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Environmental
Stewardship
Pickering



Summer 2013 ESP e-newsletter

Environmental Stewardship Pickering has had a busy year! We are coming to the end, however, we still have quite a few exciting events. Please see the sidebar in this e-newsletter for upcoming events or visit our new website for more details!

www.trca.on.ca/esp

Mark your Calendar for the ESP Environmental Leadership Forum!

Environmental Stewardship Pickering is hosting the 5th Annual Environmental Leadership Forum on October, 5th, 2013. We have an exciting day planned starting with the Toronto Wildlife Centre! Come and meet your wild neighbours, learn more about wildlife-related issues and help to promote a peaceful co-existence with wildlife.



After this exciting keynote address by Toronto Wildlife Centre, there will be the option to remain at the Pickering Civic Complex to take part in an indoor session by Ontario Specialized Species Centre or get on a bus to explore one of two areas of interest in Pickering.

One excursion will be to Frenchman's Bay Progress Park to discover and learn about the unique history and future restoration plans for the bay. Archival materials from the Pickering Public Library's Local History Room will highlight the Bay's role as a constant hub of economic activity and recreation over the past several hundred years. Toronto Region Conservation Authority staff will introduce you to Frenchman's Bay unique natural environment. The bay's sandy beaches, coastal wetlands, and wooded shores, as well as its open water, provide habitat for many different animals, birds, fish and plants. The Bay has been an attraction to naturalists and sportspersons alike. Representatives of the local yacht and canoe clubs will provide an oversight of the past and present water sports that call the bay their home.

The second bus exploration will start indoors learning the basics of nature photography. Then, to put those new skills

Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Millennium Square, Pickering. At the bottom of Liverpool Road South.

Help keep our waters healthy for everyone. Join the City of Pickering and the TRCA in participating in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. Gloves, Litter Bags and Snacks will be provided. For more information, please email jestamant@pickering.ca

Please register at the [Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up website](#).

Pickering Blooms Garden Gala & Gorgeous Gardens Fall Edition

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall, One The Esplanade, Pickering, ON L1V 6K7

Annual celebration of Pickering Blooms participants. Event to include presentation by perennial favourite Ken Brown, suburban garden guru, on "Your Winter Garden" and "Tips on Creating an Award Winning Garden". Attendees will take a visual tour of Pickering Blooms 2013 winning gardens and witness the presentation of the Gardens of Distinction awards.

to test, we will travel by bus to Millennium Square and explore the Hydro Marsh and the Lake Ontario shoreline with Max Skwarna, photography expert, to look for that perfect nature shot!

If bus tours are not your thing, stay at the Picking Civic Complex to learn about one of our most interesting nocturnal creatures – bats! Touch a live bat's wing or look into the eyes of an owl while learning about the intricate relationships between animals, humans and their habitats. Ontario Specialized Species Centre will share their expertise on Species at Risk, and how we can help to protect them.

We think this year's Environmental Leadership Forum will provide a hands-on, experiential opportunity for participants both indoors and outdoors. We are looking forward to meeting some live animals and getting outside to experience some of Pickering's great parks and facilities! We hope you to see you there!

All of the information can be found in the event sidebar of this e-newsletter or online at www.environmentalstewardshippickering.eventbrite.ca

Celebrating Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood Groups throughout Pickering are on a journey to make their households and community more sustainable. Under the City's new Celebrating Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program, groups have been completing activities within their community that align with the City's sustainability objectives for a chance at winning \$10,000 in community enhancements. Touching on the subjects of healthy environments, healthy economy, healthy society, responsible development and responsible consumption, residents and businesses are showing us what a sustainable community truly means to them.

Are you involved in initiatives that could already qualify you for the program? Contact us to find out or to register your group today.

