

Carlington Hampton News

December 2025

Inside:

Welcome Hampton's newest trees

Buckthorn season ends

Nature News

Events, Resources & Contacts

Abandoned bird's nest in Carlington

New trees for Hampton!

Top: Eastern white pine, white spruce

Bottom: Tamarack*, white oak, swamp oak

**The tamarack is one of the last of the seedling trees given to us in 2023 by Ecology Ottawa. It was overwintered for two years to ensure it was large enough to survive on its own. The other four were grown and donated by Canadensis.*



Buckthorn season ends...for now!

Volunteers spent the fall of 2025 clearing **2000 m²** of invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from the southwestern edge of the Carlington woods. A wide variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses were then planted to increase biodiversity and help control buckthorn regrowth.

Our thanks to Christine Welch and the National Capital Commission team for arranging to have all the cut buckthorn chipped and for providing us with composted pine mulch. The wood chips provide a visual protection around the plants and will help control buckthorn regrowth, while the composted pine mulch adds nutrients to the soil.



Invasive Species Centre

Thanks to the Invasive Species Centre for awarding Friends a microgrant to purchase native species.



canadensis
The Garden of Canada
Le Jardin du Canada

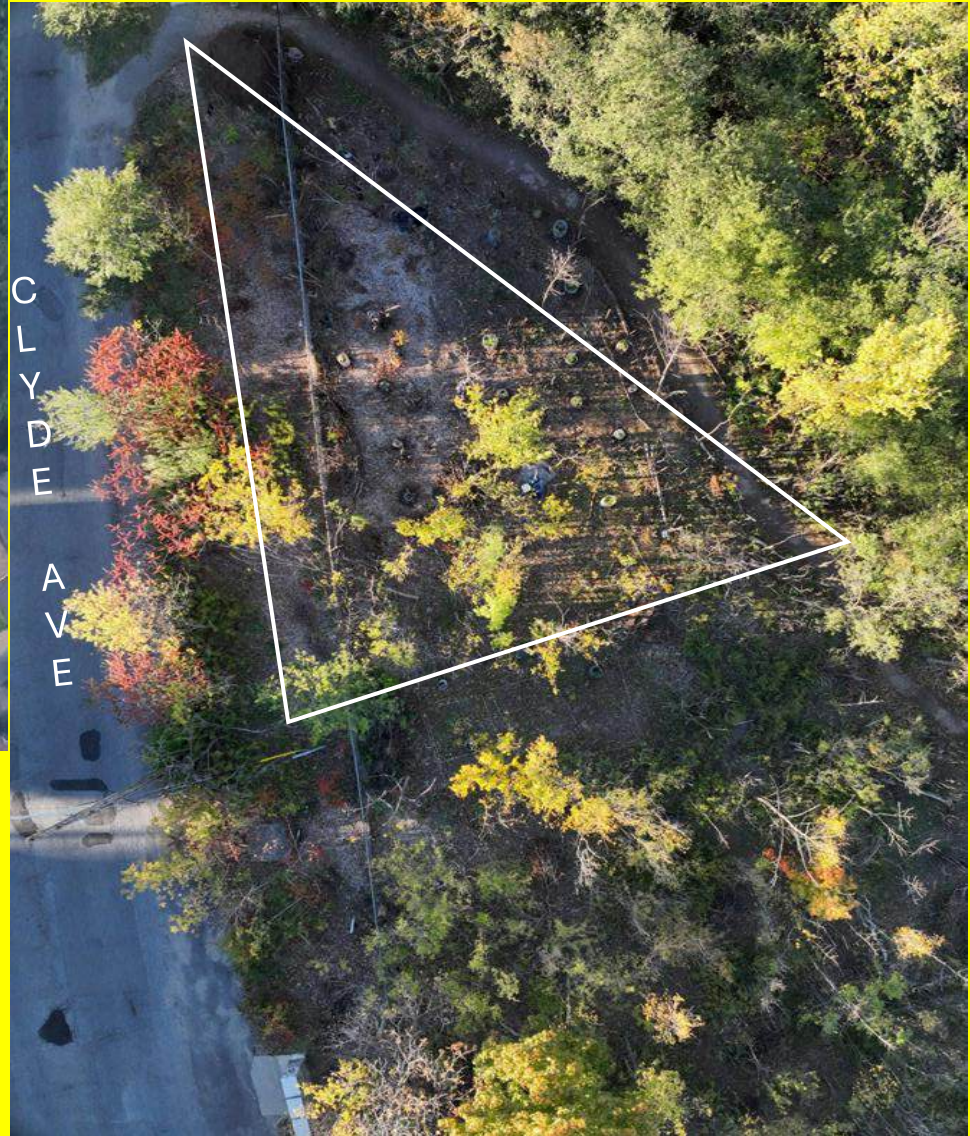


Eastern white pine. One of the 10 trees donated by Canadensis for planting in Carlington and Hampton.



