

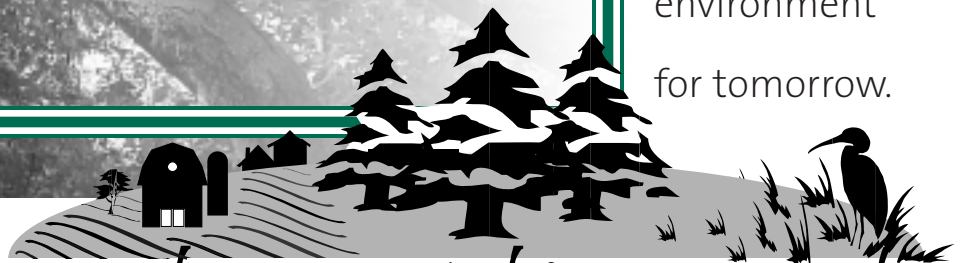


# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2005 2006

## Stewardship is...

taking  
responsibility  
for actions  
today,  
to protect our  
environment  
for tomorrow.



## Perth Stewardship Network

" Helping Perth County Communities Practice Resource Stewardship "

# Our PERTH COUNTY Landscape...



*Our* small part of Ontario is an interesting blend of mostly flat topography with some hilly areas. The rich soil types and suitable climate were historically recognized by early settlers as prime agricultural lands. Our county is now a mosaic of urban centers within an agricultural landscape. Spread throughout this area of extensive fields bearing corn, soybean and forage crops, are large livestock operations as well as several smaller rural communities. At present, only approximately 7% of this land is in forest cover.

*Often* our remaining forests, though physically small, are some of the most productive hardwood forests in the area, producing high quality, sustainable harvests for the managing landowners. Many of our Perth County farms have been built up and improved upon for more than a century, often by successive generations of the same family.

*With* this tradition of stewardship, it isn't surprising that Perth County nurtures leaders in the area of progressive farming practices and pioneers using new agricultural technologies. Through the commitment of many individual landowners, environmental and natural resource features in Perth County remain strong today.

*Take note* of the many newly planted windbreaks and buffer strips which can be seen as you drive through our country side and view these as testaments to this progressive way of thinking - - thinking geared toward many tomorrows to come.

# Chairman's Message...

Being in the role of Chair of the Perth Stewardship Network I have really noticed and appreciated just how much time and involvement that each of the volunteer councillors have given to try and make the PSN a success.

Perth County is an area of challenges with only 7% forest cover, numerous moderate sized urban centres, surrounded by primarily privately owned agricultural land. The farm owner's of which, work continuously to stay financially stable and competitive with our ever changing society demands. Their abilities to stay in business are constantly being challenged by ever changing commodity prices etc., and yet staying abreast and abiding to the barrage of continuous new laws that society deems necessary to protect our environment. With all of this occurring there are still individuals in the farming community that find the time to visualize and look to improving the future of our environment.

In the same context there is the ever increasing number of urbanites trying to make a financially gainful living. These people have to also work smarter and harder to compete within the global economy. With far more people in more densely populated urban centers, they in turn are limited to smaller less accessible natural areas that allow outdoor recreational activities as an outlet. Some of these people still find time to volunteer for projects that give them nothing in return other than the knowledge that they might have contributed and helped improve the future of our natural surroundings.

The Perth Stewardship Network has continued to partner with as many of these people and or their individual groups that to date have worked on various natural restoration projects. With these new projects and initiatives they bring the fresh perspective of new partners. Numerous ongoing projects have added to our group's stability and provided deep reaching roots in some community areas with existing partners.

2005 has been another productive year and we are striving to make 2006 even

more productive. But saying that there is an issue of limitations with Stewardship Councils and community volunteers, Society to day is a constantly changing arena, energy price increases for example seem to drive up the odds against allowing people more free time due to costs of travelling to spend their free time on volunteering for environmental projects. It is only through the OMNR Stewardship Coordinator's daily work of pursuing every avenue making contacts and checking out any potential environmental project. The people that they contact and assist are usually the new volunteers that are recruited.

