



Etobicoke and Mimico  
Creeks

# CreekTime

The newsletter of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds

Spring 2004

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## GREENING SNELGROVE! NEW COMMUNITY ACTION AREA LAUNCHED

On Saturday, November 22, 2003, over 130 people came out to Etobicoke Creek in northern Brampton to launch a four-year regeneration partnership between Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel. As a first step in making the valley a healthier place for wildlife, the dedicated group planted 700 native trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter for migratory and resident songbirds. Future activities will include planting trees along the banks of the creek, creating forest patches and building habitat features such as bird nesting boxes and a snake hibernaculum. We extend our thanks to Scouts Canada Brampton District for being such strong supporters of our environmental projects. To learn about the next event, contact Kristin Geater at (416) 661-6600, extension 5667.



▲ Launching the Greening of Snelgrove with CAO Brian Denney of TRCA, Brampton Councillor Grant Gibson, Peel Regional Councillor Elaine Moore, Scouts Canada Brampton Area Commissioner Frank Brown, MPP Brampton Centre Linda Jeffrey and TRCA Watershed Specialist Chandra Sharma.

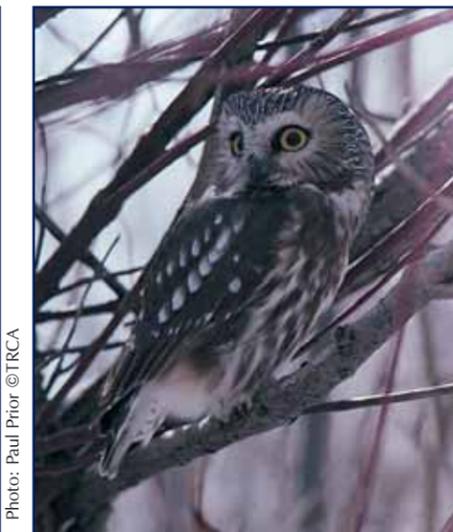


## IT'S ALL FOR THE BIRDS!

The 700 trees and shrubs that were planted in Snelgrove on November 22 included dogwoods, elderberry, cranberry, nanny berry and service berry, all of which provide berries for birds to eat; evergreens such as cedar and spruce to provide roosting places and shelter; and deciduous trees such as ash and aspen that host delicious insects (tasty to a bird, anyway!). These plants are all critical for birds that are migrating through southern Ontario during the fall. As our cities expand and our valleys are increasingly used for recreational purposes, there is less and less food and shelter available to birds on their way south. To get involved in regeneration projects, contact Kristin Geater at 416-661-6600, extension 5667, or email [kgeater@trca.on.ca](mailto:kgeater@trca.on.ca)



▲ Blue headed vireo

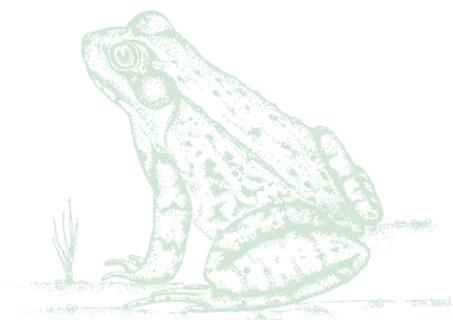


▲ Sawwhet owl

Photo: Paul Prior © TRCA

## DEXTER THE TREE PLANTING DOG!

Dexter was on hand to dig some holes, and when his master wasn't digging quickly enough, he tried to finish the job himself. It's rumoured that he helped to plant 17 trees, but digging, and not planting, was what he enjoyed most!



Photography by Rosemary Hasner © Toronto and Region Conservation (unless otherwise noted).

## ETOBICOKE AND MIMICO CREEK WATERSHEDS COALITION HAS A GREAT YEAR!

The Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition is a community-based group that includes watershed residents, elected representatives, municipal and provincial agency representatives, community groups and businesses. The Coalition is responsible for implementing the *Greening Our Watersheds* strategy document, achieving its targets and producing a report card. The goals of the Coalition are to improve water quality, reduce stormwater flow, restore aquatic and terrestrial habitat, improve recreational opportunities and provide environmental education. In 2003, over 10,755 people were involved in 36 events and activities within the watersheds. The Coalition contributed to the completion of the following actions and activities:

