



# Credit Valley Conservation

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



[www.creditvalleycons.com](http://www.creditvalleycons.com)



# CVC Strategic Vision



Rae Horst, CAO

2006 was an exciting time for CVC. With an extensive work plan and list of deliverables, staff strove for lasting, positive watershed protection projects. Our challenge continues to be balancing protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the needs of our growing, vibrant communities.

Reaching out to watershed residents and stakeholders to involve them closely with CVC work of protecting and enhancing the natural environment of the Credit, 2006 started with several open houses in all member municipalities to familiarize municipal staff and the public on the required change to the Generic Regulation. We followed it up by hosting a four day conference "Making It Work: Credit River Water Management Strategy - A Strategy for Sustainability" to kick off the Credit River Water Management Strategy. 2006 marked the release of the comprehensive Watershed Report Card. Our watershed characterization report for our



Pat Mullin, Chair

Source Water Protection Plan has been completed and with several Sub-Watershed studies in progress we work towards a goal of abundant safe and clean water both now and for the future. Over spring and summer we worked with over 60 landowners planting more than 40,000 trees and shrubs through our restoration program. Additionally, we held over 20 community stewardship events involving more than 30 groups and agencies and continue to monitor forests and wetland health throughout the watershed.

2006 was the year where the Strategic Plan - that we have worked on for over a year - came to fruition. Based on exhaustive research for many years in such areas as water management (water quality, water budget, water monitoring), natural heritage, fisheries, stewardship, land management and conservation areas, it is a report on environmental issues facing the watershed and illuminates progress that is being, and will be made to combat the pressures we face. Most importantly, it offers an opportunity to develop a plan of collaborative action; think about issues facing the watershed now; and adopt a proactive and strategic approach for the future. A key component of the Strategic Plan was a one day workshop for all key stakeholders to provide input into the Plan.

We've worked to develop partnerships with municipalities; provincial and federal governments; landowners; agricultural and rural organizations; the development industry; environmental

groups; businesses and residents. Together we strive to improve and meet our objectives to protect, enhance and manage our watershed's resources for now and in the future. We continue to engage stakeholder groups, encouraging participation in collective solutions. And we continue to reach out to the public with opportunities to make a meaningful difference in the health of the environment and water quality.

As the environmental agency of the Credit River, we have a vision to create an environmental healthy watershed – a watershed with clean streams, enhanced forest cover, healthy representative ecosystems, abundant green space and balanced growth that results in sustainable communities.

*Rae Horst*      *Patricia Mullin*

## Board Members

The following served on the Board of Directors in 2006

**Pat Mullin** - CVC Chair, Mississauga Councillor, Ward 2

**Robert Shirley** - CVC Vice Chair, Townships of Amaranth, Mono & East Garafraxa, Citizen Appointee

**Eve Adams** - Mississauga Councillor, Ward 5

**Gail Campbell** - Orangeville Councillor

**George Carlson** - Mississauga Councillor, Ward 10

**Allan Elgar** - Oakville Regional and Town Councillor, Ward 4

**John Hutton** - Brampton Councillor, Ward 2 and 6

**Nando Iannicca** - Mississauga Councillor, Ward 7

**David Lyons** - Caledon Councillor

**Paul Palleschi** - Brampton Councillor, Ward 2 and 6

**Joan Robson** - Halton Hills Councillor, Ward 2

**Mary Shields** - Erin, Citizen Appointee







# Environmental Advisory Services (Planning)

A growing population in our watershed impacts the quality and quantity of environmental resources. The CVC Environmental Advisory Services program ensures development meets environmental standards through review of development applications in Plan Review and Regulation departments. We also provide policy analysis through the Plan Input program including review of municipal planning documents and Provincial initiatives. All these planning services ensure that the watershed develops with the highest standard of environmental protection.

## Accomplishments for 2006:

### Plan Input

- Peel Region Official Plan Update
- Servicing and Settlement Master Plan (Cheltenham-Caledon)

- Caledon Official Plan Amendment 124 – Preparation of Zoning By-law
- Brampton BramWest Secondary Plan process
- Update of Gateway Subwatershed Study-BramWest Secondary Plan
- Northwest Brampton Urban Boundary Expansion
- Churchville District Heritage Study (Brampton)
- Brampton Official Plan Review
- Halton Hills Official Plan Review
- Glen Williams Secondary Plan

### Plan Review

- Approximately 320 Plan Review Application and Condominium approvals, Official Plan Amendments, Re-Zoning, Site Plan approval, Minor variances, etc.
- Approximately 290 General Development Inquiries (includes property transaction inquiries, etc.)

