

Annual Report



Annual Report 2009

Least Bittern



**“Where people working
together can make a
difference.”**

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STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS



As we close the door to 2009, we have an opportunity to look back and reflect on all that we have accomplished over this past year.

Our Stewardship Council has been engaged in 18 different projects as well as providing employment for 11 people through our Job Creation Partnership and the Ontario Stewardship Rangers program. It was a busy year for everyone with projects that included planting trees, working with species at risk, a geology tour and hosting high school Envirothon events.

The success of 2009 can be attributed to our dedicated volunteers, employees, and the numerous community partners we were able to work with. These people take the time to come together on a regular basis to discuss what is important and to work diligently to give back. This partnership and collaboration provided the ability to complete projects in our community that reflect our mandate.

Stewardship is defined as an ethic in which humans care for the land as one part of the natural system. To participate in environmental stewardship is to make a personal commitment to the land and to sustain and enhance it for generations to come. Has the Stewardship Council made a difference in Grenville County? Our projects speak for themselves and are models of responsible stewardship. I feel we **have** made a difference and should be proud.

As we close 2009, I look forward to 2010 with its new challenges and opportunities for the Stewardship Council. It will be a special year for me as I will be saying goodbye to the Grenville Land Stewardship Council. Each project will be important to leave as a legacy as I move toward retirement. I am excited to enter the next chapter of my life and all the opportunities it will bring.

My 15 years with the Council and 18 years with the MNR have provided tremendous personal growth for me and it has been an honour to work with the Stewardship Council. Often I have referred to this group as my extended family and that remains true today. In closing, I am excited for all the future brings to each and everyone of us, as we go forward in making a difference in our world.

Envirothon 2009

Leeds and Grenville Region

The 2009 Envirothon was a great success with fourteen teams from nine local High Schools across Leeds Grenville participating in the three day event. This year's special theme topic was "Biodiversity in a Changing World" which helped inform the students about genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. Day One was held at Limerick Forest where students participated in Soil and Forestry activities. Day Two was held at Landon Bay and centred around Aquatics and Wildlife. Day Three was the final day of the competition and landed the teams at Charleston Lake Provincial Park. Each of the teams rotated through 4 eco-stations answering test questions, followed by scenario presentations in the afternoon. Each team's assignments were awarded points throughout the competition and the overall winner then went on to compete in the Provincial competition held at the Tim Horton Camp near Brantford, Ontario.

PARTNERS

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Charleston Lake Provincial Park
Eastern Ontario Model Forest
Leeds & Grenville County Students
Parks Canada - St. Lawrence Islands
National Park
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville



Road Kill Award

St. Mary Team #1

Top 3 Overall Teams

St. Mary Team #1
St. Mary Team #2
St. Michael Team #1

WATER MANAGEMENT & WETLAND RESTORATION TRAINING COURSE



Wetlands are ever changing systems that have adapted to local conditions over many decades. It is not only important that a rehabilitated wetland looks like a wetland, it must also function as one.

The 2009 five day course was held at the University of Guelph, Kemptville Campus, and attended by sixteen participants. This course introduced resource practitioners to the principles and methods of restoration and their application in the field. The course taught participants to identify potential wetland restoration sites, and explored wetland complexes and several watersheds in Eastern Ontario. The participants engaged in group learning and carried out field exercises and presentations. The course ensured a well balanced approach to the management of wetland restoration within the framework of existing policies and guidelines in practice in the Province of Ontario.

The principal instructor was Kevin Erwin of Kevin L. Erwin Consulting Ecologist, Inc., an internationally recognized authority on wetland restoration with over 35 years of experience in the field. He was joined by Dan Mansell of 'asiOtus' Consulting, a member of the course development team and former employee of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Special Thanks to our Partners: Grenville Land Stewardship Council, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the University of Guelph, South Nation River Conservation and Raisin River Conservation.

For more information on the course being held in 2010 at the Guelph University, Kemptville Campus, please visit the website <http://www.wmwrc.ca>.



Autumn Colour Geology Tour ~ 2009



The Grenville Land Stewardship Council hosted its second annual Geology Tour with great success.

