



Minesing Reeds

The Friends of Minesing Wetlands Newsletter

Volume 28

Winter 2007

A Change of Climate

The year of 2007 has begun in a heat wave without snow. This has already impacted many recreational-based businesses and may affect the winter outings that Friends of Minesing Wetlands has scheduled. The Gore Foundation is promoting the film, "An Inconvenient Truth," which is recommended viewing for its perspective on climate change.

A different take on climate is the positive climate of partnerships and also the revitalization of our directorship that has occurred over this past year. FOMW's efforts have been focused on strengthening partnerships to initiate major projects and improve or sustain existing ones.

The Nottawasaga Look Out has required numerous presentations by Byron Wesson and Harold Parker to establish financial support for Phase 1 from Rotary Clubs (Barrie, Barrie-Kempfenfelt, Barrie Huronia), County of Simcoe, Township of Springwater, and the Tri-Council which includes the Beausoleil First Nation, the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and the Chippewas of Mnjikaning First Nation. Initial discussion with the Ganaraska Trail Organization and the Nine Mile Portage Group are in order to pursue a linked trail system between Fort Willow and the Nottawasaga Look Out. The Brereton Field Naturalists will be assisting FOMW on the Heronry Snowshoe Trip on February 10th (with favourable climate conditions).

I am extremely pleased with the new climate at our last Directors' meeting. We have a number of new faces with various backgrounds and much-needed enthusiasm for our future endeavours.

I hope to see you at one of our 2007 events,

Lynn Brennan

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

In December, the local community came together to celebrate the life of life-long outdoorsman, John Mayer. Mr. Mayer spent many seasons in the Minesing Wetlands as a trapper, and his family wanted to mark his passion for the Wetlands by raising funds in his memory. Friends and family graciously raised more than \$2700, which will be used for conservation initiatives in this internationally significant wetland. Upcoming issues of "Minesing Reeds" will elaborate on how John Mayer is to be honoured.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority will be hosting an open house on Wednesday, February 28 for all hunters who hold passes for Minesing and Osprey Wetlands. Programs are being implemented to ensure better signage, enhanced enforcement, and overall, more thorough management. Please join us at Wednesday, February 28th, from 6:00—8:30pm, in the Jose Building at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 Line 8, Utopia.

A new Conservation Land Use Pass is now available, giving visitors access to all NVCA lands. Monies collected from the required passes will be directed to a Conservation Lands Acquisition reserve fund. The costs will be the same as it was for the Minesing Pass save for a family pass of which is now \$50 per year.

The amount of lands within the Minesing Wetlands held by the NVCA is approaching 10,000 acres. Staff are currently working on the acquisition of another 100 acres, hoping to finalize it by mid-summer.

NVCA staff members, in conjunction with Georgian College, are working on a study to revert the man-made section of Willow Creek, which runs from George Johnston Road down into the Wetlands, back to a meandering channel. The Composting Council of Canada is being consulted to identify any opportunities for remediation using compost for bank stabilization. For more information on this project, please contact NVCA Biologist Fred Dobbs, at extension 237.

ANNUAL GENERAL GATHERING

Saturday, October 21st was a great day at Tiffin Centre, as current and new FOMW members, as well as non-members, came together to enjoy the natural setting and get informed as to our recent initiatives. Children had fun making colourful pumpkin turtles (cut a pumpkin in half from the stem down, cut out or glue on some funky shapes for its shell, use twigs for legs and a tail, styrofoam balls on craft sticks for the head, and apply lots of paint!), and everyone enjoyed the barbecue. Thanks to naturalist Bob Bowles for attending, and presenting some of the findings from the Flora and Fauna Inventory recently undertaken. The Inventory is just about complete, and is expected in printed format in February.



