



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Winter 2019 Newsletter

Volume 31 No. 1



Ramin Izadpanah

'Morning Glory' at the Farm by Ramin Izadpanah (see page 3).

Growing and Regrowing

By Roman Popadiouk

They are such an established feature of our landscape that we may not really notice Ottawa's trees and shrubs while we walk or drive around the city. Large or small, old or young, evergreen or deciduous; we have trees in abundance, but we rarely consider how they came to be here.

Some have been planted by nature-loving lot owners, while others were selected and located by architects and urban developers. Many are self-propagated and grow on vacant lots, in parks, abandoned

fields, and old forest fragments.

Natural versus urban environments

Yes, Ottawa is green, even in winter, because of its citizens' efforts as well as good fortune; our city's natural environment is favourable for trees. The Ottawa Valley's growing season is four to five months, the summers are rarely too dry, and the winters are non-arctic. These conditions enable many species of trees and shrubs to grow.

Modern urban lands, however, include many places where harsh elements are a challenge to tree growth. When a tree is planted on a narrow strip of soil in a large paved parking lot, its growing conditions are similar to a desert. There is not enough water, there's too much salt, and temperatures can range excessively. Similar or even more unfavourable environments exist on downtown streets. In summer, high-speed winds moving through the

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The Sound of Footsteps

The public areas of the Central Experimental Farm have been popular for Ottawa citizens and tourists over many years. We expect the numbers of footsteps on the Farm to grow in coming years. How many footsteps?

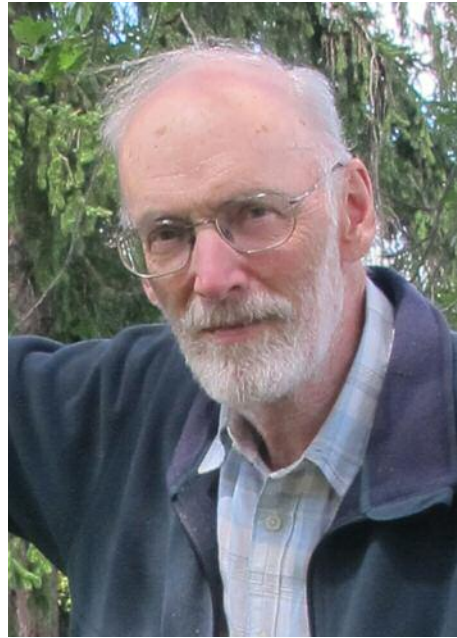
The Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association has taken a look at the number of vehicles and residential units that will be added when ongoing projects on Champagne, Preston, Carling and other nearby streets are completed. In the Carling-Preston Community Design Plan (CDP) area, the number of residential units and parking spots suggest an increase of 4,500 to 6,000 people, bringing some 3,500 vehicles into the neighbourhood. Further, these estimates do not include many planned developments in adjacent areas, such as the Booth Street complex, the Gladstone CDP and the Bayview CDP.

Then, there's the new hospital, to be situated at the Northeast corner of the Farm. It will bring another surge of people and cars during its construction and upon its completion. This could happen as soon as 10 years from now. The new hospital will change not only the amount but the nature of traffic in the area, due to hospital needs for speedy and efficient access and circulation.

There may be other footsteps coming.

For example, a botanical garden is proposed for the section of the Farm just south of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. How many people will this add to the mix, and how will it all be managed?

The northeastern section of the Farm is unique. As well as being adjacent to the



core agricultural research centre, it borders on a UNESCO World Heritage Site (the Rideau canal), a National Historic Site (the overall Farm), a greenspace with abundant trees in the middle of the city (the Arboretum), a horticultural display (the Ornamental Gardens), a Museum, a wildlife garden, a tulip display and many other attractions, all within the National Capital of Canada.

How can the Farm prepare for the coming changes? There will be studies by the hospital, the city and other levels of government, but will there be resources to manage the changes? The CEF Advisory Council is looking at ways to find out not only the number of people who visit the Farm, but also what brings people to the Farm. A working group has been set up to explore how to gather this information.

On another subject, the Friends of the Farm are looking for new volunteers. By "new," we also mean existing members and volunteers who could be interested in taking on new challenges. If you'd like to explore this opportunity, please let us know at volunteer@friendsofthefarm.ca. I am currently the Acting President, since Judy Dodds had to step down due to illness. We send out our best wishes to Judy and her family.

Eric Jones

Des bruits de pas

Depuis bien des années, les espaces publics de la Ferme expérimentale centrale jouissent d'une grande popularité auprès des citoyens de la Ville d'Ottawa et de ses touristes. Nous prévoyons une accumulation de pas sur la Ferme au cours des prochaines années. Combien au juste?

La Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association a procédé à un examen du nombre de véhicules et de cellules d'habitation qui s'ajouteront lorsque des projets en cours sur les rues Champagne, Preston, Carling et autres avoisinantes auront été achevés. Selon l'Unité de conception des services communautaires du secteur Carling-Preston, le nombre de cellules d'habitation et d'espaces de stationnement laisse prévoir une injection de 4 500 à 6 000 personnes, qui amèneront près de 3 500 véhicules dans le voisinage. De plus, cette estimation n'inclut pas d'autres projets novateurs déjà prévus dans des secteurs voisins tels le complexe de la rue Booth et les plans de conception des services communautaires des secteurs de Gladstone et de Bayview.

De plus, il faut tenir compte du nouvel hôpital qui sera érigé sur le côté nord-est de la Ferme. Cela donnera lieu à une poussée soudaine de personnes et de voitures durant la

construction et jusqu'à la fin du chantier. On peut s'attendre à une telle situation dans 10 ans à tout le moins. Le nouvel hôpital modifiera non seulement le volume, mais aussi la nature de la circulation dans ce secteur afin de s'ajuster aux besoins de l'hôpital en matière d'accès et de circulation de façon rapide et efficiente.

On s'attend à ce que d'autres pas résonnent. Par exemple, un jardin botanique a été proposé dans la zone de la Ferme située directement au sud du Jardin écologique Fletcher. On ne peut prévoir le nombre de personnes qui s'ajouteront à cette composition et déterminer de quelle façon en assurer la gestion?

La zone nord-est de la Ferme est unique. En plus d'avoisiner le point essentiel que représente le centre de recherches en agriculture, cette partie s'étend en bordure d'un site du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO (le canal), d'un lieu historique national (l'étendue de la Ferme), d'un espace vert avec des arbres en abondance (l'Arboretum), d'une exposition horticole (les Jardins ornementaux), d'un musée, d'un jardin d'espèces sauvages, d'un étalage de tulipes et de bien d'autres attractions centrales, que l'on trouve tous au sein de la capitale nationale du Canada.

Comment la Ferme peut-elle se préparer à

ces changements imminents? L'hôpital, la Ville et d'autres niveaux de gouvernement entreprendront des études, mais disposera-t-on de ressources pour gérer ces changements? Le Comité consultatif de la Ferme expérimentale centrale se penche sur la question afin de trouver des moyens qui pourraient nous aider à évaluer non seulement le nombre de personnes qui visitent la Ferme, mais aussi les raisons qui font venir ces personnes à la Ferme. Un groupe de travail a été mis sur pied pour déterminer une façon de repérer cette information.

Dans un autre ordre d'idées, les Amis de la Ferme sont à la recherche de nouveaux bénévoles. Pour nous, le terme « nouveaux » implique les membres et bénévoles actuels désireux de relever de nouveaux défis. Si cette proposition vous intéresse, veuillez nous l'indiquer en communiquant avec volunteer@friendsofthefarm.ca. Je suis actuellement président par intérim, compte tenu de l'absence de Judy Dodds pour des raisons de santé. Nous transmettons nos meilleurs souhaits à Judy et à sa famille.

Eric Jones

Growing and Regrowing ... *(continued from Page 1)*

narrow corridors between tall buildings, as well as air and soil pollution, affect trees. In winter, light pollution may disrupt the natural rhythm of growth and dormancy. This makes trees more susceptible to low temperatures and diseases.

To help encourage tree growth and green our cities, roof plantations are now being introduced. Although the intention is good, such plantings expose trees, shrubs, and other perennials to environments resembling tall cliffs. Unfortunately, not many species are able to thrive on exposed natural cliffs.

Adapting, surviving

The definition of favourable or unfavourable environments is to some extent an open question for tree planters, because trees are not passive objects to be placed where we want. Trees have diverse features that allow them to adapt to the places where they happen to grow. A feature that allows willows and spruce to survive in the arctic tundra for millennia is not like one that allows pines and junipers to grow on the cliffs and steep slopes of high mountain peaks. No universal tree exists that is equally well adapted to cold and hot conditions, or to both dry and wet soils.

When choosing a tree to plant in a city, the ability of the tree to regrow leaves, branches and roots is more important than the species of tree. A tree that is severely damaged can still survive if site conditions improve. Don't conclude that a tree is dead before you examine it carefully. Visible or invisible buds may still be alive and the tree will continue to grow. How successful it will be, only time can tell. But remember, the ability to regrow changes with tree age and size.

Young stems and branches with thin bark are more susceptible to physical or

chemical damage, and have less nutritious tissues to support new growth. Older trees with thick bark on the trunk and major branches can better cover and protect dormant buds. Also, they have more roots to boost new growth after the damage. Conifer trees, unlike deciduous, are more prone to damage because they rarely have dormant buds deep inside the crown or close to a stump.

The Merivale Shelterbelt

The Farm provides us with many examples of how trees grow in different environments. More recent examples of tree adaptation can be found in the Merivale Shelterbelt.