### Regulations

- 72 Permits were issued under Regulation 160/06
- New Regulation approved in May 2006



# Water Resources

Water resources of the Credit River watershed are a diverse and complex system that sustain abundant natural life and a growing human population. Our management strategy and the data collected help us understand how water moves through the watershed. They also provide us with tools to assess and anticipate changes in watershed health and determine suitable management approaches.

- Draft Watershed Characterization Report & Draft Water Budget report completed for Source Water Protection
- Draft report for Credit River Water Management strategy completed
- Credit River Charter signed by 8 municipalities in the watershed
- Water Quality modeling to assess the water quality conditions of the Credit River finalized
- Watershed Report Card completed and promoted in various venues (major conferences, articles, TV interviews, workshops, municipal councils)
- 24 page monitoring program technical report completed
- Updates of Floodline Maps identified under the Flood Damage Reduction Program
  - Hydrologic assessment complete for Shaws Creek

- Hydrologic assessment for Floodline Mapping complete for Avonhead Creek
- Hydrologic assessment for Floodline Mapping complete for Clearview Creek
- Draft Phase 1 Characterization Report for Subwatershed 13 – East Credit completed
- Phase 1– Characterization Report for Subwatershed 17- Shaw's Creek completed
- Phase 1 Report for Subwatershed 19 updated
- Currently discussing future land use scenarios with municipalities on which to base modeling efforts for Phase 2 for Subwatershed 19
- Assessing the response of watercourses to urbanization for Fletchers Creek
  - Outreach program successfully developed brochure on River Offerings with several sessions held in classrooms and ESL classes
  - Draft 2004 report complete
  - Draft 8-year summary report complete
- Brampton Effectiveness Monitoring - evaluates in greater detail specific practices and assumptions related to land use change, in order to provide direction to the North-West Brampton Urban Boundary Expansion area.
  - Draft 2005 summary report completed

- Monitoring for 2006 field season completed
- Sediment Control Guidelines complete
- Water and Erosion infrastructure - Locations and conditions of erosion sites and storm water management ponds along the Credit River and its tributaries were located.
  - Data collection on erosion sites complete
  - Data base complete
  - Data input complete
- Gateway West Subwatershed Study - an update to the 10 year old Gateway West Subwatershed Study.
  - Draft Characterization has been developed
- As part of the permit requirements for the Island Lake reservoir, a water budget was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Environment. The Models were recalibrated and a new water budget was developed for this area.
  - Draft report has been finalized
  - Permit to Take Water has been issued for Island Lake Reservoir for 2 years
- 2006 Publications/Papers for Conferences – Total 10
- EIR/Planning submissions reviewed– Total 204



# Lands & Conservation Areas

CVC owns and/or manages over 6000 acres of land. Through planning initiatives, maintenance programs, program development and partnerships, we continue to protect watershed lands for future generations to enjoy. Our acquisition policy provides a science-driven process that identifies natural heritage features and areas of conservation importance. Land acquisition benefits the watershed and its residents by further protecting water quality and quantity, and provides opportunities for public access to protected areas for passive use.

Conservation Areas protect the Credit River watershed's significant and representative natural and cultural features. They offer sustainable natural heritage appreciation and recreation benefits to residents and visitors. At our Conservation Areas, visitors can enjoy nature as well as hike, fish and swim.

A summary of key accomplishments in 2006 for the CVC Lands Department are presented by program category including conservation areas, land planning, management and education.

The Conservation Areas System continued to protect significant and representative ecosystems throughout the Credit River Watershed and offered sustainable natural heritage appreciation and recreation benefits to residents and visitors.

