

York Environmental

Stewardship

2010 Annual Report

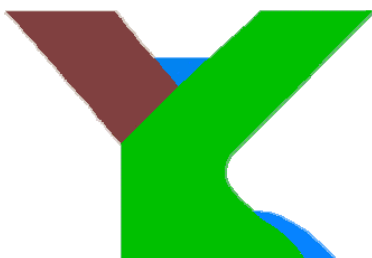


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Message from the Chair

York Environmental Stewardship has partnered in the development of very successful landscape level projects and events. The council appreciated the opportunity for open, two way dialogue and input during the Ontario Stewardship Council Review process in February and recently as Aurora District MNR conducts a restructuring exercise to define a new model of stewardship delivery within its jurisdiction. I would like to focus on these two forums as they appear to be defining us as a working group and setting a stage for future community connections.

The Ontario Stewardship YES council review provided momentum for our membership to take individual leadership and build a stronger stewardship network in 2010. With the Lake Simcoe clean-up continuing to be a significant provincial and federal priority, the deteriorating water quality and ground water concerns have been a focus of YES activities. Currently, one of our members stands as Chair of the Maskinonge River Recovery Project with other council members sharing a voice on the Bogart Creek Restoration Committee, all in support of the Lake Simcoe Network and their stewardship initiatives.

On a regional level, the council passed on all responsibilities associated with York Region's Adopt-A-Stream Crossing Project to the management of the Natural Heritage & Forestry Services Department. This project promotes community stewardship on our local streams and was initiated by YES volunteers.

In addition council has diversified its membership and is more inclusionary in participant activities. A 2nd Annual Winter and Summer Lake Simcoe Fishing Derby series helped to lend anglers from southern York Region communities a better understanding of Lake Simcoe as a resource. Also, one of our strongest areas of operation, the Ontario Stewardship Rangers established for the first time an aboriginal youth work crew on Georgina Island. Generally, the year 2010 saw projects moving from a coordinator led to a more council led style of participation in a variety of valued stewardship activities.

I speak for all members in wishing Brian a happy retirement. His special abilities and accomplishments during his tenure as Coordinator reflect his collaborative style and positive approach to stewardship. A full time coordinator is the glue holding council initiatives together and the most important asset the MNR can offer volunteer organizations. The financial, administrative and network capacity of Brian's leadership can not be underestimated as we await a response from our input to a new model of stewardship for the Aurora District for 2011.

Our future as a working group is unclear but our passion remains strong and committed in a time of financial constraint. As our membership changes and grows it is difficult to narrow our focus, but perhaps a more defined council priority is essential in these changing times. As necessity is the mother of invention, we reach out to new partners to assist YES in facilitating landowner education, youth initiatives and stewardship program delivery. Out of the box options have been designed and models shared to meet with the reality of MNR financial constraints.

The long term solution to vacant coordinator positions is not easy and creating unified opportunities with our MNR District Manager and Area Supervisor is paramount. Both Ontario Stewardship and the Aurora District are our long time valued partners in supporting stewardship in York Region, both financially and administratively. We need a collaborative model of stewardship in York Region to promote the responsible care of the land and natural resources for future generations.

We understand only what we are taught and conserve that which we appreciate.

Say "YES" to stewardship,

Dave Parrott,
Chairman, York Environmental Stewardship

Farewell Message from the Coordinator

In my 34 years working with MNR and Conservation Authorities, I can say without a doubt that the best aspect of the job was always the people and friends I had the pleasure to associate with. As far as the work itself, the highs were the satisfaction of being part of the many terrific programs and projects which achieved immediate and long term benefits on-the-ground. The lows were always that which got me mired in the bureaucratic reporting and excessive accountability requirements and which so many times left me feeling a sense that “how can anyone make something so complex and time consuming just to implement something so simple, practical and beneficial”.

