Uxbridge Countryside Preserve

Existing Use and Future Management Options

Prepared by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority For the Township of Uxbridge
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Executive Summary

Report Goals and Objectives

The Uxbridge Countryside Preserve is owned and managed by the Township of Uxbridge for recreational use. The Preserve provides passive outdoor recreation for local residents, as well as diverse wildlife habitat in a semi-urban setting.

The Uxbridge Countryside Preserve Existing Use and Future Management Options report has been prepared by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) at the request of the Township of Uxbridge to provide options and ideas for the Township and community interest groups to manage the property in a manner that supports existing uses, ecological health, and sustainability.

Property Characteristics

The Uxbridge Countryside Preserve covers an area of 56.7 hectares (140 acres). A property directly north of the Uxbridge Preserve, also owned by the Township of Uxbridge and covering an area of 7.8 hectares (18.8 acres) is also referenced in the report.

Soils in the Preserve vary from fine sand in the uplands to sandy/silty in the lowland areas. Drainage through soil was found to be significant. The fine sand-silt lowland soils have more ability to retain moisture and to feed the small watercourses in the property. To the north of the property is a wetland that contains mostly organic soils over a fine sand layer. The property is located on the Oak Ridges Moraine, drainage through the soils on the property contribute to the unique ground-water hydrology of the Moraine.

Topography varies from steep slopes and valleys to flat lands and gently rolling-meadows. The property’s topography offers great variety of both recreational and aesthetic interest. Almost all of the property to the north is recognized as part of the Uxbridge Brook Headwaters Wetland Complex, and has a wet and relatively flat topography.
**Existing Uses**

The property has a 6 km network of sign-posted walking trails. Trails are for non-motorized uses such as walking, running, bicycling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The area is used extensively by residents walking dogs and enjoying nature. Maintaining the trail network for the long-term is a priority.

A considerable portion of the property was planted in conifer plantations. The management activities that would have been prescribed during the establishment of this plantation have not been completed, and the stands are now in need of treatment to promote forest health.

**Habitat Enhancement**

Throughout the property, nesting boxes for Blue Birds and other species have been installed. The boxes are a positive addition, and other types of bird habitats and nesting structures should be added. Riparian plantings of wildlife shrubs have taken place in two pond locations to improve wildlife habitat.

Installing “bat-boxes” could help establish a healthy environment for a number of species of bats. The establishment of “tall grass prairie” habitat may be considered in the grassland areas of the property.

**Ecological Land Classification Communities Found in the Preserve**

To assist in property planning, eight land types have been identified, based on The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority’s application of the Ministry of Natural Resources “Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario” (ELC) designations.

**Cultural Meadow** – These gently rolling areas support a variety of young hardwood tree species within a mostly grass and shrub habitat. These areas are important for breeding grassland bird species. Efforts should be made to maintain this habitat. Most important is the control of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) regeneration, which is threatening to turn the meadow into a thicket and can result in the exclusion of several grassland species. Considerations could be made for establishing and maintaining tall grass prairie habitat. Part of this habitat is currently used in winter for tobogganing. This use will be recognized and continued.

**Coniferous Swamp** – Wetland conifer swamps surround both watercourses on the property. They are some of the wettest areas on the property, and portions are within the Uxbridge Brook Headwaters Wetland Complex, recognized by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Provincially Significant Wetland. This property to the north owned by the Township of Uxbridge is also classified as coniferous...
swamp. Typical wetland plants thrive throughout these areas which are protected under The Planning Act for their wetland and flood related values.

**Plantation** – These forested areas consist of a combination of red pine (*Pinus resinosa*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*) plantations. Planted by a previous landowner to address soil erosion issues on the property, the estimated age of these plantations is 60 years. In some locations the plantations act as visual and sound buffers between commercial development. Forest management activities should be considered to enhance biodiversity in these areas.

**Cultural Thicket** – This area consists of open-meadow areas with scattered patches of invading conifer (mostly Scots pine). Where appropriate, the Scots pine could be removed in an effort to maintain open-meadow conditions or this area could be allowed to fill in naturally, becoming a forest.

**Mixed Forest** – This area is composed of an older conifer forest that has been thinned to allow the growth of native hardwood trees. This will contribute to the property’s biodiversity.

**Conifer Forest** – A limited amount of area is classified as conifer forest. The recommendations for future management are to retain the current forest cover.

**Deciduous Swamp** – A small area located along the creek south of the pond has been identified as a deciduous swamp. This area provides shade to the creek, which helps to maintain a lower water temperature. Future management will be designed to retain this feature in its current condition.

**Mixed Swamp** – This area surrounds a considerable portion of the creek system. Two elevated or “perched” culverts exist in this area. The site is important as it provides a canopy of shade in support of the cold water creek system.

**Watercourses**

Two tributaries of Uxbridge Brook cross the Preserve. They are both cold water streams and support a cold water fishery. Both tributaries are fed by cold ground-water springs and surface run-off. Elevated or “perched” culverts prevent the upstream migration of fish. Both tributaries are protected and kept cool by riparian vegetation.

Ponds fed by ground water input are found in numerous locations throughout the Preserve. Future management direction will recognize the need to maintain these features for the biodiversity they offer.
A large dam and pond with a top draw-off and safety culvert exists adjacent to the trail. The pond warms of the waters within the tributary. Algae growth indicates a nutrient imbalance and an elevated temperature. The pond is owned by the Township of Uxbridge.

**Wetlands**

The wetlands begin from groundwater discharges at the surface and from a creek system. The wetlands are classified as provincially significant wetlands and are protected from development and alteration under Ontario’s Planning Act.

**LSRCA Regulated Areas**

A considerable portion of this property is regulated by the LSRCA under Ontario Regulation 179/06, as supported by the Conservation Authorities Act. Permits from the LSRCA are required in all regulated areas. The following is a summary of the regulated areas on the property:

**Flood plain** – flood plain exists along the entire north creek including the area surrounding the pond. Development is generally discouraged by the LSRCA within flood plains.

**Slope Erosion** – a significant portion of the property falls within an area regulated because of its steep slopes.

**Wetland** – an Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared should development or site alteration be considered within 120 metres of any provincially significant wetland.

**Options for Development and Management**

A variety of recommendations are available to enhance the management of this property. In all options the maintenance of public access through a trail network is supported and encouraged.