Land planning continued to establish best management practices on CVC owned lands. Development of the Authority Land

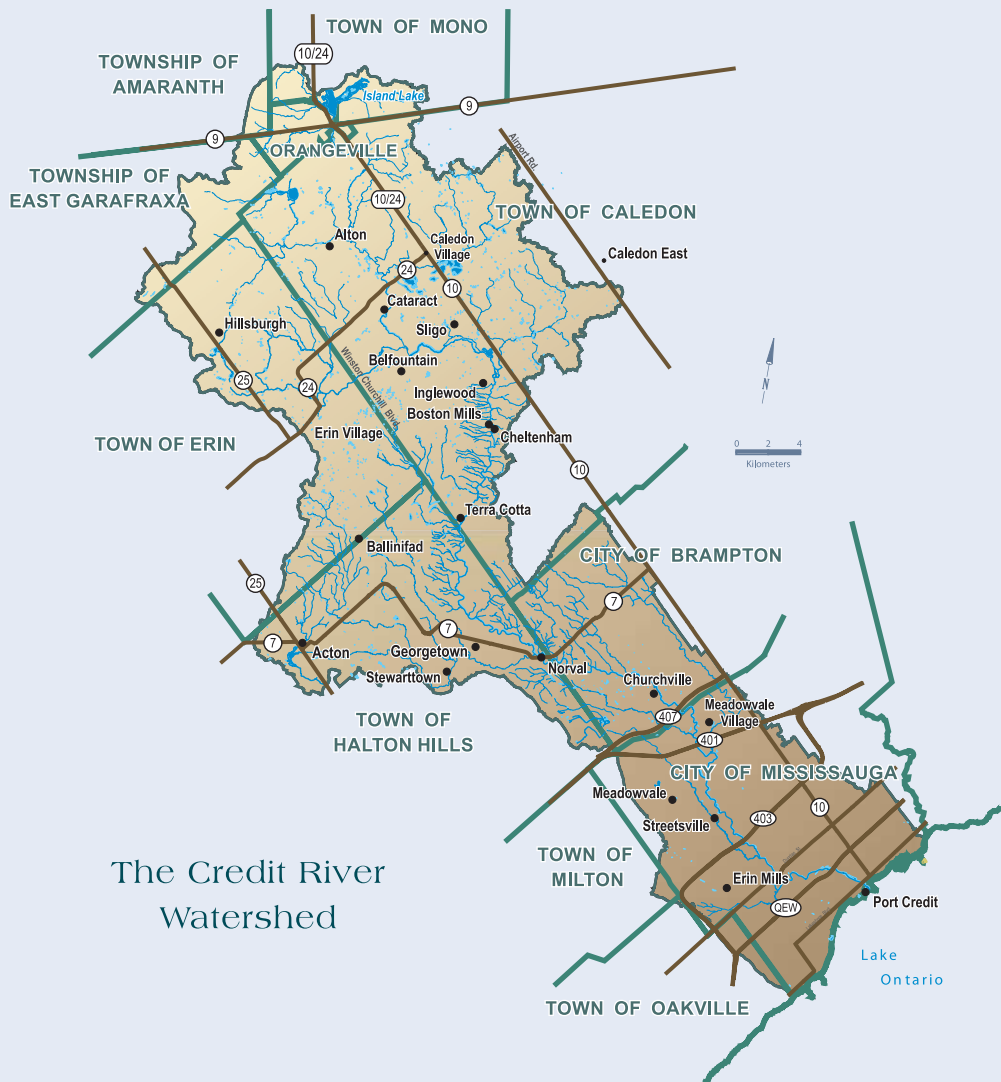
Management Guide began in late 2006. The Terra Cotta Management Plan was drafted.

The Lands Monitoring Program was completed and a final report was prepared. Land securement cooperative efforts continued with regional and municipal partners. Long term protection of the Upper Credit property was realized with its securement in 2006. Negotiations on three other properties continue. A strong working relationship was established with the Region of Peel Greenlands Securement Subcommittee.

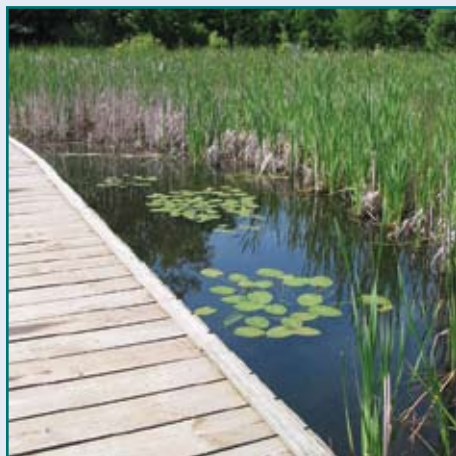
Ongoing infrastructure maintenance and capital upgrade projects were carried out at many CVC properties throughout the year.

