

Growing Sustainable Connections



*Working Together
To Protect Our Unique Nature
in Southwestern Ontario*



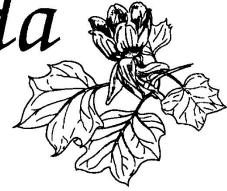
**Proceedings of the 2006 Carolinian Canada Coalition Forum
Held October 20, 2006 at the Elm Hurst Inn, Ingersoll, Ontario**

**Edited by Virginia Lambdin and Michelle Kanter
Carolinian Canada Coalition 2007**



**George Cedric
Metcalf Charitable
Foundation**

Carolinian Canada



CCC connects groups & people for effective nature conservation action & healthy landscapes in the Carolinian Life Zone.



CCC Board 2006

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Carolinian Canada Coalition

Collaborating for a Healthy Ecoregion

(Incorporated in October 2006)

Objects

1. Protect and restore natural heritage in the Carolinian life zone for healthy, balanced and sustainable landscapes.
2. Collaborate with individuals and groups who care about natural lands to enhance the effectiveness of conservation action in the region.
3. Promote a researched understanding of nature and its critical interdependence with humans.

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Bruce Duncan, CCC Board Director

Bruce Duncan, Board Director, Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC) passed away Sunday November 12, 2006, following injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Bruce joined the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) in 1988 and in 2004; became its general manager. During his 18 years with the HCA, he served as director of watershed planning and engineering, staff ecologist and teacher-naturalist. In addition to his HCA and CCC work, Duncan also served as chair of the TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation (Dundas - Ancaster chapter) and was a member of the board of directors of the McCallum McBride Fund of the Hamilton Community Foundation. With his passion for conservation, Bruce raised the bar in all aspects of its work. He will be truly missed.

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Carolinian Canada 2006: Growing Sustainable Connections

Forum Agenda

9:00 a.m.	Welcome	Paul Holbrough, Mayor of Ingersoll
9:10 a.m.	Conserving Nature in Carolinian Canada: A Strategy for the Future	Michelle Kanter, Executive Director Carolinian Canada
9:30 a.m.	Morning Panel - Moderator: Dr. Stew Hilts, University of Guelph	
	Ecological Integrity on Land and Water The Federal role in Carolinian Canada	Graham Bryan, Environment Canada - Ontario Chip Bird, Parks Canada
	The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Carolinian Landscape	Ray Bonenberg Ministry of Natural Resources
- BREAK -		
	Green Communities: The First Nations role in Carolinian Canada	Dr. Dean Jacobs, Walpole Island Ecosystem Recovery Strategy
	Rural - Urban Common Ground: The County role in Carolinian Canada	Michael Harding Mayor, City of Woodstock
11:40 a.m.	Discussion / Panel Q & A	
12:00 Noon – L u n c h - NATURE COUNTS – Amy Handyside, Natural Spaces, MNR		
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon Panel - Moderator: Daryl Ball, OMAFRA	
	Strategic conservation: The role of conservation groups in Carolinian Canada	James Duncan Nature Conservancy of Canada
	Agriculture and Environment: Programs and Progress	Paul Smith Ontario Ministry of Agriculture
	Planning for the future: The role of urban areas in Carolinian Canada	Brian McHattie Councillor, City of Hamilton
	Landowner Links in Land and Water: The CA role in Carolinian Canada	Don Pearson Conservation Ontario
2:30 p.m.	Discussion / Panel Q & A	
3:00 p.m.	Highlights of the Day	Dr. Gordon Nelson, Chair, CCC
- BREAK -		
3:30 p.m.	Annual General Meeting	CCC
- Reception - hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar -		
4:00 p.m.	Conservation Awards Ceremony	MC, Jo-Anne Rzedki

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Working Together To Protect Our Unique Nature in Southwestern Ontario

Forum Themes

Are We Protecting What Makes Our Communities Unique?

The natural heritage of Carolinian Canada is like no other place. Today, we will ask ourselves: Do we recognize that significance, integrate nature with culture and celebrate the unique features of this region? Protecting biodiversity in southwestern Ontario opens up an array of opportunities for deepening our cultural identity and it is also an incredible challenge.

The solution, as the Coalition has quietly promoted since its inception in 1984, is a cooperative and collaborative approach working in harmony with current land uses. In the 90's, the Carolinian Canada Strategy strengthened our resolve to work across sectors and more recently, the Big Picture has been a rallying point for a sustainable landscape. The response has been creatively positive - from landowners looking beyond property lines to national blueprints for conservation action.

Will current programs and initiatives work together to efficiently conserve the unique heritage of Carolinian Canada communities?

Major programs across Carolinian Canada are recognizing the intersection of biodiversity and culture, more deeply than ever before. An immense grassroots stewardship movement is mushrooming in spite of a crippling lack of incentives and dedicated resources for natural heritage in this region. There is a growing realization that natural heritage is closely tied to our sustainable socio-economic health. The conservation sector is becoming increasingly cultured and proactive in developing programs that integrate community. Socio-economic sectors are becoming more environmentally aware and supportive.

Who is doing 'What' in Carolinian Canada?

Panel speakers have been asked to address five questions today:

1. How can all the members of the Coalition work together more effectively to achieve conservation and sustainable landscapes in the Carolinian life zone?
2. What are your group's current major programs and interests in Carolinian Canada? Why are you stressing these?
3. What interests and programs are you contemplating for the future and why?
4. How do your programs relate to biodiversity conservation and the strategies of the Coalition?
5. What opportunities are there for us to work together?

Proceedings from this forum will be available in 2007. Carolinian Canada Coalition gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the contributions of our speakers and volunteers.

Papers

Conserving Nature in Carolinian Canada: A Strategy for the Future

Michelle Kanter, Executive Director, Carolinian Canada Coalition

Carolinian Canada Coalition is a leading ecoregional organization – unique in Canada. Evolved in response to the urgent and complex needs of conserving biodiversity in settled southwestern Ontario, the Coalition has achieved immense results with scant resources. We are a partnership of conservation allies, from all sectors, coming together to achieve an unprecedented goal on one of the most threatened landscapes in Canada. For over 20 years, the Coalition has built a recognized profile for conservation and an effective network that is vital to the future of Carolinian Canada's unique nature and the well being and sustainability of its communities.

Amidst rapid advances in conservation science, policies and programs, the Coalition continues to be a catalyst for effective action, a coordinator of a shared conservation strategy and a central networking hub for government and non-government groups. The purpose of our current strategic planning process is to identify major program areas for the Coalition act effectively and efficiently in collaboration with its partner groups across the landscape of the Carolinian ecoregion.

Where Nature & Culture Meet

The Carolinian Canada region is a special case for Canada & Ontario: It has among the highest biodiversity and concentrations of species at risk in Canada. It is the most threatened landscape in Ontario. The ecological needs are urgent yet a specialized approach is needed to address private landscapes, small properties, fragmented natural areas, highly diverse ownership and multiple users, from low impact to high intensity. Balancing this is a strong conservation community, growing and diversifying, providing many allies in natural areas protection at the local, provincial and national levels.

Addressing nature conservation issues in the Carolinian region is an ambitious task. Carolinian Canada's high population can be considered a challenge and an important opportunity. With some of the richest land in Canada, this region has a strong rural sector. This is mixed with intense urbanization from Toronto to Windsor. Through many effective stewardship efforts, the 25% of Canada's population that resides here is becoming increasingly involved in conservation and care for its environment. This is translating to increased demand for stewardship assistance and a plethora of new conservation ideas incubating in local landscapes. Effective solutions are needed fast. Our high populations and diverse allies help shape flexible conservation actions that will resonate with other areas as human communities grow and expand, globally.

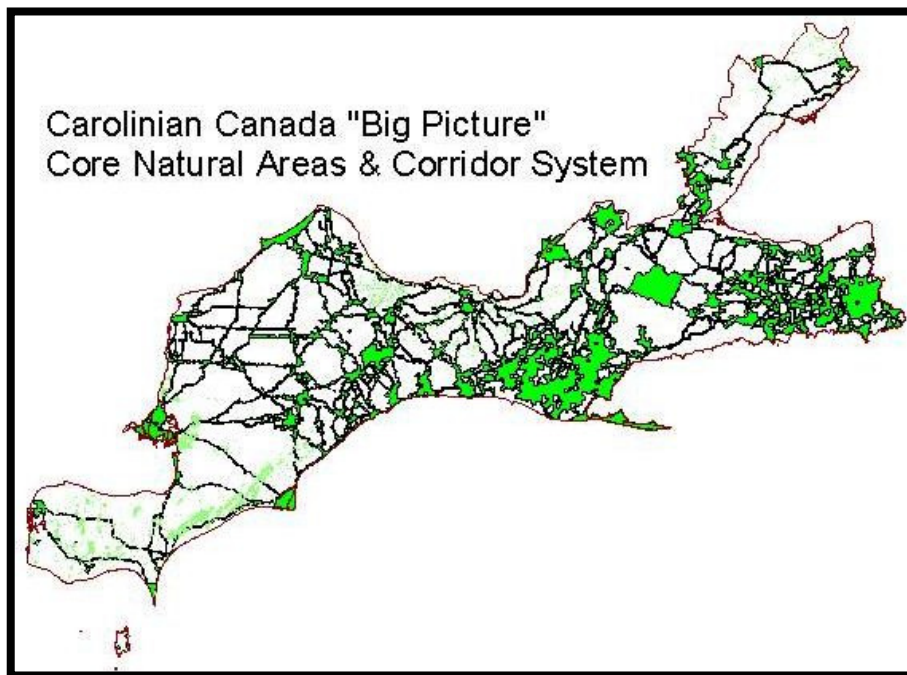
A Unique Approach for a Unique Landscape

The time is right, now, to take an ambitious approach to protecting and restoring a healthy landscape in Carolinian Canada. We have the knowledge and science to know what is needed. We have growing numbers of allies that are increasingly interested in ecological good and services as water and air quality become headline issues. The size of this region is 'do-able' for a landscape-scale program. Working

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together we can make a very high impact with minimal resources. This is our opportunity to be visionary about what type of landscape we want to live in, 50, 100 or 500 years from now. As Steve Hounsell noted in our strategic planning meetings, *"The challenges are immense but the opportunities are greater."*

The Coalition is a well-established network of stakeholders and science that can act as a springboard to achieve our collective vision for the southwestern Ontario landscape. As noted by our chair Gordon Nelson, *"If this network didn't exist, we would have to invent it."* The Coalition makes the connection between conservation groups, between stakeholders interested in their environment, between sectors, between communities, between scales of action and between science and community. It uses a science-based framework for collaborative and community-oriented programs. It builds on a 'sense of place' with local residents. It is a highly effective partnership between government and non-government groups, acting as a neutral ground where the critical issues of landscape and biodiversity conservation can be carefully addressed. It provides a delivery mechanism and implementation network for provincial, national and international strategies that align with our shared vision. In this capacity, the Coalition provides for efficient conservation, catalyzing programs across the region that build on each success and reinforce each other rather than act in isolation. In this way we are effectively connecting "Back 40" actions to global strategies for the health of this ecoregion, and ultimately, the quality of life in southwestern Ontario.