Fourteen years ago, Friends of the Central Experimental Farm began a big project to create a shelterbelt along Merivale Road. Its aim was to enhance the area, providing a recreational path, protection for the fields, and a cleaner atmosphere. Planting trees on the border of the Farm's fields was not a new idea. One hundred years ago, forest belts grew along the northern and western borders of the Farm, and a remnant of these remains on Fisher Avenue.

Early 20th century Ottawa, however, was a modest town with little motor traffic. These days, Merivale Road is a busy transport corridor with heavy traffic year-round.



Eric Jones

Ken Farr, co-leading the final 2018 Arboretum tour, October 28.

Air and road pollution are noticeable all the time, and winter de-icing of roads subjects fields and trees to very aggressive chemicals.

Faced with these conditions, some newly planted shelterbelt trees died, and many suffered, for example, from severe damage to bark at the bottom of the trunk and to needles on lower branches facing the road. Nonetheless, a few years later, damaged trees were able to grow new branches at heights above street pollutant levels. Now, there are only some scarred trunks and asymmetrical crowns to remind us of the harsh growing conditions. (See article by Polly McColl on page 12.)

The Merivale Shelterbelt project is still in progress, but already its oldest trees are providing welcome beauty and shade to those who use the path.

Roman Popadiouk, who has a Ph.D in Forest Ecology from Moscow University, is the co-author of the book For the Love of Trees, which is a guide to the unique collection of trees in the Arboretum.



K. A. Dubroy; Library and Archives Canada, DAP 15A-20

Carling Avenue entrance to the Central Experimental Farm, January 7, 1953. About ten years later, the city widened Carling Avenue and removed the belt of trees in the foreground.

'Morning Glory'

The image on page 1, captured at the Farm by Ramin Izadpanah, won first prize in a Canadian Geographic contest for landscape photography. The Farm is a favourite photographic location for Ramin, who teaches photography at the Ottawa School of Art. His work can be seen at www.facebook.com/ramin.izad and www.instagram.com/photos_by_ramin

Upcoming Events, 2019

For more information, visit www.friendsofthefarm.ca, email us at info@friendsofthefarm.ca, or call 613-230-3276.

Volunteer Orientation - April 6

What better way to enjoy nature, fresh air, exercise, and plant life, while contributing to the beauty of the Farm, than to join one of the Friends' Gardening Teams? If you are interested in volunteering, please come and meet the garden team leaders and event coordinators.

Annual General Meeting - April 17

You won't want to miss our guest speaker, **Michael Runtz**, a dynamic communicator on TV, radio, in the lecture hall and classroom. He has worked as a naturalist in national and provincial parks, and now teaches natural history and ornithology at Carleton University. Enjoy an evening of discovery as Michael showcases the flora and fauna of Algonquin Park.

Master Gardener Lectures

The following are the 2019 talks by Master Gardeners to be held from 7 to 9 pm in Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm. See friendsofthefarm.ca for more information. Sign up for individual talks or the entire series. Individual talks: \$12 members of the Friends, \$15 others. Series of five talks: \$50 members, \$60 others.

April 2 - **Savvy Choices for Spring 2019** with Mary Shearman Reid and Stephanie Sleeth.

These two experienced master gardeners will present ideas to help you plan your garden and will provide a wide range of timely tips for savvy plant selection and for getting the best out of new additions to your garden.

April 16 - **The Art of Rock Gardening** with Josie Pazdzoir and Rob Stuart.

This presentation is for those who have minimal rock gardening experience. A brief history of the art of rock gardening will be given. Types of rock gardens will be discussed, and suggestions given for hardy plants suited to sun and/or shade.

April 30 - **Trees and Shrubs - the Backbones of your Gardens** with Diane McClymont Peace.

The talk will include: little-known facts and recently discovered details about trees and shrubs, choices for the gardener, recommended maintenance throughout the year, and interesting areas to visit that feature trees and shrubs.

May 14 - **Kitchen Gardens** with Judith Cox.

This talk will explore several aspects of vegetable gardens through the ages and how we have adapted them to the present day. Judith will explore ways to grow vegetables in a sprawling space or in pots on a front porch or balcony.

September 10 - **Cooking with Edible Flowers and Herbs** with Nancy McDonald.

Edible flowers and herbs take up minimal real estate and yet yield impressive culinary delights. Join Nancy to find out what she grew and discover easy ways to use both edible flowers and herbs in food preparation. She will have a sample of one favourite for you to try.

For Love of the Farm

The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm are looking for people who are interested in finding new ways to support and enhance the Farm's beautiful areas. You could play one or several different roles, depending on which is the best fit for your skills. Some suggested activities include: coordinating or finding new directions for events on the Farm, discovering ways to attract resources or grants that will enable site enhancements, helping to better educate and inform people about this historic site, or getting the best out of our website and social media. Let's talk and see what will work. Prerequisites: your skills and a love of the Farm. For further information please call 613-230-3276 or email volunteer@friendsofthefarm.ca.

