



The **Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council** (GNSC) is comprised of a diverse group of individuals representing the following interests: First Nations, fisheries, tourism, conservation, forestry, agriculture, wilderness sports, biology, youth, public-at-large and the environment. Originally founded in 1999 as the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council, the GNSC is a charitable organization that partners with similar-minded groups and government agencies to implement environmental programs; provide information on conservation and sustainability; and to increase awareness of the ecosystem. The Council relies upon a strong core of volunteers from member organizations to implement many of its initiatives.

GNSC Featured Projects

2008 was an eventful year for the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council (GNSC). Here's a glimpse at just a few of the many projects that we are proud of.....

North Bay Regional Science Fair – GNSC Awards 2008

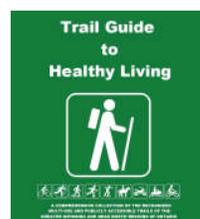
The GNSC sponsored two awards at the regional science fair in 2008 for the best project related to natural resources and the environment. The recipients were:

Junior Award (grade 7-8) -

Devin Currie, St. Hubert Catholic School for his project "Do you know what you are Drinking?"; and

Senior Award (grade 9-12) -

Muhammad Waja, Widdifield Secondary School for his project "Remediation Sensation".



Trail Guide to Healthy Living

After almost two years of hard work, the GNSC has

completed a regional trail guide for local trails in the Near North/Greater Nipissing area. The \$35,000.00 project was made possible with the assistance of the Ministry of Health Promotion, Discovery Routes, the MNR and regional trail partners. The 120 page book will feature 50+ area trails, complete with maps and photos. Look for it in the spring, just in time for your next hike.

Treaty and Aboriginal Rights in Law and Practice

The *Understanding Treaty Rights in Today's Society* presentation was well received Oct 21 by an attentive group of about 60 people at the Natural Classroom of the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority.

The speaker, Mr Fred Bellefeuille, Barrister and Solicitor, explained the historic and legal roots of modern constitutional decisions around aboriginal fishing, hunting and logging rights in an informative and engaging way. Afterwards he said, "People want to be better informed about treaty rights, in particular rights related to conflicts over land. I try to make it clear to people that Treaties were not simply real estate transactions involving the trade of land for money. Treaties are institutions that provided distinct nations with what they needed to survive and that they must be understood in this way today."

Attendees commented that the presentation was very worthwhile. Ninety percent said they would be likely to attend another such event and a large majority indicated that their knowledge of Abororiginal and Treaty Rights was improved by the presentation.

Board of Directors

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Kim Tremblay
Roy Warriner
Kalvin Young

Honorary Director(s)

Doug Walsh

Stewardship Coordinator

Nathan Kirby

Upcoming Events

GNSC Annual Meeting

April 15, 2009
7p.m. – 9p.m.
Nipissing Township
Community Centre
2381 HWY 654

Thank you

The GNSC Board of Directors would like to extend a *Thank You* to outgoing members: **Ric Stevens**, representing First Nations; and **Kim Tremblay**, Biology.

Also a special thanks to **Gail Laird**, Administrative Coordinator who has been with the GNSC since 2005. She and her husband Jim are moving to Woodstock.

Ice Fishing Code of Ethics

Now that ice fishing season is upon us, here is a condensed version of our code of ethics.

Using Your Vehicle...

- Use common sense and respect, drive with care and consider your safety and others
- Fill up before you go on the ice – ice augers as well
- Use vehicle lights at all times

Regards for other Anglers...

- Be courteous, give other anglers at least 10 metres
- Treat your fellow angler the way you wish to be treated
- Keep your noise and language down, respect families with children

Fishing Practices...

- Dumping fish waste down the hole is against the law – bring it out with you
- Use barbless hooks and do not release live bait
- Fish for species other than walleye, if you are not going to keep it, put it back promptly
- Always monitor your lines – for entire period
- Fish for yourself, take only what you need

Garbage, Waste and Water Quality...

- Bring an extra pail if you need a toilet
- Do not dump grey or dirty water back in the lake – zero tolerance for anything down the hole
- Do not leave your garbage out on the ice, bring it back!
- Take your hut off as soon as possible, don't wait

2009 Projects to Look for

There are many opportunities to participate in GNSC projects. Here are some projects to look for in 2009:

- Adopt-a-Sturgeon – West Nipissing
- Rural Tree Planting Project – West Nipissing
- McQuaby Lake Restoration – Nipissing Township
- Chippewa Creek Stream Planting – North Bay
- Used Battery Collection Contest – Nipissing/Parry Sound

Board Profiles

We would like to introduce our board members to you. This month we feature **John Thornton**, chair of the GNSC. John is a retired teacher, surveyor and administrator. John has enjoyed the beauty and natural resources of Northern Ontario most of his life. He learned an appreciation of fish and game resources in his early years hunting for ruff grouse and other small game around the family camp. Until he was old enough to work in the summer, he spent the vacation period swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing and exploring the wilderness north of Sudbury. "I would wake up on a summer morning and be faced with the tough decision whether I wanted to pick blueberries so that my mother would bake a pie or just go over the next hill to see beyond that horizon."

"My motivation is to help protect and restore these natural assets of Northern Ontario so that future generations have the same opportunity that I had to learn, mature and love them as I have."