



### UPCOMING MINESING WETLANDS EVENTS

- Saturday, April 12th **Spring Canoe Tour**  
Please contact Lynn Brennan, 739.7335, or lynnbrennan@xplornet.com for more information and to register.
- Saturday April 19th **Spring Canoe Tour**  
Please contact Tina Desroches, 424.1479 x 241, or tdesroches@nvca.on.ca for more information and to register.
- Saturday, May 10th **Roadside Clean-up**  
Please meet at 9am at the Willow Creek parking lot. Please contact Angela Diceman for more information at 238-1449.
- Saturday, September 20th **Nine Mile Portage/Fort Willow Day**  
Follow the path of Canada's First Peoples, explorers, and the military of an earlier century. Stay tuned to various local media for more about this annual fall event.
- Friday, October 3rd **FOMW Annual General Gathering**  
Fort Willow will again be the backdrop for an evening of information and entertainment as we share the goings-on of the group.

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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_



# MINESING REEDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MINESING WETLANDS

Volume 31

Spring 2008

## Huronion Lookout: Progress through Partnership

Plans for the Huronia Lookout are progressing, as the Committee, formed of representatives from the County of Simcoe, Springwater Township, Friends of Minesing Wetlands, Chippewa Tri Council, Rotary clubs of Barrie and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, continues to work in partnership on this dynamic project.

To be located on the western side of County Road 28, adjacent to the Nine Mile Portage and historic Fort Willow, the site

overlooks the Minesing Wetlands, Nottawasaga River, Niagara Escarpment, Georgian Bay and other parts of the region known as 'Huronion.' Once complete, the lookout will be a gathering place for residents and visitors to learn, understand and celebrate the heritage, culture, economy, environment and recreation of the Huronia area.

At this point in the process, the Huronia Lookout Committee has announced a design competition in hopes of finding an icon that

creatively represents the history, importance and beauty of the Lookout. The competition is open to legal residents of Simcoe County and Georgina Island only. Submissions must be made by April 30, 2008 for consideration.

For more information on the design process, please contact Shaughna Crew at 705-726-9300 extension 1304, or visit the website at [discover.simcoe.ca/attractions/natural/huronionlookout](http://discover.simcoe.ca/attractions/natural/huronionlookout).

## Viewing Platform

The NVCA is currently working on the creation of a raised platform to be constructed on the south side of the wetland, off of Concession 2 Sunnidale, on what's known as the McBride property. The

structure, to measure approximately 10ft x 10ft, will give people a better viewing spot to watch birds during the spring flood. Following a staff presentation to the Barrie Chiropractic and Health

Services Centre, the centre has donated \$3500 to the project. To be worked on by staff, volunteers, and contractor, the platform is expected to be completed by the fall of 2008.

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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

**Welcome, Spring!**

I personally enjoy the changing of the seasons that we experience in Ontario. It is the seasonal changes that help us recognize the cycle of life, and adapting mechanisms such as hibernation.

The effects of Global Warming threaten to change these seasonal experiences. The difficulty appears to be in understanding the effect of our actions prior to causing irreparable damage. In my opinion, improvement will come with a willingness to forfeit energy-consuming luxuries and pay the higher prices for environmentally correct choices.

With spring and rejuvenation comes hope that we are turning the corner on our consumerism. Recent changes to note include take-out containers being changed from styrofoam to cardboard; there is a surge for using cloth bags to replace plastic grocery bags; it appears that industries are attempting to make choices available at more reasonable prices (for example, small solar units are now available in many stores.); green household products are being marketed by companies that traditionally made hazardous cleaning products; and, municipalities taking a lead role by purchasing the hybrid vehicles now available in the auto industry.

Here's hoping these trends continue,

*Lynn Brennan,*

Chairperson, FOMW



The Nature Network is pleased to announce that the Nature Almanac is now available at [www.ontarionature.org/network/naturealmanac.php](http://www.ontarionature.org/network/naturealmanac.php).

Looking for something to do or trying to make something happen? Ontario Nature's Nature Almanac will keep you posted on upcoming events and activities from our member groups across Ontario.

One of Ontario Nature's key goals is connecting people with nature. Ontario Nature has a calendar for member groups' activities on the Ontario Nature website. These events offer Ontario Nature member groups the opportunity to promote their activities with other Nature Network member groups and a wider general audience.