A Successful Book Drop Off

Our thanks to the more than 150 donors who brought in about 400 boxes and 180 bags of books on October 20. And thanks to the 22 volunteers who worked a total of 72 hours receiving the donations, unloading cars and trucks, carrying the books into the garage and down into the basement, repacking if necessary and stacking the boxes for storage. The books will be sorted and organized throughout the winter months for the annual book sale to be held in June, 2019.

Thank You and Best Wishes

Thanks to members, volunteers, donors, AAFC staff, and everyone else who contributed to the success of the Friends activities in 2018. Best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to seeing you again in 2019.

Plant Emblems of Canada

This beautifully illustrated book describes the official flowering plants and trees for Canada and each province. Aimed at the non-scientific community, it reveals "funny, intriguing, gross facts about Canada's emblematic plants" (*Ottawa Citizen*).

Authors of the book, entitled *Official Plant Emblems of Canada: A Biodiversity Treasure*, are Ernie Small, Paul Catling, and Brenda Brookes from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Members of the Friends of the Farm can obtain a free copy (in English or French) by emailing: ernie.small@canada.ca

Volunteers Caring for and Protecting a Beautiful and Symbolic Heritage

By Blaine Marchand

Niall Westin

This soft-spoken 20 year-old Nova Scotian came to Ottawa to pursue studies in Algonquin College's Animation Program, a three-year program providing training in both traditional and modern technology skills.

"I was looking for an opportunity to work out in the open somewhere," Niall told me in a recent interview. "A family member recommended that I should become a volunteer for the Friends. I thought it would be a good fit."

Previously a non-gardener, he chose the peony team because the weekly Thursday timeslot of the peony team fit his busy schedule quite nicely.

"I found the task fairly involving," he continued. "But the people I met there were friendly and cooperative so the work wasn't too onerous. If I had trouble with something, there was always someone there I could ask for help."

Niall said the experience gave him the opportunity to learn a bit about maintaining the plants over the growing season, uprooting the dead ones, dividing and replanting peonies. He also became familiar with the diseases, such as botrytis and nematodes that can blight peonies.

"I'd definitely be interested in volunteering again. It's a nice environment to work in and a good way to spend any summer. I would certainly recommend this to anyone interested. It's a good idea if you're looking for volunteer hours or if you're just drawn to horticulture in general."

By the end of the season, Niall was looking forward to returning to his studies. He indicated the animation program is a demanding one, which allows for little free time through the school year. As with his experience in the peony gardens, the months ahead will provide him with new skills that can be applied as he pursues his career.

Vincent Gendron Rossignol

Trees have been an obsession for Vincent for almost all of his 30 years. On weekends, his parents brought their children to hike in the woods around the

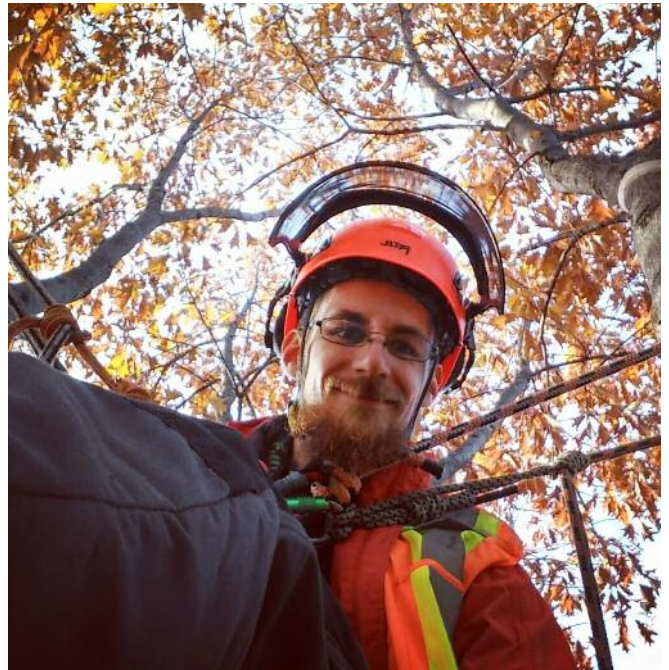
Gatineau region. These visits brought him a profound peace of mind. At such a young age, he could not explain the experience but now as an adult he knows it is called "forest bathing" or "forest therapy", which is extremely popular in Japan.

Via a circuitous route - first, studies in Nursing Science in Belgium, then a job in a Gatineau hospital, and finally a position as operations director for Altitude Gym climbing center - Vincent decided to become an

arborist. Thinking back to his childhood, he realised he still had that deep connection to trees. In the spring of 2018, he established his own company, Vincent G.R. Arboriste Grimpeur.

