

**OTTAWA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (OSC)
2011 WORKPLAN**

OUR PARTNER PROGRAMS / PROJECTS

MONITORING AND RESTORATION

Projects:

- 1) Ottawa Chimney Swift Nesting Survey and Public Outreach Project
 - Implement initial surveys at priority Chimney Swift nesting/roosting sites identified. Contact affected property owners and businesses as a form of public outreach/education.
- 2) Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP)
 - Implement the Marsh Monitoring Program protocol at Manor Park Marsh and Brassils Creek Wetland
- 3) City Stream Watch
 - OSC supported initiative that obtains records and manages valuable information on the physical and biological characteristics of creeks and streams in the City of Ottawa.

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. Please visit to see how you as a school, individual, group or business can participate in the local Ottawa events, such as the Wildlife Awareness Event / Exhibition at Billings Bridge Plaza; the Wildlife Festival Forum at the Canadian Museum of Nature; or the various nature walks and library program presentations.

Our 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.

Project website: www.ncrwildlifefestival.org

PROGRAM: *OSC Nesting Structure Program*

To expand on its past duck nesting box and osprey nesting platform projects, the Ottawa Stewardship Council is developing and implementing a more inclusive nesting structure program targeting multiple species such as Kestrel Hawks, Bats, Bluebirds etc.

Our Partners: Bell Canada, RONA (West Hunt Club), Stella-Jones Inc, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Program website: N/A

PROJECT: *Marlborough Forest Stewardship Project*

This project will be initiated with an OSC-organized clean-up of a sector of the City of Ottawa owned Marlborough Forest, together with a variety of partner organizations with an interest in stewardship of the forest. In parallel there will be exploration with the City of Ottawa and other partners to determine stewardship priorities of the forest and further project opportunities for the OSC and partner organizations, e.g. species at risk habitat monitoring and development.

Our Partners: TBD

Program website: N/A

WATER, WETLANDS AND SOILS

PROJECT: *Cool Streams Projects – Poole Creek & 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 will focus on improving overall habitat conditions in the creeks following the removal of fish barriers and the construction of specific habitat features. Work will build on past initiatives including shoreline plantings, clean-up and removal of garbage and installing a vortex weir. The projects will have numerous benefits for fish communities, including greater bank stability, reduced erosion, improved fish migration and increased shading of the stream channel.

Our Partners: Mississippi Valley Conservation, South Nation Conservation, City of Ottawa

Project website: N/A

PROGRAM: *Carp River Green Banks – Shoreline Restoration Program*

A program aimed at protecting and/or creating habitat, restoring and stabilizing degraded shorelines and banks of the Carp River in Ottawa, through tree and/or shrub plantings.

Our Partners: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation, City of Ottawa, Landowner Resource Centre, Friends of the Carp River.

Program website: N/A

PROJECT: *Rideau River Access Point*

For this project the Ottawa Stewardship Council will undertake the construction of a canoe/kayak access point on the Rideau River, in downtown Ottawa. This project will be entirely planned, funded and constructed by the Ottawa Stewardship Council in partnership with the City of Ottawa, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the LowerTown Community Association.

Our Partners: City of Ottawa, LowerTown Community Association, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Project website: N/A

PROJECT: *Petrie Island Stewardship Plan*

The purpose of this 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
- 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 stewardship plan builds on a strong existing framework of municipal environmental management practices, volunteer engagement, and existing natural resource inventories and studies.

By bringing these various elements together in one coherent plan, the stewardship plan will facilitate the coordinated efforts of the several concerned groups, organizations and

jurisdictions that have an interest in the sustainable development and management of the Islands.

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

Project website:

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

AGRICULTURE

PROJECT: *Marshalls Bay Association Stewardship Plan*

Ottawa Stewardship Council will explore potential opportunities to develop a stewardship plan for a newly formed cottage association's recently acquired conservation lands. This project involves working with various partners to create a stewardship plan within the Nopiming Crown Game Preserve. The stewardship plan will include but not be limited to defining objectives, inventory, planning and scheduling stewardship activities. A stewardship plan is an integral component in ensuring consistent long-term management of the property. The OSC's role is one of modest financial support and facilitation - to coordinate the stakeholders to come to consensus regarding how to best protect and/or enhance the land.

Our Partners: Marshalls Bay Association, Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Project website: N/A

PROJECT: *Windbreak/Shelterbelt Program*

Windbreaks and shelterbelts offer numerous environmental and ecological benefits. They can reduce soil erosion, increase crop yields, protect livestock from heat and cold, mitigate odours around farm buildings, attenuate traffic noise, shield buildings to help reduce heating and cooling costs, and protect roads from drifting snow. They beautify the landscape and provide travel corridors and habitat for wildlife. In 2011, the Ottawa Stewardship Council will initiate a program to promote the planting of windbreaks and shelterbelts on farms and rural properties in the City of Ottawa.

