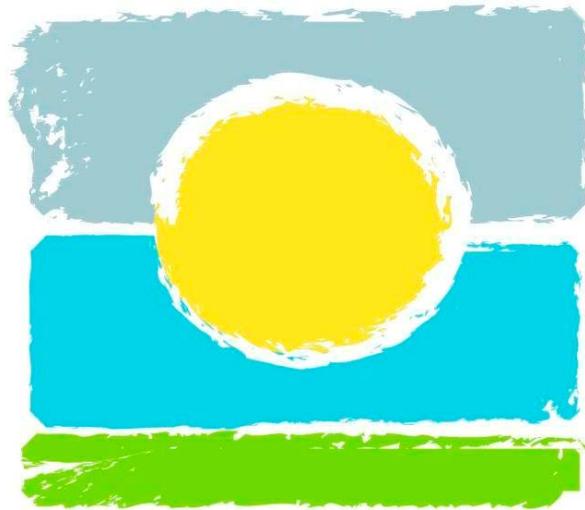


Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council

2007

ANNUAL REPORT

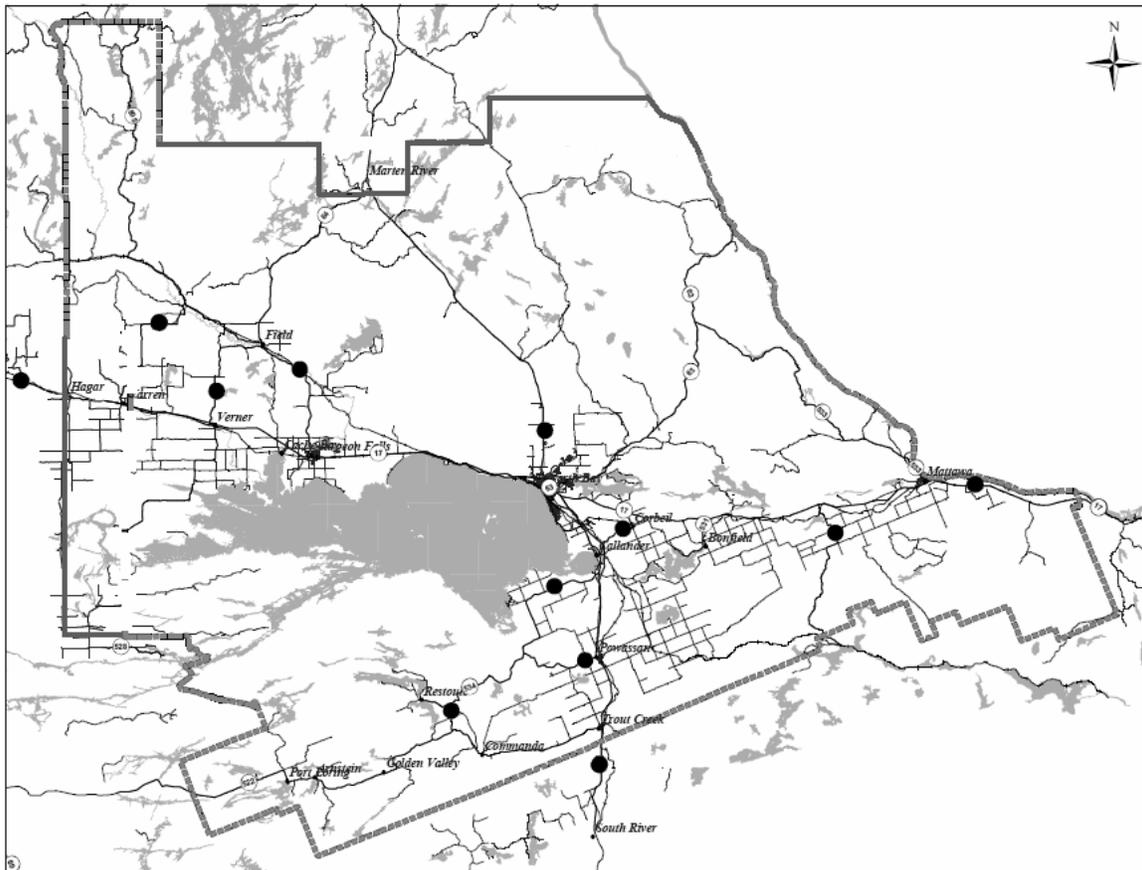


Greater Nipissing
Stewardship Council

protect • conserve • improve • restore

The Mandate of the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council

- To protect, conserve, improve and restore the natural resources and environment of the greater Nipissing area, in the Province of Ontario.
- To encourage and foster an understanding and awareness of the natural resources and environment and their value in enhancing our quality of life, by organizing conferences, seminars, public meetings and distribution of information circulars on issues relating to the environment and its management and protection.
- To conduct educational seminars, conferences and public forums about the flora, fauna, ecology, hydrology and geology of the region.
- To collect information on the state of the natural resources and environment, and to provide information for, and participate in, management decisions affecting the greater Nipissing area.
- To act as a catalyst, in partnership with other organizations or individuals, assisting to achieve the desired outcome of projects that will benefit the natural resources and environment of the greater Nipissing area.



Chair's Remarks

The year 2007 for the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council (LNSC), the first full year under the Ontario Stewardship Program (OSP), was very busy. The council began to examine its role in the greater Nipissing area and how best it could fulfill its mandate to both the OSP and the area's inhabitants. Thus began a number of fundamental changes to the LNSC organization.

The council needed to change from an advisory board focused on Lake Nipissing and its issues to a project oriented one designed to get things done in a much larger area. The first hurdle was to create a council more in tune with our new responsibilities. So, with the generous funding support of NECO Community Futures Development Corporation, we hired the market consulting firm of Benjamin James. With the help and guidance of Scott Clark and the staff of Benjamin James, the council set out to discover an image and create a brand. It was not an easy process for we had to examine ourselves quite critically. As we moved through the process we developed a new motto, logo and an image. On November 1st, the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council ceased to exist when we launched the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council (GNSC) reflective of its increased mandate.

Now that we had a public image for the GNSC we began to develop the support systems necessary for successful operation. We needed money for a permanent administrative coordinator. With the helpful guidance of Benjamin James, our Development Committee Chair, Frank Marusich began to build a media inventory consisting of partnership agreements with local media, Cogeco Cable, CTV, Rogers Radio and the North Bay Nugget. To date, the council has accumulated a 3 year media inventory in excess of \$500,000. We have already begun using these media assets to raise local area public awareness of environmental issues such as garbage cleanup associated with ice fishing activities and ice hut removal deadlines. We are now looking for corporate sponsorship to generate the annual revenue

