



Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority

Volume 2

## Clean Water Act Update

The proposed *Clean Water Act, 2005* (Bill 43) passed Second Reading on May 18, 2006. The Bill has now been referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy. The Committee intends to hold hearings in Toronto, Walkerton, Cornwall, Bath and Peterborough the week of August 21, 2006.

Those who are interested in submitting comments on the Bill may send written submissions to the Committee Clerk at the address below by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 28, 2006.

Trevor Day, Clerk  
Room 1405, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A2

Currently the proposed Act can be viewed by visiting the Ministry of the Environment web site located at:

[www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/cwa.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/cwa.htm)

## Regulation Update

Effective May 8, 2006 the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority Ontario Regulation 176/06 the *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses* passed Provincial approval.

The objective of this regulation is to ensure public safety with regards to natural hazards through the issuance of permits for works within or in proximity (but not limited) to lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands or ravines.

## Environmental Youth Pilot Project

Based in the Hiawatha Highlands conservation area, Heyden Adventure Base Camp recently offered "Adventure Based Learning" Junior Summer Camp for children (ages 10-14 yrs.) with an emphasis on environmental recreation. Participants enjoyed a diverse variety of activities such as: Outdoor Survival, Orienteering / Geocaching, Canoeing Skills and Mountain Biking delivered by certified guides and counselors while exploring four local conservation areas.

The program provides healthy living alternatives for youth in the summer, teaches outdoor survival skills, fosters youth environmental stewardship, as well as giving urban children an opportunity to learn about the local Conservation Areas made available to the public by the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority.

The first camp session ran August 2 - 4, 2006; the second session August 8 -11, 2006.

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Christine Aasen

### Source Protection Planning Team

Rhonda Bateman, Coordinator

Marlene McKinnon, GIS

Christine Aasen, Communications

Loralei Premo, Student

### Conservation Authority Staff

Jerry Boyle, Field Supervisor

Jamie Eaton, Field Assistant

Frank Tesolin, Technical Advisor

Deane Greenwood, Trails Coordinator

Debbie Tomas, Bookkeeper-Secretary

### Member of



## Junior Rangers Training



Ontario Ranger program participant collecting a soil sample.

The Ontario Ranger and Ontario Stewardship Ranger programs are Youth Employment Programs through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The aim is to provide participants with a unique combination of work, learning and life experiences. Some examples of these jobs include stream rehabilitation, clearing portage trails, hiking trail design and creation, and enhancing Ontario parks.

In June, SSMRCA Staff had the opportunity to provide part of the training taking place in the Sault.

Technical Advisor, Trisha Westman guided the Junior Rangers through training sessions on Environmental Impact Assessment, Soil Science and Water Monitoring.

Participants had hands experience with different tasks on the three topics.



SSMRCA Source Water Protection Technical Advisor, Trisha Westman, demonstrating soil density analysis.

## GIS in Conservation

On May 1, 2006 Marlene McKinnon of the SSMRCA was one of the presenters at the first Northern Ontario GIS (Geographical Information Systems) in Healthcare Workshop held in Sault Ste. Marie.

The presentation consisted of Conservation Authority (CA) provincial background information, the local CA history and the current status of CA programs including Source Protection. The presentation concluded with the capacity building status and the involvement of ESRI's ArchHydro tool set to assist with the current CA programs as well as the Source Protection program into the future to benefit the health and security of the community.

The SSMRCA along with the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, City of Sault Ste. Marie, PUC, Fire, Police, Economic Development Corporation, Algoma Health Unit, Algoma District Social Services Board, Child Care Algoma, Children's Aid Society and Community Quality Improvement form the Community Geomatics Centre (CGC).

This group combines ideas, data and GIS tools in an effort to improve the health, safety and social well being of the community. The results have had immediate and long term benefits that will lead to an improved community. Several instances of the community analysis results have won awards within the GIS community. These include ESRI Canada Award of Excellence for support of health and human services in the community and two URISA (Urban & Regional Information Systems Association) awards for Municipal GIS.



Made possible through the support of the Government of Ontario

## Trail Tales

Trail coordinator, Deane Greenwood has been hard at work on the perimeter trails of the Fort Creek Conservation Area; removing hazards such as low lying branches and trees which were creating a risk to trail users.

Due to a previous lack of staffing and money only minimal trail maintenance has been done in the last few years. The current trail initiative is to improve trail quality and safety.

Trail widening is also taking place to allow staff to better evaluate areas in need of maintenance and for the safety of area users.

Earlier in the year, the SSMRCA received a call reporting that vandals had damaged the bridge on the Maple Bush trail. The trail coordinator was able to retrieve the decking from the nearby stream and re-install it. The trail and bridge are now restored and the east and west sides of the Fort Creek northern trail system are joined again.

As part of a project for Earth Day this spring local Voyager Trail Association volunteers assisted the SSMRCA by picking up garbage in and around Conner Road and Thayers Acres.

This initiative occurs many times over the year and is very beneficial in assisting the SSMRCA in attempting to keep this area free of refuse and garbage.

Voyager Trail Association member, Mike Landmark also assisted the SSMRCA on his frequent walks on the trails at Marks Bay by recording GPS data.

Many thanks go out to those individuals who help keep the trails garbage free or who donate their time in other ways which benefit the entire community.