

Carlington Hampton News

March 2024

Inside:

- A quiet winter
- When the snow melts...
- Coming soon to Hampton: a little nature library
- News, Needs, & Nice-to-haves
- An 'accidental' tiny forest

Not all critters migrate or hibernate for the winter! Many are still out and about.

Top picture: skunk or raccoon track spotted in Hampton.

Bottom: young rabbit seen in Carlington.



A quiet winter

It was rather quiet in both parks over the winter. A very successful bird walk took place in Carlington on February 3rd, attended by approximately 40 people. More bird walks may be coming to Carlington this spring, so stay tuned!

In early January, Hampton received several donations of Christmas trees. The branches were cut off the main stem and spread around the fenced-in area not far from the Buell entrance. The goal of this experiment is to see what impact adding this type of organic matter has on returning vegetation.

Many thanks to everyone who carried their trees to Hampton on a snowy Sunday morning!



*Top: “disassembled” Christmas trees spread around the regeneration area;
Left: some of the bird species spotted during the walk in Carlington. Drawings by Canterbury HS students.*

When the snow melts...

...suddenly trash appears everywhere!

Illegal dumping of trash in Carlington is an on-going issue in the park. If you're as fed up with seeing garbage everywhere as we are, why not bring a bag with you on your next outing to Carlington? Enjoy the park and feel better about leaving the environment cleaner than you found it! Right: trash left by the composter in the Clyde Bee & Butterfly Patch.



GET THE FACTS ABOUT DOG CRAP

Most dogs eat store-bought foods that are high in nutrients so their poop contains high quantities of nitrogen & phosphorus. Too many of these nutrients in the environment has made it easier for **invasive species** to spread, decreasing overall **biodiversity**. Those nutrients also wash into our streams, lakes and rivers, **polluting watersheds** and posing health risks to humans and other dogs. Dog poop can contain **parasites, bacteria and viruses**, including *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, roundworm and tapeworms. Roundworm eggs can persist in the soil, infecting wildlife for years to come.

Scan the QR code to read an Ontario Parks article that provides more information.



Dog excrement is another kind of trash giving us headaches. In the picture above, someone has left a note explaining why dog poo is bad for the environment. If you would like a printable version of the note above, please email CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com and we will be happy to share the document with you!

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns in a light green color, framing the central text. The border is wider at the top and bottom, tapering towards the sides.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
GRAND OPENING
OF THE
HAMPTON NATURE NOOK

Hampton's first nature-themed little library

Saturday April 20, 2024, 10 am, followed by a guided walk at 11 am

Island Park Drive entrance

Rain date: Sunday April 21, 10 am

No RSVP required!

*If you have nature-themed books to donate. non-fiction or fiction, please email
CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com.*

News

The large Eastern white pine to the north of the Buell path in Hampton Park will be cut down this spring. The tree has lost a considerable amount of its upper bark and limbs and is now a potential safety issue. We have asked the City to leave as much of the tree as possible, and to keep the burl intact (the large knot partway up the trunk), for use in Hampton's naturalization projects. The City is unable to give a specific date for the work so if you see the work being done, please email us as we'd like to document it as part of the park's history.



Needs

If you have any nature-themed books you would like to donate to Hampton's new Little Library, we would love to have them! Field guides, identification guides, or nature-themed fiction are all welcome!



Friends of Hampton Park is looking for a Facebook co-administrator. You'll help keep our page updated, share relevant news, events, photos, videos, and fun stuff. A great volunteer opportunity for someone who wants to flex their social media skills. We ask for a minimum 6-month commitment. Interested? Email: CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com subject line: Facebook.

Nice-to-haves

With our little library set to be open in Hampton Park next month, we'll need a few folks to help us maintain it. It's the perfect volunteer job for a regular visitor of the park, and all it takes is a weekly check on the library, adding books when they're received, or removing any inappropriate content. Interested? Email: CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com subject line: Books.

An Accidental Tiny Forest?

In 2019, after the widening of the 417 and removing the on-ramp by Westgate, the Ontario Ministry of Transport planted native species of trees. Unfortunately, the maintenance contract has long since run out and no one is really taking care of this space.

As our communities densify, additional greenspaces are going to become more necessary – for stormwater, extreme temperature, and pollution control, as sources of habitat and food for local wildlife, and as areas where we can increase biodiversity.

This accidental tiny forest could provide us benefits for years to come and we really don't have to do much. There's no watering or planting to be done, no signage, all we ask for now is your help in keeping it clean.

We've had two clean ups already and will organize more as needed, but you can help clean up anytime you pass by. We're trying to arrange a permanent bin on site. In the meantime, we're working on a species inventory so that we know what's there.

If you want to arrange your own clean up here, go for it! Contact CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com if you need extra bags, litter grabbers, or buckets. We can also call the City for the pick up on your behalf.



September 2019 Construction finished that year and trees were planted in 2020.



June 2023. Many deciduous trees planted are dead, or won't survive, but all of the evergreens appear to be healthy.

Spring events



Bird walk in
Carlington

stay tuned for
dates & times!



Little nature library
grand opening in
Hampton

Saturday, April
20th at 10am
Island Park
Entrance



Litter clean-ups:
Hampton and
Carlington

Stay tuned for
dates & times!

Hey, you!

Snapped a picture of a cool plant, animal, insect, or fungi in Hampton or Carlington? Email any pictures you'd like to share to Myrica.gale22@gmail.com and we'll feature as many as we can in the next newsletter! Please indicate in which park the picture was taken in the subject line.

Coming soon...

Work is underway to plan a proper trail network for Hampton Park. This includes deciding which trails to keep. Some trails will need to be closed.

Hopefully, the Friends will be able to have a consultation with park users about what the new trail system should look like this summer, so keep an eye out for any announcements!



Mock-up of some fencing used to block access to a trail.

Local contacts & resources

CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com

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/

Did you know?? We have a YouTube channel! Check it out:
<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofcarlingtonhampton>

Spring gardening reminders & resources

It may feel like spring, but hold off on getting your garden beds spiffed up until temperatures are consistently in the mid-teens (Celsius). Many insects hibernate hidden in old flower stalks or fallen leaves, and waiting until warmer temperatures gives these critters a chance to wake up.

To learn more:

<https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/askagardener/leaves-on-garden-in-spring/>

If you enjoy planting and growing vegetables, follow the link below to learn why locally-sourced seeds might give you better results, and why heirloom varieties are important!

<https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=dd081b752614cb851c1365919&id=0d958eb383>