stream that is needed to support our full time administrative coordinator. Being a volunteer group and wanting to support our members who are passionate about environmental projects, the board feels it is necessary to provide for the administrative function with a full time employee so that our volunteers can direct their energy entirely towards the council's projects.

We also have begun to change the structure of the GNSC to meet its new mandate. Under the direction of two executive members: Vice-chair, Bill Hagborg and Treasurer, Peggy Walsh Craig, the council has revised its bylaws. The board of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council was made up of directors selected by Lake Nipissing stakeholder groups such as tourist outfitter organizations, municipalities, Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters, Lake Nipissing Partners in Conservation, First Nations and others. This worked for an advisory group but was not appropriate for an organization needing to relate to the individuals, groups and governments of the Greater Nipissing area. Board members in the future shall no longer be appointed by stakeholder groups; they shall be elected by the people who care enough about the greater Nipissing area to become members of the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council. It is the residents of the area who feel strongly enough about our environment and natural resources to get involved, who shall drive the agenda of the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council.

Do you have something in the Greater Nipissing area that you want to *protect, conserve, improve, or restore*? If so, then get involved, become a member of the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council and start *showing you care!*

John Thornton
Chair

Committee Reports

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The board of the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council (GNSC) struck a Development Committee in 2007 to work with the marketing consulting firm of Benjamin James to implement the new marketing plan designed to position the Council to meet the challenges of a project focused grassroots organization. The tasks of the Committee were to generate funds and attract new members and volunteers and to encourage community involvement. In an effort to achieve these goals, we have implemented a number of new programs with satisfying results.

The committee has accumulated a three-year media inventory of \$549,000, tripling the marketing consultant's projection. To date, the Council has the generous support of the Nugget, Cogeco, CTV , Rogers Radio and we are continuing to look for commitments from media in outlying areas.

