

# CAROLINIAN CANADA

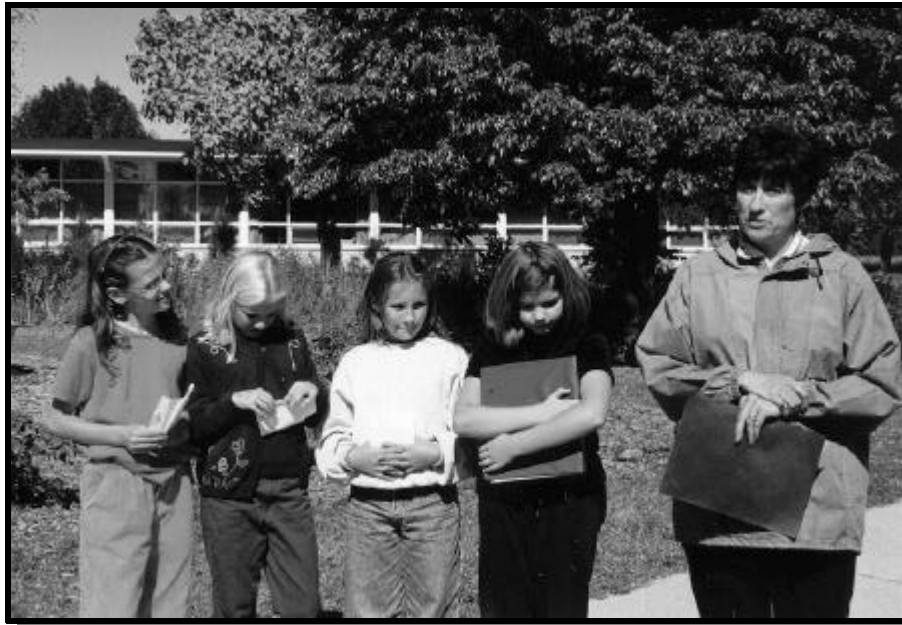


Newsletter

November 1999

## Regional Conservation Forum 1999

This year's Conservation Forum was a great success. Held in early October at Ridgetown College in Kent County, the two day event attracted more than ninety participants. One of the advantages of moving the Forum from year to year is that it allows us to focus on different local issues. Carolinian Canada is a large region, and while there are many common challenges, there are also some striking differences between areas. Many of those who participated in the field trip were shocked by the absence of forest. So severe is the deforestation that even protected areas are threatened due to their isolation.



### FUTURE STARS?

These students from Howard-Harwich-Moravian Public School in Ridgetown serenaded our tour group with their "Restoration Rap". They had composed the song to celebrate the creation of a tallgrass garden on the school grounds, which is pictured in the background. Schoolyard naturalization projects serve to introduce students and their families to the value and beauty of native plants and builds community acceptance for other restoration projects.

## No Forest Without Trees

The condition of the forest in Kent County may be the most extreme example within Carolinian Canada, but it is by no means alone. Numbers alone don't tell the whole story but consider that our national target for protected areas is 12% and yet only 2% of Carolinian Canada is in public ownership. Furthermore, the latest advances in the science of ecology suggest that 30% natural cover (note that certain agricultural uses and managed forests can constitute natural cover) is required to preserve the biodiversity of an area, and not a single

jurisdiction in Carolinian Canada meets this target.

Restoration will be the key to a healthy environment in our future. The Big Picture project will lay out a blueprint for this recovery, but as things stand now, implementation will be a matter for local citizens and their representatives. The Ontario governments Policy Statement on Natural Heritage provides for the protection of natural areas by requiring municipalities to have regard for the provincial policies regarding woodlands, wetlands, habitats and so on. In practice, this has produced a

*(Continued on page 2)*

**To lead a moral life one must do more than is required and less than is allowed – Plenides**

(Continued from page 1)

patchwork of regulations ranging from the very effective to the woefully inadequate. One telling example is that of Tree Protection By-laws. Quite a number of Ontario municipalities have created or revised such by-laws in recent years but paradoxically the strongest by-laws have emerged in the jurisdictions with the most forest. Muskoka protects its forest, Essex does not; similarly, urban municipalities have found it much easier to enact these regulations than have rural ones.