The Geology Tour provided an overview of the impressive geodiversity within Grenville and Leeds Counties, and demonstrated earth-science principles to those with little or no previous geological training. The varied landscapes within this region are dictated by three basic components of the underlying geology. The oldest component comprises Precambrian rocks of the Canadian Shield. The second component includes all of the overlying unmetamorphosed and predominantly flat-lying sedimentary rocks. The third component includes the unconsolidated cover deposits lying on the Precambrian and Palaeozoic bedrock. Autumn's crisp air and vibrant colours provide the perfect backdrop for all those camera buffs.

Seven points of interest and a tour of the Spencerville Mill were scheduled for this full day field trip. The tour was hosted by three Professional Tour Guides (Geologists) Al Donaldson, Chris Findlay, and Dave Forsyth. The tour participants travelled in a coach bus, where tour guides had an opportunity to interact with participants pointing various points of interest along the tour and answering questions.

This tour not only promoted educational fundamentals, but provided a summary of our geological history and how it impacts us today. Watch for Geo-Tour 2010.



Chippenhook Creek Riffle Project

The Grenville Land Stewardship Council along with the South Nation Conservation has identified 6 potential areas on Chippenhook Creek that require restoration. The restoration efforts included one bank erosion mitigation project and one fish habitat enhancement project. The South Nation Conservation staff along with the assistance of the Ontario Rangers were able to accomplish the restoration efforts in Chippenhook Creek. The long term results will be improved fish and benthic habitat, and improved wildlife habitat along Chippenhook Creek. This effort will also decrease the amount of run-off entering the creek from eroding banks. Stewardship Rangers with guidance from South Nation River Conservation installed shot rock into the bed of the creek to create an improved channel flow and to create wave action therefore increasing the oxygen level in the water. Council members visited the site on September 8, 2009 prior to the Council meeting to view the results of the joint project.

Funding was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program. Partners in the project were the Grenville Land Stewardship Council, South Nation Conservation Authority and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (CFWIP).



Rideau – St. Lawrence Science Fair

The Science Fair is an annual event that promotes awareness and education for students (on our environment). This year the Science Fair was held April 17 & 18, 2009 and had approximately 80 Exhibits to view. The Council continues to provide financial support for this event because they consider it both worthwhile and rewarding. We would like to thank council member Cliff Rogers for volunteering his time to judge. Students from 35 elementary and area high schools from Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville Counties were encouraged to enter their projects in a number of categories. This year, The Council sponsored a *"Grenville Land Stewardship Award"* in the Environmental Science category. The winner of the 2009 Environmental award was Ben Hall of Wolford Public School for his exhibit entitled "What's Your Gaming Power". Way to go Ben!



Ben Hall

Summer Maple Tour

The Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association Summer Tour, Conference and Trade show was held on July 16, 17 & 18, 2009 and was hosted by the Lanark and District Maple Syrup Association. Approximately 300 maple syrup producers participated in the three day event. The objective of the tour is to provide networking opportunities amongst local producers to share and exchange information as well as showcase local Sugar Bush operations. The keynote speaker was Dr. Abby Van den berg who spoke about the effects of Sap Concentration and Reverse Osmosis on Maple Syrup Chemistry and Flavour. The Eastern Ontario Stewardship Coordinator and the Ontario Stewardship Rangers all played a role to help facilitate the 3 day tour.



Earlton International Plowing Match

Plowing Matches have been part of our agricultural history in Ontario for well over a century. The 2009 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM) was the first IPM in Northern Ontario and the largest event ever held in Northeastern Ontario. It was held from September 22 – 26, 2009 near Earlton, in the District of Timiskaming. It is estimated a total of 80,000 people walked through the gates of the IPM throughout the five days. It was deemed a huge success. The streets of the Tented City welcomed numerous visitors to tour hundreds of exhibits and displays. Stewardship council members Cliff Rogers and Laura Parrott along with Jack Henry helped man the Ontario Stewardship display in Tented City. Lindsay McLean, Stewardship Coordinator for Kirkland Lake District, greatly appreciated the support from other Stewardship Councils.



