

# CAROLINIAN CANADA



Newsletter

Summer 2000

## Big Picture Project Update

The technical aspects of the Big Picture project have nearly all been wrapped up by the staff of the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). We hope to be able to make a CD version of the Big Picture available to our conservation partners which will allow them to zoom in on selected areas of the Carolinian Life Zone. The Big Picture is a living document housed at the NHIC which will be updated over time and which can be accessed by arrangement with the Centre. We will also investigate mounting the map on the world wide web.

Work is now well-advanced on the preparation of a poster map of the Big Picture and an accompanying newsprint tabloid. These products are intended for distribution to schools throughout the region as well as naturalist and conservation clubs. The purpose of these materials will be to popularize the Big Picture vision and to champion the role of private landowners in making it a reality. The natural heritage that we enjoy today in Carolinian Canada exists due to the good stewardship of rural landowners. Among other things, the tabloid will

highlight conservation success stories and provide information on programs and agencies that can help landowners achieve their conservation goals for their own properties.

The nuts and bolts of planning and conservation take place at a local level. We are undertaking local pilot projects with several municipalities to move the Big Picture from theory to practice. For example, Carolinian Canada is a partner in the Middlesex County Natural Heritage Study. This study will improve the mapping and inventory work on sites within Middlesex for the purposes of updating Official Plans at both the lower tier and County levels.

New initiatives currently being developed include a series of conferences, workshops and seminars on a variety of planning issues in order to strengthen natural heritage protection in our region. We are also developing a marking program (permanent plaques) to recognize the role of individuals and communities in protecting the Carolinian Canada sites. Keep reading for more details about all of these initiatives.

## CONSERVATION FORUM 2000

This year's Annual Conservation Forum offers something quite different – an all field trip conference! Carolinian Canada and the Ontario Nature Trust Alliance are co-hosting this year's event, which includes a banquet and awards ceremony on the Friday Night and an all day tour on Saturday. Our partners include the Six Nations Eco Center, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Lower Grand River Land Trust and the Grand River Conservation Authority. We will visit a series of significant natural heritage sites, which will illustrate a variety of stewardship approaches. Mark your calendars now and reserve **October 13 & 14, 2000**. Space is limited so register early – see the enclosed programme for more details.

To lead a moral life one must do more than is required and less than is allowed –

# Communicating The Big Picture

In many respects developing the Big Picture Map was the easy part of the project. Now we are faced with the challenge of popularizing the resulting vision and convincing people that there is a pressing need to restore the health of our natural heritage system. The Management Committee of Carolinian Canada has representatives from nearly 20 different organizations with a common interest in the conservation of our region. These people are working together to produce a multi-year action plan that will create a broad awareness of the conservation challenge that faces southwestern

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Ontario, encourages the development of new incentives for conservation, and promotes the Big Picture vision of a “connected” landscape.

Carolinian Canada is a highly productive landscape that is largely dominated by privately owned property. Meaningful progress towards species and habitat conservation will require a variety of incentives aimed at private landowners. The process of enhancing our natural heritage system will take several generations and will require the support and participation of a broad cross section of society. The first step is to recognize that there is a problem that can be solved.

## First Products

### Scientific Paper:

Staff of the Natural Heritage Information Centre have written a paper describing the rationale and process that was used to generate the Big Picture Map. The Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis that they employed in this project is one of the most advanced ever undertaken. This paper provides the scientific underpinning for the Big Picture project.

### Conference Presentations:

The results of the Big Picture analysis have recently been presented at an international and a national conference, and more presentations are planned. If your group or event is interested in a presentation, please contact us. We may not be able to accommodate every request, but we will try.

### Poster Map and Tabloid:

Writer/editor Laura Lee and award-winning artist Walter Sayers are working to produce a colourful map and an accompanying tabloid to introduce the Big Picture vision to the general public. Designed to be an educational resource for the region’s schoolchildren, the map is sure to delight an adult audience as well. We expect to distribute these products to schools and community groups this Fall.

### Digital Analysis on CD:

The results of the Big Picture analysis can be made available in a digital format for use in your GIS applications, subject to software compatibility. Contact us for details.

## Pilot Project – Middlesex County

*Carolinian Canada is participating in a number of regional pilot projects that will explore ways to implement the Big Picture vision at a local level. One of these projects is in Middlesex County.*

Middlesex County surrounds London, in the heart of the Carolinian Canada. Once one of the most heavily forested portions of southern Ontario, today it is home to a burgeoning human population and a hugely productive agricultural industry. The Middlesex County Natural Heritage Study is being undertaken to meet the need for solid information and policy basis to protect and rehabilitate woodland and wetland features and natural heritage systems in the county. In the near term the County has requested technical assistance to establish tools for evaluating significance and detailing impact studies, to address immediate land use pressures. Beyond this, the

County requires an assessment of natural features and systems to provide the local context for woodland significance and decision-making. This information will be used to devise land use planning policy at both upper and lower tier (municipal) levels. Carolinian Canada is interested in testing how bioregional natural heritage goals and targets can be reached through local planning authorities and policies.



## Members 2000 – 2001

**C**arolinian Canada has two classes of membership: Individuals, who pay \$20 each year and Organizations, which pay \$50. Charitable contributions in excess of these amount are gratefully accepted and receive an official receipt for income tax purposes.

