

B L U E
MOUNTAIN



WATERSHED
TRUST

“THE WATERSHED” NEWS - Fall/Winter, 2006

DIRECTORS WANTED!!!!

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation seeks board members who have skills and knowledge in the following areas: fund raising, marketing, non-profit administration, financial management, membership building, land use planning issues, conservation issues, and/or legal issues. Interest in environmental and natural resources issues in our community, especially those pertaining to water is essential.

Energetic and committed volunteers are needed for the two-year term commencing February 2007. Board responsibilities include making final decisions on policies relating to programmes, finances, preservation of our natural heritage and public relations. The board provides leadership and expertise with technical needs, legal, accounting, public policy, fundraising, etc. Board members are expected to become familiar with the mission, history, policies and programmes of the BMWTF. You will act as both an informal, and when requested, formal ambassador and spokesperson for the BMWTF. Responsibilities include ensuring financial support to the Trust by participating in fundraising planning and activities.



We send our sincere appreciation to Greta McGillivray, Fran Roulstone, and Len and Jerri Popp for the significant contributions they have made over the many years to the BMWTF Board and our community. We are still enjoying Greta's and Fran's involvement on the Wetlands Action Group (WAG) Committee.

The Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday, alternating between Collingwood and Thornbury. If wish to volunteer for this challenge advise:

Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation
Attention: Norman Wingrove, Vice-President
P.O. Box 605
Collingwood, ON
Phone: 705-445-0357
Fax (705) 445-8355
bmwt@bmts.com

A MOST IMPORTANT “ON-GOING” INITIATIVE ... SAVING THE WETLAND !

(Don Kerr)

Silver Creek Wetland - Ontario Municipal Board

At the Ontario Municipal Board pre-hearing on September 12, we stated that the Trust has engaged an environmental consultant to review the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the proposed residential development. We said that we wanted our consultant to be heard effectively at the hearing and to be allowed to visit the site in order to do a proper review. The Hearing Officer, Ms Flint, provided the following decision:

1. Our consultant would be allowed to present her findings as an expert witness at the hearing as part of our Participant panel.
2. Ms. Flint deferred making a specific decision on site visits but stated that the Board "may be spoken to" with regard to timing and parameters of such visits.
3. She accepted a delay in the process because of the lack of an EIS (planned for release in mid-October) and (continued on next page)

the decision to receive a draft Subdivision Plan proposal from Consulate for the East portion of the property.

The next pre-hearing is scheduled for January 19 with a full hearing starting on April 10, 2007.

The "Draft" Subdivision Plan has been submitted but the proposal continues to vary in the number of residential units proposed from a low number of 290 in May to as high as 388 in September to the current 358 units.

Based on discussions with our consultant, we wrote to the owner on Sept 20 requesting a site visit before Oct 31 whether the EIS has been released or not. A visit was needed before the winter/dormant season. On Sept 27, the owner refused a site visit so we wrote to OMB to request an order. At an OMB teleconference on September 29, the OMB "refused to entertain such a request at this time" saying that the request may be made after the EIS has been issued and comments made by NVCA and MNR.

This decision was very disappointing. When the hearing officer said that "the OMB could be spoken to concerning timing and parameters for site visits", we felt that the principle of site visits had been accepted. This new decision is a serious limitation, which in effect, denies our consultant any meaningful site visit before the hearing opens aside from something around April 1 which would be very tight and perhaps of little use.

In summary, our consultant will still be able to critique the principle of residential development on lands adjacent to the wetland but the lack of a site visit at this time may impair the effort.

Attendance by BMWTF members at the pre-hearing was much appreciated.

Silver Creek Wetland - Destructive Actions

In late August, some wetland neighbours on Princeton Shores became aware of "construction" activities within the wetland and notified the Town of Collingwood. The Town's Municipal Law Enforcement Officer investigated and the Town put a stop to the clearing and ploughing. Charges have been laid. We took aerial photos of the destructive activities on Sept 10. The BMWTF now has four sets of aerial photos of the wetland taken in 2003, 2004 plus May and September 2006 showing progressive damage to the natural environment.