There are many opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement. The establishment of brush piles, rock piles, “toad holes”, snake hibernacula, enhanced ponds for wildlife, bat boxes, and nesting platforms for hawks, owls and houses for songbirds are but a few of the many small projects that can contribute to the improved wildlife habitat.
The Preserve is an important feature of the Township, and belongs to all residents. There is an opportunity for community involvement and partnership establishment in environmental restoration activities. In some cases, such as the removal of culverts, or forest management operations, community involvement is not possible due to safety reasons and because specialized equipment is required.

An opportunity also exists to formalize the trail connection between the Preserve and the Durham Regional Forest Timber Tract to the south. This property is owned by Durham Region and managed under agreement by the LSRCA.

The ecological land classification communities described earlier will be expanded upon in this section.

**Cultural Meadow**
- Certain areas can remain as open field for the present with future the consideration of field planting. The removal of Scots pine in these areas is encouraged.
- In certain areas aggressive Scots pine removal should occur on an annual basis. Removal should only occur in the fall to protect spring breeding birds.
- Certain areas should be incorporated into the Township of Uxbridge’s Memorial Tree plantings program to aid in reforestation, while adding an important social link.
- In certain areas a mix of open meadow, long-term hardwood planting and shrub establishment around both ponds should provide a variety of habitat.

**Cultural Thicket**
- It is recommended that the Cultural Thicket be left to grow and become a nurse crop for a future forest. Thinning of the Scots pine could be considered in the future once an under story of new regeneration becomes established.

**Mixed Swamp**
- The removal and replacement of each culvert crossing should be the subject of further discussion between the Township of Uxbridge, partners and the LSRCA.
- Depending on funding availability consideration could be made for replacement with new open-bottom type culverts in July or August to take advantage of low water periods.

**Plantation**
- In certain areas, the narrow width of the stand, does not allow for tree harvesting.
- In other areas harvesting could occur in the winter of 2009 or 2010. The implementation of a proactive communications plan supported by a public process will be required.
Mixed Forest

- The proposed management strategy for this area is to maintain it in its current condition as is naturally regenerating.

Coniferous Forest

- The area between the Wal-Mart parking lot fence and the trail could be planted with conifer species and/or vine species. This area also contains the old tennis courts. Should the Town of Uxbridge wish to remove the facility consideration could be made to planting this area with conifer species also. Future site management planning should account for any possible expansion plans in the commercial development to the north.

The Pond

- The future management of the Pond should be to be the subject of a detailed analysis and discussion between the Township of Uxbridge, the adjacent property owners, stakeholder and the LSRCA.

Invasive Species

The Uxbridge Countryside Preserve has become the home of numerous invasive plant species. Three invasive species of concern are addressed in this strategy. It is recommended that a detailed inventory of all invasive species be conducted annually and that this strategy be updated to address new and ongoing threats. A dedicated program (and funding) could be established to address these very prolific species.

The three main invasive species are:

- Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
- European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
- Dog Strangling Vine (*Cynanchum rossicum*)

Signage

As the Countryside Preserve property develops, consideration should be given to increasing the amount of educational signage on the property. Recommendations include:

1. The establishment of a “wildlife bulletin board” at a common location to allow users the opportunity to share observations and experiences.
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2. Interpretive signs that inform on the important aspects of features such as wetlands, the Oak Ridges Moraine, meadows, cold water streams and plantation management practices should be considered.

3. Panoramic maps at viewpoints that point out features both on the property and over the broader landscape.

4. Directional signage indicating access to adjacent trail networks and features should be considered.

5. The use of the common signage style that already exists for the Uxbridge trail network is advised.

6. Identification of the numbered locations as “Emergency Location Stations” could be considered.

Infrastructure

1. Trail treatments – consideration could be made on developing a low maintenance trail surface. Wood chips may be made available as forest and meadow thinning occurs. Wet areas may require the construction of boardwalks or the relocation of wet areas to dryer locations.

2. Culvert Replacement - Removal of two perched culverts (to enhance the fishery) should be considered, and replaced with new culverts. It is recommended that this work proceed after harvesting operations are complete, as the harvesting equipment will use the crossings to access the stands. Fisheries studies were completed in the fall of 2007 by the LSRCA confirmed the advantages of culvert removal and replacement. Once replaced, the area upstream suitable for a cold water fishery will become available up to the dam.

3. The Pond and Dam - Consideration could be made for constructing a bottom draw outlet system within the dam which would move cold water from the lower levels of the pond into the creek system. Prior to making changes in the pond, further studies to understand the fishery and the chemical composition (phosphorus loading) of the pond waters will be required. Once the studies are complete, a decision based on best management practices and science may be made on the future management of the pond.

4. It is recognized that waste containers are in place. Should future expansion of this service be required, “bear-proof” designs should be considered to reduce the risk of damage or injury to local wildlife.

Public Safety

Public safety and emergency forest fire access requirements for the Uxbridge Countryside Preserve must be identified within the management plan. Corridor access of 3 metres in width will be required for emergency fire access. Emergency access to the property is available from three locations. When the
two perched culverts are replaced the trail surface will be re-constructed to a minimum of three metres in width. It is recommended that the existing “numbered posts” system be used to direct emergency site identification.

Signage should be developed encouraging forest fire safety. The Township of Uxbridge will maintain agreements with private landowners for emergency access of the 6th Concession. It is also recommended that the Town of Uxbridge Staff periodically visit the Countryside Preserve with members of the Uxbridge Fire Department to review trail width access requirements, as in time the access corridors will grow in.

The identified Emergency Access Routes are:
- Wal-Mart Parking Lot for access to the north portion of the Preserve
- Private entrance off of the 6th Concession for access to the centre of the property via an interior trail
- Southern access off of the 6th Concession via the new driveway.

Hazard Tree Identification and Removal

As part of the development of the management plan for this property, a hazard tree management policy or procedure should also be developed. Such a document should identify who is responsible for identification of hazards; a definition of what represents a hazard; and the steps that must be taken to address them when they arise.

Funding Opportunities

A variety of funding programs are available to the Town of Uxbridge. In most situations the opportunity to top-up funding by combining programs exists.

