

Naturally !!



GAMIING

Centre for Sustainable Lakeshore Living

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Message from the President Marjorie Lafreniere

The year 2004 is gone. It is a time for reflection about what was, and planning for what is to come. At GAMIING, it has been a most challenging year. We had to say "goodbye" to *old* Board members and welcome *new* ones.

Eileen Longueville, vice-chair since the beginning, Sandy Carrothers, Jo Hayward Haines, all are pursuing other endeavours. We wish them well and certainly are grateful for the time and energy they have given to get GAMIING off the ground.

A warm welcome to Ruth Martin, Lisa De-florio, Walter Bartolemeu, John Bird, Linda Reid, Linda Trott and Graham Dudley. All bring incredible skills, experience and connections with them, so necessary now that we are entering a new phase with new challenges.

It has been a year in which we saw the

the Nursery and Greenhouse grow and expand under the management of the talented Joe Bennett, tree and shrub grower extra-ordinaire. Paul Barnard continues to refine the curriculum he developed for the Eco-Guardian Program, the Summer Day Camps and the school groups who come to GAMIING for their outdoor education programs.

He also maintains the 10 km of trails. The Natural Drainage System, designed by Eric Fields has been completed with funding from Wetland Habitat. The Bio-Filtration System, also designed by Eric is in the last phase of completion.

A three year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation allowed us to build boardwalks on the trails where necessary, purchase an all terrain wheelchair and a trail guide sound system to make the interpretive guided tours a pleasure for all members of groups. We are grateful to Trillium for their continued interest in GAMIING.

Fleming's Credit for Product Students at GAMIING

By Paul Barnard, EM Technologist

It's been a very productive year, thanks in part to GAMIING's connection with Fleming College and the Ecosystem Management Technology's 3rd year "Credit for Product" course.

Working in small teams, the EM students complete a specific project for an agency under the guidance of an EM faculty member and a representative of the agency. For the students, this enhances their acquired skills and provides opportunities of networking as well as some valuable real world exposure. A major portion (two credits) of their semester's studies is devoted to this course. We were very fortunate this past year to have had two such Credit for Product (C4P) groups.

The first group (consisting of EM students John Jefferies, Andrea Martucci and Tammy Patton) had the task of developing a proposal that focused on the creation of a four-panel *interpretive trail guide* brochure and also to create *four interpretive signs*, that will be placed along the trail system. The brochure was created to provide those who wish to walk the trail on their own with a trail map which shows *points of interest* to keep an eye out for and also some *informative facts* about the area and it's *flora and fauna*. The other part of their project was to create *four interpretive trail signs* for some of the aforementioned points of interest along the trails. Working with GAMIING, the group came up with signs that focused

on *wetlands, woodpeckers, poison ivy and terrestrial habitats*. These signs are just the first of what we at GAMIING hope to be many informative and interpretive signage to be placed along the trail system for the purpose of self learning over the course of the upcoming year.



Our second group (consisting of EM students Amy Stasiuk, Katie Turnbull and Ann Yungblut) had the task of creating a report that provided us with *updated data on our flora and fauna inventory* out at GAMIING. Working with GAMIING's Joe Bennett, Eco Systems Management Technician and manager of the Nursery and Greenhouse, the group spent a lot of time in the field marking, collecting, observing and identifying flora and fauna species. In addition to the compiling and collection of this data the group went above and beyond and also created three *educational interpretive brochures* for the public to use. From the data they created a *flora checklist brochure*, a *fauna checklist brochure* and a *beginner's flora and fauna trail guide*. These checklists allow the public to keep track themselves of flora and fauna they witness out here at GAMIING.

The goal of the group in creating these brochures was to inform those who visit GAMING about maintaining healthy diverse habitats and to expand their awareness and understanding through identifying species along the trails. These brochures, in addition to being used by the general public, will be used with school groups and during our summer day camp programs to encourage awareness and respect for our surroundings.

To both C4P groups, we would like to express our gratitude on an exceptional job and we wish them all the best in their studies

Gaming Nursery Update

By Joe Bennett, Eco-System Management Technician and Manager of the Nursery and Greenhouse

The year 2004 saw the establishment and growth of the nursery. Looking back on a humble beginning when I first viewed the nursery some years ago (a few trees and shrubs hidden in a field of overgrown grasses and wildflowers) it is encouraging to see the progress that has taken place. With thanks to some companies (Brookdale Treeland Nurseries, Grow Wild Nursery and Kobes Nursery) for the supplies of grow trays, pots and native stock, and some very dedicated individuals (Mieke Schipper, Paul Barnard and Eric Fields) for their hard work and dedication, you can see the beginnings of a small native plants nursery taking shape.

First off was the establishment and maintenance of the grow beds and gardens to grow and show the many different varieties and uses for native plants. A natural drainage system and ponds were

created to help drain the field, retain the water and show some techniques for erosion control, and construction began on the rainwater barrel collection systems for the different gardens. This project will be carried on in the spring (volunteers anyone?) As with any farming operation water management will be an issue. We also saw the production of cuttings and seedlings of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers for use in shoreline restorations, erosion control, specimen plantings or flower garden additions. As we are just getting the nursery underway it was important to establish our own seed and cuttings source here at Gaming. Therefore different shrubs, trees and wildflowers were planted throughout the property to supply seeds, or act as mother plants



WHITE FLOWERING RASPBERRY

(cuttings source). The hope here is to establish or re-establish plants that used to be here or should be here, either along the trails or in the 3.5 acre demonstration site/nursery (can you find and identify them?).