Castle Glen Phase II

The OMB hearing will conclude during the week of Oct 23. It is expected to start at 11am on October 23 in the Municipal Offices at Thornbury. The summary arguments will be heard at that time. The most important summary will be by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Attendance by the public and BMWTF members would be useful in order to impress on the hearing officer that the public is interested.

Master Plan For Wetland Conservation

Some members of the Wetland Action Group are continuing to discuss with the Mayor and town officials certain problems of mutual interest. Following our presentation to Council on August 31, we wrote to Collingwood's Town Council stating that "there must be no suggestion that development on Consulate lands is reasonable or possible until all of the environmental studies have been completed." We believe Council accepts this position.

ONTARIO PLANNING LEGISLATION

By: Don Kerr

ONTARIO PLANNING LEGISLATION

The Ontario Government continues to make progress in improving planning legislation. This is very important and will have a significant effect on the natural and built environment.

Ontario Municipal Board Reform

In the summer of 2004, the government issued a discussion paper about OMB reform. The BMWTF commented by saying, among other things, that the OMB should be more impartial in that it seemed to be skewed toward favouring the developers. We proposed better recruitment policies and methods of selection for Board members.

Bill 21 was given first reading in December 2005. It contained a number of improvements to the Board's jurisdiction and practices but it did not deal with recruitment and selection processes of Board members. This aspect had been referred to the Public Appointments Secretariat. Meanwhile, the Secretariat on July 4 issued some generic improvements for appointments to all public agencies but nothing specific to the OMB. We commented on Bill 21 on August 25 and we proposed that our specific recommendations for selection of OMB members be reconsidered. We also requested that intervenor funding be allowed for public groups such as ours at OMB hearings so that access to the OMB would not be so expensive. (continued on next page)

Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH)

This document took effect in June 2006 under the Places to Grow Act. Yes, Collingwood is in the GGH. The principles and objectives of the Plan are very good but whether the execution will live up to them is yet to be seen. To its credit, it encourages intensification rather than sprawling into green spaces. One problem is that the Plan still implies that the GGH is obliged to accommodate a total of 11.5 million people by 2031, up from 7.8 million in 2001, whether this amount of growth is environmentally sustainable or not. (We suspect it is not.)

EVENTS IN 2006 !!

MAY 2, 2006 TREE PLANTING AT BLACK ASH CREEK

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation wanted to plant trees to honour those people who attended the Save Our Silver Creek fundraising dinner on May 5, 2006. Garry Reid approached Jean Vanier, CCI and the Pretty River Academy with a request for them to bring 20 students from each school to a tree planting on the morning of May 2, 2006 and they all agreed. The planting was for stream restoration on the Black Ash Creek downstream from Sixth Street. Under the direction of Fred Dobbs, Manager of Stewardship Services for the NVCA (Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority) 1,000 White Cedar and Tamarack seedlings were donated along with the leadership and instruction of the planting. We can be very proud of your youth and their willingness to help adults to honour a native belief "that we do not inherit our lands, rather they are loaned to us by our grandchildren."



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MAY 5, 2006 – SAVE OUR SILVER (SOS) FUNDRAISING DINNER

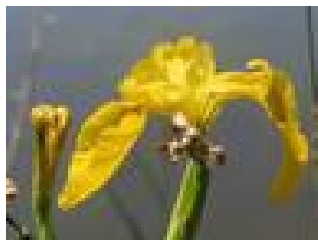
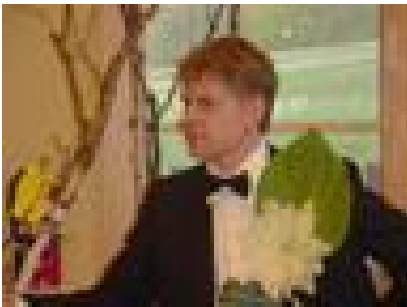
SAVE OUR SILVER CREEK WETLANDS DINNER sponsored by The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation May 5, 2006 was held at the beautiful Craigleith Ski Club. The 210 guests, and 150 supporters of the printing, promotions, decorations, live and silent auctions and audio visuals, showed their support and commitment to help ensure the acquisition, preservation and permanent protection of this coastal wetland treasure by helping us to raise \$23,000.00. We were

honoured to have Dr. David Ullrich, Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative as our guest speaker.