The problem is that in some Counties even the suggestions of a by-law is enough to prompt widespread harvesting. The flames are often fanned

by media encouraging landowners to cut their trees before they are "expropriated". This is for the most part nonsense as the by-laws being enacted in Ontario are designed to encourage good silvicultural practices which can provide landowners with a fair income for years to come. Conservationists will need to work closely with foresters and farmers to develop regulations that provide for long term stability on the landscape.

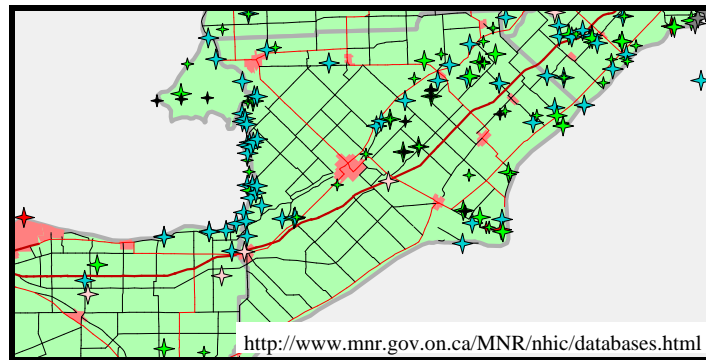
Carolinian Canada is part of a collaborative effort to undertake basic research into how various forest management regimes effect habitat. This research will hopefully show us how we can achieve conservation goals within a working landscape.



## Big Picture Update

For a foretaste of how you may be able to access the Big Picture map why not pay a visit to the website of the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). Among the features of this site is a dynamic map linked to the NHIC databases which can display a variety of natural and manmade features. This selection shows natural areas, roads, principal cities and county boundaries. More or fewer datalayers can be viewed at different scales as you zoom in and out.

The NHIC is developing the Big Picture map on behalf of Carolinian Canada and it is our hope to have some elements of the mapping available early in the new year. Make it a habit to visit our website, [www.carolinian.org](http://www.carolinian.org), for the latest developments.



The Natural Heritage Information Centre compiles, maintains and provides information on rare, threatened and endangered species and spaces in Ontario. This information is stored in a central repository containing a computerized database, map files and an information library, which are accessible for conservation applications, land use planning, park management, etc.

The NHIC was established in 1993 as a joint venture between the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and

three partners: The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Natural Heritage League, and The Nature Conservancy. The centre is now part of the Information Management and Systems Branch of the MNR and is located in Peterborough, Ontario.



Sydenham Field Naturalists president Denise Van de Viere presents a contribution towards the Big Picture.

## BIG BOOSTERS

We are receiving a lot of support and expressions of interest in the Big Picture Project. Approximately 20 organizations are contributing their expertise to the Technical Review Panel and this gives rise to high hopes that the resulting map can guide conservation efforts in the years to come. We would like to add a special thank-you to those organizations making a financial contribution as well:

**Natural Heritage Information Centre; Parks Canada; Wildlife Habitat Canada; Ontario Heritage Foundation Sydenham Field Naturalists; Hamilton Naturalists Club; Lambton Wildlife Incorporated**

## Carolinian Canada Conservation Awards 1999



The first annual Carolinian Canada Conservation Awards were presented at a Banquet during the Conservation Forum. Awards were made in two categories recognizing individual and organizational achievements. In the photos above Paul Preveit receives his award for Individual contribution from Wayne MacMillan in the left hand image, and in the right Dr. and Mrs. Colin McKeen accept the award on behalf of the Canadian Chestnut Council from Dolf Wynia. In both pictures the recipients are flanked by Paul Smith, Chair of Carolinian Canada and Don Gordon, the Program Coordinator.

