



## BE A PART OF PROTECTING THE LAND YOU LOVE



### YOUR POND NEEDS ITS GREENS TOO

Mother always said to eat your greens, but did you ever consider that your pond might need its greens too? We love our ponds and spend a lot of time grooming them; mowing the grass around the pond's edge and clearing debris and unsightly plant material from the water. Yet still, here at Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), we hear from landowners about excessive algae growth and unsuccessful fish stocking in their ponds.

To understand this, we need only look to Mother Nature who does not necessarily take neat and tidy care of her ponds and wetlands. When left alone, wilderness ponds teem with vegetation and have clean water with healthy habitat for wildlife to thrive.

***Growing native vegetation in and around your pond is vital to maintaining water quality, wildlife habitat and the overall aesthetic value of your pond.***

Trees and shrubs along the shoreline create shade and provide more optimal temperatures for fish to thrive. Vegetation growing at the water's edge provides food for animals and shelter for frogs, insects and birds. These "greens" also help reduce pollutants, such as road salt, goose droppings and fertilizer from running into your pond. This means cleaner water, free of excess algae growth. Floating and underwater plant life that grows in the deeper areas of the pond provides basking

spots for insects and turtles, food for ducks and shade for fish.

A naturalized pond is a healthy pond. It offers opportunities for native aquatic flowers and other unique plants to thrive. With a variety of heights, textures and colours they can provide high aesthetic value to your property.

#### *Coming soon to a pond near you*

New this summer, CVC will be adding aquatic plants to its naturalization services. Our aquatic specialists will assess your pond, develop a planting plan based on your needs and actually plant the aquatic plants for you during the months of July and August. Learn more at our upcoming Natural Pond Management Workshop.



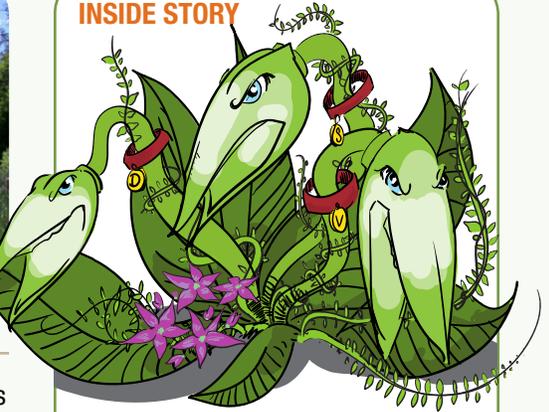
*Broad-leaved Arrowhead, a native aquatic plant*

*This is a pilot project with a limited amount of plant material available this year.*

#### **Natural Pond Management Workshop**

Saturday May 4, 9 a.m. – noon  
Monora Park Pavilion  
500 Monora Park Drive, Mono  
Cost: \$15  
Register at [creditvalleyca.ca/events](http://creditvalleyca.ca/events)

#### INSIDE STORY



#### **DOG-STRANGLING VINE**

Read more about the chokehold Dog-Strangling Vine has on our landscape.

### Caring for your **LAND & WATER**

*a free workshop for landowners*

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013**

**6:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

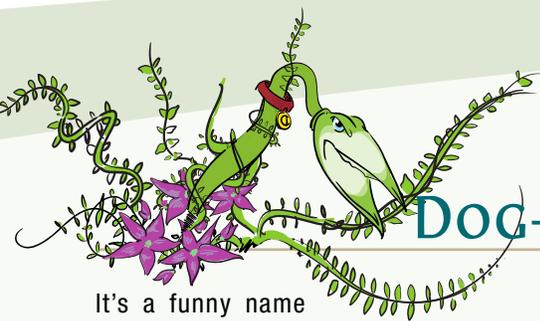
**Hillsburgh Community Centre  
95 Trafalgar Road, Hillsburgh**

Gain tools and resources to best manage the natural features on your property.

Experts will guide you through topics such as forests, ponds and wetlands, septic systems, water wells and landscaping.

Participants receive customized property maps, a free copy of ***Your Guide to Caring for the Credit*** and a homeowner stewardship kit.

Call 1-800-668-5557 ext. 436 to register.



## DOG-STRANGLING VINE

It's a funny name for a plant, but this new invader to the Credit River countryside is no joke. Dog-Strangling Vine, like Purple Loosestrife and most other invasive plants, is native to Europe. In North America it has no natural controls. Some think it may have been introduced to Canada to cultivate its fluffy seeds as filler for life jackets during WWII.

