



# Friends of the Harte Trail Newsletter– Fall 2019

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## Message from Barb:

A-a-a-and.....there goes summer! It was quick but wasn't it lovely! The Trail has been busier than ever, with new Charleswood residents discovering the appeal of walking/cycling our Trail. We're hoping that more and more of the new residents will choose to become members and help support the Friends of the Harte Trail in preserving this treasure.

Membership information is included in this newsletter, but what does a membership do? The \$10 (individual) or \$15 (family) membership fee goes to help the Friends of the Harte Trail operate. And what is the function of the Friends of the Harte Trail organization? Our mandate is to preserve and protect the integrity and natural beauty of The Trail. As such, we have provided in-put into the creation of the Ridgewood South Precinct Plan and are continually on watch to see that any development of lands adjacent to the Trail adhere to the guidelines of that Plan.

It was The Friends of the Harte Trail who worked diligently to have the right-of-way that forms the Trail moved from the City department of Streets and Transportation to Parks, thus making it less likely that it would become a road, rather than a trail. They also were responsible for having The Trail included as part of the Trans-Canada Trail, or the Great Trail, as it is now called, thus preserving its status as a trail.

The more people who are members of our group, the more voice we have when lobbying for improvements or protection, as membership is one measure of interest and commitment within the community.

While the Trail is owned by the City of Winnipeg, it's maintenance (eg. re-surfacing) has been the responsibility of the Friends of the Harte Trail which undertakes to apply for various grants for funding. We hold clean-up days twice a year (see

the notice of Fall clean-up later in this newsletter). Also, through grants, we hire members of The Green Team to do summer maintenance such as trimming and graffiti clean-up.

This leads me to the following *announcement*:

## Tree Planting:



The Friends of the Harte Trail will be planting this fall and is looking for volunteers to assist with our FOURTH Tree Plant. We will meet just past the Van Roon Gardens.

In honor of CN's 100th anniversary, CN and **Tree Canada** are partnering with each of the *CN100 – A Moving Celebration* host communities to develop green space initiatives. A legacy forest will be planted to commemorate CN's contribution to your community. Tree Canada is proud to partner with CN in an effort to grow better places to live.

Please join the City of Winnipeg, CN, Friends of the Harte Trail and **Tree Canada** for a recognition event in Winnipeg **at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 28th** to celebrate the planting of 100 trees.

A ceremonial tree planting and plaque unveiling will take place along the Harte Trail off Cullen Drive. Following the ceremony, volunteers are invited to help plant the trees along the pathway. Light refreshments will be served.

## Spring Tree Planting:



## **AGM – Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Charleswood Library.**

We hope you'll join us for our AGM. It is an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas on how to make the Trail better, and your concerns about anything to do with the Trail.

Consider volunteering to serve on the Board. This year, we will be holding elections for President and Secretary. Our Board has positions for Members at Large, which is a good way of becoming exposed to the operations of the Board, as well as providing the opportunity to contribute to the maintenance and preservation of the Trail itself.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## **Fall Clean-up Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Thank-you to those of you who make every day a "clean-up day" and who pick up garbage when they see it, along with cleaning up after themselves and their pets. If you are interested in helping, please give me a call at 204-896-3565. If you get an answering machine, please leave a message with your name and number and I will return your call.

We will provide garbage bags and pickers to volunteers.



## Natural History:

### Monarch Butterfly

One of the most colourful and easily recognized butterflies that we see in our gardens and along the trail is the Monarch Butterfly. The wings are a rich orange-red colour with black veins and two series of white spots on the wing margin.

As in all true insects the Monarch has three body parts and six legs. It only uses the middle and hind pair of legs as the front ones are very small and of little use. The Monarch has two pair of wings and antennae that has a rounded club shape at the end. In its adult stage it is a nectar feeder and as a result of its visits to flowers it is also a very important pollinator of flowers. The male and female butterfly is similar in size with the male being slightly larger and heavier. The easiest way to tell the male from the female is to look at the hind wing wings. The male has a single black spot on the veins of each its hind wings.

The Monarch has a four stage life cycle called complete metamorphosis which consists of the egg, larva, pupa and adult. It starts with the egg laid on the leaf of a milkweed plant, which hatches into a larva (caterpillar). The caterpillar is colourful with its white, yellow and black bands. It eats the leaves of the milkweed and grows many times larger than when it first hatches. It will molt, shed its skin five times during this stage. The caterpillar then attaches itself to a small branch and turns into a pupa (chrysalis) where the final conversion to an adult butterfly takes place. When this stage is completed the end result is a fully developed adult butterfly. After emergence from its protective covering the butterfly pumps fluids into the veins in the wings to expand them. After the expanded wings are dried the butterfly takes flight.

The Monarch Butterfly demonstrates a remarkable seasonal migration. The Monarchs that reside east of the Rocky Mountains will fly several thousand kilometers to a wintering area in Mexico. After several months of resting, followed by a time of feeding they will start the return journey north.

