

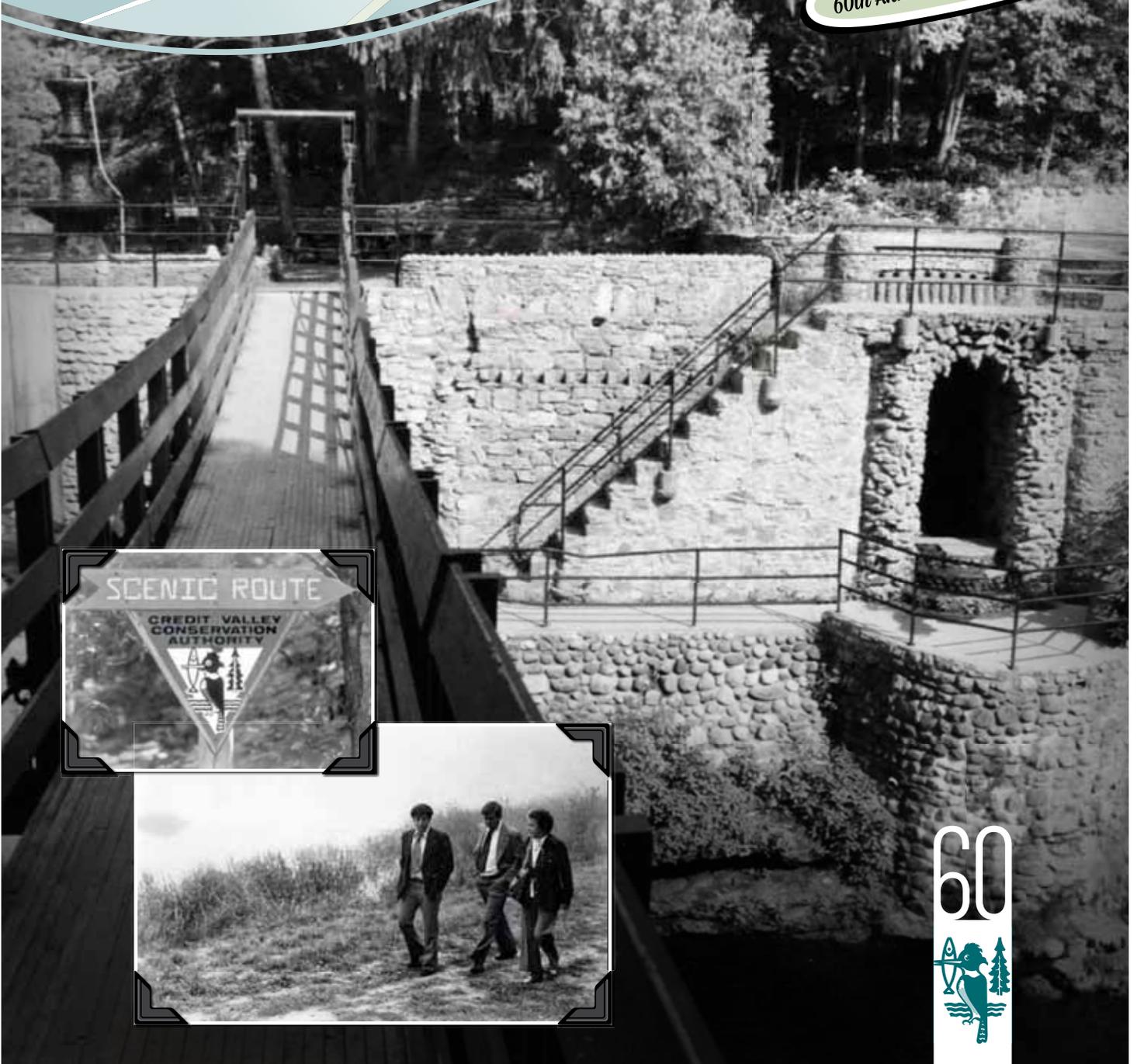


Currents

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE

CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED

60th Anniversary Edition



The Conservation Authority Movement

The conservation movement in Ontario began in the late 1930s and early 1940s as community leaders expressed concern about the condition of the environment and managing natural resources.

Ultimately this resulted in the Province of Ontario passing the Conservation Authorities Act in 1946. Almost immediately, conservation authorities began to be formed in the province. Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC) was created eight years after the Act came into being.

The Act was an innovative and far-sighted piece of legislation that responded

to growing concerns that land uses and deforestation were contributing to deteriorating water quality, flooding and soil erosion. It empowered municipalities within a watershed to address these issues through a single collaborative agency based on several key principles.

The first principle defines the scope of operation for a conservation authority (CA) as **the watershed**, an entire area (both water and land) drained by a watercourse and its tributaries. This links natural resources in a defined ecosystem.

CAs encourage watershed residents, volunteers, businesses and communities to work together as concerned, responsible citizens to protect and restore the local ecosystem.

Where previously land and water issues had been addressed separately, the Act acknowledged they are all interconnected. This is the central integrated approach to watershed management.

The second principle is that each CA is a local initiative created by the will of municipalities that have area within a watershed. This local grassroots nature allows conservation authorities to be flexible, responsive to local issues, and accountable to their municipal partners.

The third principle is that a CA is

designed to be a provincial-municipal partnership. This allows local municipalities to carry out larger projects than they could manage on their own. It also ensures hazard land and public land are managed locally and in response to the unique characteristics of the watershed.

CAs encourage watershed residents, volunteers, businesses and communities to work together as concerned, responsible citizens to protect and restore the local ecosystem.

To echo the words of A.H. Richardson, CVC is truly a “co-operative effort of all the people within the watershed.”

The Story of Credit Valley Conservation

On April 5th, 1949, the Lions Clubs of Orangeville, Georgetown, Brampton and Port Credit held a joint meeting at the Yellow Briar Inn on Hwy 10 in Brampton. There, they discussed issues of flooding, pollution, soil depletion and improving marshes. As they talked, they concluded the Credit River watershed needed a conservation authority.