Environmental Education Network

The Environmental Education Network provides brochures, posters, a website and information to school boards, local community and businesses as a resource. The Network is designed to encourage people to learn more and gain knowledge about the environment in the area where they reside. The idea behind the Network is to provide up-to-date information on their website to inform the public on current environmental issues and it will continue to work in partnership with the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, to promote sustainable living. The Environmental Education Network along with the Frontenac Arch Biosphere will continue to take a leadership role in partnership with local businesses, the community, government organizations and private organizations to create new and strengthen current opportunities for the development and delivery of a broad spectrum of environmental education, outdoor recreation, along with health and wellness programs. The Earth Day Summit now in its fourth year is the flagship project for the Environmental Education Network.



Earth Day Summit 2009



“Rain, Rain Go Away” was the motto of this year’s Earth Day celebration.

One hundred Grade 5 students from 25 schools across the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve participated in this all day event to experience nature hands on. The event, which is usually held at Landon’s Bay, had to be held at the Lou Jeffries Centre in Gananoque due to rain, but was enjoyed just the same.

There were eight stations set up which included ‘All About Turtles’, ‘Biosphere Hike’, ‘Eco-Clue’ Game, ‘All Natural Department Store Hike’, ‘Lean on Me’ Kayaking Program, ‘Art’, ‘Worm Factory’, and a skill testing ‘Scavenger Hunt’. The students were split into different groups and were able to enjoy four of the eight stations in order to discover new things that they might not have known about the environment.

Despite the rain, it was a great day and a whole lot of fun, enjoyed by all ages, and a great learning experience for everyone.

We would like to thank TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for its generous financial contribution and to the wonderful helpers provided by the Volunteer Bureau of Leeds and Grenville.

Partners include Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, Environmental Education Network, Arthur Child Heritage Museum, Brockville Museum, Foley Mountain Conservation Area, Gould Lake Outdoor Centre, Community Fisheries and Wildlife Improvement Program, Grenville County Stewardship Council, Little Cataraqui Conservation Area, Leeds County Stewardship Council, Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, The Worm Factory, and St. Lawrence Islands National Park.



Job Creation Partnership – Services Canada

The Job Creation Partnership Program (JCP) is an employment program funded by the Provincial Government and administered by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. This program enables unemployed participants to gain experience through temporary employment. Participants gain knowledge, experience, and upgrade their skills while having the opportunity to continue seeking employment.

Seven positions were created through the Job Creation Program which included an Administrative Assistant, an Environmental Education Network Resource Assistant, a Trees for Peace Coordinator and a four person Eco-Crew. The team of JCP participants were able to accomplish numerous projects in 2008-2009 that benefitted not only the community, but other not-for-profit organizations, agencies, students and landowners.

The Eco-Crew have helped assist with the following initiatives:

1. Erecting osprey nests
2. Fencing projects
3. Trail clearing
4. Creek rehabilitation
5. Tree thinning
6. Painting
7. Landscaping
8. Building bird houses
9. Building turtle platforms
10. School greening projects



Building Bird Houses

The Trees for Peace Coordinator created 7 school presentations, delivered 32 presentations and planted 26,945 trees In the Spring of 2009 in the Leeds and Grenville Counties with the assistance of students and the Eco-Crew.



Without the Job Creation Program support, our Council would not have been able to offer many of these services. Not only did the JCP Program assist the Council, but the support staff were able to gain valuable work experience and life skills in areas that were not familiar to them prior to commencing the program. Most of the participants within the JCP program went on to other positions with additional skills on their resumes.



A series of environmental workshop kits were developed by professional resource staff to educate landowners and interest groups about Stewardship issues. The course material is now on-line through Eastern Ontario Model Forest's website <http://www.eomf.on.ca> and soon will also be available for download on our own website.

The following course series of workshops are currently available in MS Power Point format:

- Biodiversity Indicators for Woodlot Owners
- Conifer Plantation Management
- Ice Storm Residential Tree Care
- Invasive Species
- Lake Planning
- Living By Water
- Log and Lumber Quality and Measurement
- Managing Forests Under Climate Change
- Managing Iced Damaged Wood Lots and Plantations
- Old Growth Forest
- School Yard Greening
- Species at Risk
- Sugar Bush Management
- Tree Identification
- Understanding Forest Health

Since the Caring for Your Land Workshop Series started there have been 74 people access the site's workshops between 2004 – 2008 and 4 people in 2009.

