

2006 Clean Water Program Annual Report

APPENDIX A

2006 EDUCATION AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

**ADVERTISEMENTS
AND
PRESS RELEASES**



SOUTH NATION
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Abandoned Well Decommissioning Grant

Abandoned wells affect the quality of our ground water and are a safety threat to children & animals. If you have an abandoned well on your property and would like to have it decommissioned, we will grant up to **\$500.00**.

Eligible Applicants:

- United Counties of S.D.& G.
- United Counties of Prescott-Russell
- Portions of the City of Ottawa
- Portions of Leeds-Grenville

To receive your application form and program requirements, please contact:

South Nation Conservation
1-877-984-2948 ext. 238

Funding provided by:
The Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee



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PARMALAT COMES THROUGH ONCE AGAIN

January 9, 2007

Winchester-based Parmalat Canada has matched last year's \$5,000 Clean Water Program donation to South Nation Conservation with an equal donation this year.

Presentation of a \$5,000 cheque was made just before the Holidays by Stephen Wilson, Director of Plant Operations in Winchester.

The donation was received by SNC chairman Gaston Patenaude and vice-chair Claude Cousineau who thanked the company for its ongoing support.

"We really count on gifts such as the ones from Parmalat," Patenaude said. "Not only does the money help but it indicates a commitment to the watershed and to clean water."

Cousineau underlined the leadership shown by the milk manufacturing plant which relies on the South Nation River for its product processing and waste management water.

"Where one company goes, hopefully others will follow," the vice-chair said, noting that Parmalat has long been an active member of SNC's Clean Water Committee.

The company has a long history of contributing to SNC's clean water program, providing \$250,000 from 1998 to 2003, donations which helped fund dozens of landowner cost-share projects to implement best management practices.

Since its inception in 1993, the Clean Water Program has provided \$1.8 million in grants to more than 500 partnership projects valued at \$6 million.

"There's no doubt the program has played a significant role in controlling and reducing contaminants throughout the watershed," said SNC Water Quality Coordinator Ronda Boutz. "It's an approach which has been copied in several other jurisdictions."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Ronda Boutz, SNC, 877-984-2948, ext. 251.

Digital cheque presentation photo available upon request.



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PHOSPHOROUS DOWN, NITRATES UP IN SOUTH NATION

March 21, 2006

Nitrates associated with fertilizers and fecal contamination from septic systems, wastewater treatment plants and manure spreading are on the rise in the South Nation River watershed.

That's one of the findings of "State of the Nation", a report from South Nation Conservation updating watershed residents on the overall health and quality of the river and its tributaries.

"It's a summary of water quality trends since sampling began in 1964," said SNC Water Resources Specialist Ian Ockenden, explaining that the increase in contaminants may in part reflect an increasing watershed population.

State of the Nation also contains some good news: Phosphorus associated with algae growth which may lead to fish kills is decreasing, though still 300 to 500 per cent above provincial objectives.

"The drop may reflect construction of wastewater treatment plants in our watershed," Ockenden stated, adding that phosphate reduction regulations and improved farming practices have helped.

The report also covers turbidity, a measure of the cloudiness of water, noting it remains fairly constant due to continual inputs of sediment from soil and bank erosion. While levels exceed provincial objectives, there are no associated health risks. Microbiology associated with fecal pollution shows a decrease from the 1970s due to the construction of wastewater plants. Results vary depending on weather conditions.

As a result of the latest South Nation assessment, SNC warns swimmers do so at their own risk, realizing that bacteria levels are highest following rain and on hot days. Anyone consuming fish caught in the South Nation should heed the Ministry of Environment's *Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish* suggestions for the river.

SNC responded to elevated nutrient concentrations in the South Nation with introduction of the Clean Water Program in 1993. Since then, 474 improvement projects have received more than \$1.7 million in funding on a cost-share basis with landowners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Ian Ockenden, SNC, 877-984-2948, ext. 245.



SOUTH NATION
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SNC INVITES 2006 CLEAN WATER PROJECT APPLICATIONS

April 4, 2006

Funding is limited for this season's South Nation Conservation Clean Water Program which for 13 years has invested \$1.7 million in partnership with landowners in managing contaminants in the a 4,000 square-km watershed stretching from Brockville to Plantagenet.

"The time to get applications in is now," said Ronda Boutz, SNC Water Quality Coordinator. "All applications will be reviewed using a rating system to identify projects with the highest priority for water quality improvement.

Only applications received before mid-July will be considered for this year, Boutz emphasized. However, field representatives will continue to conduct site visits after the funding deadline has passed so data is on hand should additional funding be secured.

Manure storages, livestock access restrictions, buffer strips, septic system upgrades, and well decommissioning are among projects for which grant money is available to farmers and other property owners within the watershed.

Depending on the nature of the project, the maximum grant is \$10,000. Other eligible projects include fertilizer, chemical and fuel storages, milkhouse wastewater disposals, barnyard runoff controls, nutrient management plans, and educational initiatives.

Up to 50 per cent of total project cost is available under the SNC program, the longest-running of its type in Ontario. Project approval is overseen by the Clean Water Committee representing farmers, industries within the watershed, along with various governments and agencies.

Boutz specified that watershed residents who fall within the City of Ottawa should apply for project funding under the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program.

SNC offers technical assistance to applicants, including in applying for federal grants now available under the Greencover Program.

"We'll try to help as many landowners as possible access the federal dollars. The CWC will top up those dollars to our maximum grant rate where projects meet our high-priority criteria."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Valerie Sylvia, SNC, (877) 984-2948, ext. 238
vsylvia@nation.on.ca



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CLEAN WATER WORKSHOP COMING UP AT MARIPOSA FARM

May 18, 2006

With clean water a popular topic of discussion today, it's time for farmers and other rural residents to get informed on programs and grants available for water quality improvement.

That's the thrust of a bilingual workshop coming up June 2 at Mariposa Farm, 6468 County Road 17, Plantagenet. Start time is 1 pm, with adjournment at 4:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Suzanne Lafrance (679-0936) or Ian Walker (673-5881) to register.

South Nation Conservation delegate will be Clean Water Program representative René Lalonde who'll discuss SNC's Clean Water Program, a partnership with property owners which for the past 14 years has funded projects designed to reduce contaminants in the watershed.

Objectives of the workshop are to make landowners more aware of clean water protection and conservation; to link landowners to incentives and funding sources for stewardship initiatives; and to promote stream restoration and fish habitat.

Opening remarks will be made by Ian Walker, owner of Mariposa which specializes in free-range ducks and geese, and Suzanne Lafrance, coordinator of the Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council.

In addition to SNC, information about the Wetland Habitat Fund will be provided by Jacques Bouvier; the Environmental Farm Plan will be explained by Samme Putzel; and fish habitat and municipal drains will be detailed by Marie-Lyne Tremblay, of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The day will be rounded out with site visits in Plantagenet and Treadwell to view an SNC clean water project and a creek restoration effort.

"The timing is excellent for this workshop," Lafrance noted. "Much of the information to be provided ties into federal funding currently available to farmers for best management practices."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Ronda Boutz, (877) 984-2948.



SOUTH NATION
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EXPERTISE-SHARING TOUR UNDERWAY FOR SNC MANAGER

June 2, 2006

South Nation Conservation's water quality protection expertise continues to be in demand by other agencies and conference organizers, with general manager Dennis O'Grady recently returned from presenting at a major meeting in Pittsburgh.

The occasion was the three-day, 2nd annual National Water Quality Trading Conference highlighting the economic benefits, opportunities, and challenges associated with trading programs. About 300 people attended from across North America.

O'Grady is on the road again June 9 when he'll be part of a panel discussing capacity-building mechanisms for community-based organizations during the two-day Water Quality in Canada: National Workshop Series being held at the University of Guelph. In August, it's off to Cincinnati where O'Grady will be involved in a water quality training program.

"Interest in protecting clean water resources is increasing in leaps and bounds across the continent," O'Grady noted. "In many quarters, SNC is recognized as an authority in various protection techniques which we've practiced for years."

Practices such as water quality trading, a watershed-wide method of lowering the level of contaminants such as phosphorus which cuts costs and spreads responsibility. In SNC's case, for example, a farmer-driven Clean Water Committee was established years ago to approve cost-shared projects intended to cut back negative inputs into the watershed.

O'Grady told his Pittsburgh audience, that to realize success in trading programs, it's important to place at least as much emphasis on communications as on science.

"Recommendations are implemented through people and their relationships, not through a flowchart. Understand people's concerns and acknowledge past mistakes."

He urged audience members to "establish a watershed community". In order for residents to respond when the watershed is threatened, they must feel a sense of ownership."

"When people contribute directly to a conservation authority's work, they take a personal interest in the project. The dam becomes *my* dam, the forest becomes *my* forest. When the government takes over, the personal and proprietary interest of the citizen is lost."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dennis O'Grady, SNC, (877) 984-2948.



SOUTH NATION
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ABANDONED WELL DECOMMISSIONING GRANTS AVAILABLE

July 19, 2006

South Nation Conservation is recommending prompt decommissioning and capping of abandoned wells because they can become entry points for pollutants into aquifers, says Water Quality Assistant Valerie Sylvia.

