



THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #5/06

Friday, December 8, 2006

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THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD #5/06
December 8, 2006

The Watershed Management Advisory Board Meeting #5/06, was held in the Humber Room, Head Office, on Friday, December 8, 2006. The Chair Dave Ryan, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

PRESENT

Maria Augimeri	Member
Gay Cowbourne	Member
Frnak Dale	Member
Elaine Moore	Member
Dick O'Brien	Chair, Authority
Dave Ryan	Chair
Nancy Stewart	Vice Chair

ABSENT

Shelley Petrie	Member
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RES.#D51/06 - MINUTES

Moved by:	Frank Dale
Seconded by:	Nancy Stewart

THAT the Minutes of Meeting #4/06, held on September 15, 2006, be approved.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

- (a) A presentation by Lois Griffin, Chair, Humber Watershed Alliance, and Gary Wilkins, Humber Watershed Specialist, TRCA, in regards to item 7.1 - A Report Card on the Health of the Humber River Watershed - 2006.
- (b) A presentation by Gord MacPherson, Manager, Restoration and Environmental Monitoring Projects, TRCA, in regards to item 8.1 - Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Priority Areas.

RES.#D52/06 - PRESENTATIONS

Moved by: Dick O'Brien
Seconded by: Nancy Stewart

THAT above-noted presentation (a) be heard and received.

CARRIED

RES.#D53/06 - PRESENTATIONS

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: Gay Cowbourne

THAT above-noted presentation (b) be heard and received.

CARRIED

SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

RES.#D54/06 - A REPORT CARD ON THE HEALTH OF THE HUMBER RIVER WATERSHED - 2006

Distribution of 'A Report Card on the Health of the Humber River Watershed - 2006'. Copies of the document, prior to final printing, will be available at the meeting.

Moved by: Dick O'Brien
Seconded by: Nancy Stewart

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the Humber Watershed Alliance and staff be thanked for their hard work and dedication in preparing 'A Report Card on the Health of the Humber River Watershed - 2006';

AND FURTHER THAT the report card be distributed to federal governments, provincial ministries, watershed municipalities, community groups, schools and the public throughout the Humber watershed.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Humber Watershed Alliance was formed in 1997 to implement "*Legacy: A Strategy for a Healthy Humber*"; Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) vision and action plan for a healthy Humber ecosystem. The Humber Watershed Alliance is a volunteer task force comprised of residents, representatives from community groups, municipalities, government agencies and elected officials. One of the responsibilities of the Humber Watershed Alliance is to periodically produce a report card to describe the condition of the Humber River watershed. The first report card was produced in 2000 and, in 2003, a progress report was prepared that described the multitude of actions that were underway to achieve the objectives set out in "*Legacy: A Strategy to a Healthy Humber River Watershed*".

This report card assesses the current health of the Humber River watershed in three main categories: Environment, Society and Economy, and Getting it Done (stewardship). Within each of these main categories, there are 26 indicators that provide a more detailed picture of the existing conditions in the watershed. Each of the indicators has been assigned a letter grade and given an assessment of whether the indicator is relatively stable, in decline, or improving.

This document also identifies a series of time-linked, measurable targets for each indicator that, if achieved, will ensure that the Humber River watershed has a healthier future. Specific actions are given to help achieve the targets.

How healthy is the Humber River watershed? Based on the grades that were assigned to the 26 carefully chosen indicators of health, this is what we have learned. See attachment 1 for a summary of the grades assigned to each indicator.

The results are mixed, showing a wide range of conditions. The grades reported range from an “A” for protection of significant landforms, which is very good, to an “F” for protection of wetlands, which is an acknowledged failure due to the significant historic losses of this habitat type. The ratings for many of the indicators, such as forest cover and conventional pollutants, vary widely from the upper reaches of the river to the lower ones. These variations reflect the large size and diverse nature of the watershed, the range of land uses, and the different stresses imposed in different areas. Environmental health is generally better in the upper reaches of the watershed, which are dominated by agricultural and rural land uses, than in the heavily urbanized southern reaches.

A few aspects of the Humber watershed are relatively healthy. Six of the 26 indicators were graded as very good or good. The two indicators with an “A” rating are the protection of significant landforms and progress in developing an inter-regional trail system. “B” ratings, indicating good conditions, were assigned to the sustainable use of groundwater, the protection of groundwater quality, the amount of public greenspace and municipal stewardship initiatives.

Most aspects of the Humber watershed are still in fair health. Fifty percent of the 26 indicators received a “C”, or fair grade, indicating that the watershed has many problems, and there is much that can be done to improve on current conditions.

Some aspects of the Humber watershed are in poor health. Eight of the indicators were rated “D” or “F” (poor and fail respectively). Several of these relate to water quality and aquatic habitats: fish communities, stormwater management and the levels of bacteria affecting swimming opportunities. A related concern is the failure of wetland protection. Poor grades were assigned to air quality, the protection of agricultural land, the recognition and celebration of human heritage, and outdoor environmental education.

Some aspects of watershed health appear to be declining. It is disappointing to report that six indicators received worse ratings in 2006 than in 2000. This is due, in part, to the availability of much more new information, data collection methods and assessment criteria. Four of these – wetland protection, levels of bacteria in surface waters, benthic invertebrates and fish communities – are direct reflections of declining environmental conditions. The other two – outdoor recreation opportunities and outdoor environmental education – reflect a deficiency of public investment in activities that could help to raise awareness and increase stewardship among watershed communities.

Many aspects of watershed health appear to be improving. It is encouraging to find that five indicators have improved and are showing upward trends, reflecting actions that have been taken by agencies, businesses, community groups and citizens. The improvements are shown in the protection of significant landforms, groundwater quantity and quality, conventional pollutants and trails. Six other indicators also appear to show the hopeful signs of upward trends, but not yet enough to result in improved grades. They are the amount of natural vegetation cover, percentage of urban areas that discharge untreated stormwater to rivers, levels of heavy metals and organic contaminants, percentage of riparian vegetation, awareness of human heritage via public events and percentage of public greenspace.

Overall, the watershed is in fair shape, but under significant stress. On average, the Humber watershed receives only a “C” grade. Development pressures continue in the watershed, particularly in the upper reaches, and the population is expected to grow from 670,000 to over one million people by 2021. Depending on where and how this growth is undertaken, we could expect increased impacts on the water cycle, water quality, aquatic systems, air quality, terrestrial systems and human heritage.

What is the prescription for better health? As any doctor would tell us, prevention is better than cure, so we want to ensure that those indicators with very good and good ratings remain in a healthy state and continue to improve. We need to step up our efforts across the board to address the prevalent fair conditions. The greatest priority for immediate remedial action should go to those indicators that show poor, failing and declining conditions. This report card suggests key actions that should be taken to improve conditions and work towards our targets. In addition, an update to the watershed plan is in progress and will provide more details and an integrated approach to achieving our vision of the Humber River watershed as a “vital and healthy ecosystem where we live, work and play in harmony with the natural environment”.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- Distribute 'A Report Card on the Health of the Humber River Watershed - 2006' to government agencies, watershed municipalities, community groups, schools and the public throughout the Humber watershed.
- Promote the key messages and actions in the report card through presentations, media and events.

- Incorporate the findings and key actions into the integrated Humber watershed management plan currently being prepared to meet the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Report prepared by: Gary Wilkins, extension 5211
For information contact: Gary Wilkins, extension 5211
Date: November 27, 2006
Attachments: 1

Attachment 1

SUMMARY OF HUMBER REPORT CARD INDICATORS AND GRADES - 2006

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	GRADE
	Environment	
Landforms	<i>Indicator 1: Significant Landforms</i> How well are significant landforms being protected?	A↑
Terrestrial Habitat	<i>Indicator 2: Forest Cover</i> How well are forests being protected and regenerated?	C
	<i>Indicator 3: Wetlands</i> How well are wetlands being protected and restored?	F
	<i>Indicator 4A: Quantity of Natural Vegetation Cover</i> How well is the quantity of natural vegetation cover being protected?	C↑
	<i>Indicator 4B: Quality of Natural Vegetation Cover</i> How well is the quality distribution of natural cover being protected and restored?	C
	<i>Indicator 5: Wildlife</i> How well is wildlife protected?	C
Groundwater	<i>Indicator 6: Groundwater Quantity</i> Is groundwater being used sustainably?	B
	<i>Indicator 7: Groundwater Quality</i> How well is the quality of our groundwater being protected?	B
Surface Water	<i>Indicator 8: Stormwater Management</i> How well is stormwater runoff from urban areas being managed?	F↑
	<i>Indicator 9: Bacteria</i> How swimmable are surface waters?	F
	<i>Indicator 10: Conventional Pollutants</i> How degraded are surface waters with respect to conventional pollutants?	C↑
	<i>Indicator 11: Heavy Metals and Organic Contaminants</i> What is the condition of surface water with respect to heavy metals and organic compounds?	C↑
	<i>Indicator 12: River Flow</i> How stable are the flows in the river?	C
Aquatic Habitat	<i>Indicator 13: Benthic Invertebrates</i> How healthy are benthic (bottom-dwelling) invertebrate communities?	C
	<i>Indicator 14: Fish Communities</i> How healthy are fish communities?	D
	<i>Indicator 15: Riparian Vegetation</i> How healthy is streambank vegetation?	C↑
Air	<i>Indicator 16: Air Quality</i> How healthy is the air we breathe?	D

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	GRADE
	Society and Economy	
Heritage	<i>Indicator 17: Heritage Resources</i> How well are heritage resources being protected?	C
	<i>Indicator 18: Heritage Events</i> How well is heritage recognized and celebrated?	D↑
Outdoor Activities	<i>Indicator 19: Public Greenspace</i> How much publicly owned greenspace is there?	B↑
	<i>Indicator 20: Outdoor Recreation</i> How extensive are outdoor recreation opportunities?	C
	<i>Indicator 21: Trails</i> What progress has been made in developing a system of inter-regional trails?	A
Agriculture	<i>Indicator 22: Agricultural Land</i> How well is agricultural land being conserved?	D↓
Development	<i>Indicator 23: Sustainable Use of Resources</i> How well are people doing at using resources wisely and living a sustainable lifestyle?	C
	Getting It Done	
Stewardship	<i>Indicator 24: Community Stewardship</i> To what extent are people taking responsibility as stewards of the Humber River watershed?	C
	<i>Indicator 25: Outdoor Environmental Education</i> What is the extent to which young people are being educated about the outdoor environment?	D
	<i>Indicator 26: Aesthetics</i> What is the aesthetic condition of the watershed?	Not Evaluated
	<i>Indicator 27: Business Stewardship</i> To what extent are businesses taking responsibility as stewards of the Humber River watershed?	Not Evaluated
	<i>Indicator 28: Municipal Stewardship</i> To what extent do municipalities take responsibility as stewards of the watershed?	B

RES.#D55/06 -

**CANADA-ONTARIO AGREEMENT RESPECTING THE GREAT LAKES
BASIN ECOSYSTEM AND TORONTO AND REGION REMEDIAL
ACTION PLAN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The five year Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan Memorandum of Understanding expires on March 31, 2007. This coincides with the expiration of the Canada-Ontario Agreement. A renewed Memorandum of Understanding is questionable if the Canada-Ontario Agreement has not been negotiated.

