

HIGH PARK NEWS

VOLUME 5

SUMMER 2005

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HPCAC - 10th Annual Meeting

By High Park Correspondent

The 10th HPCAC Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 16 at the Grenadier Café and Teahouse. There was a large turnout representing Residents' Associations recreational stakeholders, members-at-large and interested local residents, as well as our Ward Councillor and several Parks staff.

After introductions, enthusiastic reports were heard from the executive and various standing committees. Highlights of our volunteer activities and allied City programs over the year June 2004-May 2005 are shown on page 7. A retrospective, "Celebrating 10 years of Committed Stewardship", was distributed along with a souvenir of the occasion, a framed photo showing wild lupines in bloom.



*Anniversary Photograph
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*

The Chair and Secretary positions were confirmed for another year. Our Treasurer, Steve Mick, has resigned, however, leaving a vacancy. Two current members-at-large allowed their names to stand for another two-year term and six others offered themselves for such a position. All were elected by acclamation for the period 2005-2007.

The evening ended with cake and ice cream generously supplied by the Grenadier staff, which also provided pizza at the start of the meeting.



*Silphium perfoliatum, Cup Plant
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*

HELP WANTED!

The High Park Youth connecting People and the Environment program (HYPE) has run successfully for several years but recently the program seems to have run out of steam. Aimed at the high-school students, participants develop, market and lead their own events, but some adult support and encouragement is needed. Unfortunately, both of our adult leaders have had to drop out of the program. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this important volunteer program and assisting in its revival, please contact us at info@highpark.org.



*Inhabitant of High Park Zoo
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*

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ABOUT US

High Park Advisory Council

HPCAC, a volunteer group, began as an interim Committee in 1993. It was recognized by the City of Toronto as the High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee in 1995. Its name was changed to the High Park Community Advisory Council in 2003.

HPCAC is made up of a broad range of Park users, including individuals and representatives of organized groups. These include local ratepayer/residents' associations, recreational stakeholders, long-term interest groups such as the Toronto Field Naturalists, business/park entrepreneurs and a number of members-at-large from the community. The Council meets on a regular basis and meetings are open to the public.

The HPCAC mandate is:

- to facilitate ongoing public input and assistance in the stewardship of High Park for present and future generations of Park users
- to provide public input on Park policies, goals and objectives to the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture & Tourism, City of Toronto
- to facilitate volunteer involvement in Park initiatives
- to promote public awareness and responsible stewardship of the Park

Contributors to this issue:

Ron Allan	Vera Funtova	Ken Sharratt	Cara Webster
Keely Forth	Cheryl Hart	Diana Teal	Gloria Worth
Kirill Funtova	Paul Hindle	Jean Vesik	Karen Yukich

Editor: Ron Allan (editor@highpark.org)

Design and Layout: Lisa Kemp

High Park Initiatives

An affiliated charitable corporation called High Park Initiatives (HPI) was founded in 2003 to raise funds in support of various Park programs and activities. HPI has also assumed responsibility for managing the High Park Nature Centre, an education program operated jointly by staff and volunteers.

HPCAC Committees

The work of the Council is carried on through two standing policy committees, the Natural Environment Committee, and the Built Environment and Safety Committee. Meetings of these committees are open to the public and your participation is welcome.

In addition, the Program Committee sponsors six volunteer-led programs in the Park.

- Children's events
- High Park Youth connecting People and the Environment (HYPE)
- K-9 Working Group, dog owners and walkers
- ParkWatch
- Volunteer Stewardship Program
- Walking Tours

This committee also liaises closely with the Nature Centre, and City sponsored programs such as Colborne Lodge Museum and the Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs, both located near the south end of the Park.

All activities are conducted on a regular basis throughout the year.

Contact us...infoline: (416) 392-1748 website: www.highpark.org

You can find up-to-date information on the various programs through our infoline and on our website.

HPCAC Executive 2003/04

Chair	Robin Sorys
Secretary	Ken Sharratt
Treasurer	
Natural Environment Committee	
Chair	Karen Yukich
Built Environment & Safety Committee	
Chair	Paul Hindle
Program Committee	
Chair	Ron Allan
Parks & Recreation Ex-officio Representative	Helen Sousa
Colborne Lodge Ex-officio Representative	Cheryl Hart
Councillor	Bill Saundercook
HPCAC Members-at-large elected June 2005	
Linda Curnoe	Mark Cyr
Mark Ellwood	Terry Graham
Elizabeth Lis	Sharon Lovett
John Rocco	John Romanov

HPCAC Members-at-large elected June 2004

Ron Allan
Karyn Morris
Grace Petrucci

HPCAC Volunteer Program Groups

Children's Events	Robin Sorys
HYPE	
K-9 Working Group	Jane Brown
Park Watch	Gloria Worth
Volunteer Stewardship Program	
	Jean Vesik
	Ron Allan

Members Representing Residents Assns.

Bloor West Village R.A.	Terry Graham
Dundas West R.A.	Ken Sharratt
High Park R.A.	Karen Palkowski
Parkdale R.A.	Graig Peskett
Roncesvalles-MacDonell R.A.	
	Peter Elson

Sunnyside Community Assn

	Michael Craig
Swansea Area R.A.	Merle Hudson

Members Representing Long Term Interests

Toronto Entomologists' Association	Karen Yukich
Toronto Ornithological Club	Don Barnett
Toronto Field Naturalists	

Members Representing Business/Park Entrepreneurs

Grenadier Group	Steve Caragianakos
Can-Stage Company	Paul Shaw
OFVIC	April Cornell

City-sponsored Programs non-voting members

Colborne Lodge	Cheryl Hart
Children's Garden & Exploring Toronto Programs	Keely Forth

High Park Initiatives

Secretary	Paul Hindle
Treasurer	Michael Still
Director H.R.	Robin Sorys
Director	Eleanor Morton
Director	Merril Mascarenhas
P&R Ex-officio	Helen Sousa
Nature Centre	Diana Teal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

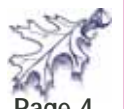
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 VSP Himalayan Balsam Cutting Along Spring Creek	3	4 Children's Garden Garden Drop-in for Families	5	6 Children's Garden Youth Cooking Program
7 VSP Field Trip Alderville First Nation Children's Garden Brilliant Culinary Celebration	8	9 Walking Tours Photos in the Park	10	11 Children's Garden Garden Drop-in for Families	12	13
14	15	16 VSP Adopt-a-plots and Tablelands	17	18 Children's Garden Garden Drop-in for Families	19	20
21 VSP Himalayan Balsam Cutting Along Spring Creek	22	23 Walking Tours Bat Night, 8:30 pm	24	25 Children's Garden Garden Drop-in for Families	26	27
28	29	30	31 Natural Environment Committee Meeting, 6:45 pm			



