



The Coves Newsletter

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A Publication of the Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc.

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A Message From the President

Most of you will already be aware of Allan Ralph's departure from the Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. Allan served our organization well from its inception up to his departure and it is understandable that he wishes to pursue other interests. Much was accomplished under Allan's leadership and we wish him well in all of his future endeavours. I'm sure that he will be keeping an eye on the future efforts of this organization as we grapple with the challenges of implementing the recommendations found in the Coves

Subwatershed Plan. The vision will remain the guiding beacon for all of our efforts in the foreseeable future.

We are most pleased that Ian Cousins, who was formerly with our Board, has chosen to return. He has made a valuable contribution in the past and we

... continued on page 4

Euston Park Naturalization



Photo courtesy of Ken McTaggart, Village News

Nan McIntyre (FOTCSI Director) Sally Goulart (Manor and Highland Park's Grade 3/4 teacher) with students Anita Ou and Alex Tremblay plant a green ash tree.

Schools of the Coves Subwatershed are planting the future of Euston Park tree by tree.

Through the rain and snow and sun of early November, students planted almost 600 native trees and shrubs to restore natural diversity and habitat to this former landfill site. The project engaged environmental stewards throughout the community, including local businesses (Tuckey Home Hardware, Valu-Mart Wortley Road, Kensal Rental Service Ltd., Springbank Garden Centre, McDonalds, Custom Cuisine Catering Ltd.), local schools (St. Martin, Victoria, Manor and Highland Park, Kensal Park, South Secondary, Westminster), the City of London, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, with funding provided by London Community Foundation. This strong community presence has transformed Euston Park into a space where people can come to appreciate nature.

Euston Park borders on the Coves Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). Planting trees and shrubs in this location will directly improve the health of the Coves' ponds by reducing erosion, increasing forest cover and habitat and by expanding the nature corridor. The naturalization of Euston Park is one of the first on-the-ground projects stemming from the recently completed Coves Subwatershed Plan. Species planted include green ash, red osier dogwood, sugar maple, American cranberry, black chokeberry, eastern cottonwood, serviceberry, basswood and elderberry.

What's Next ...

- o We will work with the City and other partners to develop a plan to control European buckthorn, a non-native invasive shrub.
- o Families and community groups are invited to participate in the spring planting that will take place in late April.
- o Participate in monitoring and maintaining the naturalization area. To visit Euston Park, turn west off of Wharncliffe onto Emery Street, left on Phyllis and left again on Rachel.

The Coves Newsletter

School children help prevent pollution from entering the Coves

In October, the Grade 3 and 4 students of Manor and Highland Park Public School and St. Martin Roman Catholic School painted yellow fish beside roadside

storm drains and distributed fish-shaped brochures to nearby households.

Through these actions, the students promoted the responsible disposal of household hazardous wastes.

The Friends of the Coves facilitated three in-class activities to help students understand how fish, wildlife and downstream drinking-water are impacted when household wastes such as used motor oil, chemical fertilizers from gardens, chlorinated pool water, paint, solvents, and soap from car washes go into our urban storm drain. The students also learned that water going down indoor drains is treated by municipal filtration systems, while pollutants making their way into roadside storm drains remain untreated and go directly into the Coves' ponds.

This project was delivered in partnership with the City of London. We gratefully acknowledge funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program). Thanks to Valu-Mart Wortley Road for contributing drinks to keep us all hydrated while we worked.

What's Next ...

- o Based on its success, we plan to expand this program and continue to mark storm drains throughout the Coves Subwatershed.
- o Call 661-4585 for more information about how to dispose of hazardous waste in the City of London.

Ode to Jo. - Josepha Michielsen.

What would we do without Jo,
 She sets to work without fanfare or show.
 Let's give up a cheer
 For a valued volunteer
 With efforts like hers we will grow.



Jo Michielsen, Friends of the Coves volunteer, helps students of St. Martin paint yellow fish on storm drain.

Water Quality Monitoring

Through a new partnership with Ridgetown College, we will begin an annual program to monitor water and sediment quality of the Coves ponds. Each year, students of the Advanced Environmental Monitoring class will take 5 samples of water and sediment from the Coves' ponds back to their new lab to test such things as metals, dissolved oxygen, pesticides, fertilizer residuals, chemicals, fecal contamination, nutrient and salt loads. This analysis would normally cost more than \$500 per sample!

What's Next ...

We are interested in partnering with other organizations and community members to expand the monitoring program to include such things as birds, frogs, bugs, and vegetation. Please contact the Friends of the Coves if you are interested in starting a monitoring program.

