

Students will map, test Chedoke Creek

BY ERIC MCGUINNESS

Westdale Secondary School students will map Chedoke Creek, test its water and study its plant and animal life this spring as part of a pilot Adopt-A-Creek program.

The project is planned by the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) with help from the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Sherry Houston, BARC communications co-ordinator, says it will be an extension of the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program, which enlists private property owners to safeguard rural waterways flowing into Hamilton Harbour.

Chedoke Creek falls over the escarpment near Chedoke Golf Course and enters Cootes Paradise at Princess Point.

“Adopt-A-Creek will partner the students with a group of homeowners who want help restoring the creek flowing behind their homes,” said Houston.

The conservation authority will offer the students workshops on water-quality testing and identification of native and non-native species, she said. Students will map the creek and develop a remedial plan and then take it to the community group.

“We hope it will lead to a commitment to such efforts as regular cleanups, creekside planting or workshops to teach homeowners the best backyard practices to control spread of invasive species down the banks.”

Houston said it will also complement the Yellow Fish Road program in which elementary students stencil fish symbols beside storm sewer grates and warn residents that oil, paint or other contaminants dumped in the sewer will pollute the harbour.

“We’re trying to reconnect people with Hamilton Harbour. The creeks lead there and all our programs lead there.”

The pilot is being developed with funding from the Trillium and Hamilton Community foundations.

For more information, look under programs at www.hamiltonharbour.ca or call 905-527-7111.

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