

# **Project Update**

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023













#### Summer Student – Natalie Fleece



- Third year Honours Bachelor of Science in Biology, University of Ottawa
- Summer 2022: Species at Risk Student, Thousand Islands National Park
- Winter 2023: Collections
   Assistant Vertebrate Zoology,
   Canadian Museum of Nature
- Interests: Skiing, species at risk, music



#### Summer Staff – Gabriel Giorgi



- University of Ottawa 4<sup>th</sup>
   Year Electrical Engineering
- Summer Coop Student
- Measurement Canada temperature lab



#### Summer Staff - Shannon McRae



- 4<sup>th</sup> Biology Student at Bishop's University
- Student Athletic Therapist Intern
- North Dundas Roads
   Department
- Interests: sports, entomology, arts



#### Summer Staff – Carley Hutchinson



- Past SNC Summer Student
- Greenhouse Section Grower and Shipping Coordinator at Ferguson Tree Nursery
- Coach at Nautical Equestrian
   Center



#### Summer Staff – Kyley McGuinness



- Fourth year Environmental Studies and Geography student at Carleton University
- Invasive Species Summer Technician, OFAH & SNC
- Fisheries Technician, Lake
   Ontario Management Unit
- Interests: music, hiking, fishing



# Sharing Knowledge: College Program Advisory



Placement student tree planting with SNC staff

- St. Lawrence College
   Environmental Technician
   Program Advisory Committee
- Advise on industry trend, important skills, etc.
- Great recruiting opportunity



#### Raisin River Canoe Race



SNC Staff take part in the Raisin River Canoe Race

- RRCA's 50<sup>th</sup> annual canoe race
- Record year: 485 paddlers
- Five SNC staff completed the 30 km race



#### First Nation Partnerships



First Nation Working Group Meeting SNC Office on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

North Stormont

# Eastern Ontario First Nations Working Group

- April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Hybrid meeting
- Approx. 68 attendees



### Industry Partnerships – Syngenta Canada

#### FEEDING THE FOOD CHAIN

Enhancing the health of pollinators across Canada

#### WHY POLLINATORS ARE IMPORTANT

Pollinator insects are responsible for the pollination of a wide range of plants that provide essential food sources for animals and humans!





 Funding received under Operation Pollinator

 Creation of over 3 acres of pollinator habitat along the South Nation River



### Partnership Opportunity

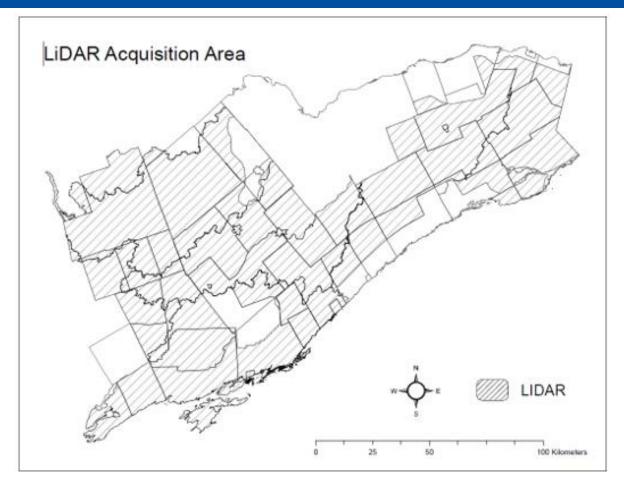


Riverside Cedar Campground, South Dundas

- St. Lawrence Parks
   Commission restoring habitat
   at various park and properties
- Looking to partner with SNC to provide expertise, guidance, and implementation
- Multi-year partnership



#### 2021 – 2022 LiDAR Acquisition Partnership



- Successful partnership between Federal Government, CAs, and Municipal partners
- Significantly under budget; great value for municipalities



#### Municipal Information Day (MID)



2023 Municipal Information Day (MID) SNC Office North Stormont

- Showcase programs, services, and partnerships at work
- First MID in-person since 2019
- Opportunity to network with municipal partners



#### Municipal Free Tree Days



SNC's Free Tree Pick Up
 Campaign provided 10,000
 free tree seedlings to residents in partner municipalities through
 May 2023





#### Nurses Week Campaign – Free Trees



Pree trees provided to healthcare workers as part of Nurses Week at three community hospitals:
Cornwall, Alexandria, and Winchester





# Ottawa Rotary Youth Forest



- Collaboration with the Orleans Rotary Club to fundraise for the creation of a youth forest
- Planting event in Navan hosted on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023



#### Eastern Ontario Children's Water Festival



- Partnership with the
  St. Lawrence River Institute to
  host the Eastern Ontario
  Children's Water Festival
- SNC delivered "Totally Turtles"
   Watershed Adventure
   presentations on Friday,
   May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Maitland



#### Maple Education Program



Oschmann Forest Conservation Area, Ormond, ON

- Maple tours and demonstrations with North Dundas District High School at the Oschmann Forest and the On the Bend Sugar Shack
- Staff also supported maple tapping on school property through the Specialist High Skills Majors Program



