

SNC gets \$50,000 from feds to protect local fish habitats

FINCH – The federal government has granted \$50,000 to South Nation Conservation (SNC) for improvements to local fish habitats.

Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry (SD&SG) MP Guy Lauzon highlighted the senior government's involvement in SNC's fish habitat rehabilitation projects at both Moose Creek (\$37,266) and Parlow Creek

(\$12,400) during a presentation at the conservation authority's Finch headquarters earlier this month.

"We are always looking for value for the money," Lauzon said. "We like to stretch every dollar if we can. [This, with SNC, is a] wonderful partnership because you get more work done for the amount of money you want to spend."

Lauzon told the group there are roughly two million members in fisheries clubs throughout Canada, adding that tourists wanting to fish or hunt spend a lot of money in the region.

"We have to protect the fish and animals they hunt," he said. "This is an investment, not an expense. We're investing money in a good project."

Naomi Langlois-Anderson, senior fish and wildlife technician and team lead for the Moose Creek and Parlow Creek Fish Habitat Improvement Projects, gave a brief presentation on the status of the ventures.

Moose Creek, she said, is a "landslide" and SNC is ensuring the banks are not eroding through a project to restore its stability. The fishing in the area is quite good, she added, but it is an agricultural region, which poses its own set of challenges in terms of drainage.

SNC chair Bill Smirle said the conservation authority has good partnerships with farmers, as well as government agencies, and "good things are happening."



South Nation Conservation senior fish and wildlife technician Naomi Langlois-Anderson is pictured with Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry MP Guy Lauzon Fri., Nov. 7, following Lauzon's announcement of a \$50,000 federal grant to the local conservation authority for fish habitat improvements at both Moose and Parlow Creeks.

Press Photo – Casselman

SNC staff is currently creating a live crib wall at Moose Creek, using native vegetation, creating the effect they want without damaging the integrity of the environment. In addition to stabilizing the creek wall, the all-natural structure is to provide access in and out of the creek for wild animals, such as turtles.

The idea of a live crib wall has been used successfully in the Toronto area,

Langlois-Anderson said, and now SNC is bringing the idea to Eastern Ontario. "It has been used along the Ottawa River," she said.

Although the method has not been implemented often in agricultural settings, Langlois-Anderson said the plan for Moose Creek is to leave access points for farmers for cleanouts.

Meanwhile, at Parlow Creek, located between Morrisburg and Iroquois, flow is-

sues exist. "There are species at risk that could be present there," Langlois-Anderson said. "We want to make sure animals aren't getting stranded. We're going to improve it so that flows aren't constricted."

With recent proof that fish are spawning there, SNC is focused on restoring natural fish migration by doing work to both banks, grading and stabilizing soil deposits, and planting native vegetation.