

Hastings Stewardship Council



Annual Report
2010



Ontario Stewardship



Who are we?

- **One stewardship council** in the provincial "Ontario Stewardship" program
- Supported by the **Ministry of Natural Resources**
- We are **community-minded volunteers** working to promote stewardship on private land in Hastings County
- We work with and promote **cooperation** among a wide range of partners
- We **respect land ownership** and the right of landowners to make decisions regarding their land use

Ontario Stewardship

Ontario Stewardship is a community-based environmental program of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) that was initiated in the summer of 1995. This innovative program is supported – not controlled - by the OMNR. Much of the success of the program is in the foundations of volunteerism and community empowerment. The Ontario Stewardship network now consists of 46 community-based "Stewardship Councils" located throughout Ontario. The OMNR provides Stewardship Coordinators who directly support these Councils.

MNR initiated Ontario Stewardship in recognition of the significant challenges shared by those who have a common interest in **healthy natural environments** and **sustainable resource management**.

Ontario Stewardship helps landowners manage natural heritage features and forests, conserve wetland, improve fisheries, enhance wildlife habitat and develop innovative agricultural methods.

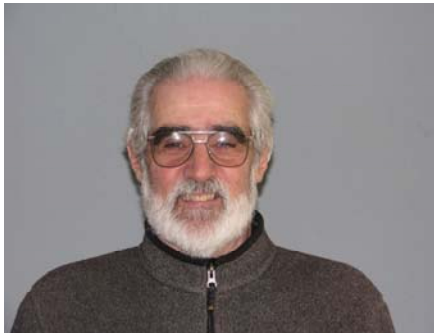
The Hastings Stewardship Council

Our purpose is to achieve and maintain, through voluntary efforts, a healthy and sustainable environment that will contribute towards the maintenance of the natural and rural character of Hastings County.

Our Mission is to:

- **Improve and sustain the long term health** of our agricultural and natural resources. This includes but is not limited to woodlots, wildlife and shorelines.
- Develop **partnerships in the community** that help to service landowner needs with respect to stewardship of our natural resources.
- Develop and promote good land stewardship through **education and workshops** for present and future owners and users of the land.

Message from the Chairman: Cliff Maclean



2010 was another busy and successful year for the Hastings Stewardship Council. Once again, it is important to acknowledge that the many activities and accomplishments throughout the year are the product of the dedicated and talented members of the Council. Nothing would take place without the input of these fine women and men. I thank them all most gratefully for their continuing contributions.

The Harvest Hastings local food program, which was pioneered through us by Louise Livingstone two years ago, is now flying on its own. The Hastings Stewardship Council continues to lead and support other projects such as Community Tree seedling give-away, Trees Ontario tree planting, Wildlife Series educational programs and the Ontario Stewardship Ranger youth employment program.

Close to 100,000 trees were planted in Hastings County last year through the effective and tireless efforts of our Coordinator, Jim Pedersen, without whose contribution, we would not succeed. A similar number will be planted this year. The Wildlife Series, in partnership with our neighbouring Councils, was again very successful with attendance continuing to expand. Dr Bridget Stutchbury of York University and Ms Amy Cameron of the Ontario MNR, in particular, put on fabulous presentations which were enthusiastically received. The Salmon River Heritage signs were erected last year as planned, and we continue to support The Frink Centre and O'Hara Mills Homestead with signage for woodland species identification trails and other activities. The new Forest Health Services program was successfully launched last year and already some twenty or more landowners have taken advantage of its benefits. We will be launching the Nature In Deed program in Hastings this year <http://natureindeed.com/site/index.html>, and I invite all landowners to check it out.

With folks moving on and away, we have been recruiting new members to our Council. It has been most gratifying to have received interest to date from more people than we have positions to fill currently. The growing interest in protecting our spectacular environment here in Hastings County is most gratifying. I thank all of you who continue to play a part in preserving this great heritage for future generations.

Message from the Stewardship Coordinator: Jim Pedersen



Hastings County is home to tremendous diversity of farm land, forest resources, abundant wildlife and particularly innovative people. Our extensive forests, mixed farms and wilderness areas have created biodiversity that we often do take for granted simply because we are surrounded by it.

The Year 2010 was the International Year of Bio diversity which focused on the broader acknowledgment of the absolute importance of the nature that sustains us. We, as a stewardship Council and as individuals, work to support sustainable forest management, tree planting projects, best agricultural practices, wildlife education and environmental awareness programs. We hope that our continued efforts with Forest Management will help landowners to appreciate the tremendous ecological and economic values that we derive from our forested lands.

Our **Hastings Stewardship Council** of committed community members has a vested interest in promoting sustainable stewardship of our land and resources. I offer sincere thanks to those volunteers, organizations and community partners who worked closely with us in the past year.

