

Carlington Hampton News

A dragonfly with a brown and black body and transparent wings is perched on a vertical brown stem. The background is a dense field of green plants, slightly out of focus.

June 2024

Inside:

The Living Classroom

Ongoing invasive plant controls

Project updates

Soft Landings opens

News, Needs, Nice to Haves

Coming Events

Contacts & Resources

The Living Classroom

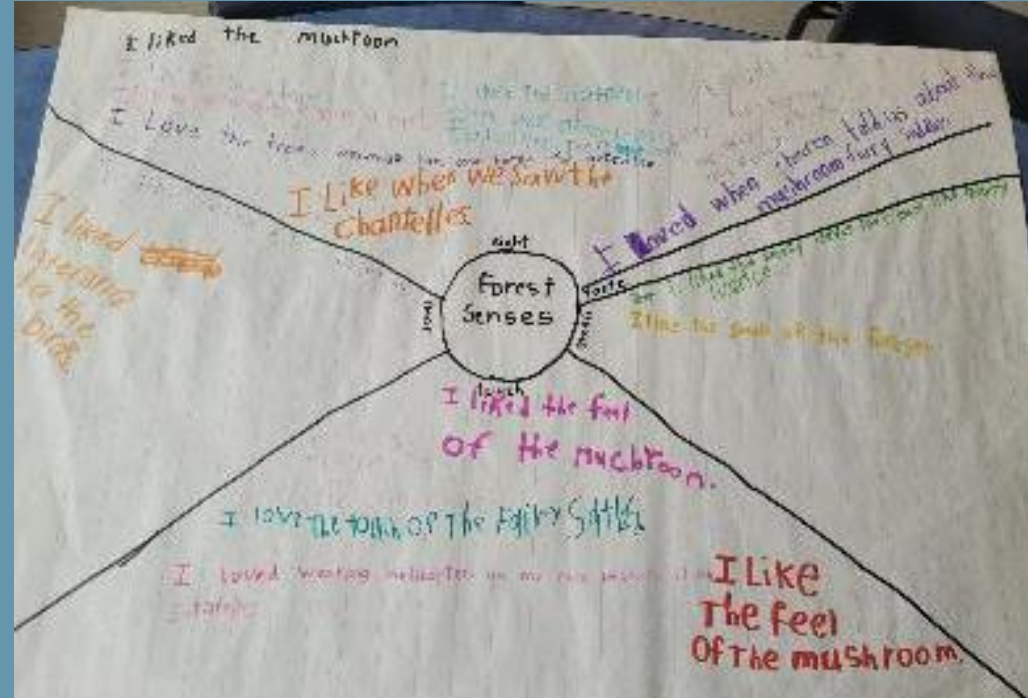


Photo: N. Lee

This spring, Friends hosted more than 200 children from schools, Beaver, Cub, Scout, Sparks, and Guide troops in Hampton and Carlington. There's always something new to see and learn!



Photo: C. Mullen



Invasive species don't take summer vacations

Hampton and Carlington have many invasive plant species, some worse than others. Whenever we've planted native species, we often have to first remove, then continue to control existing invasive species. The three main species that Friends in both parks actively control are:

1. **Japanese knotweed** (pictured): Known for its bamboo-like structure, great height (5+ m), and rapid growth
2. **Common & glossy buckthorn**: Invasive shrubs that cause the soil around it to be inhospitable to some other species, including frogs and salamanders
3. **Dog strangling vine**: A vine that will grow to the height and width of its environment (i.e., it can smother entire meadows, shrubs and trees if left unchecked)

Additional species that are controlled as needed include but are not limited to: garlic mustard, burdock, Norway maple, Canada thistle (not native!), and periwinkle.



Knotweed grows on average 1" or more per day



Above: Knotweed before and after cutting in an area where new trees and shrubs were planted in 2023.

Below: Periwinkle before and after clearing and replacing with Ostrich ferns and anemone. Cubs & Scouts helped remove the periwinkle; plants were donated and planted by a volunteer.

Periwinkle spreads far and wide, eradicating native shade species



Other Project Updates

Pollinator Gardens

Many of the species at the Clyde Bee & Butterfly Patch and Staircase Garden (*pictured*) in Carlington, and the Hampton Meadow are now starting to bloom. Volunteers were busy this spring tidying them up, and weeding out non-native and invasive species.



Buckthorn Removal in Carlington

We've started a third buckthorn removal project, but this time on the other side of the original two sites. We'll be back in the fall to remove more buckthorn, plant native shrubs and trees, and give away the cut buckthorn to interested woodworkers.



New Trees in Hampton

Another six trees – Black Cherry, Yellow Birch, Bur Oak, and White Spruce – were planted close to the Buell entrance in May.



Soft Landings in Hampton Park was designed to protect the base of this sugar maple, and demonstrate the connections and interdependence of native trees, plants, and pollinators.

Some of the species planted include ivory, grey and Morningstar sedges, New England asters, pearly everlasting, and blazing stars.

The project was designed by our partner Tree Fest Ottawa, with support from Friends of Hampton Park, the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa, and funded by the University of Ottawa's TD Environmental Leaders Program.



News

The Hampton Nature Nook has been a resounding success since opening in April! A big thank you to volunteers, Paul Richer for designing and building the library, Lauren Foster for designing the book plates, and all those who donated books. For a copy of the bookplate so that you can paste them into any books you donate in future, email us! **Subject Line: Bookplate**

Needs

Volunteers to do regular rounds in Hampton and Carlington. In general, the work involves a once a week, 30 to 60-minute walk through the park, noting changes (pro or con), monitoring one or more planting projects, and doing other tasks such as invasive removal, watering, or garbage pick up. An ideal volunteer job for regular visitors and you determine when you want to do it. All training and background information provided. Email us! **Subject Line: Rounds**

Nice-to-haves

We had two walks in June to present the draft trail design for Hampton Park. The next steps are to fully engage the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa in more formal discussions, and begin planning for its installation. Ideally, we'd like to strike a small subcommittee who will meet when necessary to further develop the plan, schedule and host additional community walks, work with partners, and potentially fundraise for the project. If you're interested in helping to plan this important network, email us. **Subject line: Trails**

Coming Events

NCC Knotweed Removal The National Capital Commission will be in Hampton Park on **Friday, July 12** starting around 9 am. Their major task will be to dig out Japanese knotweed roots.

More hands make light work, so if you're available that day, come out to help, and meet the NCC team.

Bug Walk!

Join entomologist Lydia Wong and Friends to learn all about the world of pollinating insects!

Sunday July 14, 2024

Hampton Park Meadow

Time: TBD



We're also organizing a similar walk in Carlington for August. We'll send an email out and post on social media once we have all the details.

Local contacts & resources

CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com

Friends of Hampton Park

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

Friends of Carlington Woods

www.facebook.com/groups/1105428122826947/

Instagram: friends_of_hampton_park / Twitter: @CarlingtonHill

YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofcarlingtonhampton>

Hey, you!

Snapped a pic of a cool plant, animal, insect, or fungi in Hampton or Carlington? Email pix you'd like to share to [**Myrica.gale22@gmail.com**](mailto:Myrica.gale22@gmail.com). We'll feature as many as we can in the next issue.

Please indicate where the photo was taken in the subject line.