- Hundreds of bags of garbage were removed from the valleys during clean-up events
- 1,710 square metres (271 linear metres) of riparian zone or stream-side buffers were restored within the creeks
- One hectare of upland habitat patches were restored through volunteer planting
- 3,497 native trees and shrubs were planted
- 2,000 native aquatic plants were established in a shoreline restoration project
- 300 sand dune plants were established
- Fifty different native species of trees, shrubs, sand dune and aquatics were planted, promoting regional biodiversity within the creeks
- 300 xeriscape plants were distributed in a water conservation gardening campaign
- An osprey nesting platform was installed at Heart Lake
- Hundreds of yellow fish road program plates were affixed to storm sewers
- Four community action areas (CAAs) and associated stewardship groups were officially launched (Heart Lake, South Mimico, Malton and Snelgrove)

CreekTime congratulates the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition on a productive first year, and looks forward to reporting on their future accomplishments!

To learn more about the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition or to get involved, call Chandra Sharma at (416) 661-6600, extension 5237.



▲ Yellow Fish Road Program



▲ The coalition encouraging water conservation gardening through native plantings.



▲ Restoring the Heart Lake shoreline



▲ Establishing the sand dune ecosystem



▲ Planting native white water lilies with municipal, regional, provincial and federal partners.

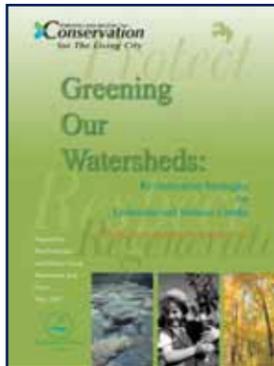


▲ Releasing rainbow trout

# ACROSS THE WATERSHEDS

## GREENING OUR WATERSHEDS WINS AWARD!

*Greening Our Watersheds: Revitalization Strategies for Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks* won the 2003 Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) excellence in planning award. To get your copy (cost: \$25), call Lia Lappano at (416) 661-6600, extension 5292, or download it from [www.trca.on.ca/water\\_protection/strategies/etobicoke/](http://www.trca.on.ca/water_protection/strategies/etobicoke/)



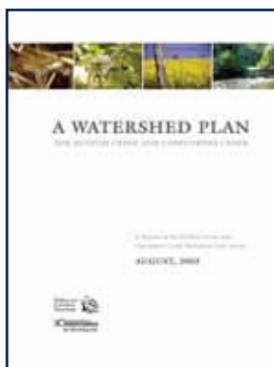
## THE HUMBER RIVER IS MAKING PROGRESS

With the release of the new *Humber Watershed Progress Report*, the Humber Watershed Alliance was pleased to announce that the river is getting healthier. Since the release of the first report card in 2000, the Humber has made progress toward 23 out of 30 targets. Over 300,000 new trees have been planted, 2.8 hectares of wetlands have been created, 8.4 kilometres of trail have been established and 14 community action sites have been implemented. For a free copy of the *Humber Watershed Progress Report*, contact Lia Lappano at (416) 661-6600, extension 5292 or download it from [www.trca.on.ca/water\\_protection/strategies/humber](http://www.trca.on.ca/water_protection/strategies/humber)



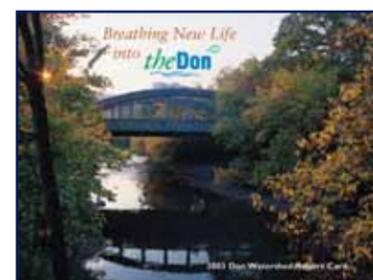
## THE DUFFINS AND CARRUTHERS CREEKS TASK FORCES RELEASE THEIR WATERSHED PLAN

The Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek watersheds are among the healthiest in the Greater Toronto Area and are located within Durham Region. In August 2003, the task forces published *A Watershed Plan for Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek*. It addresses key issues such as: keeping the watersheds healthy while accommodating growth; promoting tourism and protecting public use resources; improving water quality; minimizing flood and erosion risk; conserving the natural environment and biodiversity; conserving heritage and a sense of place, and protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine within the headwaters in light of the new provincial legislation. For your CD copy of the watershed plan, contact Gary Bowen at (416) 661-6600, extension 5385, or download it from [www.trca.on.ca/water\\_protection/strategies/duffins](http://www.trca.on.ca/water_protection/strategies/duffins)



