

Time to check the watershed

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Trout Unlimited invite the public to get their feet wet and learn more about the Credit River watershed next Saturday (July 19).

Volunteers are needed to monitor local streams as part of Check Your Watershed Day. The event will run from 1 to 4 p.m.

Check Your Watershed Day is an annual event held in Ontario since 2006. It is an opportunity for students and people interested in the environment to gain hands-on experience and participate in important research. Volunteers will record water temperatures, take photos of culverts and measure stream flow. The information collected builds a better understanding of the watershed and helps CVC plan stewardship activities to manage it.

"Streams are the lifeblood of our countryside," said CVC's Director of Restoration and Stewardship Mike Puddister. "Monitoring their health is vital to the work we do to protect and enhance the environment. It's also an opportunity to view nature from a different perspective."

Pre-registration is required and volunteers should meet at Terra Cotta Conservation Area at 12:45 p.m. to receive training and pick up equipment. Participants will be organized into Stream Teams of two to four people to collect data. Volunteers must have good mobility. Participants will be asked to wear rubber boots or hip waders. Some access points to stream monitoring sites may be steep or unstable. Stream Teams will go to assigned sites in Orangeville, Caledon, Erin and Halton Hills. Certificates will be awarded to volunteers at the end of the event.

Participants must be 18 or older, unless accompanied by a parent. Each volunteer group will require a car to access their assigned sites, a digital camera and a cell phone. Register online at www.creditvalleyca.ca/event/check-your-watershed-day-2/ before July 15. Space is limited. For further information, contact CVC's Lindsey Jennings at ljennings@creditvalleyca.ca or 905-670-1615, ext. 445.