



Conservation Areas
WORKSHOP

9 YEARS IN REVIEW

Annual Conservation Areas Workshop



HISTORY

- Originally organized by the Greater Golden Horseshoe Group and the CAWG
- Purpose was to provide an opportunity for CA staff from across the province an opportunity to come together to share information and provide training opportunities at a reasonable rate
- A Laternal type conference for Land Managers
- Each Year a different charity receives a donation on behalf of the speakers

YEAR 1 - Providing GREENSPACE on a Shoestring

- **Held on October 10 – 11, 2007**
- **Chaired by Dave Dyce, CVC**
- **Attended by approx. 85 people from 16 Authorities**
 - **Seven Exhibitors**
- **Charity – Couchiching Conservancy**

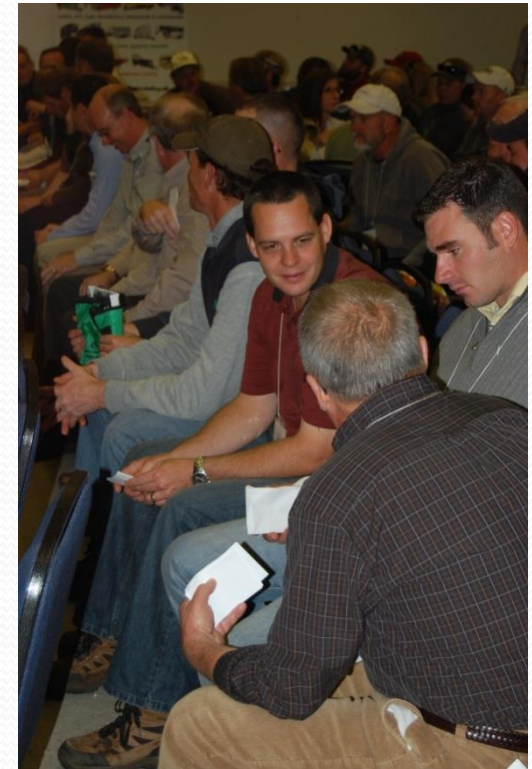
YEAR 1 – Providing GREENSPACE on a Shoestring

Topics Included

- **Business Side of Conservation Areas**
 - Managing Public, Open Spaces
 - Success Stories
- **Assessing and Managing Risk**
 - Intro to RM
 - Due Diligence
- **Land Management Challenges & Opportunities**
 - Encroachment and Trespassing
 - Fleet
 - Customer Service
 - Enforcement

Speakers Included:

- **Don Pearson, Conservation Ontario**
- **Mark Hancock, AON Reed Stenhouse**
- **Internal CA Staff Experts**
 - Ken Phillips, CH
 - Byron Wesson, NVCA



YEAR 2 - Take the Trail

- **Held on October 28-30, 2008**
- **Chaired by Brian Kemp, LSRCA**
- **Expanded to 3 Days to offer more selection**
- **Day 1 was off site – Ken Reid CA and Scanlon Creek CA**
- **Attended by approx. 115 people from 25 Authorities**
 - **17 Exhibitors**
- **Charity – Huronia Trails and Greenways**



YEAR 2 - Take the Trail

- **Managing Multi Use Trails**

- Geocaching
- ATVs
- Enforcement

- **Trail Building and Design**

- Best Management Practises
- Removing Barriers
- Policies and Procedures

- **New Directions**

- Trail Trends
- Marketing Partnerships
- MP3s Hit the Trails

Speakers Included:

Carl Hiebert “A Gift of Wings”

