



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Chair

It's been an exciting time for the Ottawa Stewardship Council. More people are getting connected to nature and becoming active participants thanks to the work of our Council and many environmental partners.

The great success of every project can be accredited to our devoted volunteers, employees and our various community partners who were able to work with, and support the Council. These individuals take the time to come together regularly to discuss projects which the council proposes in order to perfect them and maximize success. I would like to thank the Council and all of the individual volunteers and partners for their help, without which our projects would not have been the success they were.

As 2011 came to a close, we were looking forward to what 2012 would bring. New challenges, new projects and new outcomes will encourage the council to work together with our volunteers and partners, to make a strong impact on the environment. It is an honour to represent the Ottawa Stewardship Council as its chair, and I encourage those with a strong passion for the environment to contribute their time and expertise by volunteering with the OSC. Together we can make a difference in the sustainability of Ottawa's environment.

Mark Rowsell

Message from the Coordinator

As a coordinator, I have had the great privilege of meeting and working with a wide variety of caring and dedicated individuals. People who are committed to helping others to strive for a better appreciation of our public and privately held lands, water, forests and wildlife.

As we reflect on our accomplishments over the past year, it is important to celebrate the many community partnerships within the stewardship family that have contributed to a healthier environment across the landscape. We are always looking for new partnerships, ideas and volunteers. I encourage you to contact us if you would like more information on any of our projects or if you want to become involved.

Yours in stewardship,

Joffre Cote

Stewardship Coordinator

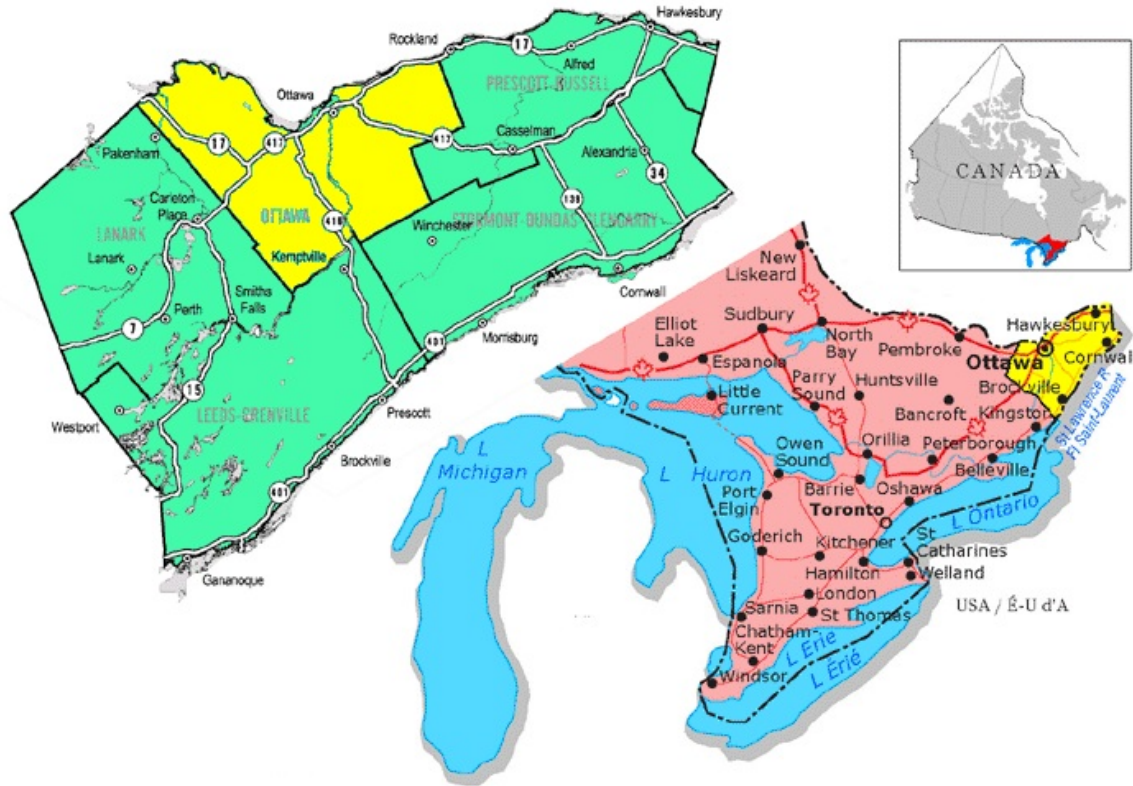
2011 Ottawa Stewardship Council

Councilors

Ross MacLeod	Claude Gardell
Tom Trenouth	Kristine van der Pas-Norenius
Crispin Wood, Vice-Chair	Ernesto Marin
Adriana Hulse	David Shackleton
Mark Rowsell, Chair	Phil Geddis
Gib Patterson	Wenqian Han
Robin Wentzel, Past Chair	Ray Pierce

