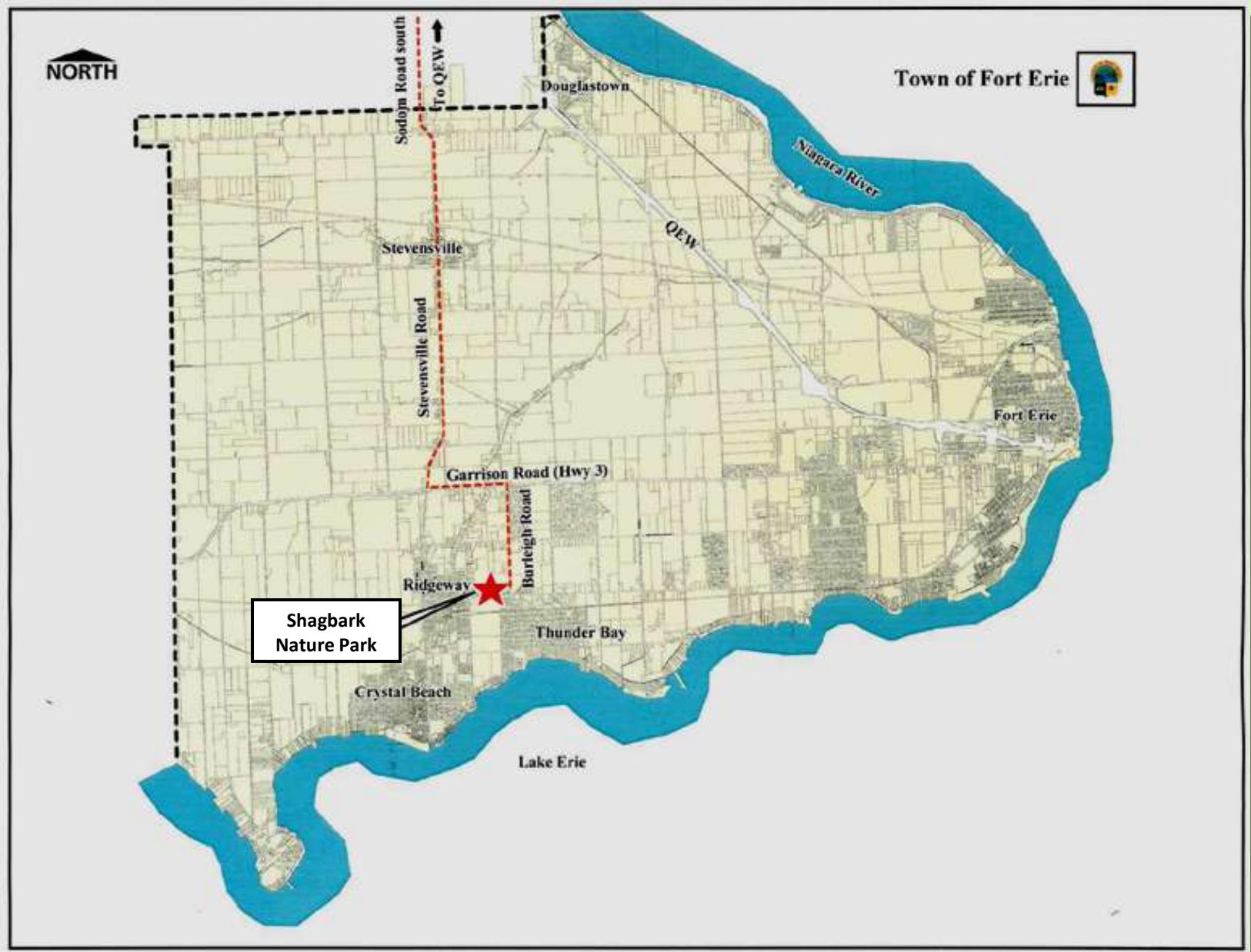


Bert Miller Nature Club Shagbark Nature Park Initiative 1999-2009

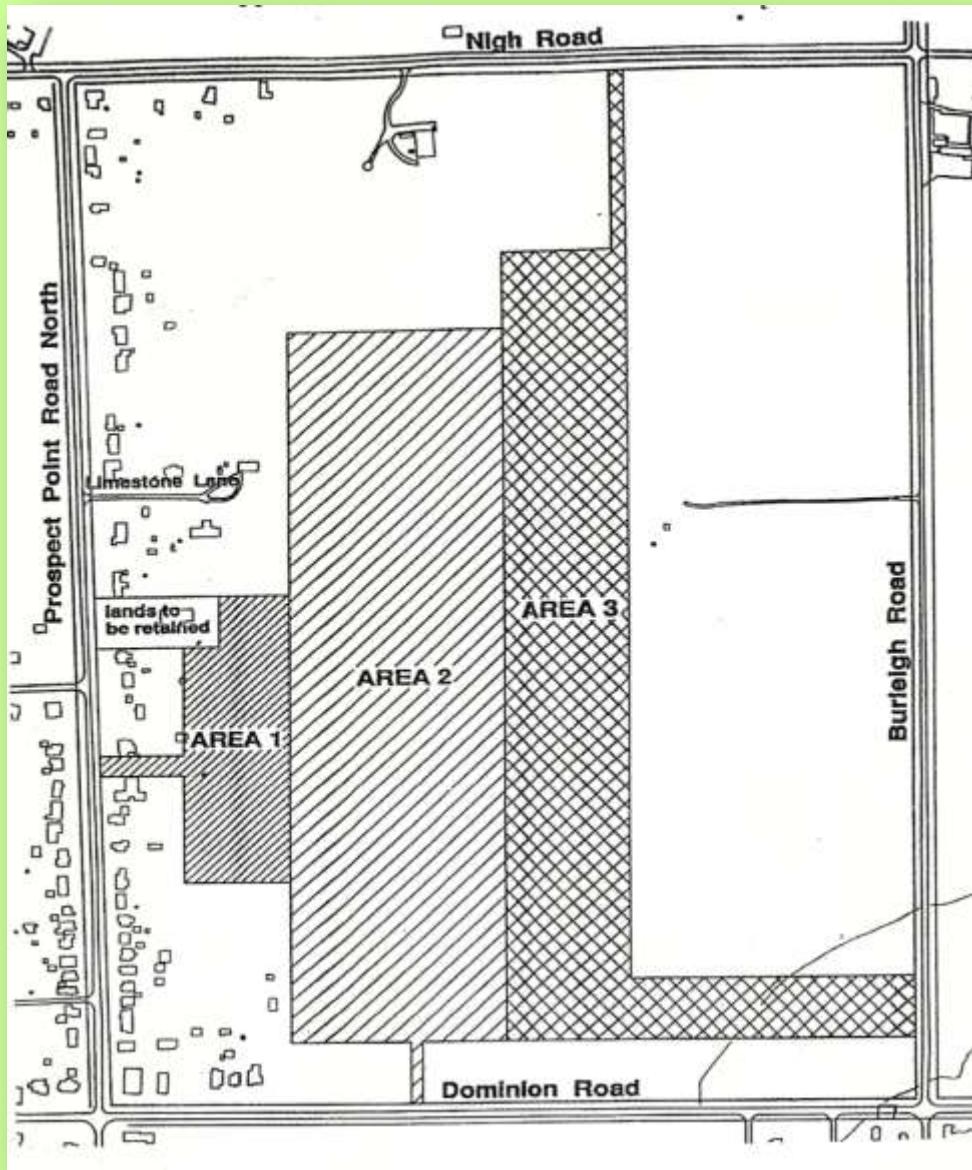
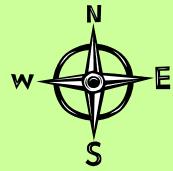


Photo: Diana Vandenberg

Location



Shagbark Nature Park is part of the former Carl Englehart Farm



LOCATION

Access to the park is from
Burleigh Rd. in Ridgeway.

How It Began

Earl Plato approached the town in 1999 to begin the process for the Bert Miller Nature Club to obtain stewardship of the park.

Shagbark Nature Park was donated to the Town of Fort Erie in three parcels:

Area 1: 6.7 ac.

Lands donated by Ridgeway Lions Club.

Area 2: 32.19 ac.

Lands donated by Ed Lanchyshyn
(Parklane Homes)

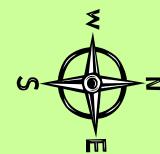
Area 3: 26.5 ac.

Lands donated by George Parazader
(Maroon Enterprises)



Shagbark Nature Park

- 65.39 acres
- Red line marks the boundaries
- No trails in this earlier aerial picture.





Bert Miller Nature Club Obtains STEWARDSHIP 2001



- A committee was formed
 - **Chair:** Bob Chambers
 - Bill Van Brussel, Bill Vernooy, Chris Hummel, Cyril Nieuwland, John Potter, Earl Plato, George Campbell, Jerry Winger, Joan Fonfara, Judy Campbell, Nadine Litwin, Ray Wilwerth, Vera Van Brussel
- A letter of intent was sent to the Town of Fort Erie.
- Insurance issues were settled, after a great deal of negotiation, resulting with the Town entered into a stewardship agreement with Bert Miller Nature Club December 6, 2001.

