



Friends of the Harte Trail Newsletter– Fall 2020

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Trail News in Brief:

With the winter snows upon us it is good to know that the City of Winnipeg has put the Harte Trail on a priority ploughing list. The reason for the priority being that the Trail is part of an active transport initiative.

The spring tree planting was not held this year because of the covid situation. Instead in early July, several hundred small trees were given away to people to plant as they wished. The number of people that attended was most edifying. The tree give away was part of the City's One Million Tree Challenge.

Near the west end of the trail, not far from the CN marker, a dog waste bag dispenser was installed. This is one more positive step to encourage people to clean up after their pets.

The interpretive signs at the Van Roon Garden and the Shaftesbury end of the trail were replaced.

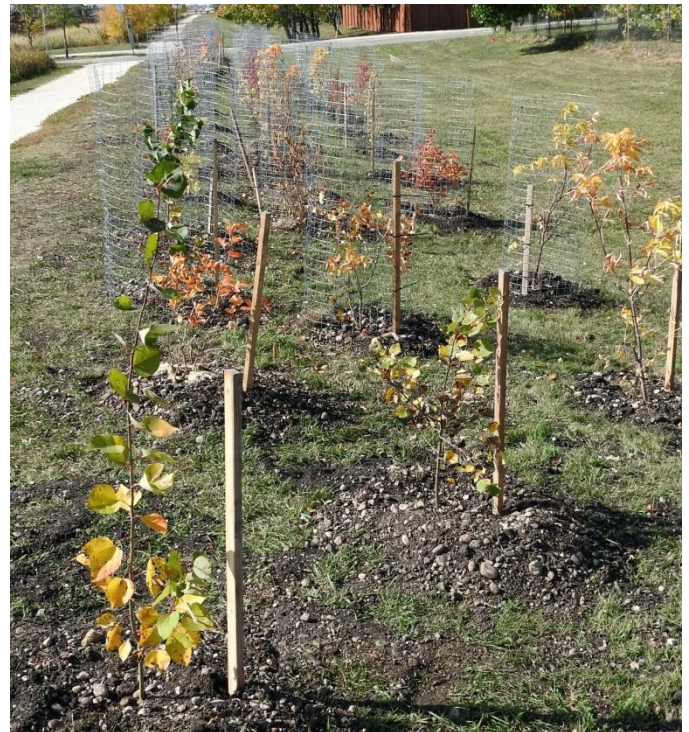
A fund raising 50/50 draw was initiated this fall. The results were positive for the Trail and the winner. Based on the success of this fund raising event, another is planned for next year.

Six *Recycle Everywhere* bins were placed at major road crossings.

The Van Roon Gardens are to be updated. Plans are being formulated to update the flower beds, improve the trail that runs through it and some interpretive signs.

Present conditions prevented our regular fall trail clean up. Thanks to all members and volunteers who regularly keep our trail clean.

In September the annual fall tree planting took place. More than 75 trees were planted during this event. Members, community volunteers and other volunteer groups joined in the planting. That is 75 more trees toward our planting goal.



AGM:

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, October 29th, 2020. Because of the present circumstances the meeting was a teleconference.

Your Executive for 2020-2021 is -

President – Phil Jenkinson
Past President – Barb Hutton
Vice President – Verna Hare
Treasurer – Murray Morien
Secretary – Calvin Olson
Members – At-large:
Steve Coates
Darlene Boettcher
Bev Claeys
Jim Anton



Susan Bend
Patrice Wilken

Natural History:

Grass:

The grass plant is one of the most varied and widely distributed plants on Earth. Whether it is found as a manicured golf green, just millimeters long or a several metre tall bamboo plant, they all share the same basic structures.

No matter which kind of grass you look at they all have roots, crown area, stem, leaves and flowers.

The root systems of grasses are fibrous. This means that there is no central root structure; instead there are many thin roots that grow down into the soil. The purpose of the roots is to collect water, nutrients and anchor the plant.

The roots grow downward from the growth area of the grass plant called the crown. It is from this area all plant growth occurs, whether the growth is downward for the roots or upward for the stems. It is for this reason that grass can be cut or grazed and not die. The actions of mowing or grazing just cut off the leaves and stem but leave the crown intact so that future growth can occur. In non-grass plants the growth area is elsewhere on the plant and once the growth area is removed no further growth is possible and may result in the death of the plant.

