

# SNC welcomes one and all to open house

What a difference a year can make! Shortly after moving into its new administration offices in Finch last year, South Nation Conservation held an open house to show area residents how a vacated school was transformed into one of the area's premier environmental protection facilities.

"We had barely unpacked after our move from former headquarters in Berwick,"

SNC General Manager Dennis O'Grady recalled. "We were all still a bit disoriented."

Still, the event was a tremendous success, drawing school children, their parents and dignitaries from right across the 4,000 square-km watershed. It was so successful that the decision was made to make the open house an annual event. Beginning at 10:00 am, the 2nd annual SNC Open House

is set for Thursday, June 17 at the administration building where staff have now comfortably settled in. Starting at 10:00 am, Grades K-6 schools from across the watershed will attend SNC's "Eco-Adventure," continuing outdoors on picnic tables until 1:00 pm.

"The decision was made last year to engage with watershed schools and to make kids' participation a key component of the Open House," said coordinator Dana Kittle. "The first Eco-Adventure program went very well and we hope that it will be even better this year." The program includes several interactive and informative Eco-Adventure stations such as, "Totally Turtles," "It's a Bug's Life," "Trees and Me," and "The Worm Factory."

Adults won't be left out - public tours start at 1:00 pm of the completed high-tech con-

ference centre, which is available for community use. The tours will also feature displays by watershed wildlife artists and environmental enthusiasts; 100-mile diet snacks and locally-roasted Fair Trade coffee. Those who are interested in taking in an SNC Board of Directors meeting can do so, with the meeting beginning at 2:00 pm and running until 4:30 pm. Following the meeting, Christine Hanrahan will present her photography of Larose Forest at 4:30 pm. The day will conclude with an inspiring guest speaker, Mark Ouseley, talking about the environmental company "Living Cities" that he founded in his undergrad at Queen's University. Living Cities specializes in the construction of urban gardens, vermicomposters and bicycle trailers. All are invited to stay for a reception and refreshments after the talk concluding at 6:30 pm.