



Greetings from.....

VOLUME TWENTY FOUR

MARCH 1999

PLEA EXECUTIVE

President: Mieke Schipper

Vice President: Bev Watson

Director: Jessie Gordon

Secretary: Sylvia Robertson

Director: Bruce Robertson

Director: Gail Taylor

President's Message

by Mieke Schipper

First of all, two apologies:
Some of you sent a cheque for your membership renewal in October and found that it was not cashed until February. The changes on the Board during the fall of '98 also meant changes to a variety of procedures and that did not go smoothly. Our sincere apology for the inconvenience. Those of you who ordered a laminated map of Pigeon Lake still have not received one. They have been so popular that we had to go back to our supplier and had more maps laminated. Please be patient. The maps will be sent before the fishing season starts. However, an apology is due for the long wait.

Bev Watson and I attended the public meeting called to vote on a motion for dissolution of the Conservation Authority. A heartwarming victorious evening for the environment with approximately 400 in attendance. Twenty five speakers in total, with twenty who spoke eloquently on behalf of a cottage association, rate payers group or as concerned individuals. The KRCA took to heart suggestions that were made to improve the budget process. In the final vote, it was only one municipality that voted for the dissolution of the Authority. Your Board is now able to continue to work together with the KRCA on various projects related to our lake environment. Further in the Newsletter a letter from past president Dan Kennaley to the editor of local newspapers about the KRCA is reprinted.

At the Board meeting of March 25, 1999 it was decided to confirm our membership renewal time as September of each year

and the annual financial statement released in April. An ongoing discussion is held about the timing of the Annual General Meeting. We will keep you up to date.

Lindsay This Week, Tuesday March 9, 1999

Letter to the editor by Dan Kennaley,
past president of PLEA

To the editor:

I must strongly disagree with several points and with the overall conclusions made by Doug Hindson in his letter of January 15 concerning Kawartha Conservation and environmental organizations. I must also express growing concern with the property rights organization that Mr. Hindson apparently represents.

Mr. Hindson says that there is something wrong with the majority of the Kawartha Conservation's funding going toward managerial and administrative salaries rather than field service. I disagree.

Resource management in Ontario has undergone considerable change since the election of the present government.

Cutbacks to the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and the provincial Ministry of the Environment and to Kawartha Conservation have forced these organizations to do things differently and adapt their programs to the changed situation. One of the adaptations that has occurred is that increasingly these organizations facilitate fieldwork by volunteer groups like the Pigeon Lake Environmental Association and the Kawartha Fisheries Association. The provincial ministries and the Kawartha Conservation provide technical expertise while the physical work is carried out by volunteers. Kawartha Conservation has risen to the challenge and taken on tasks or is trying to take on tasks that were being abandoned by the provincial ministries. Tasks like water quality monitoring, environmental commenting within the land use planning process and

The organization of the Kawartha Lakes Environment Day is progressing well. Keep your eyes open for ads in the press. evaluation of the impact of development on fisheries resources. And Kawartha Conservation does so much else too; from

supporting eco-tourism and recreation by making its properties available for such use to cooperating in the provision of educational opportunities in the community. Concern for property rights must be balanced against realization that people are capable of doing things on their own property that have negative consequences for their neighbours. Individual stewardship is fine to a point, and the Kawartha Conservation is involved in encouraging good stewardship of natural resources. But we are living in a fool's paradise if we think that people will always do the right thing and that we don't need the police to enforce our traffic laws and Kawartha Conservation to enforce environmental laws for which they are responsible.