Building on a Legacy of Vision and Action

The Coalition's new strategic plan is built on a strong history of effective action in southwestern Ontario. By working closely with leaders in conservation, the Coalition developed a landscape strategy to protect the most critical remaining unprotected 'islands of green' on the landscape. These are Carolinian Canada's Signature Sites identified in 1984. This vision was adopted and implemented across the region by

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groups small and large, with support provided by the Coalition. As a result, over 800 ha / 2,000 ac of habitat were secured and over 6,000 ha/15,000 ac came under voluntary private stewardship agreements. Protection work on these sites continues today through official plans, community projects and new stewardship programs. Now, it is hard to measure what the landscape would be like without the work and awareness-raising that the Coalition and the conservation community as a whole have undertaken in southwestern Ontario. Our collective vision has been realized through the actions of many and varied groups. This type of collaborative activity has created its own spin-offs in groups such as Tallgrass Ontario, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Ontario Farm Land Trust.

A shared landscape vision and strategy, as demonstrated by the Signature Sites, is central to coordinated and efficient networking across the region. Since 2000, the Coalition has promoted a new landscape vision that moves beyond "Islands of Green" to a "Network of Green". The Carolinian Canada Big Picture, based on years of field research and conservation science modeling, is a framework for recovery of a sustainable natural heritage system in harmony with current land uses. Each group in the Coalition is implementing different parts of the Big Picture and expanding the greater network of conservation allies. For everyone in the region, it is a winning proposition that addresses such environmental issues as climate change and species at risk, while at the same time protecting the landscape to ensure future productivity.

The Coalition's collaborative planning model has provided a consensus for conservation action that is now integrated into hundreds of linked strategies and programs. Using the principle of connecting high quality natural core areas with landscape-scale green corridors, the Big Picture provides a map for functional ecosystems, healthy landscapes and thriving communities. It identifies priorities and roles for each sector and scale and it collaborates with surrounding land uses. The Big Picture is a framework for coordinated, strategic and efficient action between all partners. Using an arsenal of conservation tools such as bioregional planning, protected areas, ecological restoration and conservation stewardship, it tackles the daunting challenges of conservation on a multi-use landscape. For example, protected areas in the 140 cores can act as an inspiration and demonstration to the surrounding private landscape to develop a matrix of supporting natural connections.

The Carolinian Woodland Recovery Strategy is an example of current work of the Coalition. Here the Big Picture provides a proactive template for protecting a network of habitat that can support and restore species at risk populations. In a region where over 130 species are federally listed and over 500 are provincially rare, an ecosystem and multi-stakeholder approach is key. The Coalition is developing a community conservation planning framework aimed at protecting high priority habitats using Big Picture tools.

Carolinian Canada Draft Strategic Plan: A Sustainable Network of People and Nature

Carolinian Canada's strategic planning process spread over sixteen months has yielded key priorities for the Coalition, established through the consensus of its members and stakeholders. The initiatives proposed here have been carefully chosen by our Coalition members to maximize the impact of the dollars received by the Coalition in fulfillment of its vision and mandate.

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Three main objects were identified:

Vision: *Protect and restore natural heritage in Carolinian Canada for healthy, balanced and sustainable landscapes and communities.*

Mandate: *Collaborate with individuals and groups who care about natural lands to enhance the effectiveness of conservation action in Carolinian Canada.*

Programs: *Promote a researched understanding of nature and its critical interdependence with humans.*

Stakeholders helped to identify goals and opportunities for the Coalition, summarized in the following table.

<i>Preliminary Results from Stakeholder Meeting (Nov 2005) & Board Workshops</i>				
Program Focus	CCC Role	Goals & Objectives	Tools / Projects	Opportunities
<i>Enhance the effectiveness of conservation action</i>				
The Big Picture	Coordinate a shared conservation strategy to protect and restore biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set joint priorities • Clarify member roles • Develop shared language • Identify a shared management vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Forum • Proceedings • Communications Network • Strategy Updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Research Assistantships • Future Big Picture - Climate Change modeling
<i>Protect and restore natural heritage</i>				
Carolinian Woodland Recovery Strategy	Facilitate efficient recovery of species and ecosystems at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus resources on high priority areas and species • Focus on policy, planning, stewardship • Identify challenges • Support and coordinate with on-ground programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland Network • Big Picture Guidelines • Big Picture Factsheets • Public Policy Committee • Advisory Reps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Conservation Plans • Link Recovery Plans • Local Leaders • Social Marketing
<i>Promote a researched understanding</i>				
Big Picture Outreach	Facilitate informed decision-making to implement Big Picture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education • Resources for landowners, municipalities, public, farmers, youth • Encourage public funding for protection • Broaden impact beyond science • Support central registry • Monitoring & Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Picture Network – registry of actions • Conservation Awards • Heritage Plaques • Roadshow • Planning Workshops • Publications / Guides • Carolinian Canada Book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Picture Report Card • CC Almanac • Review State of Policy • Volunteer network

A major role identified for the Coalition is to facilitate informed decision-making for natural areas management. Key target audiences include landowners, communities and land management sectors such as planning. Programs will be built around goals and objectives for these target audiences.

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In the Coalition's landowner programs, the goal is to make it easy for landowners to get involved in nature conservation. Recognizing that there is a growing number of organizations that work closely with landowners, the role of the Coalition is to

- provide tools, such as stewardship guides, that can be used by a variety of partners;
- promote the development of incentives in collaboration with other groups;
- promote links to conservation partners; and
- inspire more landowners to 'take the first step' through social marketing & peer networks.

In working with communities, the Coalition aims to instil and reinforce pride in local natural features using a variety of programs including heritage plaques, media, publications and Big Picture Roadshow. Each of these programs provides opportunities to collaborate with community leaders and local groups, thereby aligning ecoregional and local visions for healthy landscapes.

The Coalition's strategic plan is also focused on catalyzing the integration of nature conservation actions throughout many different sectors. This will be accomplished by providing tools and information to key sectors in partnership with their peer groups. A major new initiative for the Coalition is an ecoregional monitoring program that will provide a Big Picture Report Card to inform local decision-makers about the collective conservation progress across the landscape.

In this priority ecoregion, the Coalition of groups that make up the Carolinian Canada network are global stewards for a unique landscape and ecosystems found nowhere else in the world. Together, we can steward this region efficiently and effectively. The Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC) was initiated in 1984 with a mandate to protect and restore the natural heritage of southwestern Ontario through cooperation and consensus based on sound science. In 2007, the landscape of conservation action has changed dramatically but the goals and approaches of the Coalition remain highly relevant to today's society. This new strategic plan outlines a comprehensive ecoregional strategy to build conservation capacity of current programs, partner with key stakeholders and engage new supporters to create a strong and coordinated support network for healthy landscapes. As it is implemented, it will inspire and monitor collective progress of hundreds of habitat conservation and restoration programs that are working towards a shared vision to enhance the unique nature of southwestern Ontario.

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THE FEDERAL ROLE IN CAROLINIAN CANADA Ecological Integrity on Land and Water

Environment Canada and the Carolinian Life Zone

Graham Bryan, Ontario Biodiversity Issues Coordinator, Environment Canada

GRAHAM BRYAN has been working in the Conservation field for many years. In the 1990s, he worked with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists on projects designed to educate the public about the functions and importance of wetlands and woodlands. Subsequently, Graham joined Environment Canada, where he worked in the EcoGifts program, encouraging people to donate land for nature conservation. More recently, Graham has worked in the Canadian Wildlife Services branch of Environment Canada, where he has helped to publish and promote publications such as 'How much Habitat in Enough?' and 'Beyond Islands of Green - A primer for Using Conservation Science to Select and Design Community-based Nature Reserves (2005)'

Environment Canada (EC) has four areas of responsibility: weather, environmental protection (toxins, spills, and emissions), air and water quality, and wildlife.

Overall Federal Commitment

In Fall-Winter 2006-2007, Canada will pursue an active agenda built around four pillars:

- Accountability,
- Security,
- Strong economic management,
- Environmental protection.

The Environmental Protection pillar will focus on taking "bold, practical measures to improve our air quality through a new Clean Air Act, as well as stricter environmental standards and proper enforcement." The Clean Air Act was released October 19, 2006. Its impact is yet to be seen. What draws Environment Canada to the Carolinian Canada Coalition Forum 2006 is nature – natural heritage, biodiversity and wildlife. Most relevant to Carolinian Canada is the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS).

Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)

CWS derives its mandate from legislation and policy as follows:

- Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA)
- Species at Risk Act (SARA)
- Canada Wildlife Act
- Great Lakes and Great Lakes waters – Lake-wide Management Plans (LaMP) and Remedial Action Plans (RAP)
- Income Tax Act – EGP

CWS – Ontario has approximately 55 employees. This is approximately the same size as Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (CA), less staff than the Upper Thames River CA (75) and more than Essex Region CA (34).

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CWS involvement in Carolinian Canada includes the:

- Great Lakes Ecosystem Initiative
 - This was the first federal ecosystem initiative.
 - It focuses on the clean up of the lake ecosystem.
 - It includes restoration of the ecosystem, in particular impaired wildlife habitat.

