

***The Importance of Community Engagement in a Successful Restoration Project:  
The Case of Junction Creek in Sudbury, Ontario***



## **Major Guiding Principles**

**[from (draft) Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration in Canada's Protected Natural Areas]:**

- *Effective* in restoring and maintaining ecological integrity
- *Efficient* in using practical and economic methods to achieve functional success
- *Engaging* through implementing inclusive processes and by recognizing and embracing linkages between culture and nature

The Junction Creek case demonstrates all three principles, but this discussion will focus especially on the third principle:

***“Engaging”***



*“Direct public engagement in restoration activities and additional, related education efforts facilitate the development of deeper understanding and appreciation of natural systems and the threats they face, and contribute to long-term societal commitment to restoration goals .”*

**- Schneider 2005, as quoted in (Draft) Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration in Canada’s Protected Natural Areas**

## Junction Creek: The Problem



Logging began in late 1800s



Smelting was done in open roast yards until late 1920s



Sulphur dioxide, heavy metals deposited throughout the area

**Typical Sudbury landscape ~1970s**



Apollo space program conducted research on  
Sudbury's devastated "moonscape"



Lack of vegetation → erosion  
→ lack of shade  
→ degraded fish habitat

## Land Reclamation program - began in 1978



Limestone neutralizes acidic soils



Seedlings are planted



Grass seed/fertilizer mix is spread

**~17 million trees planted  
between 1978-2007 by  
municipality and mining  
companies**





**1990s: Water quality was improving, but problems remained**



Garbage



Lack of shade → high water temperatures



**May 1999:** Sudbury Earth Day Committee organizes public forum to gauge interest

~150 people attend

-breakout groups brainstorm ideas for restoration, education and trails

~30 people agree to begin monthly meetings

**June 2000:** First grant to hire full-time Coordinator

## **Public involvement – Participation in Planning**



Annual public forums – public input is sought

Members of general public are encouraged to join Stewardship Committee. Group is not incorporated; has no formal Board of Directors

## Public involvement - “Bug Search” Program



3,600 students have participated since 2001

## Public Involvement - Adopt-a-Creek program



More than 40,000 kg garbage removed

- *17 groups have adopted a section*
- *3,500 volunteers involved*



More than 10,000 trees, shrubs and cuttings planted in the watershed

## Communicating with the public



Media coverage



Brochure:  
distributed  
at events,  
schools,  
libraries, etc.



Quarterly newsletter



Presentations



Display and game at events



## **Funding (1999-2007)**

Environment Canada (EcoAction 2000, Environmental Damages Fund)  
INCO Ltd.  
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada  
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Community Fisheries and Wildlife  
Involvement Program  
Evergreen/Unilever  
Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation  
Nickel District Conservation Authority  
Ethier Sand and Gravel  
City of Greater Sudbury  
Laurentian University  
College Boreal  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Science North  
Shell Environmental Fund  
Sudbury Community Foundation  
Topper's Pizza  
Southview Greenhouse Growers

***Total cash contributions:***

**~\$600,000**

***Total in-kind contributions:***

**~\$300,000**