## Call For Nominations for Year 2000 Awards

**C**arolinian Canada is pleased to invite nominations for its 2000 Conservation Awards. This program is designed to promote efforts in conserving the special natural heritage of the Carolinian Canada zone by recognizing outstanding contributions by individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations and government organizations.

Nominations will be for significant activities or accomplishments that have contributed to increased public awareness of the natural diversity of Ontario's Carolinian zone, or have contributed directly to conservation of natural habitats of Carolinian Canada. These include:

- ◆ Publications
- ◆ Events
- ◆ Educational programs
- ◆ Donation of conservation land or easement
- ◆ Contribution towards purchase of conservation land or easement
- ◆ Restoration projects
- ◆ Natural heritage policy or plan
- ◆ Advocacy for natural heritage protection

**N**omination forms are available by request from Carolinian Canada or at our website. Complete nominations will include:

- ◆ the name and contact information of both the nominee and the nominator;
- ◆ a description of the activity or accomplishment for which the nomination is being made
- ◆ Any attachments, such as résumés, photos, news clippings, letters of endorsement etc.

*Carolinian Canada*



In recognition of an outstanding contribution towards the protection of the natural diversity and natural habitats of Ontario's Carolinian zone

**Please submit the completed nominations by June 30, 1999.**

The final selection will be made by the Carolinian Canada Management Committee, and the awards will be presented at the next Conservation Forum.

For additional information, or assistance in preparing a nomination, please contact Don Gordon at Carolinian Canada (519) 873-4631.

# Members 1999-2000

**T**hanks to all of our new and renewing members. Membership contributions help us to maintain communications between individuals and organizations interested in conservation throughout Carolinian Canada. Effective communications are an inexpensive and practical way to avoid duplication and to encourage cooperation.

**C**arolinian Canada has two classes of membership: Individuals, who pay \$20 each year and Organizations, which pay \$50. Charitable contributions in excess of these amount are gratefully accepted and receive an official receipt for income tax purposes.

New memberships arrive weekly and the following list was compiled at the beginning of November:

### Individuals:

Olive Ireland  
 Marion Réaume  
 Donald Bucknell  
 Charles West  
 Anne Redish  
 Janet and Ken Dance  
 Mary-Jean Page  
 Barry Bergthorson  
 Peter Banks  
 Eric Waldron  
 Bohdan Kowalyk  
 David Martin  
 George Francis  
 John Nolan  
 Sandy Levin  
 Margie Wake  
 Douglas Bocking  
 Mary Ellen Scanlon  
 Betty Learmouth  
 Pat McLean  
 Alice Casselman  
 Ric Symmes  
 J.H.Cayford  
 Carla Carlson  
 Lloyd King  
 Lindsay Rodger  
 Peter Mitchell  
 Robert Demers  
 Brian Bannon  
 Brigid Payne

### Organizations:

Ontario Heritage Foundation  
 Halton Region Conservation Authority  
 Hamilton Naturalist's Club  
 Ducks Unlimited  
 Parks Canada  
 Hamilton Region Conservation Authority  
 McIlwraith Field Naturalists  
 Wildlife Habitat Canada  
 Ontario Forestry Association  
 Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
 Resources Improvement Oxford  
 Essex Region Conservation Authority  
 Wildlands League  
 St. Clair Region Conservation Authority  
 Lambton Wildlife Incorporated  
 BMB Scientific  
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
 Association for Canadian Educational Resources  
 City of London  
 Essex County Field Naturalists  
 Norfolk Field Naturalists  
 Credit Valley Conservation Authority  
 Regional Municipality of Niagara  
 Long Point Region Conservation Authority  
 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
 Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk  
 Norfolk Land Stewardship Council  
 Ontario Parks  
 Society for Ecological Restoration (Ont)  
 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
 Federation of Ontario Naturalists  
 Ridgetown College – JJ Neilson Arboretum  
 Sydenham Field Naturalists  
 Grand River Conservation Authority  
 Forest Gene Conservation Association  
 Nature Conservancy of Canada (Ontario)  
 Haldimand Stewardship Council  
 Thames Valley Native Plant Society  
 Lower Grand River Land Trust  
 Toronto & Region Conservation Authority  
 County of Middlesex  
 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority  
 Ontario Parks (SW)