With CWS providing research and science-based advice, Environment Canada is involved in:

- Remedial Action Plans and Lake-wide Management Plans (RAPs and LAMPs) that include:
 - Restoring impaired wildlife habitat;
 - Great Lakes Sustainability Fund;
 - "How Much habitat is Enough?" produced jointly with the Ministries of Environment (MOE) and Natural Resources (MNR) is now used throughout basin and serves as a guideline for habitat restoration and conservation based on landscape requirements for wildlife.
- Coastal Wetlands – Notable is the development of indicators. The Durham Wetlands pilot project has benchmarked the quality of wetlands along the north shore of Lake Ontario.
- Ecological Gifts – The program is well used within Carolinian Canada with many gifts of land or conservation easements.
- Natural Wildlife Areas (NWAs) – St. Clair Marshes, Big Creek, Long Point.
- Species at Risk Act (SARA) is a large part of Environment Canada's mandate. SARA is relatively new and policy is evolving. Nine (9) full-time staff are dedicated to Species at Risk (SAR).
 - 130 species in Ontario, many, if not most, are found in the Carolinian zone.
 - Environment Canada is directly responsible for migrating birds and federal lands but through the Species at Risk Accord works closely with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).
 - The Act requires consultation and extensive review and also has binding restrictions.
 - Extensive partnering and consultation means a wide and useful spectrum of views are brought to the table but it also requires a wide spectrum of agreement and sign-off.
 - On private lands the focus is on implementation through stewardship.
 - In Carolinian Canada, diversity of species means diversity of issues.
 - In the United States, the endangered species agenda has been the forum for some of the best species and conservation biology science. A renewal of science in this area is foreseen and there is no reason why Ontario academics, NGOs and government scientists should not be at the forefront.
 - Ontario finds itself in the enviable or perhaps unenviable position of being an innovator and leader. In many cases there isn't national policy in place yet to deal with some of the issues facing different species.

Landscape and Ecosystem Approach

Canada endorsed the ecosystem approach when it ratified the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biodiversity and then again with the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, summarized as follows:

The Ecosystem Approach is the integrated, sustainable, equitable conservation and management of land, water and living resources. Taking

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this approach means focusing on levels of biological organization – such as communities, landscapes and populations – the organisms, structures and processes within these organizations. It recognizes that humans are an integral component of many ecosystems.

The ecosystem approach has to involve all partners. At the simplest level, it means not making decisions in a silo as everything is connected. Unfortunately, federal policies and programs, not just Environment Canada but government and non-government organizations (NGOs), are not necessarily set up to consider 'everything.' No one has the mandate for a complete ecosystem approach.

The Convention for Biodiversity and the Canadian Biodiversity strategy is a vision for all Canada and all Canadians. No one agency or group can take a truly ecosystem approach to conserving and sustainability using biodiversity. In fact, there is little legislation surrounding ecosystems or biodiversity. Arguably our strongest acts such as Fisheries, Migratory Birds and the provincial Fish and Wildlife are regulatory and species or taxa specific. The closest mandate for some surrogate of biodiversity is a mix between who controls the provincial and federal lands and who controls planning over private lands. In the Carolinian Life Zone, a clear federal/provincial partnership is needed to achieve anything. The biosphere transcends federal/provincial responsibilities.

The value of Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC) is having all the parts at the table to give a big picture. There is recognition of the 'Big Picture' as mapped out but there is the big picture that is the collective vision of all conservation bodies within the Carolinian Life Zone. When it works well, the discussions around the Carolinian Canada Coalition table approaches an "ecosystem approach."

THE FEDERAL ROLE IN CAROLINIAN CANADA

Ecological Integrity on Land and Water

Parks Canada and the Carolinian Life Zone

Chip Bird, Southwestern Ontario Superintendent, Parks Canada

Summary Notes by Virginia Lambdin

CHIP BIRD, Parks Canada Superintendent received the prestigious 2005 Public Service Award of Excellence in the Management Excellence category. This Award recognized Chip's success in achieving key results and demonstrating his commitment and dedication to the goals and priorities of Parks Canada, as well as his professionalism, integrity and strong ethical behaviour in his day-to-day work. He recently took on the position of Field Unit Superintendent, Southwestern Ontario Field Unit.

The role of Parks Canada is to supervise national significant areas and protect their integrity. With increasing urbanization, there is disconnection with nature. To offset that disconnect, Parks Canada has set into action four new (4) directions:

1. Reach people where they live. Connect people to the land and natural heritage. 25% of Canadians live in the Carolinian Canada Life Zone.
2. Enhance the visitor experience. They must be relevant and memorable. Parks Canada relevancy and presence is slipping according to polls.
3. Engage involvement of partners and stakeholders by sharing time and resources in addition to consultation.
4. Determine the audience. Parks Canada needs to do a better job on determining who's visiting and more importantly who is not.

The release of the State of the Park Report indicated landscapes, habitats and species on Point Pelee Island are threatened. Four (4) categories: forest, wetlands, Great Lakes shore and non-forest savannas are 'poor and decreasing'. There are 57 species at risk (SAR) on Point Pelee. This is the highest number in any national park in Canada.

Parks Canada is working on a recovery strategy. A 5-year progress report will assess conditions and trends with regard to targets. This report will be available to the public.

A new sustainable land management project (\$2.8 million) is examining the feasibility of reconnecting Point Pelee Island back to its natural areas.

Middle Island was acquired by National Conservancy Canada and transferred to Parks Canada in 2001. It is predicted that within next five years most vegetation will be degraded on Middle Island. The issue is cormorants. There are two management options: accept the loss as part of large-scale ecosystem changes or cull cormorant numbers. There will be impacts if no action is taken. Parks Canada is embarking on a public consultation process.

THE PROVINCIAL ROLE IN CAROLINIAN CANADA

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & the Carolinian Landscape

Ray Bonenberg, Regional Director, S. Region, Field Services Division, OMNR

Summary Notes by Virginia Lambdin

RAY BONENBERG is a graduate of the Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology forestry program in 1973; parks and recreation technology program in 1974 and the fish & wildlife technology program in 1976. After six years in the parks program in Chapleau, Ray transferred to Wawa District in 1980 and was appointed as the Park Superintendent of Lake Superior Provincial Park. In 1985, Ray was appointed the Park Superintendent of Pinery/Ipperwash Provincial Parks. In 1988, Ray was appointed as the District Manager in Ignace in northwestern Ontario, and again transferred to Pembroke as the District Manager in 1991, a position he still holds. In June 2005, Ray took on the assignment of Acting Regional Director for the Southern Region in Peterborough.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) emphasizes a stewardship approach. Natural healthy ecosystems lead to healthy communities. Our Sustainable Future, a Ministry of Natural Resources internal strategic document, was released February 2005. The framework for strategic directions is a healthy environment through sustainable development. The biodiversity strategy is to engage Ontarians, promote stewardship, and integrate biodiversity conservation into land use planning.

MNR priorities are multi-pronged:

- Healthy Environment for people and recreational pursuits,
- Strong People, Strong Economy
- Stronger, Safer Communities and reduced loss of green space,

In the Southern Region landscape, southwestern Ontario is agricultural-based. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) has heavy growth, is fragmented with scattered resources and is predominately private land that can't be controlled. 150 species at risk live in Ontario's South region.

MNR is moving to management at the landscape level. Landscape level is defined as "integrated planning and assessment of land uses and human activities over the whole landscape to ensure long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability of ecosystems and their resources." Landscape management plans can be on large spatial and temporal scales or narrowed to smaller scales as necessary. Geographic areas include the Carolinian Zone, Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridge Moraine, Madawaska Highlands, Frontenac Axis and Lake Simcoe. Working at ground level are Stewardship Councils, Conservation Authorities, Forestry Management Units, Fisheries Management Zones and Wildlife Management Units.

Within the Carolinian landscape, achieving landscape management is through a wide range of stakeholders working together across municipal boundaries and jurisdictions, integrated and strategic acts of stewardship and use of a full range of stewardship tools. The range of approaches for protecting landscape on private lands include education, awareness, volunteer action, providing in direct incentives, direct programs and regulatory. Natural Spaces, an MNR program, provides tools and resources so landowners can voluntarily contribute to good stewardship of Ontario's natural heritage. One tool is under development to identify natural heritage system options or "best bet areas for restoration and conservation efforts."

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The Ontario Stewardship Program was initiated in 1995. There are 40 Stewardship Councils and plans to expand that number. There is a full time staff person working on behalf of each council. In 2004-2005, the program engaged 2,655 partners and 18557 volunteers undertook 236 volunteer hours. Carolinian Canada and MNR are working on the Carolinian Woodland Recovery Strategy and recently completed the Big Picture project.

FIRST NATIONS ROLE IN CAROLINIAN CANADA

Walpole Island Ecosystem Recovery Strategy

Dr. Dean M. Jacobs, former Chief, Walpole Island First Nation

DR. DEAN JACOBS completed a two-year elected term as Chief of the Walpole Island First Nation (WIFN) in June 2006. Prior to this, Dean was Executive Director of the Walpole Island Heritage Centre. Mr. Jacobs currently sits on the international Agreement Review Committee overseeing the review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Dean was Wallaceburg Chamber of Commerce's Professional Business Person of the Year for 2004. He is a recipient of two honorary doctorate degrees and two eagle feathers. He has served on the Editorial Advisory Board for the Journal of the Ontario Historical Society. He was a member of the International Joint Commission's Council of Great Lakes Research Managers and was a charter member of the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy. He also has served six elected terms on the WIFN Council of Three Fires. In addition, Dean Jacobs is a former board member of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Ontario Historical Society, and the Premier's Council.

Introduction and Background

Thank you for the invitation to participate in Carolinian Canada's 2006 Annual Meeting, and on this morning's Panel. The management of the natural environment as it relates to ecosystem management and conservation are matters that deeply affect my First Nation. I welcome the opportunity to explain its importance to us, and to share with you our experiences. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Clint Jacobs of the Walpole Island Heritage Centre (WIHC) and Jane Bowles of the University of Western Ontario in the preparation of this presentation.

Walpole Island First Nation (WIFN) is home to hundreds of species of wild plants and animals, including 54 whose continued existence and survival is "at risk" as a consequence of natural or human disturbance.

