



# “THE WATERSHED” NEWS - FALL 2017

Published by Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation [www.watershedtrust.ca](http://www.watershedtrust.ca)

## MISSION STATEMENT:

### Preserve and Enhance the Blue Mountain Watershed Ecosystem

Founded in 1995, the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation (the Watershed Trust) is one of the leading environmental organizations in the Georgian Triangle region. We are an independent grass-roots organization and a Registered Charity. We are an all-volunteer organization supported by donations and fundraising. We currently have approximately 180 members and broad local support. For over 20 years, the Trust's volunteers have worked diligently and effectively to protect the Blue Mountain watershed ecosystem.

#### Follow Watershed Trust on social media:

Twitter: @BMWTCA

Facebook: /BMwatertrust

Instagram:

/bluemountainwatershed

P.O. Box 605, Collingwood, ON,

L9Y 4E8

705-445-0357

[info@watershedtrust.ca](mailto:info@watershedtrust.ca)

## WE RECEIVED A GIFT OF TREES

by Blanka Guyatt, member of the Watershed Trust Board and Watershed Action Group

Two years ago my cousin David Braun sent ten certificates for nine-foot tall red maple trees and sugar maple trees to the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust. He was impressed by the Watershed Trust's accomplishments and wanted to make an environmental contribution by donating trees to our area. I did not realize then how big and heavy the trees would be and how complicated the transportation from Ancaster would be but eventually, I got the



Above: The Blue Mountain Watershed Maple Trees newly planted at Bayview park in Thornbury

help I needed. It took me a whole year to find a home for these trees but what a home it is. The Town of the Blue Mountains Parks and Recreation department picked up the trees at my house in the Blue Mountains when they arrived from Southern Ontario, courtesy of Braun Nursery, on the long weekend of July 2016. They dropped off two trees that were spoken for by the Collingwood Chamber of Commerce to be planted in Collingwood and planted the eight remaining trees in the semicircle by the tennis courts at Bayview Park in Thornbury. The crew did a perfect job planting and watering the trees and they easily survived the heat wave of last summer. All trees took to their new home instantly and all of them came back in good health in the spring. Check out their 2017 size in the park for yourself. In a few years the trees will form a majestic maple allée and provide welcome shade in the park, a roost for birds and year-round beauty.

There is something comforting planting trees and watching them grow. Thank you Braun's Nursery for this great gift.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS



**Wednesday, November 29, 2017**  
**NEW VENUE: Youth Centre, 76 First Street, Collingwood, ON, L9Y 1A3**  
**4:00 p.m. Social Time- coffee and snacks**  
**4:30 p.m. Book Presentation by Mark Zelinski "Heart of Turtle Island: The Niagara Escarpment" (see article about this book on page 3.)**  
**5:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting**

## **SPEAKING UP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: WE OPPOSE THE DEVELOPMENT OF 70 MADELINE DRIVE BECAUSE THE PROPERTY IS IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY PROTECTED AREA, AND IN THE FLOODPLAIN OF TOWNLINE CREEK**

Townline Creek abuts the east side of the 70 Madeline Drive property and is representative of the numerous small Escarpment watercourses that discharge directly into Nottawasaga Bay along its south shore. For over ten years, the Trust, in association with the Grey Sauble and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authorities and for the past four years with Environment Canada, have helped to fund and have provided labour for assessing the impact development is having on Townline Creek. Compared to six other watercourses discharging into the Nottawasaga Bay, Townline Creek consistently demonstrates degraded water quality with

higher-than-average TP and TSS concentrations. A copy of the 2016 Assessment Report on Townline Creek has been provided to the Town and is on our website [www.watershedtrust.ca](http://www.watershedtrust.ca). It points out concerns with respect to continued development in the area over the past ten years. This report documents the negative impacts being created by development that need to be addressed to curtail this downward trend.

For this reason, the Watershed Trust has concerns with respect to the proposed service easement for 80 Madeline Drive passing through the 70 Madeline Drive property and the proposed new residential development on the 70 Madeline Drive property (Consent No. D10517 and Minor Variance No. D131417). Important to this discussion is the understanding that the site is zoned Environmental Protection (EP). Schedule "A" lands and new development and site alteration within this designation are not permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions.