The Dream Begins

- Bob Chambers drafted the building plan for the trail sign.
- The Lions Club funded its building .
- Trail designs developed
- Berms were made
- Circle P Paving contracted to install the gravel path and parking lot.



Photos: Bob Chambers

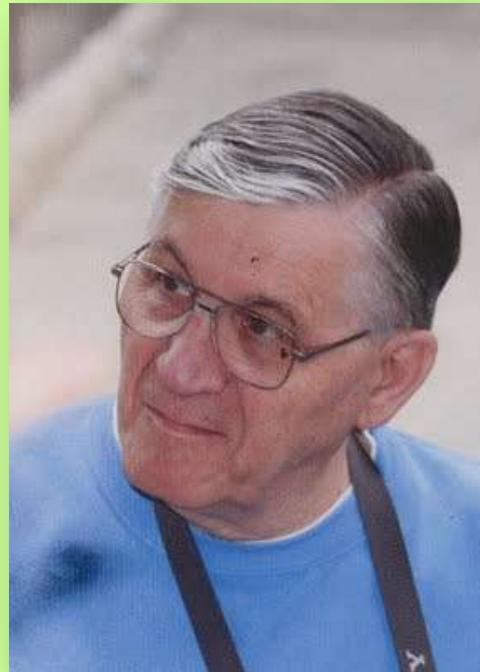


CHANGING TIMES



Bob Chambers was instrumental in the development of the plans for Shagbark Nature Trail as it was called then. In December of 2004 he was forced to resign due to ill health. The community owes him a great debt of gratitude for his time, expertise and commitment to the Shagbark Nature Park project.

Great Horned Owl Babies.



Photos: Bob Chambers

Mr. "Eagle" Man Bob Chambers passed away suddenly in May of 2008.

NEW BEGINNINGS 2005



A new committee was formed having many of the former members.



Shagbark trees

Committee Members

Dawn Pierrynowski(chair)
Bob Chambers
John Potter
Chris Hummel
Jan Nieuwland
Cyril Nieuwland
Joan Fonfara
Earl Plato
Ray Wilwerth



Sneezeweed with Pearl Crescent butterflies



Juvenile bluebird
Photo: Ron Goodridge

Project Goals



- To extend and enhance the woodlot and meadow with native plants and trees.
- To build a chimney swift tower and display
- To create a demonstration wetland and pond.
- To improve the trails for year round activities such as hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
- To create an interactive and educational naturalized area.



Photo: Diana Vandenbergk



Winter tree identification & trying out Snowshoes

Plants for Songbirds & Butterflies



Courtesy of Andrew Mack

Native Plant Species

What is a Native Plant?

Plants that have existed here prior to European settlement.

E.g. cardinal flower, wild bergamot, etc.



Shagbark Woods

Naturalized or Cultivars

These plants were introduced to North America during European settlement. They have colonized due to their aggressive growing habits.

E.g. Queen Anne's lace, chicory, etc.

Why Should You Care and Plant Native Tree and Plant Species?

- No extra watering is needed
- No need for fertilizers and pesticides
- Adapted to deal with local bugs and disease
- Wildlife is provided with food and habitat
- Improvement and protection of air and water quality
- Habitat diversity

Source: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority



Blazing Star

Plant Inventory of Shagbark Nature Park (2006-2009)

Completed by Rick Young

PLANTS ETC.

Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia gryposepala</i>
Aniseroott	<i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i> 2,3
Avens (White)	<i>Geum canadense</i> 2
Baneberry (White)	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>
Barberry(Japanese) (alien)	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> 1
Basil(Wild)	<i>Satureja vulgaris</i> 3
Bedstraw (Rough)	<i>Gallium asprellum</i> 3
Beehdrops	<i>Epifagus virginiana</i> 1
Beggar Ticks	<i>Bidens frondosa</i>
Bergamot (Wild)	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> 1
Buttercup(Kidneyleaf)	<i>Ranunculus abotrtivus</i> 1
Canada Mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i> 1
Carriion Flower	<i>Smilax herbacea</i> 1
Clearweed	<i>Pilea pumila</i> 3
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i> 1
Clover(Red)(A)	<i>Trifolium pratense</i> 3
Clover(Yellow Sweet)(A)	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> 3
Cress(Small-flowered Bitter)	<i>Cardamine parviflora</i> 1
Dame's Rocket(A)	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> 3
Dandelion(Common)(A)	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> 1
Enchanter's Nightshade	<i>Circaea quadrifolata</i>
False Solomon's Seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>
Fleabane(Daisy)	<i>Erigeron annuus</i> 3
Geranium(Wild)	<i>Geranium maculatum</i> 1
Ground Ivy(A)	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> 1
Hepatica(Sharp Lobed)	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i> 1
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i> 1
Hog Peanut	<i>Amphicarpa bracteata</i>
Indian Hemp	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> 2
Indian-pipe	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i> 2
Indian Tobacco	<i>Lobelia inflata</i>
Jack-in-the-Pulpit sp.	<i>Arisaema</i> sp.

