

## New walking trail in Moose Creek

SNC is partnering with North Stormont and local residents to develop a community walking trail in Moose Creek. The 1.5 km trail through mature, re-growth forest will be made possible with partial funding from corporate partner, Laflèche Environmental Inc. (LEI). An easement with local resident Viola McRae will connect the trail to an existing easement held by North Stormont. Construction will begin this spring, starting at Simeon Lane and ending at County Road #6. SNC will coordinate the construction and annually inspect the trail for hazard trees. Community members will volunteer for day-to-day monitoring and the Township will provide garbage bins and pickups.



## Extended hours to improve customer service

Beginning April 2014, SNC will extend business hours from 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. This service allows residents to drop off permit applications and discuss development projects without the need to take time off from other daytime commitments. SNC staff will also provide assistance for any other SNC program and service during this time. SNC is also working with interested municipalities to set up shop in their offices one day each month. This will allow residents to pre-consult on projects and submit applications without the need to drive to SNC's Office in Finch.

## Funding for woodlot management plans



SDG Certified Forest Owners and the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR) are contributing funds towards expanding SNC's Woodlot Advisory Service. New this year, eligible woodlot owners in UCPR and SD&G can apply for a grant to prepare a management plan under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. Subsidies cover

100% of costs, up to \$500. SNC will provide owners with a site evaluation and suggest management options. The management plans aim to enhance woodlot potential in an environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable way.

## Popular Information Days returning in 2014

SNC partners with local municipalities and contractors to improve planning and review services that help protect people and property. SNC will host the third annual Municipal Exchange Day on March 25, 2014 to discuss programs, services and new initiatives. Septic contractors can learn about building-code changes and program updates at SNC on March 4, 2014.

## Launching volunteer stream monitoring program

SNC will partner with local landowner volunteers to monitor stream health. The Stream Watch Program, made possible with over \$85,000 in external grants, will launch in the Castor River Watershed this year. Volunteers will receive training to collect water quality, fisheries, aquatic bug, and stream bank information. SNC uses this data to measure aquatic health and focus actions where they are needed the most. Volunteers will also help implement stewardship projects, including cleanups, tree planting, and streambank improvements using natural materials to control erosion.



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