### Re: Consent No. D10517

We understand the purpose of Consent No. D10517 is to provide a new easement for servicing purposes for the 80 Madeline property located east of the 70 Madeline Drive property and abutting Townline Creek. The easement is proposed to be 7.5 metres wide.

No information is provided with respect to what services are to be provided. The easement is within the floodplain of Townline Creek. The existing grades in many areas of the proposed easement are less than 178.00 GSCD, the 100-year flood elevation of Nottawasaga Bay. No site grading other than the existing grades are shown for the servicing easement to access 80 Madeline Drive or how services are to cross Townline Creek.

Based on the above, it is our position that Consent D10517 is incomplete and does not comply with the PPS, the Town's Official Plan and Zoning By-laws and should be denied.

Re: Minor Variance D131417

We understand the existing 112.3-square-metre, (legal, but non-conforming) cottage that is in the Environmental Protection zone is to be demolished and replaced by a new 288 square-metre, two-storey single detached dwelling with a 58-square-metre attached building constructed.

Townline Creek abuts the property on the east side. The width of the property is less than 30 metres in that location and the property is within or immediately adjacent to the Provincially Significant Silver Creek Wetland. On the north side of the site the property line fronts on Georgian Bay. The property is within the flood plain of Townline Creek. The existing grades in many areas of the site are less than the 100-year flood elevation of Nottawasaga Bay.

The 2014 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) states in 2.1 of the Natural Heritage section that natural heritage features shall be protected for the long term and makes specific reference to not permitting development in significant wetlands and significant coastal wetlands both of which apply to 70 Madeline Drive.

The proposed new residence requires the existing septic system to be abandoned and a new system is shown located within 10 metres of Townline Creek and in the floodplain. Site grading around the bed is not shown and is a concern.

Townline Creek presently supports fish habitat and fishery impact has not been addressed. The grades shown around the proposed new residence are proposed to be raised to 178.90 GSCD requiring significant filling of the site. The grades along the northerly property line fronting on Nottawasaga Bay are less than 177.70 GSDC and the setback is less than the 15 metres required in the Section 4.12 entitled Nottawasaga Bay Floodplain Provisions of the Town's Zoning By-Laws.

The existing cottage was constructed in the early 1950's. Its building envelope is 112 m<sup>2</sup> and, while presently considered a legal dwelling, was in place prior to the planning regulations being

enacted. The new building envelope is 309% larger than the existing dwelling.

Based on the above, it is our position that proposed Minor Variance D131417 cannot be considered in any way a minor variance and does not comply with the PPS, the Town's Official Plan and Zoning By-laws, and as such should be denied.

We asked that our concerns be acknowledged and a detailed response to our letter be provided as is now required by Bill 73 Amendments to the Planning Act.

**WE WERE ONE OF MANY SPONSORS OF *The Heart of Turtle Island: The Niagara Escarpment***

*By Blanka Guyatt, WT Board and WAG member*

*The Heart of Turtle Island* is a new book about the Niagara escarpment by photographer and artist Mark Zelinski. His diverse career as a professional photographer has taken him across 80 countries, with clients ranging from The National Film Board of Canada to Panasonic. He is also a publisher, writer, painter, filmmaker and winner of the Canadian Governor General's Medal.



Tobermory. He edited the number of photographs for the book to 400.

The book celebrates the environmental treasures of the Escarpment, the diverse indigenous and settler communities along its length and its geological and cultural significance.

Zelinski visited the same places over and over to get the best weather and the right light.

"To get a Jefferson salamander photo I had to go out with a flashlight on my head in the middle of the night, for three rainy, freezing nights. You only have a two-hour window when they are out of the pond and that is it."

Another challenge was dealing with crowds of people at various locations such as Webster's Falls. "A lot of these places have become very popular and they are threatened by overexposure," he said.

## **RESTORING OUR STREAMS: a land stewardship project in Clearview**

*By George Powell, WAG member*

At the invitation of Fred Dobbs of Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, members of Watershed Trust visited a stream restoration project Dobbs is managing on Lamont Creek in Clearview Township. This EcoPark, an innovative public green space, is being restored as an environmental classroom. The Township had the foresight to purchase the property on the 27/28 Side Road off Hwy 26, just north of Stayner.

