



Rouge  
National  
Urban Park

Parc urbain  
national de la  
Rouge

# ROUGE REVIEW

ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK INITIATIVE

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada



# A MESSAGE FROM PARKS CANADA

Season's greetings and Happy New Year from Rouge National Urban Park.

As we look back, there have been many milestones since 2011, when the Government of Canada announced plans to create Canada's first national urban park in the Greater Toronto Area.

In 2015, Parks Canada was proud to achieve several significant achievements in the creation of Rouge National Urban Park – including the very first land transfer for the park on April 1, and the formal establishment of the park on May 15.

Since 2011, Parks Canada has worked closely with countless individuals, community organizations, conservation groups, other levels of government, the park's farming community, volunteers and First Nations to realize the dream of creating Canada's first national urban park in the most heavily populated and culturally diverse area of our country.

All told, Parks Canada has now engaged more than 20,000 Canadians in the planning for Rouge National Urban Park, making this one of the largest public engagement programs in Parks Canada's 105-year history.

The effort to create Rouge National Urban Park is something of which we should all be extremely proud. It takes a community to create a national urban park and the spirit, collaboration and partnerships that have brought us to where we are today will, without question, continue to carry us into the future.

Here's to a Happy 2016 and many more milestones for Rouge National Urban Park!

Pamela L. Veinotte  
Field Unit Superintendent  
Rouge National Urban Park



*Pam Veinotte*

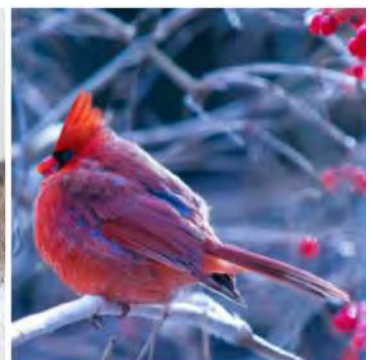
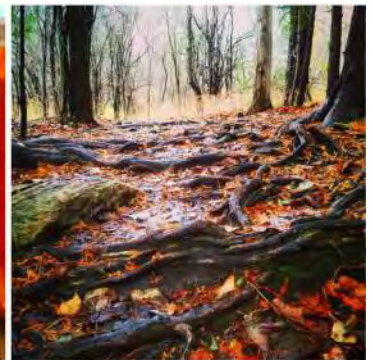


*The Rouge National Urban Park team at the July 28, 2015, event celebrating the establishment of the park*



# LOOKING BACK

## Rouge National Urban Park photos from 2015





# 2015 CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

## Action on the ground: conservation work underway in Rouge National Urban Park

This past year was a busy one for Parks Canada's resource conservation team in Rouge National Urban Park. Thanks to a \$15-million investment by the Government of Canada in support of conservation initiatives in the park, early efforts in 2015 included the initiation of 15 conservation and restoration projects.

In collaboration with the park's farming community, First Nations, and community and conservation groups, Parks Canada worked with its partners to enhance aquatic habitat along four tributaries of Little Rouge Creek and to restore wetlands in areas where they had historically existed.

"All of these sites and projects were identified in partnership with park farmers and tenants," says Maria Papoulias, project manager, Parks Canada. "It was extremely rewarding to be able to collaborate with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, tenants and others in the community to select and implement these projects. This is important conservation work that will benefit the Rouge's natural, cultural and agricultural resources."

Throughout the summer of 2015, Parks Canada created four new wetland areas in the northern Markham portion of Rouge National Urban Park. Three culverts under farm-access crossings were also replaced on a stream east of Ninth Line, and a grassed waterway was constructed to prevent further soil loss off farmland and erosion into a nearby waterway.

In 2015, seven areas were also renaturalized by planting native trees and shrubs. This work began in early spring when approximately 90 local student volunteers helped to plant the banks of a new stream in the park with 600 native shrubs. Additionally, in the fall, Parks Canada staff and volunteers also helped to plant the areas surrounding the four newly created wetlands, a pre-existing headwater wetland, a retired hayfield and the banks of the new stream.

