

## Events

### Spring 2007 Events

**Earth Day at Tom Riley Park**  
Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. to noon  
Tom Riley Park, Toronto (Islington Avenue and Dundas Street West)  
Come and celebrate Earth Day by planting a tree, restoring native habitat and enjoying the outdoors with friends and family.

**Valleywood Spring Community Planting**  
Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
15 Kirkwood Crescent, Valleywood Caledon (north of Mayfield Road off of Hurontario Street)  
Join your friends and neighbours to help plant native trees and shrubs along the Etobicoke Creek in Caledon.

**Peel-wide Planting—**  
Heart Lake Secondary School  
Tuesday, May 1, 8 a.m. to noon  
Heart Lake Secondary School, 296 Conestoga Drive Brampton  
Restore a wetland by planting native shrubs and building habitat structures with the Heart Lake Secondary School Environment Club.

**Peel-wide Planting—**  
Glenforest Secondary School  
Tuesday, May 1, 8 a.m. to noon  
Fleetwood Park, Mississauga (corner of Burnhamthorpe Road East and Poyntail Drive)  
Naturalize parkland, restore riparian habitat and install bird boxes with the students of Glenforest High School.

**Peel Village Golf Course Butterfly Garden**  
Saturday, May 5, 8 a.m. to noon  
Peel Village Golf Course, 29A Hartford Trail, Brampton (Steeles Avenue East, west of Kennedy Road South)  
Plant native wildflowers, shrubs and trees with friends and neighbours at Canada's first municipally operated, Audubon-certified golf course.

**South Mimico Healthy Yards Workshop**  
Saturday, May 12, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Montgomery's Inn, Etobicoke  
(southeast corner of Dundas and Islington)  
Join us for a native plant gardening presentation and native tree and shrub sale. Free but registration required. Call 416-661-6600, ext. 5338.

**Rockwood Healthy Yards Workshop/Plant Sale**  
Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. to noon  
Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, 1500 Guellden Drive, Mississauga  
Join us for a native plant gardening presentation and native tree and shrub sale. A free event with complementary native shrub but registration required. Call 416-661-6600, ext. 5740.

**Peel Children's Water Festival Community Day**  
Saturday, May 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Heart Lake Conservation Area, 10818 Heart Lake Road, Brampton  
Join us on Community Day and help create habitat for birds and butterflies! Lots more activities are available throughout the day. Bring the whole family for this free event.

### Summer 2007 Events

**Second Annual South Mimico Garden Tour**  
Saturday, June 9, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Montgomery's Inn, Etobicoke  
(southeast corner of Dundas and Islington)  
Guided bus tour of two gardens, presentations, displays, snacks, draw for prizes and plant sale at the inn afterwards. Call 416-661-6600, ext. 5740

**Walk for the Art of It**  
Saturday, June 16, 1 to 2 p.m.  
Peel Heritage Complex, 9 Wellington Street East, Brampton  
Meet at the Peel Heritage Complex and enjoy an historical walking tour of the Etobicoke Creek in downtown Brampton. See where the creek once meandered, where it was re-directed and the ecological impacts of the urban area on the creek.

**Mimico Creek Fish Check-Up**  
Wednesday, July 18, 7 to 8:30 a.m.  
Humber Bay Park West, Toronto  
(south of Lake Shore Blvd. W., at the base of Park Lawn Rd.—meet on the boardwalk, south of Marina Del Ray condo)  
If you are one of the growing number of urban Canadians hooked on fishing, here is your chance to get "up-close and personal" with the fish inhabiting Toronto's waterfront. Improve your fish identification skills and learn about local fish research projects. Fish will be captured, identified, measured, tagged and then released back into the water.

# Watershed quiz...

test your knowledge

Q1

Select the appropriate collective noun for various groups of animals, birds and insects in the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks.

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| a) Ants        | 1) Gaggles   |
| b) Butterflies | 2) Company   |
| c) Crows       | 3) Leash     |
| d) Deer        | 4) Slither   |
| e) Foxes       | 5) Confusion |
| f) Geese       | 6) Army      |
| g) Goldfinches | 7) Rabble    |
| h) Snakes      | 8) Murder    |
| i) Toads       | 9) Charm     |
| j) Weasels     | 10) Knot     |

Q2

In 2006 the TRCA along with partner groups hosted more than 25 watershed events including tree plantings, creek clean up days, watershed festivals and community nature events. The total attendance at these events was:

- a) More than 2000 people  
b) More than 8000 people  
c) More than 14000 people.

