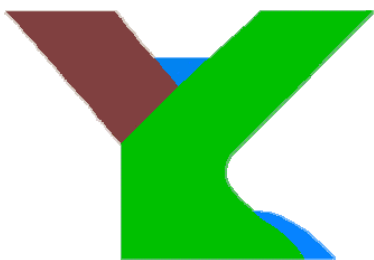


# York Environmental

# Stewardship

2009 Annual Report



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## Message from the Chair

As Chair for 2009, I am pleased to have the opportunity to comment on our council's initiatives. York Environmental Stewardship has involved a number of valued partnerships and individual efforts which are most worthy of recognition in this address. I would like to highlight two focus areas which have helped to define us this year as a working group. They are respectively youth involvement, and projects in and around the Lake Simcoe watershed.

With the Lake Simcoe clean-up being a significant provincial and federal priority, YES has focused a number of activities aimed at improving water quality in streams and rivers which will ultimately benefit the Lake. York Region's Adopt-a-Stream Crossing Program saw eight community and school groups in the Lake Simcoe watershed working together to enhance forest cover and habitat in riparian areas. A long standing commitment by council members with the Bogart Creek and Maskinonge River Recovery Projects, work with landowners and the public helped to put these river systems on a positive track. YES co-hosted three Lake Simcoe Stewardship Workshops and also presented a very well attended Pond Restoration Workshop at the Koffler Scientific Reserve in King Township in the fall. Our member driven Pefferlaw Family Fishing Derbies sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ice Fishing Derby which was attended by Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield. These events in 2009 helped anglers and community members better understand the importance of Lake Simcoe as a resource to be managed in perpetuity. In recognition of our efforts, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority presented YES with a, "Watershed Heroes Award", for riparian restoration work on the Eastern Creek Project in Newmarket. Our coordinator, Brian Peterkin also received a congratulatory letter from Julia Munro, MPP for York-Simcoe. All council members appreciate Brian's experience and leadership in moving stewardship forward in York Region.

This year's council included a youth representative to compliment our twelve voting members and three associate/agency participants. Projects supporting youth initiatives were extensive and some led the province in their scope and breadth. YES took a lead in leveraging partner funds for the very successful Ontario Stewardship Rangers Program and helped MNR Aurora District deliver the province's largest program with 9 crews across the GTA. This provided hands-on conservation education leadership and summer employment for 45 young people. YES hosted Envirothon at the York Regional Forest in partnership with the Ontario Forestry Association, York Region and Halton-Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship. YES also assisted Lake Simcoe Public School in achieving a Region wide, "Education Award 2009", presented by the LSRCA to the school for doing their part in maintaining the environmental health of the Lake Simcoe Watershed. In a rapidly changing urban environment like York Region, these young people someday may be our resource managers of the future.

I would also like to recognize and thank both Chris Gynan and Ken Ferdinands who left YES mid-year. Their volunteer contribution of over 10 years is greatly appreciated by all YES members and partners.

We understand only what we are taught and conserve that which we appreciate.  
Say "YES" to stewardship!

Dave Parrott

## 2009 Council Members

### **David Parrott (Chair)**

Town of Newmarket

### **John Hicks (Vice-chair)**

Town of Georgina

### **Ian Barrett (Past-chair)**

Township of King

### **Lorrie Mackness**

Town of East Gwillimbury

### **Rob Hare**

Town of Georgina

### **Paul Kirby**

Town of Georgina

### **Paul Thatcher**

Town of Georgina

### **Andrew Godfrey**

Town of Georgina

### **Chris Gyan**

Town of Georgina

### **Peter Schneiders**

Township of King

### **Pete Calverley**

Township of King

### **Doug Pegg**

Township of King

### **Jim Gosnell**

Town of Richmond Hill

### **Ken Ferdinands**

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

## Associate Members

*(non-voting)*

### **Jim Reeves**

Town of Georgina

### **Philip Davies/Christa Sharp**

Lake Simcoe Region

Conservation Authority

### **Mary Jane Moroz**

Toronto & Region Conservation

## Stewardship Coordinator

### **Brian Peterkin**

Ministry of Natural Resources

## Who We Are

York Environmental Stewardship (YES) is made up of volunteers from across York Region representing private landowners, conservation and resource agencies and associations, environmentalists and naturalists.

YES was established in 1995 by the Ministry of Natural Resources under the umbrella of "Ontario Stewardship". It is one of 46 "Stewardship Councils" located throughout the counties and regional municipalities of Southern Ontario with recent expansion into the north. The main goal of Ontario Stewardship is to influence positive resource management practices in Southern Ontario.

