

“Protect” - Session Descriptions

Session 1

Water Works: Restoring Aquatic Habitat for Species at Risk

Presenter: Lisa Erdle, Project Coordinator
Doug Forder, General Manager
Ontario Streams

Description: Aquatic rehabilitation aims to repair damage of the past and to pass on knowledge to ensure a safe, clean, sustainable environment. Using work from Ontario Streams, this presentation demonstrates examples of aquatic habitat protection and restoration within the Great Lakes and Lake Simcoe watersheds. The presentation explores the removals of fish barriers, improvements in agricultural areas, stabilizing stream bank, building bypass channels and creating wetlands.

Bio: Lisa completed a major in Natural Resources Conservation at University of British Columbia and obtained a double degree MSc in Forestry. In Ontario, Lisa has five years experience with aquatic biology, stream restoration and stewardship activities. Lisa has been a Project Coordinator/Biologist with Ontario Streams for two years, and is responsible for Fish Habitat Enhancement and Rehabilitation Initiatives throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

Doug Forder earned his Bachelors of Science Degree from the University of New Orleans and his Masters Degree from Southeastern Louisiana University. His Masters thesis, Timber Harvesting, Coppicing and Artificial Regeneration of a Cypress Muck Swamp, studied the ability of cypress seedlings to grow and trees to regenerate by coppicing in clear-cut, selective-cut and uncut forests.

Doug has worked in the environmental field for twenty years. He has been involved with Ontario Streams since 1996 in many capacities including Project Biologist, Board Member, President and now holds the position of Restoration Ecologist/ General Manager. Additionally, he was employed as a Wetland Biologist with Environment Canada’s Canadian Wildlife Service for two years.

Session 2

Our Nature to Conserve: Natural Heritage Within the Credit River Watershed

Presenter: Erika Nardone, Acting Ecologist Landscape Science
Credit Valley Conservation

Description: CVC recently developed an advanced Natural Heritage System (NHS) for the Credit River watershed. This session explains what the NHS is, why it’s important for watershed health and the role communities play in preserving our natural biodiversity.

Bio: Erika is a Natural Heritage Technician at CVC. She works on projects that implement the NHS within the Credit River watershed. This work involves improving our understanding of natural features and supporting watershed municipalities in their own natural heritage systems planning.

Session 3

Emerald Ash Borer: Is it the end of ash as a species?

Presenter: Terry Schwan
Williams & Associates Forestry Consulting

Description: The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to spread north through Ontario, flying from ash tree to ash tree. The rapid, large-scale spread of EAB is helped along by transporting firewood, nursery stock and logs. EAB has already killed millions of trees, but early detection can slow its spread and damage. This presentation will discover how it got here, where it is going, what is happening to our forests and what we can expect in 20 years.

Bio: Terry has been a Registered Professional Forester since 1977. From 1997 until 2014, he was District Forester with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Guelph. He has also worked in Kapuskasing and Mattawa, Ont., and in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que. In Guelph, Terry managed tree bylaw issues, significant woodlands, technical training and forest health problems. This included managing woodlots with emerald ash borer, promoting good forestry practice and supporting Stewardship projects.

For the past two years, Terry has been a forester consultant with Williams & Associates Forestry Consulting and the Forest Gene Conservation Association.

“Connect”- Session Descriptions

Session 1

In Your Backyard: Top Native Plants for Home Landscapes

Presenter: Melanie Kramer, Program Coordinator, Residential Outreach
Credit Valley Conservation

Description: Native plants are increasingly popular for creating diverse and sustainable landscapes. Many native plants thrive in residential landscapes, if the right plant is put in the right place. This session highlights the best native plants for home landscapes, top performers for aesthetics and ease of care, and the best choices for attracting birds and pollinators. Participants will receive free copies of CVC's gardening and landscaping native plant lists.