To make the job easier, a full 100 per cent of project costs up to a maximum of \$500 is available through well decommissioning grants offered through SNC, Sylvia said.

“Once a well is no longer needed, it becomes liability if left untended. “The remedy is to correctly decommission an unused well.”

Administered by SNC, funding for the program is being provided by the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee. Costs eligible under the program include contractor fees, materials and equipment; ineligible are any labour and machinery time provided by the applicant, dependents or his/her business, as well as GST charges.

All SNC watershed residents are eligible applicants, including in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, rural portions of the City of Ottawa, and portions of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. Applications must be made prior to initiating projects.

Sylvia specified that funding is only for properly closing down unused wells, not for upgrading operating wells.

Successful applicants must comply with specified Ministry of Environment (MOE) procedures for plugging wells; details of each procedure must be documented and submitted to MOE for review. Work must be completed by a well contractor licensed under the Ontario Water Resources Act.

“There’s a greater emphasis across Ontario on the installation, condition, maintenance and decommissioning of rural wells,” Sylvia noted. “It’s part and parcel of doing everything we can to guarantee a continuous supply of clean, safe water.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Valerie Sylvia, SNC, (877) 984-2948, ext. 238.



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ST. ALBERT CHEESE CONTRIBUTES FINAL SLICE OF CLEAN WATER FUNDING

August 1, 2006

The third instalment of the St. Albert Cheese factory's \$21,000 donation over three years to South Nation Conservation's Clean Water Program was presented during a Clean Water Committee meeting July 31 by Jean Gour, president of the milk processing co-op.

Welcoming the final \$7,000 contribution, committee chairman Denis Perrault said it'll help boost clean water funding granted directly to landowners to undertake water quality projects on their properties.

As South Nation's Water Quality Program continues to expand, partnerships are increasingly important. All partnerships with SNC will be of lasting benefit and improve quality of life in the area.

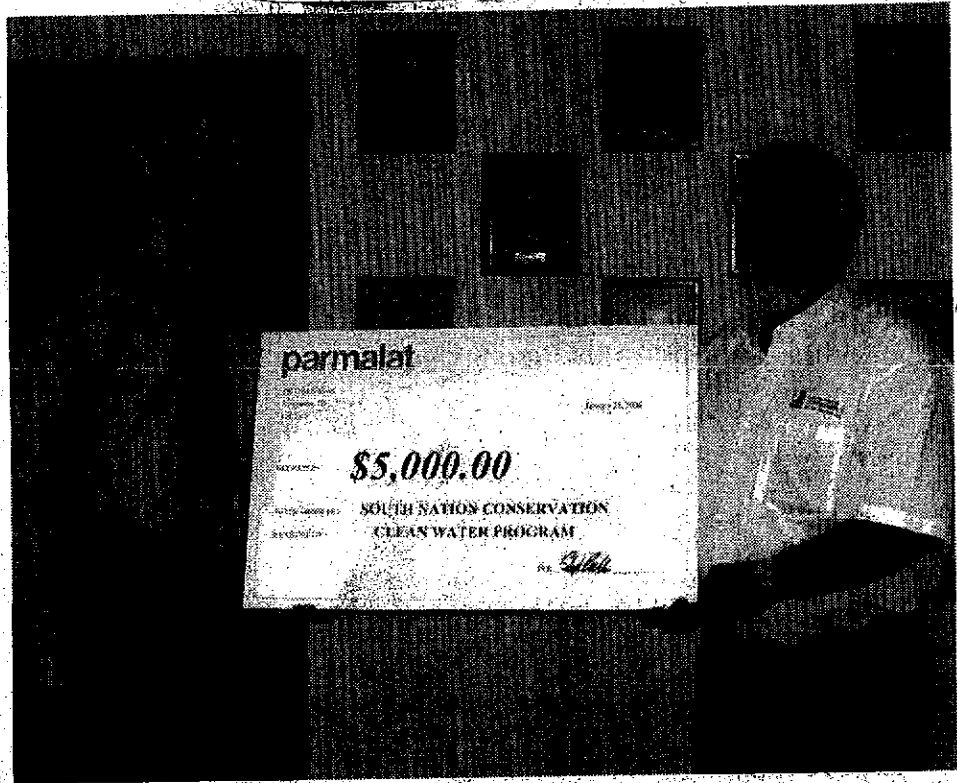
"It's our environment. They're our natural resources. Let's all share in the responsibility of enhancing them," Perrault said.

Successful participants in the CWP must have an approved application, including a visit from a field representative. They must also agree to participate financially, up to 50 per cent of total costs. Funding for 2006 has been fully allocated.

Since its inception in 1993, some 474 projects valued at \$6.6 million have been made possible by over \$1.7 in grants under the Clean Water Program, with the committee actively seeking more partnerships to contribute to this important initiative.

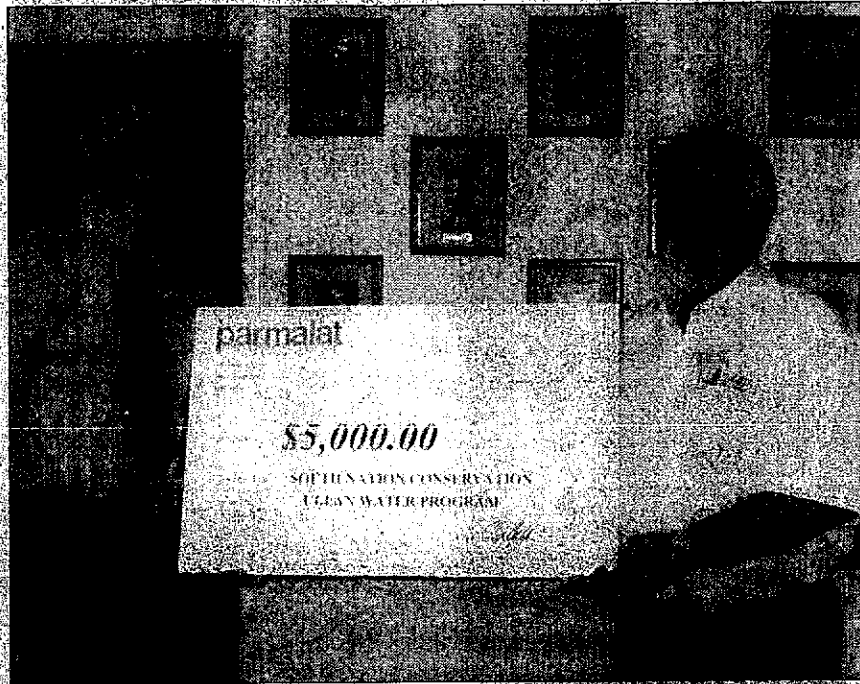
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Ronda Boutz, (877) 984-2948, ext. 251.
(Digital photo of St. Albert cheque presentation available upon request)

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS



Stephen Wilson (left), Director of Plant Operations for Parmalat, Winchester, presents a cheque for \$5,000 to Claude Cousineau, Chairperson for the South Nation Conservation Authority. The money is part of \$250,000 Parmalat has contributed to the SNC's Clean Water Program since 1998 to help fund more than 80 landowner cost-share grants to implement best management practices. (submitted photo)

PARMALAT SUPPORTS CLEAN WATER PROJECT



(Submitted photo)

MAJOR DONATION Parmalat Canada has donated \$5,000 to South Nation Conservation to assist landowners with water quality improvement projects. Stephen Wilson, director of plant operations, in Winchester, presented the cheque to Claude Cousineau, chair, at the January board meeting.

\$5,000 from Parmalat to SNC

*Chesterville Record
Jan. 25, 2006*

BERWICK — Parmalat Canada's Winchester operation has committed another annual installment to South Nation Conservation's Clean Water Program.

Stephen Wilson, director of plant operations, was set to hand over the \$5,000 cheque at the SNC board of director's meeting this week.

Parmalat donates \$5,000 to Clean Water Program



Parmalat Canada's Stephen Wilson (left), Winchester director of plant operations, presents a cheque for \$5,000 to South Nation Conservation chair Claude Cousineau on Wed., Jan. 25. The money is earmarked for the Clean Water Program.

BERWICK — Stephen Wilson, director of plant operations at Parmalat Canada in Winchester, presented a \$5,000 cheque to South Nation Conservation (SNC) chair Claude Cousineau on Wed., Jan. 25 at the SNC board meeting. The funding will assist with water quality improvement projects.

"This timely donation has allowed us to provide funding to a milkhouse wastewater project completed in 2005," said Ronda Boutz, water quality coordinator at SNC. "Prior to Parmalat's donation, only \$417 remained in the budget to meet the \$5,000 funding request for this milkhouse project."

Parmalat has a long history of contributing to SNC, provid-

ing \$250,000 to the Clean Water Program between 1998 and 2003. Past donations have helped to fund 80 landowner cost-share grants to implement best management practices.

"Parmalat is pleased to support the Clean Water Program, we strive to support the community and environment," said Wilson.

Since its inception in 1993, the Clean Water Program has provided over \$1.7 million in grants to more than 500 projects, valued at \$6 million. With annual requests for funding continually exceeding the available budget, the Clean Water Committee is actively seeking more partnerships to contribute to this important initiative.