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 VSP Field Trip Royal Botanical Gardens	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Walking Tours Birds of Spring 9 am start	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 VSP Tree and Shrub Planting	19	20	21 HPCAC Council Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



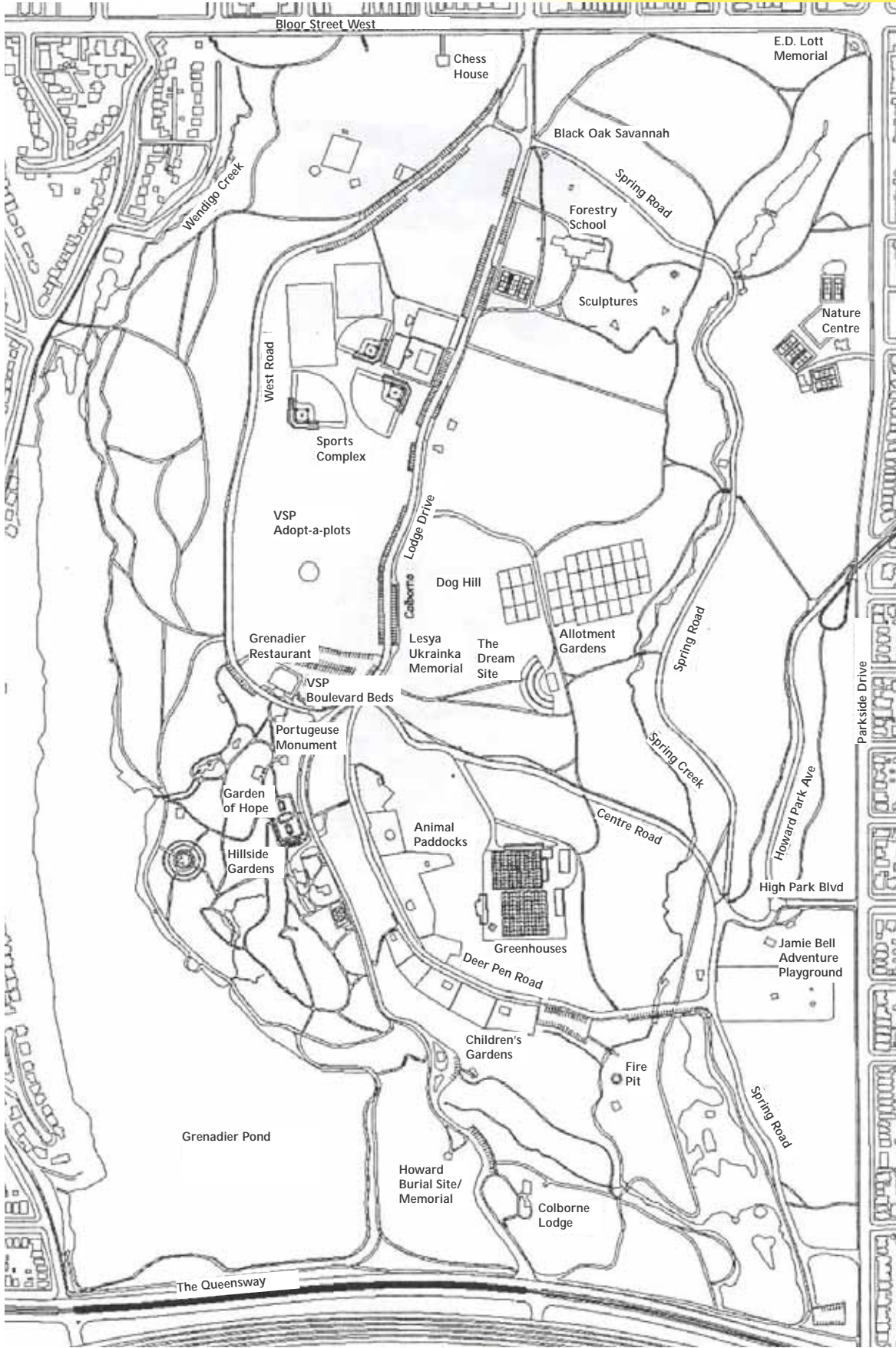
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Children's Garden Youth Cooking Program
2 VSP Plant Sale Colborne Lodge Harvest Festival	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 VSP Buckthorn Cutting and Seed Collecting	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Walking Tours 1:30 pm	24	25	26	27 Colborne Lodge Haunted High Park	28 Colborne Lodge Haunted High Park	29 Colborne Lodge Haunted High Park
30 VSP Trail Closure with Restoration Crew Children's Events Pumpkin Float	31					



HIGH PARK MAP



Highlights of the HPCAC year 2004-2005

By Ron Allan

It has been our custom to present a report of the year's activities at the Annual Meeting (see front page). With the establishment of our website and a vibrant quarterly Newsletter, it was decided to forgo a general report of this type this year. We would like, however, to record some highlights of the year June 2004-May 2005 in our volunteer working programs and allied City-sponsored programs.

• Children's Events:

The three traditional family events – the Pumpkin Float at Halloween, Winter Fun Day in January and the Easter egg hunt – brought out 502 children in all. Profits from these events are put toward the maintenance of the Jamie Bell Adventure Playground.

• K-9 Working Group:

This dedicated group of dog-owners works hard to encourage other dog-owners to respect on- and off-leash areas and to clean up after their pets. During the year, the group produced and distributed a booklet "Dog Hill Frequently Asked Questions". This publication not only addresses questions on dog-walking etiquette in the Park but also responds to a number of other frequently asked questions.

• Park Watch:

384 volunteer hours

Contact with the public covered chats, requests for information and directions as well as warnings re. charcoal barbecues, feeding animals and birds, dogs off-leash, bikes on trails and picking plants.

• Volunteer Stewardship Program

The VSP enjoyed another productive year:

32 events

385 participants

1288 total person-hours

Activities included; invasive species removal; talks, tours and field trips; native plant sales; Adopt-a-plot involvement and work in the Park Greenhouses.

A highlight was the opening of the Boulevard Beds (a native plant demonstration garden) on the periphery of the Grenadier Café Parking Lot.

• Walking Tours:

Our walking tour program covering the natural and human history of the Park continued throughout the year.

22 walks

593 participants

Over 5500 adults and children have taken part in this program in the nine years it has been offered.