Jewelweed (Spotted)

Knotweed (Virginia)	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
Lily (Michigan)	<i>Tovara virginiana</i> (Black)
Mayapple	<i>Lilium michiganense</i> 2
Meadowrue(Early)	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>
Meadowrue	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i> 1
Motherwort (A)	<i>Thalictrum polygamum</i> 2
Parsnip(Wild) (A)	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i> 2
Pokeweed	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> 1
Phlox(wild Blue)	<i>Phytolacca Americana</i> 2
Snakeroot(Short-styled)	<i>Phlox divaricata</i> 1
Solomon's Seal(Hairy)	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i> 3
Strawberry(Wild)	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i> 1
Spring Beauty	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> 1
Squawroot	<i>Claytonia virginica</i> 1
Tick Trefoil(Pointed Leaved)	<i>Conopholis americana</i> 1
Trefoil(Birdfoot)(alien)	<i>Desmodium glutinosum</i> 2
Toothwort(Cut-Leaved)	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> 3
Trout Lily	<i>Dentaria laciniata</i> 1
Trillium(Red)	<i>Erythronium americanum</i> 1
Trillium(White)	<i>Trillium erectum</i> 1
Violet(Canada)	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i> 1
Violet(Common Blue)	<i>Viola canadensis</i> 1
Violet(Downy Yellow)	<i>Viola papilionacea</i> 1
Violet(Long Spurred)	<i>Viola pubescens</i> 1
Violet(Wooly Blue)	<i>Viola rostrata</i> 1
Waterleaf(Virginia)	<i>Viola sororia</i> 1
Wild Yamroot	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i> 1
Yarrow(A)	<i>Dioscorea villosa</i>

Impatiens capensis

Tovara virginiana (Black)	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> 1
Lilium michiganense 2	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> 2
Podophyllum peltatum	<i>Dryopteris spinulosa</i> 3
Thalictrum dioicum 1	
Thalictrum polygamum 2	
Leonurus cardiaca 2	
Pastinaca sativa 1	
Phytolacca Americana 2	
Phlox divaricata 1	
Sanicula canadensis 3	
Polygonatum pubescens 1	
Fragaria virginiana 1	
Claytonia virginica 1	
Conopholis americana 1	
Desmodium glutinosum 2	
Lotus corniculatus 3	
Dentaria laciniata 1	
Erythronium americanum 1	
Trillium erectum 1	
Trillium grandiflorum 1	
Viola canadensis 1	
Viola papilionacea 1	
Viola pubescens 1	
Viola rostrata 1	
Viola sororia 1	
Hydrophyllum virginianum 1	
Dioscorea villosa	
Achillea millefolium 1	

FERNS & ALLIES

Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> 2
Spinulose Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris spinulosa</i> 3
GRAMINOID	
Awl Fruited Sedge	<i>Carex stipata</i> 2
Bebb's Sedge	<i>Carex bebbii</i> 3
Bulrush (Dark Green)	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i> 2
Bottle-brush Grass	<i>Hystrix patula</i> 2
Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i> 3
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i> 3
Squirreltail Grass	<i>Hordeum jubatum</i> 3
Timothy(alien)	<i>Phleum pretense</i> 3
Wool Grass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i> 3

1 denotes seen on 6 May 2006

2 denotes seen on 2 July 2008

3 denotes seen on 1 July 2009

(A) denotes alien species





2005

Lakeshore Catholic High School students and teacher Fran Martin helped with the plantings.

Some of the
Volunteers
Who Made It
Possible.
Thank You!



2005

Fort Erie high school students and teacher Fred Louws helped with the plantings.



Bert Miller Nature Club Junior Naturalists



Volunteers



Niagara College Restoration Students



2006

Ridgeway-Crystal Beach high school student watered the newly planted grasses



Cyron Nursery-Jan Nieuwland



Home Depot Volunteers

Spring Meadow Plantings

2005

Blue vervain
Boneset
Foxglove Beardtongue
Fringed brome grass
Great blue lobelia

Green-headed coneflower
Hemp-dogbane

Joe-Pye-Weed
Pale flag iris

Pale-leaved sunflower
Prairie cordgrass
Purple-stemmed aster
Sneezeweed

Spiked blazing-star

Swamp milkweed
Swamp rose-mallow
Sweet Ox-eye

Tall anemone
Virginia wild rye grass



2006

Spiked Blazing Star
Big Bluestem
Butterflyweed
Indian Grass
Spiderwort
Iris virginicus
Little Bluestem
Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis
Long-leaved Bluets
Wild Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa
New England Aster
Red Osier Dogwood
Ninebark
Echinacea
Rudbeckia hirta
Pale Purple Coneflower
Palida
Sneezeweed
Great St. John's Wort
Hoary Vermain
Verbena stricta
Michigan Lily
Switch Grass