The LSRCA Landowner Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP)
This cost-share program offers partnership funding and technical support for the implementation of projects that address water quality improvements. These include a “fee-for-service” tree and shrub planting; stream bank erosion control; the establishment of pond bypass channels and bottom-draw structures; and other projects.
Top-up Funding

Top-up funds are available from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Trees Ontario Foundation. Other funding sources may be identified as programs and opportunities become available. As part of project analysis and planning, all available funding sources will be considered.

Conclusion

The people of the Town of Uxbridge have a wonderful natural asset at their doorstep. The Township of Uxbridge should be congratulated on their decision to acquire this property and to support its use as public open space. With careful planning, the application of forest management practices, and dedicated management, a healthy and diverse landscape of varying ecological functions can be sustained and enhanced.

Work undertaken by the Township and local community partners, along with support from the LSRCA, will make a difference as the years pass, and have a positive impact on this property. Its long-term value will only be fully understood when it has become a matured part of the Township of Uxbridge’s fabric and today’s generation looks back with pride and realize that the right decisions were made in the past in support of a green and healthy future.
1.0 Report Goals and Objectives

The Countryside Preserve is located in the Town of Uxbridge. It is owned and managed by the Township of Uxbridge for recreational use by the community. The Preserve provides outstanding opportunities for public passive recreation as well as very diverse and good quality wildlife habitat, in a semi-urban setting. This report has been prepared by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority at the request of the Township to provide options and ideas for the Township and community interest groups to manage the property in a manner that supports existing uses, ecological health, and sustainability. In locations where more detail is required, as directed by this document, separate site management plans will be developed as required.
2.0 General Site Description

2.1 Property Location
Parts of Lot 24 and 25, and a portion of Lot 26 between Elgin Park Drive and the Uxbridge Preserve, Concession 6, Township of Uxbridge, Region of Durham

2.2 Property Ownership
This property is owned and managed by the Township of Uxbridge. The area referenced in this report is that identified as the “Uxbridge Countryside Preserve” on a map included in the Trails of Uxbridge Township Countryside Preserve brochure (see appendix). References are also made to the property directly north of the Uxbridge Preserve, also owned by the Township of Uxbridge.

2.3 Property Access
Access from the north is from the Wal-Mart/Rona Plaza parking lot located in the south east corner of the shopping complex on Highway 47 at Concession 6. A parking lot is available here as is an information kiosk with a trail map and trail use rules. Walking access (without parking) is located from Elgin Park Drive in the north, off of Concession 6 in the west, and through the estate subdivision directly south of the Preserve.

2.4 Approximate Property Size
According to the Trails of Uxbridge Township Countryside Preserve brochure, the property size is 56.7 hectares (140 acres). The property to the north is approximately 7.8 hectares (18.8 acres).
Figure 1 Trails of Uxbridge Countryside Preserve map
3.0 Property Characteristics

3.1 Soils
Soils assessments were made by LSRCA staff at several points across the property. Soils varied from fine sand in the uplands to sandy/silty in the lowland areas. Drainage through soil was found to be significant with little or no evidence of soil moisture retention (mottling) making the uplands potentially dry in drought and summer periods. The fine sand-silt lowland soils have more ability to retain moisture and to feed the small watercourses that traverse the property. To the north of the property is a wetland that contains mostly organic soils over a fine sand layer. The property is located on the Oak Ridges Moraine, drainage through the soils on the property contribute to the ground-water hydrology of the Moraine.

3.2 Topography
Property topography varies from steep slopes and valleys to flat table lands and gently rolling-meadows. The property’s topography offers great variety of both recreational and aesthetic interest. Approximately half of the Lot 25, Concession 6 portion of the property was surface modified by the previous owner to establish a golf course. The result of this activity has been leveling in some areas, the creation of earth mounds for tee-offs and the creation of water-traps, some of which now support aquatic plants and small pockets of open water. Sand imported for sand-traps can still be observed in several locations. Almost all of the property to the north is recognized as part of the Uxbridge Brook Headwaters Wetland Complex; as such the area is characterized by a wet and relatively flat topography.

3.3 Existing Uses

3.3.1 Recreational Trails – A network of 6 kilometers of sign-posted walking trails exist throughout the property. Trails are for non-motorized uses such as walking, running, bicycling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The walking trials connect with the community to the north from Elgin Park Drive and to the Durham Regional Forest’s Timber Tract, to the south. The area is used extensively by residents walking dogs and enjoying the variety of flora, fauna and scenic viewpoints. One established viewpoint has a bench and offers a view of the Preserve, the Township of Uxbridge and the varied topography and land uses found on the Oak Ridges Moraine and the lands to the north. The maintenance of the trail network for the long-term on this property is a priority; all proposed restoration activities will incorporate the trails and other recreational pursuits within recommendations.

3.3.2 Reforestation – A considerable portion of the property was planted in conifer plantations. The management activities that would have been prescribed during the establishment of this plantation have not been completed, and the stands are now in need of treatment to promote forest health, stand development and under story vegetation growth.
3.3.2 Habitat Enhancement – Throughout the property, nesting boxes for Blue Birds and other species have been installed. The boxes are a positive addition to the area and the practice should continue. Consideration should be made for the establishment of other types of bird habitats and nesting structures, such as those for purple martin, bats, owls and raptors. Riparian plantings of wildlife shrubs have taken place in two pond associated locations to improve the surrounding habitat. Other habitat enhancements such as the placement of “bat-boxes” could help establish a healthy environment for a number of species of bats. The establishment of “tall grass prairie” habitat may be considered in the grassland areas of the property. It is recommended that a detailed assessment of meadow areas occur to determine suitability of the site towards the formal establishment and management of this diverse type of habitat.

