were previously monitored by lifelong Minesing Friend Wyman Jacques, as well as to determine whether ice conditions were safe to lead a large group of volunteers into the Wetlands.

Minesing Wetlands contains one of the oldest and largest known heron colonies in Ontario. As it has been a number of years since the last FOMW trip into the western side of the Wetlands, directors were unsure of the exact location of the rookeries as well as what to expect in terms of numbers of nests. The previous count down by Wyman Jacques and volunteers had the total nest counts over 200. To ensure that no new rookeries were missed, directors traveled a full loop circuit that would allow for covering as much ground as possible, with the greatest visibility.

After travelling into the wetlands it was determined that because of the early thaw that had occurred, ice conditions in a number of spots along the Mad River and in the central part of the Wetlands were no longer suitable for bringing a large group through. The group also found that there were no longer a large number of heron nests on the west side of the Wetlands. Directors found two rookeries with a total of six active nests that remained in the area. This can probably be attributed to specific predators that have taken up residence in the wetlands.

Stay tuned for updates on the heron colonies on the east side of the Wetlands that will be checked this spring by canoes.



Heron nests in winter, as seen on a February 5th inventory tour.

Important Acquisition: Part II

Nature Conservancy of Canada and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority were pleased to hear positive news regarding a joint Trillium grant submission. The need to further address action items within the (2009 2014) Minesing Wetland Management Plan will be met with a \$150,000 grant to hire a coordinator over the next three years.

The Management Plan was prepared to address biodiversity targets, threats and conservation actions for the protection and enhancement of the Minesing Wetlands. The new position will be a busy one and will include working with NCC and NVCA staff on ongoing monitoring/restoration projects, help to build new relationships with wetland landowners and identify all funding opportunities through private donors, foundations, government sources and non-governmental organizations. A long term strategy will also be created that will address a self sustaining arrangement for the position's longevity. The position will also require attendance at Friends of Minesing Wetland meetings and assisting where applicable.

Hey Kids!

H	Y	D	R	O	M	E	T	E	R	U	I	M	T	R
A	N	C	O	W	X	V	D	I	M	B	Z	A	I	E
Q	S	P	I	L	E	S	E	L	K	G	R	P	M	F
B	U	Y	M	Z	A	R	L	J	B	O	I	L	S	R
H	G	R	R	O	S	Y	I	P	T	M	N	E	I	A
D	A	L	B	U	A	R	C	S	P	W	M	K	N	C
I	R	U	O	S	P	R	I	N	G	C	C	R	Z	T
N	B	M	T	Y	Z	W	O	T	A	I	R	S	I	O
B	U	C	K	E	T	K	U	R	B	M	E	T	B	M
L	S	Q	U	N	F	R	S	C	O	P	A	E	U	E
S	H	W	T	U	B	I	N	G	A	V	M	Z	C	T
X	W	Y	I	P	M	W	C	N	L	N	S	M	K	E
F	R	E	L	P	W	I	C	V	Y	K	D	H	W	R
T	L	G	E	B	M	F	I	L	T	E	R	Y	U	D
M	A	P	T	T	H	W	A	J	P	O	S	K	D	X
R	Y	N	E	B	E	V	A	P	O	R	A	T	O	R

This word search will help you learn more about maple syrup and how it's made. If you're not sure about some of the words, look them up or ask someone when you're visiting a maple syrup bush this spring!

Find these Maple Syruping Words:

SPRING	SUGARBUSH	SINZIBUCKWUD
SAP	SPILES	EVAPORATOR
BUCKET	TUBING	HYDROMETER
BOIL	SWEET	REFRACTOMETER
FILTER	MAPLE	DELICIOUS
SYRUP	CREAM	CANDY

Events

Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

The NVCA hosts this annual event at Tiffin Centre April 2nd and 3rd. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Barrie, the day includes syrup making demonstrations, pancake and maple sausage breakfast (served until 2pm), horse-drawn wagon rides, and more! Adults are \$10, children under 12 are \$5. Tiffin Centre is located at 8195 Line 8, Utopia, ON.

Minesing Wetlands Spring Canoe Tour

The popular, annual FOMW Spring Canoe Tours are scheduled for April 2nd and April 9th. Follow the Willow Creek through the flooded wetlands to the Nottawasaga River. The exit point is always a surprise! Fee is \$15 per person, plus \$5 for a day pass for non-members.

Pre-registration is mandatory. Please supply your own canoe and safety equipment.

Please contact:

Tina DesRoches (April 2nd)

705-424-1479 x241

or tdesroches@nvca.on.ca

Adam Scott (April 9th)

705-424-1479 x259

or ascott@nvca.on.ca

Friends of Minesing Wetlands Annual General Gathering

Hold onto your rocks—FOMW is curling for a cause! Join the Friends as they host a curling funspiel to raise awareness of, and funds for, the internationally recognized Minesing Wetlands. More details will be released as the mid-October date approaches.

ON Turns 80!

Through the hard work and dedication of early naturalists - especially A.F. Coventry, Henry Carl Nunn, J.R. Dymond, and T.F. McIlwraith - the Federation of Ontario Naturalists was formed in 1931. Seven clubs and 28 members first made up the organization. A special committee urged that wildlife - game or otherwise - be considered the property of all citizens and that wildlife reserves be established.



Since then, FON - now known as Ontario Nature - has educated, advocated, and promoted in all aspects of environmental and conservation awareness: designation of wilderness areas; publication of journals, magazines, and other educational resources; inventories of ecosystems, flora and fauna; and other initiatives. ON has won several awards over the years in various areas.

To celebrate this important anniversary - eight decades of conservation - ON is planning an extra special Annual General Meeting and Gathering, June 11 – 12, 2011. Festivities will include a gala dinner with live music, field trips exploring unique wildlife and habitats, nature workshops, and a kids nature camp. The AGM will be held at the beautiful Ganaraska Forest Centre in the heart of the Oak Ridges Moraine (north of Port Hope). For more information, please contact Lauren Wright at laurenw@ontarionature.org or 1-800-440-2366 ext. 271.

For more information, please visit ontarionature.org.

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 receive “Minesing Reeds” (by post or by email). 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 Friends of Minesing Wetlands,
to the N.V.C.A., 8195 Line 8, Utopia, ON, L0M 1T0.*

Name _____

Address/Phone/email _____
