

### **Ongoing Efforts to Protect Wildlife at Grenadier Pond**

Since our October 2012 meeting, members of our Grenadier Pond Protection working group have met with Councillor Doucette; dialogued with the Park Supervisor; collected signatures on a petition calling for a provisional ban until a proper assessment is made to determine if, where, and under what conditions fishing should be permitted; prepared detailed submissions regarding incidents causing harm to wildlife, research findings and recommendations; and contacted officials at the City, TRCA, MNR, Toronto Wildlife Centre, Toronto Zoo and other relevant individuals and organizations. We have also contacted the TRCA about their use of electrofishing in fishing promotion events.

We are looking forward to having an opportunity to participate in a process leading to changes that will address the key concerns. We will continue to press for appropriate measures to be taken in advance of this spring's fishing season.

To view the working group's submissions plus the TRCA's response to our electrofishing note, please visit the Natural Environment Committee [webpage](#).

To voice your concerns on fishing-related issues and the need for better protection of wildlife at the Pond, contact Park Supervisor Jorge Ture at [jture@toronto.ca](mailto:jture@toronto.ca) and Councillor Doucette at [councillor\\_doucette@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_doucette@toronto.ca).

NOTE: The 1995 Gartner Lee report *Proposals for the Rehabilitation of Grenadier Pond* is now available [here](#). Lake Partner Program water quality monitoring results collected over a number of years by Ray Bielaskie and Michael White are posted [here](#).

### **Grenadier Pond Interpretive Signs Project**

Work is underway on Phase 2 of the signs project. Volunteers have been identified to write the sign text and some people have also volunteered to act as reviewers. Photos will be requested at a later stage. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact [signs@highparknature.org](mailto:signs@highparknature.org). Also see the project [webpage](#).

### **Purple Martin House**

The martin house on the south shore of Grenadier Pond suffered damage when it was blown off in a storm last summer (also the brood was unfortunately lost) and will need to be repaired or replaced. Ray Bielaskie is looking into possibly involving high school students in building a new house.

### **Plans for Prescribed Burn in 2013**

Forestry staff are proposing to burn two areas in spring 2013, Sculpture Hill and the western portion of the Tablelands. Site preparation will include some removal of invasive woody species. At this point the prescribed burn is still to be confirmed.

### **Tree Tour**

Baye Hunter, who was involved in creating a GPS-based tree tour on Toronto Island (available [here](#)), has identified approximately 30 trees in the Hillside Garden area with the assistance of Roger Powley. These have been reviewed by Forestry. Many are ornamental but some are native trees characteristic of High Park. The results will be transferred to a downloadable map, also to be available in hard copy in several locations within the park. The question of signage and labels on the trees is still to be resolved.

### **1844 Bloor St. Development**

A petition to save nine mature oak trees on this proposed development site was organized by Anila Sunnak, a local resident. In an [article](#) about this petition in the Villager, NEC co-chair Leslie Gooding explained how these oak trees are "part of a big picture concerning the impact of development on High Park." Leslie also appeared as a private citizen at the OMB regarding this development, calling for an Environmental Impact Study or equivalent to determine that there will be no negative impact from development near the High Park oak woodlands, a significant natural area. The building's proposed reflective glass finish presents a hazard to birds and is among the potential harms.

### **Stewardship Activities**

A set of educational sessions on successful Habitat Restoration are planned for the winter months at the Howard Park Tennis Club, 430 Parkside Dr. The first session, "Restoring Cities", presented by Deborah Dale highlighted a variety of gardening initiatives in US, Canadian and global cities towards environmental sustainability and discussed both successful and contentious gardens in Toronto, where bylaws are at odds with those goals. On Jan. 27, "Restoration in the Age of Climate Change and Invading Worms," Dale Leadbeater will focus on the importance of soil in restoration efforts. Two additional presentations and two volunteer sessions for core members in the High Park Nursery will engage us during the winter months. See [www.highparknature.org](http://www.highparknature.org) for more details.