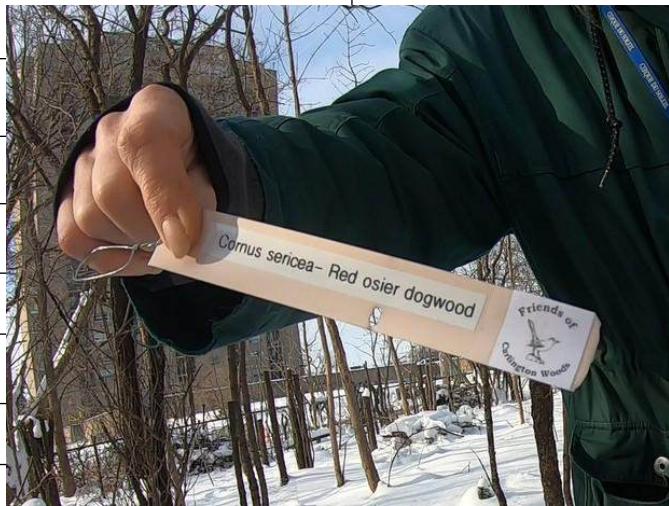
Left: Aerial image of the site prior to buckthorn removal. The majority of the green you see within the triangle is buckthorn and honeysuckle.

Right: Drone image taken in late October 2025 (*courtesy M. Kostiuk*), showing how far we've come. These areas have now been replanted with a variety of native species.



To see us in action, check out the **Buckthorn** playlist on our YouTube channel youtube.com/@friendsofcarlingtonhampton

Species planted to replace buckthorn	# planted
Acer rubrum - Red maple	10
Aronia melanocarpa – Black chokeberry	1
Cornus alternifolia - Pagoda dogwood	3
Cornus sericea - Red osier dogwood	5
Dasiphora fruticosa - Shrubby cinquefoil	10
Diervilla lonicera - Northern bush-honeysuckle	6
Physocarpus opulifolius – Eastern ninebark	5
Picea glauca - White spruce	9
Pinus strobus - White pine	2
Prunus serotina - Black Cherry	3
Quercus alba - White oak	3
Quercus macrocarpa - Burr oak	6
Quercus rubra - Red oak	4
Sambucus canadensis – Common elderberry	15
Thuja occidentalis - White cedar	15
Viburnum lentago - Nannyberry	10
Switchgrass, Canada, Virginia, Wiegand's Rye grasses	60
Total	167



Nature News

Poison found in Hampton Park

In October, a bait station was brought into Hampton Park and the rat poison spread along the trail through the South Woods, the area closest to the playground. Thanks to the volunteers who reported the incident and to the City of Ottawa for its quick response.

Two squirrels were found dead inside the park, and three more were reported outside of it. We hope this is an isolated incident, but if you are concerned, email us for a copy of the City's guidelines on handling rodenticides, and the signs to look for if you suspect wildlife has been poisoned.



Snowy owl irruption

Ornithologists are reporting that we may be in for a real treat this winter. Snowy owls are reportedly surging in population (called an “irruption”), with more being spotted in southern Ontario in late 2025.

Practice safe birding. Be respectful of the environment, stay on trails, avoid using recorded bird songs or taped playback to attract them. We also encourage photographers not to post certain bird locations in order to reduce traffic to nesting or hunting sites. For more information, consult the Ontario Field Ornithologists Code of Ethics: www.ofo.ca/site/content/code-of-ethics

Thank Yous!

Our thanks to the 24th Ottawa Cub Scout Troop for seeding native wildflowers that we hope to plant in the spring of 2026.

And a belated thank you to the Dovercourt Recreation Centre for giving our pollinator mural a new home!





DEADWOOD ISN'T DEAD!

Habitat loss is the single biggest threat to biodiversity

DO NOT move or remove natural materials from the Woods. Fallen trees, logs, branches, and stumps are vital to the ecosystem.

These natural materials provide food, habitat, and emergency shelter for all kinds of wildlife, and, as they break down, enrich the soil. Removing them leaves the forest open to further damage and to invasive species.

Large downed trees or branches are only removed by the City or the NCC if they are obstructing paths or are a safety hazard.

Learn more at: <https://blog.ontarioparks.ca/dead-trees/>

Volunteer Opportunities & Events



Shared Photo Albums

For those of you who have contributed your photos to our shared album over the years, thank you! With so many photos, the album has become a bit unwieldy, so we've created separate ones for each forest and each season.

If you want to contribute your photos to either or both albums, email CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com and we'll send you the link(s).

Save the date! Tuesday January 27, 2026, 7:30 to 9 pm

Join us for a look back at what we accomplished in 2025 and what's in store for 2026. This is an online event.

Email CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com for the agenda and registration link

Contacts & Resources

February 23 to March 1, 2026 is **Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW)**.

According to the Invasive Species Centre, Ontario spends about \$50 million each year to control invasive species. But that figure doesn't include all the hard work done by local groups like ours. To learn more or to receive a free toolkit of resources visit:

www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/events

Worth a watch

Bird Names in Anishinaabemowin with Creators Garden,
find it on our YouTube channel's **Education** playlist.



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

Subscribe today. New videos uploaded regularly!

CarlingtonHampton@gmail.com

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

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



Nature Nook, little library
at Hampton Park.

Happy New Year!
Bonne Année!