



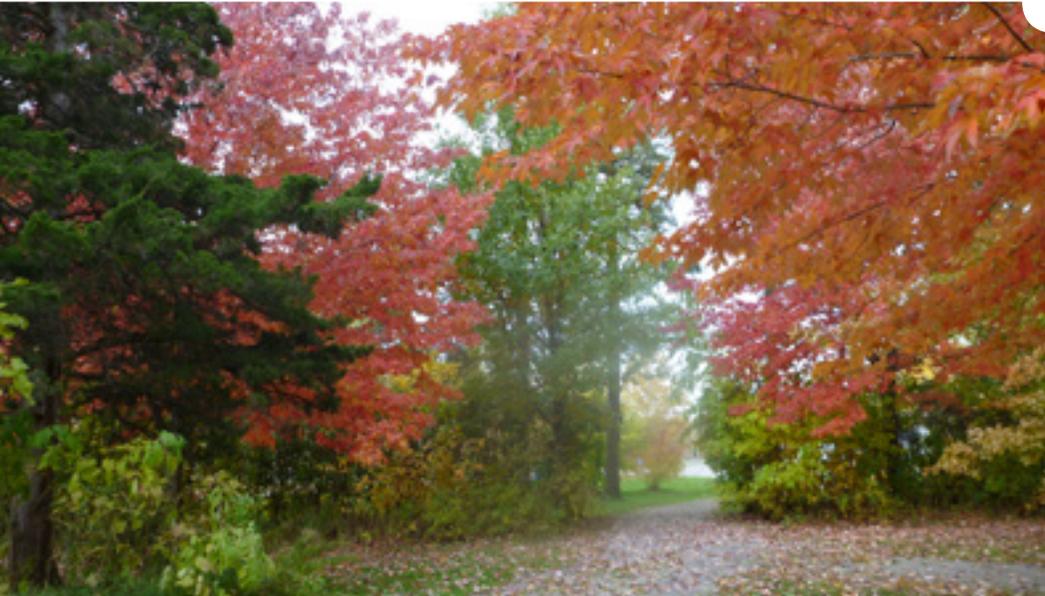
*"Giving Nature a Helping Hand"*

# THE PIN OAK

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## SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAM NEWS!

### CONTROLLED PRAIRIE BURN

In early April, the Friends held a controlled burn of the 6 acre prairie. We were guided by St. Catharines Fire Services, and had on site help from the Ecosystem Restoration students from Niagara College.

The burn mimics a naturally occurring prairie wildfire which encourages the growth of native plants and destroys non-natives. We will try to do this every 2nd year, since it is weather dependent and takes a lot of planning. Our "burn boss" was Greg Eckhardt, our past chair, and he did an excellent job!

