

BLACKWELL ROAD LANDFILL CONVERSION

- **Waste Management (WM) has been an active member of the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) since 1988. The Blackwell Road Landfill, located in the City of Sarnia, is the 30th WM site to participate in WHC's Wildlife at Work Program.**
- **The Blackwell Road property was first used for industrial purposes in the 1950's when it was opened as a sand and gravel quarry. It was operated as a quarry until the 1980's when it began to be used as a landfill site. The Blackwell Landfill received its last truckload of waste in March, 2001.**
- **In developing a closure plan for the landfill site, there were two options: the development of a nine-hole golf course or passive parkland. In considering alternatives the following factors were examined.:**
 - **Implementation and maintenance costs**
 - **Impact on wildlife and the surrounding community**
 - **Ease of monitoring on site and ability to conduct repairs if necessary**
- **The decision to develop the site as parkland was preferable to all parties involved. WM and the Landfill Advisory Committee (LAC), a group consisting of community members, focused on the following three goals throughout the Blackwell project:**
 - **Return the former landfill site to a naturalized setting**
 - **Create seasonal habitat for migratory birds and animals.**
 - **Establish an environment for members of the community to enjoy nature viewing**
- **In 2002, the St. Clair Recognition Conservation Authority (SCRCA) joined the Blackwell Road project. They helped to plant trees and shrubs on site. Shrubs and trees native to southwestern Ontario were chosen as they would be best suited to the conditions on site, and offer the most suitable shelter and food for wildlife.**
- **A ground cover specialist was also consulted by WM and the SCRCA in order to determine which grasses would be best suited to the Blackwell site. In choosing ground cover, considerations were taken to ensure nesting and cover for small animals and birds.**
- **Water needs for animals are satisfied through Logan Pond, at the north of the site, and the wetland area, at the south end of the site.**
- **The naturalization of the Blackwell site and construction of hiking trails were completed by the summer of 2003. WM is currently waiting for final approval from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to open the site as a public park. Upon receiving approval, WM will link the site's hiking trails to the Howard Watson Trail, linking Blackwell to the City of Sarnia's trail system.**