

Carlington Hampton News

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September 2023

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Pictured: Various pollinators enjoying the Hampton meadow! Read more about recent successes in the meadow on page 5. Left: bumble bee in a white turtlehead, middle: bee on a blazing star, left: monarch butterfly.





Well-attended tour of the Bee Spot and Meadow at Hampton, July 15th.

The last of the knotweed in Hampton was ripped up and tarped with the help of NCC staff in July and August.



A bat walk took place in Hampton on September 18th. Despite being cut short by a thunderstorm, several bats (likely big brown bats) were observed flying over the meadow.

Summer Highlights

A productive and fun summer in both Carlington and Hampton



Using the "extratigator" – a tool designed to rip out plant roots which is particularly handy when removing buckthorn. Expanding the buckthorn removal area in Carlington, September 12th to 14th.



Weeding in buckthorn removal area #1 in Carlington, July 22nd.



Several shrubs ready to be planted in the Hampton Meadow, September 2nd.

Three cheers for our Carlington volunteers!

A big thank you to all the hard working volunteers who've kept the Clyde Bee and Butterfly Patch and Staircase Gardens looking their best!

This is even more remarkable considering how tough a year it was. There were many days when we couldn't work at all due to extreme heat, smoke from wildfires, or torrential rains.

The Friends of Carlington Woods also teamed up with the Wild Pollinators Partnership in late July to co-host tours of both gardens. Visitors learned how the gardens were planned, the challenges, species planted, what results we've seen, and also got to sample tisanes made from some of the native plants.



Goodbye buckthorn, hello evergreens!

The buckthorn buckaroos were back this year to take out more pesky, non-native shrubs. Friends of Carlington Woods expanded the area they worked on last year, doubling the space. This time, 15, mostly evergreen, trees were planted, and all are species that already called the Woods home.

Watch as we plant our first pine!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjMy1D1-OKM>

By the numbers

4 days (58 hours total)
10+ bags of cuttings
3-4 large branch piles
2 root extractors
6 people
2 pizzas

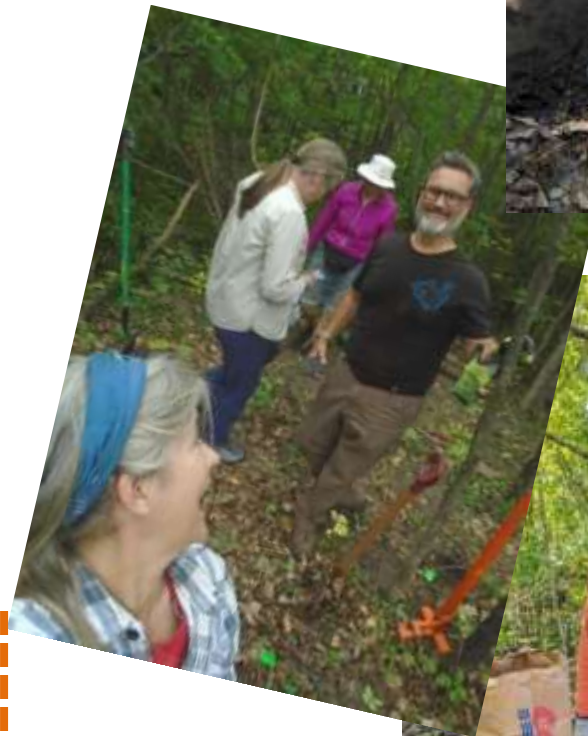
By the species

4 Eastern white cedars
1 Bur oak
1 Tamarack
3 Eastern white pines
6 White spruce



Attention Woodworkers!

Buckthorn is a mighty fine wood to work with, similar to cherry. Look at that gorgeous natural stain! Want some? Email us: CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com



CONSERVATION SUCCESS IN THE MEADOW

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT:

Pussy willow (*Salix discolor*)

If you have been coming to Hampton Park for years, if not decades, you may remember seeing pussy willows. Over time, this shrub disappeared from Hampton. On September 2nd, volunteers helped re-introduce the species to Hampton by planting two shrubs in the back of the meadow. Several other native shrubs were planted as well, such as pogoda dogwood and snowberry. Pussy willows are native to all Canadian provinces, and typically grow in wet meadows or along shorelines. Their catkins (the fuzzy buds found on willows) announce the coming of spring!