Moved by: Nancy Stewart
Seconded by: Elaine Moore

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority encourage the federal and provincial governments to extend the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA) to ensure COA related activities to protect the Great Lakes are maintained;

THAT the governments be encouraged to ensure there is no loss or break in Great Lakes program funding to such programs as the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) implementation, monitoring efforts and restoration activities;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to continue to support Conservation Ontario in its efforts to ensure conservation authorities (CA) have a continued role in protecting and enhancing the health of the Great Lakes.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) signed between the federal governments of Canada and the United States (U.S.) commits these governments to protect the waters of the Great Lakes. First signed in 1972, then revised in 1978 and amended by Protocol in 1984, the "Parties" – the federal governments of Canada and the U.S. - launched a review of the GLWQA in April 2006.

COA is a federal-provincial agreement aimed at enhancing and protecting the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. COA outlines how the two governments will cooperate and coordinate their efforts regarding Great Lakes basin management, and how Ontario will assist Canada in meeting its commitments under the GLWQA. First signed in 1971, COA has been renewed six times and is up for revision in 2007.

Under the present COA, Canada and Ontario share responsibility for the management of the Toronto and Region RAP. Recognizing the value of TRCA in helping the governments meet their COA targets, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and TRCA was signed November 1, 2002 (effective date July 1st 2002 – March 31st 2007) which assigned lead responsibility for RAP implementation to TRCA.

At present, the Toronto and Region RAP receives \$250,000 annually from both Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. These dollars are divided amongst projects led by TRCA, academia and others; these projects help meet the objectives of the RAP. Often this funding provides “seed” or leverage dollars necessary to encourage other partners.

The COA Issue

As the lead implementing agency for the Toronto and Region RAP, TRCA has not yet received any formal indication of the status of funding past March 31, 2007. Without the continuation of these funds, momentum will be lost and a number of projects are in jeopardy.

Beyond the Toronto and Region RAP, COA helps establish priorities and responsibility for Great Lakes protection, thus is a key component for driving activities to reach this aim. For example, the release of Atlantic Salmon into the Duffins Creek earlier this year was action stemming from commitments made by the provincial government under COA.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) Issue Related to COA

If the governments decide to renew GLWQA, the process could take several years. Thus, establishing priorities for Great Lakes programming may be delayed. As COA aids the federal government in meeting its commitments under the GLWQA, there will be a timing disconnect in terms of the agreements’ negotiations. As the current COA expires on March 31, 2007, the governments will need to establish interim measures to bridge this gap while discussions of COA renewal continue independent of the timeframe established for GLWQA renewal discussions.

IJC Recommendations Regarding the GLWQA

On October 24, 2006, the International Joint Commission (IJC) recommended that the federal governments of Canada and the United States replace the current GLWQA with a shorter, more ‘action-oriented’ document. The IJC also recommended the incorporation of key concepts of ecosystem protection and watershed planning, including human health, as a clear objective and use the ecosystem approach.

Of particular relevance to CA's is the IJC's reference to the CA's comprehensive watershed planning as a tool to apply the ecosystem approach which has been long called for by the IJC and is currently called for under Annex 2 of the GLWQA. The timing of this recommendation is important as it also has the potential to influence the governments as they discuss COA renewal. Such a recommendation helps set the stage for CA's to better position themselves for a more defined role in the implementation of COA and other Great Lakes protection activities.

TRCA Directed Activities to Encourage a Renewed COA

Some of the monies directed to the RAP through COA are used to support the community-based watershed task forces within TRCA's jurisdiction. Recognizing the importance of COA to enhancing environmental conditions in the Great Lakes and within their own watershed, three of the watershed groups within TRCA's jurisdiction supported a motion to submit a letter of support for the extension of the current COA and a renewed COA.

At Humber Watershed Alliance Meeting #4/06, held on October 24, 2006, the group supported the Chair sending a letter on behalf of the alliance to the federal and provincial Ministers of the Environment.

At Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition Meeting #2/06, held on October 26, 2006, a resolution was approved to send a letter to encourage COA renewal.

At Don Watershed Regeneration Council Meeting #10/06, held on November 16, 2006, a resolution was also approved to send a letter.

In their own voice, each of the watershed groups urged the Ministers to extend the current COA with funding and renegotiate a new agreement as soon as possible, a copy of each letter was also mailed to all of the MPs and MPPs in the watershed groups' respective watersheds, as well as:

- Pradeep Kharé, Regional Director General, Environment Canada
- Susan Nameth, Acting Director, Integrated Ecosystem and Public Engagement Programs, Environment Canada
- Michael Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment
- Richard Raeburn-Gibson, Assistant Director, Kingston Regional Office- Eastern Region, Ministry of the Environment
- Mayor David Miller, City of Toronto

Members of the community-based task forces were also encouraged to write individual letters to express their support of COA.

In response to receiving a copy of the letter from the Humber Watershed Alliance, the Honourable Roy Cullen, P.C., M.P.– Etobicoke North, wrote a letter to both Ministers urging them to renew COA. Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment, responded to the letter received from the Humber Watershed Alliance regarding COA. In her letter, Minister Broten stated the Ministry of Environment was working with Environment Canada to begin planning and organizing the renewal processes.

Activities to Influence Priorities on Great Lakes ***Setting Conservation Ontario's Great Lakes Priorities***

On November 9, 2006, Conservation Ontario held a workshop to establish their priorities for the protection of the Great Lakes. With support from TRCA, Dr. Gail Krantzberg was hired to draft a paper which outlined possible vision and mission statements and potential priorities for Conservation Ontario. The Great Lakes general managers working group and CA staff that has been involved in the review process established by the parties (the federal governments of Canada and the U.S) to the GLWQA were invited to reflect on the paper and suggest modifications that would best capture the CA perspective. Rooted in this priorities paper was *The Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Great Lakes* program which was proposed to the federal government in 2004.

NEXT STEPS

As CAs play a critical role which aids the governments' commitment to protect and restore the Great Lakes, it is important that the CAs through Conservation Ontario (CO) ensure the governments are both aware of this role and recognize the need to strengthen financial partnerships to allow CAs to continue and improve in their capacity to fulfill this role.

The staff at CO will be bringing a report based on the outcomes of the workshop to their board on December 11, 2006. It is anticipated the priorities stemming from this workshop will be used to inform future resolutions and directions of CO; as well, the priorities will be provided to the governments for their consideration as they continue the review of the GLWQA and embark on negotiations for a renewed COA.

Staff recommend the Authority support the drafting of a letter to the federal and provincial Ministers of the Environment to express the above-mentioned concerns regarding expiration of the current COA and the need to continue funding support to COA related programs in the absence of a new agreement. Importantly, the letter should highlight that although current levels of funding are critical, they are not sufficient to adequately protect Great Lakes water quality nor are they enough to tackle the restoration and infrastructure improvements required in the Toronto and Region RAP area.

Report prepared by: Kelly Montgomery, extension 5576
For Information contact: Adele Freeman, extension 5238
Date: November 22, 2006

RES.#D56/06 - PICKERING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROJECT UPDATE
An update on the Pickering Healthy Communities Project.

Moved by: Nancy Stewart
Seconded by: Elaine Moore

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) continue to implement the Pickering Healthy Communities Project in partnership with Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program, the City of Pickering, the Region of Durham, Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back upon completion of the project regarding the milestones and accomplishments made.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Pickering Healthy Communities Project (PHCP) began in October 2005 as a two-year community initiative through an EcoAction Community Funding Program grant of \$70,000. The PHCP is designed to increase awareness and educate the community about environmental issues impacting the Frenchman's Bay and Petticoat Creek watersheds, while protecting, restoring and enhancing the ecological health of these watersheds through naturalization projects and stewardship activities. This project includes hands-on initiatives such as monitoring, habitat creation, watershed clean-ups and native plantings that will empower and involve the community.

The main components of the PHCP include:

Engaging the community and project partners at the following three community action sites (CAS):

- Site #1 – Wetland Works (Hydro Marsh/Alex Robertson Park);
- Site #2 – Petticoat Environmental Junction (Petticoat Creek watershed);
- Site #3 – Protecting Our Beach (Frenchman's Bay Barrier Beach West).

Providing outreach and education opportunities through:

- The Residential Homeowners Program;
- The Corporate Challenge Program.

The PHCP has recently completed its first year and has been successful in meeting and exceeding its targets. The expected results and actual accomplishments are summarized in the following table:

Expected Results October 1, 2005 to September 31, 2006	Accomplishments to Date October 1, 2005 to September 31, 2006
Engage 500 volunteers in site restoration and education programs	Engaged 1,100 volunteers
Implement restoration initiatives at 2 community action sites	Completed restoration initiatives at 2 community action sites
Plant 500 native trees and shrubs	Planted 2,740 native trees and shrubs
Plant 200 native aquatic plants and wildflowers	Planted 1,130 native aquatic plants and wildflowers
Install 1 water quality improvement structure	Installed 1 water quality improvement structure using 900 recycled Christmas trees
Install 25 wildlife habitat structures	Installed 47 wildlife habitat structures
Remove garbage and litter from 1 km of shoreline habitat	Removed garbage and litter from 1 km of shoreline habitat
Enhance 5 hectares of terrestrial habitat	Enhanced 7 hectares of terrestrial habitat
Implement 2 residential homeowners information sessions/workshops	Hosted 2 homeowner workshops
Distribute 70 rain barrels to homeowners	Distributed 100 rain barrels to Pickering residents
Distribute 25 healthy yards toolkits to homeowners	Distributed 30 healthy yards toolkits to homeowners
Conduct 1 Corporate Challenge event to engage local businesses	1 corporate tree planting event was hosted for a local business

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Staff will continue to work with the City of Pickering, Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One, the Region of Durham, the EcoAction Community Funding Program and community partners to implement and exceed whenever possible the 2005 expected deliverables with the addition of 2 Corporate Challenges during the second and final year of the project.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

To date, core funding for the PHCP has been provided by Environment Canada through the EcoAction Community Funding Program in the amount of \$70,000. Additional funds supporting the project include \$20,000 from the Regional Municipality of Durham through TRCA's watershed planning and implementation work and \$10,000 from Hydro One.

