



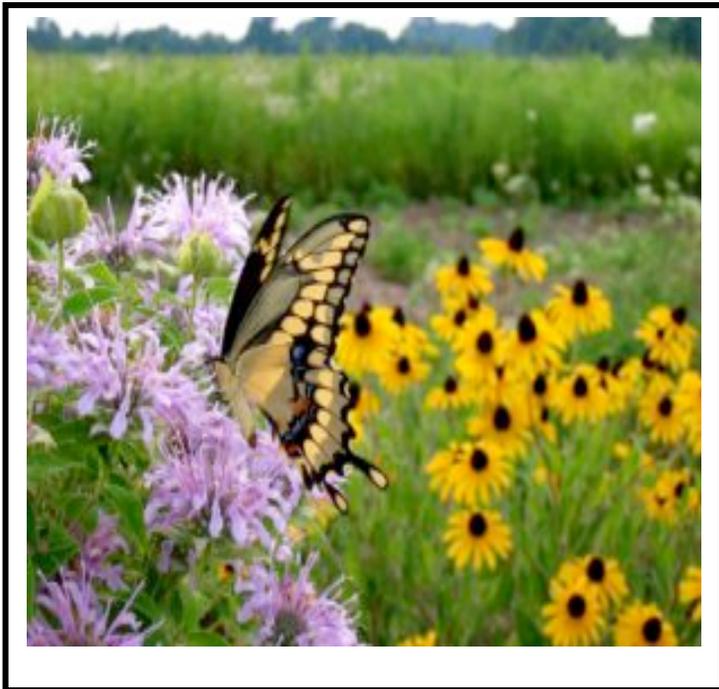
"Giving Nature a Helping Hand"

# The Pin Oak

Issue 19

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### News

The Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park have been busy planning the 2018 Earth Day event. This year the event will be held on Saturday April 21 from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The event continues to be an annual tradition in St. Catharines. Activities include planting, mulching, repairing trails and cleaning up garbage. We will also be having our Native Plant and Tree Sale to raise money for park projects. A second plant sale will be held on Saturday May 5. We hope that you can participate.

### **Focus on Backyard Plants for Pollinators at Plant Sales**

The decline in numbers of pollinators like native bees and wasps, honey bees, butterflies and other insects is well documented and scary! The Friends want to encourage the community to do their part to protect pollinators, by planting food and nectar plants in their home gardens as well as at the park.

At our plant sales on April 21 and May 5, we will offer "**complete backyard pollinator gardens**" for purchase. These will be in 2 formats: 10 native plants in 4 in. pots for \$35; or 38 plants in a tray for \$65. They will have a great mix of yellow, white and purple flowering plants that feed butterfly larvae and provide nectar for adult pollinators.

*We hope to see you in the park!*

## Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Sale is being held on **Saturday, April 21** and **Saturday, May 5** at the Malcolmson Eco-Park compound from 8:00am - 1:00pm. 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 10-cm pots and trees will be available in 4-litre pots.

