

# 2010 WORKPLAN



Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council

protect • conserve • improve • restore

Successful completion of the following projects is contingent upon the amount of received funding, partner contributions, volunteers, license/permit approvals (where applicable) and time available from the project lead/coordinator/board of directors. Results will be summarized and communicated through the annual report which will be completed at the end of 2010 and released in the spring of 2011.

## **McQuaby Lake Walleye Restoration Project**



The McQuaby Lake walleye restoration project has been in progress since 2007 and hopes to wrap up the major field activities in 2010. The goals of the project are to restore the spawning habitat to a productive state for walleye and then return the population to a sustainable level by transferring adult (brood stock) to the lake to rebuild the population from its depressed numbers.

Activities for 2010 are expected to include:

- ◆ A spring walleye spawning survey
- ◆ Trap and transfer of approx 150-200 slot sized adult walleye
- ◆ Shoal cleaning if necessary
- ◆ Shoal augmentation work to continue
- ◆ The lakewide voluntary closure of the walleye fishery to continue

To date, over a thousand hours of volunteer time have been contributed to this ongoing project towards community meetings, spawning surveys, assessment netting, shoal cleaning and shoal augmentation (fisheries habitat improvement work). This is in addition to the equipment, money and facilities donated by these same partners.

Partners participating include: The Friends of McQuaby Lake, Commanda & Area Anglers and Hunters, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources North Bay District Office, Ontario Stewardship Rangers (MNR Youth Programs), the Township of Nipissing and the Community Fish & Wildlife Involvement Program.

## **North Bay Natural Habitats Program**



The North Bay Natural Habitats Program is another ongoing project of the stewardship councils which has been in progress since 2007.

Originally, the project was designed to start and wrap-up in a single year, but has been extended over this length of time due to the resounding levels of support received from funders and partners.

The goals of this project are numerous, but primarily are to increase the buffer width coverage along Chippewa Creek as an initial effort towards restoring the creek to its former coldwater status. This project will also to increase the green space/riparian wildlife habitat within the City of North Bay. This is often a challenge given urban pressures through any city, but despite this, the project has been progressing quite well.

All tree and shrub planting to date has been planted on public lands along the Kinsmen and Kate Pace Trails so that they may be enjoyed by everyone.

Any trees which may remain from the volunteer plantings in 2010 will be planted by the councils Stewardship Ranger team.

Partners participating include: The City of North Bay, the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority, the Evergreen Foundation, Walmart Canada, Green Streets Canada, Burrows Country Store and Garden Centre, Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. and Eagle Tree and Landscaping Services.

## **Rural Tree Planting Program**



**The Rural Tree Planting Program was started in 2008 to reach out to rural landowners and help increase the tree cover across the Greater Nipissing Area.**

**At first glance, the countryside in this part of Ontario does not appear to be in need of tree cover, atleast when compared to other parts of the province further south.**

**At a closer look, there are a number of opportunities to plant trees here in the north –often on agricultural and other rural properties. The need for woodlots and larger wildlife anchor areas isn’t as prominent, however, rural landowners can benefit from increasing tree cover along watercourses and recovering marginal farmlands. This can reduce wind and water erosion, provide windbreaks, meet carbon sequestration targets of environmental farm plans, etc.**

**Those rural landowners who wish to plant trees for timber production, wildlife habitat or aesthetic values are not excluded from applying to this program.**

**At this time (and thanks to our partners), the council is able to offer this as a full-service program. Landowners are asked to take care of site preparation and a small amount of tending after the trees have been planted. In between these steps, the trees are fully paid for and planted by professional contractors. Depending upon tree costs and availability, there can even be some money attributed to required tending which can be offered at no cost to the landowner.**

**Landowners who may wish to have trees planted on their property are encouraged to contact the stewardship council as far in advance as possible. This way, representatives from the council can meet with the landowner, have a look at the property and in particular the soils present. Options for trees (species and quantity) and goals for the property are openly discussed to find the best fit of resources to meet the landowners needs.**

**Sufficient lead time allows all of this to take place and trees to be ordered (grown in the nursery) so they are available at the time of planting.**

**Partners participating include: Trees Ontario, Nipissing Forest Resources Management Inc., West Nipissing Soil & Crop Association and Outland Reforestation.**

## **Don Nicholson Four Mile Creek Coldwater Restoration Initiative**



**Four Mile Creek, found within the Greater Nipissing Area is a unique watercourse to our area and additionally to the entire province. It contains the only naturally spawning landlocked population of Atlantic Salmon in all of Ontario.**

