

ITEMS FOR THE ACTION OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #1/19, Wednesday, February 13, 2019

FROM: Victoria Kramkowski, Government and Community Relations Specialist,
Community Engagement and Outreach Division

RE: **2019 TRCA PLANNED EVENTSTHAT CELEBRATE OUR WATERSHEDS
AND WATERFRONT**

KEY ISSUE

A summary of 2019 TRCA planned events that celebrate our watersheds and waterfront.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report on 2019 TRCA planned events be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Regional Watershed Alliance members be invited to engage in these events through attendance, collaboration, participation, volunteering and assistance on fundraising opportunities, where appropriate.

BACKGROUND

For many years TRCA has delivered a variety of events across its jurisdiction. Events include workshops and speaking series, conservation area events and large-scale signature watershed and waterfront events that help TRCA increase its presence in watershed communities, raise support and help implement TRCA strategic priorities and objectives. TRCA events also provide an excellent opportunity to engage communities and build awareness and appreciation for the watersheds in our jurisdiction.

Some events take place as components of larger celebrations. For example, this year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Humber River's designation as a heritage river by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. As a result, TRCA is developing a year-long celebration plan for this anniversary, with the signature event, Humber by Canoe, being one component of it.

RATIONALE

The following summary provides a snapshot of TRCA's events that celebrate our watershed and the waterfront in some way for 2019. There are various opportunities for Regional Watershed Alliance member involvement. Members can engage with event planning or day-of volunteering, collaborate with TRCA on an event as a partner, or help with event promotion and sponsorship through fundraising efforts.

In addition to these major events, TRCA also hosts a wide range of other public events each year. More information on these events can be found on TRCA's Events Calendar <https://trca.ca/events-calendar/>

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategy set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 6 - Tell the Story of the Toronto Region

WATERSHED AND WATERFRONT EVENTS SUMMARY

DON WATERSHED EVENTS

Manulife Paddle the Don

Manulife Paddle the Don is one of TRCA's long running signature events. It represents a novel way for people to connect with the Don River watershed from a completely different vantage point - from the water itself. Participants are provided an opportunity to paddle down the Don River from E.T. Seton Park to the Keating Channel on Corktown Common Park near Lake Ontario. Through a partnership with Manulife, this event not only provides participants with a connection to the river, but also raises significant funds that go directly back into environmental initiatives in the watershed.

Date: Sunday, May 5, 2019

Location: Don River (E.T. Seton Park to Corktown Common)

Typical Attendance Numbers: 1000

HIGHLAND CREEK WATERSHED EVENTS

The Salmon Festival at Highland Creek

Held annually in Morningside Park, the Salmon Festival at Highland Creek is an event that brings watershed residents from across the region to view the annual salmon migration from Lake Ontario, up Highland Creek, and through Morningside Park. The Salmon Festival offers children's activities, environmentally-themed vendors, live performances and guided nature hikes to celebrate the storied history of Highland Creek while witnessing nature in action in an urban setting.

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2019

Location: Morningside Park, Scarborough

Typical Attendance Numbers: 2250

ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED EVENTS

Morningside Creek Festival

The Morningside Creek Festival invites the community to learn about the Rouge River watershed by getting involved in habitat restoration and joining guided nature hikes. This family-friendly event invites partner organizations and community members to help TRCA and the City of Toronto to achieve the goals of a multi-year restoration project along Morningside Creek.

Date: June, 2019

Location: TBD

Typical Attendance Numbers: 500

HUMBER RIVER WATERSHED EVENTS

Humber by Canoe

Hosted in partnership with the City of Toronto, TRCA offers Humber by Canoe, where participants can get in a canoe, learn about the Humber River's rich cultural and recreational values and raise the profile of the Humber River's Canadian Heritage Rivers' designation. The event features an opportunity for participants to experience being in a canoe for the first time in the presence of safety professionals.

Date: September 8, 2019

Item 8.2

Location: Etienne Brule Park, Toronto

Typical Attendance Numbers: 2,000

Caledon Canada Day

Albion Hills offers a unique Canada Day celebration for all participants. The event features a wide array of family-friendly activities, various performances and fireworks that light up the night sky at 10 p.m. The Humber River will be celebrated at this event.

Date: Monday, July 1, 2019

Location: Albion Hills Conservation Area, 16500 Peel Regional Rd 50, Caledon

Black Creek Community Farm Festival

This is Black Creek Community Farm's largest free community event of the year. Fresh wood-fired pizza is available to purchase and there are family-friendly activities to enjoy. Visitors can participate in farming-focused workshops, play games, do yoga, take a tour of the farm or just relax and enjoy the day. Fresh produce from the farm is available for purchase as well.