## A WATERSHED COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS ON THE DON

Approximately 500 guests celebrated '10 Years on the Don' at the Don Valley Brick Works in September 2003. The 2003 Don Report Card, *Breathing New Life Into the Don*, was released. Although the first line reads "If you brought this report card home to your parents, you would be sent to bed without dinner.", some very important groundwork has been laid in the last 10 years including: changes to weirs that now allow salmon to move up the Don for the first time in a century; the completion of major restoration projects; the disconnection of 7,500 downspouts, and production of the 25-year *Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan* by the City of Toronto. For a copy of *Breathing New Life Into the Don*, call Amy Thurston at (416) 661-6600, extension 5283, or download it from [www.trca.on.ca/water\\_protection/strategies/don/#new\\_life](http://www.trca.on.ca/water_protection/strategies/don/#new_life)



## ETOBICOKE CREEK HEADWATERS SUBWATERSHED PLAN

The Etobicoke Creek headwaters are located in Caledon where the creek first appears in the landscape as many small tributaries, groundwater springs and wetland pockets. Protecting the natural features and functions of the headwaters is vital to the overall health of the creek. Toronto and Region Conservation has initiated a subwatershed planning process for the Etobicoke Creek headwaters in partnership with the Region of Peel, Town of Caledon and the City of Brampton. *The Etobicoke Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Plan* will provide guidance to local and regional municipalities with regard to land and water use decision making to ensure that the long-term health of the natural system is maintained and enhanced. Over the course of the two-year subwatershed planning process, public open house events and workshops will be held where local residents and stakeholders will have the opportunity to help identify local issues, establish the objectives of the subwatershed plan and develop management targets and implementation strategies. To find out more about *The Etobicoke Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Plan*, contact Dean Young at (416) 661-6600, extension 5662.

## TOWN OF CALEDON NAMED 'ONTARIO'S GREENEST TOWN'

Town of Caledon Mayor Carol Seglins and executive director of the Caledon Countryside Alliance, Roger Taylor, enthusiastically reported Caledon's newest distinction as 'Ontario's Greenest Town' to the October meeting of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition. Caledon was chosen from among 50 entries across the province, in large part, for its good urban planning and its efforts to control growth. For more information on Caledon's environmental initiatives, please visit the town's Web site at [www.town.caledon.on.ca](http://www.town.caledon.on.ca) or the Caledon Countryside Alliance's Web site at [www.woodrising.com/cca/homepage.html](http://www.woodrising.com/cca/homepage.html). Look for the 'Greenest Town' signs around Caledon this spring.