**The project is named for Don Nicholson, a member of Trout Unlimited and longstanding proponent of conservation who passed away abruptly, and unexpectedly in 2009.**

**Goals of the project are to improve the various diverse natural qualities of Four Mile Creek. While the salmon population is a unique feature, it’s improvement is not the sole focus of the project. It’s improvement however (should populations increase as a result of completed stewardship work) may prove to be an indicator of success.**

**This effort is an example of a partnered initiative of the stewardship council’s as it is being actively led by the Near North Chapter of Trout Unlimited based out of North Bay.**

Larger scale activities are varied and include such things as erosion reparation, water flow monitoring, treeplanting, benthic sampling and public education. 2010 efforts will focus on the creation of a restoration plan in order to prioritize efforts.

As this is a new project for 2010, a long list of partners has not yet been confirmed but is reasonably expected to include the North Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources North Bay District, North Bay Hunters and Anglers.

### Lake Nosbonsing Loon Conservation Project



Some concern has been expressed about the reproductive success of Lake Nosbonsing's loons over the past few years.

The Common Loon holds a significant place in anyone's heart who has ever visited northern Ontario. It's haunting cry can be heard under starlit skies from many kilometres away.

Loons, unlike people, are very good at managing their own carrying capacity on any given waterbody. With the exception of larger bodies of water, there is usually only one breeding pair of loons to a lake. Nosbonsing is of the size that could support additional pairs of birds through the breeding season and into the fall. Nosbonsing is also a known staging area for small flocks of birds prior to the autumn migration.

Loon reproduction can be and usually is negatively impacted by human traffic when such traffic is present on a lake -particularly in spring months when nests are subject to wakes from boats and other recreational watercraft. Shoreline development and activity can be detrimental to breeding as well. Either of these challenges inflicted upon loons can be easy fixes –with the right information and community ethic.

The Loon Conservation Project on Lake Nosbonsing will begin with an assessment or 'look into' reports that the localized population is on the decline. If the feeling turns out to be accurate, further stewardship activities to conserve the population and protect the growing young from egg to the immature stages may be taken.

Partners at this time have not been confirmed, but the council expects that those involved will primarily be residents of the lakeside community.

### North Bay Boy Scouts Tree Planting Support



Over the past several decades, Scouts Canada have planted millions of trees across the country.

With the challenges presented by today's economy, largely discretionary funding to finance the planting of these trees on an annual basis is becoming more difficult to find.

Scout troops and leaders do not have the time to plan out and create lengthy planting prescriptions, or apply for monies required to do so. Their interest is in getting the youth active and planting those trees on a Saturday morning and then let mother nature take her course. This isn't exactly intensive forest management, but is a technique that mirrors a natural forest renewal strategy and it does work. Thanks to Canadian Scout Troops, there are many a woodlot and treed buffer strip around the countryside that attesting to the success of their efforts

In 2010 the role of the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council in this project will be simple. The council will be seeking out funding for the local Scout Troops and potentially suggesting some planting sites to keep the Scouts doing what they do best.

### Annual Used Household Battery Collection Competition



The stewardship council has been a lead partner of Nipissing Environmental Watch's used battery contest for a number of years now. Each year, the quantity of batteries collected seems to increase with approximately 4 to 10,000 pounds of batteries collected annually.

The competition is held amongst secondary schools across the region. Past participants (and expected participants again for 2010) include: Near North District High Schools, Conseil Scolaire Catholique Franco-Nord High Schools and Nipissing Secondary School.

A cash prize is offered to the first and second place schools which collect the most non-rechargeable (disposable alkaline) batteries.

At the conclusion of the project in the springtime, the batteries are disposed of in the most environmentally friendly way possible at a hazardous waste disposal site. This avoids these materials entering landfills common waste facilities.

Partners participating include: Nipissing Environmental Watch, TD Canada Trust, and the various post secondary institutions across the Greater Nipissing area.

## Community Outreach & Involvement Programs in Natural Resources

### Ontario Stewardship Rangers - North Bay Crew



The Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program has operated successfully in the North Bay District in 2000, 2006, 2007 and 2008. For the summer of 2010, North Bay is back on the rotation to receive a crew again.

Four \*17-year-old crew members and an \*older crew leader will be hired on for a summer contract to work on natural resource and environmental improvement projects in the local area.

This allocated crew will be based out of the MNR office on Trout Lake road. The lion's share of the crews work schedule will be at the discretion of the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council.

Specific projects which the Rangers will be working on will be decided upon in the spring of 2010 and confirmed after the crew leader is hired on in early June.

