



# Living by the Lake

LAKE ONTARIO INTEGRATED SHORELINE STRATEGY - NEWSLETTER - ISSUE FOUR - SEPTEMBER 2013



## GOING GREEN-ER:

Protecting wetlands and waterways is about more than just protecting wildlife habitat. Research shows us that in addition to important manmade stormwater solutions, working with natural features on the landscape, like creeks and marshes, helps us manage flooding and pollution.

Not long ago, the creeks and rivers flowing into Lake Ontario were thought to hold little value. They were seen as barriers and threats - making travel difficult, limiting development and damaging property through flooding. Many local creeks and rivers were forced underground. Cawthra, Serson, Avonhead, and Cumberland Creeks in Mississauga, for example, now pour into Lake Ontario through pipes.

In addition, dams were built with close to 500 identified in the Credit River watershed alone. It was some time before the ecological impacts of these activities, such as blocking the movement of fish, became clear. Dams also halt the movement of

gravel beds downstream and lead to increased erosion.

### *Protecting Rivers Today*

Times have changed. Protecting water is now a top priority. Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) promotes water protection through “green infrastructure,” to manage water more naturally in existing and planned communities. Things like green roofs, rain gardens and permeable pavement help manage and reduce water runoff into waterways.

We are learning that beyond this type of built infrastructure, we can achieve even more when we allow nature to run its course.

Studies from around the world show that wetlands reduce pollutants from entering our waterways. Wetlands can be a cheaper option to treat water than expanding or building new treatment plants. For example, one study from Illinois found that restoring wetlands was nine times cheaper than

expanding water treatment plants to reduce phosphorus, and two times cheaper for nitrogen.

Recent flooding in Mississauga and Toronto shows us that extreme storm events are becoming more common. This is due to climate change. Wetlands and other natural features, if strategically located, can help absorb and filter heavy rainfall and slow its movement into waterways.

Of course, wetlands also provide many other benefits, such as habitat for wildlife, areas for hiking and fishing, and storing carbon dioxide, which helps fight climate change.

Our relationship with creeks and rivers has changed over time and our appreciation for “green infrastructure” has grown. Protecting and restoring natural areas like wetlands offers greener and often cheaper solutions for improving the health of our creeks, rivers and lakes.

## RATTRAY MARSH GETS FEDERAL FUNDS FOR RESTORATION EFFORT



**Participants in CVC's Stewardship Forum join MP Stella Ambler and CVC Chair Pat Mullin for the funding announcement.**

Mississauga's Rattray Marsh Conservation Area was the site of a funding announcement on October 5. The marsh will receive \$55,000 from the Government of Canada to go towards ongoing restoration efforts. The contribution was made possible by a grant from the Government of Canada's Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program, administered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Stella Ambler, MP Mississauga South, joined Pat Mullin, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) Chair and Ward Two Councillor, Karen Ras, Credit Valley Conservation Foundation Vice-Chair, and Deborah Martin-Downs, CVC's CAO, to mark the occasion.

"Wetlands like Rattray Marsh are absolutely vital for a healthy and sustainable local fishery," said Stella Ambler. "I'm proud of the government's commitment to the marsh."

Restoration work, led by CVC, focuses on clearing excess sediment built-up from decades of upstream development around Sheridan Creek. The sediment has buried

the marsh's native ecosystem. This caused shallower water and poor water quality – prime conditions for non-native carp. Carp cause more destruction by outcompeting native fish, uprooting underwater plants and stirring up sediment.

A multi-year restoration plan to revive the marsh has begun. It calls for removing excess sediment to re-establish healthy populations of native fish species like pike and suckers.

"The complete restoration of the marsh is a big task," said Chair Mullin. The contribution from the Government of Canada is another positive step along the road towards healthier Rattray Marsh."

The Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program supports projects led by recreational fishing and angling groups, as well as conservation organizations. The goal is to conserve and restore recreational fisheries habitat. Although fishing is not permitted at Rattray Marsh, the area provides vital habitat for fish that move between the marsh, Lake Ontario and Sheridan Creek. The

federal program has a \$10 million budget to be used on eligible projects across Canada over a two-year period.