The issue of "leadership" of many of our community groups appears to be a limiting factor to expansion and continuation of some groups! We need to focus on the sustainability of our partners and their volunteers, especially in terms of leadership and motivation of these people. OS & OMNR need develop and provide greater leadership training for the next generation of community leaders. This might act to motivate more youth involvement if such training was to be delivered in an outdoor and exciting way, possibly through the development of Outdoor Adventure Camps? Or targeting high school stewardship clubs?

As the SC attempts to follow OMNR directions regarding reducing expenditure related to travel and support costs both OMNR and PSN expectations need to be adjusted accordingly. Everyone needs to learn to enjoy our "small victories" related to our program.

During times of constraint within the OMNR, we need to remember our volunteers and many of our farmer landowners are facing challenges in our current global industrial & agricultural economy. I would like to "Thank" the PSN Councillors for their many volunteer efforts towards making such a challenging program work to benefit our Perth County resources and environment (especially in ways that are compatible with our agricultural landscape and traditional uses of them).

As one Perth County based group, working to "make a difference" in improving

the health of our environment and sustaining natural resources on our lands, we invite interested people to join us and help with projects. New ideas and opportunities are always welcome!

The PSN appreciates the continued support we have received from both local OMNR Clinton Area Office as well as provincially from Ontario Stewardship (regarding funding and corporate/provincial networking and training). We are forever grateful for the efforts of the Clinton Area and Guelph District in their morale and staff support.

Another key component of the success of our program is the support we receive from our various community partners and our Stewardship Coordinator. Meeting the demands of the business of stewardship takes continuous effort.

We invite you to review our annual report and share in our collective accomplishments. As we've said before, "Our success is your success!"

*Robin Diehl*

Chair  
Perth Stewardship Network

## STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Ken Maronets

## COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP COUNCILLORS

Robin Diehl (Chair)

John Drummond

Norman Jefferson

George Wicke

Doug Cota

Don Jones

Geoff Neigh

Tony Jackson

# Activity Highlights



*The fiscal year 2005/06 celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Ontario Stewardship program. Collectively, this program and innovative community stewardship approach has utilized the following critical elements of success:*

- *“Influence Model”*
- *Provision of annual project seed money*
- *Most councils attempting to engage and support local community*
- *Accomplishing meaningful “on the ground” projects with landowners*
- *Dedicated volunteers who work with an OMNR employee.*

*The Perth Stewardship Network has evolved and grown from undertaking “spontaneous acts of stewardship” into a more structured and strategic approach, based on greening our landscapes across Ontario with partners.*

## *Status and Leveraging:*

In 2005/06 there were a total of 24 projects. The PSN also worked with a record number of partners (N=76). The majority of these projects (88%) are on-going multi-year community projects. Involvement in these projects was mainly in a stewardship supporting role (67% are category 2). This means that other partners initiated the projects but the PSN involvement significantly modified the approach, timing and scope of the project. This was followed by 29% category 1, where we initiated the project and were the major driving force. Lastly, 4% were category 3 projects typified as projects that would have proceeded whether the PSN was involved or not.

In terms of local program values, this generated a total value of \$240,587.00 for partner's efforts to sustain natural resources in Perth County. \$188,311.00 in-kind was contributed by the volunteers who worked on these projects (322 volunteers contributed 4122 hours). The remaining \$52,276.00 was direct funding provided by all partners. Of this, only \$11,500.00 was PSN seed money. This represents a leveraging ratio of \$1 seed money to \$20.9 total project value.

2005/06 was an exceptional year for the PSN and our partners!

