



BE A PART OF PROTECTING THE LAND YOU LOVE



INSIDE STORY

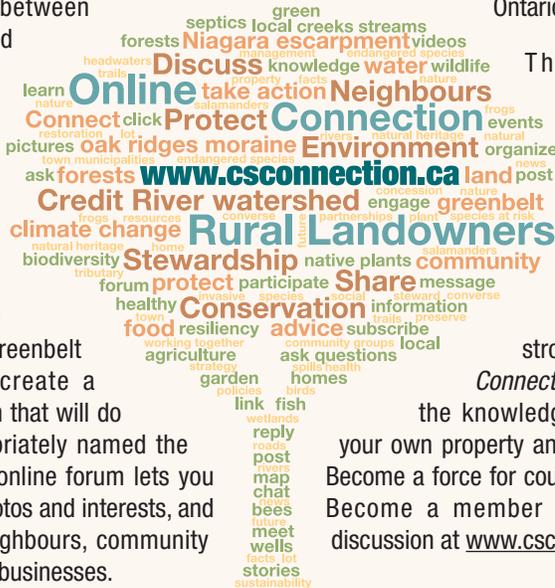


COLDWATER FISH

The Credit and its tributaries are home to a number of coldwater fish species.

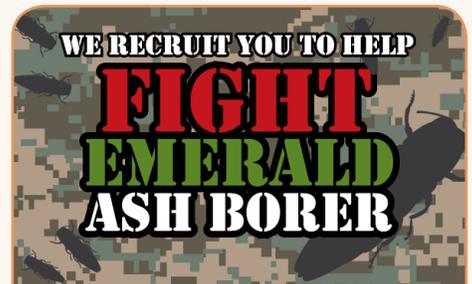
A strong and healthy community takes dedication to build and maintain. We understand the important role the community plays in taking care of the countryside. In 2012 we did a little digging into what landowners like about living in the country and what tools they need to help them protect their land and water. Through focus groups, interviews and surveys we heard you loud and clear. We need to break down social barriers, make the connection between awareness and action, leverage social media and increase our presence in the community.

We teamed up with the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation to create a new online forum that will do just that. Appropriately named the Connection, the online forum lets you share stories, photos and interests, and interact with neighbours, community groups and local businesses.



"With sites like LinkedIn and Facebook, social media is one of the most widely used tools to connect people. It makes sense to connect landowners and community groups in a similar way," says Burkhard Mausberg, CEO of the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation. "We are excited to support this new online tool. Strong community engagement and collaboration among landowners are vital to protecting our countryside and preservation of Ontario's Greenbelt."

The Credit River watershed is experiencing dramatic changes in climate and landscape. We can ensure that the rural community and countryside is strong and resilient. The Connection can help you find the knowledge to take action on your property and in your community. Become a force for countryside stewardship! Become a member today and join the discussion at www.csconnection.ca.



This small green beetle is leaving a hole in our forests. Learn how to fight this invasive pest on your property.

Hear what the experts have to say about:

- History, spread, and biology of EAB
- Impacts and changes to woodlots and yard trees
- Options for rural landowners

THREE FREE WORKSHOPS:

- **Caledon:** Oct. 8, 7 - 9 p.m. Knox United Church, Caledon Village
- **Halton:** Oct. 15, 7 - 9 p.m., Mold-Master Sports Complex, Georgetown
- **Wellington:** Oct. 16, 7 - 9 p.m. Centre 2000, Erin

Register at creditvalleyca.ca/events

THESE FISH LIKE IT CLEAN AND COLD



Brook trout

The Credit River and its coldwater creeks provide critical habitat for wild brook trout and the once abundant Atlantic salmon. These fish are sensitive species with strict habitat and water quality requirements.

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) are one of the best indicators of a healthy coldwater stream. We are fortunate to have many coldwater streams in the rural, forested areas of the Credit River watershed. These streams are some of last places of refuge for brook trout, which are in decline throughout the watershed and the province. Brook trout require cold water temperatures (less than 20 degrees Celsius) with high oxygen levels. They are very sensitive to pollution. An ideal stream for Brook trout has plenty of tree and shrub cover with lots of habitat spaces such as woody debris, deep pools and undercut banks. Brook Trout rely on clean groundwater to recharge their streams. This provides refuge during warm summer periods and areas to incubate their eggs in the cold winter months.

