



#### The **Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council**

(GNSC) is comprised of a diverse group of individuals representing the following interests: First Nations, fisheries, tourism, conservation, forestry, agriculture, wilderness sports, biology, youth, public-at-large and the environment. Originally founded in 1999 as the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council, the GNSC is a charitable organization that partners with similar-minded groups and government agencies to implement environmental programs; provide information on conservation and sustainability; and to increase awareness of the ecosystem. The Council relies upon a strong core of volunteers from member organizations to implement many of its initiatives.

#### **McQuaby Lake Restoration Update**

Another year has wrapped up for the walleye spawning survey on McQuaby Lake, an initiative which supports biodiversity and creates future angling opportunities. Counting breeding fish proved difficult this year with the early spring and unpredictable weather shifts, however, numbers were still up significantly when compared to pre-restoration efforts. Council has graciously shifted to an assistance role with the Friends of McQuaby Lake now leading the restoration project. Thanks to the Friends for their time and the collected information. Thanks are also due to Brendan Cote, a student at Nipissing University for volunteering his time to complete the assessment.

The partners would like to remind anglers that the population is still recovering and walleye fishing is under a voluntary ban as well as legislated slot-size protection to establish varied sustainable year-classes.

Over the summer, the Friends of McQuaby Lake will decide if shoal cleaning is necessary this year as well as where to direct donations made in memory of Don Fraser, a lakeside resident and a driving force to the restoration effort who passed away in 2011.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting was held April 20, 2012. Our guest speaker, Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario spoke on the topic: 'Engaging Solutions –Getting on with the Work of Environmental Protection'.

Mr Miller, a founding member of the Nipissing stewardship council, spoke to the importance of caring for our environment and resources. When asked about the future with respect to the Ontario Stewardship Council, Mr. Miller applauded the program for its cost efficiency and the results achieved through council & community partnerships.

For those who could not attend, the AGM presentations are available to view on the GNSC's website at [www.greaternipissing.ca](http://www.greaternipissing.ca).



#### **Youth Hunting Opportunity Day**

Plans to implement a 'Youth Hunting Opportunity Day' are underway and council continues to make presentations to area Rod & Gun clubs to engage new partners.

Come fall, council will be delivering a project which engages youth hunters and promotes hunter safety and camaraderie amongst the hunting community and conservationists.

Council would like to thank the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone D, the Perth Stewardship Network, and the Almaguin-Parry Sound Wild Turkey Group for their financial support to date. Youth or volunteers interested in participating are encouraged to contact Roy Warriner, Project Lead at: [rfwarriner@netspectrum.ca](mailto:rfwarriner@netspectrum.ca)

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**Special thanks to Samantha Rayner, summer student and guest editor, for putting the newsletter together this month. Thanks Sam!**

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## Lake Nipissing Educational Kit a Success with Alliance Students

This May, council Director Jessica Dion presented the Stewardship Council's 'Lake Nipissing Educational Kit' to the Alliance French Immersion Public School.

The kit, produced originally in 2007 and created in partnership with retired elementary school teacher Karen Anderson, has been a popular item with area schools.

Initially printed and distributed in English to Near North public schools, the unit has now been translated to French with several copies being requested by the local separate and French immersion schools. A copy is also available on loan from council for Brownies/Beavers or other similar groups as well as to home schoolers.

The educational kit includes a trivia game, flashcards for popular gamefish species, a questions and answers board and a storybook following Diggie the Dog as he tours around the lake. The extensive teachers resource binder and suggested lesson plans conform to the Ontario Grade 2 curriculum.



Thanks to Mme. Sarah Spence; Vice Principal, the teachers and the grade 2 students at Alliance for taking an interest in this project and the stewardship of our natural resources!

## 2012 Annual North Bay Regional Science Fair Council Awards

Congratulations to the winners of the GNSC Science Fair Awards at the North Bay Regional Science Fair! Director Dr. Kevin O'Grady attended the event on behalf of council to recognize the students.

Brandon Sgoifo and Jason Valliere from Silver Birches were the junior award recipients for their project; 'Bending Water With Static Electricity' Aidan Kehoe from Widdifield was the senior recipient for his project: "Grow With The Flow" a test supplementing the growth of crops using urea.



### A Quick Thank You...

Thank-you to the NECO Community Futures Development Corporation for the provision of startup dollars for our Northern Afforestation Program. This is a multi-partner initiative to bring a cost-share tree planting program for landowners to the Greater Nipissing area. The program will support economic development and restoration of sensitive lands in our region.



Community Futures Development Corporation  
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**Would you like to become a member, supporter or volunteer? Check us out at**

<http://www.greaternipissing.ca/getinvolved.html>

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