Living by the Lake

LAKE ONTARIO INTEGRATED SHORELINE STRATEGY - CORPORATE NEWSLETTER - ISSUE TWO - SUMMER 2012

BREAKING GROUND

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and its partners are installing innovative water technologies at IMAX Corporation in Mississauga to treat stormwater before it enters our rivers and Lake Ontario.

CVC is developing a Lake Ontario Integrated Shoreline Strategy, a multi-year study of current conditions along the Lake Ontario shoreline in Mississauga. The goal of the study is to find opportunities to protect, restore and improve the shoreline and near-shore waters.

In an urban environment, rain runs off streets, driveways, and parking lots into storm drains, picking up pollutants and carrying them into Lake Ontario, the region's drinking water supply.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is exploring new ways to protect our drinking water supply. A number of projects are underway to help reduce and filter rain runoff before it can overwhelm and pollute our local waterways.

Low Impact Development, or LID, is a suite of practices that reduces the amount of rain runoff that flows into storm drains, leading to creeks, streams and the lake. Practices can include green roofs, rain gardens and permeable paving that slow down and soak up rainwater.

Low Impact Development in Action Conference
October 4 & 5, 2012 at the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga. Showcasing innovative stormwater management practices from across Canada. More info at: www.creditvalleyca.ca/lidinaction.

IMAX Corporation

IMAX, CVC, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and other project partners are working together to retrofit the IMAX parking lot in Mississauga. The project will test innovative stormwater management practices to protect groundwater and streamflow into Sheridan Creek and Rattray Marsh. The project, along with nine other demonstration projects throughout the Credit River Watershed was funded by a $1 million Showcasing Water Innovation (SWI) grant from the Province of Ontario. A ground breaking ceremony was held on August 24.

One of the goals of the project is to increase public and private sector knowledge and capacity to implement innovative water technologies into existing and future developments that will protect the Great Lakes.

Rainfall from the IMAX property flows into Sheridan Creek which flows into the provincially significant Rattray Marsh and Lake Ontario. The IMAX parking lot will be redesigned by local consultant Aquafor Beech to incorporate innovative technologies offered by local companies Imbrium and Unilock.

The project will help protect the Credit River, one of the few remaining cold-water fisheries in the Lake Ontario Basin. It will also create local green jobs in our community and position Ontario as leaders in water.

CVC welcomes the opportunity to work with businesses and institutions located along the shoreline, as well as throughout the Credit River Watershed, to implement similar stormwater management projects.

MEADOW GARDEN
FIELDING CHEMICAL INC.

The meadow garden planted on the grounds of Fielding Chemical's Mavis Road location is an example of environmental landscaping and restoration possible through CVC's Greening Corporate Grounds initiative.

GREENING CORPORATE GROUNDS

With corporations looking for ways to participate in the global environmental movement, the willingness to make changes that bring value to a corporation, as well as the world, is just good business. One way to effect change is to join Greening Corporate Grounds (GCG), an innovative program offered by Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) a member of Partners in Project Green. This program helps corporations, businesses and institutions carry out ecological (or environmental) landscaping projects that benefit the environment and their bottom-line.

Environmentally speaking, many corporate grounds are the sum of their parking lots, lawns, sparse plantings and buildings. The impacts these conventional landscapes and structures have on the local environment and humans can be significant. Maintaining conventional lawn, annual plantings and certain trees can be costly and environmentally unsound. GCG promotes use of native plants adapted to local conditions to create healthy meadows, prairies and woodlands that increase biodiversity, improve air quality, help mitigate temperature extremes and increase the number of local natural areas in the community. Instead of conventional grass and hard pavement, participants are encouraged to consider low-maintenance lawns and permeable paving. Streams, lakeshores and ponds can also be enhanced with native plantings, bioengineering and habitat features.

To make it easier for businesses and institutions to adopt these landscaping practices, GCG works with staff, volunteers or landscape personnel to create a concept plan to convert some, or all, of their grounds over time. GCG program personnel also aid with staff planting days that help foster a sense of stewardship and community. In addition, GCG provides workshops and information about native plants and other ecological landscaping practices. GCG personnel will supply maintenance information to ensure the success of new plantings. Other CVC staff, such as aquatics or water resources specialists, can provide support where needed.

Holcim Canada Inc., a recent shoreline participant in the GCG program, is looking at ways to naturalize and improve the overall health and aesthetics of its site with ecological landscaping projects.

For more information, visit www.creditvalleyca.ca/gcg.

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