Trenton Woodlot Conference



Norampac Managed Forest

The Trenton Woodlot Conference is an opportunity to gain the latest insight into woodlot management techniques, hear about forestry association updates, or take an informative hike through a local woodlot. Each year this conference offers new information and an opportunity for woodlot owners to renew old acquaintances. Almost 200 woodlot owners took the time to attend our premiere woodlot event in November 2010.

This year's sessions included discussions by Mark Stabb, a member of Ontario's Biodiversity Council, and Dawn Burke of MNR discussing the importance of biodiversity and the ecology of local Species at Risk, highlighting the ways that landowners are conserving biodiversity through thoughtful woodlot and land management.

Look for the **Trenton Woodlot Conference** in November of each year and other woodlot events sponsored by Hastings Stewardship Council or the Quinte Woodlot Association.

Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show



We are proud of our partnership with the **Ontario Woodlot Association** and neighboring **Stewardship Councils** and the **agricultural community** in bringing the **Woodlot Demonstration Exhibit** to the Hastings County Plowing Match. Each year a number of exhibits and demonstrations are one of the highlights of the two-day event – the second largest outdoor farm show in Ontario.

Commercial exhibitors showcase equipment and services used by woodlot owners such as portable sawmills. Other exhibitors include tree nurseries, arborists, maple syrup equipment suppliers, woodlot associations, wood crafters and more!

2010 was the 22nd anniversary for **Hastings Farm Show** which was held in Tyendinaga Township. Take the opportunity to visit the Hastings Plowing Match in 2011 at the Countryman Farm in the Municipality of Tweed.

For more information, contact us or visit the show website at:

www.hastingsfarmshow.com

Trees Ontario 50 Million Tree Program



*Certified Tree Planter Program
Trenton High School*

Tree Planting Programs

The Hastings Stewardship Council has always been committed to finding ways to expand tree planting opportunities. Hastings Stewardship is a "Planting Delivery Agent" and has formed a partnership with Trees Ontario and Prince Edward Stewardship Council to extend tree planting assistance to participating landowners. In the spring of 2010, 80,000 trees were planted through this program and our plan is to expand this program each year.

We are also committed to providing quality educational experiences for youth and one way we strive to achieve this goal is through our certified tree planter program. The Council provides **10,000** trees annually to assist with tree plant training and students are made available to landowners on a cost share basis.

Community Trees



*Community Tree Event
City of Belleville*

In 2010 the Hastings Stewardship Council partnered with Municipalities of Belleville, Tweed, Stirling-Rawdon, Marmora and Lake, and Centre Hastings to provide 12,000 tree seedlings to residents of these communities to encourage tree establishment in residential areas.

The intent is to:

- Encourage regular planting of stock each year on private or municipal land in appropriate locations. Plant the right tree in the right place.
- Encourage planting a diversity of species to reduce the risk of insect and disease on individual species.
- Focus on native species that are well suited to the local sites. Species selection should include trees such as sugar maple and oak which have longer life expectancies.
- Promote early and regular pruning particularly in the early years to create better form and stem structure.
- Engage property owners to actively plant and care for trees on their own properties as up to 90% of land is privately owned.
- Bigger is better as large trees have a much larger leaf surface area than small trees.

Forest Management in Hastings County



Productive forests are key to Hastings County forest based economy

Hastings County has historically and still supports today, a strong forest-based economy. There are about 168,000 hectares (415,000 acres) or 48% of our land base classified as wooded private land.

Employment sectors of forestry, logging, paper manufacturing, wood product manufacturing, as well as hunting and trapping, are all significant to our labor force.

In 2011 Hastings Stewardship Council along with forest industry partners will offer assistance to woodlot owners through **Forest Extension Services** provided by qualified forest professionals

The service may provide:

- A quick **assessment** of the property to let landowners know what the values are on the property (timber, wildlife, biodiversity, species at risk, etc.)
- Recommend **management options** including harvest activities if appropriate
- Provide a directory of **forest services** and offer guidance on how to proceed with forest activities.
- Provide information on other values to be protected
- Inform the landowner of other **programs** that are available to assist landowner with property management such as tree planting, MFTIP, CLTIP, DU conservation agreements.

Norampac Managed Wood Program



Norampac
Trenton Division

Through their Managed Wood Initiative and progressive wood purchasing policies, Norampac continues to make a difference. Where forested lands are taken out of production for purposes such as agriculture, aggregate expansion or residential development, wood will not be purchased by Norampac-Trenton unless the wood supplier or landowner makes a financial contribution to a local Stewardship Council.

These funds are then used to support reforestation projects and other forest programs within the County such as tree planting and forest extension services.

