



ANNUAL REPORT

2007

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 countryside and view these as testaments to this progressive way of thinking - - thinking geared toward many tomorrows to come.

Chairman's Message...

It is once again time to publicly thank all those who worked so hard making the Perth Stewardship Network successful. The ongoing, committed involvement of our councillors is what makes projects advance towards completion. Their dedication to improving the environment cannot be put into words that compliment them enough.

With the ever-changing new demands of society as we know it put ever-increasing pressure on work and family routines that make it unbelievable that people still find the time to be involved.

The Perth Stewardship Network continues to partner with as many groups or individuals that work on a wide array of nature restoration projects. With these projects and initiatives they also bring a fresh perspective of new partners. Numerous ongoing projects continue to evolve and branch off into new initiatives that add to the stability of our group.

2006 has been another productive year and we in the PSN are striving to make 2007 even more productive. 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 have been recruited. We need to focus on the sustainability of our partners and their volunteers, especially in terms of leadership and the motivation of these people. OS & OMNR need to develop and provide greater leadership training for the next generation of community leaders. This might motivate more youth involvement if such training were to be delivered in an outdoor environ-

ment and in an exciting way, possibly through the development of Outdoor Adventure Camps? Or targeting high school stewardship clubs?

The Perth Stewardship continues to follow OMNR directions regarding the reduction of expenditures related to travel and support costs. Both OMNR and PSN expectations need to be adjusted accordingly. 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. Everyone needs to learn to enjoy the "small victories" related to our programs.

The PSN appreciates the continued support we have received from the OMNR Clinton Area office as well as provincially from the 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

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).

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

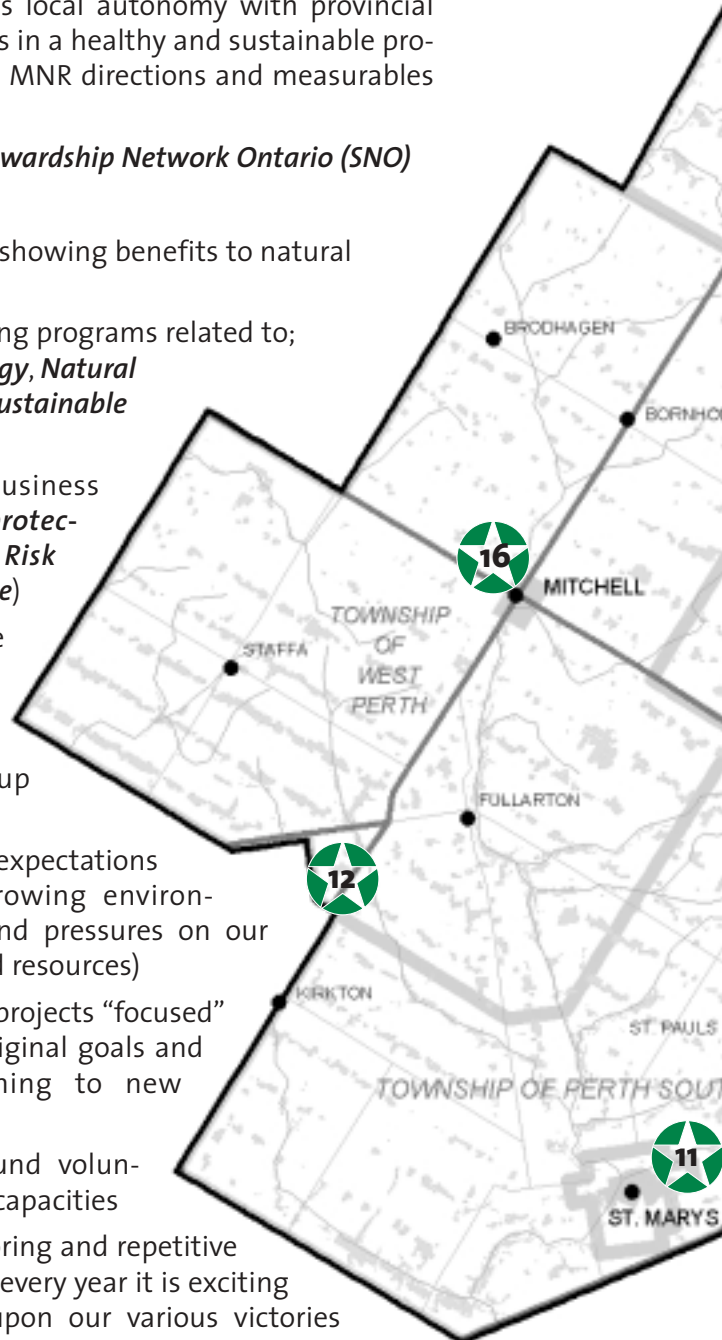
Tony Jackson

Activity Highlights

Annually, we try to summarize our stewardship efforts within the Perth County stewardship area. This a significant challenge, every year for me. Often, it results in the same realization every year - of the same general aspects and benefits, about the Ontario Stewardship program:

