

# Lawson Drain requires \$256,000 in repairs

By Chris Simon

At least \$256,000 is needed to repair the Lawson Drain, according to a report released by R.J. Burnside and Associates.

Innisfil council will review the report, which explains the repairs and improvements needed to fix

the drain, during a meeting at the New Town Hall this evening.

"This report has been respectfully prepared based on our investigation and subsequent discussions with the affected (landowners) and municipal and (Simcoe) County representatives; the

report and final design takes into consideration all of the comments expressed," said Burnside engineer Tom Pridham, in the report. "The preliminary design for the main drain basically tried to recreate the (original) 1956 profile, using the existing culvert."

Landowners living along the affected area, which drains from around the 10th to 7th lines, between the 5th Sideroad and Highway 400, have been asking the town to maintain sections of the drain since 2006.

In total, a nearly 3,400 metre section of the main

drain, and an over 900 metre branch area, would be affected by the project.

If approved as suggested, the project would include excavation of the drain, and the removal of culverts along Innisfil Beach Road. The road, shoulders and embankments would also

need to be restored. Over \$51,000 would also be allocated to existing landowners, as compensation for land use and damaged crops.

"The landowners are satisfied to see what we've done," said mayor Brian Jackson.

# Innisfil Creek residents set to benefit from funding

The community surrounding Innisfil Creek is set to benefit from a large investment into a sustainable management study of the area's water resources.

The summer of 2007 was the driest in recent memory. The entire Nottawasaga Valley watershed was impacted, with the most severe conditions occurring in the creek. The average flow, which is estimated to be 5,000 gallons-per minute during dry summer months, dropped to 356 by the end of June.

As a result, the Agricultural Adaptation Council, through contributions from the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario, is providing the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and its partners with more than \$100,000 in project funding. The NVCA and its partners will work to gain a thorough understanding of the water resources issues in the creek area and develop a multi-agency, collaborative strategy to effectively manage the water

resources.

"The project represents a significant financial contribution to the area and recognizes the desire to develop a collaborative working solution which all parties have a vested interest in for the sustainable use of the water resources of the creek," says Ryan Post, a hydrogeologist for the NVCA.

The money will fund two separate projects. The first project will identify water supply alternatives for individual agricultural and golf course water users, which

are both achievable and cost-effective.

An important part of the process will involve multiple open houses to meet individually with water users to document irrigation requirements, the extent of existing water supplies and the available alternatives at their location.

This first step will receive \$52,100 from the Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative (AESI) program.

The second project will involve three workshops

through which water stakeholders will develop an integrated water resource management strategy for the creek area.

This portion will begin in September and will receive \$65,605 from the Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program (COWSEP).

"The Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is pleased with the announcement that the council will provide funding for the creek project," says Keith Currie, Ontario Federation

of Agriculture Regional Director for Simcoe West. "With agriculture being one of the primary stakeholders in this watershed, this assistance will go a long way in the development and implementation of measures to assure proper management of this valuable resource for our members."

These projects, to be completed by Jan. 31, are funded in part through contributions under the Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program, and are administered by the council.

# Conservation Authority seeking some watershed heroes

Do you know any watershed heroes who are working hard to improve our environ-

ment? You can shine the spotlight on these environmental

role models by nominating them for one of six conservation awards. From the Oro-Moraine to the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Uxbridge Brook subwatershed to the Ramara Flats, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority is seeking nominations for local watershed heroes.

Individuals, businesses and groups that have delivered programs or completed a specific project that has improved the health and quality of the Lake Simcoe

watershed, between August 2007 and July 2008, may qualify to win one of six awards.

The Water Conservation Award recognizes individuals and groups who have improved local water quality. Those who have completed a project that improves soil, vegetation and wildlife in the lake watershed may be honoured with the Soil Conservation Award. The Education Award salutes those who have delivered an innovative environmental

education program or service to schools, students or the community at large. As reflected by its name, the Media Recognition Award is presented to members of the media for on-going coverage and interest in environmental issues. Those who have implemented or financed a significant conservation project over the last year can be nominated for the Conservation Award of Merit. The George R. Richardson Award of Honour recognizes those

who have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to improving the environmental health of the lake.

This year's award ceremony will take place on Oct. 30, at Madsen's Greenhouse in Newmarket.

Nominations should be submitted to the LSRCA before Aug. 8. For more information, contact Dana Eldon at 905-895-1281 ext. 242. Visit [www.lsrca.on.ca](http://www.lsrca.on.ca) to submit nominations online, or to print a nomination form.



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# Health unit prepares new parents for babies

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At series seminars, participants learn about nurturing, and safety.

They'll also learn about feeding a baby, becoming a parent, and life during the child's first few weeks.

The series is available in Barrie, Midland, Orillia,

Collingwood, Cookstown, Innisfil, Alliston, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge and Huntsville.

For specific locations, times and registration information, call Your Health Connection at 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

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**MISSING**



Lucy is an 11 month old American Spaniel. She was last seen on July 17th in the Highway 11 and Gilford Rd. area. Lucy is light golden blonde in colour and has just been groomed. She is microchipped.

**Anyone with any information please call 905-778-9547**

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