The grass stem grows upward from the crown. The stems are hollow and grow in sections. Where the sections meet there is a solid region called the node. Leaves grow from the stem above each node.

The leaves are long, thin and parallel veined. The part of the leaf closest to and touches the stem is called the sheath and the rest of it is called the blade. The sheath wraps around the stem. At the point where the sheath wraps around the stem

there are a few other small structures and markings. These structures are mainly used by Botanists and Ecologist to help in grass plant identification when the flowers are not present.

Grass plants are considered green plants; therefore they make their own food by photosynthesis. The chemical that gives the plant its green colour (chlorophyll) works with water, carbon dioxide and sunlight to manufacture those materials that the plant requires.

Grass plants propagate in two different ways. One of these ways is by growing special stems that grow horizontally from the crown. This method allows the plant to spread out in all directions. New plants grow from the nodes on these horizontal stems. Depending on the type of grass plant; some of these special stems grow above the ground and some grow below. The second method of propagation is by pollination, leading to the formation of seeds. The flowers are rather small in size and grow in clusters at the top part of the stem. These flowers produce the pollen which is then distributed by the wind.

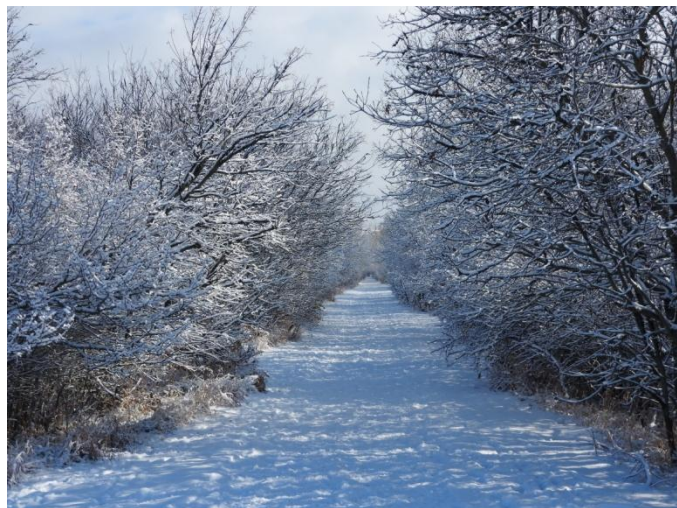
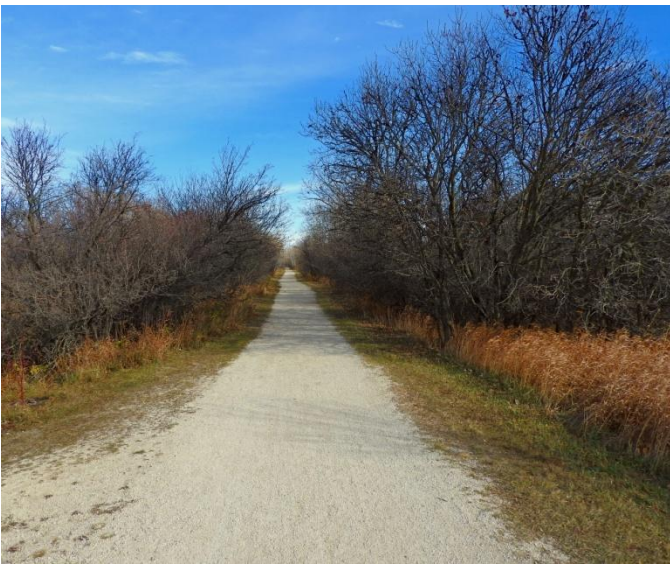
As humans, we primarily use the seeds of the plants (grains). Examples of these grains are corn, wheat, barley and oats. One of our sources of sugar is sugar cane which is a member of the grass family. A large number of grazing animals use grasses as their main food supply. The ecological significance of grasses is vast. Grass plants prevent erosion, retain soil water, remove carbon dioxide from the air and supply a variety of habitats. Our grass lands are of vital importance and need to be protected and preserved.