Board of Directors

Thom McClenaghan.....	Interim President	Nan McIntyre.....	Board Member
Ian Cousins.....	Board Member	Eric Shepherd.....	Secretary
Gary Kay.....	Board Member	Michael Watson.....	Treasurer

The Coves Newsletter

Voice your Support for the Coves Subwatershed Plan

The City of London will consider adopting the Coves Subwatershed Plan as a guideline document to the Official Plan. The public will have the opportunity to comment at a meeting tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2005. We are grateful to all of the groups and individuals that have shown their support for the plan to date. Old South Community Organization has gone so far as to adopt the plan as a primary reference document. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority has also endorsed the plan.

Let's make sure the City continues to receive a positive message about the need to adopt and implement a plan to protect and restore the ecological integrity of the Coves Subwatershed. Please contact the City to voice your support before the end of February:

Terry Grawey, Planner
City of London Planning Division
300 Dufferin Avenue, Post Office Box 5035
London, Ontario N6A 4L9

Tel: 661-4655
Fax: 661-5397
tgrawey@london.ca

Edward Street Storm Sewer Outfall

As anyone who drives through the Coves Subwatershed on Wharncliffe Road knows, there is change afoot near Elmwood Avenue. The construction on Elmwood Avenue is part of a new and bigger storm sewer that will be better equipped to accommodate runoff during storm events. At the end of Elmwood Avenue, west of Wharncliffe, the storm sewer will travel

into the ravine and the waters will be emptied into the Coves ponds through an outfall structure that will replace the existing one. This will mean a big change in the ravine area, including some filling of the ravine bottom to stabilize slopes. It will also require the City to gain ownership of the land in the ravine and the streambed of the Coves' ponds. To this end, the City is negotiating to

gain ownership of these lands in exchange for Crown lands that were filled in to the south and east of the German Canadian Club (the former stream bed). For further information, to comment or to discuss the submission from the Friends of the Coves to the City on this issue please contact our office.

Thanks to our Supporters!

Ontario Trillium Foundation
Human Resources and
Skills Development Canada
London Community Foundation
Upper Thames River
Conservation Authority
City of London
Ministry of Natural Resources
Fred Landon Branch,
London Public Library
Old South Community Organization
Valu-Mart Wortley Road
Tuckey Home Hardware



Springbank Garden Centre
Kensal Renal Services Ltd.
McDonalds Restaurants
Custom Cuisine Catering Ltd.
Echidna Solutions Corp.
Ridgetown College
Manor and Highland Park
St. Martin Roman Catholic School
Victoria Public School
Kensal Park French Immersion
Westminster High school
South Secondary High School

Thanks to a grant from the Latornell Conservation Symposium Grant, staff from the Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. were able to attend the Latornell Conference. The theme of the conference was Stewardship: From Strategies to Action. A second grant from the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund, sent staff to a Grassroots Symposium. At each conference we gathered valuable information about conservation programs and implementation techniques.

The Coves Newsletter

President's Message ...continued from page 1

are quite looking forward to working with him again.

We are currently in discussions with the City and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority with respect to the use of \$100,000 which the City budgeted toward environmental improvement within the Coves Subwatershed. Some may recall that the diversion of the storm water from the widening of Springbank Drive to the

west pond resulted in almost a million dollars in savings to the cost of that project.

The presentation of the Coves Subwatershed Plan to a joint meeting of the Planning Committee and the Environment and Transportation Committee of City Council is scheduled for February 28 and we are looking forward to the opportunity to receive public input. Finally, the design for the

Edward Street Storm Sewer outfall structure and related land acquisition will hopefully be resolved.

There are a number of other projects "in the works" as well, more about them later.

Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to wish all of you the best for 2005.

Every Action Helps

Here are two things you can do this winter to contribute to the health of the ponds:

- o Instead of buying salt this winter, use sand, cat litter or calcium magnesium acetate (available at Canadian Tire). Road salt is harmful to many plants and animals. Keep your walk and driveway shoveled.
- o Take a trip to the W12A Landfill (3502 Manning Drive) to properly dispose of hazardous wastes such as batteries, cleaners, paint, turpentine, aspirin and other pharmaceuticals. Let a neighbour know you can take there hazardous wastes too! It's free. Go south on Wellington, past the 401, turn right on Manning Drive. Call 661-4585 for more information.

What a Waste!

Landowners in the Coves area have complained about pet waste on their property. The trails in the Coves area are privately owned. Pet pooh is a major source of bacteria in urban waterways. Please respect local landowners, the people who walk in the Coves and the ponds themselves. Be sure to pick up after pets!

I want to show my support for the Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc.

A tax-deductible receipt will be issued for membership or donations.

Please send in or drop off your membership form to the Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc Office

FRIENDS OF THE COVES SUBWATERSHED INC.
333-C Wharnclyffe Road S, London, Ontario, N6J 2L9

Membership Fees

Individual Membership (18 and over) \$10.00

Family Membership \$15.00

Donations

Donation \$

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____