



# Conservation Youth Corps



Its future is in  
your hands.

## Our Vision

To provide Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) with significant financial support on an annual basis, to ensure the sustainability and continued growth of the Conservation Youth Corps Program.

## What is the Conservation Youth Corps (CYC)?

CYC provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for local high school youth in conservation and environmental stewardship. The week-long core program runs for 9 weeks each summer. Students may obtain up to 35 volunteer hours for the week while planting trees or assisting with any number of conservation and resource management projects such as habitat restoration and invasive species management.



## Meeting the Needs of the Community

The Credit River watershed is an ecosystem under severe stress. Once, the watershed was an area of thick forests and clean, cold flowing water. Today, most of these forests have been cut down, wetlands have been drained, and even agricultural land is being lost. The Conservation Youth Corps is part of the solution in restoring and preserving the natural environment for present and future generations.

## Our Success to Date

Annually, the CVC Foundation provides a minimum of \$100,000 in support of the Conservation Youth Corps Program. These funds are raised through special events, grants and individual donations.

### **Our contribution has enabled CYC participants to:**

- ☉ Plant 10,000 native trees and shrubs each summer in the Credit River watershed
- ☉ Participate in invasive species control projects and mapping projects
- ☉ Construct boardwalk, low level creek crossings and trail enhancements
- ☉ Conduct electro-fishing studies
- ☉ Rehabilitate streams and shorelines banks
- ☉ Construct bird boxes, bat boxes and salamander boards

# The Conservation Youth Corps - Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



Each Year the Conservation Youth Corps plant 10,000 trees in the Credit River watershed. With each tree planted, CYC is helping to ensure we have a river to swim in, paddle on, fish in and just simply enjoy.

Equipped with the knowledge of why and how to plant a tree, as well as how to build an erosion wall or a boardwalk to protect an eco-sensitive area, high school age students of CYC become keepers of our conservation future. Through CYC, we are developing green leaders who understand and value our natural environment and will guide us to the future.

## Through the CYC program, students gain:

- ⦿ Knowledge of wildlife habitat and pond and wetland naturalization;
- ⦿ Planting, forest monitoring and management skills;
- ⦿ Knowledge about fisheries conservation and stream rehabilitation;
- ⦿ Training by technical experts; and
- ⦿ Community service through a co-operative experience.

## Why Plant Trees?

Trees offset the impact of urbanization in the watershed. Trees improve water quality by reducing the amount of unfiltered runoff from rain and erosion, which otherwise makes its way into Lake Ontario. Wooded areas reduce the amount of sediments and chemicals that make their way into the Credit River and into Lake Ontario.

Trees absorb ozone, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and breathe out oxygen. They provide natural habitat for wildlife. Trees increase property values and reduce heating and cooling costs. They store carbon and help mitigate climate change.



## How You Can Support our Conservation Youth Corps Campaign

### **Make a cash donation.**

Gifts can be made in the form of cash, cheque, money order, credit card or online via our website at [www.landscapesforlife.ca](http://www.landscapesforlife.ca)

### **Make an in-kind donation of goods.**

Donors considering gifts of building materials, equipment or services should contact the campaign chair for advice. The campaign committee has a list of specific materials, equipment and services needed for the campaign. Where appropriate, tax receipts for gifts-in-kind can be provided.

### **Get your business or community organization involved.**

You have the opportunity to have a direct and profound impact on our community. Whether it be through sponsorships, donations, services or volunteers there are countless ways we can work together.

### **Volunteer.**

Give of yourself. Volunteers are always needed on our various fundraising sub-committees. Opportunities to assist with special events, grant writing, donor recognition etc. always exist.

### **Attend a CYC Fundraising event.**

Attend our annual Conservation Gala or grab a paddle and participate in our annual Canoe the Credit event! Get involved. Attend. Spread the word.

## For more information or to make a donation

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Established in 1964, the CVC Foundation is a registered environmental charity working to help protect and conserve the lands and waters of the Credit River Watershed.