Q3

The origin of the name Mimico comes from:

- a) The Algonquin word "Omimeca" meaning "resting place of wild pigeons."  
b) The Algonquin word "Zibi" meaning "river."  
c) The Cree word "Kisiskatchewanipi", meaning "swift-flowing river."

Q4

The origin of the name Etobicoke comes from:

- a) An Okanagan word meaning "the always place."  
b) An Ojibwa word meaning "the place where alders grow."  
c) The Blackfoot word, "saamis", meaning "headress of a medicine man."

1. Answers: a-6, b-7, c-8, d-3, e-2, f-1, g-9, h-4, i-10, j-5.

2. Answer C. More than 14000 people attended watershed events throughout the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks.

For information on our upcoming events visit: [www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca)

3. Answer A.

4. Answer B.

### Fall 2007 Events

**Maitland Park Restoration**  
Saturday, September 8, 10 a.m. to noon  
Maitland Park on Maitland Street, Brampton (corner of Dixie Road and North Park Drive)  
Join the University of Toronto and TRCA in the restoration of wetlands in Maitland Park.

**Peel Village Golf Course Seed Collection & Planting**  
Saturday, September 15, 9 a.m. to noon  
Peel Village Golf Course, 29A Hartford Trail, Brampton (Steeles Avenue East, west of Kennedy Road South)  
Help TRCA and Peel Village Golf Course plant a forest by learning how to spot and plant native tree seeds in a pit-and-mound restoration area. Supplementary native trees and shrubs will also be available for planting.

**Heart Lake Secondary School Wetland Restoration**  
Wednesday, October 17, 8 a.m. to noon  
Heart Lake Secondary School, 296 Conestoga Drive Brampton  
Restore a wetland by planting native shrubs and building habitat structures with the Heart Lake Secondary School Environment Club.

**Valleywood Fall Community Planting**  
Saturday, October 27, 9 to 11 a.m.  
15 Kirkwood Crescent, Valleywood Caledon (north of Mayfield Road off of Hurontario Street)  
Join your friends and neighbours in Caledon and help plant native trees and shrubs along the Etobicoke Creek in Caledon.

**Fifth Annual Snelgrove Planting Event (date to be announced)**  
Brampton  
Join friends and watershed neighbours to lend a hand in the restoration of Snelgrove. For more information contact Dushan Jokic @ 416-667-6600 ext. 5667

**South Mimico Fall Planting Event (date and location to be announced)**  
Join friends and watershed neighbours to plant native trees and shrubs along Mimico Creek. For more information, contact Dushan Jokic @ 416-667-6600 ext. 5667

For more information on these events, call the Etobicoke and Mimico Watersheds Event Hotline at 416-661-6600, ext. 5740. Thank-you to the Region of Peel and City of Toronto for their financial support in all of these important watershed initiatives.

**Let's Clean the Air**

In 2005, 44 smog days were recorded in Toronto and more than 1,700 people died due to poor air quality. The Conservation Foundation raises money to support Toronto and Region Conservation in their work to preserve greenspace, which filters our air.

**How You Can Help**  
Give a gift of clean air and/or clean water today.  
Your money will go directly to in-the-ground projects to improve our environment.

Call 416-667-6279 or visit [www.trca.on.ca/gifts](http://www.trca.on.ca/gifts)

Conservation For The Living City  
Member of Conservation Ontario

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OF GREATER TORONTO

## Moving forward (from cover page)

work will continue to build the community's Healthy Yards program, annual garden tour and planting events. At Heart Lake Conservation Area, a new community action area stewardship group is being established to help implement the newly completed Heart Lake Master Plan. In Mississauga, the Rockwood Homeowners' Association will help deliver TRCA's Healthy Yards program. And, up in Caledon, restoration work will continue with the residents of Valleywood.