It is also a time to look forward and in 2005 the hope is to have all the rainwater barrel collection systems up and running and the lathe house and mist irrigation system for cuttings in place.



Butterfly, xeriscape, dry and wet edible plant gardens, as well as a vegetable garden (all organic, including the nursery) will again be planted and maintained,

With the nursery taking shape and producing now we hope to be able to better serve our customers and members, organizations, clubs or groups with their native plant needs or restoration projects. 2005 will also see our members receive a 10% discount on all regular priced plants purchased.

In closing I would again like to thank all companies, volunteers and members for their continued support and look forward to continued interests, association and business with Gamiing. Anyone wishing to volunteer some time, expertise or know-how to any of the projects aforementioned or help in trail/boardwalk maintenance or construction can e-mail either Joe Bennett or Paul Barnard at gamiingcentre@bellnet.ca. to inquire about ongoing or planned projects. Again, thanks for the support and we look forward to see you all enjoying the trails, sights and sounds of Gamiing.

LAKESHORE CONSULTATION



"Till taught by pain, Men really know not what good water is worth"
Lord Byron

What GAMIING can do for you

As a Centre for Sustainable Lakeshore Living, the mandate of GAMIING is twofold:

to provide services and to provide programs .

The services GAMIING provides are

- Full complement of organic garden, lawn and tree services
- Environmentally sound planning and (re) design of your property;
- Lakeshore naturalizations and/or rehabilitation;
- Erosion control of shoreline, stream and pond.
- Demonstration sites

The programs GAMIING provides are all inherently educational:

- Workshops tailor made to your group's needs;
- Eco-Guardian Educational programs for schools, community groups and individuals;
- Outdoor survival training
- Alternative energy-efficient construction techniques training;
- Presentations to schools, community groups and other interested parties;
- "Naturally for Kids" summer day camps.

For these services and programs a fee is charged to cover our costs.

Our Eco-Guardians

By Paul Barnard

As part of our Eco-Guardian Education Program, in addition to school visits there are also two week long summer day camps. In July and August, the 2nd year of GAMIING's Summer Day Camps were held. Each Summer Day Camps were five days long with each day focusing on a specific topic or theme of the day. Themes included "Wildlife is Every where", "Exploring Habitats", "Wetland Exploration Day", "Animal Tracking and Survival Skills" and we finished off the week with a "Play and Art of the camp Day" which had the children leading their parents around and teaching them all about what they have learned.

Our August Camp also saw us make the local newscast with Chex Television's Teresa Kazuba on Newswatch @ 5:30. Teresa came out during our August camp to learn about GAMIING and what we are doing with our Eco-Guardian Education Program. The children did an excellent job when they took up the teacher's position and lead Teresa around the trail system teaching her all about habitat types, edible plants, how to identify poison ivy, project tadpole rescue as well as showing her how to build different types of temporary shelters. Our thanks to Teresa for making the day such a highlight for the kids, as they all rushed home to see themselves on television.

Our Eco-Guardian Education Program this past year also saw the enthusiastic faces of the group from Hawk House and also from

the grade threes from Dr. George Hall Public School.

Both groups learned about what it is to be an Eco-Guardian, their place in nature and to be aware of their surroundings that they share with other forms of life, be it plant or animal. The Hawk House group has "adopted" a garden on the property, which they intend to turn into a butterfly/hummingbird garden and plans to utilize it as a learning station are underway. Planting began in the fall by the group and more is scheduled for the upcoming year.



The Eco-Guardian Education Program is a learning experience for children as well as the parents/teachers and the staff and adult community groups at GAMIING. Through sharing our knowledge with each other, the hope for the future of the environment looks very promising.

-Education is the key to unlocking the door to tomorrow's "living in harmony with nature" today.

Director's Corner

By Mieke Schipper,
Volunteer Executive Director

In the previous pages you have been able to read about the many activities that take place at GAMIING.

True to our roots (the Pigeon Lake Environmental Association) we continue to be actively involved in water testing with the Kawartha Lakes Water Stewards and Kawartha Protect Our Waters, in working towards sustainable development (isn't that an oxymoron?) on the lakes by Board memberships of the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee and Trent Severn Waterway.

Joe and Paul are connected with many organizations for mutual support, exchange of ideas and knowledge via our website and e-mailing lists.

My main focus for the year 2005 is working together with the financial and fundraising committees to keep GAMIING in a healthy financial position.

For 2005 our fundraising purpose is to establish an operating fund that will enable us to sustain what has been started and what has grown exponentially: the lakeshore consultations, the nursery,

the trails & the educational programs. In order to achieve this, we need to expand our memberships, create a core group of donors and sponsors and organize fundraising events.

We are not the only organization who is trying to accomplish that. There are many worthwhile causes who are fighting for the same dollar.

For members who are paying their membership by the first of the year, there is a membership renewal card enclosed. All other members will receive a renewal request when their membership is due. (We have a fancy tracking system).

Enclosed is a donor card. Besides your annual membership of \$25.00 or \$45.00 we are urging you to become a donor. We need you and your support. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 this year and we will get there with your help. Our heartfelt thanks.



Ski/snowshoe trails at GAMIING
December 28, 2004



GAMIING

Centre for Sustainable Lakeshore Living Inc.
1884 Pigeon Lake Road, Lindsay ON, K9V 4R5
705-799-7083 info@gamiing.org

Produced entirely at GAMIING by
GAMIING's Board, staff and
volunteers