These adults will not make it all the way back to where they started. Most of them will get into Texas, stop, mate, lay eggs and die. The generation that results from the mating will then continue the journey north. Some of them will make it back to Canada but most will stop, go through the reproductive process and die. This next generation will be the ones to get back to us. This group of butterflies will feed on nectar for their food supply. The generation that this group will produce will be different than the previous generations. This group is the ones that will migrate south. They have slightly larger and thicker wings and a much longer life span. The regular life span of a Monarch is two to six weeks whereas this last group has a life span of six to eight months.

There is only one other butterfly that might be confused with the Monarch and that is the Viceroy Butterfly. It shares the same colouration as the Monarch but is smaller in size and has an extra black stripe on the hind wings.





### **Monarch caterpillar**

### **Milkweed:**

When is a plant a weed? There may not be a clear cut answer to that question but to us a plant that is growing somewhere we don't appreciate is a weed. If, however, you look at it from a natural history point of view you find that the plant called Milkweed is an exceedingly important one. It is a source of nectar to many insects, including the adult Monarch butterfly. It is the sole food source for the Monarch butterfly larva, the life stage that we call the caterpillar. No milkweed no Monarchs.

Milkweed grows in a variety of locations including fields and along road and trail edges. The size of the plant can vary from 20 to 180 cm. The leaves of the milkweed are a wide oval shape with a slight taper at the end. The upper side of the leaf is a dark green while the underside appears grayish because of a covering of soft hair.

The plant gets its name from the fact that if a stem or leaf is broken open a white milky substance flows out of the wound. This substance contains a variety of chemicals some of which can be poisonous to grazing animals and humans. The flowers of the milkweed grow in large clusters both in the area where the leaf joins the stem and at the end of the plant stem. The colour of the

flowers can be anywhere from white through greenish to pale pink. The flower shape is quite distinctive in that the petals fold backward over the stem. Internally the flower has special areas for nectar production and storage plus a unique system where visiting insects are guaranteed to pick up pollen to be carried to another flower.

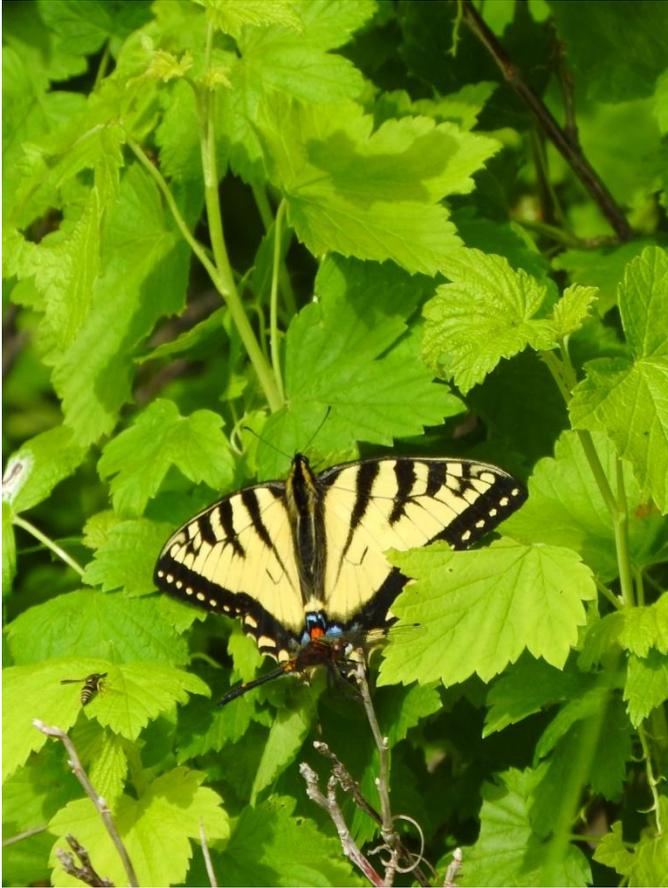
After the flowering is completed a seed pod is formed. The seed pods are elongate structures with a rough exterior. Once the seed in the pod have matured the pod splits open down one side and releases the seeds. The seeds have tuft of soft hair attached at one end. This allows the seed to easily be transported by even a gentle breeze. This distribution system is similar to other plants such as dandelion, goats beard and thistles. Milkweed can also propagate by underground stems.

An interesting side note to the chemicals that are found in the milkweed sap. The caterpillar of the Monarch is immune to the deleterious effects of the chemical and it actually derives a benefit from it. The chemical accumulates in the caterpillar body and makes it unpleasant for any animal that wants to eat it. This chemical is also passed along to the adult butterfly as well thus offering a protection against predation.

So when is plant a weed? We still may not have an answer but it's clear the milkweed plays a vital role in the natural scheme of things.



Along the Trail:



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 graphic advertisement for Myrna Driedger. It features a portrait of Myrna Driedger, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark top and a necklace. The background is dark purple with a white oval shape. Text on the left 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.

To place advertisements in this newsletter please call:  
Lois at 204-837-3155

or

Barb at 204-896-3565

Cost - small \$25.00  
- large \$50.00

For a graphic advertisement jpeg format is preferred.

## 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)

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### **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:\_\_\_