

# WESTSIDE CREEK & MARSH RECONFIGURATION

**Shawn Taylor** and **Wilson Little** (St. Marys Cement) collaborated on a four-page article that appeared in the summer edition of Canadian Reclamation magazine. With members throughout North America and abroad, the magazine enjoys extensive distribution. (Contact Shawn at [staylor@dillon.ca](mailto:staylor@dillon.ca) if you would like a copy of the article.)

The project began in 1994 and was completed in 2006. St. Marys engaged Dillon to overcome two challenges. First was the requirement to expand their quarry, located in Bowmanville, Ontario in a sustainable manner, which involved maintenance and improvement of the wetland complex. Second was the need to turn significant public opposition into a powerful pro-development, collaborative working relationship.

We exceeded our client's expectations. Some of the more humorous (in retrospect) bumps we encountered along the way included the installation of raptor poles that weren't attracting osprey, as was intended. Necessity being the mother of invention, one of the bright sparks on our team suggested

some sticks and brush be placed on the platforms and lo and behold, the osprey came and nested (and have been returning every year since). The creek overflowed the banks and created a muddy plume in Lake Ontario. Within 15 minutes the plume had attracted pike that could be seen swimming into the safety of the newly created creek to spawn. Now this was an extraordinary coincidence because the creek was going to be stocked with pike and bass (predators of carp) to reduce the population of carp, a nuisance fish. And we weren't spared the challenges of winter construction, which provided **Wayne Irwin** with the opportunity of several sleepless nights.

Deeded to the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, the Minister of Natural Resources opened Bowmanville Marshes on June 26, 2006, in which the reconfigured Westside Marsh takes centre stage. Work on monitoring the recolonization of the wetland complex by birds, fish, amphibians and other species will be ongoing for another 10 years, now that the construction is complete and the water flows through the wetland.