Report prepared by: Steve Joudrey, 905-420-4660 extension 2212

For Information contact: Steve Joudrey, 905-420-4660 extension 2212

Date: September 26, 2006

RES.#D57/06 - FILL PROJECTS ON TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY-OWNED LANDS

Monitoring Results. A progress report on the accomplishments and next steps for the Inland Fill Placement Program.

Moved by: Elaine Moore

Seconded by: Frank Dale

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) continue to identify and develop filling opportunities on TRCA-owned lands for the creation and/or enhancement of wetland interpretive habitat features and the creation of sound and visual attenuation barriers;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff continue to report back to the Watershed Management Advisory Board annually regarding the project milestone and accomplishments.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

At Watershed Management Advisory Board Meeting #6/05, held on February 10, 2006, the members requested a report from staff on the monitoring results of fill projects on TRCA-owned land and photos of the work.

Beginning in 2000, staff identified TRCA-owned lands where habitat enhancement and regeneration work could be achieved through a combination of innovative design and strategic soil placement. Given the readily available sources of clean soil, it was determined that project development, implementation and restoration costs could be offset by collecting tipping fees associated with soil placement. Ultimately, TRCA's intent was to undertake substantial and significant regeneration work at no additional cost to TRCA, its funding partners or the public.

The selection process for appropriate regeneration sites is determined through an extensive process involving input from interested public groups and partners, as well as various TRCA internal departments. Each project is unique, and is designed to accomplish strategic goals which may include one or more of the following: wetland and habitat creation, wetland and habitat enhancement, site rehabilitation (i.e. aggregate pit rehabilitation), sound attenuation and visual screening. The intent of the final design of all projects is to create a regeneration project resulting in a net gain to wildlife habitat and the natural environment.

Upon approval of the final design, the implementation component of the regeneration projects are undertaken by private contractors who deliver and place clean soils generated from various excavation sites. TRCA selects a single contractor based on a submitted proposal to implement the supply and placement of soils for each project. The soils supplied by the contractor is sampled, pre-approved and monitored throughout the delivery and placement process. TRCA staff pre-approves all soils prior to delivery by reviewing consultant's soil quality reports, ensuring that all soils meet Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) "Residential Parkland" quality criteria. In addition, daily on-site visual monitoring of incoming soils is undertaken by staff, along with the collection and chemical analysis of random soil samples as part of an ongoing quality control program. Over 200 soil samples have been collected and analyzed from completed projects. Laboratory analytical results indicate that soils meet Parkland criteria.

A brief description of the completed regeneration projects and on-going projects has been compiled in Attachment 1.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The completed regeneration projects have resulted in the ecological enhancement of more than 15 hectares of tableland, with the creation of over 3 hectares of wetland. Some of the new vegetation communities to appear include submergent, emergent and marginal wetland vegetation species. Examples of some of the emergent species include Cattail, Hardstem Bulrush, Soft Stem Bulrush and Water Smartweed. Submergent species include Tape Grass, Coontail and Common Bladderwort. The wetlands are now providing a permanent habitat for amphibians, mammals and waterfowl.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

TRCA staff anticipates that direct project operating and restoration costs associated with all aspects of the soil placement and habitat enhancement projects can be offset by revenue generated through tipping fees.

Report prepared by: David Hatton, extension 5365

For Information contact: David Hatton, extension 5365 and Mark Lowe, extension 5388

Date: February 13, 2006

Attachments: 2

Attachment 1

COMPLETED PROJECTS

<p>Claireville Buffer Hwy 407 at Gorewood Dr. City of Brampton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work completed summer 2001 ● Berms designed to provide visual screening and sound attenuation from the 407 within Claireville Conservation Area .
<p>Boyd Regeneration & Wetland Complex Islington Ave. City of Vaughan (see attached photo)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work completed summer 2001 ● Berms designed to capture and retain surface water run-off for wetland creation & habitat enhancement. Also provides a visual screen and sound attenuation barrier along Islington Avenue.
<p>Rouge Park North-Phase I Ninth Line & 16th Avenue Town of Markham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first of a two phase berm construction project that was completed during the summer of 2003. ● The design provides a visual screen and sound attenuation barrier against the adjacent Markham By-Pass ● Ephemeral wetland, riparian and upland habitats resulted from this enhancement project. ● Completed in partnership with Rouge Park and the Town of Markham.
<p>Boyd North Pit Rehabilitation Rutherford Rd. west of Pine Valley Dr. City of Vaughan (see attached photo)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work done between 2002 & 2005. ● Topsoil was strategically placed for purpose of restoring vegetation and habitat potential of this abandoned aggregate pit, as well as providing the safe route needed for the completion of the Granger Greenway Trail. ● Done in partnership with the City of Vaughan and Rom-Nag Construction
<p>Kortright Regeneration Project Kortright Centre for Conservation, City of Vaughan (see attached photo)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work started in summer 2005 and completed spring 2006 ● Native soil and topsoil was used for the creation of a berm designed to capture and redirect surface run-off for wet meadow enhancement & wetland creation. Also provided a needed sound attenuation barrier from Major MacKenzie Drive.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

<p>Claireville Phase I -Habitat Enhancement Intermodal Dr. City of Brampton (see attached photo)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first of a two phase berm construction project was started during the summer of 2004, with additional soil placed during summer 2006. ● The design provides a visual screen and sound attenuation barrier to the adjacent heavy industrial complex on Intermodal Drive. The resulting berm also diverted and captured surface run-off used to create significant wetland.
<p>Claireville Phase II - Habitat Enhancement Intermodal Dr. City of Brampton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The second phase of this two phase berm construction project is 80% complete as of fall 2006, with completion expected in spring 2007.
<p>Claireville Habitat Enhancement Hwy 50 & Hwy 407 City of Brampton (see attached photo)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This enhancement project, which started in summer 2005, is 80% complete with an anticipated completion for spring 2007. ● The completed berm is designed to provide a visual screen and sound attenuation barrier to the adjacent Highway 407. The berm has already diverted and captured surface run-off and resulted in the creation of a significant wetland and enhancement to the natural environment.
<p>Rouge Park North – Phase II Ninth Line & 16th Avenue Town of Markham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The second phase of a two phase berm construction project is 50% complete with an anticipated completion for spring 2007. ● Done in partnership with the Town of Markham and Rouge Park.

FUTURE PROJECT

<p>Kleinburg New Forest North Islington Ave. and Hwy 27 City of Vaughan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TRCA anticipates a December start to this multi year fill placement project with a design strategy that will provide both sound attenuation for local residents and habitat enhancement features. An extensive open space design with pathways, parking and substantial native tree and shrub planting.
<p>Bruce' Mill Conservation Area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TRCA looking into the possibility of implementing regeneration work on the existing driving range, and/or on nearby agricultural lands.

Attachment 2

Claireville Buffer facing Hwy 407



Claireville Buffer –Wetland



Boyd Regeneration & Wetland Complex – eye level and aerial view.



Boyd North Pit Rehabilitation



Kortright Regeneration Project



Claireville Phase I – Intermodal Drive



Claireville at Hwy 50 & 407



RES.#D58/06 - URBAN FORESTRY UPDATE

Status report on current pests that threaten southern Ontario forest resources.

Moved by: Nancy Stewart
Seconded by: Elaine Moore

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff continue to work cooperatively with all levels of government to monitor trends and conditions of current forest insect and invasive pest populations and to formulate and implement appropriate strategies and methodologies directed at the control and eradication of these pests;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back annually on any significant changes in the status of forest pests in Ontario.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Staff had previously reported on the status of urban forests pests to Watershed Management Advisory Board meetings #7/04, held on December 10, 2004, and #6/05, held on February 10, 2006. This report is provided as an update on the status of forest pests and their impacts for the 2006 period.

The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) continue to monitor existing pest infestations, and search for new outbreaks. These findings are reported quarterly, through publications and yearly at the Annual Forest Health Review, held this year on October 26.

This year marks the addition of the Sirex Wood Wasp to Ontario, the increased spread of previously noted pests and two potential success stories, relating to actions taken on previous pest infestations. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has helped with the monitoring of some pests and continues to play an active role in the locating and tracking of existing pest problems.

Issues of concern within TRCA's jurisdiction discussed in the 30th Annual Forest Health Review include:

- Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALHB);
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB);
- Gypsy Moth (GM);
- Sirex Wood Wasp (SWW);
- Butternut Canker.

Asian Long-horned Beetle

The battle to eradicate the ALHB from the Toronto and Vaughan jurisdictions is one that Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) ALHB program managers and partners are confident can be won. Ground and aerial survey teams have not found any new occurrences within the regulated area in 2006. The CFIA led monitoring program is expected to be ongoing for the next few years. TRCA remains committed to the support of CFIA and our municipal and agency partners in seeing this destructive pest eradicated.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in Michigan in 2002, with discoveries in Ontario occurring shortly after. Areas in City of Windsor and Essex County have been devastated, with almost total removal of Ash trees from the landscape. EAB is a forest pest with some very disturbing characteristics. This pest attacks Ash trees of all sizes, ages and condition, while killing all of the trees it attacks. It is not yet known how persistent EAB will be after all of its suitable hosts had been killed. The loss in these counties represents between 25% and 50% of all forest cover. Additional pressures are created by invasive plant species which have been given ideal conditions to infiltrate these already decimated forest stands.

