



E-News – May 2011

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Note: If you are planning to change your e-mail address, please do not forget to let us know so that we can continue to keep you up to date! If you would like to print this newsletter it is available on our web site as a PDF <http://www.oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca/>

Upcoming Events

RUSSELL TILT PARK TREE & SHRUB PLANTING – SATURDAY MAY 28, 10AM – NOON

Tree planting is a great way to get involved in the community and help the environment. Join Richmond Hill and Evergreen to plant trees and shrubs along the headwater stream of the East Humber River at Russell Tilt Park. Equipment will be provided but please dress for the weather with sturdy footwear, a hat and sunscreen, and bring water. Meet on the east side of Black Forest Drive between Regatta Avenue and Greyfriars Avenue. For further information and a map, visit:

http://www.richmondhill.ca/documents/tree_planting_russell_tilt.pdf or contact Mildred Ho, mho@evergreen.ca, 416-596-1495 ext 303

**MILL POND SPLASH – SUNDAY MAY 29, 12:00 – 4:30 PM, MILL POND,
INTERSECTION OF MILL ST. AND TRENCH ST., RICHMOND HILL**



Plan now to attend this free family spring-time eco-festival in the lovely green setting of the Mill Pond. There will be all kinds of information and activities for all ages. Plant a tree, build a bird box, and meet native reptiles, animals and birds of prey. You can also find information on energy

conservation, garden plants that will save you energy, stewardship and pressures on urban streams. There is even an exhibition of local landscape art and a rubber ducky race. For more information visit: <http://www.trca.on.ca/millpondsplash/> or contact Alexis Wood, awood@trca.on.ca, 416-661-6600 ext 5280

JEFFERSON FOREST HIKE – SATURDAY JUNE 4, 9:30 AM

Join members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) on this 8 k, 3 hr hike at a moderate pace in the beautiful Jefferson Forest. This is a preview of the new ORTA main trail through 400 magnificent acres of TRCA property. Please note there are steep hills. Meet at the Sunset Beach parking lot at Bayview Ave. and Bethesda SdRd. Please arrive early as there will be a car shuttle to the start location. For more information contact Rhys Beak at 905-237-1826. Cell phone on day of hike only 289-221-7154

**SHOP LIKE THE PLANET'S WATCHING – JUNE 9, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, ROUGE
WOODS COMMUNITY CENTRE, 110 SHIRLEY DRIVE**

Plan now to attend this free interactive workshop to learn how to “green” your shopping habits and become an eco-friendly consumer. It is easier than you think and can help contribute to a healthy home environment too. It is presented by the York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA). For more information visit:

http://www.richmondhill.ca/documents/rouge_days_june2011.pdf

For more information on YREA visit: www.yrea.org

**BRING YOUR SOIL TO LIFE – SATURDAY JUNE 11, 10AM – 12 NOON, PHYLLIS
RAWLINSON PARK**

Everything in your garden starts with the quality of the soil. Especially if you live in a new area, chances are pretty good that the soil is poor. Join Richmond Hill and Evergreen for this hands on workshop on sheet mulching, a natural way to build soil quality, reduce weeds and fuel plant growth. The workshop is free but space is limited so register now and definitely by June 3rd. For more information and to register, visit:

http://www.richmondhill.ca/documents/rouge_days2_june2011.pdf and contact Mildred Ho, mho@evergreen.ca, 416-596-1495 ext 303

DOORS OPEN RICHMOND HILL – SATURDAY JUNE 11

Doors Open Richmond Hill provides residents with the opportunity to explore local facilities of historical interest that are not generally open to the public. A wide variety of intriguing cultural, religious and heritage sites will be available for viewing. One of these is the Lake St. George Field Centre on Bethesda Side Road. This is an historic site that has been transformed into a residential educational facility for students and other groups to study various environmental subjects on this wonderful natural property.

For more information visit:

http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_13043_1.html

WINDFALL ECOLOGY FESTIVAL – JUNE 11 & 12, FAIRY LAKE PARK, NEWMARKET

Windfall Ecology Centre presents the 9th Annual Windfall Ecology Festival, York Region's largest Environmental and Energy Conservation Exposition! Learn, share &

experience live music, local & organic foods, buskers, Kids Fun Zone, Workshops and so much more. It is an outdoor event for the whole family in a beautiful park setting.