YES Council members are environmentally minded individuals who provide their time, interest, efforts, and skills to advance the responsible care of land and natural resources within York Region for the benefit of future generations. The Council members are dedicated to the wise use and management of forest, soil, and water resources. They represent landowners, land interests, and government and non-government agencies located throughout York Region. They volunteer their personal time to influence and promote good environmental stewardship opportunities for landowners and community citizens.

## YES Vision

Landowners and organizations in York Region working together to promote and accomplish the responsible care of land and natural resources for future generations.

## Our Slogan - "Say YES to Stewardship"

## Goals of Stewardship Council

1. Bring together and promote a partnership forum for communication and networking between landowners, landowner associations, land interests, resource associations, and resource agencies.
2. Focus on local environmental and resource management needs and endeavours.
3. Promote and support other agencies and organizations with similar resource management stewardship goals.
4. Promote sustainable resource management practices through educational information and workshops.
5. Participate with partners to implement on-the-ground demonstration projects which are of benefit to private landowners and communities.
6. Encourage and promote resource management education and participation of youth.

# York Environmental Stewardship (YES) Strategic Framework

## YES Vision Statement

Landowners and organizations in York Region working together to promote and accomplish the responsible care of land and natural resources for future generations.

## YES Mission Statement

York Environmental Stewardship (YES) is committed to the wise use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. YES will work actively with partners and will provide science based support to landowners and to community projects to heighten the awareness of a stewardship ethic and to support sound stewardship practises in York Region. YES will encourage the active participation of area residents and youth.

## YES Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles will be considered when planning YES activities:

1. YES will support projects which are aligned with the Council's vision and mission statements.
2. Projects undertaken will have a positive stewardship impact on land and the environment, will benefit York Region and be compatible with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources stewardship priorities/interests.
3. Projects will be achievable under current legislation and regulations.
4. Project will not duplicate or replace efforts of other community groups, agencies or associations.
5. Completed projects, where appropriate, will display recognition of YES and participating partners either in the form of press release(s), plaques or project material/documentation.
6. Projects will be demonstrative in nature and contribute to educating the public regarding stewardship.
7. Projects will serve as a catalyst for other projects.
8. Projects will have a community involvement component.
9. Projects will encourage and promote participation of students through collaboration with educational institutions and will involve local youth to encourage their role as York Region citizens and environmental policy makers of the future.
10. Projects will encourage and support agency co-operation and promote partnerships that influence beneficial stewardship practises on private and public lands.
11. Council projects may be initiated and led by individual members.
12. Projects may involve joint initiatives with neighbouring Stewardship Councils.
13. Landowner funded projects must be consistent with YES expectations and that participating landowners contribute a cash or in-kind contribution at least equal to the YES financial contribution.

## York Environmental Stewardship Highlights from 2009

### Partnership Projects

#### ***Adopt-a- Stream Crossing***

**Purpose:** To enhance forest cover and habitat around streams at York Regional road crossings and to provide hands-on education to senior public and high school level students regarding tree planting and stream restoration techniques

**Location:** Throughout York Region.

**Project History:** Pilot Projects 2001-2003; Trillium Application 2003-2004; Project Implementation initiated November 2005 (2 year Trillium Grant) and completed in fall 2007; York Region assumed lead for project in spring 2008.

**Partners:** York Region (lead); YES; York Region School Boards

**2009 Accomplishments:** Spring Plant – 137 participants; 7 schools + 1 group; planted 410 native trees/shrubs at 8 sites.

Fall plant - 187 participants; 6 schools + 3 community groups; planted 325 native trees/shrubs at 9 sites.

**2009 Project Funding:** York Region \$24,000; this project also involves a large in-kind contribution from all partners.



Students Participate in planting trees at two Adopt-a-Stream Crossing Sites in the Region

#### ***Bogart Creek Restoration***

**Purpose:** To increase community awareness and turn into action projects and communications initiatives which restore the water quality, wildlife habitat and natural heritage features of Bogart Creek. Major issues affecting the creek are untreated stormwater, barriers to fish migration, areas with lack of riparian cover, invasive vegetation, and garbage.

**Location:** Town of Newmarket

**Project History:** Restoration strategy initiated in late 2004. Implementation projects began in 2005 and accelerated in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

**Partners:** Bogart Creek Restoration Committee (lead); Town of Newmarket; LSRCA; LSRCF; YES; MNR; Bass Masters Aurora; Bogart Pond Condominium Residents Association; local community citizens.

