

THE

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BEECHWOOD

WAY

MAGAZINE



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BEECHWOOD

Cemetery Foundation
Fondation du cimetière

Beechwood's Green Year

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS the word “Beechwood,” what immediately comes to mind? Is it the green grounds of the cemetery, with tall historic trees towering over the monuments? Is it the garden beds around the gazebo full of tulips or seasonal annuals? When you do picture “Beechwood” there is a green component to it. There would be no Beechwood Cemetery without the rolling hills, or rows of trees along the roads. It's what makes the atmosphere of Beechwood feel like a calm and serene environment.

As a year of celebrating 150 years comes to an end, Beechwood reflected on what makes Beechwood, well, Beechwood. This historic home to so many prominent Canadians wouldn't feel so peaceful without the natural landscape, which is why the 2024 calendar year is going to be all about celebrating and preserving the nature residing at Beechwood.

This began last fall, with the SUMMER initiative to restore the Macoun Marsh to a place of education for local children, and a community space for those to visit. The following article explains in detail about the efforts needed to keep the marsh an urban wetland.

Beechwood is thrilled to be attempting to get an Arboretum accreditation. This couldn't be possible without years of support from incredibly generous donors. This will create a new education space for those in the tree and horticulture community to come and learn about the historic trees that are scattered across Beechwood.

Beechwood's Biotic Pollination Program is continuing to grow as Beechwood creates a bee-friendly garden guide. This resource suggests plants for your pollinator garden that help support bee health.

To continue on theme with Beechwood's Green year, the Annual Living Library (formally known as the Annual Historical Tour) will feature those who impacted the environment. Including Faith Fyles, a woman who helped draw newly discovered flora and fauna to help future scholars identify what they are; and James MacNeil, the man who created the definition of sustainability for the United Nations. All incredible Canadians who helped shape the future of the environment.

None of these Beechwood green projects can be done without the support of donors. All our events, Marsh updates and trees planted come from those willing to donate toward a cause.

Should you feel like donating to a project, you can do so easily on the form that arrived with this magazine.

- **General Fund** – Care and maintenance of the grounds/events and free programming for the community. It also sponsors historical research, which provides the free tours given to the public with such in-depth information.
- **Horticulture** – Building the Arboretum and tree replanting.
- **Macoun Marsh** – Goes towards supporting the SUMMER initiative.
- **Bee Program** – Gives to the biotic pollination program in support of the bees.
- Donations of \$400 will go directly to replanting one tree.

Stay up to date with Beechwood by following us on social media.

- Facebook (@BeechwoodCemetery, @NMCBeechwood, @cimetiereBeechwood)
- Twitter (@BeechwoodOttawa)
- Instagram (@beechwoodcemetery)
- YouTube (Beechwood Cemetery)

Thank you,

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Visit us online to learn more about Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada, and read back issues at: www.beechwoodottawa.ca

We want your feedback on how we are doing!

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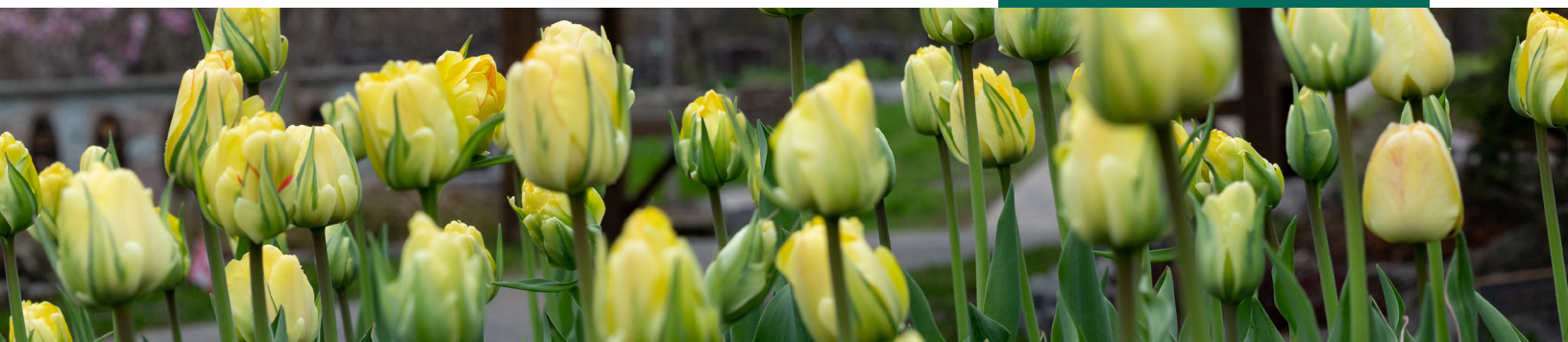
The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation.