Staff

Joffre Cote, Stewardship Coordinator
Chelsey Ellis, A/Stewardship Coordinator
Rosalind Kee, Office Manager
Emily Schwager, Species at Risk Project Coordinator Intern
Tara Monaghan, Stewardship Field Assistant (Summer Student)



Ottawa Stewardship Council Vision, Mission & Goals

Vision:

A community of individuals and organizations working in unison to promote a sustainable environment in the City of Ottawa.

Mission Statement:

To be a leading partner with individuals, organizations and communities throughout the Ottawa area to promote and maintain a healthy environment.

Goals:

1. To facilitate programs for landowners and residents which will assist them in protecting, restoring, enhancing and managing land in a sustainable manner.
2. To promote educational opportunities relating to environmental stewardship through initiatives such as demonstration models, tours, lectures, etc.
3. To act strategically in terms of the Ottawa area landscape in identifying additional needs in services, knowledge and programs related to environmental stewardship.
4. To involve, network with and solicit support from a diverse base of the Ottawa area community including: individuals, groups, organizations and agencies.
5. To encourage creative alternatives and/or Best Management Practices whenever possible to non-sustainable environmental practices by agencies or landowners.
6. To assist in developing programs which encourage people to set objectives for their properties and to achieve those objectives.

Fish and Wildlife

PROJECT: Ottawa (National Capital Region) Wildlife Festival

National Wildlife Week was created in 1947 by an Act of Parliament to raise awareness among Canadians about the importance of wildlife and wildlife conservation. Each year thousands of Canadians participate in a celebration of wildlife; in Ottawa this is accomplished through interactive events such as the exhibition at Billings Bridge Plaza, presentations, a conservation forum, and guided nature walks.

Results / Accomplishments:

- In total thirteen events and activities were held, such as library presentations, nature walks, demonstrations, an exhibition and one forum.

Partners:

City of Ottawa, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Canadian Museum of Nature, Wildlife Habitat Canada, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Girl Guides of Canada, Polar Horizons.

Website: www.ncrwildlifefestival.org

PROJECT: Ottawa Chimney Swift Nesting/Roosting Survey and Public Outreach Project

Chimney Swifts are birds that can be more specifically described as urban-dwelling aerial insectivores. This species at risk can be found in urban centers across Eastern North America. Chimney Swifts are primarily found nesting and roosting in chimneys and other manmade structures. The Ottawa Stewardship Council asked volunteers to make observations through a survey at nest and roost chimneys throughout the Ottawa area.

Results / Accomplishments:

- Identified 86 new potential chimney nesting/roosting sites
- Surveyed 76 of a total of 189 chimneys and confirmed 16 of these as nesting/roosting sites.
- An Ontario Swiftwatch workshop was jointly hosted with Bird Studies Canada in Ottawa (with over 35 participants) in May.

Partners:

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Bird Studies Canada (BSC).



Photo courtesy of Bruce Di Labio

PROJECT: OSC Nesting Structure Program

This year, the Ottawa Stewardship Council was busy building and distributing nesting structures for various species such as kestrel hawks, bats, bluebirds, swallows, and owls.

