



Quarterly Newsletter, May, 2012

The Conservators, with their main partners the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (**RRCA**), Cornwall and Area Birding Club (**CABC**), the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences (**SLRIES**) and the **Resource Stewardship S. D. & G. Council**, are working hard to restore and improve the outstanding facilities of Cooper Marsh in South Lancaster, Ontario.

A drawdown to restrict cattail overgrowth was started in August 2011 and will last at least 3 years.

New areas of open water (ponds) and connecting channels will be created. This will create an improved environment for water birds, turtles, fish and other wildlife.

The Cooper Marsh Conservators, together with their partners, began a fundraising drive in January 2012 to revitalize the Cooper Marsh by raising funds to **rebuild the aging boardwalk** linked to **new viewing platforms** close to the ponds, which will be **wheelchair accessible**. The **blinds** overlooking existing ponds will be restored.

Volunteers from the CABC are now staffing the visitor center at weekends during the summer to make your visit to the marsh more fulfilling. The Cooper Marsh **Conservators thank CABC** for their considerable commitment to Cooper Marsh.

Fundraising for these activities by the Conservators and their partners is well underway. Current estimates put our total fundraising goal at **over \$400,000**.

Since the start in January, 2012, **over \$168,000 has been raised** for our Marsh rejuvenation project.

The **Cooper Marsh Conservators Inc. contributed \$10,000** towards the project – funds raised in recent years-

Our fundraising efforts to date include donations of \$6,600 from the Township of South Glengarry, \$1,000 from Ontario Power Generation, \$2,000 from Enbridge, \$1,000 from CABC, \$1,000 from SLRIES, \$1,000 from St. Lawrence College Students' Green Team, \$3,000 from Toronto Dominion Friends of the Environment, \$7,500 from TransCanada Corporation and \$100,000 from Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Community Futures Development Corporation.

The general public has already contributed over \$2,500 in personal donations.

Applications have been submitted to different sources including foundations and organizations that support environmental conservation and enrichment of which several were unsuccessful.

More applications are being made to local businesses and other foundations including the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and other national organizations.

We invite you to **"GET ON BOARD"** and **join us in this venture as a donor partner and/or as a volunteer**. The Cooper Marsh Conservators Inc. is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible.

Please forward your donations to Normand Genier, C.M.C.Inc., Treasurer, c/o Raisin Region Conservation Authority, 18045 Cty.Rd.2, P.O. Box 429, Cornwall, ON K6H 5T2. Include your name and address so we can acknowledge your contribution and send you an official tax receipt.

New volunteers should also contact Normand.

Visit our website at www.rrca.on.ca/Cooper Marsh as we will post new developments on our project as we move forward.