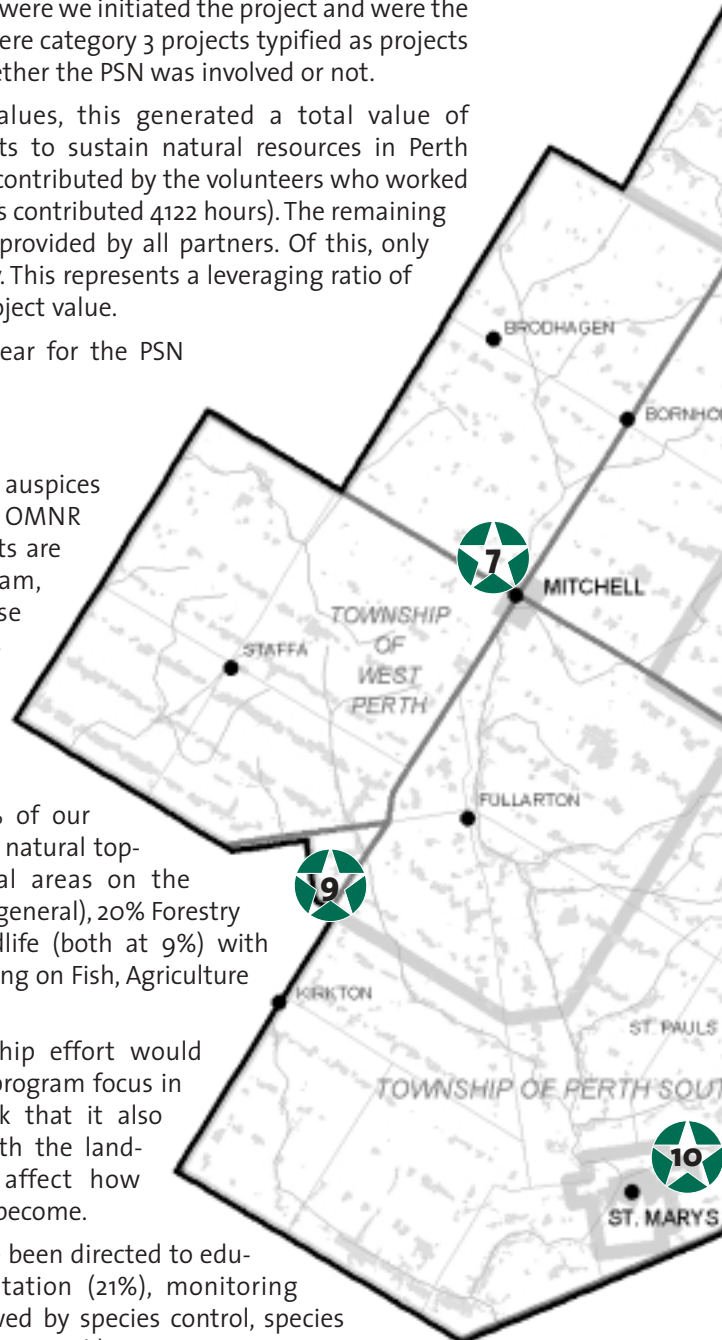
## *Program Activity*

All PSN activities fall under the auspices and guidelines of the OMNR Stewardship program, yet efforts are categorized by Sub-program, Category and Activity. These strictly bureaucratic codes attempt to indicate where each local council is investing their collective stewardship efforts.

At the Sub-program level 44% of our projects were targeting general natural topics/areas of work (not natural areas on the ground but related to nature in general), 20% Forestry followed by Wetland and Wildlife (both at 9%) with remainder of the projects focusing on Fish, Agriculture and Water.

This distribution of stewardship effort would seem to accurately reflect the program focus in Perth County. We like to think that it also reflects what is needed by both the landscape and the people who affect how “green” our landscape is or will become.

The majority of our efforts have been directed to education (61%), Habitat rehabilitation (21%), monitoring health of resources (9%) followed by species control, species rehabilitation and natural (all at 3% each).



# PSN Stewardship Projects



## Location #

- 1/ Natural Connections IPM 2005 tent & woodlot tour
- 2/ West Perth Community Wetland
- 3/ Ellice / Gadshill Swamp Enhancement
- 4/ Neighbourwoods
- 9/ Sawyer Woodlot
- 10/ Sparling Bush - St. Marys
- 13/ Trout Creek Conservation Club
- 15/ Trees for Tomorrow - Perth
- 17/ C.A.R.E. Symposium
- 21/ Community Environmental Leadership Program (CELP)



## In Summary

PSN efforts have targeted increasing public awareness about nature in general, forestry, wetlands and wildlife. We have attempted to educate people through learning events and workshops and direct involvement in community stewardship projects through our partner's organizations. A broad range of activities included:

- Forestry in a part of Ontario where the average % forest cover is only 7 % of the landscape.
- Water and related concerns for natural resource sustainability (surface water, sources of base flow, water quality and quantity, retention on the landscape i.e. create more wetlands)
- Cold Water Stream restoration and rehabilitation (mainly targeting Trout Creek - one of only a very few remaining coldwater streams left in the County)
- Empowering youth and community, e.g. to grow their own sources of tree seedlings from local native seed sources in cooperation with partners.
- Monitoring stream water quality (with local high school and

...continued

Most PSN activity was directed towards enhancing the awareness in the public about stewardship and natural resources and often this was achieved through learning events or providing opportunities for public learning (often targeting dedicated community groups). Other activities included a broad range of topics. In descending order of activity these included; reforestation, water enhancements, stream, propagation, surveys, trail creation and signage. Small amounts of activity also included; nesting structures, shoreline, cover enhancement, spawning beds and removal.

