

# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

## Keeping it green: eyes on forest, park

Meeting May 19 with NCC & City on our woods, green space



—It's a little hard to make out but the map **at left** shows the NCC forest overlaid with a grid, which will be very useful to pinpoint precise locations for work projects. The existing trails were marked using walking GPS technology.

For some months now, a dedicated group of volunteers has been working on a plan to improve our urban forest and green space.

And now the group would like to give the community a progress report.

The first **Urban Forest Green Spaces** community-wide meeting will be held **Thursday, May 19, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.** in the fieldhouse.

The group plans to outline the partnership with the NCC and the City of Ottawa and share an update on community-based projects already underway.

They include:

- What's happening in the NCC forest bordering our community and the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway;
- Possible improvements to our neighbourhood park;
- Plans for the so-called Little Woods, at Clearview and Patricia;
- Mapping our paths and mature trees;
- Improving paths with woodchips;

- Planting native trees, shrubs and flowers.

We're hoping to have speakers from both the NCC and the city at the meeting.

Already, we see the environment in our neighbourhood is changing. Some will know that on May 11, for instance, the **NCC began removing dozens of dead ash trees in the forest north of Pontiac.**

The work was to continue until May 20 and the NCC warns that access to the forest will be limited during removal.

A Biologist was to be onsite in the early days to identify active nests.

All work is conducted in accordance with an overall emerald ash borer strategy: <http://www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca/property-management/what-we-manage/emerald-ash-borer>.

For more: [info@ncc-ccn.ca](mailto:info@ncc-ccn.ca) phone: 613-239-5000.

To learn more about Champlain Park's **Urban Forest Green Spaces** initiatives, go to: <https://urbanforestgreenspaces.wordpress.com>. There's loads more info, contact details on the site.

# The NCC forest is our gem. Let's polish it up.

The NCC forest bordering our community is an integral part of the community experience. Transformed from its natural state by cottage development in the 1900s and severely damaged by the 1998 ice storm, it serves as an area for walking, a home for wildlife and a buffer between the community and traffic on the parkway.

Our overall goal is to foster a healthy urban forest supporting native plants and wildlife and recreational enjoyment.

## Our Objectives

- Learn about the forest, including its plants and animals, important habitats and areas requiring restoration;
- Ensure no damage or destruction to natural habitats;

- Maintain a diversity of natural habitats, including open areas;
- Support the gradual succession of the flora and fauna towards a mature forest comprised of native species of trees, shrubs and ground cover;
- Remove and strictly avoid plant species known to be invasive or inappropriate to a native forest;
- Maintain a safe, accessible and litter-free environment for people of all ages;
- Support opportunities for educational and recreational experiences in the forest and;
- Enhance pathways and connections between Champlain Park, the Ottawa River and the broader community.

**Info:** Adrian Bradley, [adrian.bradley@sympatico.ca](mailto:adrian.bradley@sympatico.ca) and Daniel Buckles, [dbuckles@sympatico.ca](mailto:dbuckles@sympatico.ca)

## Big plans for Little Woods, @ Clearview and Patricia

The Little Woods is a small parcel of land owned by the city of Ottawa. And much work is underway to improve it.

While there is a strong population of mustard garlic and Buckthorn on the site, there are also Black Walnut and Bur Oak trees of significant size. Working with forestry staff from the city, this project proposes to remove invasive species and replant native trees.

We're looking for volunteers for a morning work session on **May 20, starting at 9 a.m.** Please bring hand tools such as shovels, secateurs and loppers.

The morning will be devoted to removing Buckthorn. In the afternoon there will be a native tree planting session with 60 children from Elmdale Public School.

For info, **Eloise Holland, 613-729-1218.**

**Secondly**, there is a plan for **Junior Naturalists.**

The intent is to invite children to come together to play, discover and care for the natural wonders in their own community. It's aimed at children seven and older. The next meeting is **3:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 26** by the Patricia Street entrance to the woods.

If interested, please contact Jennifer Neate, at [jen@spiritwalkers.ca](mailto:jen@spiritwalkers.ca)

## Reminder: Garage Sale June 11 !!!

The annual community-wide garage sale is just around the corner, which is exactly where you hope all those treasures end up! Rain date is **June 12.**

Residents of Island Park Drive will hold their sale on the same day.

Should you have any leftover gems, keep in mind this is Ottawa's Spring Give Away Weekend and items may be left by the curb for elves to take to places unknown.

Rough hours are **8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

## Branch out to weekend tree workshop June 3-5!

Dr. Andy Kenney and Forester Astrid Nielsen will lead you through the steps for identifying tree species, assessing tree health and mapping the location of trees in Champlain Park. The resulting inventory will show the economic value of trees to people due to energy conserved, stormwater filtered, air quality improved and carbon dioxide removed. And help the community retain its forest canopy.

The workshop is scheduled for:

**Friday, June 3, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 4, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Sunday, June 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Participants must commit to attend at least 80% of the full workshop. Meet at the fieldhouse.

The cost is \$20 per person, which includes refreshments and a field manual. Space limited to 25.

To register, complete the registration form on the Urban Forest website (see front page.) For more info: contact **Adrian or Daniel** (emails above.)