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Parmalat donates \$5,000 to Clean Water program

Parmalat Canada is providing local dollars to assist landowners with water quality improvement projects. Stephen Wilson, Director of Plant Operations in Winchester, presented a \$5,000 cheque to South Nation Conservation (SNC) Chair, Claude Cousineau, at the January SNC Board meeting.

"This timely donation has allowed us to provide funding to a milkhouse wastewater project completed in 2005" said Ronda Boutz, Water Quality Coordinator at SNC. "Prior to Parmalat's donation, only \$417 remained in the budget to meet the \$5,000 funding request for this milkhouse project" Boutz continued.

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Seaway News, Feb. 10, 2006.

Parmalat donates



Parmalat Canada is providing local dollars to assist landowners with water quality improvement projects. Stephen Wilson (left), Director of Plant Operations in Winchester, presented a \$5,000 cheque to South Nation Conservation (SNC) Chair, Claude Cousineau (right), at the January SNC Board meeting.

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Photo submitted by Ronda Boutz

SNC addresses "State of the Nation"

Everything you wanted to know about the State of the Nation—that is, the South Nation River—will be revealed March 2, starting at 7 p.m. at the Berwick Recreation Centre. That's the date, time and place for South Nation Conservation's annual meeting.

There's no admission fee and refreshments will be served. Held in the Berwick hall close to SNC headquarters, the annual meeting is geared to the general public, with staff members providing details of ongoing projects and updates of

activities within the 4,000 square-km South Nation watershed. Keynote presentations will be made by SNC director Alan Perks—"International Perspective on Water Management Issues"—and by Ian Ockenden, SNC Water Resources Specialist—"State of the Nation Water Quality Report."

This is a chance to become more informed about environmental issues that impact them directly such as water quantity and quality, reforestation and wildlife habitat and management.

State of the Nation

BERWICK - The state of the South Nation River will be addressed at the annual meeting of South Nation Conservation March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Berwick recreation centre. Keynote presentations will be made by SNC director Alan Perks, who will speak on "International Perspective on Water Management Issues," and SNC water resources specialist Ian Ockenden, who will share the "State of the Nation Water Quality Report."

The meeting is an opportunity for residents to become more informed about environmental issues which directly affect them, such as water quantity and quality, reforestation and wildlife habitat and management, says SNC general manager Dennis O'Grady.



DARCY CHEEK/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

A pair of Canada geese graze on the slope of the South Nation River near Algonquin on Wednesday.

Increase in nitrates still concern for South Nation Conservation

By **DEREK ABMA**
Staff Writer

The authority overseeing the South Nation watershed has some good news and bad news about long-term contamination trends in the water.

Over the last four decades, there has been an increase in nitrates, which are associated with fertilizers and fecal contamination from septic systems, sewage treatment plants and manure spreading, South Nation Conservation said.

Ian Ockenden, water resources specialist with the conservation authority, said nitrate levels in the South Nation River and its tributaries are generally two to three milligrams per litre. He said it averaged 0.2 milligrams per litre in the 1960s.

However, Ockenden said nitrate levels are not considered a health concern by provincial standards until they reach about 10 milligrams per litre.

The increase in nitrate levels is thought to result from population growth and increased farming activities, according the conserva-

watershed replacing private septic systems.

On the apparent contradiction of nitrates being up but bacteria decreasing, Ockenden said, "It's kind of different aspects of the same thing."

He said provincial standards for modern sewage-treatment plants emphasize the elimination of bacteria more than nitrates, since the former is more of a concern.

Nonetheless, people are warned they swim at their own risk in the South Nation River system.

Seventy-six per cent of the time, the level of bacteria in the system is lower than the provincial limit of 200 E. coli per 100 millilitres, which is considered safe for swimming, he said.

He added that levels tend to increase after rain and on hot days.

Another positive finding cited by South Nation Conservation is that phosphorus, associated with algae growth that can kill fish, is on the decline. However, it is still 300 to 500 per cent above provincial objectives.

Ockenden said phosphorus often comes from fertilizers, soaps

the fields," he said.

"Evidently, in the South Nation watershed, there seems to be some better practices to deal with this issue of coliform and phosphorous flowing from the field," Green said.

Gerri Kamenz, vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and a farmer on the South Nation watershed, said the farmers in this area have worked in close partnership with the conservation authority to maintain the health of the water system.

He said farmers increasingly ensure there are physical barriers between fields and waterways and avoid spreading manure when the ground is not ideal for absorbing it, such as when the ground is frozen.

Kamenz said it's more efficient for farmers to find ways to keep their nutrients and fertilizers from flowing into the river, because the materials are staying on the fields and doing what they're supposed to do.

"But also ... we don't want denigrate the environment," he added.

As for safety precautions that should be taken by the public,

"You can kind of see a gradual increase in the '70s, the '80s and the '90s," Ockenden said.

"As the population pressures increase, you get a combination of greater densities of septic systems in rural but not yet fully urban areas. ... And as urban areas grow, you either get larger treatment plants or there's just more pressure on the current ones they have."

However, there are some positive trends detected in the South Nation watershed as well.

Bacteria associated with fecal matter, such as E. coli, has been on the decline since the 1970s, the conservation authority said. This is thought to be the result of more sewage-treatment plants along the

ment plants were credited somewhat for the decrease in this contaminant, as well as better farming practices.

He added that standards for the amount of phosphorus that can be included in soap and detergent are more stringent than before.

Daniel Green, a scientific adviser for the Sierra Club of Canada, said contamination trends with the South Nation are better than what's seen with a lot of other water systems in eastern Ontario and western Quebec, where bacteria and phosphorus levels are increasing.

"What we're seeing, in the rivers of Quebec for instance, is this advantage of sewage treatment is cancelled by spreading manure in

water. ...
recommended.

As for eating fish caught in the South Nation, Ockenden said bigger fish are more likely to have absorbed more contaminants.

He said the provincial government's Ministry of the Environment's Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish gives guidelines about what fish are less safe to eat, and gives limits on how often certain fish should be eaten out of different bodies of water.

The guide can be downloaded at www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/guide.

The South Nation River stretches about 175 kilometres from Elizabethtown-Kitley east to the Ottawa River.

River gets improved report card

Nitrate levels in the South Nation River are just one of the quality parameters that are improving

BY TOM VAN DUSEN
SPECIAL to Ontario Farmer

While still below provincial objectives, nitrate concentrations in all parts of Eastern Ontario's South Nation River system have been on the upswing for the past 40 years.

That's one of the findings contained in State of the Nation, a recently released report card on water quality in the 4,000 square-km watershed which extends from Brockville northeast to Plantagenet.

Levels of phosphorus, turbidity and bacteria are also higher

than desirable, the report indicates... and that's despite more than a decade spent implementing corrective action.

While it won't be a factor for several months, the report cautions South Nation swimmers they do so at their own risk; bacteria concentrations are often highest immediately following rain and on hot days.

As for drinking the water... that should only be done after "adequate treatment". Fish caught in the South Nation should only be consumed after consulting the Ministry of Environment's Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish.

Still, said Denis O'Grady, for 19 years general manager of South Nation Conservation, which oversees water quality in the system, the battle is being

slowly won.

"There's no instant gratification when it comes to the environment," O'Grady said. "All improvements require a series of painstaking steps."

He underlined the fact the river is home to some 50 species of fish as an indicator of overall ecological health: "If we only had carp swimming around, we'd have a major problem."

Many State of the Nation findings are typical of shallow, mainly rural watercourses which serve primarily to drain farmland and the overflow from small municipal sewage treatment plants, said O'Grady who has worked for conservation authorities in southwestern Ontario.

In the South Nation watershed, monitoring of quality and



South Nation CA's Ian Ockenden makes his 'State of the Nation' presentation

conditions has been conducted for 40 years through 13 testing stations, volunteer community sampling, and routine research done by municipalities and provincial and federal agencies. SNC has also started investigating benthic invertebrates - bottom-dwelling insects - as an

additional indicator of water quality and general ecosystem health.

Nitrate is one of the most common pollutants of groundwater in rural areas and is a concern because of its possible effects on the health of children and livestock, the report states.

It's increasing despite quality enhancement projects implemented by SNC in cooperation with farmers, industry and municipalities in the watershed. Since 1993, some 474 projects have received \$1.7 million in cost-share grants for implementation of best management practices.

Nitrate is commonly associated with fertilizers and fecal contamination from septic systems, sewage treatment plants and manure spreading activities, said SNC water resources technician Ian Ockenden who prepared the report.

Ockenden said the increase may reflect expanded demands placed on sewage treatment plants and/or on the number and density of septic systems as communities continue to grow.

Turning to turbidity, a measure of cloudiness caused by minute particles floating in the water, State of the Nation indicates that levels exceed the Provincial Water Quality Objective.

"Trends in turbidity remain fairly constant and are on par with other agricultural rivers in southern Ontario," the report reads. "This suggests that the main sediment load in the river arises from a combination of soil erosion from fields and streambanks."

WHILE THERE ARE no associated health risks, turbidity levels can result in greater difficulty and expense associated with treating drinking water. Spikes in turbidity are sometimes caused by landslides of unstable clays found between Casselman and Plantagenet.

