



The Pin Oak

“Giving Nature a Helping Hand”

Issue 6

The Newsletter of the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park

April 2008

In This Issue:

- 1 **Park News**
- 1 **Earth Day 2008**
- 2 **Native Plant Sale**
- 2 **Compost Sale**
- 2 **New Website**
- 3 **Friends' Spotlight**
- 3 **Greenhouse Project**
- 3 **Friends in the Media**
- 3 **Eco-Fest**
- 4 **Wildlife: American Toad**
- 4 **The Benefits of Native Plants**

This Newsletter is
Published Quarterly and
is Written by the
Friends of Malcolmson
Eco-Park

News

Spring has finally arrived after a long cold winter. This season is typically the busiest for activities in the park. Earth Day 2008 will be held on Saturday April 26th. Earth Day at Malcolmson Eco-Park is an annual tradition in St.Catharines. Each year 150 volunteers come out to remove garbage from the park, repair the trail network, apply mulch to trees and gardens, and plant wildflowers and trees. Earth Day is the most important event for the park. We will also be having our Annual Native Plant and Tree Sale to raise money for park projects. A second plant sale will be held on Saturday May 10th. We need volunteers so please mark this day on your calendar and we hope to see you at the park on Earth Day

In other news, the Friends have successfully begun propagating native wildflowers in the greenhouses. Several hundred plants have been started from seed and are currently being transplanted into 10cm pots. These will be planted in the park and sold at future plant sales.

Unfortunately, we do have some bad news. First, the berm at the Waterfowl Pond has begun to fail again. We are hoping to have this repaired by May. Second, vandalism continues to be a big problem. The Friends have noticed several large poplar trees cut down in the central portion of the park. Also, vandals have broken a window on the glass greenhouse. Please report any vandalism to the City or the Friends.

Earth Day 2008

&

Native Plant and Tree Sale

Malcolmson Eco-Park
Saturday April 26th 2008
8 am to 1 pm

Location: Malcolmson Eco-Park
Lakeshore Rd at Niagara St.
Parking: Grantham Lions Club

Activities:

Mulching, Garbage Removal, Pathway Cleanup, Planting



Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Sale is being held on **Saturday, April 26th** and **Saturday, May 10th** 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. Generally, wildflowers will be available in 4-inch pots and trees will be available in 1-gallon pots. Please contact Josh Diamond if you require further information.

Wild Flowers

Baneberry, White
Blazing Star, Dwarf
Canada Mayflower
Gentian, Bottle
Evening Primrose
Long-leaved Bluets
Prairie Smoke
Lily, Michigan
Wild Ginger
Butterflyweed
Yellow Giant-hyssop
Wild Columbine
Sweet Ox-eye Sunflower
Brown-eyed Susan
Ironweed
Wild Yam
Michigan Lily
Heath Aster

Wild Flowers

Blue eyed-grass
Harebell
Arrowhead/Duck Potato
Marsh Marigold
Blue-flag Iris
Wild Geranium
Swamp milkweed
New England aster,
Showy tick-trefoil,
Echinaca pallida
Joe-Pye-weed,
Cardinal flower
Wild bergamot,
Hairy mountain-mint
Virginia mountain-mint
Grey-headed coneflower
Green-headed coneflower

Trees and Shrubs

Elderberry, Common
Raspberry, Purple Flowering
Sycamore
Dogwood, Alternate Leaved
Mountain Ash
Nannyberry
Redbud
White Pine
Paw Paw
Hemlock
Basswood



Photo: The New England Aster

Compost for Sale

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park will be selling compost at the park on Saturday, April 26th and Saturday, May 10th at the Plant Sale. Please bring a recycling box to the sale to hold your compost. The compost is provided by Plant's Choice.



Plant's Choice

Port Colborne
905-834-5116
www.plantschoice.ca

www.fomep.com

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park have a new webpage.
Please visit!!!

Please consider receiving your newsletter via email (in pdf Adobe Acrobat Format). It will save on paper, postage, and your newsletter will be in colour. Also, if you would like your name removed from the mailing list, please contact **Josh Diamond** at jkdiamond@sympatico.ca or 905-646-4810.