However, the highlight of this fall planting work was the involvement of local school groups. Areas around two of the new wetlands, as well as the nearby retired hayfield, were planted by school groups in late-October and early-November. More than 400 students took part in this hands-on restoration opportunity, helping to plant nearly 3,000 native trees and shrubs in the park.

Parks Canada's planned restoration work in Rouge National Urban Park is expected to more than double the area of wetlands and stream-side habitat and provide long-term benefits to the health of ecosystems and agricultural lands in Canada's first national urban park.



*Wetland area - Before*



*After*





## On the move again: another cohort of baby turtles moves into the Rouge

June 23, 2015, was moving day in the Rouge.

That's when Parks Canada, in partnership with the Toronto Zoo and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), reintroduced 21 baby Blanding's turtles to a pond in the park.

This was the second year that a group of this provincially and nationally threatened turtle species have been released in the park. In June 2014, the same group of partners collaborated on the release of 10 baby Blanding's turtles in the Rouge.

The long-living species, with a life span of up to 100 years, has inhabited the Rouge Valley for thousands of years, though as few as six Blanding's turtles remained prior to the 2014 release.



Dr. Andrew Lentini, curator of amphibians and reptiles at the Toronto Zoo, notes "this long-term reintroduction project is the first of its kind in the Greater Toronto Area and marks a significant step in 15 years of turtle monitoring and research." The 2015 group of baby turtles were hatched from eggs collected two years ago from a stable source population in southern Ontario that were raised in a controlled environment at the Toronto Zoo.

"Parks Canada and our partners believe that this type of head starting and reintroduction of the turtles, along with ongoing habitat restoration and ongoing monitoring, are keys to the animal's survival in the Rouge," says Pam Veinotte, Superintendent of Rouge National Urban Park.

This year's turtle reintroduction also included a new partner – the University of Toronto Scarborough – who will be assisting with long-term monitoring of the released turtles.

The Toronto Zoo and TRCA began collecting information and monitoring Blanding's turtles in the Rouge Valley in 2000. Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provided funding, permits and in-kind support for Blanding's turtle monitoring in the Rouge in previous years. The facility where the turtles were hatched and raised at the Toronto Zoo was funded by Earth Rangers.

## Archaeology work in the Rouge

This summer was a busy first season for Parks Canada's archaeological team in Rouge National Urban Park.

Parks Canada staff, as well as First Nations archaeology monitors and technicians from the national urban park's First Nations Advisory Circle, conducted several archaeological assessments in support of ecological restoration and infrastructure projects underway in the park.



*From left: Gregory Braun, Quentin Lewis, Jamie LaForme (Mississaugas of the New Credit), Alison LaForme (Mississaugas of the New Credit), Luke Stinson (Mississaugas of Scugog), Charles-Antoine Lasage (Huron-Wendat) and Athena Ali*



# Laying down roots with schools in the community

Fall 2015 included yet another first for Rouge National Urban Park.

In August, Parks Canada initiated its first volunteer restoration planting opportunities in the park with schools in Toronto, York and Durham. The response to this community engagement and stewardship initiative was overwhelming.

“I was blown away by the amount of interest we got from school groups,” says Maria Papoulias, project manager, Parks Canada. “It was just way more than I ever anticipated.”

From Oct. 19 to Nov. 6, 2015, more than 400 students from 10 Greater Toronto Area schools helped to plant 3,000 native trees and shrubs at two new wetland restoration sites and a retired hayfield in an area of the park near Ninth Line and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Participating grade school, high school and adult students were also encouraged to incorporate their on-site planting experiences into their various classrooms, which included business, French, math, media and science classes.



“It was such a gift to have these 400-plus students out planting trees in the field and getting an immersive experience in nature,” adds Papoulias. “When I was in school, I would have loved to do more things like that. So that was absolutely fantastic to see.”

Students and teachers were provided with an overview of Parks Canada and Canada’s first national urban park. They were also taught how to identify different tree and shrub species. Through their hands-on participation in this restoration work, students also learned about historical landscape changes in the Rouge and the interplay between natural, cultural and agricultural environments in an urban setting.