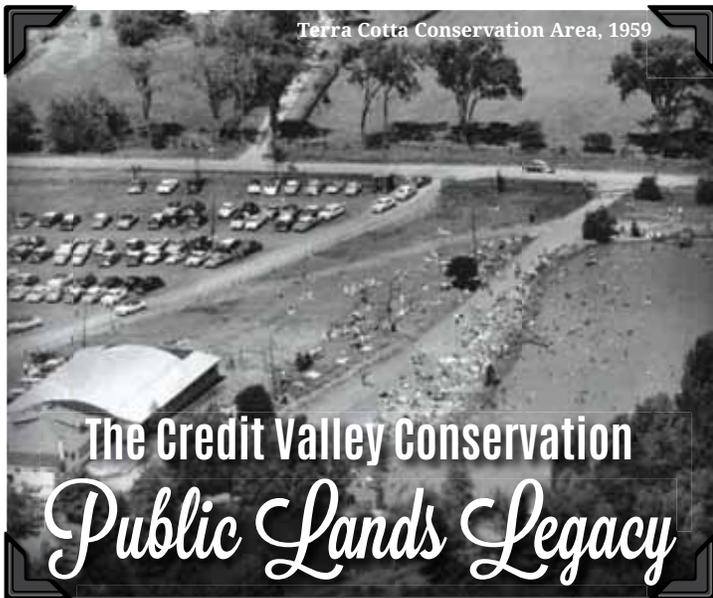
Led by Lions Club members Elmer Wright from Port Credit and Alex McLaren from Georgetown, they asked A.H. Richardson of the province’s Conservation Branch to speak to concerned citizens about conservation, why it was important to everyone and how “soil, waters and trees are all linked and part of the same concerns.”

As Mr. Richardson spoke, those attending – including councillors and members of the provincial legislature – were moved by the need to act together to conserve and wisely manage the shared natural resources of the Credit Valley.

In April 1954, the municipalities within the watershed voted to petition the province. Less than a month later, on May 13th, Cabinet officially estab-

lished the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, whose officers were to be local members from the communities of the watershed.

From its very beginnings, CVC has been a local movement of people and communities across the Credit River watershed that have come together to better manage the local environment on which we rely for our health and our future.



Terra Cotta Conservation Area, 1959



Belfountain Conservation Area, 1969

Conservation Area. In 1958, CVC purchased the Terra Cotta Playground lands, which were expanded and developed to service more visitors. This was followed by purchases of Mack’s Park (now Belfountain Conservation Area) in 1959, Limehouse Conservation Area in 1963, and Erindale Park in 1964.

Nearly all of the public lands recommendations of the 1956 report have been fulfilled in one form or another. Today CVC owns and manages almost 7,000 acres of conservation land for protection and public enjoyment. The legacy of public lands is a testament to the vision and boldness of the conservation authority’s charter members who understood the importance of acting locally and regionally to preserve our natural heritage for future generations.



Orangeville Reservoir dam construction, 1968

Imagine living in a place with no public parks or conservation areas. That was the Credit River watershed in 1954. Only 60 years ago the public open space we take for granted today did not exist.

In the *Credit Valley Conservation Report, 1956*, a survey of watershed resources reported a hopelessly inadequate supply of recreational facilities and an increasing need to conserve natural areas and make them accessible to the public.

At the time there were only a few privately owned and operated commercial parks, such as Eldorado Park, Huttonville Park and the Terra Cotta Playground. These were typically overcrowded. The only other options were eight large, but remote, provincial parks.

The newly-formed Credit Valley Conservation Authority was tasked with an ambitious program of acquiring land and developing spaces for public recreation.

Work began in 1957 to acquire lands for the planned Orangeville Reservoir

Conservation Areas - Showcases of Sustainability

Though we all live in a watershed, not everyone knows what that means. Equally, not all aspects of our work are widely known by all residents. But it's likely everyone understands what a park is. Conservation areas are our parks. Millions of people have visited our conservation areas over 60 years to enjoy opportunities for outdoor recreation.



Conservation areas are showcases of sustainability: they meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In conservation areas people enjoy nature, learn about our ecosystem, respect the need to protect plants and animals, and accept that we are all part of and dependent upon our environment for our physical and emotional well-being.

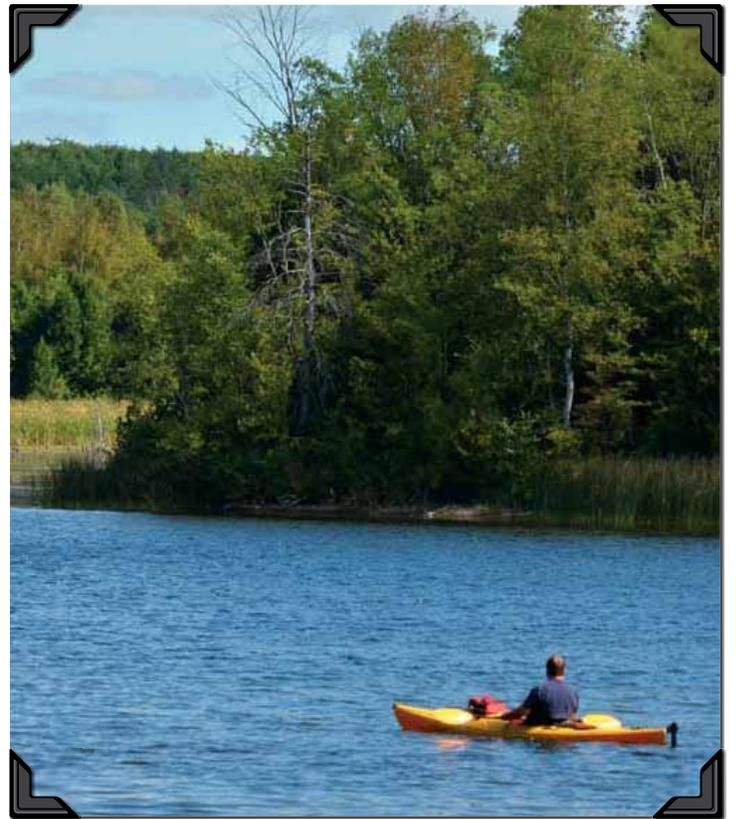
These properties, however, were not always protected public natural spaces.

