



ANNUAL REPORT

2007 2008

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 continued support and committed involvement of our councilors is what makes projects advance towards completion. Again the same as last year I must say that their dedication to improving the environment cannot be put into words that compliment them enough.

Councilors continue to champion projects that are ongoing, but they have also been instrumental in conceiving and developing new projects focusing on additional tree planting areas. These tree planting projects are relative to addressing the present climate change initiative.

This year we also feel very good about working with the Perth Huron Chapter of the NWTf to initiate a Turkey Habitat Demonstration site just west of Mitchell.

2007 has been another productive year and we are striving to make 2008 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, fuel a consumer goods price increase for example seem to drive up the odds against allowing people more free time. Due to increased costs of traveling to spend their free time on volunteering for environmental projects people are more hesitant of commitments that require their time.

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?

A perfect example was the Youth Pheasant Hunt hosted at Hullett wildlife marsh that brought out well over 100 volunteers to assist with the 30 hunter apprentices that participated. This was the first large show of support by volunteers that made it a safe educational experience for potential future leaders.

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 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

Doug Cota

Don Jones

Geoff Neigh

Tony Jackson

Activity Highlights

As the Stewardship Coordinator working with the dedicated group of volunteers it brings me great pleasure every year to mention the many wonderful projects that they have been able to create and deliver within the Perth County stewardship area.

Although we had two Stewardship Councillors retire we are in a process to recruit some new members and already have several important leads and potential candidates targeted. We want to say a special “thank you” to both Norman Jefferson (a founding member) and to George Wicke and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Robin mentioned in his Chair’s Letter, some of the challenges we face when working with volunteers and variable societal and economic times. Although it could be perceived to limit participation, the reality is that we often do not have problems recruiting new members. We will continue our quest to find those special folks from our community that are interested in helping us continue our work.

Lastly, new Provincial OMNR directions have been influencing our future work plans! We have submitted a Species at Risk Stewardship Fund request relating to “Greening the Top of the Thames”. This might if approved expand our capabilities to work with rural landowners and farmers to help them get more trees in along municipal drainages located at the top of the Thames River watershed. Working relationships were formed with partners (including the UTRCA and Municipality of West Perth) and a local Nursery has been contacted to be able to deliver on this trees planting. This project and its design (both with a variety of public and private sector partners including local business) appears to



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
- 8/ Jean Reaney Tree Planting
- 9/ NWTf Turkey Habitat
Demonstration Site
- 13/ Sawyer Woodlot



PSN 2007/08 Projects

PROJECT TITLE	STATUS / LEVERAGE CATEGORY	PARTNERS	TOTAL FUNDING	IN-KIND
1/ West Perth Community Wetland	on going / 2	1, 2, 3, 4	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
2/ Local Outdoor Opportunity Partners (LOOP)	on going / 2	5	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
3/ NeighbourWoods	on going / 2	2, 6, 7, 8	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800
4/ Friends of Ellice Gadshill Swamps	on going / 2 / 3	9, 10, 11, 12, 13	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,000
5/ Trees for Tomorrow - Perth	on going / 1	5, 13, 14	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,325
6/ Trout Creek Conservation Club	on going / 2	5, 14	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
7/ Steinman Stream & Wildlife Habitat Rehabilitation	on going / 2	5, 14, 15, 16, 17	\$ 5,950	\$ 5,950
8/ Jean Reaney Tree Planting	new / 1	16, 18, 19, 20	\$ 2,526	\$ 2,526
9/ NWTf Turkey Habitat Demonstration Site	new / 2	5, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23	\$ 926	\$ 926
10/ Youth Involvement in Hunting	new / 1	5, 16, 23 to 60 (N= 37)	\$ 49,444	\$ 41,694
11/ Huron Perth and SW Regional Envirothon	on going / 2	37, 61, 62	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,000
12/ Huron Perth Agriculture and Water Festival	on going / 3	37, 63	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,850
13/ Sawyer Woodlot	on going / 3	64	\$ 500	\$ 500
14/ Science Fair Award - Perth	on going / 3	65	\$ 500	\$ 500
15/ PSN Scholarship	on going / 1	18	\$ 500	
16/ Community Environmental Leadership Program (CELP)	on going / 1	66	\$ 250	
TOTALS		N = 66 partners	\$ 150,671.00	\$ 92,171.00

