



Celebrating our Forests June 2011

This newsletter provides information and updates on issues about Ontario's Conservation Authorities.

Conservation Authority Tree Planting Stats (2010)



- 3 million trees planted
- 2,000 ha of rural and urban lands planted
- Involved in 1,600 projects

Our forests are invaluable. According to the United Nations (UN), forests are home to 80% of our planet's terrestrial biodiversity, and are critical for the livelihood of over 1.6 billion people worldwide. These are just a few of the reasons why the UN General Assembly has decided to celebrate our forests by making 2011 the **International Year of Forests!** The UN's goal for this initiative is to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Conservation Authorities Protect and Manage Forests

Conservation Ontario encourages you to join us in celebrating our forests throughout 2011, and to learn more about the role Conservation Authorities play in preserving our forests.

Browse through the examples below to explore some of the ways that Conservation Authorities help to protect one of our most precious natural resources.

Celebrating the International Year of Forests

What better time to get outside and enjoy your local forests? Some Conservation Authorities are hosting International Year of Forests events!

Conservation Halton's IYF Celebration

At Conservation Halton, a number of special events have been planned to help highlight the importance of our forests, including an educational workshop about Old Growth Forests, and a Forest Festival Fun Day in October.



- \$4 million in grants given out
- 30% of projects are agricultural
- Involved in forest management planning on 85,512 ha of land

Get ready for
National Forest
Week!



September 18-24 2011
is National Forest Week!

National Forest Week is "a challenge to individual Canadians to learn more about their forest heritage and support greater recognition of this valuable resource". During this week, special events are promoted across Canada.

To learn more about National Forest Week, visit the [Natural Resources Canada website](#) or the [Canadian Forestry Association website](#).

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

[Click here](#) to view a full listing of Conservation Halton's IYF related events.

Long Point Region Conservation Authority's Fall Hike at Backus Woods



On October 8th, [Long Point Region Conservation Authority](#) is hosting a fall hike at Backus Heritage Conservation Area to celebrate the IYF. The guided hike will teach participants about the types of trees commonly found in the area and how they are important for the animals that call the forest home. This event is also part of [Trails Open 2011](#).

[Click here](#) for more information about this event.

Combating Climate Change...One Tree at a Time



Each year, Conservation Authorities from across the province engage watershed residents and community groups in local tree planting events and initiatives. In 2009, Conservation Authorities collaboratively planted 2.9 million trees, which accounts for about 70% of all trees planted in southern Ontario that year.

Conservation Authorities are also partners in [Trees](#)

Ontario's 50 Million Trees Program. The Ontario government has committed to plant 50 million trees by 2020 to help fight climate change and re-green the province.

Many Authorities also encourage watershed residents to participate by offering tax incentive programs, contests and challenges, as well as property reforestation and naturalization planting services. Afforestation services provided include tree/shrub planting, tree/shrub sales, site planning and planting, as well as site assessment and monitoring.

For more information about tree planting opportunities near you, contact [your local Conservation Authority](#).

Protecting Species at Risk

Conservation Authorities, landowners, and community groups are working together to improve, restore, and secure natural habitat for plant and animal species at risk.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Butternut Recovery Program



Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is working with the Forest Gene Conservation Association and the Ontario Butternut Recovery Team to build a strong butternut recovery program. Butternuts have been identified as endangered species, with butternut canker disease infecting more than 99 percent of all butternuts in eastern Ontario. As part of RVCA's recovery program, thousands of seeds are collected each year from healthy parent trees to produce 2000 seedlings that are then planted throughout eastern Ontario to replace dead or dying butternut. Since 2006, over 11,000 butternut seedlings have been planted.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Butternut Recovery Program.

[Click here](#) for more information about Conservation Authorities role in protecting species at risk.

Minimizing the Impact of Invasive Species

Conservation Authority staff assist landowners in preventing and managing the spread of invasive plant and insect species that can negatively impact forest health.

New Funding Available for Removing Invasive Tree Species



The Common Buckthorn tree is invading forests throughout southern Ontario, displacing native species and diminishing biodiversity of trees and plants. The Clean Water Program and the county of Oxford have partnered to begin removing this invasive species from local woodlots. [Upper Thames River Conservation Authority](#) staff have been treating the invasive trees throughout June, and will follow up in the Fall to ensure the Buckthorn is removed.

Landowners in Oxford County can apply to the Clean Water Program for a grant to cover up to 70% of the cost.

[Click here](#) for more information about this initiative.

A Wealth of Information Online

Many Conservation Authorities, such as [Credit Valley Conservation](#), have dedicated sections of their websites to invasive species resources such as lists of local invasives, fact sheets, tips for invasive free gardening, and info on who to contact for reporting and for help with invasive removal.

If you have questions or concerns about invasive species in your area, [contact your local Conservation Authority](#).