Results/ Accomplishments:

- 73 nest boxes were built and distributed by the OSC and its partners in 2011.
- Tracking the success of these structures is underway

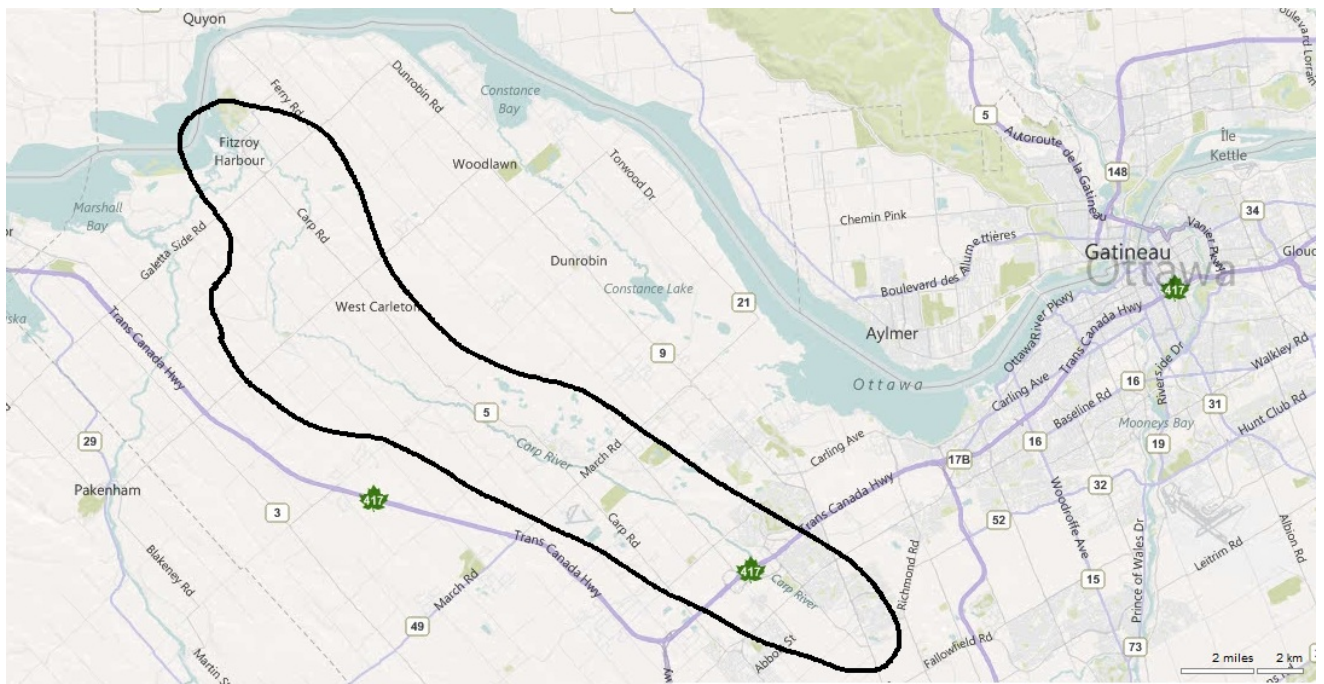


Partners: Bell Canada, RONA (West Hunt Club), Stella-Jones Inc.

Water, Wetlands, and Soil

PROGRAM: Carp River Green Banks (CRGB) – Shoreline Restoration Program

Through tree or shrub plantings, this program aims to protect and create habitat, and restore degraded shorelines of the Carp River in Ottawa. Through collaboration, the program is offered to Carp River riparian landowners free of charge.



Results / Accomplishments:

- One property was planted along the river in 2011.



Partners:

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation, City of Ottawa, Landowner Resource Centre, Friends of the Carp River, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Webpage:

<http://www.ottawastewardship.org/CRGB.pdf>

PROJECT: Cool Streams Project - Poole Creek and Shields Creek

Poole Creek and Shields Creek represent vital and rare cold-water streams that sustain a unique ecosystem of great environmental and recreational value in the Ottawa area. These projects focus on improving overall habitat conditions in the creeks following the removal of fish barriers and the construction of specific habitat features. This work builds on past initiatives including shoreline plantings, clean-up and removal of garbage and installing a vortex weir. The projects have numerous benefits for fish communities, including greater bank stability, reduced erosion, improved fish migration and increased shading of the stream channel.



Results / Accomplishments:

- Planning for additional shoreline plantings along Poole Creek continued in 2011. OSC assisted SNC in monitoring several streams' thermal regimes using temperature data loggers, including Shields Creek, in 2011.