Thanks to our Partners

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Ducks Unlimited -Barrie | 5 LOOP membership | 11 Stratford Rotary Club | 19 Bert Vorstenbosch |
| 2 Municipality of West Perth | 6 University of Toronto - Faculty of Forestry | 12 Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation | 20 Jean Reaney (landowner) |
| 3 Ontario Trillium Foundation | 7 West Perth - Core Working Group | 13 Upper Thames River Conservation Authority | 21 Mitchell Fish & Game Club |
| 4 West Perth - Wetland Sub-Committee | 8 West Perth - Energy & Environment Committee | 14 Trout Creek Conservation Club | 22 Luke Schoonderwoerd (landowner) |
| | 9 TD Friends of the Environment - Stratford | 15 Paul Steinman (landowner) | 23 Larry Wight |
| | 10 Friends of the Ellice Gadshill Swamps | 16 Huron Perth NWTf Chapter | 24 George Wicke |
| | | 17 Woodstock Scouts | 25 Jim Salisbury |
| | | 18 Mitchell District SS | 26 Akromold Goderich Ltd. |
| | | | 27 Bass Pro Shops |
| | | | 28 DS Printing |

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	#	# VOLUNTEER
		VOLUNTEERS	HRS
Intent was to implement infrastructure modifications. Not done as design modified and CoA approvals renewed.	S - community support F - 1000 trees	4	80
Continued support and new leadership development among membership	S - actively engaging many sportsmen clubs in broadening community projects F - 1000 trees FW - maintained 2 Ha habitat	1	40
Completed inventory & final report. Graduate student's completed "Mitchell Urban Forest Management Strategy"	S - greater community awareness of urban forest F - finished inventory and have report	15	332
Group has maintained directorship but also have started "Rail & Education Trail" as their main project	S - Functional group to help UTRCA manage this property	5	140
PSN supports Geoff Neigh in his leadership and working with partners to sustain this project	S - 25 students volunteer F - 300 seedlings available for planting out next spring FW - 400 m stream length planted.	3	33
PSN provide admin role and support for this group who with partners is continuing with water quality sampling	S - community support F - 1000 trees	3	40
Tree planting and FW habitat rehabilitation with community & partners	S - keeps groups active, F - 1000 trees FW - 400 m of Trout Creek	20	120
Envirothon team helped to plant trees at this rehabilitated MAPP site	S - local legacy project for high school envirothon team F - 400 trees planted FW - 3 acres habitat enhanced	16	70
Demonstration site to highlight positive stewardship of turkey habitat for landowners, local NWT Chapter is leading	S - new community partner F - designing planting scheme and partners FW - 5 acre area	3	25
Inaugural Youth Involvement in Hunting event, multi-partners lead shifting to Friends of Hullett	S - tremendous community support and volunteer engagement FW - 17 hunter instructors and support for the Ontario Hunter Education Program and Hunter Safety Apprentice program.	129	1330
Continued support, Special Topic Workshop and Facilitating the Oral Presentations at Regional Competition	S - 20 teams ~120 participants F & FW educational topics	6	160
Continued support running two activities, facilitating purchase of a new Fur Kit	S - ~720 Grade 4 participants FW - 2 educational activities	3	54
Continued support	S - membership actively manages the woodlot and promotes greater community awareness	0	0
No suitable candidate was found, attempted to coordinate an new approach	S --100 student projects	0	0
Awarded to Bret Reiss from Mitchell District, heading to FW Tech at Sir Sanford Fleming		0	0
General support for program	S - 20 students F & FW - a variety of projects related to these topics	0	0
		208	2424

- | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 29 Ducks Unlimited - c/o GRCA | 37 Huron Stewardship Council | 45 Ontario Gun Services | 54 YPH - Bird Handling & Placement | 62 Maitland Valley Conservation Authority |
| 30 Ellwood Epps Sporting Goods | 38 Huron Tractor Ltd. - Blyth | 46 Perth Cattlemen's Association | 55 YPH - Boodle Bags | 63 Huron Perth Agriculture and Water Festival |
| 31 Fred Buck Electric | 39 Lambton Conservation Association | 47 Perth Communications | 56 YPH - Dog Handlers & Dogs | 64 Sawyer Woodlot Preservation Association |
| 32 Friends of Hullett | 40 Luther Marsh Hunting Retriever Club | 48 Schneiders Auto Wrecking Ltd. | 57 YPH - Educational Binder | 65 Avon Maitland Dist. Sch. Bd. |
| 33 Hullett Youth Hunt Steering Committee | 41 Municipality of Central Huron | 49 Storey Apiaries | 58 YPH - Field Marshals | 66 Norwell District SS, Debbi Browning CELP Leader |
| 34 Hunter Instructors | 42 OFAH - Zone H | 50 TSC Stores - London & Stratford | 59 YPH - Lunch Volunteers | |
| 35 Huron Fish and Game Conservation Association | 43 OFAH - Zone J | 51 Tavistock Rod & Gun | 60 YPH - Presenters | |
| 36 Huron Perth Trappers Council | 44 OMNR - Clinton Area Office | 52 WKJ Sales | 61 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority | |
| | | 53 Wighty's Repair Service | | |

Activity Highlights cont'd

reflect the emerging way that the PSN can work with government, private landowners and Municipalities.

