

ORDER TREE SEEDLINGS

Quinte Conservation is now taking orders for tree and shrub seedlings for planting next spring. Any landowner within the Quinte Conservation watersheds may order trees. There is no minimum acreage requirement; however, the minimum order is 100 trees. To order seedlings, you can contact Alana Bancroft at Quinte Conservation at 613-968-3434 or through the website at quinteconservation.ca.



BACKYARD NATURALIZATION COURSE

Join our Naturalist Terry Sprague for a six-week course on backyard naturalization on Saturday afternoons from January 16 to February 20, 2010. He will teach you why native shrubs, trees and wildflowers will enhance your property and why your efforts will attract local wildlife. The course will be held at the Quinte Conservation office and costs \$80.00. For more information or to register for the course email tsprague@quinteconservation.ca.

SNOW SAMPLING

and how it helps us with flood forecasting



Environmental and Water Quality Technician, Lynette Lambert, sampling snow

WHY DO WE MEASURE SNOW?

Quinte Conservation watersheds are mostly at risk of flooding during the spring freshet and snow melt is a large contributor to flooding. As part of our flood forecasting system, staff need to be able to estimate how much melt waters will contribute to rivers and lakes during the spring freshet or mid-winter thaws. A metre of heavy or packed snow will produce much more runoff than light snow. Our staff measure both the depth and weight of snow in different parts of the watershed to help forecast flood events.

HOW DO WE PREDICT WHEN A FLOOD MAY OCCUR?

Quinte Conservation has developed a long history of knowledge of how different watercourses respond to periods of rainfall and snow melt. This experience is used to compare the expected effect of forecasted precipitation and temperatures on a river or lake with events that have occurred in the past. We are able to monitor real time stream gauges in the upper part of the watershed to let us know when the rivers in the lower part of the watershed will reach their peak and how high the water will get.

We also have computer models that can predict the possible flooding due to precipitation and temperature even sooner. But, since the computer models rely on forecasts of rainfall and temperature that may change daily, our forecasts from the models can sometimes be less accurate than the one which relies on our experience and stream gauges.

WHAT ABOUT FRAZIL ICE?

Frazil ice forms in open water during very cold periods before lakes and rivers freeze over. This often occurs when a cold snap follows a mid winter thaw. Frazil ice accumulates around bridges or rapids as anchor ice or also in places where the water is very still. It can form an underwater dam and slowly choke off a river causing the water level to rise unexpectedly. Quinte Conservation monitors temperature conditions and ice cover in parts of the watershed that are prone to ice flooding to help forecast when the risk of ice related flooding is high.

WHAT IS OUR ROLE WHEN WE FORECAST A FLOOD?

We communicate this information to flood coordinators at the municipalities and we inform the public through press releases. We also help to provide technical information to flood response personnel and maintain a 24-hour call in line for the public during a flood. After the flood is over we document the event to use for future forecasting.



GET READY FOR YELLOW FISH ROAD

Yellow Fish Road is a nation-wide environmental education program designed and managed by Trout Unlimited Canada. The Yellow Fish Road program's goal is to help Canadians understand that storm drains are the doorways to our rivers, lakes and streams. Participants learn about their local water supply and how to protect it from hazardous wastes. They then begin the program's active component by painting yellow fish near storm drains to serve as a reminder that any



materials going down storm drains affects us all. Some municipalities currently adhere plastic information discs next to or near the storm drain. If your group is interested in participating in the Yellow Fish Road program and you are in the Moira, Napanee or Prince Edward Watersheds you can contact Maya Navrot at Quinte Conservation to book a date to paint storm drains in your municipality.

VANDERWATER CA: A WINTER WONDERLAND



This Conservation Area is a popular destination each winter for cross-country skiers. The 15 km of trails explore a wide range of natural environments from mature cedar forests in the low lying areas to hardwood and coniferous forests that cover the slopes and high ground. This lovely outdoor spot is picturesquely located along the banks of the Moira River, where the water cascades over a series of limestone steps. A steep ridge runs the length of the property and several spots along the trails afford a scenic view of the land towards the west. Ski trails are not groomed.

To get here - Vanderwater Conservation Area is located 3 km east of Thomasburg off Highway 37, at 512 Vanderwater Road.

MAKE THIS A "GREEN" CHRISTMAS BY ADOPTING AN ACRE

Quinte Conservation's Adopt An Acre Program offers a unique and earth-friendly gift option for residents in the Quinte area this Christmas. You can adopt an acre for yourself, in memory of a loved one or as a gift. You will receive a certificate and a tax receipt. You can adopt your acre online on our website at quinteconservation.ca or by calling our office at 613-968-3434.

Your \$20 donation will help maintain the scenic lookouts over cobblestone beaches and enchanting bays like Little Bluff. Opportunities for relaxing on a secluded campsite at Depot Lakes will remain, and historically significant sites, such as O'Hara Mill Pioneer Village will be preserved.

Quinte Conservation owns and maintains over 30 Conservation Areas, ranging in size from quaint parkettes



of less than an acre, to huge sites such as Depot Lakes and Sheffield. Conservation Areas offer peaceful and refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. They provide safe homes for plants and animals, and offer outdoor classrooms for adults and children, giving everyone a chance to renew their acquaintance with nature.

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