

***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