



AMO delegates visit the Fanshawe Dam inspection tunnel.

AMO Annual Conference

The City of London hosted the 2011 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference on August 21 to 24. On Monday, August 22, a number of conference delegates visited Fanshawe Conservation Area. These delegates were part of a conference study tour entitled “Green Tourism / Sustainable Heritage & Ecotourism.”

Fanshawe CA Assistant Superintendent Damian Schofield joined the delegates at the London Convention Centre for the bus ride out to Fanshawe. He provided an overview of the UTRCA, the watershed and flood management, before focusing on Fanshawe CA as a camping and day use destination for tourism opportunities.

The first stop was the Fanshawe Pioneer Village, where the delegates were met by Executive Director Sheila Johnson. Sheila gave a tour of the village focusing on the history of Middlesex County and some of the significant buildings on site. Sheila also shared with the delegates how the village has gone from facing



AMO delegates at the Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

significant financial challenges to an operation that is popular, stable and financially successful in just five years.

After the village tour, the conference delegates were driven to Fanshawe Dam. Community Education Specialist Joanna John led a tour of the structure, explaining the history of flooding in the Thames watershed and the role of Fanshawe Dam in controlling floods in the City of London.

The highlight of this stop was a descent down 139 stairs to the inspection tunnel deep in the dam. Fortunately, all the delegates who went down into the tunnel were able to make the long climb back up!

During the ride back to the London Convention Centre, Damian answered many questions from the delegates who wanted to learn more about our Conservation Area, the attractions on site and our organization as a whole.

Contact: Damian Schofield, Assistant Superintendent, Fanshawe Conservation Area

Memorial Forest Dedication Services

Three annual services are coming up to honour loved ones who have passed on. Memorial trees have been planted through five programs in London, St. Marys, Woodstock, Thames Centre and Zorra Township. Of those five, three hold a yearly dedication ceremony. This year’s ceremonies are as follows:

- London - the George Furtney Memorial Forest ceremony is on Sunday, September 25 at 2:00 pm at Fanshawe CA’s Watson Porter Pavilion. Staff member Karen Pugh will represent the UTRCA.
- St. Marys - the St. Marys and Area Memorial Forest ceremony is on Sunday, September 25 at 3:30 pm at Wildwood CA. Staff member Jennifer Howley will represent the UTRCA.
- Woodstock - the City of Woodstock Memorial Forest ceremony is on Sunday, October 2 at 2:00 pm at Pittock CA. Councillor Jim Northcott will represent the UTRCA.

A commemorative tree will be planted at each service, followed by refreshments. Nearly 11,000 memorial trees have been planted throughout our watershed since 1992.

Contact: Karen Pugh, Resources Specialist

Fun Times at Fanshawe

We’ve had another successful summer camping season at Fanshawe Conservation Area. The Camper Garage Sale kicked things off in June, followed by July’s Canada Day celebrations. There were activities for everyone, with games, a bike parade, BBQ and more.

The next July event was Family Fishing Day, which we hosted in collaboration with the Thames River Anglers Association and the Fanshawe Camper’s Association. There were prizes for the largest fish (59 cm carp) and the most colourful fish (a small sunfish). This event was open to day use visitors and campers alike.



The Family Fishing Derby (above) and Fanshawe Fun Fair were popular summer events.



The rest of July flew by with Christmas in July and Fanshawe's Got Talent. August was also busy with new and old events that were well received. The Bike Rodeo and Community Campfire were hits that we'll build on for next year. Camper Halloween was a spooky sensation with the addition of a haunted house in the Recreation Centre and Halloween movie night. This event is always popular.

To wrap up the summer, Labour Day weekend was packed with events for all ages. The Royal Astronomical Society helped us host a star gazing night. Members brought out many different telescopes through which we viewed distant galaxies and constellations such as the Big Dipper and the Summer Triangle. We had a special treat when we saw the International Space Station zoom by.

Our fifth annual Fanshawe Fun Fair featured games, prizes, inflatables, music and much more. Children enjoyed this last chance at fun before heading back to school.

The Camper's Association Corn Roast was the final event. Despite the rain, campers came out to enjoy fresh corn and other treats.

Fanshawe Recreation Centre staff would like to thank the Camper's Association and other volunteers for all their hard work in making our events successful. Thanks also to the campers who supported us by attending the events throughout the summer.

Contact: Ashley Tenner and Nicole Slivinski, Events and Programs Staff, Fanshawe Conservation Area

CA Aquatics Group Summer Meeting

Several Conservation Authorities (CAs) participated in a Conservation Authorities Aquatics Group (CAAG) meeting, hosted by South Nation Conservation Authority (SNC) in August.

CA staff involved with fisheries/aquatics reviews under the Fisheries Act and Conservation Authorities Act, as well as in aquatic monitoring programs, attended in person or via teleconference.

The two-day meeting provided valuable opportunities to learn and to share experiences with other CA staff. CAAG was established to provide advice and recommendations to individual CAs and to Conservation Ontario on matters related to CA aquatic ecosystem programs (e.g. regulations, monitoring, research and natural heritage based on aquatic ecosystems). Given the varying expertise, experience and resources of each CA, CAAG membership and topics reflect this diversity.

SNC were great hosts, arranging reservations for accommodations and a guided tour of sites in their watershed. The group was taken to Jessup Falls Conservation Area, the Alfred Bog Bogwalk, the Lemieux Landslide and the Larose Forest. We also toured SNC's new office building (renovated school) and treated to a BBQ lunch featuring local perch and cheese curds.

CAAG would like to have a similar meeting in the western region to enable more CAs to participate. The UTRCA may host a meeting next fall or the following spring in the new building.

Contact: Cathy Reeves, Aquatic Biology Technician

Upcoming Events

- September 17-18: Doors Open Middlesex, Dorchester Mill Pond
- September 25: Furtney Memorial Forest Dedication, Fanshawe CA
- September 25: St. Marys & Area Memorial Forest Dedication, Wildwood CA
- October 2: City of Woodstock Memorial Forest Dedication, Pittock CA
- October 15: Vulture Bait Trail Run, Fanshawe CA
- October 16: Fanshawe, Pittock and Wildwood CAs close for the season

Contact: Steve Sauder, Marketing Specialist

On the Agenda

The following items will be presented at the UTRCA Board of Directors meeting on September 27th, 2011. Board meeting minutes are posted at www.thamesriver.on.ca; click on "Downloads."

- Core Services Review
- Draft 2012 Budget
- Administration and Enforcement - Section 28
- Amendments to Ontario Regulation 157/06 – UTRCA's Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation
- Dams - Concrete Inspections and Repair Strategy, Consultant Contract Award
- London Dykes Stability Review, Consultant Contract Award
- Quarterly Financial Summary
- Watershed Conservation Centre Update

Contact: Susan Shivas, Executive Assistant