Trees and shrubs planted included: nannyberry, red osier dogwood, chokeberry, chokecherry, staghorn sumac, red elderberry, silver maple, eastern cottonwood, hackberry, white cedar, white spruce, white pine and tamarack.

Parks Canada considers it a privilege and an honour to introduce Canadians of all ages to our country’s amazing natural, cultural and agricultural heritage in a “classroom without walls” with hands-on outdoor activities. What a fantastic setting for such an experience in Canada’s premiere “Learn To” park!





# 2015 VISITOR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## Winter Bird Count

On Jan. 11, 2015, Parks Canada and the Toronto Zoo partnered on the 12<sup>th</sup> Winter Bird Count in the Rouge.

The annual one-day event celebrates and raises awareness of the biodiversity of birds present in the Rouge. In 2015, more than 180 event participants trekked through park forests, meadows and wetlands in sub-zero temperatures to count every bird seen and heard. This provides a snapshot of resident birds that brave the Canadian cold and winter in the Rouge.

The 2015 Winter Bird Count in the Rouge recorded 10,400 birds from 57 different species! In addition to usual suspects like Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals and Black-capped Chickadees, highlights from the 2015 count included two Great Horned Owl sightings as well as a flock of 45 Snow Buntings.



## Hoot & Howl

Parks Canada was pleased to host the annual Rouge Hoot & Howl on Feb. 28, 2015, at the Rouge Valley Mennonite Church located in the Hamlet of Cedar Grove.

This long-running event aims to introduce park visitors to native owl and coyote species found in the Rouge. More than 80 participants took part in an indoor presentation and then braved the -7°C temperatures for an outdoor hike to call out to the animals to see if they would call back.

The 2015 edition of Hoot & Howl didn't, unfortunately, yield any owl or coyote call backs, but a fantastic night of learning and adventure was had by all who attended.

## Frog Watch

For frog enthusiasts in the Rouge, the arrival of spring can only mean one thing – *ribbit, ribbit* – Frog Watch!

Close to 100 participants took part in the 2015 Frog Watch monitoring program, which included an initial information and training workshop, as well as three evening outings in the park – one day at the end of the months of April, May and June – to collect information about frogs in the Rouge.

This was the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Frog Watch in the Rouge and Parks Canada was proud to continue the legacy of this popular outreach program, in partnership with the Toronto Zoo.

“Frogs are a great indicator species of ecosystem health and there are many nested wetlands throughout the park,” says Sheryl Santos of Parks Canada, who helped create the annual event in 2008. “By monitoring frogs, it gives us an indication of the health of the park’s wetlands.”

The unique educational event involves visiting wetlands throughout the park and listening for frog calls, documenting the different kinds of frog species present. Data collected is submitted to Ontario’s Natural Heritage Information Centre, which is then used by various agencies and researchers to plan, protect and study Ontario’s natural heritage.





# 2015 VISITOR EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS



*Parks Canada's Zoo Road Welcome Area*

## Parks Canada opens first welcome areas in the Rouge

On July 28, 2015, the first seasonal welcome area in Rouge National Urban Park was opened.

Located near the intersection of Elgin Mills and Reesor roads in the Markham portion of the park, the welcome area consists initially of a Parks Canada oTENTik – a type of accommodation that is a cross between a tent and a rustic cabin.

Additionally, a second staffed oTENTik operated near the Toronto Zoo. Located next to the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre and at the trailhead for some of the park's most popular trails, this welcome area is an excellent base for visitors to begin a hiking adventure. The oTENTik sits beside a second model which is fully furnished for visitors to check out and see what an overnight experience looks like at Parks Canada sites across the country.

Although they were open for just a few months in 2015 as a pilot, the areas warmly welcomed almost 3,000 visitors to the park, including many regular and first-time visitors.