As part of the evening, the children and Teachers from Pretty River Academy provided incredible support by greeting guests at the front doors, playing welcome music by the brass band, playing dinner music and presenting their Grade 1 & 2 poem during the dinner.

Grade 1 & 2 Poem – Pretty River Academy

Water is everywhere all over the Earth, for fish to swim in and trees to drink.
Clouds are full of water, way up in the sky, full of winds making the bugs and birds fly.
People need clean water to give to their dogs, when the sun shines and it is hot.
You need it for your garden to make flowers grow big and bright.
Animals need water to be clean and pollution free, so they can stay happy.
Trees need water to help them grow the leaves animals like to eat.
The moon looks cold and beautiful reflected in the water on a summer's night.



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SEPTEMBER 16, 2006 - WATERSHED FESTIVAL

A great day was had by all on Saturday, September 16. Fire dancer Angel Vollick entertains after sunset accompanied by B-Side at the Blue Mountain Watershed Festival in Collingwood. Teacher Don Gray of Elephant Thoughts demonstrates the creation of the sounds of rolling thunder. Laura Somers was one of a number of performers on stage throughout the day. Thanks to Angela McEwen and Bryden Jones, Committee Co-Chairs and photos by Angela, the entire organizing team and all of the support from the community!



Land Acquisition Committee

By: Norman Wingrove

INTRODUCTION

The mission statement of the BMWTF includes references to "the conservation and sustainable use of watershed ecosystems through broad community stewardship."

"You have protected your own corner of paradise for years, but what about the future? What can you do to mix conservation with other plans for managing your land and finances?"

(BMWTF Brochure "Your Land Conservation Options")

The BMWTF Land Acquisition Committee works with landowners to explore various options to help create a sound conservation package. Choices include keeping the property. The Foundation can provide information, assistance and advice on how to be a good steward. Donations of property to the BMWTF or purchases funded by conservation organizations or private donors are other options. Life estates or sale/leaseback agreements are other vehicles that can be used. A conservation easement is an agreement between the landowner and the Trust that protects the property into the future.

The Land Acquisition Committee has had discussions on several occasions regarding potential land donations, and we are looking forward to our first land donation.

Environment Canada's Eco-Gift Program

This program was created in 1995, and has been very successful. It provides tax incentives to landowners wanting to protect their ecologically significant lands. Private landowners can receive a tax deduction equal to the appraised value of their gift. A Registered Charity, such as the BMWTF, can issue income tax receipts. Donations are exempt from capital gains tax. For more information, visit the Ontario Region eco-gifts web site: www.on.ec.gc.ca/ecogifts

May 2006 Federal Budget Cuts Capital Gains Tax on Eco-Gifts and Donations of Publicly Traded Securities

The Government of Canada has lifted the capital gains tax on ecological gifts and gifts of securities. The changes to the Income Tax Act mean that donors who make gifts of securities or gifts of ecological significant lands to registered charities will no longer be penalized.

Capital gains taxes have been eliminated entirely on donations of publicly listed securities, allowing BMWTF supporters more flexibility when deciding how to make their donations. Under the previous rule, 50% of the capital gain on a gift of stock was treated as taxable income.

If you have questions about making a gift of securities or gift of land to the BMWTF, please phone Norman Wingrove at (705) 445-0357 or e-mail bmwt@bmts.com.