• High Park Nature Centre:

The Nature Centre carried on its active program throughout the year, reaching thousands of children from local schools as well as from day-care and community centres with the message of Park stewardship. Active participation was:

2676 from local schools (spring planting, seed collecting in the fall, winter ecology and orienteering programs - 1270 native plants put in the ground)

410 from day care/community centres

25 children/30 adults in holiday workshops for families

• Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs:

This vigorous City-sponsored program works with schoolchildren and young people with particular emphasis on planting and maintaining the Children's Garden near the south end of the Park.

• Colborne Lodge:

The Coach House is currently closed awaiting work on structural stabilization. Some programs, which are normally run in this building, have been cancelled. This has affected overall attendance in the site's programs but participation and interest remain high

• Other Highlights

Workshop on the Environment of High Park was presented by the Natural Environment Committee in January, a stimulating afternoon.

HPCAC received a City of Toronto Environmental Award (Green Toronto Award) in May.

Latest stage in the on-going Grenadier Pond shoreline restoration program. This involved removal by a City-sponsored contractor of the former pond edge path and concrete retaining wall and replacement with a gently sloping natural shoreline, starting last fall. This spring, on completion of the work, a number of native aquatic plants were placed under contract at the near shoreline. Later, about 1000 native plant perennials, shrubs and trees were planted by volunteers in the dryland area behind the shoreline.



*Grenadier Pond Restoration
Before (above) and After (left)
Photo credits: Lisa Kemp*

Protecting the Oak Savannah - Dog-strangling Vine Control in High Park

By Cara Webster, Restoration Specialist, Urban Forestry Services

Visitors to High Park may encounter pesticide warning sign postings in the park and wonder why there is a continued need for pesticide use in the Park. Limited use of pesticide is targeted for specific invasive plant species that present a serious threat to the natural ecosystems in the Park. During the early summer to early fall, Toronto Urban Forestry field staff are involved in the restoration of the oak savannahs in the Park, fighting to protect our native vegetation from invasive plants such as Dog-strangling vine.



*Pesticide Warning Signs
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*

An intensive management program was initiated in 2000 to start controlling Dog-strangling vine with the registered herbicide, “Roundup”, after previous attempts to control this plant with non-chemical methods including pulling, cutting, burning and smothering proved unsuccessful. City staff apply herbicide (herbicides are a type of pesticide; they are chemicals used to control weeds) directly to the plant by wiping or spot spraying the targeted plants to minimize damage to the environment and surrounding native vegetation. Some infestations may require more than one treatment per season since the plants continue to flower throughout the season instead of having one flowering period. Repeated treatments over several years are required for large aggressive colonies, to target individual plants that were missed during previous treatments or to find new plants that have sprouted from seed.

Each area in the Park that is proposed for treatment is marked with pesticide warning signs 24 hours in advance of treatment; signs must be left up for 48 hours after treatment. The date listed under date sprayed is the actual treatment date so Park users can monitor the stage of postings. Due to these posting requirements, more than one area may be signed at one time since the crew has moved on to another area. It is not recommended that Park users enter the treatment areas while they are posted. If necessary, however, staying on the designated pathways will reduce exposure to pesticide.

Dog-strangling vine is a serious pest in Toronto’s natural areas since it spreads by root and by abundant seed that can be carried by wind. It can invade sites in both sun and shade. However, it is much more aggressive in full-sun, which makes the open habitat of the oak savannah particularly vulnerable to invasion. The plants twine onto neighbouring

plants and outcompete them for sun and other resources. The plant was introduced from Russia and Ukraine and it is therefore able to grow without natural controls. Dog-strangling vine can easily be identified by common traits in the milkweed family including star shaped flowers, green oval leaves, seed pods and fluffy seeds. Two species of Dog-strangling vine are found in Toronto and within High Park, although the Pale Dog-strangling vine, *Vincetoxicum rossicum*, (bottom flower picture) is much more common and widespread.



*Dog-strangling vine seeds & seed pods. Generally seed pods develop mid-July and open mid-late August.
Photo Credit: City of Toronto.*



*Dog-strangling vine flowers – two species are found in Toronto and within High Park, the bottom species Pale Dog-strangling vine (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*) is much more widespread than Black Dog-strangling vine (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*). Both species flower from approximately mid-June to mid-July.
Photo Credit: City of Toronto*

Landowners in the High Park area can contribute to the control efforts in the park by controlling Dog-strangling vine on their own property so that the seed is not spread into the Park. For small infestations, the plants can be dug out of the ground or, at least, the seed pods can be cut off the plant to prevent spread. For further information please refer to the City of Toronto Urban Forestry Services web site at www.toronto.ca/trees; look under Ravines for information about how to control invasive plants, appropriate native plant lists for Toronto and where to obtain native plants in Toronto.

Reference: Stephen Darbyshire, Trail & Landscape, Vol. 37, No. 4 (2003).



Monuments, Memorials and Artworks in High Park–Part II

By Ron Allan

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we began an article on the Monuments, Memorials and Artworks in High Park. We looked at the Howard Burial site/Monument, the Portuguese Monument and the Lesya Ukrainka Sculpture. In discussion, we addressed two questions: why were these works of art placed in High Park? Are they appropriate to a public park? Keep these questions in mind as we continue.

Sculpture Hill

We now come to a group of sculptures which seems to cause a lot confusion and comment. Some are situated on the hill bordering the nature/dog path south and east of the Forest School building (Sculpture Hill). Others are north and west of the building itself. Where did they originate? What do they represent? Some look like “piles of junk”; why haven’t they been removed?

It all began in 1967, Canada’s Centennial Year when it was decided to hold an International Sculpture Symposium in Toronto with High Park (Sculpture Hill) as the venue. Interest was solicited from around the world and ultimately 12 international artists were selected including four from Canada. The artists all came to Toronto and worked on site, using the former Forest School to store their tools and gear. In the end, ten sculptures were completed, seven of which remain. (The three others went to the National Gallery in Ottawa, the McMichael Canadiana Collection in Kleinberg and the Art Gallery of Ontario.) Let us examine those that are still in place.



“No Shoes” by Mark di Suvero - original (left) and today (right)
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

• **“No shoes”** by Mark di Suvero, an American artist. This is the structure close to the nature/dog path. It is constructed from steel I-beams bolted or welded together and painted orange (The title reflects the era – the hippy years.). What one sees today is puzzling. But the original sculpture was much more elaborate. It was fitted with four free-swinging

logs, perhaps relating to the surrounding trees. In time, these logs were removed and what was left fenced off because of the safety risk.



“Flower Power” by Mark di Suvero - original (left) and today (right)
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

• **“Flower Power”**, at the top of the hill, also by di Suvero, and, again, reflecting the 1960s. Today, it is hard to make anything out of what remains but, originally, it consisted of two interlocking triangles, the top one inverted, the whole held in place by cables under tension. Again, the painted I-beam structure was dismantled and fenced off for safety reasons.