"When I was starting the arborist training program," Vincent told me recently, "one of my neighbours and a friend, who was also an arborist, told me he was giving a free tour of the Arboretum at the Central Experimental Farm on the week-end and invited me to attend. I jumped at the opportunity as I had never visited the Arboretum before. As the tour went on, I was astonished to learn of the importance volunteers have in maintaining this incredible collection of trees."

Initially Vincent was a little intimidated. However, on the very first day he realized this would be an enriching experience. People on the team came from totally different backgrounds - long-time volunteers, experienced gardeners, and high school students. In Vincent's view, all barriers were broken down because the team shared a common passion for nature and trees.



Vincent Gendron Rossignol.

Courtesy of Vincent Gendron Rossignol

"It was definitely a mutually beneficial experience," Vincent continued. "I don't believe that any single human can ever grasp all of the knowledge that surrounds trees. Being exposed to other volunteers helped me see trees from many viewpoints. I also got to share my knowledge of trees from the perspective of someone who climbs them and cares for them for a living."

When asked if he would continue to volunteer in the Arboretum now that he has his own company, he was unequivocal. "Absolutely! Even though I live an hour away from the Arboretum, as long as I can find free time to help, I will do so. Caring for and protecting such a beautiful and symbolic heritage with other devoted volunteers is an honour."

Blaine Marchand, the Friends' director of gardens, worked for 30 years around the world for the Canadian International Development Agency. He finished his career with a two-year posting in Pakistan, where he had a small garden.

A Night with the Moths

By Diane LePage



Diane LePage

American Idia moth (*Idia americalis*).



Eric Jones

Mothing participants.



Eric Jones

Diane LePage at the white sheet.



Diane LePage

Oldwife Underwing moth (*Catocala palaeogama*).

Last July, I agreed to lead the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm's first-ever moth outing at the Arboretum. The starting time was just before dusk (8:30 pm). The best time for mothing is during hot, hazy evenings between mid-May and mid-July after dark.

Arriving at the Arboretum well ahead of time, I went looking for the best location to attract the insects and do mothing. That turned out to be in the section of woodland just off the circle road in the Arboretum.

The mothing session drew over 20 participants. After I gave them a quick introductory course on moths we proceeded to the woodland. I explained the basic tools needed to attract and study moths: a black light, a 12V battery, a rope to tie between two trees, and a white sheet to go over the rope. I also described how my knowledge about moths had increased since I got a digital camera, which enables you to get quick and clear images of the moths as they appear.



Diane LePage

Caption: Hologram moth (*Diachrysia balluca*).

Another way to attract moths is by painting tree trunks with a sugaring compound, a mixture of brown sugar, beer, molasses, yeast, and small pieces of bananas. I led the group around so we could view the



Diane LePage

Confused Haploa (*Haploa confusa*).

trees that I had painted with this compound an hour earlier. We were able to see a variety of moths sampling the sugaring. I was happy to show them an Oldwife

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Sleigh Ride, 1989

Friends of the Farm Archives



“The sleigh ride held on Sunday January 29, 1989, could only be classified as a complete success,” wrote Judy Burns in the Friends of the Farm newsletter of April 1989. “The horses from the Farm and two sleighs brought from Quyon supplied the transportation. Over 500 people participated and over 100 new memberships were issued. There was a wide variety in ages from children through to couples in their eighties. Weatherwise the day was absolutely perfect. The tremendous interest people showed in the Farm and its existence in the heart of Ottawa was apparent. As people joined, many expressed a wish to participate in certain areas of the organization and many offered suggestions for future activities. An exciting affair that turned out to be a complete success.”

Nature’s Green is Golden

The health benefits of green spaces in Canadian cities

The environment of cities plays an important role in the health of its residents. Having access to green space has several direct and indirect health benefits. Nature also plays an important role in reducing harmful environmental exposures to air pollution and noise. Research on these topics include studies in and around the Central Experimental Farm. Dr. Paul Villeneuve, Associate Professor, Carleton University, will discuss this work at a Science Café on March 27.

Carleton University’s popular Science Cafés are held twice a month during the fall and winter terms at the Sunnyside Branch of the Ottawa Public Library at 1049 Bank Street. Each café begins at 6:30 p.m. with a 20-minute talk by a scientist followed by a 40-minute open question and answer period.

Come and join us on March 27. All are welcome. For more information, please contact the Faculty of Science by email at odscience@carleton.ca or by telephone at 613-520-4388.

A Night with the Moths ... *(continued from Page 6)*

Underwing moth (*Catocala paleogama*), a Common Idia (*Idia aemula*), a Bicolored Woodgrain (*Morrisonia evicta*), and later on a Maple Zale (*Zale galbanata*).

We returned to the white sheet to discover more very interesting findings like the Hologram moth (*Diachrysis balluca*) with a hook-tipped forewing (FW), glossy pinkish mauve with shiny green shading, also the Confused Haploa (*Haploa confusa*), featuring a white FW and narrow brown lines. We saw many moths of varying sizes and colours from different families.

