

Society for Ecological Restoration – Ontario Chapter

Field Trip

Red Hill Valley Project – Natural Heritage Impact Mitigation and Ecosystem Rehabilitation Workshop

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Join us in an opportunity to visit one of the most contentious development projects in southern Ontario. The recently-opened Red Hill Valley Parkway has a long history:

- ▶ 1950s – first envisioned
- ▶ 1960s – Identified as a future regional road project
- ▶ 1980s – full Environmental Assessment (including joint hearing)
- ▶ 1990s – significant design changes to EA-approved project to reduce impacts
- ▶ 2002 – Federal Court case on applicability of CEAA
- ▶ 2003-04 – site of occupation by First Nations and Parkway opponents
- ▶ 2004 – historic Joint Stewardship Agreement
- ▶ Late 2007 – opened to traffic
- ▶ 2012 – target date for completion of Valley restoration and rehabilitation works

As a result of the intense planning and study, the approaches to mitigation design, habitat compensation and monitoring represent one of the most ambitious projects ever attempted in Ontario. This includes the largest (over 7 km) urban natural channel design project undertaken to date in North America.

We will spend the day with those intimately involved in the terrestrial impact assessment and rehabilitation, including Jim Rockwood, Environmental Co-ordinator from the City of Hamilton, Jim Dougan (Dougan and Associates, restoration designers), Mary Gartshore (ecologist and lead propagator with the Kayanase Restoration Contractor, and MTO representatives. Tours will include visits to sites where new approaches for habitat restoration and invasives control are being applied and monitored. Discussions will cover wildlife habitat impacts and mitigation strategies, and watershed-scale habitat compensation actions.



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We will meet for an overview of project, then board buses to tour restoration sites; examine restoration techniques and evaluate the way in which objectives for restoration have been satisfied.

Where

Water Treatment Plant near QEW for an overview presentation

Agenda

- 9:30 a.m.** Meet at the City's water treatment plant on Woodward Ave. near QEW for a presentation
- 10:15 a.m.** proceed to sites including landfill remediation, new and rehabilitated marsh, lower creek
- 12:00 p.m.** Picnic lunch
- 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.** Tour of upper valley, floodplain restoration, and escarpment viaduct, including sites where Kayanase has been at work for the past year.



Please **RSVP** with contact information, to receive a detailed program and directions.

For more information please contact Dale Leadbeater at 905.477.8400 ext. 229

Registration Form

Red Hill Valley Project – Natural Heritage Impact Mitigation and
Ecosystem Rehabilitation Workshop – Saturday, June 14, 2008

Please bring clothing suitable for the weather, sturdy shoes, hat, water and lunch.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Would you be interested in a trip to Kayanase facilities at Oshweken for next day? (TBD).

Yes No

Fee: \$10.00 for Saturday

Please make cheques payable to: **Society for Ecological Restoration – Ontario Chapter.**

Payment should be mailed to: **Gartner Lee Limited, 300 Town Centre Blvd, Suite 300,
Markham, ON L3R 5Z6 Attention: SER Registration**

Please write the name of the registrant on the face of the cheque. At this time, we cannot accept credit cards.

Directions will be emailed or mailed to each registrant upon receipt of registration & fee. *Space may be limited so book early.*

Health and Safety

This tour is being conducted to provide information for the use of the participants. The leaders and SER-ON can not be held responsible for the way in which this information is used by the participants. Participants are responsible for their health and safety. This is a field trip, and potential to exposure to biting insects (ticks that may carry Lyme disease, mosquitoes, etc.), poison ivy, among others is very real. Please discuss any concerns you may have with your leader or family doctor.

I _____ agree to indemnify and save the leaders and SER-ON harmless from all claims arising in favour of any person, including myself, firm or corporation on account of personal injury (including death) or property damage to the extent resulting from my actions and participation in the SER-ON field trip.

Signature

Date