



# The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park

*"Giving Nature a Helping Hand"*

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Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park

April 2007

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Welcome to the newsletter of the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park. Earth Day is rapidly approaching and this day is *very important* to the park. Earth Day often provides an opportunity for volunteers to collect garbage and mulch young growing trees. It also provides a chance to lay down fresh stone dust on the trails in the park for the upcoming year. The Native Plant Sale raises important funds that are used on park projects such as repairing the soil berm at the Waterfowl Pond. We look forward to working with you this Earth Day and at other Malcolmson Eco-Park events.

*The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park would like to invite you to:*

## Earth Day 2007 Native Plant Sale

**When: Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> 2007**

**&**

**Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> 2007 (Plant Sale Only)**

**When: 8:00am to 1:00pm**

LOCATION: Malcolmson Eco-Park, Lakeshore Rd. & Niagara St.  
PARKING: Grantham Lions Club & Port Weller Elementary School

*The Friends will be conducting garbage cleanup, mulching trees, spreading stone dust on the trails and we need your help. Please bring shovels, trowels and gloves. Drinks and snacks will be provided. We hope to see you there!*

Please join us in this annual event since 1993!

***If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Josh Diamond at 905-646-4810  
or [jkdiamond@sympatico.ca](mailto:jkdiamond@sympatico.ca)***

# Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Sale is being held on **Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>** and **Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>** at the Malcolmson Eco-Park compound from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Below is a **tentative** list of native wildflowers, shrubs and trees that will be available for sale. The list is subject to change depending on availability. Please check our page [www3.sympatico.ca/jkdiamond](http://www3.sympatico.ca/jkdiamond) for updates and pricing info in the future. Generally, wildflowers will be available in 4-inch pots and trees will be available in 1-gallon pots. Please contact us if you require further information.

## Trees/Shrubs

American Plum  
Birch, Yellow  
Bush Honeysuckle  
Buttonbush  
Cedar, Red  
Cherry, Pin  
Climbing Honeysuckle  
Dogwood, Red Osier  
Elderberry Black  
Fir, Balsam  
Hazel, American  
Highbush Cranberry  
Maple, Red  
Maple, Silver  
Nannyberry  
Ninebark  
Oak, Bur  
Oak, Red  
Paw Paw  
Pine, White  
Raspberry, Purple Flowering  
Red Bud  
Serviceberry, Downy  
Serviceberry, Smooth  
Sumac, Staghorn  
Sweet Gale  
Sycamore  
Tamarack  
Tulip Tree  
Wild Black Currant

## Wildflowers

Anemone, Canada  
Baneberry, White  
Big Bluestem  
Blazing Star, Dwarf  
Blue-Eyed Grass  
Brown-eyed Susan  
Butterfly Weed  
Cardinal Flower  
Compass Plant  
Foxglove Beardtongue  
Gentian, Bottle  
Hairy Beardtongue  
Indian Grass  
Iris, Pale Flag  
Ironweed  
Jack-in-the-Pulpit  
Lily, Michigan  
Little Bluestem  
Lobelia, Great Blue  
Running Strawberry  
Swamp Avens  
Sky Blue Aster  
Smooth Aster  
Poor Robin's Plantain  
Wild Bergamot  
Wild Ginger

## WHY PLANT NATIVE PLANTS?

In North America, plants are generally described as native if they occurred here prior to European settlement. These plants have evolved in a particular region over thousands of years. They have adapted to the geography, hydrology, and climate of that region. Native plants are more likely to thrive under local conditions, while being less likely to invade new habitats.

Planting native plants improves the environment in many ways. It brings a taste of wilderness to urban, suburban and corporate settings by attracting a variety of birds, butterflies and other animals. Also, once established, native plants do not need fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or regular watering to flourish, thus benefiting the environment and reducing maintenance costs. By eliminating or reducing the use of chemicals, these pollutants will not run-off into groundwater and surface water. This improves the quality of the water and the aquatic life in it. Native plants also provide familiar sources of food and shelter for wildlife.

If exotic plants (those plants that are not native) are used, they may not survive in the region's conditions. For example, they may need more water than native plants. Exotic plants may also become invasive plants. Invasive plants generally exhibit the same biological characteristics as common weeds. They grow rapidly under a wide range of climate and soil conditions. Invasive and exotic plants will eventually take over an area, reducing the variety and number of other plants. An example of this is purple loosestrife, which readily impacts native plants by out-competing them, forming dense, impenetrable stands, that are unsuitable for cover or nesting sites. It invades marshes and lakes, replacing cattails and other wetland plants. Other examples of exotic/invasive plants are garlic mustard, leafy spurge and common buckthorn.

Along with improving the health of the land, native plants improve our health as well. Native landscaping practices can help improve air quality on a local, regional and global level. Locally, smog and air toxics can be drastically reduced by the virtual elimination of the need for lawn maintenance equipment. On a regional scale, this reduces the severity of acid rain, and on a global scale, native landscaping helps to combat global warming.

Landscaping with native wildflowers and grasses helps return the area to a healthy ecosystem. Diverse varieties of birds, butterflies and animals, are attracted to the native plants, therefore enhancing the biodiversity of the area. The beauty of native wildflowers and grasses creates a sense of place, both at home and work. The native plants increase our connection to nature, help educate our neighbours, and provide a beautiful, peaceful place to relax.

**This article was contributed by Allison Graszat who currently works for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.**

## Malcolmson Eco-Park Open House and Volunteer Appreciation Night

On Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Friends hosted a casual meet-and-greet at the Port Weller Community Centre with the public. Approximately twenty people came to this event including the Grantham Ward City Councillors Dawn Dodge and Bill Phillips. Over coffee and a great assortment of pastries, visitors could view displays which highlighted Malcolmson Eco-Park projects, park vandalism and educational information. Below is a picture from the evening. Thank you to all who attended and who were involved in this event.



From left to right: Councillor Bill Phillips, Doug Walls, Josh Diamond and Joe Martin. Photo by Claire T.

### 2007 Malcolmson Eco-Park Committee

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MAGGIE SKOV – COMMITTEE MEMBER  
CLAIRE THEIJSMEIJER – COMMITTEE MEMBER

**Please visit our website at [www.fomep.com](http://www.fomep.com)**

#### **Note!**

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email (in pdf Adobe Acrobat Format) or you would like your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Josh Diamond at [jkdiamond@sympatico.ca](mailto:jkdiamond@sympatico.ca) or 905-646-4810.