# PSN 2005/06 Projects

PROJECT TITLE	STATUS / LEVERAGE CATEGORY	PARTNERS	TOTAL FUNDING	IN-KIND	SUB PROGRAM CODE
1 Natural Connections - IPM 2005 Partners Tent & Woodlot Tour	complete/ 1	1-28 (see below)	\$144,506.00	\$114,107.00	Natural
2 West Perth Community Wetland	on going/ 2	27, 29	\$8,720.00	\$8,720.00	Wetland
3 Friends of Ellice Gadshill Swamps	on going/ 2	11, 30, 31	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	Wetland
4 NeighbourWoods	on going/ 1	27, 32-35	\$3,710.00	\$3,710.00	Forestry
5 Stewardship Assistant	on going/ 1	27, 32, 33, 36	\$11,840.00	\$3,920.00	Natural
6 Science Fair Award	on going/ 2	27, 37-39	\$425.00	\$425.00	Natural
7 Local Outdoor Opportunity Partners (LOOP)	on going/ 2	11, 27, 40	\$9,200.00	\$9,200.00	Wildlife
8 Ontario Stewardship Rangers - Perth County	on going/ 1	11, 23, 27, 41, 42	\$11,185.00	\$3,425.00	Natural
9 Sawyer Woodlot	on going/ 2	23, 27, 41	\$900.00	\$900.00	Forestry, Natural
10 Sparling Bush St. Marys	complete/ 2	27, 43, 44	\$1,775.00	\$1,775.00	Forestry
11 PSN Scholarship	on going/ 1	27	\$500.00	\$0.00	Natural
12 Thames River Clean Up	on going/ 2	27, 31, 45-47	\$2,586.00	\$2,086.00	Water
13 Trout Creek Conservation Club	on going/ 2	11, 27, 48, 49	\$4,407.00	\$2,650.00	Fish, Natural
14 Hunting on Conservation Authority Lands	on going/ 3	11, 31, 40, 50	\$3,375.00	\$3,375.00	Wildlife
15 Trees for Tomorrow - Perth	on going/ 1	24, 48, 49, 51-54	\$8,385.00	\$6,845.00	Forestry
16 Envirothon SW Region - Perth	on going/ 2	1, 4, 8, 15, 20, 27, 56-62	\$7,205.00	\$5,905.00	Forestry, Natural, Fish, Wetland, Wildlife
17 CARE Symposium	on going/ 2	27, 63	\$2,325.00	\$2,125.00	Natural
18 Perth County Trails Committee	on going/ 2	64-68	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Natural
19 Huron Perth Agriculture & Water Festival	on going/ 2	27, 69-73	\$2,850.00	\$2,850.00	Agriculture, Water
20 Tree Planting Workshop	complete/ 2	27, 74	\$498.00	\$498.00	Forestry
21 Community Environmental Leadership Program (CELP)	on going/ 2	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	Natural
22 Partner Recognition Event	on going/ 1	8, 11, 27, 40	\$5,570.00	\$5,170.00	Natural
23 McCully Centre for Rural Learning	on going/ 3	27, 75	\$1,175.00	\$1,175.00	Agriculture, Natural
24 Stratford Perth County Community Foundation	on going/ 2	27, 76	\$450.00	\$450.00	Natural
			<b>\$ 240,587.00</b>	<b>\$ 188,311.00</b>	

\*Partner reference numbers correspond to non-abc order list

*Thanks to our Partners*

- 1 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Auth. (ABCA)
- 2 Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) - Burlington
- 3 Environment Canada - CWS
- 4 Friends of Hullett

