Cherry Beach Stewards - June 2022

Anna Hoad, Lead Steward

Have you been wondering what the white stuff is that's blowing around, and piling up in some places? This fluff is from the cottonwood tree. It's in the poplar family, but every other year it overachieves in the seed department! It's at its peak in late June and early July. It coats everything at Cherry Beach. It can pile up in drifts like snow.

Aside from provoking an allergic response in anyone who breathes it for an hour or two, it is very flammable. There were many small fires on June 25th at Cherry Beach. It burns hot and fast. Although it scorches goldenrod and other plants up to a metre high, it seems to leave the trees intact.

It caused a heck of a fuss with police and firefighters trying to get people out of the area. I don't know how these fires start. Although there were many, I only saw small ones that didn't spread far.