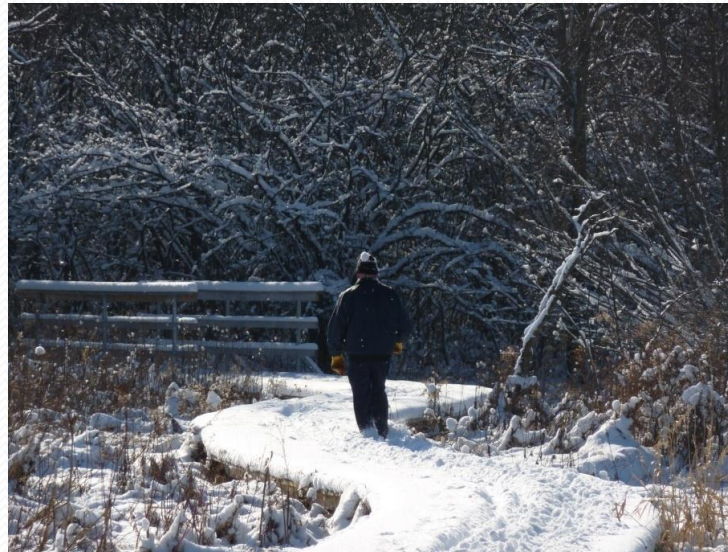
Patrick O’Connor, OTC

**Allen MacPherson, Kawartha Trans
Canada Trail**

Sgt Grenville, OPP

Internal CA Staff Experts

- Dan Jones, UTRCA
- Donna Carlson, CH
- Tom Hildebrand, Mike Bender, TRCA



YEAR 3 – Common Sense Conservation



*"Country
Clem"*

- Held on October 28-30, 2009
- Chaired by Greg Bray, NVCA
- Day 1– Wye Marsh and Fleming College
- Attended by approx. 100 people from 24 Authorities
 - 14 Exhibitors
- Certificate Training Session Introduced
 - Also known as the “Year of Clem”
- Charity – Fleming College Law Program

YEAR 3 – Common Sense Conservation

Topics Included:

- **Enforcement**
 - Court Room Demeanor and Procedures
 - CA Stories/Case Studies
 - Officer Professionalism
- **Getting The Grants**
 - Success Stories
 - Grant Prep 101
 - CA Foundations
- **Infrastructure**
 - Green Buildings
 - Risk Management

Speakers Included:

Sara Wilbur, GRCA Foundation

David Barett, Saugeen Business Development

Henry Geoffry, South Simcoe Police Service

Andrew Bowerbank, World Green Building Council

Internal CA Staff Experts

- Tony Horvat, Hamilton
- Jim Harris, CH

YEAR 4 – Special Places, Special People



- Held on October 27-29, 2010
- Chaired by Craig Machan, UTRCA
- Day 1– Mountsberg CA and Ganaraska Forest Centre
- Attended by approx. 125 people from 27 Authorities
 - 17 Exhibitors
 - 3rd Topic Stream Introduced
 - Workshop Sponsorship Introduced
 - CA Innovation Award Introduced
 - Syer Hospitality – CS Training
- Charity – Mountsberg Conservation Area and Ganaraska Forest Centre

YEAR 4 - Special Places, Special People

Topics Included:

- **Tourism Success Stories**
 - How to Compete
 - Adjusting to Demand
- **Trails**
 - Fleming's Sustainable Trails Certificate
 - Trails Assessment
- **Right Events, Right Time**
 - Bird Banding at Scanlon Creek
 - Bass Tournament at Island Lake
 - Christmas in the Country
- **Master Planning and Development**
 - TRCA Case Study
 - LSRCA Case Study
 - CVC Case Study
- **Infrastructure Management**
 - Retrofits to older buildings
 - TRCA Case Study – Fleet
- **Certificate Training**
 - Conflict Resolution

Speakers Included:

All Abilities Welcome

Nicole Pereira/Denis Braun, IG Communications

Catherine Staples, Fleming College

Bill Goulding Sustainable Trails

Mike Benedict, MOL

Rob Thorburn, Scenic Caves Nature Adventure

Internal CA Staff Experts

- Brian Coombs/Steve Kruk, CH
- Shannon Wood, Saugeen
- Deanna Cheriton, TRCA



YEAR 5 – Best Practices, Best Shared!



- Held on October 24-26, 2011
- Chaired by Brad Straus, GRCA
- Day 1– Scenic Caves and Warsaw Caves CA
- Attended by approx. 150 people from 28 Authorities
 - 17 Exhibitors
- Laurie Flasko – Team Building
 - Charity – Warsaw Caves

YEAR 5 – Best Practices, Best Shared

Topics Included:

- **Managing/Training People/Groups**
 - Staff Training Case Studies
 - Friend of Groups/Volunteers
- **Green Infrastructure/Asset Management**
 - Integrated Pest Management
 - From Inventories to Actions
 - Green Infrastructure Initiatives
 - Fleet Group
- **Marketing and Grants**
 - Social Media 101
 - Grants/Revenue Generation Successes
- **Events and Activities**
 - Making Geocaching Work for You
 - Education Programs
- **Certificate Training**
 - Best Practises for Ice/Winter

Speakers Included:

- Steve Filipowitz/Scott Elliott, Ontario Parks**
Doug Wyseman
Ontario Invasive Plants Council
Ontario Green Infrastructure Coalition
MANY Internal CA Staff Experts
- Gene Matthews/Nigel Finney/Hassaan Basit/Terry Smith/Steve Kruk, CH
 - Kevan Baker, St. Clair CA
 - Jayme Crittenden, Conservation Ontario
 - Tim Jackson, South Nation CA
 - Brad Dixon, GRCA
 - and many more...