Belfountain Conservation Area, located in Caledon, was owned by Charles Mack, famous for inventing the cushion-backed rubber-stamp. He was an eccentric man who, early in the 20th century, encouraged properly dressed members of the public to visit his land for social time. He liked to show off his bell fountain and his grand replicas of Niagara Falls and Yellowstone cave.

In the 1950s Terra Cotta Conservation Area, located at the edge of Halton Hills, was named Terra Cotta Playground. This privately-owned facility was a popular spot for local residents to enjoy the outdoors. It was once filled with campsites, swimming pools and ponds that warmed the cold river.

At our headwaters you find Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville. In the 1960s this 400-acre property was mostly farm fields. By 1968 we built dams at the north and south ends. We flooded it, stocked it with fish, and forested the area. Now, it is a revitalized ecosystem that helps protect the Credit River, providing both water management and recreation opportunities.

Today our conservation areas offer incredible chances to improve your lifestyle. Visitors from urban and rural centres enjoy spaces where physical and mental fitness, environmental education, meditation, weddings and celebrations, natural beauty and true recreation exist. Our visitors appreciate the value of the natural resources, and the need to live in a more sustainable way.



As we look back on our history, we realize how much we owe to many good partners who have helped get us to where we are today. Partners bring other partners, extending our network and deepening relationships.

They help access funding so we can do more projects, further enhancing our impact. They gain entry to private properties to conduct improvement projects. And they advocate for us, championing the passion and expertise that lie at the heart of our work.

One partner CVC is privileged to work with is the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU). This chapter chose the Credit as its 'home' stream in 1978. They started work right away, signing agreements with several landowners to rehabilitate their properties. In return

the landowners allowed public access for fishing. These efforts led to the first special regulations to preserve the stream fishery with a catch-and-release policy for smaller fish.

TU was also instrumental in creating the partnership now known as the Upper Credit River Rehabilitation Initiative (UCRRI). Thousands of trees and shrubs were planted. More than 100 structures were installed to lower stream temperatures, critical for enhancing brook trout habitat.

"CVC brought technical expertise and approvals to work we did together. Trout Unlimited brought labour and access to funding," says a TU past president, Mike Warrian. "This partnership is extremely valuable. CVC was instrumental in helping us reach our objective to

restore and rehabilitate the Credit River for the benefit of trout and all the other fish and animals that depend on a clean, cold-water habitat."

TU also helped create another partnership with the Town of Orangeville, CVC, and the Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club called the Coldwater Community Challenge (C3). Beyond regular community tree planting events, C3 has initiated a major program for residents and volunteers to restore Mill Creek in the heart of downtown Orangeville.



The Lake Ontario Shoreline: From Exploitation to Restoration

As settlements and communities have developed, our society and the Lake Ontario shoreline have shaped each other. This has not always been for the best, but often in interesting ways that reflected priorities of the day.

The first major development here was the stonehocking industry that began in 1860 to harvest stones and boulders along the shoreline for use in constructing buildings and early infrastructure. This practice ended in 1920 with depletion of resources and development of more productive land-based quarries.

As the region grew economically, transportation modes shifted from the once thriving shipping industry to newly formed railway systems. In 1911, legislation empowered the Toronto Harbour Commission to manage shoreline properties as well as to acquire lands for redevelopment of the harbour to improve trade and recreation. Another comprehensive waterfront plan wasn't developed for more than 50 years.

Waterfront Plan

In 1967, the Metro Toronto Waterfront Plan proposed shoreline development and redevelopment as its core vision, extending from Pickering in the east to Mississauga in the west. It acknowledged the need for open space, recreation

and, importantly, protection of natural features. The Mississauga section of the plan called primarily for park lands and boating facilities.

In 1971, CVC was appointed to implement the plan around Mississauga. We quickly began to develop new park lands through shoreline filling and protection. This included Waters Edge Park, J.C. Saddington Park, and the massive Lakefront Promenade Park.

Methods to protect the shoreline from wave erosion were also identified. While creating sand beaches was preferred, steel and concrete walls and rock were used in shelter areas as well as areas of high wave action and erosion.

Natural Features

Now, more than 100 years after the Harbour Commission vision to exploit the shoreline economically, the first comprehensive plan to protect and enhance its natural features is nearing completion.

Today, for the first time, the natural environment is becoming the primary focus of shoreline management. CVC and

partners are conducting the Lake Ontario Integrated Shoreline Strategy (LOISS), recognizing and repairing the damaging effects of past industrial practices. While we can never go back to pre-settlement conditions, the goal is to enhance the existing shoreline by improving habitat for

wildlife while maintaining necessary erosion protection for safety and protection of property.

Our aim is a more balanced, sustainable approach to natural areas protection, to maintain natural processes and functions and to improve human health. 



Lakeview Waterfront, circa 1980



Lakeview Waterfront Connection: Transforming Our Waterfront

Illustration created on July 16, 2013

CVC and the Region of Peel have a plan: naturalize a degraded section of the waterfront. This plan is going through an environmental assessment. A natural shoreline may be a reality in the next few years.

The transformation on the Mississauga-Toronto border is called the Lakeview Waterfront Connection. The plan is to create a large naturalized park that connects Mississauga and Toronto with a new section of the 1,400-kilometre-long Waterfront Trail.

The park will provide habitat for wildlife and passive recreational opportunities for the community. The park's design and mix of features is the result of extensive public consultation.