A recovery strategy can serve as a framework for conservation efforts. Most recovery strategies focus on a single species at risk. However, as there are as many as 54 COSEWIC listed species at risk that are, or were located on Walpole Island territory, it would be a huge undertaking to do a recovery strategy for each one. Instead, plans are to develop a strategy that will focus on the relevant ecosystems found in the territory. An ecosystem is a natural community and its environment functioning as an ecological unit. The ecosystems being examined are: Carolinian forests; Tallgrass prairies; Oak savannas; Open water aquatic communities; and Marshes/wetlands.

Context for the Conservation and Recovery Agreement

Highly populated and industrialized areas surround Walpole Island. This provides opportunities, but it also presents challenges to maintaining the wildlife and the ecosystems they inhabit from these outside pressures. There are also internal pressures. The population of Walpole Island is continuing to grow. To meet this demand, house and road construction, and other developments are ongoing. Hunting, fishing, farming, and timber harvesting are economic activities that are carried out throughout the year. A strategic plan is needed to sustain our natural resources.

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The Recovery Strategy process is an opportunity for the community of Walpole Island to give direction in the protection of species at risk, and continue their cultural, spiritual, and economic relationship with the natural environment. Species at Risk Recovery and Habitat Stewardship Programs and funding opportunities currently exist and will be expanding to help First Nations to conserve, protect, and recover their cultural and natural heritage.

Process for Developing a Walpole Island Ecosystem Recovery Strategy

The development of an Ecosystem Recovery Strategy for Walpole Island has been a complex undertaking requiring understanding and co-operation to balance the needs of the human community, the needs of the natural community and the federal legislation. Some developing ecosystem strategies are available to serve as a guide to the Walpole Island Ecosystem Recovery Strategy Team, but none are specific and exclusive to a First Nation. Our collective efforts will be of interest to all Canadians.

Cultural, Ecological and Technical Feasibility of Recovery

Successful recovery will only be accomplished with the support of the Walpole Island community. The WIFN community must find a way to manage land use change, which is probably the biggest threat facing the ecosystems on Walpole Island. Land use planning provides effective protection against such threats. An ecosystem based land use plan is consistent with First Nations traditions and values and is environmentally and economically sound. Implementation and enforcement of a land use plan must involve the whole community from individuals to the Chief and Band Council and the heads of all the Administrative Departments. Furthermore, information and education must continue to ensure that the community is informed about Species at Risk, the ecosystems they inhabit and threats that face them. Individual projects currently underway under the leadership of the WIHC make small progress, but a holistic approach is needed to achieve long-term success.

Walpole Island has relatively intact ecosystems that are on hand to provide seed sources and adjacent habitat. These constitute a major ecological resource and create an important advantage for restoration. Traditional land management has maintained many of the ecosystems to the present day. Implementation of traditional practices, such as burning, wild plant harvest and hunting will help conserve these ecosystems. Restoration over the whole of WIFN is neither feasible nor practical, because large areas of marsh have been drained and converted to agriculture. There are, however, large areas of the islands and the wetlands where recovery is certainly possible and desirable.

Recovery Goal

To conserve and recover the ecosystems of our Territory in a way that is compliant with the WIFN Environmental Philosophy Statement, provides opportunities for cultural and economic development and provides protection and recovery for Canada's species at risk.

Recovery Objectives

1. To promote the traditional practices and values of WIFN and encourage community participation in ecosystem recovery.

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2. To develop and use First Nations instruments for the long term maintenance and protection of the ecosystems and the species in them.
3. To minimize habitat loss and promote stewardship by educating, encouraging involvement and building capacity at Walpole Island.
4. To use science balanced with aboriginal traditional knowledge to enhance the understanding of key aspects of ecosystems of Walpole Island.
5. To develop relationships with potential partners that have a similar commitment to species protection, stewardship, recovery and restoration.
6. To identify and implement options to compensate for losses that result from recovery actions.

Knowledge Gaps

Intensive inventory and mapping of habitat types within each of the five ecosystems, and delineation of species at risk populations is an essential step towards identification of critical habitat.

The extensive ecological and cultural knowledge of the WIFN citizens about the ecosystems of Walpole Island has, by tradition, been passed down orally, and is not shared with outsiders. Loss of traditional culture and language has been identified as a major concern. Documentation of some of these values and traditions would safeguard against loss through a weakening of the oral traditions.

Some non-native species of plants and animals are established on the land and in the waters of WIFN. The extent of non-native species establishment and their effects on native species and habitats is not well known.

The potential and real impacts of air, water and biological pollution on the ecosystems of Walpole Island has not been well documented.

Cultural Importance

A tradition of respect for the natural world, and Native philosophies and practices of interacting with nature are fundamental to the identity of First Nations and considered sacred obligations. These values, coupled with traditional land management have had a direct contribution to the present existence of the natural areas on Walpole Island and the astonishing richness of species they support. Hunting, fishing and harvesting plant and animal wildlife are not only part of this tradition, but provide an important source of income and livelihood to the community.

Conflicts and Challenges

Walpole Island has one of the highest densities of nationally rare species of any area in Canada. There are many challenges and potential conflicts facing the continued existence of these species and their habitats.

The SARA targets those species and habitats that have been most impacted under the wave of land clearing, agriculture and development that followed European settlement. Rather than acknowledge and reward landholders and communities who have maintained and protected these species and habitats, SARA appears to unfairly target the economic progress and development of areas such as Walpole Island where land clearing and urbanization have been more limited.

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Protection of species at risk and the ecosystems that support them must come from the Walpole Island community and employ First Nations instruments. Cultural, spiritual and economic benefits from protecting them must be tangible. Compensation and incentives will be necessary to secure land for protection.

Changes in Values and Land Use

Ironically it is First Nations traditions, culture and land use practices that have allowed many of the species at risk to survive on Walpole Island when they have been decimated or extirpated from the mainland. Many of these traditions and practices have been eroded.

Land use change associated with the growing population probably presents the most important challenge facing species at risk recovery and habitat conservation.

Globalization and materialization of the culture through modern media combined with traditions and language lost at residential schools have further conspired to erode the cultural and spiritual connections with the land. Some traditions, of which language is probably the most symbolic and important, have been all but lost on Walpole Island. Re-establishing traditional values among the Walpole Island community will be a major step in recovery planning.

Agriculture

Agriculture is economically very important on Walpole Island, and probably always has been, but today traditional agricultural practices are not economically viable and few traditional crops are grown. Virtually all the agriculture is carried out with commercial crops under modern farming regimes.

Communications and Education

It is important that communications materials relating to species at risk and their habitats contain terms that the Walpole Island community uses regularly and can identify with; otherwise, the message may be misunderstood or not read entirely. It is also important that native language terms are used in describing species at risk and their habitats. This will help meet the goals of the Recovery Strategy by reestablishing traditional connections. Native terms have a more intimate meaning to the people of WIFN. For example, "prairies" in the native language is "Mshkode" meaning, "where the fire was", which refers to a historical relationship and management of the ecosystem.

Education from K – 12 of species at risk, ecosystems, and the biology of Walpole Island is an important step in ensuring future generations conserve and protect the biological features of Walpole Island. Teaching native traditional teachings, philosophies, and values combined with good grounding in biology will re-enforce the importance of conserving and protecting Walpole Island's natural heritage.

Outside forces

Many of the threats to all five ecosystems and the species that they contain have origins outside Walpole Island and are beyond the control of the community. Contamination by airborne and waterborne materials and invasive

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species are probably the most important of these. Falling lake levels may also cause changes to wetland and shoreline habitats. Climate change is likely to affect all five ecosystems.

Recommended Scale for Recovery

The first step to recovery is to conserve the existing critical habitat for species at risk on Walpole Island. This involves maintaining existing levels of habitat and populations to maintain the status quo.

Down listing of species at risk is the ultimate goal of all recovery, but this will require recovery actions well beyond the undisputed boundaries of WIFN? Successful recovery of species at risk recovery on Walpole Island alone will not result in a change in the national status of species. The area of Walpole Island, and thus the areas of occupancy, is too small to secure species that only occur on Walpole Island. Several of the species involved are already not at all rare on Walpole Island itself. Recovery efforts on Walpole can however provide the seed, both literally and figuratively for recovery over the whole of the Bkejwanong Territory. WIFN can take the lead in such recovery efforts.

Recognition

In 1995, the WIFN received the *"We the Peoples: 50 Communities Award"* from the Friends of the United Nations for its exemplary record in environmental research and sustainable development. In 1997, the Walpole Island Heritage Centre was designated by Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as a *"First Nations Effective Practices"* site. In 1984, Carolinian Canada identified 38 sites in a study of critical natural areas. WIFN was the only one that fulfilled all ten criteria in the selection of the sites. In the summer of 2004 a Carolinian Canada plaque was ceremoniously erected at Walpole Island.

Environmental Credits

The participation of First Nations in environmental credit regimes is one way in which governments, corporations, and other enterprises might work to better protect the environment and ensure sustainable use.

THE COUNTY ROLE IN CAROLINIAN CANADA

Rural - Urban Common Ground

Michael Harding, Mayor of Woodstock

Summary Notes by Virginia Lambdin

MICHAEL HARDING, Mayor, City of Woodstock, and Chair of the Oxford Natural Heritage Study studied marketing at the University of Toronto and pursued a career in publishing before a chance meeting lured him away to studio life with Paramount Pictures. That opportunity took him into educational film production and distribution, returning to Toronto to establish the Canadian Learning Company (CLC) in 1978. Today that company is one of the top five companies in Canada serving the broad educational community with audiovisual learning materials. In 1996 he moved with his family to Woodstock, where his priorities changed. Volunteering became an integral part of his lifestyle, focusing on city projects such as Communities in Bloom. By 2003, he was elected Mayor and is now involved in Police Services, Non-Profit Housing, Hospital, Bio-Solids, Hydro and the Rotary Club, among others.

Natural heritage protection is an important issue for both urban and rural areas and the challenges involved differ also. In general, there is more pressure to clear natural areas in urban growth centres where the cost of land is highest. In these areas, natural areas such as woodlots and stream buffers can be seen as impediments to new residential or commercial development. In many cases, the remaining urban natural areas have been fragmented by previous development in the area or seriously degraded due to overuse and activities such as dumping. As a result, remaining urban natural areas often do not meet the County wide landscape criteria to be considered significant. Nonetheless, these natural areas can be considered to be very important at the community and neighbourhood level.

