

May 2024 Lake Networking Group: Cataraqi Conservation Staff Brief

Cataraqi Conservation is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2024. Visit cataraquiconservation.ca/events for further details.

Watershed Science:

- A different method of shoreline inventory and habitat indexing was piloted with good initial results. Cataraqi Conservation intends to cooperate with Parks Canada to refine the method for better applicability to Ontario.
- All water soldier patches detected in Red Horse Lake were removed over the summer. One newly identified patch will be removed next Wednesday. In total more than 1900 kg of this plant was removed. Additionally, 252 km of shoreline on seven lakes was monitored.
- Four conservation areas / 40 kilometers of trails were inventoried for invasive species.
- Invasive Phragmites mapping and initial management plan project with funding from the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund. Everyone is encouraged to submit observations via this survey:

<https://arcg.is/0r0uGS>



- Public Consultation for Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy – Deadline for Comments Oct. 9 - details at <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/get-involved>

Forestry:

- We hope to plant over 200,000 trees in the Spring of 2025.
- Planning for the 2025 planting season is underway. We are still actively seeking participants for the program, for the 2025 spring season.
- The following outlines how Cataraqi Conservation's program operates:
 - We currently offer machine planting of coniferous tree species on a minimum of 2.5 acres (1 hectare).
 - Site visits to assess for soil and general site conditions are currently on-going for the 2025 spring planting season.
 - If site preparation is required prior to planting, it is the responsibility of the landowner (mowing/bush hogging).
 - Planting project costs are subsidized by a minimum of 80%. Larger projects receive higher subsidies.
 - We also offer Over-the-Counter (OTC) tree and shrub sales for landowners who do not qualify for our full-service program (minimum orders of 250 seedlings).
 - If interested in tree planting, please contact either Rick Knapton, Coordinator, Forestry (rknapton@crca.ca) or Haven Jerreat-Poole, Technician, Forestry (hjerreat-poole@crca.ca).

Water Level Management:

- Every fall, following the summer recreation season, water levels on managed lakes (a lake with a water control structure such as a dam) are drawn down by Cataraqi Conservation and local water management staff to create more capacity for fall rains, runoff from spring snow melt and rainfall. It's also done to stabilize water levels prior to winter freeze-up to promote a stable ice surface throughout the winter.
- Flows through dams are increased during this period of seasonal adjustment. Depending on rainfall, water levels may fluctuate through the fall, but generally, it is expected that these drawdowns will be completed by December.
- Residents are reminded to use caution and stay away from dams (inflow and outflow channels) and fast flowing watercourses.
- More information can be found here: <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/blogs/news/fall-water-level-adjustments-on-inland-lakes-1>

- The summer of 2024 included some very heavy rainfall events including remnants of a hurricane and a tropical storm. These rainfall events warranted issuance of Cataraqui Conservation Water Safety Statements. The rain did not fall evenly across the region however, with the City of Kingston receiving about 57 mm of rain in the month of August, while Brockville received about 155 mm that month, for example.
- Accordingly, water levels at some of the dams in the Brockville area were higher than normal for a period.
- Conditions have been relatively dry for the last couple weeks. There is some rain in the forecast for the week of September 23rd.
- Water levels are generally in the normal range, currently.
- Adjustments have begun at some Cataraqui Conservation dams to start to increase discharge to begin the fall drawdown.

Drinking Water Source Protection:

- Cataraqui in partnership with Quinte, Mississippi Valley and Lower Trent are holding our 8th & 9th webinar in the “Water Wise Webinar” series:
 - Harmful Algal Blooms: Science and Solutions on September 25th from 12-1:30pm
 - Climate Change Impacts on Drinking Water Safety on October 23rd from 12-1:30pm
 - Register online here: <https://www.quinteconservation.ca/en/watershed-management/drinking-water-wise-webinars.aspx>
 - Previous webinars include Introduction to Harmful Algal Blooms, Well Care, Septic Systems, Realty & Rural Drinking Water, Drinking Water Testing and Treatment, Groundwater 101. These webinars were recorded and can be accessed at the link above
- Recent social media campaign has been running from July through to September on proper disposal of household hazardous waste. The campaign started with the following [article](#), and had social media posts on our platforms throughout the length of the campaign. It highlighted the dates of Hazardous Waste Disposal days being hosted by various Municipalities in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area.
- The cleanwatercataraqui.ca website is undergoing an update and will merge with the Cataraquiconservation.ca website. Anticipated completion by end of year.
- Cataraqui Conservation is developing new education pamphlets that will be available on our website. These will cover source water protection as it pertains to wells, septic systems, pesticides, household hazardous waste, and more. Anticipated completion by end of year.
- Amended Cataraqui Source Protection Plan has been submitted to the Ministry for final review and approval.

Education: and Conservation Lands:

- We are open and booking [programs](#) with field trip, virtual, greenspace, and school yard options. Upcoming events – details at <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/events>
 - Truth and Reconciliation Walks at Little Cataraqui Creek and Mac Johnson Wildlife Area – Sept. 29 (10am to 3pm)
 - Friends of Mac Johnson Tree Sales – Sept. 28, Oct. 2 (9 am to noon)
 - TD Tree Days at Lemoine Point Conservation Area – Oct. 5 (9 am to noon)
- Public Consultation for Conservation Area Strategy and related guidelines – Deadline for Comments Oct. 9 - details at <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/get-involved>

Development Review:

- Public Consultation for Regulation Policy Update - Coming Soon - details will be at <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/get-involved> and people who commented previously will be directly contacted.
- 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>.