

Corridor Park Rambler

Fall 2009

INSIDE

You're Invited to an Open House and Presentation!

Solar Assisted Golf Carts!

Bringing Nature Home

Bond Lake Clean-Up!

Annual Family Day Event

Upcoming Events

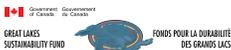
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation Preparing to Close after 50 Million Dollars of Conservation

A Busy Year at the Oak Ridges Corridor Park



To subscribe to the Corridor Park Rambler or submit an article, please contact: aweppler@trca.on.ca

This publication can also be viewed online at www.trca.on.ca



Member of Conservation Ontario

You're Invited to an Open House and Presentation!

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 • 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Elgin West Community Centre, Palisade Room • 11099 Bathurst St., Richmond Hill

- Healthy Yards display – learn about native plants and get great gardening tips!
- Get up to date on what has been achieved to protect and restore the Oak Ridges Corridor Park and what's happening in 2009.
- Contribute your thoughts as we begin to develop a trail plan for Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Lands (Jefferson's Forest).
- Formal presentation begins at 7:10 p.m., with the opportunity for informal discussion afterward.



Photos courtesy of Charles Kinsley

Bringing Nature Home

In 2008 Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) and the Town of Richmond Hill initiated an exciting new conservation initiative – the Oak Ridges Corridor Park Stewardship Project. With funding from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, TRCA has delivered nature hikes, litter clean-ups, tree-planting events, workshops, and the Oak Ridges Green Garden Makeover Contest.

Through the spring, Richmond Hill residents entered this contest on-line and at events in the hopes of winning a professionally-designed native plant garden. In June, a Bayview North mother of three boys, including a newborn, was chosen as the lucky winner. She and her family were thrilled to hear of their good fortune, and embraced the idea of reconnecting with nature right at home.

Charles Kinsley, a well-established and revered garden designer specializing in native plants, worked with the homeowners to design a garden that met their goals for beauty, low-maintenance and water-efficiency, while also reflecting the natural heritage of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The garden was planted in stages throughout the summer. A diversity of trees, shrubs and flowers provide great interest and beauty to both the homeowners and passers-by. They do double-duty by also providing food and shelter for birds and butterflies.

With this native plant garden we are reconnecting species and rebuilding communities on the Oak Ridges Moraine. It is an important step towards the restoration of this natural wonder.

Visit TRCA's Healthy Yards website (www.trca.on.ca/yards) to learn more about native plant gardening, and to view garden transformation stories and photos.

Bond Lake Clean-Up!

By Rhys Beak, Oak Ridges Trail Association

On Saturday, June 6 the Oak Ridges Corridor Park Stewardship Committee organized a cleanup in and around Bond Lake. Sharon and Jim Bradley, who are also Directors of the Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment (ORFE), realized a longstanding ambition to start clearing up the garbage and party sites from around the lakeshore.

On a lovely, warm and fairly buggy day, a crew of volunteers from the ORFE and the Oak Ridges Trail Association began hauling several decades of debris from various sites around the lake. There were many rusting steel drums to bring out that had been used in years gone by to provide floatation for the docks in front of the old cottages. Large amounts of foam insulation had also been attached to these docks and swimming platforms; as the wooden structures rotted away these floating pieces were left to drift around and grow into the shoreline. Some had turned into small islands with their own undergrowth, almost indistinguishable from the natural ones. Several large encroachments were also removed; consisting of illegal fire and BBQ pits surrounded by garbage and bottles and cans.

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) assisted with the removal of the collected debris by providing a Kubota Utility Vehicle and a young strapping crew to bring the piles of junk out to Yonge Street where the Town of Richmond Hill Public Works staff could haul it all away. TRCA's Restoration Services staff returned later to remove some illegal docks using their scow.

The areas around the lake look much better today though there will be more work to do in the future. Any local residents that wish to assist in further cleanup activities are asked to contact Sharon and Jim at orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca.

Solar-Assisted Golf Carts!

Ever wondered how to make your golf game more environmentally friendly? Try a solar-powered golf cart!

Staff at Toronto and Region Conservation's Bathurst Glen Golf Course have launched a pilot study, in partnership with Bennett Golf Cars and E-Z-GO Canada, to look at the performance of solar-powered golf carts in terms of energy use, travel distance, dependability and cost. The solar golf carts will be compared to two standard electric and two gas golf carts.

Solar golf carts recharge their batteries through solar panels mounted on the cart's roof. They were developed to save energy and money by reducing the cost of charging batteries, increasing the distance that the cart can travel on a single charge, and extending the useful life of golf cart batteries.

To learn more about this study, and the other environmental initiatives that have been undertaken, visit the Bathurst Glen Golf Course! More information can be found at www.bathurstglengolf.ca.

How Do I Get Involved?

You can be involved in the management planning process in a number of ways:

- Attend public meetings.
- Participate in surveys (available at public meetings).
- Sign up for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park mailing list by contacting April Weppler at aweppler@trca.on.ca
- Visit our website – www.trca.on.ca

To get involved in community stewardship events:

- Bring your friends and family out for one of our planned community events.
- Invite us out to talk to your community group or school about the natural heritage of the park and how you can help protect it.
- Join our email list to receive updates on events and volunteer opportunities at the park.



Annual Family Day Event

By Rhys Beak, Oak Ridges Trail Association

It was a perfect day on Saturday, May 23 as MacLeod's Landing Public School launched their 1st Annual Family Day of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park, in partnership with the Oak Ridges Trail Association and in co-operation with Toronto & Region Conservation and Richmond Hill Cubs & Scouts.

The students, their families and school staff enjoyed a hike on the trail where a series of interpretive sites had been set up by the Cubs and Scouts. The sites were used to inform the group about a variety

of topics, including plant development, the effects of glaciation on the Oak Ridges Moraine and the history of the park and surrounding area.