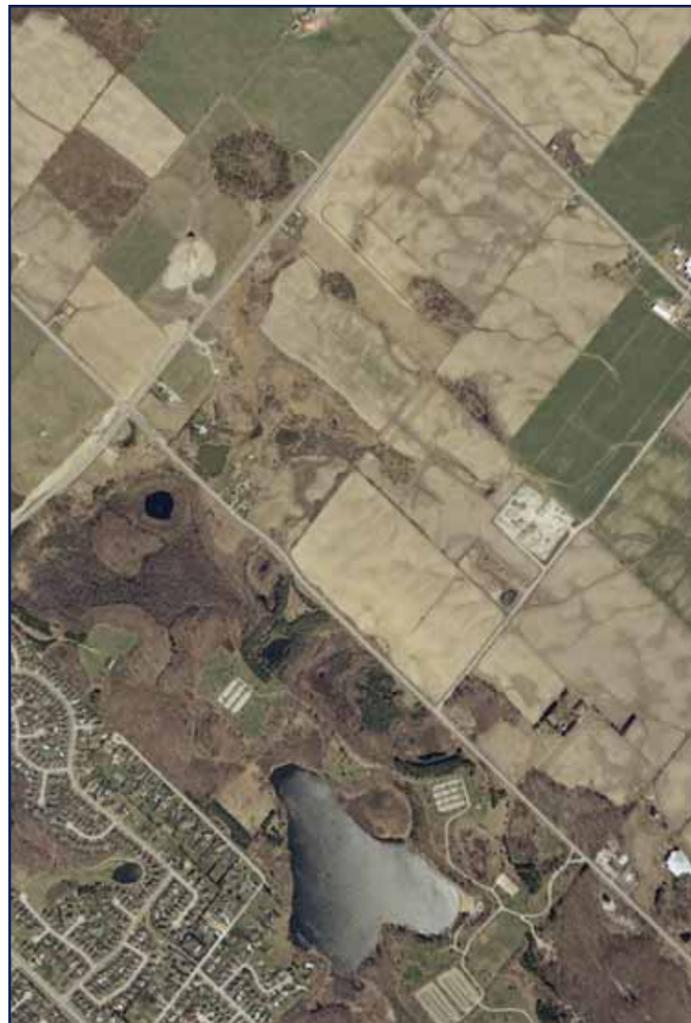


## Heart Lake Community Action Area

### HEART LAKE CONSERVATION AREA MASTER PLAN

With the projected population growth in the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel, Heart Lake Conservation Area will become an even more popular environmental, outdoor recreation and tourism centre, requiring a plan that can address future public use demands and enhanced environmental protection. A master plan for the property is being prepared in order to address property management and public safety issues, respond to future growth demands, integrate the watershed management strategy, establish appropriate environmental protection, receive public input and create a sense of stewardship among users and adjacent land owners.

The Heart Lake Conservation Area (HLCA) comprises approximately 169 hectares. HLCA's diverse ecosystem includes two kettle lakes (Heart Lake and Teapot Lake), the headwaters for Spring Creek, a 58 hectare-wetland complex and 43.5 hectares of deciduous, coniferous and mixed forests (one of the largest individual blocks of continuous forest in the Etobicoke Creek watershed). HLCA is the largest natural greenspace in the City of Brampton and provides the community with recreational opportunities such as bird watching, boating, fishing, hiking trails and picnic areas. TRCA will invite agency and community representatives to be members of the Heart Lake Master Plan Advisory Committee. The advisory committee will assist with determining the management zones and recommendations. The committee will also provide direction and comment on public use development and environmental restoration plans. For more information on the Heart Lake Conservation Area Master Plan, contact Mike Bender at (416) 661-6600, extension 5287.



Heart Lake and surrounding area in 1948 and 1999. A lot has changed on the Heart Lake area landscape over the last 50 years, and more changes are coming.

### HEART LAKE FISHING FESTIVAL

Approximately 253 fishing enthusiasts of all ages attended the second annual Heart Lake Fishing Festival on July 5, 2003 to try their luck for a variety of fishing prizes and the 'Biggest Fish' trophies and medals. The 'Biggest Fish' was a largemouth bass, three pounds (1.36 kilograms) caught by Jerimiah Nagu in the 'under 10 years old' category (there were also youth [11 - 18] and adult categories, but no one came close to Jerimiah's whale of a fish!). The newly restored southeast shoreline, planted by 10,000 students during the Peel Children's Water Festival, provides a nursery area for largemouth bass and will greatly improve fishing in the years to come. In addition, approximately 5,000 rainbow trout are stocked in Heart Lake each year. In the youth and adult categories, rainbow trout took the 'Biggest Fish' trophies and medals. Congratulations to Jerimiah and to all the participants for making the Heart Lake Fishing Festival a success! This year, the Fishing Festival will be expanded at both Heart Lake and Glen Haffy conservation areas. Heart Lake will have a month-long fishing derby (June 26 - July 25, 2004) and Glen Haffy in Caledon will host a derby from July 24 - August 2, 2004. To enquire about sponsorship opportunities, please call Debbie Dixon at (416) 661-6600, extension 5282 and visit [www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca) <http://www.trca.on.ca> for information on upcoming events.



▲ 2003 Heart Lake Fishing Festival trophy and medal winners for biggest fish

### FIRST ANNUAL HEART LAKE DRAGON BOAT RACE RAISES OVER \$18,000 IN SUPPORT OF PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH

In September 2003, 24 teams of rowers participated in the first annual Heart Lake Dragon Boat Race in support of the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Canada. Teams competed for prizes and raised \$18,695 for the Research Foundation. Among the teams was a group of 22 prostate cancer researchers from Princess Margaret Hospital. The race combined all the excitement of traditional dragon boat racing with a festival atmosphere, including mini golf and inflatable bouncers for the children, dragon boat fashions for sale, and a martial arts techniques presentation. The 2004 event will take place on Saturday, September 18 and there are already three teams registered! For more information about vending and sponsorship opportunities, or to register your team, contact Nick Foglia at (416) 661-6600, extension 5275.