Trees and Shrubs	Wildflowers	Shade Plants
American Mountain Ash Black Cherry Black Gum Black maple Freemans Maple Hackberry Hemlock Paw Paw Redbud Red Cedar Tamarack Tulip Tree White Oak Black Chokeberry Black Currant Blackcap raspberry Burning Bush Bush Honeysuckle Buttonbush Dwarf Serviceberry Low Serviceberry Smooth Serviceberry Nannyberry New Jersey Tea Ninebark Pussy Willow Alternate Leaf Dogwood Red Osier Dogwood Flowering Dogwood Red Elder St. John's Wort Shrubby St. John's Wort Snowberry Winterberry	Bigleaf Wood Aster Blazing Star Blue Vervain Boneset Butterflyweed Canada Anemone Cardinal Flower Columbine Common Milkweed Whorled Milkweed Swamp Milkweed Compass plant Evening Primrose Flowering Spurge Foxglove Beardtongue Giant Yellow Hyssop Golden Alexander Great Blue Lobelia Great St. John's Wort Grey Headed Coneflower Joe Pye Weed Large Leafed Aster New England Aster Nodding Wild Onion Pale Coneflower Pale Leaved Sunflower Panicked Tick trefoil Prairie Smoke Showy Tick Trefoil Swamp Rose Mallow Sweet Ox-eye Tall Meadow Rue Tall Sunflower Wild Bergamot Wild Geranium Wild Lupine Wild Strawberry Woodland Strawberry Woodland Sunflower	Canada Mayflower Jack in the Pulpit Lady Fern Partridgeberry Slender Mountain Mint Southern Blue Flag Iris Starry False Solomon's Seal Virginia Mountain Mint  <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Grasses</u></p> Bottlebrush grass Big bluestem Canada Wild Rye Little Bluestem Side Oats Gramma Sweet Flag Switchgrass  <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vines</u></p> Running Strawberry Virgins Bower/Clematis

## Niagara College Students Complete Studies of the Waterfowl Pond and the Forest

In 2016 and 2017, students in the Niagara College Ecosystem Restoration program completed studies on the forest, the waterfowl pond, and the prairie for their course requirements. The Friends appreciate that they have shared their findings with us, and plan to base future projects on this information. Summaries of 2 studies follow:

### Waterfowl Pond

#### **Issue**

Pond banks are bare, trampled and unstable  
Bittersweet & buckthorn slow native plant growth.  
Water has low oxygen, excess sediments  
Lack of herbaceous native plants  
Lack of aquatic organisms  
Thick bottom muck layer and intermittent water inflow

#### **Recommendations**

Barriers using plants, build walkway & lookouts  
Use woody branch bundles (fascines) as supports  
Remove invasives, plant native edge & pond plants  
Remove goldfish, plant oxygenator aquatic plants  
Plant aquatic and understory plants  
Complete 4 above recommendations  
Lower sediments from stream inflow by debris removal and adding stream edge plants.

On the positive side, the water has good pH and shade canopy. We are hoping to do a pond improvement project in the future.

### Forest Health and Invasive Species

#### **Issue**

Areas of compacted bare soil, sparse leaf litter  
Understory dominated by non-native shrubs, trees  
Bittersweet & buckthorn restrict native species  
Forest floor dominated by non-natives

#### **Recommendations**

Not addressed by study  
Long term removal & prevention plan  
Remove by pulling, girdling, herbicides  
Remove by pulling, herbicides. Staged replanting with native shrubs & forest floor plants. Ongoing monitoring & removal of invasive species.

The forest has a good canopy and mature Carolinian trees. To restore the Carolinian forest, we are consulting a restoration specialist for a long term invasive species removal plan, to begin next year.