There is a growing expectation from the public that urban natural areas will be protected as development occurs and that that these areas will be maintained and be publicly accessible. Municipalities must plan ahead for the management of their remaining natural areas in urban centres. This involves completing inventories of the remaining natural heritage areas to get an indication of how much, where and what natural heritage remains in the urban centre. With this information, the municipality can plan ahead for long term intended use and consider options such as designations and or acquisitions to protect important components of the natural heritage system. This planning can include official plan policy as well as management plans dealing with issues such as public access, trail linkages and liability.

Oxford County possesses many natural assets – forests, wetlands, streams and rivers. These natural resources provide incredible values to society including purification of the air and groundwater, habitat for wild plants and animals, erosion protection, and recreational opportunities. Wise management is the key to sustainability. Deforestation has occurred in Oxford County and many individuals, groups, agencies and government are taking steps to ensure the long-term survival of Oxford County's natural features.

The City of Woodstock partnered with the Upper Thames Conservation Authority to undertake a two-year investigative study (Oxford Natural Heritage Study) to gather information on the state of the Oxford's natural resources. The study inventoried Oxford's natural features and findings show the County has many good quality

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streams, rivers and forests. Fish, lumber, animals can continue to be harvested sustainably but there are many challenges such as poor quality watercourses and forest fragments that cannot sustain the diversity of wildlife common today. Natural areas, once removed, take generations and countless dollars to bring back.

Forest cover of 12.5% is below the ideal of 20-30% cover to maintain species and watershed health. With low forest cover, it is important to conserve and enhance what remains. Most of southwestern Ontario has low forest cover because the land is well suited to agriculture and urbanization. Many natural areas have been preserved and much credit must go to landowners who value the natural areas on their land.

A multi-stakeholder Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) composed of 23 groups was assembled to discuss ways of implementing the recommendations from the study. As natural heritage features are often situated on private land, it was important to get the input of groups representing private landowners. The IAC discussed and recommended several practical measures to achieve the conservation and enhancement of Oxford's natural resources. The IAC recognized that many approaches were needed to achieve this goal while still allowing landowners to make a living. Lessons learned from the study are clear. The financial burden of change should not be shouldered by the individual landowners. What is in the broad public interest must be paid for by the public.

Recommendations centred on incentives, regulation, education and outreach, securement and protection and taxation measures. The IAC validated the work of the technical and steering committees and provided a unique grassroots perspective and buy-in to the study.

The Steering Committee, made of seven project partners, oversaw the study and considered the recommendations of the technical teams and the Implementation Advisory Committee and made several final recommendations.

Some of the key recommendations include:

- Formation of an ongoing Natural Heritage Advisory Committee to enable the recommendations to be delivered
- Designation of patches that meet one or more criteria in the Official Plan
- Expansion of the County's Clean Water Project to provide more incentives to landowners to improve environmental conditions on their land
- Development of a communications strategy
- Recognition of landowners with significant patches
- Completion of urban natural heritage inventories
- Exploration of tourism opportunities around natural resources and
- Continued monitoring of in the County.

Protect and conserving the natural assets, for the use, health and enjoyment of future generations, is achievable with private landowners playing an important role and the County of Oxford facilitating the process.

Understanding the dynamics of all of the pieces of the system helps to plan for future conservation. It will take generations to restore the natural heritage system to a level that is sustainable.

Nature Count\$: Health, Wealth & Southern Ontario's Greenspace

A report prepared for the Natural Spaces Leadership Alliance

Amy Handyside, Senior Planner, OMNR Natural Spaces Program

AMY HANDYSIDE is a Senior Planner with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Natural Spaces Program. Natural Spaces aims to provide key tools and strategic focus for the conservation and restoration of southern Ontario's natural areas. The program is under development in collaboration with a Minister's advisory group, the Natural Spaces Leadership Alliance. Ms. Handyside holds a Master's degree in Ecological Economics from York University.

Executive Summary

Concern over clean water and record breaking smog days are but two of the issues driving home the essential connections between healthy greenspace and healthy communities. At the same time, rural Ontario is seeking new local economic development strategies to counter recent shifts in the rural economy. Out of this context, a new nature agenda is emerging. This agenda links the natural environment with a holistic vision of the good life, which includes economic success, personal health, active stewardship and enjoyment of our natural areas.

Southern Ontario is poised to experience rapid increases in population over the next 20 years, with urbanization and population growth having noticeable impacts on air, water and ecosystem quality. Appreciation of the social and economic benefits of greenspace is growing almost as rapidly, and has evolved to include discussions of natural areas as 'natural capital' or 'green infrastructure'. This presents opportunities for policy makers, municipal and community leaders to work toward an integrated vision of town and country, one that balances growth with greenspace conservation, and which uses greenspace as an economic attractor for growth.

The *Nature Count\$* study is a step along this path. With major emphases on recent rural demographic and economic changes, human health, social benefits and the importance of natural assets to the rural and provincial economies, *Nature Count\$* provides a review of the socio-economic contributions of natural areas in southern Ontario. The study also presents a preview of research needs for a comprehensive investigation of greenspace benefits.

Rural Demographics Set the Stage

Migration and an aging baby-boomer cohort are setting the stage for new opportunities for conservation and stewardship.

Some conservation groups have begun to actively explore the cultural and social attachments of new Ontarians to the rural landscape, a process that will inform the stewardship agenda and better engage people with natural places. Other newcomers to rural southern Ontario are urban retirees. This 'rural rebound' of the baby boom generation - a group with higher than average rates of volunteerism - provides an opportunity to promote conservation and stewardship of natural areas. While demographic and economic shifts put pressure on rural communities, newcomers and those on the rural rebound provide positive opportunities to advance the conservation agenda and support local economies. The implications of these trends suggest it is important to:

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- Provide municipalities with the tools to identify major natural heritage systems for protection and restoration, critical in light of current growth pressures and vital as a foundation for local conservation and stewardship activities.
- Build on the work of urban and near-urban conservation authorities and municipalities to better engage newcomers to southern Ontario in conservation and stewardship in their adopted communities.
- Explore farm and non-farm landowner connections and interfaces for opportunities of mutual benefit, and engage both sectors in stewardship of shared natural heritage systems and preservation of local agricultural economies.

Taking Greenspace to the Bank

Agriculture, private land forestry and small manufacturing are the traditional building blocks of the rural economy in southern Ontario. The success of the forestry and agriculture industries has long been dependent on the wise stewardship of private landowners.

New types of rural entrepreneurship including eco- and agri-tourism, boutique agriculture, and even alternative energy, are taking a growing appetite for and appreciation of southern Ontario's greenspace to the bank. These burgeoning industries provide strong signs that long-term rural economic success may be found in a growing sector of economic activity that capitalizes on natural assets and the interests of a public focused on quality of life. The key to success in developing these types of commercial endeavours depends upon a healthy ecosystem across southern Ontario.

Municipal leaders are beginning to grasp the value of developing an integrated economic vision that builds on the unique natural strengths of their region. In facilitating long-term solutions to the challenges facing southern Ontario's rural economy, it is necessary to:

- Monitor and support emerging shifts in southern Ontario's rural agricultural economies toward new crops (biomass and medicinals) and other and niche-market agriculture that takes advantage of growing urban markets.
- Promote eco-tourism and agri-tourism - the combination of agriculture, natural areas and tourism - in local economic development strategies as well as other approaches that capitalize on natural assets.
- In areas of declining population, explore with municipalities, economic development and stewardship organizations, the implications and opportunities of an emerging minor "rural rebound" of retired baby boomers on local economies, local recreational services and volunteer stewardship.
- Support southern Ontario forestry with mechanisms for identifying opportunities to expand forests and better utilize marginal lands; engage landowners with incentives, tools and extension services; increase the availability of native tree seedlings and ensure the right species are planted in the right places.

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- Promote the potential for alternative energy to enhance rural economic viability as well as environmental quality.

Nature Has Positive Side Effects!

We depend on greenspace not only to drive vibrant local economies, but also for human health benefits, though these benefits are often taken for granted. Emerging research shows that individually and collectively Ontarians are better off when they are able to experience nature in some form. Natural areas can facilitate greater social interaction, encourage faster recovery times from illness or surgery and elicit higher rates of employee productivity. Nature's side effects are positive: greenspace provides opportunities for outdoor recreation, healthy lifestyle choices and stress mitigation, resulting in reduced hypertension, cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis.

To better understand how greenspace can advance the goals of health promotion – and reduce health care costs, it would be helpful to:

- Further explore linkages between individual well-being, reduced health care costs, improved physical, mental and emotional health and southern Ontario's greenspace.
- Explore how increasing urban densities require careful planning for sufficient "green services" to serve a larger population – parks, trails, sports fields, urban forests and natural areas provide an essential human service.

Green Thinking: Valuing Natural Capital

There is a growing interest in re-casting the way we think about nature using a new economic language in which nature is clearly recognized as a form of capital, or green infrastructure, with substantial value. This realization is generating a new economic case for conservation and stewardship – one built on an understanding of how natural capital supports both a healthy society and a healthy economy.

Recent studies have noted that the conversion of some natural areas to other uses may be inefficient from an economic viewpoint when all costs and benefits are considered. If the conversion from natural to built space is continued over the long-term, society may have to seek out more expensive substitutes for the benefits our green infrastructure so efficiently provides for comparatively modest maintenance costs.

Supporting green infrastructure will prove a wise investment in the competitive challenges of the twenty-first century. Making the necessary connections between nature and essential services can increase conservation and stewardship commitments in the community. To continue to build the economic case for conservation, provincial and municipal leaders could:

- Explore and document low-cost "green infrastructure" alternatives to new or expanded water and sewage treatment facilities; use of storm ponds and maintenance of wetlands and forests as drought and flood management systems.

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- Develop tools for municipalities to identify opportunities to use natural heritage to maximize property values and property assessment through careful site planning, and to minimize servicing costs.
- Develop tools for municipalities to document the value of natural heritage as a foundation for their local economies, and approaches to maximize community economic development strategies.

Finding ways to value greenspace and effectively communicate these values to decision-makers and the public is of critical importance to the future quality of life in southern Ontario. *Nature Count\$* is but the first step in this education and communication process. Your help in monitoring and contributing to the evolution of green economics in southern Ontario will ensure that nature really does count.