The Committee is seeking funding for administration from corporations and from all levels of government. We have made presentations to seven municipal councils in our area introducing them to the stewardship concept, seeking their input and soliciting financial support. The committee is also introducing other special interest groups such as angler and hunter clubs, chambers of commerce, farmer associations and First Nation councils to the potential environmental benefits of partnership with the GNSC.

Our very successful *"Do Your Part"* campaign, to keep the ice on our lakes free from garbage and other pollutants, raised local residents' awareness of the potential harmful effects of carelessly discarded ice fishing debris as well as the existence of the Stewardship Council.

Under the leadership of Bill Hagborg and as a result of his hard work, the Board of Directors has created a membership organization designed to provide a two way conduit for input and information from community groups and individuals and to put the real control of the GNSC in their hands. The launch of the membership drive is just starting and we hope it will bring us the needed funds from corporate supporters and new members. The new members and volunteers, which these initiatives will attract, are needed to provide the manpower to carry on duties and projects as they arise in our endeavours, bringing with them added vitality and energy to the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council.

Frank Marusich
Development Committee Chair

Project Reports

Lake Nipissing Primary School Educational Unit



Early in 2007, the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council presented copies of its Lake Nipissing Educational Unit (Ontario grade 2 curriculum) to the Near North District School Board, the Nipissing Parry Sound Roman Catholic School Board and the Dokis Elementary School.

The Lake Nipissing unit was prepared by Mrs. Karen Anderson with the assistance of Mr. Shaun Roberts and others in the Lake Nipissing area and generously donated to the council. We are happy to report that the unit is currently in use in local area elementary schools propagating environmental consciousness in our children.

Since it's release, the kit has also been loaned out on request around the province to promote stewardship in other areas.

Thank you to all who were involved.

John Thornton, Project Lead



Used Battery Collection Contest

GNSC partnered with Nipissing Environmental Watch for the 6th annual Used Battery Collection Contest. This contest pits area high schools against each other to see which ones can collect the most used batteries. There

are cash prizes for the winning schools.

Pictured are students from F. J. McElligott in Mattawa; the winning school in 2007. Second place went to Northern Secondary School in Sturgeon Falls.

Nipissing Environmental Watch collects the batteries from the high schools and delivers them to the North Bay Hazardous Waste Depot for safe disposal. During the six years, over 35,000 lbs of batteries have been collected. In 2007, a record 8,535 lbs (4,305 kgs) were collected.

Peggy Walsh Craig, Project Lead



Ontario Stewardship Rangers

The summer of 2007 marked the 2nd year for the Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program in the North Bay District working with the Stewardship Council. Michelle Allard returned as Crew Lead and four new 17-year olds; Brendan Cote, Brittany

Arthur, Lucas Beaver and Sarah Schamerhorn made up the student complement of the team.

Rangers were afforded the opportunity to work for the MNR in partnership with the Stewardship Council for a period of 8 weeks during the months of July and August. After an exhaustive first week of workplace and certification training, the team set out to complete environmental and natural resource projects within the community. These initiatives also served to build upon the experience of the crew members and put them on the right foot towards a career in this field.

Summer Work Days Included:

- North Bay Provincial Duck Banding Workshop
- Waterfowl Banding in Lady Evelyn Provincial Park
- Crown Land Canoe Route Maintenance
- Yellow Fish Storm Drain Marking Program
- Repair of Public Resource Information Signs
- Collecting GPS/GIS Information for Computer Mapping
- Clean Up of Chippewa Creek
- Crown Island Cleanups on Lake Nipissing and Trout Lake
- Tree and Shrub Planting Alongside Local Streams
- Assisting at the North Bay Fish Culture Station
- Provincial Park Maintenance at Samuel De Champlain and Finlayson
- Trail Creation through the Redbridge Red Oak Research Plots
- Red Pine Plantation Management in Gurd Township
- Hunting & Natural Resource Management Education
- Tour of Geisler Marine

Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations:

Chris Davies•MNR/Ontario Waterfowl Management Fund
Gerry Geisler•Geisler Marine
Brian Moulder•Rock Cut Shooting Club
Scott Higgins•North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority
John Salo•Finlayson Provincial Park
Denis Larose•Memquisit Lodge
Charlene Daoust• Memquisit Lodge
Mike Regis•Licensed Waterfowl Bander
Peggy Walsh Craig•Nipissing Environmental Watch
Keith Johnston•Samuel De Champlain Provincial Park
Nancy Young•Forest Research Partnership
Jim Aldridge•MNR
Wayne Kent•Pleasure Craft Operations Trainer

