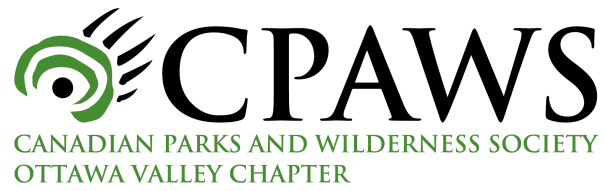


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Old growth in Shaw Woods

Springing into action for our green spaces!

Dear Friend,

With warmer weather finally making an appearance, the looming threat of infrastructure projects is starting to grow. Talks around the fate of the Asticou center and the possibility of sacrificing even more of the Gatineau Park land for the new hospital have brought about new rounds of discussions among the coalition opposing the project. Keep an eye out for our press release coming out in May for more information. Alongside, we are continuing to gather signatures to protect Gatineau Park and are hopeful to get some good news on Bill-S229 in the next few months. Signatures are also being collected to protect the Greenbelt and stay tuned for our upcoming letter writing campaign. Read on to hear about our other projects and upcoming events!

Support our Gatineau Park Campaign



Earth day at IRCC and the Ottawa Outdoor Show

Thanks to everyone who came out to see us at the Earth day event at the IRCC and over the weekend at the Ottawa Outdoor and Adventure Show! It was great to meet so many passionate nature lovers and grow awareness about our projects. We collected so many signatures for our protect Gatineau Park and NCR Greenbelt petitions and many signed up for our newsletter as well. Shout out to our amazing volunteers, including our youth program participants who came to help! We hope to have many more outreach tables set up throughout the summer so keep watch for opportunities to help out, come and support buy picking up a bag of coffee or to just say hi!

Outreach tables in May:

May 9th: [Salon Forêt Boucher in Aylmer](#)

May 23rd: [Glebe garage sale](#) close to Glenmoe and Percy

OOFF Save the date!

It's official, the second edition of our Ottawa Outdoor Film Festival is in the works and set to take place on November 15 at the Bronson Center! This year promises to be even bigger and better so don't miss it!



Inventory work continues in the Grandes baies des Outaouais

With the thaw finally coming, the team headed back out to the wetlands on the north shore of the Ottawa River to continue with inventory work as part of our new ecological restoration project in the area. This time, we were setting up camera traps and recorders to capture signs of wildlife. We also spotted a rare rusty blackbird which was a highlight of our adventures.

Learning point for future days out: buy higher waders...

[Learn more](#)



Salt water monitoring

After a quick training session with our partners from the Ottawa Riverkeeper, we headed out in the Grandes Baies des Outaouais region to check on chloride levels in its creeks and rivers due to road salt use. The data collected will help us determine the health of the ecosystem and what might be affecting it. Salt levels were high in the smaller waterways but we were happy to see that it had been mostly diluted in the larger Blanche river. With the season now over, we will be switching to monitoring phosphorus from agricultural runoff.

[Learn more](#)

Welcome to our 3rd cohort!

We had over 80 youth join our 3rd cohort of the Nature for Everyone, Everywhere! youth program, by far our biggest take-in yet! They started their journey with us early this month with a welcome session where they got to meet the team and learn more about the year



ahead including our exciting wilderness trip happening this summer. It was so great to meet so many participants in person. We are already blown away by their enthusiasm and great ideas for community projects! We will make sure to keep you updated on what

they are up to so stay tune!



April Wilderness Walk in Shaw Woods

We had a beautiful day for our third wilderness walk of the year starting off with a warm welcome from Fred Blackstein, co-chair of the Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre. While the property has been in the Shaw family for 5 generations, this non-profit organisation was recently formed in 2010, providing curriculum based educational activities for students from kindergarten to high school.

After a look in the Shanty and it's educational materials, we headed west on the Old Growth Trail where we marvelled at giant hemlock

and sugar maples. The hike also provided a harsh lesson on the impacts of invasive species as we witnessed the ravages of Beech Bark Disease which is partly caused by the European Beech scale insect (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*). The disease has weakened many giant old growth beech trees along the trail resulting in many having to be cut down for the safety of visitors.

After a quick break, some of us decided to stay for a second hike along Johnny's Lookout. There we saw massive old growth white pine, as well as the Dore Scarp, a large steep slope formed by geological processes millions of years ago. Finally we arrived at the scenic lookout point which offers amazing views of Shaw's Pond, a nearby river channel and surrounding landscape. From there we spotted buffleheads, and hooded mergansers in the pond, and turkey vultures soaring at eye level.

CPAWS-OV Poetry Corner

Sapling

A tender limb, upright and bold
within my gentle grasp
a life begun, a tale untold
Ripe for the earth to clasp
Apricot, plum, apple and pear
into the ground I sew
dreams of sweetness for all to share
and the shade they will bestow
A humble tender to the trees

nursemaid to the morrow

Hope guides hands and lifts a song

against a time of sorrow

-Melinda Gilhen-Baker

I hope you enjoyed hearing our news this month, we love sharing with you! Please let us know if there is anything you would like to hear more or less about. Its definitely not all about us so if you have anything to share, get in touch and we could feature your story / poem / photo in an upcoming newsletter!

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,



Melinda Gilhen-Baker

Communications and Outreach Manager

CPAWS-OV