"Rattray Marsh has a special place in the hearts of local residents," said Karen Ras. "The marsh needs our help and we're doing everything we can to find the funds to restore it to its former beauty."

The announcement coincided with CVC's Stewardship Forum bus tour. The bus was scheduled to stop at Rattray Marsh to tour recent restoration efforts at the site. Bus tour participants, all avid environmentalists from the community, were the first members of the public to learn about the federal funding contribution.

"We're pleased to share this exciting news with our community supporters," said Deborah Martin-Downs. "The marsh isn't just a CVC property – it's a place where the whole community can connect with nature."

Restoration efforts at Rattray Marsh also received significant financial contributions from the Region of Peel and the Government of Ontario.

Rattray Marsh is an "environmental gem" located in a unique natural setting within the City of Mississauga. It is the last remaining lakefront marsh of its kind between Toronto and Burlington. The environmentally sensitive wetland attracts nature lovers from the local community and across the Greater Toronto Area. The marsh is home to a variety of wildlife and plants. The property, located in Western Mississauga on the Lake Ontario shoreline, was acquired by CVC in 1972 and officially opened to the public in 1975.

## ALL ABOARD! CVC'S STEWARDSHIP FORUM SHORELINE BUS TOUR

Stewardship Forum participants touring the Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga, where green infrastructure projects were implemented.



Lake Ontario quenches our thirst, sustains our food supply, and soothes our soul with its natural beauty. CVC paid homage to the lake and shoreline at this year's Stewardship Forum and Volunteer Appreciation Day on Saturday October 5. This year's forum took participants to the source via a lakeshore bus tour.

There have been a number of recent environmental restoration and stewardship projects along the lakeshore. The tour was a chance to showcase the transformative work CVC and its partners are doing in the community.

The tour made stops at sites with projects designed to protect water quality and the lake, including naturalization and green infrastructure projects. Participants explored habitat restoration sites along the Lake Ontario shoreline, including wetland restoration at Rattray Marsh and prairie habitat naturalization at Jack Darling Memorial Park.

The event started at 8:30 a.m. with refreshments at the University of Toronto Mississauga Campus. Following that participants heard a keynote address from CVC's new CAO Deborah Martin-Downs. After

the keynote address, environmental champions from the community were celebrated during a volunteer recognition ceremony.

"Our main goal is to bring like-minded people together and foster a sense of community around the local environmental movement," said Martin-Downs. "Lake Ontario is the perfect symbol for this. Everything we do in our communities eventually impacts the lake, since everything flows downstream. Lake Ontario represents the interconnectedness of our communities."

CVC's annual Stewardship Forum is widely known as a networking opportunity for environmental groups, environmentally-minded individuals and students.

The event is an opportunity for participants to contribute to the vision of the future by sharing ideas and discovering new ways to protect and restore the local environment.

The Great Lakes region represents one-fifth of the world's freshwater supply and is home to more than 200 globally rare plants and animals, including 40 species found nowhere else in the world. The Lake Ontario shoreline is an important stopover for migrating birds, bats, and insects that require resting areas during long journeys across the continent. Though industry and urban development may dominate parts of the landscape, the shoreline teems with life.

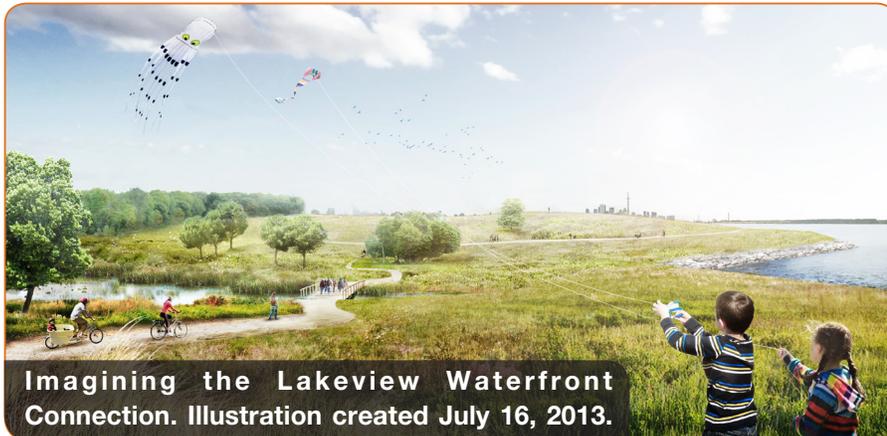
Mississauga Ward One Councillor Jim Tovey Discusses the Lakeview Waterfront Connection.



