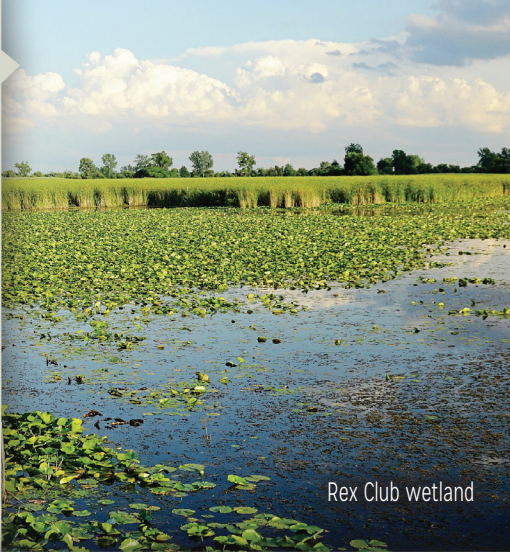


Project Highlight: Rex Club

The Rex Club 14 property is a 19.42 ha (48 acre) coastal wetland just north of Mitchell's Bay. During the 1980's, Ducks Unlimited created fish spawning access by excavating shallow open areas throughout the wetland. When water levels decreased in the mid 90's, non-native Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and sediment, filled these fish channels impacting fish and wildlife habitat quality. This project focused on controlling Common Reed and excavating the original fish channels created by DU, resulting in 2.24ha of newly created fish access channels with a surrounding 4ha (10 acres) of upland habitat. Also included within the coastal wetland enhancement area were: turtle overwintering basking and nesting areas, snake hibernacula's and a 1.1km nature trail that stretches from Mitchell's Bay and ending at the Rex Club 14 property.



Project Highlight: Connor Wetland

The Connor wetland is situated adjacent to Lake St. Clair and has been an active waterfowl wetland since the early 1900's. A large portion of the wetland was overgrown with non-native *Phragmites* degrading the habitat quality and accessibility by wildlife. In 2016 and 2017, 23ha of *Phragmites* was addressed through multiple management techniques. Additionally, 1.75ha of wetland was excavated, created a series of new ponds, complete with littoral zones, habitat structures, snake hibernaculum, and waterfowl nesting boxes; and the establishment of 6 ha (15 ac) of upland habitat. Currently, a healthy population of Eastern Foxsnakes are present on the property.



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Be a Stewardship Hero** – restore or enhance wetlands to support a sustainable ecosystem
- » If you have property that can be restored into wetlands or is in need of invasive species management, contact Ontario NativeScape.
- Be a Wetland Protector** – protect the existing habitat and its wildlife species.
- » No Littering – keep the areas clean and safe from garbage
 - » Stay on Trails – when natural areas, keep on everyone, including pets on the trail to protect rare plants and wildlife habitat
 - » Keep a Look Out – watch out for wildlife like snakes and turtles especially in May and June while crossing roads
 - » Reduce Plastic Use – single use plastics cannot be recycled and end up in landfills or worse in waterways having devastating impacts on water quality