Our Partners: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, South Nation Conservation, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Project website: N/A

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, 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.

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

Program website: www.rvca.ca/programs/green_acres/green_acres.htm

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

A program to promote, create and sustain the Urban Green infrastructure in the City of Ottawa, while promoting other city planning programs and plans that are available. The focus of this program is to develop a methodology used to prioritize and evaluate the various urban natural areas in Ottawa for stewardship projects. A template/methodology was developed and is used to prioritize and evaluate the various areas in Ottawa for green projects.

Our Partners: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, City of Ottawa, Carleton University (Practicum Placement Program), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Program website: N/A

PROJECT: *Butternut Recovery Program – Ottawa Landowner Representative*

This project aims to inform and educate landowners about Butternut Canker Disease and conservation of this species; locate, assess and map mature healthy Butternut trees and potentially resistant individuals and store information in a geodatabase; forecast seed crop, collect seeds and grow healthy seedlings for planting on many public and private sites throughout eastern Ontario; collect material from potentially resistant trees and test for hybridization; as well as monitor seedling survival and health. As Ottawa's landowner representative, the Ottawa Stewardship Council is assisting Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in the search for properties with mature butternuts to assess

and/or for properties for planting young butternut seedlings germinated from selected stock.

Our Partners: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Ferguson Forest Centre, and various individual landowners

Project website: www.rvca.ca/programs/green_acres/butternut/index.html

RENEWABLE ENERGY/ENERGY EFFICIENCY

PROJECT: *Alternative Domestic Air Conditioning Evaluation & Promotion Project*

The project will monitor and promote the efficacy of an energy efficient alternative to the traditional domestic air conditioning (AC) units commonly used in Ottawa. In 2011, the Envirocentre will install an innovative alternative AC system which will use nighttime air to cool pebbles in an insulated container. Air from the building will then be circulated 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.

Our Partners: Envirocentre, Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Carleton University

Project Website: N/A

PROJECT: *Wood Gas for Energy Creation*

A project to explore and investigate the potential for the 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.

Our Partners: TBD

Project website: N/A

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PROJECT: *Ottawa Eco-Stewardship Fair*

A free, fun-filled and informative day presenting money saving ways to conserve energy, re-cycle your “junk”, learn about healthy lifestyles and much more. The EcoFair has become Ottawa’s premiere environmental event. It comprises some 100 booths showcasing the latest in environmental products and services. Exhibitors include up-and-coming companies, large firms, government agencies and environmental organizations whose participation is made possible by the Fair’s major sponsors.

Our Partners: Greenprint, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, Enbridge Gas.

Project website: www.ottawaecofair.ca

POTENTIAL PROJECT: *Protect Your Well Project*

In accordance with the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Management Study (EOWRMS), this project involves 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.

Our Partners: TBD

Project website: N/A

PROJECT: *Workshop Series Project*

This program will create a committee of interested stakeholders (typically those offering workshops on environmental and stewardship themes) to consider how we might help each other by cross-promoting each others workshops on websites, newsletters and other vehicles. Workshop acceptance criteria will be developed and published, and attempts will be made to assess the effectiveness of this approach in increasing workshop participation during 2011.

Our Partners: TBD

Project website: N/A

PROJECT: *OSC Youth Action Stewardship Grant Program*

This is a pilot competitive grant 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 submits a solid action plan and demonstrates enthusiasm for making a measurable difference in their community with an OSC-assisted stewardship project.

Our Partners: N/A

Project website: N/A

OSC SUPPORTED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: *Ottawa Rural Clean Water (Grant) Program*

A City of Ottawa initiative that 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.

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

Program website: www.rvca.ca/programs/rcwp/ottawa_rcwp.html

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 and 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.

Our 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

Program website: N/A

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.

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

Project website: N/A

PROJECT: *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.

Our 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

Project website: <http://www.rvca.ca/programs/streamwatch/>

PROJECT: *Ottawa Biosphere Ecocity (BEC)*

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.

Our Partners: Greenprint, various individual community members

Project website: www.bec-evb.ca

OTHER OSC SUPPORTED PROGRAMS / PROJECTS

- *Eastern Chapter Society of Ontario Nut Growers associate member*
(www.songonline.ca/ecsong)
- *Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference* (<http://www.eomf.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/cms/en/Programs/ProgramsAboutEFP.aspx?menuid=61)
- *Eastern Ontario Herpetofaunal Atlas Project*
- *Regional Forest Health Network (Emerald Ash Borer Infestation in Ottawa)*
- *RVCA Shoreline Stewardship Program*
- *RVCA Making Shorelines Natural Project*