Rural landowners support and protect brook trout in many ways. Planting stream edges provides shade and maintains cold water temperatures. Managing or reducing the runoff of nutrients (eg. fertilizers or manure) from lawns and farm fields also helps protect the clear stream environments necessary for the brook trout's survival.

The Credit River's only native salmon species, the Atlantic salmon, has been reintroduced to a number of its coldwater tributaries in

recent years. Prior to European settlement, Atlantic salmon were plentiful in the river but were extirpated in the late 1800's. Juvenile Atlantic salmon (*Salmo Salar*) are once again abundant in the Forks of the Credit area, Black Creek and some other tributaries. Like brook trout, they also require cold, spring-fed streams. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources together with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and many other partners are bringing back Atlantic salmon to key Lake Ontario tributaries. Unlike Pacific salmon species, adult Atlantic salmon



Atlantic salmon

can return to the river to spawn for multiple years. Their reintroduction to the Credit River watershed is helping to restore an important part of our natural heritage.

Volunteer with CVC to help monitor fish, including brook trout and Atlantic salmon. See our online events calendar for details: creditvalleyca.ca/events

Learn more about the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program: www.bringbackthesalmon.ca

Twilight Tour

the benefits of

COVER CROPPING

Wed., Sept. 24, 5 - 7 p.m.

Marshall's RealFarmer's Market
located just north of 13517 First Line
Nassageweya in Halton Hills.



Cover crops improve soil health and crop yields, reduce crop pest pressures, reduce erosion caused by wind and water and protect water quality.

Farmers, Ryan and Marissa Marshall, will share their experience using cover crops in their market garden and field crop systems.

Event is rain or shine

Light dinner included

This event is free but registration is required.

Register at: creditvalleyca.ca/events

from the *Expert*



CVC Invasive Species Technician, Freyja Whitten, on invasive plant species control and when to use brute strength or give in to herbicides

People are becoming more aware of invasive species – their impact to our natural landscape and the headache they cause in our back yards. They outcompete other species and can form dense monocultures, which are areas with only one type of plant and low biodiversity.

Controlling invasive plants on your property, like Japanese knotweed, can be a long uphill battle. Using the right control techniques can make this task less daunting.

There are several control options available, ranging from simple hand pulling to herbicide.

When deciding on which control option(s) to use, consider the species you're targeting and the extent and location of its growth. For example, hand pulling is sufficient for a small patch of periwinkle or goutweed. A more extensive patch requires covering the area with a tarp to trap heat and kill the plants and seeds.

In some circumstances a combination of mechanical and chemical methods provides the best results. Covering a patch of Phragmites with a tarp is more effective when herbicide is sprayed on the leaves of any plants that escapes from the sides or comes up through the tarp.

Tip: It's important that you monitor the site in the months and years following invasive plant removal.

For more examples of the pros and cons of mechanical and chemical invasive plant control, join the Countryside Stewardship Connection at www.csconnection.ca and join the discussion forum on invasive species.

DID YOU KNOW?

CVC has a team of biologists and ecologists providing the best science available for developing policies and programs to protect the natural areas of the Credit River watershed.

The Natural Areas Inventory Project gathers field data on plants and breeding birds to create accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and accessible sources of information. Armed with this vital information, we can better protect the biodiversity and ecology of our watershed.

You can read summaries and view detailed interactive maps at: www.peelregion.ca/planning/pdc/data/monitoring/watersheds/credit-river.htm



GRASSLANDS ON MY LANDS

farmers and rural landowners needed

Learn how to create or improve grasslands on your property and provide habitat for threatened grassland birds.

MEADOW-MAKER BUS TOUR



Saturday, Sept. 29, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Departs from the Watershed Learning Centre at Terra Cotta Conservation Area, 14452 Winston Churchill Blvd, Halton Hills.

