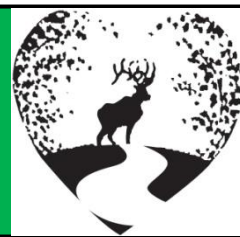




Friends of the Harte Trail Newsletter– Fall 2018

Editor – Barb Hutton Email – barbhutton@shaw.ca



**Friends of the Harte Trail
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Charleswood Library
6 – 4912 Roblin Blvd**

Nominations are open for the positions of:

Vice-President

Treasurer

3 Directors at Large

Elections will be held at the AGM

We are also in need of a Secretary.

To volunteer or nominate someone for any of these positions, please contact a member of the Executive:

Barbara Hutton 204-896-3565

Lois Caron 204-837-3155

Murray Morien 204-452-7515

Steve Coates 204-250-6438

Calvin Olson 204-988-1196

Verna Hare 204-832-2918

Eddie Bartmanowicz 204-421-0995

Phil Jenkinson 204-880-9527

Fall Tree Planting:

We will once again be gathering at the Van Roon Gardens (where Cullen meets the Trail) to add trees to the west end of the Trail. We'll have 60 trees to plant and some of them are a good size, so we can use all the help we can get. Our wonderful City Parks Education Coordinator, Cam Ruml, and his team, will be there to provide assistance and guidance. We hope to see you there!

**Saturday, October 13th
9:30 a.m.**

**Van Roon Gardens
(Harte Trail & Cullen Dr)**

Fall Clean-up:

Our Fall Clean-up date has been set for **Saturday, October 20th, beginning at 9:30.** Please come out and help get our Trail in shape for winter. There will be 3 “muster points” where the following meet the Trail: Cullen (Van Roon Gardens), Harstone and Buckingham. “Captains” will have a supply of garbage bags and pickers. Bring your own gloves and dress for conditions.

Trail Tidbits:

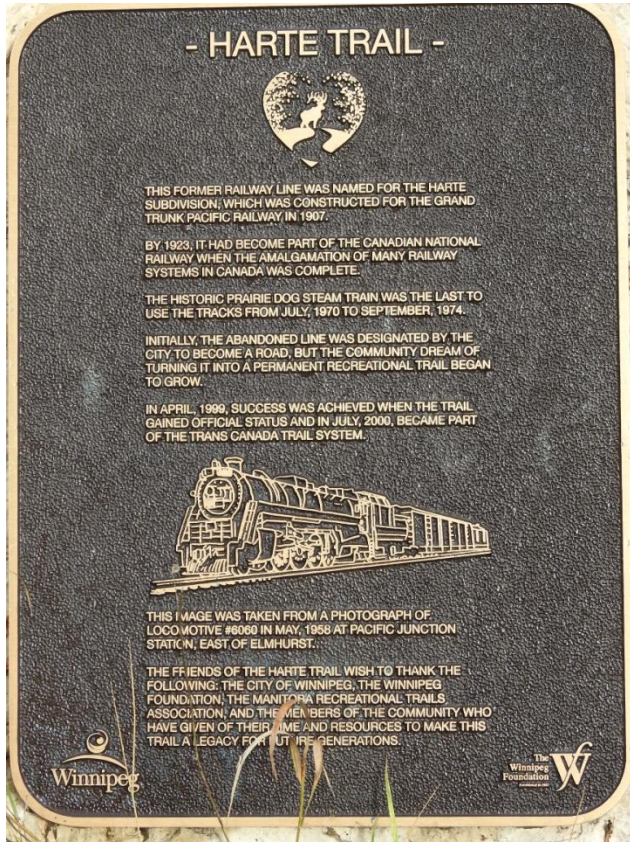
(Continued from the spring newsletter)

The road bed that remained after all the rails and ties were removed was left untouched for some time. The city of Winnipeg was going to turn the road bed into a road that would run from the perimeter into the city. The local residents did not care for the idea of the abandoned rail road bed being turned into a road. A local group of people, the Harte Trail Preservation Group, approached the city to protest the proposed road construction. The group wanted to convert the old rail bed into a walking and cycling path. On March 26, 1999 the city of Winnipeg declared the Harte Trail as a ‘public open space to be retained in perpetuity by the City of Winnipeg’. The Harte Trail was the first ‘rails to trails’ conversion.

