



## **Your chance to help shape Canada's first National Urban Park has just been extended!**

The Rouge National Urban Park concept and online public engagement platform have been available on the Parks Canada website since late June. We are so pleased with the incredible amount of input we've received from the public that we have extended this important public involvement period. Your opportunity to provide input to our online survey ([www.parkscanada.gc.ca/Rouge](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/Rouge)) has been extended to Monday, October 8, 2012! This is your chance to help shape the future of Rouge National Urban Park. We look forward to hearing from you!

### **A Busy Summer for Public Engagement**

On June 25, 2012 the public engagement process kicked off with a busy summer schedule of events and information sessions. Parks Canada staff were on hand to discuss the Rouge National Urban Park concept and to encourage people to provide their comments through the online survey ([www.parkscanada.gc.ca/Rouge](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/Rouge)). Over 20 events were held both in and around the park, including: the Cedarena fundraiser, Junior Jays game, Farmers Market at the Brickworks, The Guild Alive with Arts and Culture Festival, Senior's Breakfast, Tour de Rouge Cycling Event, Port Union Waterfront Festival... and the list goes on.

Three public information sessions were hosted at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, the Markham Museum and the City of Pickering Council Chambers. The three sessions were well attended with an average attendance of 100 interested citizens. Superintendent Pam Veinotte was very pleased with the turnout and expressed the value of these sessions stating: "The chance to interact with interested citizens is very important and allowed Parks Canada staff to listen and understand a variety of perspectives related to the establishment and management of Rouge National Urban Park."

The City of Toronto is hosting a public meeting where you can learn more about the Beare Road Landfill and provide input on the future of this site. This is an exciting opportunity and Parks Canada will be there to share information about the proposed neighbouring Rouge National Urban Park. The meeting will be held Thursday, October 11, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m at the Blessed Mother Theresa Catholic Secondary School, 40 Sewells Road.



Parks Canada staff members interact with the public at several events in the Greater Toronto Area. Photo credits: Parks Canada.





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## First Nations

Parks Canada continues to engage with First Nations to ensure their communities are informed and their views and concerns are reflected in the establishment and management of Rouge National Urban Park. As part of ongoing engagement, an information session was held in July to discuss the Rouge National Urban Park concept, the land transfer process for park creation and the establishment of a First Nations Advisory Circle. The input of First Nations will be key to successfully presenting the rich Aboriginal history of the Rouge Valley, exploring how the past is linked to current First Nations issues and celebrating the culture of First Nations in ways that engage and educate visitors to the park.

## Welcome Rouge National Urban Park Superintendent

The appointment of Rouge National Urban Park's first superintendent was made earlier this summer. Formerly Superintendent of Canada's first national park in Banff, Pam Veinotte assumed her new duties on July 16, 2012. Pam brings a wealth of experience to this ground-breaking position. Throughout her lengthy career with Parks Canada, she has shown a spirit of collaboration and inclusion, building numerous partnerships between the public, private and non-profit sectors. Welcome Pam!



## Best Wishes

The Rouge National Urban Park Team would like to pass along our deepest thanks and our most heartfelt congratulations to Catherine Grenier. As many of our newsletter subscribers know, as Director of the Rouge National Urban Park Initiative, Catherine worked tirelessly in moving this exciting project forward, while forging strong relationships and wonderful new partnering opportunities with countless stakeholders, local organizations and community members. Catherine is now taking some well-deserved time off with her family and her brand new baby boy Justin, born in early August. Congratulations Catherine on the new addition to your family and to your incredible work this past year! We all miss you tremendously!

### Did you know....?

Rouge Park is home to the Carolinian forest; a rare ecosystem that represents less than one-quarter of one percent of the total land mass of the country.

### For more information:

To find out more or to be added to our mailing list for future newsletter updates, please contact us at [rouge@pc.gc.ca](mailto:rouge@pc.gc.ca)

[www.parkscanada.gc.ca/rouge](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/rouge)