Stewardship work has indeed been the high. From my early days with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, I was fortunate to work with landowners who were often innovators in their communities by participating in programs which took their valuable land out of production so they could create buffer strips along watercourses or install pasture pumps to keep their cattle from drinking in streams. Those of us implementing these programs were fortunate to always be learning new techniques and technologies to help landowners solve their land management problems. I learned very early to listen as most of these landowners were already good stewards and a compromising solution was often what resulted to achieve both our goals and those of the owner.

In 1989 I jumped into the bureaucratic jungle of gigantic MNR policy and procedure manuals. I would not have survived this work had it not been for the support and friendship of my compatriots in both the Ministry and conservation authorities. I was able to make the work tolerable, and even somewhat fun, usually by laughing with folks about the ridiculous rules we were supposed to employ and then trying to find a practical, yet still legal way, to get things done and always being, “oh so accountable to the taxpayer”.

Just when I was sole searching for a new line of work, I had the opportunity in 1995 to get into the brand new Ontario Stewardship Program which developed during the time of the Mike Harris cuts. Albeit initially a short one year stint due to my square classification not fitting into the right round hole, I was able to come back permanently in 2000. This gave me the opportunity to start my second stewardship council, which was the much need transition I needed from being a bureaucrat to working directly with landowners and other stewardship people who just wanted to see good things happen on the ground.

My strength has been a good people person coupled with pretty decent organizational skills. I have never been an expert at any one discipline, but found through questioning, listening and ultimately learning from those who are experts, was able to successfully direct and maintain a Council which has accomplished many excellent projects. Of all the projects I was able to lead, I am most proud of the partnerships developed which enabled Aurora District to greatly expand our Ontario Stewardship Rangers program, which I know helped many young 17 year old Rangers gain a new respect for nature and contemplate a potential future in the environmental field.

Both the Halton-Peel Council (2000-2002) and members of York Environmental Stewardship (2002-present) have been a terrific bunch to work with and made my job rewarding, relatively easy and fun. My colleagues in the MNR Aurora District office have, without a doubt, been the best staff anyone could ask to be a part of. I will miss all these people who I have had the pleasure of working and partying with but am looking so forward to embarking on my next great adventures. I hope stewardship remains a high priority for MNR as it leverages such great results for such a small financial input.

Stay healthy and well,

Brian Peterkin
Stewardship Coordinator

2010 Council Members

David Parrott (Chair)

Town of Newmarket

John Hicks (Vice-chair)

Town of Georgina

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

Pete Calverley

Township of King

Doug Pegg

Township of King

Barb Davies (Joined June)

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Jeff McNeice (Joined October)

Town of Newmarket

Associate Members

(non-voting)

Jim Reeves

Town of Georgina

Lori McLean/Christa Sharp

Lake Simcoe Region

Conservation Authority

Mary Jane Moroz

Toronto & Region Conservation

Stewardship Coordinator

Brian Peterkin

Ministry of Natural Resources

2010 Resignations

Ian Barrett

Jim Gosnell

Peter Schneiders

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 2010

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

2010 Accomplishments: Spring Plant – 84 participants; 3 schools + 2 groups; planted 782 native trees/shrubs at 5 sites.

Fall plant - 91 participants; 3 schools + 1 community group; planted 253 native trees/shrubs at 4 sites.

2010 Project Funding: York Region \$20,000; 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 led by community volunteers from in 2006-2010.

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

2010 Accomplishments: spring and fall community tree & shrub planting; Adopt-a-Stream Crossing plantings; aquatic planting at Magna Pond; community stream clean-up as part of Great Canadian Clean-up; fish stocking at Bruce Lindsay Pond; earth day -70 bird nesting boxes; Ontario Stewardship Rangers projects.

2010 Project Funding: YES contribution - \$1,000 for trees & shrubs. Total approximately \$30,000, mainly through the Town of Newmarket and LSRCF. This project also involves a large in-kind contribution from all partners and some 300 volunteer hours.

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.