The welcome areas will host special events and activities, and provide a seasonal base for staff to help visitors plan their trip within the Rouge and to other Parks Canada sites across the country. The new welcome areas are the first of many enhanced visitor and educational facilities planned for Rouge National Urban Park over the next several years.

## Moth Night

Beautiful or buggy? Graceful or get away!?! Moths are a misunderstood creature in the winged world, but thanks to a new event in the Rouge, that's, hopefully, about to change.

On Aug. 28, 2015, Parks Canada welcomed visitors to Glen Rouge Campground at dusk for an evening adventure that explored the myths and magic of the Rouge's moths. With the help of guest experts from the Toronto Entomologists' Association, large sheets and special lights were used to attract area moths for participants to observe up close.

The event, which included kids activities and educational displays featuring different types of moth species, helped participants to better understand how moths are beneficial to our ecosystems.







## Learn-to Camp

Never been camping? Not sure where to start? These are common questions for the first-time camper. But don't worry, Parks Canada has you covered.

More than 150 campers of all ages experienced the joys of camping in the Rouge this summer by participating in Parks Canada's Learn-to Camp program at Glen Rouge Campground in Toronto.

"The goal of Learn-to Camp is to help first-time campers build the necessary skills and confidence to plan and enjoy their own camping trip," says Steve Burroughs, Parks Canada's acting visitor experience manager for Rouge National Urban Park. "Most of this year's participants were primarily families with young children who were new to the outdoors, so we were extremely pleased with the turnout."

The initiative, which is co-presented with the assistance of Mountain Equipment Co-op, was offered twice in 2015, once over the June 20/21 weekend, and again on Sept. 12/13. Camping gear is provided and

participants learn practical camping skills like how to set up a tent, prepare camp meals and light a campfire, as well as important safety tips on wildlife, staying safe in the wild and dealing with ticks.

Participants were also exposed to the great outdoors through hiking, photography, bird watching and campfire songs. And what authentic Canadian camping experience would be complete without some freshly-made s'mores around the campfire?

That was covered as well.



## Taste of the Trail

Parks Canada's inaugural Taste of the Trail event on Aug. 22, 2015, in the Rouge was an overwhelming success.

"The day was packed with a ton of belly-filling activities," says Diana Smyth, Parks Canada's interpretation co-ordinator for Rouge National Urban Park. "Happy visitors went away with a new appreciation for food found in the park, as well as one aspect of the park's cultural heritage."

Taste of the Trail took place near the Hamlet of Cedar Grove in the Markham portion of the Rouge and combined guided walks and breathtaking scenery with food sampling and educational stations.

While tasting local bread and honey, and corn on the cob from Sweet Ridge Farms, guests learned about pollinators and how food is grown. They also made their own trail mix and nibbled on smoked salmon while learning about the Atlantic Salmon Recovery Program from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.





## A Record-Breaking Fall Walk Series

This year's 2015 Fall Walk Series in the Rouge, hosted by Parks Canada in collaboration with Ontario Power Generation Biodiversity and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, was a huge success!

With the help of the Parkbus service, Parks Canada was able to help remove barriers to park access by providing free shuttle service from downtown Toronto to the park for nearly 250 visitors, many of whom were visiting the park for the very first time. In total, more than 1,500 visitors passed through Parks Canada's new Zoo Road Welcome Area over the course of the event's back-to-back weekends in October.

Both locals and newcomers alike enjoyed walks led by experts from Parks Canada, the Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario Nature, the Toronto Zoo, and local naturalists groups. Guest presenters did a wonderful job celebrating the Rouge's incredible biodiversity in a way that promoted healthy and active living. Kids and adults were treated to fun and engaging talks about leeches, worms, turtles, salamanders, snakes, songbirds, hawks, jays, plants, trees and fungi.

The success of the Fall Walk Series would not have been possible without the help and support of our amazing Parks Canada volunteer walk leaders, who led or assisted with leading dozens of walks. Their passion and enthusiasm for the park is inspirational. A very special thank you to co-presenters Ontario Power Generation and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, whose generous support and collaborative spirit made it possible for hundreds of Canadians to get outside and experience one of Canada's most unique protected areas.



