



Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve

Newsletter

Fall 2005

Special Event!

Wet Weather Flow Management Workshops and Planting Saturday Oct. 1 – 12:30-4:30 pm

Come and meet others for an enjoyable hands-on workshop. This workshop will be of interest to Preserve members who want to build their understanding of what to do to improve water quality in their own neighbourhood. A series of presentations and demonstrations will help you understand the role of both urban wetlands and local citizens in wet weather flow management. Learn about “lot level” wet weather flow management and join in a planting event at the Preserve.

A joint event with the Task Force to Bring Back the Don. Please pre-register for this event, though drop-in participants are also welcome. Call 416-691-1614, or 416-423-1504 or register at donworkshops@hotmail.com

Fall Events

Preserve Maintenance

Activities include wildflower planting; trail maintenance, soil enrichment, and brush clearing. Weekends. Call 416-423-1594 for more information.



Preserving the Integrity of the Don Valley -Tour of the Preserve followed by Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve Annual General Meeting: Sunday, Oct. 16 Tour: 10am - noon. Explore our natural area of Todmorden at the edge of the Don Valley and discuss various issues related to the health and integrity of the Valley. Afterwards, join us for light refreshments for the Annual General Meeting of the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve noon until 2 p.m. We would like your input and critiques, your ideas and advice as we discuss issues and opportunities for the future. If you have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors to help steer the projects we do, please call 416-423-1504 for more information by October 10.

Reconnecting with the Don: Balancing the Valley August 16 - December 31. Photos. Brewery Gallery.

Renew Urban Woodlands - Three Great Ways!

The forests in our urban areas are products of years of neglect. From the ground layer to the canopy there is evidence of deterioration including deforestation, dumping of fill, and invasion by exotic species. In the Preserve's forest there are many non-native or exotic species. Many of them are old specimens of Crack Willows or Manitoba Maples that now are leaning and falling. Planning and planting for the future forest to replace these old weeds is crucial. At Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve we have researched and implemented various methods over the years to halt and reverse the deterioration. We are attempting to set a course for a future forest, one that reflects the healthy native plant community that should be present in a valley in the Toronto area. Our restoration activities are designed to improve the health of the forest over time. As new information about restoration becomes available, it is incorporated into our planning and decision-making.

Some ways we have been working on rehabilitating the forest include protecting areas identified as healthy, diversifying habitats, building soil health, controlling invasive plants and planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

Here are three great ways to create a better urban future forest:

1. Work with community groups such as schools and businesses to plant at optimum times in spring and fall. Choose native plants which thrive in the conditions for that area. This method is a well-established method of reforestation, used quite widely in Toronto. We are fortunate at Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve to have several community groups who return annually to work with us to plant the forest of the future. As a result of the efforts

of our community partners there are stands of White Cedars, many Red Elderberries, and groups of Ostrich Ferns as well as Sensitive Ferns in many locations throughout the preserve.

2. Work with experienced volunteers and committee members for specialized plantings. For example, there are trees which may be of large caliper size; there may be trees or plants rare or hard to obtain, and these must be planted with a great deal of care. This method of working with a small committed, knowledgeable group has been a second way we have found success in planting for the future forest. A healthy stand of young Eastern Hemlocks in one location, numerous Red Oaks throughout the Preserve, several Eastern Sycamores and one beautiful Shagbark Hickory show the results of this specialized kind of planting. These trees are in various locations in the Preserve growing vigorously where only weed trees grew before.

3. Plant large numbers of plants throughout the site. Some locations in the Preserve are too steep, slippery or inaccessible for volunteers to work safely. In this case we work with contractors to plant heavily. Over the past few years we have found that this is a great method to create the future forest even in difficult areas because contractors are able to plant hundreds or thousands of small saplings. In the Preserve there are presently thousands of Sugar Maple and Ash saplings that have been planted in far-flung areas by contractor planters. They are now patiently waiting for their chance to grow. When the next Manitoba maple or Crack Willow in those areas falls over, the new forest is already planted in the understory and ready to shoot up into the light. About 6 hectares of the Preserve have received this method of reforestation. We thank our partners at the City of Toronto Urban Forestry Services for working with us on this third method of urban reforestation.