Partners: Mississippi Valley Conservation, Sacred Heart High School, South Nation Conservation (SNC), City of Ottawa

PROJECT: Rideau River Access Point

Construction of a canoe/kayak access point on the Rideau River, in downtown Ottawa: the purpose of this project is to provide the Lowertown community and centre town neighbours with low-impact recreational access to the Rideau River at Bordeleau Park, 349 Bruyere St., Ottawa. This will improve the existing park with a canoe/kayak access point, allowing people to enjoy the river in its lower downtown section.



Bordeleau Park (Google Maps)

Results / Accomplishments:

- Project was completed in 2011.

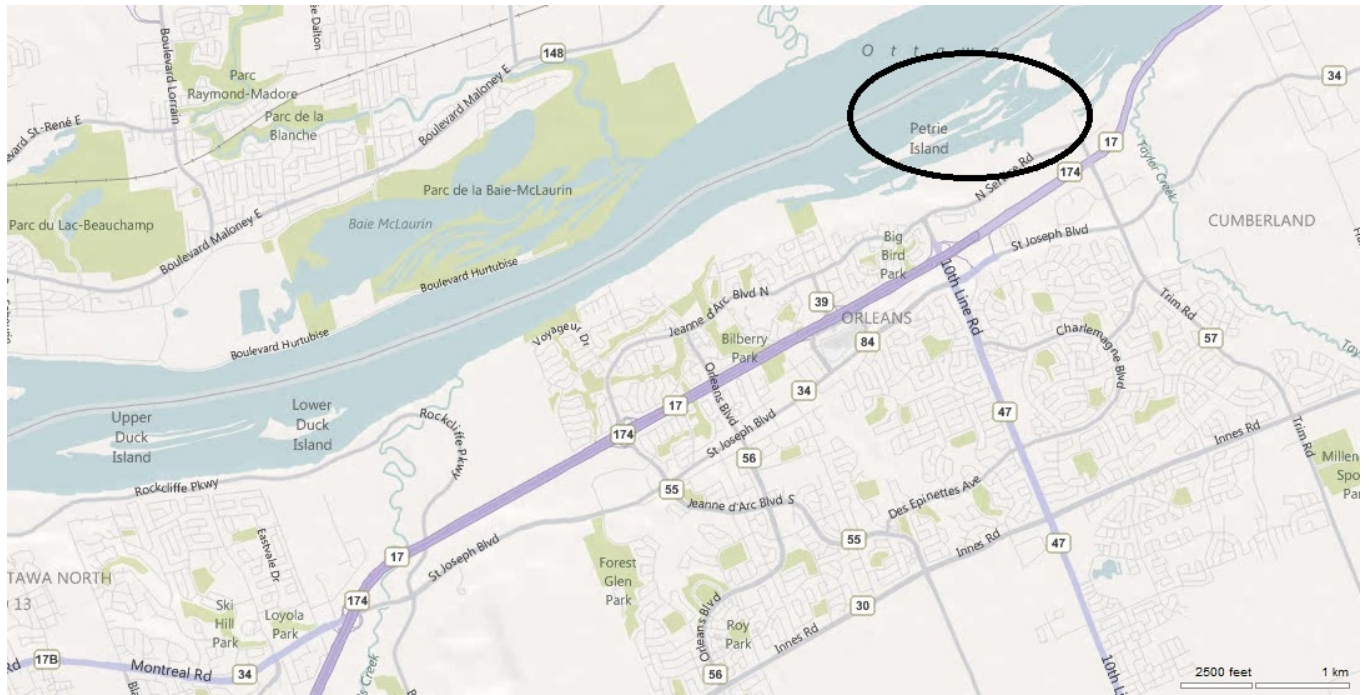
Partners:

City of Ottawa, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Lowertown Community Association

PROJECT: Petrie Island Stewardship Plan

The purpose of the Petrie Island Stewardship Plan is to recommend a strategic framework for the environmentally responsible and sustainable management and development of the Petrie Islands and mainland (Urban Natural Area (UNA) 92). The goal is to maintain, protect, and (where feasible) enhance the natural areas and wetlands of the Islands which are highly valued for their biodiversity. In addition, the project aims to maintain, protect, and enhance the Ottawa River's riparian and aquatic resources in the area while allowing an appropriate and sustainable level of public access, passive daytime recreational use year-round, and enjoyment of the Islands.