As for bacteria associated with fecal matter, South Nation water has exceeded objectives for drinking and agricultural irrigation in almost all samples taken over the past 30 years.

South Nation River

Ockenden remarked that the largest decreases in phosphorous levels can be seen in the 1960s and '70s when wastewater treatment plants and lagoons were first constructed in Embrun, Casselman, and Winchester.

"We saw huge decreases then, and though it has levelled off slightly, we still see a decrease in the '80s, '90s, and further," he explained.

Phosphorous reduction regulations and improved farming practices are also responsible for the levels dropping.

Nitrates — from fertilizers and fecal contamination from septic systems and manure spreading — are on the rise, however.

"We have a highly agricultural [water] system," Ockenden explained. Nitrates are one of the most common groundwater pollutants in rural areas and affect children and livestock health.

In the SNR watershed, nitrate levels are well below the Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) of 10 milligrams per litre. However, trends show an increase in nitrates in all parts of the SNR over the last 40 years.

Continual sediment inputs from soil and bank erosion make the river's turbidity — or cloudiness — constant. However, there are no associated health risks. Spikes in turbidity levels occur fairly regularly in the SNR watershed and are caused by landslides of the unstable clays found between Casselman and Plantagenet. The same clay contains phosphorous, adding to the high levels in the river, which is one reason the report warns swimmers to use the river at their own risk — bacteria levels are highest following rain and on hot days.

This is a similar warning to those SNC has delivered in years past, as the South Nation River has been known for high phosphorous.

Anyone consuming fish caught in the South Nation River should use the Ministry of the Environment's Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish.

South Nation's Clean Water Program was introduced in 1993. Since then, 474 improvement projects

have received more than \$1.7 million in funding on a cost-share basis with landowners.

A report similar to the State of the Nation is released about every five years by the conservation authority.

"It's a summary of water quality trends since sampling began in 1964," said Ockenden, explaining that the increase in contaminants may reflect the increasing population of the watershed.

The 2006 edition of State of the Nation summarizes water quality trends starting in the 1960s, when SNC began its monitoring efforts, to the present.

The last report of this nature was completed in 2001, compiling information gathered over the previous 10 years. The 2006 report is a general overview of the last 40 years.

"None of this stuff is cut and dry," Ockenden noted.

SNC has recently started sampling benthic invertebrates (bottom-dwelling insects) as an additional indicator of water quality and ecosystem health.

SNC also asks landowners along the river to keep their shoreline natural. Vegetation can provide a buffer against runoff leaving your property and polluting the river. Many residents still mow their lawns or crop their fields to the river's edge; a minimum buffer of three metres can make a huge difference to water quality, and can also help with erosion problems, which cause contamination.

OMAFRA Update

South Nation Conservation

Phosphorous Down, Nitrates Up in South Nation

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That's one of the findings of "State of the Nation", a report from South Nation

Conservation updating watershed residents on the overall health and quality of the river and its tributaries.

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wastewater plants. Results vary depending on weather conditions.

As a result of the latest South Nation assessment, SNC warns swimmers do so at their own risk, realizing that bacteria levels are highest following rain and on hot days. Anyone consuming fish caught in the South Nation should heed the Ministry of Environment's Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish suggestions for the river.

SNC responded to elevated nutrient concentrations in the South Nation with introduction of the Clean Water Program in 1993. Since then, 474 improvement projects have received more than \$1.7 million in funding on a cost-share basis with landowners.

For more information: Ian Ockenden, SNC, 877-984-2948, ext. 245.

CHESTONVILLE RECORD

Nitrate levels increase in South Nation

South Nation Conservation has released the findings of "State of the Nation", a report that updates South Nation River watershed residents on the overall health and quality of the river and its tributaries. Its findings show nitrates associated with fertilizers and fecal contamination from septic systems, wastewater treatment plants and manure spreading are on the rise in the watershed. However, phosphorus associated with algae growth, which may lead to fish kills is decreasing, although it is still 300 to 500 per cent above provincial objectives. The report also measures turbidity, a measure of the cloudiness of water, noting it remains fairly constant due to continual inputs of sediment from soil and bank erosion. Levels exceed provincial targets but there are no associated health risks. The report is a summary of water quality trends since sampling began in 1964, and may reflect the rising watershed population. Since the introduction of the Clean Water Program in 1993, 474 improvement projects have received over \$1.7 million on a cost-share basis with landowners. When the water warms up later in the season, swimmers are warned they do so at own risk. Bacteria levels are highest following rain and on hot days.

SNC seeks applications for clean water program

BERWICK — Funding is limited for this season's South Nation Conservation Clean Water Program, which for 13 years has invested \$1.7 million in partnership with landowners in managing contaminants in the 4,000-square kilometre watershed stretching from Brockville to Plantagenet.

"The time to get applications in is now," said Ronda Boutz, SNC water quality co-ordinator. "All applications will be reviewed using a rating system to identify projects with the highest priority for water quality improvement."

Only applications received before mid-July will be considered for this year, Boutz emphasized. However, field representatives will continue to conduct site visits after the funding deadline has passed so data is on hand should additional funding be secured.

Manure storage, livestock access restrictions, buffer strips, septic system upgrades, and well decommissioning are among projects for which grant money is available to farmers and other property owners within the watershed.

Depending on the nature of the project, the maximum grant is \$10,000. Other eligible projects

include fertilizer, chemical, and fuel storage; milkhouse wastewater disposals; barnyard runoff controls; nutrient management plans; and educational initiatives.

Up to 50 per cent of total project cost is available under the SNC program, the longest-running of its type in Ontario. Project approval is overseen by the Clean Water Committee representing farmers and industries within the watershed, along with various governments and agencies.

Boutz specified that watershed residents who fall within the City of Ottawa should apply for project funding under the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program.

SNC offers technical assistance to applicants, including in applying for federal grants now available under the Greencover Program.

"We'll try to help as many landowners as possible access the federal dollars," said Boutz. "The CWC will top up those dollars to our maximum grant rate where projects meet our high-priority criteria."

For more information call Valerie Sylvia of SNC at 877-984-2948, extension 238 or e-mail vsylvia@nation.on.ca.

SNC's Clean Water funds limited

Funding is limited for this season's South Nation Conservation Clean Water Program that for 13 years has invested \$1.7 million in partnership with landowners in managing contaminants in the 4,000 square-km watershed. Only applications received before mid-July will be considered for this year. Manure storage, livestock access restrictions, buffer strips, septic system upgrades and well decommissioning are among projects for which grant money is available to farmers and other property owners within the watershed. Other eligible projects include fertilizer, chemical and fuel storages, milk house wastewater disposals, barnyard runoff controls, nutrient management plans and educational initiatives. Depending on the nature of the project, the maximum grant is \$10,000. Up to 50 per cent of the total project cost is available under the SNC program. Call 984-2948, ext. 238 for more information.

Clean water workshop at Mariposa Farm

With clean water in the news today, it's time for farmers and other rural residents to get informed on programs and grants for water quality improvement. That's the thrust of a bilingual workshop coming up June 2 at Mariposa Farm, 6468 County Road 17, Plantagenet. Start time is 1 p.m. with adjournment at 4:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Suzanne Lafrance (679-0936) or Ian Walker (673-5881) to register. South Nation Conservation delegate will be Clean Water Program representative Rene Lalonde who will discuss the SNC's Clean Water Program, a partnership with property owners which for 14 years has funded projects to reduce contaminants in the watershed. Objectives are to make landowners more aware of clean water protection and conservation; to link landowners, incentives and funding sources for stewardship, and to promote stream restoration and fish habitat. Opening remarks will be made by Ian Walker, owner of Mariposa and Suzanne Lafrance, coordinator of the PR Stewardship Council. Information about the Wetland Habitat Fund will be provided by Jacques Bouvier, the Environmental Farm Plan will be explained by Saumme Putzel while Marie-Lynne Tremblay of Fisheries and Oceans Canada will discuss fish habitat and municipal drains. The day will be rounded out with site visits in Plantagenet and Treadwell to view an SNC clean water project and creek restoration.

Workshop on clean water

Mariposa Farm, at 6568 County Road 17 in Plantagenet will host a workshop June 2 at 1 p.m. to educate people on special programs and grants aimed at improving overall water quality.

Rene Lalonde, a representative of the South Nation Conservation's Clean Water Program, will be on hand to discuss the SNC's program, a partnership with property owners which for the past 14 years has funded projects designed to reduce contaminants in the watershed.

The goals of the workshop are to make land owners more aware of clean water protection and conservation and to link landowners to incentives and funding sources for stewardship initiatives and to promote stream restoration and fish habitat.

Ian Walker, owner of Mariposa, and geese, and Suzanne Lafrance, coordinator of the Prescott-Rus-

sell Stewardship Council, will present the opening remarks.

Information about the Wetland Habitat Fund will be provided by Jacques Bouvier, the Environmental Farm Plan will be explained by Samme Putzel and fish habitat and municipal drains will be detailed by Marie-Lyne Tremblay, of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The day will be completed with trips to sites in Plantagenet and Treadwell to visit SNC clean water projects. If interested in this workshop contact Suzanne Lafrance (679-0936) or Ian Walker (673-5881) to register.

