



Friends of Lemoine Point

Newsletter

Autumn, 2010

Status of the Conservation Plan

The new Conservation Plan developed by the CRCA for Lemoine Point proposes ideas for addressing the threats to Lemoine Point's long-term ecological health.

An initial three year implementation plan has now been developed. One major priority will continue to be the reforestation of the conservation area and the control of invasive plant species that threaten its native flora. Both those efforts will continue to be carried out by the Friends as they have been in the past, and in fact we are planning and considering enhancing our reforestation program especially in terms of attempting to lessen the impact that deer browsing has had on the success of our tree planting. There will also be limited reforestation of some of the areas that were previously mowed on a regular basis and that will now be left natural.

Another priority in the next three years will be the state of the trails in Lemoine Point. They are being assessed to provide basic details on their condition and usage to identify where upgrades are required or would be appropriate. It is not yet clear whether that will at this time include a review of the current trail system with a view to possibly reducing the fragmentation of our forested area that has resulted because of the many trails that run through it.

The trick in all this planning is to continue to seek a balance between visitor use of the conservation area and the sustainability of its natural environment.

These and related issues will be discussed as part of the special presentation on the Conservation Plan being made by the CRCA's Biologist at our upcoming AGM ... see the back page of this newsletter for details.

Biking Restrictions

The CRCA has now implemented limitations on what Lemoine Point trails may be used by cyclists.

The trails that are available to cyclists, about a third of the total trail length, are the main road between the North and South parking lots and the two trails that lead from that main road to the washrooms. Bike racks have been provided at several strategic locations that enable cyclists to leave their bikes and walk along the waterfront and enjoy other areas.

The trails that are now off limit to biking are the waterfront trail and the remaining interior trails, all of which are more narrow and with surfaces less suited to enabling both bikes and pedestrians. Biking on these trails is being restricted in

part to avoid the potential for pedestrians (including people in wheelchairs) being hit by bikes and to enhance their sense of safety and comfort while enjoying Lemoine Point's natural qualities. Another reason is to minimize the damage that bike traffic can do to trails and sensitive natural areas.

As could be predicted, the new policy has had a mixed acceptance. Some cyclists are upset that their bicycle access to some of Lemoine Point's trails has been restricted, while many walkers are very pleased with this turn of events.



Our success in helping to enhance Lemoine Point's natural environment depends greatly on our many volunteers, and we would like to occasionally present some of them to you.

In this issue we introduce Peter Butler. He is currently a member of the Friends' Board and in fact has been on the Board since it was first formed when the Friends of Lemoine Point was founded in 1988. Also, as a former president, he is currently our Past President.

In addition, he is an excellent example of the skill and devotion that our volunteers bring to our activities. He works regularly along with other volunteers at the Nursery and in the reforestation of Lemoine Point, and seems to especially enjoy responding to the challenges of both.

For example, he participates in our tree plantings but also, knowing a lot about animal behaviour, has come up with several ideas on protecting our tree plantations from deer browsing, two of which are currently in field trial. He's also spent a lot of time collecting acorns, planting them, pruning the resulting oaks, finally taking saplings from the nursery and planting them in dogwood copses so as to hide them from the deer. He has also used his curiosity and ingenuity in designing and helping build various structures at the Nursery.



Peter is a retired Chemical Engineer from Dupont. Other than Lemoine Point, his interests include sailing, hiking, and his cottage on Wolfe Island. He first enjoyed Lemoine Point with his family in the 1970's when the conservation area was developed, and now most of his days start with early morning walks with his dog at Lemoine Point.

We're always looking for more volunteers, and if you know of anyone who may be interested, suggest that they contact us or go to our website (just Google "Friends of Lemoine Point").



Thank You for Your Support!

We have again had a very successful year, made possible by your support and donations as well as by our volunteers.

Your membership renewal form is enclosed and can be paid at our AGM or mailed in. A charitable receipt for any donations will be sent in the new year.

Board of Directors (2009-10)

John Diemer, President
Peter Butler, Past President
Jane Murphy, Vice-President
Ron Bettney, Treasurer
David McMurray, Secretary
Millie Belyea
Chris Hargreaves
Larry McCurdy
Marie Surridge

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A Special Visitor

There has been a lot of interest shown in our Native Plant Nursery, including by various creatures of the non-human variety, and the most unusual of those is the Red-Tailed Hawk that has been hanging around the Nursery since early this summer. Whenever we're working there, it seemingly patiently observes and presumably enjoys the action from one of its several favourite perches around the Nursery. It allows us to get quite close to it without it seeming disturbed, and it has even flown into the Nursery and captured and consumed a hapless vole right in front of us, which it

seemed to do with some relish (just before the photo at right). It certainly is contributing its bit to controlling our local vole population! Jane Murphy has even dubbed it The Terminator.

At one point while Rick Knapton of the CRCA was there operating a tractor with its large scoop bucket up in the air, the hawk swooped down and landed on top of the bucket and simply sat there for five or so minutes just looking at Rick sitting on the tractor.



It is a joy to have around and some of us see it as something of a pet. It will however probably soon be flying southward for the winter. We're wondering if it will be back with us in the spring!

Nature Updates

Some new information on several of our recent newsletter articles:

Wild Parsnip

The Friends have been monitoring the apparent explosive spread of Wild Parsnip, the nasty invasive plant that looks like a yellow version of the common Queen Anne's Lace but can cause severe and painful skin blisters. This summer it was obvious that it has been spreading throughout Eastern Ontario, and it was found in a number of locations at Lemoine Point. The CRCA is looking into options for dealing with Wild Parsnip. Unfortunately there are no easy ways of controlling it.

Ticks & Lyme Disease

We last reported that Lemoine Point does have blacklegged ticks that can transmit Lyme Disease but that there had been no indication that ours actually carried it. We can now add that there has been evidence that some of our ticks do carry it. Even though it apparently is still a low risk, be aware of ways to avoid being bitten by a tick as it can lead to severe health problems, such as walking in the middle of trails away from tall grass and bushes.

Friends of Lemoine Point

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 17, 7:30 pm

St. Andrew's By The Lake United Church
at 1 Redden St. in Reddendale.

From Front Rd. (west of Day's Road) take
Lakeview south, and turn left to end of Redden St.

PRESENTATION:

**Tom Beaubiah, the C.R.C.A. Biologist,
describes and discusses
the new Conservation Plan
for Lemoine Point**

Everyone Welcome!



Some of our volunteers at our recent Volunteer Appreciation BBQ