- Learn how to assess old fields and meadows for restoration potential
- Get tips for planning an improvement project and learn about funding assistance
- Tour a restored meadow site
- Consult with experts in the field

FREE EVENT - LUNCH PROVIDED

Registration required by Sept. 22 at creditvalleyca.ca/events.

NEW BIRD-FRIENDLY CERTIFIED HAY PROGRAM



A program to encourage bird-friendly hay production

Thank you to our 2014 participants!

This year 9 farms grew 143 acres of Bird-Friendly Certified Hay providing habitat for at least 78 bobolink and eastern meadowlark.

Let's build on this success.

Our goal: 500 acres in 2015

GROW IT. BUY IT. RENT YOUR LAND FOR HAY PRODUCTION.

Register at birdfriendlyhay.ca.



FARM GATE

DEMYSTIFYING COMPOST

Early in the composting process bacteria consume carbohydrates, sugars and proteins within the organic matter of your compost pile. During this process oxygen and water are used up and carbon dioxide and heat are released. As the pile heats up, "thermophilic" or heat-loving bacteria are attracted to it and quickly consume most of the available carbon. Once these sources of carbon are gone, the temperature decreases and fungi start to grow. Fungi break down the less available carbon found in the lignin and cellulose of the organic matter, resulting in a high quality, homogeneous and nutrient stable compost.

Making compost is simple – Microorganisms do all of the work!

Making compost is pretty easy and microorganisms do a lot of the work for you, but making high quality compost takes some effort and a little know-how.

Three key criteria to monitor:

1: Carbon to nitrogen ratio - manure and yard, garden and orchard wastes are all appropriate feedstocks for your composter, but the trick is to balance the pile's carbon to nitrogen ratio. Ideally, you want to achieve approximately 30:1. This means that feedstocks high in carbon (wood chips, leaves, corn stocks) need to be mixed with feedstocks high in nitrogen (manure, vegetable waste, grass clippings). Pay attention to how the compost pile reacts to the addition of various materials and you will quickly determine an appropriate mixing ratio.

2: Moisture content - microorganisms require moisture to create compost. Compost piles should be moist but not saturated. You should be able to ball up the compost in your hands and squeeze only a few drops of moisture out of it.

3: Oxygen levels - microorganisms also require oxygen to decompose the compost. Keep the pile fluffy to allow the entry of air.

What should I do if my compost pile isn't composting?

Use the table below to guide your compost management decision making:

Problem	Solution
Not heating up	Add water if dry or add nitrogen feedstock if moist
Hot only at center	Pile too small: add feedstock, aerate
Decomposing, but is not hot	Add nitrogen feedstock
Smells rotten	Aerate
Smells of ammonia	Aerate, add carbon feedstock

Source: adapted from Compost Production and Use in Sustainable Farm Systems Factsheet, Centre for Environmental Farm Systems, Raleigh, North Carolina

For information on CVC programs and services, contact Mark Eastman, Program Coordinator, Agricultural Extension, 905-670-1615 x 430 meastman@creditvalleyca.ca.

COMING EVENTS

Register at: creditvalleyca.ca/events

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

Twilight Tour - Cover Cropping

Wed. Sept. 24, 5 - 7 p.m., Marshall's RealFarmer's Market, Halton Hills

Meadow-maker Bus Tour

Sat. Sept. 27, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Bus departs from Terra Cotta Conservation Area, Watershed Learning Centre

Caledon EAB Workshop

Wed. Oct. 8, 7 – 9 p.m.
Knox United Church, Caledon Village

Halton EAB Workshop

Wed. Oct. 15, 7 – 9 p.m.
Mold-Master Sports Complex, Georgetown

Wellington EAB Workshop

Thurs. Oct. 16, 7 – 9 p.m.
Centre 2000, Erin

Caring for Your Land and Water Workshops (Three Workshops):

Sat. Oct. 18, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Inglewood Library, Inglewood

Sat. Nov. 1, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Watershed Learning Centre, Terra Cotta Conservation Area

Sat. Nov. 22, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Caledon Community Complex, Caledon East

Funding in support of Credit Valley Conservation and all workshops and events was generously provided by our regional and municipal partners.

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.