▲ Heart Lake Dragon Boat Race

# COMMUNITY ACTION AREAS REPORT

## South Mimico Community Action Area

### GREENING SOUTH MIMICO STEWARDSHIP GROUP

The South Mimico Stewardship Committee held its first meeting on October 1, 2003 at Montgomery's Inn. Nineteen residents attended the meeting to plan environmental projects for Mimico Creek from Dundas Street West to Lake Ontario. For spring 2004, the group is planning a garbage clean-up and planting event in the Montgomery's Inn area, between Dundas and Bloor streets. Future projects will include developing natural and cultural heritage signs, working with local schools, removing invasive vegetation from the valleyland and encouraging local residents to naturalize their yards. For more information, please contact Kristin Geater at 416-661-6600, extension 5667.

### VOLUNTEERS BRAVE THE RAIN AT REID MANOR PARK PLANTING

Fifteen brave and hardy people endured constant rain and cold to plant 245 trees and shrubs along Mimico Creek in Reid Manor Park in October, 2003. The planting extended the riparian zone, or vegetation buffer, adjacent to Mimico Creek to provide habitat, water quality and erosion improvements. Thanks to Councillor Peter Milczyn for supporting the project through planning, public meeting and planting phases, to the Hydes for fresh coffee and mini-muffins, and to all the volunteers that planted trees and shrubs despite the driving rain!



▲ Soaking wet Reid Manor park stewards

### BONAR COMMUNITY ACTION SITE TAKES A NEW TURN

The Bonar Creek Community Action Site project has recently taken a new turn. The City of Toronto works and emergency services department has announced that they will pursue the use of the Bonar site for a stormwater management pond, with associated parkland features. This will require an environmental assessment for the project with opportunities for public consultation. The old sewage treatment plant buildings were demolished earlier this year, and a soil and groundwater sampling and analysis program was initiated. Stay tuned for project updates!



▲ Bonar Community Action Site - The Old Etobicoke Sewage Treatment Plant

## Malton Community Action Area

2003 has been a very busy year for the individuals and community organizations interested in making Malton a cleaner and greener place to live. A recognition event in February, organized by the City of Mississauga, brought together community groups and individuals who had participated in clean-ups and restoration projects. This positive meeting provided a catalyst and the momentum to contact over 120 community groups and develop a five-year plan for restoring habitats, improving water quality and building community capacity. The group, including Rotary Mississauga Airport, Malton Residents Association, City of Mississauga and TRCA, submitted a five-year funding proposal to the Ontario Trillium Foundation to implement the restoration and stewardship projects beginning in 2004. For more information, contact Paul Willms at (416) 661-6600, extension 5316.



▲ Malton's Wildwood Park has one of the largest populations of chorus frogs in the Greater Toronto Area

## Up and Coming Community Action Areas — Renforth Creek

Renforth Creek is a tributary of Etobicoke Creek in the City of Toronto. It flows from Centennial Park, in the Renforth Drive and Eglinton Avenue area, south to Dundas Street West, where it meets the main branch of Etobicoke Creek. A linear park system with a walking trail follows along the creek, with many access points for local residents. One of the main problems facing Renforth Creek is that there is a significant amount of garbage littering the creek bed, banks and trails. In early 2004, TRCA will be inviting people from the area to participate in the start-up of an environmental group that would organize environmental events and become active in addressing environmental issues facing the creek system. For more information, contact Kristin Geater at 416-661-6600, extension 5667.



▲ Renforth Creek (to the right) at the confluence with the main branch of Etobicoke Creek (to the left) at Markland Wood Golf Course

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

## A PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP ACCOUNT BY MATHEW ROSSI

*"A tree as big around as you can reach starts with a single acorn. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."*

— Lao Tsu, 600 BC

It started with a serious question, "What can I do?" on one of my frequent walks in the valley. Through an initial contact with TRCA about one of my passions, fishing, I was presented with an invitation to an Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition meeting where I met many interesting people, learned some of the goals of the group and became a member soon after. Since then I've talked to many folks, attended numerous meetings, planted some trees and planned some projects. Surrounded by a diverse group of people sharing a single goal, there's no shortage of things to do. Being around like-minded people and improving our environment, even in small ways, is fun and rewarding. I started trying to make my Etobicoke Creek ravine area a better place to live by becoming the environmental representative for the Rockwood Homeowners Association and as a member of the Coalition. From an initial question of "What can I do?", TRCA and the City of Mississauga have become involved, a cleanup has been successfully executed, TD Bank has cleaned the perimeter of their adjacent lands, trees have been planted and issues addressed. We're planning a stewardship program involving residents and ravine businesses that will begin with an opportunities mapping session. All of these achievements fit within the larger plan of the Coalition, all have been rewarding experiences, with long term impacts and all came from the first step of asking "What can I do?".

