

Shoreline Improvement Project

Volunteers help revamp Camp Kawartha shoreline

By Lois Wallace

More than 30 volunteers from Clear and Ston(e)y Lakes and the surrounding area converged on Camp Kawartha Saturday morning, August 17.

In less than three hours they planted more than 1300 native shrubs and perennial wildflowers on a large stretch of the Camp Kawartha shoreline. This brought to reality a key element in the "Year of the Natural Shoreline" declared by the Environment Council for Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lakes.

The planting completes phase one of a two-year shoreline naturalization project at the Camp, improving a 20-metre by 15-metre stretch of grassy sloping shoreline. A woodland portion is to be planted next year. The project is a partnership between the Environment Council and the Camp, supported by several generous donors.

The volunteers followed a landscape design provided by Basterfield & Associates Landscape Architects of Peterborough. Douglas Kennedy, Green Side Up Environmental Services of Omeme, installed the planting beds, erosion control features and paths and oversaw the planting.

Environment Council and Camp Kawartha wish to thank all their volunteers and the organizations and individuals whose significant donations made this project possible: Stony Lake Heritage Foundation, Ontario Wildlife Foundation, Helen Batten of Basterfield & Associates, Ralph and Carol Ingleton and Rob and Penny Little.

As the plants mature they will stabilize the shoreline slope and reduce erosion, making the shoreline more resilient to climate change, and helping protect lake water quality by reducing nutrient runoff.

The many new native shrubs and flowers greatly increase the plant diversity of the shoreline area, providing wildlife habitat and supplying food and nectar for birds, bees and butterflies.

The restored area will become an important part of Camp Kawartha's outdoor environmental education programs, and will complement the Camp's future Living Building capital project.

Environment Council is organizing guided tours of the restored area to show the lake community the advantages of protecting natural shorelines and restoring shorelines that have been damaged or altered with hard landscaping and lawns.

Lake residents will be able to see first-hand how the work was done and how the ideas can be applied to their own waterfronts. We hope this demonstration site will inspire waterfront owners to naturalize their shorelines for beauty, for wildlife and to help protect the lake.

The first of these tours is slated for Sunday, September 22, from 2 to 4 pm. Come see what we've done and how you can do it too!

Please sign up right away by sending an email to info@environmentcouncil.ca. Please include your phone number(s) and how many will be attending.

Infrastructure Investments

By Dave Smith, MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha

Did you know that Ontario is investing \$144 billion in local community projects over the next ten years? Close to \$8 million of these funds have been allocated to the Peterborough area to invest in new transit and road infrastructure projects. I continue to stand by the significance of investments in infrastructure for rural Ontarians

Rural communities rely on our roads to get to work and home safely. The municipality submitted a request at the end of February in regards to the Juilian-Viamede Road, we reviewed and approved it in March. We were delighted to hear MP Maryam Monsef has announced federal support to assist with rehabilitating 5km of roadway along Reids Road and Mount Julian-Viamede Road.

I would encourage the continued support of critical infrastructure for rural communities like the Juilian-Viamede Road project. Currently there are various other project nominations for rural areas that are now with the federal government awaiting final funding decisions.

The potential benefits these projects could provide rural Ontario cannot be underestimated. These investments help boost local economies, create jobs, and help business grow. I consider that a worthy goal.

All too often rural Ontario is overlooked and larger urban centers are prioritized when it comes to investments in infrastructure. It is my commitment to work to reverse this oversight. Although public transit is important to urban areas the reality is rural Ontarians rely on their own vehicles as their primary source of transportation.

The Ontario government continues to support funding for rural communities through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). ICIP is a cost-sharing fund program between the federal government, provinces, and ultimate recipients. The ICIP has allocated \$500 million to rural infrastructure, with the federal government committing to contributing up to 40% of the funds to these key rural infrastructure initiatives.

Despite this, we still have hundreds of projects from the rural part of Ontario that remain delayed. My commitment to you is to continue being your voice, emphasizing the importance of ensuring a high quality of life for rural Peterborough County.

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