John Potter





[Silver maple](#)



[Northern red oak](#)



[White oak](#)



[Butternut](#)



[American beech](#)



[White ash](#)



[Shagbark hickory](#)



[Sugar maple](#)



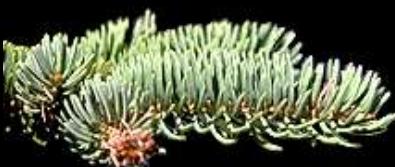
[Sweet cherry](#)



[Basswood](#)



[White spruce](#)



[Eastern white pine](#)

Here are some leaves to look for.

For more leaf identification visit Dr.Jeff Kirwan and James Ward at <http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/forsite/key/intro.htm>

Shagbark Park Inventory and Plantation Stock

(Land Care Niagara)

American Beech

Basswood

Black Maple

Bitternut

Black Cherry

Black Oak

Chokecherry

White Ash

Shagbark

Sugar Maple

Sweet Cherry

Hawthorn

Ironwood

Black Walnut

Nannyberry

Green Ash

Butternut

White Cedar

Black Cherry

American Chestnut

Bitternut

Silver Maple

Black Oak

White Oak

White Pine

Hybrid Poplar

Redbud

White Spruce

Highbush Cranberry

Black Elderberry



[Black cherry](#)



[Bitternut hickory](#)



[Norway maple](#) *
Invasive species



[Black walnut](#)

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> 2
American Elder	<i>Sambucus Canadensis</i> 2
Bebb's Willow	<i>Salix bebbiana</i> 1
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>
Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i> 1
Blue Beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
European Buckthorn(A)	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> 3
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i> 1
Hop Hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Manitoba Maple	<i>Acer negundo</i> 1
Maple-leaved Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i> 3
Narrow-Leaved Meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i> 1
Privet(A)	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> 3
Purple-flowering Raspberry	<i>Rubus odoratus</i> 3
Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Red -Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> 1
Red-berried Elder	<i>Sambucus pubens</i> 1
Rock Elm ?	<i>Ulmus thomasii</i>
Running Strawberry	<i>Euonymus obovatus</i> 1
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus obliqua</i> 1
Slippery Elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>
Staghorn Sumach	<i>Rhus typhina</i>
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Sweet Cherry (A)	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Tartarian Honeysuckle(A)	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> 3
Viginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus</i> sp. 1
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i> 1
Wild Crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>

