

For immediate release

New Signs Take a Closer Look at Grenadier Pond

Toronto, ON, September 19, 2012 – High Park’s Grenadier Pond is well-loved by many as a beautiful and serene vista, but its rich biodiversity is often overlooked. That’s why High Park Nature, a volunteer group in the park, has been busy developing interpretive signs that will encourage park users to give the pond and its inhabitants a closer look.

Grenadier Pond is one of the areas within High Park designated as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. “The pond is such a special place, and we wanted to share some of its interesting features with all the people who visit it,” said Karen Yukich, Co-Chair of High Park Nature. “Sometimes people walk by and wonder ‘*What is that big black bird out there with its wings spread out?*’ or ‘*What are these tall reeds that are blocking my view?*’ These are the kind of questions that the new signs will help answer.” The signs also refer people to the www.highparknature.org website, which is loaded with information about the park’s wildlife and plant species, geology and history, volunteer opportunities and nature events. The group hopes these signs, together with the website, will foster a deeper appreciation of High Park as a natural treasure and a greater desire to protect it.

To celebrate the installation of this first set of signs, **High Park Nature is hosting a special walking tour on Sunday, September 30, “Grenadier Pond: More than meets the eye!”** The tour will start at the circle of benches south of Grenadier Restaurant at 11.00 am and end at Harvest Festival at Colborne Lodge at about 12.30 pm. Many of the volunteers who helped create the signs will be on hand to talk about their chosen subjects.

The sign project has been in the works for several years. Ken Sharratt steered the project through its initial phases, including the development of a prototype that would meet project objectives and City standards. Various volunteers and naturalists developed the content. Fleur Careil coordinated final review and editing, and Karen Yukich reached out to a network of keen photographers (including one as far away as England!) for suitable images.

Most of these signs were funded through a TD Friends of the Environment grant. City staff reviewed proposed locations and content, provided the layout and coordinated manufacturing and installation. Financial administration was provided by the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation.

More signs are in the planning stages. Anyone interested in helping can contact signs@highparknature.org.

About High Park Nature

High Park Nature is a joint initiative of the High Park Volunteer Stewardship Program (VSP/High Park Stewards) and the High Park Natural Environment Committee. We are a communications and education umbrella group dedicated to educating and informing park users and Toronto residents about High Park's unique natural heritage and the steps being taken to protect and restore this heritage.

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