



BE A PART OF PROTECTING THE LAND YOU LOVE



A Legacy of Restoration
Diane and Gail Kerbel and Charles Lawther with their restored stream in the background.

Gail, Diane and Hart Kerbel grew up spending their weekends and summers at the family's 100 acre cottage outside Limehouse. The Kerbels fondly remember the large pond, a stone's throw from the cottage. It was a source of endless fascination and enjoyment - big enough for floating about in search of fish and for skating during the cold winter months.

The Kerbels had an online pond, located on a stream, built by dredging or damming the stream. Over the years, the family watched the pond slowly build up with silt, reducing water levels and filling with various plants. Initially they considered having the pond dug out. This started with a visit to CVC for a permit. Through discussions with CVC, they learned that their pond wasn't really as natural as they thought. The silt build up was actually a normal process of nature trying to return to its original state - a free flowing stream.

In 2010, with the help of CVC and funding from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Halton Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship, their dam was decommissioned and efforts were made to improve natural function in the stream.

Four years later, the Kerbels are very happy with their restoration project. "It feels like

a beautiful return to what was meant to be here," says Gail. "We've been so surprised by how much water rushes by." Hart Kerbel is thrilled that the restored stream provides improved habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

"Had it been a fantastic swimming hole, we'd miss the pond more, but it wasn't and now there is such a lovely creek cutting through the property," says Diane. When asked if they miss the old pond, Gail's husband Charles says he'll miss the family shinny games, but it's a loss they're willing to take. "We've restored our stream back to its original health for future generations to enjoy."

Join CVC on July 29 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for our *Go with the Flow Twilight Tour* and meet these dedicated Countryside Stewards while touring their restoration project.



INSIDE STORY INVASIVE SPECIES

Unwanted invasive species might be sprouting on your property!

SUMMER TWILIGHT TOURS



Tour completed stewardship projects. Meet landowners. Learn from CVC specialists.

July 8

Create Your Garden Oasis – Touring Fusion Landscapes

July 14

Meadow Makeover – Weeds Are Out, Wildflowers Are In

July 23

Stream-Side Planting, Livestock Fencing and Harnessing the Power of the Sun

July 29

Go With the Flow – Restoring Stream Habitat for Fish

For Details and to Register
creditvalleyca.ca/events

SPRING INTO ACTION – EARLY CONTROL OF INVASIVE SPECIES

It's spring and after a long cold winter, any greenery poking through the soil or leafing out on branches tends to be a welcome sight. But take a closer look. Unwanted invasive species might be sprouting on your property.

Invasive plants found in Ontario usually originate from warmer climates with longer growing seasons than ours. This means invasive species are often the first bit of green we see once the snow melts, making them stand out against the still-dormant native vegetation.

Spring is an ideal time to start controlling infestations of invasive species. They are easy to identify and the new growth has shallower roots making them easier to remove by hand. Most importantly, their seeds have not yet formed so there's less chance of spreading seed that will germinate the following year.

Well-established infestations are best controlled through combined mechanical and chemical methods. Some seeds remain viable in the soil for several years so repeated control may be required. Take advantage of young growth in the spring. Start tackling invasive species early before infestations become more serious and the need for herbicides more likely.

Always dispose of invasive plants in your municipal compost program. It creates enough heat to kill the roots and seeds. Do not toss the plant material over your fence or into natural areas where the seeds and roots could grow and spread quickly.

Garlic Mustard

Description: This biennial herb smells like garlic. In its first year, the plant is a cluster of three to four kidney shaped leaves, two to four inches in diameter. In its second year, the plant has triangular toothed leaves, one to three inches in diameter. It produces clusters of white flowers which turn into slender two inch long seedpods. Garlic mustard grows about three feet high.

Spring control: In sandy soils, garlic mustard can be easily pulled. This is best done in June after it has produced flowers but before it has gone to seed. Pull from the base of the stem to remove the whole root. Plants snapped off above the root crown will sprout new flower stalks. In heavier soils, weed-whacking can be effective if done before the plant produces seeds.



First year growth



Second year growth, in flower



Slender seed pods of mature plant

Buckthorn (common and glossy)

Description: These trees generally reach 20 to 25 feet in height and 10 inches in diameter. They grow like a large shrub with several stems of low, wide-spreading crowns. The leaves on glossy buckthorn are dark green and shiny. Common buckthorn twigs end in a thorn; glossy buckthorn doesn't. Clusters of small rounded green fruits ripen to plump black berries by late summer.

Spring control: When soil is moist, small plants up to two feet tall should be pulled by hand before they can produce seeds. Larger plants have much deeper roots. Herbicides are usually needed to prevent resprouting of these if pulled. Mowing is an option but must be repeated over several years and this can inhibit development of other native plants.



Dark green leaves with flowers



Twig ending in a thorn - common buckthorn



Clusters of ripe black berries in late summer

To learn more about CVC's Invasive Plant Removal Services call 647-449-2743.



JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Become a member at www.csconnection.ca

An online forum for rural landowners



from the *Expert*

CVC's Leanne Wallis, Natural Areas Inventory Field Technician on why vernal pools are important.