Shagbark Nature Park Tree Inventory

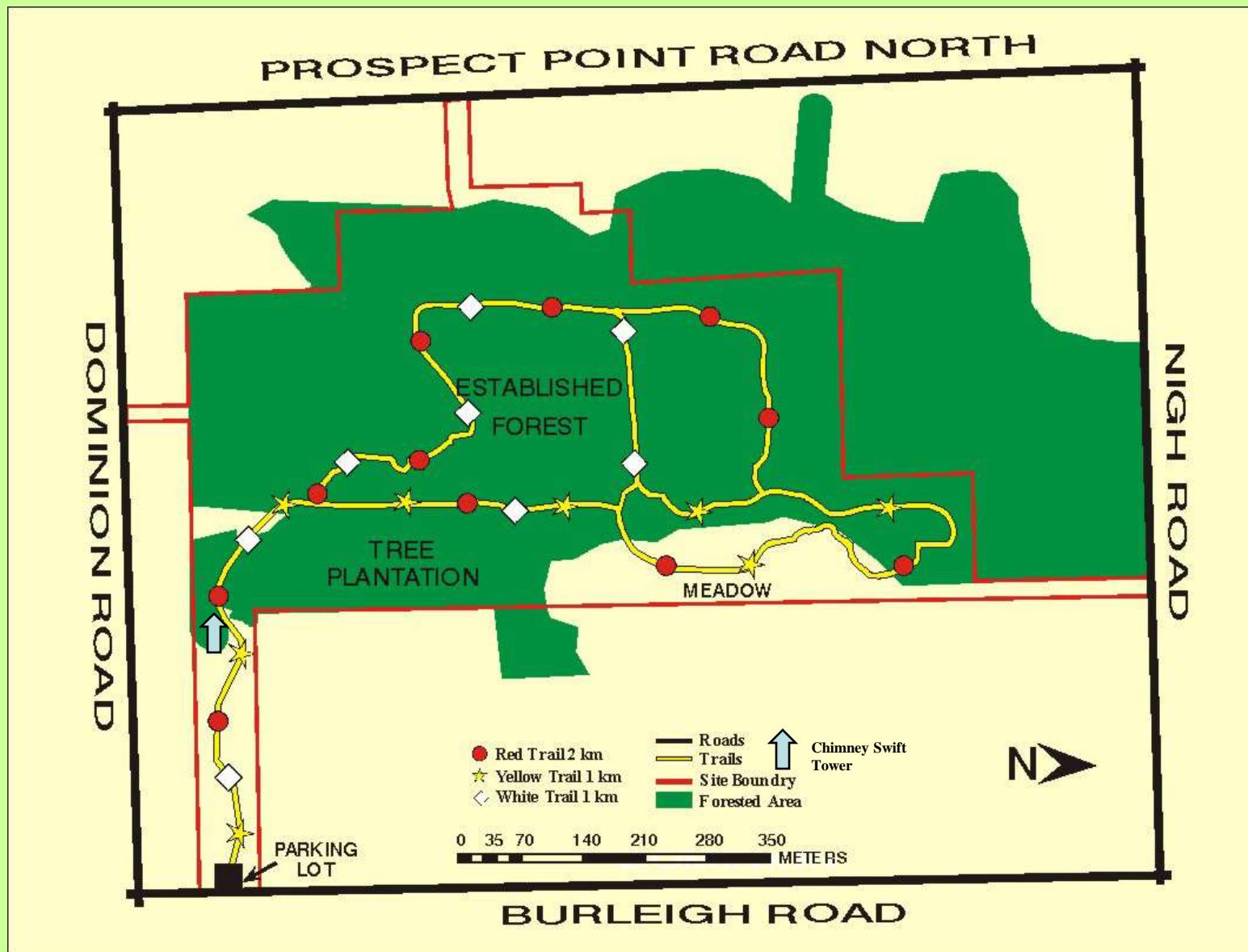


The Bert Miller Nature Club thanks member, Rick Young, who completed these tree and plant inventories between 2006-2009.

NOTE

- 1 denotes seen on 6 May 2006
- 2 denotes seen on 2 July 2008
- 3 denotes seen on 1 July 2009
- (A) denotes alien species

TRAILS ARE BLAZED



Natural Areas Etiquette

When you visit Natural Areas, remember that they exist in a delicate balance which should be respected and preserved. Here are a few simple steps you can take to minimize your impact.

- 1. Tread Lightly: Stay on designated trails to protect undergrowth.*
- 2. Take only photos, leave nothing behind: pack out all refuse and never remove natural objects.*
- 3. Leash Your Pets: Your favourite animal companion may pose a threat to both plants and animals in natural areas if allowed to wander freely.*
- 4. Respect Trail Closures: they are necessary to ensure public safety and protect sensitive habitats. Avoid muddy trails, especially during spring thaw and in very wet weather.*

Come with us for a walk through Shagbark Nature Park.



Follow us.



After cycling on the Friendship Trail, we can park our bikes here and go for a walk.



Which way
should we go ?

I see a hawk!



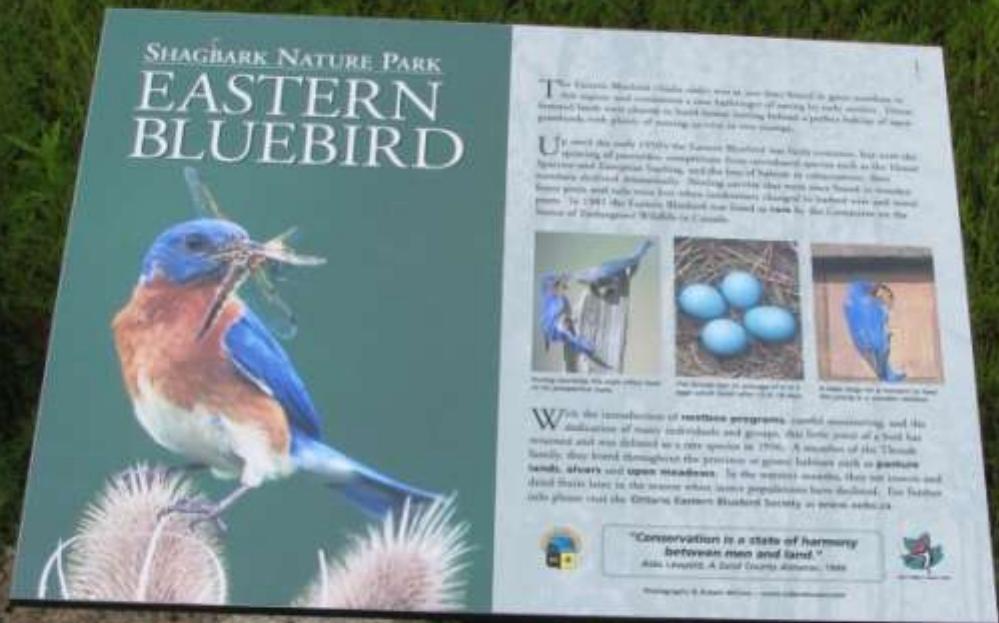
Let's explore!