In 2003 an Ash free “Fire Break” was created from Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair in hopes of stemming the advancing outbreak. This proved to have little effect, with pockets of infection being found well beyond the eastern edge of the zone. The EAB infections seem to have been following transportation corridors, possibly with the movement of wood and wood products. CFIA continues to monitor for and implement federal regulations on the restrictions for movement of nursery stock and forest products.

This past summer two trees were found to be infected in the London area. While no one knows how long it will take EAB to reach the Greater Toronto Area, CFIA’s efforts have been aimed at slowing the spread, until further counter measures can be developed.

TRCA staff is still looking for any evidence of stressed or declining Ash trees, related to EAB, within our watersheds, with no evidence of EAB being detected to date. It is our policy to limit the planting of Ash trees to not more than 10% of any individual planting project and with that 10% spread out within the planting as much as possible. It is felt that with a healthy population of Ash trees when the infestation occurs, the better our chances are of maintaining Ash in the landscape.

Gypsy Moth

The Gypsy Moth is another invasive exotic plant pest, having been released accidentally in Massachusetts over 130 years ago. It has become well established over much of North America with damage generally occurring only when populations reach very high levels. In 2003, most of the damage in Ontario occurred near Parry Sound in the Muskoka district. The population almost collapsed in 2004. In 2005 population levels began to spike in areas of Mississauga, Caledonia and Guelph.

Mississauga embarked on a very extensive aerial spray program with tremendous support from the community. This type of a program had never been previously attempted in southern Ontario, yet proved to be extremely effective. Agencies including Ministry of the Environment, Transport Canada, Ontario Provincial Police, local police and fire departments, to name a few, all had to be coordinated to enable an operation of this scope. The final results have not been compiled, but it is believed to have been a tremendous success.

There have been a few small outbreaks of Gypsy Moth in TRCA's jurisdiction, including Etobicoke, near Princess Margaret Boulevard and Kipling Avenue, south of the Rosedale Golf Club, and in an eastern part of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. As of yet, the populations have not reached epidemic levels and are still being monitored, due to their cyclic nature.

Sirex Wood Wasp

The Sirex Wood Wasp was first discovered in Oswego, New York in 2005. The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) and OMNR established a series of trap sites on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence River in hopes of an early detection of this potentially damaging forest pest. This past summer, traps were also set up throughout many more areas in southern Ontario. Specimens have been discovered in Cambridge and Durham in 2005, and several more in 2006 (including at the Boyd Office).

SWW generally attacks suppressed or stressed trees and seems to act as a natural thinning agent. In unmanaged forest stands, mortality can reach 66%. In managed forest stands, mortality is extremely low. The preferred host is Scots Pine, although it is believed that all 2-3 needled pines are a target, with White Pine being susceptible if it is suppressed. Trees are killed by the combined effects of a toxic mucous, a white rot fungus and feeding by the larvae of the wood wasp.

There are currently no natural predators, and active forest management appears to be the best approach to decreasing the damage potential of the invasive forest pest.

Butternut Canker

Butternut Canker continues to ravage populations of Butternut trees in Ontario. Butternut was added to the list of endangered species in 2005. The disease attacks all trees in all age classes, with vigorous trees on good growing sites appearing to be the most resistant. TRCA is continuing to note live healthy trees, in an effort to find individuals resistant to the canker. We will continue to manage to the benefit of those trees remaining, and to educate landowners on these issues.

Other Concerns

Red Pine decline continues to be a major concern among forest managers in southern Ontario. Many portions of the TRCA forests have large components of Red Pine and are beginning to show some of the symptoms of this condition. It is possibly the result of many different causes, with few answers to date. It appears that the only option presently is the removal of Red Pine from the forest as soon as possible once the condition becomes apparent.

Dog Strangling Vine (DSV) is beginning to reach very high population densities in some of our forest tracts, in what are still small areas. It appears to spread both naturally and along pathways and roads. The actual vector for dispersal has not been confirmed, but the vine moves much faster in areas with higher usage.

Garlic Mustard is found in a larger portion of our forests than DSV, but has not been as damaging of a problem as DSV. This pest also takes over the ground layer in a forest and does not allow for the regeneration of the native forest species. It also has a profound affect of the growth and vigor of the trees in the forest stands where it is found. Growth of the trees may be slowed by as much as 90% in many areas.

The combination of Red Pine decline, and invasive forest ground covers, presents forest managers with new challenges to keep our forests healthy and diverse. It is with these concerns in mind, that we are modifying our planting and management prescriptions to increase biodiversity and decrease the damaging potential of these pests.

IMPLICATIONS

The implications of most of these pests have not changed appreciably from the position stated in the previous Watershed Management Advisory Board report from Meeting #7/04, held on December 10, 2004. The new implications arising since that time are as follows:

In regard to the increased threat from the Sirex Wood Wasp, TRCA staff continue to work with other community foresters in trying to determine best management practices, and policies to deal with this pest. There has been no research conducted in North America on SWW and we are presently relying heavily on work conducted in Australia. It is becoming even more important to actively manage plantations where host trees are found, to increase biodiversity, and promote vigorous and healthy stands. Future planting projects will address biodiversity concerns by increasing species planted, and decreasing the amounts of host species where applicable.

Red Pine decline is becoming a major threat on some TRCA properties. The general recommendation for these areas, would be the removal of all or most of the Pine trees once the condition is confirmed. Left unchecked, most or all of the host trees will die, often within months, creating hazards. These trees would then have to be removed at great cost to TRCA. Removal of these trees just prior to impending mortality could be done to possibly generate revenue, and salvage any timber value currently present.

The implications of Garlic Mustard and Dog Strangling Vine are more difficult to quantify. Both of these invasive exotic pests threaten to decrease biodiversity in any of our forested areas. Current best forest management practices suggest that the only control methods are heavy chemical applications for several years in succession. This technique would likely destroy much of the diverse ecosystems that we are trying to protect. The biggest challenge in ecosystems where either of these plants is present is in the establishment of young seedlings. As such, the immediate problem is in areas which require the establishment of a new forest community, particularly in areas which show signs of Red Pine decline. In areas with Red Pine decline and DSV or Garlic Mustard, natural regeneration following removals may not be a viable option.

TRCA staff is currently exchanging ideas and experiences with other community foresters to find solutions to this problem. It is expected that the threat posed by these invasive pests may decrease over time, as natural pathogens may develop to prey on these species. Current options would include limiting or excluding public uses from pristine areas in an attempt to slow the spread. Public education will be necessary to increase awareness as to the vectors of dispersal for these invasives.

Controls

Sirex Wood Wasp has no natural enemies in North America at this time. It is possible that some predators that prey on similar wasp species may adapt to feed on SWW. It appears that only stressed and declining trees are susceptible to this pest, and the best control, is to manage our forests for optimum health and vigor.

DSV and Garlic Mustard are both controlled by either physically removing them from the forest or with heavy chemical applications two or three times in the growing season, prior to seed dispersal. These control measures need to be repeated for three or more years, due to the presence of viable seed in the forest floor. While this may be possible on individual properties with small infestations, it is not a reasonable solution when hundreds and thousands of acres may be affected. This also only identifies the current problem and not what caused that problem initially. In areas where adjacent lands are seen as a major contributor of the pests, the TRCA will attempt to work with these landowners to find a suitable solution.

No control measures for Red Pine decline have yet been discovered. The only option here is the use of "Best Forestry Practices" to decrease the damage potential and to decrease susceptibility of future forested properties.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

TRCA staff continue to work with other community foresters and industry to try and find solutions to the ever increasing threats to our forest communities. It is through improved or modified management that we may find the best long term solutions to these threats. TRCA is continuing to monitor the presence and potential threats posed by the remainder of forest pests. Understanding, monitoring and managing for these threats will be linked to TRCA's ongoing work on its Terrestrial Natural Heritage Systems Strategy and its implementation.

Report prepared by: Tom Hildebrand, extension 5379
For Information contact: Tom Hildebrand, extension 5379
Date: November 15, 2006

RES.#D59/06 - ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN: TOWARDS A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Release of final draft Rouge watershed plan for consultation.

Moved by: Nancy Stewart
Seconded by: Elaine Moore

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the Chair, Mr. Bryan Buttigieg, and members of the Rouge Watershed Task Force be thanked for their outstanding effort in the development of the Rouge watershed plan, entitled "Rouge River Watershed Plan: Towards a Healthy and Sustainable Future";

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff be directed to undertake public and stakeholder consultation on the final draft Rouge watershed plan and its supporting technical documents;

THAT TRCA staff offer presentations on the final draft Rouge watershed plan to all Rouge watershed municipalities and solicit their comments;

THAT TRCA staff develop an implementation guide, a five year implementation workplan and budget, and implementation committee structure for the Rouge watershed plan, in consultation with implementing partners;

THAT TRCA staff finalize the Rouge watershed plan, in cooperation with the Rouge Watershed Task Force Chair, to ensure the comments are in keeping with the task force principles, tone and spirit of the final task force plan;

THAT TRCA staff report back to the April, 2007 Watershed Management Advisory Board meeting with a final Rouge watershed plan, proposed implementation committee Terms of Reference, and preliminary implementation guide and implementation workplan;

AND FURTHER THAT the Chair and Members of the Rouge Watershed Task Force be invited to attend the meeting when the Rouge watershed plan is to be considered for adoption by the Authority.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

In 2003, TRCA entered into a five year work program with York Region and the City of Toronto to prepare a watershed plan for the Rouge River. This initiative was to assist the York Region municipalities in fulfilling the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORCMP) requirement to have watershed plans completed by April 2007. The study was also designed to update the original 1990 *Comprehensive Basin Management Strategy for the Rouge River Watershed*, provide a watershed context for Rouge Park plans and give direction for applying TRCA's vision for The Living City at a watershed scale.

The Rouge Watershed Task Force, formed by TRCA in April 2004, has completed its mandate with the approval of a final draft Rouge watershed plan at its final meeting, held on November 30, 2006 (see Executive Summary - Attachment 1). The document draws on technical modelling and analysis work, review of experience in other jurisdictions, and input provided on key issues during meetings and workshops of the Rouge Watershed Task Force and other experts. A preliminary draft plan was discussed with the task force at their October 5 and October 19, 2006 meetings, and their comments subsequently incorporated into a first draft plan that was circulated for initial consultation with municipal staff and members of the public during the first half of November, 2006. In acknowledgement of the limited opportunities for consultation to date, the task force has requested TRCA undertake additional consultation, as per amended Resolution #L93/06 from Rouge Watershed Task Force Meeting #10/06, held on November 30, 2006 as follows.

