Our Ash Trees – An Update

It looks like the Emerald Ash Borer has been somewhat slow in coming to Lemoine Point. At least there has been no sign yet of significant infestation and, unlike elsewhere in Kingston, there has been no need yet to cut down dead or dying ash trees. The status of Lemoine’s ash trees was earlier assessed by MNR staff, who did not find evidence of the telltale sign of infestation i.e. significant numbers of woodpeckers in the tops of ash trees attracted there by a ready feed of Ash Borers.

However, CRCA staff led by Rick Knapton are ready for them when they do come to Lemoine, having already identified ash trees (marked with small metal strips) that will need to be cut down because fairly shortly after being affected they become very unstable and are at risk of breaking or falling and thus posing a danger to anyone on the trails.

Reforestation

The Friends’ main role as a volunteer organization is to work with the CRCA to extend and preserve Lemoine Point’s forest cover.

And that is an ongoing challenge involving lots of trial and error. That is true of both our tree planting and our Native Plant Nursery where we grow most of the planting stock. For example, after many plantings we are still trying to find the best way of giving stock the best possible head start when planted, including experimenting with how to best prepare the ground for planting. Similarly with the problems of predation by various animals, whether that is the rabbits that got into the Nursery recently (and appear now to have themselves been preyed upon by weasels or a hawk?) or the deer that are still at times able to jump over our deer fencing to get at those delicious fresh twigs that we so kindly grow for them.

And where planted stock does not successfully survive and leaves open areas within our plantations, we often infill with other stock, just as we will consider doing for some of the ash trees killed by the Ash Borer ... the Nursery is already growing potential replacement plants such as maple, oak and hickory.
The Shoreline Trail - Update

The trail along the north shoreline is still officially closed for now due to last year’s high water levels and resulting damage and erosion.

This spring the CRCA is conducting a shoreline erosion study to determine what needs to be done that will avoid a repeat of such damage in future years. Depending on the outcome of that study, it will fund a project to rehabilitate the shoreline and restore the trail, though that is not expected to be fully implemented this year except for the initial removal of the debris and garbage that washed up along the shore.

Nursery Spring Plant Sale

Our Native Plant Nursery will hold another of its annual plant sales on Saturday, May 19, 9:00-3:00.

The sale will feature deciduous and evergreen trees, a few species of shrubs, and some wildflowers, all of which we raised in the Nursery.

The revenue from the Sale helps to support the Nursery.

Contact Jane Murphy at 542-9604 for more information.

Avoid ticks by staying on the trails!

Thanks for Your Support!

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

Our Website

You’ll find info on Friends’ objectives, activities, membership details, and contact points, as well as copies of our annual report and previous newsletters. It’s also a good place to steer potential new members.

Just google “Friends of Lemoine”.

2018 Board of Directors

John Diemer, President
Peter Butler, Past President
Jane Murphy, Vice-President
Ron Bettney, Treasurer
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Contact

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There are many interesting wildflowers to be found at Lemoine Point, but one of the more unique and fascinating is the Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

Its appearance certainly is distinctive. What is often assumed to be the plant’s flower is actually a leaf-like hood that covers and protects a finger-like spike that bears the plant’s real (very tiny) flowers ... all of which, with a little imagination, resembles a preacher (the “Jack”) standing in an old-fashioned pulpit. And that hood-like covering is itself interesting in that it gradually changes from blue-green into distinctive cream and burgundy stripes.

The plant is about eight or more inches high and is surrounded and often hidden from view by large, three-lobed leaves that may at first glance be confused with Trillium leaves.

In late summer or fall, the flap-like hood gradually withers and shrinks; also, as the spike’s tiny flowers fade, it produces and turns into a thick, decorative cluster of bright red berries that is lovely to spot on the autumn forest floor. Those berries will release seeds that can germinate the next spring and produce a plant with a single rounded leaf, the start of a new perennial.

Parts of the plant are poisonous although First Nations people learned how to prepare and use its turnip-like root to treat various maladies such as rheumatism and snakebites.

The plant is native to our area, grows in moist and preferably shady woods, and, if you look carefully, can be seen from various points along Lemoine Point’s trails.

The plant does well in our region but is facing increased threats from invasive species such as garlic mustard and buckthorn that have come to thrive in our region’s woodland habitats.
Calendar of Events - 2018

Our planned activities for Lemoine Point:

Saturday, April 28, 9 to noon
SPRING CLEAN-UP
Starting from both the north and south parking lots. Help clean up your local conservation area. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided.

Saturday, May 5, 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). Everyone welcome! For information, contact Peter Butler at 613-389-4187.

Tuesday, May 8, 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 613-389-9451.

Saturday, May 19, 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 6, 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). For information, contact Peter Butler at 613-389-4187.

Wednesday, November 14, 7:30pm
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The tentative date of our AGM (business meeting plus special presentation), held at the Ongwanada Centre.

New volunteers always welcome to participate!
For info, contact our website or as indicated above.