Another initiative started this year was the promotion and discussion about the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) typified by the Norfolk County pilot project. These discussions targeted local politicians and community leaders and intended to provide factual information and increase awareness in these people what ALUS is and what it can do for the future of keeping and enhancing the stewardship of our remaining natural areas and expanding the amount of green on our landscape.

The future stewardship of our Natural Resources is bright!

Ken Maronets

Stewardship Coordinator



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.

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 Gadshell 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

Chris Hart

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) West Perth Community Wetland

This very significant project has taken longer than anticipated to implement. As we wrap up the 2007/08 fiscal year, the partners continue to work with regulators to address concerns about Certificates of Approvals.

Because the abandoned sewage lagoons are closely linked to the existing sewage treatment plant, it is imperative that the design and layout considers future growth and development of the Municipality. Only by integrating an expanded emergency over flow lagoon while managing construction activities so as to optimize the use of on site aggregate materials can construction progress in not only a cost effective manner but in a logical manner.

Materials and supplies have been purchased and stock piled in preparation of earth moving and infrastructure modifications.

All the partners appreciate the generous support of the Trillium Foundation which has allowed this project to mature and move in an environmentally considerate fashion closer to completion.

Wetlands are an important natural feature to enhance on our Perth County landscape. We encourage everyone to be patient as the old adage says..."Good work takes time".

2) Steinman Creek Naturalization

The Steinman Property along a branch of Trout Creek in the southern most edge of Perth County represents one of those very special locations were concerned and considerate landowners are working with agencies and community groups to improve the conditions of this cold water stream.

Over 600 trees were planted along this visible section of the creek located between Tavistock and Harmony. The Woodstock Scouts, LOOP members as well as Perth Stewardship Network members all enjoyed a weekend tree planting effort to restore a more natural floodplain and create some wildlife habitat.

Future tree and shrub plantings will add to the diversity of species and stabilize stream banks,

all while looking great, as we follow the landscape design which recognizes meadow areas, lowers stream bank stabilization and clumps of native plants located along the twisting floodplain.

When community works with landowners, great things are possible over time.

3) Youth Pheasant Hunt

Dec1st 2007 represents a date that many supporters of future generations of resource users and stewards will not forget! Why? Well because, the first annual "Youth Involvement in Hunting" event was successfully and safely hosted at the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area.

An important lesson was learned from this event; "Kids and Outdoors = Fun!" and further to this, that young hunters are responsible and willingly want to learn more about being ethical, responsible and safe hunters. This event bridged the gap between hunter safety and teaching youth skills about wildlife and their habitats that will influence stewardship. A total of thirty (30) Hunter Apprentices participated with their mentor's guidance.

Thirty five (35) partners and sponsors contributed cash, materials and supplies and 120 volunteers invested 1243 hours which when combined totalled \$48,673.75 of in-kind and cash value. A truly amazing, yet very satisfying project for those involved. More information about this and future events is available on the Friends of Hullett web page www.hullettmarsh.org

The partners and organizers recognize that there needs to be a "future for hunting" and that our youth need to continue with this acceptable traditional activity.

Thanks to our many supporters and volunteers who have helped youth to start their personal journeys as they grow and mature following this hunting heritage towards future stewards of natural resources.

Financial Summary

PSN Summary of Stewardship Achievements



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 2007/2008 we received \$9,385.00 as per the fourth 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 year's MOU is ID- 7564-07/08-BF yr 4 of 5.

Trees planted...	3,400
Wildlife habitat and forest managed...	3 Ha
Volunteers involved in all projects...	208 people
Volunteer hours contributed...	2,424 hrs
Total partner contribution (in-kind & dollars)...	\$ 150,671.00
Partner's in-kind contribution (estimated value of time and materials)...	\$ 92,171.00
Alternative funding sources...	\$ 59,250.00





Perth Stewardship Network
c/o OMNR

PO Box 819
100 Don Street
Clinton, ON NoM 1Lo

ph 519 / 482-3589
fax 519 / 482-5031



Tell someone... THEY FORGET.

Show someone... THEY REMEMBER.

Involve someone... THEY UNDERSTAND.