- Stewardship is a dynamic thing which involves dynamic processes and innovative thinking
- Partnerships take considerable time and effort to maintain and nurture
- As projects evolve and are implemented locally they require:
 - Blending OMNR directions and guidelines into the process (this balances local autonomy with provincial agendas which results in a healthy and sustainable program). Some of these MNR directions and measurables include:
 - support of the *Stewardship Network Ontario (SNO)*
 - marketing
 - reporting (CIPS & showing benefits to natural resources)
 - recent and on-going programs related to; *Biodiversity Strategy, Natural Spaces* and “*Our Sustainable Future*”
 - new MNR business (*Source Water protection, Species at Risk and Climate Change*)
- Projects and people develop an entity and momentum which is always a challenge to keep up with
- Societal trends and expectations change (e.g. ever-growing environmental awareness and pressures on our local limited time and resources)
- Keeping community projects “focused” on achieving their original goals and targets before turning to new emerging interests
- Ongoing issues around volunteer and community capacities

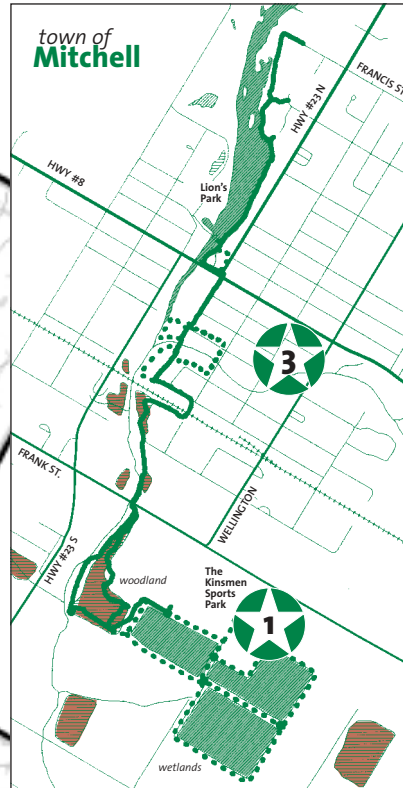
Although it sounds like a boring and repetitive process, *it is not!* The fact is, every year it is exciting to look back and reflect upon our various victories and successes!



PSN Stewardship Projects

Location

- 1/ West Perth Community Wetland
- 3/ Neighbourwoods
- 4/ Friends of Ellice Gadshill Swamps
- 5/ Trees for Tomorrow - Perth
- 6/ Trout Creek Conservation Club
- 7/ Steinman Stream & Wildlife Habitat Rehabilitation
- 11/ Sparling Bush - St. Marys
- 12/ Sawyer Woodlot
- 16/ Thames River Cleanup



Working with a diverse group of volunteer Stewardship Councillors is also an enjoyable and interesting process.

- It is clear that as we wrap up this fiscal year, society and the world is “waking up” to the reality of limitations to the global resources and that our climate is in fact changing. These facts have broadened our local stewardship thinking yet, still need to be accommodated into our individual projects or new projects for coming years. We are aware that we’ll need to shift some of our focus to include some of these new OMNR directions in our plans and projects.
- Moving into projects that address new challenges and opportunities as we locally encourage the use of practical best management practises (BMP’s) that “fit” our mainly rural areas.
- Integration of all these components into a deliverable work plan.

