



BE A PART OF PROTECTING THE LAND YOU LOVE



Countryside living is the ideal life whether you grew up on a farm or retired to a quaint wooded property after years of working in the city. There is something special about living in the countryside. It's a lifestyle with advantages, but it also comes with hard work. Septic systems, wells, wildlife, forests, streams and ponds are not the domain of the average city dweller. Living close to the land means understanding it and caring for it. It's the difference between being a landowner and a land steward.

Credit Valley Conservation's (CVC) Countryside Stewardship Program can help you protect the land you love by offering workshops, resources, and assistance from technical specialists to help you manage your land and water.

Entry into the Countryside Stewardship Program typically starts by attending one of three introductory workshops:

Caring for Your Land & Water Workshop
(for non-farm landowners)

Caring for Your Horse & Farm Workshop
(for horse farm owners)

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop
(for all farmers including horse farm owners)

At these workshops, landowners learn about important natural features on their property and how to protect them. Landowners are

introduced to the challenges facing our countryside and learn how their land connects to larger issues and solutions. Workshop participants receive a Stewardship Guide with instructions to develop a land management Action Plan specific to their property. Experts are on hand to provide advice and recommendations.

Workshops happen throughout the year. Visit our web site or refer to the event listing on the back to sign up for an upcoming workshop.

CVC's Stewardship Coordinators are available anytime to discuss your land management and stewardship goals. Feel free to get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

Agricultural landowners & operators:

Contact Mark Eastman
meastman@creditvalleyca.ca

Rural non-farm landowners in Dufferin, Erin, and Caledon north:

Contact Holly Nadalin
hnadalin@creditvalleyca.ca

Rural non-farm landowners in Halton Hills, Brampton and Caledon south:

Contact Karen Buckle
kbuckle@creditvalleyca.ca

Or call 1-800-668-5557



INSIDE STORY
THE EMERALD ASH BORER

This small green beetle is leaving a hole in Ontario forests. Learn what you can do to help fight this invasive pest on your property.

Credit Valley Conservation
FOREST MANAGEMENT SERVICES for LANDOWNERS



- Free landowner site visits and advice
- Woodlot/forest health inspections and assessments
- Preparation for MFTIP and Forest Management Plans
- Invasive species control
- Marking prescriptions and tree marking services

For more information please call 905-702-5201.

Forest Management Workshop

Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Terra Cotta Conservation Area

To register please visit:
creditvalleyca.ca/events.

Coming soon to a forest near you:

THE EMERALD ASH BORER



Don't let this seemingly innocent little insect fool you with its big eyes and sparkly blue-green wings. Emerald ash borer (EAB) is on a mission and the only thing it cares about are the scrumptious ash trees – likely in your backyard.

Emerald ash borer is an invasive insect that is spreading throughout southern Ontario, including parts of the Credit River Watershed. In established areas, EAB can mass attack and kill native North American ash trees in as little as two growing seasons.



Photo courtesy of CIFA

The deep green colour of the Emerald Ash Borer makes it easy to recognize.

Between 2008 and 2009 EAB was found in the Credit River Watershed in the urban areas of Oakville, Brampton and Mississauga. Occurrences in the mid and upper watershed have not yet been reported although this is just a matter of time.

The larvae feed just beneath the bark of the tree and disrupt the movement of water and nutrients. Once signs and symptoms of infestation have developed the tree is usually in irreversible decline. Once dead, ash trees tend to fall quite quickly, within two years, compared to other tree species.

The beetle disperses naturally through flight, moving up to several kilometers in search of new ash hosts. However, the large scale spread of EAB has been facilitated by transport of ash tree pieces, mainly firewood, throughout Ontario.

Signs that a tree may be infested with EAB include new shoots growing from the trunk or lower branches; S-shaped tunnels underneath the bark filled with fine sawdust; small D-shaped holes in the bark (from where the beetle emerges); thinning of the crown; and presence of adult beetles feeding on the foliage.



Photo courtesy of CIFA

Tunnels underneath the bark filled with fine sawdust is one sign of EAB infestation.

Ash trees are very common in southern Ontario and the Credit River Watershed in both rural and urban areas. It is expected that EAB will have serious economic and environmental implications, including tree removal costs, public safety hazards, biodiversity impacts and loss of ecosystem services such as erosion control, shading effects and air quality improvements.

CVC and its partner municipalities have made a significant investment in protecting and enhancing the environmental health of the Credit River Watershed. In continuing these efforts, an EAB Response Plan is currently being developed to deal with this emerging threat. Widespread control of EAB is not possible, but a response plan can mitigate the impact EAB has on urban and rural forests.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the principle agency responsible for regulation of EAB in Canada. CFIA has established regulated areas that restrict movement of all ash products including all movement of firewood outside the regulated area.

Residents and landowners can play a large role in helping to control EAB by not moving firewood and monitoring ash trees for evidence of EAB activity. For more information on how to identify the signs and symptoms of EAB, visit the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca.

Private Landowner Invasive Plant Removal Service

CVC can help you stop the invasion of invasive alien plants

- Attract more wildlife to your property
- Improve the health of your forest and natural areas
- Increase diversity of native plants and wildflowers on your property

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL SERVICES

- Free site assessment
- Development of a removal plan
- Invasive plant, tree, and shrub removal with integrated pest management approach
- Replanting or restoration of the site

For more information contact Rod Krick, Natural Heritage Ecologist, at 905-670-1615 or rkrick@creditvalleyca.ca.



creditvalleyca.ca/invasives

from the *Expert*



CVC Wetland Specialist, Paul Biscaia, on creating wildlife habitat around a wetland or pond

Wetlands and ponds provide many benefits to people and the environment. They enhance the beauty of your property, but more importantly they provide vital habitat for a variety of plants and animals. There are a number of easy ways landowners can improve fish and wildlife habitat around their wetland or pond.

