



Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation

Fall 2010 Newsletter
A Watershed for Life

Table of Contents

- [Watershed 101: Phosphorus Facts](#)
- [Our Fundraising Goal is in sight!](#)
- [The Fish Are Back](#)
- [Counting the Birds at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area](#)

Watershed 101: Phosphorus Facts

Phosphorus occurs naturally and can be found dissolved or attached to water particles. Human settlement has increased it to unnaturally high levels. The highest levels are in the East and West Holland sub-watersheds. The biggest source of phosphorus is **streams** (oil, salt, fertilizers, manure, pet waste, detergents), followed by **atmospheric deposition** (pollen, burning of fossil fuels, wind transport of disturbed soil). Phosphorus contributes to excessive algae and weed growth and declining oxygen levels that harm fish.

Phosphorus levels are decreasing but are still far off the longterm goal that was recently set by the province. Restoration programs continue to help reduce phosphorus levels in our watershed.

How can you help reduce phosphorous levels? [learn more...](#)

Quick Links

- [Our Website](#)
- [LSRCA Website](#)
- [Donate Now](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [LSCF Brochure](#)
- [2009 Annual Report](#)

Events:

- October 15: Foundation Tour of Projects and Programs
- October 24: [Fall Trail Tour at Scanlon Creek](#)
- October 31: [Howl-o-ween at Scanlon Creek Dog Bark Park](#)
- May 13, 2011: 23rd Annual Conservation Dinner

Our Fundraising Goal is in sight!

We are pleased to announce that the LSCF has now raised more in 2010 than we did all of 2009. We are at about 80% of our 2010 goal of \$575,000. We need you to make it happen.

Welcome to our Fall Newsletter

This newsletter is for you !

Our donors, supporters and partners are watershed heroes who are devoted to improving the environmental health of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. This newsletter will bring you practical information on the programs and projects that you help to support. I hope it will inspire you to protect our local environment even more than you already do.

You are making a difference. Thank You.

Check out our new [LSCF Brochure](#). It will help you understand our vision, accomplishments and goals in the next few years. If you would like a hardcopy, please [ask Judy](#).

To make it easier to donate, we are now accepting secure **on-line donations**. With the holiday season almost here we now also offer an on-line Tribute program. Tribute donations are donations made to celebrate the milestones and people in your life (weddings, memorials, anniversaries even your favourite teacher!). Who needs another mug, flowers or box of chocolates? A Tribute eCard is fun and easy. How about donating your age? I'll never tell.

Congratulations to our own Watershed Hero, LSCF President **Debby Beatty**. On October 6th she was awarded the **George Richardson Award of Honour** at the LSRCA Conservation Awards. Debby is truly an inspiring woman whose endless energy has done so much to protect the land, air and water all around us. We are very fortunate to have her leadership here at the Foundation. Congratulations to all winners.

Have a great Fall Season!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Taylor, Executive Director

Tree Memorial Program Takes Root!

Planting a tree is one of the most meaningful ways to express sympathy. It is a remembrance to a loved one and at the same time a renewing of life. The Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation is pleased to announce a new partnership with [Roadhouse and Rose Funeral Home in Newmarket](#), establishing the first tree memorial program in the Lake Simcoe watershed that focuses on reforestation efforts in our local community. [learn more...](#)

The Fish Are Back

Western Creek Restoration Project a Success

This summer's discovery of White Sucker, Common Carp, Longnose Dace and Creek Chub in Newmarket's Western Creek proves that restoration work can make a difference. "These fish were not found in Western Creek before it was re-naturalized last year" says Virginia Hackson, the conservation authority's Chair. In fact, in 2008, before the project started, LSRCA staff reported that the area immediately upstream of the re-naturalization was devoid of any fish species." [learn more...](#)

Counting the Birds at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area

Realizing that there is a very real connection between the health of our watershed, and the health of our animal populations - an exciting bird banding program has started at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in Bradford this past spring. And it's a great success. The public and local students have all participated in and learned about banding raptors, owls and passerines (smaller birds).

Thanks to donations from the McLean Foundation and private donors, we are continuing this fall with our professional bander, [Nigel Shaw](#). Here is what the public is saying:

" My son and I were extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to experience banding on Saturday evening, October 16th at the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. We were invited as members of the Brereton Field Naturalists' Club of Barrie and were thrilled by the experience. Nigel and Bruce gave us a wonderful demonstration with the cooperation of some very engaging Northern Saw-Whet Owls! Their explanation of the banding process and the program's purpose and preliminary results/observations was facinating and informative.

Thank you for your part in providing the facility and support for this important conservation and scientific effort. We did not simply witness the program but were engaged by it and learned about it and Northern Saw-Whet Owls and their ecology in a way that would be impossible to match in a film or book or lecture. It was spectacular! "

... Chris Evans

In the spring migration alone, well over 100 birds were banded, of 25 species. All results are fed into a nation-wide database that over time, will help build a complete picture of the health of our local bird populations.

Donations are now being accepted to support the 2011 Bird Banding Season. If you donate online, select "Protection" as your fund of choice for bird banding.