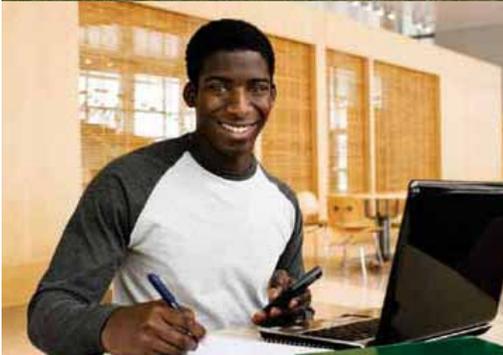
The park is part of a larger transformation known as Inspiration Lakeview – the

City of Mississauga's vision for its eastern waterfront. This vision involves revitalizing the entire Lakeview neighbourhood with the Lakeview Waterfront Connection acting as a public green space.

To learn more visit:

www.creditvalleyca.ca/lwc 

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We inspire success, confidence and hope in each student

The Peel District School Board is the best place for your child to learn, grow and succeed. Here's why:

- Your children are our children. We are committed to their well-being, safety and success.
- We expect nothing short of excellence and set high expectations for achievement. Our students consistently achieve academic and personal excellence.
- Students are encouraged to pursue their passions. We offer a variety of programs and extracurricular activities to meet the needs of every student.
- Our dedicated, caring and diverse staff help students achieve to their full potential.
- Our schools are alive with diversity. This enhances the school experience—students learn to interact in a diverse environment and prepare for global citizenship in Canada and the world.
- We enable creative and innovative learning through technology to engage each student.
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CVC's Natural Heritage System Strategy

In the 60 years since CVC was established, there have been many changes in the science behind our work to study and protect natural resources.



In the beginning, our people were mostly fisheries staff and foresters. Since then we have grown to include biologists who monitor and inventory natural areas and species. We also have staff who proactively develop tools for restoring habitat and mitigating development.

Our approach to conservation has also evolved. Traditionally, planning for natural areas focused on conserving large 'islands of green' to protect the best examples of habitat on the landscape. In the 1970s CVC fenced individual parks and later identified environmentally significant areas. As science progressed, it became clear that the landscape should be managed as a whole system. When parks and protected habitats are not connected they are at risk of becoming genetically isolated. They are less resilient to sudden changes in the landscape such as fire or disease.

CVC is in the process of developing a watershed natural heritage system, a comprehensive plan to protect and connect natural habitat. This is part of an overall strategy that will be one of the most important guiding documents for CVC's work since the Credit River Fisheries Management Plan in 2002 and the Credit River Water Management Strategy Update in 2007. Our new Credit River Watershed Natural Heritage System is innovative because it manages land- and water-based ecosystems under one umbrella, recognizing they are intrinsically linked in the overall health of the watershed.

Maintaining a networked system that includes large natural habitats as well as the connecting corridors between them is critical for healthy biodiversity. This strategy helps ensure the watershed continues to provide important ecological benefits to local residents, including clean water, breathable air, and protection against drought and flooding.

Our approach in urban areas also changed. At one time ecologists viewed the remaining natural areas as isolated parks. We now realize that local green spaces are integral parts of the urban environment to provide habitat for many

animals and plants. These spaces are also important for residents' mental and physical health. They can be used for walking, jogging, biking, and simply relaxing.



PHOTO CREDIT: Kris Vande Sompel

By developing a natural heritage system, we are creating a plan to increase resilience of natural areas to pressures such as extreme weather, new invasive pests and climate change. Next steps will involve partnering with municipalities, local organizations, corporations and watershed residents to determine how to continue to protect, manage and restore the system for current and future generations.

For more information please visit: www.creditvalleyca.ca/natural-heritage-strategy

The Northern Flying Squirrel

The northern flying squirrel is native to our area. It is found in large forested areas in the northern part of the watershed, including the main river valley.

Its survival depends on being able to move from one forest block to another to find the variety of food it needs, to breed and to migrate.

This squirrel nests in trees and, although it spends time feeding on the forest floor, it will not travel far on the ground or in open areas. Its legs are joined by skin flaps which allow the squirrel to 'fly' up to 50 metres at a time, but make it difficult to walk. In the open, it would be vulnerable to predators. Instead, it must move from tree to tree, relying on corridors in a connected natural system.

Interconnected environments are important for species like the northern flying squirrel that depend on large tracts of land for their well-being. This is just one reason why our work in natural heritage systems is so important.

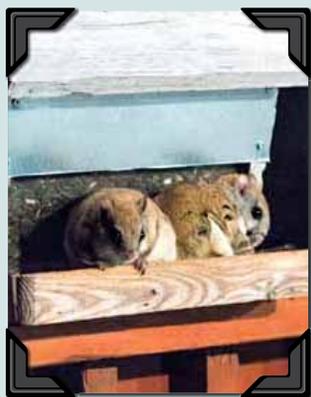


PHOTO CREDIT: Christina DeMelo



PHOTO CREDIT: Aurora District, MNR

Visit CVC's 10 Conservation Areas

NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER

- enjoy all the good weather this summer
- attend many free and discounted events
- benefit from \$20 in rental coupons
- receive our exclusive e-newsletters
- enjoy all 10 conservation areas with your free waterproof map



EVENTS

Yoga in the Park – various parks – June, July & August

BLAST! Live Music Concert – Island Lake CA – June 21

6th Annual Friends of Island Lake Bass Tournament – Island Lake CA – July 5 & 6

Salamander Festival – Belfountain CA – Sept 27

Annual Haunted Forest at Terra Cotta CA – Oct 17 & 18

More events and details at www.creditvalleyca.ca/events/

- Belfountain** Conservation Area
- Elora Cataract Trailway**
- Island Lake** Conservation Area
- Ken Whillans** RMA
- Limehouse** Conservation Area
- Meadowvale** Conservation Area
- Ratray Marsh** Conservation Area
- Silver Creek** Conservation Area
- Terra Cotta** Conservation Area
- Upper Credit** Conservation Area

Tell Us What You Think

for a chance to win a conservation prize

Currents is CVC's annual newspaper sharing interesting stories about species, science and successes across our watershed. This year we've paid tribute to our 60-year heritage by remembering our past and celebrating how far we've come. We'd like your comments about Currents.

Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey online at:

www.creditvalleyca.ca/currentssurvey



Or use your phone to scan this code

We hope you enjoy this issue of Currents. Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete our survey.



Credit Valley Conservation

since 1954



1st EMPLOYEE
E.F. (Ted) Sutter
FIELD OFFICER



MUNICIPAL FUNDING IN 1954

\$911.92

FIRST AUDITORS:
Saddington, Rowe And Co.
OF PORT CREDIT, CONTINUED UNTIL 1972



1ST LAND PURCHASE
19 ACRES

(7.69 ha) FROM WILLIAM & DULCIE THOMPSON FOR FUTURE ORANGEVILLE RESERVOIR (NOW ISLAND LAKE CONSERVATION AREA)

2,606 HECTARES
of land owned today
BY CREDIT VALLEY CONSERVATION



1ST CAPITAL EXPENSE
FILING CABINET
\$60.15 FROM EATON'S

LENGTH OF THE CREDIT RIVER = 97 KM
TOTAL LENGTH OF WATERCOURSES (STREAMS, CREEKS, RIVERS) IN THE CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED =

1,882 KM

CVC'S TOTAL JURISDICTION
94,891 hectares

[CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED (87,161 ha)
PLUS 14 ADDITIONAL SMALLER
STREAMS & CREEKS (11,003 ha)]



WETLAND AREA
IN CVC JURISDICTION
6,491 ha

THE CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED SPANS
14 MUNICIPALITIES

REGION OF PEEL, REGION OF HALTON, COUNTY OF DUFFERIN, COUNTY OF WELLINGTON, CITY OF BRAMPTON, CITY OF MISSISSAUGA, TOWN OF CALEDON, TOWN OF ERIN, TOWN OF HALTON HILLS, TOWN OF MONO, TOWN OF OAKVILLE, TOWN OF ORANGEVILLE, TOWNSHIP OF AMARANTH AND TOWNSHIP OF EAST GARAFRAXA

Population

OF THE CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED
DISPLAYED IN UNITS OF 10,000



2013
APPROXIMATELY
901,000

CVC'S 1ST CONSERVATION AREA
Terra Cotta
CONSERVATION AREA
OPENED IN 1958

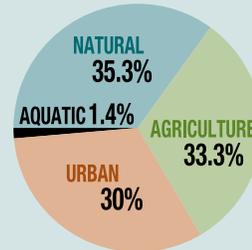
10 Conservation Areas Today

- ISLAND LAKE CA TERRA COTTA CA
- RATTRAY MARSH CA
- KEN WHILLANS RMA SILVER CREEK CA
- ELORA CATARACT TRAILWAY
- UPPER CREDIT CA MEADOWVALE CA
- BELFOUNTAIN CA LIMEHOUSE CA

Millions

OF PEOPLE HAVE VISITED CVC CONSERVATION AREAS SINCE 1954

95 kilometres
OF TRAILS MANAGED



Land Usage
IN THE CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED

9,457

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS IN OUR CONSERVATION YOUTH CORPS CONTRIBUTED OVER 60,667 HOURS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND RESTORATION WORK SINCE 2006

12,000

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 41,600 VOLUNTEER HOURS SINCE 2007 (EQUIVALENT TO NEARLY 24 FULL-TIME PEOPLE WORKING 1 YEAR)

THE CREDIT RIVER IS ONE OF THE

MOST DIVERSE

COLD WATER FISHERIES
IN EASTERN NORTH AMERICA

1420 PLANTS

Species IN THE CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED

264 BIRDS



72 FISH



55 MAMMALS



29 REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS



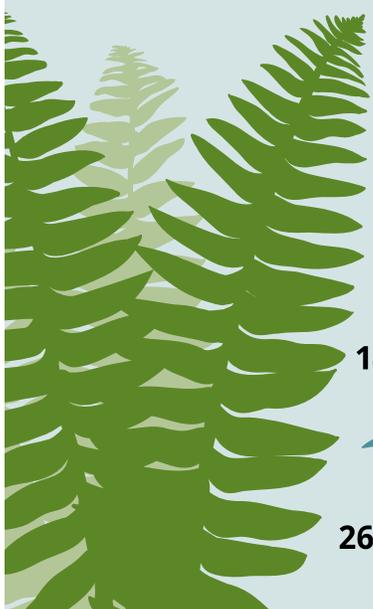
25

THREATENED, ENDANGERED OR SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN



NEARLY

6 Million
TREES PLANTED
SINCE 1954



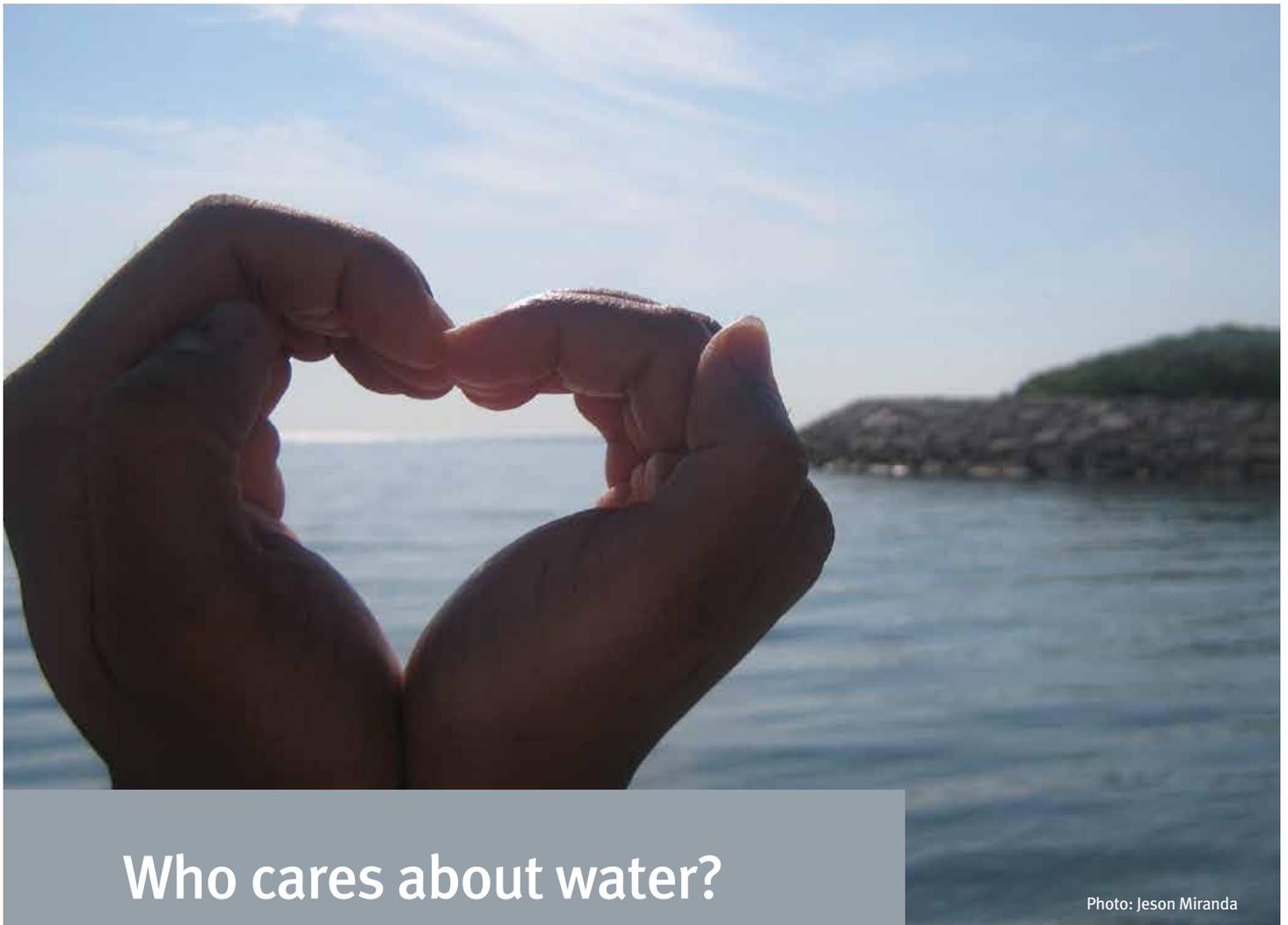


Photo: Jeson Miranda

Who cares about water?

We do. That's why we created the RBC Blue Water Project™, our \$50 million commitment to organizations that work hard to protect fresh water. We'd like to congratulate the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation for caring about water as much as we do for the last 60 years.

Get your free* Blue Water coin set.

Join us at our Parkside Village store for a special announcement about our support of the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation and to get your free* Blue Water coin set.

Where: 4056 Confederation Parkway

When: Saturday, June 21, 2015 at 12 noon

Helping build a better future.



**RBC
Blue Water
Project**

Flood Forecasting and Stormwater Management

In October 1954, Hurricane Hazel caused over \$180 million in damages and claimed 81 lives. Following this devastation, the Province of Ontario and conservation authorities, including CVC, took action to help communities prepare for and reduce flood risks in the future.

One key development was a flood forecasting and warning system implemented in 1956. CVC began monitoring watershed conditions including rainfall, snow accumulation and streamflows. When conditions are dangerous to public safety, the conservation authority issues flood messages to municipal partners, first responders, media and the public.

While the warning system helps communities prepare for flooding, improved stormwater infrastructure is important for flood prevention. At the time of Hurricane Hazel, a significant amount of stormwater (rainfall and runoff) was able to be absorbed into the ground. Excess runoff flowed through sewers and emptied into downstream creeks, rivers and lakes. Still there was widespread destruction.

As the watershed became more urbanized with hard surfaces from pavement and buildings, less stormwater could

absorb into the ground. More infrastructure was needed to cope with growing development. This included building larger conveyance systems to carry stormwater and stormwater ponds to hold rainfall and release it slowly back into local waterways.

Beginning in the 1990s, concerns over water quality created a further shift in stormwater management. As rainwater hits city streets, it picks up chemicals, trash and bacteria and carries these pollutants into the storm drainage system. CVC started encouraging municipalities to develop management systems that would better treat stormwater before it entered the storm sewer system. This is low impact development (LID), practices that mimic nature to treat rainfall and runoff where it lands. CVC is an Ontario leader in this approach.

CVC Programs Adapt To Help Prevent Flooding

Over the past 60 years the Credit River watershed has become increasingly divided – an upper watershed that retains a rural character while the lower watershed has become 60 per cent urbanized. Climate change is also starting to affect us locally with more frequent, high intensity storms that happen over short periods of time. These changes have increased the risk and nature of flooding.

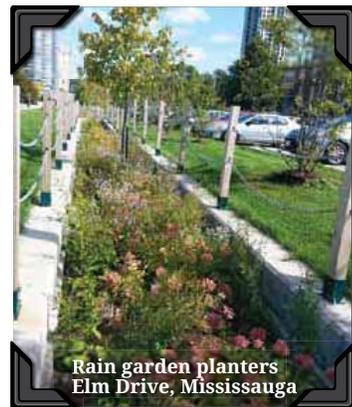
CVC's flood forecasting and warning program is adapting to these changes. Thanks to substantial funding from the Region of Peel, 43 new real-time gauges installed throughout the watershed are measuring stream flow, water levels and precipitation. These gauges capture information in real time, alerting CVC staff to changes in water conditions and allowing us to react quickly to potential flooding. We promptly share this information with municipal and other emergency response staff to improve lead times so first responders can deal with flood emergencies.

CVC is also working with municipalities and other partners to reduce flood risk by managing rainfall where it lands through techniques called low impact development (LID). Rainwater is filtered, cooled, cleaned and slowed down before entering our waterways, helping to prevent flooding of municipal storm systems and reducing stream erosion. LID techniques you might be familiar with include rainwater harvesting, green roofs, rain gardens, porous pavement and grass swales. CVC works with over 45 local private and public partners to design, construct, monitor and promote LID projects.