There are a lot of projects on the books for implementation this year in the Etobicoke and Mimico creeks watersheds. These are just a glimpse of some of the exciting projects that will help restore the health of both watersheds. As we move forward this year, we encourage all of our watershed residents to lend a hand and help make 2007 a banner year for watershed restoration.



Etobicoke and Mimico  
Creeks

# CreekTime

The newsletter of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watersheds

SPRING/SUMMER 2007

## Moving forward in 2007

Big plans and projects for the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watersheds

With the Etobicoke and Mimico creeks watersheds report card completed in 2006, Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) and its partners see a banner year ahead with projects taking place throughout both watersheds.

In Brampton, a 1.7-kilometre channelized reach of Upper Mimico Creek will begin to be restored adjacent to Canadian Tire's Distribution Centre. The creek's natural meander will be re-established and complemented with native plantings that will improve local water quality and provide increased aquatic and riparian habitat in an industrial area of the watershed.

Implementation will also begin on the restoration of the West Etobicoke Creek. This portion of the creek, west of the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) lands, will be restored with riparian plantings and the construction of new wetlands. In partnership with Mississauga, Peel Region and the GTAA, this project will be further complemented with trails, permitting public access and recreation opportunities.

The industrial area around the GTAA will become a major focus of TRCA in 2007. After completing a fish management plan, terrestrial system study and stormwater management report for the area in partnership with GTAA, TRCA will be working to develop an eco-industrial park retrofit program for the area. This project will focus



on the foundations of water quality and natural heritage, but will be expanded to include energy, waste and water conservation initiatives, as well as eco-economic development in the region.

In an effort to improve water quality, upgrades to stormwater controls will take place throughout both watersheds—with TRCA and Caledon constructing an ephemeral pond in Valleywood; Brampton will lend a hand by upgrading one of their stormwater ponds to address water quality, and as part of Toronto's Wet Weather Flow Management Plan, the design and construction of the Bonar stormwater pond will begin.

Naturalization efforts will continue throughout both watersheds, with a new conservation forest in Brampton along the Etobicoke Creek at Elgin Woods Park, as well as continued community plantings in Caledon at Valleywood, in Brampton at Snelgrove, Wexford and Maitland Parks, in Mississauga at Fleetwood Park and throughout Malton.

An even greater focus will be put on engaging the community in restoration activities this year. In South Mimico,

(continued on back page)

## The Living City

## Call for Members 2007–2009 Join the Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition

To all Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watersheds residents and representatives of community groups, academic institutions, businesses and business associations:

Want to make a **valuable contribution** to the environment?  
Want to **network and make connections** with like-minded individuals? Want to **learn about and take action** to improve the place you live in?

If this sounds like you, then join the Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition and help make a difference in your community.

The Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition is a volunteer committee established by Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) to help protect and restore the natural heritage and aquatic ecosystems of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watersheds. The coalition is responsible for facilitating the implementation of actions advocated in *Turning over a new leaf: The Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watersheds Report Card 2006*.

If you or your group share an interest in conservation, have the skills, knowledge and experience to help us achieve our goals, and wish to be considered, please call TRCA at 416-661-6600, ext. 5575, for more information, or to download an application from our website at [www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca). Application deadline is Thursday, April 5, 2007.





# Every year, Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) and the Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition complete community projects with partners from across the watersheds. Here are just a few of the projects we completed in 2006:

## Planting seed at Peel Village Golf Course

With its certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, the Peel Village Golf Course takes environmental stewardship seriously and has created a model for golf course development in the region.

In partnership with Brampton, TRCA and the Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition have embarked on a unique naturalization effort to restore valleylands on the course.

While most restoration projects involve simply planting bare root trees and shrubs, the Peel Village Golf Course restoration is taking the unique approach of planting native tree seeds collected along the Etobicoke Creek in a pit-and-mound restoration area.



Toronto and Region Conservation ecologist Gavin Miller works with members of the Brampton Horticultural Society and Chinguacousy Garden Club to prepare native tree seeds for planting at the Peel Village Golf Course.

Pit-and-mound involves trying to restore the natural landscape by replicating the pits and mounds that are created when a tree falls and decays. The intent is to create the right micro-climate conditions to ensure the success of a wide range of tree species.

