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ABCA Newsletter



ISSUE FOUR - JUNE 2006

Headlines this issue:

News

High-tech meets nature appreciation at Bannockburn

You can get fit and develop a deeper appreciation of water quality and the environment along the Bayfield River thanks to the new 'Walk a Mile' project. The project, which will be launched on Sunday, Oct. 1 at the Bannockburn Fall Hike, combines three high-tech tools with a self-guided tour of beautiful Bannockburn Conservation Area.

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News

Volunteers to clean up Old Ausable Channel on Sept. 30

Take part in the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up by helping clean up the vital Old Ausable Channel ecosystem on Saturday, Sept. 30.

[More Info >>](#)

[International visitors compare agricultural extension services in Canada with those in Russia, Ukraine](#)

Released June 21. A team of agricultural researchers from Eastern Europe joined researchers from the University of Guelph on a visit to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) administration centre near Exeter on Friday, June 16 to learn about cooperative programs between conservation authorities and farmers. The visit was part of a June 15 – 21 fact-finding mission to learn about agricultural extension programs in Ontario. The international visitors visited the ABCA to find out how farmers in Ontario are motivated to practice environmental stewardship as part of their farming operations and to find out more about the educational and grant programs that



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are available in this province. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*

[TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Rotary Club of Grand Bend, ABCF and ABCA working together to create Better Beach Knowledge – Water Quality in the Classroom](#) - Released June 20. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*



[Study evaluates effectiveness of shelterbelts on hog farms](#) - Released June 20. (Photo of ABCA crew leader at right at hog farm near Grand Bend). GUELPH – A new program is helping Ontario hog farmers learn the benefits of using tree shelterbelts to cut down on odour and dust on their farms. In this new partnership between hog producers and conservation authorities, forestry technicians are receiving training on shelterbelt design around barns, while hog producers will benefit through improved odour and wind control. "This project will benefit hog producers, their neighbours and the environment," said Anne Loeffler of the Grand River Conservation Authority who is co-ordinating the provincial project. "When we establish shelterbelts around hog barns, everyone wins." *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*



ABCA celebrates 60th Anniversary with barbecue on July 30 Dignitaries and conservation pioneers from across Ontario are expected in the Ausable Bayfield watershed on **Sunday, July 30** for the ABCA's 60th Anniversary Barbecue at South Huron Recreation Centre in Exeter from 4 - 6 p.m. (with formal ceremony at 5 p.m.) The former Ausable River Conservation Authority was the first such agency formed under the Conservation Authorities Act in 1946. We hope you join us for this special celebration of the ABCA and its valued partners and six decades of conservation in local watersheds and in Ontario. Tickets are now available with a tasty quarter-chicken dinner and four delicious salad choices for only \$15 per ticket. Phone **(519) 235-2610** or **1-888-286-2610**. Join us earlier in the day, 2-4 p.m., for music and guided



walks at Morrison Dam Conservation Area.

[Province approves revised regulation for ABCA](#) - Released June 14.

The Ontario government has approved a revised regulation for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA). The province officially approved the ABCA's revised regulation, Ontario Regulation 147/06, on May 9 and it was printed in the official Ontario Gazette on May 20. "Prevention of loss of life and property damage from flooding and erosion, as well as enhancing natural resources, is a key mandate of a Conservation Authority," said Alec Scott, ABCA Water and Planning Manager. "Regulation 147/06 provides a consistent approach to fulfill that mandate." *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*



[Column series: Conservation's Pioneers, Column Four – The Dawn of a Conservation Education Legacy –1961-1965](#) **BY MATT REDMOND,**

Conservation Education Specialist, ABCA Camp Sylvan has had an incredible impact on thousands of children and adults. For some it has changed the way they look at a snake, bird, tree, or stream. For some it has changed the way they relate to their peers and teachers. For others, it has been a turning point in their lives. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) has been coordinating the Sylvan Conservation Program at Camp Sylvan since 1964. Camp Sylvan, which is owned by Scouts Canada and located southwest of Parkhill, is a 350-acre pristine natural area that offers the diversity of coniferous and deciduous forests, ponds, streams, fields and meadows. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*



[Column series: Conservation's Pioneers Column Three by David McClure](#) – *Vision*

Becomes Action: The Creation of Morrison Dam and the Protection of Important Nature Lands at the Pinery – 1956-1960- Released May 29. The 1950s saw the development of two large projects in our Ausable Bayfield watersheds. Although both ended up being wise land-use initiatives neither might have been developed if there had not been some outside influences or pressures. These projects were: 1. The building of the Morrison Dam and; 2. The development of Pinery Provincial Park. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*



[South Huron Trail Mobile launched in Gord Strang's memory](#)

- *Trail vehicle allows those with limited mobility to connect with nature* - Released May 24. Watershed residents with physical mobility challenges can now experience nature first-hand with the South Huron Trail Mobile. The vehicle



allows people who would have difficulty walking the South Huron Trail to experience the beauty of the MacNaughton Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail by riding on the Trail Mobile. The vehicle was donated by the Strang family in the memory of the late Gordon Strang, who had a vision of the trail for the betterment of the entire community. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*

