



Friends
of Lemoine Point

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Our 25th year has been another busy one. We wouldn't be where we are without your support and the commitment and dedication of our volunteers. From keeping the Native Plant Nursery running smoothly and open to sales to trail maintenance and invasive species removal. The work never ends but we all continue to find happiness in supporting the protection and community enjoyment of Lemoine Point.

In Memorium

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Peter Butler. Peter was the inaugural Chairman of the Board (1998-99) and the longest serving Past President. An ardent supporter of the nursery and heritage forest programs, volunteer lead for the memorial bench program, and a Friend who carried a memory like none other when it came to discussing past Friends activities. We are discussing ways to commemorate Peter's contributions and significant impact.

Thank you, Peter. You will be greatly missed, but your legacy will live on.

Tis the season...to renew.

It's time to renew your membership! Why not also consider membership as a gift for friends or family?

We encourage you to read Friends of Lemoine Point stories posted on the Cataraqui Conservation website. To learn more about us, go to <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/friends-lemoine-point>.

Tending the trails in 2023.

By: Ross McGowan

In early May, a group of seven volunteers got together to begin trail maintenance for the season. They invested 65 hours of their time that month to ensure the trails were clear of vegetation. Three more excursions

were completed in June and one more in August. It is not just the trail users that benefited from this effort – it was a great opportunity for the volunteers to get to know each other, to learn about the



conservation area, its history and ecosystems, meet some visitors to the park and enjoy some great weather.

On the major, built-up trails, the team's objective is to keep the travelled portion of the trail free of vegetation to a height of 2.5 metres. On primitive trails, we aim for 1.5 metres wide x 2.5 metres high. Because we only use hand tools, we refer large obstructions like fallen trees to Cataraqui Conservation for action.

Trail maintenance in a conservation area must strike a balance between minimizing disruption to the natural environment and providing access to visitors. This is particularly the case on the primitive trails, such as those in the photo, that are truly immersed in their natural surroundings.

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If you would like to assist with trail maintenance in 2024, please contact the activity leader, Ross McGowan, rossmcgowan456@gmail.com. This activity requires deep bending, squatting, twisting and lunging as well as considerable walking. It also requires reaching while using manual tools such as loppers and hand saws. For those reasons, this activity may not be suitable for those with mobility limitations.

News from the Native Plant Nursery.

By: *Sandra McCance*

2022-23 was a very successful year at the Native Plant Nursery (NPN) at Lemoine Point. Major accomplishments included two public tree sales (spring and fall), a complete clean-out and re-organization of our garage and tool collection, a start on renovating our demonstration bed, repairs to our perimeter fence which had been damaged by thieves, and sales from the gate almost every Wednesday during the summer. The funds generated from our sales allow us to buy bare-root stock, tools and supplies, and perform repairs to equipment and facilities.

Our intrepid group of volunteers has grown by three this summer which is encouraging as we were saddened by the death of Peter Butler, a founding pillar of our volunteer community.

Other large sales of native trees and shrubs included two to a consulting company working on remediation projects and two to Parks Canada. With every sale to community members, we take the opportunity to educate on the benefits of planting native species and our work at Lemoine Point. We are also starting to focus more on growing species from cuttings, seeds, and nuts to meet requests from our customers and propagate species from local stock.

Although the Nursery will remain open on Wednesday mornings until the snow flies, we hosted our annual BBQ on September 27 in honour of the 25th anniversary of the Friends of Lemoine Point.

Battling Buckthorn and Pulling Periwinkle.

By: *Karen Samis*

Friends work to control invasive plant species at Lemoine Point continued through the summer and fall months.

Many thanks to a Friends member for bringing a good-sized patch of periwinkle (*Vinca minor*, pictured) to our attention earlier this year. A formidable group of nursery

volunteers, led by Roberta Planter, dove in and tackled the patch of this invasive plant over a period of two working days. Complete removal will take continued effort over the next few years to catch re-growth from hidden bits of stem that remain, but catching the patch early will go a long way to preventing spread across more of the property.

A reminder to visitors to keep their hikes itch-free by staying on the trails - unless you want to join our "Poison Ivy Club". A few volunteers got their initiation rashes weeding *Vinca*!



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Roberta and I also re-visited our invasive free demo site (trail 4) one day in late August to chop down regrowth from buckthorn stumps originally cut back in fall 2019. Given the amount of time that had lapsed since this initial work (due to the pandemic), there were a great number of new stems to remove. The work is hard but rewarding, and we were happy to chat with the many trail users who stopped to ask about what we were doing. Next step is to cover the freshly trimmed stumps in hopes that a lack of sunlight eventually leads to death of the roots. Fingers crossed!



TD Tree Days 2023. A great success!

By: Roberta Panter

Greetings, tree enthusiasts! The annual event, held on October 14, 2023 was a huge success. Here's a quick snapshot of highlights.

A Mix of Green Thumbs. Over 80 volunteers, spanning all age groups, including 17 Native Plant Nursery enthusiasts and Cataraqui Conservation Authority staff members, came together for a morning of tree planting. TD, our generous sponsor,

contributed 40 of their employees who dedicated their Saturday morning to the cause.

Planting for Biodiversity. Together, we planted 350 native trees, enriching the local biodiversity. These trees now stand proudly at the south end of Lemoine Point, adding vibrancy to the neighbouring barn swallow nesting area.

The Soil, The Volunteers, and Timbits. The soil was "heavy as clay" (not surprisingly), but our determined volunteers persevered. Afterward, they enjoyed well-earned Tim Horton's coffee and Timbits, along with some delicious home-baked treats.

Acknowledging our Heroes. A special shout-out to our dedicated volunteers, including the Paul M.'s, Ross, Larry, Pam, Mike, Karen, Johanna, Burt, and Len for their invaluable contributions.



In conclusion, TD's Tree Planting event was a hit, with green thumbs, a touch of biodiversity, sunshine, and lots of smiles. Until next October, keep nurturing the environment and appreciating the beauty of trees.

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Annual General Meeting

November 15, 7-8:30pm at Ongwanada Resource Centre (191 Portsmouth Ave.)

Join us for:

- **A Look Back on the First 25 Years!** and
- **Special Guest: Richard Raeburn-Gibson, Save Lemoine Point Farm.** Join to learn about their vision for working with the community to conserve the fields, forest, and shoreline of Lemoine Point Farm for future generations. <https://savelemoinepointfarm.org/get-involved/>

We hope to see you there!

Mark your Calendars for 2024 Events

Annual Garlic Mustard Pull. Late May 2024.

Nursery re-opens in April 2024. Nursery volunteers meet Wednesday mornings 9 am – 12 pm during the growing season (snow off to snow on).

Annual Autumn Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. Active volunteers will receive an email invitation.

Annual Community Tree Planting event. Early October 2024.

If you are not interested in any of these volunteer opportunities or have any questions, please reach out to friendslemoinept@gmail.com. You may also use the membership renewal form to share your interests with us.



25th anniversary and annual volunteer appreciation BBQ. Sept 27, 2023 at the Native Plant Nursery.

BIG shout out to all our supporters and volunteers – past, present and future!

2023 Board of Directors

Karen Samis – President
Ron Bettney – Treasurer
Roberta Panter – Director

John Diemer – Past President
Ross McGowan – Secretary
Mary Ann Milne – Director

Peter Butler (1934-2023) – Vice-President
Sandra McCance – Nursery lead
Paul Musiol – Director

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