Historically the creek has been degraded by many years of over-grazing and land-clearing. White cedars at one time protected the stream bank from erosion and were replaced by crack willow, an undesirable and invasive species. This non-native fast growing tree has large branches that break off and fall off into the Creek. The branches collect and eventually cause blockages in the stream resulting in small stagnant pools. During low flows, silts and clays can settle out upstream of these blockages. The result is sediment deposits in the gravel spawning areas and increasing water temperatures, both detrimental to the native fishery.

The goal of the project is to improve stream habitat so it can support the native fishery such as suckers and naturalized migrating Rainbow Trout, reduce stream temperature and improve overall stream water quality.

What we viewed was the construction of a floodplain comprising a series of shallow gravel



*Touring the EcoPark, from left, Don Kerr, Wendy Smeh, both Watershed Trust representatives, Fred Dobbs of NVCA and Carl Michener, Watershed Trust board member.*

beds in the stream called riffles. In these stretches the stream will be fast flowing and well aerated creating an ideal habitat for trout to spawn. As well, caddis flies and native mussels will be present all of which are desirable and point to a healthy and sustainable ecosystem.

The natural watercourse alignment has been maintained and the stream bank cut back and vegetated with native sod providing a floodplain shelf. At the interface of the stream and the shelf, fresh cut coniferous trees are anchored along the stream to help prevent streambank erosion. They will be left in place until native vegetation, 600 Woody and Sandbar willows and dogwood, is established. During wet weather periods when the creek can overflow, the floodplain shelf will help to reduce the intensity of the stream discharge.

In the floodplain shelf, mini wetlands provide habitat for amphibians. At the interface of the floodplain shelf and the present ground level, over 1000 native trees (maple, cedar and hemlock) are being planted to provide further erosion protection of the watercourse. The result will be a natural, aesthetically pleasing appearance to the watercourse.

The cost of this stream restoration project is estimated at \$90,000 not including the in-kind contribution of more than 100 Clearview student volunteers.

When completed, there will be interpretive signage at several locations and several large ponds will be good for viewing water fowl.

There are many potential candidate streams in the Blue Mountain Watershed that could benefit from this method of erosion protection. In areas where land bordering along the stream can be made available it is a preferred approach. This is an area the Trust will be investigating further with our two local Conservation Authorities.

## **WE HELPED SAVE WOODLOTS IN THORNBURY**

*By George Powell, WAG member, and Blanka Guyatt, Board and WAG member*

The residents of west Thornbury formed a group, the Harbour West Concerned Residents Group, to oppose a development in their neighbourhood. At the recommendation of Andrew Sorensen of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority they contacted the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust.

The proposed development, still at the design stage, involves a small parcel of land, 2.5 acres, owned by the Abbotts family and formerly known as the Maple Leaf Gravel Pit that operated between 1925 and 1965. It is not clear what is in the gravel pit now but after the gravel deposit had been excavated it became a pond that fluctuated with the ground water elevation. The closure of the pit needs to be investigated to determine what fill is there. Oil drums and car wrecks were seen being put there by residents.

A closed east west road allowance abuts the north side of the site and is the extension of Bay Street West. To the east the site borders on a north south closed road allowance, the extension of Victoria Street South. The developer wanted to purchase the closed road allowances to develop a combined site of about 4.2 acres.

The original proposal for development of the

Abbotts site was for 14 single-family residences on lots 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, more or less in keeping with the density of the existing neighborhood. With the addition of the road allowances the developer would increase the density to as many as 40 units. This high density worried the Harbor West Concerned Residents Group.

The road allowances form a cedar woodland and a small watercourse runs along the north side of the road allowance in a westerly direction to Lansdowne Street South, where it crosses the road and then flows north to Nottawasaga Bay.