...continued

PSN 2006/07 Projects

PROJECT TITLE	STATUS / LEVERAGE CATEGORY	PARTNERS	TOTAL FUNDING	IN-KIND
LONG-TERM PROJECTS				
1 West Perth Community Wetland	on going / 2	2, 19, 20, 24, 38, 40, 44	\$ 9,816.00	\$6,606.00
2 Local Outdoor Opportunity Partners (LOOP)	on going / 2	1, 9, 19, 55	\$ 10,350.00	\$ 10,350.00
3 NeighbourWoods	on going / 2	18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 32, 37, 39, 43, 50, 56	\$ 18,200.00	\$ 12,450.00
4 Friends of Ellice Gadshill Swamps	on going / 2/ 3	11, 21, 22, 23	\$ 5,110.00	\$ 5,110.00
5 Trees for Tomorrow - Perth	on going / 1	19, 34, 54	\$ 5,795.00	\$ 5,795.00
6 Trout Creek Conservation Club	on going / 2	9, 19, 22, 41	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 625.00
7 Steinman Stream & Wildlife Habitat Rehabilitation	on going / 2	9, 19, 22, 32, 34, 53, 54	\$ 5,625.00	\$ 5,625.00
8 Envirothon SW Region - Perth	on going / 2	1, 4, 5, 7, 13, 18, 19, 29, 30, 31, 32, 36, 47	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,450.00
9 Huron Perth Agriculture & Water Festival	on going / 3	7, 19, 52, 53, 54, 55	\$ 3,867.00	\$ 3,867.00
10 CARE Symposium	on going / 3	19, 49	\$ 825.00	\$ 325.00
11 Sparling Bush St. Marys	complete / 3	19, 60	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
12 Sawyer Woodlot	on going / 2	11, 18, 19, 33	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00
13 Stratford Perth County Community Foundation	on going / 3	19, 22, 48, 58	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00
14 Science Fair Award	on going / 1	19, 29, 31	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
15 PSN Scholarship	on going / 1	19, 30, 31	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
16 Thames River Clean Up	on going / 3	19, 22, 24, 37, 38, 39	\$ 2,586.00	\$ 1,900.00
17 Perth County Trails Committee	on going / 3	19, 26, 42, 45, 49, 50, 51	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
18 Youth Involvement in Hunting Day	new / 1	4, 5, 9, 19, 32, 53, 55	\$ 6,150.00	\$ 5,400.00
SHORT-TERM PROJECTS				
19 Sustainable Forest Harvest Systems in Southern Ontario Woodlot Workshop	new / 3	n/a	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 1,250.00
TOTALS			\$ 84,994.00	\$ 67,428.00

Thanks to our Partners

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Auth. (ABCA) | 4 Friends of Hullett | 12 Dufferin County | 19 Perth Stewardship Network |
| 2 Ducks Unlimited - Barrie | 5 Guelph District OMNR | 13 Maitland Valley Conservation Auth. (MVCA) | 20 West Perth - Wetland Sub-Committee |
| 3 Elgin Stewardship Council | 6 Huron Perth Trappers Council | 14 Dufferin South Simcoe Stewardship Network | 21 Friends of Ellice Gadshill Swamps |
| | 7 Huron Stewardship Council (HSC) | 15 Ontario Stewardship | 22 Upper Thames River Conservation Auth. (UTRCA) |
| | 8 Hullett Youth Pheasant Hunt - Steering Committee | 16 Grey County Stewardship Network | 23 Seiler, Julie |
| | 9 LOOP (Local Outdoor Opportunity Partners) | 17 Ontario Tree Seed Plant | 24 West Perth, Municipality of |
| | 10 Grey, County of | 18 Ontario Woodlot Association - Huron Perth Chapter | 25 University of Toronto - Faculty of Forestry |
| | 11 MNR - Forest Health | | |

Stewardship

An ethic in which humans care for the land as one part of the natural system. To participate in environmental stewardship is to make a personal commitment to the land and to sustain and enhance it for generations to come.