Applications and advertisement for *Crew Lead* and *Crew Member* positions will be made via:

- ◆ The Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council's website
- ◆ The province of Ontario's MNR Youth Programs website
- ◆ The province of Ontario's GOJOBS website
- ◆ Guidance departments of in area high schools,
- ◆ Local 'Service Canada' employment centres
- ◆ Local 'Service Ontario' centres

Newspaper ads may or may not be utilized to broadcast these employment opportunities.

Successful applicants are hired from an open, fair and competitive interview process.

Partners participating will be identified in June after the hire of an OSR Team Lead. Should any partners have project ideas or needs suitable to an OSR team, please contact the GNSC's Stewardship Coordinator.

*\*To be eligible for hire, Crew members must be turning 17 years of age in 2010, meaning they have to have been born in 1993. In the event that insufficient numbers of applications from 17 year olds are received, students who are 16 years of age (born in 1994) or 18 years of age (born in 1992) may be considered for hire. As such, students of these age groups are encouraged to apply. Crew Leaders are typically college or university aged students and in some circumstances have been older professionals. Crew leaders must be at least 18 years of age and demonstrate the maturity and other relevant competencies required to meet the conditions of hire.*

### **Ontario Stewardship Rangers Mattawa Crew**



Partners of the Stewardship Council have suggested that a second crew be hired on, based and supervised out the Mattawa area.

Ideally, the crew will be funded and provided with project work jointly by Samuel De Champlain Provincial Park, Algonquin Provincial Park, the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority and the City of Mattawa.

Crew activities in the Mattawa area will be planned and set out by the partners.

MNR North Bay and Youth Programs will provide the required training and look after the administrative details.

Partners participating will be identified in June after the hire of an OSR Team Lead. Should any partners have project ideas or needs suitable to an OSR team, please contact the GNSC's Stewardship Coordinator.

The hiring process, hiring standards and general work duties will be the same as the North Bay headquartered crew. For of these generic details, please refer to the above North Bay Crew listing and the 2010 OSR Job Backgrounder (Mattawa Crew Headquarters) located in the appendix of this work plan.

In the event that partner funding and continued partner interest cannot be obtained the council will proceed with the North Bay Crew alone.

### **49th Annual North Bay Regional Science Fair Awards**



Each year the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council Supports the Science Fair.

This is done with two certificates and cash awards for the top science fair project in either the Junior or Intermediate competition levels. There are no specific criteria other than the project must have an environmental or natural resource flavour.

The support for this excellent opportunity to engage youth will go ahead once again in the spring of 2010.

Partners for this activity include the Near North District School Board and participating post-secondary institutions.

## Adopt A Sturgeon Program



Going into its third consecutive year, the Adopt-A-Sturgeon program will continue in 2010.

When the MNR announced that its multi-year assessment had come to a conclusion, this also meant the end for the council's popular public involvement program. However, the Nipissing First Nation has taken up the torch and will continue the study this spring.

Fish are live-captured and released using short-set gill nets. The data collected will increase the amount of available local research and information on this species at risk. This added knowledge will help lead the managing agencies and partners to a more efficient -and hopefully faster recovery of this ancient fish.

Volunteers will again have the opportunity to adopt-a-sturgeon, observing and accompanying the field crew where safe to do so. In return, the adopter will receive a certificate, photo with them and 'their' fish as well as entitle them to updates on their fish (when recaptured in future years).

The single fee for adopting a fish covers the costs for up to three people to participate. As with any other fishing method, the fish occasionally do not always cooperate and fail to show up in the nets. In the event this happens, the council will attempt to make alternative arrangements for volunteers. This may mean attending another netting session or the assignment of an unadopted fish.

Funds obtained are directed back into the program itself. Funds may also be used to assist conducting additional research work to be done and also further educational activities on the importance of the Lake Sturgeon to Ontario's waters.

Partners for 2010 will include the Nipissing First Nation. This list may be expanded to include others as the year progresses.

## Media Sponsors



If you have ever seen an ad in the newspaper, a service announcement on the television, or heard the same over the radio concerning the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council, we have our media partners to thank for that.

They are:

- Cogeco Cable
- North Bay Nugget
- EZ Rock 100.5
- CKAT 600
- CTV

Their generous donation of in-kind media coverage makes each of them valuable corporate sponsors and accounts for nearly two hundred thousand dollars of contributions annually. Their assistance in preparing these announcements is greatly appreciated and further demonstrates the benefits of truly local television & media to the community.

The council makes use of this time to publicize projects such as treeplanting and educational events, advertise the meeting dates and location of our 'Annual General Meeting' and invoke community participation and support for our various other activities.