The plan was presented to the Ottawa Forest and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) in November 2007. OFGAC recommended that the City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation branch work with Friends of Petrie Island (FOPI) and the OSC to finalize and implement the stewardship plan. The OSC will continue to work closely with the City and with FOPI in order to promote the timely implementation of the Stewardship plan.



Results / Accomplishments:

- The stewardship plan was included in the Petrie Island master plan development process which was completed in 2011.

Partners:

Friends of Petrie Island, City of Ottawa, Ottawa Forest and Greenspace Advisory Committee, Petrie Island Advisory Committee.

Webpage: http://www.petrieisland.org/documents/Petrie_Stewardship_200808.pdf

PROGRAM: Protect Your Well Project



In accordance with the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Management Study (EOWRMS), this project involved the distribution of well identification signs to property owners interested in marking the site of their private well(s). This project has numerous benefits including: allowing farmers to comply with provincial regulations, preventing accidental contamination of wells, and assisting landowners in identifying potential sources of contamination.

Results / Accomplishments:

- Between the two stewardship councils, 275 well identification signs were acquired.
- In 2011, 23 signs were delivered to private well owners in the geographical townships of Osgoode, Cumberland and Gloucester.

Our Partners: Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee, Eastern Ontario Health Unit, Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council

Agriculture

PROGRAM: OSC Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Program – *NEW PROGRAM*

This program aims to demonstrate the benefits of windbreaks and shelterbelts in reducing soil erosion and improving water quality. Establishing windbreaks and shelterbelts on farms and rural properties in the City of Ottawa along streams, drainage ditches and other water courses can reduce soil erosion and improve water quality for fish habitats.

Results / Accomplishments:

- In 2011, the OSC launched this program and its first planting project is planned for next spring.

Partners:

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, South Nation Conservation, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation.

Forestry

PROGRAM: Green Acres – Ottawa’s Rural Reforestation Program

The City of Ottawa's Green Acres Program is looking for empty idle fields to be transformed into thriving green woodlands. The program provides landowners with advice and assistance in setting up a proper planting plan for their properties, and a source of suitable planting stock (i.e. high quality, genetically appropriate, and cost effective bare root seedlings). Landowners must be rural property owners in the City of Ottawa, have a minimum of 0.4 hectares (1 acre) of suitable land and must agree to cover the subsidized cost of the tree seedlings, site preparation, planting and tending as well as agreeing to reasonably protect the plantation.

Results / Accomplishments:

- In 2011, 118,740 trees were planted on 36 properties, 42 landowner contacts.

Partners:

City of Ottawa, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Landowner Resource Centre, Mississippi Valley Conservation, South Nation Conservation

Website:

http://www.rvca.ca/programs/green_acres/green_acres.htm

PROJECT: Butternut Recovery Program – Ottawa Landowner Representative

This project strives to inform and educate landowners about Butternut Canker Disease and conservation of this species. The project locates, assesses and maps mature healthy butternut trees (classified as an endangered species) and potentially resistant individuals and stores the information in a database. It forecasts seed crops, collects seeds and grows healthy seedlings for planting on public and private sites throughout eastern Ontario. Material is collected from potentially resistant trees and tested for hybridization. Seedling survival and health is monitored.

Results / Accomplishments:

- Work continued in supporting local landowners with guidance in conservation of butternut trees.
- Seedlings were also distributed for planting on five (5) different properties.



Partners:

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Ferguson Forest Centre and various individual landowners.

Website: http://www.rvca.ca/programs/green_acres/butternut/index.html

PROGRAM: Green Spaces in Urban Places - Urban (Forestry) Natural Areas Stewardship Program

This program aims to promote, create and sustain the urban green infrastructure in the City of Ottawa. The focus of this program was to develop a methodology used to prioritize and evaluate the various urban natural areas in Ottawa for stewardship projects.



Results / Accomplishments:

- OSC used its comprehensive project report to plan its pilot project site. The planning work continues, with on-the-ground implementation being targeted for 2012.

Partners:

City of Ottawa, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Carleton University, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

PROJECT: Marlborough Forest Stewardship Project

Recreation and community groups came together to clean-up a sector of Marlborough Forest, Ottawa's largest forest, located in the southwest corner of the city.

