

## LIVING OFF THE GRID

Canadian actress **Tricia Helfer** returns to her roots with a green building project

### The dirty truth about the tar sands

A look at how the world's biggest energy project is damaging Alberta

### 5 LOCAL ECO HEROES

### Canadian organic wines

**+** Four fuel-efficient cars  
Computer recycling  
The best green cookware  
and kids' fashions



## Regenerating a creek

Andrew McCammon is seriously bothered by the fact that Toronto's Don River is one of the most polluted waterways in Canada. He finds it even more irritating that Taylor Massey Creek, the smallest of the Don's three tributaries and the one that happens to run through his neighbourhood, has the highest pollution readings. "At times the creek carries as much as 80 percent of the pollution that ends up in the Don," he says.

McCammon attributes the creek's problems to the urban-planning approach taken in the 1950s: developments allowed up to the creek's bank, no storm-water ponds and combined sewers that mean sewage can flow into the creek during heavy rainfalls. McCammon also points out that the creek passes through some industrialized zones, so there are also heavy metals and other pollutants — which all adds up to a lot of trouble both for the creek and the Don River.

McCammon, a freelance environmental project manager, began the Taylor Massey Project (TMP) in 2003 and was its founding chair. He is, however, quick to share credit for its inception and success. The TMP not only has a large number of volunteers and benefactors, it also has partners ranging from the City of Toronto, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Toronto Hydro to private companies, community groups and schools. The project has run 65 creek-improvement events, during which over 1,300 bags of garbage were collected and 3,500 trees were planted around the creek. TMP has also presented 19 submissions, to local agencies and all levels of government, lobbying for protection and recommending improvements to the creek and surrounding lands. Among other goals, TMP aims to establish the Taylor Massey Trail, a proposed a \$1-million trail along the entire length of the creek. McCammon sees the current Toronto Regional Conservation Authority process to create a new Don River Watershed plan as a tremendous opportunity, one TMP will take advantage of by submitting a creek-regeneration plan.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT, DAVID MCCAMMON, RAMI ROTHKOP, HEATHER HAMILTON

### ANDREW McCAMMON TORONTO, ONTARIO

He spearheaded a campaign to clean up Taylor Massey Creek, part of the Don River.