STEWARDSHIP GOALS AND ENGAGEMENT	RESULTS S = SOCIAL • F = FORESTRY • FW = FISH/WILDLIFE	# VOLUNTEERS	# VOLUNTEER HRS
• support municipal leadership & green infrastructure • maintain diverse community support • partner to create 65 acres of managed wetland at this innovative site	S - observation mound designed and terracing of propagation F - 1000 trees planted	8	173
• broad range of projects • pulls together all outdoor users	neighbourhood involvement necessary 1000 trees planted / 2 Ha habitat improvement	16	384
• final year in collecting inventory data & final report on urban forest	S - more volunteers engaged in project F - total of 13,500 trees inventoried	10	685
• advise & support key members • community to grow local stewardship practices	S - need to work on regulated policies for recreational use	14	156
• promotes native seed sources & biodiversity • engages youth in stewardship activities	S - 90 students F - 262 seedlings planted out FW - 400m stream banks	4	144
• local community groups - supported by LOOP & PSN	S - landowners and env./youth employment/final report FW - 1000 trees planted / 2000 Riparian restoration	1	20
• high profile tree planting site - multi partners	F - 500 seedlings FW - 10 acre area	14	149
• long term Ontario Stewardship provincial partnership • growing participation in Huron/Perth - separate competition for those teams	S - 210 participants in the 2 workshops regional competition	18	378
• Ag & En sectors - share vision & efforts to educate young students	S - 725 students participated "Healthy Stream, Happy People / Water Wildlife and You"	3	72
• supports youth involvement in Enviro-event	S - 300 attended with 20 different displays for viewing	0	0
• limited community response to continuing with 'Friends of Sparling Woodlot'	S - nil results in recent years - PSN cancelling participation in project	0	0
• general support towards this impressive group	S - SPWA, OSR stewardship ethic to expand trail F - 1 Ha protected	0	0
• community foundation \$ to environmental fund	S - 4 meetings diverse group advisors	11	132
• limited # of student projects relative to resource stewardship	S - 200 students participated/local	0	0
• support to youth - continuing in resource `stewardship in schools	S - \$500 aware to support env. ed. one recipient	0	0
• organized by Patty & Gerry Kehl in the West Perth area for several years	S - 30 people attended / 6 locations cleaned (6 km shoreline & 3 km river)	34	130
• trail related issues • publication of "Take a Hike" guide • county-side focus on trails with some coordination • links to tourism & economic development	S - supports tourism across Perth County	2	8
• structured and educational introductory hunt for Hunter Safety Apprentices • supports OMNR Hunter Education program	S - 30 apprentices, 30 mentors & 40 volunteers FW - growth of positive stewardship & hunting ethics	15	146
• OMNR Guelph District organized with 6 local stewardship councils • promoted wise stewardship approaches - business / harvesting	S - 28 industry participants F - significant educational impact on these forestry workers	3	50
		153	2627

26 West Perth – Trail Sub-Committee	32 OMNR – Clinton Area Office	Environment Committee	47 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTRCA)	54 Neigh, Geoff
27 West Perth – Core Working Group	33 Sawyer Preservation Woodlot Association	40 Stratford Central S.S.	48 CARE (Common Action Restoration Environment)	55 Diehl, Robin
28 Human Resources & Development Canada	34 Trees for Tomorrow – Stratford Node	41 Trout Creek Conservation Club	49 Avon Trail	56 Drummond, John
29 Avon Maitland Dist. School Bd.	35 St. Michael Catholic S.S.	42 Stratford, City of	50 Perth County Planning Department	57 Steinman, Paul & Brenda
30 Mitchell District S.S.	36 Stratford Northwestern S.S.	43 Greenbelt Farm	51 Perth District Health Unit	58 Stratford Perth County Community Foundation
31 Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	37 Kehl, Patty & Gerry	44 Sprucedale Elementary P.S.	52 McFadden, Eric	59 Steinman, Todd
	38 NOAH Conservation Club	45 Stratford Community Services Department	53 Wicke, George	60 Friends of Sparling Bush
	39 West Perth – Energy &	46 North Simcoe private Land Stewardship Network		

Activity Highlights *(continued)*

Ultimately, we realize that simple stewardship projects resulting in single purpose outcomes are no longer the most effective way to view our challenges. It is time to re-focus and include these other paramount and critical issues while ensuring that community partners still realize their local agendas. Not an easy task.

The answer is easy... continue doing what we are doing, with the many good folks we have been privileged to work with and get to know over the last 11 years of this program. Possibly the future means we need to work with the opportunities found within other provincial agencies; MOE, MTO, Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Economic Development, Culture and Recreation to name a few!

Our stewardship model represents a proven and productive way for these agencies to deliver their mandates and easily facilitates the necessary integration of various programs with local communities at a grass roots level. The new "public management" model should include implementation through the stewardship program with additional resources and innovative agency partnerships that link to local community in a direct and cost-effective manner.

The future is "green" and new local stewardship approaches will help in achieving these long-term goals.



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 December of 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+) 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 has been a driving force behind the establishment and maintenance of the Local Outdoor Opportunity Partners (LOOP) and advocate for the "Future of Hunting" initiatives. As past Chair of the newly emerged "Friends of the Ellice Gadshill Swamps", he still lends his support to this group.

Doug Cota

Long-term resident of Listowel and business owner. As a keen outdoor recreation enthusiast Doug has also acted as past 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.