For more information, please see

www.naturalspaces.mnr.gov.on.ca or www.canurb.com

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THE ROLE OF CONSERVATION GROUPS IN CAROLINIAN CANADA

A Strategic Approach to Conserving and Restoring Carolinian Canada

James Duncan, Program Manager, SW Ontario, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Summary Notes by Virginia Lambdin

JAMES DUNCAN has been involved in the conservation of Carolinian Canada for over 15 years and currently serves on the Board of the Carolinian Canada Coalition. Past experience includes mapping of Rare Species habitat for the Ministry of Natural Resources, conducting landowner contact under the auspices of the Natural Heritage League and representing the Ontario Heritage Foundation on the former Carolinian Canada Steering Committee and Backus Woods Advisory Committee. For the past 11 years James has been negotiating land purchases, easements and donations in Ontario for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. James led NCC's campaign to win back Middle Island at auction in 1999 and negotiations and fundraising efforts to secure the Clear Creek Forest Nature Reserve east of Rondeau where NCC is pioneering the largest 'pits and mounds' restoration project in North America.

Less than seven (7) percent of land is protected. Three (3) percent is in protected status. From a global perspective, Bruce County and Manitoulin Island rank # 1 on biodiversity values. In Southwestern Ontario, the Carolinian Canada Life Zone is a critical area to preserve biodiversity. Carolinian Canada and its partners developed the Big Picture model, a plan for action to conserve and restore core areas and linkages within the Carolinian Life Zone. The project has a detailed 'step-by-step' implementation plan for key natural areas that include identifying:

- The suite of properties required to maintain biodiversity values;
- Stewardship action in order to maintain biodiversity; and
- Communications and fundraising strategies.

As to how the Big Picture model implementation is working at ground level, one key landscape in Carolinian Life Zone targeted for conservation and restoration is Pelee Island. The Island has high biodiversity values with five important areas and two provincial parks. Three areas are to be conserved and objectives identified. The key issues on Pelee Island are: human density, an economy in transition, wild fire suppression (protection of savannas) and on-island stewardship capacity. The conservation strategy is to protect the highest quality sites (that is costly); enhance connectivity between protected lands and rebuild community capacity for conservation. Increasing the natural cover on Pelee will take a ten-year timeframe and requires a financial investment of \$6.4 million.

2006-2009	2010 - 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- secure key lands- develop inventory/management plans- initiate small scale restoration- hire on-island Natural Heritage Coordinator- budget required \$3,950,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- initiate restoration- monitor results/species response- establish endowment to sustain on-island Natural Heritage Coordinator- budget required \$2,475,000

In the future, the Conservancy has plans to develop similar plans for Skunk's Misery in partnership with Thames Talbot Land Trust and the Niagara Peninsula/Haldiman Sand Plain with local partners. The Natural Heritage infrastructure is important. Preserving Carolinian Canada is globally important.

AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Programs and Progress

Paul Smith, Environmental Policy Analyst, Ontario Ministry Agriculture Food & Rural Affairs

PAUL SMITH is currently an Environmental Policy Analyst, Environmental Management Unit, Environmental Policy and Programs Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Paul has worked in the environmental management field for many years as a policy analyst, biologist, land use planner and parks planner. During his years working with the province, he has also worked for the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Heritage Trust. Among the issues he has worked on include National and provincial parks, conservation easements, environmental assessment, ground and surface water management, wildlife habitat, wetlands, sustainable agriculture, brownfields, Great Lakes, Niagara Escarpment and the Canadian Arctic. Paul holds degrees from the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo, Faculty of Environmental Studies. Paul was Chair of Carolinian Canada from 1999-2004.

A series of new federal-provincial programs were introduced in 2005 to promote environmental stewardship on Ontario farms. The environment is a key pillar within the federal-provincial Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) with a total investment in Ontario of \$78 million. Nation-wide, agri-environmental programs are now in place offering a comprehensive approach to improving environmental practices within agriculture. This represents an historic opportunity to build on the record of farm stewardship in Ontario.

The APF environment outcome goals are to:

- Reduce levels of residual nitrogen on farmland;
- Reduce the risk of water contamination from agricultural sources of nitrogen;
- Reduce the rate of water erosion;
- Reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions;
- Increase agricultural soil carbon; and
- Increase habitat availability.

These new programs build on a long history of partnership among the federal department, provincial ministry and farm organizations regarding agri-environmental programs. Education is recognized as key to influencing attitudes and decision-making on the farm. Delivery of agri-environmental programs by farm organizations—"farmer-to-farmer"—has been shown to work best, with funding and technical support from government.

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is the proven tool to identify environmental issues on each farm and develop strategies to address the issues. The EFP is a confidential, voluntary risk assessment of farm operations, identifying steps to make improvements and reduce risks. The process starts with farmers attending a workshop and completing a comprehensive workbook on 23 different topic areas. An action plan is developed, given a peer review and then the EFP is "deemed appropriate". The farmer is then eligible to apply for funding to make those improvements identified in the EFP action plan. Each farm business is eligible for up to \$65,000 in funding at cost share rates of 30%, 33% or 50% depending on the type of project. The funding programs are the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship

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Program, Greencover Canada and Canada-Ontario Water Supply Enhancement Program.

Farmers across Ontario are taking action to reduce environmental risks on their farms through the Environmental Farm Plan and these related incentive programs. Before 2004, 27,000 farmers had already completed an Environmental Farm Plan—about half of Ontario's farmers. Since the introduction of an enhanced 3rd edition of the EFP in 2005-06 (to September 2006), 7,328 farmers had completed the course and over 5,000 had had peer reviews of their EFPs. Twelve (12) percent of farms had completed the 3rd edition of the Environmental Farm Plan for a total of more than 30,000 farms now possessing an EFP.

The eleven most numerous on-farm environmental improvements so far (to Sept 2006) include:

- Improved cropping systems – reduced tillage and precision farming technology benefiting soil and water;
- Improved manure storage and handling – reducing water risks, improving soils and reducing fertilizer use;
- Water well management – protecting drinking water and groundwater resources;
- Nutrient management planning – reducing water risks, improving soils and reducing fertilizer use;
- Improved pest management – integrated pest management, reduced pesticide use, biological control;
- Run-off control – reduced water risk;
- Product and waste management – improved storage of farm materials and wastes, composting of farm wastes;
- New wells for agricultural purposes – secure water supplies for farms;
- Riparian area management – riparian buffer strips, erosion control, stream fencing, alternative watering systems for livestock;
- Manure land application – improved manure application reducing water risk; and
- Shelterbelts – planting of tree shelterbelts.

These projects will improve water and soil quality, create and improve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the security of water supplies. In addition, ten Greencover Demonstration Projects, many in the Carolinian zone, will promote the adoption of Greencover best practices and document the effectiveness of buffer strips, erosion control and shelterbelts.

Enhanced cost sharing is being provided for farmers investing in certain types of environmental projects in the Greenbelt around Toronto and the Golden Horseshoe and on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Conservation authorities in many parts of Ontario are also assisting farmers in making environmental improvements and are partners in the delivery of the Greencover Canada program.

With only 1 ½ years of implementation to date (as of Sept 2006), much more progress will be shown as farmers choose to take advantage of these programs through March 31, 2008. The Next Generation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Policy will be developed over the next year or so to build on the success of these current programs.

THE ROLE OF URBAN AREAS IN CAROLINIAN CANADA

Planning for the Future

Brian McHattie, Councillor, City of Hamilton

Summary Notes by Virginia Lambdin

BRIAN MCHATTIE, Councillor, Ward One, City of Hamilton, was elected to Hamilton City Council in October 2003. After graduating from the University of Waterloo with a degree in environmental studies, Brian completed his MSc degree in planning and community development from the University of Guelph. He is a professional planner; a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Until recently, Brian worked for Environment Canada and as the regional coordinator for the Canadian Community Monitoring Network. In the past, Brian has also worked for the Hamilton Conservation Authority and the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC). Brian was an original member of the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth's Task Force on Sustainable Development that wrote Vision 2020 and set the direction for Hamilton's current Official Plan called "Toward a Sustainable Region. Brian is a Past President of the Hamilton Naturalist's Club. As such he was instrumental in leading the effort to do the Natural Area Inventory work in Hamilton.

Given the urban density of Carolinian Canada, people living in urban areas play a significant role in whether this unique area of the country is protected now and into the future. While humans, through practiced urban forms such as suburban sprawl, excessive roads and unsustainable resource use, have had a detrimental effect on the Carolinian ecosystem, the collective mindset of urbanites can also lead to highly creative endeavours. The City of Hamilton was able to achieve change positive action in the heart of Carolinian Canada.

There are positive and negative aspects to the urban environment. On the negative side, there is urban sprawl, poor planning and a psychological disconnection with nature. On the positive side, within cities, there are communities of interest, ideas, a critical mass to coalesce around communities of interest and a disconnection with nature and natural areas. When people are disconnected, they are unaware that land is being protected and therefore less there are fewer obstacles to protecting natural areas.

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club undertook natural areas inventories in 1993 and 2003. The 2003 inventory showed substantial growth in Environmental Sensitive Areas. The club carried out fundraising, funded and managed projects and educated the grassroots to support land use planning goals. They produced a number of documents including:

- What's Alive in Hamilton-Wentworth?
- "Naturally Hamilton" booklet
- Head of the Lake Pocket Nature Guide
- "Habitats of Hamilton" poster
- Birds of Hamilton "tome"
- www.hamiltonnature.org

How was the information used by the city?

- Used daily by planners, public works, parks, Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Natural Resources and consultants.
- Number of Environmentally Sensitive Areas was increased.
- The Greenlands system was developed.

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- A forest cover analysis was done.
- The Natural Areas Coordinating Group was formed.

More recently:

- Watershed and Subwatershed studies
- Monitoring and policy improvement
- Systems approach to Natural Heritage Protection to link all areas.

The following key messages can be taken from the Hamilton experience.