In 2010, these initiatives will continue into the third of our three year agreement with the partners –one we hope to renew in 2011.

## **French Translation of the Lake Nipissing Educational Kit**



In 2007, the Stewardship Council created a primary grade elementary school educational kit and made it available through the Near North District School Board.

Karen Anderson, the author and a retired teacher herself, made sure that the unit included everything a teacher would need when she initially wrote the material and put the kit together.

The kit contains a teacher's reference, source material, visual aids, an original board game and even an original storybook about Lake Nipissing -which Karen also wrote herself.

Near North teachers may currently sign out the kit from the board office and a copy of the kit has also provided to the elementary school in Dokis.

Intentions have always been to translate these materials into French and provide a copy of the unit to the French school board as well. At present the kit has been translated and is awaiting printing.

In 2010, the unit will be distributed as planned.

Project Partners: Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord

## **Moose Hunting Compliance Program**



Going back to 2007, area residents: hunters and non-hunters alike were angry to hear that *eleven* shot and left moose were found in the Sturgeon Falls area.

Each instance was investigated by the MNR North Bay District Enforcement team, with decent results.

As with most any enforcement action, investigative actions are reactionary, vs proactive methods of dealing with this poaching problem.

A number of conservation groups were interested in boosting the proactive measures in the area and were intent upon becoming part of the solution.

In partnership with MNR Conservation Officers, a number of outdoor associations were approached with some suggestions on how to curb poaching in the local area.

With the generous donation of funds from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (Zone D), the Sturgeon Falls Rod and Gun Club and the Commanda and Area Anglers and Hunters, over five thousand dollars was raised. With that money, two moose decoys were purchased and public educational signage (pictured) has been designed and prepared for print.

Hopes were to have the signage up and in place for the 2009 hunting season, however some planning delays related to the printing and installation of the sign were encountered and have since been solved. In 2010 the partners involved will be recognized for their contributions and the sign will be put into place in an appropriate location near hunting season.

Partners participating include: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters 'Zone D', Sturgeon Falls Rod & Gun Club, Commanda & Area Anglers and Hunters and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Aviation and Forest Fire Management

Branch (North Bay Headquarters), Provincial Enforcement Branch and the local MNR enforcement team.

### Treaty Rights Workshop



2008 and 2009 saw successful Treaty Rights Workshops respectively held at the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority and the North Bay Public Library.

The purpose of the workshops is to educate the public, non-First Nations and First Nations alike on the subject and importance of Treaty Rights. In both previous years this was accomplished by a presentation in an environment designed to promote open discussion in a non-confrontational manner.

Given the interest and the positive public response, the workshop will be held again in North Bay in 2010 (location to be determined), possibly for the third and final year of the series.

This year, the workshop will incorporate the suggestions collected from participants over the past two years and a focus on a panel discussion.

Participating partners for 2009 will again be the Union of Ontario Indians, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and community members.

### Information Booth/ Attendance at Three Public Events

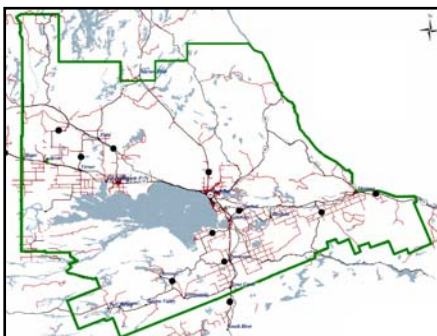


The Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council endeavours to participate in public events such as trade shows whenever possible.

In 2010, the Stewardship Council will select three events (not yet determined) to support and take part in.

## Planning

### Greater Nipissing Stewardship Planning Initiative



With such a large area of coverage for the stewardship council (the largest defined boundary of any council in the province) there is a vast amount of possibilities for stewardship work when it comes project opportunities and partners to work with in the Greater Nipissing Area.

Approximate percentages of ownership in this area are 30% private to 70% Crown. Given these numbers the amount of private property within the Greater Nipissing Area is equivalent to that of many south western Ontario counties.

The projects and activities of the council tends to mirror this ratio, however the council would like to further assist private landowners in improving the natural resources on their own properties.

The strategic plan created by this initiative would be designed to identify these opportunities and help the council prioritize stewardship activities and further

justify larger scale projects to funders which have with higher dollar costs.

Such a plan will not restrict future council activities to the only the recommendations identified by the plan, rather it would serve to improve the decisions made around work planning and project implementation.