Sustainable Living Symposium

Living Today for Tomorrow



In recognition of the importance of sustainable development and lifestyles to ensure a healthy future for youth, the southeastern Ontario non-profit organizations and institutions worked in partnership to bring together researchers, businesses, organizations, and individuals to explore sustainable lifestyle practices.

The 5th Annual Sustainable Living Symposium grew in community partners, participant numbers, exhibitors and speakers following a very successful first annual event in 2006. The 6th annual event is planned for April 9-10, 2011.

- educate and raise awareness of opportunities to lighten our impact on the environment
- promote local organizations and their programs geared to sustainable communities
- showcase local expertise
- promote local environmentally businesses, products and services
- encourage buying locally by supporting local farmers and buying from locally owned and operated businesses
- encourage residents to reduce energy consumption by introducing practices and techniques for home energy reduction
- highlight innovative & positive projects happening locally

Nature In Deed

Got a property in Rural Hastings?

The Nature In Deed initiative is a partnership of Lanark Community Stewardship Council, private sector and non government agencies with an interest in Land Stewardship.

The purpose is to provide landowners with practical information and resources that allow them to make informed choices about managing their properties within the context of the larger landscape.

- How to manage your woodlot sustainably
- How to naturalize your shoreline
- How to maintain a septic system and well
- How to make a map of your own property
- How to find the right person to help you
- How to access grants and property tax reductions

www.natureindeed.com

Wildlife Series



Hastings Wildlife Committee Objectives

- Increase awareness of the importance of our wildlife sector the role it plays in our economy and tourism.
- Increase understanding about frequently misunderstood species that are common in our rural communities (for example, wild turkey, coyotes, fisher).
- Promote appreciation, knowledge and understanding of a broad range of wildlife species and their associated habitat.
- Assist wildlife groups and associations with growth and renewal and increased communications amongst interested parties.
- Assist the agricultural landowners to find most effective ways to deal with livestock predation and commercial crop damage as a result from wildlife.

CFWIP Projects



CFWIP Projects in 2010 include:

- Backyard Birds; over 250 blue bird and flying squirrel boxes were built by Stewardship Rangers and children at the Hastings Plowing Match
- Wildlife Monitoring Workshops helping to assess population trends of common wildlife species.

Salmon River Signage Project

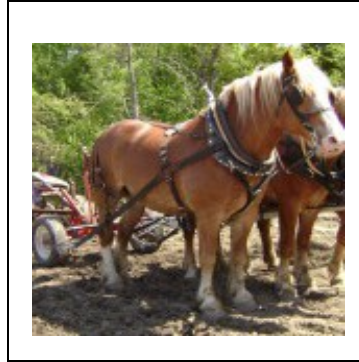


The **Salmon River watershed** spans an area of 1151 square kilometres, in Hastings, Lennox and Addington and Frontenac Counties and flows more than 100 kilometres before it reaches the Bay of Quinte, a Great Lakes Area of Concern.

The Salmon River Habitat Strategy identifies priority sites for habitat restoration with the help of indicators suggested by the Framework for Guiding Habitat Rehabilitation in Great Lakes Areas of Concern ("How Much Habitat is Enough?", second edition).

In 2010 three interpretive signs, including one at Lonsdale, have been erected to increase awareness and knowledge of this significant watershed in the Quinte region.

Promoting Our Local Resources in Hastings County



Harvest Hastings is:

A website to let people know where they can buy locally grown food and resources.



The Harvest Hastings Concept Will:

- "Harvest Hastings" brand recognition
- viable future for small and medium sized farmers
- increased awareness of school children about importance of healthy eating and local production
- Improved access to locally produced food by consumers
- Harvest Hastings collaboration will improve networking and communication amongst partners
- Improved access to retail, institutional and restaurant facilities
- Increased agricultural tourism in Hastings County
- Helping to meet Ontario's needs for a sustainable future
- Direct community support for farmers of Hastings County
- Recognition of innovations and sound stewardship within the agricultural sector

Visit www.harvesthastings.ca for details on producers

Frink Centre Woodlands Trail

Native Forest Trails at Frink Centre and O'Hara's Mill

Promote to teachers to use with their students for tree identification and forest ecology studies.

Promote to landowners as an opportunity to learn tree ID in order to identify these same species on their own properties.

32 interpretive tree plaques at the Frink Centre that identify native tree species and 4 interpretive signs including



- ◆ Introduction sign to the woodland trail
- ◆ Sign on sugar maple syrup production at the sugar shack
- ◆ Sign on the Moira River Ecology
- ◆ Sign on forest ecology/forest management

Summer Employment and Youth Intern

Alana Freeburn joined Hastings and Prince Edward Stewardship Councils for 7 weeks as an Assistant Clerk as well as a full semester co-op program. This position combines clerical and technical duties with field work, allowing "Summer Experience Program" students to better grasp the mandates and contributions of local stewardship councils.

