

### Creating and Restoring Habitat

Habitat restoration and creation is a major priority in the St. Clair River Area of Concern. In particular, the creation of wetlands and riparian buffers along the St. Clair River tributaries has been the focus of many recent projects.

*Guthrie Park shoreline softening before (left) and after (right). Habitat pods were designed to promote more use of the water by wildlife (e.g., minks, etc.).*



### Shoreline Softening

Shoreline softening in the St. Clair River has occurred at a number of locations. Failing sheet pile walls are replaced with armour stone. Armour stone provides a number of economic and environmental benefits such as:

- Absorbing waves and wakes, reducing shoreline erosion;
- Lasts longer than sheet pile and,
- Improves aquatic habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates.

### Highway 40 Prairie Passage

The Rural Lambton Stewardship Network has led this venture which provides wildlife connectivity between the Walpole Island First Nation wetlands, Bickford Oak Woods and the Aamjiwnaang First Nation forest.



*Approximately 69 hectares of tall grass prairie vegetation has been established along the Highway 40 corridor. Native vegetation continues to be planted in this region of the St. Clair River Area of Concern today.*

### Wetland Creation and Restoration

Efforts continue to create or restore wetlands lost between the late 1800s and late 1900s. Recent projects include the Peers Wetland acquisition and restoration, the creation of the Gerald Lozon, Bowen's Creek and Branton Cundick Park wetlands, along with numerous others undertaken by private landowners. Identifying opportunities for wetland creation and restoration remains a high priority in the St. Clair River Area of Concern.



*The Peers Wetland, located northeast of Wallaceburg and covering 11 hectares, represents the only sizeable wetland that remains in this part of the Area of Concern.*

*Peers Wetland was officially opened on June 27, 2013. The acquisition and restoration of this wetland was made possible through the support and contributions of over 16 organizations and individuals.*

