

## SNC to help City of Ottawa restore endangered ginseng

The City of Ottawa is contracting SNC to establish a population of American Ginseng in the South March Highlands. SNC's role includes planting and tending 100 ginseng seedlings, which will help the City's efforts to protect endangered species. SNC was identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources as the only local ginseng specialist that could provide this service. American Ginseng is found in low numbers in the South Nation watershed and its importance is well recognized by Aboriginal traditional knowledge.



## Casselman hydro operators recognized

The hydro generator on the South Nation River at Casselman runs under the ownership of the Laplante family. In 1986, Dr. Guy Laplante was one of the first private operators in Ontario to produce power for general consumption. Environmental protection is an integral part of the facility's operations. Major powerhouse upgrades and a new turbine in 2011 needed to comply with federal fisheries laws. Guy and his son Stephane are commended by SNC for going above and beyond requirements in their efforts to minimize potential negative effects on fish and aquatic habitat.

## Lower fees & streamlining for municipal drain maintenance reviews

SNC is reducing fees for reviews of municipal drain maintenance and repair activities. Culvert replacements, erosion repair, and watercourse cleanouts on municipal drains will fall under the lowered \$65 fee. A new Ontario protocol is providing a simplified process that allows SNC to reduce review costs and pass those savings onto member municipalities and local landowners.

## Species at risk monitoring

SNC is partnering with local landowners and anglers to monitor the presence of American eels. The current focus is on the upper watershed, including streams into the St. Lawrence River and upstream from Cass Bridge Conservation Area in Winchester. SNC observed eels in previous sampling efforts which will continue this year with pots and traps.



Eels were once abundant in rivers but are now a species at risk. SNC is also entering the eighth year of working with partner municipalities to promote protection of species at risk turtles. This program will be enhanced by a \$50,000 grant from Shell Canada awarded in June.

## Over \$148,000 in grants approved for landowner projects

Forty-two projects for improving local water quality will receive \$148,336 in grants approved by SNC's Clean Water Committee. The funding is provided by SNC's Clean Water Program and three other grants that SNC delivers on behalf of its partners. Typically, landowners contribute \$3 for every \$1 in grants; bringing an investment of about \$450,000 to the local economy. Approved projects include manure and milkhouse storages, streambank erosion control, well decommissioning, and septic system upgrades.



SOUTH NATION  
**CONSERVATION**  
DE LA NATION SUD