3.4 Ecological Land Classification Communities
The property offers a significant range of vegetative cover types. To assist in property planning, eight vegetative cover types have been identified, based on The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority’s application of the Ministry of Natural Resources “Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario” (ELC) designations. (Figure 2)
3.5 Ecological Land Classification Community Descriptions

3.5.1 Cultural Meadow (CUM) – The Cultural Meadow component of the property has been divided into 7 sub-areas to accommodate a variety of future management options. These gently rolling areas support a variety of young hardwood tree species scattered within a mostly grass and shrub habitat. The “Southern Meadow” (CUM 2) is important for breeding grassland bird species. Observations by LSRCA staff in the spring/summer 2006 included: Vesper Sparrow (Poecetes gramineus) (an S4 breeder), Savannah Sparrow (Passerculus sandwichensis), Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla), Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum) (an S4 breeder), and Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis) (an S4S5 breeder). LSRCA Natural Heritage staff observations indicate that there is suitable habitat for these species. Efforts should be made to maintain this habitat. Most important is the control of Scots Pine (Pinus sylvestris) regeneration, which is threatening to turn the meadow into a thicket and will
3.0 Property Characteristics

result in the exclusion of several grassland species as this occurs. Consideration could be made to establishing and maintaining tall grass prairie habitat. It has also been identified that an area within CUM 1, cleared originally for golf course development, is currently used in winter for tobogganing. This use will be recognized and this space along with an appropriate “outrun” area within vegetation type CUM 1 will be maintained as open-space. The balance of CUM 1 could be planted in conifer species contributing to the size of the adjacent forested areas or left as an open space meadow.

3.5.2 Coniferous Swamp (SWC) – These wetland conifer swamp communities surround both watercourses on the property. They are some of the wettest areas on the property, and portions are within the Uxbridge Brook Headwaters Wetland Complex, recognized by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Provincially Significant Wetland. To the north of the Uxbridge Preserve, and directly connected to this property, is another parcel owned by the Township of Uxbridge. This parcel is also classified as SWC and contains many biological values as well as being designated a flood plain. The same type of management direction prescribed for the SWC on the Uxbridge Preserve property can be applied to this forested wetland parcel as well. Typical wetland plants thrive throughout these areas which are protected under The Planning Act for their wetland and flood related values.

3.5.3 Plantation (CUP) – This group contains six separate areas on the property. These forested areas consist of a combination of red pine, scots pine and white pine plantations. Planted by a previous landowner to address soil erosion issues on the property, the estimated age of these conifer stands is 60 years. In some locations the plantations act as visual and sound buffers between adjacent commercial development (Walmart and the Wooden Sticks golf course). In most interior locations, silvicultural activities should be considered to enhance biodiversity.

3.5.4 Cultural Thicket (CUT) - This group consists of “open-meadow” areas with scattered patches of invading conifer (mostly scots pine). Assorted grasses, raspberry (Rubus spp.), blackberry (Rubus allegheniensis) and milkweed (Asclepias symaca) and a variety of shrubs and herbaceous plants cover this large component. Where appropriate, the scots pine could be removed in an effort to maintain an “open-meadow” condition or, this area could be allowed to fill in naturally, becoming an early succession forest.

3.5.5 Mixed Forest (FOM) – This area is composed of an older conifer stand that has been thinned with a regenerating understory of hardwood trees actively growing between the conifer vegetation. The stand canopy has been opened up significantly allow for new types of vegetation to become established and will contribute to the property’s biodiversity.

3.5.6 Conifer Forest (FOC) – A limited amount of the area is classified as Conifer Forest. The locations are found along the west boundary along Concession 6 and along the north boundary on
Township of Uxbridge and private lands. The recommendations for future management will be to retain the current forest cover.

3.5.7 Deciduous Swamp (SWD) – A small area located along the creek south of the pond has been identified as a Deciduous Swamp. This area provides shade to the creek, which helps to maintain a lower water temperature, and management will be designed to retain this feature in its current condition.

3.5.8 Mixed Swamp (SWM) – This area surrounds a considerable portion of the creek system. Two “perched” culverts exist in this area. The site is important as it provides a canopy of shade in support of the cold water creek system.

3.6 Watercourses
Two tributaries of Uxbridge Brook cross this property. They are both classified as “cold” water streams and support a cold water speckled trout fishery. Both tributaries start within Lot 25, Concession 5 and are fed by cold ground-water springs and surface run-off. The walking trails cross the creeks at two points on the property. Perched culverts at these points prevent the upstream migration of fish and prevent fish from accessing upstream food sources. In a stream assessment downstream of this property, cold water species such as brook trout (Salvelinus fontinalis Mitchill), mottled sculpin (Cottus bairdi Girard), creek chub (Semotilus atromaculatus, Mitchill), white sucker (Catostomus commersoni Lacepede) and black-nosed dace (Rhinichthys atratus Hermann) were identified. Both tributaries are protected and kept cool by well established riparian vegetation.

Isolated (not connected to a natural surface watercourse) ponds have been developed in numerous locations throughout the preserve. It appears that these ponds are maintained by ground water input. Future management direction will recognize the need to maintain these features for the biodiversity they offer and enhancements will be considered.

A large dam and pond with a top draw-off and safety culvert exists adjacent to the trail. The in-steam pond contributes to the warming of the waters within the tributary. Algal growth observed during a site visit in late 2006 indicates a nutrient imbalance and an elevated temperature. The pond is owned by the Township of Uxbridge. Options for future management will be discussed further in this report.

3.7 Wetlands
Four areas on the property are shown as parts of the Uxbridge Brook Headwaters Wetland Complex. The wetlands begin from groundwater discharges at surface on the property and from a creek system that originates north of the property. The Ministry of Natural Resources evaluated this wetland in 2006 and it scored an overall 723 out of a possible 1000 score. This score supports the Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) status. PSW’s are protected from development and site alteration under Ontario’s Planning Act.
3.8 LSRCA Regulated Areas
A considerable portion of this property is regulated by the LSRCA under Ontario Regulation 179/06 as supported by the Conservation Authorities Act. Permits from the LSRCA are required in all regulated areas. The need for permits will be assessed on a case-by-case basis during initial project assessment. If required, permits must be acquired prior to the start-up of projects. The following is a summary of the regulated areas on the property:

3.8.1 Flood plain – flood plain exists along the entire north creek including the area surrounding the pond. Development is generally discouraged by the LSRCA within flood plains unless all of the requirements listed in LSRCA Policy 7.1 can be met. LSRCA policy is supported by the Conservation Authorities Act and its regulations.

3.8.2 Slope Erosion – a significant portion of the property falls within an area regulated because of its steep slopes.

3.8.3 Wetland – an Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared should development or site alteration be considered within 120 metres of any PSW. Development within any PSW is not permitted, as addressed by the Provincial Policy Statement.
Figure 3 – Areas Regulated within the Uxbridge Countryside Preserve
4.0 Options for Development and Management

A variety of recommendations are available to enhance the management of this property. In all options the maintenance of public access through a trail network is supported and encouraged. The land groupings provided in the “Vegetative Cover Overview” section of this report will be expanded upon in this section. In all cover types existing trails will be recognized and enhanced through various management procedures.