**2009 Accomplishments:** Community tree & shrub planting; community stream clean-up; Bogart Creek Homeowners Guide distribution; Adopt-a-Stream Crossing plantings; Ontario Stewardship Rangers projects; aquatic management plan.

**2009 Project Funding:** Total approximately \$30,000, mainly through the Town of Newmarket and LSRCF. This project also involves a large in-kind contribution from all partners.

### ***Species at Risk – Butternut Monitoring and Recovery***

**Purpose:** To assess the health of butternut trees on private and public lands which are being killed by a fungal disease called butternut canker. Butternut is currently designated as an endangered species both under provincial and federal legislation and is at risk of becoming extirpated. The aim of the butternut project is to identify retainable trees which are resistant to the fungus and to identify potential seed bearing trees from retainable trees to support a nursery stock out-planting program.

**Location:** Simcoe and Dufferin Counties and Regional Municipalities of York, Peel and Halton.

**Project History:** Funding obtained in 2008 from the *Species at Risk Stewardship Fund* of the Ministry of Natural Resources to hire a forestry technician to undertake butternut assessments on both private and public land

**Partners:** Dufferin and South-Simcoe Stewardship Network (lead); North Simcoe Stewardship; Halton-Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship; YES; Forest Gene Conservation Association; Ministry of Natural Resources *Species at Risk Stewardship Fund*; Environment Canada *Habitat Stewardship Program*; private landowners

**2009 Accomplishments:** 132 butternut verified on 16 York Region sites. 47 trees were assessed and 35 declared retainable. 45+ verified dead. 3 trees will be monitored for health/seed. 271 seed collected. Initiation of grafting of trees onto walnut rootstock to assist in recovery efforts. Application has been made in 2010 for additional funding to continue the project.

**2009 Project Funding:** Total project cost \$65,000; YES contribution \$1,000; plus significant partner in-kind.



Left - Forest Technician Madelaine Danby undertakes butternut canker assessment

Right - A butternut showing severe affects of the canker

Photos courtesy of Greg Bales

### ***Species at Risk – Redside Dace***

**Purpose:** To assess stream habitat for future redside dace site rehabilitation on three watersheds in the GTA and to erect three signs for public education concerning the presence of redside dace, threats to the species, biological information and recovery goals. Redside dace is currently listed as endangered under provincial legislation.

**Locations:** Fourteen Mile Creek – Town of Oakville in Halton Region; East Don River – Town of Richmond Hill in York Region; Lynde Creek – Town of Whitby in Durham Region.

**Project History:** Funding obtained in 2008 from the *Species at Risk Stewardship Fund* of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the project assessments carried out by Ontario Streams staff biologists from September - November. Habitat assessments completed on 500 m. on Fourteen Mile Creek, 1000m. on the East Don River and 500 m. on Lynde Creek. A comprehensive report summarizes the findings and contains detailed rehabilitation plans for each respective reach in each watercourse.

**Partners:** YES (lead); Halton-Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship; Durham Land Stewardship Council; Ontario Streams; Ministry of Natural Resources *Species at Risk Stewardship Fund*.

**2009 Accomplishments:** Red-side dace awareness signs erected at 4 sites, 2 in York Region. Stream rehabilitation projects undertaken in summer by Ontario Streams with assistance from Ontario Stewardship Rangers.


**2009 Project Funding:** Significant in-kind partner contributions.

## Rouge River Watershed Redside Dace Recovery Project


This tributary to the Rouge River is a coldwater stream which supports a diverse fish community including brook trout, johnny darter, and reidside dace, a Species at Risk. Factors including urbanization and habitat degradation have eliminated reidside dace from many neighbouring streams found across the Oak Ridges Moraine and recovery efforts need to be taken to ensure we protect this species in the Rouge River and its tributaries. By adopting good land and water stewardship practices, volunteering at community cleanups and tree planting events, and reducing your ecological footprint you can help create a healthy environment for yourself and the reidside dace.

**Biology:** The colourful reidside dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*) is a small cyprinid (minnow family). The most distinguishing characteristics are its large eye and mouth and an orange or red band extending from the gill cover. Their preferred habitat is clear streams with a mix of pools and riffles and overhanging vegetation. A spring spawner, they seek out gravelly stream bottoms which they typically share with other minnow species. Reidside dace average 7.5 cm in length and have a 4 year lifespan.

