

# Lakefront and Centre



Lake Simcoe  
Conservation  
Foundation



*Midge fly*

## My Lake Simcoe story

I'm proud to be a monthly LSCF supporter. Some of my best childhood memories are the endless summer days I spent with my friends waterskiing, swimming, and boating on Lake Simcoe. Oddly enough - as I sit here at my desk - I'm still daydreaming about the cottage! By donating to the LSCF and making others aware of the important work they are doing, I can help ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy our beautiful Lake.



*Tim waterskiing on the Holland River*

*Tim De Werth*

## Do you have a Lake Simcoe story?

Did something spectacular happen this summer? Why is Lake Simcoe your favourite place in the world? Please tell us. We can share your story on our website or in our newsletter. Email us at [foundation@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:foundation@lsrca.on.ca) or perhaps an old fashioned handwritten letter? We would love to hear from you.

## Bringing back the bugs

Freshwater lakes always have bugs - thousands of little bugs. Sometimes there are so many bugs on Lake Simcoe we wish they would go away so that we could peacefully enjoy "nature". The sad truth is that when some of these bugs go away, that is the first sign of an ecosystem under stress. On the other hand, having to sweep up what seems like millions of shadflies could mean that your part of Lake Simcoe is under less stress than other areas.

There is actually a scientific name for these little critters. Scientists call them benthic invertebrates and on Lake Simcoe a lot of time is spent learning more about them.

Benthic invertebrates are the juvenile life stages of the bugs we see on and around the lake. Living on and around the rocks and mud on the lake bottom, they can be a good indicator of watershed health. These bugs don't move around very much and some are very sensitive to changes in the environment. The different types (or species) of these juvenile bugs found in an area can tell us what is happening under the waters of Lake Simcoe.

Some species, like stoneflies or shadflies, have higher populations when the water quality is high. Others, like the blood worm (the juvenile stage of the midge fly), have higher populations when the water quality is low.

Lake Simcoe continues to be an ecosystem under great stress but our efforts are starting to make a difference. Studying how "bugs" and other plants and animals respond to environmental changes helps us know how and where to focus our lake management efforts. Eventually we would like to see more species like stoneflies and shadflies.

Next time you sweep the shadflies off of your cottage porch, take comfort in the fact that your part of the Lake could be under less stress this year. Bass fish love to eat shadflies, so you could even have more bait for fishing!

## Save the Date!

September 11, 2009	Scanlon Creek Revitalization Project Launch
Late September, 2009	Western Creek Project completion
October 17th, 2009	Bogart Creek Restoration Committee fall planting at the Magna Community Centre
October 29, 2009	LSRCA Conservation Awards
April 16, 2010	George R. Richardson Conservation Dinner



*Streambank erosion: March 2007*



*Restoration in process: November 2008*



*Tree planting: May 2009*

## Another fabulous project complete

As a donor you provide funding for many projects. Every year more and more work is getting done to improve the health of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. Just look at the transformation of Eastern Creek below and take pride in the fact that as a donor, you played a big part in getting this work done. Thank you!



*Nature regrowing: August 2009*

## Ontario Trillium Foundation provides over \$325,000 for Friends of Scanlon Creek!

Thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for being a true "Friend of Scanlon Creek". Financial support from OTF will be provided over five years and will make a significant contribution to restoring what we call Lake Simcoe's "jewel in the crown".

Working in collaboration with the Bradford-Bond Head Horticultural Society, Bradford West Gwillimbury Local Historical Association, the Danube Seniors Centre, York - Simcoe Naturalists and of course the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority we will be upgrading 10 KM of trails, upgrading the gatehouse,

carrying out many environmental stewardship projects and building a discovery play garden with the community. While there are still a lot of opportunities for involvement, the "Friends of Scanlon Creek" project is well underway thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and many of our donors.

We will be having a public launch of this initiative on September 11, 2009. Please watch your local papers and our website for more information. Thank you all for helping provide healthy vibrant communities in Ontario!



*Dana Eldon delivering a presentation at an elementary school*

# Bringing environmental education to the children

You probably know that over 8,000 children attend the environmental residential programs at the Professor E.A. Smith Education Centre in Bradford every year. You may not know that we are also helping to bring environmental education right into York, Simcoe and Durham Region classrooms.

Community Relations Specialist, Dana Eldon visits close to 4,000 children every year and in a casual and interactive session teaches them about the importance of protecting our water.

In her own words Dana explains why she has the best job in the world:

“Children growing up in the Lake Simcoe watershed need to under-

stand the value of the lake and the role that they have in protecting and restoring it. By using illustrations, photos and 3D models I am able to demonstrate to students how water travels above and below ground and how contaminants can enter our watercourses and harm Lake Simcoe.

Children are like little sponges, absorbing everything and transferring it directly into their everyday lives. For children taking care of the environment isn't a mind shift – they know it is the right thing to do. I feel so lucky to see firsthand how my interactions motivate these children to become stewards and advocates for our watershed.”

Thank you Dana for your enthusiasm and commitment to helping

children discover the wonder and beauty of our natural world!

Watch us closely for a new and exciting initiative that Dana is working on. Watershed Heroes are about to take over and save the day! More to follow...



## RBC Blue Water funding makes a splash!

RBC believes that water is fundamental to the sustainability of all life on the planet. Lack of access to clean fresh water is considered to be one of the major threats to human health and economic development around the world. The Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation agrees with them and is very grateful that the RBC Foundation acknowledges the importance of water right here at home with their commitment of \$100,000 over two years to the East Holland River restoration project.

This funding will bring the Western Creek Tannery project to the finish line! Thank you so much to the RBC Foundation's Blue Water Project for their commitment to a healthy Lake Simcoe Watershed.

We will be celebrating the completion of this project and this fabulous funding at a community walk and ceremonial planting event this fall. Please stay in touch with us or watch your local newspapers for more information.

## The Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Board of Directors

Under the leadership of Doug Blakey the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation has completed its 2009 to 2012 strategic plan. This was a formidable task which took many hours of board time and energy. Now the task of implementing that plan is upon us.

This year the foundation welcomes on the Board some old and some new members. Although Doug is no longer President, he remains on the Board of Directors. Ernie Crossland, Bob Forhan and Debby Beatty have returned and Debby is the President for a second term. The Foundation welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors: Tom Connell and James Vigmond. Tom has been a life long cottager on Lake Simcoe and resides in Toronto. Jim lives in Barrie and is building a house on the Lake.

The Foundation has a committed Board of Directors with many skill sets and a passion for a better, cleaner Lake Simcoe. We look forward to working with all of our partners and supporters for a healthier and cleaner future for the entire watershed.

Thank you to all of those who serve as volunteers on the 2009 LSCF Board of Directors. With so many choices for your volunteer efforts we are grateful for your commitment to Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

### 2009 LSCF Board of Directors

Debby Beatty  
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David Ouchterlony  
1st Vice President

Andrew (Sandy) Robinson  
2nd Vice President

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Timothy V. Crooks

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James Vigmond

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## LSRCA nominated for environmental “Nobel Prize”

Congratulations to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority on becoming one of 5 worldwide finalists in the 2009 International Thiess Riverprize competition in Australia! The prize, which has come to be called the ‘Nobel Prize’ for outstanding environmental work in watershed management recognizes organizations that are

engaged in the very best practises. It is awarded to the project that represents the world’s best effort to conserve watershed resources for future generations. This is the LSRCA’s second nomination, and only 2 have ever been nominated in Canada. The world is indeed watching and learning from Lake Simcoe!



**Lake Simcoe  
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