[Area schools, municipalities honour conservation pioneers by planting trees for the future](#) - *Municipal councillors, watershed students work side by side to plant Watershed Guardian anniversary trees- Released May 9.* Municipal councillors, students and staff from the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) have worked side by side in April and May to plant 'Watershed Guardian' trees in honour of the conservation pioneers of the past 60 years. Watershed municipalities, schools and individuals are undertaking Year of Conservation projects as part of the ABCA's 60th Anniversary in 2006. The local Conservation Authority was Ontario's first and as part of the anniversary celebration some municipalities and schools are planting 'Autumn Blaze' silver maple-red maple trees. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*



[Area native returns home as ABCA's new Conservation Education Specialist](#) - *Corbett native Julie Hicks combines teaching credentials with experience working with nature- Released May 8.* Teacher Julie Hicks has returned to her home watershed to be the new Conservation Education Specialist for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA). The Trent University Bachelor of Education graduate is a native of Corbett and resident of Grand Bend. She is not only a qualified Ontario teacher but she also has many years of experience as a Park Naturalist at Pinery Provincial Park and holds an Honors Recreation and Leisure Studies degree from Brock University. She was also a Junior Leader for five consecutive years in the ABCA's overnight conservation education attraction, Camp Sylvan – the longest-running residential program of its kind in Ontario. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*



[Column series: Conservation's Pioneers Column Two by Tim Cumming](#) – *Parks for the Future –1951 – 1955- Released May 8.* We left you in our first column with the tale of a beehive of activity – the first five years of Ontario's first conservation authority. We told you about the massive job of creating the 1949



Conservation Report, a comprehensive document that would become a lasting watershed atlas and road map to the future. This month we look at the five years of local conservation that followed – vital years in the development of parks for the future and protection of critical habitat lands. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*

[Conservation Dinner raises \\$44,000, record total in charitable fundraiser's 17-year history](#) - Released

May 1. The 17th Annual Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation and Exeter Lions Club Conservation Dinner on Thursday, April 27 was a sold-out success, raising more than \$44,000 towards conservation efforts. "This year was the most successful fundraiser in the Conservation Dinner's 17-year history," according to John Walsh, Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation. Donors and dinner patrons combined to raise \$5,000 more than last year's record total. The success was in part due to strong support of the live auction, first-time significant special donations by community-minded businesses and individuals (in addition to the many donations by the valued longtime donors), and a number of unique surprise auction items brought by emcee Randy Tieman, an Exeter native and CTV sportscaster. *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above.*



[Local pilot project to improve water well records](#) - Released June 14 Staff of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Water Protection Project will be visiting watershed landowners starting in late June as part of a water well record improvement pilot project. The water well project will verify or improve upon existing local records of non-municipal wells using the Global Positioning System (GPS) and gauge the accuracy of the province's water well record information. "Well records can tell us a lot about underground geology and the movement of groundwater, and it's helpful for local planning to know more about the number and location of wells in the watershed," said Cathie Brown, Project Manager. "Groundwater and other drinking water sources are connected and by knowing the number of wells drawing on the region's groundwater supply, local Source Protection Planning Committees can make better recommendations for new programs, such as stewardship grants." - *Read the whole story by clicking the blue headline link above or going to the [Source Water Protection page](#).*

Friends of the South Huron Trail encourage drivers to slow down



Volunteer Jo-Anne Fields, of Friends of the South Huron Trail, was up bright and early on a cool morning April 18 to alert motorists to their speeds on Morrison Line. Although parts of the road are 80 km per hour, much of the road is 50 km/h and some motorists were found at speeds between 80 and 100 km/h in an area where children, trail users and other pedestrians can be found. The use of the speed radar sign, in conjunction with a police presence by the Huron OPP, is being used to alert motorists that they must slow down when using the road.

Friends of the South Huron Trail help get trail ready

About ten volunteers from the Friends of the South Huron Trail attended a spring clean-up on the MacNaughton Morrison section of the South Huron Trail during a beautiful and sunny spring day Wednesday, March 29. Some of the volunteers included Jim O'Toole, Tressa Ducharme, crew leader Doug Pearson, Stephan Ducharme, Jim Dixon, Lorne Rideout, Steve Pearson, Peter Raymond, Donald Bray and Fred Miller. The volunteers removed garbage and raked and got the trail ready for spring use. Anyone interested in assisting in future clean-up days can contact Tim Cumming, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) at (519) 235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610.



South Huron Trail Run on Sunday, August 13 The South Huron Trail Run takes place on Sunday, August 13. Enjoy this popular 8 km run and 2 km Fun Run. For information click on the following page for [details](#) and how to register for this event which grows each year. Register now! Find out how. Also, if you are interested in volunteering phone (519) 235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610.



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