WETLANDS ACTION GROUP COMMITTEE REPORT – FALL 2006

By: Norman Wingrove, Chair

Members are Hans Eijssenck, Jeanne Hazell, Brenda Johnson, Don Kerr, Greta McGillivray, Len & Jerri Popp, Garry Reid, Fran Roulstone (Secretary), Bob Waind and Norm Wingrove (Chair).

Thank you all for your continued efforts and commitment. Also thanks to Bill Mann of Creemore who recently resigned, but still retains an interest in our work.

As Don Kerr mentions in his article Important On-going Issues, we continue to be engaged in several critical issues. Don deserves our thanks for his dedication and commitment. Thanks, Don!

The WAG Committee continues to monitor potential opportunities to preserve the natural features of the area that may be affected by Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments. Len Popp made a presentation on behalf of the BMWTF at the public meeting on the “Georgian Green” proposal. As a result of our input and that of other concerned residents, the agencies had a second look and more of the natural area was protected.

Some matters on the near horizon that merit our attention are the proposed connector road following the 11th Line from Mountain Road north to Highway #26 and

the Mountain Road Secondary Plan. Some of the 11th Line road allowance goes through the Silver Creek Wetlands.

The WAG Committee is supportive of the Clean Water Act and recently made a submission to the Standing Committee to express this support.

We also wrote to the Minister of the Environment and MP Helena Guergis objecting to the Government of Canada’s disregard for concerted action on Global Warming. We were in the visitors’ gallery for Douglas Nadler’s delegation to Town of Collingwood Council asking the Town to become actively committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at the local level. The Council was very supportive of Mr. Nadler’s initiative and passed his suggested resolution establishing time-lines for action.

The WAG Committee has been active, and we will continue to be involved in the preservation and protection of our natural heritage for future generations. If you are interested in joining this dynamic group, please call (705) 445-0357 or e-mail bmwt@bmts.com

STANCE AGAINST BOTTLED WATER Response to Globe and Mail article of August 8, 2006

By: Eleanor Ward

Water Damage—Your bottle of water may be more risky for the environment than you think

Like many people doing some grocery shopping at the supermarket, I would often load a pack of bottled water into my grocery cart. Individual bottles are handy to take on a hike, a bike ride or a car trip. But they’re not going in my cart anymore. The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation doesn’t support buying bottled water and after investigating why that policy exists, it turns out that there are several persuasive environmental reasons to draw from the tap instead of chug from the bottle.

Plastics

Billions of plastic bottles are manufactured for the sole purpose of containing a small amount of drinking water. The manufacturing process uses large amounts of non-renewable crude oil as raw material for plastic bottles and vast amounts of energy for the processing. Toxic chemicals and other contaminants are released into the air both during manufacturing and again when the bottles are burned or buried. Very few bottles are recycled. In fact, they aren’t safe to reuse. With our society’s growing consumption of bottled water, these plastics are becoming the fastest growing form of municipal solid waste in Canada. The greenhouse gas emissions from trucking and shipping across the country and around the world, is another expensive environmental cost. In comparison, local tap water makes a small footprint environmentally, particularly in its distribution. No plastic, no plastic manufacturing plant, no toxic plastic garbage that can take up to 1000 years to biodegrade, just local water piped through local energy efficient infrastructure.

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Draining Aquifers

Although some bottled water is treated tap water, Aquafina and Dasani brands, for example, the majority of it comes from springs and aquifers. The springs bubbling out of aquifers are the headwaters for many of our streams and rivers. Water bottling plants that tap into these aquifers alter the local ecosystem because they ship water out of the local watershed. But more importantly, no one knows the final impact of continued aquifer depletion on our watersheds. No one knows exactly what amount of water can be taken without causing water tables to drop, wells to go dry and streams and rivers to dry up. That's why there are laws against bulk water removal. But under a loophole based on water being removed into bottles not tanks, the bottling plants in Gibraltar and Feversham take 13 million litres per day from our escarpment aquifer. Furthermore, they pay little or nothing for a natural resource that should belong to everyone. That's why it's alarming that locally, there are already reports of the water table dropping several feet and ponds and wells drying up. This huge bulk water-taking impacts the Great Lakes too. This is water that should eventually flow into Georgian Bay. Springs from this aquifer are the headwaters of the rivers and streams in the Blue Mountain watershed including the Silver Creek.