As you traverse our trail you will see a surprising large variety of grasses, many of them native. They are most easily identified one from the other by their flowering structures. Whether you want to identify them or not, be aware of their importance

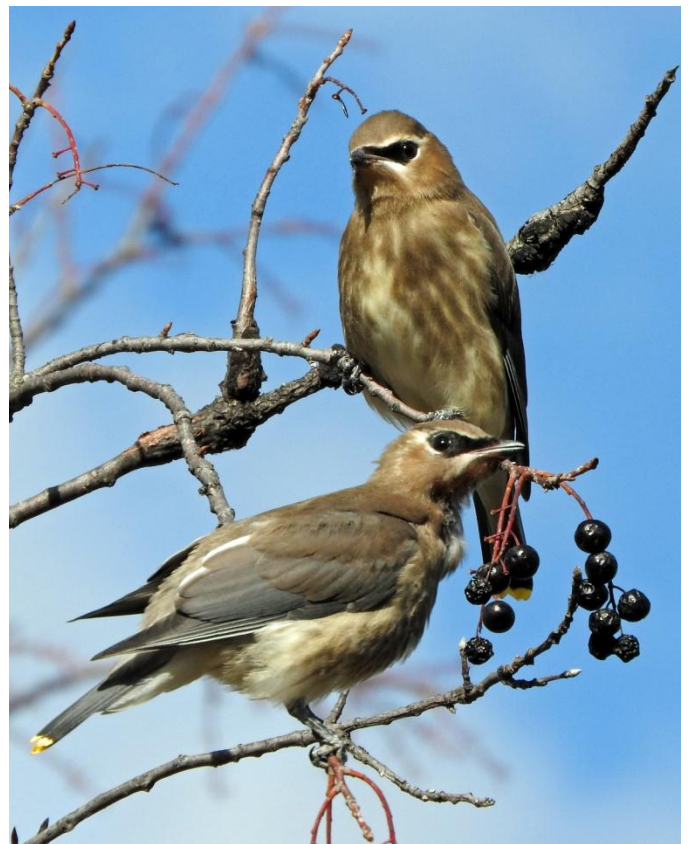
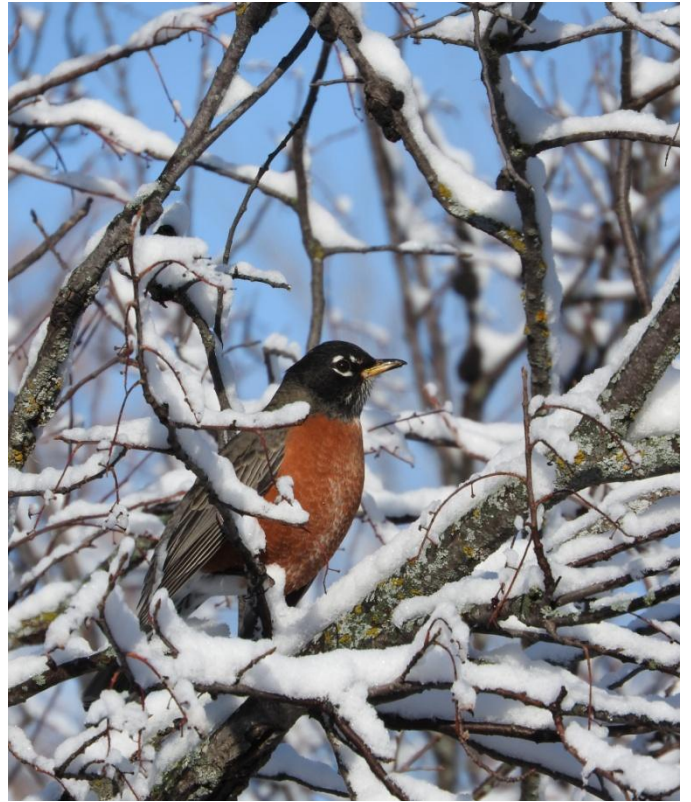
and contribution to the health of our trail and the environment.



Passing of a Season:



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.



To place advertisements in this newsletter please call:

Murray at 204-452-7515

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)

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:

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Willing to help with:

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

public relations: ___