“Three Discs” by Menashe Kadishman
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

• **“Three Discs”** by Menashe Kadishman, an Israeli. This sculpture is sited south of the second di Suvero sculpture. It consists of three cantilevered, contiguous metal discs painted yellow. It is an inviting target for graffiti artists but seems to remain untouched most of the time.



“November Pyramid” by Bernard Schottlander
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

• **“November Pyramid”** by Bernard Schottlander, a German artist, living in England at the time. Made of painted steel plates – great for children to climb on.

Some years ago, someone painted the sculpture a vivid blue colour! Parks Maintenance staff quickly restored the sculpture to a neutral dull-brown colour.



*“Mid-summer Night’s Dream”
by Wessel Couzijn
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*

• **“Mid-summer Night’s Dream”** is the work of Wessel Couzijn, a Dutch sculptor. It is located on the hill near the Forest School. It takes a little time to realize that you are looking at concrete male and female figures facing each other, presumably doing what lovers sometimes do in the Park!



*“Temple” by Hubert Dalwood
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*

• **“Temple”** by Hubert Dalwood, a British artist, is located north of the Forest School. This is a collection of stainless-steel pipes fixed to a base and it remains in good condition.



*“The Hippy” by William Koochin
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*

• **“The Hippy”** by William Koochin, a Canadian sculptor, is located at the west end of the Forest School. This sculpture is carved from a piece of granite and, again, has a title appropriate to the sixties.



*Unfinished Sculpture by Irving Burman
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*

• And, of course, we can’t leave the area without mentioning **the unfinished sculpture**, located at the corner of

Spring Road and Colborne Lodge Drive. This particular project was begun by a Toronto artist, Irving Burman, who had two blocks of granite delivered to the sculpture site. Unfortunately, Mr. Burman suffered a breakdown and neither he nor anyone else had any idea of what he had intended to create! The City later prepared a base for the two pieces in an arbitrary orientation. Besides providing a convenient climbing spot for children, it’s fun to speculate

what the artist originally had in mind – beavers chewing down a tree, caribou fording a river, your guess!

What should we do about this group of artworks? The collection is a cultural asset and of significant value today. Most of the pieces are in good condition, considering that they have been outdoors for almost forty years.

What to do with the two di Suvero sculptures, in particular, remains unresolved. In their original configuration, they were valuable artworks and early examples of a prominent artist’s work. However, if restored to their original design, they would be a potential hazard to the public. Swinging wooden logs (No Shoes) and an inverted steel beam pyramid held under tension by cables (Flower Power) requires careful consideration prior to being reassembled in a public park. The City’s Culture Division is examining options. Di Suvero is an internationally recognized artist today, perhaps the greatest of his genre, with a museum/theme park in New England displaying a number of his works (and the style is still recognizable).

At the very least, information should be provided regarding the history of the collection, current biographies of the artists and proper labelling of each of the pieces. In di Suvero’s case, recognizing the problems with reassembling, pictures or engravings of the original sculptures could be provided.

Other Artwork and Memorials

• **Lott Memorial Fountain.** The fountain and surroundings at the northeast corner of the Park was presented to the City in the 1960s by a local resident, Ernest D. Lott. For many years, it was enjoyed by people, dogs and wildlife. Then the structure began to deteriorate and the fountain was shut down. Funds have recently been allocated to rebuild the site, again with a drinking fountain and a water feature. With complementary plantings of trees, native grasses and wildflowers, it will, once more, make an attractive entrance to the Park.

• **The Labyrinth:** This feature, located on the tableland north of the Grenadier Café and Teahouse, was installed in 2000. A labyrinth is an ancient symbol dating back hundreds of years designed for walking, meditation and relaxation, a memorial of sorts. Labyrinths can be found in many parts of the world including France, Sweden, England and India. In this case, local enthusiasts painted the convoluted walking path on a concrete base, once part of a carousel. It is a copy of a labyrinth found in a 13th Century Cathedral in Chartres, France.

• **Memorial Gateway** – at the High Park Boulevard entrance to the Park. This is an impressive stone structure complete with exotic lighting, erected in 1913.



HIGH PARK GROUPS



Labyrinth
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp



Memorial Gateway
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

The inscription on the gate reads:

THIS MEMORIAL GATEWAY
IS DEDICATED TO THE LATE
JOHN G. HOWARD
FOUNDER OF HIGH PARK
BY THE WESTMINSTER CHAPTER
OF THE IMPERIAL ORDER
DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE
AND THE CORPORATION OF
THE CITY OF TORONTO
DECEMBER A. D. 1913

Concluding remarks

We return to the question: are the monuments, sculptures and other artworks described above appropriate to a public park? In a word, yes. These works of art have been in High Park for some time and we are not suggesting that any be removed. However, they should all be clearly identified. We have talked about the need for such recognition for the sculptures remaining from the 1967 Sculpture Symposium. There is a similar need to identify the Portuguese monument. (An identifying plaque has recently been placed at the fence line in front of the Lesya Ukrainka Sculpture)

Other pertinent questions are: do we want to see more monuments and works of art in High Park? And, if so, what acceptance criteria should there be regarding subject and location? Are some subjects or themes more acceptable than others?

What are your thoughts? We'd be glad to hear from you on these questions or on any other points raised in this two-part article. (Contact editor@highpark.org.)

K-9 Working Group

By High Park Correspondent

A **protocol for complaints** has been established (call **392-PAWS**). A protocol has also been set up for K-9 members in dealing with offenders (both concerning leashing requirements and cleaning up after their pets).

The **Dog Hill FAQ booklet** is available to the public. It provides general information on dog-walking etiquette in High Park.

Our meetings are held at the High Park Training Centre, located just south of the Grenadier Café and Teahouse off Colborne Lodge Road. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please email us at K9@highpark.org. We are looking for new members who are interested in making a commitment to this very worthwhile effort.

Park Watch

By Gloria Worth

384 volunteer hours were devoted to this activity during the past year. Further details are provided in the article on page 7, giving Highlights for the Year 2004-2005.

Summer is quite busy for us in educating visitors regarding the city by-laws. Charcoal barbeques are a big issue.

We will continue to participate in activities as Moth and Bat nights, Pumpkin Float and other events as requested.

Walking Tours

By Ron Allan

Our spring/summer Tuesday evening walking tours have gone well so far with good turnouts and enthusiastic leaders. Moth Night was its usual success (see below).

There are still a couple of walks in August, including the always-popular Bat Night. Our fall schedule reverts to Sunday afternoons on September 11 with the Birds of Spring (9 am start).