Although numerous bird nesting structures have been placed around the property, more opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement exist. The establishment of brush piles, rock piles, “toad holes”, snake hibernacula’s, enhanced ponds for wildlife, bat boxes, and nesting platforms for hawks, owls and houses for songbirds are but a few of the many small projects that can contribute to the environmental benefits provided by the entire property. Locations and the maintenance for these types of enhancements will be determined during a more detailed site-by-site planning exercise.

The Preserve is an important feature of the Township, and belongs to all residents. For many of the projects described here, there is an opportunity for community involvement and partnership establishment in project development and implementation of restoration activities. In some cases, such as the removal of culverts, or forest management operations, specialized equipment may be required. As such, not all projects may be suitable for public/stakeholder involvement. Wherever possible, however, members of the public and local interest groups should be encouraged to participate in the efforts to restore and enhance the Preserve.

An opportunity also exists to formalize the trail connection between the Uxbridge County Preserve and the Durham Regional Forest Timber Tract to the south. This property is owned by Durham Region and managed under agreement by LSRCA.
4.1 Cultural Meadow (CUM)
Open field areas suitable to either being retained as a “meadow” component or planting of a number of tree species. Consideration could be made to planting species such as Red Pine, White Spruce throughout and establishing hardwood areas using an assortment of hardwood plantings. Along the eastern property line adjacent to the Wooden Sticks Golf Course, consideration could be made to the planting of species such as hawthorn and maintaining a buffer strip of existing conifer trees to provide a wide security and privacy buffer between the properties. Hawthorn (*Crataegus dissona*) also provides an excellent source of wildlife food, and shelter for songbirds from predators. Two areas that were found to be gently rolling support a variety of young hardwood tree species but the largest component today are grass and shrubs. In two locations recent community based plantings of various shrubs has occurred (spring 2006 and fall 2006 plantings). Experimental plots of prairie grass species such as Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) or Slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*) could be considered by partner
organizations in appropriate locations. It is recommended that an assessment of the CUM occur to determine it’s suitability as a “tall grass prairie”.

**Options for the Cultural Meadow Communities:**

4.1.1 CUM 1 – Two options present themselves for this location. The first option is to maintain this area as open-space and allow natural process to occur. Naturally occurring scots pine should be removed as time permits. The second option is, at a later date, mechanical planting with conifer tree species such as Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*.), White Spruce (*Picea glauca* Voss), or Tamarack (*Larix laricina* K.Koch) throughout and establishing hardwood “nodes” using an assortment of hardwood “whips”. Sites CUM 1 and CUM 2 are reasonably flat and were found to have thinner grasses and other plants such as goldenrod (*Solidago hispida* Muhlenb.) and milkweed making them more suited to mechanical row planting. As the size of all of these areas is considerable, option two planting could occur over several years. The areas also provide scenic viewing opportunities, so care should be taken to maintain existing trails and openings along the edges of slopes. In addition to the forested area, it has been identified that an area within CUM 1 that was cleared during golf course development and is currently used in winter for tobogganing. This space along with an appropriate “outrun” area within vegetation type CUM 1 should be maintained as open-space.

4.1.2 CUM 2 – This “Cultural Meadow” location is very similar to that of CUM 6. Recognizing the exceptional view that occurs at the top of the significant hill, and the need to maintain the view, the recommended long-term management should be to maintain this area as meadow habitat. The eradication of most of the invading scots pine should take place in this area at the same time as it does in adjacent sites. Adding thorn-bearing plants and maintaining a strip of existing conifer trees would help provide a wide security and privacy buffer between the Preserve and the Wooden Sticks Golf Course.
Planting of a windbreak/privacy screen could also be considered adjacent to the trail along the southern property boundary.

4.1.3 CUM 3 – The Town of Uxbridge has an existing Bench and Tree Dedication Program. (see appendix) This portion of the Preserve could lend itself quite well to an additional area for that program. Over time, the area could become forested and by using seed/nut bearing trees (such as American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.), Red, white and Burr Oaks (*Quercus rubra*, *alba* and *macrocarpa*, L.), Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra* L.)) to provide food and shelter to wildlife species. The species selected should be natural to this area.

![Cultural Meadow 3 looking south](image1)

![Cultural Meadow 3 showing existing hardwoods](image2)

4.1.4 CUM 4 – A variety of options are available to this diverse and central area. One option is to maintain a meadow habitat particularly in the southern part of the area. In the more central area, in addition to maintaining the trail corridors, consideration is for hand planting of hardwood saplings. Planting could occur over a period of 5 to 15 years to allow for the establishment of a somewhat uneven-aged stand. Species recommended would be sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marchall.), red oak (*Q. rubra*), mountain ash (*Sorbus Americana* Marsh.), chestnut (*Castanea dentata* Marsh.) and black walnut. Two ponds (once water-traps) are located in this area. In the spring and fall of 2006 plantings of various shrubs occurred around the ponds. Continued monitoring of these plantings should occur, and replacement plantings considered. It was observed in the fall of 2007 that the summer drought caused many of the plants to die. The use of shrub cuttings could be considered as a cost effective way of increasing plant density in the perimeter areas adjacent to the small ponds.
4.0 Options for Development and Management

4.1.5 CUM 5 – In the south end of this area is a location where surface drainage from the surrounding hills collects. This increase in moisture creates a wet moist area covered in numerous moist site plants such as Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*) and wetland preferring grasses. In this location it is recommended the area be left to naturally regenerate. Presently, the density of grass and raspberry species in this area would result in the low survival of any tree planting species, if planting was to occur. As in other areas, the aggressive removal of scots pine should occur.