For more information visit:

<http://www.windfallcentre.ca/index.php?st=2&s=Home&p=Homepage>

BIKE THE OAK RIDGES CORRIDOR PARK – MONDAY JUNE 13, 7:00 PM

Take a bike ride for 10 k at a moderate pace for 1.5 hrs in the Corridor Park from Bayview Ave. to Bathurst St. This is a smooth rolling trail through former farm land, past pretty kettle lakes and wetlands. Learn the history as you go. Meet at the trail parking lot on Old Colony Rd. ½ k west of Bayview Ave. Helmets are required and no dogs are welcome. It will be cancelled if raining. For more information contact Peter Attfield 905-773-3935 or that evening only 416-930-9761.



JUNE 17-19

OAK RIDGES FAIR – JUNE 17, 18 & 19, SUNSET PARK

Mark the dates on your calendar now for the 2011 Oak Ridges Fair. There will be a midway, music, food, pony rides, petting zoo, and lots of vendors and local organizations on hand with goods and information. For more information visit:

<http://www.oakridgesfair.com/home>

Volunteers wanted! The Fair is totally volunteer-driven and needs lots of energetic people to help out. Students, this is a great way to collect volunteer hours. To sign up go to:

<http://www.oakridgesfair.com/volunteer-opportunities>

Local News

OAK RIDGES COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY REPORT



Mother Nature smiled on the volunteers that came out the last Saturday in April to clean up Oak Ridges parks and green spaces with one of the nicest weather days in this soggy spring. It was perfect for the Tim Horton's t-shirts that most people received for helping out. Fortified with coffee, juice and goodies from Gramma's Oven Bakery, over 340 residents including 42 students donned work gloves, grabbed garbage bags and headed out all over the community to pick up the trash that had accumulated over the winter months. There

was a lot to be picked up. The general consensus was that plastic water bottles were the most common item followed by fast food containers. Beyond that there was a variety of things such as tires, propane tanks, some large stuffed animals probably from a fair, a few strollers and bikes, and even full cans of beer! The most interesting find was a bag containing an old police badge and patch along with a gun holster and ball caps. The York Region Police were quite interested in this haul but determined that it was costume gear. In the end, over 4.78 tonnes (10,516 lb) of trash was picked up by Richmond Hill on Monday morning.



After a hard morning's work, participants were rewarded with a barbeque provided by Nick and Mira's No Frills and expertly cooked by the Oak Ridges Lions Club. There was also a thank you cake that came with the help of Oak Ridges Food Market. Councillor Greg Beros was on hand to cut the cake

and bring words of appreciation from the Town of Richmond Hill.



Of course an effort like this required the help of many people, and the Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment (ORFE) thanks all of those who contributed. This includes sponsors, groups that participated, the wonderful crew of volunteers who helped organize the day and most importantly all of the residents who came out on a Saturday to pick up trash. Oak Ridges looked terrific due to their efforts. Now we all just have to work together to keep it that way. A full list of all of the contributors is included

below. More information on the Clean Up Day and additional photos will be up on our web site at: <http://www.oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca/CommCleanUp.htm>

***Special Note re T-shirts:** Some of our local groups did not use all of their shirts. If you missed getting one at the Clean Up we shall have some at the Oak Ridges Fair for pick up as supply lasts.*

FOR OAK RIDGES AND THE BIRDS

The Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment's (ORFE) annual fund raiser - the Baillie Birdathon is right around the corner. The Bradleys will be spending the better part of 24 hours in late May combing local parks and green spacing to find as many different bird species as possible and they are looking for sponsors. The money raised will do two things. A portion of the proceeds comes back to ORFE to help in their efforts with the Clean Up and in informing the Oak Ridges community about the wonderful area natural spaces and how to protect them through their e-newsletter and web site. The rest of the money goes to support Bird Studies Canada's great work in bird research and conservation including funds for student birders.

Jim and Sharon would really like your support! All donations of \$10.00 or more are tax creditable and will be greatly appreciated. A full report on the "birds of Oak Ridges" will be sent to donors and included in the newsletter. To sponsor the Bradleys visit their personal Birdathon page at:

<http://www.gifttool.com/athon/MyFundraisingPage?ID=1914&AID=1491&PID=202719>
or contact them at 905-773-7415, orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca

Nature News – International Year of Forests – what you can do for the forests

A great outdoor educator and founder of the Canadian Canoe Museum, the late Kirk Wippen, believed that the key to protecting our great green spaces was to "know, care, act". This holds true for helping our forests.

There are many sources of information on forests. As is often the case, many of the best and most understandable are directed at school children. One interesting website is a section of a site provided by the Ontario Forestry Association that provides "Homework Helpers": <http://www.focusonforests.ca/helpers/>. Here you will find fact sheets, activities and videos.