The trail officially became part of the Trans Canada Trail on July 2, 2000. A section of the trail was part of the route for the Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000. Samples of water from the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans were carried along the Trans Canada Trail to Ottawa. Some of our trail members carried one of the water containers for a distance along the trail.

The Harte Trail was officially opened October 2nd 2003. The opening ceremony took place at the Elmhurst trail entrance, where a boulder with a

bronze plaque is now located. The plaque commemorates the history of the Harte Trail from its beginning, as a section of the Grand Trunk Railway line, to its present day status as a part of the Trans Canada Trail System. The locomotive depicted on the plaque was CN steam locomotive number 6060.



Charleswood celebrated its centennial in 2013 and one of the centennial projects was a sign to commemorate the trail's railway history. The sign is located on the south side of the trail just east of the trail entrance on Elmhurst Rd. The sign is situated where the Pacific Junction Station and Searle Grain elevator once stood. Original wooden railway ties can still be seen at the sign site.



A number of years later negotiations began to obtain the land extending from Elmhurst Rd to Shaftesbury Rd. After a couple of years of discussions the land was donated to the Harte Trail. With this newly acquired piece of land the Harte Trail became 6.5 km in length. The trail spanned the distance between the Perimeter Highway and Shaftesbury Rd. The official opening of the trail extension took place in the spring of 2010.



Did you know? – White-tail deer.

Love 'em or hate 'em, white-tail deer are very common in Charleswood. Here are some interesting facts that you may not know:

- A newborn fawn can stand in twenty minutes, walk in one hour, run a bit in twenty-four hours, and outrun a man in five days.
- The white-tailed deer can reach speeds of up to 58 kilometres per hour. They can make vertical leaps of over two and a half metres and horizontal leaps of nine metres — that's almost as long as a school bus!
- **The hollow winter hair of the deer's coat provides excellent insulation, preventing loss of body heat, while also keeping snow from melting when it lands on the deer.**
- Like a cow, the white-tailed deer's stomach has four compartments. This allows them to process food more efficiently and means that the deer can feed on things that other mammals cannot process.
- **On average, a deer needs to eat about eight pounds of vegetation, per one hundred pounds of body weight, per day. An 150-pound deer needs to eat twelve pounds of food in a twenty-four hour period over most of the year. That explains why they like your garden!**
- Over most of the year, whitetails remain bedded sixty to seventy percent of the time, usually feeding five times every twenty-four hours. Deer can defecate while bedded, but need to get up to urinate.
- Like a human, an adult deer has thirty-two teeth. But a deer has no upper teeth in the front of its mouth; the space is instead filled with a hard-surfaced pad of gristle.
- Chin whiskers tell deer exactly how far from the ground their lips are when feeding.
- During the rutting season, a buck will lose up to 25 percent of their body weight from the constant seeking and chasing of does.

What about their trademark tails?

White-tail deer communicate with their tails:

- The tail twitches when the deer is relaxed.
- A wag or swish of the tail shows the deer is at ease. Such movements may also occur
- when there are bugs in a certain area. You can emulate the motion with your hand which will sometimes relax a deer that you are approaching
- A slight flick shows the deer is surprised. Or it may be aware of what is happening in an area.
- A tail at half-mast shows the deer is alert. The deer may be threatened and will be on the lookout for threats.
- A tail all the way up means the deer is ready to run. It is aware of danger and will flee to another location.

How about the antlers?