For another conservation success story, check out this video of several monarch butterflies enjoying the blazing star, one of the species planted in the meadow. Keep your eyes peeled for the hummingbird that zips by!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CE9zXP4Cw0Q>



An example of catkins.

“Extirpated” is a term applied to species, both plants and animals, that are no longer found in a given area. The pussy willow in Hampton Park could have been considered to be extirpated from the Park before its recent reintroduction!

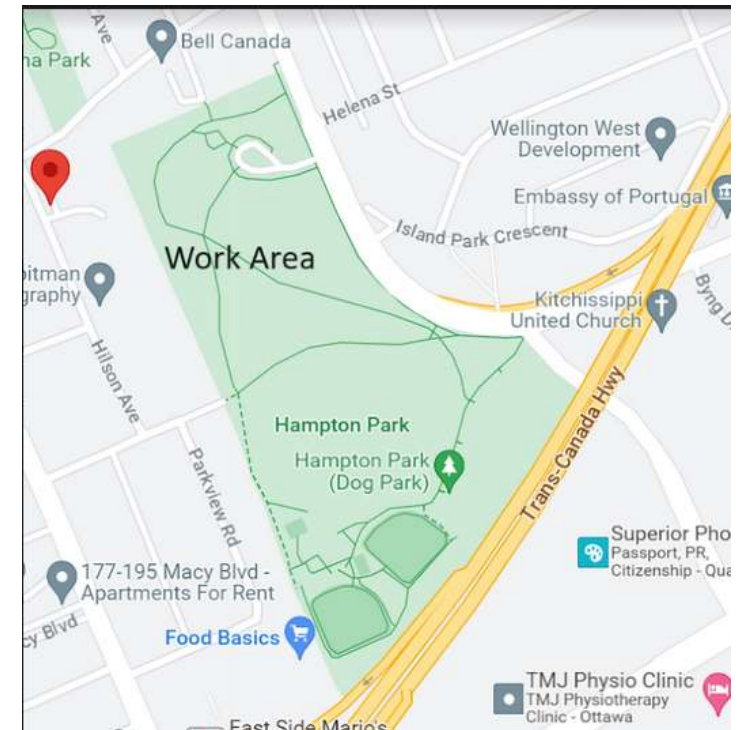


Upcoming Events

THIS WEEKEND (September 30th and October 1st, 9-11AM): Action days in Hampton!

Come on down to the area indicated on the map to help with a variety of tasks.

More details in the sign-up sheet here:
<https://forms.gle/uLWa6SahAaHroSrG7>



As always, keep an eye on your inbox as any additional events happening between now and December will be sent out by email!



Hey, you!

Have you seen a cool plant or animal in Carlington or Hampton? Snapped a nice picture over the summer? Got a favorite spot in either park you'd like to share?

We'd love to see it! Email your picture to Myrica.gale22@gmail.com and we'll feature it in the next newsletter! Please indicate in which park the picture was taken in the subject line.

Local Contacts & Resources

If you'd like to get out into the Woods but don't want to go alone, get in touch! We'll help tailor a walk to suit any group, age, ability or interest, and you can also book us for guided walks.

CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com

YouTube channel for Hampton & Carlington:
<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofcarlingtonhampton>

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

Instagram: friends_of_hampton_park

Friends of Carlington Woods
www.facebook.com/groups/1105428122826947/

Twitter: @CarlingtonHill

Hampton-Iona Community Group
<https://hamptoniona.wordpress.com/>

Carlington Community Association
www.carlingtoncommunity.org/

Adopt-a-Ditch Project

The Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City is hoping to pilot an Adopt-a-Ditch project and needs all voices at the table. The project aims to bring together gardeners, climate activists, farmers, city representatives, relevant community associations, and neighbours to plan out how native plants in ditches can control weeds.

Such a program would:

- Protect critical pollinator habitat
- Save money on pesticides and brush-hogging
- Control noxious weeds and provide pollinators for crops for farmers
- Reduce pesticide use for greater community health overall

If you're interested in helping to develop this project, click this link to choose a preferred meeting date:

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/ej8XZpyb>

For more information, email: info@obec-evbo.ca or visit <http://obec-evbo.ca/>