See what the neighbourhood groups have been up to so far (link to <http://www.pickeringlca/en/living/NeighbourhoodGroups.asp>)

Get involved! Visit pickering.ca/sustainability for more information, or contact sustainability@pickering.ca

Please [fill out the registration form](#), or call 905.683.7575

Environmental Leadership Forum

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2013

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall, One The Esplanade, Pickering, ON L1V 6K7

Are you interested in environmental stewardship activities? Whether you are just starting out, or have been active for years, there's something for you at the 5th Annual Environmental Leadership Forum. Join us for a Free day of workshops, outdoor session, and networking. This years Keynote speakers are from the Toronto Wildlife Centre. Lunch will be provided.

[Please register today!](#)

Take Pride in Pickering - Tree Planting

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Alex Robertson Park, Pickering

Join Ontario Power Generation, Toronto and Region Conservation and the City of Pickering for a fun morning of tree planting to create natural habitat for birds and mammals. Bring shovels and gloves if you have them.

Frenchman's Bay Harbour Entrance Reconstruction Project

The Frenchman's Bay Harbour Entrance Project will result in the creation of a safe harbour entrance that supports the marine functions of the bay, while preserving or enhancing the ecological conditions of the bay. The project also includes opportunities for improved public amenities, waterfront access, and trails. This project is an integral part of the City of Pickering's overall commitment to make the Pickering Waterfront a place that achieves a wide range of objectives including public use and recreation, environmental sustainability, enhanced tourism opportunities and commercial linkages.



Reconstruction on the Harbour entrance began this winter, with a lot of progress seen over the summer months!

In June approximately 7,900 tonnes of gabion stone and 2,500 tonnes of rip rap were transported to the east spit with the use of a tug boat and two barges. In addition, over 4,000 tonnes of rip rap was delivered for use on the west breakwater. The tug boat and barges work so smoothly that there is no impediment to boats entering or leaving the bay.

In July, 2,591 tonnes of small armourstone and 1,025 tonnes of larger armourstone were delivered to the site to complete shoreline armouring along 201 metres of the west breakwater. In addition to the delivery of 1,621 tonnes of rip rap for the west breakwater, 3,321 tonnes of rip rap was delivered and transported via barge over to the east breakwater.

August was another busy month on the waterfront and the new breakwaters are really starting to take form. The delivery of aggregate material continued for the east and west breakwaters with the barge making an average of 10 trips a day across the channel.

Excavation of the remaining old stone cribs continues as park visitors can easily tell by the large stockpiles of stones and wood timbers on both sides of the channel. All the stones will be reused to create fish habitat on-site while the timbers will be recycled off-site.

If you would like a monthly construction update about the harbour entrance, please visit the [TRCA website to subscribe to the e-newsletter.](#)

For further information on this project, please contact:

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New TRCA Greening your Grounds Guide

A summer of big storms and more frequent floods has a lot of homeowners wondering about water. Water on your property can cause serious damage, but it can also be integrated into your landscaping to help the environment, save you money and look fantastic! Toronto and Region Conservation has developed a new resource, Greening Your Grounds: A Homeowners Guide to Stormwater Landscaping Projects, to help you make the most of the water that falls on your property.



One of the factors contributing to extreme flooding events is the large amount of water outfall from residential properties. Due to the large number of homes, driveways and roads in residential areas, most of the heavy rainfall and spring melt runs into storm drains and directly into local creeks, rivers, and streams. The Greening Your Grounds Guide explains how rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable pavement and other storm water technologies work to conserve and clean fresh water where it lands – on our properties. The guide provides step-by-step instructions for all sorts of projects – from simple downspout disconnections to complex and beautiful rain gardens!

Property owners across the GTA are catching onto this new landscaping trend with storm water projects popping up all over the place. Take a look around your neighbourhood; see how many rain barrels you spot, or rain garden in action. The reason for this new trend depends on who you ask – some homeowners install a rain barrel to cut back on outdoor watering costs, some convert their lawn into a rain garden so they can retire their mower, and some install a soakaway to deal with flooding in a low lying area of their yard. One great thing all the projects have in common – cleaning and conserving our local water supply!

To find out more about greening your grounds or to buy a copy of the guide, contact:

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FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:
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