## Historic Greenhouse at Malcolmson Park

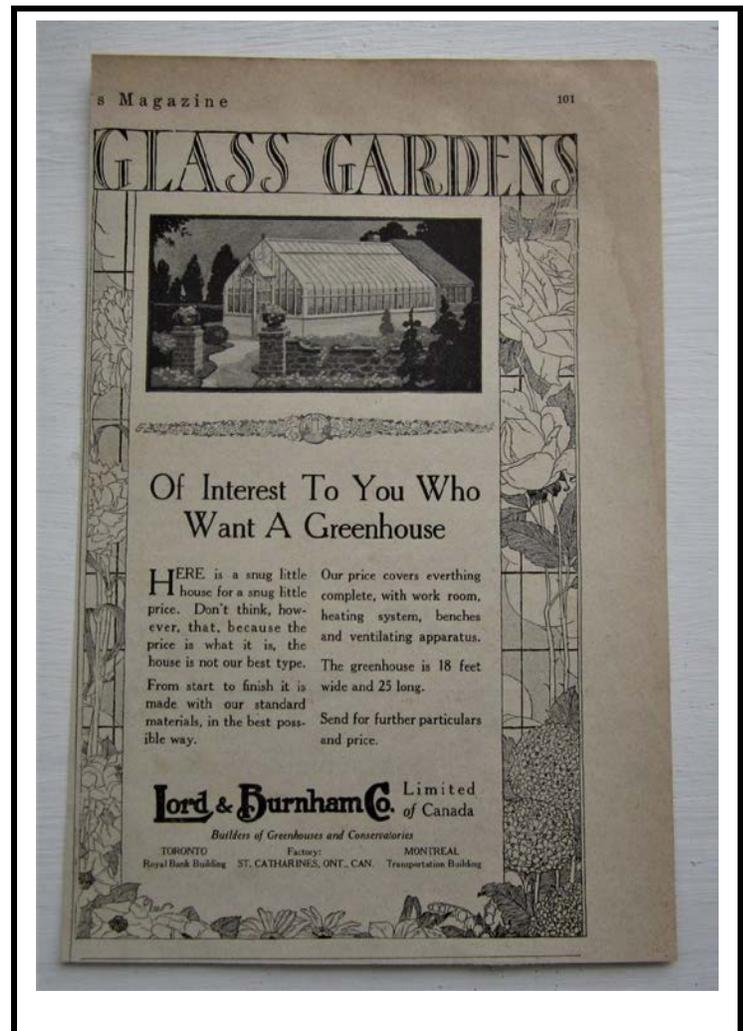
Hidden away in the South-East corner of Malcolmson Park sits a greenhouse which was built in 1927. This greenhouse was built by a well-known manufacturer of greenhouses, Lord & Burnham. The Lord & Burnham line of greenhouses has been continually manufactured since 1849. Unfortunately, invasive plants have taken over many of the gardens and woods in the Park which makes the greenhouse very difficult to see other than in winter.

In the mid-1930's a book about the new Welland Ship Canal stated the builders of the Canal took the public's fascination with the waterway into account and planned to have parks and gardens along its length. It was the intention to make something of a park with woods and tended gardens at the locks. All along the Canal plantings would be carried out. In the spring of 1927, six nurseries, one seed bed and one nursery arboretum were established. Back in the early 1900's many wedding parties would go there to have photographs taken. The greenhouse was established so that protection could be given to a certain amount of stock, including flowering plants, during the winter. Unfortunately, the Depression and World War 11 eventually reined in the Welland Ship Canal Company's grand plans for beautifying the Canal.

The City began to look after the property in 1970, leasing it from the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, formally leased it from the Authority in 1976 and bought it in 1989 renaming the property Malcolmson Park. In 1990 there was some talk about a proposal to spend \$600,000 to build a new greenhouse in Malcolmson Park, 4000 square feet in size. This did not materialize.

Several years ago, with the help of some grants, the Lord & Burnham greenhouse was refurbished; new glass windows, and new electrical and heating systems. The City has agreed to do some necessary repairs including replacing the broken glass pieces. It is the intention of the Friends of Malcolmson Park to have this work done prior to Earth Day on April 21, 2018. The greenhouse will be open should anyone want to tour the inside of it. The "Friends" also organize walks through the Park; it is hoped in the future the greenhouse could be featured as a point of interest on these strolls through the park. The next scheduled walks will be held in the fall of 2018.

My thanks to Dennis Gannon, who writes a feature article on historic buildings for The Standard, for providing me with information and photographs on the history of the greenhouse.

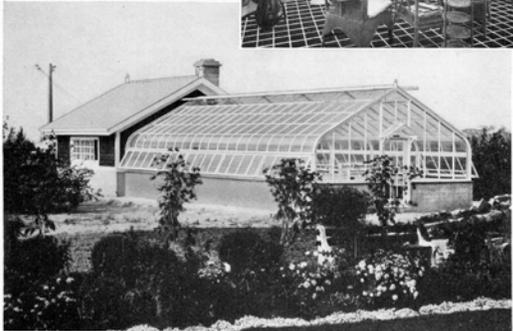


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WELLAND SHIP C

Wouldn't you like a "Glass Garden" sitting room like this?

