Linking Stewardship and Education

Partnering Student Teams with Conservation Organizations:
A Win-Win Experience
Credit for Product

10,000+ hours
500+ students
300+ projects
50+ partner organizations

LEARN | BELONG | BECOME
Start to Finish

Partnering

Team formation

Planning and execution

Review and revision

closing
Deliverables

Motorists kill 90 turtles on Heart Lake Road in 25 weeks

By PAM DOUGLAS
Staff Writer

The numbers are in and the picture is grim—traffic on Heart Lake Road is killing local wildlife by the hundreds.

A group of about 40 volunteer citizen scientists devoted their spare time last year to the Heart Lake Road Ecology Monitoring Project (HLREMP), recording the animal death toll along a 2.5-kilometre stretch of road in north Brampton that is lined with a massive expanse of marsh.

Between May 8 and Oct. 31 (22 weeks) they monitored Heart Lake Road between Sandalwood Parkway and Mayfield Road, collecting data on the wildlife they found there—all alive and dead.

What they found in the 420 hours they spent walking the shoulders of that relatively short section of road was a wide list of dead frogs, turtles, snakes and birds. In all, 340 dead frogs were recorded, 90 turtles, 45 "mammals" of various types—25 birds, 17 snakes, and 14 reptiles—that were unidentifiable.

They also spotted plenty of life creatures—515 frogs, 91 birds, 47 mammals, 15 reptiles, 43 snakes and six unidentified animals.

The numbers show the wildlife and wetlands in the area are in need of protection and ways of reducing the risk to local wildlife.

Amphibians and reptiles cross the road to get to the other side frequently. HLREMP was launched to catalogue the impact of those crossings.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) teamed up with the City of Brampton and the Toronto Zoo’s Ontario Road Ecology Group (OREG) putting together a passionate group of animal-loving volunteer who helped quantify just how deadly the road is for local wildlife.

Brampton resident Leo O’Brien was the driving force behind organizing the volunteers. He also spent time collecting data.

But it wasn’t just an exercise in counting, it is hoped something can be done to improve the deadly situation.

The information was handed over to a group of four ecosystem management students from Sir Sanford Fleming College.

They analyzed the data, compiled it in a report, and explored mitigation options, offering up recommendations.

That final report was presented to Brampton’s Environmental and Planning Advisory Council recently by Vince DeLuzio, project manager with the TRCA.

That advisory group has directed city staff to consider ways of reducing the death toll, including such things as

Declining

Birds

Monitoring Cards

The Land Between

The Land Between is a transition area between the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Lowlands. It is what ecologists call an ecoregion.

LAKE SIMCOE WATERSHED

URBAN STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

Prepared for: John Osmork Carole Seymirth Jennie Water Sara Kelly
Prepared by: All Powers Christian Standring Paul McCarney Rob Nelson
Date: 8 April 2016
Credit for Product Draft

LAKES  | BELONG | BECOME
Evaluation of the Impacts of ORV/ATVs at Fleetwood Creek Natural Area
Working with the Ontario Heritage Trust
Deliverables - OHT

- Generated map of ATV access points
- Collect baseline data of access points
Deliverables - OHT

- Plan to eliminate unauthorized use
- Recommendations for community outreach
- Review of the governing legislation and environmental impacts of ATVs
Student Credit For Product Experience

Brighton Ontario, Proctor’s Creek
Community Park Stewardship Plan
My Credit For Product Experience

Diverse Group of Partner Organizations:
Community Stream Stewards Program, OFAH
Municipality of Brighton
Lower Trent Conservation Authority
Northumberland Stewardship Council
Deliverables - Proctor’s Creek

Stewardship Plan that:

• Identifies target areas for stewardship
• Recommendations for increasing ecological integrity of the site
Deliverables - Proctor’s Creek

• Strategy to reduce yard waste disposal
• Community outreach plan to address riparian mowing and erosion issues
• Implementation timeline to track changes and monitor progress
Win-Win Benefits to Students

Knowledge and Skill Development

• Research and report writing
• Project management and leadership skills
• Networking and communication skills
• Data collection and monitoring techniques
• Increased awareness of current stewardship issues and feasible solutions
  – What will actually work in the real world!
Win-Win Benefits to Students

Understand Strengths and Weaknesses

• Deal with unexpected challenges when working with four personality types
• Work through conflicts of opinion and work load distribution with team members
• Increase confidence and ability to effectively work in a team environment
Win-Win Benefits to Students

Valuable Volunteer Experience
- Project development experience
- Hands-on experience that will help sell skills
  - Not just learned in classroom but applied
- Active words for your resume!
Win-Win Benefits to Organizations

• Achieve results!
• Projects involve all stakeholder perspectives
• Unique perspectives and creative ideas
• Produce grads that are comfortable working effectively in a team environment
• Create partnership with possible future employees
Ontario College System

24 colleges

200+ campuses

500,000+ students

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