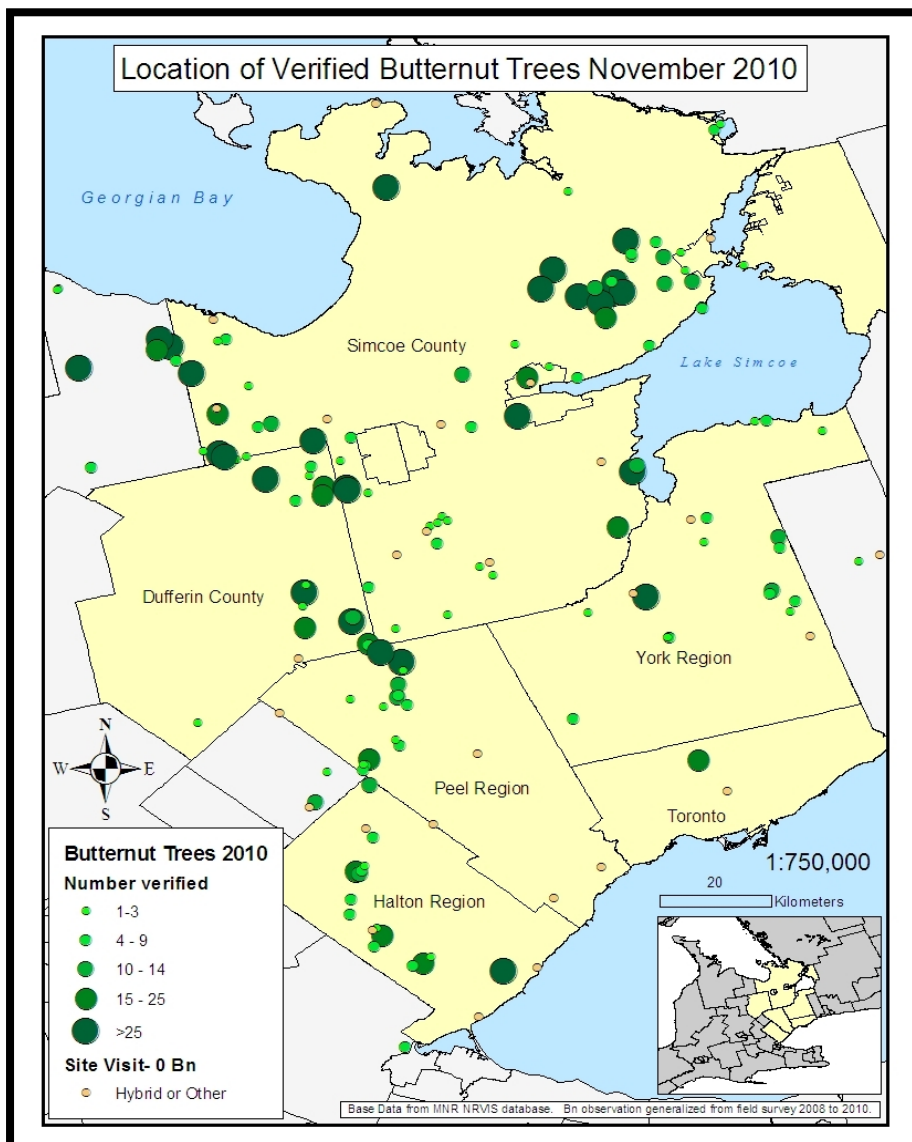
Location: Simcoe and Dufferin Counties and Regional Municipalities of York, Peel and Halton.

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

2010 Accomplishments: In total study area, 27 new sites visited, 50 site re-visits, 582 new Bn verified, 467 new individual trees assessed, 126 new retainable trees identified. Total of 158 trees grafted onto black walnut root stock by Mar 2010 with 109 surviving. DNA testing done on 15 Bn which showed 5 as pure native Bn, 7 hybrids, 3 no results. Application has been made in 2011 for additional funding to continue the project.

