

**FURTHER TO BUSINESS EXCELLENCE ADVISORY BOARD #7/07**  
**To be held Friday, December 7, 2007**

**Pages**

**FURTHER TO:**

**8. SECTION IV - ITEMS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD**

**ITEM 8.2 - LISTED ON AGENDA AS REPORT TO FOLLOW**

**8.2 GOOD NEWS STORIES**

Highlights of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Work

81-84

## Item 8.2

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Business Excellence Advisory Board  
Meeting #7/07, December 7, 2007

**FROM:** James W. Dillane, Director, Finance and Business Services

**RE:** **GOOD NEWS STORIES**  
Highlights of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Work

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### KEY ISSUE

Receipt of Good News Stories for October and November, 2007, from all sections of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

### RECOMMENDATION

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the report on "Good News Stories" for October and November, 2007, be received.**

### BACKGROUND

Management Team, a committee made up of senior staff at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), meets monthly to discuss strategic initiatives and organizational development.

### RATIONALE

Key accomplishments of each TRCA section are highlighted at each Management Team meeting. In keeping with TRCA's objective of Business Excellence, these accomplishments will be brought to each Business Excellence Advisory Board for the information of the members. The following are the accomplishments cited from October and November, 2007, and a brief description of each.

- **EcoAction** - Received \$105,000 from EcoAction for 2 new two-year stewardship programs starting in January 2008 at Port Union Park and the Headwaters of Petticoat Creek.
- **LEED for Neighborhoods** - TRCA's Senior Manager, Water and Energy Management, is chairing the Water & Ecology Subcommittee for the development of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Neighborhoods in Canada.
- **Trails** - York Region is contributing \$87,000 to connect inter-regional Humber trail to Rutherford Road in Granger Greenway and \$18,000 for trail work in the Bartley Smith Greenway; part of the Don watershed.
- **Planning and Development** - Toronto City Council overturned community council recommendation and denied the development application for Roundtree Mill Road in Etobicoke.

- **Solar Photovoltaic Array** - A 2.5 kW solar photovoltaic array has been installed at the Restoration Services Centre as part of the energy efficiency initiatives associated with this LEED building program. On completion, the grid-tied solar panel array is expected to generate approximately 8 percent of the building's projected electrical consumption. The electrical power will be utilized as it is generated to energize the various systems within the building. This initiative is a further demonstration of a sustainable technology that is readily available and easily adaptable to other building projects and shows TRCA's ongoing commitment to showcase and promote renewable energy sources and efficient designs.
- **Standard Offer Contract** - Ontario Power Authority (OPA) has extended a Standard Offer Contract (SOC) to TRCA for the electrical power that it will produce at the Restoration Services Centre. The solar photovoltaic array is expected to generate approximately 3600 kWh per year that will produce an electricity savings within the local hydro grid. Through the SOC, OPA provides an ongoing incentive payment to TRCA for \$0.42 per kWh produced over the life of the agreement.
- **Dog-strangling Vine** - The terrestrial monitoring group has completed a review of the distribution, ecology and control of Dog-strangling vine (an invasive exotic plant). Dog-strangling vine (DSV) is considered to be one of the most invasive plants of Southern Ontario and is having major impacts on native terrestrial biodiversity. This review was funded by the Rouge Park Alliance in an effort to improve success of habitat restoration in the Rouge Park, where this species has gained a strong foothold. The results of the review highlight the need for ongoing monitoring of our watersheds to track the distribution of DSV, and to identify vulnerable areas where the spread is likely to occur. This monitoring information is important as it will help us target removal efforts as part of restoration and land management planning within our watersheds.
- **Water Management Guideline** - TRCA hosted a Water Management Guideline workshop with municipalities and the building industry. Over 60 people attended and supported TRCA's direction in water management.
- **Sponsor Recognition Event** - Successful sponsor recognition event held at Tommy Thompson Park (TTP) for winged migration program. Sponsors were Imperial Oil Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment, who supported 40 classes at TTP.
- **EcoSchools** - TRCA held info workshop on EcoSchools with non-school board centres.
- **Field Centres** - Field centres reduced kilometres traveled for food service delivery by 5,000 km by purchasing more locally sourced food.
  - RBC has contributed \$20,000 for residential visits to the field centres.
- **Etobicoke Trail** - Toronto commits \$400,000 Section 37 money to complete section of Etobicoke trail from Lake Shore to Queensway.
- **Spills** - Obtained phase one funding(\$11,000) from NRCan GeoConnections Program to develop a spills response and tracking tool for the Region of Peel.
- **Trumpeter Swans** - The swans were observed for the first time at the Granger Greenway wetland complex located on the Boyd North lands at the Restoration Services Centre. The family of four appears to be utilizing the habitat wetlands as a stopover point on their fall migration.
- **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)** - TRCA converted its Toyota Prius hybrid electric vehicle into a PHEV, one of 12 in Canada. A PHEV can get over half of its energy from electricity. It has additional battery storage capacity allowing net electric range of 50 km which can be used either in pure electric operation under 55 km/h for the first 50 km or in higher speed operation with much lower than normal gasoline consumption for more than 50 km. After using up the battery capacity, it then operates as a conventional hybrid automobile.

