

Hydro One, CVC team up for restoration projects



A Terra Cotta Conservation Area pond will be re-established as a cold water stream as part of a joint Hydro One and CVC restoration project. *Photo by Ted Brown*

Hydro One and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) recently announced they will partner on two environmental restoration projects that will focus on removing invasive species in Limehouse Conservation Area and a pond restoration initiative at Terra Cotta Conservation Area, as part of Hydro One's Bruce to Milton Biodiversity Initiative.

CVC has identified Limehouse Conservation Area as a priority site for its Invasive Species Strategy. Funding from the biodiversity initiative will be used to educate local volunteers and students from CVC's Conservation Youth Corps and engage them in removing invasive species like garlic mustard and non-native honeysuckles.

The Terra Cotta Ponds Restoration project will involve decommissioning Spring Pond on Second Creek and re-establishing a cold water stream to ensure more Atlantic salmon and brook trout in the Credit River. This will improve habitat for amphibians and fish found in this area by decreasing sedimentation, reducing stream temperatures and increasing oxygen levels which will improve wetland succession.

The Biodiversity Initiative is an innovative mitigation approach that will create and enhance natural habitat in partnership with community-based organizations, First Nations and Métis and municipalities. The initiative shifts Hydro One's focus from its traditional compensation

approach of "area for area" replacement of woodlots when constructing new high-voltage transmission lines. Hydro One was recognized by the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) for this Biodiversity Initiative receiving the CEA 2009 Environmental Commitment Award.

"We are very proud of the Biodiversity Initiative and the opportunity it provides us to enhance the natural habitat and give back to communities as we modernize the electricity transmission system," said Laura Formusa, President and CEO, Hydro One Inc.

"Next to habitat loss, invasive species represent the next greatest threat to biodiversity," said Rae Horst, CVC Chief Administrative Officer. "Thanks to the funding partnership with Hydro One, CVC is able to move forward to combat invasive species and preserve the beauty and natural heritage of Limehouse Conservation Area into the future."

The Bruce to Milton Project is a new 180-kilometre double-circuit 500 kV transmission line from Kincardine to Milton and will transfer more than 3,000 megawatts of clean and renewable power from the Bruce area to southern Ontario. This project represents the largest expansion to Ontario's transmission system in 20 years. The new line is planned to be in-service in December 2012.

For more information on the biodiversity projects and partners visit www.HydroOne.com/projects/brucetomilton.

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