

An Oasis of Peace and Beauty

# THE MILL POND

Dorchester, Ontario

**Legend**

**Access Points**

- A Hamilton Road
- B Mill Road North
- C Mill Road South
- D Christie Drive
- E Byron Avenue
- F Parkview Drive

**Other Symbols**

- P Parking
- # EcoTrail Region
- Staircase
- Picnic Table
- Lookout
- Playground
- Washroom

**Trail and Landmarks**

- Mill Pond EcoTrail
- ..... Lions Trail
- Boardwalk
- Mixed Forest
- Plantation
- Open Lawn
- Oak Savannah
- Thicket Swamp
- Marsh
- Water
- Road

0 25 50 75 100 metres

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The Mill Pond Trail is 3.3 km long nature trail. Please enjoy but tread carefully. Watch for wildlife, poison ivy, steep slopes, narrow sections and daily changes, especially in inclement weather.



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The Mill Pond Dam  
*Photo: The Mill in 1907*

# Nature at its Finest

– by Sheila Brown

Going to work every day at my business at the Mill Pond, I appreciate the balance it gives me to be able to literally step outside my backdoor and enjoy nature at its finest. I have witnessed some great wildlife moments such as a kingfisher scouting out its next meal, a fox crossing my path and a bald eagle resting in the treetops outside the store.

Studies show a “green” environment has a positive effect on the mind as well as the body. Whether or not people realize this mind and body connection to their health, it reinforces the need to keep our natural environment healthy.

2



Nature In The Village

Photo: Sunrise Grasses - Mark Helm

# This Little Part of Heaven

- by Elaine Gallagher

Enter into another world, a place of refuge, shelter from cold winter winds and blazing summer sun. Treat your senses to the sounds of birds singing and frogs croaking - some very loudly! This little part of heaven is a local treasure. My friend Jean and I used to meet at the mailbox at 6:45 am and away we'd go. By the time we got back we'd have solved all of our own problems and most of the world's problems as well. We always met friends and neighbours en route and got caught up on the local news. What a wonderful way to start the day or to recover from a hard day at work.

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In My Backyard

Photo: Bioengineering - Karen Pugh

# The Future lies in their Hands

- by Ruth John

In the spring of 1999, we worked with students from Northdale and Lord Dorchester schools on a bioengineering project on the steep slope below the lookout. The use of live plant material is ingenious as it grows in time and forms a stable, healthy slope that cannot wash away during heavy rains. We used willow, dogwood and other live plant material from native Carolinian species. It has taken many years to establish roots, but we're seeing results and engaging our youth to understand that the future health of this area lies in their hands!

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We're Growing History

Photo: Millpond Wildflower - Cathy Quinlan

# Doing the best for the Pond

- by *Doris Kanter*

Business partners Bill Cole and Jim Jonkman at Etymonic Design were very open to the idea of restoring habitat on their former property by the trail. They liked the idea of replacing the lawn, which was attracting geese, with a rare prairie habitat to attract songbirds and butterflies. We seeded it by hand on a hot day; everybody was there. The partners say that visitors to Etymonic Design from all over the world have admired the view of the pond across the wildflowers and grasses, a unique part of our local heritage. Their legacy is now an excellent example of good stewardship and trying to do the best for the pond.

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Under The Boardwalk

Photo: Heritage Photo

## When Soldiers came to Town...

- by Jim Rule

Today, few visitors realize the stories that lay underneath their feet. Archaeologists came to the Mill Pond to investigate a glass dump dating back to the early 20th century before the east walkway was constructed to allow safe passage. Later, a regiment of soldiers 'occupied' the Mill Pond site for 2 weeks to build the new bridge. Often, the tilt on the old bridge demanded finesse to cross without ending up the water, as was the fate of a number of daring souls.

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Turtle Crossing

*Photo: Snapper hatchling – Scott Gillingwater*

## Young Snapper

- Ruth John

This week has been exciting! On Tuesday morning as I headed out around the Mill Pond, I noticed an egg on the trail – I picked it up and realized that it was a turtle egg! I placed it and another I found on the sand, near the water's edge. Soon, the hatchlings started pushing legs through the opening in the shell and then a nose appeared. On many a June morning, my walk is interrupted by a large female Snapping Turtle crossing the trail to lay her eggs on the sandy farm field. They are huge and almost prehistoric to look at.