THAT the Rouge Watershed Task Force forward its final Watershed Plan to the TRCA for its consideration;

THAT TRCA be requested to complete all supporting documents as soon as possible and conduct further consultation, including an expert peer review, on the final draft Plan and supporting documents;

THAT TRCA and Bryan Buttigieg, Chair of the Rouge Watershed Task Force undertake additional public meetings;

THAT TRCA circulate to Rouge Watershed Task Force members dates of public meetings;

THAT TRCA circulate to Rouge Watershed Task Force members comments arising from the consultations;

THAT Rouge Watershed Task Force members be invited to the final presentation of the Rouge River Watershed Plan: Towards a Healthy and Sustainable Future to the Watershed Management Advisory Board and the Authority Board;

THAT Rouge Watershed Task Force members be circulated a copy of the expert peer review report;

THAT TRCA be requested in the finalization of this document, in coordination with Bryan Buttigieg, Chair of the Rouge Watershed Task Force to ensure that comments have been addressed in keeping with the Task Force principles, tone and spirit of the final Task Force Plan;

THAT TRCA be requested to present the findings of the Rouge Watershed Plan to the Town of Markham and offer to present to all Rouge Watershed municipalities and solicit their comments; and circulate further comments to Rouge Watershed Task Force members;

THAT TRCA be requested to facilitate the development of an Implementation Guide and a five year Implementation Workplan and budget for the Rouge Watershed Plan, in consultation with key implementing partners;

THAT the TRCA be requested to establish an Implementation Committee as soon as possible following the finalization of the Watershed Plan in order to promote and track the implementation of the Watershed Plan;

AND FURTHER THAT the Rouge Park Alliance, the Municipal partners, the Provincial and Federal governments as well as all residents, organizations and relevant interest groups be requested to provide their ongoing support for the implementation of the principles and goals of the Rouge Watershed Plan.

Further consultation on the final draft Rouge watershed plan and its background documents is recommended as a critical step in ensuring the practicality and support of the public and implementing partners, prior to final approval by the Authority. Staff will bring the final report to the Authority, recommending approval of the Rouge watershed plan, by the end of April 2007, which will enable the Region of York to fulfill the requirements of the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*. The watershed plan will be instrumental in guiding land use decisions affecting the watershed.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The following next steps are to be undertaken:

- complete all technical supporting documents;
- circulate final draft Rouge watershed plan by mid-January with request for comments by March 15, 2007.
- convene 2-3 public meetings throughout the watershed (February);
- convene municipal and other expert peer review workshop (February);
- prepare a draft outline of the implementation guide and seek municipal input (February);
- begin to prepare implementation workplan (March);
- draft a Terms of Reference and outline for a Rouge implementation committee;
- finalize Rouge watershed plan.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funding for the Rouge watershed planning study was provided by the Region of York and City of Toronto as part of the capital budgets.

Report prepared by: Sonya Meek, extension 5253
For Information contact: Sonya Meek, extension 5253
Date: December 5, 2006
Attachments: 1

Attachment 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY revised November 30, 2006

The Rouge River watershed is an extraordinary resource in Southern Ontario, treasured and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. It spans 336 km² of land and water in the Regions of York and Durham, cities of Toronto and Pickering, and towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville. It includes all the lands that drain to the Rouge River and its tributaries, including the Little Rouge River, starting in the hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine and flowing south to Lake Ontario.

Why do we need this watershed plan? If you live, work or play in the Rouge watershed, you depend on its health in a number of ways. The Rouge watershed is a source of your drinking water – whether you rely on wells or water from Lake Ontario. Unpaved land absorbs water from rain and snowfall to replenish groundwater and streams and reduce the impacts of flooding and erosion. Healthy aquatic and terrestrial habitats support diverse communities of plants and animals. Agricultural lands provide local sources of food and green spaces, and provide recreational opportunities. A rich human heritage affords links to the past that enrich and inform our lives today. The natural beauty of the forests, meadows, farmlands, wetlands, rivers and creeks provides urban dwellers with solace, renewal and contact with nature.

Increasing concerns about the health of our cities and countryside, the safety of our drinking water and the future of the Oak Ridges Moraine have led to a number of initiatives toward sustainable living in Ontario, the Greater Toronto Area and the Great Lakes region. Actions taken in the Rouge watershed can provide a model for actions in other watersheds, as well as influence the environmental health of larger systems.

This plan was prepared by a multi-stakeholder task force that includes representatives from all levels of government agencies, private businesses, not-for-profit organizations and the public and is coordinated by TRCA and Rouge Park. The plan has a strong technical foundation, based on decades of monitoring of environmental conditions combined with a leading edge approach to modelling of potential future conditions. A series of management summits was held to convene experts who could help identify best practices and recommendations to achieve the objectives of the Rouge Watershed Task Force.

The guiding framework for this watershed plan comprises an overall goal, a set of principles, nine goals and 22 objectives with specific targets. Our overall goal is:

to work towards a healthy and sustainable Rouge watershed by protecting, restoring and enhancing its ecological and cultural integrity within the context of a regional natural heritage system.

Our goals, objectives and targets address:

- groundwater;
- surface water;
- stream form;
- aquatic system;

- terrestrial system;
- air quality and climate change;
- cultural heritage;
- nature-based recreation;
- sustainable land and resource use.

One of the foundations of this plan is the *State of the Rouge Watershed Report*, which provides a wealth of recent information about natural and cultural resources and human activities in the watershed. Land use in the Rouge watershed today is approximately 40% rural, 35% urban, 24% natural cover and 1% open water. The lower watershed is dominated by Rouge Park, with a small but well established area of urban development to the west. The middle and western parts are experiencing rapid urban expansion and have sparse natural cover except in Rouge Park. The upper and eastern portions of the watershed are primarily rural and agricultural with some small towns and villages.

The Rouge watershed represents a rich inheritance for current and future communities. The Little Rouge watershed is still relatively undeveloped with considerable natural cover and a water balance typical of a rural watershed. The aquatic systems in the upper Little Rouge and parts of the main Rouge are healthy enough to support cold- and cool-water communities including species of concern such as redbreast dace and brook trout. Natural habitats support a high diversity of plants and animals, including many that are rare or at risk (such as the nationally threatened Jefferson salamander, provincially significant Cooper's hawk and regionally rare one flower cancer-root). Major blocks of publicly-owned lands have been reserved for conservation and greenspace purposes, most notably the 40 square km Rouge Park. The Rouge watershed also has a rich cultural heritage, including many archaeological and historic sites, landscapes, stories and artifacts from earlier inhabitants as well as the diverse cultures of present day communities.

Unfortunately, there are signs of stress. Decades of urban development have resulted in harmful changes that exceed the carrying capacity of natural systems. These changes include increased surface runoff, more water pollution, greater annual flow volumes in rivers and streams, increased erosion and sedimentation, channel instability, reduced groundwater discharge, loss of biodiversity and greater incidence of smog. They are signs that the ability of the air, land and water to absorb the impacts of human activities is strained and cannot be sustained over the long term unless fundamental changes are made. Rehabilitation of infrastructure and restoration of natural habitats to address these issues is underway, but is expensive and time consuming.

To help us understand how the watershed might react to changes in land use, environmental management and climate in the future, we undertook a multi-faceted process of analysis and synthesis. This included modelling studies to compare eight potential scenarios, combined with examination of existing conditions and trends in the watershed, a review of watershed research in other areas, and the best professional judgement of a range of experts in many fields.

What can we expect in future? We discovered that if future development proceeds with current approaches to community design and stormwater management, it will not be possible to maintain current watershed conditions, let alone improve them. If development practices are changed to use the best foreseeable community designs and management techniques, it may be possible to maintain and in some cases enhance current conditions. However many of the new designs and technologies for sustainable urban development are still evolving and being tested, so we recommend that development proceed with caution, accommodating adjustments as necessary to achieve watershed targets.

Fortunately, the Rouge watershed offers many unique opportunities, including the assembly and renaturalization of lands as part of Rouge Park and the continuation of agriculture on public and private lands. Watershed municipalities are already working to address the impacts of existing developments and are among the leaders in promoting sustainable practices. These opportunities provide us with valuable tools to help address concerns with current watershed conditions, manage impacts from future land use changes and adapt to the uncertainties associated with global climate change.

The pathway to a healthy watershed that emerged from this analysis is based on a comprehensive and inter-dependent set of strategies that will protect and enhance valued resources, regenerate damaged systems and build more sustainable communities. These strategies encompass three broad themes:

- 1) **Establish the targeted terrestrial natural heritage system:** Figure 5.1 in the watershed plan illustrates an expanded natural heritage system that is designed to provide multiple benefits, including biodiversity and habitats, water balance maintenance and restoration, opportunities for nature-based recreation, improved quality of life and greater resilience to urban growth and climate change. It can be accomplished by protecting existing valued assets, securing additional lands, regenerating degraded areas and improving stewardship of public and private lands.
- 2) **Build sustainable communities:** We have identified more sustainable approaches to urban form, infrastructure, transportation and resource use that will contribute to overall improved quality of life. They should be applied to new communities, as well as to the intensification or redevelopment of existing ones. Some of the key features include reduced imperviousness, measures to maintain or restore water balance, design features to facilitate sustainable choices (e.g. energy conservation, reduced vehicle use, support for local agricultural products) and protection and adaptive re-use of cultural heritage features. Development should proceed at a pace and extent that allows sufficient time to adopt, test and evaluate the effectiveness of new technologies and to make adjustments if the results do not meet our objectives and targets for the watershed.
- 3) **Recognize and develop a regional open space system:** The Rouge watershed has the basis for a significant, inter-connected regional open space system including Rouge Park and regional trails, conservation areas and major municipal parks. We recommend that this system be further developed to reach its potential to provide nature-based recreation experiences for a growing population, support for healthy communities, interpretation of natural and cultural heritage, linkages with local neighbourhoods and connections to surrounding watersheds.

