

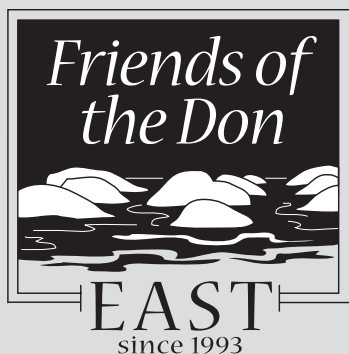
# At the Forks

The Magazine of the Friends of the Don East

Fall 2006

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FODE Board President  
Andrew Strachan

Treasurer  
Alice Panagopoulos

Directors at large  
David Bowring  
John Routh

Executive Director  
James McArthur

Mailing Address:  
Box 65124 – 358 Danforth Ave  
Toronto, ON, M4K 3Z2

416-657-2800  
eco@fode.ca  
www.fode.ca

## President's message.

First off, a great big hello to everyone from your newly appointed President, Andrew Strachan.

As you may have noticed, there have been some changes here at Friends of the Don East. Our previous Executive Director, Martin German, decided last spring to leave the organization for other pursuits. Unfortunately, as some of you may know, Martin was involved in an accident shortly afterwards. We are happy to report that his health is progressing and we are looking forward to seeing him back helping the organization this fall.

Taking Martin's place is the talented and very well respected James McArthur, who has served as president of FODE for the past few years. James' love of nature and incredible organizational skills will be a big asset to FODE. With James' move to Executive Director, I moved up from Secretary to President. It's a challenge I'm looking for to. Of course, this leaves the position of Secretary open to anyone who would like to 'give back' a small amount of hours each month to help ensure FODE continues to thrive and grow (HINT, HINT).

The FODE Board is thrilled with how things are going. We had an incredible spring with almost 20 events that attracted dozens and dozens of people from the community, including a couple of cultural and church groups. One of our events was our final planting at the South Goulding Estate. If you haven't had a chance, please pay the site a visit. It's really starting to look quite spectacular. We are also looking forward to seeing our interpretive signage installed in the area and throughout Taylor Creek Park very soon.

We don't have quite as many events scheduled for this season, so mark you calendars for at least one, if not all, of our three plantings. We're finishing one site and starting two new ones. We're also going back to Allen's on the Danforth this year for our annual fundraising dinner. Last year's was a huge success and this year will be even better. Come on out and bring a friend or neighbour. You'll have a great evening and you'll be supporting a very worthy cause. See you soon.

*Andrew Strachan, President*



## Help support our vital work in the Don

**Monday, October 16**  
**7 p.m.**

**Allen's 143 Danforth**

(just a few steps from Broadview Subway  
on the south side.)

**Fun, camaraderie and prizes**  
**\$55 per person**  
**Contact us today by email or**  
**phone to order tickets**

# A New Era for the Don begins!



FODE is excited to announce the launch of the largest watershed project we have ever undertaken! In partnership with Eco Action, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the City of Toronto, FODE will undertake by the end of 2007 to restore as many as a dozen sites in the Taylor Massey Creek, and East and West Don watersheds.

We are committed to planting more than 2,500 trees and shrubs, carrying out a wetland feasibility study, and introducing interpretive signage at several valley sites. When completed this will be the most visible and most meaningful restoration work ever carried out by FODE! It will also mean real improvements in air and water

quality, and wildlife habitat. Blessed with new found material resources to carry out this enormous project, we need the human resources too, and that's you! We need volunteers to come out and help us plant, and to steward our new sites in future years. You can commit only a few hours a year or few hours a week, whatever you have to give. But we need your time and commitment in order to track the success of our plantings, and to actively remove invasive species. By assisting us, you ensure a greater, longer term benefit to the environment and your community.

For our stewards, we will offer free training on how to identify invasive plant spe-

cies (and native species) as well as other basic knowledge for monitoring plant health.

If you are interested in joining our stewardship initiatives, please email us [stewards@fode.ca](mailto:stewards@fode.ca). Leave your name, phone number and email address, along with the area where you live so we can contact you when events or training opportunities come up. Alternatively, you can leave us a voicemail message at 416-657-2800. Don't forget to leave your contact information! All of your information will be held in strict confidence by FODE.

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## Native Plant Sale a huge Success!

This past spring FODE held its first ever native plant sale, at the Leslieville Tree Festival.

What a success! We sold out completely in under 3 hours! The only complaint was too few plants.

On the heels of this, as we seek to promote native, pesticide free and drought-resistant gardening, we are now planning more native plant sales for spring 2007.

We would really like to hear from those of you who might be interested in buying native wildflowers, shrubs or even young

trees! Your feedback is crucial to our decisions on how many sales events we plan, when and where we hold them, and how many and what types of plants we make available.