Water Safety

Both tap water and bottled water are safe to drink. But safety standards for tap water are more stringent than for bottled water. Tap water is tested regularly and consistently, bottled water, sporadically. Toxins from plastic bottles have been found in bottled water. If you drink a bottle of water that has been sitting in the sun, you can taste the plastic. Heating or freezing plastic bottles of water increases the rate at which the toxins migrate out of the plastic. Rolf Halden, a professor at the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health explains that phthalates added to plastic to make it less brittle, "can exhibit hormone-like behaviour acting as endocrine disruptors in humans."

The Moral Issue

The United Church of Canada and some other church groups are urging their members to boycott bottled water citing ethical, theological and social justice reasons. David Hallman, a spokesperson for the United Church, says, "Water is seen increasingly as a saleable commodity to make a profit as opposed to our perspective of it being an element of life for all creation." He added, "bottling and selling of water undermines confidence in public water systems."

NEXT IN THIS SERIES: Home water filtration systems and their ability to remove chlorine, trace chemicals, pesticides, PCBs and other toxins; an up-to-date report on Collingwood and Thornbury tap water; and information about the safety of reusable hard plastic drinking bottles.





RECOMMENDED READING & SCREENING



READINGS:

Scientific American, Sept 2006, has excellent articles covering 60 pages on Global Warming and options for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Available in the Collingwood Library. ... Don Kerr

A Brief History Of Everything - Ken Wilber, February 2001
Wilber offers a series of striking and original views on many topics of current interest and controversy, including the gender wars, modern liberation movements, multiculturalism, ecology and environmental ethics, and the conflict between this-worldly and otherworldly approaches to spirituality. The result is an extraordinary and exhilarating ride through the Kosmos in the company of one of the great thinkers of our time ... Greta McGillivray

Peace Is The Way: Bringing War And Violence To An End - Deepak Chopra, December 2005
"There is no way to peace, peace is the way." This statement has never been more true. Now, Deepak Chopra expands on A. J. Muste's insight, teaching us how to expand awareness, stop reacting out of fear, and reject war--one person at a time. As Dr. Chopra says, "Violence may be innate in human nature, but so is its opposite: love. The next stage of humanity, the leap we are poised to take, will be guided by the force of that love."
... Greta McGillivray

The Hidden Messages In Water - Dr. Masaru Emoto, Sept. 2005
This book has the potential to profoundly transform your world view. Using high-speed photography, Dr. Masaru Emoto discovered that crystals formed in frozen water reveal changes when specific, concentrated thoughts are directed toward them. He found that water from clear springs and water that has been exposed to loving words shows brilliant, complex, and colorful snowflake patterns. In contrast, polluted water, or water exposed to negative thoughts, forms incomplete, asymmetrical patterns with dull colors. The implications of this research create a new awareness of how we can positively impact the earth and our personal health. ... Greta McGillivray

ONE: The Art And Practice Of Conscious Leadership - Lance Secretan, PhD, April 2006
ONE is essential reading for those who yearn for innovative ideas about leading and living consciously in ways that will inspire and

transform people, organizations, and the world. The conscious leader practices the CASTLE Principles which is an acronym for six attributes: Courage, Authenticity, Service, Truthfulness, Love and Effectiveness. Jeanne Hazell

An Inconvenient Truth - Al Gore, June 2006
Based on the film of the same name, this book is a crash course in global climate change. Full of photos and charts, it does an amazing job of explaining the root causes of climate change and why the world needs to unite to combat it. ... Greta McGillivray