**To Become a member of Carolinian  
 Canada, or to renew a lapsed  
 membership just send a cheque for the  
 appropriate fee (\$20 or \$50) to  
 Carolinian Canada, 659 Exeter Road,  
 London, ON, N6E 1L3.  
 Thank-you!**

## A Special Request

**P**robably a third of those of you reading this newsletter are doing so at work at a government agency, municipality or conservation authority. Perhaps your employer is a member of Carolinian Canada, but what about you? You know first hand the effect that cutbacks have had on a variety of conservation programs and you also know of the expectation for the non-government sector to pick up the slack. So please help us to help you by becoming an individual member of Carolinian Canada. Thank-you!



A new Carolinian species:  
*Quercus pecunia* – Money Oak

## Canadian Chestnut Council

Few of us that work in the natural environment settings in the Carolinian zone of Ontario do not know the tragic effect of the importation of the foreign Chestnut Blight on our native chestnut. From being a major forest component and one of the most useful and versatile trees of our forest, the native north American chestnut disappeared from the map in a matter of 30 years. By 1924 Professor Sherwood Fox of the University of Western Ontario reported only 1 seed bearing tree left in Norfolk County.

A few landowners have made attempts to save or revive the chestnut but the blight was unforgiving and allowed only a very few isolated trees to grow to a size that could bear fruit. To some that was a challenge waiting to be conquered

The creator of the Canadian Chestnut Council was without doubt Dr. Colin McKeen, a retired plant pathologist who lived in Ottawa but grew up in the Strathroy area where he had seen the demise of chestnut. The charter members of the council in 1989 included John Fingland, the regional forester for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, John Ambrose of the Guelph Arboretum, Doug Campbell a long time nut promoter from Niagara on the Lake, John Gartshore a well known conservationist from Ancaster and Dolf Wynia, Nursery Superintendent at the St. Williams Forest Station. Many conservationists have since taken a tour of service with the council.

Once the Hardest  
Working Tree in the  
Forest – Now It  
Needs Your Help.

- OSCIA

Through the last ten years, members of the council have been involved in activities such as the collection of seed and growing seedlings, testing disease control methods, using “hypo virulent“ strains, outplanting hundreds of seedlings for observation and preservation of the gene pools, sponsoring scientific research, maintaining accurate records of healthy and diseased trees and most of all keeping interested citizens informed through newsletters and public meetings about this magnificent tree that used to be such an

important part of our Carolinian forests and the lives of our rural citizens. Every year new trees are being found even though many are still dying from the disease. The Canadian Chestnut Council is making a difference by giving us hope for at least a partial recovery of a major natural component of our forest

The Canadian Chestnut Council holds meetings and publishes a regular newsletter. New members are welcomed and may contact Ross Pamenter, RR#1 Orangeville ON L9W 2Y8 (519) 941-3383.

Landowners may also be interested in a restoration project led by the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association. Under this project, selected private sites up to 0.4 ha will be planted with American Chestnut and other companion species. Call OSCIA at 1-800-265-9751.

## Future Stewards of The Land

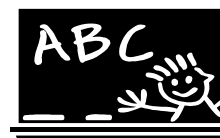
Carolinian Canada is pleased to have received a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support a pilot project producing educational curriculum support materials. The project is spearheaded by the Elgin and Middlesex Stewardship Councils and will benefit students in the Thames Valley School District and the London Catholic School District. We hope to build upon the success of the project by expanding it to other areas of the province.