**Results / Accomplishments:**

- Thirty-five volunteers from the four community organizations came together on a Saturday morning in May. Many volunteers donated the use of their trail vehicles and tractors to remove large items and piles of debris. The group included many people who use the forest for recreational purposes - hikers, snowmobilers, hunters, birders, naturalists and area residents.
- The cleaned area centres around where the Rideau Trail crosses Paden Road, near an access point to a Ducks Unlimited wetland project within Marlborough Forest. Much of the debris removed was dumped illegally in this area and included appliances, roofing debris, building debris, tires and spent ammunition and shooting targets. According to satellite photos, some debris was in place since 2002 .

Our Partners: Osgoode Fish, Game and Conservation Club, the Rideau Snowmobile Club, the Rideau Trail Association and the City of Ottawa Department of Forestry and the “Cleaning the Capital Campaign”.

Other Projects

PROJECT: Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City Initiative

A Biosphere Eco-City is a region containing an urban area and its surrounding countryside, where people and organizations demonstrate innovative ways to adjust human activities in order to support nature, while improving the quality of urban and rural life. Ottawa is recognized as an Eco-City because of its mixture of rural, urban and farm land. An online database was created in order for projects and programs to be shared with others to see what is taking place in the community. This will make it easy for volunteers and partners to search projects and become involved.

Results / Accomplishments:

- Ottawa Stewardship Council projects and programs were entered into the Eco-City database.
- OSC also took a lead role in delivering the project’s Agricultural Biodiversity Workshop which was held in April and attended by over 50 residents.

Partners:

Greenprint, Various individual community members

Website: www.obec-evbo.ca

PROJECT: Ottawa Eco-Stewardship Fair



Ottawa Eco-Stewardship Fair was a free, fun-filled and informative day to inform the citizens of Ottawa about environmentally sound products, services, and programs. Held on September 17, 2011, hundreds of exhibitors from local businesses and environmental organizations presented money-saving ways to conserve energy, live healthy lifestyles, source local foods, and much more.

Results / Accomplishments:

This year attendance was recorded at over 3,000. Two members are currently sitting on the organizing committee, and our booth was well-received.



Partners:

Greenprint, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, Enbridge Gas, Wildlife Habitat Canada

Project website: www.ottawaecofair.ca

PROJECT: Marshalls Bay Association Stewardship Plan

A newly formed association, in partnership with the Ottawa Stewardship Council and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, is planning to develop a stewardship plan for recently acquired conservation lands near Marshalls Bay, on the Ottawa River. A document of this kind is critical for successful and consistent long-term land management.

Results / Accomplishments:

- A Stewardship Consultant was commissioned to undertake the plan development which was started in the fall of 2011.

Partners: Marshalls Bay Association, Nature Conservancy of Canada



PROJECT: OSC Youth Action Stewardship Grant Program

This is a pilot competitive program targeting stewardship projects planned and implemented by City of Ottawa youth. A \$750 stewardship grant will be awarded to a secondary school based group that submitted a solid action plan and demonstrated enthusiasm for making a measurable difference in their community with an OSC-assisted stewardship project.

Results / Accomplishments:

- Call for proposals' invitation was sent out to 13 high schools in November 2011, with a project selection expected for implementation in 2012.

Partners: Ottawa School Boards and private high schools

PROJECT: Alternative Domestic Air Conditioning Evaluation & Promotion Project

The project is to monitor and promote the efficacy of an energy efficient alternative to the traditional domestic air conditioning (AC) units commonly used in Ottawa. In 2012, the Envirocentre will install an innovative alternative AC system which will use night-time air to cool pebbles in an insulated container. Air from the building will then circulate through this container to achieve daytime cooling. The Ottawa Stewardship Council and its partners will install comprehensive monitoring equipment into the alternative AC system to evaluate and promote the utility and cost effectiveness of this approach.

Results / Accomplishments:

- The project planning phase is now complete, with implementation to take place in 2012.

Our Partners: Envirocentre, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Carleton University, Ottawa Sustainability Fund (Community Foundation of Ottawa)

PROJECT: Wood Gas for Energy Creation

A project to explore and investigate the potential use of wood gas (gas released when wood is pyrolyzed) to power vehicles and for the generation of electrical energy. Wood gas can be used to fuel an internal combustion engine, and over a million vehicles were converted to run on wood gas during WWII due to gasoline rationing. The project will consider how this technology might find application in the Ottawa area, and what the first steps toward such application might be.