4.1.6 CUM 6 – the preservation of a cultural meadow in this large location should be considered. As in other locations the removal of scots pine on a continuous basis would maintain this area as a natural grassland. Scots pine should be selectively thinned in the fall (avoiding the spring nesting season) in an effort to maintain an “open-meadow” condition. Large stems will have to be cut, small stems can be hand-pulled. Scots pine removed could be chipped and the chips either used on the trails as a surface treatment or offered to the public for use in landscaping. The proposed thinning operation may have to be repeated in the fall on an annual basis as new scots pine seedlings germinate and grow.
4.0 Options for Development and Management

4.1.7 CUM 7 – This “Cultural Meadow” location is very similar to that of CUM 2 and 6. Recognizing the exceptional view that occurs at the top of the significant hill and the need to maintain the view the recommended long-term management should be to maintain this area as meadow habitat. The eradication of the invading scots pine should take place in this area at the same time as it does in adjacent sites. In addition, erosion is occurring along the hillside due to present use patterns. It is suggested that a formal trail corridor be developed and that erosion problems be addressed.

4.2 Coniferous Swamp (SWC)

Both watercourses on the property pass through these coniferous wetland swamps. They are some of the wettest on the properties. These areas are within the flood plain and have been evaluated and form a portion of a Provincially Significant Wetland complex. Typical wetland plants thrive throughout this area. If the establishment of new trails is considered within these sensitive sites, the use of boardwalks and/or the careful selection of the driest most stable routes must be considered. Obtaining a permit from the LSRCA will be necessary prior to any trail construction.

Options for the Coniferous Swamp communities

4.2.1 SWC 1 – This location is an important “headland” location as the creek which flows from the centre of the property initiates here as a result of groundwater coming to surface. The long-term management prescription for this area is to protect the area from development and allow natural process to continue in order that the wetland and the surface water source are sustained.

4.2.2 SWC 2 – Most of this site is found on the adjacent property to the north of the Uxbridge Preserve. The site is almost entirely in flood plain and is part of the Uxbridge Brook Wetland Complex. The long-term management for this area should be to maintain it in its natural state and protect it from any development.
4.2.3 SWC 3 – This area is on the west side of the property and protects the creek south of the pond. It is important to retain this feature in its forested state to provide shade to help keep the creek cool and for wildlife cover.

4.3 Mixed Swamp (SMW)

The mixed swamp communities are found adjacent to both creek systems on the property. The long-term management strategy for these sites will be to protect them and allow natural succession to occur. Two culvert crossings within these communities are addressed below.

4.3.1 Options for both Mixed Swamp Communities

At locations where the creek crosses the walking trails, both of the culverts are “perched”. Perched culverts prevent the upstream migration of fish and fish supporting food sources and are considered detrimental to fish habitat. Consideration should be made to correcting these situations by removal and replacement with new, properly installed culverts’ once the forestry activities planned for the pine plantations are complete. Emergency vehicle access to the property requires a 3 metre-wide corridor and will be a significant factor on replacement design (along with availability funding).
4.4 Plantation (CUP)

This designation contains five separate areas on the property. These forested areas consist of red pine, scots pine and white pine plantations. The estimated age of these conifer stands is 60 years. Various opportunities exist. It is recommended that any harvesting activities be reviewed and approved by a Registered Professional Forester. Should harvesting proceed, the management of tree tops and branches must be addressed with respect to aesthetics and the risk of forest fire. A formal communication plan for public education on the positive aspects of thinning and of the management of the operation will be required.

Options for the Cultural Plantation communities

4.4.1 CUP 1 – This stand of scots and red pine offers a positive backdrop to the neighboring Wooden Sticks Golf Course and provides an excellent visual separation for the Preserve. Due to the narrow width of the stand, and a concern for wind-throw, harvesting will not be proposed in this location. The open-nature of the stand should ensure sufficient light into the forest floor to encourage species diversification.

4.4.2 CUP 2, 3, 4 & 5 – These stands consist of red pine, white pine (Pinus strobus) and scots pine plantations. In accordance with the principals of good forest management, a 30 to 40 % reduction in stems is recommended. This is a much needed stand improvement harvest. Removing low quality trees and opening the stand up will encourage greater biodiversity. Stand CUP 2 has been marked previously and should be re-assessed prior to thinning. A shelterwood harvest system should be employed in this stand. The remaining locations should be row thinned using traditional methods. Thinning the stands will open them up for an increase in species composition, promote the growth of the residual stems, and may provide a small amount of revenue through sale of the harvested stems that could be re-invested in the management of the Preserve. A detailed harvesting and communication plan will be prepared that identifies the areas for cutting and takes into consideration the future uses of adjacent areas, access, and time of year. Prior to harvest, the prescription will be approved by a Registered Professional Forester. The most practical access route is using existing trails to forward the wood to the trailhead entrance and parking lot adjacent to Wal-mart. This location could be used as a log landing site for loading the logging truck. The operation should occur in the winter months as a single operation.
4.5 Cultural Thicket (CUT)

This site consists of a dense stand of scots pine mixed with areas of open meadow. Because this location is in an advanced stage of “natural regeneration” removal of the scots pine would require a considerable effort and would leave a significant visual impact. Scots pine at this location appears to have a short life-span (40 years). It does have the ability during those years to create the right stand composition to promote a new healthier under-story.

4.5.1 Options for the Cultural Thicket community

It is recommended that the Cultural Thicket be left to grow and become a nurse crop for a future forest. Thinning of the scots pine could be considered in the future once an under-story of new regeneration becomes established. Annual attention to the removal of new scots pine seedlings in the adjacent meadow may help to control the advancement of this species into the meadow habitat.
4.6 Mixed Forest (FOM)

Options for the two Mixed Forest communities

4.6.1 FOM 1 – Composed of scattered older scots pine trees with an under story of a variety of hardwood trees actively growing between the scots pines. It appears that the area has been thinned considerably, probably due to naturally occurring scots pine mortality. It now represents a young hardwood habitat and allowing it to mature with little to no changes seems appropriate. In addition to the forested area it has been identified that an area within this cover type was cleared during golf course development as is currently used in winter for tobogganing. This use will be recognized and this space along with an appropriate “outrun” area within CUM 1 will be maintained as open-space.

4.6.2 FOM 2 – This large area located in the north part of the preserve (and beyond) and represents a transition type forest between two wetland areas. The location provides extensive natural wildlife habitat and is an important feature on the property. The long-term direction should be to maintain it as a natural feature. Existing trails should be maintained and nature interpretation opportunities explored. The area also contains an old tennis court. Discussion should occur with the Township of Uxbridge to determine the long-term direction of the tennis court located in the western part of FOM 2.