On November 1, 2003, the Rockwood Homeowners Association organized a ravine cleanup and removed over 2,500 pounds of garbage from between Burnhamthorpe Road and Eglinton Avenue, on the west side of Etobicoke Creek.

The Rockwood Homeowners Association, along with Councillor Maja Prentice, TRCA, and City of Mississauga staff will be hosting an Opportunities Mapping Workshop to talk about spring clean-ups, restoration, trail planning and other possibilities for improving the environment. For more information on Etobicoke Creek through our Rockwood neighbourhood, visit [www.rockwoodtimes.ca](http://www.rockwoodtimes.ca)



▲ Councillor Maja Prentice (right) and Rockwood Homeowners Association President Boris Swedak (second from right)



▲ Results: Over a ton of garbage pulled from the ravine and surrounding area

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS — BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES IN THE WATERSHEDS

### ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY WEED CONTROL AT THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

In 1999, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) received the ISO 14001 designation. In order to receive the designation, an environmental management system was established for all aspects of airport operations. A recent pilot project on pesticide alternatives sought to find a more environmentally friendly solution to maintenance on airport lands. Using a rather unconventional herbicide, GTAA staff was able to control weeds in a whole new way... with vinegar! A pilot program took place in 2003 to study the effectiveness of the use of vinegar as a natural herbicide. The vinegar works by removing the moisture from the surface of the weed, causing it to dry up and eventually die. It is a natural product, non-toxic and the operator only has to wear rubber boots, gloves and a paper mask (as the smell is quite strong). This year, the GTAA has used approximately 30 litres of the product, mostly in interlocking and riverstone installations. The GTAA has found that vinegar is relatively effective on most types of vegetation, with the exception of the thinner grasses, such as rye grass. The GTAA will continue to investigate the use of herbicidal vinegar in order to uphold the authority's commitment to continually improving environmental practices through its ISO 14001 environmental management system.

(Printed with permission of the GTAA.)



▲ Spring Creek and Etobicoke Creek as they flow through Lester B. Pearson International Airport

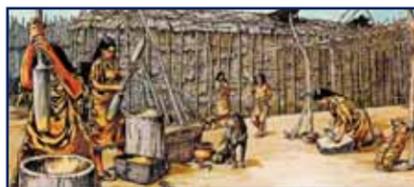
# HUMAN HERITAGE IN THE WATERSHEDS

## WHERE (AND WHEN) IN THE WATERSHED IS IT?



▲ Fishing on Main Street in Brampton during the 1928 flood. Looking north on Hurontario at the intersection of Main and Hurontario (Hwy. 7 and 10).

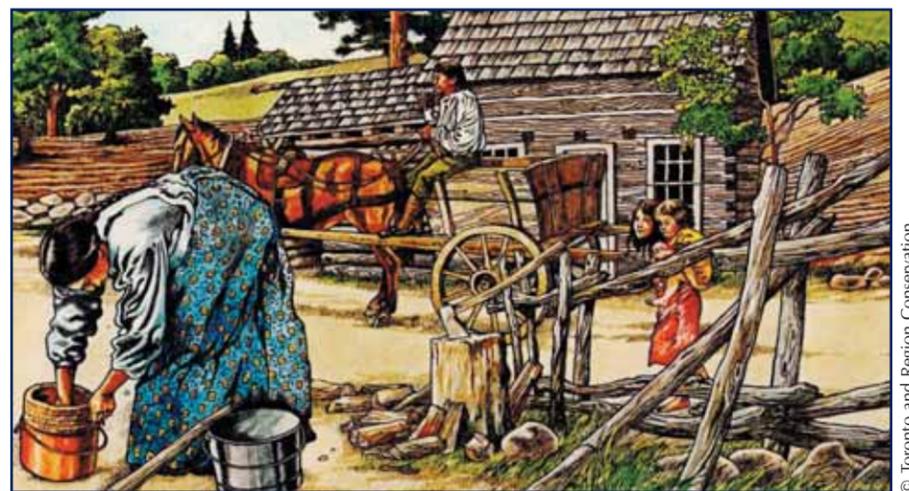
Image courtesy of Peel Heritage Complex: 'Mr. Algie Fishing', c.1928, N172.17