For more information on any of these methods of renewing the urban forest in natural areas, please contact us.

Article by Paula Davies



Students and teacher from St. Patrick's Catholic High School planting the future forest at TMWP



Green Frog in the Pond

Monarchs to Mexico

Many Monarch Butterflies were seen at the Preserve this year starting in July. Eggs were laid and breeding occurred throughout July and August. Volunteers and Museum staff raised and released over 35 Monarch butterflies. The last Monarch of the season emerged from its chrysalis on September 20, 2005. It will fly over 3000 miles to Mexico. Adios muchachos y muchachas – Vaia con Dios a Mexico.



Join our Monarchs to Mexico program!

Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve

We are a charitable organization run by volunteers dedicated to restoring the natural areas at Todmorden Mills. Membership is free.

Donations are welcome, and tax receipts are issued for amounts over \$10.

Charitable Organization No. 89305657RP0001

Directors and Officers

Paula Davies, Chair, Heather Matthews, Vice-Chair, Pauline Sackin, Treasurer

Paul Beveridge, Director, Glenn Gillespie, Director, Bogna Jaworski, Director, Janice Palmer, Director, Miriam Webster, Director



Rabbit in the Meadow

How You Can Participate

Become a member – it's free!

Receive the newsletter and invitations to our events.

Volunteer

Come out and help with activities.

Make a Donation

Donation\$ _____

Send Receipt

An official tax receipt will be provided for Donations over \$10.

Please Complete

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return to
Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve
283 Danforth Ave. Suite 488
Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1N2
Phone 416 423-1504



Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve



Our mission is to bring the degraded natural area at Todmorden Mills back to health. Native plants are being used to restore the vegetation communities back to pre-settlement conditions.

How We Started

In late 1990 the late Charles Sauriol, a well-known conservationist, initiated talks with Dave Money, past president of the Ontario Horticultural Association. The two were interested in bringing native wildflowers such as trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit and bloodroot back to Todmorden Mills.

Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve was established in 1991, and the group was registered as a charitable organization.

Our Achievements

The Preserve, along with funding partners and hundreds of volunteers, created a pond and marsh in 1996. This new habitat now provides educational opportunities for local school children and visitors.

In 2000 a trail with boardwalks and bridges was constructed around the Preserve affording excellent views of the oxbow. Large areas of exotic trees and weeds were cleared and replanted with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

What We Are Currently Doing

We have a wide variety of activities and projects for you to become involved in:

Restoration Plantings. We conduct plantings each spring and fall with community volunteers, school groups, and company employees.

Invasive Weed Control. Join our "weed team" and help us protect trilliums and other wildflowers, by controlling invasive weeds such as Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard.

Garbage Clean-Ups. Our annual spring clean-up with the Friends of the Don East and the Todmorden Mills Museum had proved popular and ads resulted in tones of garbage being removed.

Guided Nature Walks. Join us on one of our guided walks in spring and fall, led by local naturalists and run in conjunction with the Todmorden Museum.

Outreach and Education. We publish a newsletter for members regularly and keep them informed of events.

Wildlife Monitoring. We run a monitoring scheme for wildflowers, birds and butterflies.

For more information

Why not join us? Membership is free, and you will receive our newsletter and invitations to events.

As a registered charitable organization (No. 89305657 RP0001) we accept donations and can issue tax receipts.

Here is how to contact us:

Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve
283 Danforth Avenue, Suite 488
Toronto, ON, M4K 1N2
Phone: 416-423-1504
Email: tmwp@hopscotch.ca
Web: www.hopscotch.ca/tmwp/

Facts About the Preserve

The Preserve is located on the grounds of the Todmorden Mills Museum on Pottery Road just below Broadview Avenue. It occupies 9.2 hectares (23 acres) and comprises a variety of habitats including deciduous forest, wetlands, a pond, and meadows. A prominent feature of the Preserve is an oxbow of the Don River, cut off from the main channel when the Don Valley Parkway was constructed in 1960.

Who We Are

We are a charitable organization run by a voluntary board comprising 8 directors and about 100 members. Each year we work with volunteers and community partners to conduct a variety of activities and projects at the site.



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City of Toronto Parks,
Recreation, and Forestry



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