NBMCA Tree Saver Sign Bracket

Mounting interpretive or directional signage on trees can damage them as they grow - it can be equally damaging to the public image for CA's. Screens to keep also pose safety hazards to staff during tree maintenance and/or chain sawing. Alternatives, such as sign posts, are often costly or require time consuming maintenance due to vandalism.

NBMCA's Maintenance Foreman Rich Beaulieu's innovative "Tree Saver Sign Bracket" is tree-friendly, easy to install, low cost, and easily duplicated with material available at the local hardware store - and it's economical too, providing an 80% savings from conventional steel signs. There's a mounting bracket on the tree. The bracket expands as the tree grows, and the sign can be placed high enough on the tree to avoid vandalism and still be visible.

Simplicity is often the best innovation of all!

With a 1/2" diameter hole in a 1/2" post, the sign bracket is easy to install and can be used with any sign. The bracket is made of 1/2" diameter steel pipe, which is drilled through the center of the tree trunk. The bracket is then secured to the tree trunk with a 1/2" diameter steel bolt. The sign is then attached to the bracket with a 1/2" diameter steel bolt. The bracket is made of 1/2" diameter steel pipe, which is drilled through the center of the tree trunk. The bracket is then secured to the tree trunk with a 1/2" diameter steel bolt. The sign is then attached to the bracket with a 1/2" diameter steel bolt.

The NBMCA Tree Saver Sign Bracket is a simple, yet effective, way to protect trees from damage caused by signs. It is made of 1/2" diameter steel pipe, which is drilled through the center of the tree trunk. The bracket is then secured to the tree trunk with a 1/2" diameter steel bolt. The sign is then attached to the bracket with a 1/2" diameter steel bolt.

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Conservation Areas Innovation Award Nominee

NBMCA TREE SAVER	TRADITIONAL SIGN POST
Our trial sign cost	Our trial sign cost
Clamp	P/T Post (defect)
Clip	Temper Proof Screws
Spring	Steel Lin (2x4x16')
Labour: 10hrs (10mins)	Labour: 2 hrs x 2 people
Total	Total

"To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk."
 Thomas Edison

NBMCA Tree Saver Sign Bracket
 North Bay - September 2011
 Project Cost: \$19.53

YEAR 6 – Healthy by Nature

- Held on October 22-24, 2012
- Chaired by Colin McCully, GRCA
- Day 1– Treetop Trekking, GRCA Park Tours and POA Refresher Training
- Attended by approx. 115 people from 25 Authorities
 - 19 Exhibitors
- Niall Lobleby – Woods for Health
- Rob Keen – A Healthy Dose of Green
- Don Pearson – Healthy By Nature



YEAR 6 – Healthy By Nature

Topics Included:

- **Health Connections**
 - Value of Nature to Human Well Being
 - Exercise and Nature Programs
 - 50 Things to do before you're 12 Program
 - Healthy Workplaces
- **Health and Safety**
 - Internal Staff Training Programs
 - External Health and Safety Programs
 - Natural Disaster Case Studies
- **Education Programs**
 - Active Outdoor Life
 - Yellow Fish Road
 - Engaging New Canadians
- **Trails**
 - Trail Funding and Marketing
 - Impacts of trail building to Communities
 - Province Wide Trail Initiatives
 - Accessible Trails
- **Certificate Training**
 - Trained Weather Spotter

Speakers Included:

Monica Szabo, Public Services, Health and Safety

Paul Speck, AON

Gary Wood, County of Huron

Patrick O'Connor, OTC

Geoff Coulson, Environment Canada

MANY Internal CA Staff Experts

- **Kristy Giles, RVCA**
- **Jay Clarke, Brittany Reid, Adam Dembe, Shintu Cherian, TRCA**
- **Niall Lobley, Jim Aikenhead, Amy Fennell, Steve Kruk, Norm Miller, Conservation Halton**
- **Al Leach, SVCA**
- **and many more...**