Moth Night Highlights

By Karen Yukich



Collecting specimens attracted to the sheet

Photo credit: Glenn Richardson

east of the Forest School to attract the moths. Fermented bait made of sugar, ripe bananas and other treats, smeared on nearby trees, also drew them to the area. And the moths did not disappoint – a total of 58 species were identified and passed around in jars for everyone to see, then released into the night. Among the showiest were five species of Underwings, such as the *Ultronia* pictured here – apparently drab brown until they spread their forewings to reveal lipstick-bright coloured hindwings.



Ultronia Underwing, Catocala ultronia

Photo credit: Glenn Richardson

This event is jointly sponsored by the HPCAC Walking Tours and the Toronto Entomologists' Association. Tom Mason, Curator of Invertebrates & Birds at Toronto Zoo, introduced the evening by explaining the ecological significance of moths as valuable pollinators of many plants and a key food source (in their larval form) for many birds. He noted that the diversity of moths found in High Park is another indicator of its special significance as a remnant of a rare ecosystem. Thanks to Tom Mason, Dave Beadle, Carolyn King and all the other TEA members for contributing their expertise in attracting and identifying the moths, and sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with about 30 other participants.

Calm, hot, humid, lightly cloudy weather on July 12th provided perfect conditions for the annual High Park Moth Night. A smudgy sickle moon was no competition for the white sheets lit up by mercury-vapour lamps, strategically positioned near the forest edge

Volunteer Stewardship Program

By Jean Vesik

A lot has happened with the Volunteer Stewardship Program since the spring edition of the HPCAC Newsletter. The Native Plant Sale on May 15th was a great success and some of the money raised from the sale has already been used towards the purchase of new handsaws so the volunteers can effectively hack away at invasive species like Common Buckthorn.

The Boulevard Beds have been cleaned up, weeded, planted and watered and are looking quite nice this July with deep purple Hoary Vervain stocks and golden Black-Eyed Susans sprouting up.



Savannah Planting

Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

On June 12th the VSP had a savannah species planting event lead by the Toronto Urban Forestry Restoration Crew. The planting took place in a native plant reintroduction test site near the entrance off Bloor Street.

Although the day was very hot and humid and the partial shade of the large oak trees only provided minimal shelter, sixteen volunteers and two Restoration Crew staff managed to put approximately 1300 plants in the ground. Some of the species of grasses, sedges and native wildflowers planted that day were Sky Blue Aster, Canada Wild Rye, Heath Aster, Indian Grass, Early Goldenrod and Big Bluestem Grass.

At the end of June the volunteers returned to a site near Wendigo Creek to cut Japanese Knotweed and they were pleased to see that there was noticeably less present this year. After the work was finished, the volunteers enjoyed a leisurely stroll around Grenadier Pond under the guidance of a Restoration Crew member. They learned about the native wetland species and the restoration efforts that have been made around the Pond over the years, including the latest planting event on the south shore on May 15th.

July has been as hot and dry as June was so far. Even though there have been torrential downpours a few times in other areas of Toronto, knocking out power in one case, the storms seem to have missed High Park all together, except for two or three minute dribbles from the sky.

Adopt-a-plot owners have had to be extra diligent this year watering newly planted plants. If the weather doesn't improve, a rain dance may in order. Are there any dance classes that teach the rain dance?



HIGH PARK GROUPS



Picnic Potluck
Photo credit: Kirill Funtova

On July 10th the VSP volunteers watered some of the Adopt-a-plots and cut buckthorn just east of the greenhouses. The event ended with a picnic potluck meal and celebration of the nine years that the Volunteer Stewardship Program has been operating. Good food and great conversation were enjoyed by all.

Well it's that time again...time to discuss the ABC's of the VSPs. Last new newsletter ended with the letter "L" so here are M, N, and O.



Mitrewort
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

Mitrewort (*Mitella diphylla*): This wonderful plant was available at our last plant sale in the spring. The genus name *Mitella* comes from the Greek word *mitra* meaning "cap"; the common name of Bishop's Cap comes from the cap-shaped

fruit of these plants. This plant has a pair of stalkless leaves on the stem below the flowers and also has stalkless basal leaves. It has delicately fringed white snowflake-like flowers that bloom from April to May. The plant grows 10-18 inches tall or 25-45 centimeters and grows in moist rich forests of southern and south central Ontario where it gets sun in the spring and then shade.



New Jersey Tea
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

finely toothed, egg-shaped leaves that grow alternately on the stem. This plant also has dense clusters of small white five-petalled flowers that bloom from June to September. New Jersey Tea is one of the few shrubs that is common to Ontario's savannahs and prairies and is the host plant of the rare mottled duskwing butterfly.



Evening Primrose
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

(*Oenothera biennis*) Evening Primrose: This biennial plant gets its name from the fact that its lemon yellow, four-petaled flowers bloom at night and close before noon of the next day. The yellow blooms glow in the dark and attract moths. Blooming

time is from June to September. This plant has rough, hairy, reddish stems and alternate oblong to lance-shaped leaves. It can grow in dry to average moisture conditions in nutrient-poor, gravelly or sandy soils and can reach a height of 1-5 feet tall or 30-150 centimeters. This plant is found in waste spaces, meadows and roadsides.

References:

<http://www.tallgrassontario.org/Publications/Factsheet3.pdf>

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Johnson, Lorraine. *100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants. Random House of Canada (1999).*

Roger Tory Peterson and Margaret McKenny, *Peterson Field Guides Wildflowers North East/North Central North America. Houghton Mifflin, Boston (1986)*



High Park Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs

By Keely Forth, Recreationist

Hello friends! It is already the middle of summer, and the Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs are in high gear. Our school programs were very successful this spring, with lots of visiting children helping to plant the High Park Children's Garden. We are now into our summer programming and we invite families to our Garden Drop-in Program every Thursday in July and August from 10am-12noon. Our Eco Camp is also experiencing a successful season and you may see our campers in the Children's Garden or on the trails in the Park. We had a small turnout at our July 17th community event due to the wet weather but we are not complaining - the garden desperately needed the rain. Please see below for information on our upcoming events, programs and volunteer opportunities for the remainder of the year.

Volunteer Opportunities

Even with the current drought the garden is having a fabulous year, thanks to the dedicated watering of our staff team. We are always looking for watering and garden maintenance volunteers, so if you are interested please contact Keely at kidsgrow@toronto.ca or call 416-392-1329.

Upcoming Events and Programs

The tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, eggplants and tomatillos are loving the hot weather and the children have been helping us to harvest a bumper crop of vegetables. Come out to one of our community events or programs and taste what the garden has produced!