On July 8, 2013, the GTA experienced a severe storm event that knocked out power, stranded commuters, and flooded roads and basements. LID sites such as the one on Elm Drive in Mississauga were successful in mitigating some flooding, where special planters were able to

absorb runoff from the storm for 40 minutes. This delay provided relief to sewers already burdened by high storm flows.

LID practices will play an important role in mitigating floods as our climate changes and our landscape becomes more urbanized.



Planning Regulations to Protect People and Floodplains

In 1956, in response to severe economic and human losses associated with Hurricane Hazel, the province gave conservation authorities (CAs) the mandate to make regulations regarding development in floodplains.

There have since been several amendments to this regulation. In 1960 the flooding focus was broadened to consider impacts on pollution and conserving land. In 1968, issues brought on by alterations to waterways were added. In 1998 the regulation was renamed "Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses", which gives you an idea about the scope of the responsibility.

The purpose of the regulation is to protect people and property from

natural hazards such as flooding, unstable soils, unsound slopes, and other erosion hazards.

CAs are now required to regulate development in, or adjacent to, rivers and stream valleys, Great Lakes and large lake shorelines, hazardous lands as well as regulating alterations to watercourses and any interference to wetlands. When property owners want to develop on or near these lands, CVC may first need to confirm that the proposed changes will not adversely affect flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or conservation of land.

Typically we need to take a close look at plans that include such things as construction and modifications of buildings and additions; break walls, retaining walls and docks; stairs, decks and gazebos; boat ramps and storage structures; adding or removing fill and site grading;

berms and swales; as well as in-ground and above-ground pools.

These regulations are not intended to interfere with anyone's right to enjoy their property. The goal is simply to ensure that proposed development is adequately set back from natural features and hazards to avoid unnecessary damage and injury.

Our climate is changing. Despite our best efforts, the effects of severe weather continue to change what we know about floodplains. New rules may be required in future to lessen the risks of our new "normal".

A **floodplain** is the land alongside a stream, river or lake that ends up covered by water when a watercourse overflows or a lake rises above its normal level. Changes a property owner might want to make in the floodplain can affect how water behaves during a flood, possibly increasing harm to lives and property.



Looking Back at 60 Years of Looking Forward *(Message from the Chair and CAO)*

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Credit Valley Conservation. This is an occasion to look back at where we started and how far we have come.

There have been many changes in 60 years. Sewage treatment improvements have allowed fish to return to previously polluted areas of the river. Many farm and rural landowners have embraced better land management practices. Never have we seen so many volunteers and landowners engaged in helping make a better Credit River watershed.

But challenges remain – invasive species like emerald ash borer (EAB), garlic mustard and buckthorn are taking hold. There are more people and developed areas in the watershed. With increased urbanization come challenges of storm-water management, water supply, over-used public spaces, different land use objectives, and increasing sewage discharge. Of course, climate change presents new uncertainties particularly for flood prevention and control.

The one thing that has not changed during this time is our ongoing commitment to a better future. Watershed planning was forward thinking in 1954 and remains important to demonstrate the collective impact of our actions. We have always been a forward-looking

agency with a strong vision for a more sustainable future. We have committed staff working continually to monitor and respond to issues and opportunities. For 60 years, ours has been a work in progress. It will remain so into the future.

The work we have done has laid a strong foundation for a bright and positive tomorrow. And we continue to do this alongside many partners: the province, our watershed municipalities, residents, environmental agencies, corporations, volunteers and Foundation donors. We share our many accomplishments with these proud partners, and we thank and congratulate them for their continued support and participation.

Together it is our heritage to conserve and our future to shape.



Patricia Mullin
Chair



Deborah Martin-Downs
Chief Administrative Officer

Stewardship is a Shared Responsibility

In 1956 CVC produced its first watershed plan, a progressive report that identified opportunities to collaborate with landowners on planning and managing land and water resources.



With over 90 per cent of the watershed owned privately, improvements can only be made with landowner cooperation and participation. Caring for the watershed has been a shared responsibility from CVC's very beginning. Here are a few success stories.

Doug and Janis Apted worked with CVC 22 years ago on their 40-acre Caledon property. Today, hundreds of white pine, spruce, English and pin oak act as wind-breaks and help buffer a watercourse

from nearby pasture lands. "The trees have made a huge improvement," say the Apteds, who proudly enjoy shade and shelter all year round.

In the 1950s the Scott Mission Camp bought a 100-acre farm with open fields and few trees. Today it is a semi-forested landscape. "I was inspired by those who had the foresight to plant the trees and create this favourite spot for campers and staff," says camp director Jeff Johnson.

In 2008, in partnership with CVC, Johnson planted another 9,000 trees and shrubs. "It's important to tell the kids we are looking to the future, to improve and protect the land," he says. "It takes over 40 years to grow something like our pine forest so someone has to show initiative."

More recently, Fielding Chemical Technologies is one of CVC's first Greening Corporate Grounds members. Located on a busy Mississauga street, Fielding was not put off by harsh conditions such as road salt contamination, highly compacted and unevenly draining soils, and regular dustings from a nearby aggregate plant. Over four years, Fielding staff have planted 130 trees and shrubs and more than 250 native perennials to create a thriving green space for employees, birds and butterflies.

We are proud to celebrate our good fortune, sharing the watershed with so many caring stewards of the land – farmers, rural landowners, residents and corporations alike.



Ceremonial tree planting with (L to R) MP Brad Butt, Amaranth Mayor Don MacIver, MP Stella Ambler, Erin Mayor Lou Maieron, Mono Mayor Laura Ryan, Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell, CVC Chair and Mississauga Councillor Pat Mullin.



Water blessing celebrated by Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation members (L to R) Carolyn King, Jeannine Aaron and Elder Garry Sault.



SIXTY YEARS

Our Heritage to Conserve

To celebrate our 60th anniversary on May 13, 2014, a special commemorative tree planting event was held on May 9th at CVC's administration offices in Mississauga.

