

Eramosa Karst Conservation Area Summer Update August 2011

Throughout this very hot summer, the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area has continued to attract visitors from all around.

Just recently, I had the opportunity to welcome friends, Craig and Lynda Gillies, from Windsor, Ontario. Being nature enthusiasts, they were thrilled to make use of our waterfront trails and were amazed to see the size of the Royal Botanical Gardens. They also took the time to photograph a few of our many waterfalls. As chair of FOTEK, I was happy & thankful to receive the following kind words from Mr. Gillies:

“My wife and I were visiting friends in Hamilton and we had the good fortune of sojourning through the Eramosa Karst. This pristine area has everything going for it, with springs, caverns, wildlife, natural forest and trails throughout. It’s a wonderful place to connect with nature. We also learned the Friends of the Eramosa Karst have worked diligently to preserve the feeder lands to the Karst. We should all feel so lucky to have such great friends as the Karst has!”

I trust that many have similar stories to share, as we received a request last week through our website from folks vacationing from British Columbia wanting information on the EKCA. I never, in my wildest dreams, expected such a wide and deep support for FOTEK and the EKCA; not to be out-done by the kind words from the Windsor and British Columbia visitors.

We are of the understanding that, very soon, the Province of Ontario will be announcing the final stages of the protection of the mentioned feeder lands. Details will be posted on our website. We also now have confirmation that young Stoney Creek artist, Josh Tiessen, will be donating another print this year for our fundraising event to be held on March 3, 2012.

Josh's original acrylic painting is based on photographs he took of the caves and a hawk in the karst area. The award winning piece is named “Guardian of the Karst” and is now on display on our website. To read the story behind it, visit Josh's website at www.joshtiessen.com

About a year ago, I personally met with former Hamilton Community News managing editor, Mark Cripps, requesting the opportunity for FOTEK to reach out to the community. Mark’s enthusiastic support for FOTEK has been overwhelming and far beyond what has been observed on the surface. Mark was the first reporter in the area to cover the EKCA story and since 1999, has written many articles and editorials in support of preserving the Karst lands. My impression of Mark is a man who always told it how he saw it, and I know he will be missed by his readers, now that he has left the paper. Some of our progress can be directly accredited to Mark’s contacts in government, and communication in the community. He has always been on our side, and for that I offer my personal thanks.

Brad Gautreau,
Chair FOTEK