In addition we partnered with the Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust to secure a Youth Intern position with Jesalyn Foley. Through this 6 month position we were able to advance the profile of the local Trust agency and provide a worthwhile educational opportunity for Jesalyn.

Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust's (HPELT) goal is to assist the community in conserving special places through education, land acquisition and land management. HPELT is a non government, not-for-profit registered charity, operated by a volunteer board of directors and is a member of the Canadian and Ontario Land Trust Alliances



Ontario Stewardship Rangers 2010

The **Ontario Stewardship Ranger** Program offers up to eight weeks of environmental education and employment for youth aged 17. Unlike the Ontario Ranger Program, Stewardship Rangers live at home and work in their community with a team consisting of four Rangers and a crew leader.

In 2010, a crew representing Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox and Addington and Frontenac Stewardship Councils took part in a number of projects in the region. Tree Care, trail construction and stream rehabilitation were just a few of the programs that benefited from the efforts of the Stewardship Ranger Crew. The 2010 crew was lead by Lisah Palmateer along with rangers Chantel Neal, Delaney Barnes, Phil Chamberlin and Dylan Adams.



The 2010 Hastings Stewardship Council

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Cliff Maclean Chairman | Member – Hastings Federation of Agriculture Member and former Director- Upper Canada Woods Cooperative Member and Former Director- Ontario Woodlot Association Quinte Chapter Hastings County Landowner and Cash Crop Farmer Financial Planner |
| Herman Ebbers Vice Chairman | Norampac Trenton Division Forest Manager Active member of Ontario Professional Forester Association Forest and Wildlife Technician |
| Frank Forestell | Employed in Agriculture Business |
| Louise Livingstone | Environmental Planner Ecological Journalist Farm Landowner Coordinator of Harvest Hastings |
| Dale Grant | Beef Producer Executive Member of Hastings County Cattlemen Association Board member of Quinte Conservation |
| Patricia Hastings | Hastings County landowner and member of National Farmers Union Musician |
| Mike Murphy | Member - Tweed Hungerford Agricultural Society Beef and Potato Producer |
| Kevin Durkin | Member - Hastings Federation of Agriculture Member- Hastings Cattlemen's Association Member - Quinte Woodlot Association Farmer- Beef producer Chair of Harvest Hastings |
| Charles Robinson | Madoc Township Municipal Councilor Hastings County Farmer |
| Greg Pendragon | Hastings County rural resident |
| Elwood Palmateer | Retired School Principal Member of Ontario Sheep Marketing Board |
| Jeff McDougall | HPEDSB Teacher, Council Youth Representative |
| Danielle Valentik | Hastings County Resident and Real Estate Agent |
| Thekla Hummel | Resident of Centre Hastings Environmental Biologist |
| Grant Ketcheson | Masters of Science in Agriculture and Ex-Dairy Farmer Moir Lake Resort Owner Director of Bay of Quinte Mutual Insurance Co. |

Many Thanks to our Partners in 2010

Resource Agency Partners:

Ministry of Natural Resources
Trees Ontario
Ontario Stewardship
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
Quinte Conservation
Lower Trent Conservation
Community Futures
Trenval Business Development Corp.
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ontario Seed Tree Plant
Ontario Soil and Crop Association
Frink Centre
Tree Canada
O'Hara Mill Homestead

County of Hastings

Municipality of Stirling Rawdon
Hastings County Museum of Agriculture
Municipality of Tweed
Municipality of Centre Hastings
Municipality of Marmora and Lake
City of Quinte West
City of Belleville

Environmental Programs & Agencies:

Habitat Enhancement Program (RAP)
Turtle Trauma Centre
Ducks Unlimited
Ontario Nature
Landowner Resource Centre

Hastings Stewardship Council

Stewardship Coordinator:

Jim Pedersen

Hastings Stewardship Council

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www.ontariostewardship.ca

Associations:

Ontario Woodlot Association
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Hastings Federation of Agriculture
Upper Canada Woods Cooperative
Eastern Ontario Model Forest
Ontario Maple Syrup Producer's Association
Forest Gene Conservation Association
Hastings Plowmen Association
International Society of Arboriculture
Friends of Salmon River

Private Companies/Consultants:

Norampac Trenton Division
Chisholm's of Roslin Ltd.
Ferguson Forest Centre
Richardson's Pine Needle Farms
Shelterwood Forestry Consulting Service

Hastings & Prince Edward District School Board:

"OUTER LIMITS" at Trenton High School
Bayside Secondary School
Centre Hastings High School
Frink Centre

Our Landowner Services Directory

The Council provides landowner information related to stewardship on an ongoing basis. Our "Landowner Services Directory" is the foundation of this effort with all the contacts you need to get started managing your property.