Sharing the Earth with Species at Risk

The Grenville Land Stewardship Council was successful with a Species at Risk (SAR) application and received funding to hire a project coordinator to write 8 newspaper articles and to develop and deliver 30 school presentations to Grades 4 & 7.

Environmental education is the first step to ensuring a sustainable future for the planet. This includes biodiversity and the care and respect for all living things. Through species at risk education we are empowering students with knowledge that will influence and inspire not only them but also their peers, resulting in a change of current behaviour and attitudes towards species at risk concerns.

The objective of this project is to educate local school children and landowners about SAR in Eastern Ontario through SAR presentations. The students and landowners will benefit from the presentations because they will be informed about the current crisis of the loss of biodiversity due to land use and climate change. The more educated that people are, the more concerns and responsibility they will have for the social and natural environment.



Black Rat Snake

Grenville Land Stewardship Council Christmas Social



Trees for Peace

The Trees for Peace program is specifically designed to target youth in order to seek their mobilization and participation in stewardship activities within their community. Our children are our future, and what an awesome responsibility they will have in the next few decades. These children will be the stewards that will take Mother Earth into the future. The program also promotes the comprehensive ethical vision of the Earth Charter, something that the Grenville Land Stewardship Council strongly agrees with. The Earth Charter has a promising approach to achieving a sustainable future. Peace on Earth depends on whether we are able to preserve our natural resources and environment for future generations.

Each year the program coordinator contacts local elementary schools and schedules school presentations to students in Grades 4 - 8. Each interactive presentation includes hands-on activities to reinforce the educational content and environmental theories.

In the spring, buses are provided (at no cost to the school board) to transport students and teachers that were given school presentations earlier in the year, to the tree planting sites. The children are introduced to native tree and shrub species and told their importance within the ecosystem. Proper planting techniques are demonstrated along with where to plant the trees. This knowledge and experience will lead to a better understanding and greater respect for our shared environment. This tree planting service is at no cost to the landowner. There were approximately 27,000 trees planted in the spring of 2009.



Procter & Gamble Clean Up

A stretch of land alongside Hwy 18 and its connecting intersections received some much needed TLC June 10, 2009 thanks to a lot of dedicated people. A total of 35 volunteers from Procter & Gamble, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and the Grenville Land Stewardship Council gathered together to help clean up debris. In total, 3 ½ truckloads of debris was picked up and sorted. The garbage was dumped free of charge at the Augusta municipal landfill site. Local businesses made donations of items for debris pick up as well as items of food, beverages and ice for the BBQ lunch. Thank you to all local vendors whose contributions made this day a success: Canadian Tire, Food Basics, Grenville Land Stewardship Council, Home Depot, Home Hardware, Loeb, Procter & Gamble and the Real Canadian Superstore.



Debris sent to local landfill site



Procter & Gamble Volunteers

Chainsaw Safety Training Course

Two Chainsaw Safety Training Courses were held this year to enable staff coming on board the Grenville Land Stewardship Council to handle equipment in a safe manner. The benefit of this course is for staff to have the tools and knowledge to perform the duties of their position safely. The first training course was held April 1-3, 2009 and the second was July 8-10. Thanks to our organizational partner, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.



Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program

Under the direction of the Leeds County Stewardship Council (LCSC) and in partnership with the Grenville Land Stewardship Council (GLSC), first time funding became available to hire a Ranger Team in Brockville to offer natural resources experience to high school students through the summer months of 2009. Four 17 year old Rangers were hired and given the opportunity to learn about natural resources management through hands-on activities. The four Rangers, Daniel Primeau, Alex Cyr, Dillon Gard and Connor Stinson, were hired to work during the summer months from June 29 to August 21, 2009. Projects included: improving fish habitat on Chippenhook Creek, constructing and installing turtle basking rafts, taking water monitoring samples, tree planting, constructing two chimney swift bird houses, fencing to prevent cattle from entering waterways, weeding and watering of plants, trail clearing, and working with other conservation groups to improve natural spaces in the community. The project was indeed a great success with all projects undertaken completed in a timely manner and in line with MNR's policies and guidelines. Due to the program's huge success, it is anticipated that LCSC and GLSC will participate again in 2010/11.



