



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.

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council (GNSC). This is our way to reach out to our members to provide more insight into GNSC and an update on selected projects. Enjoy! Suggestions are always welcome.

Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council Featured Projects

Adopt a Sturgeon

This spring, the GNSC, in partnership with the local Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), provided the opportunity for eight groups to get a glimpse into a lake sturgeon spawning assessment. For a \$100 contribution the adopters were able to have their photo taken with a lake sturgeon that was being sampled – length, weight and tagged for future reference. It was an exciting time for children and adults alike who have never been in the presence of such a large fish before. This excitement hopefully translates into a true passion for the environment and its safeguarding. The monies raised from this project will help to pay for a variety of resource protection and enhancement projects; for example, helping Nipissing First Nation with future lake sturgeon radio telemetry tagging project to learn more about their preferred habitat.

This year the MNR lake sturgeon assessment program caught,



measured and released a total of 65 adult sturgeon. This is almost twice the number of sturgeon caught in previous years. The largest fish captured in 2008 was a 110lb female who measured 175 cm long! Eleven sturgeon were fitted with internal radio transmitters. Nipissing First Nation is currently tracking these fish to learn more about their habits and habitat.

“Green Tips”

Keeping your vehicle in top shape will save fuel and help the environment.

Keep tires inflated: Just one tire under inflated by six psi can increase fuel consumption by three per cent and wear up to 40 per cent faster.

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Upcoming Events

Go Green with Callander

Mark September 11 – 13, 2008 on your calendar for Callander's first *Regional Conservation Exhibition* to be held at the Callander Community Centre. For more information, please contact:

Robert Kidd,
Exhibition convener
705-752-9948
robert.kidd@sympatico.ca.

Chippewa Creek - North Bay Natural Habitats Project

Just over 1,700 seedlings and wildlife shrubs were planted along Chippewa Creek on Saturday, May 31st, thanks to the efforts of several Council members, staff from the North Bay - Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) and volunteers. The funding for this first phase was provided through Wal*Mart Canada's Evergreen Program. Special thanks to Burrows Country Store and Garden Centre for providing the stock at cost. The next round of planting will be carried out this fall with students.

This project aims to support the restoration of the creek to its former coldwater status and fulfill the NBMCA's City approved management plan for the creek.



Council Presentations

The GNSC launched presentations to local municipal councils in February '08, as part of our approach to increase awareness about the council's expanded mandate and to solicit support. "These presentations have also provide an excellent opportunity for our council to highlight some of our

projects and initiatives", stated GNSC Chair, John Thornton.

Thornton added, "We see this exercise as a starting point with the goal of hosting follow-up sessions in each community to discuss project ideas with interested groups and individuals".

As of August, presentations have been made to eight of 12 municipal councils and the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce, resulting in favourable comments and support. Presentations to the remaining councils, two First Nations councils and the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce are pending.

Sustainability

In addition to our council presentations to promote awareness, the GNSC has been actively recruiting new members while trying to secure financial support for our projects. A big "Thank You" goes out to all of our members, including:

- ✓ The Redpath Group, Diamond Supporter
- ✓ Moore Propane, Platinum Supporter
- ✓ Mortgage Corporation Financial Services, Inc., Platinum Supporter

We must also recognize the generous contributions of our media sponsors:

- ✓ CTV
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