

Environment Committee Report to August 26/24 ASH Board Meeting

EcoFair 2024: As reported in the June information to the ASH Board, a financial report had been submitted to the Treasurer, and then we were advised that Community Environmental Project Grants Program (CEPGP) funding had been awarded for the EcoFair. The needed information and signatures from ASH have been submitted and we are waiting to hear that signatures from the city have been added to the contribution agreement so that \$859 (adjusted to reflect actual expenditures) will be available.

Microgrant from the Invasive Species Action Fund for the Rideau River Riparian Forest Biodiversity Project 2024: Also reported in June, the Canadian Invasive Species Centre has said that it will provide a microgrant to ASH from the Invasive Species Action Fund, for the removal of invasive Common Buckthorn along the Rideau River south of Strathcona Park and replanting with native trees and shrubs. A condition is to obtain from the City of Ottawa a Consent to Enter permit, along with proof of insurance.

After several inquiries over more than two months, a contact was identified for the Consent to Enter permit. City staff and the funder have been in contact now and it appears that funding arrangements for the \$2500 grant will be finalized very soon. Fieldwork is scheduled for this fall, after completion of the tree survey (see below).

Sandy Hill Tree and Greening Group (SHTGG): Wednesday evenings, volunteers have been working on upkeep and cleaning of gardens along Somerset and tubs along Chapel. Native plants from the Replace the Grass project have been added to gardens.

François Bregha Commemorative Tree and Plaque: To celebrate his life and mark the anniversary of his death, family, friends and neighbours gathered by the bur oak tree and plaque in Strathcona Park on July 14th.

Sandy Hill Tree Survey 2024: A form has been prepared by Bryan Dewalt and is being tested. In September, volunteers will be carrying out the survey. The intent is to help identify areas with limited tree canopies and encourage more tree plantings, especially in those areas.

Other Activities:

- Rideau River Riparian Forest Biodiversity Project – Received Community Environmental Project Grants Program (CEPGP) funding three years ago. There has been ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Waiting now to hear from the city forestry department about their commitment to plant trees at the Japanese knotweed control sites.
- The Cleaning the Capital Fall program runs from September 15 to October 15. The date and clean-up areas need to be selected.
- After a summertime pause in meetings, the Environment Committee will resume soon.

August 24/24