

# Arboretum Newsletter

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## The Living Building



The Centre for Urban Ecology is one of Ontario's greenest educational buildings. Made of glass to ensure visitors can enjoy an unobstructed view of the beautiful Humber Arboretum, the Centre features many sustainable technologies.

The most impressive is a natural cooling system that eliminates the need for air-conditioning. A tall stairwell with automated window vents acts as a thermal chimney, expelling rising hot air, and creating air flow to bring cooler outside air down into the Centre. Triple Pane windows and concrete floors help circulate heat throughout the building.

One of the most impressive features of the Centre is the "green roof." Covered in an engineered plant known as sedum, the building's roof is designed to capitalize on the collection of rain water. A cistern located outside the Centre stores collected rain, which is used for irrigation. The Centre is able to save about 288,000 bottles of drinking water each year using this system.

Low flow plumbing fixtures reduce water consumption by 35%, and a bio-filter system helps to clean waste water and reduce chemical use. Sensors in the building measure CO2 levels and bring in fresh air when more people are inside.

These features are just a fraction of the many reasons that the Centre for Urban Ecology was the first building in Toronto to receive Gold LEED certification, meeting very high green performance standards. It's a great example of sustainable architecture right in our own backyard.

To learn more about the sustainable technologies of the Centre for Urban Ecology, visit our Youtube channel ([youtube.com/HumberArb](http://youtube.com/HumberArb)) and watch the "Passive Heating and Cooling" trilogy

## Featured Photo:



Photo Taken by: Terry Hlywka

A beautiful buck crossing the Humber River. This amazing picture was taken by Terry Hlywka, a frequent visitor of the Humber Arboretum.

If you'd like some photos of your own featured on our e-newsletters, share them on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/humberarb](http://facebook.com/humberarb)), tweet them to us on Twitter (@HumberArb), or email them to us at [arboretum@humber.ca](mailto:arboretum@humber.ca)!

## Turning extinction into creation



The Humber Arboretum, the Humber School of Applied Technology, the Humber Research Office, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources are working on a unique research project to help preserve the endangered butternut tree. The butternut tree is native to Southern Ontario and serves as a staple food source for many forest animals such as foxes, deer, squirrels, and many kinds of birds.

Disease is causing widespread decay of the tree, threatening to drive it to extinction. The trees are being targeted and damaged by a fungal disease spread through rainwater. Known as the Butternut Blight, the disease creates black oozing cankers on the trees that must be cut off, causing them to die.

To help reverse the damage of the blight, the Humber Arboretum has decided to take advantage of their unaffected butternut trees by planting and propagating them. The goal is to create a population of disease resistant trees that can then be used as a seed bank. As a part of this, Humber Arboretum staff and MNR personnel will play Frankenstein, cutting branches from healthy trees and then grafting them onto Black Walnut roots. These roots are within the same family of trees and do a better job of accepting the graft. Once planted, the new trees will be monitored to determine their ability to withstand the blight.

Humber Arboretum staff, students, and our partners are turning extinction into creation with this unique sustainability conservation project.

## Trivia Question:



What animal native to the Humber Arboretum leaves its offspring to fend for themselves at only 4-5 weeks of age ?

Send your answer to: Our Facebook page ([facebook.com/humberarboretum](http://facebook.com/humberarboretum)) or Tweet it to us via Twitter (@HumberArb) by 25/06/2013!

First person to answer correctly wins free bird seed on their next visit to the Humber Arboretum!

### LAST ISSUE'S QUESTION:

What animal native to the Arboretum gives birth to live babies despite the fact that its a reptile?

ANSWER: **Garter Snake!**

## Nature Quote

**"In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day.**

**No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them."**

-Aldo Leopold



## Arb Animal of the Month

### THE SNAPPING TURTLE

There are two big snapping turtles that make their homes in the ponds of the Arboretum! The occasional sighting of baby snapping turtles is a good indication that they are a mating pair!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Some Like it Hot - Wednesday, July 24, 2013 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm

### Summer Camp :

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

July 2nd 2013 - August 30th 2013

Multiple Sessions

Register online at: [humberarboretum.on.ca/summercamp](http://humberarboretum.on.ca/summercamp)

To find out more about events at the Humber Arboretum, visit our events page at [humberarboretum.on.ca/events](http://humberarboretum.on.ca/events)

## The Arboretum at Doors Open



Saturday, May 25th was a big day at the Humber Arboretum and the Centre for Urban Ecology. Not only was it the third straight year that the Arboretum participated in Toronto's Doors Open event; it was a combination of three different tours; and the best part: it was all FREE!

Visitors were greeted by friendly volunteers from the Etobicoke Master Gardeners when they entered the grounds of the Arboretum. The experience continued as staff members of the Centre for Urban Ecology took them on guided tours of the building, highlighting its eco-friendly features and providing in depth explanations about how they work.

Once educated about the Centre itself, visitors were able to partake in two different tours being conducted by volunteers from the Etobicoke Master Gardeners. Both the "Bugs and Blooms" and the "Spring into the Arb" tours educated visitors on the many plants found in the Arboretum. Tour guides explained the benefits that different plants and insects provide to gardens.