*Since this photo was taken, the Abbotts site has been completely grubbed to the lot lines.*

Blanka Guyatt and George Powell met with the residents then arranged a meeting with the Town of Blue Mountain's Mayor and Director of Planning to discuss this proposed development. They indicated that no official applications had been submitted as yet and only exploratory meetings have been held. There has been no contact with the conservation authorities. The town investigated the issue and on September 11, 2017, the Mayor, John McKeen, announced that the unfinished roads will not be sold and will stay intact. The cedar woodlot may be too small to be considered a significant woodlot, but it represents a significant green space in the middle of the Town.

# SEE THE SALMON RUN

by Carl Michener

For the second year running, the Watershed Trust put on *See the Salmon Run*, our main yearly public outreach event, on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had a great turnout at the Foley property (at the intersection of Osler Bluff Road and 6<sup>th</sup> Street) under a scorching sun, with approximately double last year's attendance—about 550 people.



Event organizer, Carl Michener, left with Sonny Foley who not only provided the property but also helped set up tables and booths and chairs.



People arriving paid \$10 for an admission bracelet and could buy lunch and beer tickets at this booth. George Powell, far right, member of the Watershed Trust's Watershed Action Group, helps fasten a bracelet.

## A walk of discovery

The idea behind the event was to educate people of all ages about riparian conservation, the spawning habits of Chinook salmon and the value of healthy watercourses in general. The centrepiece of the event was a self-guided nature hike through the woods along Silver

Creek. Conservation experts from four organizations were stationed at points along the creek to answer questions and impart detailed information to one and all. A big thank you to participating organizations:

- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- Georgian Bay Anglers
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ontario Streams

As people walked, they could stop and learn. Children presented their 'Salmon Passports' and collected stickers for their books at each station.



Captain Tony R. Degasperis of Georgian Bay Anglers had fish models that children could handle. Each child was given a passport and collected six stickers, each representing a stage in the salmon's lifecycle.

## Fun for kids

In addition to the Salmon Passports, which kids completed with a final sticker and crayons back at the lunch tent, children enjoyed Elephant Thoughts' huge inflatable Chinook salmon, turtle



Children could roll in giant balls called zorbs, play in the giant salmon and bouncy castle, colour at the tables and learn about wetlands through interactive games.

and Gut Hut, giant inflatable balls to get inside and roll around in called zorbs, and interactive games and crafts courtesy of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's kids brigade. No child left the event bored!



*Even without the salmon, there were many things to learn about aquatic life. Children scooped water from the stream and analyzed it with experts from Ontario Streams.*

### **Gourmet lunch**

Men with Knives put on a great lunch, as they did the previous year, with Kolapore Springs Fish Hatchery trout on a bun, a FREE kids' lunch and local brews from the Collingwood Brewery.



*Lunch was Kolapore trout burgers or beef burgers, Caesar salad and cookies. There was no entrance fee for children and lunch was free for children too, subsidized by an entrance fee for adults.*

### **Here fishy fishy!**

Unfortunately, Mother Nature did not comply with an influx of sinuous swimmers. The only Chinook salmon that anyone saw were the stuffed specimens that Capt. Tony Degasperis of the Georgian Bay Anglers brought along to display. The salmon spawn in the cool damp

weather of late September but this day was over 30 degrees C and although the salmon had been running earlier in the week, on September 23, they were resting in deep pools in other parts of the stream. The hot, dry weather limited water flow in Silver Creek, and a large beaver dam at the mouth of the creek exacerbated the situation. Still, feedback was excellent.

### **You made it happen**

A big thank you to all who volunteered—we could not have done it without you! Volunteers included members of the Watershed Trust Board, the Watershed Action Group and others who came out to help for the day, earning themselves a year's membership in the Watershed Trust. See you all next fall!



*It was a perfect day for cooling off in the Silver Creek*



*Rebecca Ferguson of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority points out nymphs and other benthic invertebrates scooped up from the Creek.*

## **BE THE CHANGE OUR 10<sup>th</sup> year**



Once again, Blue Mountain Watershed Trust and Elephant Thoughts along with other community partners are presenting ***Be the Change*** Documentary Series of films about

our fragile ecosystem and what each of us can do to help. Ticket proceeds support Blue Mountain Watershed Trust and Elephant Thoughts.