- **Groundwater Management** - TRCA selected as lead to proceed with a two-year, \$200,000 study across the province on isotopes in groundwater.
- **Land Acquisition** - Vernon and Rita Purcell property transfer closed. It is a \$500,000 donation to TRCA of approximately 50 acres of land in Pickering.
- **Humber Report Card** - The 2nd edition of the report card was been published.
- **W. Garfield Weston Foundation** - Committed to a three year contribution totalling \$550,000 to fund visits to TRCA field centres for 20 grade six classes from high risk neighbourhoods in Toronto under TRCA's Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow program. Total student attendance will be over 2,000 participants. Students will stay at a field centre for a couple days where they will be immersed in environmental and sustainability education programs. The program is designed to create a new generation of environmental leaders, specifically those from neighbourhoods that are starting to lose their connection with the environment.
- **Restoration Services Centre (RSC)** - Received LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification, the 1st building to achieve this designation in Ontario, and one of 4 in Canada. RSC also received the 2007 Green Design Award from Ontario Wood Works.
- **Archetype Sustainable House** - Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) has agreed to take on the project as a Blitz build where they will endeavour to build a LEED Platinum house in 4 days.
- **Sauriol Dinner** - 850 people attended the dinner with most table sponsors ever. Two provincial cabinet ministers attended. Estimated revenue is \$90,000 with TRCA retaining 60% and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust retaining 40%. Ray Anderson is the 2008 speaker. Mr. Anderson made a significant investment to green his company (Interface Inc.) while still making a profit.
- **PAIE Program** - One participant landed a project manager position within the planning department of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and another a junior planner position with Peel Region.
- **Community Conservation Forest** - Second of six conservation forests was launched by Brampton at Elgin Woods Park. The project focuses on enhancing greenspace within the City of Brampton and educating communities about the health of the Etobicoke Creek. This Community Conservation Forest will reflect over 60 years of conservation in the Etobicoke watershed and, in addition to improving the urban forest, this initiative will serve as a local landmark, reflect a legacy of environmental stewardship, incorporate interpretive signage for education and further strengthen partner relations and community networking.
- **Water Budget** - Received water budget for TRCA's jurisdiction from the consultant.
- **Integrated Watershed Planning** - The Canadian Council of Fisheries Ministers endorsed integrated watershed planning and has asked Conservation Ontario to participate in a working group.

- **Regional Biodiversity** - An otter was spotted in the Humber watershed for the first time in 27 years.
- Two (male and female) Red Belly Woodpeckers were spotted at the feeders at Kortright for the first time. This is very unusual as they are normally a Carolina species that does make it to Pelee and Rondo Provincial park. According to several birders that we have talked to say that because of warmer weather that the birds territory seems to be expanding to include more of southern Ontario.

**Report prepared by: Kathy Stranks, extension 5264**

**Email: [kstranks@trca.on.ca](mailto:kstranks@trca.on.ca)**

**For Information contact: Kathy Stranks, extension 5264**

**Email: [kstranks@trca.on.ca](mailto:kstranks@trca.on.ca)**

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