

Funding for forest acquisition

SNC's 2014 Budget includes a legacy trust program, making it easier for forests to be permanently protected in the jurisdiction. SNC owns 11,000 acres of land, mostly forest cover, which provide natural benefits for people and wildlife. In most cases, funds for land acquisitions are doubled through SNC's partners in conservation. Individuals and families who want to protect their land for the future donate about 200 acres every year.

Improving popular Plantagenet Park

SNC is improving the shoreline at Jessup's Falls Conservation Area in Plantagenet by planting willow trees. Repairing damaged shorelines is an effective way to maintain water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and stop soil erosion. In 2014, SNC will improve River access at Jessup's Falls with two concrete ramps to extend the existing boat launch. Accessible washrooms and entrance signage are new additions at SNC's most highly-used park.

Growing success: Assessing local tree survival



SNC increases watershed forest cover through a low-cost tree planting program for local landowners. Every fall, SNC conducts follow-up survival assessments of trees planted in their first five years. Of the 348,000 trees planted on 76 sites across the jurisdiction since 2009, 70 per cent are surviving—an acceptable rate given the drought in 2012 and increased rainfall in 2013. SNC

plants native tree species and conducts preliminary site visits to ensure the best growing conditions.

Expanding SNC's septic service

SNC issues septic permits to install or alter private sewage systems on behalf of 11 watershed municipalities. Recognizing the quality of work, the Town of Hawkesbury is expressing interest in signing a contract for this expert service. SNC handles every aspect of the process, which includes about 300 septic tanks, and leaching beds every year. SNC ensures that systems are environmentally sound; meet building code requirements; and aren't likely to impact on neighbours. SNC provides copies of septic records to realtors and landowners seeking relevant information.

Sustainable neighbourhood: Protecting the Leitrim Wetland

SNC partners with stakeholders from the City of Ottawa, environmental agencies, Tartan and Tamarack Homes, and the Findlay Creek Community Association to preserve the Leitrim



Wetland in the City of Ottawa. SNC is organizing outreach and stewardship activities for 2014 including an Earth Day tree giveaway, interpretive hikes, and a stream cleanup. SNC monitors the water quality in Findlay Creek, and maintains a 300 m boardwalk so that the public can enjoy the Leitrim Wetland without harming the ecosystem. Staff were invited to speak about SNC's partnership at the Community Association's AGM in November.

Enhancing fish habitat at Port of Johnstown

SNC is working with the Port of Johnstown to complete a fish habitat compensation project along the St. Lawrence River. Work is underway to expand a downstream wetland into a larger, more beneficial area for fish. The project includes shoreline enhancement work and creating a buffer of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers along the pier to prevent erosion and surface runoff. SNC is installing root wads and wood debris to provide additional habitat. Excavation will begin in January to create a more diverse, vegetative ecosystem.



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