

WELLINGTON WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME

Background

The Wellington County Stewardship Council, in partnership with the County of Wellington, are please to provide a new programme directed at the improvement of water quality through on the ground stewardship actions. The Stewardship Council administers an annual fund of \$25,000 granted by the County.

The Water Stewardship Programme seeks participation by:

- Environmental and other community organizations
- Non-farm rural landowners

Please note that there is a separate Rural Water Quality Programme for farmers. Interested farmers can contact the Grand River Conservation Authority at (519) 621-2761. Decommissioning of wells is eligible for funding under this programme even if you are not a farmer.

There are environmental organizations and other groups in the Wellington Community who may be able to take on projects to improve the quality of our water if modest amounts of funding were available. Also, as non-farm owners are not eligible for the Water Quality Programme, the Water Stewardship Programme provides an opportunity to participate.

Funding

Each year a total of \$25,000 is to be awarded.

- Organizations are eligible for up to 100% funding
- Non-farm rural owners are eligible for up to 75% funding. The owner is expected to contribute 25% of the cost, which could include services in kind.

Generally, the maximum grant for any single project is \$5,000. However, a greater sum may be granted if the environmental benefits of a project are compelling. Please note that you are encouraged to stack funding from other grant programs.

Application Process

Applications are available on the internet at the County of Wellington website www.wellington.ca or through Larry Halyk, Stewardship Coordinator, at (519) 826-4936, email larry.halyk@ontario.ca

There are two cut-off dates per year for applications:

- February 1
- June 1

The applications will be reviewed by the Wellington County Stewardship Council and agency personnel if appropriate, and the best ones selected for grants.

Application Management

Selected candidate projects will receive a site visit prior to commencement of the project as well as one after project completion. Funds will generally be awarded after the work is done, unless there is a cash flow issue.

Types of Projects

The intent of the programme is to result in on the ground improvements to water quality. Some examples are shown below:

- Inline Pond Removal
- Dam Removal
- Reforestation along Watercourses
- Streambank Stabilization
- Channel Rehabilitation
- Erosion Control
- Surface Water Runoff Management
- Retirement of Marginal Farmland
- Decommissioning of Tile Drains on Retired Farmland
- Wetland Creation
- Wetland Buffering
- Wetland Improving the Functioning

Note that there other programmes for general tree planting and plantings associated with watercourse buffers and wetlands. Contact the Grand River Conservation Authority at the above number or Rob Johnson of Wellington County's Green Legacy Programme at (519) 830-7306 or robj@wellington.ca

The Water Stewardship Programme is not seeking applications for projects that are mainly educational in nature. However, the Wellington County Stewardship Council may be approached for such projects.

Reminder - Permits May be Required!

Please remember that some projects in and around watercourses may require permits from either the local Conservation Authority or the Ministry of Natural Resources. Contacting these agencies is your responsibility.