

Healthy headwaters: getting a good start

The story of water quality starts where the river begins... in its headwaters. Now, if you live in Wasaga Beach, it is easy not to think that the Nottawasaga River headwaters over 75 kilometers away impact you. But they do. Everything done upstream impacts the downstream reaches and eventually Georgian Bay and the rest of the Great Lakes. Supporting environmental projects up in the headwaters can improve water quality for swimming in Wasaga Beach. Just like you want to give your children a good start in life, our rivers also need a good start.

You may have heard of Ontario's Greenbelt. On air photos it leaps out at you as two ribbons of green winding through Southern Ontario. Those two 'belts' of green are the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine. The bone-

white cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment are composed of limestone that formed in the shallow tropical sea that covered our region over 400 million years ago. Its high slopes protected it from development. The other belt of green, the Oak Ridges Moraine, formed by the glaciers 10,000 years ago, is a key site for groundwater recharge, which supplies our streams and provides drinking water to residents. The high slopes of both these areas make them prone to erosion.

In 2005, the province enacted the Greenbelt Plan to protect about 1.8 million acres of environmentally sensitive and agricultural land from urban sprawl. The groundwater-rich Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment are key headwaters of our rivers in the Nottawasaga Valley. We depend on those areas, and the landowners

that live there to help protect the health of our streams.

Although we depend on the landowners to be good environmental stewards, we don't expect them to do it alone. Right now, there are increased grants for landowners to implement environmental projects like tree planting, erosion control, and habitat restoration. In 2006, over eight-acres of forest were planted in the Oak Ridges Moraine, and two online pond remediation projects initiated! This year, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority staff continue to offer free site visits to interested landowners and help with stewardship projects in the Oak Ridges Moraine, with the support of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. Do you have questions about the moraine or natural areas on your property? Water quality?

Or are interested in tree planting or creating natural habitats? Contact Shannon Stephens to book a free site visit 705-434-1479 ext 239.

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) also offers increased grants for farmers living in the Greenbelt and the Oak Ridges Moraine. Recently, the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation announced a \$1.4 million grant to help the EFP top-up existing grant rates to 75% in the Greenbelt. Farmers in the Oak Ridges Moraine can access up to 90% to implement eligible beneficial management practice thanks to a partnership between the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. (Contact the Soil and Crop Association: 1-800-265-9751).

Protecting the Greenbelt ensures we have access to parks, hiking trails, healthy rivers and lakes for swimming, fishing and boating,

high quality drinking water, cycling, bird watching, tasty local produce, skiing and all the many outdoor activities that make our valley such a great place to live!

"Conservation Corner" is a monthly column that looks at the theory, practices, technology and benefits of land & water stewardship. The NVCA is your public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment. As your partner, the NVCA provides the expertise to help protect our water, our land and our future. For comments or suggestions about this column or the Healthy Waters program, please contact Shannon Stephens at the NVCA at (705) 424-1479 ext 239 or e-mail us at sstephens@nvca.on.ca or visit our website at www.nvca.on.ca.

Cookstown UCW news

by Susan Stein

Members met at the church hall on Wed. Nov. 1st. Hattie Milne president, Norma Currie, secretary.

With Marion Hudson as co-convenor not able to attend, Hattie Milne was in charge of the programme.

As it was All Day Saints, the programme took its theme from it.

Joan McLean read the scripture, taken from the Ephesians, followed by prayer by Grace Cooper and Hattie's comments on a new book, which introduces the Bible as a literacy project, rich in culture, history, poetry.

Her main topic was the creation of the James Bible. The originator of this grandiose undertaking of changing it from the present Geneva Bible to a new version, more relevant to the times, was King James, son of the unfortunate Mary Stuart. He was a highly educated person, fluent in Latin and Greek and an advocate of bringing peace among the Puritans and Catholics.

His motto: Blessed be the Peacemakers, taken from the Beatitudes by Jesus.

It took 7 years from 1603- 1611 to finish this task.

Six companies were formed, each dealing with a different portion of the Bible and then proof read by all.

It was written in beautiful prose, in a language easily understood and the final approval given by people reading it aloud.

The James Bible has since then been translated into 50 languages. The book's title on which Hattie based her talk is "God's Secretaries" by Nicholson.

Hymn Faith of Our Fathers was sung, accompanied on the piano by Joan Jebb.

It was decided to have a dedication of the drums for Rev. Heather Power on Sunday Service, Dec. 17. March 7 is World's Day of Prayer, Cookstown United Church hosting the event.



When Student Mayor for the Month of October, Max Petkovsek of Cookstown Public School, made his closing remarks at council, he received a parting gift. After visiting various departments throughout the Town, the Road's Department supplied Max with a sign bearing his name. **photo by Michelle Minnoch**

Simcoe County Paramedics launch Annual Toy Drive

Paramedics from across the County of Simcoe have launched their Annual Christmas Toy Drive for 2006.

Simcoe County residents generously donated toys in 2005 which were distributed to children and families in need.

Residents are again asked to support this year's campaign by donating new toys that will be delivered to charities throughout the County. New, unwrapped toys will be collected at parades and select stores throughout the County:

Orillia Wal-Mart Sunday, November 12 1:00 - 3:00 pm; Angus Santa Claus Parade Saturday, November 18 10:00 am; Barrie Toys R US Monday, November 18 11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Coldwater Santa Claus Parade Saturday, November 18 1:00pm; Bradford Santa Claus Parade Saturday, November 18 6:30 pm; Orillia Santa Claus Parade Sunday, November 19 1:00 pm; Barrie Wal-Mart North

Monday, November 25 11:00 am - 4:00 pm; Alliston Santa Claus Parade Saturday, November 25 10:00 am; Barrie Zellers Store Saturday, December 2 11:00 am - 4:00 pm; Midland Santa Claus Parade Saturday, December 2 1:00 pm; Collingwood Santa Claus Parade Sunday, December 3 2:00 pm; Barrie Wal-Mart South Saturday, December 9 11:00 am - 4:00 pm; Midland Wal-Mart Saturday, November 25 11:00 am - 2:00 pm; Wasaga Beach Santa Claus Parade Saturday, November 25 2:00 pm

Toy donations can also be delivered to the County of Simcoe Administration Centre at 1110 Highway 26 in Midhurst during business hours as well as any County of Simcoe Paramedic Station where residents will find an outdoor drop-off box.

Visit our website at www.county.simcoe.on.ca.

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