Mr. Hindson says there is something wrong with the new powers granted by the Province to Ontario's conservation authorities which allow them to enter people's property to inspect. I disagree. If someone has dumped fill in a flood plain or build illegally there, then the conservation authorities must be able to enter the property to determine if laws have been broken. For Mr. Hindson to suggest that organizations that possess such powers "*should be voted out of existence*" is ridiculous. However, for Mr. Hindson to suggest that people who support such organizations "*should be viewed as statists willing to engage forceful means to make us comply with their dictates*" is nothing short of repugnant. If I hold a different view than Mr. Hindson of the property balance of property rights and regulation of property

rights, I do not appreciate being incorrectly labelled a “statist”. If I acknowledge what is patently obvious, that natural systems such as watersheds cross municipal boundaries, I

Lakeshore Naturalization

by Sally Renwick

In the previous Newsletter Sally talked about the lake processes, aquatic plants, physical alterations and problems with traditional landscaping. In this issue, as promised, the “**how to’s**” are being considered.

Shoreline naturalization is possible by following a six step process:

- Creating a base map
- Considering design principles
- Determining objectives
- Developing the plan
- Selecting plant species
- Implementation

Keep in mind that naturalization is an ongoing process. It takes time and trial and error, so start small, it is very rewarding. Talk with people, visit gardens or natural areas or read about how to naturalize. There are people and organizations with the same interest as you have and who can serve as a valuable resource.

The creation of a **base map** is a key stage in developing a restoration strategy because it lays the framework for setting objectives and developing a plan. This map is basically a bird’s eye view of the property and should be drawn to scale. The creation of the base map considers the existing features of the property and involves a site inventory. It may also consider the property in relation to the adjacent land uses in order to link natural features and avoid fragmentation, or provide buffers.

The features of the site that are to be mapped can be divided into two main components: the biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living). These features are key to what

do not appreciate being called part of some diabolic international socialist conspiracy.

species will grow at a given location and to the ecological purposes that may be served. Identifying the abiotic components involves taking an inventory, while identifying the living components requires some analysis. Sometimes these features overlap, while at other times there may be features such as cultural components that don’t fit into either of these categories.

A base map could include physical structures, pavement, walkways, views and sight lines, topography, slopes, drainage, microclimates (sun, shade, wind) and soil (depth, type, fertility). The base map may also note habitat types such as shorelines, grassland, woodland, weedbed, feeding areas and native species.

The **planning and designing** of natural landscaping should incorporate some fundamental concepts. These include respecting ecological processes and considering aesthetic values and the wise use of space.

Respecting ecological processes means that the landscape design should work with nature. Such processes include wave action at the shore, nutrient cycling and water recharge and recycling. Vegetation may already be controlling erosion or stabilizing the landscape and should not be disturbed. Vegetation may also act as a windbreak or provide shade and privacy screening.

An aesthetically pleasing landscape is one that can be enjoyed and creates a positive attitude towards the natural world. Although the aesthetics of an area express the tastes of the designer, there are some basic considerations that must be made and some concepts that should be incorporated.

The design should not be limited in time or space. Think about what the garden will look like throughout the seasons and as the species grow bigger. Think of when flowers Also consider form in the design. Group vegetation or plant communities together so that they create favourable conditions for each other and also so that they look right. Balance them in space with taller plants in the background and incorporate trees shrubs and ground covers.

The use of space should accommodate use. Paths serve a purpose and look welcoming. They should be constructed of natural materials such as cedar rather than treated products that may leach into the water. At the shoreline paths can minimize impacts to the lake by limiting access to a small area. You may also want to create a focal point such as a view of the lake.

Determining your restoration objectives is a key element in achieving a naturalized landscape. These objectives should reflect the characteristics of the site as well as your desired outcome. Make sure that your objectives are realistic and that they focus on areas that are of greatest environmental concern. You may have one or more objectives and they may be intended to take place over a long or short period of time. The following is a list of potential objectives:

- Improvement or creation of habitat (aquatic or terrestrial)
- Creating areas to view wildlife and provide food sources.
- Enhancing water quality.
- Creating a low maintenance self-sustaining landscape.
- Improvement of aesthetic qualities, including view of the lake.
- Increase biodiversity
- Improve self-sufficiency with composting, food production, rain barrels for water collection.

or flowering shrubs will be in bloom and what colour you would like to see in your garden or along your shoreline.