Moth larvae have various host plants, and the trees and shrubs in the Arboretum offer a great diversity that can attract uncommon species. Such habitat is a good place to look for various type of moths throughout the summer, and from mid-July till mid-October you may find the favourite moth of many entomologists, the underwing moth (*Catocala*). It’s a favourite because of the size of the family and the different colours of the underwings.

A mothing evening can go on until 2-3 o’clock in the morning, but we ended our

outing at 11 pm after observing over 20 species. Considering the time of the year and city location, it was a very satisfying result and I was happy to share my passion with the group.

Diane has published a five-year study of moths of the Larose Forest and is a skilled nature photographer. She is known as the champion for the Butterfly Meadow at Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

Citizen Science in Action

By Kate Harrigan and Owen Clarkin



Owen Clarkin provided tips on observing, photographing, and identifying.



Scots Pine.



Pitch Pine .

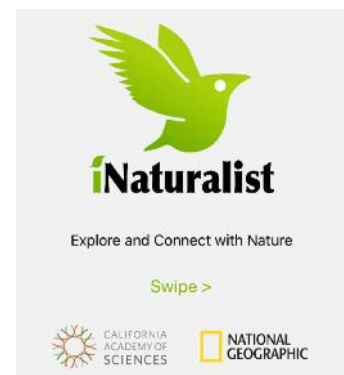
Photos by Kate Harrigan

Although there have been many tree surveys, there is still considerable uncertainty regarding the current distribution of tree species in the landscape. And without this knowledge, we face challenges in tree conservation and restoration. This was the impetus for a tour of the Arboretum on September 23, 2018 conducted by Owen Clarkin. His focus was on the importance of recording trees to the family, genus, and species levels to send in as observations to scientific and conservation databases. He explained how to do this, and revealed some useful photography techniques.

As we walked about in the

Arboretum, Owen showed us that twig features (buds, leaf scars, leaves, flowers, fruit) are often a key to identifying species, especially in winter, and noted that twig characteristics are one of the few features of a tree which are essentially unchanged throughout a tree's life from seedling to old-growth giant. Modern point and click "superzoom" cameras are relatively inexpensive and essential to photographing twigs of tall forest trees.

Owen demonstrated what to look for in trees, such as a White Poplar. When you photograph its bark, you can observe distinctive "diamond" lenticels typical of this poplar species (and some other



iNaturalist app.

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Citizen Science in Action ... *(continued from Page 8)*

Salicaceae trees). Leaves can be “maple-shaped” but are alternate on the stem, unlike maple leaves which are opposite, and leaf undersides are pale/white. These are the details that can comprise a successful observation.

On a Scots Pine, we noted that this species takes on a distinctive orange bark in the upper half of the tree from an early age, and that the leaves are arranged in bundles of twos, compared with other pines that have leaves in threes or fives.

Climate change impacts

The implications of climate change on forests was discussed. Many individual spruce trees and some fir trees are not

thriving due to hotter and drier summers, and this could result in their days being numbered.

The Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) which is a native but uncommon tree, characteristic of the Maritime Provinces, appears to be faring relatively well in Ontario's changing climate, compared to the more common White Spruce and Balsam Fir. The Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*), a “southern” species, is native but rare in eastern Ontario and southern Quebec. This species may be expected to adapt well to drought. It could prove to be one of many potential “trees of the future” for our region, but currently it is not a well-known or nursery-planted species.

Owen introduced us to the app iNaturalist, where we can post observations to a public scientific database (providing photos for archiving, tagging locations, asking questions, etc.). iNaturalist and other citizen science databases will be integral to providing basic species populations data on which to base future conservation work.

Kate Harrigan, cabinetmaker, food scientist, gardener, Friends' board member, has had a life-long love of plants and technology. Owen Clarkin, a local tree expert and ecologist, regularly contributes to local and worldwide plant identification forums.

A Dangerous Sport

INJURED WHILE SLIDING.
Miss Gladys M. Moore, switch-board operator of The Journal, was painfully injured on Saturday while sliding on the toboggan slides at the Experimental Farm. She was taken to her home, 557 Bay street, where it was found that her back was strained, but no bones were broken.

Boy Injured.

James Bryson, 14, 255 Nepean street, suffered a fractured ankle when the toboggan on which he was riding with three companions crashed into a tree on Dome Hill, Experimental Farm.

Top: Clip from The Ottawa Journal, January 23, 1922. Bottom: Clip from The Ottawa Citizen, February 3, 1945.

Traffic Circle, Prince of Wales Drive



Looking west, March 1962

Credit: O. Hanright; Library and Archives Canada, DAP 15A-20



The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm is a volunteer organization committed to the maintenance and protection of the Ornamental Gardens and the Arboretum of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Membership for the Friends of the Farm costs \$30 per year for an individual, \$50 per year for a family, \$25 for seniors/students. Payment by PayPal available on website. Membership fees support the many projects of the Friends of the Farm.