In the elementary school system teachers face a challenge in environmental education due to:

- ◆ Insufficient awareness of available resources
- ◆ Lack of pertinent ties between these materials and the established curriculum
- ◆ Insufficient knowledge of accessible local natural areas that allow teachers to link environmental studies to hands-on field trips.

Through the Future Stewards project we expect to achieve the following goals:

- ◆ To gather and synthesize available resource materials to support the Common Curriculum for environmental studies.
- ◆ To tie these resource materials to local natural areas, accessible to each school, with activities for teachers to utilize in the field.
- ◆ To develop or enhance the interpretive materials available for each site.
- ◆ To foster new partnerships between the schools and community groups and government agencies to carry out conservation projects, such as habitat rehabilitations.
- ◆ To distribute approximately 200 resource kits to area schools.



# CAROLINIAN CANADA

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Email: info@carolinian.org



## Publications

### Caring For Your Land

– a stewardship handbook ..... \$10

**Hike Ontario's Guide to Walks in Carolinian  
Canada** by Brad Cundiff ..... \$16.95

**Plants of Carolinian Canada** ..... \$5

**Forest Birds of Carolinian Canada** ..... \$5

**Carolinian Canada Fact Sheets** (set of 6) \$2

**Dorchester Swamp Management Plan** – \$25

**Carolinian Canada Conservation Strategy** –Free

*We're On The Web!*  
[www.carolinian.org](http://www.carolinian.org)

## Management Committee

Paul Smith – Ministry of the Environment (Chair)  
John Ambrose – Canadian Botanical Association (Vice-Chair)  
Peter Banks – Lambton Wildlife Inc. (Treasurer)  
Mike Cadman – Canadian Wildlife Service  
Alice Casselman – Association for Canadian Educational Resources  
Gary Davidson – Director of Planning, County of Huron  
Brett Groves – Sydenham Field Naturalists  
Stuart Mallany – Ministry of Natural Resources  
Wayne MacMillan – Grand River Conservation Authority  
Jim Oliver – Conservation Ontario  
Jo-Anne Rzadki – Hamilton Harbour Watershed Stewardship  
Mary Ellen Scanlon – Ontario Professional Planners Institute  
Bill Stephenson – Parks Canada  
Margaret Vilez – Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
Dolf Wynia – Ontario Forestry Association  
Dawn Burke – Ministry of Natural Resources  
Graham Bryan – Federation of Ontario Naturalists

*“You make a living by what you get,  
but you make a life by what you give.”  
- Winston Churchill*

## In Brief

### MIDDLE ISLAND PURCHASE

On July 28, 1999, The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) was successful in its bid to purchase Middle Island at auction. The 18.5ha island lies midway between Canada and the United States in Lake Erie. Middle Island is a provincially significant area of natural and scientific interest (ANSI), as well as being a Carolinian Canada site. It is home to a number of globally rare plant and animal species, in particular the endangered Lake Erie water snake and several colonial-nesting water birds, such as the black-crowned night heron. Due to its long growing season, Canada's only citrus tree, the Hop tree thrives in the island's undisturbed environment.

For more information: Contact the Nature Conservancy of Canada (ONT) At (519) 826-0068

### ONTARIO NATURE TRUST ALLIANCE LAND SECUREMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to assist land trusts with the costs associated with acquiring environmentally important lands in Ontario. This is a 2 1/2 year program funded by the NCC, FON and the Richard Ivey Foundation. Trusts may seek grants for appraisals, surveys, legals, environmental audits or other related costs. Grants will not generally be more than \$5,000 per application and applications may be submitted at any time.

Comments or questions about this program may be directed to:  
Chris Baines, Land Securement  
Coordinator for ONTA  
c/o FON 1-800-440-2366

### A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE NATURALIST OR HIKER ON YOUR LIST

Order a copy of Brad Cundiff's Walks in Carolinian Canada for just \$16.95 and we will mail it either to you, or to another Canadian address. This great little guide describes dozens of hikes throughout the Carolinian zone, and the accompanying notes make every trip a voyage of discovery.

