A Community Effort!

The Friends have carried out many projects over the years that support or enhance Lemoine Point’s natural environment, but it’s important to recognize that they were possible only because of the many donations that enabled them.

They include the many financial donations that we receive on an ongoing basis from our own members ... those are critical to our functioning as a volunteer and independent community organization, and our success is, first of all, due to them.

As well, there have been many donations from Kingston organizations and groups, often targeted to specific projects ... the best example of that is the construction of our Native Plant Nursery, which received financial and “in kind” support from many parts of our community, enabling it to grow our own tree planting stock as a higher-quality yet cheaper product.

Tree planting is itself our primary activity and the main reason for our needing ongoing funding. It requires the purchase of various materials and services ... for example, gardening materials such as soil, electricity, equipment rental, and minor construction materials for the Nursery’s growing of seedlings and saplings; bush-hogging and similar services (purchased from CRCA) to prepare the sites to be planted; and specialized deer fencing to avoid the predation of planted trees.

Some local donors have been helping to offset such costs. Thus the local office of the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA), working through Forests Ontario, has helped to fund recent spring tree planting events. Similarly, local TD banks, through their “TD Tree Days” program, have been providing funding for fall plantings, as well as for our deer fencing at the south end.

Also, helping to thank our volunteer tree planters at the end of those public planting events, Tim Hortons has for years donated the coffee and donuts that they so greatly appreciate.

All that goes to show how well conservation projects like ours can succeed when the contributions of donors and volunteers within the community come together!
Our Spring Plant Sale

Our Native Plant Nursery is holding its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 21, 9:00-3:00.

Although the Nursery grows stock primarily for our own tree planting events, it does make a wide selection of trees, shrubs and wildflowers available to the public through our Spring Sale, with all proceeds going back into the operation of the Nursery.

The stock is largely grown from seedlings and cuttings from Lemoine Point’s own plants, and you can be sure that all purchases are zone 36 hardy.

A list of the plants expected to be available:


- **Shrubs** – Silky Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Highbush Cranberry, Nannyberry, Black Cherry, Ninebark, Fragrant Sumac, Serviceberry;

- **Wildflowers** – a large selection, but no Trillium or Bloodroot yet.

Limited numbers available of some species.

If you’re unable to make the Sale, you can always try us on Wednesday mornings during the planting season when our Nursery volunteers will be happy to help you.

Contact Jane Murphy at 542-9604 for more information.

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Thanks for Your Support!

We greatly appreciate your membership and donations that make our programs and efforts possible.

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2016 Board of Directors

John Diemer, President  
Peter Butler, Past President  
Jane Murphy, Vice-President  
Ron Bettney, Treasurer  
David McMurray, Secretary  
Millie Belyea  
Verna Corlett  
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**Summering at the Point**

Some visitors prefer coming to Lemoine Point only in the warmer seasons ... and that includes our Bobolinks.

They are the large-sparrow-sized songbirds that you can see and hear at the grasslands at the Point’s south end, starting in spring. Being migratory, they arrive in May, find a mate, and then raise a family and stay there for the summer. They are most identifiable when they first arrive, as the males are very active and quite loud (they’re courting!) ... for example, when flying they have a unique appearance of being light-coloured above and dark below, and you can hear their bright bubbly song of twitters and beeps that gives them their name (e.g. “google” 8TXIrXiyW6o to hear a YouTube sample).

After pairing up, the female builds a small nest on the ground, hidden in taller grasses and well camouflaged to protect against predators such as larger birds and snakes. After incubation and birth, the parents and new chicks remain in the area until the latter can fly well enough for the long return migration south.

Unfortunately, however, the annual return of Bobolinks each spring is becoming questionable!

For many years there has been an ongoing and significant decline in their population, so that in 2012 Ontario declared them as threatened and as a Species at Risk under its Endangered Species Act, where “threatened” means likely to become endangered if steps are not taken to address the problem.

Their decline is primarily due to the loss of the habitat they seek for nesting and raising their young, i.e. large open fields consisting primarily of grasses but without a lot of the woody vegetation of mature grasslands. Hayfields are a good example of that, except that mowing them during the nesting period often destroys their nests and makes successful breeding even less likely.

To preserve the Point’s grasslands as good habitat for its Bobolinks, the CRCA mows well after August to allow time to nest, rear young and vacate. Also, parts of the forty-acre area are mown at different times but so that each is done at least every five years.

The merits of that approach were recently demonstrated by a study conducted of grassland areas in our region by the Kingston Field Naturalists, as part of an Ontario “Species at Risk” research project. Counts of the number of Bobolinks (and Meadowlarks) at such grasslands, including Wolfe Island and Amherst Island, showed that those of Lemoine Point were significantly higher than in all other areas, strongly indicating that its grassland habitat is important to their survival in this region.

So, this spring, look and listen for them while aware of the need to preserve their habitat, and this fall, when they again leave for their 10,000 kilometre migration to southern South America, think about them returning the following spring to those same fields just as they normally do.
Calendar of Events - 2016

Our planned activities for Lemoine Point … new volunteers/participants are always welcome!

Saturday, April 30, 9 to noon
SPRING CLEAN-UP
Starting at both the north and south parking lots. Help clean up your local conservation area. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided.

Tuesday, May 3, 6:00pm
INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL
The start of our weekly meetings, first to remove Garlic Mustard. Meet at the North Parking Lot. If interested in helping, contact John Diemer at 389-9451.

Saturday, May 7, 9:00-11:00am
SPRING TREE PLANTING
Our annual Spring planting to extend Lemoine Point's forest cover. Meet at the north parking lot (Coverdale Drive). To participate or for information, contact Verna Corlett at 549-1724.

Saturday, May 21, 9:00- 3:00
SPRING PLANT SALE
At our Native Plant Nursery at the North end. Public sale of nursery stock – includes a wide selection of trees, shrubs and wildflowers, grown from Lemoine Point's own plants. Limited numbers of some species.

The Nursery volunteer work group meets Wednesdays from spring to fall, starting mid-April. New volunteers welcome, e-mail jane.murphy@sympatico.ca.

Saturday, October 1, 9:00-11:00am
FALL TREE PLANTING
Our annual Fall planting to extend Lemoine Point’s forest cover. Meet at the south parking lot (off Front Street). To participate or for information, contact Verna Corlett at 549-1724.

Wednesday, November 16, 7:30pm
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Our AGM (business meeting plus a special presentation) is held at the Ongwanada Centre.

Nature Walks
The Friends’ David and Margo McMurray, experienced Lemoine Point naturalists, frequently walk there in spring and summer to inventory wildflowers and would be happy to have you tag along … to discuss arrangements, phone 634-0453.