



Arboretum News

Spring 2018

Spring Cleaning in the Arboretum

If you've walked recently through the Aurora Community Arboretum (ACA), you may have noticed enormous piles of brush (mainly buckthorn) and other trimmings. ACA volunteers are busy spring cleaning.

As an Arboretum is a tree park, why are we cutting down trees? Simply, some invasive and weed trees need to give way to provide space for more desirable species and a wider variety, to realize the overall vision of the newly approved Master Plan. This plan specifies areas for forest regeneration, for specimen trees, for Carolinian Forest trees, for new trails and paths, and for diverse eco zones that will enhance wildlife habitats for meadowland birds, insects, amphibians, and reptiles.



Buckthorn

In recent years we removed a large number of invasive trees from the Scots Pine Plantation near the Town Hall and replanted this with a mixture of more appropriate native species. We'll also be taking out some selective trees that threaten to divide the Meadow in the north of the Arboretum and restore an area of Herbaceous Riparian Zone (grassy stream bank) along the stream through the meadow. This will create a larger unified meadowland, an increasingly rare habitat in Southern Ontario, offering critical space for several endangered bird and other species.

And speaking of invasive species, the Common Buckthorn is a small tree native to Europe and Asia. You have likely passed many while walking or biking on the Arboretum trails.



Buckthorn branch with thorn

Originally introduced in Canada as a farmer's windbreak it has spread aggressively throughout Southern Ontario. Currently one of our volunteer teams has a major project removing the Buckthorn from the area between the Town Hall and the Leisure Complex. This will allow room for more desirable shrubs and specimen trees to be planted.



Buckthorn fruit

New 10 Year Plan Signed with Town

The Arboretum has recently signed a new 10 year Partnership agreement with the Town. This is based on an updated Master Plan, developed by David Tomlinson who drafted the original plan, and we're already working to realize the vision. If you like what we accomplished in the first 10 years, wait until you see what will happen over the next 10!

Field of Gold

The first 1,000 daffodil bulbs were planted in 2011. Since then, 1,000 bulbs have been planted every fall except for one year when we were very ambitious and planted 1,500!

Last year we made a decision to plant only 500 bulbs in the fall. There are some bare patches we would like to fill in so when the daffodils start growing this spring, we will fill in any open areas. This activity is planned for April 28th. So bring the whole family and join in this fun activity.

And don't forget to come back early May when the whole area is a mass of yellow blooms.



Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Recognition

On March 25th, we held our Open House and AGM which was very well attended and where our plans for the next 10 years of development were described. We said thanks to retiring board members David Tomlinson, Elizabeth Evans and John Grant, and welcome to three new board members Lee Eickmann, Marcia Wilson and Chris Gynan.

Councillors Kim and Gaertner presented Alex Maiorov and Anna Cox with their five year volunteer service awards. Congratulations and thank you Alex & Anna for your continued support and help!

Upcoming Events

We have a number of events happening in the near future. If there is something that catches your eye and you would like to volunteer for it or want more information please send an email to membersandvolunteers@auroraarboretum.ca

April 18 - root pruning nursery stock

April 21 - move saplings to new nursery

April 28 - Daffodil planting

May 5 - Annual Community Planting

May 12 - Bottomland forest planting

July 1 - Canada Day booth

This newsletter is published by the Aurora Community Arboretum Inc.

For more information on Arboretum activities or events, or how to become a member, telephone (905) 727-3492

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You can visit the ACA website at www.auroraarboretum.ca

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