**Range:** The reidside dace has a patchy distribution around the Great Lakes basin. In Ontario they are primarily found in streams flowing into Western Lake Ontario.








**What You Can Do:** Help improve and protect reidside dace habitat right in your own backyard. The main threats to reidside dace are the siltation of streams due to the erosion and the loss of habitat from vegetation removal. Reduce stormwater runoff by installing a rain barrel under your downspouts, and planting native trees and shrubs. Improve downstream water quality by using organic lawn fertilizers and de-icing alternatives to road salt. Protection and rehabilitation of riparian zones (streambanks) is critical. Avoiding the use of pesticides will help maintain a healthy insect population, a primary food source.




**Status:** The reidside dace is a Provincial and National Species at Risk. Projects to reverse its decline including environmental protection and restoration, research, and enhanced public awareness are required.

**Reidside Dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*)**  
Image courtesy of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

**Project partners:**

Assistance for this project was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.



One of the Redside Dace *Species at Risk* signs being erected on the Rouge River

### **Bulk Tree Order**

**Purpose:** To provide native trees and shrub seedlings at low cost bulk order price to landowners in York Region

**Location:** York Region Forest Headquarters

**Project History:** This was the third year for the seedling distribution program which took place on April 25<sup>th</sup> at York Region Forest Hq. YES members contribution involved sorting and distributing trees to participating landowners

**Partners:** Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (lead); York Region; YES

**2009 Accomplishments:** Approximately 2,800 seedlings were distributed to 17 landowners.

**2009 Project Funding:** Significant in-kind contribution from all partners to administer tree orders and sort on distribution day.

### ***VolunTrees***

**Purpose:** To provide volunteer groups the opportunity to plant trees provided at no cost by YES

**Location:** York Region

**Project History:** This was a pilot project initiated in 2009 resulting from requests for free trees by school and community groups for volunteer planting. YES developed the project eligibility criteria. Volunteer groups undertake their own site assessment, preparation and purchase of tree and shrub materials. YES provides a grant of up to \$400 per project.

**Partners:** YES (lead); Ontario Streams

**2009 Accomplishments:** 4 sites were planted – one school in Markham, one site in Richmond Hill and 2 sites in the Rouge River watershed. Ontario Streams undertook the site assessment and project planning for the Richmond Hill and Rouge sites. 600 native trees and shrubs were planted by a total of 130 volunteers.

**2009 Project Funding:** YES contribution \$1,600 (4 sites @ \$400); total project cost \$5,500 plus substantial organizational and volunteer in-kind

### ***Newbury Wetland Creation and Education Facility***

**Purpose:** To convert an existing soccer field and baseball diamond, which is constantly wet due to groundwater upwelling, into a multi-celled wetland with open water, shrubs and swamp wetland approximately one hectare in size. Native aquatic plants, trees, shrubs and wildlife habitat structures to be included

**Location:** Newbury Park-Rouge River Tributary, Town of Richmond Hill

**Project History:** Project planning, agency approvals and partnership fundraising in 2007; construction undertaken in 2008.

**Partners:** Ontario Streams (lead); MNR; Town of Richmond Hill; Rouge Park; Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, Wetland Habitat Fund; Shad Foundation, Evergreen Foundation; Eco Action; Shell Canada; YES; community and school volunteers

**2009 Accomplishments:** Spring tree planting to finish project

**2009 Project Funding:** YES contribution \$1,000

### ***Trumpeter Swan Nesting Platforms***

**Purpose:** To enhance nesting opportunities for trumpeter swans by constructing artificial nesting platforms and placing in ponds in York Region

**Location:** King Township; Aurora

**Project History:** This was the first year for this project which was led by YES council member Pete Calverley. Pete has worked closely with Harry Lumsden, Aurora landowner and foremost expert on trumpeter swan reintroduction to Ontario

**Partners:** YES (lead); Harry Lumsden; Ontario Stewardship Rangers

**2009 Accomplishments:** 4 nesting platforms were constructed and placed in ponds at King – Aurora locations

**2009 Project Funding:** \$1,500 for materials with in-kind contribution from Pete Calverley and Harry Lumsden and in-kind construction contribution from Ontario Stewardship Rangers.