The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm publish the Newsletter (ISSN 1702 2762) four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall). All members receive the newsletter and it is sent by regular mail or e-mail. Editor: Richard Hinchcliff. Assistant Editor: Joan Butcher. Design & Printing: Nancy Poirier Printing. Contributors: Owen Clarkin, Diane Lepage, Kate Harrigan, Blaine Marchand, Polly McColl, Roman Popadiouk. Translator: Lise Anne James.

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Annie (or “Nancy”) Saunders

By Richard Hinchcliff



The Saunders family in 1885. William and Sarah are at the right. Standing at the rear are daughter Annie, sons Will, Charles and Henry, and sitting in front of them is Will's wife Emma. At left is son Percy and the youngest, Fred, is in front of Sarah's mother and father (the Rev. Joseph Hiram Robinson, Methodist clergyman).



Annie Saunders, circa 1890.



Annie Saunders, 1930.

William Saunders and his sons were celebrated in a 1956 book by Elsie Pomeroy entitled *William Saunders and His Five Sons*.

William was renowned as the creator of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa and his five sons were highly accomplished as scientists, academics and musicians. Charles and Percy were famed, respectively, for their wheat and peony breeding.

But left out of the limelight was William's eldest child, daughter Annie.

Annie Louise Saunders was born in London, Ontario in July 1858, to William and Sarah Agnes (née Robinson), who had married the previous year. She was 10 years old when Percy was born and 17 when her youngest brother Frederick was born. Her siblings called her “Nan” or “Nancy.” Their respect for her strong personality comes across in the following lines that Percy wrote:

“Then our Nancy of the Picnics
Nancy of the electric backbone
Of the strong electric backbone
She can take a current through it
That would quickly melt a railroad
Melt the rails and make them wriggle
Many volts, and ohms, and amperes
She can carry in her backbone
Carry them quite unconcernedly...”

She was close to 30 years of age when she came with her parents and Frederick to Ottawa to live at the Farm in the late 1880s. Her two oldest brothers remained in London, Ontario running the family drug-store; the other two were at university. Annie remained single and lived at the Farm in Ottawa with her parents for over 20 years.

Raised in a musical family, Annie played the piano and sang soprano. With her brother Charles as conductor, she was listed in 1900 as a member of the choir of the Schubert Club in Ottawa, later to become the Ottawa Choral Society. Her brother Charles wrote: “The voices are carefully selected, especially with a view to quality and to the ability of the singers to keep accurately to the pitch.” [Charles gave up his profession as music teacher and choirmaster of the Dominion Methodist Church in 1902, when he accepted a position at the Farm as a researcher in cereals.] Annie retained her love of music, attending concerts with a friend in London in her later years.

She was an amateur photographer and probably took some of the informal photos of her family, especially those of her brothers, that are in the Saunders collection at the archives of Western University in London, Ontario.

Annie accompanied her father on a visit to the World Exposition in Paris in 1900, where the Canadian pavilion featured an exhibit of agricultural produce from across the country that William had arranged. *The Canadian Horticulturist* journal published an article and photos by Annie about this trip. A highlight, she wrote, was a visit to Baron Alphonse Rothschild's estate at Ferrières, 20 miles from Paris. She marvelled at the “vast number of trees and shrubs” there, including “great masses of rhododendrons, laurels, yews, hollies and many other tender things.”

Her great-niece Kathleen Ball, who knew Annie well, said “She had a china cabinet full of mementoes from around the world ... in particular, I remember a marble replica, small, of the Taj Mahal. I think she must have been quite venturesome to plan an around-the-world trip by herself. I think this was about 1920.”

She died in London, Ontario, on January 10, 1938, aged 79. Her obituary referred to her as a member of St. Andrew's United Church and as “the only sister of the late Sir Charles Saunders, who played an important part in the development of Marquis wheat.” Once again, Annie ceded the limelight.

Tree Planting at the Merivale Shelterbelt ... *(continued from Page 12)*

Spindle tree (*Euonymus*) were ripped off. Five lilacs and six roses were stolen.

Some trees experienced Hackberry galls and the Cotoneaster Webworm. After “washing” the cotoneaster with water and soap, no webworms have been noted in recent years. Twelve ash trees had to be destroyed due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

Trial and error

Some trees and shrubs were planted on a trial basis with excellent overall success. Those doing well are Yellowwood (*Cladrastis*), Catalpa, Douglas-fir, Wingnuts (*Pterocarya*), Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*), Horse

Chestnut, ‘Ivory Silk’ Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*), Serbian Spruce (*Picea omorika*), and Ginkgo.