Once you have determined your objectives you must decide how they may be achieved.

This can be accomplished by **creating a plan**.

Consider the options available. They may include bio-engineering or the placement and selection of native vegetation and buffers at the shore.

Using the base map and creating a series of overlays can help produce the plan. Start small and remember to protect natural features and incorporate design principles into your plan. On your map you should begin by outlining which areas are to be protected and which are to be enhanced, as well as human uses that must be accommodated. From this you can decide on an overall strategy and determine the techniques to be used.

Once the naturalization plan has been completed the **species to be planted should be selected**. It is important to select species that are suited to the climate and microclimate of the site. Site factors to take into account include soil type, amount of shade, climate and amount of traffic (MOEE, 1990c.) Species factors to take into account include growth habit, moisture and sun requirements, competitiveness, height and season of growth and/or flowering. The selection of native plant species not only benefit the environment but it can also save time and money. Native plants are heartier because they are adapted to the local conditions. This is where they grow naturally. Plants available from the nearby garden centres may not be suitable for your property.

Once established, native species generally require less pesticides, fertilizers, watering and even maintenance than conventional

species. By minimizing the use of pesticides and fertilizers native landscapes can also help to prevent the degradation of water quality.

Kawartha Ecosystem Action Initiative

by Mieke Schipper

The idea for a collaboration of environmental groups in the Kawartha's was spawned by Curve Lake First Nations and The Trent Severn Waterway.

They recognized that individual efforts to protect water were intrically linked to the decisions of other communities and agencies.

The ecosystem had to be managed in cooperation with others through collaborative action.

They concluded further that due to government downsizing and cutbacks, they and other agencies do not have the range of resources and powers to develop and implement a comprehensive ecosystem management program.

Collaborative action avoids duplication of effort and ensures actions are coordinated and directed towards mutually agreed goals. The kinds of resource management problems endemic in a bio-region as complex as the Kawartha's cannot be tackled by agencies and organizations working alone.

The process was initiated in the fall of 1997. Three PLEA Board members, Gillian McCleary, Bev Watson and Bruce Robertson participated from the beginning and participated in the working groups:

- Decline in naturalized shoreline
- Water quality decline
- Loss of habitat
- Disruption of Natural Hydrology
- Implementation.

Next issue: **Implementation** of and Approaches to: installing and maintaining a natural lawn, vegetation and buffers, bioengineering and erosion control.

Recently the group came back together with many new participants. The presentations were very worthwhile.

Tony Kenny spoke about the Prairie Grass Restoration Project. Lori Waldbrook of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism reported on the Spirit Walk Initiative. Cathy Dueck of the Friends of the Trent Severn Waterway showed slides, including Pigeon Lake, taken during her quest for the Re-naturalization Initiative. Phred Collins of Association of the Stoney Lake Cottagers showed a Web based Stoney Lake Catalogue.

The possibilities for networking with organizations with similar objectives is truly wonderful.

Weed killers

Gail Taylor is actively involved in education of the harmful effects of weedkillers. She knows this from personal experience. Her resolve was strengthened when the following article appeared in the Globe and Mail on December 19, 1998:

"Weedkiller in Parks banned by council. Toronto has decided to end herbicide use in its parks, playgrounds and roadsides, making the city one of the largest jurisdictions in Canada to stop the routine spraying of its properties to kill weeds. The city uses about 4000 litres of liquid herbicides and 700 kilograms of dry herbicides a year.

The ban, approved by city council Thursday night, starts in the 1999 growing season. Herbicides use on city owned bowling greens and golf courses will be phased out. "City council has taken a courageous step to protect residents of Toronto from

dangerous chemicals” said Janet May of the Toronto Environmental Alliance.”

Library:

A video tape of a TVO broadcast about PLEA and the work it does has resurfaced and is added to our library.

Contact Bev Watson, 705-657-1911 if you wish to borrow any resource.