For more information on the Minesing Wetlands or for Friends of Minesing Wetlands membership information, please contact the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, 8195 Line 8, Utopia, ON, L0M 1T0, (705) 424-1479

UPCOMING MINESING WETLANDS EVENTS



- Saturday, February 10 Winter Walk to the Heronry
- Saturday, February 24 Winter Snowshoe Hike
- Saturday, March 10 Minesing Unplugged Curling Fun-spiel
- Sat. April 14, 21, 28 Canoe Tours
- Saturday, May 5 Roadside Clean-up (George Johnston Road)
- June 16 & 17 Minesing Unplugged

Please call the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority 705-424-1479 for more information and to register for these events. Events may be weather dependent. Please be advised that the Minesing Wetlands complex is a wilderness area and outdoor experience is expected of participants for trekking-type excursions.

Minesing Unplugged

Get ready: this year's Minesing Unplugged Wetland Festival is being held over two days, and includes on-site camping! Being held June 16th and 17th at Tiffin Centre for Conservation, the event features an extraordinary musical lineup, a juried artisan market, environmental and wellness displays, and hands-on environmental learning. Confirmed performers include Juno Award winner Lynn Miles, Maple Blues Female Vocalist of the year Suzie Vinnick, Luther Wright and the Wrongs, Hayes Carll, Greg Hobbs Trio, Matt Masters, Dan Frechette, Old Man Luedecke, and The Sundowners. The event continues to be organized by volunteers, with funds raised directed to conservation initiatives in the Minesing Wetlands. For more information, check out the Festival website, www.minesingunplugged.ca, or contact Tina at the NVCA, 705-424-1479, ext. 241, or tdesroches@nvca.on.ca.



Curling Fun-spiel

As a fundraiser for the Minesing Unplugged Wetland Festival, a curling Fun-spiel is being planned for Saturday, March 10th at the Barrie Curling Club on Essa Road. No experience is necessary! It is an all-day event (9am-6pm), and lunch is included in the entry fee. There will also be live entertainment by local musicians. Fees are \$140 per team, or \$35 per person. Be sure to register by March 2nd: spaces are limited! Please contact Tina for more information and to register, 705-424-1479 ext. 241, or tdesroches@nvca.on.ca. Come out and have a rockin' good time!



Brereton Field Naturalists

The Brereton Field Naturalists is a long-established nature club based in Barrie. The group holds regular meetings which feature guest speakers, and plans field trips in Barrie, around Simcoe County, and beyond. Non-members are welcome to the club's activities. For more information on the Brereton Field Naturalists, or to become a member, please contact Lynne Gibbon at 705-721-4599.



SMART GROWTH / URBAN SPRAWL

Ask anyone who grew up at the edge of a large, southern Ontario city what it used to look like — and what it looks like now. Places where they used to ride bikes beside farm fields, or hike in forests or along quiet streams, are now paved over with malls, industries and housing. We can't grow on like this! There are smarter ways to grow — better for nature and for people.

This is the introduction to a page on the website for Ontario Nature, which encourages people to educate themselves on urban sprawl, and in turn encourage local and provincial governments to plan for smarter, healthier communities.

Two resources are available on this page: a downloadable version of the book, "A Smart Future for Ontario: How to Create Greenways and Curb Urban Sprawl in your Community," and the "Smart Growth Broadsheet," with suggestions on helping your government representatives understand the issue.



Please visit ontarionature.org, and follow the tabs for "Conservation"

Are you interested in becoming a "Friend of Minesing Wetlands?" Do you frequently visit the Minesing Wetlands, or would someone you know appreciate the gift of a membership and annual pass? Funds raised are directed towards conservation, promotion, and enhancement projects within the Wetlands. Members receive an annual pass for all Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority lands, and one year of mailings of "Minesing Reeds." Memberships are valid for the current calendar year.

Please check the appropriate box for your pass and membership category:

- \$20 for an individual \$50 for a family \$100 for a Club \$300 for a corporation

Please return this form, with a cheque payable to the Friends of Minesing Wetlands, to the N.V.C.A., 8195 Line 8, Utopia, ON, L0M 1T0.

Name _____

Address/Phone/email _____