YES installs trumpeter swan nesting platform at the Mackenzie Marsh in Aurora



### ***Red-shouldered Hawk Survey and Landowner Guide***

**Purpose:** To assess habitat of the red-shouldered hawk within Aurora District MNR and to complete a landowner guidebook which will assist landowners in identifying red-shouldered hawk and how to protect its wooded habitat

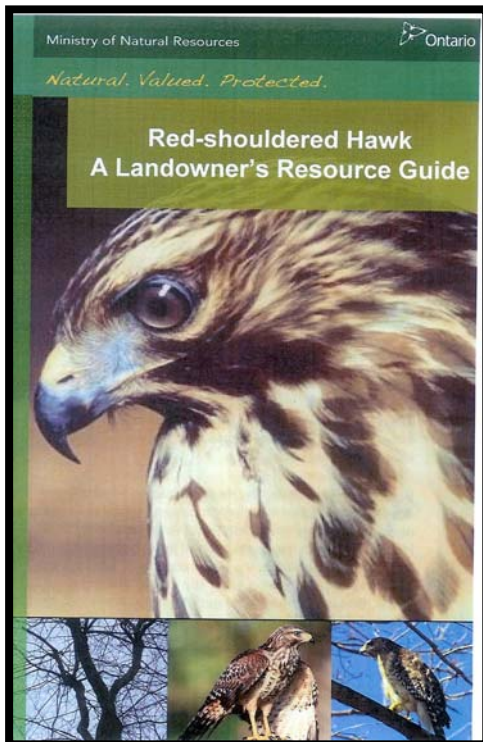
**Location:** Aurora District MNR - Durham, Halton, Peel & York Regions

**Project History:** This was a one-year assessment and report

**Partners:** MNR Aurora District (lead); YES; DLSC; HPWWS, TRCA & CLOCA (in-kind)

**2009 Accomplishments:** completion of the assessment and landowner guidebook

**2009 Project Funding:** Total cost \$43,000; YES Contribution \$1,100.



YES was a partner in the production of the Red-shouldered Hawk Landowner Resource Guide for Aurora District MNR

### ***Landowner/Community Information and Education***

#### ***Landowner Workshops***

**Purpose:** To provide York Region rural landowners and community residents information and education on a variety of resource management and conservation learning opportunities through workshops

**Location:** York Region (also joint workshops in Durham and Halton-Peel Regions)

**Project History:** Workshops have been a significant focus of YES activities since 1996

**Partners:** YES; DLSC; HPWWS; MNR (Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship Program); private landowners.

**2009 Accomplishments:** 6 YES hosted workshops provided: *Species at Risk* held by MNR SAR program in February at Newmarket Ray Twinney Centre – 12 attendees; *Butternut Assessment* held in June at York Regional Forest – 20 participants; *Tree Identification* held at the property of Bob & Mary James in Whitchurch-Stouffville – 25 attendees; *Pond Construction and Maintenance* in September conducted by YES member John Hicks at Koffler Scientific Reserve in King Tp. – 40 attendees; 2 *Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship* held in November at King Tp. Musuem and Mt. Albert Lions Hall – 17 attendees.

**2009 Project Funding:** Total YES/MNR funding \$1500; plus significant in-kind contribution from partners.



Landowner information at workshops and events is a priority focus for YES

### Stewardship Newsletter

**Purpose:** To create a stewardship newsletter for landowners, community groups and general public by providing a tabloid containing interesting and relevant information

**Location:** GTA and Oak Ridges Moraine

**Project History:** Initiated in 2007

**Partners:** HPWWS (lead); DLSC; YES; ORMF

**2009 Accomplishments:** 1 issue of stewardship newsletter distributed to approximately 6,000 landowners, conservation and municipal agencies across the GTA and select areas of the Oak Ridges Moraine

**2009 Project Funding:** Total printing cost \$4,000; YES contribution \$600. Significant in-kind contribution from Greg Bales, co-ordinator of HPWWS

Five editions of the Stewardship Newsletter were produced by stewardship councils in the GTA since 2008 with assistance from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation



### ***York Forest Festivals***

**Purpose:** To deliver spring and fall forest festivals at the various York Regional forests so the public can learn about and appreciate the many benefits which our forests provide such as, commercial timber products, recreation, improved water and air quality, and wildlife habitat. Several hundred people attend the events in April and September

**Location:** York Regional Forests – Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

**Project History:** Initiated 2003

**Partners:** York Region (lead); YES; many other local partners and businesses

**2009 Accomplishments:** Attendance of approximately 300 people per festival. Weather significantly influences attendance at this outdoor event.

**2009 YES Contribution:** YES attends and provides its display and information for landowners and community residents attending the festivals. YES also contributes a small amount of funding for snacks and refreshments.