*CVC's Jakub Wrobel demonstrates the effectiveness of permeable pavement installed at Lakeside Park. Permeable pavement allows rainwater to easily infiltrate into the ground.*

## LAKEVIEW WATERFRONT CONNECTION

*Third Public Meeting for Lakeview Environmental Assessment - Nov 20*



**Imagining the Lakeview Waterfront Connection. Illustration created July 16, 2013.**

The Mississauga and Etobicoke Lakeshore communities are encouraged to attend a third public information centre for the Lakeview Waterfront Connection (LWC) project Environmental Assessment (EA). The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20 at Oasis Convention Centre, 1036 Lakeshore Rd E, Mississauga.

The shoreline just west of Marie Curtis Park has degraded over decades. Credit Valley Conservation and the Region of Peel, with support from Toronto and Region Conservation and the City of Mississauga, are undertaking an environmental assessment to transform this area of shoreline into an inviting naturalized park with public access and habitat for wildlife.

The meeting will start at 4:30 p.m. with display panels for review and project team members available to answer questions. At 7 p.m. there will be a presentation followed by

an opportunity for questions to be addressed.

The purpose of this public meeting is to present the characteristics and refinements of the preferred alternative, and the detailed effects assessment in advance of the likely submission of the draft Environmental Assessment in December.

If you are unable to attend but would like to learn more and/or comment on the LWC Project, please visit [www.creditvalleyca.ca/lwc](http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/lwc) on or after November 20, 2013.

To be added to the project mailing list or if you have project-related questions, please contact:

Michael Charendoff,  
Coordinator, Watershed Projects,  
Toronto and Region Conservation

70 Canuck Ave, Toronto ON,  
M3K 2C5

Phone: 416 661 6600 ext 5280  
Email: [mcharendoff@trca.on.ca](mailto:mcharendoff@trca.on.ca)

## SAVE THE DATE: NOV 27, 2013

*Be Inspired About Your Waterfront Once Again!*

Join Us for an Inspiration Lakeview Community Update

The City of Mississauga, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), and Urban Strategies Inc. are working with the community and stakeholders to move the Inspiration Lakeview project forward by developing a shared vision and a Master Plan for the Inspiration Lakeview study area.

Hear about the exciting advancements from the City of Mississauga since the creation of the Inspiration Lakeview Vision and learn about next steps moving forward.

OPG will talk about their role on the project and what they do while also explaining the history of the Lakeview site. Learn about the way OPG's goals align with the principles in the Inspiration Lakeview Vision.

The firm, Urban Strategies, will walk through the Master Plan approach, identify how the community can continue to be involved and engaged in the process and explain what results will be provided at the end of the planning process.

**Location:**  
**Cawthra Senior Centre,**  
**Olga Tyne Room**  
**1389 Cawthra Road,**  
**Mississauga**  
**Time: 6:30 – 9pm**

***Get Behind Your Waterfront!***

For more detail please visit the Inspiration Lakeview website: [www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/inspirationlakeview](http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/inspirationlakeview)



For more information visit: [www.creditvalleyca.ca](http://www.creditvalleyca.ca) or contact:  
Kate Hayes, Project Leader, Restoration and Stewardship  
Credit Valley Conservation  
905-670-1615 ext. 428  
[khayes@creditvalleyca.ca](mailto:khayes@creditvalleyca.ca)