- Critical mass can result in good things happening
- Disconnect with nature works both ways
- There is a role for nature clubs using the scientific approach
- Act when opportunity knocks

THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ROLE IN CAROLINIAN CANADA

Linking Landowners to Land and Water Conservation Opportunities

Don Pearson, General Manager, Conservation Ontario

DON PEARSON has been the General Manager of Conservation Ontario since June 2005, prior to which he served as the Chief Administrative Officer of the County of Perth. For more than two decades before that, Mr. Pearson was General Manager of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, where under his leadership the Authority earned a reputation for excellence and innovation in environmental management with emphasis on water quality, soil conservation, stewardship and community involvement programs. Don earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Western Ontario in 1998 and holds an Honours Science Degree from the University of Waterloo (1975).

Conservation Authorities (CAs) have played a significant role in watershed management and conservation within the Carolinian Canada zone for over 60 years. The conservation of core Carolinian Canada areas and corridors can be attributed to successful and strategic delivery of watershed management objectives by CAs with their partners. The key to successful integrated watershed management is the involvement of community and landowner stakeholders in all aspects of planning, and the development and design of programs that affect them. Involvement of landowners is core to CA programs. The following briefly highlights the historical and present contributions of CAs to conservation in the Carolinian Zone and suggests future opportunities for Conservation Authority/Conservation Ontario involvement.

The mandate that all conservation authorities share is to ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario's water, land and natural habitats where human needs are met in balance with the needs of the natural environment. They provide leadership through coordination of watershed planning, implementation of resource management programs and promotion of conservation awareness in cooperation with others

Conservation Ontario is the organization that works on behalf of the Conservation Authorities, developing common positioning, advocating Conservation Authority concerns and issues with key decision-makers and stakeholders, building important partnerships and promoting the essential work done by CAs. More than half of CAs were initially established to address flooding and erosion concerns.

In developing programs to deal with water-related issues, Authorities have also successfully addressed issues related to natural heritage, riparian, woodland and wetland protection and management, conservation information and education, provision of local and regional recreational opportunities and heritage conservation.

Early grass roots leadership within CAs and with their community members and private landowners led to recognition of the importance of natural areas in southwestern Ontario. As a result over the years CAs have acquired land within significant Carolinian Canada Signature Sites.

This included the acquisition of areas like Dundas Valley (Hamilton CA), Dorchester Swamp (Upper Thames River CA), Backus Woods (Long Point Region CA), the Ausable Gorge, and leadership in the acquisition of what has become the Pinery Provincial Park, perhaps the most significant Oak Savanna in the region.

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Almost half of the 36 Conservation Authorities are within the Carolinian Life Zone (Figure 1).

Conservation Authorities of Ontario



Figure 1. Conservation Authorities (14 shaded in green) within the Carolinian Life Zone

Early Links to Carolinian Canada:

The public and political attention to significant landforms like the Niagara Escarpment Oak Ridges Moraine and Ecoregions like the Carolinian Life Zone has played an important role in the evolution of CA programs. The identification of 38 Carolinian Canada core or “signature sites” in 1984 and more recent CCC initiatives since then have helped CAs determine what is significant within this life zone and has led to initiatives that have advanced flood plain management in the zone towards a more integrated approach to watershed management. While there were initiatives involving soil and water conservation on private land, the Carolinian Canada initiative highlighted or recognized the importance of private land stewardship in the protection recovery of natural heritage areas. Conservation Ontario and CAs have also actively participated in on the Carolinian Canada Coalition and its Working Groups.

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Linking Landowners and Raising Awareness:

Today, in addition to programs and services, Conservation Authorities help to raise Landowners and other community stakeholders' awareness of the importance of the Carolinian Life Zone, its habitats, flora and fauna by profiling this information on their websites, newsletters; annual reports and in their education programs (eg. Rock Glen-ABCA; and Backus Woods-Long Point Region CA). The St Johns Conservation Area near Font Hill provides wheel chair access with views of Carolinian woodland trees.

Natural Heritage and Watershed Strategies:

A number of CAs in the Carolinian Canada Life Zone have included the identification of Carolinian Canada core sites (often also ANSIs, Provincially significant Wetlands) within natural heritage and watershed strategies developed with their municipal partners, community stakeholders and landowners. These have included a natural heritage and greenlands securement strategy undertaken by Credit Valley Conservation, the Essex Region Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Oxford County Natural Heritage Strategy and Ausable River Recovery Strategy.

Water quality and quantity and aquatic as well as terrestrial habitat are usually considered. Opportunities for protection and enhancement of linkages and corridors offered by creeks and streams, as well as hedgerows and locally significant natural areas are identified. Implementation or recovery strategies for these areas and the species within are also being developed. The Carolinian Canada Big Picture Strategy along with the recent Carolinian Canada Woodland Recovery Strategy will provide some guidance and a framework towards local level planning and stewardship activities. Landowners and stakeholders must be involved and consulted during the development of these strategies for successful implementation on private land.

Watershed Stewardship:

The provision of technical and financial assistance to landowners is key to implementation of projects that address land and water conservation. Conservation Authorities in collaboration with others deliver these services through their Watershed Stewardship Programs. Our definition of watershed stewardship is 'caring for our land, water, air and biodiversity on a watershed basis recognizing that everything is connected in a watershed and is affected by natural and human activities'.

Conservation Authorities offer different watershed stewardship programs across the Carolinian Canada Life Zone They are designed to address specific regional needs of local communities. CAs work with agricultural producers and other rural and urban landowners

Within the watershed stewardship programs, there are three key areas of concentration common to most conservation authorities –working with private landowners on water quality improvement, forestry and fish and wildlife management projects. A natural component of these programs involves the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of natural areas and corridors (many of which fall along creeks and streams). The rehabilitation and protection of natural areas (eg. wetlands and creeks and streams) also play a significant role in addressing surface and ground water quality. .

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While the level of Watershed Stewardship services may differ, all conservation authorities offer some common basic services. They provide technical advice, design and planning services, on site assessment and financial incentives (often in partnership with local municipalities and community groups, provincial and federal government and non-government agencies).

CA Watershed Stewardship Services offered in the Carolinian Canada Life Zone

- 14 CAs deliver technical or financial assistance towards reforestation, tree and shrub planting
- 10 CAs offer Stream and Fish Habitat Enhancement
- 9 CAs offer Riparian Habitat Enhancement
- 8 CAs offer Wetland Habitat Enhancement
- 8 CAs undertake Species at Risk Projects
- 13 CAs are involved in technical or financial support for landowners who wish to address water quality issues.

The following provides a summary of CA Watershed Stewardship Activity between 2000 and 2004 across the province and within Carolinian Canada:

- 7,700 total water quality projects (3,724 Carolinian Canada)
- 6,000 landowners involved (3,113 Carolinian Canada)
- \$20.5M provided to landowners through CA programs (\$10.6 M)
- 8.5 M trees planted (4.5 M Carolinian Canada)
- 2,300 landowners involved (908 Carolinian Canada)
- \$4.5M provided through CA tree planting initiatives (3.2 M Carolinian Canada)

Some specific highlights of that activity include a net increase of 5500 acres of habitat in Essex since 1992; Upper Thames RCA, Ausable Bayfield, GRCA leaders in delivery of rural water quality projects and innovation; and the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program has negotiated over 450 verbal agreements with landowners to protect more than 7,500 hectares of habitat and 180 km of riparian buffers since 1994.

Partnerships

CAs have been recognized for their ability to work collaboratively with partners at every level, in order to address watershed management issues. CAs have collaborated with Carolinian Canada Coalition and local partners recognize Carolinian Signature Sites across the Zone, through the community marking program. This marking program recognizes critical community efforts to protect and enhance water and natural areas.

Greencover Canada

One of the important aspects of our watershed stewardship programs and services is the role of partnerships with other delivery agents.

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The Greencover Canada program will support projects that enhance biodiversity, prevent wind and water erosion of farmland and improve the quality of surface water and groundwater. Under this program, technical and financial assistance will be offered by the Government of Canada to help producers wishing to adopt beneficial management practices (BMPs) aimed at improving soil productivity, protecting water quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Conservation Authorities, through an agreement with Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association will provide on-farm technical assistance when requested by the producer, for work involving eligible Greencover Canada practices such as buffer strips, livestock fencing along watercourses, erosion control, and tree shelterbelt plantings.

A number of Conservation Authorities are involved in Greencover Demonstration Projects. The intent is to measure the performance of specific Greencover beneficial management practices on the landscape, and promote these projects to farmers and the community. CAs lead six of the ten demonstration projects and this involves four projects within Carolinian Canada.

Trees Ontario Foundation

In an agreement with Trees Ontario Foundation, Conservation Authorities were the local program delivery agency for the Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration and Assessment Initiative. Forest 2020 provided funds for tree planting, site preparation, tree tending and plantation assessment and reporting. The program offered private landowners the opportunity to plant trees on underutilized lands (e.g. abandoned farm land), at a fraction of the costs normally associated with tree planting. Across the province, Conservation Authorities contributed 123 sites or 573 hectares of planted trees to the completion of this program in 2005. Plans are currently underway to undertake additional planting in with TOF support in 2007.

Canadian Pork Council

Conservation Ontario, Grand River Conservation Authority, and the Canadian Pork Council are working in partnership to deliver a two-year project demonstrating the benefits of establishing shelterbelts to the Ontario pork industry. The emphasis for this project is on shelterbelts around hog barns to control odour, improve aesthetics, decrease energy costs and provide wildlife habitat. The Carolinian Canada CAs involved with the Canadian Pork Council partnership include UTRCA (2 sites), St. Clair Region CA, Grand River CA (3 sites, plus one that is actually located in Long Point Region watershed) and the Ausable Bayfield CA.

Stewardship Network of Ontario (SNO)

Stewardship Network of Ontario is has been initiated and working towards improved coordination and planning, as well as effective and efficient delivery of stewardship programs to benefit landowners across Ontario. Other agencies currently involved in this network include: Ontario Stewardship, Wetland Habitat Fund, Ducks Unlimited, Ministry of Natural Resources, and other government and non-government organizations.

Future Opportunities for CO/CA involvement in Carolinian Canada

Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities will continue to contribute to the protection and enhancement of Carolinian Canada through our integrated watershed management activities. Some specific examples of CO/CA role will include continued participation as member of the Carolinian Canada Coalition, with CAs playing the most significant role. CO and CAs will collaborate with CCC to ensure that natural heritage and integrated watershed planning and management decisions within the Carolinian Life Zone are based on the best available information and approaches, and will encourage and facilitate opportunities for landowners and community participation in the development and implementation of initiatives that affect them.