- 5 Grey County Forest Stewardship Network
- 6 Guelph District MNR
- 7 Trappers Council
- 8 Huron Stewardship Council (HSC)
- 9 IPM Committee - Perth County 2005
- 10 JH Keeso & Sons
- 11 LOOP (Local Outdoor Opportunity Partners)
- 12 MAAP
- 13 MNR - Forest Health
- 14 MNR - Rabies Unit

- 15 Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)
- 16 Smith, Marvin L.
- 17 Mid-West Timber
- 18 OFAH - Peterborough Main Office
- 19 OMNR - Canada Ontario Agreement Funding
- 20 Ontario Forestry Association - Main Office
- 21 Ontario MNR Species at Risk Program
- 22 Ontario Stewardship

- 23 Ontario Stewardship Rangers - Clinton
- 24 Ontario Tree seed Plant
- 25 Ontario Trillium Foundation
- 26 Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) - Huron Perth Chapter
- 27 Perth Stewardship Network
- 28 Wetland Habitat Fund - vanHem.
- 29 West Perth - Wetland Sub Committee
- 30 Ellice Gadshill Swamp Advisory Group
- 31 Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	RESULTS S = SOCIAL • F = FORESTRY • FW = FISH/WILDLIFE	# VOLUNTEERS	# VOLUNTEER HRS
education	awareness/ learning	S - local IPM committee/ OFA lead OTF \$8140/ "natural connections" brand established / 2,300 visitors total	45	300
habitat rehab.	nesting structures/ wetlands entrance water enhancement	S - observation mound designed and terracing of propagation, F - 1000 trees planted	5	260
education/ habitat rehab./ monitoring	awareness/ survey/ water enhancement	need to work on regulated policies for recreational use	12	280
education	awareness	more volunteers engaged in project / 3337 trees inventoried	15	193
education/ monitoring	learning/ reforestation/ survey	hired a youth for 14 work weeks/ 6 volunteers	0	0
education	awareness/ learning	200 students participated/ local newspaper	1	4
education/ habitat rehab.	awareness// stream reforestation	neighbourhood involvement necessary 1000 trees planted / 2Ha habitat improvement	81	1223
education	awareness/ learning	38 summer act./ one journal article / 1Ha forest, 100 trees 400m trail, 300m stream rehab.	5	97
education/ habitat rehab.	learning/ trail creation/ trail signage	SPWA, OSR stewardship ethic to expand trail / 1Ha protected	1	10
education	awareness/ learning/ reforestation	requires more "Friend" participation	2	1007
education	learning event	\$500 aware to support env. Ed. one recipient	0	0
education/ habitat rehab.	awareness/ learning/ shoreline / stream water enhancement	30 people attended / 6 locations cleaned (6km shoreline, 3km river)	4	60
habitat rehab. / species rehab.	cover enhancement/ spawning beds/ stream	landowners and env./ youth employment/final report / 1000 trees planted / 200m Riparian restoration	6	150
species control	awareness/ learning/ removal		22	70
education/ habitat rehab./ monitoring	awareness/ learning/ propagation / reforestation/ water enhancement	volunteer oriented / needs implementation along watercourses	94	212
education	awareness/ learning	155 participants	4	20
education	awareness/ learning	200 attended with 20 different displays for viewing	0	0
education	awareness/ trail creation/ trail signage		0	0
education	awareness	"Healthy Stream, Happy People"/"Water Wildlife and You"	5	72
education	awareness/ reforestation/ stream	40 people attended/ product promotion by public ed.	2	12
education	awareness/ learning		0	0
education	awareness/ learning	175 people attended	8	120
education	awareness/ learning	letter provided to support Ont. Trillium Found. Funds	9	27
natural	N/A		1	5
			<b>322</b>	<b>4122</b>