We've all seen antlers on bucks, but, on occasion, does can have antlers. If a doe is given testosterone, she will grow antlers. Occasionally, this will happen in the wild through a genetic anomaly.

Bucks grow and shed their antlers every year and the cycle is controlled by day length. The brain contains a kind of clock that measures the periods of light and dark and uses this information to control testosterone levels in males, which controls the antler cycle. In tests, bucks kept in constant 12 hours of light and dark were unable to shed their antlers and grow new ones, and bucks kept in constant light grew and lost three sets of antlers in two years.

Bucks begin to grow their antlers in April in response to the increase in day length. You can see the new antlers as "buds". Antler growth is one of the fastest known types of tissue growth in mammals, and those little buds can grow at a rate of ¼ inch per day. In just four months, the antlers are fully developed. Have you noticed that you don't see many bucks during the summer? That's because, while their antlers are growing, they live

in reclusive bachelor groups and restrict their movements.

When you do see bucks in the summer, you'll notice that their antlers are covered with a hairy tissue known as "velvet". At this stage, the antlers are spongy and full of nerves and blood vessels. By late summer, as the days shorten, testosterone levels begin to increase and the antler begins to harden. Finally, when the antler is hard, the velvet dries up and falls off, usually in a day.

As a young buck matures, his antler size will increase significantly between about 1-1/2 and 3-1/2 years, but after 3 1/3 years the growth slows. A buck's antlers will continue to increase in size until he is 4-1/2 to 7-1/2 years of age. After that they will begin to get smaller.



One interesting fact about deer antlers is the impact that an injury to the back leg of a buck has to subsequent antler development on the opposite site. For example, the next time you see a deer with a normal rack on the right and a twisted stunted rack on the left, check its back right leg for injury. For some reason, after a buck has a serious injury to a hind limb, it will cause the opposite antler to be abnormal and stunted. This stunting effect will persist even after the hind leg heals. The cause for this is unknown, but it is more common than most people realize.

Thanks to Barb for this article.



Natural History:

Why leaves change colour in the fall:

One of the wonderful sights of the fall season is the changing colour of the leaves. Gone is the green of summer to be replaced by reds, yellows, oranges and browns.

The trigger for the colour changes has to do with the temperature, amount of moisture and the number of hours of daylight. During the spring and summer the leaves appear as various shades of green. This colour is the result of a chemical that the leaves use to produce food for the plant. This special chemical helps the plant take carbon dioxide out of the air, release oxygen into the air and make plant food. Besides this special green chemical there are other coloured substances formed by the leaves. These coloured substances are always there but are masked by the green food making chemical so they are not seen. In the fall, as conditions change, the green chemical is no longer made and starts to wear out. This allows the other colourful chemicals to be seen. Depending on the type of plant there are several different colourful chemical substances produced that are responsible for the variety of colours that we see.



Why leaves fall from trees and shrubs:

As the growing season progresses there is a growth of special cells that form a collar around the base of the leaf stem where it joins on to the branch. By the time the weather starts to cool and the days have fewer hours of light this collar of cells pinches off the supply of food to the leaf and the leaf dies. The collar forms a weak point where the leaf stem and branch connect. Any wind or other force that

pushes on the leaf will cause it to separate from the branch at the weak point and fall to the ground.



The yellow colour of the Poplar leaves in the picture is caused by the same chemical group that gives carrots their colour.

The brown colour in the oak leaves is tannin, the substance that gives the brown colour to tea.