## Camp Sheldrick Tree Planting

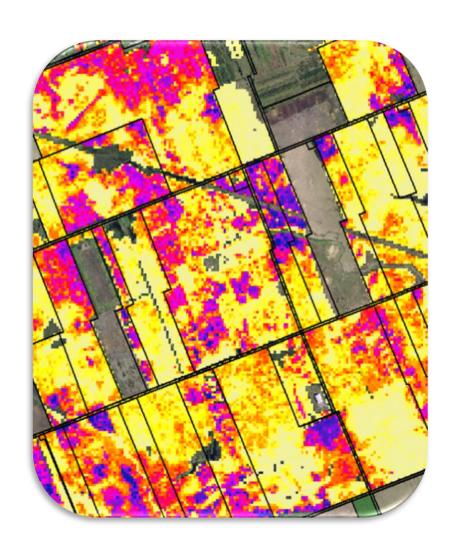




 Over 100 local scouts helped plant thousands of tree seedlings at the Camp Sheldrick Conservation Area on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023



#### Showcasing Partnerships: Media Event



- Project partnership with the Ontario Woodlot Association and the Ontario Trillium Foundation to study changes in forest cover using LiDAR technology
- Media event will be hosted on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the SNC Office



#### Volunteer Planting Event



Volunteer Pollinator Garden Planting, Russell

#### Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> W.E. Burton Conservation Area

- Volunteer community pollinator garden planting by the Russell Dam
- Canoe and garden products donated by local vendors and planted by Eco East volunteers
- SNC Community Environmental Grants Program Funding



#### Volunteer Planting Event



2022 Volunteer Planting Event, Russell

#### Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> W.E. Burton Conservation Area

- Invasive species removals and planting of native trees, shrubs, and perennials
- Partnership with Eco-East and Russell Horticultural Society
- Funding from TD Friends of the Environment and Ontario Power Generation



### Seasonal Conservation Areas and Boat Ramps



Accessible Dock Installation, Cass Bridge Conservation Area, High Falls Conservation Areas

# Conservation Areas Open for the May Long Weekend

- Summer water levels set at the Chesterville Dam
- Safety and debris booms installed ahead of water control structures (except Plantagenet – will be installed next week)
- All seasonal sites re-opened, all docks will be installed by Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>



# Mill Run Conservation Area Upgrades



Mill Run Conservation Area Augusta

- Recreational trail extension
- Caliper tree planting
- Pollinator meadow maintenance



# Managing Invasive Species



European Water Chestnut pulled from Castor River Russell

- European Water Chestnut found in South Nation River and Castor River in 2022
- Early detection and rapid response plan prepared
- Funding provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



# Supporting Municipalities



SNC is uniquely qualified to review ecological features and offer advice

- Development must assess impact to certain natural features
- Seeing increased costs and timelines due to lack of qualified reviewers
- Working on a municipal training program and potential private services to improve outcomes



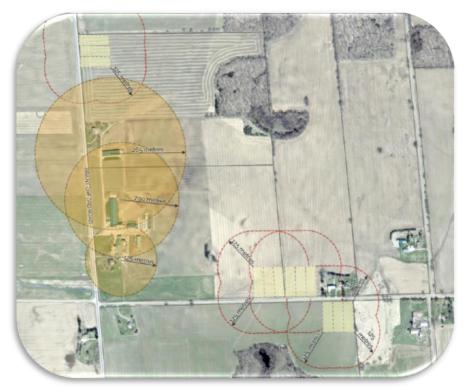
#### McKinnon's Creek Enhancements



- Provides drainage for large urban area
- Petition to designate a Municipal Drain
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Approval
- SNC Permit may require Board hearing



#### Provincial Updates – Bill 97



Potential for residential development to restrict agricultural businesses

- Open for comment until June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Local Counties expressing concern regarding rural lot creation
- Waiting on Natural Heritage section



#### On-site Inspections - Regulations Program



Visit to Agricultural field adjacent to Provincially Significant Wetland

- Staff responded to a complaint regarding Interference with a Wetland
- Visit confirmed agricultural activity outside of wetland boundaries
- Reminded landowner about permit process for drain cleanout



#### **Emergency Preparedness**



#### **National Risk Profile**

A national emergency preparedness and awareness tool

First Public Report - May 2023

- May 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> was Emergency Preparedness Awareness Week
- Flooding is Canada's most common and costly disaster
- SNC Flood Forecasting and Warning Program featured in Ontario Association of Emergency Managers Spotlight Series on May 11<sup>th</sup>



# Flood Forecasting and Warning Update





Ottawa River flooding in Clarence-Rockland on May 3, 2023

- Lower Ottawa River:
   Flood Warning
- **St. Lawrence River:**Shoreline Conditions
  Statement
- South Nation River: Normal Conditions

# Our Local Environment, We're in it Together.