Four types of elm have been planted at the Shelter Belt, ‘Frontier’, ‘Brandon’, ‘Princeton’, and one unknown variety, and are doing extremely well.

Preston Lilacs did not thrive as well as the Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*). Forsythia are doing poorly, as is the Tri-color Willow. Other shrubs we are trying are Buffaloberry, Ninebark, and the ‘Bloomerang’ Lilac. Caragana flourish, but seem to have a short life span.

Some trees which I knew would not have been successful such as Birch and

White Pine, were not planted. Sumac were introduced at the site before the Friends took over and, in my opinion, should never have been planted there since they sucker everywhere.

Everyone who worked on the Shelterbelt can take great pride in having established a beautiful, shady garden and recreational area that also helps protect Farm lands and lessen urban air pollution.

Polly McColl, master gardener and former president of the Friends of the Farm, has been involved with the Merivale Shelterbelt project since it began.



Volunteers Irene Shumada and Airi Trant plant a lilac, 2014.



Tree identification plaques like this one have been placed at the Shelterbelt by the Friends of the Farm.

Consider joining the Friends of the Farm!

Find our membership form on the website and pay by PayPal or send in a cheque:
www.friendsofthefarm.ca/become-a-member/.

Benefits include discounts on Master Gardener lectures hosted by the Friends, one free adult admission per visit to the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, quarterly printed newsletters by post, and monthly Farm Notes e-newsletters.

We also accept donations to support our activities and events, which also support the garden teams that maintain the cherished Ornamental Gardens. A variety of donations can be made through our webpage:
www.friendsofthefarm.ca/donations/.



Tree Planting at the Merivale Shelterbelt

By Polly McColl

Diane McClymont Peace and Linda Horricks



The 2018 Shelterbelt volunteer team installing tree guards in November. From left to right: Linda Horricks, Christine Ljungkull, Diane McClymont Peace, Josephine Stanic, Julie Lalonde, Polly McColl, Airi Trant, Jim Odell. Absent: Janet Smith, Dorothy Tol.

The Merivale Shelterbelt is “a lovely meandering garden,” wrote Judy Dodds in the last issue of this newsletter. The Friends of the Farm are grateful to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) for having given them the opportunity to lead this project, and would like to thank the many generous donors who have made it a success. The donation program has ended, but Friends volunteers will continue to maintain and improve the garden in the years to come.

It has been very much a learning experience for the Friends, and this article describes the many challenges we have faced in planting 162 trees and 350 shrubs (excluding roses) over 14 years. It does not cover the planting by AAFC of 150 trees in 2017 for Canada’s 150th anniversary.

The challenges have included a lack of water in the early days, poor soil in places, and damage from salt, wind, mice, pests, and vandals.

Water and soil challenges

There was no water available on the site until 2011, when the Shelterbelt shed was built at the end of McCooey Lane, across from Central Park Drive. Solar panels installed on the roof provided power to an existing well. Prior to this, volunteers brought water from home if only a few shrubs were planted. AAFC would provide water to large trees and if

there were drought conditions. In 2018, because of pump failure, six roses were planted without any water, but luckily they showed no adverse effects. New trees and shrubs were watered every two or three days after planting for two weeks, and then we depended on nature. Bark mulch was added to all trees and shrubs, and none were lost due to lack of water.

The Shelterbelt team is the only Friends volunteer team that gardens with a pickaxe. The soil south of McCooey Lane was like hardpan. I also believe we dug up a stone fence! Gouges were made in the planting holes for the shrubs so that their roots would extend outwards. If better soil was put in the holes, the roots may have girdled themselves. The soil north of McCooey Lane was much better. In the first and second year, some trees were fed with fertilizer spikes. When comparisons were made between fertilized and non-fertilized trees, no difference was noted.

Salt and wind

Roadside salt damaged some Green Spruce, but the Blue Spruce and Norway Spruce were not affected. The severely damaged spruces were removed, while other damaged trees that we retained have become somewhat misshapen. We call these our “designer trees.” All evergreens were protected with burlap in the first winter after planting, but by January the burlap was shredded by the strong winds—it looked like Spanish moss hanging from the trees. Two Serbian Spruce trees were planted in 2017 about 30 feet apart. Both were treated in the same way for winter protection, but one survived and one did not. The effect of the wind can be seen especially on the hawthorn trees, which are now bent facing east.

Two trees died as a result of wind damage and one after being hit by lightning.

Pests—rodent, human, insect

Each year in late fall, tree guards are put on the smaller and more tender trees to protect them from rodents, especially mice. There was damage in the first few years, and one tree died as a result, but rodents have not since been a problem.

Vandalism is an ongoing problem. The bark was slashed in some cases, and the crown was cut off three trees—a maple, an oak and a crabapple. The main trunks died but suckers remained and they are now tall shrubs. Two branches of a



Merivale Shelterbelt, October 2018.

R. Hincheliff

Continued on Page 11