The Venue: Simcoe Street Theatre. Two screening times: 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Healthy concessions Farm to Table, and Creemore Coffee are on site offering movie-goers fresh meals, snacks and beverages.

Tickets \$8 at the door or in advance on our website [www.bethechangefilmsseries.com](http://www.bethechangefilmsseries.com). \$5 for students; youth under 12 by donation and a booklet of tickets to all five films is \$40. Local musicians play from 6:45-7:15 p.m.

**November 15: *AN INCONVENIENT SEQUEL*:** A riveting and rousing follow-up to *An Inconvenient Truth* shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. Al Gore continues his tireless fight traveling around the world and influencing international climate policy.

**January 17: *LOOK AND SEE: A PORTRAIT OF WENDELL BERRY*** This film looks at society and our departure from farm life, farm values and nature, told through four seasons of the farming cycle.

**February 21: *ANGRY INUK*.** A new, tech-savvy generation of Inuit, challenges long-established perceptions of seal hunting.

**March 21: *COLLAPSE OF THE OCEANS*.** In the oceans the impacts of climate change are most profound and yet practically invisible.

## **WE ARE A VOICE FOR IMPROVING LEGISLATION FOR PROTECTION OF THE ECOSYSTEM**

*By Don Kerr, Board and WAG member*

Over the years, the Trust has been sending submissions to government commenting on ways to improve the legislation that we must operate under in order to better protect the ecosystem. Here are some recent examples: **October 16: Submission to Standing Committee on Social Policy re Bill 139**

Bill 139 has three parts: changes to the Ontario Municipal Board, the Planning Act and the Conservation Authorities Act. We submitted extensive comments on each part on July 26. There was a further request for comments by the Standing Committee and we submitted on October 16 as follows.

### **OMB Rules & Procedures:**

The rules should allow a status somewhere between the very costly Party status versus the powerless Participant status.

### **Amendments to Planning Act:**

In order to actually give communities a stronger voice, the municipal Official Plan must be given precedence over the PPS when the OP exceeds the environmental protection offered by section 2.1 of the PPS. This provision is particularly important for Settlement Areas and those regions that are not within the Growth Plan for GGH. This provision must be made explicit because the OMB currently considers the PPS to be the dominant rule hence limiting the municipal voice. This is particularly important because sensitive features identified in Natural Heritage System studies are not protected when the owner appeals to the OMB.

### **Conservation Authorities Act:**

We noted that some very important changes are still missing from the June 17 proposal.

1. A Land Securement Strategy is needed if we are to meet Ontario's commitment to the 2012 Ontario Biodiversity Strategy.
2. We recommend some improvements in Section 20(1) objects of the CA's.
3. We recommend that provincial funding be restored to former levels. For example, in our

local CA, the province provided 40% of funds in 1993 falling steadily to the current 7%. **This is crucial.**

4. A mandatory oath of office for CA Board members would avoid issues of conflict of interest.

### **October 6: Submission re Natural Heritage System Studies**

We noted that identified natural heritage features are not equally protected throughout Ontario. Currently, in designated Settlement Areas like Collingwood, the Planning Act and the PPS are the dominant legislation for environmental matters. Our experience with the OMB confirms this as a fact. So there is no real protection from appeals to the OMB for NHS-identified areas unless they are Provincially Significant areas. We have previously made submissions to correct this situation by allowing protection of NHS-identified areas in municipal Official Plans to go beyond the protection offered by the PPS.

If Ontario is sincere about protection of NHS areas, the level of protection must be increased in Settlement Areas and outside the GGH in legislation. One method of protection would be to explicitly provide for the Official Plans to have precedence over the PPS section 2.1 in cases where municipal protection is stronger.

### **September 26: Letter to Minister of Natural Resources**

In our submission re the proposed Conservation Authorities Act, we commented on the need for a Land Securement Strategy for Ontario so we can meet our commitment to protect at least 17 percent of our land under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. We stressed the need for a plan, with timelines, to develop an overall land protection strategy for Ontario involving the various conservation organizations and agencies. We request that a plan be developed under the auspices of the MNRF that brings together these groups so that our commitment to land protection will be realized. Without a coordinated plan, the target will not be met.

