

# Carlington Hampton News

March 2022



*Photos L-R: Helen, Ally and Balsha check out the Carlington Woods (photo by Helen Li). Ice on hemlock branch in Hampton. Hairy woodpecker on stump near Buell entrance in Hampton (photos by Sharon Boddy)*

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# Winter Highlights

About a dozen of us braved the cold for a **January Evergreen Walk** in Hampton with local resident, Vanda Ferrao. Vanda showed us the different species in Hampton, their unique characteristics, how to identify them, and the challenges they're facing.



In **February**, we snuggled inside for two **storytelling** sessions, one with Cree storyteller, Matricia Bauer, the other with Marie-Eveline Belinga in celebration of Black History Month. Both were sponsored by our partner, Tree Fest Ottawa and can be found on our Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7xTddRYb0ovBAjXDMDfWxg/videos>.

In late **February** and early **March** it was finally warm enough to scrape more invasive **sponge moth** (formerly gypsy) egg sacks from the trees. Fingers crossed that we have made a big dent in their population for this year!



On **March 18** we hosted some of Ottawa's youth for our first **Sensory Scavenger Hunt** in the Carlington Woods. We used our eyes, noses, ears, and hands to discover and learn about this unique urban forest.

## Champions of Hampton: Simon Coll

Simon works for the government as a technical writer and describes himself as “extremely online.” He enjoys a wide range of music, literature, and of course walking in the Woods! Simon grew up near Hampton Park and still visits as often as he can.

“It feels like part of my home,” he said, adding that he chose to volunteer with Friends of Hampton Park because of his deep concerns about climate change. “I have a hard time being physically present for symbolic actions so it feels great to have a way to contribute that's comfortable for me!”

In the spring of 2021, Simon helped remove dog strangling vine from the meadow and replant native species in its place. In the fall, he was one of about 20 volunteers who cut down the last of the knotweed colonies, and was part of the team that created the first pilot trail system in the Woods.

***“I wish other people knew how much support parks like Hampton provide for local wildlife, community, and infrastructure: it gives us a lot, and doesn't ask for much in return.”***



# Calendar of Events

Holy nocturnal flying mammal, Ottawa, April is Bat Month!

**Friday April 1** Bat Webinar with Nicole Nolan, terrestrial ecologist

**Friday April 8** Bat Walk, Carlington Park

**Friday April 15** Bat Walk, Hampton Park

**Friday April 22** Bat Walk, Carlington Park

**Friday April 29** Bat Walk, Hampton Park



Will you see bats? Will you hear them? Tune in to <https://treefestottawa.org/events2022> for all the batty business.

## Celebrate Earth Day with us

**Friday April 22** Earth Day After School and After Work! Hampton Park, anytime between 3:30 and 5:00 pm. Spend the pre-dinner hour getting Hampton spruced up and ready for spring. Wear gloves. We'll supply the bags.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday April 23** in Hampton Park and **Sunday April 24** in Carlington Park for more Earth Day fun, anytime between 10 and 3. There'll be arts & crafts, science & nature activities, guided walks, and more.

**Get your shovels ready!** Native species are on order and will be arriving mid to late May. We'll keep you posted on planting dates!

# Caterpillar Duty Calls!

Sponge moth caterpillar control will start around mid to late May / early June, depending on the weather.

## *What's Involved*



Volunteers must commit to clean off at least 2 trees EVERY AFTERNOON anytime between 3 and 6 pm for up to 5 weeks. It doesn't take long but it must be done every day and at the time when the caterpillars descend the tops of trees. Each tree takes as little as 5 minutes, as much as 15-20.

- Training and burlap provided. The City is supplying 1 large roll; if you have your own burlap that can also be used.
- Volunteers must provide their own gloves & a collection container, large enough to hold several dozen caterpillars. Recommended to bring a small whisk-type broom, which quickly gets caterpillars off in large numbers. A larger container will be provided on site where all the caterpillars taken off daily will be collected for disposal.
- 2 Volunteers needed to bring in a few 4L jugs of water. Without an easily accessible water source to drown the caterpillars, water must be brought in.
- 2 Volunteers to assist with disposal each day.

Email:

[CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com](mailto:CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com)

to sign up. Notifications on when work will start will be sent once the caterpillars appear.

# Local Contacts & Resources

Friends of Hampton Park

[www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Hampton-Park-105498545119641/](http://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Hampton-Park-105498545119641/)

Are you or someone you know a Champion of Carlington? Get in touch with the Friends of Carlington Woods and nominate a Carlington volunteer!

[www.facebook.com/groups/1105428122826947/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1105428122826947/)

Twitter: @CarlingtonHill

**Email for both groups:**

[CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com](mailto:CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com)

Hampton-Iona Community Group

<https://hamptoniona.wordpress.com/>

Carlington Community Association

[www.carlingtoncommunity.org/](http://www.carlingtoncommunity.org/)

Spring ephemerals will be here soon! Do you know which species grow in Hampton and Carlington?

[www.biodiversityeducation.ca/blog/what-on-earth-are-spring-ephemerals](http://www.biodiversityeducation.ca/blog/what-on-earth-are-spring-ephemerals)

If those showy flowers aren't your cup of tea, why not get to know some of our local ferns.

[www.ontarioferns.com/main/index.php](http://www.ontarioferns.com/main/index.php)

For everything else, there's Canadensys, an open database of plants, animals, fungi & other species in Canada. Administered by researchers, collectors, curators, students, and educators.

<https://data.canadensys.net/vascan/search>