It says Shagbark Park is part of the Onondaga Escarpment.



There are bluebird boxes all around the meadow. We'll keep our eyes open for some bluebirds.



Chimney Swift Tower

Look how beautiful the tower looks.

I hope some chimney swifts will come and make a home in it.



The building of this chimney swift educational kiosk was made possible by Blythwood Inc., Cotton and Stanley Construction.

Landscaping by Cyron Nursery



Habitat: Chimney swifts are found throughout the eastern half of Canada and the United States in wooded and open areas. They have adapted to man-made structures and are no longer dependent upon hollow trees for nesting and roosting.

Nest: Originally chimney swifts nested in hollow trees, especially sycamores. They now use chimneys, barn silos, cisterns, and wells (Pearson 1936). Their nests are made of twigs, which are glued to a vertical surface with saliva to form a "half-saucer" (Forbush and May 1939).

Food: Chimney swifts feed almost entirely on flying insects but will sometimes take small caterpillars hanging from tree branches or leaves (Forbush and May 1939).

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/wildlife/nesting_birds/birds2.htm

WHY A CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWER?

Tower donated by the Blythwood Group, Cotton and Stanley Builders

Learn more about chimney swifts through the following links:

- Driftwood Association

<http://www.chimneyswifts.org/>

- Bird Studies Canada

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/birdmon/chsw/about.jsp>

- Nature Manitoba Chimney Swift Association:

<http://www.manitobanature.ca/CHSW.html>

- The Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/chimney_swift/id

- ROM Royal Ontario Museum

http://www.rom.on.ca/ontario/risk.php?doc_type=fact&lang=&id=322

- Audubon at Home:

http://audubonathome.org/birdstohelp/pdf/Chimney_Swift.pdf



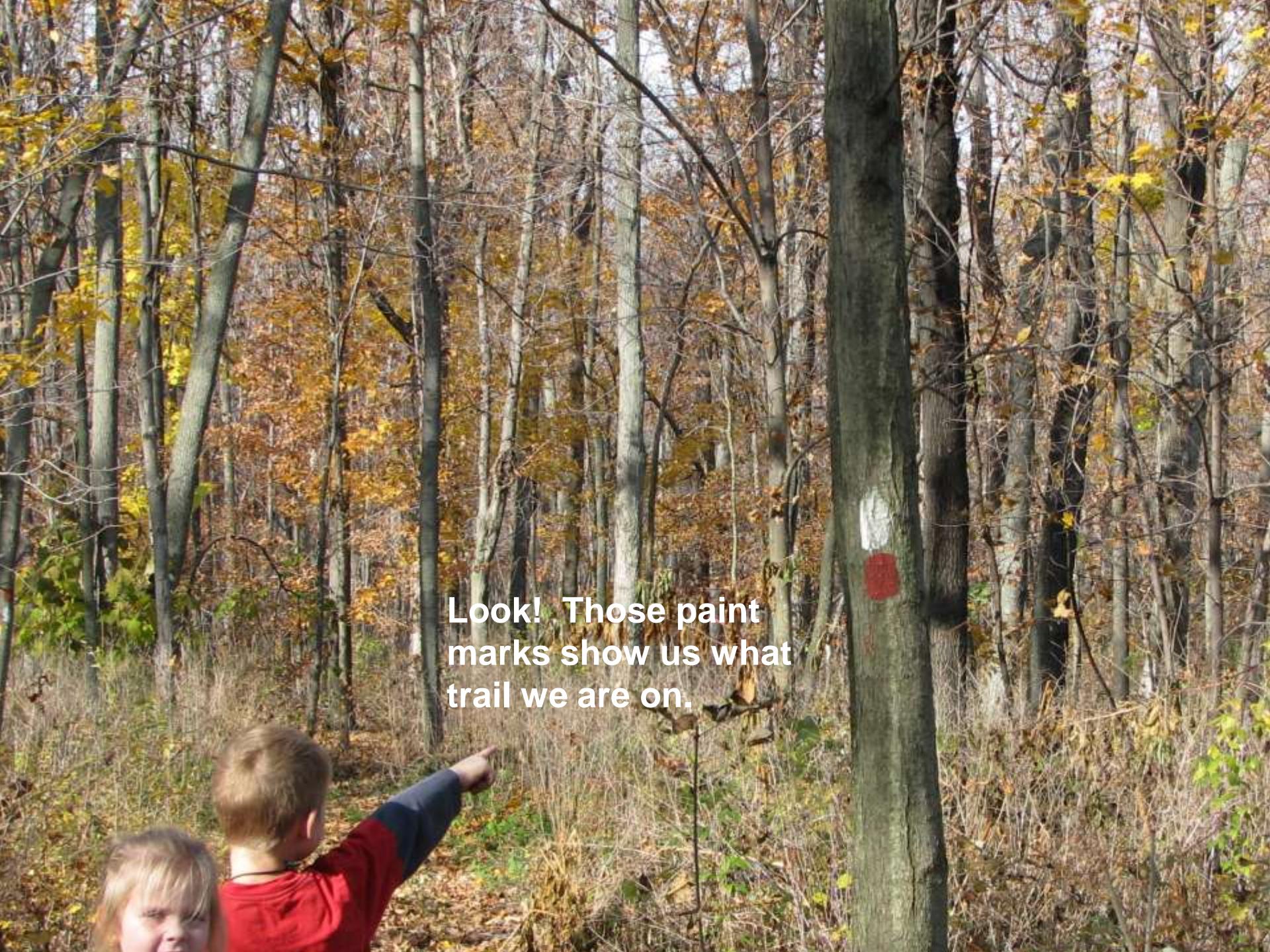
Let's go into the woods.

