

May 2025 Lake Networking Group: Cataraqui Conservation Staff Brief

Watershed Science:

- In addition to regular provincial programs, monitoring plans include fish surveys in the Kingston area, stream temperature classifications and a lakeshore survey on Dog and Cranberry Lakes.
- The lakeshore monitoring is a new method that was piloted by Parks Canada, Kawartha Conservation and Cataraqui Conservation. We are currently working to make some refinements ahead of data collection this year.
- An additional well is being considered for the Provincial Groundwater Network.
- A crew will focus on invasive species monitoring and control in the Cataraqui Region. This is a partnership between the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and Cataraqui Conservation. Efforts will focus on water soldier in the Gananoque River watershed (Redhorse Lake) and invasive species monitoring and control in conservation areas.
- Invasive Phragmites equipment lending, and staff support for volunteer removal days will be offered again this year: <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/invasive-species>.
- With direction from our [management plan](#) for the [Cataraqui Region Phragmites Management Area](#) (CR-PMA), we continue to make progress (monitoring and control).
 - We'd like some help from lake associations in late July or August to monitor lake shorelines for invasive phragmites and report any observations with our monitoring survey: <https://arcg.is/0r0uGS>.

Forestry:

- More than 300,000 trees will be planted this spring through Cataraqui Conservations full-service tree planting program, primarily on private lands.
- Planning for the 2026 planting season is already under-way, and the Authority is already accepting applications for next spring.
- Site assessments for spring 2026 planting projects will begin this June (2025), for the purpose of collecting relevant environmental data; this data is used to inform the planning process for each site, particularly species selection.
- The following outlines how Cataraqui Conservation's planting program operates:
 - The program provides machine planting of (predominantly) coniferous tree seedlings on a minimum of 2.5 acres of open land.
 - Generous subsidies for tree planting projects are offered with the help of generous funding partners. A scaled pricing system is available, such that the cost to the landowner decreases as the size of project increases.
 - The program includes follow-up survival assessments (2-3) within the first 5 years, with potential for free refill planting for sites with significant mortality.
- Cataraqui Conservation also offers a robust over-the-counter seedling sale program (with both native trees & shrubs available) for watershed residents who do not qualify for the full-service program; interested parties must order a minimum of 250 seedlings. Trees are available for pick-up each spring.
- For all forestry-related inquiries, please contact Haven Jerreat-Poole, Forestry Technician (hjerreat-poole@crca.ca)
- Annual Native Plant Sales: <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/blogs/events> (species and prices will be posted soon)
 - [Mac Johnson Wildlife Area](#) – May 17, 21, 24, 28 and June 14, from 9:00 am to noon
 - [Lemoine Conservation Area](#) – May 17th, 9:00 am to noon

Water Level Management:

- Every spring, water levels are managed with discharge adjustments at water control structures to accommodate, as much as possible, the flows generated from the melting snowpack and spring rainfall events. The goal is to minimize flooding while starting to bring water levels up for

the summer recreation season. Other Water Managers are performing similar operations this spring.

- The winter of 2024/25 had more snow than normal, and the melt was slow and steady until the middle of March which saw a quick warm-up and large rainfall event that caused flows and levels to rise quickly.
- A string of rainfall events in March and April prompted Cataraqui Conservation to host a greater frequency of Water Managers Freshet meetings than in a typical year, 20 in total from February 7 to April 30. Parks Canada, MNR, Portage Power and Cataraqui Conservation staff were in attendance where assessments of conditions, water levels and flows were shared and discussed to inform the collaboration of water management (dam operations) in the region and to inform Cataraqui Conservation flood messaging.
- Cataraqui Conservation issued multiple news releases, including a notification of changing conditions, Water Safety Statements and Flood Watches (8 statements in total) that were in effect from March 4 through April 30
- Municipal flood contacts and the public were informed of conditions and potential flood risks. Only localized flooding impacts were observed and reported.
- The following link has more info about dams and water control structures including which bodies: <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/dams>

Drinking Water Source Protection:

- Source Water Protection held a booth at the annual Family Fishing Day on Amherst Island on May 10th.
- Four pamphlets have been created to educate residents on Well Care, Septic Care, Landscaping & Pesticides, and Household Hazardous Waste (these will be posted in the resources section of cleanwatercataraqui.ca)
- Cataraqui, in partnership with Quinte, Rideau Valley, Niagara Peninsula and Lower Trent are continuing the “Drinking Water Wise Webinar” ([registration and links to past webinars](#)). Upcoming 2025 Webinars include History of Source Water Protection (May 21st), Cisterns 101 (July), Septic Testing & Tertiary Systems (September), and Karst & Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (October).
- The 2024 Annual Reporting was approved and will be uploaded to cleanwatercataraqui.ca soon.
- Amendments to the Source Protection Plan nears its final submission after extensive negotiation with MECP.

Education:

- We are open and booking [programs](#) with field trip, virtual, greenspace, and school yard options.
- The Nature Explorers Summer Camp is fully booked.

Development Review:

- If you see something in the Cataraqui Region that appears to be in contravention of the Regulation, you can report it here: <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/report-a-violation>.
- An award program is being piloted this year to recognize shoreline property owners that maintain or establish riparian buffers that exemplify good shoreline stewardship. When our development review staff notice a qualifying shoreline, they can present the property owner with an award and will ask them to display a sign (image to the right) and would also take some photos for social media to promote good practices to our followers.



Conservation Lands:

- Cataraqui Conservation's conservation areas and lands are now officially part of the 11% of Ontario that is recognized as protected and part of the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database.
- Staff have been busy getting water access locations and trails ready for the season.

Update prepared by Holly Evans, Watershed Planning Coordinator: Email: hevans@crca.ca or
Phone: 613-546-4228 x233.