YES has supported the spring and fall York Forest Festivals since 2003

### **Youth Initiatives**

#### ***2009 Ontario Stewardship Rangers***

**Purpose:** To provide 17 year old youth an opportunity to acquire hands-on work experience related to resource management and conservation. Rangers work on a variety of resource management and conservation projects on both public and private lands

**Location:** 9 crews operated out of MNR Aurora; Halton; Boyd Field Centre (TRCA); Newmarket; Brampton; Port Perry (ORM crew); Keswick (Lake Simcoe crew)

**Project History:** OSR operating in GTA since 2000. Number of teams varies significantly depending on MNR funding available and/or partner funding leveraged

**2009 Program Co-ordination:** YES (lead); DLSC; HPWWS; MNR Aurora District

**2009 Funding Partners:** LSRCA; TRCA; Conservation Halton; Credit Valley Conservation; Halton Region; York Region; City of Brampton; Town of Newmarket; Municipality of Clarington; Oak Ridges Trail Association; ORMF; OFAH -Zone G; Province of Ontario through MNR Youth Programs.

**2009 Accomplishments:** 173 projects completed with 47 partners including electro-fishing; stream restoration; trail construction and maintenance; wildlife habitat enhancement; aquatic and terrestrial planting; monitoring; invasive species removal; working trip to Algonquin Park. Work provided approximately 1700 person days. Partner awards ceremony held with partner representatives on final day.

**2009 Project Funding:** Total - \$277,000 (MNR - \$112,000; partners \$165,000); Significant in-kind contribution from 3 Stewardship Councils, MNR Aurora District and all partners involved in organizing, managing and supervising projects. YES, DLSC and HPWWS leveraged all partner funding. Total value of the program including cash and in-kind is valued at well over \$300,000.



Erosion control project on Little Rouge Creek



Native medicine wheel and garden at Heart Lake



Planting on river relocation project in Holland Marsh



Pruning and mulching young pine trees

### ***York-Halton-Peel Regional Envirothon Competition***

**Purpose:** To provide high school students (grades 9-12) an opportunity to compete in a curriculum based “environmental olympics”, focusing in the themes of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the 2009 presentation topic on *Biodiversity*. Each April, school teams consisting each of 5 students are treated to a 1 day training session by resource management experts and the 1 day competition. Winning team from this Regional Competition advanced to the 2009 provincial competition in St. George Ontario. Envirothon is a program of the Ontario Forestry Association (OFA).

**2009 Location:** York Regional Forest Headquarters in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

**Project History:** 2003-04 York Regional Forest Headquarters-Whitchurch-Stouffville; 2005 Second Marsh-Oshawa; 2006 Albion Hills–Town of Caledon; 2007 Lake St. George-Town of Richmond Hill; 2008 Silver Creek Conservation Area-Georgetown.

**2009 Program Co-ordination:** YES (lead); HPWWS

**2009 Partners:** OFA; HPWWS; YES; MNR Aurora District; York Region graciously provided Natures Classroom at the York Regional Forest for both the training and competition.

**2009 Accomplishments:** 8 teams (40 students) from 4 schools participated. MNR and York Region staff provided training and approximately 10 additional volunteers assisted in running the competition day. YES members John Hicks and Jim Gosnell have been veteran judges of the oral presentations since YES became involved in Envirothon.

**2009 Project Funding:** YES \$400; HPWWS \$400; York Region \$400; plus significant in-kind contribution from all partners involved in organizing, training and volunteering.



Envirothon training and competition day was a great success at York Region Forest Nature's Classroom

### ***Lake Simcoe Anchigamin Film Project***

**Purpose:** To engage teenage youth ages 14-19 to learn through film making about associated environmental, social, cultural and economic influences that effect the future of the Lake Simcoe Watershed. *Anchigamin* is a native word for *Change*

**Location:** Newmarket, Bradford, Orillia, Barrie and Georgina

**Project History:** New innovative project in 2009

**Partners:** Windfall Ecology Centre; Ladies of the Lake; LSRCA; Ontario Trillium Foundation; Ministry of the Environment's Go Green Program; MNR Lake Simcoe Stewardship Fund; YES; several municipalities and local businesses

**2009 Accomplishments:** 64 teenage kids made 16 films showcasing unique perspectives on the opportunities and challenges to keep Lake Simcoe and its surrounding watershed environment healthy

**2009 Project Funding:** total cost \$400,000 + significant in-kind; YES contribution \$2,500



An old Winnebago was converted into a film school for students to learn about making environmental films. 60 students took the summer course supported by many partners

### ***Pefferlaw Family Fishing Derbies***

**Purpose:** To provide youth an opportunity to discover the fun of fishing for a variety of Lake Simcoe fish, and at the same time catch the extremely invasive Round Goby for MNR laboratory analysis.