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The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation

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NEWS ALERT!

Beechwood Bites

Bite-Sized Tours of the Cemetery



The Beechwood Cemetery spans a vast 160 acres, stretching across Vanier, connecting Beechwood Ave to St. Laurent St. Walking a loop along just the main road, stopping a few times to admire the intricate stonework of monuments around the grounds, or gawking as a rafter of turkeys strut by, can take an hour. The average Beechwood Cemetery Tour takes two hours.

It can be quicker if the group hustles or the tour guide leaves things out. This is why the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation is excited to announce the commencement of the Beechwood Bites tour program! These hour-long tours are small sections of the grounds, and are done with a theme. There will be military, parliament, sports and many more!

For further details or to register for a Beechwood Bites tour, visit our website: www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/foundation/events

Sustainability of the Urban Macoun Marsh and Environmental Restoration – SUMMER

By: Jennifer Lamoureux, Biologist

The Macoun Marsh is a rare wetland feature tucked away at the southwest corner of Beechwood Cemetery. Despite being in a highly urbanized part of the City of Ottawa, the Macoun Marsh provides an important and unique wetland habitat for fish and wildlife in the area. On the surface it appears as a cattail marsh with a naturalized shoreline area, however those close to the marsh have noticed some recent changes.

Wetlands by the very nature of the name are areas that are typically wet during various parts of the year and usually have plants that are tolerant of wet conditions. They provide many benefits to the watershed including the storage of water to help with flood control and erosion, filtering water to improve water quality, providing important fish and wildlife habitat, and are locations with generally higher biodiversity.

Due to the increase in the number of drought years that we are experiencing, the Macoun Marsh often suffers from extremely low water levels, which negatively impacts summer and winter habitat conditions for the species that rely on it. Along the shoreline zone there have also been increases in the number of non-native invasive plants including common buckthorn and garlic mustard. Over time, both these plants will negatively impact the diversity of the riparian area surrounding the Macoun Marsh, which will impact the terrestrial and aquatic functions of the wetland.

These observations have led to Beechwood forming a local with ASL Contracting to improve the wetland by implementing common wetland restoration techniques. Local partners have come together to enhance the marsh and to improve habitat conditions for fish and wildlife populations.

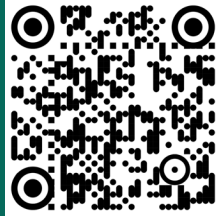
The work will involve opening up pockets of the cattail beds through excavation, installing wood structure from trees that have already fallen from previous storms and have been stockpiled nearby, and revegetating any disturbed areas along the shoreline with native plants and seed mixtures. Once the work is completed it doesn't take long for the wetland to adjust, for the plants to take hold and for wildlife to thrive.



THE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AIMS TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Create deepened pool habitat within the wetland.
- Increase biodiversity of aquatic/terrestrial plants, fish and wildlife.
- Provide winter and summer refuge areas for fish and wildlife, including rearing areas for waterfowl and areas for shorebirds to feed.
- Install logs for turtles to bask and for fish to use as cover.
- Remove invasive shrubs along the shoreline and replant with native shrubs.
- Select native shrubs that provide food sources for birds
- Improve biodiversity to enhance the educational opportunities for local school and community groups.
- Enhance the passive recreational opportunities for activities like bird watching and nature photography.

**SIGN UP TO
VOLUNTEER
HERE**



How Can You Get Involved?

There will be opportunities for the community to get involved with the project during and after construction.

Opportunities for a community planting day to remove invasive species along the shoreline and replant with native shrubs will be available. Stay tuned for more details and opportunities to get involved with that aspect of the restoration plan.

