

## Engaging family and youth to preserve and enjoy nature

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### *A story of Patrick Kelly*



Pat Kelly is choosing to use his retirement years in a way in which he can help nature, educate youth about it, and be as active as possible. Pat is a fly fishing enthusiast and loves sharing his passion with youth, hoping that other people will experience the same feelings of joy that he experiences while he practices this sport and spends time outside.



Pat finds meaning in the activities he does, he prepares bird house building kits, so that families and children can build them. For the Halton Forest Festival, Pat prepared 230 kits, and the same number of bird houses were built by children and their families. “The kids have a great time, building things with their own hands and being out in nature”, Pat says. He also really enjoys



experiences fishing. “It is so rewarding to see kids catching their first fish, they get so excited”.

For Pat, the activities he practices in nature are a way to stay close to his community, protect the areas he love so much, and stay active and energized. “I don’t like watching TV, so doing all this makes much more sense to me”, concludes Pat.

working with high school students, he explained: “High School students in Ontario have to do 40 hours of volunteer work, so many students help with the Stewardship Council of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority in planting trees or building bird houses. I find working with youth so energizing!” Even more, Pat takes these kids fishing, so he has to prepare, and many times untangle 40 fishing rods, so that many kids can have their first