As the morning progressed there was a long trail of young families slowly winding their way along the Oak Ridges Trail, pushing strollers and pulling wagons, enjoying the warm sunny weather. The newly functioning stoplights at Yonge Street received a good workout as they were used by over 150 people to safely cross the busy thoroughfare. The amazing sight of Bond Lake shimmering in the sunlight dazzled all the families as they descended the hill toward the old powerhouse and coal generating plant that was used to energize the radial railway that ran from Toronto at the turn of the century.

As a special reward for the day's exercise there was an excellent BBQ provided by M&M Meat Shops in the Macleod's Landing schoolyard. Bill Fender, the school principal, made a short speech to thank everyone for their interest and involvement and it was decided that this would be the first but certainly not the last Family Day at the Oak Ridges Corridor Park!

Upcoming Events

GPS & GeoCache 101 – Jefferson's Forest Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Have you always wanted to learn how to use a GPS unit? Curious about geo-caching? We'll teach you how to use a GPS unit and introduce you to the exciting sport of geo-caching, all in the beautiful setting of Jefferson's Forest. A number of GPS units will be provided, or feel free to bring your own!

Please dress appropriately and bring a travel mug for a beverage after the hike.

Please register for this event by contacting Lesli Rynyk at 416-661-6600 ext.5579 or by e-mail at lrynyk@trca.on.ca

Location: Meet at the Sunset Beach parking lot on the north side of Bethesda Sideroad, west of Bayview Ave. Take Bayview Ave. 2 km north of Stouffville Rd. or 2 km south of Bloomington Rd. to Bethesda Sideroad, turn west toward Lake Wilcox and go 30 metres to parking lot on right.

These events are recommended for adults and children over seven years of age. In the event of extreme weather conditions on the day of the event, call the above listed number for a notice of cancellation.

Stay tuned for details about a community planting event in the fall!



Moraine in Focus - Dawn Knudsen

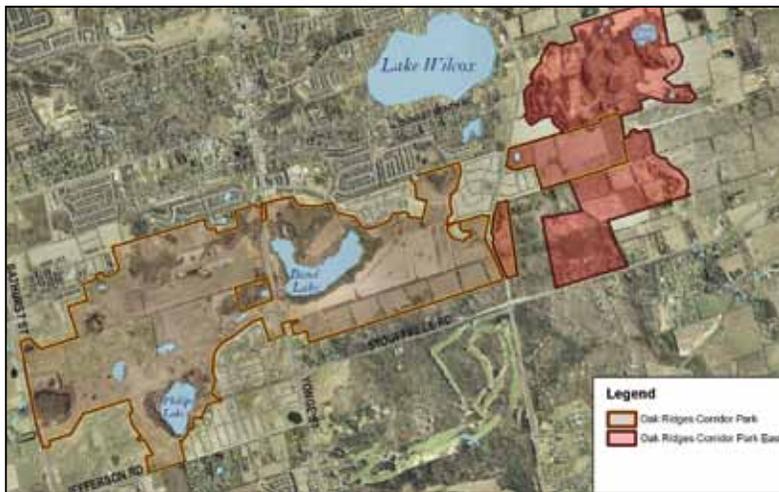
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation Preparing to Close after 50 million dollars of Conservation

Created in 2002 to support partnerships and voluntary efforts to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Foundation is preparing to close its doors in September 2010. During the eight year period, the Foundation will have generated over 50 million dollars of conservation effort by investing 15 million dollars of capital in partnerships matched by private organizations, municipalities, conservation authorities and individuals. While there is much more to be done on the Moraine, the capital of the Foundation will be expended by the closure date and since no further investment has been received, the Foundation's partners must look to other sources and programs to complete the work.

The Town of Richmond Hill is the Moraine's most urbanized centre. The Oak Ridges Corridor Park, including the public lands to its East, are the last remaining natural corridor link

between the eastern and western parts of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Foundation recognizes the vital ecological function of this area along with the values it brings shaping the character of the communities surrounding it. Approximately 1.4 million dollars of Foundation grants were specifically dedicated the Oak Ridges Corridor Park area. These funds were utilized by Foundation partners to:

- Create Management Plans for the area;
- Restore approximately 306 ha through tree and grassland plantings;
- Establish and undertake terrestrial and aquatic monitoring;
- Undertake community stewardship activities;
- Engage and educate community members; and
- Secure 75 acres of Oak Ridges Moraine natural core land to add to public land holdings.



The Foundation would like to thank all those partners who have worked tirelessly to protect and restore the Moraine. By working together, they have demonstrated their shared commitment to the moraine and will make its best possible future reality.

For more information, contact:
Kim Gavine, Executive Director
of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
at 905-833-5733 ext. 22

Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
13990 Dufferin St. N., King City, ON L7B 1B3
P: 905-833-5733, F: 905-833-8379
support@ormf.com
www.moraineforlife.org

A Busy Year at the Oak Ridges Corridor Park

- 8,000 copies of first Rambler newsletter distributed to the community around the Oak Ridges Corridor Park
- Several Healthy Yards and Natural Neighbour workshops conducted by the Town of Richmond Hill and Toronto and Region Conservation
- A successful winter hike conducted through the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East lands with over 60 people in attendance
- 48 hectares of reforestation and meadow plantings
- 900 plants and shrubs planted by over 400 students during a spring school planting event, conducted in partnership with the local Rotary Club
- Amphibian Adventures hike conducted in the spring with over 25 participants
- Amphibian monitoring initiated in the spring for salamanders and early breeding frogs
- Breeding bird surveys conducted



Contact Information

For information on the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Lands Management Plan, contact:

April Wepler
Phone: 416-661-6600 ext. 5320
Email: awepler@trca.on.ca