*Please visit [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org) for more information on the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, of which Friends of Minesing Wetlands is a member group.*

**KEEPING YOU INFORMED**

The Spring Canoe Tours are just around the corner... Please refer to the back page for details. FOMW appreciates the partnership with the Barrie Canoe Club that has grown through this event. BCC member Ed Irwin regularly accompanies our group, lending his expertise on the water.

Visitors to Fort Willow this spring may witness history being unearthed. For the past three years, students from St. Joseph's High School in Barrie have participated in an archaeological dig at Fort Willow. They will be continuing this year in May and June. Under the direction of teacher and licensed archaeologist Trevor Carter, students will be employing surveying, digging, and recording techniques, incorporating their activities into the school curriculum. Items found in the past have included 700 year-old native pottery, military uniform buttons, musket balls, and food bones which provide insight into local wildlife and diet. The project is supported by the Barrie Rotary Club's Environmental Committee. Find in this issue of Minesing Reeds, an archaeology-themed word find, and learn more about the tools of the trade.

The Friends website is currently being redesigned, and we appreciate your patience as we strive to provide anyone looking for more information on the group or the wetlands with the best possible resource.

Don't forget to say "I support Friends of Minesing Wetlands" when shopping for your fall gardening needs at Bradford Greenhouse Garden Gallery, located on Cty. Rd. 90, west of Barrie. Proceeds from sales will be directed towards conservation initiatives in this world-class wetland complex.



**Wander through the Watershed**



Follow along as we highlight the various Conservation Areas in the Nottawasaga River Watershed. The two areas mentioned here allow for an active recreation experience.

**New Lowell Conservation Area**

New Lowell offers a beautifully kept seasonal campground and a day-use park.

On the north side of the pond, there is a beautiful conservation park for day use and group functions. Located along Coates Creek, this area is complete with a sandy beach, picnic areas and pavilion.

Managed by Willy & Jane Ivits, the seasonal campground on the south side of the pond offers large wooded sites, clean sandy beaches, and access to the reservoir for fishing, paddleboating or canoeing. For more information on camping, contact Willy or Jane Ivits at 705-424-2942.

How to get there:

Follow the Conservation signs to 2894 Hogback Rd. in the village of New Lowell.

**Tottenham Conservation Area**

Managed by the Town of New Tecumseth, Tottenham Conservation Area consists of a large parkland overlooking a picturesque pond. The large sandy beach and pavilion are ideal for a wide range of summer activities. The park offers camping facilities, fishing, nature trails, and a more secluded pavilion that can be reserved for private functions such as business retreats, family reunions and picnics.

Situated along Beeton Creek, the area is considered natural habitat for an abundance of wildlife, including blue herons, red foxes, pheasants, etc. Trumpeter swans, Canada geese and a large variety of birds are regular visitors to the area in the late spring and fall.

Information regarding camping, beach conditions and pavilion booking can be made at [www.tottenhamconservation.com](http://www.tottenhamconservation.com).

How to get there:

Take Highway #400 to Highway #9; west to the Tottenham Road. North on the Tottenham Road to Mill Street and proceed west to the Tottenham Conservation Area.

**ARCHAEOLOGY WORD FIND**

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

- ARTIFACT** An object made or modified by people.
- BUCKET** The container used to hold excavated soil on a dig
- EXCAVATION** An archaeological dig
- MAP** A measured drawing of the site, showing the excavated areas and the features that were found
- PRIMARY SOURCE** An original written document from the time period being studied. Examples include newspapers, deed, photographs, diaries and maps
- MUSEUM** A place where artifacts are housed and displayed
- REPORT** A document that explains what archaeologists learned from an excavation
- SITE** An area where artifacts and other remains of past activities can be found in the ground
- SQUARE** A portion of the site which is excavated separately, so that artifacts can be recorded from a precise location on the map. Sites are often divided into a grid of one meter squares
- SURVEY** To lay out the site grid prior to excavation and create a base map on which to show the excavated remains
- TRANSIT** The tool used to survey the site
- TROWEL** A hand-tool used to scrape away layers of earth during an excavation
- WASH** To clean the artifacts in the laboratory after the excavation