32 Seiler, Julie	39 Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board	47 West Perth Energy & Environment Committee	58 Laurie, Joe	69 Lovett, Craig
33 West Perth, Municipality of			59 Hoering, Wendy	70 McFadden, Eric
34 University of Toronto - Faculty of Forestry68 West Perth - Trail Sub Committee	40 OMNR - Clinton Area Office	48 Stratford Central Secondary School	60 MNR - Guelph	71 Wicke, George
35 West Perth - Core Working Group	41 Sawyer Preservation Woodlot Association	49 Trout Creek Conservation Club	61 Pinery Provincial Park	72 Bowers, Laura
36 Human Resources Development Canada	42 Trees for Tomorrow - Stratford Node	50 Stratford Field Naturalists	62 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA)	73 Diehl, Robin
37 Avon Maitland Dist. Sch. Bd.	43 Kim Hawthorn Farms	51 Stratford, City of	63 CARE (Common Action Restoration Environment)	74 Drummond, John
38 Enriching Education, Foundation for	44 Friends of Sparling Bush	52 Greenbelt Farm	64 Avon Trail	75 McCully Centre for Rural Learning
	45 Kehl, Patty & Gerry	53 Stewardship Network	65 Perth County Plan. Dept.	76 Stratford Perth Co. Community Foundation
	46 NOAH Conservation Club	54 Sprucedale Elementary PS	66 Perth District Health Unit	
		55 Seaman, Ethel-Mae	67 St. Marys, Town of	
		57 Ginn, Jim		

# Activity Highlights (continued)

*"Acts of conservation without the requisite desires and skill are futile. To create these desires and skills and community motive, is the task of education"*

ALDO LEOPOLD.



*These results occurred due to the support of all of our partners and dedicated volunteers who contributed their time to make these projects a success.*

*Thank you.*

*Ken Maronets*

Stewardship Coordinator  
Perth Stewardship Network

youth) to create a data set for background comparisons after community habitat enhancements through the Trout Creek watershed.

These stewardship efforts appear to be justly targeted and appropriate for our Perth County agricultural landscape and the people who are interested and dedicated to work towards these improvements.

## *PSN Stewardship Results*

2005/06 was the year that Perth County hosted the International Plowing Match (IPM) near Listowel. This single project dominated the efforts and subsequently, provided many of the results that the PSN was able to achieve this year. Specifically these included:

- Working with both the Ontario Plowmen's Association and most importantly the local IPM committee. Also a variety of Federal, Provincial and local organizations.
- This resulted in partners contributing \$30,000.00 in direct funding towards the Natural Connections efforts.
- Ontario Trillium Foundation provided \$8140.00 in funds to assist this collaborative partnership.
- With these partners we were able to establish and better define the "Natural Connections" partnership and marketing brand.
- In the partner's tent, contacted over 23,000 visitors during this single event and promoted the wise stewardship of our forests via the woodlot tour.

2005/06 was also comprised of the regular ongoing PSN projects. These 23 projects assisted our local communities in terms of social, forestry and fish/wildlife benefits:

### **SOCIAL:**

- Design and build an entrance garden and memorial "Bob Tam" observation mound at the West Perth Wetlands
- Draft wording for municipal policies to regulate multi-use at the wetland
- Advice and support via information, time and resources of the Stewardship Coordinator to help many of our local Perth County community groups to sustain themselves as viable organizations for the future.

- Engaging volunteers in our projects (322 volunteers contributed 4122 hours)
- Hired a youth for 14 work weeks to implement the NeighbourWoods inventory with our partners support.
- Hired a youth to conduct water quality sampling in Trout Creek (12 weeks).
- Once again supported the Huron Perth Science Fair by assisting with judging student's projects (~200 youth participate annually). We annually present the PSN Science Fair Award to the student (s) from a Perth County school whose project reflects wise natural resources stewardship.
- Hosted an Ontario Stewardship Rangers crew which worked on a total of 38 community projects.
- Provided (for the fifth and last year at Listowel District) a \$500.00 PSN Scholarship to a student continuing their post secondary education in environmental or natural resources studies.
- In total 1230 people were reached during our various educational/awareness events we partnered with.
- Provided a formal letter of support to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for others to access alternative funding sources.
- Advising in the development of the emerging "environmental fund" which part of the Stratford Perth County Community Foundation.

### **FORESTRY:**

- 3000 Trees planted
- 1Ha forest area managed with partners
- 1Ha forest area protected
- 3337 trees inventoried as part of the "NeighbourWoods" project

### **FISH AND WILDLIFE:**

- Helped landowners improve wildlife habitat on 2 Ha
- Established 400 m of trail with partners.
- Supported volunteers to help clean up 6 locations along the Thames River
- Rehabilitated 500m of stream
- Growing over 300 tree seedlings to enhance F/W habitat along the Trout Creek watershed.

