



Friends of the Harte Trail Newsletter– Spring 2018

Editor – Barb Hutton Email – barbhutton@shaw.ca



Spring on the Trail:

Spring greetings to all members and users of the Harte Trail. The Friends of the Harte Trail would like to extend a special welcome to all our new neighbours in the Ridgewood South neighbourhood.

Trail Tidbits:

Do you know where the name of your Harte Trail originated? To answer that question it is necessary to go back into railway history a bit. The Harte Subdivision was the first section of track that was built by the Grand Trunk Railway in western Canada and was in use from 1894 to 1972. The Subdivision took its name from a small community that was a short distance west of Winnipeg. That community no longer exists. Trains used to leave downtown Winnipeg and pass by Pacific Junction Station on their way to Portage La Prairie. If you walk Eastward on the trail from Elmhurst you will, on your right, come across a commutative plaque with information and photographs of Pacific Junction station and you can still see some of the original wooden railroad ties to which the steel rails were attached.

The Prairie Dog Central Rail Road ran its steam locomotive on the Harte Subdivision tracks from 1970 to 1974. People boarded the train at Elmhurst and travelled west, crossed the Perimeter Highway and then on to their destination. After a short break the train returned back to the Elmhurst station. The last run for the Prairie Dog Central was September 1974.

In August 1975 the rails and ties were taken up leaving an empty rail bed. This rail bed would become your Harte Trail. More on that development process in another edition.



Tree planting :

We were going to mark International Trails Day on June 2nd with a tree-planting event. The weather didn't cooperate, so we held it on June 6th.

Thank-you to Jeffries Nurseries and the City of Winnipeg Parks department for their donations of trees and scrubs.

Thank-you as well to the volunteers of all ages who came out to help. It's just a guess, but I'd say the range was from about 3 – 75. It was great to see the volunteers of the future out with their parents!

Seventy native trees and scrubs were planted along the Trail, west of Cullen. Check out the new additions. City Parks staff and members of the Green Team will care for them until they are established. Our plan is to do plantings over the years, in the spring and fall, with a goal of reaching the Perimeter. Watch for notice of the fall planting and come join in the fun.



Natural History:

Whether you walk, run or cycle along the trail you see many different types of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowering plants.

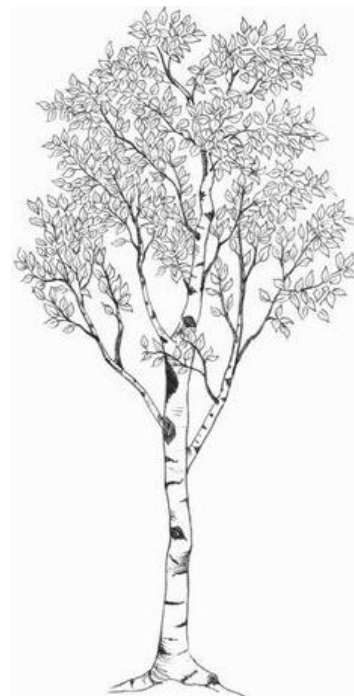
The two most common trees you see are the Trembling Aspen (Poplar) and the Oak (Bur Oak).

Poplar:



Aspen is one of the first trees to grow in an area that had a forest fire. Aspen do produce seeds but most new trees star from special underground shoots from a mature tree.

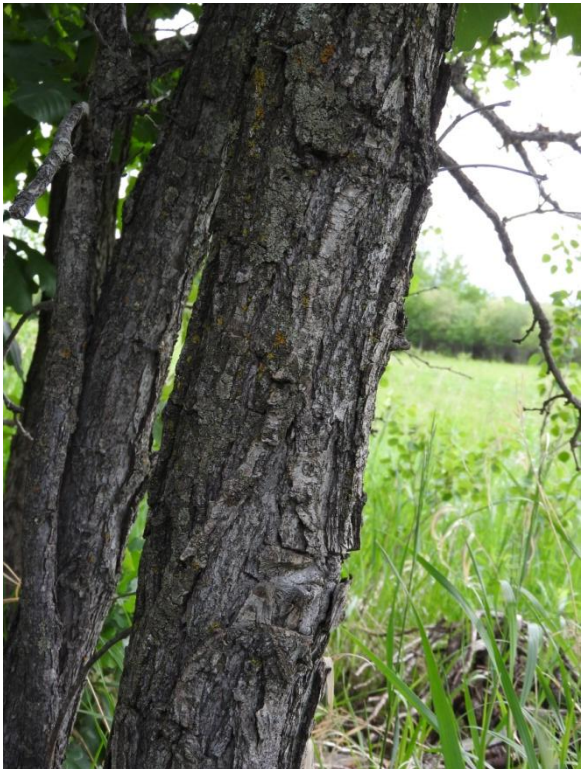
The thick bark of the Oak tree helps protect it from grass and forest fires. The Oak tree is the one that produces acorns as seeds.



