

North Halton Happenings

ONGOING

Rockwood Cruise Night, 4th Saturday of every month. 50's/60's music, door prizes (1st, 2nd & 3rd, plaques), 50/50 draw with proceeds to Guelph Wish Fund for Children. Runs through to September 25th, 7 to 9 p.m., Hwy. 7 & Alma St, Rockwood.

JUNE 24TH

OPP Community Information Day at The Rockmosa Community Centre, Rockwood, 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. Kids awareness, public information groups and more. Local firefighters perform extrication at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments available.

JUNE 27TH

Cemetery Recording Meeting by the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society from 9:20 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Brampton Memorial Gardens. The cemetery is situated on the northeast corner of Hwy 7 and Chinguacousy Rd. in Brampton. Drinks will be provided. Bring your own lunch, lawn chair, clipboard and pen. Visitors welcome. Contact L. Knight (905) 878-4645.

JULY & AUGUST

Summer Activity Program Tuesday mornings at Rockwood library from 10:30 to 12. For grades 1-3 (Nature) and 4-7 (Reduce, re-use and recycle). Must dress for outdoors. \$25 per child for 8 weeks (\$20 each for families with 2 or more children). Preregister and pay at desk.

JULY 1ST

Dominion Day Celebration! 12 to 4 p.m. at McCrae House, 108 Water St., Guelph. Celebrate the birthday of the Dominion of Canada. Heritage displays, demonstrations, music with the Guelph Pipe Band (1-1:30 p.m.), refreshments and activities for the whole family. Free admission.

JULY 6TH TO AUGUST 28TH

Rock & Read at Rockwood Library, 85 Christie St., Rockwood. Children between 3 and 12 are welcome to participate and receive prizes according to the number of books they read. Free program which includes bookmarks, stickers, etc. Register at circulation desk beginning July 6.

JULY 7TH

Decorate your own Yo-Yo at Rockwood Library. 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., cost is \$2 per child. For kids ages 4 and up, pre-register at circulation desk.

JULY 12TH

Sixth Annual Golfing 4 Cancer at Hornby Glen Golf Course. Some of the ways you can contribute are Sponsor a Hole, \$100; Sponsor a License Plate, \$25; Donation for Prize Table; Donation for Silent Auction table; Donation for Live Auction; Products or Company Samples. Contact Mike Boughton, Mike's Barber Shop, 148 Main St. Milton at 905-878-3916.

JULY 13TH

Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy in Milton will speak on how to trace your family history. 8:00 p.m. at Ebenezer United Church, Guelph Line. Highly recommended for the family historian!

JULY 19TH - 23RD

History Camp for Kids 9:15 to 11:45 a.m., McCrae House, 108 Water St., Guelph. Fun in and around the McCrae neighbourhood for ages 5 to 10, \$10 per session. Daily themes include archaeology, genealogy, museums, building a city and creating a children's museum. Reservations required.

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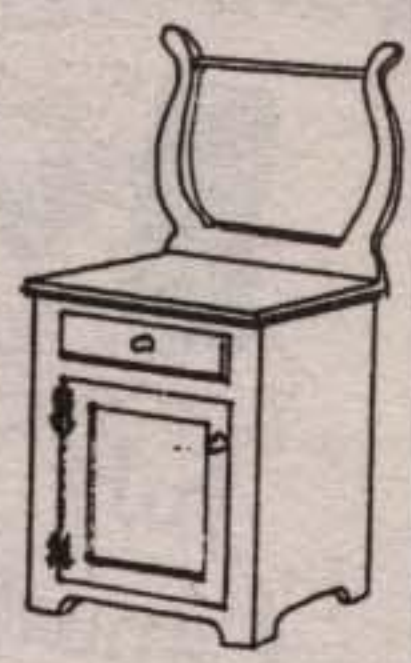
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Southern Ontario Woodlands Conference

BY TUNDE OTTO-HARRIS
THE COMPASS

What do you know about the status of the woodlands in Southern Ontario? Do you know that only 0.07% of old woods remain?

The Southern Ontario Woodlands Conference held at Trent University, Peterborough on June 9th and 10th explored these questions. Presentations given by scientists, biologists, environmentalists, a lawyer and a member of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association focused on woodland science, inventory and futures; and conserving, planning and managing woodlands. Both days served as valuable networking sessions among a diverse group sharing a keen interest in our natural environment. We must consider that without the environment we have neither human health nor economic wealth.

