



Workshop Details

Build, Teach, Connect
October 25th – 27th, 2017
YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia

Day 1 – October 25, 2017:

Site Visits (10:30 AM)

Attendees can choose to participate in either of two site tours:

1. Spencer Gorge –Hamilton Conservation Authority

Meeting Location: Tews Falls at 590 Harvest Rd. Hamilton; afterwards participants will drive to Websters Falls located at 24 Fallsview Rd. Hamilton.

On this visit, you will enjoy a short hike to the Dundas Peak where issues related to visitor environmental impacts, master planning, and oversubscribed areas will be discussed. After, everyone will drive to Websters Falls for a short hike to the waterfall, a short Q&A, and lunch! Liam Fletcher, Kathy Smith, and Gord Costie from Hamilton Conservation will lead the tour.

2. Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area – Nottawasaga Conservation Authority

Directions: Take Highway 90 towards Angus from Barrie and right before the town of Angus, turn right (north) onto McKinnon Road. Continue north approximately 2km to Concession 2. Turn right (west) onto Concession 2 and continue until you see the viewing tower on the right (north).

This internationally significant wetland spans over 15,000 acres and has a diverse array of habitats including fen, marsh and swamp systems. Home to unique flora and fauna, including many rare and at-risk species, on this tour you can look forward to seeing some late migrant waterfowl, an overview of some of our stewardship projects and a discussion about changes to our hunting program. This tour will be led by Kyra Hows (Manager, Lands and Operations) and Byron Wesson (Director, Lands, Education and Stewardship).

Day 2 – October 26, 2017:

Morning (10:30 AM – 12:30 PM)

Ticket Writing Training:

Training in this workshop will focus on Part 1 S. 29 Ticket Writing and Officer Safety. The session will include presentations and practical scenario development. It will be administered by experienced Section 29 Conservation Authority Provincial Offences Officers.

Chainsaw Operations and Maintenance Part 1:

One-day refresher course for safe chainsaw use and maintenance. Participants must register for both Part 1 and Part 2.

Parks Master Planning:

There are many factors to consider when planning parks and recreational areas. In this session, you will learn about asset life cycles, maintenance schedules, signage, and communication needs for mastering planning projects. Speakers include Susan Cooper (MNRF, Land Use and Planning Advisor), Meghan Hunter (Conservation Halton, Parks Planner/Landscape Designer) and Jill Attwood (TRCA, Senior Project Manager, Waterfront, Watershed Strategies Division).

Outdoor Emergency Response:

Emergency preparedness is vital for those managing outdoor areas. This session, facilitated by Steve Murphy, Emergency Management and Communications Coordinator (Corporate Services, County of Dufferin), will discuss existing examples of emergency plans and recommendations for dealing with outdoor emergencies. Delegates attending this session are asked to bring their emergency action plan or emergency management policy to discuss and compare during a round table discussion.

Afternoon (2:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

Communications Strategies and Conservation Area Signage:

How can you utilize communication strategies and signage to encourage people to connect with their local Conservation Areas? With the support of Gregg McLachlan, Founder and General Manager for workcabin.ca, experiences and recommendations as they relate to campaigns and signage for outdoor recreation and trail use will be explored.

Chainsaw Operations and Maintenance Part 2:

Second half of the chainsaw refresher course.

Time of Succession – Gearing up for Retirement:

This session will help answer questions about financial planning for retirement, the importance of knowledge transfer and organizational preparedness with the help of a panel of Human Resources and Conservation Authority representatives.

Multi-Agency Approach to Enforcement:

This collaborative session will focus on the strong collaboration with partner agencies to promote enforcement. Speakers will be present from the Durham Regional Police Service, Whitby By-Law Enforcement and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Day 3 – October 27th, 2017

Morning (9:30 AM – 11:00 AM)

Land Acquisitions – Strategies and Programs:

There are many programs in place to help people leave their land as their natural legacy. This session will discuss ecological gifts, how to market your CA as a land trust, and recommendations for developing strong land securement strategies. Laura Kucey from the Ecological Gifts Program and Scott Peck, Deputy CAO and Director of Watershed Planning and Engineering, will share presentations and then open up the room to a round table discussion.

AODA Accessibility Standards for Parks and Wilderness Areas, Trail Reclassification, and the Challenges Faced During Implementation

With a focus on AODA accessibility standards, this session will highlight important technical requirements, recreational trail reclassification, and the challenges faced during implementation. An overview of the technical requirements related to recreational trails and wheel chair users will be provided by the TRCA. Executive Director Paul Ronan of the Ontario Parks Association will speak to the history of trail reclassification and recent changes. Paul Lucier (Capital Projects Coordinator GRCA) will expand on the challenges faced when implementing accessibility standards during design and construction including recent project examples.

Liability and Risk on CA Lands:

With three major focuses, special guests will highlight the Consumer Protection Act and Owner Occupier Liability Act and reflect on recent court cases, an ongoing appeal, and how these acts relate to CA involvement. Marsh will also provide an update on their Marsh 3D Approach to define, manage, and mitigate risk; and the question “When is a trail a recreational trail?” will be discussed.

Time of Succession – New Employees and CAs:

A panel of experts will share their stories in conservation areas, and facilitate a roundtable discussion on a wide range of topics of interest to those new to working with a Conservation Authority. This mentorship session may be of interest to any CA employee interested in discussing topics such as the challenges of

contract work, the value of contributing to committees and other organizations, professional development opportunities, working within operational constraints, and the challenges of succession.

Afternoon (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

Smoke Free Ontario:

Smoke Free Ontario will present the benefits of Smoke Free Open Spaces, and Essex Region Conservation Authority will discuss their experiences being Smoke Free.

Dog Bite Prevention Training:

Presented by ALL DOGS CAN BITE inc., attendees will learn about why dogs bite, and will be taught preventative techniques and reactive measures to safely avoid dog bite situations.

Hunting Programs:

This session will focus on CA hunting programs and enforcement. Provincial Enforcement Specialist Mark Robbins will discuss the MNRF approach to hunting enforcement. Paul Switzer (UTRCA) and Dean McFadden (GRCA) will share their conservation areas' hunting program successes and challenges, highlighting various topics such as permitting processes, protecting yourself in active hunting areas, reporting on illegal hunting, enforcement, and signage. Finally, a discussion will be facilitated with an opportunity to ask our panel experts questions.