Planting a buffer of trees, shrubs and aquatic plants around a wetland or pond will attract wildlife by providing food, cover, and connectivity to other habitat. Adding rocks, logs and woody cover in your pond can provide basking areas for turtles, perches for birds and cover for fish and amphibians.

Waterfowl such as the colourful wood duck are readily attracted to nesting boxes that can be installed by wetland and pond owners to enhance existing habitat and provide wonderful wildlife viewing opportunities.

Build Your Own Wood Duck Nesting Box

Sat., Oct. 27, 9 am to noon
Scott Mission Camp, Caledon.
Materials, tools and technical assistance provided. Cost: \$15
Call 1-800-668-5557 ext. 436 to book your spot.



DID YOU KNOW

CVC has staff who work with landowners to help protect natural areas and ensure your safety while living on sensitive landscapes. For example, if you're planning to build close to a stream or river, we might suggest you build far enough away to avoid injury or damage in a flood. Learn more about how to protect your land at this fall's Policy & Stewardship: Living with Sensitive Landscapes workshop (see reverse for details).

CARING FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE

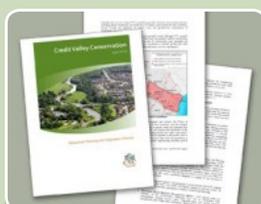
workshop series



Build a Wood Duck Box
Sat., Oct. 27



Forest Management
Sat., Nov. 17



Policy & Stewardship
Wed., Nov. 21

Hands-on workshops for landowners to help you protect the land you love

- Gain more knowledge
- Get the tools and information you need to complete your projects
- Learn from the experts

TESTIMONIALS

Well informed and passionate presenters
-Wood Duck Box Building Workshop Participant

I learned great ideas for naturalizing my pond
-Pond Management Workshop participant

Fabulous. After this workshop I am excited to study, explore and design
-Your Green Yard Workshop participant

Please register online at creditvalleyca.ca/events or at 1-800-668-5557 ext. 436



FARM GATE

Acton landowners doing their part to protect municipal drinking water supplies



The Davidson Drinking Water Wells on Third Line north of Acton have been identified as having a nitrate issue. Although nitrate levels in the well remain below maximum concentration permitted by the Ontario Drinking Water Standards, projections show that concentrations are increasing.

To help reverse this trend, CVC, with support from the Ministry of the Environment and the CTC Source Water Protection Committee, developed the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship - Early Response Program. This program provides technical and financial assistance to landowners in issue-contributing areas throughout the Credit River Watershed. Projects supported by the program help protect the quality of municipal water supplies.

Geoff and Shanna Maltby operate a farm near Acton's Davidson Wells. They have reduced the threat their farm poses to water quality by fencing horses out of a wetland and stream, constructing a concrete roofed manure storage and by completing a nutrient management plan for the farm.

"The Early Response program created a terrific opportunity to assist us with making environmental upgrades to the farm that otherwise would not have been

affordable. We are happy that we have been able to contribute to the protection of Acton's drinking water," says Geoff.

Mark Eastman, Agricultural Extension Program Coordinator with CVC, states "I would encourage all farm landowners to give me a call to discuss the programs and services that may be available to them. We are here to help you plan, design and implement your environmental improvement projects."

Mark can be reached by calling 1-800-668-5557 ext.430 or by email at meastman@creditvalleyca.ca

RURAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Funding and technical assistance for rural landowners to protect, restore and enhance our environment and resources.

It pays to protect water quality when you apply to the Rural Water Quality Program.

Eligible projects include:

- Natural area creation and restoration
- Manure storage and nutrient management planning
- Livestock fencing
- Erosion control structures
- Cover cropping
- Well decommissioning, upgrading, and more

For more information please contact:
Mark Eastman, M.Sc., P.Ag.
Agricultural Extension,
Program Coordinator
1-800-668-5557 ext. 430
meastman@creditvalleyca.ca

COMING EVENTS

Register at: creditvalleyca.ca/events

CARING FOR YOUR LAND & WATER
Sat., Sep. 29 - 9 a.m. to noon. Cheltenham Fire Hall, Cheltenham. **Cost: free.**

SALAMANDER FESTIVAL
Sat., Sep. 29 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Belfountain Conservation Area, Belfountain. **Cost: free.**

THE POWER OF GREEN
Sat., Oct. 13 - 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus. **Cost: free.**

CARING FOR YOUR LAND & WATER
Tues., Oct. 16 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Knox United Church, Caledon Village. **Cost: free.**

CARING FOR YOUR HORSE & FARM
Sat., Oct. 27 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Terra Cotta Conservation Area, Halton Hills. **Cost: free.**

BUILD A WOOD DUCK BOX
Sat., Oct. 27 - 9 a.m. to noon. Scott Mission Camp, 3852 The Grange Sideroad, Caledon. **Cost: \$15.**

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED FOREST
Fri., Oct. 26 and Sat., Oct. 27 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Terra Cotta Conservation Area, Halton Hills. **Cost: \$7/adult; \$5/child & senior.**

FOREST MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Sat., Nov. 17 - 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Terra Cotta Conservation Area, Terra Cotta. **Cost: free.**

POLICY & STEWARDSHIP: LIVING WITH SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES
Wed., Nov. 21 - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Inglewood Community Centre & Library. **Cost: free.**



COUNTRYSIDE
stewardship

CVC was established in 1954 with a mandate to protect natural resources in the Credit River Watershed. We have been working for almost 60 years with our partner municipalities and stakeholders to protect and enhance our land and water for present and future generations.