An important prerequisite for action will be to increase awareness among watershed residents, businesses, developers and agencies of the importance of the watershed, its water cycles, natural systems and cultural heritage. We recommend a long-term outreach program to provide information and understanding, explain how people can act on this knowledge and inspire action. Our social marketing study, *Action Plan for Sustainable Practices*, showed that there is a modest basis of understanding and support for sustainability, but the public needs more specific information, marketing campaigns and assistance to inspire action. It also highlighted a number of issues that reduce opportunities for businesses to adopt sustainable practices, so we plan to remove barriers and provide incentives for the business community.

The coordinated efforts of government agencies and community leaders are also crucial to the success of this watershed plan. They have many complementary tools available, including plans and policies, permits and regulations, enforcement, infrastructure operations and maintenance, stewardship and regeneration programs, and education and awareness initiatives. We provide more details about how these existing tools can be used to help implement the watershed plan in the accompanying implementation guide.

We are standing at a crossroads. In one direction lies a future modelled on the past, with continued losses of environmental quality, biodiversity and cultural heritage and considerable costs to address the health, social and economic consequences of degraded environmental conditions. In the other direction is a future with healthy natural systems and a rich natural and cultural heritage, supporting a higher quality of life for our communities. This plan outlines the key steps to achieve the best possible future for ourselves and our grandchildren. We hope you will support it and become a partner in its implementation.

RES.#D60/06 -

TORONTO WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION CORPORATION INITIATIVES

To provide a status report on the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation initiatives with highlights of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) involvement and participation.

Moved by: Gay Cowbourne
Seconded by: Frank Dale

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the report on waterfront initiatives funded through the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC) be received.

AMENDMENT

RES.#D61/06

Moved by: Gay Cowbourne
Seconded by: Dick O'Brien

THAT the main motion be replaced with the following:

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority continue consultation with the Port Union Working Implementation Committee for Phase II of the Port Union Waterfront Improvement Project, such meetings to be held quarterly, or more frequently as required.

THE AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED

THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, WAS CARRIED

BACKGROUND

TRCA staff is currently working on a number of key waterfront initiatives funded through Eligible Recipient Delivery Agreements with TWRC or through participation on steering committees. The 2006 calendar year marked the largest capital budget in TRCA's history stemming from current waterfront initiatives. This report captures the highlights for 2006 and the role of TRCA. Projects include the following:

- Mimico Waterfront Linear Park Project;
- Western Beaches Watercourse Facility;
- Central Waterfront Innovative Design Competition;
- Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project;
- Bala Pedestrian Underpass;
- Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project;
- Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan Implementation Project;
- Lake Ontario Park Master Plan; and
- Port Union Waterfront Improvement Project.

Mimico Waterfront Linear Park Project

In 2003, TRCA entered into a Delivery Agreement with TWRC to undertake the Mimico Waterfront Linear Park Project for an estimated cost of \$6.5 million. TRCA is responsible for all aspects of project planning and implementation.

In April 2004, TRCA undertook property appraisals of all necessary private lands required to implement the project. Based on completed appraisals, TRCA and TWRC agreed to pursue the purchase of all available properties. TRCA was successful in acquiring all but four properties from three owners; TWRC directed TRCA to implement a stand-alone Phase 1 (central and west sectors) project.

Late in 2005 and early 2006, TRCA met with TWRC a number of times regarding the budget shortfall identified following the acquisition of the private properties. Based on these discussions, a consensus was reached among senior management at both TRCA and TWRC to pursue a revised project budget of \$10.6 million to implement Phase 1. At the TWRC Board of Director's meeting held on January 12, 2006, a revised project budget of \$10.6 million for Phase 1 was accepted and TWRC staff was directed to provide this funding through the new 10 year business plan.

Following direction from TWRC, the implementation of Phase 1 began in July 2006. As provided in correspondence from John Campbell (TWRC – dated November 3, 2006), TWRC supports TRCA's approach in moving ahead with the expanded scope of work to complete Phase 1 on the basis of the increased budget of \$10.6 million as proposed in the Amended Contribution Agreement. The next step is to have the Amended Contribution Agreement executed and a subsequent change made to the Delivery Agreement. The completion of Phase 1 is scheduled for July 2008.

A prerequisite for the implementation of Phase 2 is the securement of the remaining properties from landowners. Properties must be acquired by the City of Toronto through the development application process which could take many years. A budget to implement the Phase 2 components of the project is not provided at this time. TWRC committed to revisit the possibility of additional funding in future discussions relating to the 10 Year Business Plan to complete Phase 2.

Western Beaches Watercourse Facility

The Western Beaches Watercourse Facility involved the construction of a 600 metre long multi-sport watercourse with a budget of \$23 million. Additional project activities included the creation of on-site and off-site fish habitat at the mouth of the Humber River and Ontario Place, the completion of the Jamieson Avenue outfall diversion and the restoration of Marilyn Bell Park following construction.

TWRC engaged a consulting team led by MacViro Consultants to undertake a feasibility study. In November 2004, TRCA was directed to develop a Delivery Agreement for the purpose of developing and implementing the project by 2006. Given the aggressive implementation schedule, the consultant team was retained by TWRC to undertake the environmental assessment (EA) process and design components in conjunction with TRCA and the City of Toronto. To undertake on-site supervision and direction, TRCA engaged the project management services of UMA Engineering Limited. Following receipt of necessary approvals and detailed design, construction began in September 2005. A new public tender for supply, delivery and placement was issued and awarded to Aecon Construction Materials Limited.

In June 2006, the Western Beaches Watercourse Facility was completed on-time and under budget. The successful completion of this project is a clear example of a committed group of agencies working together to create a facility that will serve the long-term recreational needs of the City of Toronto.

Central Waterfront Innovative Design Competition

In March 2006, TWRC selected five internationally recognized teams to participate in a competition to design continuous waterfront access from the Western Gap to the Parliament Street Slip. The purpose of the design, which integrates the Music Garden, York and John Quay Promenades and HTO Park, is to provide a distinct and recognizable identity for Toronto's revitalized waterfront. The design competition was decided by a jury; TRCA advised the jury through participation on the City of Toronto's Technical Advisory Committee for the project.

Key components in the winning design included:

- continuous public promenade from the Western Gap to the Parliament Street Slip;
- completion of Martin Goodman Trail in this area;
- creation of major points of arrival where the heads of slips meet Queens Quay;
- improved Queens Quay Boulevard;
- consistent standards for finishes, furniture, pavers, boardwalks, railings and fixtures; and
- sustainable approach that includes habitat and water quality improvements.

In June 2006, TWRC announced the winner of the competition as the team led by Rotterdam's West 8 urban design and landscape architecture. Key features of the design include the creation of a continuous water's edge public promenade with a wooden boardwalk and a series of bridges spanning the ends of the slips, floating finger piers and the transformation of Queens Quay into an iconic boulevard. As a preview to the project, TWRC hosted the "Quay to the City" event from August 11-20, 2006 to illustrate the benefits of a continuous promenade. Traffic along one kilometre of Queens Quay was detoured and cycling and pedestrian trails with grass seating areas were installed.

The winning design will be implemented in phases over several years. The first phase of construction includes the transformation of Queens Quay between Spadina Avenue and York Street, including the completion of the Martin Goodman Trail and is scheduled to begin this year. As part of this project, TRCA staff will work with TWRC and its consultants to integrate the Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy into the Central Waterfront design.

Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project

The following is an update of project components of the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project including the Flood Protection Landform (FPL), Don River Park and the Don River Bridge extension.

Flood Protection Landform

Visually, the FPL will appear as a gently sloping, aesthetically pleasing hill about 3 to 3.5 m high and 125 m wide. It will prevent floodwaters from moving westward from the Don River into downtown Toronto. The key steps involved with constructing this structure involve the removal of all existing structures under the footprint of the FPL, the protection of utilities that cannot be reasonably relocated elsewhere, the compaction of the underlying existing soils, the placement of a clay core (the key component of the FPL) and the placement of topsoil and park features on the top of the FPL.

The first step, the demolition of the existing structures in the West Don Lands, will be completed by December 2006. The protection of existing utilities is anticipated to occur between February and April 2007, with soil compaction and the construction of the FPL to commence shortly thereafter. The FPL is anticipated to be completed by May 2008. All work on the FPL is being led by the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), as they are the principal landowner in the West Don Lands. TRCA staff work closely with ORC for all phases of the project including the design, site preparation and construction to ensure the FPL is designed in compliance with the Class EA for the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project prepared in 2004-2005.

Don River Park

Don River Park will be a 7 hectare new park space built on top of the FPL and will be the cornerstone public space for the new West Don Lands community. The Don River Park design is being led by TWRC through a consulting team consisting of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates Inc., The Planning Partnership Limited and Ken Greenberg Consultants. TRCA staff work closely with TWRC and the consulting team to ensure that the park is designed in compliance with the Class EA for the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project. The design for the park is approaching its final stages and construction will follow in phases as the underlying FPL is completed throughout 2007 and 2008. The park should be completed in the fall of 2008.

Don River Bridge Extension

The Don River Bridge extension is an essential first element of the flood protection identified in the Class EA. On April 11, 2006, TRCA announced the award of the contract to build the Don River Bridge Extension and Bala Pedestrian Underpass to Underground Services (1983) Limited. As of October 2006, the bridge sections supporting the two northern tracks have been completed. The bridge supporting the remaining three tracks to the south is anticipated to be completed by July 2007. The section of river channel to be created under the new Don River Bridge will be designed to improve fish habitat within this section of the Don River.

To facilitate the construction of the Don River Bridge work, the Don Watershed Trail has been closed between Queen Street and Lakeshore Boulevard since April 2006 and will remain closed until July 2007. Sections of the trail will be fully upgraded with a new, widened section under the railway bridge and the new Bala Pedestrian Underpass connecting to the future West Don Lands community. Once reopened, the occurrence of flooding along the trail under the Don River Bridge will be greatly reduced, allowing for increased use and enjoyment of the trail. TRCA staff lead the design and construction of the Don River Bridge Extension Project for an estimated cost of \$22 million on behalf of TWRC. Additionally, the Canadian National Railway has been managing components of the railway bridge construction on behalf of TRCA.

