



Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council

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2013 WORK PLAN

The following projects and activities are currently underway, ongoing (multi-year) or being considered for implementation over the course of the year. For specific details about a given project, or its current status, OR if interested in proposing or partnering on a project – please contact the Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council (GNSC) at: info@greaternipissing.ca.

- **McQuaby Lake Walleye Monitoring**

DESCRIPTION: Ongoing shoal cleaning and monitoring by Friends, with GNSC in advisory role.

PARTNERS: Friends of McQuaby Lake

BACKGROUND: The McQuaby Lake Restoration Project which began in 2007 effectively wrapped up in 2010 with the trap & transfer of 198 adult walleye and augmentation of the final spawning shoal. All fish which were transferred are legally protected by a regulation slot size and there is a voluntary ban on walleye fishing in the lake in order to protect the brood stock. Adult fish were chosen because each of the other remedial steps to rehabilitate the lake as per Ontario's Provincial Stocking Guidelines (including the stocking of walleye fingerlings) have proven unsuccessful. This adult transfer was the final attempt at recovering the walleye population on this lake and there are high hopes that it will be successful. Anglers may continue to fish for smallmouth bass and northern pike or panfish; other recreational fish species found in the lake.



If the initiative is successful, it is expected to take 5-7 years to establish sufficient year-classes to support a walleye fishery, though even then, McQuaby will never be a "walleye factory". Inherent

environmental and natural resource characteristics of the lake will, at its best only produce a limited annual harvest of walleye. Additional details can be found in the 2012 Work Plan.

- **Used Household Battery Collection Competition**

DESCRIPTION: Competition between 11 area high schools to collect the most number of batteries per school and per student.

PARTNERS: Nipissing Environmental Watch, Greening Nipissing

BACKGROUND: This initiative is now in its 11th year and resulted in over 20,000 kgs (45,000 lbs) of batteries being diverted from local landfill sites in North Bay, Sturgeon Falls and Mattawa.

The partners would also like to encourage you to consider using (cadmium free) rechargeable and/or mercury free alkaline batteries in your household appliances.

Proposed changes being discussed for 2014+ > shifting to an educational focus.





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- **Community Tree Planting**

DESCRIPTION: Annual small planting projects with students, local organizations/groups, businesses.

PARTNERS: Tentative for current year: Scollard Hall Green Team; Mother St. Bride; TD Friends of the Environment (*TD Tree Days* in partnership with Trees Canada, City of North Bay, Nipissing Botanical Gardens and North Bay-Mattawa CA).

- **North Bay Regional Science Fair Awards**

DESCRIPTION: GNSC Junior (\$50) and Intermediate/Senior (\$100) Natural Resources/Environment Awards

PARTNERS: North Bay Regional Science Fair Committee



- **4-Mile Creek Improvement Project**

DESCRIPTION: Creek improvements and rehabilitation

PARTNERS: Union Gas (Includes funding and in-kind equipment)

- **Calvin Township Restoration Project**

DESCRIPTION: Fisheries restoration project - pending input from municipality

PARTNERS: Calvin Twp. Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans [DFO] (as per Court Order settlement)





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- **Ecopath-Chippewa Creek – “Adopt-A-Creek Program”**

DESCRIPTION: Adoption of a section of the creek. Litter clean-up, riparian planting.

PARTNERS: North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority

- **Educational Initiatives**

- **Invasive Species**

DESCRIPTION: Trout Lake and Lake Nipissing Access Point signage

PARTNERS: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters [OFAH] (signage available); Trout Lake Conservation Association [TLCA]

BACKGROUND: Invasive species continue to be a concern for Greater Nipissing residents and there are many opinions and misconceptions as to what can and can't be done to control these potentially devastating plants and animals.

Sitting at the crux of two major watersheds with a major throughway to southern Ontario in between, North Bay sits in an area that has connections to the St. Lawrence to the East and Georgian Bay to the west. This connectivity and ease of access makes it important for protecting our waters, not just for the well-being of natural inhabitants of the lake, but the tourist and recreational industries we ourselves enjoy.

The council has proposed working together with marina's conservation associations and other partners to make users of our lakes and rivers more readily aware of what they can do in order to prevent and the spread of invasive species.

- **“Do Your Part” campaigns:**

DESCRIPTION: Educational PSA's as per Media Space donated by Partners on:

- i. **Invasive Species**
- ii. **Ice Fishing**
- iii. **Crown Land Recreation**

PARTNERS: TVCOGECO, North Bay Nugget

- **Community Outreach**

DESCRIPTION: 1. **Fairs, Environmental Workshops or Forums** – 1-2 in-year.

2. **Presentations** – Municipal Councils, organizations, groups – as requested, with focus on project partner opportunities (e.g. Nipissing Twp.'s new Environmental Committee)

PARTNERS: N/A





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• Products

- **Fishery Slot Ruler** – for Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Zone 11 Fishery, which includes Lake Nipissing. CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE, however the Council is hoping to reproduce the ruler in time for the 2014 winter ice fishing season.



• **Trail Guide for Healthy Living**



Sales and Distribution of the 'Trail Guide to Healthy Living' produced by the council in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotions, Discovery Routes and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources will continue.

The guide is a comprehensive collection of the recognized and publicly accessible trails of the Near North.

Over 50 trails and trail systems Trails from across the broader area (pictured right) are described in detail.

Copies are available from area retailers (as listed on our website) or may be order directly from the GNSC website as well. Prices of the guide are kept low intentionally to make it more accessible to all members the public regardless of income level.