Garden Drop-in For Families, Every Thursday, July 7-August 25, 10am-12pm

Children and parents can join us for planting, watering, harvesting, crafts, preparing fresh garden snacks and more. This program is located at the High Park Children's Garden, Colborne Lodge Drive, south of Grenadier Cafe. FREE. No registration required. Children must be supervised by a parent/caregiver.

Children's Garden Brilliant Culinary Celebration, Sunday, August 7th 12pm-4pm

Join us as we sample the feast of the garden's bounty. All ages are welcome to participate in food games, nutrition activities, storytelling and garden crafts. A Children's Garden harvest lunch will be served while it lasts. The High Park Children's Garden is located on Colborne Lodge Drive, south of the Grenadier Restaurant. FREE.

Youth Cooking Program, August 6th & October 1st, 11am - 2pm

A fun cooking program for youth aged 11-16. Learn how to prepare simple, delicious, low-budget, fresh foods. Some tasting involved! The program is free but registration is required. Come for one program or both. Program location to be determined, but it will take place in the Parkdale-High Park area.

High Park Harvest Festival, Sunday, October 2nd, 12pm - 4:30pm

The Festival is co-hosted with Colborne Lodge and the High Park Community Advisory Council. Activities at the Children's Garden appeal to young and old and include music and drama, storytelling, shadow puppetry, nature crafts and activities, seed ball making and much more! A Children's Garden harvest lunch will be served as long as food supplies last. All activities at the High Park Children's Garden are FREE. The High Park Children's Garden is located on Colborne Lodge Drive, south of the Grenadier Café & Teahouse.

For information on any of our events and programs please contact:

Christine Klianis
Children's Garden and Exploring Toronto Programs
Niagara C.C.
700 Wellington St. W.
Toronto, ON M5V 1G7
Tel. 416-338-5055
Fax: 416-392-1319
kidsgrow@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca/parks/programs/children.htm



Raised Beds in Children's Gardens
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

High Park Nature Centre

By Diana Teal

In spite of “work-to-rule” campaigns and cool spring temperatures, the Nature Centre’s “**Spring Planting Program**” was great fun for all involved. In May and June, 680 participants visited the Nature Centre and helped to restore the understory of the Park’s black oak savannah by planting 720 native wildflowers and grasses. Students also had a blast making and tossing over 1000 seed balls (made of compost, dry red clay, native plant seeds and water) in the savannah, learning about butterfly life cycles, becoming rainbow searchers and going on bug hunts.

Two classes from High Park Alternative School became “**High Park Guardians**” as they completed the final component of our three-part “Guardians” program. Over the spring, the students grew native plants in their classroom and then carried them to the Park (on a rather long walk) in mid-June to plant them in the savannah. Thanks to Karyn Morris, Charmaine Pobre and their students for making our trial run of this program a success!

We hosted programs for a variety of groups, including local schools, a Girl Guide troop and an adult ESL group who were mystified by a toad we found hopping across the trail. 55 students participated in our Orienteering program in early May, learning how to use a map and compass (and the importance of learning how to identify poison ivy!). The Nature Centre also delivered special workshops for two schools holding outdoor education days in the Park.

The Spring Planting program would not have been possible without the help of three incredible volunteers: Neil Shore, Lindsay Snow (our University of Toronto/OISE intern) and Jon Mee. Neil came in every day that programs were booked to assist with teaching and continued to get the children excited about High Park with his infectious enthusiasm. Lindsay worked harder than anyone I have ever seen in the five weeks she volunteered at the Nature Centre, writing programs, creating teacher’s packages and instructing children. Jon did anything and everything under the sun to help out, including teaching programs, making signs and posting flyers on his bike. **A big THANKYOU to you all!!!**

Our new staff member, Zoë Fitzgerald, joined us at the end of June. She comes to the Nature Centre with several years of experience as a nature interpreter at the Guelph Arboretum and as a camp counselor at the Tim Hortons Onondaga Farms camp. We are excited to have her on staff!

Our summer programs are fully booked this year. This is a cause for celebration given our slow summer last year. We have already run one session of our **Knee-High Naturalists** parent and child camp for fourteen 3-5 year old children and one session of our **Nature Nuts camp** for nineteen 6-12 year old children. I have been receiving rave reviews from participants and look forward to the sessions we have booked

in August. During the month of July, 235 children from local day cares and community centres have also visited the Nature Centre to learn about the ecology of the Park.

In partnership with the **Ministry of Natural Resources’ Urban Fishing Program**, we have been able to offer a four-hour “introduction to catch and release fishing” program to day cares and the children in our Nature Nuts camp. Although the days have been unseasonably hot and therefore not great for fishing, the children have had a wonderful time learning about the ecology of Grenadier Pond, how to handle tackle safely, bait a hook and cast. Now, I don’t want to start telling any tall tales, but the fish they have been catching are incredible! There is nothing like seeing the excitement of a six year old reeling in a blue gill or a large mouth bass (big or small...)

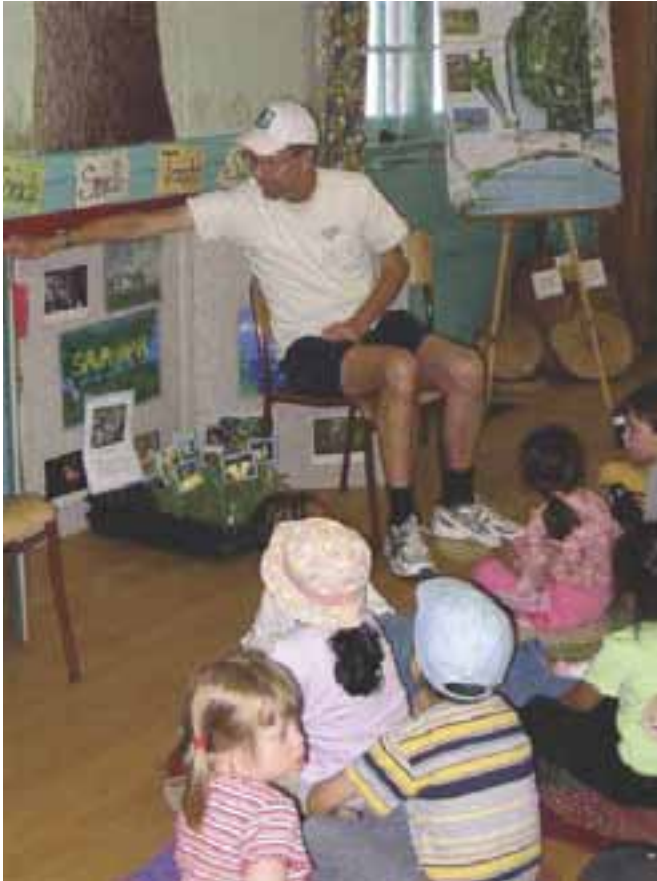
We are hoping for the beautiful summer weather to continue throughout August for the second month of our summer programming. This fall, we will be offering our “**Hawkwatch**”, “**Nuts about Seeds**” and “**Colours of the Fall**” programs to local schools, ESL groups, scout and girl guide troops. The Nature Centre will also be offering a series of family-based workshops on wild crafting on Saturdays in October.