A few examples included a new bridge at the Limehouse Conservation Area, Terra Cotta Education Centre renovations, Island Lake outlook repairs, Ken Whillans Resource Management Area trailer and washroom installation, and Belfountain Conservation Area kiosk and signage. An exciting private donation provided the opportunity for new boardwalks and signage upgrades at Rattray Marsh Conservation Area.

A reinvestment in Education was a priority in 2006. An Education Coordinator was hired and a strategic plan was prepared to guide this reinvestment in education to support CVC programs in water, natural heritage conservation, land use planning, land management and stewardship.



The Credit River Watershed







# Stewardship & Natural Heritage

Working with several partners, we sustain sound environmental practices and restoration of the Credit River and lands around it. We provide technical assistance to private, public and corporate landowners, community groups and individual residents on practices that enhance, restore or protect their properties. Stewardship allows for a hands-on approach to watershed protection.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Restoration Services** facilitates implementation of priority restoration and rehabilitation recommendations from completed subwatershed plans and other studies. High priority lands are targeted to ensure the greatest ecological benefit to the watershed. This past year,

- Naturalization, reforestation and direct sales involved 49 private landowners as well as municipalities and corporations in the watershed who planted over 37,200 trees and shrubs
- The shade house/nursery operation at Terra Cotta Conservation Area geared up for next year by potting 10,400 units

Staff carry out environmentally appropriate **Forest Management** on our publicly owned forested lands. This past year,

- Forest Management Inventory was completed at Upper Credit River, Ken Whillans, Wilcox, Island Lake, Alton Forest, Terra Cotta Forest and a portion of Silver Creek Conservation Areas

The **Stewardship Outreach** program involves landowners, municipalities, community groups and agencies in land and water stewardship throughout the Credit River watershed. It includes conservation planning, volunteer program management, education, facilitating community involvement and promotion of restoration services to private landowners. 2006 was a very busy year for outreach:

- We "reached-out" to over 30 groups within the watershed through over 20 tree planting, cleanup and other stewardship events
- CVC received \$9,000+ from Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation to support outreach in East Credit Subwatershed in Caledon
- We held Friends of the Credit Stewardship Forum and Conservation Awards event. The CVC Board of Directors granted 14 awards in recognition of a variety of significant stewardship efforts
- **WeCARE (West Credit Appreciation, Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project)** is a collaborative partnership with the Town of Erin and a number of community groups. WeCARE assisted with more than 15 community events

as well as a number of volunteer workdays. WeCARE also developed a partnership with the Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee for the Town of Erin which will be carrying out stewardship activities in Woolen Mill Conservation Area in 2007.

The **Peel Rural Water Quality Program** was developed to assist farmers, who have an approved Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), to undertake agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) to improve and protect surface and ground water quality.

- Completed a "clean water diversion" with landowner in north Caledon to prevent runoff from around barn entering a tributary
- Finalized production of program display and brochure which was on display at Brampton Fairgrounds and the WeCARE Symposium

## NATURAL HERITAGE

The **Natural Heritage Program** carries out mapping, fieldwork and analysis of a wide range of natural heritage features and areas (e.g. wetlands, significant woodlands, significant valley lands, significant wildlife habitat, etc.) in support of implementation of the Provincial Policy Statement and Official Plan policies as well as other programs of the CVC.

- In addition to finalizing wetland mapping and evaluations, support was provided to the Terra Cotta/Silver Creek CA Management Plan, Subwatershed 17 and 19 studies, various other studies and reports and a number of planning applications and planting plans
- The final lists of watershed Species of Conservation Concern were completed

The **Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences** program supports restoration services and stewardship outreach as well as habitat protection efforts as they relate to fisheries and aquatic habitat issues.