YEAR 7 – Flexing with the Times

- Held on October 23-25, 2013
- Chaired by Colin McCully, GRCA
- Day 1– Kortright Centre and POA Refresher Training
 - Attended by approx. 115 people from 25 Authorities
 - 19 Exhibitors
 - Chris Hughes – Tourism, Keeping up with the Changes
- Chris St. Clair – The Changing Climate
 - Niall Loblely– A Changing Landscape



YEAR 7 – Flexing with the Times

Topics Included:

- **Building Techniques**
 - LEED Certification
 - New Technology
 - Asset Management
- **Trails**
 - AODA – Built Environment Standards
 - Risk Management for Trails
- **Event Management**
 - Successful internal Events
 - Nature Events
 - Large External Events
- **Professional Development**
 - Changing Staff
 - Creativity to Raise Funds
- **Training**
 - POA Officer Refresher Training

Speakers Included:

Mark Schmidt, Parks Canada

Matt Cruchet, Direct Bearing, Inc.

Tony Bennett, Canadian Dam Safety Assoc.

Scott Belair, Canadian Playground Safety Institute

Michael Shane, Lifesaving Society

MANY Internal CA Staff Experts

- **Alex Shivas, UTRCA**
- **Alex Waters, Nicole Pereira, TRCA**
- **Brenna Bartley, Linda Scott, Simon Holden, Conservation Halton**
- **Greg Meredith, Gary MacMillian, Karen Armstrong, GRCA**
- **and many more...**

YEAR 8 – Great Places, Great Expectations

- Held on October 29-31, 2014
 - Chaired by Niall Loble, Conservation Halton
- Day 1– Purple Hills CA, Kelso CA, POA and Chainsaw Training
 - Attended by approx. 125 people from 24 Authorities
 - 19 Exhibitors
- Ethan Meleg – Born to be Wild



YEAR 8 – Great Places, Great Expectations

Topics Included:

- **Idea Sharing**
 - Updates and Careers in CAs
 - Technology in CAs
 - Hunting
- **Environmental Protection**
 - Monitoring Visitor Impacts
 - Restoration in CAs
 - Asset Management
- **Trails**
 - AODA
 - Risk Management for Trails
 - Partnerships
- **Training**
 - POA Officer Training
 - Playground Management
 - Lead Hand and Supervisory Competency
 - Chainsaw Training
 - Intro to Ice Safety
 - Hazard Tree Identification
 - Photography for Promotions

Speakers Included:

Chris Goodwin, OFAH

Mike Foley, MNRF

John Olah, Beard Winter LLP

Ken Whitbread, NEC

**Training Provided by Ontario Parks
Association**

MANY Internal CA Staff Experts

- **Mike Knox, UTRCA,**
- **Ralph Toner, Stephen Leenstra, TRCA**
- **Gord Costie, Sandy Bell, Hamilton Conservation**
- **Byron Wesson, NVCA**
- **and many more...**

YEAR 9 – Community Engagement

- Held on October 28-30, 2015
- Chaired by Niall Loble, Conservation Halton
- Day 1– Tiffin Centre, Island Lake CAs, Trail Building Training
 - Attended by approx. 110 people from 26 Authorities
 - 16 Exhibitors
 - Grant Linney – Climate Change/Global Warming



YEAR 9 – Community Engagement

Topics Included:

- **Engaging Aboriginal Communities**
 - Legislation
 - Partnerships and Success Stories
 - Hunting
- **Engaging the Community**
 - Friends of Groups
 - Building Relationships through Land Management
 - Public Consultation
 - Conflict Management
- **Professional Development**
 - Presentation Skills
 - Risk Management for Trails
 - Partnerships
 - Risk Management
 - Trail building
 - Photography

Speakers Included:

Robert Alemany, Aboriginal Affairs

Brian Sky, Haudenosaunee Confederacy

Omar McDadi - Parks Canada

Jason Diceman, Tracy Manolakis, City of Toronto

Training Provided by Ontario Parks Association

MANY Internal CA Staff Experts

- **Adam Wilford, CVC,**
- **Lucia Piccinni, Margie Kenedy, Eric Beales , TRCA**
- **Gord Costie, Hamilton Conservation**
- **and many more...**



Surveys and Feedback!

=> Overall Very positive

Sessions are often rated “*Excellent*” and “*Very good*”

Common overall comments...

“Great bang for my training dollars!!”

“Great venue “

“Great chance to network “

“Well-organized”

“Good variety of topics”