Dog Strangling Vine grows just about everywhere – in open meadows, forests, beside streams and along roadsides. The perennial vines shade and suppress all native plants. It wraps around itself and other plants to reach as high as three and a half meters. The stems are like a mass of thick-gauge wire. A dog or other small animal could conceivably become entangled and choke as it tries to escape – the reason for its dreadful name.

Dog-Strangling Vine is a relative newcomer to the upper Credit River watershed, unlike the lower watershed (Brampton and Mississauga) where it's a familiar sight. Known infestations are currently limited to discrete areas where control may still be possible, but only if landowners arm themselves with the knowledge and tools to identify and control Dog-Strangling Vine.

**Early detection and removal is the best way to control it.**



*Dog-Strangling Vine leaves*

Dog-Strangling Vine is a perennial twining vine that lacks the tendrils of a grapevine or the grasping suckers of a Virginia creeper. It has pairs of oval-to-oblong shaped leaves growing in an opposite arrangement on the stem and produces small pink to dark purple flowers in late June.



*Dog-Strangling Vine flowers and seed pods*

Dog-Strangling Vine forms dense mats by wrapping around itself and other vegetation. It swiftly becomes impenetrable, crowding out virtually all other plants. When it produces seeds, it develops pods similar to milkweed. The vine is similar enough to the common milkweed that monarch butterflies (a species at risk in Ontario) will lay their eggs on it. All of the resulting larvae die from starvation.

Dog-Strangling Vine is easier to remove before it becomes well established. This can be done by digging it out of the ground, making sure to entirely remove roots. Dog-Strangling Vine becomes much harder to control because it grows an extensive root system that is difficult to completely remove. Roots left in the ground will often re-sprout. Spraying with herbicides is often the only effective control for well-established infestations.

To help in the battle against Dog-Strangling Vine, CVC provides technical advice, workshops and site visits to landowners. We also offer affordable invasive plant removal services (including herbicide treatments) starting with a free site assessment, through to removal and then replanting of the site. For more information, contact your local Stewardship Coordinator.

Contact a

## STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Credit Valley Conservation's Countryside Stewardship Program can help you protect the land you love. We offer workshops, resources and assistance to help you manage your land, water and wildlife.

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 EXTENSION COORDINATOR:

Mark Eastman  
meastman@creditvalleyca.ca

### HEADWATERS COORDINATOR (Dufferin, Erin, & Caledon North):

Holly Nadalin  
hnadalin@creditvalleyca.ca

### ESCARPMENT COORDINATOR (Halton Hills & Caledon South):

Karen Buckle  
kbuckle@creditvalleyca.ca

**1-800-668-5557**



from the *Expert*



*CVC Aquatic Specialist,  
Sherwin Watson-Leung*

### *Honey I Shrank the Dam*

On-line ponds are ponds that are connected to a stream and are often controlled by a dam. On-line ponds offer many benefits including providing habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities. But did you know that without adequate management, your pond or dam can negatively impact the natural environment?

Some impacts include decreased water quality and poor habitat for fish and wildlife. On-line ponds also warm water to potentially lethal temperatures for sensitive fish during the summer. Dams further prevent sensitive fish such as Brook Trout from reaching habitat they require for nursery, breeding or feeding.

Individually, your dam or pond may have minimal impact but with over 400 in the Credit River watershed the impacts add up quickly!

### *You have options*

Even the smallest actions can make a difference. Planting trees along the water's edge can provide shade and decrease nutrients entering the water. Pulling cooler water from the bottom of your pond (rather than from the top) by installing a "bottom draw" at the outlet can cool summer water temperatures discharging from the pond. Other options include removing the dam completely or building a new stream around the pond. Even altering the way you hold water seasonally can make a big difference. You can improve the environment in your own backyard.

CVC's aquatic specialists provide free pond and/or dam assessments and can recommend appropriate actions for you to take. They also offer technical support for aquatic enhancement projects and can assist you with securing the funding you need for your project.

Contact your local Stewardship Coordinator who can help get you started.

