



### Thank you!

By installing this habitat structure, you are providing an essential nesting area for wildlife in need. Landowners, like you, play a vital role in providing habitat for wildlife in the Credit River watershed.

### Habitat

Common mergansers nest in forested areas near large ponds, rivers, or lakes. They prefer shallow bodies of water, less than four metres deep, where they capture fish and invertebrate prey by diving completely under the water.

### When to Expect Them

Late April to early July

### Call

Make very little noise, females make a low, harsh "*gruk gruk gruk*" sound when threatened.

### Habitat Structure Placement

<b>Location</b>	Forested area near river, pond, or lake
<b>Height off Ground (m)</b>	2.5 – 5
<b>Entrance Hole Facing</b>	Towards water
<b>Spacing</b>	180 m apart
<b>Attach to</b>	Live tree, dead tree, post
<b>Installation Time</b>	September to April



### Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material before the breeding season begins in April. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom and rotate the moveable panel upward. Add 5 to 10 cm of coarse wood shavings to the bottom of the box.

### Interesting Fact

Common merganser nestlings leave the nest a day or so after hatching. Although they are unable to fly, they jump from the nest to the forest floor and follow their mother into the nearby water body where they begin foraging for invertebrates.

### What Else Can You Do to Help?

There are actions you can take to provide natural nesting sites for mergansers on your property to reduce the need for nest boxes. Leave dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people to provide shelter and breeding space.

*Photo Credit: Jon Clayton*