2010 Project Funding: Total project cost \$65,000; YES contribution \$1,000; plus significant partner in-kind.



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 25th 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

2010 Accomplishments: Approximately 3,500 seedlings were distributed to 25 landowners.

2010 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. 4 sites were planted in 2009 with 600 trees & shrubs planted by 130 volunteers

Partners: YES (lead); Ontario Streams

2010 Accomplishments: 1 site was planted – church property in Holland Landing. 8 volunteers involved. The relatively new program was underutilized in 2010.

2010 Project Funding: YES contribution \$300



YES Chair Dave Parrott leads a group of VolunTrees planters

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: 2009 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

2010 Accomplishments: 1 new platform was installed in Aurora. Ontario Stewardship Rangers introduced to newly hatched signets at Pete Calverley's property in July.

2010 Project Funding: In-kind contribution from Pete Calverley and Harry Lumsden

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.

2010 Accomplishments:

8 Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship workshops in York Region. 113 landowners attended.

2010 Project Funding:

YES contribution \$100 plus significant in-kind contribution from all partners.



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

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

2010 Accomplishments: Attendance of approximately 300 people per festival. Weather significantly influences attendance at this outdoor event.

2010 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

2010 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: 6 crews operated out of MNR Aurora (including Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship(3)), Newmarket (1); Georgina (1) and Brampton (1)

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

2010 Program Co-ordination: YES (lead); DLSC; HPWWS; MNR Aurora District

2010 Funding Partners: TRCA; Halton Region; York Region; City of Brampton; Town of Newmarket; Town of Aurora, Town of East Gwillimbury; Municipality of Clarington; Chippewas of Georgina First Nation; OFAH -Zone G; Lake Simcoe SCommunity Stewardship Program; Province of Ontario through MNR Youth Programs.

2010 Accomplishments: Over 100 projects completed with 35 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 1100 person days. OSR also adopted 2 foreign exchange students from France. Partner awards ceremony held with partner representatives on final day.

2010 Project Funding: Cash Total - \$200,000 (MNR - \$90,000; partners \$110,000); Significant in-kind contribution from 3 Stewardship Councils, MNR Aurora District; Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship Program and all other 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 approximately \$250,000.



2010 OS Rangers at Algonquin Park

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 2010 presentation topic on *groundwater*. 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 2010 provincial competition in St. George Ontario. Envirothon is a program of the Ontario Forestry Association (OFA).

2010 Location: Albion Hills Conservation Area – Palgrave – Region of Peel

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 York Region Forest Hq.

2010 Program Co-ordination: HPWWS (lead); YES

2010 Partners: OFA; HPWWS; YES; MNR Aurora District; York Region Natural Heritage & Forestry; Toronto & Region Conservation graciously provided Albion Hills for both the training and competition.

2010 Accomplishments: 6 teams (30 students) from 4 schools participated. MNR, TRCA 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.

2010 Project Funding: YES \$350; HPWWS \$350; plus significant in-kind contribution from all partners involved in organizing, training and volunteering.



Envirothon training and competition day was a great success at Albion Hills Conservation Area

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.

2010 Partners: Paul Kirby (YES member and lead organizer); Peninsula Resort; OFAH – Zone G; MNR; YES; & 30+ other local partners and prize donators.

2010 Accomplishments: Winter ice fishing derby attracted 27 families (115 participants including 60 kids and 55 adults).

Summer derby attracted 74 families (282 participants including 153 kids and 129 adults). Approximately 50+% of participants are local with the remainder coming mostly from municipalities closer to Toronto.

2010 Project Funding: Contributions from all partners including prizes and in-kind value of approximately \$20,000; YES contribution \$4,450 + 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. In 2010 Lorrie continued as a regular participant and chair of the public committee, now in Phase3 - Implementation for 2010 and 2011.

Partners: LSRCA (lead); Save the Maskinonge; Federal Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund; YES; MNR, Towns of Georgina and East Gwillimbury.