We are prepared to accept advance requests/orders, though large orders may be subject to a deposit/or pre-payment.

Let us know what you thought of this year's sale and what you would like to see in 2007, at [eco@fode.ca](mailto:eco@fode.ca)

## THE BIG PICTURE

# The dirty side of soap.

This column marks the first in a series in our upcoming newsletters focusing on "The Big Picture". Often we only focus on what you can see or touch in the local watershed, but there is so much of what we do in every day life that affects our local parks and watercourses, that you can't see on a stroll through the valley.

Soap...or more correctly, detergents are what we use every day to make our clothes, dishes and countertops clean. Regrettably, they are also among the biggest causes of dirty, or polluted waters right near our homes!

Most detergents are synthetic and laden with chemicals, among the most harmful are phosphates.

When phosphates go down the drain and enter a lake, algae thrive. The result is a slimy, stinking mess that can lead to a "dead" lake. Dyes, scents, and colours along with preservatives can also contribute to water that is not only harmful to wildlife, but to humans.

For many of us, the connection between our household behavior and the air we breathe, or water we drink is ephemeral. Who thinks when they clean the dishes that the water going down the drain actually flows back to our rivers and lakes? Who realizes in that same moment, that that water is that very same we will need

to shower, wash our clothes or drink!

We all need to take greater care in our daily lives to use products that minimize harm to the environment.

The good news is this is much easier than it used to be. Nowadays, there are many environmentally-friendly products available, and most are cost-competitive with regular cleaning products. Those that aren't are still increasingly affordable!

Two lines of green-friendly cleaning products are now widely available at major supermarkets. Nature Clean (made right here in Toronto) and Seventh Generation.

Look for the above brands at Loblaws, Whole Foods, The Big Carrot, and an increasing number of Dominion and Sobeys stores as well. If you can't find these brands at your local store, just ask a manager or fill out a 'product request' at the customer service counter.

By using your purchasing power, your vote as a consumer, you will help make the water's on the Don River and Lake Ontario cleaner, and bring our watershed one step closer to being healthy again.



As more people in Toronto demand eco-friendly products it is likely you will see new or different brands that listed those listed above. To check if a cleaning product is eco-friendly, look for these words:

- Phosphate Free
- No perfumes or dyes
- Biodegradable

Most important, look for the Eco-Choice logo somewhere on the label

The above logo is Environment Canada's guarantee that the product is environmentally friendly.

## Come on (the) Board with FODE

We're just past the half-way mark of 2006, but its already time to look ahead. FODE needs new people from our membership and/or the community at large to consider coming forward to serve on the Board of Directors.

Joining the board is a highly rewarding experience. Have your say in what types of events we run, how we run them... even run them yourself! Contribute to your local community and environment though your skills, expertise and energy.

FODE needs all types of candidates. While no specific experience is expressly required, we would love to hear from people with expertise or experience in fundraising, grant-writing, event-management, hike-leading, stewardship of natural areas, native plants, marketing, or website development.

Prospective nominees, must be FODE members in good standing and at least 18 years of age on the date of election.

# Get a free tree!



The City of Toronto's Urban Forestry Services will plant trees on City owned street allowances fronting residential properties. This is done free of charge. Aside from their natural beauty, trees provide shade for your lawn and surrounding vegetation thereby

reducing the amount of watering necessary. Trees also provide much-needed habitat for local wildlife – especially our feathered friends. Although Urban Forestry Services offers a wide selection of species, it's important to choose a tree native to Southern Ontario. This is particularly significant if you live near a park or ravine as seeds from these

trees will continue to make their way to our natural areas.

To order your free tree visit [www.toronto.ca/trees/tree\\_planting.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/trees/tree_planting.htm) where you can download a residential street tree planting brochure. Also call (416) 338-TREE (8733).



## An easy way you can help the Don.

Did you know that with one simple phone call you can help reduce pollution in the Don, make Toronto's beaches cleaner for swimming and reduce your risk of basement flooding? If you live in a home, you can have the City of Toronto disconnect your downspout –free of charge. This will lessen the amount of rainwater going straight into the sewer system and then straight into our creeks and rivers. When this happens the sewer system is often overloaded and stormwater ends up mixing with sewage, which goes untreated into our rivers and then the lake. This is one of the reasons many of our beaches end up closed to

swimming and basements get flooded. The City of Toronto will cut your downspouts where they enter the ground and install a plug where it has been cut off. Then they will add either an extension and splash pad or a rain barrel if necessary. And the addition of a rain barrel gives you the added benefit of free water to use in your garden. Call the City's Downspout Disconnection Program at 416-392-1807 to arrange to disconnect your downspouts free of charge.

The nominating committee is now taking applications both for the 2006 elections at our annual general meeting in November.