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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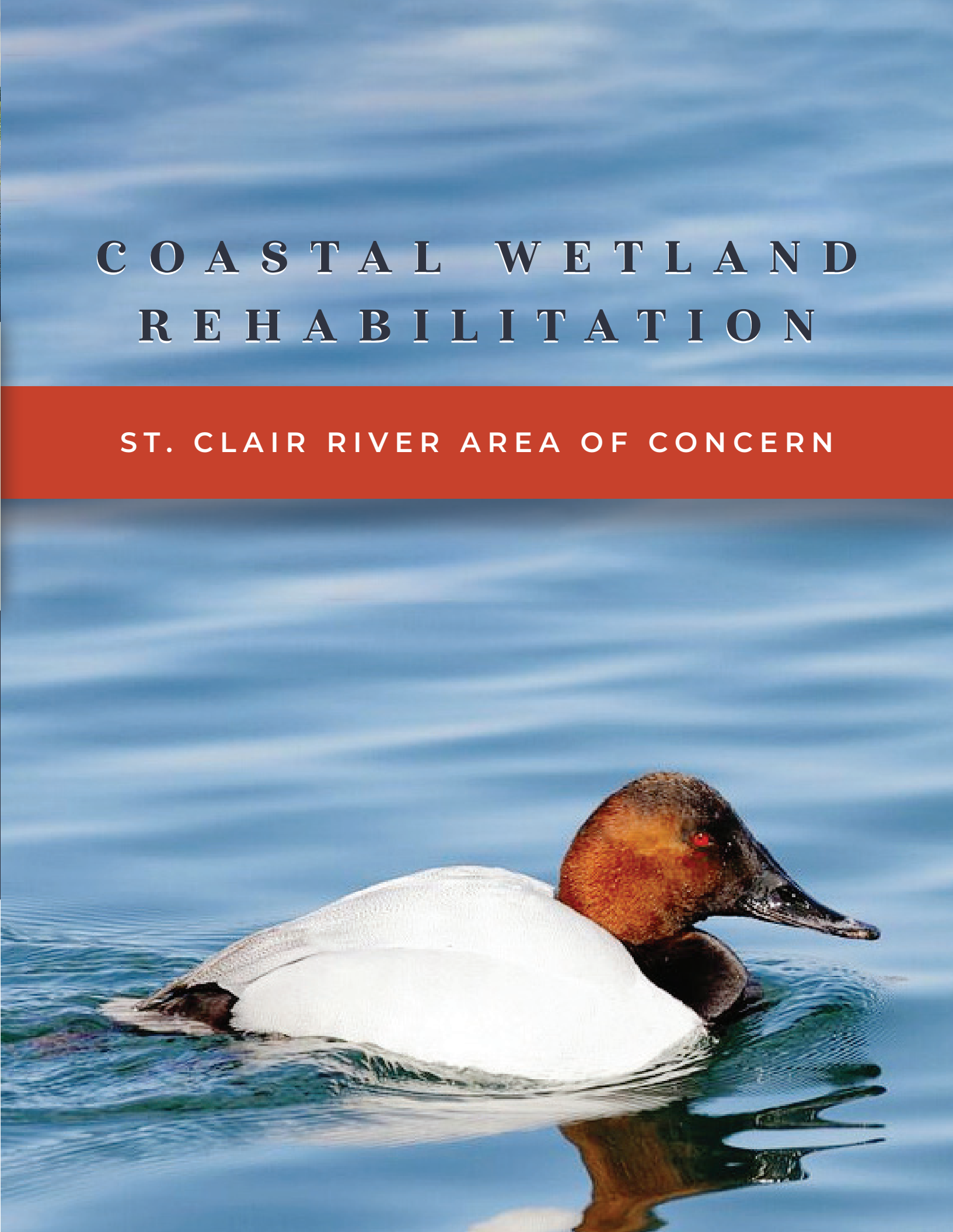
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Ontario NativeScape is a division of the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network and a not-for-profit organization that specializes in managing and completing habitat restoration projects that achieve and maintain a healthy and sustainable environment. Focused on restoring and safeguarding Ontario`s native ecosystems and biodiversity, we have 20 years of experience planning, implementing and managing habitat and water quality restoration projects. As leaders in tallgrass prairie restoration to date we have managed and restored over 1600 hectares of tallgrass prairie habitat in Ontario. In 2015, Ontario NativeScape partnered in the ALUS Lambton program, part of ALUS Canada.

For more information about ALUS Lambton or other programs, please contact or check out our website at: <http://www.ontarionativescape.ca/>

**C O A S T A L W E T L A N D
R E H A B I L I T A T I O N**

ST. CLAIR RIVER AREA OF CONCERN





Wetlands once covered more than 25 percent of the region; today they occupy less than 5 percent.

The Lake St. Clair Coastal Wetlands are one of the few remaining extensive wetland systems in south-western Ontario. They support a high diversity of species, and encompass significant coastal wetland systems, like Walpole Island First Nation (17,000 ha) and St. Clair National Wildlife Area (289 ha). Walpole Island First Nation is one of the largest continuous portions of coastal marsh left in the Great Lakes Basin.

Wetlands

Canvasback
Aythya valisineria

Globally Recognized Important Bird and



Coastal wetlands and their associated habitats of wet meadows and tallgrass prairie carry out a number of very important ecological functions such as:

-
- Swamp Rose Mallow
Hibiscus palustris
- King Rail
Rallus elegans



The coastal marshes of Lake St. Clair complex are part of the wider Environment Canada's designated St. Clair River Area of Concern. The Great Lakes Basin in 1987, 17 Areas of Concern were designated due to their impairments to environmental quality.

To date, 300.2 hectares of wetlands have been maintained/enhanced or created within the Chenal Ecarte, Walpole Island First Nation delta or along the eastern shore of Lake St. Clair since 2000.



Invasive species when introduced, take over a particular habitat, out-compete and displace native species disrupting the delicate balance of the ecosystem. With no natural predators, they can continue to do their damage freely, having devastating impacts on native habitats and ecosystems.

Restoration in Action – Ontario NativeScape and partners, have been restoring the biodiversity and functionality of degraded wetland areas along the Lake St. Clair coast and major tributaries of the eastern branch of the St. Clair River Delta to achieve a net gain of 582.7 hectares of wetland habitat area.