



Hamilton-Halton  
Watershed Stewardship Program

## A Program of:



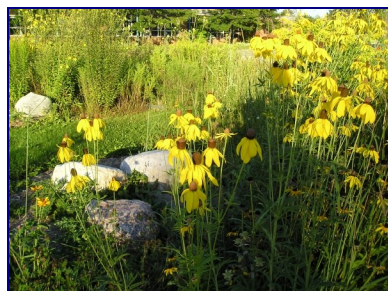
## Landowners Sharing their Stories

This story is one in a series of stories told by local landowners who have a passion for protecting the natural features on the land they steward and for protecting the water that flows through that land. Many of these landowners are recipients of the Watershed Stewardship Award. The award is a sign that landowners proudly display on their property acknowledging their commitment to be good stewards of land and water.

## Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program

# BROOKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL'S LIVING CLASSROOM by Susan Kennedy

Brookville's Living Classroom project took root in the spring of 2007 with the goal of revitalizing an area of mowed lawn located in front of the school. This ½ acre site truly represents a "community garden." Thanks to the tremendous effort of Brookville students, teachers, parents, community volunteers and local businesses this garden continues to grow. By working together the Brookville community made this area both a thriving ecosystem and an exciting place for learning. Many hands both large and small made this happen. It takes a community to build a garden and that is exactly what occurred at Brookville.



The purpose of the garden is to help educate students about "living things" in their natural setting. The garden adds a unique, "hands on" and practical dimension to learning about the environment. Only native species were planted to increase success as well as wildlife diversity.

The garden is divided into 5 sections which are the Butterfly Garden, Meadow, Tall Grass Prairie Garden, Shrub Thicket and Mixed Hardwood Forest. Since the onset of the project the garden continues to evolve. Flagstone pathways meander throughout the garden. This allows children and visitors an opportunity to explore the 5 sections of the garden intimately. A later addition to the garden was the birdhouse project. Here seventeen colourful

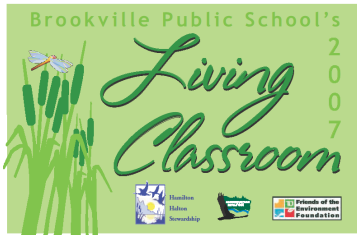


birdhouses were built, painted by the students and later mounted inside the garden. It didn't take very long for our feathered friends to settle and take residence in their new homes. Garden benches were built locally and placed in the mixed hardwood forest. In the fall of 2010, 5 interpretive signs were professionally designed and mounted in the garden just in time to commemorate Brookville's 50th anniversary. The interpretive signs provided an important educational piece highlighting the significance of each ecosystem. Another project included building a gazebo in the heart of the garden. A gazebo has many benefits. It provides shade, shelter as well as a dry work space for the students.



It is always exciting to see the buzz of activity in the Living Classroom at Brookville School. Not only is it an ideal location to study plants, natural habitats and lifecycles, but the tall grasses are ideal for hiding amongst and playing games like camouflage. The boulders are perfect perches for sitting or sketching and the garden pathways invite you to run, explore or simply observe nature at its best.

Brookville students, teachers and community volunteers were instrumental in helping to create this garden. Working side by side they planted trees, shrubs, native plants, watered, weeded, and assisted in spreading soil and mulch throughout the gardens. What a tremendous opportunity this has been to show our youth that they too can make a difference in our world and help to offset their own carbon foot print. The students just have to look outside their classroom window to witness the benefits and beauty of their efforts.



A special thank you goes out to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the Hamilton and Halton Conservation Authorities for their continued support with this project.



*Photos supplied by those involved in Brookville's Living Classroom.*

### Interested in learning more about natural features on your property?

#### Call to arrange a free on-site consultation!

Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program  
c/o Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton  
[www.hamiltonhaltonstewardship.ca](http://www.hamiltonhaltonstewardship.ca)  
Hamilton Conservation Authority: 905-525-2181, Extension 181  
Conservation Halton: 905-336-1158, Extension 2263

### The Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program acknowledges the generous financial support of:



TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation



GREAT LAKES  
SUSTAINABILITY FUND



FONDS POUR LA DURABILITÉ  
DES GRANDS LACS



Hamilton