About 15 years ago a similar conference initiated awareness and action for protection of wetlands. Now the focus turns to woodlots as they diminish all too quickly locally and globally.

Who dictates uses of our lands and forests?

Changes to the Provincial Policy Planning Act in 1996 to protect Natural Heritage features suggests that old growth forests are protected, but if you can demonstrate no negative impacts then no protection is required. Absolute impacts are difficult to define, therefore there are strong needs for scientific facts regarding significance of impacts. Several organizations are conducting such research and the Ontario Natural Heritage Centre is compiling a reference database.

One fact is that old growth forests cannot be cut down and remediated by replacement plantings, in part, because the latter does not serve the same habitat function or carbon sink.

Woodlots must remain linked so that the habitats are not fragmented to the point where species are without their basic biological needs, especially woodlot interior species. Forest fragmentation leads directly to species loss due to reduction of gene pool for species within the fragment, and no route for influx of new genes through colonization. Hence, we need to promote and undertake the protection of wildlife habitat "corridors."

Forest industry management practices must be reviewed and adapted to 21st century conditions. Diaries of early Canadian settlers write of trees as weeds. The 20th century mind-set that trees are over-abundant has led to so much loss in woodlots that we need to change the pace, protect remaining old growth forest fragments and provide linkages between them. Private landowners are also challenged to do their share, as many woodlots are privately owned. There are government incentive programs available (e.g. forest management tax incentives), and local co-ops for private forest management.

Finally, native species are threatened by competition from an influx of foreign species that migrate out of urban plantings. While the imports have habitat in other countries where their lineage continues, displaced native species gradually become

extinct. What better species to have in our natural environment than native species that can best survive extreme conditions and require the least maintenance? It's important that we all do our share to minimize exotic species invasions (e.g. dandelions, purple looses-trife) and focus our energies on planting of native species in our flower gardens and forested lands.

Closing comments by Dr. S. Hilts from the University of Guelph challenged the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) and the rest of the population to establish woodland conservation partnerships, collaborate, seek action, use science and be strategic. A timely strategy must be developed and aggressively promoted to preserve woodland habitats, not as independent entities but as wildlife corridors so that both plants and animals have sufficient space to continue to exist as part of the greater Southern Ontario ecosystem.

While we go about our busy days, keep in mind that we are part of the great ecosystem of life on the biosphere. Maintaining other species will benefit all that are involved. Rick Symmes of the FON said they would take up challenges arising from the conference immediately; a second conference is planned to reassess issues in 18 months.

Organizing partners of the conference included the FON, Canadian Wildlife Service and Ministry of Natural Resources. For more information contact the FON at 416-444-8419 or 1-800-440-2366.

Millpond Association wins Environmental Award

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

The Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association has received an Environmental Sustainability Award from the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce and the Grand River Conservation Authority. The awards are presented annually to local organizations and individuals who make an outstanding contribution to environmental stewardship or education. This year, the GRCA joined the

sponsoring committee to extend the awards to the whole watershed, which includes the Grand River in K-W/Cambridge, the Speed River in Guelph, the Eramosa River in Eramosa-Guelph Township and the Blue Springs Creek in Nassagaweya. Other recipients of the awards include The K-W Field Naturalists and The Friends of the Grand.

The Millpond Association

was recognized for its role as riverkeepers of part of the Eramosa River at Eden Mills. The Association initially repaired the dam and water control works there and re-established the Millpond, which had been drained for several years in the 1980's. It now maintains the Millpond and adjacent properties through agreements with landowners, and promotes the practice of environmental stewardship and maintaining river lands in a natural condition. Members of the Association volunteer their time to maintain shoreline, monitor the properties, and undertake various natural habitat improvement projects.

Richard Lay received the award from Barbara Veale of the GRCA on behalf of the Millpond Association, at a ceremony at Kitchener City Hall on June 1. Persons interested in joining or contributing to the Association may contact director Kit Bresnahan at 519-856-1188. The Association is a charitable corporation registered with Revenue Canada and was incorporated in 1990.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD LAY

RIVERKEEPERS - Members of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association including Lee Bradshaw, Bonnie McTaggart, Larry Cousins, John Gmur and Richard Lay are pictured in the early 90's working on the Millpond dam.

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