Oak:



A New Arrival:



Thanks to Barb Hutton for this picture.



**Saturday, September 22nd & Sunday,
September 23rd, 2018**

SAVE THESE DATES!

On this weekend we will be holding the
inaugural hARTE Trail Studio Art Tour!

For this event twenty artists residing in Charleswood, Tuxedo and Headingly will open their art studios to the public, free of charge. Collectively these twenty artists boast 500 years of experience. Art forms represented will include: fabric arts, digital arts, sculpture, pottery/ceramics, photography, painting, encaustic, acrylic, watercolour, oil and pastels. Through this tour visitors will have an opportunity to observe the artists in their working environment and to discuss and learn about the art form presented.

The Harte Trail serves as a backdrop for the art studio tour. In addition to the focus on art, the participating artists will take this opportunity to promote the historical significance of the Harte Trail and to promote recreational opportunities in this geographic area. To encourage visitors to experience the Studio Tour in a variety of ways, suggested walking and cycling routes will soon be available through the **hARTE Trail Studio Art Tour** website.

Artistic endeavors are often solitary efforts with little opportunity for artists to showcase their

work. The **hARTE Trail Studio Art Tour** is a means of promoting an appreciation of the process and creation of original art by local community artists. Tour visitors will leave enriched by the diversity of the art forms that exist in this area.

We hope that you can save these dates and plan to attend our first annual **hARTE Trail Studio Art Tour**. As we get closer to the tour dates please check out our website and watch for our brochures in local businesses. Also thanks to the support of the Friends of the Harte Trail we will be displaying our posters in the Harte Trail bulletin boards.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The Friends of the Harte Trail is in need of a Secretary for its Board. Don't be intimidated, as the duties are not onerous. Our Board meets monthly from March through November. This is an opportunity to have direct input on the activities of the Friends of the Harte Trail and to help preserve this gem that we all enjoy.

If being Secretary seems like a little too much to begin with, consider becoming a "Member at Large" of the Board. We have positions available. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Barb Hutton at 204-896-3565.

Myrna
DRIEDGER
MLA for Charleswood

t. (204) 885-0594
www.myrnadriedger.com



Trail Clean-up:

The Friends of the Harte Trail holds spring and fall clean-up days. This spring's was held on March 11th. **Thank-you** to those who participated. Thank-you, too, to those who clean the Trail all year long. We all use and enjoy the Trail and can help preserve it by picking up trash when we see it. It goes without saying (we hope) that everyone should clean up after their dog. With the increased housing in the new developments in Charleswood comes increased use of the Harte Trail. We love that more people are enjoying the Trail, but the increase in use can bring an increase in stress on what makes the Trail such a natural treasure.

Trail Supporter:

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.

American Goldfinch:

Watch for the bright yellow goldfinch.



These little guys are common on the Trail. They love thistles and other seed producing plants. You can see them peeling back

the covering to get at the seeds.

Goldfinches fly in an undulating pattern, often singing. If you watch and listen, you'll notice that they sing when they are flying upward in the pattern.

As with most birds, the male has the bright yellow plumage, but, unlike most birds, he gets it by moulting. In the fall, goldfinches moult and both sexes take on nearly the same plumage: buff-coloured below with olive brown backs.

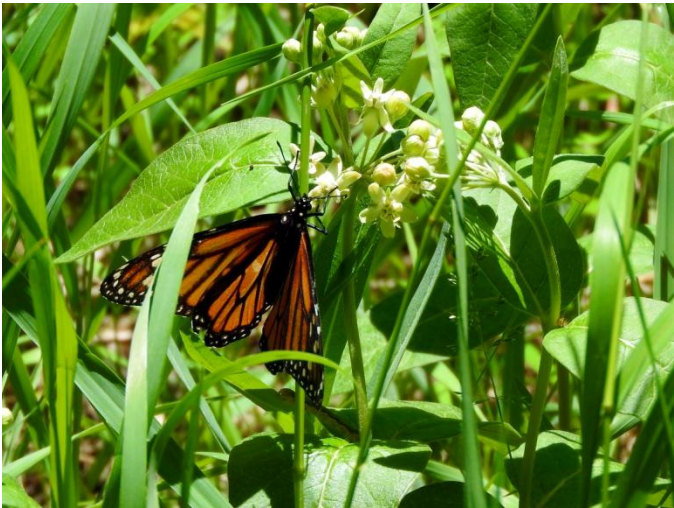


In the spring they again moult and lose all but their black wing and tail feathers and their beaks turn orange. Then the male grows in his bright yellow plumage and black cap.

Thanks to Barb Hutton for the article about the American Goldfinch.



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: ___