

Local people are protecting species at risk

Your stewardship efforts are appreciated

Farmers and rural landowners in the Ausable River and Parkhill Creek watersheds are improving water quality and protecting wildlife habitat through voluntary projects on their properties.

We thank you for your continued efforts and invite you to begin more projects like these.

Funding is available . . .

Grants may cover up to 100 per cent of your costs

The following stewardship projects may be eligible for funding, sometimes up to 100 per cent:

- Fences, crossings and watering devices to eliminate cattle access to watercourses.
- Planting trees, shrubs and grasses in floodplains and valley lands.
- Planting trees, shrubs and grasses to establish buffer strips along watercourses.

A Diverse Watershed

Stewardship projects to improve water quality have been identified in the Ausable River Recovery Strategy for species at risk. We need to protect this highly diverse aquatic community that has historically supported more than 83 fish species, 24 species of freshwater mussels and more than 21 reptile species.

This variety of aquatic life makes the Ausable River one of the richest watersheds of its size in Canada.

Several of the species found in the Ausable River have been listed as special concern, threatened or endangered at the provincial, national and/or global levels. Protecting and improving the river will help ensure the long-term survival of aquatic species – especially those at risk – and ensure watershed



“It’s not just the big projects, it’s also the little things that people do that can really make a difference ...

– Bill Thirlwall, Denfield-area landowner who has been planting trees for more than 25 years



The Northern Map Turtle is one of at least 21 reptile species in the Ausable River watershed.

residents can use and enjoy the river.

Freshwater mussels are disappearing across North America. The fact that we have them in the Ausable River Watershed reflects the positive stewardship actions landowners have taken. That’s one of many reasons it’s so important stewardship efforts continue and increase. Phone us to find out how ...

These programs to support your watershed stewardship efforts are coordinated by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) in partnership with the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and the Ausable River Canada-Ontario Agreement for Lake Huron.

A Record of Success

There have been 78 on-the-ground stewardship projects funded in Ausable River and Parkhill Creek watersheds since 2003, through the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, improving 5,450 hectares of land. This includes 44 tree planting projects, 14 livestock fencing projects and 20 manure or conservation tillage equipment modifications.

For information on grants contact Ian Jean or Ross Wilson:

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, 71108 Morrison Line, RR 3 Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

Phone: 519-235-2610, 1-888-286-2610 abca.on.ca E-mail: ijean@abca.on.ca or rwilson@abca.on.ca

Meet one of your local watershed stewards

Funding can help your efforts to protect species, water

Many property owners in your watershed are helping to protect and improve water quality and restore habitat for wildlife through positive stewardship actions.

One of those watershed stewards is Bill Thirlwall, of the Denfield area.

Bill and his wife Sylvia farm together and own Bonnie Brook Farm. The land was settled by Bill's great grandfather and the family homestead was built in 1839.

"I plant trees every year," Bill said.

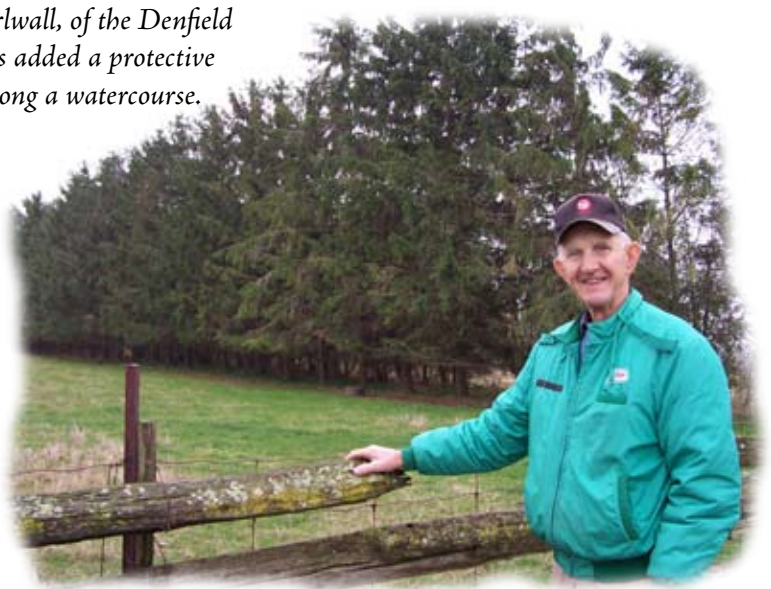
In 2006, Bill retired and reforested 15 acres of sheep pasture situated in the floodplain and valleylands of Lenders Creek, part of the Nairn subwatershed of the Ausable River.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) planted more than 8,000 tree seedlings to naturalize the site. Half a kilometre of watercourse is now protected by a treed buffer on both sides, with buffer width ranging from 40 metres to 100 metres. This project, combined with earlier projects on adjoining properties, completed the buffering of both sides of Lenders Creek between McEwen Drive and Greystead Drive in Lobo Township.

The project received funding from the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the Ausable River Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) for Lake Huron; and Ontario Power Generation.

Bill, who is a member of the Middlesex Stewardship Council, contributed considerable time and effort in preparing the site and continues to do work related to ongoing site maintenance.

Bill Thirlwall, of the Denfield area, has added a protective buffer along a watercourse.



You can make a difference

The Ausable River Recovery Strategy has identified 20 different categories of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) you can consider to help protect and improve habitat for aquatic species at risk.

"Continuing to plant trees is really important, I think," Bill said.

He has praise for the funding programs which are available to help landowners initiate new stewardship projects. "It's really been a help," he said. "They're a wonderful thing."

Bill is one of many landowners helping to improve water quality and protecting species at risk. Perhaps you

are one of the landowners envisioning new efforts on your property. If so, you are invited to give us a call and find out what funding opportunities exist to assist your stewardship efforts to protect and enhance water quality and protect species at risk.

Order trees and shrubs

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) will be posting its Tree Order Form in the fall.

Contact Ian Jean, Forestry and Land Stewardship Specialist, at 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 or visit abca.on.ca to download tree order form.



Canada

Ausable River Recovery Strategy
c/o Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority,
71108 Morrison Line, RR 3 Exeter, ON N0M 1S5
Phone: 519-235-2610, 1-888-286-2610
www.abca.on.ca E-mail: info@abca.on.ca