Ontario Farmer, June 27, 04

Demonstration projects to “green” Ontario agriculture

Demonstration projects at ten sites across Ontario will help showcase farming practices that offer environmental and economic benefits to farmers.

The governments of Canada and Ontario will invest \$628,400 through the Technical Assistance component of the Greencover Canada initiative to support a variety of on-farm projects that aim to improve water quality and quantity, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, control erosion

and reduce greenhouse gases.

“Environmental stewardship is critical for the industry's long-term health and vitality,” said the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board.

“By providing funding for on-farm environmental initiatives, Canada's new government is supporting producers' efforts to adopt practices that make economic sense and protect ecosystems.”

“Ontario's farmers are stewards of the land and environment and the McGuinty government is helping them continue that tradition,” said Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Leona Dombrowsky.

“With this initiative, farmers can gain important hands-on experience with new technology. Farmers benefit and so does Ontario's environment.”

Prescott Journal July 26, 2004

Grants help cover cost of wells

Property owners in parts of Augusta and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal may be eligible for well decommissioning grants.

A program funded by the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee and administered by South Nation Conservation covers 100 per cent of costs (to a maximum

of \$500) such as contractor fees, materials and equipment. The grants are to be used for closing down unused wells and not to upgrade existing ones.

Decommissioning and capping abandoned wells is recommended because they can become entry points for pollutants to get into aquifers.

Residents of the South Nation River watershed (extending from Elizabethtown-Kitley to Prescott-Russell) are eligible.

For more information, call 1-877-984-2948.

Landowners can get grant to cap old wells

By DEREK ABMA
Staff Writer

Money is available for landowners along the South Nation River watershed to decommission unused wells on their property.

The program is being administered by South Nation Conservation and funded by the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee.

Landowners can get up to \$500 worth of work covered to cap old wells.

Valerie Sylvia, water quality expert with the conservation authority, said abandoned wells pose an environmental risk, and there are many of them.

"There's a lot of wells out there, especially in farmers' fields," she said.

As an example, Sylvia said chemicals used to fight a fire could make their way down an abandoned well and contaminate a water source or nearby wells still in operation. She

said a person could face liability issues if his inaction contaminates a neighbour's water source.

Areas covered by the program include most of the townships of Augusta, Edwardsburgh-Cardinal and South Dundas, Sylvia said.

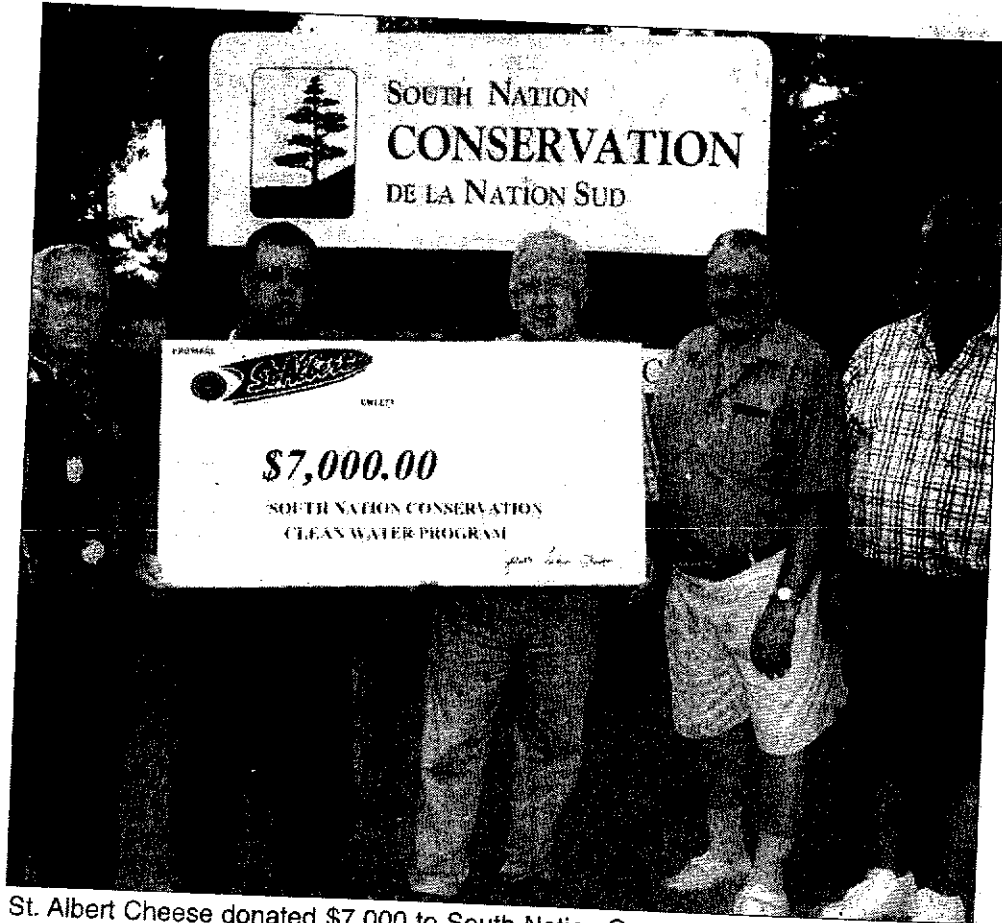
She said property owners will have to get quotes for decommissioning their wells, present them to a committee of the conservation group, and have the job approved before hiring a contractor.

She said landowners will pay in advance and submit their documentation for reimbursement. The GST will not be reimbursed, she said.

Sylvia said her agency has a list of contractors in eastern Ontario qualified to decommission wells.

South Nation Conservation will not reimburse owners for work they do themselves or contract out to dependents.

For more information, call Sylvia toll free at 1-877-894-2045, extension 238.



agnews
AUG 06

St. Albert Cheese donated \$7,000 to South Nation Conservation's Clean Water Program on July 31. Shown receiving the cheque in front of the SNC office from left: Gaston Patenaude, chair of South Nation Conservation (SNC), Jean Gour, president of St. Albert Cheese, Denis Perrault, chair Clean Water Committee, Floyd Dingwall, SNC past chair and Claude Cousineau, vice chair SNC.

St. Albert makes final payment on \$21,000 clean water donation

THE THIRD INSTALLMENT OF THE ST. ALBERT CHEESE FACTORY'S \$21,000 DONATION OVER THREE YEARS TO SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION'S CLEAN WATER PROGRAM WAS PRESENTED DURING A CLEAN WATER COMMITTEE MEETING MON., JULY 31 BY JEAN GOUR, PRESIDENT OF THE MILK PROCESSING CO-OP.

Welcoming the final \$7,000 contribution, committee chairman Denis Perrault said it'll help boost

clean water funding granted directly to landowners to undertake water quality projects on their properties.

As South Nation's Water Quality Program continues to expand, partnerships are increasingly important. All partnerships with SNC will be of lasting benefit and improve quality of life in the area.

"It's our environment. They're our natural resources. Let's all share in the responsibility of enhancing them," Perrault said.

Successful participants

in the CWP must have an approved application, including a visit from a field representative. They must also agree to participate financially, up to 50 per cent of total costs. Funding for 2006 has been fully allocated.

Since its inception in 1993, some 474 projects valued at \$6.6-million have been made possible by over \$1.7-million in grants under the Clean Water Program, with the committee actively seeking more partnerships to contribute to this important initiative.

SNC greencover funding

The South Nation Conservation has been awarded one of 10 Greencover Canada demonstration projects, in an investment of \$628,400 from a total budget of \$15 million allocated to the province until 2008. Greencover Canada funding is provided under the Agricultural Policy Framework, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. South Nation Conservation will receive \$70,000 through March, 2008 for the project. From 1994 to 1997, SNC joined the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) in collecting baseline data for the South Branch through studies of partridge, fish, invertebrates and wildlife, along with surveys of farmers and other landowners. Current activities will include species diversity and population assessments, evaluation of fish habitat improvements and water quality analysis. Ronda Boutz, the authority's Water Quality coordinator said the funding will permit the collection of new information on current conditions and compare it to the baseline data in order to determine the success of the initial project.

AUG 2, 2006

SNC project gets funding

BERWICK — South Nation Conservation (SNC) has been awarded one of 10 Greencover Canada demonstration projects recently confirmed for Ontario.

"Under the program, SNC will receive \$70,000 through March 2008 for a project established along the South Branch of the South Nation River," said Ronda Boutz, the authority's water quality co-ordinator.

Greencover Canada funding is provided under the Agricultural Policy Framework, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) delivers the Greencover Canada program in Ontario, in partnership with Agriculture and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. The component of the demonstration project showcase management practices which offer environmental and economic benefits to farmers. The individual projects are geared to improving water quality and ecology, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, controlling erosion, and reducing greenhouse gases.

From 1994 to 1997, SNC joined the OSCIA in collecting baseline data for the South Branch through studies of partridge, fish, invertebrates, and wildlife, along with surveys of farmers and other landowners.

"This funding will allow us to collect new information on current conditions and compare it to the baseline data in order to determine the success of the initial project," said Boutz.

Activities under the project will include species diversity and population habitat improvements, and fish quality analysis.