Tony Jackson

As a rural property owner, outdoor enthusiast, active angler and hunter, Tony has a personal interest in ensuring that there is a future with wildlife and healthy natural resources for our children to enjoy. These same interests have also prompted him to play many roles in the Perth County community. Roles which include being past Chair of LOOP, Zone J director of OFAH, Chair of the "Friends of the Ellice Gadshill Swamps", as well as his current seat as a director on the board of the UTRCA. He also has a considerable background working with local sportsman clubs, the Perth Pheasant Committee and the Trout Creek Conservation Club, to name a few. Former plant manager of, and current national sales representative for Precise Castings Inc., a major foundry in Elmira, Tony brings extensive leadership experience to every role he pursues.

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) NeighbourWoods

After the community volunteers completed the inventory last year after a four season effort, Dr. Andy Kenney (UoT, Forestry Department) and Danjela Puric-Mladenovic (PhD Student, OMNR Forest Advisor) wrote the final “NeighbourWoods Tree Inventory Report – Town of Mitchell, Municipality of West Perth, Ontario”. The highlights of this effort include:

- This is the first and only community to conduct a total inventory of its urban forest in Ontario.
- The project has generated considerable interest in the community regarding trees (both private and public owned) and appears to be leading to several opportunities to transfer basic forestry information (characteristic and condition information) to landowners and a opportunity to encourage greater stewardship of this important resource.
- The replacement value of the Mitchell urban forest is valued at \$23.0M
- Municipal leaders and the West Perth community seem to understand the importance of this “Green Infrastructure”.
- The report indicates that there is a healthy forest comprised of a diversity of species that is providing many environmental benefits to citizens, especially during these times of changing climate.
- A blend of Provincial and Municipal support and shared vision, illustrate that sustainability is achievable at various levels of involvement including public and private partners.

“Protecting Our Common Roots”: A Strategic Urban Forest Management Plan for the Citizens of Mitchell, ON is a Strategic Urban Forest Management Plan was written by four graduate students from the University of Toronto. This report provides a twenty year plan. The plan is formed around a set of objectives, based on consultation with residents of the town of Mitchell, as

well as on literature related to accepted forestry practices. It provides the officials and people a wonderful document to start to take the above information and ideas into practical policies and operational work plans to sustain this urban forest.

The Perth Stewardship Network wishes to acknowledge the many efforts of all the partners, dedication of volunteers and the leadership of the Municipality of West Perth staff and elected members of office. This project illustrates what can be accomplished through the implementation of the Ontario Stewardship model.

2) Huron Perth Envirothon

Although both Huron and Perth Stewardship Councils had tried to stimulate interest in this well organized and supported educational event, we had limited success for many years. However, in the last three years participation by new schools has grown such that in 2006 we had 11 Huron Perth schools register teams with another 4 from the South Western area. Annually, both Huron and Perth Stewardship Councils host (with partners) two training sessions; one focusing only on the Special Topic and another to train students about the four eco-stations. This preparation and effort pays off when keen and eager teams show up for the regional competition (this year hosted at Camp Sylvan, managed by the ABCA).

3) Ag & Water Festival

This innovative annual event is hosted at the Seaforth arena and Ag-plex. As the name suggests it involves both agricultural groups and environmental/water related groups. Two areas of interactive displays or hands on activities (agricultural and water displays) engage around 600 to 700 grade four students over a three day period. This event shows these young students that both agriculture and stewardship of our water resources work together to provide healthy water (ground or surface) for everyone.



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 2006/2007 we received \$9,385.00 as per the third year of a five year MOU processes started in 2004. This multi-year MOU simplifies financial and administrative processes through our Shared Services Branch of the Ontario Government.

This years MOU is ID- 7564-06/07-BF yr 3 of 5.



PSN Summary of Stewardship Achievements

Trees planted...	2,300
Wildlife habitat and forest managed...	260 Ha
• 209 Ha wildlife habitat	
• 40 Ha urban forest	
• 11 Ha rural woodlots	
NeighbourWoods trees inventoried...	~2,500
(by 10 volunteer investing over 685 hours)	
Volunteers involved in all projects...	153 people
Volunteer hours contributed...	2,627 hrs
Total partner contribution (in-kind & dollars)...	\$ 84,974
Partner's in-kind contribution (estimated value of time and materials)...	\$ 67,428
Alternative funding sources...	\$ 5,500





Perth Stewardship Network
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Tell someone... THEY FORGET.

Show someone... THEY REMEMBER.

Involve someone... THEY UNDERSTAND.