During September of 2006, the Brampton Horticultural Society and Chinguacousy Garden Club lent a hand to the project, helping collect and plant seeds in the area. Led by TRCA employees Gavin Miller and Chris Rickett, the group planted numerous species, including Shagbark, Downie, Butternut and Bitternut Hickory, Bur and Red Oak, along with Sugar Maple and Basswood, along the Etobicoke Creek.

This ongoing project in addition to Peel Village Golf Course's ongoing environmental improvements, helped the course retain their Audubon designation during recertification and earned Frank Merran, Manager of Golf Operations, recognition for his leadership in environmental stewardship.

This project will continue through 2008 and the public is welcome to lend a hand in 2007 with both a spring and fall planting.

## Heart Lake Secondary School wetland naturalization

As a leader in environmental stewardship and education, Heart Lake Secondary School in Brampton continues to partner with TRCA to naturalize their adjacent valleylands.

In 2006, over 600 trees and shrubs covering over 1,000 square meters—were planted, and a 4,000-square-meter wetland was created along the Etobicoke Creek as it passes of Heart Lake Secondary School.

Led by their teacher, Andrea Lukuts, and Heart Lake's Environment Club, over 300 students lent a hand in these restoration projects. Their contribution was not only a valuable learning experience, but will also increase riparian habitat and improve water quality in the Etobicoke Creek.



Students from Heart Lake Secondary School "ham it up" for the camera after lending a hand planting native shrubs at the newly constructed wetland in Brampton's Westford Park.

## Valleywood restoration project

What happens upstream affects what goes on downstream and the residents of Valleywood in Caledon understand their responsibilities when it comes to improving water quality in the Etobicoke Creek.

Thanks to the leadership of Leith and Steve Rigby, the Valleywood Residents' Association and Caledon, TRCA staff were able to complete both a spring and fall community planting, adding 2,127 square meters of riparian buffers in the headwaters of the Etobicoke Creek.

A long-term restoration plan has been completed for the Valleywood corridor and will be completed over the forthcoming years. Residents are invited to join the spring and fall 2007 planting events.



After a long morning of planting at Snelgrove in Brampton, these two young helpers take a much deserved rest.

## Greater Toronto Airports Authority Living City project

In partnership with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), TRCA completed an in-depth assessment of the terrestrial natural heritage system around the airport, a fish management plan for the Etobicoke Creek and a review of the stormwater system (including identifying retrofits, erosion-prone reaches and areas prone to spills) for the entire Etobicoke Creek watershed.

These important reports not only provide a characterization of the natural heritage system in the Etobicoke Creek, but also offer management and restoration recommendations to guide improvements in the watershed's eco-system. Toronto and Region Conservation will be working with the GTAA and its municipal partners to implement these recommendations starting in 2007.

## Etobicoke Creek gets a facelift at Maitland Park in Brampton

During 2006, Brampton undertook restoration work in Maitland Park, along the Etobicoke Creek. Attempting to improve water quality and quantity, Brampton took this channelized portion of the creek, removed concrete and gabion baskets from its sides, re-introduced its natural meander and complemented its riparian area with native trees and shrubs.

To lend a hand in this effort, students from the University of Toronto joined TRCA in the fall of 2006 and rolled up their sleeves to help plant an additional 200 native trees and shrubs. While the efforts of this partnership directly contributed to the health of the creek within Maitland Park, the lesson of the day spanned the length of the watershed and beyond as the students learned about the various features that comprise the Etobicoke Creek watershed from the headwaters in Caledon to its mouth at Lake Ontario and the vital role that all of our creeks and rivers play in maintaining the health of the Greater Toronto Area.

Another lesson, and perhaps most importantly, these volunteers learned the significance of community partnerships, and the need to work together to enhance environmental awareness and improve the health of our watersheds.



A constructed wetland at Snelgrove in Brampton will improve local water quality and provide habitat for native flora and fauna.

## Snelgrove regeneration

Since 2003, the Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition has been working with Brampton, Peel Region, Scouts Canada and Girl Guides of Canada to implement the Snelgrove Restoration Plan.