**Location:** Peninsula Resort, Pefferlaw River, Pefferlaw.

**Project History:** Summer derby held since July 2007. First winter ice fishing derby held in February 2009.

**2009 Partners:** Paul Kirby (YES member and lead organizer); Peninsula Resort; OFAH – Zone G; MNR; YES; & 30+ other local partners and prize donators.

**2009 Accomplishments:** Winter ice fishing derby attracted 107 participants (53 kids and 54 adults). Summer derby attracted 234 (122 kids and 112 adults).

Approximately 50+% of participants are local with the remainder coming mostly from areas closer to Toronto.

**2009 Project Funding:** Contributions from all partners including prizes and in-kind value of approximately \$20,000; YES contribution \$3,400 + in-kind.



YES is the major sponsor of the winter and summer *Take a Kid Fishing* events held at the Peninsula Resort on Lake Simcoe at the mouth of the Pefferlaw River.

## **Strategic Initiatives**

### ***Maskinonge River Recovery Project***

**Goal:** To develop a community action stewardship initiative for residents living in the Maskinonge River watershed. The catalyst for the project was due to low water levels and sections of the river going dry in summer 2007

**Location:** Maskinonge River watershed – Towns of East Gwillimbury & Georgina

**Project History:** Initiated in 2007 with preliminary development of a Maskinonge River Landowner Stewardship Guide (John Hicks-lead). Maskinonge River Recovery Project Committee initiated in 2008 with YES representatives Lorrie Mackness and John Hicks

**Partners:** LSRCA (lead); Save the Maskinonge; Federal Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund; YES

**2009 Accomplishments:** 1 stream flow improvement project at Boag Road; 1 streambank erosion control project; 2 riparian planting projects; 1 pilot vegetation restoration project at smelter site; stream cleanup of old tires; sale of 200 potted trees to watershed residents

**2009 YES Contribution:** Total projects cost - \$20,000; YES contribution of in-kind support of over 100 hours at 18 meetings and 10 events



YES member Lorrie Mackness doing a pilot project to restore vegetation on an old smelter site and works with Stewardship Rangers hauling tires from the Maskinonge River

### ***Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship Initiative***

**Purpose:** To develop an educational and incentive based community stewardship program within the Lake Simcoe Watershed as recommended in the policy provisions of the Provincial Lake Simcoe Protection Plan established under Lake Simcoe Conservation Act

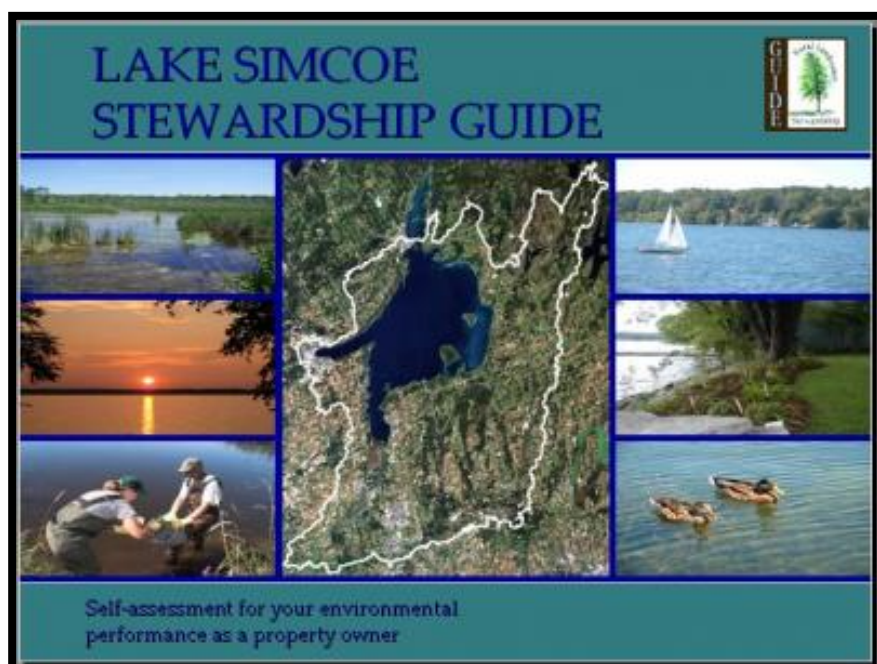
**Location:** Lake Simcoe Watershed including upper tier municipalities of York and Durham Regions, Simcoe and Victoria Counties

**Project History:** Project was initiated in 2008 as a component of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Act and Plan, and implementation of the community stewardship component was initiated in 2009 to compliment stewardship work of other Lake Simcoe watershed partners

**Partners:** MNR Aurora District (lead); MNR Midhurst District; YES; DLSC; DSSSN; NSS; and a multitude of partner and agencies and groups.

