



## BE A PART OF PROTECTING THE LAND YOU LOVE



Large-scale reforestation in Ontario started in the early 1900s. Much of southern Ontario was cleared for farming by 1900 to accommodate the influx of newcomers, but lack of tree cover proved to be a problem. Eroding soil from wind and water made farming difficult. Planting trees was the solution and one hundred years later, we're still planting trees and reaping the benefits of old and new forest plantations.

Healthy forests provide critical habitat for all types of wildlife – connecting natural corridors and providing cover in winter. Around your home, forests increase property aesthetics and act as insulation by providing shade from the hot summer sun and blocking out wind in the winter. For farmers, trees act as a windbreak to protect soil from erosion and maintain moisture levels.

### What you don't see

Trees and forests are hard at work producing oxygen for us to breathe. Forests also help combat climate change by removing and storing carbon from the air. This is called carbon sequestration. Every tree planted helps to sequester more carbon and local countryside stewards plant tens of thousands of trees every year throughout the Credit River watershed.

### Tax break? Yes please!

Landowners with over 10 acres of forest can take advantage of a provincial tax break called the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) helps landowners receive this tax reduction by working with them to create certified managed forest plans and guiding them through the application process.

CVC offers expert forestry services to help landowners plant trees and grow healthy forests. Planting your own forest can cost just pennies per tree and is something you and your family can enjoy for years to come. CVC foresters are now booking for spring. Call 905-838-1521 for more information.

Reforestation Planting Program requirements:

- you must possess a minimum of two acres of land
- minimum order of 1,500 seedlings

Materials and services provided:

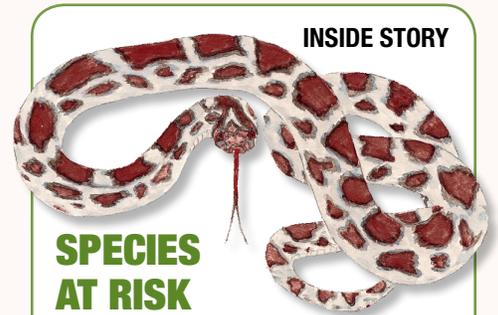
- hardwood and evergreen bare root reforestation seedlings 15 to 30 cm tall
- free site visit and technical support
- customized planting plan for your property
- delivery and installation of plant stock
- machine planting of trees

### WOODLOT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Explore various forest management options for your woodlot through indoor and outdoor instruction.

Learn about CVC's forest management services.

Saturday, November 16  
9 am to 12:00 pm  
CVC Forestry Operations Centre  
15526 Heart Lake Road, Caledon



### INSIDE STORY

### SPECIES AT RISK

Forty-four local species of animals and plants are at risk of extinction or disappearing from Ontario or Canada.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES AT RISK

When you think about endangered species, what usually comes to mind are the more recognizable and popular animals – the mountain gorilla, giant panda, or polar bear. These are important symbols that help raise the alarm on threats to biodiversity. What many people don't realize is that there are species at risk here at home that deserve our attention as well.

The Credit River watershed is home to no less than 44 species at risk. These are plants and animals whose populations are declining and are in danger of becoming extinct or disappearing from Canada or Ontario. There are many reasons for their decline. The major contributors are habitat loss and fragmentation, exploitation, pollution, disease and invading non-native species.

Taking action to protect our most vulnerable creatures and plants contributes to a thriving and abundant countryside. By working together, there is hope to reverse the trend for our 44 local species at risk.



## Let's take a deeper look at three of our local species at risk:

### SNAPPING TURTLE



**Description:** Canada's largest freshwater turtle reaching an average length of 8 to 14 inches and 10 to 35 pounds. Nesting season is early to mid-summer. Females lay their eggs in sandy or gravelly areas, often taking advantage of man-made structures such as gravel road shoulders, dams and aggregate pits.

**Threat:** Snapping turtles naturally take 15 to 20 years to reach sexual maturity. The death of even a few adults each year can cause a significant decline in their overall population. Other threats include road mortality, hunting, poaching and attacks on their nests by raccoons, skunks and foxes.

**Taking action:** Protect or improve wetland habitat on your property with native vegetation. Create turtle nesting sites along pond edges with sand or gravelly soils. If you have turtles nesting on your property, help to protect the eggs from predators with a wire mesh fabric or chicken wire fence around the nesting area.

### BOBOLINK



**Description:** A robin-sized song bird of open grasslands and hayfields. Bobolinks often build their small nests on the ground in dense grasses.

**Threat:** Mowing hay during the breeding period (early to mid-July) may inadvertently kill and disturb nesting adults and young birds, and destroy eggs and nests.

**Taking action:** Harvest hay from the centre of the field outward in an expanding spiral pattern. This allows birds to hear when tractors are inching closer and gives them time to flee. Harvest after July 15 once breeding and nesting are over.

### MILK SNAKE



**Description:** A non-venomous constrictor snake that grows up to one metre in length. Named based on the false belief that it steals milk from cows in barns. It is actually attracted to barns because of many mice.

**Threat:** Due to its aggressive behaviour and tendency to regularly inhabit old buildings, human persecution is a common threat along with road mortality and habitat loss due to urbanization.

**Taking action:** Create shelter from predators by constructing rock or brush piles. Make sure the piles are stable, relatively large (about one metre wide at the base) and located adjacent to borders, hedges or a compost heap.