Roy Warriner•Commanda & Area Anglers and Hunters
Ray Bastien•Algonquin Provincial Park (Kiosk)
Andree Morneau•MNR/Forest Research Partnership
Ted Schamerhorn•North Bay Fish Culture Station
Steve Lewis•MNR
Troy Storms•North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority
Hardy Cameron•North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority
Ron Lee•MNR
Michelle Sumere•Youth Programs
Randy Brousseau•MNR
Karen Larabie•MNR
Bob Aubin•MNR
Steve Wilkins•Ontario Stewardship

Nathan Kirby, Project Lead



Trail Guide for Healthy Living

In 2007, the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council received a generous amount of core funding to create a comprehensive trail guide for the greater Nipissing area, something

which cannot currently be found. A partnership with Discovery Routes, a local trails organization, expanded the area of interest somewhat (due to their coverage area) down to Magnetawan.

The 'Trail Guide for Healthy Living' is intended to direct trail users to recognized publicly accessible recreational trails on private and Crown lands. The intentions for the guide are to promote a heightened appreciation for natural resources and the environment, encourage sustainable eco-tourism and of course promote a healthy lifestyle for residents.

Following the press release of the council's name change in November of 2007, a 'trails workshop' was held to discuss the project and address any concerns that arose. Feedback was extremely positive and a great deal of information was collected at that meeting.

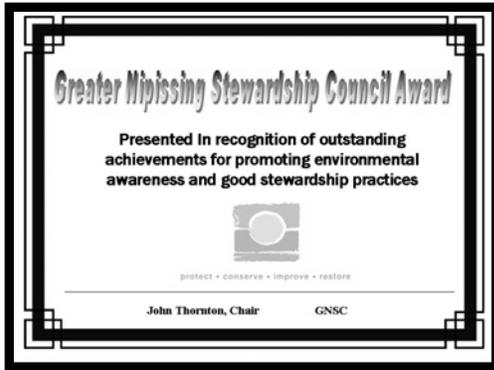
Essentially the project involves 3 phases:

1. Public consultation
2. Information/data collection working with the trail holders
3. Drafting and printing of the final guide

At the end of 2007, we were well into stage 2 with the guide scheduled for production in late summer of 2008.

Special thanks to all of the Trail Partners who have been involved to this date. The council would also like to individually recognize the staff at Discovery Routes: Jennifer McCourt and Julia Hogan who have been valuable assets in this initiative.

Steve Mitchell, Project Lead



North Bay Regional Science Fair

In 2007, contacts were made and planning was completed to allow the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council to sponsor two awards for the North Bay Regional Science Fair on April 2nd 2008. The first award will be for best junior project and the second for best intermediate/senior project relating to natural resources and the environment. The council is proud to support our future scientists. The awards will recognize projects that excel in promoting environmental awareness and good stewardship practices.

The fair will feature students in Grades 7 – 12 who will be demonstrating their unique experiments in a variety of science fields including Biotechnology, Engineering, Earth Environment and Physical Science. More than 100 projects will be on display. A board member, Kim Tremblay, has volunteered to be a judge for the event and will present the certificates at the awards ceremony. The North Bay Regional Science Fair is designed to foster and encourage the pursuit of science and technology by area students. The Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council would like to encourage students to develop an appreciation for the environment in hopes that this will be carried with them through out their lives.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 25. Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council Award | Best Junior project relating to natural resources and the environment. | Certificate and \$50 cash prize per project. |
| 26. Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council Award | Best Intermediate or Senior project relating to natural resources and the environment. | Certificate and \$100 cash prize per project. |

Kim Tremblay, Project Lead



Urban Tree Planting

*Chippewa Creek
'North Bay Natural Habitats' Program*

This planting project, a first for the Council, was officially launched on September 21, 2007, and will be completed in 2008. It will see approximately 8,500 trees and wildlife shrubs planted on City and North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority lands alongside Chippewa Creek and the Kinsmen/Kate Pace trails, in order to stabilize the banks and improve the water quality of the creek. It will also enhance the aesthetic and recreational values of the creek system.