Another important part of any wetland restoration project is to monitor the change after construction. To help us understand how the wetland restoration project is working, we will be asking the community to share their observations with us. This can be done in a variety of ways including application programs like iNaturalist or simply by sending them in. This will help us understand how the wetland is adapting and what future work might provide additional benefits.

The Macoun Marsh in 2012 and what SUMMER hopes to restore the marsh back to.



Fundraising Updates

By: Erika Wagner, Program and Fundraising Coordinator

MACOUN MARSH FUNDRAISING UPDATE

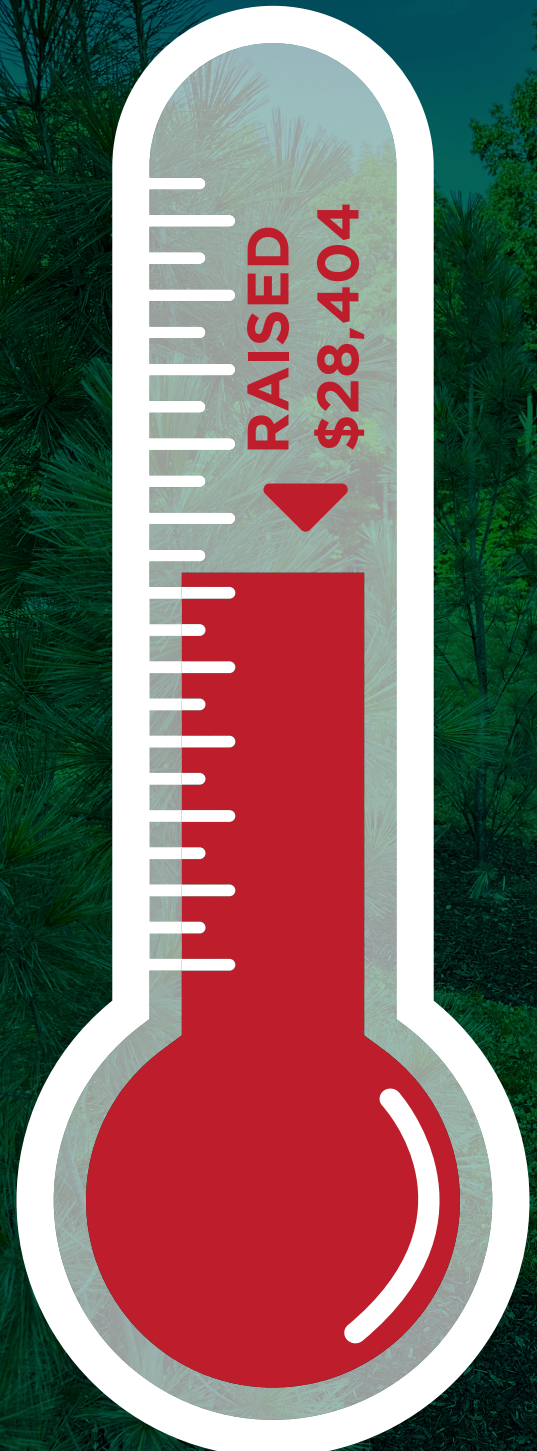
Spring is in full swing at the Macoun Marsh. The snow and ice have finally disappeared, and flocks of migratory birds have been spotted returning to the grounds. Reflecting on this time of growth and renewal in the natural world, plans are underway for further improvements to the Marsh.

The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation has been working to find new sources of funding for ongoing improvement to the Marsh. Most recently, the Foundation applied for and received a grant for \$20,000 from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Beechwood is very grateful to the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for their support of the SUMMER project.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous donations of Beechwood donors, bringing in just shy of \$8,500. With all this great momentum, we can't lose it now with the goal so close! Every dollar goes toward helping to eradicate the invasive species growing in the marsh and help build a more sustainable home for the local wildlife residing in the marsh waters.