### Hallow-Wild in the Rouge

This past Halloween, Parks Canada staff donned their scariest attire to welcome guests to its two new welcome areas and the walking trails of the Rouge.

Hallow-wild in the park – our take on Halloween – included themed activities, a visit from Parka and Parks Canada temporary tattoos, as well as guided walks that aimed to expose visitors to some of the misunderstood nocturnal residents that call the Rouge home. Whether it was busting myths about bats, breaking down the fear factor around coyotes or discovering the night-time world of owls, there was something for everyone looking to learn more about these animals that live in the shadows of the park.





# PARKS CANADA IN THE COMMUNITY 2015



## Partners in Protection

Every few months, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) invites one of its partners to the museum to share educational information with their visitors. Parks Canada was fortunate to spend the Halloween weekend at the ROM where we ran several fun activities for kids of all ages.

More than 600 visitors stopped by Parks Canada's booth throughout the fun-filled weekend, which also included Halloween-themed face painting, a campfire scene where people could share ghost stories and a touch-and-listen slideshow to hear what coyote and different owl species sound like.



## Pickering's Seedy Saturday

Parks Canada volunteers and staff were pleased to take part in Pickering's annual Seedy Saturday event to promote and share information about the Rouge's amazing natural, cultural and agricultural heritage.

## Bluffs Gates Open

Parks Canada was pleased to host the kick-off for the third annual Bluffs Gates Open tour of historic and beautiful Scarborough homes and gardens, with proceeds going to the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation in support of local hospitals.

This year, Pam Veinotte, Parks Canada's Superintendent of Rouge National Urban Park, welcomed His Worship John Tory, Mayor of Toronto, along with local Toronto councillors Paul Ainslie and Gary Crawford, and members of the Rouge Valley Health System to the event at Rouge National Urban Park's head office on Kingston Road, the historic Cornell-Campbell House.



## Doors Open Toronto

In May 2015, Parks Canada was pleased to open our main Rouge National Urban Park office to the public for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Doors Open Toronto.

The annual event provides residents free and rare access to more than 155 architecturally, historically, culturally and socially significant buildings across the City of Toronto. Our office, the Cornell-Campbell House is an historic family home in Scarborough that was first constructed in 1836.





# PARKS CANADA IN THE COMMUNITY 2015

## Better City Bootcamp

In April 2015, Parks Canada was invited to take part in Civic Action's "Better City Bootcamp," an event held every four years with nearly 1,000 community leaders and organizations from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) that examines several regional issues in a collaborative environment.

The event looked at five foundational issues that relate to health and resilience of GTHA people and communities – infrastructure, public space, mental health, affordable housing and childhood health.

Parks Canada appreciated the opportunity to share ideas and network with other groups, organizations and individuals working in areas such as access to public spaces and improving health outcomes.



## Guild Alive with Culture Festival

Parks Canada had the wonderful opportunity in 2015 to once again participate in the annual Guild Alive with Culture Festival to share information and beautiful images of the Rouge.



## Malvern Family Resource Centre Eco-Camp 2015

Parks Canada was honoured to work with the Malvern Family Resource Centre at their 2015 Eco-Camp. This year's themes were "Nature Explorers" and "Be Green" and the event provided campers with the opportunity take part in guided nature hikes in the Rouge, paint bird boxes, plant native plants and upcycle materials for alternative uses such as lava lamps, piggy banks and bubble blowers.

## 2015 Ontario BioBlitz

A BioBlitz brings together biology experts, citizen scientists and the general public to inventory all species – plants, animals, fungi and more – in a particular area over a 24-hour period. As a former two-time co-host of the Ontario BioBlitz (both in 2012 and 2013), Parks Canada was pleased to attend the launch of the 2015 Ontario BioBlitz at the Ontario Science Centre.

The 2015 BioBlitz was held in our neighbouring valley to the east, the beautiful Don River Watershed. Rouge National Urban Park's Superintendent, Pam Veinotte, was thrilled to provide welcoming remarks at the event.