Below: The Glass Garden we built for the Welland Ship Canal. Be sure to go through it.



## TAKE THE STING OUT OF WINTER DAYS

A small conservatory would "over" your life during cold winter months.

You could have Vita Glass . . . let the healthful ultra violet through . . . have a delightful sitting room, fragrant, warm, comfortable . . . of real benefit everyone's health. Or, if you prefer, have your conservatory below detached, in the garden. The cost is trifling—when divided it by the years of cement you'll have. You may add years to your life, this way.

If you're really interested, our Toronto Office (308 H. Commission Bldg.) to send literature.

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## TD Friends of the Environment supports another project for 2018

TD Friends of the Environment have awarded the Friends grants for many years. For 2018, we have received \$2,000 to make improvements to the bunny trail. We will level, widen and gravel the trail as well as remove some non-native plants along the sides of the trail, and replant with native shrubs and plants.

A BIG thank you to TD FEF for your support!

Some of this work will be done on April 22, our Earth Day Volunteer Day. We invite volunteers of all ages to join us for this project.

If you would like to volunteer on other days, please contact us on the website or by phone, and we will include you. Volunteers are always welcome!



TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation

### Landcare Niagara Assists the Friends to Plant Wildflowers for Pollinators

On Earth Day this year, a new partner group will join us at the park. Landcare Niagara will be funding the planting of wildflowers for pollinators in the prairie area, and will bring some volunteers to help with the planting. Anyone from the community is welcome to join in.

We will plant yellow flowering Showy Tick Trefoil, Brown Eyed Susan, and Grey Headed Coneflower. Yellow is especially attractive to many types of bees.

We will plant Common Milkweed, (pink flowers), and Butterflyweed (orange flowers). These species are vital for Monarch butterfly larvae to survive.

New England Aster will also be planted, since its purple blooms in late August/September provide a later food source for pollinators.

A sincere thank you to Landcare Niagara from the Friends, and the pollinators!



Common Milkweed



Butterfly Weed

## 2018 Malcolmson Eco-Park: 2018 Changes in the Committee

In May 2017, the City representative on our Committee for over 20 years, Mike Anderson retired. Mike made vital contributions in the early development of the park, and was a strong supporter of the Friends projects to restore the natural ecosystems. Thanks so much Mike!

We welcome Ilyse Norton, horticultural technician with Recreation Services, to the Committee.

The Committee for 2018 is:

Co-convener's -	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.

## Prescribed Burn of the Prairie Planned in April

During the week of April 6 -13, the Friends hope to hold a prescribed/controlled burn of the prairie area to help re-establish a southern Ontario tall grass prairie eco-system. This type of eco-system is rare, which threatens species that depend on it for habitat.

Prairie plants begin seasonal growth later than non-prairie plants, and are suited to habitat that has natural occasional fires. Some seeds require fire to germinate. The burned plant material provides nutrients for the growth that year, and the blackened soil warms faster. Invasive woody species such as sumac are damaged by the burn and hopefully die. The early spring controlled burn simulates a natural prairie occurrence. The planning goal is to hold a prescribed burn every second year.

The Friends are working with the Fire Department to make this a safe event. Prior notice will be given to the public, nearby schools and neighbouring residents. The date will be posted at the park, and it will be closed to the public on burn day.

## Niagara District Council of Women Plants 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tree

Did you know that the park is named for Mary Malcolmson, who started Guiding in Niagara in 1910, AND was the first president of the Niagara District Council of Women? 2018 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Niagara Council of Women. The organization is planting a Sassafras tree in the park this spring to commemorate this event and Mary Malcolmson. Sassafras is a Carolinian tree that is rare in Ontario. A special tree for a special person who contributed much to life in Niagara!

