



#### 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.

#### **McQuaby Lake Restoration Update**

The Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council and the Friends of McQuaby Lake followed up their restoration project (completed in 2010) with a cursory assessment of the spawning walleye population.

In late April/early May, volunteers on two-person crews waited until the dark of night to head out. Over several nights they went in search of the fish they hoped would be there. A walleye's eyes reflect light similar to a deer caught in the headlamps of a car. In the survey, light is shone towards promising spawning grounds at a 60 degree angle. If present, the eyes of a walleye will shine in the refracted light, appearing as a bright point against the dark water -even at a distance

The project was already deemed a success given the volunteer participation, positive working relationship with government and the community stewardship ethic that was inspired. But, practical field results were still a target.

As it turned out, those participating were not disappointed. Through the survey an average of 29.2 fish were observed each night (though was estimated to be the peak of the spawn) for a total of 150 fish. Fish were observed primarily ovetop of the spawning shoals which received augmentation. It is difficult to say for sure that the peak of the spawn was in fact observed, but this represents a significant increase over past numbers.



In 2008, 59 walleye were observed in total which later dropped to six in 2009 and zero in 2010.

The partners would like to thank all of those who participated this spring. They would also like to remind anglers that a voluntary ban on walleye fishing remains on the lake for the next few years -as posted at the public access point. Fish present are currently protected by this community ethic as well as legally protected through a slot-size regulation.

#### **A Quick Note...**

Work is about to commence on developing the GNSC 2012 Work Plan. We would like to encourage all our readers to submit possible projects/activities for the GNSC Council to consider for the upcoming year. Short outlines of possible projects can be submitted via e-mail to [info@greaternipissing.ca](mailto:info@greaternipissing.ca).

## Board of Directors

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**Special thanks to Samantha Rayner, summer student and guest editor, for putting the newsletter together this month. Thanks Sam!**

## Household Battery Contest

Over 5,500 high school students from 10 area high schools took part in this year's collection competition. A grand total of 5,239 kg (over 11,549 lbs) of all types of household batteries were collected over an 8-week period in April and May. A few elementary schools also participated and provided what they collected to neighboring high schools.

The standard prizes of \$400 each were up for grabs – to the school that collected the most batteries and the school that collected the most batteries per student. In celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 2 additional prizes of \$250 were included this year that resulted in the greatest improvement over 2010.

*This year's winners were...*

### Greatest Total Weight

St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic S.S. 1,844 kg

### Greatest Total Weight/Student

F.J. McElligott S.S. 8.3 kg

### Greatest % Improvement - Total Weight

F.J. McElligott S.S. 1.30%

### Greatest % Improvement –Total Weight/Student

F.J. McElligott S.S. 1.5%

The other participating schools included: Algonquin, Chippewa, Franco-Cite, Nbissing, Northern, Odyssee, West Ferris and Widdifield.



We thank TD Friends of the Environment and the teachers for their continued support. Gardewine trucking gave us great professional help once again. Only together, can we be truly effective.



## 2011 Annual North Bay Regional Science Fair Council Awards

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the "Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council Award", relating to natural resources and the environment.

Junior Division Award (Grades 7/8) was presented to Jack Drinkwalter, Silver Birches Senior Public School for his project "Sump Solution"

Intermediate/Senior Divisions Award (Grades 9 -12) was presented to Marie-Claire Henry, Parry Sound High School for her project "The Answer to the Energy Crisis is Blowing in the Wind"

The Council congratulates our recipients and all the other winners and participants. The council extends a special thanks to Kim Tremblay for judging and presenting our awards. Thanks Kim!

Check out all the winners and more at <http://www.nbrsf.com/>

## Get Involved!

Would you like to become a member, supporter or volunteer? Check us out at: <http://www.greaternipissing.ca/getinvolved.html>

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