Kudos to the Ontario BioBlitz steering committee for organizing another amazing event. Several Parks Canada staff and volunteers participated in the 2015 BioBlitz as either observation leaders or participants. We look forward to the 2016 Ontario BioBlitz in the Credit Valley, and we are quite excited to once again act as host of the event in 2017, just in time for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary!





# PARKS CANADA IN THE COMMUNITY 2015

## Ontario Tourism Summit

Parks Canada had a major presence at the 2015 Ontario Tourism Summit held in Toronto in November.

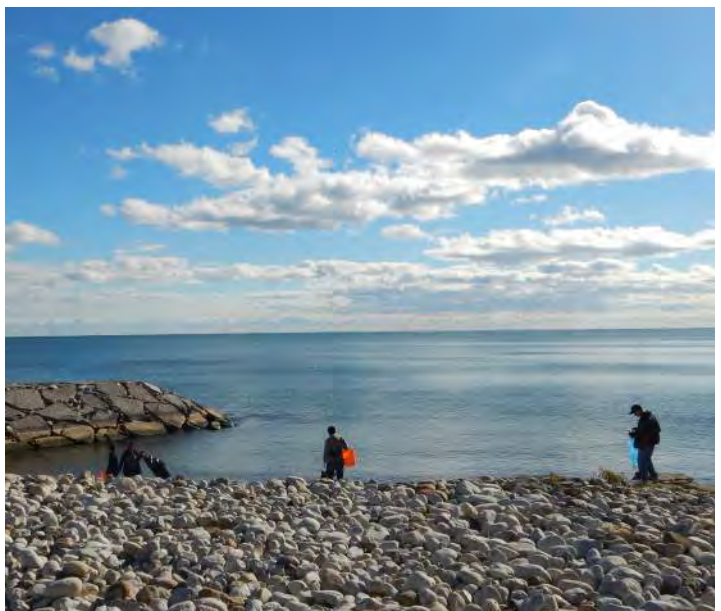
Fun fact: did you know that visitor spending at Parks Canada's Ontario sites, combined with investments made by Parks Canada, contribute more than \$250 million per year to Ontario's Gross Domestic Product?



## Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

Parks Canada once again played a major role supporting the Rouge's annual shoreline cleanup, organized by Aasiya Hussain of Ecohesion Inc. A big thank you to the many volunteers who helped collect dozens of buckets of waste and pollution from Rouge Beach.

Let's keep doing everything we can to make the Rouge even more beautiful!



## Markham Museum Winter Fest

Parks Canada had an awesome time at Markham's Winter Fest held at the Markham Museum. A special thank you to Lorne Smith of the Markham Historical Society who generously shared his maple syrup taffy with our appreciative staff and volunteers.

## Port Union Waterfront Festival

Our staff and mascot, Parka the Beaver, had a wonderful day interacting with families and local residents at the 2015 Port Union Waterfront Festival.





## Rouge volunteers welcomed to Parks Canada

In May 2015, Parks Canada history was made when 60 core volunteers from Rouge Park in the Greater Toronto Area transitioned over to officially become Parks Canada volunteers for Rouge National Urban Park.

Billed as a “New Rouge” celebration, an open house was held at the national urban park’s main office at Cornell-Campbell House in Toronto. The evening was a casual social mixer for volunteers to drop in, officially sign up and pick up their new Rouge National Urban Park apparel – shirts, hats and toques!

Speaking to a group of new Parks Canada volunteers at the event, Pam Veinotte, Field Unit Superintendent for Rouge National Urban Park, noted “We’re sad to say goodbye to the old pieces of volunteer clothing, but we’re excited to see everyone joining our Parks Canada family of volunteers.”



*Radmila Rakas and Bruce Grubbe*

The event was the last step in their journey to the Parks Canada family of volunteers, a journey that included training about Rouge National Urban Park and Parks Canada’s iconic family of protected areas: national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas. Volunteers also learned about Parks Canada’s leadership in protection, education and visitor experience.