## PAST PEOPLES AND PLACES OF ETOBICOKE AND MIMICO CREEKS

For the past 12,000 years, people have chosen to live in this part of southern Ontario, burdened by a long winter and subsisting on stored food. Aboriginal peoples in the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek watersheds lived for thousands of years by gathering, hunting and fishing. Their seasonally mobile way of life was replaced by the sedentary village life of the early horticulturalists some time between circa A.D. 500 and 1000. The activities of horticultural peoples changed with the seasons, with intense economic activity concentrated between May to December. In the autumn, the 'Three Sisters,' maize (a.k.a. corn), beans and squash, were harvested, processed and stored for the winter and following spring. The men who had been away trading or warring returned to the village. Food gathering, hunting and fishing activities that normally supplemented the crops continued. If the crops failed, the large village population was forced to depend solely upon wild food resources. In the cramped longhouses, people were vulnerable to disease, especially in the lean months if the crops failed.

— Excerpt from Chapter 3, *The First Nations* and Chapter 4, *The Second Nations* from *Greening Our Watersheds: Revitalization Strategies for Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks*. To download all or part of *Greening Our Watersheds*, visit [www.trca.on.ca/water\\_protection/strategies/etobicoke/](http://www.trca.on.ca/water_protection/strategies/etobicoke/)



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## HUMAN HERITAGE EMERGES AT HEART LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

In the spring of 2003, as a result of the Peel Children's Water Festival, a 'phase II archeological pedestrian survey' was conducted to search for human heritage artifacts within a recently tilled ecological restoration site. The ecological restoration project afforded an opportunity to conduct an archaeological investigation as is normally required for more invasive activities on TRCA lands, in order to confirm the presence and extent of any cultural heritage resources. While there are no records of archaeological sites or structures within the planting area, one prehistoric Aboriginal and three historic Euro-Canadian sites have been found nearby.

The area was surveyed in May 2003 under the direction and field supervision of Cathy Crinnion, TRCA's assistant archaeologist. She was assisted by several students of the 2003 York University/TRCA Archaeological Field School. The investigation included a visual inspection of the project area surface following ploughing and exposure to rainfall. This resulted in the discovery of 12 chert artifacts. Due to its glass-like properties (as with flint or obsidian), silica-rich chert is ideal for manufacturing stone implements, the most common type being Onondaga chert. This material is found in geological deposits along the north shores of Lake Erie and would have been traded with or collected by the Aboriginal inhabitants of Brampton.

Eleven of the artifacts are flakes of Onondaga chert, the waste material from crafting stone tools. However, a single biface was also discovered at the site. A biface is a lithic that has been modified by human hands on both surfaces. This particular biface is relatively small in size, roughly square in shape and has a single cutting edge. It also exhibits characteristic spurs used for graving, suggesting that this biface can be considered to be a multi-purpose cutting and graving tool.

The presence of these artifacts suggest that this area was once occupied by an Aboriginal group as a short-term workstation (perhaps related to hunting activities and/or to sharpen tools), at an unknown point in the past. Further investigations at this small site would provide much-needed information to the archaeological record since small campsites are generally elusive and poorly understood. This is particularly important in the Etobicoke Creek watershed which, due to early

urban expansion in the Toronto area further downstream, contains fewer scientifically researched archaeological sites when compared to other watersheds in the Toronto region.



▲ Site artifacts. HLCA-03-001.03 is the biface tool.



▲ Archaeology students stand over the initial artifact locations

## WHAT'S ON

### WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS! BIRDING AT HUMBER BAY PARK

A small group of South Mimico birding enthusiasts hiked through Humber Bay Park on Saturday, September 13, 2003 with binoculars and bird books in hand. Many shorebirds and ducks such as sanderlings, dunlins, sandpipers, shovellers and mergansers were spotted; but the favourite bird of the day was the blue-gray gnatcatcher.



▲ Birding at Humber Bay Park



▲ The blue-grey gnatcatcher

### ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE — A GROWING CONCERN

In September of 2003, the Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALHB) was found in Toronto and Vaughan. Although the beetle does not pose a threat to public health, it poses a significant risk to Canada's trees and forests. It attacks and kills living broadleaf hardwood trees such as maple, elm and ash. In November 2003, trees in the Hwy. 400 and Steeles Avenue area were cut down in an effort to stop the spread. Initial estimates indicate that approximately 15,000 trees on public and private lands will have to be removed within the affected area. TRCA is working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), City of Vaughan, York Region, the City of Toronto and other partners, to control the spread of the destructive beetle. For more information, visit [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca) or call 1-800-442-2342.



