

# fyi

May 2019

[www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca)

Twitter [@UTRCMarketing](https://twitter.com/UTRCMarketing)

Facebook [@UpperThamesRiverConservationAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/UpperThamesRiverConservationAuthority)



Common Yellowthroat, courtesy R Battison

## Wet Weather Brings Demand for Erosion Control Projects

For about 40 years, Conservation Services staff have worked with rural landowners to design and install erosion control structures on farmland. With recent wet weather and damaging runoff events, staff are seeing a spike in the number of requests for technical services.



on farmland. With recent wet weather and damaging runoff events, staff are seeing a spike in the number of requests for technical services.

The evidence is in the field: After wet weather and runoff events, staff survey fields where erosion control structures could help landowners alleviate soil loss.



These structures are installed when management practices cannot otherwise control erosion from steep slopes or large watershed sizes. After plans are drawn, staff work with local contractors to ensure structures are properly constructed on the farms.

Contact: Michael Funk, Agricultural Soil & Water Quality Technician

## Thames Valley Science & Engineering Fair – Conservation Award

In April, UTRCA Community Education staff were on the judging panel for the Thames Valley Science & Engineering Fair at Althouse College in London. For the past five years, the Upper Thames, in conjunction with the Lower Thames Valley and Kettle Creek Conservation Authorities, have judged and presented a Conservation Award to the Junior Division (grade 6-8) project that best explores conservation with a local focus.

The winners of this year's award were Antara Gandhi and Reema Rawal from Orchard Park Public School. Their project, titled "Bloom Be Gone," tested the impacts of different fertilizers (organic and synthetic) on algal growth in a controlled



Antara Gandhi and Reema Rawal, Student Award Recipients, and Marianna Levogiannis, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority.



environment. The students each received a pair of binoculars and the Conservation Award Plaque, which will be displayed at their school for the next year.

Contact: Karlee Flear, Community Education Supervisor

## Tree Planting at the New Cade Tract



On April 25, four local elementary school classes spent half a day each planting 300 native wildlife shrubs and trees at the UTRCA's newly acquired Cade Tract in South Perth. Grade 4/5 and 7/8 classes from South Perth School planted shrubs and trees in the morning, and two Grade 6 classes from Little Falls School in St. Marys planted in the afternoon. The project was coordinated by UTRCA Community Education staff.

Students learned how to plant correctly and why native plants are important to a healthy environment. The students also played "Sun Catchers," a game that demonstrates how everything in a forest is connected.

The tree planting took place on one of the former hay fields on the property. This future forest will bolster the existing woodland cover on the property and protect water quality in the Sommerville Drain and nearby North Thames River. Additional naturalization work on the Cade Tract is underway, as well.



In time, the former hay field where the trees and shrubs were planted will become part of the forest.



Members of the Cade family, which donated the property to the UTRCA, were on hand for the event, including Barnby Cade.

The Communities for Nature tree planting work was made possible by generous grants from Nature London and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Contact: Cathy Quinlan, Terrestrial Biologist



## Visitors from Afar



A delegation from Pakistan's Khyber Pukhtoonkhawa province, including Mushtaq Ghani, Speaker of the provincial legislature (KP Assembly) visited the UTRCA's Watershed Conservation Centre in April. The delegation was welcomed by General Manager Ian Wilcox.



Tracy Annett, Manager of Environmental Planning and Regulations, provided an overview of the role of the Conservation Authorities. Chris Tasker, Manager of Water and Information Management, gave a presentation on the UTRCA's flood control and mapping program. Imtiaz Shah, Environmental Engineer, focused on issues facing Pakistan related to climate change and the use of sustainable technologies for water resources. Discussions also included the UTRCA's role in managing and mitigating climate change and water resources issues.

Contact: Imtiaz Shah, Environmental Engineer

## Helping Habitat & Water Quality



Local students planted native trees and shrubs near Hodge's Pond.

The UTRCA and partners are restoring the headwaters of Cedar Creek, at Hodge's Pond. To date, the project has included removing a small dam to improve water quality and habitat, creating wetlands, building a snake hibernaculum, and planting native trees and shrubs. Future work will include planting aquatics, building a trail, and installing bird boxes.

The project partners are Oxford County, the Oxford County Trails Council, Stewardship Oxford, the Thames Valley District School Board, and the UTRCA. The funders for the current phase are Environment & Climate Change Canada, and the Oxford Community Energy Cooperative.

Contact: Brad Hertner, Community Partnerships Specialist

## Being Flood Ready!



UTRCA Community Education staff participated in London's Emergency Preparedness Week with messages about water safety and how to prepare for flooding.

Emergency Preparedness Week is an annual event in May. It is an opportunity to encourage Canadians to take actions to be better prepared to protect themselves and their families during emergencies.

Contact: Steve Sauder, Marketing Specialist

## Board of Directors – On the Agenda

The next UTRCA Board of Directors meeting will be on May 28, 2019, at the Watershed Conservation Centre, located in Fanshawe Conservation Area. Draft agendas and approved minutes are posted on the “Board Agendas & Minutes” page at [www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca).

- Environmental Planning Unit Orientation Presentation
- Audited Financial Statements
- Appointment of Officer
- Administration and Enforcement - Section 28
- Targets 2018 Progress Report Presentation
- Targets Work Plan Summary
- Transfer Payment Cut Strategy
- ESA Changes Letter for Endorsement

Contact: Michelle Viglianti, Administrative Assistant