Date: Saturday, July 20, 2019

Location: Black Creek Community Farm, 4929 Jane Street (at Steeles)

Typical Attendance Numbers: 500-1000

Dinner at the Farm: A Night of Culinary Enchantment in Support of Black Creek Community Farm

Black Creek Community Farm hosts an annual on-farm fundraiser dinner in collaboration with some of the best chefs in the Greater Toronto Area. This is an opportunity to support the educational programming at this unique urban farm, celebrate urban agriculture in Toronto, and enjoy delicious tapas-style food right from the farm. Participants can celebrate local food under the night sky and support a valuable community space in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood.

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2019

Location: Black Creek Community Farm, 4929 Jane Street (at Steeles)

Typical Attendance Numbers: 250

Four Winds Kite Festival

This festival introduces participants to fascinating, fabulous kites as they take flight. Renowned as a great family outing, attendees can watch professional kite flying demonstrations, make a kite, enjoy pond dipping, have a picnic and take a self-guided hike to see nature blooming in the spring.

Launched in 1989, the Four Winds Kite Festival is one of the longest-running kite events in the country. The festival features experts from renowned kite clubs, who dazzle the crowds with spectacular demonstrations.

Date: May, 2019

Location: Kortright Centre for Conservation

Typical attendance: 500-800

Maple Syrup Festival

The Maple Syrup Festival features demonstrations, wagon rides, and activities, as well as pancakes and real maple syrup. Special family-fun activities are also held on weekends and March Break.

Date: March 9 – April 7, 2019

Location: Kortright Centre for Conservation, Bruce's Mill Conservation Area,

Typical Attendance: 56,000

ETOBICOKE-MIMICO CREEKS WATERSHED EVENTS

Bike The Creek

Bike the Creek offers the community an opportunity to bike through Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga along the Etobicoke Creek Trail. Four different rides are offered according to various skill levels, while pavilions along the way offer educational opportunities for participants to engage in the natural and cultural history of the area. Participants can present their passport at each pavilion and receive stamps in order to win great prizes. Bike the Creek runs rain or shine.

Date: June 22, 2019

Location: Meet at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, 292 Conestoga Drive, Brampton

Typical Attendance Numbers: 700

WATERFRONT EVENTS

Lake Ontario Evenings

Lake Ontario Evenings are a public speaker series on topics affecting the lake hosted by the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Program. Three to four Lake Ontario Evenings are held annually which usually include three 20-minute presentations from the invited speakers and a question/discussion period.

Evenings are free of charge, easily accessible by public transportation and include free snacks, as well as drinks for purchase. Events are advertised through the RAP mailing list, on the RAP and TRCA website, and through social media (Twitter and Facebook). Representatives from all three levels of government, community groups, academia, and the general public are typically in attendance.

RWA members could participate in Lake Ontario Evenings by attending or volunteering at events, advertising through their networks, and/or providing recommendations on speakers or topics to the RAP team.

Date: Various

Location: Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W, Toronto, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 80 – 110

Clean Water - Our Future

An annual event with the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association (GTSWCA) and other partners, to complete large-scale shoreline clean-up operations. The partner groups donate trained manpower, barges, marine vessels, safety equipment and tools. The TRCA waterfront team works with the City of Toronto to identify locations and equipment needs for the events.

Date: Various

Location: Various

Typical attendance: 50 - 100 people per event

Spring Bird Festival

The Spring Bird Festival introduces participants to the amazing phenomenon of migration and the importance of bird conservation. A variety of activities are offered for people of all ages and all birding abilities.

Item 8.2

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2019
Location: Tommy Thompson Park
Typical attendance: 700

Tommy Thompson Park Butterfly Festival

The Butterfly Festival offers participants a glimpse of the Monarch Butterfly before they start their annual migration to Mexico, where they spend the winter. This 3,500 km migration takes place between August and November and begins with the gathering of the Monarchs at places like Tommy Thompson Park, Toronto's Urban Wilderness.

The annual Tommy Thompson Park Butterfly Festival celebrates this incredible migration by welcoming children, families and nature lovers to learn more about butterfly conservation and biodiversity. Through the many activities, nature hikes and educational displays at this free event, visitors can discover the more than 55 species of butterflies and moths recorded to date at the park.

Date: Saturday, August 24, 2019
Location: Tommy Thompson Park
Typical Attendance: 2,000

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