"SNC is proud to participate in a national program which has such a worthwhile objective. The outcome will provide some verification of the many benefits associated with the Greencover beneficial management practices," said Boutz. "Greencover starts with the premise that environmental stewardship is critical to agriculture's long-term health and vitality."

The program supports the efforts of producers to adopt practices which make economic sense and protect ecosystems. It's an excellent example of producers and conservation specialists working together to prove on-farm management of the environment, an approach SNC has followed for years, particularly through its Clean Water Committee."

Winchester Press
AUG 11 2008

VANKLEEK HILL REVIEW

AUG 16, 06

St-Albert Cheese wraps donation

The third instalment of the St-Albert Cheese factory's \$21,000 donation over three years to South Nation Conservation's Clean Water Program was presented during a Clean Water Committee meeting by Jean Gour, president of the milk processing co-op.

Welcoming the final \$7,000 contribution was committee Chairman Denis Perrault, who said it will help boost clean water funding granted directly to landowners to undertake water quality projects on their properties.

As South Nation's Water Quality Program continues to expand, partnerships are

increasingly important. All partnerships with SNC will be of lasting benefit and improve quality of life in the area.

"It is our environment. They are our natural resources. Let us all share in the responsibility of enhancing them," Perrault said.

Successful participants in the CWP must have an approved application, including a visit from a field representative. They must also agree to participate financially, up to 50 per cent of total costs. Funding for 2006 has been fully allocated.

Since its inception in 1993, some 474 projects valued at \$6.6 million

have been made possible by more than \$1.7 million in grants under the Clean Water Program, with

the committee actively seeking more partnerships to contribute to this important initiative.

AUG 16, 2006
Winchester Press

St. Albert Cheese contributes final water funding

BERWICK — The St. Albert Cheese Factory presented the third instalment of a \$21,000 donation to South Nation Conservancy's Clean Water Program. The donation was presented during a Clean Water Committee meeting on July 31 by Jean Gour, president of the milk processing co-op.

Committee chairman Denis Perreault welcomed the final \$7,000 contribution, and said it will help boost clean water funding granted directly to landowners to undertake water quality projects on their property.

As South Nation's water quality program continues to expand, partnerships are increasingly important. All partnerships with SNC will be of lasting benefit and improve quality of life in the area.

"It's our environment," said Perreault. "They're our natural resources. Let's all share in the responsibility of enhancing them."

Successful partnerships in the Clean Water Program must have an approved application, including a visit from a field representative. They must also agree to participate financially — up to 50 per cent of total costs. Funding for 2006 has been fully allocated.

Since its inception in 1993, some 474 projects valued at \$6.6 million have been made possible by over \$1.7 million in grants under the Clean Water Program. The committee is actively seeking more partnerships to contribute to this important initiative.

WATERSHED UPDATES

March 2006



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

WATERSHED UPDATE

Spring Flood

The mild winter made the spring flood a non-event for 2006. Spring flows peaked on March 14, 2006. Below are flows recorded at various points in the watershed for 2005 and 2006. Average flows and high flows are also shown (in cubic metres per second, cms).

Measured Location	Highest '06 Spring Flow	Highest '05 Spring Flow	Highest Avg. Spring Flow	Highest Recorded Spring Flows
Spencerville	30.2cms	72.4 cms	46 cms	102 cms
Casselman	295 cms	646 cms	473 cms	903 cms
Plantagenet	412 cms	812 cms	690 cms	1190 cms

Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program

The City of Ottawa uses the three Conservation Authorities in Ottawa to deliver clean water grants to rural landowners. For 2006, there will be about \$130,000 in grants available for manure storages, improved milk house washwater, fencing, and other similar clean water practices. The funding is allocated by a Committee composed of representatives of farming, environment and landowners in the City.

Regulating Provincially Significant Wetlands in Ottawa

The City of Ottawa approached SNC to regulate Provincially Significant Wetlands identified in their Official Plan. The other two Conservation Authorities in the City are already doing this, and the City wanted a uniform approach. SNC's regulations help prevent unauthorized development from cutting trees, destroying important species' habitat, and destruction of clean drinking water.

Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act

One permit a landowner needs when working around water is under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act (LRIA). This Act ensures rivers are not physically harmed by development. The Province now proposes that where a Conservation Authority has flood plain regulations, this legislation will not apply. This progressive approach removes an approval step that landowners previously had to follow. Since the information and control under a Conservation Authority regulation is virtually the same as under the LRIA, a landowner now has one less regulatory hurdle. This change will occur in 2006.

DOMTAR Lands

DOMTAR will soon sell their lands in Eastern Ontario. SNC and several other conservation partners, including Lafleche Environmental and the SD & G Stewardship Council, approached DOMTAR to acquire some of the environmentally significant lands. A proposal was submitted for funding from the Province, and if successful, negotiations will begin in mid-2006 to acquire several hundred acres of land.

Manitoba Tour

From April 18-21, 34 representatives from the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA) will tour SNC and neighbouring Conservation Authorities. Established on watersheds, and with a mandate similar to SNC's, many of the Manitoba Conservation Districts were created only recently. The tour will exchange ideas between two Provinces that are managing their watersheds.

May 2006



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

WATERSHED UPDATE

2006 Capital Projects

In 2004, a dam safety analysis showed that some of the concrete pads on the downstream side of the Chesterville Dam were falling apart. Without repairs, the flow of the water through the dam could not be slowed down, causing damage to property downstream. New stop logs and repairs to a leaky gate will also be done on the dam this summer.

Additional capital projects will be done on the Casselman weir, along the St. Lawrence River in Morrisburg, and along a stream near Bourget. Total costs for all projects in 2006 will be \$122,000.

Spring Tree Planting

Tree planting is now over for 2006. Over 75,000 trees were sold to 124 property owners throughout the watershed. Tagwi High School and the Boy Scouts in the watershed were especially helpful in planting trees. Many landowners wanted a small amount of herbicide sprayed around the seedlings to ensure their survival in the critical first year, and a contractor sprayed 75,000 trees. Trees can now be ordered for 2007 planting.

SNC Student Employment Programs

SNC continues to be one of the largest employers of students in the area. Eleven students from across the watershed will be employed on projects ranging from fisheries inventories, parks maintenance, public relations, and environmental planning. SNC will receive about \$17,000 from several different funding sources to help train the conservationists of tomorrow.

Well Decommissioning

The Eastern Ontario Water Resource Committee, a multi-stakeholder committee that works to improve our groundwater in P&R, SDG, Leeds Grenville and Ottawa, approved \$20,000 in grants for landowners to properly decommission old wells they may have on their properties. Grants are a maximum of \$500 per well, and money is set aside for each County.

Augusta-SNC-DFO Fisheries Partnership

Landowners who upgrade their docks or work along the shoreline of the St. Lawrence River in Augusta Township need to be careful since this is the home of many species of fish. This type of work needs approval from the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Augusta and DFO agreed to have SNC review most landowner shoreline development projects. SNC now does this for Augusta along the South Nation River and its tributaries, and its familiarity with the local community will speed up approvals for landowners and protect fisheries at the same time.

Geologic Survey of Canada Funds Groundwater Study

On May 31st, South Nation Conservation and local partners announced \$400,000 from the Ontario Geologic Society and the Ministry of the Environment to complete the first year of a two-year project to study the Eastern Ontario Esker Complex. The Geological Survey of Canada is also a key partner providing expertise and conducting fieldwork for the project. Eskers are long, narrow, ridges of sand and gravel that provide drinking water to several towns, including Winchester, Embrun, and Vars, etc. The aim of this study is to understand how the eskers are flowing underground and how best to protect them as a drinking water source.

August 2006



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

WATERSHED UPDATE

Funding Received for Water Control Structures

SNC received funding approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources under the provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program to undertake 7 new repair projects. The total estimated cost of the repairs is \$228,000 and will be mainly directed towards the Chesterville Dam and will include inspection and repairs to the steel gate and 2 log bays.

SNC Prepares Implementation Policies for New Development Regulations

SNC prepared draft implementation policies to deal with the new *Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses* Regulation. The new development regulations were approved by the province in May 2006 and replace the previous *Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways* Regulation in force since 1994.

SNC Spearheads TD Trust Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Jessup Falls

Each September, hundreds of thousands of participants from around the world join Canadians to clean up their shorelines. This year, SNC will be focusing on a cleanup at Jessup Falls and will target school groups to come out and lend a hand. The event will take place on September 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All data collected during the cleanups in September are tallied by the Vancouver Aquarium and sent to the International Coastal Cleanup. All volunteers are welcome.

Habitat Stewardship Program Funds the SNC Species at Risk Turtle Project

A cheque presentation ceremony was held on August 30, 2006 whereby a representative for the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk presented SNC with a cheque for \$40,000 for the one year, Species at Risk Turtle Project. To date, the Turtle Project has officially reported the sighting of the rare Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*) in the South Nation watershed. A rare mollusc, the Pink Heelsplitter

(*Potamilus alatus*), was also found in the watershed during the survey.