Donations Needed! The Nature Centre is in need of an old blender for a papermaking activity we would like to do this fall. If anyone has one to donate, we would be very happy to receive it! Please give us a call at 416-392-1748 ext.6 or send us an email at: naturecentre@hpcharity.org.



Grade 5 students finding their way using a map and compass.
Photo credit: Nature Centre

NATURE CENTRE



*Our amazing volunteer, Neil, teaching students about the Black Oak savannah.
Photo credit: Nature Centre*



*"Making seed balls is kinda like making meat balls" - Grade 3 student
Photo credit: Nature Centre*



*One of the many stations students had to find while role-playing an urban animal in our High Park survival game.
Photo credit: Nature Centre*

Built Environment and Safety Committee

By Paul Hindle

On July 21 2005, I led a session where we met with seven City of Toronto Park Planners. Representing HPCAC was Karen Yukich, Ron Allan and yours truly and other attendees included Councillor Saundercook and Bea Mozdzanowski from Ward 13, Helen Sousa and Doug Reeves from the Park and Vojka Miladinovic from Urban Forestry. It was a day long meeting that included round table discussions and a couple of walking tours around portions of the Park. The day ended with a session facilitated by Mark Ellwood and their comments are summarized below:

What did you see or observe that MOST impressed you today?

- Wealth of resources – a place to explore
- Rich natural and historical heritage
- Tranquility – an excellent escape from the surrounding urban landscape
- Age, maturity and history of the Park
- Diversity – natural areas, sports, culture, covers all ages, different things for different people
- Large size – number of resources, number and length of trails, feels never-ending
- Shady, non-paved trails
- Something for everyone
- Setup and organization of the Council
- Vast geography of both public and secluded areas, passive and active recreational areas
- Cleanliness
- Welcoming

What did you see or observe that LEAST impressed you today?

- Lack of appropriate signage/information
 - no signs on art displays
 - signs covered/blocked by foliage
 - lack of directional and historical signs
 - difficult to orient
 - lack of multi language signage
 - no 'escape route' on trails
 - better use of pamphlets, trail guides, better education, more interpretation, etc
- Trails
 - too many crisscrossing trails
 - damage by BMX bicycles
 - no distance markers along trails
 - indicate trails that are wheelchair capable
- Infrastructure
 - All buildings are run down (except Grenadier restaurant)
 - Lack of recycling bins

- Lack of clean/working washrooms
- Lack of drinking fountains
- Lack of architectural theme – buildings do not integrate the park together

- Traffic/Roads
 - Too much private traffic
 - Wide asphalt areas where not needed (i.e. Spring Road and Deer Pen Road through zoo)
 - Wheel chair accessibility

What was the BIGGEST ISSUE you saw or observed today?

- Traffic
 - Volume and speed
 - Flow patterns
 - Lack of Park oriented transit
 - Parking needs to be better managed
- Infrastructure
 - Need facilities that work (i.e. washrooms)
 - Run down appearance
- General
 - Park was designed for the local community and not geared to the pressures it now faces
 - Park is a 'destination' Park
 - Should attract people from all over the GTA
 - Infrastructure can not handle more thus defeating the image of a City-wide Park
 - Could handle more but must be planned properly
 - Expand the Vegetation Management Plan to cover the entire park
 - Like TRCA, monitor regularly and adjust accordingly
 - Balance between serving the public interest vs protection of the park
 - There are too many restrictions – it needs protection but we do not want to make it a museum

What/How can we improve? RECOMMENDATIONS?

- Establish a dedicated PR/Communications contact on Council; engage the community at large
- Develop guiding principles including:
 - A conceptual plan (like Wallace-Emerson community group)
 - A clear statement/balance between what can be done, and what cannot be done
 - Recognize other areas of the City – this is not a local park, but a City-wide park and Council should not get too neighbourhood-focused – consider broader City-wide interests
- Rationalize Formal trails – Discovery Walk system showing history and natural environment, self guided tours
- Develop a Master Plan that includes/encompasses the Vegetation Management Plan



BESC COMMITTEE

and Stormwater Management Plan

- Information Centre would provide a clear entry/focal point

The executive has not yet had time to evaluate the comments above, but there was already discussion around developing our guiding principles and I believe that will be the next focus which will go a long way to defining how the Park will grow and be used in the future.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Lott Memorial Fountain Renovation Project – the fountain renovations were approved at our May meeting and plans are underway to complete the renovation this fall.

Canstage Dream Site Renovation Project – Canstage completed the construction of the new permanent stage structure in time for the opening of ‘Much Ado About Nothing’ in late June.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Concession Building at Jamie Bell Adventure Playground
No update

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Garden of Hope

We have been advised that the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation has estimated the garden at today’s prices and found it is too expensive so the Board decided to abandon the project.

Lighting Upgrade/Replacement

Funding has been approved and the lighting replacement should be underway in the fall.

Anyone wishing to help on the Built Environment and Safety Committee can contact me at paulhindle@highpark.org



*Much Ado About Nothing stage set (above) and detail (right)
Photo credits: Canstage*



*Lott Memorial Fountain Project - existing
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*



Lott Memorial Fountain: Illustrative Landscape Elevations

MAY 18, 2005
scale 1:50

*Lott Memorial Fountain Project - renovation design
Photo credit: PMA Landscape Architects*



Grenadier Pond South Shore Restoration Project

By Ken Sharratt

A major community planting took place in High Park on May 15 of this year as part of a planned restoration of 140 metres of the south shoreline of Grenadier Pond. This restoration project is part of the City's long-term strategy to improve the health of High Park's aquatic systems. The aims of this strategy, which has been implemented in phases since 1994, are to restore water quality, increase biodiversity and improve wildlife habitat.



Restoration - Part 1
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

The planned restoration of this site had two components. The first was the removal of the concrete curb and asphalt walkway formerly in this area. The City hired a contractor who began work on the project in November, 2004 with major excavation. In April, 2005, the City undertook a substantial planting of aquatic and some terrestrial species along the shoreline. The contractor fenced the site to avoid trampling the newly installed plantings.