Earth In The Balance - Al Gore, October 2006
From Our Trusted Advisor
When I (David Suzuki) interviewed Al Gore in 1989, the way he described the global ecocrisis and his commitment to doing something about it was so compelling that it was partly what inspired me to found The David Suzuki Foundation. Earth in the Balance is written with the same conviction but goes further by describing a range of policies for addressing the most pressing problems. Gore writes: "I cannot stand The thought of leaving my children with a degraded Earth and a diminished future." Me neither. Greta McGillivray

The Riverkeepers - John Cronin & Robert Kennedy Jr., October 1997
A modern-day David and Goliath tale, The Riverkeepers is an impassioned firsthand account by two advocates who have taken on powerful corporate and government polluters to win back the river they love. John Cronin and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., report from the frontline of environmental activism, the Hudson River Valley, to tell us how we too can fight and win by reclaiming a fundamental right that dates back to the Magna Carta - the right to defend and enjoy our invaluable natural resources. Revealing shocking stories of commonplace environmental crime - from drinking water tainted with hospital waste to fish populations contaminated by freely dumped PCBs - John and Bobby describe their dramatic confrontations with more than ninety environmental lawbreakers. ... Greta McGillivray and Jeanne Hazell

SCREENINGS:

What The BLEEP Do We Know!?
Originally released in February 2004 in one theater in Yelm, Washington, What the BLEEP Do We Know!?! went on to become the fifth highest grossing documentary in the United States, with ticket sales of \$12 Million. Following its theatrical run, FOX picked up the DVD rights and released WTBDWK!?! March 15, 2005. The DVD immediately shot to the top of Amazon's best selling list, and was named [Amazon's #1 DVD surprise of the year](#). To date it has sold over a million copies. WHAT THE BLEEP DO WE KNOW?! is a new type of film. It is part documentary, part story, and part elaborate and inspiring visual effects and animations. The protagonist, Amanda, played by Marlee Matlin, finds herself in a fantastic Alice in

Wonderland experience when her daily, uninspired life literally begins to unravel, revealing the uncertain world of the quantum field hidden behind what we consider to be our normal, waking reality.

An Inconvenient Truth- Davis Guggenheim
Available on DVD November 21 from Paramount Home Entertainment, former Vice President Al Gore presents a compelling look at the state of global warming in the fascinating and startling documentary AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH.
Humanity is sitting on a ticking time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced.

THANK YOU FOR RETURNING THIS FORM TO THE BMWTF and completing as much of it as you feel relevant at this time:

YOUR E-MAIL WOULD BE APPRECIATED:

It would be most helpful for the BMWTF to have your e-mail in our database so that we can communicate with you electronically on important matters affecting our Membership. This will save paper, mailing costs and volunteer time as well as improve the amount of time it takes for our Newsletters and key messages to be delivered. The BMWTF mailing list will not be shared and will only be used for BMWTF business matters.

NAME: _____ **E-mail:** _____

WE INVITE YOU WORK WITH US! BECOME A MEMBER, YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

The BMWTF Financial Year starts on October 1st. You can become a member for one calendar year. You will be invited to attend our Annual General Meeting in February, receive our semi-annual newsletters and be kept informed of our activities and accomplishments

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$ 5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$ 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior | \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$ 250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member | \$1,000.00 or more |

Please make your cheque payable to: Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation
(Income Tax Receipts Will Be Issued for Donations of \$10.00 or more)

WE ALWAYS NEED YOUR SUPPORT:

I am pleased to support the BMWTF in their efforts to save the Silver Creek Wetland Complex.
My cheque is enclosed for \$ _____ for deposit to the Silver Creek Fund.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code _____
E-Mail _____

Please make your cheque payable to: Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation – Silver Creek Fund

Send To: BMWTF, P.O. Box 605, Collingwood, ON L9Y 4E8
Income Tax Receipts Will Be Issued for Donations of \$10.00 or more

Send to: BMWTF, P.O. Box 605, Collingwood, ON L9Y 4E8

