



Terra Cotta Centre for Environmental Learning



Its future is in
your hands.

Our Vision

Terra Cotta Conservation Area will be transformed into the Terra Cotta Centre for Environmental Learning, an invaluable environmental education resource for local residents and park visitors.

Campaign Leadership.

The Friends of Terra Cotta was formed in 2008 as a volunteer fundraising committee of the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation. The Friends are local residents and community members dedicated to ensuring that the community and its visitors benefit from quality educational, interpretive and recreational opportunities at Terra Cotta Conservation Area. For a listing of members please contact us.

Terra Cotta Then & Now

Once known solely as a heavily used facility, Terra Cotta is blazing new trails and expanding its mission. In the 1980s Terra Cotta contained 137 campsites, a 10 acre day use area, 376 picnic tables, a one acre swimming pool, a concession stand, mini-golf and parking for 650 cars.

This is not the Terra Cotta you will experience today. With a renewed commitment to environmental stewardship and protection, and an updated Management Plan, the campsites have been replanted, the parking lots re-vegetated and the swimming pool removed and replaced by an award winning wetland, used as a learning tool illustrating to visitors the importance of wetlands.



Terra Cotta: The Hub of a Connected Community

Located in Halton Hills, just north of the village of Terra Cotta, Terra Cotta Conservation Area is among the most environmentally and aesthetically significant areas in the Credit River watershed.

Situated on the Niagara Escarpment a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, Terra Cotta's 485 acres of valleys, cliffs and bedrock plains, together with diverse forests, wetlands and streams, represent the best Escarpment habitat in this region of the province. Terra Cotta is also notable for its diversity of wildlife, including 151 bird species, 15 amphibians, 19 fish species, 6 reptiles and 14 mammals.

Every community needs a hub, a central place where residents can organize community events, share the local news, welcome visitors and tourists, watch their children play or just enjoy the view. Terra Cotta Conservation Area is this hub and will be an even greater community asset upon the completion of the Centre for Environmental Learning.



A Living Classroom for Environmental Education and Sustainability

The Terra Cotta Centre for Environmental Learning will operate year-round and will be comprised of both indoor and outdoor learning opportunities and activities including:

- ⦿ **A Visitors Welcome Centre** where local residents, park users and community groups will have the opportunity to meet in the natural setting of Terra Cotta and access knowledgeable park staff
- ⦿ **A Watershed Learning Centre** offering year round interactive and provocative programs that represent and support important and appropriate environmental themes. High quality and interactive interpretive workshops on natural, cultural and environmental themes important to Terra Cotta, the Niagara Escarpment and the watershed will be offered to local residents and park visitors.
- ⦿ An **Outdoor Amphitheatre** for group education delivery and community theatre
- ⦿ An **Upgraded Trail System** throughout the property, including mapping and signage of existing trail networks
- ⦿ Opportunities for park visitors to participate in **Recreational and Interpretive Programs** such as snowshoeing, skiing, fishing, hiking, bird watching, nature exploration and canoeing through the availability of rental equipment.
- ⦿ The introduction of an **Annual Signature Event** for park users and supporters that will celebrate the uniqueness of the conservation area

Meeting the Needs of the Community

The transformation of Terra Cotta Conservation Area into a Centre for Environmental Learning is one of the key recommendations widely supported in the 2008 Terra Cotta Silver Creek Conservation Area Management Plan.

The community needs the Centre for Environmental Learning to:

- ⦿ **ENHANCE** our connection to and understanding of our local landscape.
- ⦿ **ENGAGE** us in life-long learning opportunities ranging from wildlife drawing classes in the great hall to citizen science projects in the lab to community theatre in the outdoor amphitheatre.
- ⦿ **PROMOTE** sustainable behaviours through the Watershed Learning Centre's sustainable design retrofits, interactive displays and educational programming.
- ⦿ **PROVIDE** a local learning place for students, teachers and corporations to take a hands-on learning style about climate change, watershed ecology and sustainability.
- ⦿ **UNITE** urban and rural communities and new Canadians through collaborative workshops and events.



How You Can Assist the Friends of Terra Cotta

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

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 Friends of Terra Cotta event.

Throughout the year the Friends will be hosting numerous fundraising events. 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. The Foundation accomplishes this by raising funds in support of the valuable conservation projects and initiatives of Credit Valley Conservation.

Charitable Registration # 118879048 RR0001

