



Media Release  
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## Rotary Creek, Cornwall's Environmental Success Story

Tucked away in the heart of the city of Cornwall is an environmental oasis where native plants grow in abundance and a small creek runs with Chinook salmon and rare cutlip minnows. The Rotary Eco-Gardens and Creek development was launched in 1997 with joint funding from the City of Cornwall, Rotary Club, and Environment Canada. This area not only brings a natural element to Lamoureux Park, it has evolved into a unique ecosystem that has attracted a variety of fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibian species. On **Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** at Schnitzel's, the River Institute's Science and Nature on Tap series will highlight this extraordinary urban nature reserve.

This environmental success story did not develop on its own nor did it happen overnight. Rotary Creek and its surroundings have been years in the making and has involved the talents and hard work of dedicated individuals from the City of Cornwall, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as well as Raisin Region Conservation Authority. Over the course of the Rotary Creek project, wildlife biologist, Dr. Brian Hickey, has played a key role as an environmental architect. Currently a research scientist and lead educator with the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences, Dr. Brian originally began his journey on Rotary Creek two decades ago when he served with the team at Raisin Region Conservation Authority. At that time they were working with the community to address some of the environmental clean-up goals recommended in the Remedial Action Plan (RAP). This Plan was created over 30 years ago when the St. Lawrence River at Cornwall was identified as an international Area of Concern for industrial pollution. Some worries at the time included the declining health of fish and wildlife populations and their need for suitable habitat. These concerns as well as the problem of excess algae and bacteria were factored into the creation of a repair strategy that scientists hoped would improve the environmental network along the River at Cornwall. Rotary Creek is a prime example of their success.

Dr. Brian Hickey says, "With all of the doom and gloom these days with respect to the environment, Rotary Creek is a good news story. It demonstrates what can happen when we combine community effort, time, and some well-placed funding." He adds, "Today, we can see real positive change."

He will chronicle the Rotary Creek journey on **Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**. This Session is held at Schnitzels European Flavours and is free but space is limited. If you would like more information or to reserve a seat please call (613) 936-6620 or e-mail [kcooper@riverinstitute.ca](mailto:kcooper@riverinstitute.ca)

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### Media Contact:

**Karen Douglass Cooper**  
*Communications Officer*

St. Lawrence River Institute of  
Environmental Sciences

2 St. Lawrence Drive, Cornwall, ON K6H 4Z1

[kcooper@riverinstitute.ca](mailto:kcooper@riverinstitute.ca) [www.riverinstitute.ca](http://www.riverinstitute.ca)

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