### GRASS CARP FOUND IN LAKE ONTARIO

In October 2003, biologists discovered a grass carp — an invasive exotic species of fish originally from Eastern Asia — living in Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Don River in Toronto. The grass carp was caught inadvertently by TRCA staff during a fish communities assessment in the Lower Don River. Grass carp voraciously feed on aquatic vegetation causing increased turbidity and poor water quality. The pale grey fish can grow up to a metre in length and weigh up to 50 kilograms. There have been only four known previous sightings of grass carp in Ontario. Additional information can be found at [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com). TRCA is working in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources to conduct further assessments.



### OSPREY NEST AT HEART LAKE

In March 2003, before nesting season, TRCA constructed a new osprey platform at the Heart Lake Conservation Area in a northern bay of the lake. Instead of using the typical telephone pole, an existing dead tree was used to create the effect of a snag, and a platform was constructed within it. A professional tree climber selected a tall tree near the edge of the water, set apart from other trees. Extra branches were pruned from the tree and then cedar posts, plastic snow fence material and woven branches were used to create a natural looking osprey nest. Imagine our surprise when a pair of osprey were sighted nesting in the forest beside the platform. We like to think that the 'curb appeal' of our nest encouraged the osprey to move into the area! For more information, contact Kristin Geater at (416) 661-6600, extension 5667.



## 2004 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES RESPECT, PROTECT AND REGENERATE THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

**Bird Walk:** Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW) is continuing its series of monthly bird walks. Sunday, March 28, 9 - 11 a.m. at Humber Bay Park East (south of Parklawn and Lakeshore Boulevard) in Etobicoke. Meet in the south parking lot.

**Bird Walk:** CCFEW. Saturday, April 24, 9 - 11 a.m. at Colonel Samuel Smith Park (south of Kipling Avenue and Lakeshore Boulevard) in Etobicoke. Meet in the south parking lot.

**Earth Day Planting Event and Clean-Up:** The South Mimico Stewardship Committee invites you to Tom Riley Park (Islington/Dundas/Bloor area of Etobicoke, just south/downstream of Montgomery's Inn) on Saturday, April 24 at 10 a.m. for a clean-up and planting event. For more information, contact Kristin Geater at (416) 661-6600, extension 5316.

**Peel Children's Water Festival:** May 27 - June 2, Heart Lake Conservation Area (Teachers... sign up today!) For more information, contact the festival coordinator at (905) 791-7800, extension 4548.

**Peel Children's Water Festival Public Day:** See what the kids are so excited about on Saturday, May 29, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Heart Lake Conservation Area. Trout release and more! For more information, contact Paul Willms at (416) 661-6600, extension 5316.

**Bat Night:** Saturday, May 29, 8 - 10 p.m. at Heart Lake Conservation Area. See the bats fly, listen to their echo-location through our bat detectors and learn about nocturnal insects. For more information, contact Paul Willms at (416) 661-6600, extension 5316.

**Butterflies and their Gardens:** Learn how to identify butterflies and attract them to your garden while touring the unique Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat with naturalists. Bring butterfly and wildflower field guides and binoculars if you have them. Saturday, June 26, 1 - 3 p.m. at Humber Bay Park West (south of Lakeshore Boulevard west of Parkland Road) in Etobicoke. For more information, call the TRCA Stewardship Hotline at (416) 661-6600, extension 5660.

**Heart Lake Fishing Derby:** June 26 - July 25, Heart Lake Conservation Area in Brampton. Bigger and better than last year! For more information, contact Nick Foglia at (416) 661-6600, extension 5275.

**Glen Haffy Fishing Derby:** July 24 - August 2, Glen Haffy Conservation Area in Caledon. Rainbow trout ponds and prizes! For more information, contact Nick Foglia at (416) 661-6600, extension 5275.



◀ There's still some room left for YOU to join the 2nd Annual Heart Lake Dragon Boat Race in September! For more information, contact Nick Foglia at (416) 661-6600, extension 5275 or visit [www.trca.on.ca/events/calendar](http://www.trca.on.ca/events/calendar)