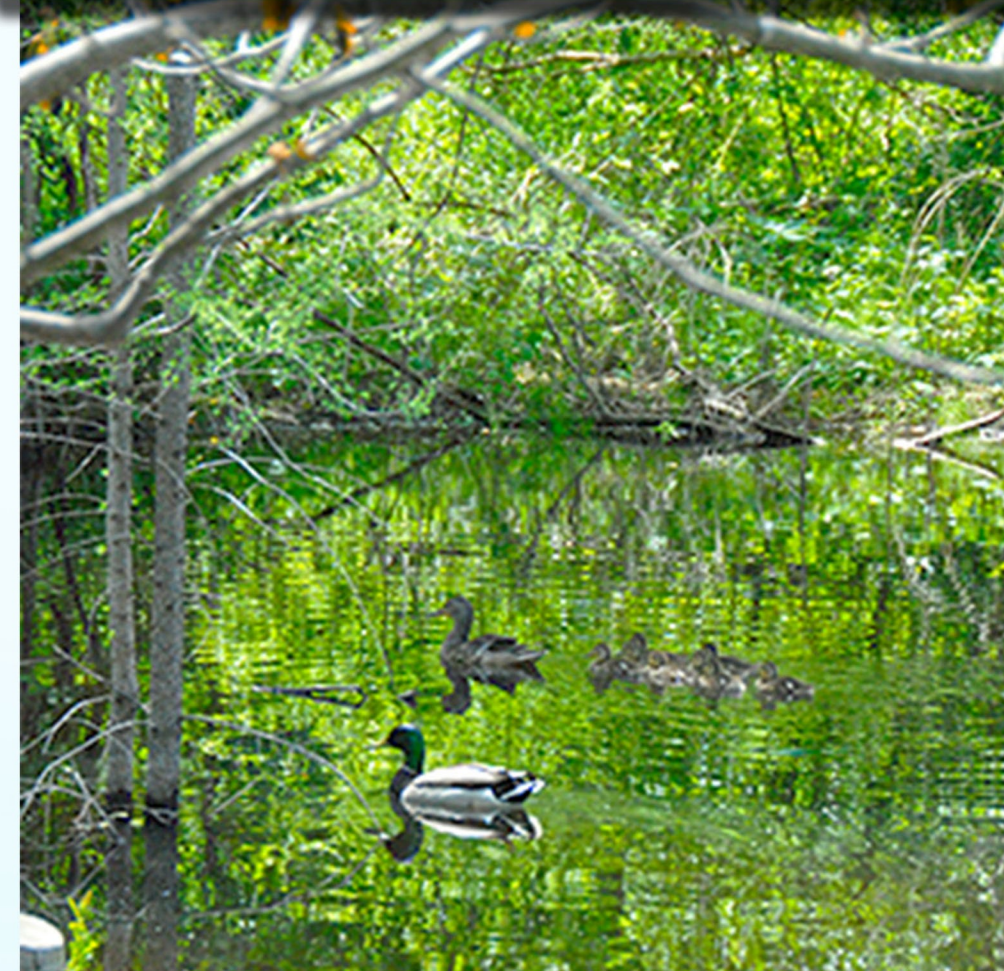
Walking through three tours works up quite an appetite! Luckily, staff members of the Centre for Urban Ecology had a bake sale, selling cupcakes, juice, popcorn and pizza throughout the event. Even better than the food itself is the fact that all proceeds from the bake sale will be used to sponsor a child from the Ernestine's Women's shelter to be able to attend the Arboretum's summer camp this year!

Around 140 people passed through the Arboretum. They gained knowledge about sustainability as well as gardening, and indulged in tasty food for a great cause all while having a fun time.

"Everyone was really excited and enthusiastic about this event," explained Suzanne Zacharyczk, the co-coordinator of the Etobicoke Master Gardeners. "There were a lot of new people who had never been to the Arboretum before, all of which were very eager to learn. It was a really fun event, everyone enjoyed themselves a lot!"

In order to find out more about upcoming events at the Arboretum and the Centre for Urban Ecology, visit our website at [humberarboretum.on.ca](http://humberarboretum.on.ca).

## Eco Attractions at the Arb



With over 250 acres of urban green space, the Humber Arboretum is a veritable gem in Toronto's northwest and provides many outdoor attractions. Some of its treasures are outlined below in this month's installment of :

## Arboretum Did You Know!?

**Did you know** the Humber Arboretum produces its own maple syrup and honey? Both can be used as natural, eco-friendly sweeteners. Honeybees also act as pollinators, sustaining plant growth.

**Did you know** the Arboretum takes active steps to reduce the impact of invasive species? Plants like dog-strangling vine and c garlic mustard can fool butterflies into laying their eggs on them, leaving their hatchlings with a 0-1% chance of survival.

**Did you know** the Humber Arboretum is home to what we believe to be one of the largest trees in the GTA? At over 97 feet tall, the Bur Oak tree can live for 300 years. Providing food and shelter for native animals.

**Did you know** that there are trees located in the Arboretum that smell like rotting meat? These trees are called Hawthorne trees.

**Did you know** that there is a tree in the Arboretum that looks like a dragon? It is commonly referred to as the "Dragon Tree" and is shown during our specialty tours.

