



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.

Lake Nosbonsing Loon Conservation Project



Between April and August of this year volunteers and Ontario Stewardship Rangers led by local resident Kathleen Ross paddled the waters of Lake Nosbonsing to assess the status of common loons on the lake. Volunteers diligently recorded the number of loons sighted, number of breeding pairs found and offspring produced. A habitat survey was conducted around the entire perimeter of the lake looking for active nests and potential nesting habitat for Ontario's official bird. The purpose of the study was to determine the nesting and reproductive success on the lake and to make recommendations for future stewardship work. An adult pair of loons was observed with 3 chicks. Over the winter, data will be compiled and analyzed and recommendations will be made for follow-up work if necessary.

Ontario Stewardship Rangers

2010 was another successful year for the Ontario Stewardship Rangers Program. The stewardship council received funding to hire 5 students (4 crewmembers and 1 crew lead) to work on local, natural resource projects. After some extensive training, the crew worked very hard throughout the summer on such notable projects as: the Lake Nosbonsing Loon Conservation Project; the McQuaby Lake Walleye Restoration Project; Back Country Canoe Route Cleanup; Crown Land Garbage Removal; Provincial Park work; as well as tending trees planted by council and partners earlier in the spring.



Ontario Stewardship Rangers 2010

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McQuaby Lake Walleye Restoration Project

Another milestone in the McQuaby Lake Walleye Restoration Project!

Over 40 volunteers of all ages along with our Ontario Stewardship Rangers were on hand in August to help out in the cleaning of spawning shoals and placement of over 40 tons of rock cobble! What an effort it was to haul the rock by boat and to "hand place" each rock so that it was strategically placed for the best overall effect.

A sign was erected at the public access of the lake notifying anglers that the lake is under a voluntary closure to walleye fishing while restoration efforts are underway.

Still to be completed are annual spring spawning surveys to determine if walleye are making use of the repaired shoals and forecast recruitment potential.



Get Involved!

Would you like to become a member, supporter or volunteer? Check out our website at:

<http://www.greaternipissing.ca/getinvolved.html>



Board Profiles

This month we feature **Stephen Mitchell**. Stephen is a forest management consultant who joined the GNSC board as an independent representative in an effort to show members of the public an example of what it is to "think global, act local". Steve is working on the formation of a local, regional chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association. Steve has served as the project lead for the *Trail Guide to Healthy Living*. Living in Callander, Steve and his family spend numerous hours outdoors hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, camping, mountain biking and planting trees either on their acreage or in support of the many local tree planting initiatives.