# Council Profiles

## *Robin Diehl*, CHAIR

Life Long resident of Stratford. Robin was employed for 40 years at Honeywell CPG (auto filter manufacture in Stratford), retiring from a 28 year Industrial Engineering position in Dec., 2003. This has allowed him to spend more time outdoors, hunting, fishing and extending his conservationist activities while assuming the role of Chair. He has participated with the PSN since its inception in 1995 and strongly believes in natural resource stewardship.

## *John Drummond*

Landowner, farmer and business owner (Owns and operates Greenbelt Farm nursery). John is a former President of the Perth Federation of Agriculture and is well networked and respected across Perth County. He has participated since our founding meetings in 1995. John brings a valued perspective of practical landownership, business and concerned social advocacy (individual responsibility to "walk the talk") to his role as a community stewardship leader.

## *Norman Jefferson*

Farmer and landowner. Norman's interest in private woodlands has been the focus of his stewardship efforts. As one of the founding members of the PSN, Norman is also a director of the Huron Perth Woodlot Owners, Perth Chapter and the Sawyer Preservation Woodlot Association. He has completed the Woodland Steward educational course. He regularly helps his neighbours and community by providing sound forestry advice to them whenever they request his assistance. He actively supports a senior's home and church camp and actively inventories urban trees with the NeighbourWoods project in Mitchell.

## *George Wicke*

Farmer and landowner. George has served politically for many years (30 plus) in roles of Township Reeve and on County Council. He has been a former President of the Perth County Cattleman Association and past Chairman of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and continues to be actively involved in a wide variety of stewardship and conservation activities and concerns. Since joining the PSN in 2000 he is a driving force behind the establishment and maintenance of the Local Outdoor Opportunity Partners (LOOP) and advocate for the "Future of

Hunting" initiatives. He has acted a Chair of the newly emerged "Friends of the Ellice Gadshill Swamps".

## *Doug Cota*

Long term resident of Listowel and business owner. As a keen outdoor recreation enthusiast Doug is Chair of the North Perth Trails group and former executive member of Ontario Steel headers. He owns and operates "The Sports Exchange" and coaches and manages the local lacrosse league. Since joining the PSN in 2001 he has demonstrated his interests in community trails, fisheries enhancement projects and wise use (mountain biking through our natural areas).

## *Don Jones*

Long term resident of Mitchell, Chair of the West Perth Wetland Sub-committee and former head of Science at the Mitchell District High School. Since joining the PSN in 2002, Don has played a key role in advancing the creation of the West Perth Community Wetland (still under design and development) and actively supports wise stewardship across Perth County (trails and educational stations as well as long term protection of natural heritage features).

## *Geoff Neigh*

A retired high school science teacher from Stratford Central, Geoff is keenly interested in growing trees from native and local seed sources. He has established a tree seedling nursery in his backyard and has actively supported the development of the Stratford node of the Trees for Tomorrow (Perth) project. A satisfying personal interest is his playing and teaching bagpipes.

## *Tommy Jackson*

As a rural property owner, outdoor enthusiast, active angler and hunter his personal interest in ensuring that there is a future with wildlife and healthy natural resources to enjoy for our children has prompted him to also play many roles in the Perth County community. Past Chair of LOOP, Zone J director of OFAH, Sales and former plant Manager of Precise Castings Industry a major foundry in Stratford and Elmira he brings leadership experience from his background working with local sportsman clubs, Perth Pheasant Committee and Trout Creek Conservation Club, to name a few.

## **AGENCY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY**

**Agriculture and Rural Representatives, OMAFRA**

**Jeff Brick**

Environmental Planner,  
UTRCA

**Bill Mackie**

Property and Parks  
Supervisor, UTRCA

**Marvin Smith**

Tree and Weed Inspector,  
County of Perth

**Allan Rothwell**

Planner, County of Perth

**West Perth Energy & Environment Committee and members**

**Terry Schwan**

District Forester, MNR

**Mike Malhiot**

Acting Area Supervisor, MNR

**Christa Casselman**

Acting Area Biologist, MNR

**Erica Allen**

Acting Senior Technician, MNR

## **STAFF**

**Ken Maronets**

Stewardship Co-ordinator

## **BANKER**

The Perth Stewardship Network operates its own community account through the **Mitchell and District Credit Union.**

# PSN's Top 3...

Although we are proud of all our efforts with partners and the local communities the following three projects are ones that best illustrate the achievements of the PSN and the concepts of Ontario Stewardship.