Bio: As the Program Coordinator of Residential Outreach at CVC, Melanie promotes beautiful and innovative ecological landscaping practices. She draws on her team's experience researching, planting and maintaining demonstration gardens, as well as CVC's *Your Green Yard* resources, research and initiatives. In addition to a Master of Landscape Architecture and a Master of Environmental Studies, Melanie worked for several years as a landscape designer. Her vision is to see all home gardens and landscapes incorporate sustainable landscaping practices that improve the ecological and hydrological health of the watershed.

Session 2

Connecting Stewards to Science Initiatives

Presenter: Tanya Pulfer, Conservation Science Manager
Ontario Nature

Description: This session looks at citizen science and some of the remarkable works that have been developed in collaboration with citizen scientists. The Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas is a citizen science project that tracks populations and behaviours of reptiles and amphibians across Ontario over time. The Directory of Ontario Citizen Science is an online tool that connects budding or seasoned citizen scientists to organizations and projects across the province. These initiatives offer opportunities for the public to learn and get involved with stewardship activities.

Bio: Tanya Pulfer grew up in a farming family in rural Ontario where she developed a love for the rural landscape and the biodiversity it hosts. She has a joint B.Sc. in environment science and biology, M.Sc. in ecology and B.Ed. focusing on outdoor education. Before joining Ontario Nature in 2013, Tanya worked for several conservation organizations including Florida Marine Research Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Lanark Stewardship Council and the Natural Heritage Information Centre – where she worked on the first Ontario Herpetofauna Summary.

Session 3

A Trail Travels Through Us: Building Connection along the Credit River

Presenter: Susan Robertson
Credit Valley Heritage Society

Description: The Credit Valley Trail (CVT) is a legacy project that has been explored for over 60 years. It aims to provide an opportunity for people to appreciate and experience the beauty of the Credit, one of the largest rivers in the Greater Toronto Area. This session will explore the strategy for the CVT, and foster a deeper understanding of the significant role the Credit River has played in developing and sustaining of our communities from the headwaters in Orangeville to the shores of Lake Ontario in Port Credit.

Bio: Susan is an Advocate Planner who focuses on watersheds, communities and sustainability. She is a Registered Professional Planner, Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and graduate of the Environmental Planning Master Program at York University. With more than 10 years experience in the public and private sectors, Susan has enjoyed working alongside the nationally acclaimed Humber Watershed Alliance, a community-based watershed governance council that seeks to promote, protect and celebrate the Humber River watershed.

“Sustain” – Session Descriptions

Session 1

Bugs Make Us Better: Biological Control Programs for Invasive Plants

Presenter: William McIlveen

Description: In cases where non-native plants have become established and spread invasively, various programs have been developed to bring those plant populations to more acceptable levels. This session explores biological control agents to curb the rate of spread and reproduction of the unwanted plants. The control agents are typically insects but sometimes include plant diseases. Join us to discuss the struggles, successes and next steps of biological control programs for invasive plants.

Bio: William (Bill) was the Senior Terrestrial Toxicologist with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for over 25 years, then as an environmental consultant conducting biological inventories (flora and fauna) throughout Ontario. He is a member of many environmental organizations and has served as an advisor to environmental committees in Halton and Peel. He has authored or co-authored over 390 articles and reports relating to environmental matters ranging from naturalist club newsletters to government reports and reference journals.

Session 2

100 Years of Conservation: CVC’s Past, Present and Future

Presenter: Bob Morris, Watershed Specialist
Credit Valley Conservation

Description: CVC is developing a comprehensive Watershed Plan, building on its 2015 Strategic Plan. The plan will focus on building a sustainable future in the Credit River watershed in the face of continued urban growth and climate change. The plan is divided into three chapters, with the first now underway. This session will give a brief, yet detailed, overview of how far CVC has come and where things are headed.

Bio: Bob Morris has been with CVC for 25 years and has participated in most of its programs during his career, including aquatic biology research, plan input and watershed restoration. Bob is responsible for coordinating the Watershed Plan.