# Dorchester Mill Pond (A sketch), Excerpt

– by Ron Foster

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Forest Giants

Photo: forest giants - Mark Helm

Water  
In a torrent  
Rushing away  
From a retreating glacier  
A small valley is gouged out

Beavers build a dam  
Water  
Backs up  
A pond  
Formed

Large stands of white pine  
The pond in the small valley  
supplying power  
to operate saws

Farmers endure  
Forests cleared  
The mill changes  
Saws to millstones  
Lumber to flour

The pond in the small valley  
Endures  
An oasis amongst chaos  
The connection between  
Nature and wellbeing  
Sensed  
Yet not known

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Dreamland

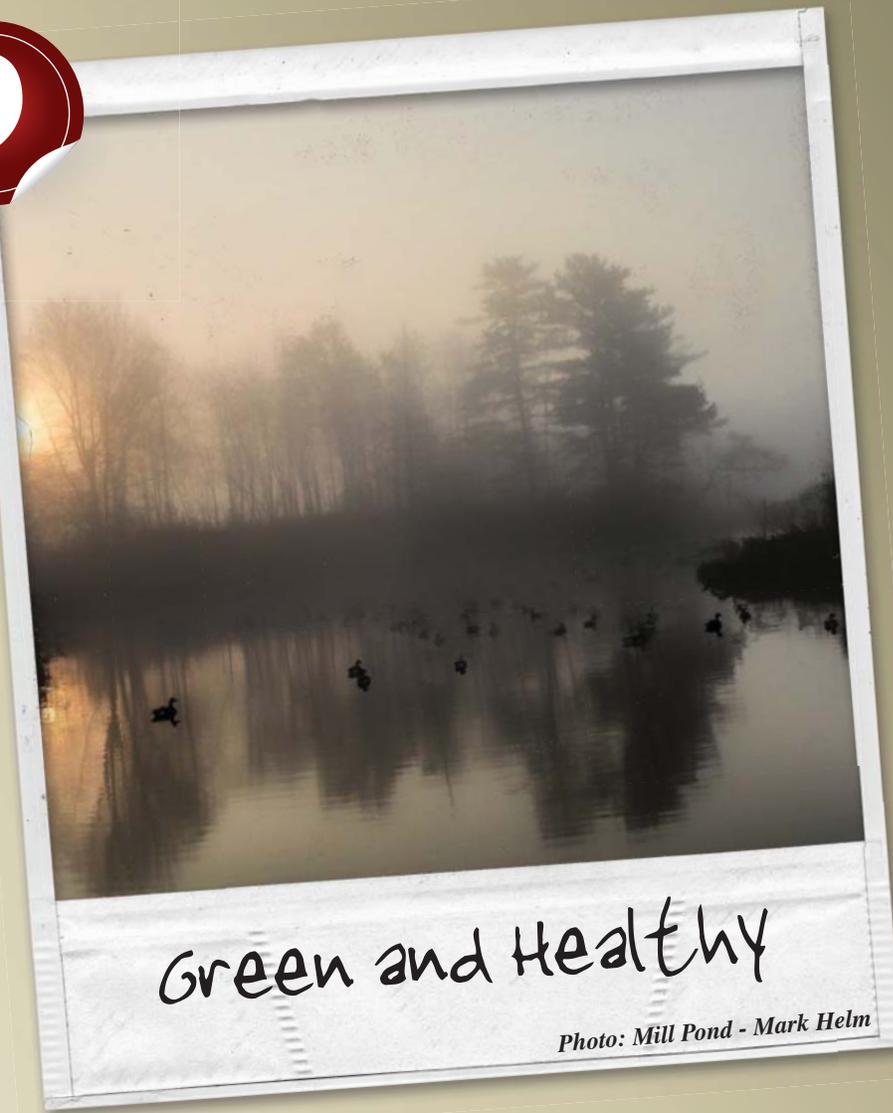
Photo: dreamland gardens - Ruth John

## The Best Hardwood Dance Floor – by Linda Maudsley

With brown paper bags in hand, looking forward to a night of dancing on the best hardwood dance floor in the area, great music, perhaps some crazy antics on a bicycle, people from Dorchester and surrounding area headed to the Saturday night gathering at the Dreamland dance hall. As the music drifted across the Dorchester Mill Pond on the summer evenings, memories were made of special time spent at this little gem of a dance hall.

Today the Mill Pond brings a sense of serenity and wonderment. Natural areas provide important wildlife habitat for plants and animals. We have the opportunity to participate in maintaining and protecting these natural areas.

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## The Golden Hour - *Mark Helm*

There is a special anticipation when you arrive before the sun is up. The mist on the pond is rising into the still morning air. Slowly, the sun begins to filter through the trees, changing moment to moment. The pond is veiled in that wonderful light of the golden hour much sought after by photographers. A flight of geese lifts off the pond, unseen in the mist but their voices fill the air.