



## The Alton Grange and The River Running Through It

### President's Message

We may appear to have been hibernating, however your Board has been grinding away on a number of important initiatives.

- Dealing with industrious beavers in the river.
- Arranging some excitement for our Annual General Meeting.
- Organizing a Spring Workday in the Grange. This year we are pleased to have the Alton/Caledon Venturer Scout Company and 1st Alton Cubs helping us.

- Working with Rod Krick of the CVC on a multi-year attack plan to deal with Invasive Plant Species.
- Also working with the CVC's Kyle Vander Linden on the low impact re-development

of the Alton Legion Parking Lot. This kind of project is critical for managing the negative impacts of storm water run-off caused by urban development.



**Each year, thanks to a Ministry of Natural Resource's program called MNR Rangers, we have been adding new boardwalk where the trail goes through wet areas.**

We need your help to make these exciting things happen. Hope you will come out and get involved. It is important for us, our children and future of the Credit River watershed. Please see the next page for more details on upcoming events.

Paul Newall

*For more information about the Alton Grange Association please email us at: [altongrangeassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:altongrangeassociation@hotmail.com)*

**Alton Grange Association's  
Annual General Meeting  
Thursday, May 2nd, 2013  
7:00 p.m.**

**Alton Legion  
1267 Queen St, Alton**

We are pleased that this year's meeting will include a presentation by, Laura Gallagher from Speaking of Wildlife, the outreach program of the Muskoka Wildlife Centre.

Laura will be bringing five mystery critters from Ontario's natural environment with her. She will talk about each species and how it came to be at the Centre.

Join us for some free fun and learn about these magnificent creatures. Please note the change in venue--it will be held at the Alton Legion.

Representatives from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, MNR and Upper Credit Field Naturalists will be attending with information and displays about their organizations.



*Photo Courtesy of Speaking of Wildlife*

**Grange Spring Work Day  
Saturday, May 4th, 2013  
10:00 a.m, Grange Parking Lot,  
Station Street in Alton**

It is that time of year again to grab your work gloves and join us for some fun at our annual spring work day.

Besides cleaning up the ever present garbage around the perimeter of the Grange and the trails, we have some other projects to tackle.

Mother nature never fails to move the boardwalk across the wetlands. We are glad that the Alton/Caledon Venturer Scout Company will be joining us to help with this annual challenge.

Students needing volunteer hours are welcome to come out and earn some.

We supply the garbage bags! Please stay for hot dogs and refreshments. A barbecue will be set up in the parking lot--lunch starts at noon. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and meeting new ones.

**Other Volunteer Organizations  
Working for the Credit River**

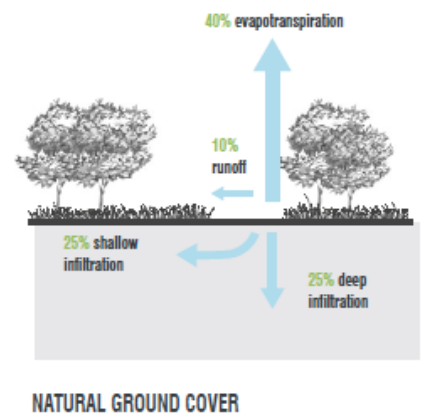
The Credit River Alliance [CRA] is comprised of more than 30 environmental, conservation and community organizations in the Credit River Watershed. We share a common vision of protecting and enhancing the health of the watershed—its natural heritage infrastructure and biodiversity--and the quality of life that it sustains. For more information please go to [www.creditriveralliance.ca](http://www.creditriveralliance.ca)

The Ontario Headwaters Institute [OHI] is a registered charity working to preserve the province's headwaters through education and community engagement. The well-being of Ontario's headwaters--flows that recharge groundwater, create wetlands, and provide the base-flow for our streams and lakes-is fundamental to maintaining our freshwater. For more information please go to [www.owhi.ca](http://www.owhi.ca)

**Did You Know---**  
**Why low impact development practices are important?**

As population growth continues, the watershed's natural features and functions are undergoing increasing stress. With urbanization comes an increase in impervious, or hardened, surfaces such as roads, rooftops and parking lots. These hardened surfaces have an impact on how water moves to streams and how contaminants get into our waterways. Because impervious surfaces restrict water from infiltrating into the ground, rain and snowmelt move quickly over land picking up pollutants from roads and parking lots along the way, increasing stream temperature and increasing the potential for flooding in nearby streams.

This in turn affects the health of fish communities and other aquatic life. In addition to impacts on surface water, groundwater and aquatic life, urbanization also places pressure on terrestrial communities through the loss and fragmentation of habitats and through introduction of non-native species.



*Source: Credit Valley Conservation Authority*