## 1) Natural Connections IPM Tent & Woodlot Tour

The project statistics were impressive:

- Approximately 23,000 people visited the Natural Connections tent
- 457 people toured the Hofer Woodlot
- 27 partners supported the efforts and hosted 12 displays in the tent
- 45 volunteers providing 300 hours
- Ontario Forestry Association led the partner's collaborative application which secured Ontario Trillium Funding (\$8,140.00). This support allowed us to achieve these numbers and products.
- With an investment of \$30,399.00 in cash the partners leveraged \$114,107.00 in-kind, for a total project valued at \$144,506.00



However, the most significant benefits were working with the variety of people towards building a successful show. The working relationship developed were the single greatest benefit for participating in this event for our stewardship program. The "Natural Connections" partnership resulted in the creation of an on-going web site and a marketing template that can be utilized for future events. We are proud that the partnership included; Federal and Provincial government, Provincial and local chapters of non-government organizations as well as the private sector.



## 3) The community synergy

...that has developed among Perth County partners and ability to implement positive stewardship with others.

Although this is very difficult to measure, there are several positive indicators that several of the partner groups (that we work with on a regular basis) are strong and healthy. Eco-Perth and Perth County Greenworks are advancing their projects in and around Stratford. The Huron Perth Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association continues to host workshops and support for woodlot owners. LOOP continues to work with sportsman clubs and their core values yet is expanding the participation in the

## 2) NeighbourWoods



This year has proven to be the most productive of the three regarding completing tree inventories in Mitchell. Although completion of this project will likely take another year's efforts, NeighbourWoods has truly caught on in West Perth.

Julie Seiler the "Stewardship Assistant" coordinating this project has done a great job encouraging and supporting the volunteers conducting these inventories. Community involvement has been expanding beyond the "core group" (Ted and Ellen Illman, Marg Drummond, Norman Jefferson and Anna Petersen).

For the Municipality of West Perth, their leadership and support for this project has allowed and promoted many partners to join their project. Some of these include; Human Resources and Development (Stratford), University of Toronto (Department of Forestry) and Perth Stewardship Network (part of Ontario Stewardship, OMNR).

"greening of Perth County" to include new non-traditional community groups. The Friends of the Ellice and Gadshill Swamps are moving ahead with the UTRCA in implementing their own form of community involvement/support as partners work to sustain these significant wetland properties.

Given these positive indicators, there still remains the challenge of re-newed growth and sustaining new leadership for our grass roots organizations. All groups that we have had the pleasure of working with appear to need to be able to draw and recruit new youth members to their groups, so that they can remain viable for the future.



# Financial Summary

*The fiscal year* for the Perth Stewardship Network (PSN) runs from April 1st to March 31st This matches that of our main funding partner, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR).

We maintain a community bank account with the Mitchell and District Credit Union, and keep our own records of deposits and cheques issued. All purchasing follows OMNR policies, and standard financial protocols are followed (*i.e. to be authorized, cheques require signatures from both the Stewardship Coordinator and one Councillor*).

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) are issued to control and account for the public funds utilized by our council.

Annually we receive \$10,000.00 through the Ontario Stewardship Program as seed money, less the costs of insurance. In 2004/2005 we received \$9,388.03 as per the first year of a five year MOU processes started this year. This multi-year MOU simplifies financial and administrative processes through our Shared Services Branch of the Ontario Government. This years MOU is ID- 7564-04/05-BF yr 1 of 5.



## PSN Summary of Stewardship Achievements

Trees planted...	5450
Wildflowers planted...	2000
Wildlife habitat and forest managed...	20 Ha
NeighbourWoods trees inventoried...	1247
Volunteers involved...	206 people
Volunteer hours contributed...	3339 hrs
Total partner contribution (in-kind & dollars)...	\$ 174,652
Partner's in-kind contribution (estimated value of time and materials)...	\$ 105,915
Alternative funding sources...	\$ 68,737



# Perth Stewardship Network

" Helping Perth County Communities Practice Resource Stewardship "

Perth Stewardship Network  
c/o OMNR

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*Tell someone...* THEY FORGET.

*Show someone...* THEY REMEMBER.

*Involve someone...* THEY UNDERSTAND.

