

# Wetlands



Wetlands are one of the earth's most diverse and productive ecosystems in Ontario. Known as marshes, swamps, bogs and fens, wetlands are simply.... wet lands. They are home to hundreds of birds, mammals, fish and plant life, many of which are species at risk. Wetlands are not only important to the wildlife and plant-life that depend on them for their survival; humans depend on them as well for water quality, flood control, economic products and recreation.

It is important that we recognize the importance of protecting and enhancing wetland areas. For more information on how wetlands function, their importance and funding programs available to help landowners protect and enhance wetlands are listed below.

## Assistance/Funding Programs

- **Healthy Waterways Initiative**



Healthy Waterways Initiative is an opportunity for rural and non-rural landowners to preserve, restore or enhance wetlands. The Rural Lambton Stewardship Network, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority have formed a partnership to provide you with the technical advice and assistance to complete wetland restoration projects in floodplain or riparian areas. By participating in this initiative you will not only receive technical expertise and the financial incentives necessary to complete a successful project but retain the right to enjoy and use your land while helping to improve the environment.

For more information contact:  
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Or download a copy of a brochure:

[http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/2010/Healthy\\_Waterways\\_Brochurefinal.pdf](http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/2010/Healthy_Waterways_Brochurefinal.pdf)

- **Wetland Habitat Fund**

The Wetland Habitat Fund operates through a team of professional program representatives who provide technical assistance to landowners who are planning habitat projects while the WHF provides financial assistance to implement the project. Since 1997, the program has helped hundreds of landowners conserve thousands of acres of wetlands across southern Ontario.

For more information link to:

<http://www.whc.org/wetlandfund/en/home/home.html>

## Information Resources

- **Wetland Extension Notes**



Rural Lambton Stewardship Network has produced a series of fact sheets on wetlands. Click on the following links for more information.

**Importance of Wetlands –**

[http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/1854\\_Importance\\_of\\_Wetlands.pdf](http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/1854_Importance_of_Wetlands.pdf)

**Wetland and West Nile Virus -**

[http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/1850\\_Wetlands\\_and\\_West\\_Nile\\_Virus2.pdf](http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/1850_Wetlands_and_West_Nile_Virus2.pdf)

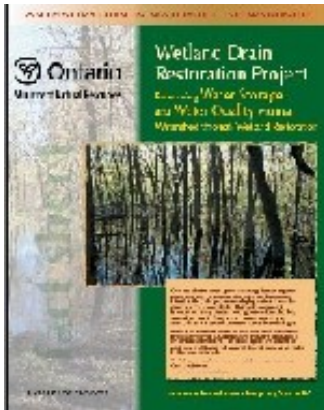
- **Ducks Unlimited Canada**

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has been committed to **wetland conservation** for more than 65 years. Despite this, wetland loss continues across Canada. As much as 70 per cent of Canada's original wetlands have been lost in some areas of the country.



As a non-profit organization, DUC relies on the support of Canadians from across the country. DUC's dedicated volunteers, members and staff work very hard to help DUC in achieving its conservation mission and vision.

- **Wetland Drain Restoration Project**



For a fact sheet on the Wetland Drain Restoration Project, Enhancing Water Storage and Water Quality within a Watershed through Wetland Restoration, [http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/1856\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/1856_FactSheet.pdf)

The Wetland Restoration “How to Guide” is available outlining the key steps required to successfully utilize the Drainage Act as a tool to restore wetlands.

[http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/1855\\_HowToGuide.pdf](http://www.ontariostewardship.org/ontarioStewardship/dynamicImages/1855_HowToGuide.pdf)