This plan has focused on increasing native flora and fauna in the Etobicoke Creek flood plain and raising community awareness about watershed issues. Its implementation has included an annual community planting event and the restoration of a wetland in what was formerly an agricultural field.

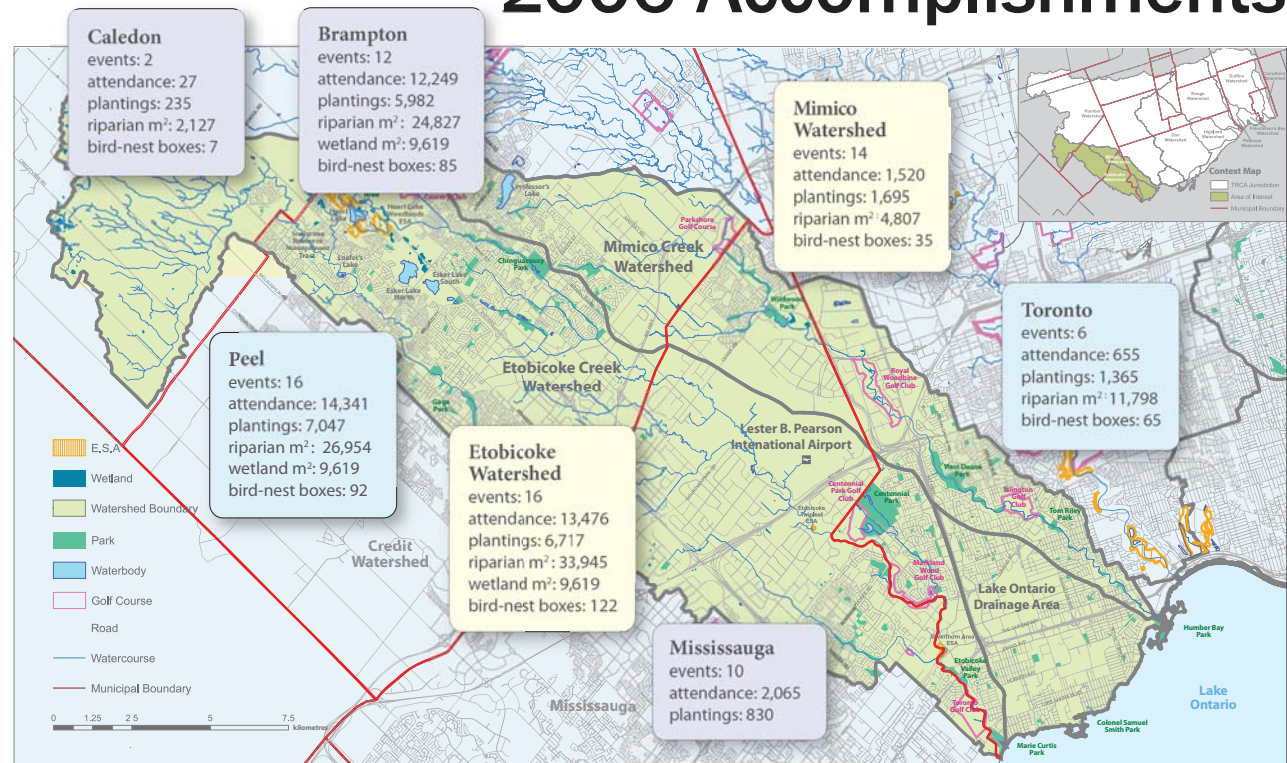
This project will continue through 2007 and the public is welcome to lend a hand with a fall community planting.



Irene Jones and Susan Barrett, co-chairs of the Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition, present a birthday cake to celebrate 60 years of watershed management on the Etobicoke Creek and the launch of Turning over a new leaf. The Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watersheds Report Card 2006 at Marie Curtis Park in Toronto.

## Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Partner

# 2006 Accomplishments



Helping restore the riparian area along the headwaters of the Etobicoke Creek up in Valleywood.



Saving the planet is a family affair as this family helps plant trees at Snelgrove in Brampton.



Students from the University of Toronto lend a hand naturalizing the riparian area along the Etobicoke Creek in Brampton's Maitland Park.