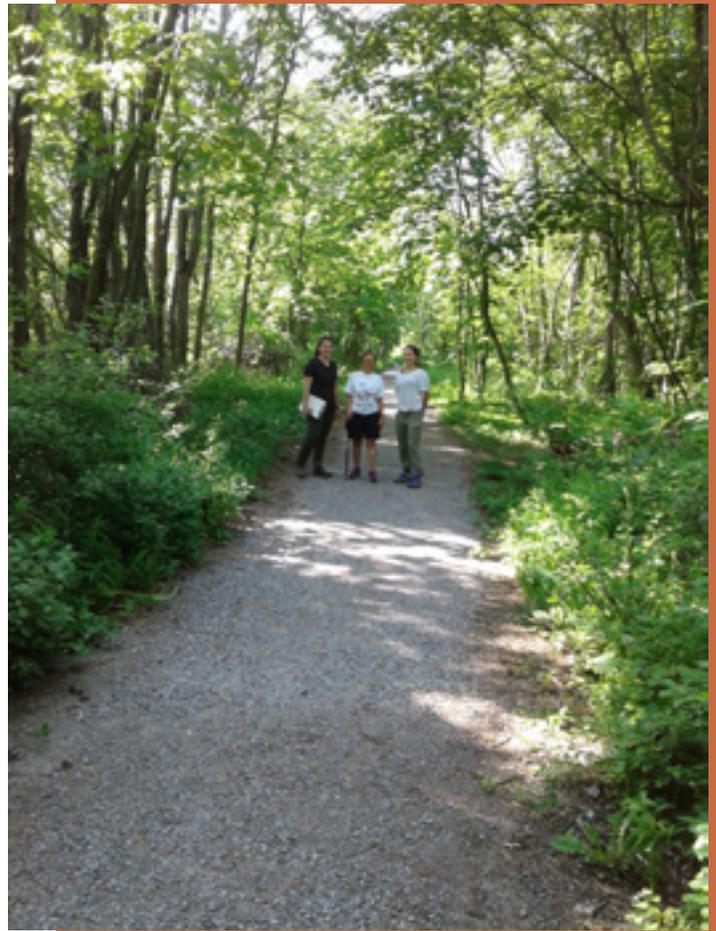


## PLANT SALES

Our plant sales in April and May drew many people interested in native plants, and we raised about \$4400. Thanks so much to everyone who helped make these sales successful!

Its encouraging to know that many home gardens have native plants and pollinator plants in them.

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*UPGRADED TRAIL*

## EARTH DAY

Earth Day saw about 60 youth and adults volunteering their help to plant wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees in the park. They also weeded gardens and spread mulch. Special thanks to the City and TD Friends of the Environment, for upgrading one of the trails, and for funding native grasses for the prairie. Also, thanks to Landcare Niagara for supporting wildflowers for pollinators in the prairie.

We appreciate our volunteers, and depend on you to do the restoration work. Watch for other volunteer opportunities during the year.



*EARTH DAY PLANTING*

## NEW PILOT TO REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES

Several of the species listed on the Ontario Invasive Species list are found in the park, and spreading. The Friends have decided to initiate a pilot project to address removing European Bittersweet Vine, Buckthorn trees, Manitoba Maple, and Garlic Mustard. These species out-compete native species of shrubs, trees and plants in the forest, reducing habitat for native birds and insects. Bittersweet is toxic to dogs, cats and horses.

Three main areas will receive focus for 2018/19: the east shore of the waterfowl pond, the east central section of forest, and just east of the main parking lot. Eric Giles, a restoration specialist from St. Williams ON will be hired to apply a herbicide in these areas in November 2018. In April 2019, he will do a follow-up treatment in the same areas. In November 2019, he will determine how effective the treatment is, and if other areas can be treated effectively.

The Friends are seeking funding to assist with this project, and to support replanting with native species. The Garlic Mustard will be pulled by volunteers on Earth Day and other volunteer days. Your help would be welcome, so watch for date announcements next spring. There is a lot of garlic mustard!



*EUROPEAN BITTERSWEET VINE*



*COMMON/GLOSSY BUCKTHORN*

## PORT WELLER SCHOOL AT THE PARK

Katie Wood, a teacher who leads the school environmental group, has brought them for fun activities in the park for several years. The kids bring lots of enthusiasm and energy to hiking, planting, and exploring. In early November, they helped us collect wildflower and tree seeds. They plan to cold stratify them and plant them in February / March in pots. The seedlings will be planted at the school and at Malcolmson in the spring. Kevin Dyck, another teacher, often brings his class for hikes in the park. The group keeps our co-convenor Doug Walls on his toes when he joins them.



We love having the kids enjoy the park, and hope to work more closely with the school in the future.

## MALCOLMSON ECO-PARK: 2018 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee for 2018 is:

Co-conveners –	Doug Walls, and Claire Theijsmeijer
Secretary –	Sheila Massey
Members –	Doug Woodard Della Trojan Maggie Skov Kathleen Vukovics
Past Convener –	Greg Eckhardt

A few more members are needed on the Committee. We invite anyone who enjoys the park to contact us, or attend a meeting to find out how you can participate.