4.7 Coniferous Forest (FOC)

4.7.1 FOC 1 – the coniferous forest adjacent to the Wal-Mart Plaza provides an effective sound barrier and light separation between the developed areas and the wetland/creek area to the south. The area between the Walmart parking lot fence and the trail could be planted with conifer species or the fence could be planted with vine type plants that would create a green visual buffer. In either case, the existing trail width will be maintained to provide access to the Preserve. Other than plantings in two
open areas the recommended prescription for these this FOC area is to maintain it as a buffer area between development and recreational uses.

4.7.2 FOC 2 – is a smaller area that protects at the creek in a valley adjacent to Concession 6. It is important to maintain this area in its current state and no changes would be appropriate.

4.7.3 FOC 3 – This location is bounded by private parcels and Concession 6. The property offers an access alternative to the Uxbridge Preserve. The site is also composed of a significant number of scots pine trees. A management strategy should be discussed with the Township of Uxbridge for this portion of the property.

Tree or vine planting could occur adjacent to commercial use in FOC 1.

4.8 The Pond Location

The large pond located in the north west of the property is not classified under the ELC system. It is owned by the Township of Uxbridge. The pond provides habitat for a variety of species but is having a negative impact on the temperature of this Uxbridge Brook cold water tributary. The presence of algae in the pond is an indicator of warm water and nutrients. Options for stream enhancement have been identified by LSRCA Aquatic Biology staff. The recommended best management practices could include the removal of the dam and the establishment of a new naturally designed creek, or the construction of a new by-pass creek on Preserve land to direct flow around the pond. These two options may not be practical due to costs and the effect draining the pond would have on the aesthetic contribution it makes to the Preserve. Consideration could however be made to constructing a bottom draw outlet system within the dam which would move cold water from the lower levels of the pond into the creek system.

Prior to making changes in the pond, further studies to understand the pond waters chemical composition (phosphorus loading) and fishery will be required. Once the studies are complete, a
decision based on best management practices and science may be made on the future management of the pond.

*The Pond looking from trail west*

*Pond’s Control Structure*

*Algae on pond bottom*

*Dam at outlet, needle litter and algae on surface*
5.0 Invasive Species

The Uxbridge Countryside Preserve, like its surrounding landscape, has become the home of numerous invasive plant species. Three invasive species of concern are addressed in this strategy. It is recommended that a detailed inventory of all invasive species be conducted annually and that this strategy be updated to address new and ongoing threats. A dedicated program (and funding) could be established to address these very prolific species.

The three main invasive species are:
- Scots Pine (Pinus sylvestris)
- European Buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica L.)
- Dog Strangling Vine (Vincetoxicum nigrum (L.) Moench)

5.1 Scots Pine

Scots pine was used extensively in Ontario in the 1920 to arrest soil erosion associated with large-scale land clearing. It is a prolific seed producer and its progression into open meadow areas is very common in Ontario. Scots pine can also be an important part of “stand conversion”. It can provide the needed shade to allow for the natural (or planted) regeneration of shade tolerant species. Three approaches to better manage the scots pine in the Countryside Preserve include:
- In existing stands (FOM1) where scots pine is providing shade for the establishment of a new stand of more light tolerant species, the direction should be to allow natural succession to occur.
- In the “Cultural Thicket” location, allow the scots pine to grow and establish itself as a “nurse crop” that contributes to stand conversion over time.
- In all cultural meadow locations remove and control the advancement of scots pine. A control program should become an annual fall event to remove a percentage of existing large stock and to hand-pull or cut any and all newly regenerating plants. Consideration could be made to cover existing stands of Dog Strangling Vine (DSV) with cut scots pine thus reducing light availability thus reducing the ability of the DSV to propagate.

5.2 European Buckthorn

European buckthorn is a very aggressive and efficient invasive species. An inventory obtained in the summer of 2008 by the LSRCA recorded that buckthorn is found throughout the Countryside Preserve, mostly along forest/plantation edges. It regenerates from coppice growth when cut, by root suckers and by seed when a site is disturbed. Control methods are labor intensive and usually only marginally successful. The use of volunteer help and proven removal techniques is recommended. Monitoring of the advancement of buckthorn should occur on a yearly basis.
5.3 Dog Strangling Vine (Black Swallowort)
Dog Strangling Vine is a very aggressive and efficient invasive species. It is a member of the milkweed family (Asclepiadaceae). An inventory obtained in the summer of 2008 by the LSRCA recorded that “dog strangling vine” is found throughout the Countryside Preserve, mostly in open field areas and along trail edges. It regenerates mostly through seed dispersal and root cuttings. Once established it develops an intensive root network making hand removal very difficult. Monitoring of the advancement of this species should occur on a yearly basis.

Control methods are very labor intensive and usually only marginally successful. The use of volunteer help and proven control techniques are recommended. Persistent non-chemical control methods such as periodic mowing, (especially at the flowering stage); digging up the roots of each individual plant or a combination of mowing and applying a mulch to help prevent the sprouting of new plants can offer some control. Consideration could be made to use cut scots pine (as mulch) to cover existing stands of DSV reducing light availability to the plants. Chemical controls are varied and have shown only limited success. Should chemical control be considered, the application must be done by a licensed applicator.
As the Countryside Preserve property develops consideration should be given to increasing the amount of educational signage on the property. Recommendations include:

1. The establishment of a “wildlife bulletin board” at a common location to allow users the opportunity to share observations and experiences.
2. Interpretive signs that inform on the important aspects of features such as wetlands, the Oak Ridges Moraine, meadows, cold water streams and plantation management practices should be considered.
3. Panoramic maps at viewpoints that point out features both on the property and over the broader landscape.
4. Directional signage indicating access to adjacent trail networks and features should be considered.
5. The use of the common signage style that already exists for the Uxbridge trail network is advised.
6. Identification of the numbered locations as “Emergency Location Stations” could be considered.
7.0 Infrastructure

1. Trail treatments – consideration could be made on developing a low maintenance trail surface. Wood chips may be made available as forest and meadow thinning occurs. Wet areas may require the construction of boardwalks or the relocation of wet areas to dryer locations.