More than 100 municipal partners, provincial representatives, past and present Board members, senior management, environmental groups, volunteers, and staff commemorated the milestone. The event also included a special water bless-

ing by Elder Garry Sault of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation along the shores of the Credit River to honour our native heritage and the bounty of the river.

This special event launched a year-long celebration to commemorate our history, our growth, our partnerships and environmental changes over time.

For more information visit:
www.creditvalley.ca/sixty

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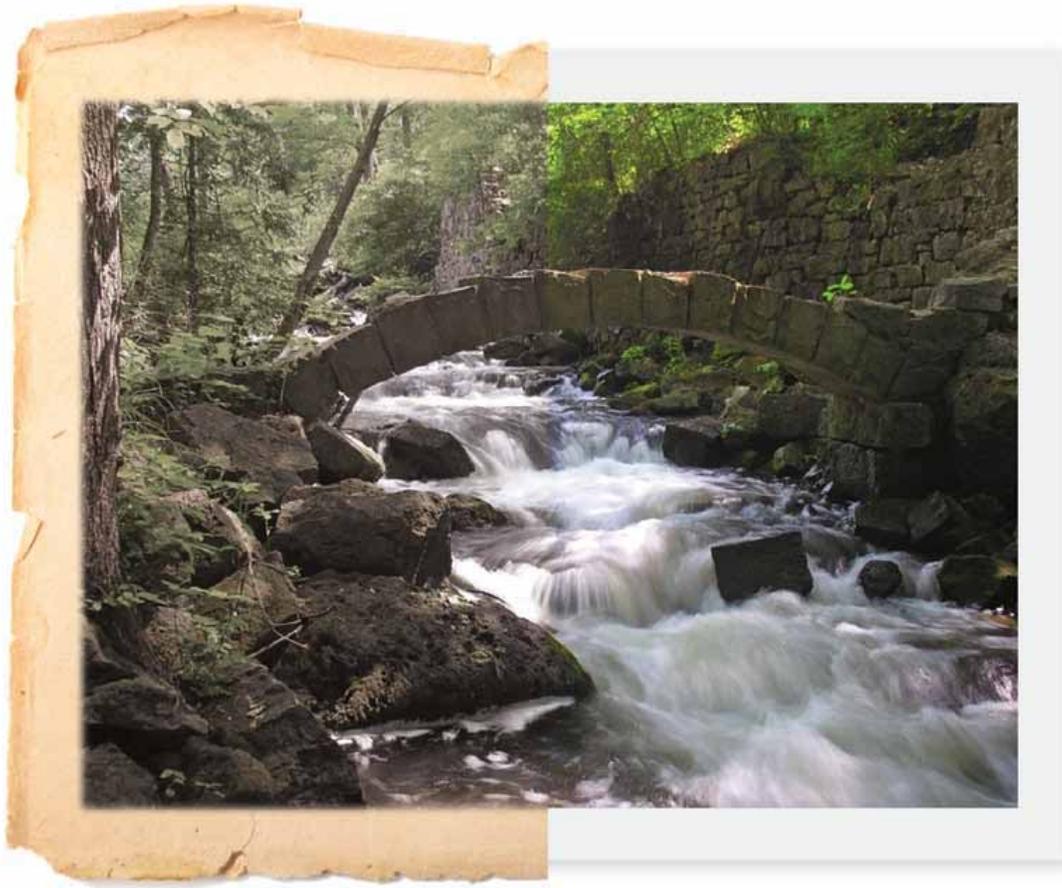
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Limehouse Conservation Area

Helping keep things the same. (It's a good thing.)

Congratulations to Credit Valley Conservation for 60 wonderful years of preserving, maintaining and caring for our natural heritage and environment. We're happy to do our part, so you can continue with your amazing work. Thank you.





The Credit Valley Conservation Foundation is a registered environmental charity that raises funds and awareness in support of the conservation projects carried out by Credit Valley Conservation (CVC).

We recently embarked on a major fundraising campaign entitled Landscapes for Life. Our goal is to raise \$2.5 million for CVC by 2016. To date, we have raised \$1.3 million. Please help us reach our goal by making a donation today at www.cvcfoundation.ca.

Signature Fundraising Events



Canoe the Credit, A Paddle for River Conservation

Team Relay Challenge
 Canoes, paddles, safety equipment, fantastic prizes, beverages and lunch provided.
 Sunday, June 22, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Don Rowing Club & Mississauga Canoe Club, Port Credit, ON
 Registration: \$1,000 per team (8-10 people)



Friends of Island Lake 6th Annual Bass Derby

More than \$5,000 in cash prizes!
 July 5 & 6, 2014
 Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville, ON
 Registration: Youth/Adult (ages 12+) \$45 one-day / \$70 two-day
 Child (ages 5-11) \$10 one-day / \$15 two-day

Our Donors Thank you!

The CVC Foundation deeply appreciates the generous contributions of all those who have made an investment to help protect and conserve the lands and waters of the Credit River watershed. In 2013, the following foundations, corporations and individuals generously supported the invaluable conservation projects of Credit Valley Conservation.

\$50,000 - \$99,999

- Country Trades
- FedDev Ontario
- RBC Foundation
- Shell Environmental Fund

\$25,000 - \$49,999

- Brookfield Homes
- David Suzuki Foundation
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Government of Canada
- Enersource
- Friends of Island Lake
- Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
- Jim & Micheline Muscat
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Town of Mono
- Town of Orangeville
- UPS Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

- Carters Professional Corporation
- CBM
- County of Dufferin
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- Enbridge Gas Distribution
- Halton/Peel Woodlands & Wildlife Stewardship
- Holcim Canada (Dufferin Aggregates)
- Marolyn & John Morrison
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Rotary Club of Orangeville
- Scotiabank

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Arbor Day Foundation
- In Memory of Peter Orphanos
- Mount Pleasant Landowners Group
- Patricia Mullin
- Sunshine Design and Construction



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