

Ashbridge's Bay Park 2022 Wrap up

This past Wed. Nov. 9 concluded the program for this year.



To sum up in one observation from last Wed. for the whole year, was my observing of one of our stewards finding a lone branch with a couple of burrs from a Burdock plant. Just think about that for a second..... You might not think this is much of an achievement, but when a close friend who helped me start up a rogue stewardship 5 years ago the park was inundated with Burdock plants. Don't get me wrong there are many plants left, but only about a third of what was there originally.

Eventually ABP will become devoid of this invasive plant and that is huge, especially in that it will be very difficult for this Burdock to come back. The only source of transmission will be if it is brought in by being carried by us humans on our footwear, clothing or apparel and from animals. This is one reason of many, that why leashing your pets is all so important. This will also help to prevent the many birds, especially Kinglets that get tangled up in the burrs and cannot escape as they are trapped, and die from exhaustion.

In total as of Oct. 29, both the Wednesday and Thurs. evening crews removed 15 large garbage bags of litter, 127 large garbage bags of invasive plants (this obviously does not include the plants that were left to mulch) in our 17.3 hectare or 43 acres area. This was all accomplished in 615 total stewardship hours.

The removal of the Phragmites (they'll be back next year, just not as many) is a huge sigh of relief for me so thanks once again to all that made that happen. When they appeared about 6 years ago I envisioned the whole bay being swallowed up. It might be an idea to involve the Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club to help us next year as I'm sure it's a concern for them.

Some special observations were:

-the observation and finding of a Fen Orchid (very rare, L2 on TRCA's Floral List) on June 10 by our very own Anne Purvis.



-an Obedient plant nestled in with the Phragmites by the end of the boardwalk by the harbour for the Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club



-and annually the Woolly Aphids, that are food for the caterpillar of the Harvester Butterfly (the only carnivorous caterpillar in North America!)

There is much to treasure here at Ashbridge's Bay and more to come as we improve and bring a more naturalized state to our park.

As I have said throughout the later part of this year, I am truly beyond words as to what we are achieving. Ashbridge's Bay Park is being transformed. Unfortunately with us removing all these invasive plants you can all see that the understory is being depleted. We need to replant with native plants as soon as possible, hopefully this will be approved by the City next year.

We also helped the Dune and Meadow Habitat by removing all Phragmite seed heads.

None of this would have been achieved without your help. I hope over the wintery and early spring months when you're walking in our neighbourhood park you will reflect on what you learned, helped with and achieved. Do not hesitate to write in with any questions or suggestions.

Thank you all so very much and give yourselves a pat on the back. Have a great winter and we'll be in touch next spring, enjoy!!

Thank you Clyde, Bob, Anne and Jim