

## **Citizen Scientist Water Teams:**

### Copeland Forest Water Quality Monitoring Project

In the summer of 2016 Copeland Forest Friends will begin collaborating with the Couchiching Conservancy to test the water quality of the Coldwater, Sturgeon, and Willow waterways in Copeland Forest. Our goal is to have this project turn into a long-term commitment that will give volunteers the opportunity to become acquainted with a Copeland waterway over a period of years, contributing much-needed baseline data on water quality currently, and measuring how it changes over time.

The project uses Lamotte Education Water Test Kits which allow volunteers to do all tests on-site and record the results. Teams of two are given a site to monitor throughout the spring, summer, and fall with a minimum goal of one test per month (although two tests per month is optimal).

We test for eight parameters including:

- Temperature
- Nitrates
- Ph
- Alkalinity
- Phosphates
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Turbidity
- Depth

Data collected will be used to analyze the quality of water flowing through these watersheds, and contributed to regional and provincial databases. The Copeland Forest falls under the jurisdiction of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Severn Sound Environmental Association, and all results will be shared with them.

Volunteers also conduct benthic “[kick-tests](#)” for [macroinvertebrates](#) once per year at their monitoring site and bring the results back to a central meeting place for identification. Training is also provided for benthic kick-testing via Ontario Streams.

We are seeking volunteers who will:

- Be available to collect samples in the field at least once per month in 2016 with an experienced partner.
- Attend a wrap-up session in January to review the 2015 data and prepare for the following year.
- Collect samples starting at spring run-off in 2017 through the fall of 2018
- Volunteer work can be completed on weekends or weekdays.
- Own transportation required.

Volunteers should be comfortable entering waterways that are a maximum depth of hip deep, wearing chest waders. Water is flowing, but not rapidly. One partner stays on shore and has a throw-rope. Safety equipment, test kits, and chest waders are all provided.

Contact Pat Woodford [strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca](mailto:strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca) (705) 835-0002 to join the Copeland Forest Water Team.

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