Learn more at our workshop: **CREATING WILDLIFE HABITAT ON YOUR PROPERTY**

Sat, Oct. 5, 10 am to noon | Terra Cotta Welcome Centre | Cost: Free

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

from the *Expert*



**Forestry Foreman, Dave Wiley, on white pine blister rust**

The eastern white pine, like all trees, is susceptible to a variety of diseases. One of the more common diseases is white pine blister rust.

#### What to watch out for:

- A dead branch with red needles caused by a blister rust canker on the branch
- Branch cankers appear either depressed or raised with a distinct color that contrasts with the greenish bark of younger white pines
- Older cankers often exude resin
- In early spring, orange-yellow, powdery masses of spores are produced on cankers

#### Best management practice

Grow young white pine under forest cover. The forest cover reduces moisture from forming on needles that can contribute to rust infections. Try not to grow young white pine in small openings, particularly at the bases of slopes and in low areas. These openings collect cool air and have abundant dew formation, ideal conditions for rust infections to occur.

#### Best cultural practice

Decrease the loss of white pines from blister rust by pruning lower branches of young trees. Research shows that more than 99 per cent of all infections occur within nine feet of the ground. The fungus that causes blister rust requires high moisture levels for initial infections, which occurs more frequently near the ground.

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Have you noticed these signs around the rural watershed and wondered what they mean?*

Every year, landowners who live in the Credit River watershed take advantage of our Private Landowner Tree Planting Program. They may also undertake other stewardship projects such as wildlife habitat creation, decommissioning abandoned wells or building manure storage facilities. These actions help protect water quality and biodiversity in the watershed and are recognized with a *Caring for the Credit – Watershed Stewardship Partner* sign. Next time you drive, bike or hike by one, know that a countryside steward lives there.



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

*free workshops for landowners*



**Sat. Oct. 26, 2013 - 9 a.m. to noon**  
**Acton Library, 17 River Street, Acton**

**Thurs. Nov. 7, 2013 - 6:30 to 9 p.m.**  
**Historic Alton Mill, 1402 Queen St., Alton**

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.

### Caring for your **HORSE & FARM**

*free workshop for horse farm owners*



**Sat. Nov. 16, 2013 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**Caledon Community Complex, 56215 Old Church Rd., Caledon East**

Learn how to manage horse manure, improve pasture quality and protect natural features on your property such as ponds, wetlands and streams.

Discover programs that offer technical and financial assistance.

Tour several local equine farms to see environmental improvement projects first hand.

Light lunch included.

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



## FARM GATE

*Local is the way to go* - Article by Pradeep Kumar, volunteer with Local Food Plus



Photo by Madclicks Via Flickr Creative Commons

Ontario consumers are increasingly concerned about the environmental and health impacts of the food they eat. This includes factors such as food transport, food safety and the overall carbon footprint of food production. The number of farms in the province has declined steadily over the past decade, but a renewed focus on local food consumption could reverse this trend. This may help increase local food production and improve conditions for Ontario agriculture. Responding to this trend is an emerging group of new agricultural entrepreneurs – ready to meet the demand for sustainable, locally grown food.

Consumers want to know where their food comes from and how it is grown. Local Food Plus (LFP), a Canadian non-profit, is at the centre of this movement, bringing farmers and consumers together to strengthen regional food economies. They certify farmers and processors who use sustainable practices and help connect food producers to local retailers, restaurants, and institutions.



LFP's certification program plays a role in each part of the food system, from farm to table, and is carried out by recognized, independent and professional inspectors. The comprehensive certification system addresses production, labour, ecological preservation, pesticide use, animal welfare and on-farm energy use. These standards help create higher-value markets for farmers and processors.

Making food production more transparent and defining best practices for sustainability helps consumers make informed decisions about the food they eat. LFP is always on the lookout for new partnerships with producers, retailers, restaurants, institutions and distributors. To learn more about LFP, their certification process and where you can find certified local sustainable food near you, please visit [www.localfoodplus.ca](http://www.localfoodplus.ca).

## COMING EVENTS

**Workshops offered free of charge.**  
Register at: [creditvalleyca.ca/events](http://creditvalleyca.ca/events)

### Environmental Planning for Farm Landlords\*

Thurs. Sept. 19, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Terra Cotta Conservation Area

### Tree Identification Walk & Talk\*\*

Sat. Sept. 28, 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Terra Cotta Conservation Area

### Creating Wildlife Habitat on Your Property\*

Sat. Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to noon  
Terra Cotta Conservation Area

### Caring for Your Land and Water\*\*

Sat. Oct. 26, 9:30 a.m. to noon  
Acton Library, Acton  
Registration required by Oct. 18.

### Caring for Your Land and Water\*

Thurs. Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Historic Alton Mill, Alton  
Registration required by Nov. 1.

### Caring for Your Horse and Farm\*

Sat. Nov. 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Caledon Community Complex,  
Caledon East

### Woodlot Management\*

Sat. Nov. 16, 9 a.m. to noon  
CVC Forestry Operations Centre,  
Caledon

\*Funding in support of this workshop provided by the Region of Peel.

\*\*Funding in support of this workshop provided by Halton Region, Dufferin County and the Town of Erin.

*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.