These plantings will begin to restore the creek to its former coldwater status and help fulfill the Conservation Authorities' City-approved management plan for the creek. The plan calls for a seven metre natural buffer on either side of the stream.

Over ten thousand dollars were generated from the following project funders – Wal*Mart Canada/Evergreen grant, Tree Canada's 'Green Streets' program (awarded to the City of North Bay), the Ministry of Natural Resources 'Community Fish & Wildlife Involvement Program' and a donation from Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. Tree planting equipment for volunteers will be supplied by the Conservation Authority.



*Chippewa Creek
'Tree North Bay' Program*

In 2007 the Council partnered with the “Tree North Bay” initiative, spearheaded by City Councilor, Chris Mayne, along with Community Waterfront Friends, Greening Nipissing, Heritage Gardeners, Nipissing Botanical Gardens, Nipissing Environmental Watch and the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority.

This volunteer project’s goal was to replace trees lost in the summer storms experienced in 2006, as well as to beautify the community. Planting on private and public land was undertaken in May and September. Trees were also distributed to individuals to plant on their own properties.

The TD Friends of the Environment Foundation provided \$5,000.00, with additional funding provided by numerous local businesses and services clubs, such as Burrows Country Store and the Rotary Club of North Bay.

Bill Hagborg, Project Lead

Rural Tree Planting Program



In 2007 the Council initiated planning for a planting program, involving rural landowners interested in planting trees and wildlife shrubs on their properties. Sites being targeted include riparian zones, marginal agricultural lands, buffer strips and semi-forested areas.

The Council will develop the site plans in consultation with the landowners, supply the trees, arrange for planting and conduct follow-up survival assessments.

Participating landowners will enter into a 15-year agreement with the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council, look after any site preparation, if required, assist

with the planting and carry out any follow-up tending to ensure the seedlings are “free to grow”.

Thanks to \$14,600.00 in funding from the *Trees Ontario Foundation*, we will be planting our first 30,000 seedlings in 2008, on 5+ properties in the West Nipissing area, primarily along watercourses.

Initial interest in the program is due in large part to the liaison role being fulfilled by the West Nipissing Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

The Council’s goal is to establish a permanent program across the greater Nipissing area.

Bill Hagborg, Project Lead

McQuaby Lake Walleye Restoration Project



Planning for this project was initiated in 2006 and after being revisited several times, made some headway in December of 07 when representatives from the Commanda & Area Anglers and Hunters and the Stewardship Council sat down with MNR biologist Rebecca Burns.

In 2008 the McQuaby Lake Walleye Restoration Project will be ongoing with a meeting to be held with residents and water sampling/testing to begin in the spring. As McQuaby is allegedly sensitive to acid, testing and a spawning shoal survey will identify if the lake has recovered to the point where it can again produce a recreational walleye fishery as well as provide information on the quality of spawning habitat and the remnant walleye population (if any).

If these factors demonstrate the lake as receptive, additional information will be collected during an updated lake survey in July. If the testing this summer proves favorable, residents will be asked to support a walleye regulation change to close the fishery (for that species only) during the course of the restoration and adult walleye will then be transferred from a donor lake in the spring of 2009.

Roy Warriner, Project Lead

2007 GNSC Board of Directors

Directors

John Thornton, Chair	Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters
Bill Hagborg, Vice Chair	Lake Nipissing Partners in Conservation
Peggy Walsh Craig, Treasurer	Nipissing Environment Watch
Paula Scott, Secretary	North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority
Doug Brydges	Municipality of Callander
Kevin Cameron	West Nipissing Upper French Tourist Assoc.
Leonard Dokis	Dokis First Nation
Frank Marusich	Lake Nipissing Partners in Conservation
Steve Mitchell	Member at Large
André Rieser	Ontario's Near North
Rick Stevens	Nipissing First Nation
Kim Tremblay	Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre
Roy Warriner	Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters
Kalvin Young	Township of Nipissing

Honourary Directors

Doug Walsh	Ministry of the Environment
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Administration

Gail Laird, Administrative Coordinator

Ontario Stewardship

Nathan Kirby, Stewardship Coordinator

KENDALL, SINCLAIR, FINCH, PIGDEN, COWPER & DAIGLE LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

237 MAIN STREET EAST
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO
P1B 1B2

PHONE: (705) 472-0420
FAX: (705) 476-7524
EMAIL: info@ca-partners.com

NOTICE TO READER

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of **Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council** as at **December 31, 2007** and the statement of operations and equity for the year then ended.