## **“Fight The Phrag!” On August 12, this summer, the crews were out working**

By George Powell, Watershed Action Group. Photos by Duncan Bristow, also of Watershed Action Group

This is the third year Watershed Trust has attacked invasive *Phragmites* along the Collingwood shoreline. Again this year we targeted the Eastern Fen, the wetland west of Sunset Point Park and east of Heritage Drive. There was re-growth in some areas previously cut in the Eastern Fen but one large stand in the middle of the wetland cut in 2016 was gone.



*Aquatic biologist Sara Finnimore and Fred Dobbs both of the NVCA led the cut in the Hen and Chickens area, public lands on the western side of the Harbour. Fifty volunteers helped out in this area.*

Watershed Trust along with Georgian Bay Forever provided funding for Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to organize and spearhead this year's program.

NVCA hired Sara Finnimore, an aquatic biologist to work on the cutting along with NVCA staffers Sarah Campbell and Fred Dobbs. Blanka Guyatt and George Powell were the Watershed Trust leaders and David Sweetnam, the GBF leader. Deb Doherty was the Collingwood Council member who helped cut on August 12<sup>th</sup> and was our contact with the Town of Collingwood. Wendy Martin of Parks was responsible for the pick-up by the Town.

*Phragmites*, with its long roots and runners, out-competes our native plants. It is a significant threat to our coastal wetlands and, if not stopped, will eventually constitute a dense monoculture seriously impacting the native vegetation.

Wildlife is impacted too as passage through the stands is very difficult for amphibians and reptiles and they are often found dead in the more dense stands which can have 200 stems per square metre. The water level this year was approximately 150mm higher than last year and cutting in knee-deep water was required in some areas.

Unfortunately we could not get permission to cut the stands on the privately owned water-lots behind the Provincial Courthouse and Sobey's in time for the August 12<sup>th</sup> cutting and had to confine our cut to the offshore stand in the wetland and the Minnesota Street road easement.



Bonnie Gibson, left, and Heather Powell lug the tarps loaded with cuttings from knee deep water to the drop off point on Heather Pathway for pick up by the town of Collingwood. At the landfill the cuttings will be buried. Composting is not permitted for fear of spreading the *Phragmites* seed

### **Cutting the Phrag on Osler Bluff Rd.**

Eric Willis, (WT board member) and his wife and son cut two areas in the ditches on Osler Bluff Road on August 11, 2017. He found a much bigger stand on the extension of Osler Bluff north of Mountain Rd. Where they cleared is not close to Silver Creek, but the ditches in the

area drain north either to Silver or Townline Creek where there are now significant stands.



NVCA's Dan Switzer uses a motorized cutter. Stands in some places were over 3 metres tall

### **Cutting Phrag in the Blue Mountains**

At Peasemash Beach in the Town of the Blue Mountains, Rebecca Ferguson and John Bittorf of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) with a crew of 10 people carried out the first cut of *Phragmites* done in that municipality. What Water Wants, (The Beaver River Watershed Initiative) contributed volunteers and purchased two motorized cutters for GSCA. Stella Presthus of the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation was our volunteer. The *Phragmites* was cut and piled but not removed. The cut area is about 1.5 acres and took the crew 40 hours to cut and pile.



Blanka Guyatt, above, uses long handled grass shears, that are the best tools where *Phragmites* has to be cut by hand. Long sleeve shirts and pants and work gloves prevent the *Phragmites* from cutting the skin. Hiking boots help in the uneven, rocky, muddy terrain.

## Where Do We Go From Here?

There needs to be continued monitoring. Large stands of *Phragmites* exist both in private and public lands and will continue to grow and spread. Efforts need to be made to prioritize and plan next year's cutting effort, which for certain will be necessary.



The photo above shows the very large stand of *Phragmites* located on the north side of Highway 26, east and west of Silver Creek. It is on both private and public lands. In the past the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has applied a herbicide in the ditches and while MTO is allowed to do this, the manufacturer's safety data sheets state for the product used, "HARMFUL to aquatic organisms. Avoid direct application to any body of water populated with fish."

Run-off from the ditches will find its way eventually into the wetland. During the critical period in late July and August, instead of herbicides, MTO could use power cutters in areas close to wetlands and harvest the cuttings so that regrowth is reduced.