Please contact the nominating committee by using FODE's phone number 416-657-2800 and leaving a message or by emailing at [nominating@fode.ca](mailto:nominating@fode.ca)

We are looking for up to 3 new board members and you could be one!



# Fall 2006 EVENTS

Note: All events will happen rain or shine so please dress appropriately. Put this list on your fridge

## **Saturday September 30: 10:00am**

Joint hike with the Bruce Trail Association, led by John Routh. Meet at the west Entrance of Terraview Park, near 1630 Pharmacy Ave, just south of Highway 401.

**Directions:** Take the #67 Pharmacy bus, from Victoria Park Station, get off at the last stop, and walk one block north.

**Description:** A Bruce Trail Level II hike. Hiking, walking along the length of Taylor/Massey Creek. Over 15km, of the good, the bad, the restored and the degraded. While you can drop out at any bus stop, please enjoy the whole walk. As this will take 4-5 hours, please bring water and a lunch!

## **Sunday October 15:**

### **Fall Colours Walk Edward's Gardens and Wilket Creek Park, 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Join us for a casual afternoon stroll through the incredible fall colours that grace the Don watershed every year. During the walk there will be a discussion about the unique challenges and opportunities for this tributary of the West Don.

**Directions:** Park at the main parking lot of Edward's Gardens. Southwest corner of Lawrence Avenue East and Leslie Street. Meet near the snack bar. Take the Lawrence 54 or Leslie 51 bus from Eglinton Station or Lawrence 54 bus from Lawrence East RT station.

## **Monday October 16:**

### **Fall Fundraiser**

**Join us for our annual fundraising dinner. Help support us. Through this key fundraising drive with a fabulous full course meal from the sophisticated and well loved Allen's.**

Complimentary draught from Mill Street Brewery, and your Chance to win fabulous prizes from Mountain Equipment Co-op, Nature Clean and others. Your support is crucial, get Your \$55.00 ticket today! Phone 657-2800, leave your name Contact number, and how many tickets you would like. Someone will contact you shortly. Or email us at (insert Address here).

**Directions:** Allen's is located at 143 Danforth Ave. Paid parking is available on street or at nearby Public lots on Chester Ave and Erindale Ave (just Broadview, north of Danforth). By TTC take the Bloor subway to Broadview Station, walk south to Danforth. Cross to the south side, and walk east (about a ½ block)

## **Saturday October 21: Planting Event, Prarie Drive Park, 10:00am - 12:00 noon**

Our first planting of 2006 in Scarborough brings us to Prarie Drive Park. Planting an area above Warden Woods with beautiful native hardwoods. By car, you'll find this park just off Pharmacy Ave, at the first traffic light north of the subway overpass. There is a small parking area in the park. It may be necessary to park at the community centre to south or the Warden Woods lot immediately south of the park and walk back. Transit access via Pharmacy #67, running from Victoria Park Subway Stn.

## **Saturday October 28: Planting Event, Halsey 10:00am - 12:00 noon**

Help complete a major FODE planting along the banks of Taylor Massey Creek that begun this spring. Join us as we put the final 200 trees and shrubs in the ground, completing the restoration of over 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of woodland!

**Directions:** Take the Dawes #23 bus from Main St. Station to Park Vista Drive, then cross at the crosswalk. Walk down to The main entrance of Taylor Creek Park on the west side of Dawes Road. Follow the park road to the bike path, located at the far west end of the parking lot. Follow the path to the first pedestrian bridge, cross to the north side of the creek, and your there! Drivers should use the main parking area located on west side of Dawes Rd.

## **Saturday November 4: Planting Event, ET Seaton 10:00am - 12:00 noon**

Come out and celebrate a new planting area for FODE as we begin the process of restoring riparian forest along the edge of West Don River.

**Directions:** By car, drive to the park entrance located on Thorncliffe Park Drive (which meets Overlea Blvd, follow the driveway, and park in the first (south) parking area. By Transit, take the 81 Thorncliffe Park Bus from Pape Station. Ask the Driver to call out the stop for E.T. Seaton Park.

## **Sunday November 26: 7:00pm Our 13th Annual General Meeting, potluck dinner starts at 6:00 pm Meeting starts at 7:00pm.**

**Directions:** Todmorden Mills is located at 67 Pottery Road, just below Broadview Ave. Parking is available on-site For free (mostly at the end of the driveway). Transit access is From the corner of Broadview & Pottery Rd (walk down Pottery Rd on the trail on the south side). Broadiew #8, Mortimer #62 and Cosburn #87 running out of Broadview Stn. Will get you to this intersection.