The volunteers support year-round programming in the Rouge, including guided walks and community outreach, just to name a few. These initiatives and others will provide hundreds of additional volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups looking to pitch in and help out in Canada’s first national urban park.

Mitra Maharaj, an area resident who’s been a volunteer in the Rouge for two years, said he was happy when he first heard that the Rouge would be transitioning to a national urban park. “I see it as a very positive thing, not only for Toronto, but also the neighbouring communities,” said Maharaj. “Another big and significant change, especially if you are a hiker, is the addition of the federal lands, which I think is quite significant.”

When asked about the volunteer transition process, Aasiya Hussain, an environmental educator and Rouge volunteer, noted “It’s a culmination of many years of effort and a lot of love that has been put into the Rouge over 30 years of cherishing this very beautiful and beloved place. It’s an area with over 10,000 years of human history and to see it protected for generations to come, I think it’s a very beautiful thing.”

In the coming years, Parks Canada will provide numerous additional volunteer opportunities for new and interested participants in the Greater Toronto Area. Whether it is participating in the Frog Watch or Winter Bird Count programs, removing invasive species, or helping out as a walk leader or at a community outreach event, Rouge National Urban Park will provide unique experiences for every type of volunteer.

## Volunteer appreciation: wrapping up the season in style



On Nov. 28, 2015, we were thrilled to pay homage to our amazing Parks Canada Rouge National Urban Park volunteers. We can’t say it enough: our volunteers are truly amazing and inspire us every day.

Thank you for everything you do to help promote and protect the natural, cultural and agricultural heritage of the Rouge. We are ever grateful and appreciative for all the time and knowledge you give back to the park and your communities.





## Parks Canada summer students recap

This past summer was filled with unforgettable moments and experiences for Parks Canada's summer students. They left behind an amazing legacy through their contributions and hard work, which aided Parks Canada's efforts to help establish and operate Rouge National Urban Park.

In 2015, Parks Canada quadrupled the number of summer students hired in previous years by bringing on a team of 12 students. They were placed in different functions with various roles ranging from surveying visitors throughout the park and at trailheads; monitoring ecosystems and helping to lead ecological restoration projects; facilitating events and educational programming in the park; and interpreting the park's natural, cultural, and agricultural heritage.

This year's group of students came from a wide range of post-secondary schools, including the University of Toronto (both Scarborough and St. George campuses), University of Guelph, Harvard University and Lund University in Sweden. Many of the students grew up in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and others learned about the Rouge area for the very first time, coming from places such as Montreal and Ottawa.

More than half of the students are in a master's program, while the rest of the students were in undergraduate programs. Their programs of study included topics as diverse as environmental science, planning, ecology, mental health studies, human biology, history, and English.

"This past summer has been the most amazing experience and opportunity for me to grow as an individual and to develop skills for the future," said Jeffrey Law, one of Parks Canada's 2015 summer students. "I love the fact that I was able to work both indoors and outdoors throughout the summer and I am really fortunate that my master's program at the University of Toronto Scarborough has an internship component. Otherwise, I probably would not have been able to join such a fantastic team!"