2010 Accomplishments: 2 riparian plantings; 1 streambank erosion control project on 8 sites; 3 public/promo events; 1 Butterfly Garden, Plant Rescue (20 Net Person weeks + volunteers), 2 turtle mounds; YellowFish Road (2 classes); 1 Barrier removal; 1 Sod Producer Pilot; sale of 200 potted trees to watershed residents

2010 YES Contribution: Total projects cost \$115,000 plus in-kind value of \$30,000; YES contribution \$3,000 plus in-kind support of over 145 hours at 30 meetings and 8 events



Left : Public Committee Chair Lorrie Mackness with Federal MP Peter Van Loan, Georgina Mayor Robert Grossi and Maskinonge Coordinator Andee Pelan (LSRCA) at September "Paddle Up the Maskinonge" event

Right: Erosion control project using boulders to stabilize private land along 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

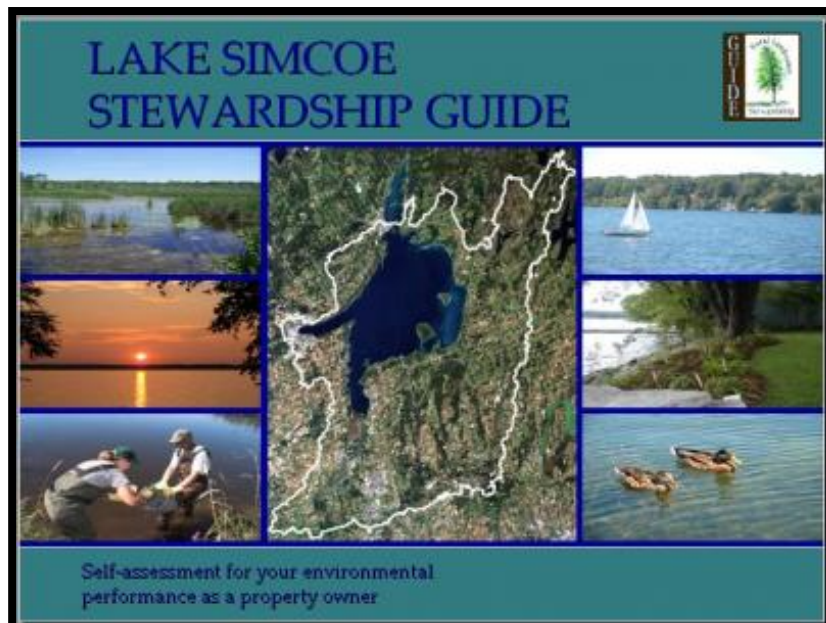
Location: Lake Simcoe Watershed including upper tier municipalities of York and Durham Regions, Simcoe and Victoria Counties

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.

2010 Accomplishments: 8 community workshops in York Region promoting landowners to participate in completing the Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship Guidebook – workshops held in Aurora (2), Pefferlaw (2), Keswick, Holland Landing, Stouffville and Schomberg with a total of 113 participants; tree planting; shoreline restoration; youth program Ontario Stewardship Rangers projects

2010 Project Funding: Total project cost in Lake Simcoe Watershed \$2.6 million cash + in-kind; YES contribution in-kind



YES was a partner with 8 Lake Simcoe Community Workshops in York Region which utilized this guide as a self-help tool for implementing restoration projects

Aurora District Stewardship Strategy

Purpose: To review stewardship delivery in Aurora District

Location: York, Durham and Halton-Peel Regions

Project History: This was initiated by Aurora District due to a funding pressure respecting filling the Durham Land Stewardship Council coordinator and the impending retirement of the YES coordinator

Partners: YES, DLSC, HPWWS, MNR Aurora District (lead), Ontario Stewardship

2010 Accomplishments: Strategy was completed with assistance from Ontario Stewardship staff and a transition plan is scheduled for 2011

2010 Project Funding: In-kind contribution from all 3 stewardship councils

Promoting/Supporting Stewardship in 2010

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:

Jan 20	York Region Grasslands Mtg – York Region Forest Hq.
Feb 5	OFA Conference – Nottawasaga Inn
Mar 2-3	Central Zone Ontario Stewardship Conference - Bancroft
Mar 26	Cottage Life Show – OS Display Booth – Mississauga
Mar 29	OFAH Zone G Annual Meeting – Islington Sportsmans Club - Caledon
Apr 8	Lake Simcoe Community Stewardship Partners Mtg – Aurora
Apr 20	York Environmental Fair – York Region Hq. – Newmarket
Apr 22	Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Earth Day Celebration
May 2	Bogart Creek Earth day Planting – Spring Plant in Newmarket
Jun 1-3	Ontario Stewardship Annual Conference
Jun 24	Thane Smelter Meeting and Workshop – Town of Georgina
Aug 20	Aboriginal Day for OS Rangers – Georgina Island First Nation
Aug 27	Ontario Stewardship Rangers Partner Awards – Aurora
Sep 18	Up The Maskinonge River Paddle - Keswick
Oct 7-8	Central Zone Ontario Stewardship Conference – Barrie
Oct 28	Forest Health Review – Orillia
Nov 24	Seneca College Lunch and Learn – King Campus
Nov 17-19	A.D. Latornell Conference – Nottawasaga Inn

Facilitating Partnerships

In 2010, 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 2010 YES recruited 2 new members which continues to add a revitalized approach to several new initiatives as YES has now recruited 7 new members in the past two years. New 2010 members are Barb Davies, who is employed with the Rouge Park, and Jeff McNeice, a fisheries biologist who resides in Newmarket. Three long time members, Ian Barrett, Jim Gosnell, and Peter Schneiders resigned in 2010. 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.

2010 YES – OS Review

In February, Ministry of Natural Resources staff from Ontario Stewardship and the Aurora District office met with YES Chair, Vice Chair, 4 members and the coordinator to undertake a review. The Ontario Stewardship program governance structure requires that up to ten council reviews be completed annually. Council reviews are a tool to be used by councils, coordinators, MNR districts and OS to aid in OS program delivery and success.

Council Review Purpose is to:

1. Discuss, assess and review council activities, with regard to process, projects and partnerships;
2. Aid in building a stronger stewardship network at the local, regional and provincial level through 2-way dialogue, program improvement and future direction; and
3. Review the concerns, suggestions and objectives of each council.

YES Council Review Overview (excerpt from the report)

The review panel and 7 members of YES met at Jonathan's Mediterranean restaurant in Aurora for lunch and afterwards proceeded to MNR's Aurora District Office for a Council highlights presentation and the council review itself. The review panel greatly appreciated the opportunity to have a high level overview of the impressive projects and initiatives that YES has been and continues to be involved with in York Region. This presentation set the stage for what proceeded to be a very informative, conversational and productive council review.

The review panel was extremely pleased with the open dialogue and discussion that was shared by all Council members present. The intent of the council review process is to encourage open communication between OS, MNR and councils and this YES review certainly proved that the process works. The review panel appreciated the frank and constructive suggestions and comments from Council members and looks forward to addressing the recommendations aimed at OS and MNR improvements to aid in Council operations and success. Much was learned about YES including the number of projects and activities that YES has initiated and supported over the years that have now become entrenched within the community.

It is clear that YES has much to be proud of and has the capacity to continue to build momentum, excitement and knowledge surrounding the restoration, protection and enhancement of Ontario's natural resources.

Acknowledgements

YES would like to take this opportunity to thank all the partners and project participants for supporting Council in its activities in 2010. YES attributes its success in 2010 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 or contact the YES Coordinator at:

York Environmental Stewardship

**c/o Ministry of Natural Resources Aurora District
50 Bloomington Road, Aurora, ON L4G 0L8**

Stewardship Coordinator - Brian Peterkin

Tel. (905) 713-7732 Fax (905) 713-7361

e-mail: brian.peterkin@ontario.ca

website: www.ontariostewardship.org/councils/york

Abbreviations

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
LSCUF	Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund
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