Vernal pools form when rain and melted snow pool in shallow depressions. Often found in forests, these temporary pools normally fill up in the spring and last for a few days to a few months before drying out. It's easy to dismiss them as just *puddles*, but they provide a water source, food supply and breeding place for many species.

There are no fish in vernal pools. Without this major predator amphibians and those insects that spend at least part of their life cycle in water, are attracted to vernal pools.

In fact, some species are completely dependent on them. Fairy shrimp for example, spend their whole life exclusively in vernal pools. Wood

frogs, blue-spotted salamanders and the endangered Jefferson salamanders will only breed in vernal pools.

You can protect this valuable habitat by leaving vernal pools alone. Resist the temptation to include these areas in your spring clean-up. Leaf litter and woody debris should be left where it is. A natural buffer around a vernal pool will also protect it.

Vernal pools are wonderful places to study nature. Two science programs that landowners can submit observations to are Frog Watch Ontario and the Ontario Turtle Tally. Observations recorded through these programs are included in CVC's Natural Areas Inventory Database.

DID YOU KNOW?

Water from your well can taste good and look clean, but it might not be safe to drink?

The Ontario Ministry of Environment recommends testing your drinking water three times a year. Spring is an ideal time to check for contamination with a test kit from your local public health office. If you have any filters, be sure to test your water before and after it goes through them. Check out WellAware.ca for more water testing guidance and other great tips on well maintenance.



CVC Private Landowner Restoration Services

It's easy to enhance your property and protect its natural features for years to come. CVC can help you improve your property, protect the environment and provide you with assistance to complete a stewardship project.



- Seedling Reforestation Planting Projects (minimum order 1,500 seedlings)
- Potted Planting Projects (minimum order of 100 mixed units)
- Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- Invasive Plant Removal
- Grassland and Prairie Restoration

For more information call 905-838-1940 or visit www.creditvalleyca.ca/trm.

NOTE: Programs are offered within the Credit River watershed



Caring for your LAND & WATER

free workshops for rural landowners



*Sat. June 20, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.,
Inglewood Community Room,
Inglewood*

Register by June 12

CREATE A LANDOWNER ACTION PLAN AND QUALIFY FOR THE LANDOWNER ACTION FUND

Attend a workshop, assess your property and take action to protect your land and water

Get your projects done with grants and technical assistance*

Projects include well abandonment, stream restoration, tree planting, invasive plant control, native plant gardening and more

Register at creditvalleyca.ca/events

Landowners should own one acre or more of rural property in the Credit River watershed.

*Subject to available funding sources and eligibility requirements for grants.



FARM GATE

INCREASING POLLINATOR HABITAT ACROSS ONTARIO

By now most Ontarians have heard that honey bee deaths have been linked to the use of neonicotinoid (NNI) treated corn and soybeans. Late last year, the Ontario government released **A Proposal for Enhancing Pollinator Health and Reducing the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides in Ontario** and more recently, **Regulatory Amendments to Ontario Regulation 63/09 under the Pesticides Act to Reduce the Use of Neonicotinoid Insecticide** for comment on the provincial Environmental Registry.

The draft regulation is calling for increased rigour around demonstrating the need for NNI treated seed prior to planting, in an effort to reduce NNI use. The province has set a reduction target of 80 per cent by 2017.

The Grain Farmers of Ontario recently assembled a Pollinator Task Force. They have released **The Ontario Pollinator Health Blueprint** which details the multiple environmental stresses pollinators are faced with. It offers solutions to address pollinator population declines.

In their respective reports, both the Grain Farmers of Ontario and the province have called for enhancement in beekeeping best management practices, reductions in using NNI treated seed, education for beekeepers and grains and oilseed producers, continued research and increased acreage of pollinator habitat across Ontario.

Pollinator health isn't impacted by only one issue. CVC supports a holistic suite of solutions to address this difficult and complex issue. Immediate action to increase pollinator

habitat will help create a healthy, connected system of natural spaces within the watershed. It will provide the natural features and functions necessary for pollinators and other species to thrive.

Let CVC help you plan a pollinator project for your farm property. For more details contact Mark Eastman, Program Coordinator, Agricultural Extension at 905-670-1615 ext. 430 or 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 60 years with our partner municipalities and stakeholders to protect and enhance our land and water for present and future generations.

COMING EVENTS

Register at: creditvalleyca.ca/events

Events free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Caring for Your Land and Water Workshop

Sat. June 20, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Inglewood Community Room,
Inglewood

SUMMER TWILIGHT TOURS 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Create Your Garden Oasis - Touring Fusion Landscapes in the Village of Alton

Wed. July 8,
Alton Park, 35 Station Street, Alton

Meadow Makeover – Weeds Are Out, Wildflowers Are In

Tues. July 14,
15409 Clayhill Road, Halton Hills

Stream-Side Planting, Livestock Fencing and Harnessing the Power of the Sun

Thurs. July 23,
793159 Third Line East, Mono

Go With the Flow – Restoring Stream Habitat for Fish

Wed. July 29,
12604 Sixth Line, Halton Hills

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