### Individuals

Doug Wolthausen, WHC  
Pat McLean  
Anne Redish  
Charles West  
Edward Kott  
Leslie Adams  
Ken Nentwig,  
Ridgetown College  
Jim Cayford  
Eric Waldron  
Doris Kanter  
Donald Bucknell  
Douglas Bocking  
Betty Learmouth  
George Francis  
John Todd  
Lloyd Burrige, City of  
Windsor  
Nancy Walther  
Jo-Anne Rzakki  
Alice Casselman  
R.E. Laker  
Margie Wake  
David Martin  
Marion Réaume  
Ken and Janet Dance  
Lloyd King  
David Bell  
Arthur Teasell  
Sandy Levin  
Olive Ireland  
John Nolan

Craig Campbell  
Mary-Jean Page  
Brett Groves  
Evelyn Kogel  
John & Dorothy Tiedje  
Adele Dobkowski  
Cecil Morris  
Heather Mcakey  
Tom Chatterton  
Peter Banks  
Mathis Natvik  
Gordon Nelson  
John LaRose  
Sue Gilmore

### Organizations:

County of Middlesex  
Ontario Heritage Foundation, Kim Gavine  
Parks Canada, Bill Stephenson  
Bruce Trail Association  
McIlwraith Field Naturalists  
Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk  
Credit Valley Conservation Authority  
Norfolk Field Naturalists  
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority  
Ducks Unlimited  
BMB Scientific, Don Gordon  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation  
Authority  
Lambton Wildlife Incorporated  
Hamilton Region Conservation Authority  
Long Point Region Conservation

Authority, Jim Oliver  
St Clair Region Conservation Authority  
Regional Municipality of Niagara  
Essex County Field Naturalists  
Nature Conservancy of Canada, Michelle  
Kanter  
Niagara Parks Commission  
Catfish Creek Conservation Authority  
STTU-MNR, Dawn Burke  
Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc.  
Society for Ecological Restoration (Ont)  
Federation of Ontario Naturalists  
Association for Canadian Educational  
Resources  
Upper Thames River Conservation  
Authority  
Hamilton Naturalists' Club



**To Become a member of Carolinian  
Canada, or to renew a lapsed  
membership just send a cheque for the  
appropriate fee (\$20 or \$50) to  
Carolinian Canada, 659 Exeter Road,  
London, ON, N6E 1L3.**

## Funders 2000-2001

**C**arolinian Canada is in the enviable position of having secured the funding needed to undertake our projects for the coming year due to the generous support of the following organizations:

Ontario Power Generation  
Wildlife Habitat Canada  
EJLB Foundation  
The McLean Foundation  
Mountain Equipment Cooperative

George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation  
Helen McCrae Peacock Foundation  
Parks Canada  
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
Ministry of Natural Resources (Ont)  
Natural Heritage Information Centre  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Shell Environmental Fund  
Sydenham Field Naturalists  
Hamilton Naturalists' Club

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## Publications

### Caring For Your Land

– a stewardship handbook ..... \$10

**Hike Ontario's Guide to Walks in Carolinian  
Canada** by Brad Cundiff ..... \$16.95

**Plants of Carolinian Canada** ..... \$5

**Forest Birds of Carolinian Canada** ..... \$5

**Carolinian Canada Fact Sheets** (set of 6) \$2

## Management Committee

Paul Smith – Ministry of the Environment (Chair)  
John Ambrose – Canadian Botanical Association (Vice-Chair)  
Peter Banks – Lambton Wildlife Inc. (Treasurer)  
Mike Cadman – Canadian Wildlife Service  
Alice Casselman – Association for Canadian Educational Resources  
Gary Davidson – Director of Planning, County of Huron  
Brett Groves – Sydenham Field Naturalists  
Stuart Mallany – Ministry of Natural Resources  
Wayne MacMillan – Grand River Conservation Authority  
Jim Oliver – Conservation Ontario  
Jo-Anne Rzadki – Hamilton Harbour Watershed Stewardship  
Mary Ellen Scanlon – Ontario Professional Planners Institute  
Bill Stephenson – Parks Canada  
Nancy Walther – Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
Dolf Wynia – Ontario Forestry Association  
Dawn Burke – Ministry of Natural Resources  
Graham Bryan – Federation of Ontario Naturalists  
Kim Gavine – Ontario Heritage Foundation

*We're On The Web!*  
[www.carolinian.org](http://www.carolinian.org)

## Coming Attractions

**T**he Big Picture is a long term vision of what our landscape could look like once we can achieve a balance between human needs and natural requirements of clean air, water and wildlife habitat. It is going to take several generations to accomplish and Carolinian Canada is committed to this vision for the long term. We are developing new projects and programs to further the Big Picture and below are brief descriptions of some we hope to establish next year.

### **Carolinian Marking Program:**

At the Conservation Forum this October we will be presenting the second round of Carolinian Canada awards recognizing the contributions made to conservation by groups and individuals. We want to develop a marking project that will also recognize the contribution made in the past by individuals or communities. Each of the Carolinian Canada sites has a story to tell. How did it avoid being developed? Who had the foresight to conserve it? What community traditions have protected it? In order to tell these stories we hope to erect a series of plaques

at various Carolinian Canada sites. These plaques will acknowledge the efforts made to secure the site and will promote local awareness and pride in the natural gem in their midst. Communities that value their natural heritage are likely to take the steps required to protect it.

### **Focus on Municipal Planning Issues:**

The success of our recent conference on natural heritage buffers has prompted us to begin planning a series of seminars, papers, conferences and workshops that will address different aspects of municipal planning that affect natural heritage protection. Municipalities are charged with interpreting and implementing the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement on Natural Heritage. Landowners and developers look to municipal planning documents for direction in planning the future uses of their properties. It is a big responsibility and there are a lot of complicated and conflicting issues. Carolinian Canada hopes that by providing a forum in which to discuss and explore these issues we can move together towards better planning that takes natural values into account.