2. Culvert Replacement - Removal of two perched culverts (to enhance the fishery) should be considered, and replaced with new culverts. It is recommended that this work proceed after harvesting operations are complete, as the harvesting equipment will use the crossings to access the stands. Fisheries studies were completed in the fall of 2007 by the LSRCA confirmed the advantages of culvert removal and replacement. Once replaced properly the area upstream suitable for a cold water fishery will become available up to the dam.

3. The Pond and Dam - Consideration could be made to constructing a bottom draw outlet system within the dam which would move cold water from the lower levels of the pond into the creek system. Prior to making changes in the pond, further studies to understand the pond waters chemical composition (phosphorus loading) and fishery will be required. Once the studies are complete, a decision based on best management practices and science may be made on the future management of the pond.

4. It is recognized that waste containers are in place. Should future expansion of this service be required, “bear-proof” designs should be considered.
911 and Fire Emergency Access Requirements
Public safety and emergency forest fire access requirements for the Uxbridge Countryside Preserve must be identified within the management plan. Corridor access of 3 metres in width will be required for emergency fire access. Emergency access to the property is available from the 6th Concession in two locations and from the Wal-Mart parking lot. When the two perched culverts are replaced the trail surface will be re-constructed to a minimum of 3 metres in width. It is recommended that the existing “numbered posts” system be used to direct emergency site identification. In addition, signage should be developed encouraging forest fire safety. Messages, such as “no open fires”, “if you smoke and “don’t walk and smoke, should be considered. The Township of Uxbridge will maintain agreements with private landowners for emergency access of the 6th Concession. It is also recommended that the Town of Uxbridge Staff periodically visit the Countryside Preserve with members of the Uxbridge Fire Department to review trail width access requirements, as in time the access corridors will grow in.

The identified Emergency Access Routes are:
- Wal-Mart Parking Lot for access to the north ½ of the Preserve
- Private entrance off of the 6th Concession for access to the centre of the property via an interior trail
- Southern access off of the 6th Concession via the new driveway.

Hazard Tree Identification and Removal
Although the intent of property management is to maintain and enhance ecological sustainability, including keeping dead trees for their contribution to habitat, maintaining public safety will be paramount for the management of this property. As part of the development of the management plan for this property, a hazard tree management policy or procedure should also be developed. This document should identify who is responsible for identification of hazards; a definition of what represents a hazard; and the steps that must be taken to address them when they arise. In keeping with ecological principals, it is suggested that trees removed for public safety be left on the forest floor, allowing for the process of natural decomposition.
9.0 Implementation Summary

9.1 Cultural Meadow - CUM
CUM 1 – This area can remain as open field for the present with future the consideration of field planting. The removal of scots pine is encouraged.
CUM 2 – Aggressive scots pine removal should occur in this area on an annual basis. Removal should only occur in the fall (October/November) to protect spring breeding birds.
CUM 3 – Incorporating this area into the Township of Uxbridge’s Memorial Tree plantings program will provide an ongoing opportunity to convert this field into a forest while adding an important social link due to the tranquility of the Countryside Preserve.
CUM 4 – A mix of open meadow, long-term hardwood planting and shrub establishment around both ponds should provide a variety of habitat within this very central part of the property.
CUM 5 – The proposed strategy is to allow this area to continue to naturalize. The removal of scots pine is encouraged in this area.
CUM 6 – The annual removal of scots pine to maintain the view, the establishment of a new formal path to the viewpoint, the restoration of existing erosion problems and the development of appropriate signage could occur as funding and partner availability allows.

9.2 Cultural Thicket - CUT
It is recommended that the Cultural Thicket be left to grow and become a nurse crop for a future forest. Thinning of the scots pine could be considered in the future once an under story of new regeneration becomes established.

9.3 Mixed Swamp - SMW
The removal and replacement of each culvert crossing should be the subject of further discussion between the Township of Uxbridge, partners and the LSRCA. A permit from the LSRCA and a Letter of Advice from Department of Fisheries (DFO) staff representative will be required for each crossing. The future design of each crossing should support the requirements of the Emergency Evacuation Plan. Depending on funding availability consideration could be made for replacement with new open-bottom type culverts in July or August to take advantage of low water periods.

9.4 Plantation – CUP
CUP 1 – Due to the narrow width of the stand, and a concern for wind-throw harvesting will not be proposed in this location.
CUP 2, 3, 4 & 5 – Harvesting could occur in the winter of 2009. The implementation of a proactive communications plan supported by a public process may be required. Costs associated with the commercial thinning operations should be covered by the revenue attained by sale of the products.
9.5 Mixed Forest - FOM
The proposed management strategy for this area is to maintain it in its current condition as it appears to be naturally regenerating on its own.

9.6 Coniferous Forest - FOC
FOC 1 - The area between the Wal-Mart parking lot fence and the trail could be planted with conifer species and/or vine species. This area also contains the old tennis courts. Should the Town of Uxbridge wish to remove the facility consideration could be made to planting this area with conifer species also. Future site management planning should incorporate any possible Wal-Mart expansion plans.

9.7 The Pond
The future management of the Pond should be to be the subject of a detailed analysis and discussion between the Township of Uxbridge, the adjacent property owners, and the LSRCA.
A variety of funding programs are available to the Town of Uxbridge. In most situations the opportunity to top-up funding by combining programs exists.

**The LSRCA Landowner Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP)**
This cost-share program offers partnership funding and technical support for the implementation of projects that address water quality improvements. These include a “fee-for-service” tree and shrub planting; stream bank erosion control; the establishment of pond bypass channels and bottom-draw structures; and other projects.

Top-up funds are available from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Trees Ontario Foundation. Other funding sources may be identified as programs and opportunities become available. As part of project analysis and planning, all available funding sources will be considered.
11.0 Conclusion

The people of the Town of Uxbridge have a wonderful natural asset at their doorstep. The Township of Uxbridge must be congratulated on their decision to acquire this property and to support its use as public open space. The Uxbridge Country Preserve presents a great opportunity for recreation and education. With careful planning, the application of silvicultural practices, and dedicated management, a healthy and diverse landscape of varying ecological functions can be sustained and enhanced.

Work undertaken by the Township and local community partners, along with support from the LSRCA, will make a difference as the years pass, and have a positive impact on this property. Its long-term value will only be fully understood when it has become a matured part of the Township of Uxbridge’s fabric and today’s generation looks back with pride and realize that the right decisions were made in the past in support of a green and healthy future.