A Vision into Reality for McIntosh Park

The three acre parcel of land that has been generously donated to SNC adjacent to the Berwick office has been ploughed, disked and seeded by members of the community. Approximately 300 trees have been planted in the Park thus far by SNC staff and volunteers, including 10 mature size trees. Members of the McIntosh Memorial Committee have volunteered their time planting non-invasive flowers and shrubs in the newly landscaped gardens. The visitor's parking lot is now complete and can accommodate up to 10 vehicles. The meandering trail that winds its way throughout the park will let folks reflect as they pass by trees dedicated to loved ones. Tree Dedication Program pamphlets can be picked up at the SNC office.

SNC Fall Tours - Come Join Us!

SNC will host two, day-long bus tours this fall. The first tour will be on Wednesday, September 13th, and will focus on projects from the SNC Fisheries and Forestry Departments. The second tour will be on Monday, September 18th. The focus of this tour will be on our new jurisdiction along the St. Lawrence River and stops will include the Galop Canal, Morrisburg erosion control project, a residential constructed wetland, and much more. This tour will also visit the South Branch of the South Nation River, where several projects in water quality and fisheries are underway. Everyone is welcome to join the tours; however, space is limited and will be on a first come, first serve, basis. This is an excellent opportunity to meet SNC staff and learn about what we do. Contact Ronda (1-877-984-2948 x251) for more information or to reserve your spot.

October 2006



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

WATERSHED UPDATE

Morrisburg Shoreline Protection

South Dundas and SNC are protecting the shoreline in Morrisburg from erosion. With a 50% grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources, several sections of St. Lawrence shoreline will have stone placed to stop wave erosion. Total cost of the project is about \$58,000 and construction will start in November.

Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program Landowner Survey

SNC administers the delivery of water quality grants to Ottawa landowners on behalf of the City and the Mississippi and Rideau River Conservation Authorities. The program is several years old, and a survey of grant recipients will help all parties design a program that will meet their needs and improve water quality. SNC has experience with professional landowner surveys, and the \$13,000 survey will be done in 2006.

Federal Funding Application

SNC applied to the Federal Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative (AESI) for two projects. The first will work with the University of Ottawa and Agriculture Agri-Food Canada to evaluate the economic costs and benefits of stream buffers and shelterbelts. The second proposal would hire an agricultural technician to work with local farm groups and agricultural organizations to do research of their choosing. With new environmental programs announced recently, these groups have told SNC that they need help with research to better understand the impact of the new proposals. SNC will hear in early 2007 if the \$150,000 request is successful.

South Branch Improvements

In the mid-1990's, the South Branch in Matilda Township was improved to reduce flooding. In 2006, Edwardsburgh-Cardinal, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ontario Ministries of Transportation and Natural Resources, and SNC are improving the South Branch in Leeds Grenville. Each partner is contributing \$4,000 to improve fish and wildlife habitat and reduce flooding and monitor changes to fish & wildlife habitat, hydrology and water quality.

Rare Turtle Project

Five species of rare turtles may make their home in the South Nation River watershed. However, no data on their numbers exist east of the Rideau River. In 2006, SNC received a grant to confirm their presence, and 2 species were found. SNC applied to the Federal government for \$50,000 in Species At Risk funding for 2007 to continue with the next phase of the project.

Environmental Farm Plans (EFP), Healthy Home Guidebook (HHG) Required For 2007 Clean Water Grants

Until now, SNC's Clean Water Program did not require completion of EFP's. However, with new grants from Provincial and Federal governments requiring EFP's, SNC amended its requirements to also require EFP's. SNC also gives grants to non-farmers, and SNC will now require non-farmers to complete the HHG prior to receiving grants. This Guidebook, a partnership with the Dundas Environmental Awareness Group, guides homeowners on steps that improve the environment.

December 2006



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

WATERSHED UPDATE

Parmalat Donation

Since 1998, Parmalat, a large dairy factory in Winchester, Ontario, contributed over \$250,000 to SNC's Clean Water Program. The funding went directly to farmers to improve their conservation practices. For 2006, Parmalat has once again contributed to the Clean Water Program, and SNC appreciates the support for the Clean Water Program and the help for our dairy farmers.

Healthy Home Guidebook

In 2002, the Dundas Environmental Awareness Group (DEAG) and SNC secured a Trillium grant to produce a Guidebook on environmental practices for the rural, non-farm landowner. Modelled after the Ontario Environmental Farm Plan, the Guidebook is used by other organizations to educate landowners and to help allocate clean water grants. A new grant application for reprinting the Guidebook was approved by both DEAG and SNC and, if successful, will allow increased use by other organizations in Eastern Ontario.

And You Thought the River Was High in November!

Right after the high flows in November came record high flows for the month of December. Several new monthly high flows occurred. All flows are measured in cubic metres per second (cms).

Location	Date of Flow	Flow Recorded	Average December Flow	Highest Previously Recorded Dec. Flow
Spencerville	Dec 3 rd	63.8	2.81	28.3
Casselman	Dec 2 nd	354	25.42	282
Plantagenet	Dec 3 rd	414	32.2	470

Chesterville Channelization Survey

The South Nation River upstream of Chesterville was channelized in the late 1970's to reduce flooding. Since then, the River has not been surveyed to see if it has silted in. With a grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources, SNC will survey several sections of the River upstream of Chesterville to see if the flood control project is working as it was designed to do in the 1970's.

Debris Boom Removal

Immediately upstream of each of the dams that SNC operates are log booms that catch debris from going over the dam. These booms protect these dams from large trees and other debris that could cause structural problems. They also serve as warning devices for boaters. SNC staff has now removed these booms so that they do not get carried away with the spring floods.

Garbage Removed from SNC Lands

SNC staff was notified recently of a significant amount of garbage that people had dumped on its land. Staff went out to one popular hiking trail near Berwick and pulled out 4 truck loads of garbage.

**BROCHURES
AND
FACT SHEETS**



(613) 984-2948
 or 1-877-984-2948

Pour plus de renseignements:

de l'eau.
 l'amélioration de la qualité
 subventions pour
 peut-être admissible aux
 Grenville, vous serez
 et Glengarry ou Leeds et
 Stormont, Dundas et
 Prescott et Russell,
 dans les Comtés-Unis de
 la rivière Nation Sud, ou
 bassin hydrographique de
 Si vous habitez dans le

de l'eau

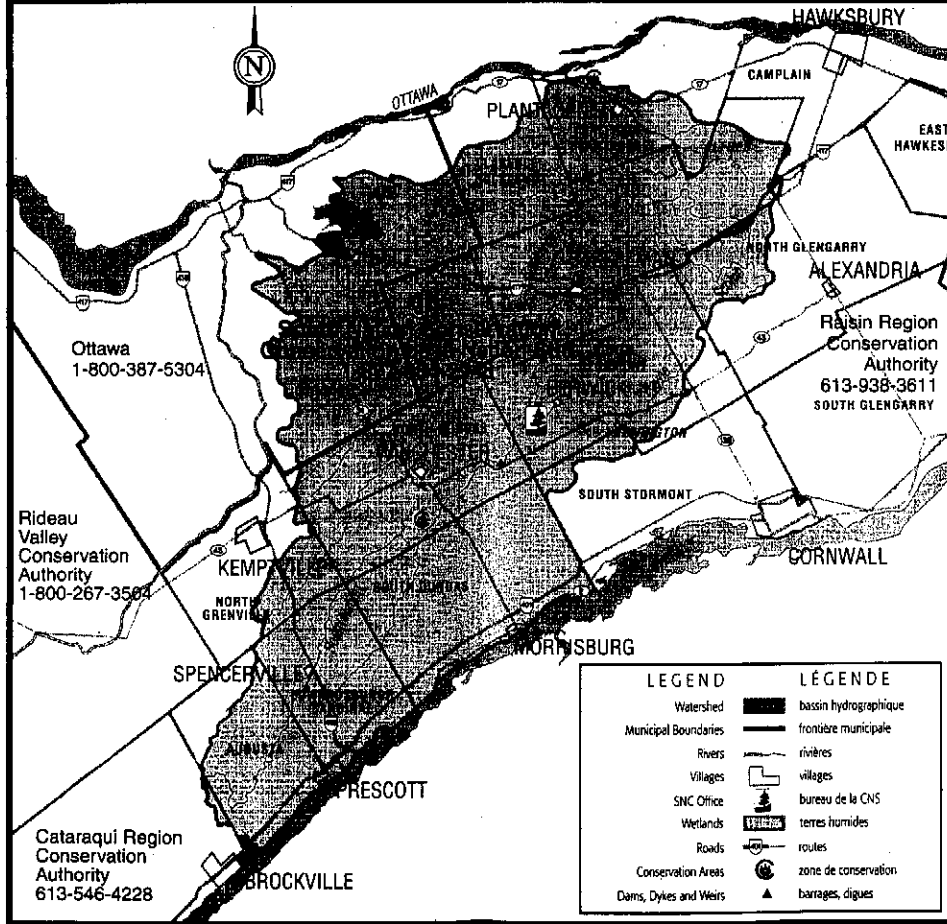
d'assainissement
 Sud Programme

de la Nation
 Conservation

2006

Basin hydrographique de la rivière Nation Sud

South Nation River Watershed



TOMLINSON

2006 South Nation Conservation Clean Water Program

If you live in the South Nation River watershed, which comprises parts of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, and Leeds-Grenville, you may be eligible for water quality improvement grants.

