South Nation Watershed Update: October 2013

Acquiring SD&G lands for species-at-risk habitat

SNC is working with a solar energy company to provide suitable habitat for at-risk grassland birds. This pilot project aims to offset a new solar farm's potential impact on biodiversity, and result in a net benefit for Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. A property assessment of SNC lands in North Stormont and North Dundas are complete, and land will be selected for habitat restoration with the financial support of SunEdison. Recognizing this unique program, SNC staff were invited to guest speak at a provincial workshop in October about conserving biodiversity through offset projects.



Managing flood risks in the City of Ottawa

SNC mitigates property damages and public safety risks by mapping lands that flood. SNC is entering a five-year plan to update flood risk mapping in the City of Ottawa. Staff are surveying watercourses with existing and future development pressures along Greys Creek McCooye Creek, and the Cassidy Municipal drain in Osgoode Ward. We gather elevation data, bridge measurements, and previous flood damage to build a computer model that calculates flows during floods. Ottawa and SNC use this information to ensure that new development is not located in areas with identified flood and erosion risks.

Collecting data in the Alfred Bog



SNC is studying the hydrology of the Alfred Bog to identify areas where water loss has the most impact. This will help us target future restoration activities in the largest, highest-quality, remaining peat bog in southern Ontario. The Eastern Ontario Water Resources Committee, which

receives funds from Prescott-Russell and the City of Ottawa, is supporting SNC and our Carleton University partners to purchase meteorological station equipment. These instruments are now in place to measure solar radiation, precipitation, humidity, temperature, and wind. These outputs will also support SNC's drought and flood monitoring programs.

Improving river access at Spencerville Mill

SNC partners with the Township of Edwardsburgh/ Cardinal to manage and maintain the boat launch immediately west of the Spencerville Mill. In need of repair from erosion damage, the River access point now has a new, 8 x 12 ft reinforced concrete slab to link to the local waterway. With back-hoe services from the



Township, and material and labour from SNC, the overhaul—including permit approval for watercourse work, and curing the concrete—was complete in less than six weeks.

New SNC website for maximizes impact and efficiency

SNC is making our news, science, and services more widespread and easily available with the launch of a new website in October. The same nation.on.ca web address streamlines the permitting process;



provides up-to-date watershed news; and organizes 65 years of scientific knowledge—in both official languages.