See [www.fode.ca](http://www.fode.ca) or  
contact us at **416-657-2800**  
for more information



# A Jewel Restored: The Goulding Estate

Nestled in the woods and wetlands above the Taylor Creek Park bike path, east of Dawes Rd is the Goulding Estate. Once the home of Toronto's famous Massey family, and the site of the Dentonia Farms, this property is in many ways the jewel of Taylor Creek Park. Wetlands, meadows, and beautiful forests of Sugar Maple, Red Oak and Black Walnut are home to dozens of species of wildlife, from Red-wing black birds to Red Foxes.

However, for many years now, this precious jewel has been in distress, with non-native species invading its forests, and over five acres of its grounds wasting away as mowed grass, this area is not in the state it can or should be.

Enter FODE, beginning in 2005 we launched a partnership with the City of Toronto's urban forestry unit to remove non-native European Alder and replace them with native wetland edge

plants. We also began restoring the long-manicured areas along the edge of Dawes Road, creating 2 acres of young forest of White & Red Oak, Eastern White Pine, Choke Cherry, and countless wild berry plants.

With the help of EcoAction, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, which have joined our partnership with the City of Toronto, this restoration is only going to gain momentum.

In the next few months look for community meetings on comprehensive forest management, new wetlands; as well as planting areas in Donora Park and adjacent to Victoria Park Avenue.

Together with the active support of members of the community, we can fully restore this place to the natural jewel it once was, and can be again! For details on how you can help, email us at [goulding@fode.ca](mailto:goulding@fode.ca) or phone us at 416-657-2800 and leave us a message with your number, and someone will get in touch with you.



Friends of the Don East is a membership-based charitable organization working to protect and enhance the Don River and to encourage the establishment of healthy and sustainable communities within the watershed.

Our primary mandate is the design and delivery of educational and community involvement programs to protect the natural heritage and ecological integrity of the Don watershed.

Friends of the Don East wish to thank the following for their support:

**THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION**



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

**TORONTO AND REGION  
Conservation**  
for The Living City

Member of Conservation Ontario



**LA FONDATION  
TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO**

**Canada**

**TORONTO**



# Join Today Membership/Donation Form

**Yes!** I want to help protect and restore the Don River watershed. Please enrol me to an annual Membership.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt.#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership:

(Choose from one of our membership types)

**Standard**  
 **\$25**

- All of the benefits listed below
- a 15% discount on all FODE merchandise
- a full tax receipt

**Unwaged / Student**  
 **\$10**

- All of the benefits listed below
- a 15% discount on all FODE merchandise

(for unwaged individuals or students only)

**Premium**  
 **\$40**

- All of the benefits listed below
- a 25% discount on all FODE merchandise
- a free FODE t-shirts
- a tax receipt for \$30

**Family**  
 **\$50**

- All of the benefits listed below
- a tax receipt for \$45
- a 25% discount on all FODE merchandise
- 2 free FODE t-shirts

## MEMBER BENEFITS:

**At the Forks** Free subscription to the At the Forks newsletter magazine  
**E-Newsletter** Receive our monthly electronic newsletter as well as other e-mail updates on important issues affecting our natural areas  
**Merchandise Discount** Enjoy a discounted price on all FODE merchandise, plus select special rate offers on resources and merchandise from some of our partner groups

**Free/Discounted Event Rates** Receive a discounted rate or free access to fee-based FODE events, including specialized workshops, seminars and so on  
**Access to FODE professional support services**  
 As a member you can receive additional support and advice for questions that you may have about natural gardening, greening projects, improving your personal and home's toll on our watershed, and anything else we can help you with

**Online Discussion Forum** Take part in our third-party hosted discussion forums, allowing you to read and share views on topics related to our parks and valleys with other interested members  
**Voting Rights** Have a vote at FODE general meetings  
**Charitable Receipt** Receive a charitable tax receipt for all membership fees (less the value of any merchandise received – see below for details)

**Make a Donation to Help Support Our Work.** *Your financial assistance will directly help with such initiatives as protecting and restoring natural areas, planting trees, and educating and engaging citizens throughout the watershed!*

Donation Amount:  
 \$25    \$50    \$100    \$200    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

One time only    Annually    Quarterly    Monthly

Please check here to receive a charitable receipt (available for donations over \$25 only)  
 Friends of the Don East is a registered Canadian charity. (Charity #884323403RR0001).

\* Note that automatic recurring donations can only be made by credit card.

I would like to pay by:

Cheque (please make cheque payable to Friends of the Don East)  
 Credit Card  
 Visa    MasterCard    American Express

Card Holder Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize FODE to charge my credit card for the amount

Detach and mail the membership form along with your payment to Friends of the Don East to:

**Friends of the Don East**  
**P.O. Box 65124–**  
**358 Danforth Ave**  
**Toronto, Ontario M4K 3Z2**

I received the newsletter through ...  
 Mail    a Library  
 an event    Others \_\_\_\_\_