For more information:
(613) 984-2948
 or 1-877-984-2948





SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

2006 Abandoned Well Decommissioning Grant

Limited Funding – Projects will be put on a waiting list once funding is fully allocated

Grant Rate: 100% of project costs

Maximum Grant: \$500

Eligible Applicants:

- Residents in:
 - Portions of Leeds-Grenville County within the South Nation River Watershed
 - United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
 - United Counties of Prescott-Russell
 - portions of the City of Ottawa within the South Nation River Watershed

Conditions for Funding:

- Funding is to properly abandon unused wells **ONLY**, not to upgrade existing wells
- Must comply with Ministry of Environment (MOE) procedures for plugging or abandoning an unused water well according to Ontario Regulation 903 as amended. Details of the procedure must be documented on the water well record.
- Work must be completed by a well contractor **licensed** under the Ontario Water Resources Act.
- **Applicants should apply prior to initiating their project – please phone our office for more information.**

Eligible costs include:

- Contractor fees
- Materials
- Equipment

Ineligible Costs:

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents or applicant's business
- GST

For More Information:

South Nation Conservation
Valerie Sylvia, Water Quality Assistant
Toll Free: 1-877-984-2948 ext. 238
Phone: (613) 984-2948 ext. 238
Email: vsylvia@nation.on.ca

Funding provided by:



**Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee /
Comité des ressources en eau de l'Est de l'Ontario**



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

2006 La fermeture de puits

MONTANT DE LA SUBVENTION: 100% jusqu'à un maximum de 500\$

DEMANDEURS ADMISSIBLES:

- Résidants des:
 - Comtés-Unis de Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
 - Comtés-Unis de Prescott-Russell
 - Secteurs de la ville d'Ottawa situés sur le territoire du bassin versant de la Nation Sud
 - Secteurs du comté de Leeds-Grenville situés sur le territoire du bassin versant de la Nation Sud

CONDITIONS DE FINANCEMENT:

- Le financement s'applique **UNIQUEMENT** à la fermeture des puits avandonnés et non à leur modernisation.
- Les projets doivent satisfaire aux exigences du MEO relativement au bouchage ou à l'abandon d'un puits inutilisé, telles qu'elles sont précisées dans le Règlement de l'Ontario 903. Le procédé suivi doit être consigné; une copie du rapport en question doit être soumise au représentant du programme dès l'achèvement des travaux.
- Les travaux doivent être réalisés par un entrepreneur de puits agréé en vertu de la *Loi sur les ressources en eau de l'Ontario*.
- Les participants doivent faire parvenir leurs demandes de financement avant d'entreprendre leurs projets.

COÛTS ADMISSIBLES:

- les frais demandés par l'entrepreneur agréé
- les coûts de la main-d'oeuvre et du matériels

COÛTS INADMISSIBLES:

- emploi de la main-d'oeuvre ou de la machinerie de l'auteur de la demande, des personnes à sa charge ou de son entreprise
- ainsi que la taxe sur les produits et services (TPS)

POUR PLUS DE RENSEIGNEMENTS: Conservation de la Nation Sud
Valerie Sylvia
Sans Frais: 1-877-984-2948 poste 238
Tél: (613) 984-2948 poste 238

FINANCEMENT OFFERT PAR:



**Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee /
Comité des ressources en eau de l'Est de l'Ontario**

Evaluation of the South Branch of the South Nation River

What Should You Know About This Study?

The South Branch of the South Nation River is located in a productive 297 km² agricultural flood plain. In the early 1990's, 11 km of the South Branch was channelized to mitigate the frequent annual flooding of farm land. These actions were followed by various ecological projects between 1994 and 1997 including "Managing Agricultural Drains to Accommodate Wildlife" funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Wetlands/Woodlands/Wildlife Program. At this time, efforts were made to stabilize the river banks and to enhance biodiversity and water quality along the South Branch.

Partners / Funding

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, and Food and Rural Affairs have selected SNC's South Branch evaluation proposal to be 1 of 10 projects funded as an On-Farm Greencover Demonstration Project for Ontario.

What Will This Project Involve?

The project will be implemented over the next 2 years with the majority of the field work to be conducted between June and November 2006. A final report will be issued in March 2008.

What Are The Objectives Of This Study?

- To compare baseline ecological data collected in the 90's to current watershed conditions.
- To evaluate the degree of success of past endeavours (i.e. tree planting, fish mitigation structures, etc).

What Activities Does This Study Include?

- Landowner Perspectives: survey of land use, channelization, wildlife, fish, and water quality
- Wildlife Buffer/Corridor: evaluation and voluntary replanting
- Wildlife: Hungarian partridge assessment, and field surveys of birds and mammals
- Fishery: field surveys, netting, and electrofishing
- Water Quality: monthly water chemistry, invertebrate indicators/species survey
- Channelization: evaluation of fish structures, mapping, photo/video library

This Project will...

- Determine how the biology has changed, improved, or worsened in the past decade.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas in need of mitigation in the watershed.
- Integrate various watershed biology aspects into one study.
- Compare historical data to develop management/monitoring programs for the future.
- Educate and communicate environmental practices between regions and landowners.
- Serve as a surveyed watershed approach for other conservation authorities to model.



For additional information,
please contact:

Adriana Hoogenboom
Junior Biologist
Tel: 1-877-984-2948 ext. 301
E-mail: ahoogenboom@nation.on.ca

How Can You Get Involved?

- Complete surveys to the best of your ability.
- Allow access to your property along the South Branch for data collection.

If You Choose to Become Involved

- All participation is voluntary and appreciated.
- Survey answers will be kept anonymous.
- A copy of the final report will be available to you.
- Results cannot be used in any way to implicate, charge, or penalize landowners or farming operations.



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
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Canada



Ontario

Évaluation du Bras Sud de la Rivière Nation Sud

Ce que vous devez savoir au sujet de cette étude?

Le bras sud de la rivière Nation Sud traverse une plaine inondable agricole fertile de 297 km². Au début des années 1990, ce cours d'eau a été canalisé sur 11 km afin d'atténuer les effets des inondations annuelles sur les fermes environnantes. Cette initiative a été suivie de divers projets écologiques réalisés entre 1994 et 1997 dont le programme de «Gestion du drainage agricole pour assurer l'existence de la faune» subventionné par Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada et le «Programme des milieux humides, des terrains boisés et de la faune». Des efforts ont alors été faits pour

Qui finance ce projet?

L'association pour l'amélioration des sols et récoltes de l'Ontario, en collaboration avec Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada et le Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires Rurales de l'Ontario, ont décidé de financer le projet soumis par CNS sur l'évaluation de sa Branche Sud. Ce projet est l'un de 10 projets de démonstration pour écologiser l'agriculture ontarienne.

Ce que ce projet implique?

Le projet sera mis en œuvre au cours des deux prochaines années, mais la majeure partie du travail sur le terrain sera effectuée entre juin et novembre 2006. Un rapport final sera publié en mars 2008.

Quels sont les buts de cette étude?

- Comparer les données écologiques de base recueillies dans les années 1990 avec l'état actuel du bassin versant.
- Évaluer l'impact des initiatives antérieures (plantation d'arbre, passes migratoires du poisson, ect.).

Les activités incluses dans cette étude:

- Pour les propriétaires fonciers : un relevé de l'utilisation des terres, la canalisation, la faune terrestre et aquatique et la qualité de l'eau.
- Bande tampon et corridor pour la faune : évaluation et reboisement volontaire
- Faune : inventaire de la perdrix grise et études sur le terrain des oiseaux et des mammifères.
- Pêche : études sur le terrain, pêche au filet et pêche électrique
- Qualité de l'eau : analyse chimique mensuelle de l'eau, inventaire des invertébrés.

Cette étude aura pour effet de...

- Déterminer jusqu'à quel point la biologie a changé, s'est améliorée ou s'est dégradée depuis 10 ans.
- Définir les forces et les faiblesses et les secteurs du bassin versant qui doivent faire l'objet d'une intervention.
- Intégrer en une seule étude divers aspects de la biologie du bassin versant.
- Comparer les données historiques afin de créer des programmes de surveillance et de gestion pour l'avenir.
- Éduquer et échanger des pratiques environnementales entre les régions et les propriétaires fonciers.
- Servir d'exemple de relevé d'un bassin versant pour d'autres offices de protection de la nature.

Comment s'impliquer personnellement

- Remplir les relevés au meilleur de votre connaissance.
- Autoriser l'accès à votre propriété afin de recueillir des données le long du bras sud de la rivière Nation Sud.

Pour plus d'information,
veuillez communiquer avec :

Adriana Hoogenboom
Biologiste adjointe
Tél: 1-877-984-2948 poste 301
Email: ahoogenboom@nation.on.ca

Si vous décidez de vous impliquer

- Toute participation est bénévole et très appréciée.
- Les réponses inscrites dans les relevés demeureront anonymes.
- Une copie du rapport final vous sera remise.
- Les résultats de l'étude ne pourront d'aucune manière être utilisés pour mettre en cause, accuser ou pénaliser les propriétaires fonciers ou les exploitations agricoles.



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