**Those who donate
\$1000 or more will
have their name
included on a plaque
that will be displayed
next to the Marsh.**

\$40,000



Arboretum Fundraising Update

Those who are regular readers of the Beechwood Way know about the Echo tree tag program — a program where when someone donates \$400 toward our Horticulture program, a tree is planted somewhere on the Beechwood grounds and a wooden tag with an image of Echo the Fox gets hung from its sapling branches. What Beechwood hasn't shared is why this program was so important.

THERE ARE THREE IMPORTANT PHASES TO BUILDING AN ARBORETUM:

- 1) Replace old or sick trees. This means cutting down the trees that are dangerous to passersby or trees with diseases that can spread to other trees.
- 2) Diversify the tree population. Every so often a disease can run rampant in the tree community. If our grounds consist solely of a few types of trees, in one fell swoop we could lose half of the Beechwood trees. Over the past five years, Beechwood has not only been removing the sick trees but replacing them with different varieties:

- Three Flowered Maple
- Jacobsen's Pyramid Larch
- Acrocona Norway Spruce
- Contorted White Pine
- Prairie Expedition Elm
- Maidenhair Tree

- 3) Identify and catalogue. Beechwood spans 160 acres, so it is no easy feat to catalogue every tree. Our horticulture crew has done a fantastic job recording the new additions, but a tree expert needs to be hired to come and identify the older trees. From there, a tree tag system can be created, giving visitors not only information about the type of tree it is, but hopefully a little history about it as well.

THE TULIP TREE

The tulip tree is a large, fast-growing tree, up to 35 metres tall with a trunk up to 160 centimetres in diameter. As its name suggests, the tulip tree produces beautiful yellow-green flowers that are about 5 centimetres long. They have 6 petals and are shaped like tulip flowers and bloom in the spring. Its leaves are 7 to 12 centimetres long and are straight across the top, with 4 lobes beneath. They are light green and turn yellow in the fall. The tulip tree's bark is smooth and dark green when the tree is young, then turns brown and ridged.



TSUKUMO FALSE-CYPRESS CHAMAECYPARIS PISIFERA TSUKUMO

'Tsukumo' is a dwarf evergreen shrub that is very slow-growing and will reach only 10 inches in 10 years. Its form is rounded and flat-topped, and grows wider than tall.

The origin of the cultivar is not known with certainty, but it most likely originated in Japan well before the mid-20th century. This tree's slow rate of growth and naturally dwarf habit make it a popular subject for bonsai or planting in a rock garden or container.

Next to the pond in the rock garden, this tree was planted 24 years ago. We placed a Beechwood coffee cup next to the tree to show its size.

The Bee-Friendly Garden

Suggested Plants for your Pollinator Garden

By: Benoit Bazinet

With great zeal and pleasure, we produce the Bee-Friendly Garden guide containing basic information and suggestions on pollinator-friendly plants; an array of bulbs, perennials, annuals and shrubs best suited for climate zones 5a/5b.

We hope that the colourful photos contained in the Bee Garden booklet will inspire you to plant a few pollinator-friendly plants in your own garden.

Special thanks to Beechwood's horticultural team for their hard work that keeps our majestic grounds so beautiful and awe-inspiring.

Beechwood has been pesticide-free to help protect and save our bees and native pollinators since 2008. Beechwood Cemetery grounds are perfect to study pollinator and bee health, and overall urban biodiversity.



European honey bee (Apis mellifera) foraging on Crocus sp.

CROCUS SP. (*Perennial Bulb*)

Crocuses are an excellent early spring pollen source for bees.

Size: 10 to 15 cm tall

Bloom: Early spring

Care: Plant your crocus bulbs in clusters a few inches apart and 3 to 4 inches deep, in fall (September/ October) when soil temperature is below 16°C, at least 8 weeks before frost.

Avoid planting in dense shaded areas.

If growing in your lawn, try not to mow your lawn until crocus leaves have died down.

SIBERIAN SQUILL

SCILLA SIBERICA (*Perennial Bulb*)

An excellent early spring pollen source for bees.

Size: 7 to 15 cm tall

Bloom: Early spring

Care: Thrives in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun or part shade.

Caution: Has poisonous leaves, blooms, bulbs and seeds - known to be toxic to humans, cats and dogs.



European honey bee (Apis mellifera) with pollen baskets on hind legs, foraging on Siberian squill (Scilla siberica).