Session 3

Changing Minds, Creating Actions: Fighting Climate Change Through Community Engagement

Presenter: David Laing
Brampton Environmental Advisory Committee (BEAC)

Description: In 2015 Brampton Council approved the city’s much anticipated Environmental Master Plan called *Brampton Grow Green*. The plan lays out targets designed to reduce the City’s carbon footprint and move towards environmental sustainability. During this session, Brampton’s Environmental Advisory Committee (BEAC) members will present their strategy to create a Grow Green Partnership Network and implement an Eco-Challenge Community Engagement Program. They will then lead a discussion using CVC/TRCA’s Fletcher’s Creek SNAP project as an example of the power of partnership and community engagement.

Bio: David is an environmental management consultant, and an advocate for environmental initiatives related to local actions to mitigate the effects of a changing climate. He is a citizen member and Co-chair of the Brampton Environmental Advisory Committee, an elder of the David Suzuki Foundation, a member of the Peel Chapter of Sierra Club, Chair of BikeBrampton and a past member of the Etobicoke/Mimico Watershed Coalition of TRCA.

“Experience” – Session Descriptions

Session 1

Fall into Nature: Tree Planting

Presenter: TBD
Credit Valley Conservation

Description: Flex your muscles and help make the UTM campus a healthier place. Join CVC and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) as we plant native trees and shrubs on campus.

WHAT TO BRING: Weather-appropriate clothing, sturdy footwear and a water bottle.

WE WILL PROVIDE: Gloves, tools and drinking water.

Bio: Coming soon.

Session 2

UTM Campus Green Features Tour

Presenter: Chelsea Dalton, Environmental/Sustainability Coordinator
UTM

Description: This walking tour of the campus will introduce participants to some of UTM’s environmental initiatives. The tour will include information on UTM’s LEED certified buildings, including green roofs, geothermal heating and cooling, and energy-efficient design. Participants will also learn about UTM’s sustainability transportation initiatives as well as the ongoing maintenance and restoration of the campus’ natural areas and wildlife habitat.

Bio: Chelsea oversees the Environmental Affairs Office at UTM. She works with students, staff, and faculty in different areas of sustainability including naturalization, energy management, bicycle sharing and public outreach.

Session 3

Bird Walk

Presenter: Melissa Creasey, Program Assistant, Urban Landowner Outreach
Credit Valley Conservation

Description: Join as we walk and discuss the vital roles birds play in our ecosystems. Every fall countless birds travel from their northern breeding grounds to their southern winter homes. Often this destination is in the middle of an urban area where they look for patches of habitat where they can feed and rest until the next leg of their journey. This tour will take you on a short walk around the UTM campus looking for migrating birds. Along the way we will discuss the roles birds play in the ecosystem and what you can do to help these birds along the way.

Bio: Melissa has worked at CVC since 2013. Her work encourages the use of ecological landscape practices to create healthy and sustainable landscapes in urban areas. Melissa received an honours B.Sc. from Memorial University and a M.Sc. from Trent University where she focused on avian conservation in disturbed landscapes.

Session 4

The Case for Optimism on Climate Change

Presenter: Andrew Kett, Senior Manager, Outreach and Education
Credit Valley Conservation

Description: CVC's Andrew Kett is one of over 10,000 volunteers from 135 countries personally trained by former Vice-President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore in climate science, communications and telling the story of climate change to inspire communities to take action. In this session, learn about the growing global climate change movement, experience "the slideshow" that launched *An Inconvenient Truth*, and explore the case for optimism on climate change to solve the greatest challenge of our time.

Bio: Andrew Kett is the Senior Manager of Outreach and Education for Credit Valley Conservation and coordinator of Conservation Ontario's Conservation Authorities University program. Andrew also coordinates the Young Conservation Professionals Leadership Program, based at the University of Guelph, and serves as Vice-Chair of the Sustainability Network. He holds a Master's degree in Adult Education and Community Development from the University of Toronto. Andrew is an avid cyclist. He lives in Toronto.