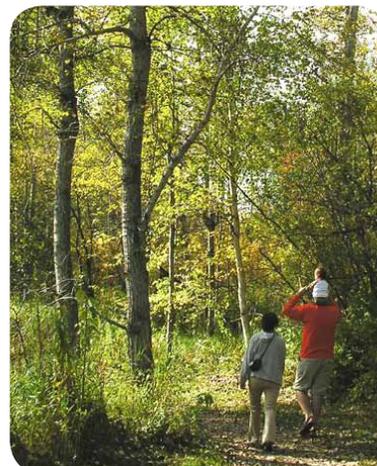
## DID YOU KNOW?

**EARTH DAY** is celebrated on April 22 each year with hundreds of community tree planting events including several right here in the Credit River Watershed? Join in the celebration. Find out where and when at [creditvalleyca.ca/events](http://creditvalleyca.ca/events).



## CVC's **TREE PLANTING SERVICES** for **LANDOWNERS**

*Let us do the work for you*



Imagine a beautiful mature forest on your land that you and your family will enjoy for years.

We make it easy. Our experienced Forestry staff will do the work *for you* from creating the planting plan and planting, to forest management.

Credit Valley Conservation offers:

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

For more info, call 905-702-5201.

## COMING EVENTS

Register at:  
[creditvalleyca.ca/events](http://creditvalleyca.ca/events)

### Orangeville Earth Day Tree

**Planting** - Sat. Apr. 20, 9 a.m. to noon, Rotary Park, Orangeville.

### Natural Pond Management

**Workshop** - Sat. May 4, 9 a.m. to noon, Monora Park Pavilion. **Cost: \$15.**

### CVC Tree and Shrub Direct

**Sale Day** - Sat. May 4, 9 a.m. to noon. Pre-ordering is required. Call 905-838-1832 to place your order.

### Caledon Creek Tree Planting

Sat. May 11, 9 a.m. to noon, Caledon Village.

**Birding for Beginners** Sat. May 11, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Terra Cotta Conservation Area. **Cost: \$4 - \$10.**

### Caring for Your Land & Water

**Workshop** - Wed. May 15, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Hillsburgh Community Centre. **Cost: free.**

### Peel Environmental Farm Tour

Mon. May 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Farms throughout Peel. Registration required. **Cost: free.**

**Well & Septic Social** - Sat. June 15, 9 a.m. to noon, Mono. Registration required. **Cost: free.**

## FARM GATE

### COVER CROPPING *for improved soil health, farm income and water quality*

Healthy soils are the foundation on which successful agri-businesses are built, whether it's a 1,000 acre grain farm or a small community supported agriculture (CSA) operation.

What makes soil healthy? Healthy soils have good structure, a lot of organic matter, healthy biological activity and high nutrient levels.

Improving soil health may seem like a daunting task and many producers don't know where to start. Cover crops are attracting attention as a way to increase soil health. This is in addition to other benefits cover crops provide, such as reducing wind and water erosion, protecting surface and ground water quality, limiting pests and improving nutrient levels.



*Tillage Radish*

There are many cover crop species to choose from. Selecting one should take into account your farm's objectives, the availability of specialized machinery and availability of seed. To make selecting the right cover crop easier, the Midwest Cover Crops Council has developed an online tool - [www.mccc.msu.edu](http://www.mccc.msu.edu) - that applies to Ontario growing conditions.

Randy McLeod, local grain and oilseed producer and Director of Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association experimented with growing buckwheat and Tillage Radish as cover crops. "Choosing a cover crop with a short growing cycle that can be planted following winter wheat is a grower's best option of rebuilding organic matter without interrupting crop production," said Randy.

Randy seeds Tillage Radish using a no-till planter at a rate of 10 lbs/ac. "I have seen quick germination rates from Tillage Radish planted into wheat stubble with the straw removed. The young plants grew quickly and did not seem to be affected by the stubble left from the wheat. However, the radish was unable to compete in areas where wheat blown out the back of the combine had started growing," said Randy.

If you are interested in learning more about cover crops and funding opportunities to assist with growing cover crops, please contact Mark Eastman, Agricultural Extension Coordinator, at 1-800-668-5557 ext. 430 or [meastman@creditvalleyca.ca](mailto:meastman@creditvalleyca.ca).

*CVC Countryside Stewardship programs are available to residents and landowners within the Credit River watershed. Our neighbouring Conservation Authorities offer similar programs. We would be pleased to direct those who live outside the Credit River watershed to the appropriate agency.*



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.