Bala Pedestrian Underpass

The Bala Pedestrian Underpass will link the new West Don Lands community to the existing trail system along the Don River and the waterfront. Construction of the underpass has commenced on the west side of the Bala Subdivision railway embankment. The western half of the underpass is anticipated to be completed by the end of November 2006. Construction will be halted for the winter season and is anticipated to recommence in early spring, 2007. The underpass is expected to be completed by the end of June, 2007. The new underpass will not be open to the public until construction of the FPL and Don River Park has been completed in 2008.

Landscaping of the area between the Bala Pedestrian Underpass and the new Don River Bridge, known as the Don River Landing, will consist of native vegetation, informal seating and a new lookout along the Don River, immediately upstream from the Don River Bridge. Landscaping plans have been developed in concert with the Don River Park designs to match the character of the area on both sides of the Bala Subdivision. Landscaping and maintenance will continue throughout the summer and early fall of 2007. TRCA staff lead the design and construction of the Bala Pedestrian Underpass on behalf of TWRC and funding is provided as a component of the Don River Bridge Extension Project Delivery Agreement.

Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project

In 2004, TRCA retained a consultant team led by Gartner Lee Limited (GLL) to undertake an individual EA for the Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection (DMNP) Project. In August 2006, TRCA received approval for the EA Terms of Reference (ToR) for the DMNP Project from the Ontario Ministry of Environment. TRCA and GLL together with other project partners, organized a public interpretative site walk and boat cruise in the area of the Port Lands on Saturday, October 14, 2006. Over 180 people members of the public attended. The itinerary included stops around the study area to discuss opportunities and challenges of the project. The boat cruise ferried passengers on the Island Princess between the Keating Channel and the Ship Channel, providing rare opportunities to view the Port Lands, East Bayfront and the central waterfront from the water.

TRCA and GLL are currently developing a long-list of alternative methods which will undergo an initial technical screening based on their ability to provide for flood protection and naturalization. Following the technical screening, TRCA anticipates a list of 14 to 20 alternative methods to be brought forth to the public at an open house scheduled for December 5, 2006. This list of alternatives will undergo a further detailed technical evaluation over the coming months, whereby a short-list of alternatives (5 to 10) will be identified by mid-spring 2007. The selection of a preferred alternative is anticipated by September 2007, with the submission of the EA by March 2008.

In 2004, the three levels of government signed a Contribution Agreement with TWRC that authorized an increase in study funding from \$2 million to \$3 million as part of the Delivery Agreement between TWRC and TRCA. This funding was directed to complete two studies including the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project and the DMNP Project. Due to significant increases in scope of work and study area than originally anticipated, TRCA staff anticipate receiving approval from TWRC in the next few months for an increased study budget to support this work.

Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan Implementation Project

The Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan was completed by TRCA in 1989, revised in 1992 and approved by Minister of the Environment in 1995. Implementation of the master plan has been very limited due to continued lakefilling activities by the Toronto Port Authority and the lack of implementation funds. The park is currently operated under the Interim Management Program in accordance with the delegated responsibilities assigned to TRCA by the Province of Ontario.

On May 20, 2004, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada announced that \$8 million would be allocated to begin the implementation of the Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan. TRCA is responsible for all aspects of project planning and implementation. Due to the nature of the funding, the Government of Canada required approval under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Following the completion of a screening report, TRCA received a determination to proceed from the Responsible Authorities on August 14, 2006 authorizing the implementation of this project.

Key components of the project to be implemented with this funding include the design and implementation of the trail system and installation of necessary park infrastructure including a formalized park gateway, environmental shelter, washrooms and interpretive signage. Furthermore, a Natural Area Enhancement Plan including both terrestrial and aquatic habitat enhancement projects will be undertaken. The implementation of these key components is expected to be completed over the next three years.

Lake Ontario Park Master Plan

TWRC is currently undertaking a master plan for the area known as Lake Ontario Park (LOP). The project area spans between the Eastern Gap and the RC Harris Filtration Plant and includes Tommy Thompson Park and Ashbridges Bay Park. A consulting team was assembled, led by TWRC Field Operations to prepare the LOP Master Plan with the goal of fostering the creation of a new waterfront park that is beautiful, sustainable and that serves as a special place for Toronto, analogous to Vancouver's Stanley Park. The LOP Master Plan will have regard for the approved Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan and the Master Plan Implementation Project which has just been initiated.

TRCA staff participate on the LOP Steering Committee which provides feedback to TWRC and the consulting team. Comments on the Draft Summary Report on Field Work and Key Findings as prepared on July 19, 2006 (revised September 5, 2006) were recently submitted to TWRC. Staff will continue to provide feedback on this TWRC initiative as a member of the steering committee and as the implementing agency for the Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan Implementation Project. A public meeting will be scheduled in early 2007 and will be hosted by TWRC.

Port Union Waterfront Improvement Project

On September 24, 2006, TRCA, in coordination with the Port Union Working Implementation Committee, celebrated the Phase 1 opening of the Port Union Waterfront Park. Following this celebration, the park was officially opened on September 29, 2006 with a media event coordinated by TWRC. Phase 1 of the park, extending from Highland Creek to Chesterton Shores, was initiated in September 2002 and involved the construction of a prominent park feature, the pedestrian node, four headlands and cobble beaches, and a pedestrian bridge over Highland Creek. Trail creation and landscaping were undertaken, including the creation of 1.44 km of new multi-use waterfront trail. In addition, both on-site and off-site fish habitat compensation projects were constructed.

In 2003, TRCA entered into a Delivery Agreement with TWRC to undertake the Port Union Waterfront Improvement Project for an estimated cost of \$16 million. TRCA is responsible for all aspects of project planning and implementation. In 2005, it was determined that the estimated cost to complete Phase 1 would be approximately \$13 million. TRCA met with TWRC a number of times to discuss the budget shortfalls as a result of the revised scope of work, property acquisition costs and TWRC budgeting protocols. Based on these discussions, a consensus was reached among senior management at both TRCA and TWRC to pursue a revised project budget of \$13 million for Phase 1 and \$16 million for Phase 2. At the TWRC Board of Director's meeting held on January 12, 2006, a revised total project budget of \$29 million was accepted. TWRC staff was directed to provide the revised project budget through the new 10 year business plan. TWRC and TRCA are presently working on changes to the Contribution Agreement and subsequent changes to the Delivery Agreement for implementation of Phase 2.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Staff will continue negotiations on new initiatives and undertake project reporting and other appropriate participation in all TWRC initiatives. Staff will report to the Authority on specific projects, as appropriate.

Report prepared by: Alex Phillips, extension 5570 and Ken Dion, extension 5230
For Information contact: Nancy Gaffney, extension 5313 or Ken Dion, extension 5230
Date: November 17, 2006

SECTION IV - ITEMS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD

RES.#D62/06 - **OAK RIDGES MORAINÉ CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS 2006 Projects**
Project highlights and key results from the 2006 Private Land Stewardship Program and Habitat Natural Cover Projects - Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Priority Areas 2 and 11.

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: Gay Cowbourne

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report on the 2006 Private Land Stewardship Program and Habitat Natural Cover Projects - Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Priority Areas 2 and 11 be received.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

In 2004, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF), in partnership with Oak Ridges Moraine Stewardship Partners Alliance (ORMSPA) produced a Stewardship Strategy that provides a vision and direction for Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) stewardship activities. The Stewardship Strategy included targets to help achieve the vision of increased natural cover, enhanced protection of the ORM's water resources and improved landowner awareness. To achieve these targets, ORMF invited stewardship partners on the ORM to implement the "Caring for the Moraine" Project. The "Caring for the Moraine Project" has two components 1) landowner contact and 2) natural cover projects.

In the fall of 2005, ORMF supported the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Stewardship program with funding for natural cover projects and private landowner contact program in the Conservation Priority Areas (CPA 2 and 11). The CPAs are a key component of the ORM Stewardship Strategy and outlined priorities and locations for natural cover restoration projects and the landowner contact program.

Natural Cover Projects

The natural cover components of this program were developed and delivered by the Restoration Services division of TRCA. The natural cover work focused on providing a variety of locations that showcased wetland, woodland and riparian habitat creation, rehabilitation and restoration projects. This initial year of effort was directed at TRCA properties with the purpose of using public lands to demonstrate natural cover improvement to private landowners.

Overall, this work within the ORM was focused on delivering the following objectives:

- develop and deliver innovative natural cover projects;
- test restoration techniques that have a broad application throughout the ORM;
- utilize the geographic information system (GIS) based resource management information to assist in the design and development of restoration projects;
- increase the ORM's natural land cover;
- highlight techniques that protect the ORM's water resources and systems.

Our efforts at improving natural cover were also directed at developing projects that used non-traditional techniques and highlighted broad ORM issues of importance to landowners and resource managers.

The following is an account of the area enhanced through the CPA natural cover program:

Project Site	Wetland (ha)	Woodland (ha)	Riparian (linear m)
CPA 11			
Goodwood Resource Management Tract	0.5	1	
Glen Major Resource Management Tract	1.3	10.5	800
CPA 2			
Castleberg Bolton Resource Management Tract	2.15	16.1	700
Albion Conservation Area			150
Total	3.95 ha	27.6 ha	1,650

Within all of the project sites, a total of 9,000 shrubs and by next spring over 28,000 trees will have been planted on the Oak Ridges Moraine. In addition, the natural cover projects helped to further define and identify additional project sites throughout the CPA areas, and highlighted many innovative habitat techniques, including:

- a GIS model calibrated to identify key riparian habitat areas;
- within reforestation areas new techniques are being tested to reduce herbivory from wildlife;
- cedar swamp wetlands were restored on ecologically and geologically appropriate locations.

Landowner Contact Program

The first year proposal focused primarily on the development and implementation of a well branded and coordinated private landowner contact initiative to represent the many organizations offering stewardship services to landowners on the ORM. The promotional materials were developed by the project steering committee, funded by the ORM and delivered by the Stewardship section of the Watershed Management division of TRCA. Standard processes for landowner contact and communication materials to support the project were developed by the partners for use across the ORM. It was an important first step in bringing together all of the key stakeholders to develop a well planned, strategic and properly resourced landowner contact project.

With this framework in place, the first round of on-the-ground landowner contact was initiated in the spring of 2006. Landowners with more than 2 acres of property were identified through the tax rolls. Letters were sent out in batches every few weeks to allow sufficient time for follow-up, site visits and project planning as needed.