Results / Accomplishments:

The project is currently in its planning phase.

Our Partners: TBD

OSC SUPPORTED PARTNER PROGRAMS / PROJECTS

In addition to its own projects, the Ottawa Stewardship Council supported initiatives of other organizations in various ways.

PROGRAM: City Stream Watch

City Stream Watch is an initiative that was set up in 2003 to record and manage information on the physical and biological characteristics of creeks and streams in the City of Ottawa, while ensuring that they remain valued natural features of the communities through which they flow. The program relies on and encourages the interest and commitment of volunteers from the community, guided by an experienced coordinator, to learn and conduct macro stream assessments on local waterways, participate in sampling fish communities through seining, and assist in stream clean-ups and stream rehabilitation projects.

Partners: The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, City of Ottawa, Heron Park Community Association, Ottawa Flyfishers Society, Rideau River Roundtable and National Defence HQ – Fish and Game Club



Website: <http://www.rvca.ca/programs/streamwatch/>

PROGRAM: Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival (Ottawa, Prescott-Russell, Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry, Lanark)

The Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival is a full day environmental education program for grade 4 students that aims to educate children about the value of the fragility of our water resources. Over 4000 participants every year benefit from this innovative program, which is presented in partnership with area high schools, community groups, municipalities and environmental organizations.

Partners:

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation, School Boards of Eastern Ontario, Mill of Kintail Conservation area., Ferme Drouin Farm, Baxter Conservation Area, United Counties of Prescott-Russell, Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council, Raisin Region Conservation Authority

Website:

http://www.riverinstitute.ca/Festival_English/index.htm



PROJECT: Petrie Island Advisory Committee

The City of Ottawa established this committee as a forum for ongoing community consultation, to provide input, discussion and advice as it relates to the day-to-day operational management, and longer term strategic development and operational issues at Petrie Island.

Partners: City of Ottawa, Friends of Petrie Island, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and various local community associations.

PROGRAM: Ottawa Rural Clean Water (Grant) Program

This City of Ottawa initiative offers grants and technical assistance for rural projects such as manure storage, septic system repairs, buffer strips and erosion protection. The project must improve and protect surface water and/or groundwater quality. The City of Ottawa's Rural Clean Water Program looks to improve water quality in local rivers, streams, creeks and groundwater reserves by reducing non-point source pollution from infiltrating into the soil and running off the land. A healthy aquatic ecosystem and the protection of our groundwater resources mean something for everyone: improved habitat for fish and wildlife, sustainable agricultural production, safe and reliable water supplies, etc.

Partners:

City of Ottawa, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Landowner Resource Centre, Mississippi Valley Conservation and South Nation Conservation



Program websites:

http://www.rvca.ca/programs/rcwp/rvca_rcwp.html

http://ottawa.ca/residents/waterwaste/surface/cleanwater/index_en.html

OTHER OSC SUPPORTED PROGRAMS/PROJECTS:

- Eastern Chapter Society of Ontario Nut Growers associate member (www.songonling.ca/ecsong)
- Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference (<http://www.eofm.on.ca/en/certification-news/all-news/certification-news/registration-opens-for-kemptville-winter-woodlot-conference>)
- Kemptville Fall Forest Fair
- Ontario Environmental Network (www.oen.ca)
- Local Shoreline Cleanup Projects
- Environmental Farm Plan Workshop Sponsorships (www.ontariosoilcrop.org)
- Eastern Ontario Herpetofaunal Atlas Project
- Regional Forest Health Network (Emerald Ash Borer Infestation in Ottawa)
- RVCA Shoreline Stewardship Program
- RVCA Making Shorelines Natural Project
- Carp Hills / South March Highlands Bioblitz





2011 OSC FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY:

	Expenses	Revenues (incl. carryovers)
OSC Operating Fund	\$ 2,988.45	\$ 7,570.00
OSC Support Staff	\$ 5,793.71	\$11,649.00
Ottawa River Access	\$ 3,091.34	\$15,229.90
Training/Development	\$ 222.98	\$ 2,000.00
CRGB	\$ 255.50	\$10,241.47
Species At Risk	\$20,371.61	\$16,271.89
OSC Project Fund	\$ 14,172.14	\$41,092.08
Total	\$46,895.73	\$104,054.34
Account Balance		
\$57,158.61		