## Growing in Black Ash Creek

There is a large stand of *Phragmites* in Black Ash Creek just north of the Mountain Road Bridge. Seeds are finding their way into Collingwood Harbour and stands are now appearing in the Harbour at the mouth of the creek and in the excavations at the Shipyards.

In the Harbour, in Silver Creek Wetland, in Black Ash and Townline Creeks there are stands that

will need to be taken out and those areas, cut this year, will need to be monitored to see the success of this year's cutting program. Unless a safe herbicide can be found, re-cutting will be necessary and it will take several years to make an impact.

We need higher level of public awareness of the issue. We need NVCA and GSCA to continue to champion and spearhead this activity and we need to find funding for them to do this,

## ***We need volunteers to help out.***

We had publicity this year in the Connection, Enterprise Bulletin, and the Peak FM. For whatever reason turnout of volunteers was not as high as we hoped for and turnout of organizations representing the Harbour water-users was very poor. The date of the cut conflicted with the Harbour Waterfront Festival and this is perhaps the reason that we did not have volunteers from the Harbour water-users. They did notify their membership.

In discussions with Councillor Doherty, if the Town's Weed Bylaw was amended to include *Phragmites* as a noxious weed, private property owners could be made to cut *Phragmites* on their property and this bylaw is something the Town is currently discussing.

On behalf of the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation, we thank all who volunteered for their efforts in this year's "Fight the Phrag" program.

## **MAYOR COOPER WANTS TO PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES**

Sandra Cooper was recently named to the Great Lakes Water Quality Board, a federal appointment. The Great Lakes Water Quality Control Board reports to the International Joint Commission. The board identifies emerging issues and recommends strategies and approaches for preventing and resolving the complex challenges facing the Great Lakes. It is the principal advisor to the IJC in reviewing and assessing progress in implementation of the



bi-national agreement for the Great Lakes. Cooper said she made an application to the board and will not be sitting on the group as mayor of Collingwood. Cooper is also

the vice chair of the Great Lakes and St.

Lawrence Cities Initiative, a group of mayors whose aims are to protect the Great Lakes.

***“The Watershed” News***

Published: Semi –Annually  
 Editor: Eleanor Ward  
 With Stephen Smith

**Contributors this issue:**

Blanka Guyatt, Don Kerr, Carl Michener, George Powell

[www.watershedtrust.ca](http://www.watershedtrust.ca)

**BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**Duncan Bristow** (Membership Secretary)  
 705-444-9708

[duncanbristow@outlook.com](mailto:duncanbristow@outlook.com)

**Blanka Guyatt**  
 705-293-0477

[blankaguyatt777@gmail.com](mailto:blankaguyatt777@gmail.com)

**Donald J. Kerr**  
 705-444-0847

[djkerr9@sympatico.ca](mailto:djkerr9@sympatico.ca)

**Carl Michener**  
 416-476-7484

[carlmichener@watershedtrust.ca](mailto:carlmichener@watershedtrust.ca)

**Eric Willis**  
 705-445-5414

[ewillis2010@gmail.com](mailto:ewillis2010@gmail.com)

**Norman Wingrove** (Past President & Treasurer)  
 705-445-0357

[normanwingrove@watershedtrust.ca](mailto:normanwingrove@watershedtrust.ca)



**BECOME A MEMBER OF WATERSHED TRUST**

HELP US PROTECT THE BLUE MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM

STUDENT \$10; INDIVIDUAL \$30; FAMILY \$45; SUPPORTING \$200;  
 PATRON \$500; LIFETIME \$2000 (one-time donation)

\$

**DIRECT YOUR CONTRIBUTION:**

- General Fund for operations and all projects
- Education Fund – for *Be The Change* film series and educational programs
- Silver Creek Fund – ongoing protection of the wetlands and creek

Mail cheques payable to Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation to P.O. Box 605, Collingwood, ON, L9Y 4E8.  
 Or pay via PalPal, at [www.watershedtrust.ca](http://www.watershedtrust.ca)  
 Membership and contributions are tax deductible

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send newsletters by mail  by email