The following results were achieved in year one of the Landowner Contact Program:

- As a result of the mail campaign, 140 letters were distributed in CPA 2 and 18 site visits were conducted. In CPA 11, 130 letters were sent and 18 site visits were conducted.

- Through these site visits a number of implementation projects have been identified for 2007 including wetland enhancement, tree planting, a riparian enhancement and a possible conservation easement. Several landowners were interested in pursuing Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plans for their lands and exploring ways to manage their conifer plantations to promote greater diversity and forest health.
- Staff attended three workshops promoting the program and answered questions from the public.
- Over 30 landowners responded to a newspaper article inviting their participation in the TRCA Bird Box Program. All respondents received information on enhancing wildlife habitat on their property. Thirteen projects resulted from this outreach initiative.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

ORMF funding for the stewardship projects was applied directly to the on-the-ground projects within CPA 2 and CPA 11. For each CPA, TRCA received \$41,000 for increasing natural cover, \$13,000 for riparian enhancements and \$65,000 for wetland creation/enhancement. The total grant received was \$238,000. The ORMF funding formula requires a 2:1 match for every dollar received. Matching funds were leveraged from existing internal programs and projects carried out on the ORM including regeneration projects, habitat implementation plan funding and watershed management plan implementation.

The Landowner Contact Program was funded through a \$47,000 grant from the ORMF with matching funds from existing TRCA stewardship programs operating in the CPA areas and funding received from Peel Region. A portion of the grant will be carried over into the second year of the Caring for the Moraine Project.

Joanne Jeffery, extension 5638

For Information contact: Gord MacPherson, extension 5246;

Joanne Jeffery, extension 5638

Date: November 06, 2006

RES.#D63/06 -

DUFFINS HABITAT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Report on the 2006 habitat projects completed in the Duffins Creek watershed under the Habitat Implementation Plan and Fish Management Plan Implementation.

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
 Seconded by: Gay Cowbourne

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report on the 2006 habitat projects completed under the Duffins Creek Habitat Implementation Plan and Fish Management Plan Implementation, be received.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Over the past five years, the Restoration Services division has developed and delivered Habitat Implementation Plans (HIP) for a number of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) watersheds. This process was developed as a strategic mechanism for the implementation of prioritized habitat projects on TRCA and partnered municipal properties. The HIP methodology was developed to follow the recommendations outlined in TRCA watershed and jurisdictional strategies, including the watershed plans, fish management plans and Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy. The HIP process identifies habitat improvement opportunities including wetlands, woodlands, riparian and wildlife habitat features.

The Duffins Creek watershed was assessed during 2005 and the projects implemented during 2006 were identified as high priority sites under this plan. Our focus during this initial implementation year was directed at showcasing all of the major habitat project types and components. Projects in Lower Duffins, Claremont, Paul-Lynn Park and the Stouffville Greenway were the four principal sites under this program. In addition, support from this project was directed at the Oak Ridges Moraine project sites within the Duffins Creek watershed and some detailed planning around wetland and riparian opportunities within the upper watershed areas. The 2006 projects are identified on Attachment 1.

All of the projects contributed to increasing natural cover in high priority HIP areas. Specifically, riparian habitat was created at Paul-Lynn Park and the Claremont Field Centre. Woodland cover was created at the Stouffville Greenway and wetlands were created in the Claremont Conservation Area and lower Duffins Creek. In addition, at all sites a variety of habitat structures and features were constructed to improve the habitat functions of the site. Special attention was directed at utilizing logs and tree stumps to improve planting zones and facilitate the utilization of the sites by wildlife.

At the Claremont Field Centre, plantings were directed at improving the habitat cover associated with intermittent stream that originate in an agricultural field and drained directly into the Duffins Creek. This restoration technique was identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), and has been implemented in a number of locations and Restoration Services division projects. The intent is to showcase the importance of intermittent streams and the use of geographic information system (GIS) modeling in future restoration projects.

Financial support was also directed at restoration projects within the Oak Ridges Moraine at the Goodwood and Glen Major Resource Management Tract. Wetland restoration opportunities were also identified in the upper headwater areas of the Duffins Creek watershed.

In total, 1.91 hectares of natural cover was created and 5,260 trees and shrubs were planted. Over a kilometre of riparian habitat was restored, two wetlands were restored and a variety of essential habitat was installed. Attachment 2 outlines the specific deliverables of each of the major projects completed under this program.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Implementation planning is underway for the 2007 field season and project sites are being selected. Emphasis in 2007 will be placed on improving riparian cover and wetlands on private lands and TRCA properties.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funding for this project is available in the Durham budget and from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, accounts 109-15, 111-80, 109-10.

Report prepared by: Gord MacPherson, extension 5246

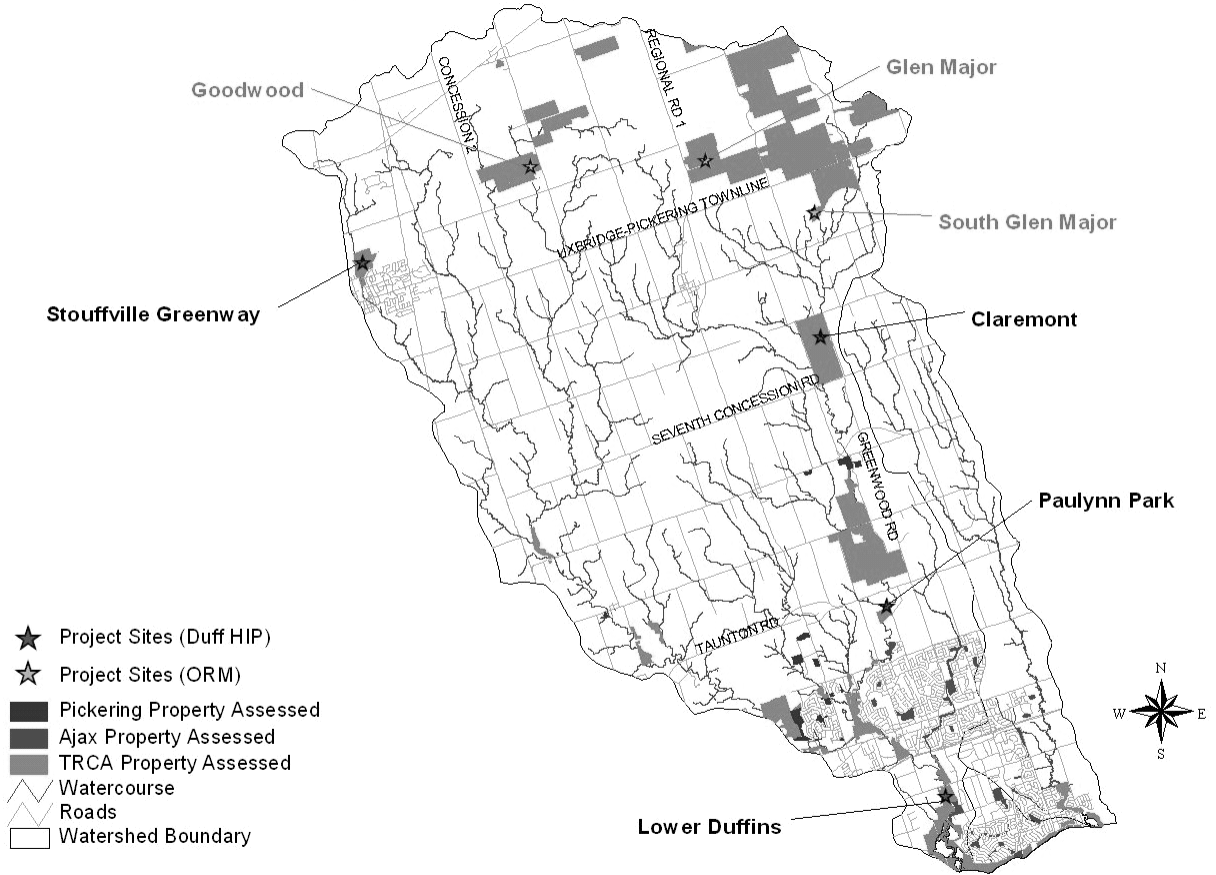
For Information contact: Gord MacPherson, extension 5246

Date: November 24, 2006

Attachments: 2

Attachment 1

2006 Duffins HIP Projects Site Map



Attachment 2

Location	Project Type	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Trees and Shrubs	Essential Habitat
Claremont Conservation Area	Riparian Enhancement	0.23	260	1,100	● Hibernaculum
	Wetland Creation	0.29			
Paulynn Park	Riparian Enhancement	1.16	1,128	3,170	● small mammal habitats ● Hibernaculum ● Nesting boxes
Duffins Creek (Lower)	Wetland Creation	0.065			● small mammal habitat
Stouffville Greenway	Lowland Reforestation	1.7		990	● 1 small mammal habitat ● 20 songbird boxes
TOTAL		1.91 (ha)	1388 (m)	5,260	

RES.#D64/06 - WATERSHED COMMITTEE MINUTES

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: Gay Cowbourne

THAT Section IV items 8.4.1 - 8.4.6, inclusive, in regards to watershed committee minutes, be received.

CARRIED

Section IV Items - 8.4.1 - 8.4.6, Inclusive

DON WATERSHED REGENERATION COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting #7/06, held on August 3, 2006

Minutes of Meeting #8/06, held on September 21, 2006

Minutes of Meeting #9/06, held on October 26, 2006

DUFFINS AND CARRUTHERS WATERSHED RESOURCE GROUP

Minutes of Meeting #2/06, held on April 19, 2006

Minutes of Meeting #3/06, held on June 21, 2006

Minutes of Meeting #4/06, held on September 13, 2006

ETOBICOKE-MIMICO WATERSHEDS COALITION

Minutes of Meeting #1/06, held on March 23, 2006

Minutes of Meeting #2/06, held on October 26, 2006

HUMBER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Minutes of Meeting #4/06, held on October 24, 2006

ROUGE PARK ALLIANCE

Minutes of Meeting #5/06, held on June 30, 2006

ROUGE WATERSHED TASK FORCE

Minutes of Meeting #6/06, held on June 22, 2006.

TERMINATION

ON MOTION, the meeting terminated at 10:47 a.m., on Friday, December 8, 2006.

Dave Ryan
Chair

Brian Denney
Secretary-Treasurer

/ks