



Carlington Hampton News

June 2022

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Grade 12 Nepean High School students have gone over and above this year, helping to seed more than 100 native plants, start an evergreen inventory, and remove invasive species.

In partnership with Tree Fest Ottawa, we held events and activities in Hampton and Carlington on April 22, 23 and 24.

Highlights included a free painting lesson with artist Suzanne Lamirande, arts & crafts with the kids, baking up some cookies in the sun, & checking out what's under the microscope!



Stewardship Activities: *Volunteers help to keep our parks and Woods litter free, remove invasive species, and plant native ones. We follow science-based best practices.*



Top row: *Blue flag iris blooming in Hampton. Hostas planted on the edge of the Carlington Woods. Homemade 'No Dumping' signs help discourage trash in Carlington. Planting anemones and ferns in Hampton.*



Bottom row: *Little bluestem grass and thrift planted at the Clyde Bee & Butterfly Patch. Bloodroot planted in 2021 blooms in Hampton in 2022. A partnership with the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society helped control knotweed in Hampton.*

The Kids are All Right

Hampton Park received a huge gift this year: students!

Grade 12s from **Nepean High School** got their hands dirty removing invasive spongy moth egg sacks, counting and measuring most of the evergreen species, helping create a trail marker system, and seeding more than 100 native plants! A huge thank you to Timmy Lewis for heading the seeding team, and to their teacher, Tara Topping.

The digital media students of **Canterbury High School** are responsible for some of the wonderful plant drawings you're seeing on some of our new homemade signs. Thanks to teacher Diane Gillis for help with this project! Scan the QR codes on the signs to learn more about a species.

Grade 6 French immersion students from **Hilson Avenue Public School** spent a rainy day planting more ferns and some bellworts in a nice shady spot. The class spent many a happy Friday in the park, exploring the forest and learning some of its secrets.

There's nothing quite like the energy and enthusiasm of children and teenagers to remind us of how important it is that we keep the Hampton and Carlington Woods healthy!





Now blooming at the Clyde Bee & Butterfly Patch, ***Ontario Native Species***, starring, Yarrow, Hairy Beardtongue, Primrose, Shrubby Cinquefoil, and introducing Little Bluestem Grass.

Kudos to the volunteer team for all their hard work and continued dedication. It paid off. Literally! In June, the Patch won a radio station contest for a \$1,000 Ritchie's gift card, which has been put to very good use!

Come for a visit! A great spot to capture close-up photos of several native plant species or to get more familiar with local insects, like me!*



****Near the corner of Clyde & Castlehill***

Volunteer Opportunities

Nothing is scheduled for July and August...yet! We'd like to start weekly walk & talks in Carlington and Hampton, if it's something that people express interest in.

We are also happy to customize walks to fit most any group, so get in touch if you'd like a more personalized tour of Hampton or Carlington, or both.

The good news is that, in Hampton Park, we now have a key to the washroom so our walks needn't be cut short if we're caught short!

Volunteers are always needed to help control invasive species, particularly knotweed in Hampton, and dog strangling vine in Carlington. Neither of these is an easy plant to deal with, so if you like your volunteering served up with one heck of a work out, drop us a line!

We'd also like to start a local seed library so that we have a sustainable source of seed for the future. Volunteers are needed to organize and manage that project. *See the last page for some seed-saving resources.*

CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com

Caterpillar Control

Thanks to a cold winter, a helpful parasite, and the amazing work of volunteers over the course of many months, the numbers of spongy moth caterpillars are far below what they were last year. Not a single tree has been defoliated! We opted not to wrap as many trees with burlap this year and instead did regular spot checks in May and June.

If you're still seeing them, collect them in a container and leave them in soapy water for 24 hours, then dispose of them in the trash. If you find only one or two, a shoe works!



*Left: Forest tent caterpillars
(native, but still destructive)*

*Right: European spongy moth
caterpillar (invasive and
spreading into new territory)*



How much are volunteers worth?

In city, provincial and federal programs, volunteer labour is valued at \$20/hour. Based on the work done for **caterpillar control only**, Friends of Hampton Park volunteers provided \$8,400 worth of free labour in 2021.

Number of Control Days: 30

Number of Hours per day per person: minimum 2

Number of Regular Volunteers: 7 core crew. We had more people on certain days.

Local Contacts & Resources

Friends of Hampton Park

www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Hampton-Park-105498545119641/

Friends of Carlington Woods

www.facebook.com/groups/1105428122826947/

Twitter: @CarlingtonHill

Learn more about Carlington & Hampton. Read the 2020 Impact Study:

<https://carlingtonpark.home.blog/2021/02/03/ecological-study-carlington-woods-and-hampton-park-woods/>

Email for both groups:

CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com

Hampton-Iona Community Group

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

Carlington Community Association

www.carlingtoncommunity.org/

Be a seed saver! Learn how to save seed from native plants with some of these resources:

The North American Native Plant Society

<https://nanps.org/seed-collecting/>

Ontario Nature

<https://ontarionature.org/how-to-grow-native-plants-to-help-protect-pollinators/>

Canadian Wildlife Federation

<https://blog.cwfcf.org/index.php/en/10-tips-for-collecting-native-seeds/>