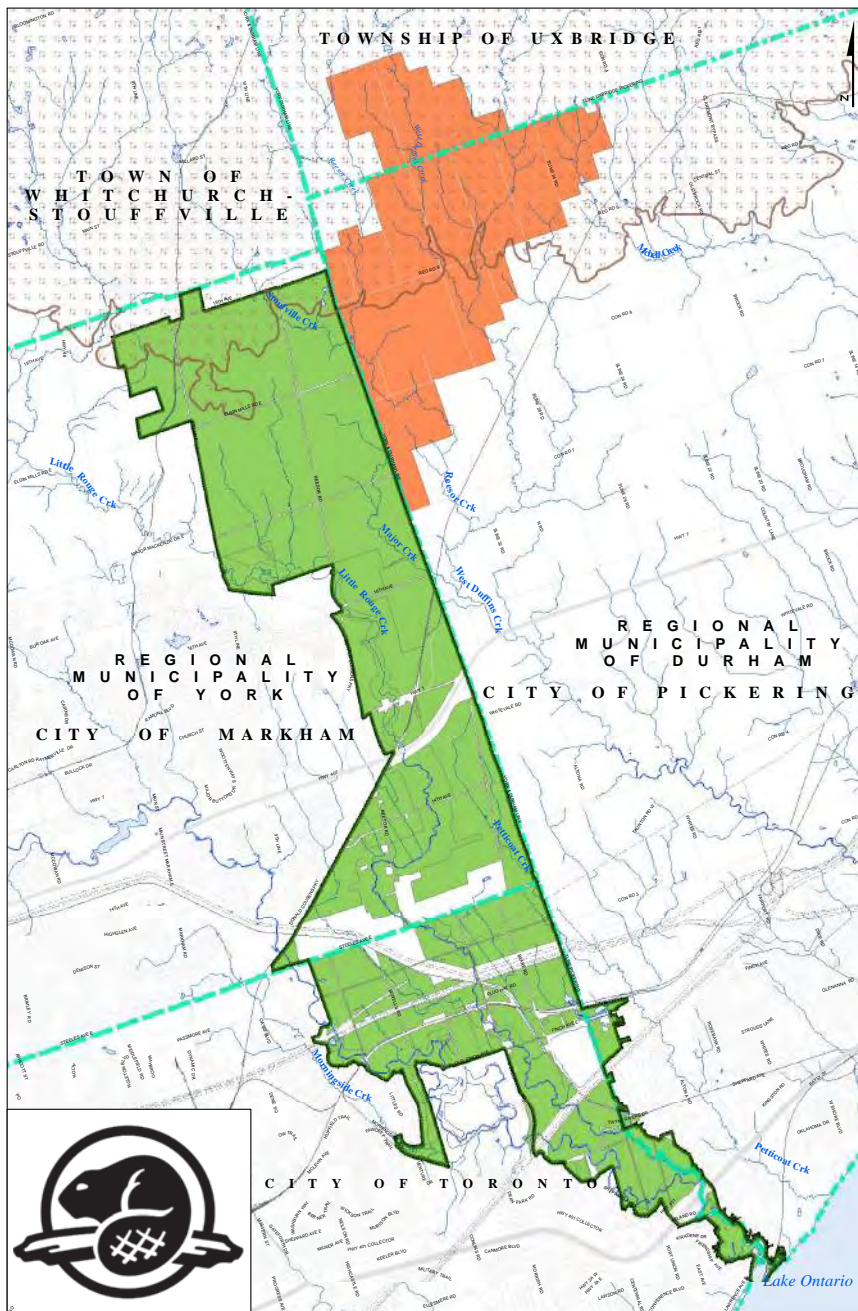
*Several of Parks Canada's 2015 summer students*





# STAY CONNECTED

## Another milestone for Canada's first national urban park!



On July 11, 2015, the Government of Canada announced it was committing 21 km<sup>2</sup> of new lands to Rouge National Urban Park, increasing Canada's first national urban park by more than 36 per cent.

The new lands, which include forests, meadows, streams, important archaeological sites and large tracts of farmland, are located in Pickering and Uxbridge. Once transferred, these lands will be under Parks Canada management.

Once fully established, Rouge National Urban Park will be the largest and best protected urban park of its kind in the world.

At 79.1 km<sup>2</sup>, it will be 19 times larger than Stanley Park in Vancouver, 23 times larger than Central Park in New York, and close to 50 times larger than Toronto's High Park!

**Parks Canada's  
Rouge National Urban Park office**

**P.O. Box 11024  
105 Guildwood Parkway  
Toronto, Ont. M1E 1N0  
Tel: 416-264-2020  
Fax: 416-264-2167**

*Map showing additional lands announced on July 11, 2015*

Follow us on Twitter:  
@RougePark @ParksCanada

Like us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/ParksCanada](http://www.facebook.com/ParksCanada)