

Highlighting the East Cove Pond

The East Cove Pond is one of three ponds that were formed when the meander of the Thames River formed an oxbow pond that turned into three ponds by natural sedimentation and human infilling. The East Cove Pond has the lowest rate of accumulation of sediment, provides stormwater storage, has a diverse fish community and has better water quality than both the South and West Ponds. The East Cove Pond also contains one of two rare habitats found within the subwatershed: Black walnut deciduous forest.

There have been many projects that have focused on the East Cove pond. There was the East Coves Woods planting off of Brookdale Ave. There was the dewatering for Carp removal. There is sediment and water monitoring that is done by UTRCA.



An upcoming project is an interpretive sign that will be installed this summer about the East Cove Pond. This will be done with the support of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. (FOTCSI) will be applying for private funding for habitat enhancement within the Coves. Public consultation will be key in getting the community's thoughts on any work that will be conducted in the Coves Subwatershed.

Scenic view of the East Cove Pond.

I am continually amazed at what I discover [at the Cove]. As I was driving along Springbank east of Wonderland the other day, I was imagining the reaction of an out-of-towner - or even many local residents - if I told them that just ahead, past these strip malls and parking lots, you will find a beautiful pond abounding in wildlife. If you look carefully you will not only see ducks and geese, but also osprey, great blue herons, black-crowned night herons, a kingfisher, sandpipers, painted turtles, a brilliant white egret who dances over the water like a ballerina, and a shy muskrat rummaging through the bulrushes.

Kim Mitchell (local artist in Wortley Village)

Presidential News

It is with considerable sadness that I pen this message. Some of you will be aware of the recent passing of Dr. Eric Pemberton who had served for several years on our Board of Directors. Eric was a retired Professor of Geophysics and had lectured for a number of years at Wilfred Laurier University. Some may recall his address to our AGM when he delivered a timely, concise and ominous message on Climate Change. We will miss his “desert dry wit” and measured counsel.

Some of you will also be aware that Mia King is leaving our employ. While Mia has only been with us for a short time she had grown into the job, which without doubt places considerable demands on all occupants. We were impressed with the passion and background that she brought to the position and are pleased to report that she will be staying on with us as a part time volunteer. We wish Mia good luck with all of her future endeavors.

We have a busy year ahead and would like to welcome Heather Popham to the fold as Mia’s replacement. At the top of the list is the report from North South Environmental with respect to their development of a Conservation Master Plan for the Coves ESA. It is hoped that a public meeting will be held to keep the public up to date and for public input. Plans for the improvements to the East Cove are proceeding and we hope to have a public input session for these plans as well. All of this coupled with a number of naturalization projects in Euston Park, Greenway Park and for the first time Basil Grover Park will make for a busy year. The Annual Cleanup will take place as usual again. We will keep you posted on the web site. Incidentally, Echidna Solutions Inc is renovating our web site. So look for the new format in the near future.

~ Thom McClenaghan

Coves Movie

Philip McLeod of Philmaker Productions has captured the essence of the Coves on film, where Londoners, and especially Coves residents have really come to appreciate the beauty and natural diversity of this area.

Students from an event management course at UWO continuing studies will organize a premiere for the movie. So keep watch for more information about when and where you can come out to experience the Coves



Scenic view of the pond. Photo taken by Bear Davenport

Coves Critters Highlight: Great Blue Heron



Photo taken by Bear Davenport

Great Blue Herons are large wading birds that are found near coastlines, in marshes, or near the shores of ponds or streams. They are not usually found here in cold northern winters, but being hardy birds, some individuals will remain if there is still open water to be found.

This seems to be the case, where seven Great Blue Herons were spotted along the edge of the Coves West Pond, near the culvert drain in January 2012. They were perched in the trees, some flying away when approached. They are quite majestic birds, especially when in flight.

Blue herons can nest in trees and shrubs. Their primary food source is small fish, but they are opportunistic feeders, meaning they will eat aquatic insects, rodents, and other small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and small birds.

The Coves Conservation Master Plan

The first stage of the Conservation Master Plan (CMP) for the Coves has been completed by North-South Environmental Inc. They completed a natural heritage inventory and evaluation of the Coves ESA. They did a detailed field based inventory to collect information on plants, wildlife, natural processes and the cultural impacts that share the Coves ESA. There will be recommendations for: management zones of different areas within the Coves ESA, trail type and location, areas of restoration and naturalization, wildlife habitat zones, and opportunities for education and stewardship.

A preliminary report on their findings and analyses will be out soon and there will be a public update.



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for March 24, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Friends of the Coves Annual General Meeting is set for March 24 at 2:00 p.m. in the Martha Bishop room at the Landon Library. We have two guest speakers, Dana Poulton and Helga Ruppe. Mr. Poulton is the author of the archeological report done in tandem with the Coves Subwatershed Plan, and Ms. Ruppe is a long-time resident within the Coves subwatershed.

(see the events section at www.thecoves.ca for more details)

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

BECOME A MEMBER

Every member is one more voice in support of protecting the Coves ecosystem.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are always needed to help out with our many projects.

DONATE

FOTCSI is a charitable organization depending entirely on fundraising (#89976 0813 RR 0001)



Bald Eagle. Photo taken by Bear Davenport

Memberships

Individual membership (annual)	\$25
Family membership (annual)	\$35
Non-profit organization (annual).....	\$75
Corporate membership (annual)	\$200
Lifetime individual membership	\$200
Lifetime family membership.....	\$300

Donations

I pledge support to Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. with a donation of:

\$.....

Tax deductible receipts will be issued for all donations. You can donate by credit card online at canadahelps.org

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please fill out this form and send it along with membership fees or donations made by cheque to:

Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc.
111 Elmwood Ave .E., London, Ontario, N6C 1J4



Butterfly Milkweed with butterfly.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are several ways that you can volunteer:

- Leading nature walk tours
- Manning information booths at events
- Helping in tree plantings

Just contact the Program Manager to say you are interested in being a volunteer and your availability. A list will be kept on file, and a call out will be sent once times and dates are available for projects.

Thank you for your dedication.

Contact Info

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London, Ontario, N6C 1J4

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Web: www.thecoves.ca
Email: contact@thecoves.ca

Office visitors, please enter through east side door where Friends of the Coves sign is found. If locked, ring doorbell.

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