We have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and accordingly, we express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

*Kendall, Sinclair, Finch,
Pigden, Cowper & Daigle LLP*

North Bay, Ontario
March 28, 2008

Licensed Public Accountants

GREATER NIPISSING STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2007

(With comparative figures as at December 31, 2006)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current		
Cash	\$ 50,095	\$ 46,826
Accounts receivable	<u>13,585</u>	<u>963</u>
	<u>\$ 63,680</u>	<u>\$ 47,789</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,638	\$ 1,270
Deferred contributions (Note 2)	<u>46,800</u>	<u>9,200</u>
	<u>48,438</u>	<u>10,470</u>
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Balance end of year	<u>15,242</u>	<u>37,319</u>
	<u>\$ 63,680</u>	<u>\$ 47,789</u>

UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER

KENDALL, SINCLAIR, FINCH, PIGDEN, COWPER & DAIGLE LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

GREATER NIPISSING STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

(With comparative figures for 2006)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Revenue		
Grants	\$ 26,150	\$ 29,800
Donations	3,012	109
Fundraising	1,629	4,549
Interest	2	10
	<u>30,793</u>	<u>34,468</u>
Expenditures		
Executive coordinator	23,143	40,276
Project expenses	13,907	
Office	4,984	2,577
Insurance	3,019	1,669
Rent	1,908	2,916
Professional fees	1,635	1,115
Telephone	1,157	956
Annual meeting	1,015	1,187
Public education	991	1,492
Board meetings	774	468
Memberships and licences	320	215
Interest and bank charges	17	77
Dinner and auction costs		1,704
	<u>52,870</u>	<u>54,652</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure for the year	(22,077)	(20,184)
Equity beginning of year	<u>37,319</u>	<u>57,503</u>
Equity end of year	<u>\$ 15,242</u>	<u>\$ 37,319</u>

UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER

KENDALL, SINCLAIR, FINCH, PIGDEN, COWPER & DAIGLE LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

GREATER NIPISSING STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2007

1. Organization

The organization is a registered Canadian charity whose principal activity is to promote and maintain responsible environmental stewardship of the Greater Nipissing ecosystem.

2. Deferred Contributions

Deferred contributions result from funding received during the year from agreements, which cover more than one fiscal year, and represent the unexpended portion of that funding.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Ontario Stewardship Council	\$ 14,500	\$ 9,200
Ministry of Health Promotion	20,000	
Other	5,000	
Wal-Mart Evergreen	4,500	
TD Friends of the Environment	1,800	
Natural Resources Canada	1,000	
	<u>\$ 46,800</u>	<u>\$ 9,200</u>

3. Change of Name

On June 20, 2007 a resolution was authorized changing the organization's name from Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council to Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council. This change was approved via supplementary letters patent by the Ontario Ministry of Government Services on January 2, 2008.

UNAUDITED – SEE NOTICE TO READER

KENDALL, SINCLAIR, FINCH, PIGDEN, COWPER & DAIGLE LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

SPECIAL THANKS

Grants



NECO Community Futures Development Corporation

Project Funders

Ontario Ministry of Health Promotions
Wal*Mart Canada/Evergreen Program
City of North Bay/Tree Canada's 'Green Streets' Program
Trees Ontario
Community Fish & Wildlife Involvement Program
Ministry of Natural Resources/Ontario Stewardship
Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Natural Resources Canada Canadian Forest Service

Media Partners

COGECO
CTV Television Inc.
North Bay Nugget
Rogers Radio Group, CKAT/EZROCK/THE FOX

Donors

Peggy Walsh Craig
John Thornton
Bill Hagborg

Supporters

Karen Anderson
North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority
Blue Sky Network
Discovery Routes

C O N T A C T U S

Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council
Box 1391, 101 Worthington Street East
North Bay, ON P1B 8K5

Administrative Coordinator: (705) 477-2400 Email: gail.laird@greaternipissing.ca

Stewardship Coordinator: (705) 475-5603 Email: nathan.kirby@ontario.ca

Anyone who wishes to find out more information about the stewardship council
can find our new website on the internet at www.greaternipissing.ca