

## UPDATE

July 2012

### Protecting Wildlife at Grenadier Pond

We have been concerned about inappropriate activity (including fishing) in the marsh at the north end of Grenadier Pond and the hazards of abandoned fishing gear. Several park users reported rescuing waterfowl that were tangled in fishing line.

We are pleased to report that about 10 "responsible fishing" signs have been posted at Grenadier Pond (see [photo](#)). Many thanks to Park Supervisor Jorge Ture, Councillor Doucette, and a few dedicated "pond watchers" for their help in making this happen. However, it will take more than signs to resolve this issue. We will continue to discuss other possible actions with park staff.

Fishing is a provincial responsibility, so we have been advised that any concerns about improper fishing should be reported to 1-877-TIPS-MNR. Report other matters, such as boats on the pond, to 311 (or email [311@toronto.ca](mailto:311@toronto.ca)).

### Dredging of Wendigo Pond

It is necessary to once again remove the accumulated sediments (possibly 1m deep) that this settling pond is designed to collect. They were last removed in 2005, and should normally be removed about every 5 years. We had initially suggested late fall, since there are less waterfowl present, so less impact. On the other hand, the Toronto Water staff recommend winter because of the need to spread and dry the sludge on the adjacent ground (reduced odour, etc.) In any case, our committee recommends that the work be carried out at the time of year that is least disruptive to wildlife and natural systems.

### Nature Monitoring Program

Katarina is developing a process to record various concerns pertaining to the natural heritage. The overall objective is to protect the sensitive and significant areas of the park. The data collected will be provided to Urban Forestry, so as to facilitate priority-setting and corrective measures. For more info, contact [naturemonitoring@highparknature.org](mailto:naturemonitoring@highparknature.org).

### Park People Summit and Video

On May 12 Katarina attended a conference organized by [Park People](#). The keynote speaker reported on a New York park project using an old elevated railway line. Anna Hill of Park People is interested in doing a video of volunteer involvement in High Park. We are following up on this opportunity.

### Grenadier Pond Interpretive Signs Project

Eight signs have been sent out for construction and the desired general location for each one has been determined. Installation will occur sometime over the next few months.

Another 'TD Friends of the Environment Foundation' grant application to fund some additional signs (Phase 2) has been approved. Fleur, as project coordinator, will review earlier ideas, compile a preliminary list of sign topics, encourage identification of other topics, and canvass broadly for contributing writers/editors/photographers. Although many of the signs will relate to Grenadier Pond, other features of the park may be included (e.g. the Boulevard Beds). Fleur can be reached at [signs@highparknature.org](mailto:signs@highparknature.org).

### No Bike Park in High Park

We are pleased to report that the new bike park will not be located in High Park (the project proponents deemed it to be unsatisfactory). The City decided to build it on the land bounded by Lakeshore Blvd.W., Gardiner Expy, Ellis Ave. and Colborne Lodge Drive. The design concepts are on display at Swansea Town Hall until the end of July. [More details](#).

### Other Nature News

During the moulting season, a number of Canada geese were relocated by the TRCA from High Park to a suitable site outside Toronto. Broods are not moved.

The purple martin house was blown off its pole during a storm and the brood was unfortunately lost. It was re-erected and hopefully will be used again next year.

### High Park Nature Website

Website traffic is considerably higher than last year. We recently added links to a very informative video in which Sam Benvie of Ryerson University gives a guided tour of the Black Oak Savannah (see the [Explore](#) page).

### VSP Activities

The Elite Invasive Squad, led by Linda Read, is a specially-trained group of volunteers working cooperatively with Urban Forestry to remove invasives outside of the regularly-scheduled VSP events. As an example of their great dedication, over 7 sessions this spring, 20 volunteers worked a total of 137 hours and filled 83 bags with garlic mustard. Invasive plant removal continues this summer as part of the regular VSP program, including a more recent invader, [Hedge Parsley](#).