**2009 Accomplishments:** 10+ workshops promoting landowners to participate in completing the Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship Guidebook; 22 lakeshore and 1 riparian enhancement projects completed with numerous others in stages of planning for 2010 implementation.

**2009 Project Funding:** Total project cost \$280,000 cash + in-kind; YES contribution \$10,000 (from Ontario Stewardship Opportunities Fund on behalf of for stewardship councils around the Lake)



## **Promoting/Supporting Stewardship in 2009**

### **Communications**

YES continues to promote its projects and stewardship initiatives to landowners and the public through enhancing its communications efforts and promotional materials at workshops and special events.

YES also maintains an electronic landowner registry for York Region landowners interested in receiving stewardship related information and notices of upcoming events via e-mail. This initiative started in late 2002 and YES continues to add new landowners to the registry on an ongoing basis.

YES promoted and/or supported stewardship initiatives through attendance and participation in a number of events and activities during 2009 not specifically identified in the above report. Notable events included:

Feb 6	OFA Conference – Nottawasaga Inn
Feb 7	Maskinonge River Recovery project Open House - Queensville
Feb 20	Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship Partners Mtg – Aurora
Mar 2-3	Central Zone Ontario Stewardship Conference - Bancroft
Mar 27	Cottage Life Show – Mississauga
Mar 29	OFAH Zone G Annual Meeting – Islington Sportsmans Club - Caledon
Apr 29	Nature Conservancy Workshop – Happy Valley – King Tp.
May 9	Bogart Creek Restoration – Spring Plant in Newmarket
May 30	Seneca College Eco-fishing Day – Seneca King Campus
Jun 2-4	Ontario Stewardship Annual Conference
June 16	ORM Staff Development - King Tp.
June 22	Butternut Assessment Training Workshop – York Regional Forest
Aug 21	Ontario Stewardship Rangers Partner Awards - Aurora
Oct 5-6	Central Zone Ontario Stewardship Conference – Beaver Valley
Oct 22	ALUS Meeting – Rouge Park
Oct 28	Forest Health Review – Orillia
Nov 3	ORM Staff Development – Ganaraska Forest
Nov 12	Charles Sauriol Dinner
Nov 18-20	A.D. Latornell Conference – Nottawasaga Inn

### **Facilitating Partnerships**

In 2009, YES members and the coordinator continued to work with existing partners and to seek additional partners for future stewardship activities in the Region.

### **Development of Council Capacity**

In late 2008 and 2009, YES recruited 5 new members which has added a revitalized approach to several new initiatives. New members are Pete Calverley, Lorrie Mackness, Doug Pegg, Paul Kirby and Andrew Godfrey. Two long time members, Chris Gynan and Ken Ferdinands, resigned in 2009. YES will continue to provide training & development opportunities for YES members in an effort to maximize their appreciation and involvement in developing, promoting and assisting with stewardship projects and initiatives in York Region.

## **Acknowledgements**

YES would like to take this opportunity to thank all the partners and project participants for supporting Council in its activities in 2009. YES attributes its success in 2009 to the many partners who helped make our efforts possible.

Council gratefully acknowledges the staffing, financial and technical support provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources through the *Ontario Stewardship Program*.

Individuals requesting more information or interested in participating in YES initiatives and/or joining the council can check out the YES website at [www.ontariostewardship.org/councils/york](http://www.ontariostewardship.org/councils/york) or contact the YES Coordinator at:

### **York Environmental Stewardship**

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### **Abbreviations**

CLOCA	Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
DLSC	Durham Region Stewardship Council
DSSSN	Dufferin-South Simcoe Stewardship Network
HPWWS	Halton-Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship
LSRCA	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
LSRCF	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation
OFAH	Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
ORMF	Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
ORTA	Oak Ridges Trail Association
OS	Ontario Stewardship
OSOF	Ontario Stewardship Opportunities Fund
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
NCC	Nature Conservancy of Canada
NSS	North Simcoe Stewardship
TRCA	Toronto and Region Conservation
YES	York Environmental Stewardship