This sure shows me what to look for. I don't want to get poison ivy!



A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, walking away from the camera on a path through a forest. The boy, on the left, is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The girl, on the right, is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. They are walking on a path covered with fallen brown leaves. The forest around them is filled with bare trees and some green foliage. The lighting suggests it is daytime.

**This trail is beautiful. I
love to crunch the leaves**

A young boy with blonde hair, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, is standing in a forest. He is pointing his right index finger towards a tree trunk. The tree has a small, horizontal red paint mark on its bark. The forest floor is covered with fallen brown and yellow leaves. The background consists of many tall, thin trees, some with yellow autumn leaves and others bare. The lighting suggests a sunny day.

Look! Those paint
marks show us what
trail we are on.



**I know this is the
biggest rock here.
It was left over by
the glaciers.**

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, hugging a large, textured tree trunk. The boy, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is on the right, and the girl, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, is on the left. They are both reaching up to touch the tree's bark. The background shows other trees and fallen autumn leaves.

This is one big sugar maple tree. I wonder how old it is?

A large, textured tree trunk is the central focus. On the left, a large, dark, irregularly shaped hollow cavity is visible, suggesting a hollowed-out log or a large insect gallery. To the right, a stack of approximately 15-20 thin, weathered wooden shingles or shingle-like pieces is leaning against the tree. The shingles are dark brown and show signs of decay. The background is a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

Is anybody home?

This is a great place to see birds.



A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, standing on a grassy path in a forest. They are facing away from the camera, looking towards a dense thicket of bare trees. The boy is wearing a red shirt and black pants, and the girl is wearing a blue shirt and jeans. The path is surrounded by tall grass and some fallen leaves.

Time to go. We'll see lots
more on the way back.

**The gang's all here. What a beautiful October
morning to hike the trails. Why not join us?**





VOLUNTEERS

Bert Miller Nature Club
Paul Philp & the Bert Miller Nature Club's
Junior Naturalists
Fred Louws & the Fort Erie High School
Students
Fran Martin & Lake Shore Catholic High
School Students
Members of the Community
Andrea Sinclair, Ann Mills, Paul
Weerdenburg & the Niagara College
Students
Cathy Green-Redekop & the Ridgeway-
Crystal Beach High School Students

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

DONORS

Beam's Excavation
Blythwood Group: Robert Mills
Cotton
Cyron Nurseries: Jan & Cyril Nieuwland
Evergreen
Friends of Fort Erie Creeks: Yvonne Hopkins
Home Depot
Home Depot's Niagara Falls Environmental Group
Land Care Niagara: Mike Rose, John Germain
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority:
Deanna Lindblad, Andrew Mack, Steve Gillis,
Brianne Wilson
Ridgeway & District Garden Club: Cathy Fretz
Ridgeway Lioness
Ridgeway Lions
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 230
Stanley Construction: Jeff Stanley
Fort Erie Conservation Women's Auxiliary
Stevensville Kinsmen Town of Fort Erie
TD Friends of the Environment
Town of Fort Erie
Walker Bros. Ridgemount Quarry