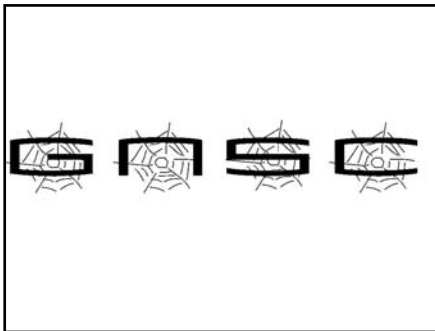
Annually, one or two projects or priority areas identified in the strategy may be selected for action. The plan will otherwise be used to facilitate efficiency of council activities and participation with partners.

This project will also function as a job creation initiative, because in order to create the plan, a plan author will be specifically hired to take on the workload.

Partners for the creation of the plan will be determined as 2010 progresses, however at this time, significant participation is expected from management bodies responsible for various components of natural resources management within the Greater Nipissing Area, including: the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority. Additional partners may be contacted by the plan author to provide information over the course of this project.

## Administrative Activities & Support Projects

### Website Reconstruction



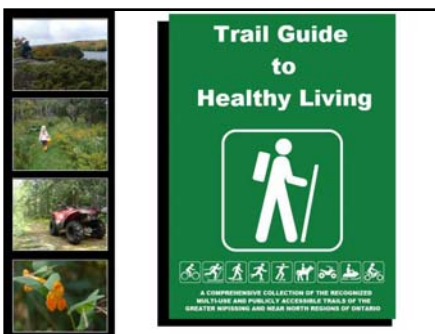
As the Stewardship Council continues to develop, there is an increasing need for our website to improve in quality as well to effectively communicate our activities.

2010 will see the release of a newly constructed website that is more reflective of our work and achievements.

Members of the council, landowners, public agencies, private landowners, partners, funders will find information about the council and our local natural resources more accessible.

**Project Partners: Due North Marketing, Sturgeon Falls**

### Trail Guide to Healthy Living (Distribution and Sales Activities)



Sales and Distribution of the 'Trail Guide to Healthy Living' produced by the council in 2009 in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotions, Discovery Routes and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources will continue.

The guide is a comprehensive collection of the recognized and publicly accessible trails of the

Near North.

Over 50 trails and trail systems Trails from across the broader area (pictured right) are described in detail.

Copies are available from area retailers (as noted on our website) and may be made available through the GNSC website as well. Prices of the guide are kept low intentionally to make it more accessible to all members the public regardless of income level. Proceeds from sales are retained and kept in a specific account to be used for reprinting and updating of the guide when stock has been exhausted.



As of the beginning of 2010, approximately 1/3 of the guides have been released, finding their way into the hands of residents and tourists alike.

## Zone 11 Slot Ruler Distribution (Distribution and Sales Activities)



In 2009 the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council reproduced the popular slot ruler for Lake Nipissing. Several improvements were made and its content was expanded to include information pertinent to all of Zone 11. This is more reflective of the councils expanded coverage area and the newly updated Ontario Fishing Regulations.

Production of the ruler was made possible with help from Mercury, Power Sports & Marine, Sturgeon Falls Auto Sports and Marine, Hunters Bay Marine, Idylltyme Sports & Marine, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the Lake Nipissing Partners in Conservation.

Anglers can find the slot ruler decals at various locations across the Greater Nipissing Area, as well as portable 'fish measuring boards' which can be transported from one boat to another, or used in a boat where the owner does not wish to apply a decal to the seat or hull.

In 2010 the council will continue to distribute and sell these rulers. Proceeds go towards stewardship projects, improving the natural resources within our local communities.

To become a distributor of these rulers, please contact the council at: [info@greaternipissing.ca](mailto:info@greaternipissing.ca)

Please conserve our fishery by catching your limit and limiting your catch.

## Membership Drive



Over the course of 2010, the GNSC will continue its ongoing membership drive.

Those who become members receive:

- A membership card
- A quarterly news letter
- Voting stature at Annual General Meetings
- Email updates on volunteer opportunities

The cost structure for 2010 is unchanged from 2009 and has been set as follows:

- Adult (ages 18+) \$25.00
- Youth \$10.00
- Family \$35.00
- Life \$1,000.00 (one-time dues)
- Bronze Supporter donation of \$100.00 or more
- Silver Supporter donation of \$500.00 or more
- Gold Supporter donation of \$750.00 or more
- Platinum Supporter donation of \$1,000.00 or more
- Diamond Supporter donation of \$2,500.00 or more

Corporate or individual supporters who provide substantial donation receive a plaque in recognition of their donation to the council. Some donations may may also be eligible for a tax receipt through the council.

Proceeds from the sale of memberships and donations are used to further the stewardship activities of the council across the Greater Nipissing area.