We will continue to facilitate the exchange of information, skill sets and resources across the Life Zone and collaborate with CAs and the Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC) to promote and demonstrate the importance of technical and financial assistance for landowners addressing land and water stewardship within Carolinian Canada and with that, CO and CAs will seek and facilitate opportunities to collaborate with CCC and partners towards the efficient delivery of land and water stewardship initiatives in the zone.

Finally CO and CAs will continue to play an important role with CCC to promote and demonstrate the value of the Carolinian Life Zone, our collective achievements and future objectives.

Key Actions:

There are common actions all organizations, individuals and community groups can undertake towards improved watershed health in the Carolinian Canada Life Zone. We can all provide input to provincial policy, programs, legislation & regulations that affect watershed stewardship activities and we should involve landowners in planning and implementation of related initiatives. We should acknowledge current work underway, and promote the continued research and implementation of incentives and tools to assist landowners in the important role they play in managing watershed health within the zone. Finally, improved watershed health in the Zone will result from the continued efforts to collaborate effectively through opportunities provided by the Carolinian Canada Coalition.

Discussion - Q & A

A.M. PANEL

QUESTION

To connect eco-systems, should you use landscape approach or watershed management?

Answer (R. Bonenberg, MNR)

Watershed based if each watershed is doing similar activities. Inside have working wetland eco-systems. Start small and go to a landscape basis. Individual action makes an eco-system as the action is expanded. It is a three-pronged approach - protection through municipal planning, restoration and land acquisitions.

QUESTION

What about landowner incentives?

Answer (R. Bonenberg, MNR)

One age old issue is tax credits for the agricultural land owner as a means to help the farmer pay. If the farmer pays for a consultant to do a woodlot management plan, then they would like to be compensated. On the other hand, farmers want to do the right thing on their land. If they enhance the land, they get value from that in the form of longer term benefits.

QUESTION

Stewardship Councils are organized on a county basis. Is there a plan to be more flexible with the areas they are operating in?

Answer (R. Bonenberg, MNR)

The county is the human landscape. Coordinators work closely on ecosystems and land management. Stewardship Councils are broadening out and do work across boundaries.

QUESTION

With regard to different spatial scales versus organizational responsibilities (who does what), how do you resolve conflict?

Answers

R. Bonenberg, MNR - The province provides information and policy direction [that people can understand] to NGOs and landowners. Carolinian Canada is a model in position to work with landowners. The goals are the same. It is the end result that is important, not who gets the credit.

Dr. Dean Jacobs, Walpole Island First Nation: Invite the broad community to a native circle and focus on good ways to bring about solutions.

Graham Bryan, Environment Canada: Different things for different scales. That's the way it works. There is no easy way. There are Stewardship Councils for rural areas and Natural Heritage strategies for urban areas. You need to buy into one of the models/paradigms.

QUESTION

Alternative Land Use Services is being piloted in Norfolk County whereby landowners are compensated for setting aside land for tree planting. What do you think of this as an incentive?

Will there be incentives to plant and maintain trees? There are benefits to landowners but it is also a hardship to give up the land. There should be recognition that sustainable forests are a good thing. It is a nature versus economics question. We benefit from both.

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Answer (M. Harding, Mayor, Woodstock)

If taking farmland out of production is for the public good, then the public should pay.

P.M. PANEL

QUESTION

What zoning is placed on Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)?

Answer (B. McHattie, City of Hamilton)

This is an area that is being worked on. A lot are zoned agricultural. There is no clear environmental protection zoning. If a community is going to develop around an environmentally sensitive area, there should be an environmental impact statement developed.

QUESTION

The Ministry of Natural Resources has the basic responsibility for private land reforest resources. They have forgotten about Southern Ontario. Can Conservation Authorities take over responsibility for all ecological services in the community from the province?

Answer (D. Pearson, CA)

The reforestation mechanism, as we know it, is not coming back. MNR is rebuilding. The direction that the provincial government has taken is devolution. The province has taken on the role of policy and science which is a stronger role for government to play. Reforestation, habitat and species are all components of Carolinian Canada's Big Picture.

QUESTION

With climate change, is local seed sourcing an issue? Should we plant trees to fit climate change?

Comments

If we create a connected ecosystem with corridors of green, plants will adapt themselves to the change naturally.

With global warming placing stress on the environment, it would be a good idea to include research of the effects on species.

With regard to the Ash tree, look at research and look at other adaptations instead.

QUESTION

In Hamilton, is there tension between Natural Heritage Protection versus Agricultural Land Protection?

Answer (B. McHattie, City of Hamilton)

So far, it has been a cohesive relationship. They are protecting Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the city of Hamilton. Funding is available and is increasing with OMAFRA programs.

QUESTION

Should research be done on the success of planting?

Answer (D. Pearson, Conservation Ontario)

The Conservation Authority (CA) does a good job of collecting data and follow-up and does pay attention to success rates. In fact, there is a high success rate with an increase of 3% on landscape. We need to look at past buffers and how they are performing to show the benefits. Nature, despite what we are doing, is gaining forests as marginal lands are retired.

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2006 Forum Participant List

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Allensen	Ron	
Ambrose	John	
Ball	Daryl	OMAFRA
Banks	Peter	Lambton Wildlife
Bergsma	Bonnie	City of London
Bird	Chip	Parks Canada
Blight	Irene	Carolinian Canada
Bonenberg	Ray	Ministry of Natural Resources
Boyd	Malcolm	Lambton Wildlife
Bryan	Graham	Environment Canada
Carabetta	Mark	Ontario Nature
Carson	Peter J.	Carolinian Canada
Casselmann	Alice	ACER- Association for Canadian Educational Resources
Chatterton	Tom	Sydenham Field Naturalists
Cornelis	Larry	Sydenham Field Naturalists
Craig	Brian	Parks Canada
Dale	Alan	Township of Norwich Council
De Young	Bill	University of Western Ontario
Dibble	Cathy	Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association
Dow	Jennifer	St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Duncan	James	Nature Conservancy of Canada
Elder	Mary	The Corporation of Norfolk County
Evanitski	Cliff	Long Point Region Conservation Authority
Gordon	Don	Thames Talbot Land Trust
Gosnell	Elaine	Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
Handyside	Amy	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources - Natural Spaces
Harding	Michael	Mayor City of Woodstock
Hertner	Brad	Upper Thames River Conservation
Hilts	Stew	University of Guelph
Jacobs	Clint	Walpole Island First Nations
Jacobs	Dean	Walpole Island First Nations
Jensen	Mariel	Harrington Creek Eco Group
John	Ruth	Dorchester Mill Pond Committee
Johnson	Lorraine	Carolinian Canada
Kanter	Michelle	Carolinian Canada
Kanter	Doris	Dorchester Mill Pond Committee
Kett	Greg	Municipality of Brockton
Kirk	Donald	Ministry of Natural Resources
Lambdin	Virginia	Carolinian Canada
Learmouth	Betty	Canada South Land Trust
Lee	Phyllis	Coalition on the Niagara
Littleton	Kim	Private Land Owner
Littleton	Trent	Private Land Owner
Mackenzie	Heather	St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

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Last Name	First Name	Organization
Mackinnon	Carrie	Ministry of Natural Resources
Major	Dan	City of Woodstock
May	Nikki	Carolinian Canada
McHattie	Brian	City of Hamilton
McKay	Fiona	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
McNabb	Barbara	Farm Owner
Messier	Robert	Wetland Habitat Fund
Monk	Kate	Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Morningstar	Derek	Golder Associates
Morris	David	University of Waterloo
Nelson	Gordon	Carolinian Canada Coalition/U of Waterloo
Neumann	Martin	Grand River Conservation Authority
Nolan	John D.	Individual Forestry Consultant
Oliver	Jim	Carolinian Canada Coalition
Pearson	Don	Conservation Ontario
Peck	Scott	Norfolk County
Pollock	Julie Suzanne	Environment Canada
Pyka	Frank	London Community Foundation
Quinlan	Cathy	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Rzadki	Jo-Anne	Conservation Ontario
Schmidt	Ken	Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)
Seddon	Ian	Ian Seddon Planning Services
Shirley	Don	
Smith	Kathy	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Smith	Paul	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture
Snell	Elizabeth	Snell and Cecile Environmental Research
Solymar	Bernie	Earth Trampler Consulting Inc.
St. Martin	Roxanne	Ministry of Natural Resources
Stirling	Art	Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited
Trogdon	Eric	Ontario Parks Association
Troughton	Michael	University of Western Ontario
Tryon	Leon	City of Woodstock
van Barneveld	Herman	
Van de Veire	Denise	Sydenham Field Naturalists
Veary	Cheryl	Carolinian Canada
Walther	Nancy	Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Wearne	Penny	
Wellwood	Ric	Catfish Creek Conservation Authority
Wilson	Mitch	Ministry of Natural Resources
Wu-Winter	Ron	Ontario Forestry Association
Wynia	Anne	
Wynia	Dolf	
Zammit	Tony	Grand River Conservation Authority
Zwart	Albert	Brockton Tree Committee

Thank-you!

To our speakers, moderators, volunteers, staff & participants who made this event a success.

This forum was made possible through our generous sponsors:

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Power Point Presentations

PowerPoint Presentations available from the following speakers:

Michelle Kanter

Ray Bonenberg

Dean Jacobs

Amy Handyside

James Duncan

Paul Smith

Brian McHattie

Don Pearson

Highlights

Dr. Gordon Nelson, Chair

1. Think unique as it applies in natural and human dimensions to Carolinian Canada.
2. Think New Age: Link urban, rural and wild.
3. Think nature with culture. Remember working landscapes, environmental and human health and human dimensions.
4. Think together with respect. For example, applying indigenous knowledge.
5. Think involvement, especially new citizens and growth.
6. Think big - be bold but with care.
7. Think incentives, as much or more than regulation.
8. Think innovatively. For example, more explicit linking of biodiversity and water conservation.
9. Think restoration, both natural and cultural and in terms of villages, towns, communities.
10. Think learning, in terms of science, experience, networking sharing, mutual learning.
11. A first principle: have a good time, meet new people and share ideas.
12. Great place, great people, great challenges, great ideas.