Restoration - Part 2
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp

The second part of the project involved placing plants on the drier ground back from the shoreline. High Park Initiatives (affiliated with the High Park Community Advisory Council) applied for and was awarded a \$10,000 grant for plants from Unilever. As the planting day approached, a volunteer sub-committee was formed and held several planning meetings, assigning specific tasks to individual committee members.

The committee members sorted and organized the plants on site the day before the main public planting. Approximately 75 residents plus 15 or so volunteer organizers participated in a planting of about 1,000 plants on Sunday, May 15. The weather was good. The planting proceeded very well. Everyone enjoyed themselves. About 100 plants that were deemed inappropriate for this site were planted in the northeast entrance restoration site (just north of the settling ponds on Spring Creek) by a smaller group of volunteers on May 29.

The City's contractor agreed to water plants along the Queensway through the summer, and the City and volunteers

have watered the plants at the northeast entrance area. We now know that a restoration project of \$10-15,000 can be easily managed by our committee and that the work can generally be completed in one planting day. We also now have a good network of volunteers to draw on for future work.

This project almost completes the naturalization of the Grenadier Pond shoreline, restoring it to the way it was more than 50 years ago.

Speaking Up for Nature

By Karen Yukich

It almost goes without saying that the "natural" qualities of High Park are what make it a unique and precious place. A substantial portion of the Park has been designated by the province as an "Area of Natural and Scientific Interest" because of the rare plant communities that still exist here in a relatively natural state, providing habitat to a variety of wildlife. The ordinary park user may be unaware of the Park's special status, but still appreciate its diversity and sense of "wildness", finding it a welcome retreat from the busy city that surrounds it.

Yes, it almost goes without saying, but not quite. Since nature cannot speak for itself, it is up to people who care about the natural environment to speak for it. That is what the Natural Environment Committee is all about. Working closely with the City and other HPCAC-related groups, we develop and support initiatives to protect and restore the natural areas of High Park. We try to make sure that the natural environment impact is considered when any new developments are proposed. We also seek ways to reduce the heavy impact of the many activities that already go on in the Park. Public outreach and education is another important role. For example, in January 2005, our committee sponsored a public workshop featuring recent research studies related to High Park.

If you care about the nature of High Park, you are welcome to participate in the Natural Environment Committee. Our committee needs people with a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. For example, you may be interested in native plants, trees, birds, insects, fish, ecology or just appreciate nature in a general way. All of these perspectives are useful!

We meet about four times a year, plus some special projects are undertaken between meetings by small working groups. Find out how you can contribute and give nature a voice that can be heard!

The next Natural Environment Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2005, 6.45 p.m., at the Howard Park Tennis Club. For more information or to add your name to the email list for meeting agendas, contact Karen Yukich at karen@kryukich.on.ca.



IMAGES OF HIGH PARK



Butterfly Weed (left)
Photo credit: Jean Vesik



Adopt-a-Plot in Summer (right)
Photo credit: Jean Vesik

Golden Crowned Kinglet (below)
Photo credit: Jean Vesik



Wild Columbine
Photo credit: Vera Funtova



Trillium
Photo credit: Vera Funtova



COLBORNE LODGE

Colborne Lodge Events

By Cheryl Hart, Supervisor, Colborne Lodge

John and Jemima Howard were avid gardeners. Shortly after moving into Colborne Lodge in 1837, they established a kitchen garden and some ornamental gardens. After John's retirement in 1855, they expanded their gardens, installed pathways and numerous lawn ornaments. John also created a garden around their tomb after Jemima's death in 1877.

Many of the contents of the Lodge were left to the city when John passed away in 1890, including his diaries, work journals and letters, which contain many references to the gardens and the types of vegetation they planted. These records are now being used to recreate a small portion of the Howards' gardens. As much as possible, the appropriate heritage varieties have been used so today's visitors are able to appreciate a 19th century landscape surrounding the home of the founders of the Park.

Much of the spring and summer programming at the Lodge incorporates the gardens and the Park environment. On May 15, we celebrated spring in the Park on High Park Day with storytelling, poetry readings and a native plant sale. School groups learn about John and Jemima's gardens and how important the kitchen garden was to people in the 19th century. Our summer campers particularly enjoy the butterflies, sparrows and numerous insects that populate the gardens.

Coming up

In addition to the special events listed below, people are welcome to take a tour of the Lodge during public open hours. The Lodge is open Tuesdays to Sundays from noon - 5 pm in August, from noon - 4 pm, October to December but weekends only in September.

High Park Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 2 - Noon to 4:30 pm

Come celebrate the Harvest in beautiful High Park and enjoy many family activities at Colborne Lodge and the Children's Garden! Take a horse and wagon ride from the Grenadier Café, then participate in storytelling, face painting, historic tours, nature and garden crafts, pumpkin carving, and so much more! Visit the marketplace for foods, crafts and community displays. This event is organized by the City of Toronto Culture Division, Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the High Park Children's Garden and the High Park Community Advisory Council. Admission to the grounds is free. Some activity fees apply. Special admission to Colborne Lodge is just \$2.

Haunted High Park

Thursday, October 27 - 7 to 8:30 pm (18 yrs and over)

Friday, October 28 - 7 to 8:30 pm (18 yrs and over)

Saturday, October 29 - 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (For families; not recommended for kids under 8 yrs.)

Visitors will feel they have gone back in time to 1890 when John and Jemima Howard, owners of Colborne Lodge, had both passed away. That year their house sat dark and empty. Museum guides will help to recreate the feeling of being there long ago. Guests will be guided about the Howards' property in the dark of night and hear tales of the ghostly Grenadiers and other eerie High Park legends.

Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Adults:\$10, Children 8 & Up:\$5



*Colborne Lodge Grounds
Photo credit: Lisa Kemp*



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High Park Initiatives

By Paul Hindle

The High Park Initiatives Board of Directors is extremely pleased to announce the approval of funding from the Trillium Foundation in the amount of \$125,000 over the next three years to continue with our High Park Nature Centre programs.

This substantial contribution will go a long way towards continuing this valuable program, however it is not enough. We still require your financial assistance, volunteer hours and in-kind contributions in order to help us in developing new programs and expanding the program. Please consider a donation to High Park Initiatives. You can go to our website at www.hpicharity.org and click 'DONATE' and then on the 'DONATE NOW' button. You can use your VISA or direct transfer and you will immediately be sent a tax receipt to your e-mail address. As well, most corporate charitable funds allow employees to direct your individual donations to the charity of your choice.

Consider High Park Initiatives – Charitable Registration Number 86638 9505 RR0001