Rather than sit in front of a computer, however, the best way to learn about a forest and get to care about it is to get out into the woods and experience the wonderful surroundings. When you go, take your time and preferably go with a small child. The curiosity and exuberance of youth will help you find neat things like pine cones holding



seeds, small creatures to be examined - and left there where found, different shaped leaves and so forth. Also stop, listen and look around. What are the sounds? Are they birds, frogs or critters like a chattering squirrel? When you look up in the canopy can you see nests or maybe even a sleeping raccoon? Even the silence of the forest is a great stimulator of peaceful reflection. Generally you will leave the forest refreshed and convinced that it must be protected for future generations.

When it comes to action, the most basic step we can all take is to plant a tree! While a single tree does not seem like much in a forest, each has significant value and a multitude of trees even in an urban area adds to the earth's canopy. Start with one tree or more on your own property and continue by helping with neighbourhood project such as the planting event at Russell Tilt Park May 28th (see events above). Beyond our community, there are organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada http://www.natureconservancy.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=on_ncc_work_act and Ontario Nature <http://www.ontarionature.org/connect/volunteer/index.php> that offer opportunities to assist with stewardship projects on their various nature reserves.

Another strategy to help the forests is to be a tree friendly consumer. This means reducing our use of paper and using paper products that are either recycled or sourced in a sustainable manner. Look for the FSC logo and learn more at: <http://www.fscCanada.org/default.htm> . Also look for shade grown coffee and tea, and use sustainable wood products like those made from bamboo. For more consumer tips see the York Region Environmental Alliance's "Shop Like the Planet is Watching" booklet and/or attend the workshop on June 9th (see events) <http://www.yrea.org/SHOPbooklet-YREA.pdf>

The other important action required to protect forests is for residents to speak up about the need to conserve and enhance these valuable green spaces. Where there are trees there is lumber, perhaps mineral or other resources, and land for subdivisions. Industry will lobby government to use the land for these resources and destroy the forests. There is a great need for citizens who care about the value of trees and forests to speak up too. Nature Canada has an action letter for the federal government on their web site now: <https://secure2.convio.net/nc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=143>

Next Issue: Ideas of places to take a hike!

Green Tip of the Month

May is the peak of bird migration from south to north. In the spring they sing and show brighter breeding colours so they are easier to see than when they go south in the fall. This web site has lots of free materials to introduce birds and the migration miracle especially for children. <http://birdday.org/education/free-materials>

The Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment is grateful for the support of these organizations and local merchants for the 2011 Community Clean Up Day.

Clean Up Partners



Clean Up Sponsors

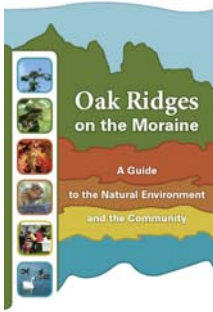
- Aurora Party Rentals
- Gramma's Oven European Bakery & Café
- Home Hardware
- McDonald's Restaurant
- Oak Ridges Food Market
- Oak Ridges Trail Association
- Snow White Cleaners
- Toronto Zoo - Adopt - a - Pond

A Special Thank You
Regional and Local Councillor Vito Spatafora
Local Councillor Greg Beros
For their ongoing support of the Clean Up

Clean Up Organization Volunteers

- Marie Adams
- Peter Attfield
- Laura Atkins-Paul
- Rhys Beak
- Helen Buttery
- Cheryl Combot
- Rett Dunham
- Julie Horne - Brownies
- Gloria Marsh
- Liz Morin
- Guido Piraino - Scouts
- Leila Ram and family
- Jodi Sepkowski - Lake Wilcox P.S. School
- Stephanie Steinmann - McLeod's Landing Residents Association
- Lynda Sutherland
- Laura Zomparelli





OAK RIDGES NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE NOW ON OUR WEB SITE!

[WWW.OAKRIDGESFRIENDSOFTHEENVIRONMENT.CA](http://www.oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca)

Oak Ridges on the Moraine: a guide to the natural environment and the community is your source for environmental and community information in Oak Ridges. The supply of hard copies is pretty well exhausted. The whole guide is available on the ORFE web site.

The Guide has been produced by the Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment with the support of the Oak Ridges Lions Club and the financial assistance of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.



The Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment also appreciates the ongoing support of the Town of Richmond Hill.

The Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment E-News welcomes comments and suggestions. Please send to orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca. To unsubscribe to this newsletter please send a message to the same address with "Unsubscribe E-News" in the subject line. We shall be sure to respect your wishes. If you are receiving this "second hand" and would like to subscribe please contact us and we would be happy to add you to the list.

Visit our web site at: <http://www.oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca/>