The Friends' Spotlight



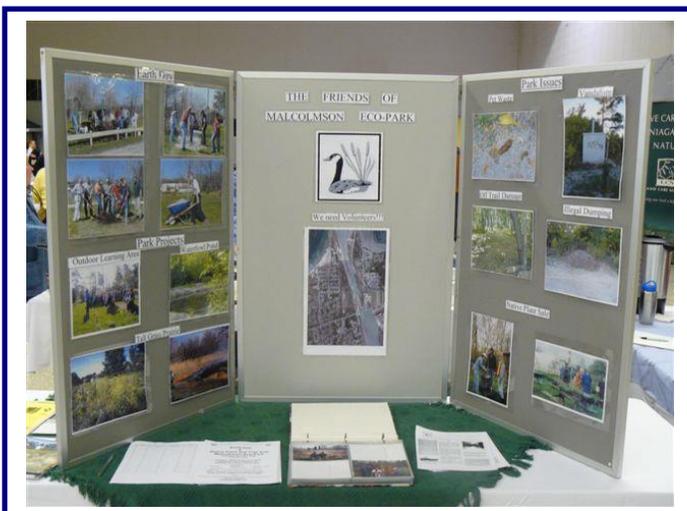
June Streadwick joined the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park Advisory Committee in the spring of 2006. June has a keen interest in gardening and has recently been interested in native plants. June is a Master Gardener of Ontario and she has taken on the duties as the Native Plant Coordinator for the Friends. June has been leading a group of volunteers since March 2008 in propagating native wildflowers from seed. Seeds were purchased in January, stratified and then planted in March. June has organized teams that have been watering and transplanting seedlings. If you are interested in participating in this project or you require information about native plants contact the Friends.

Greenhouse Project



Eco-Fest

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park participated in Eco-Fest. We met lots of great people and it provide us with a wonderful opportunity to promote the park. Thanks to Climate Action Now for organizing the event. Special thanks to Sandra Johnstone, Doug Walls and Josh Diamond managing the booth.



Friends in the media!!!

Interview
CFBU Brock Radio 103.7 FM
Wednesday April 23th
6:00-7:00pm

The St.Catharines Standard
Teresa Forte Article
Garden & Home
Thursday April 24th

Wildlife: The American Toad



The American Toad (*Bufo americanus*) is a resident of Malcolmson Eco-Park. Found throughout North America, this toad requires a semi-permanent freshwater pond or pool for their early development. They also require dense patches of vegetation, for cover and hunting grounds. Given these two things and a supply of insects for food, American toads can live almost everywhere, ranging from forests to backyards. American toads are mainly nocturnal. They are most active when the weather is warm and humid. They are solitary, congregating only at breeding ponds in the early summer and late spring. American toads have one of the most notable calls of all toads. They give off long trill sounds that each last between 4 and 20 seconds. Next time you visit the park make sure that you listen for the American Toad. Thanks to Rob Tervo for this great photo.

The Benefits of Growing Native Plants

With the arrival of spring, many of us are making plans for our gardens. Nurseries offer new varieties and plants promising huge colorful blooms to catch our eye. What they may not tell us is new hybrids often need extra water and fertilizer, and may revert back to their parent strain the following year. But, using native species in our gardens avoids these problems and has many benefits:

- native plants are suited to local growing conditions, an ability developed over centuries
- they need less water, fertilizer, and care in general than hybrids or non-natives
- they are resistant to common pests and diseases
- most are perennial, or the seeds germinate easily so you don't have to buy new every year
- many are disappearing as a result of human activity, so we help preserve species
- they provide food, and habitat for many important insects, birds and mammals such as bees and butterflies, that can only use these plants
- many native species have interconnected relationships with others, so that decline in one affects other species

The Outdoor Learning Area, Prairie and Woodland in Malcolmson Eco-Park contain many native wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Some are labeled so check them out in different seasons to see their blooms, seeds, leaf colour and what insects or birds they attract. With the increased impacts of global warming and the continued loss of species, we need to choose actions to reduce these trends. Consider using native plants, shrubs and trees in your gardens and make a positive investment in the future of the earth.

By: Claire Theijsmeijer

2008 Malcolmson Eco-Park Advisory Committee

MIKE ANDERSON – CITY OF ST. CATHARINES 905-688-5601 ext. 3140
JOSHUA DIAMOND – CHAIR 905-646-4810 jkdiamond@sympatico.ca
CINDY BRYSON- COMMITTEE MEMBER
GREG ECKHARDT- COMMITTEE MEMBER
SANDRA JOHNSTONE– COMMITTEE MEMBER
MAGGIE SKOV- COMMITTEE MEMBER
JIM STREADWICK – COMMITTEE MEMBER
JUNE STREADWICK – COMMITTEE MEMBER
CLAIRE THEIJSMEIJER – COMMITTEE MEMBER