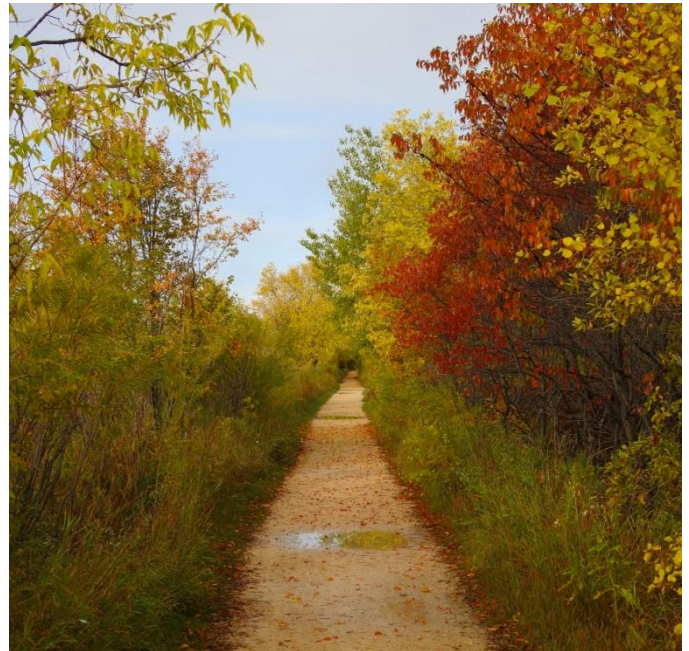
The red colour in leaves is the result of a completely different family of colourful chemicals from those mentioned above.

You can support the Friends of the Harte Trail in their important work by becoming a member. Just fill out the membership form included in this newsletter and send it, along with the membership fee (\$10/individual; \$15/family) to

Friends of the Harte Trail
c/o Naturalist Services Office
5006 Roblin Blvd
Winnipeg MB R3R 0G7

Cheques should be made payable to Friends of the Harte Trail.

Separate donation cheques must be made payable to Trails Manitoba with the notation "For use of the Harte Trail" in the memo section. Tax receipts will be issued for donations exceeding \$20.



A campaign graphic for Myrna Driedger. It features a portrait of Myrna Driedger, a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark top and a necklace. To the left of the portrait, the text reads: "Myrna DRIEDGER MLA for Charleswood". At the bottom left, it says "t. (204) 885-0594" and "www.myrnadriedger.com". At the bottom right, there are icons for Twitter and Facebook.

Look Who is in the Neighbourhood:

Great Horned Owl:

Despite its name, the great horned owl doesn't actually have horns. Instead it has tufts of feathers on either side of its head, which resemble horns.

The bird's feathers are brown to gray, except for the ones on its throat, which are white. The face is a reddish brown colour.

Great horned owls have a wingspan of approximately 1.4 meters and weigh just 1.4 kilograms.

They are one of North America's largest and most widespread owl species.

Though common, great horned owls are rarely seen due to their nocturnal habits and excellent camouflage.

The owl's flight feathers have soft edges that allow it to fly silently.

The owl's call is described as a whoo-hoo-ho-o-o

Owls cannot move their eyes; therefore they have to move their whole head to see what is around them.

Owls have special features that allow them to be able to turn their heads from side to side over a much wider range than humans. The owl has 14 vertebrae in its neck while a human has 7. The skull of the owl sits on just one special bone at the top of its vertebral column whereas the human uses two bones. This single bone arrangement allows the head to turn side to side more readily. There are also special blood vessels in the neck region that permit the head to swivel so far from side to side without cutting off the blood supply to the brain.

Even with the special adaptations the owl cannot turn its head all the way around. It has a range of motion of about 270 degrees.



Along the Trail:



Friends of the Harte Trail – Membership Form (\$10 per person, \$15 per family)

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email (important) _____

Names of voting family members :(18 years and older)

Payment:

Make cheques payable to: Friends of the Harte Trail

Payment enclosed – Membership \$ _____

Donations:

Separate Donation cheques must be made payable to Trails Manitoba with a notation

‘For use of the Harte Trail’ in the memo section of the cheque.

Mail to:

Friends of the Harte Trail
c/o Naturalist Services Office
5006 Roblin Blvd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3R 0G7

Willing to help with:

phoning ___ trail maintenance: ___ fund raising: ___ newsletter: ___ events: ___ public relations: ___