Installing a Turtle Basking Raft



Rangers Weeding



Chimney Swift Project



Rangers 2009



Riffle Project

Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference



The Kemptville Woodlot Conference is an annual event designed to educate and promote Best Management Practices to woodlot and private land owners. The yearly event allows participants to increase their knowledge and keep current on issues while encouraging sustainability. Already in its 21st year, the one day event was held on February 18, 2009 at the WB George Centre in Kemptville and was attended by approximately 250 people and hosted over 30 exhibitors.

Thanks to all of our sponsors who made this day successful: Grenville Land Stewardship Council, Leeds County Stewardship Council, Resource Stewardship Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Council, Ottawa Stewardship Council, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council, South Nation Conservation, United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, Ministry of Natural Resources, Lavern Heideman & Sons Limited, Commercial Solutions Inc., Trees Ontario, Canadian Institute of Forestry OVC, Stormont Dundas & Glengarry Certified Forest Owners, Friends of the Ferguson Forest Centre, Ferguson Forest Centre, Ontario Woodlot Association (Ottawa Valley Chapter) and Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

Turtle Protection Initiative



Human impact such as roads, development and wetland drainage has resulted in 4 out of 6 turtle species in Grenville County being designated as a Species at Risk. Species at Risk are designated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. The number of turtle species at risk continues to rise with increasing human pressure. The Spotted, Blanding's, Stinkpot and Northern Map turtles are all at risk in Ontario. The Turtle Protection Initiative can assist in forming partnerships and in promoting and demonstrating initiatives that protect Species at Risk in the community of Grenville County. The main objective is to assist in the protection of turtle populations in Grenville County. By protecting Species at Risk and assisting in their recovery, the Grenville Land Stewardship Council can ensure that sensitive areas can function as part of a healthy ecosystem.



Install Turtle Platform at Skakum Road



Registration

2009 Grenville Land Stewardship Council Review

A program review was conducted on the Stewardship Activities of the Grenville Land Stewardship Council. The purpose of the review was :

- To discuss, assess and review council activities, with regard to processes, projects and partnerships.
- To build a stronger stewardship network at the local, regional and provincial level through dialogue, program improvement and future direction.
- To review the council's concerns.

Overall, the review was a success. A lot of work went into the preparation for the review. Both program managers and council volunteers appreciated the opportunity to exchange information.



Grenville Land Stewardship Council 2009 Financial Statement

January 9, 2009 – December 31, 2009



Opening Balance	\$ 31,595.11
Revenue	\$ 94,035.08
Expenditures	\$ 90,702.68
Closing Balance	\$ 34,927.51

Trees for Peace 2009 Financial Statement

January 9, 2009 – December 31, 2009



Opening Balance	\$ 4,291.99
Revenue	\$ 38,608.69
Expenditures	\$ 35,130.74
Closing Balance	\$ 7,769.94

MISSION STATEMENT

“The Council exists to encourage responsible land stewardship within Grenville County based on long term environmental sustainability. The Council seeks to encourage respect for the environment and wildlife by increasing public awareness of environmental issues and the impact of human intervention.”



GRENVILLE LAND STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Council:

Adrian Wynands
Amy Whitehorne
Barry Fawcett
Bob Gollinger
Brenda Graham
Chris Bellemore
Cliff Rogers
Dave Robertson

Greg Philliban
Laura Parrott
Matt Kinghorn
Norman Lee
Pat Piitz
Sam McLean
Ted Royal

Staff:

Jack Henry, Stewardship Coordinator
Alison Farmer, Trees for Peace Coordinator
Elaine Beggs, Administrative Support
Joanne Groulx, Eco-Crew Supervisor
Marian Rafferty, Administrative Support

VISION AND GOALS

The Council's mandate is to enhance the quality of life, health and well being of human and natural communities, and to promote their positive interaction. Our goals are to encourage responsible land stewardship within the county based on long term environmental sustainability and to work toward fulfillment of our purpose by being proactive in 3 types of activities: projects, education and through networking and affiliations.

GRENVILLE LAND STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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www.grenvillelandstewardshipcouncil.ca



We gratefully acknowledge all our sponsors who have made our programs possible throughout the year. Your support through volunteers and donations is greatly appreciated!