This past year staff:

- Began decommissioning of Graydon dam and installation of a rocky ramp downstream to enhance aquatic habitat and facilitate fish migration
- Provided support to the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program
- Collected data and held a number of neighbourhood meetings in support of the Rattray Marsh Restoration Plan

**Terrestrial Monitoring** measures the health of the terrestrial ecosystem within the watershed. Measurements include landscape metrics; vegetation plots; and bird and frog surveys. Currently the field program consists of 26 forest plots and 19 wetland plots.

- Data entry and analysis of 2005 and older data was completed. Forest and wetland data from 2006 was also entered

The **Terrestrial Ecosystem Enhancement model (TEEM)** is a framework for restoring and enhancing functionality of the Natural Heritage System of the Credit River watershed through protection of existing significant natural areas and identifying the potential for restoration of other significant lands. In 2006 staff:

- Updated Ecological Land Classification (ELC) mapping
- Finalized the Terms of Reference which was endorsed by the CVC Board in February
- Completed the preliminary evaluation of the existing natural heritage system (Phase I)

The **Socio-Economic Watershed Monitoring** project is measuring the human dimension of watershed ecosystem health. This project will attempt to define the natural capital; *ecological goods and services*; and quality of life values associated with the environmental features and functions of the Credit River watershed. To date:

- An Annotated Bibliography of key literature has been completed
- Two studies were initiated: the socio-economic values associated with the Credit River fishery; and real estate values associated with natural areas

The **Green Cities Initiative** engages stakeholders in partnership with CVC to plan and carry out projects that will restore natural features and functions as well as enhance stewardship of urban and urbanizing portions of the watershed.

- Meetings held with City of Mississauga, Toronto and Region CA and environmental NGOs regarding urban stewardship and outreach partnership opportunities for new or enhanced programs in 2007





# Corporate Services

We describe ourselves variously as the heart or support system of CVC. While the departments' most visible work is preparing the budget, all our work is about supporting our colleagues through provision of human resources, GIS, administrative support, marketing and communications.

## Marketing & Communications

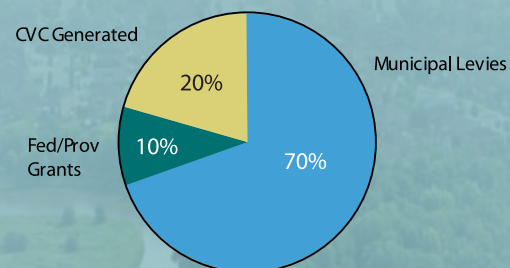
With environmental issues so prevalent in 2006, we had plenty of opportunity to communicate our messages. Here are some highlights:

- Among the many communication and marketing products we produced and distributed was the biannual "Currents" that went out to all watershed residents.
- The CVC website underwent a total redesign in March 2006. The newly designed site and other information on the site kept people coming back – 125,000 unique visitors were tracked, a 25% increase over 2005.
- Our monthly presence on Rogers Community Television – "Nature in the City" - and in the community newspaper, Orangeville Banner - "Envirotales" - kept our watershed residents aware of CVC's work. 2006 saw a significant increase in positive media coverage in print, radio and television, showing that media attention around environmental issues is on the rise.



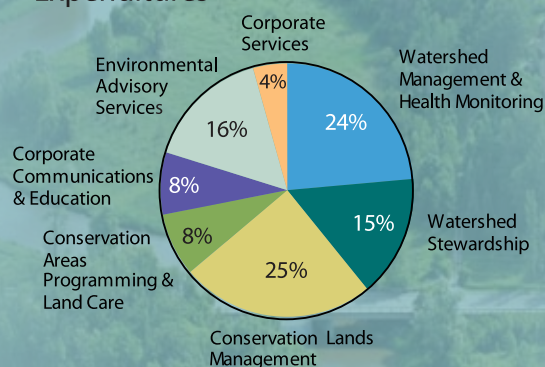
# Financials

## Revenue



Municipal Levies	\$6,077,918
Fed/Prov Grants	885,890
CVC Generated	1,793,152
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$8,756,960</b>

## Expenditures



Watershed Management & Health Monitoring	\$2,125,913
Watershed Stewardship	1,372,488
Conservation Lands Management	2,232,531
Conservation Areas Programming & Land Care	716,355
Corporate Communications & Education	694,916
Environmental Advisory Services	1,415,400
Corporate Services	402,465
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$8,960,068</b>



Member of



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