

OCTOBER 2012

YOUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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AND RESIDENTS TOGETHER

Wrapping up coverage of our eventful summer plus a whole spectrum of opportunities to join our volunteer team

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Ella of Dr. E.W. Coffin School meticulously and expertly extracts the entire long root of a goatsbeard from within the native biodiversity of the Centennial Natureground reclaimed prairie. Photo by P.L. Knowlton Cockett



## Thanks for your Giving: NEIGHBOURS AS STEWARDS

Summer 2012 in Brentwood Heights demonstrated the extraordinary power of community to come together to make a real difference in our shared special places.

Whether enjoying and researching our glorious native prairie plants, pulling out alien invasive species, baking cookies for the volunteers, wandering through and saying hello or playing on the nearby playground, providing support through phone calls, emails, shared walks, or contributing to potlucks – youth from under 6 to 86 (and even *in utero*) met as new friends and old in the Centennial Natureground and Whispering Woods during 12 organized events as well as on several informal occasions over the season.

Participants from Brentwood and Beyond include: Polly Knowlton Cockett; Deb Hall; Madeleine Oldershaw; Doug Andrews; L. Blumer; Robin Cockett; Angela Rokne; Marion Makarchuk; Miyoung Shin; Judith, Molly Hall; Jan, Bitsy Gibson; Kevin, Eric, Sara Hall; Rowan Cockett, Gabrielle Doyle; Margaret Leland; Winn Braun; Kerri Blair; Brian, Kristina, Justin Hamilton; Jerrel Wilkens & grandson; visitors from overseas; and many, many more behind the scenes.

Special thanks to Ulla Kalny, Chair of the Dr. E.W. Coffin Environment Committee, for organizing volunteer families from the school to join in these Native Biodiversity Bees, as well as families each week to tend the Sun Circle gardens. Participating families include: Ulla, Sammy, Nicky, Julia Kalny; Yiheng Wei, Emily Ju, Alexis Ju; Kristie Lee, Ethan Conroy; Shanith, Shantha, Nilmini; Madelaine, Elena, Eduard Pepenel; Julie, Christopher,

Laura Pratt, Antonio the Bear; Bonnie Zhou-Yang, Dingzhong, Alison Yang; Tine, Ella, Leni, Oskar, Lucy Blanke, & Ellen, David; Erik Greanya, Joy Lansangan; Shikha Prasad, Ishaan Srivastava; Andrew, Rebecca Higgins; Rebecca Mathews, Shibu, Sarah, Hannah Varghese; Jeff, Asia, Jenais Pieper; Lorraine Maggipinto; Emily Chen, Guoai, Sullivan, Albert Pan; Michelle Kim, Colin, Tina, Kunwoo Ham; Tevis, Landon Sample; and all those on the homefront supporting their efforts.

Once again, Dr. Bonnie Shapiro brought her Foundations of Environmental Education graduate students from the University of Calgary – including former Dr. Coffin teacher, Lynette Zapp – to explore notions of Sense of Place and Place-based Education via these spaces and Whispering Signs.

Our Calgary-Varsity MLA Donna Kennedy-Glans turned up unannounced one evening, enthusiastically pitching in while meeting several of her constituents through shared stewardship.

Polly and Robin again manned the Natureground table at the Summer Fair at the Brentwood Community Garden, thus introducing many neighbours to the special signs in the blooming prairie just up the hill. New connections made at that event bode well for future summers, including potential partnering with Calgary's Youth Central, and we're especially excited about possibly working with Sir Winston Churchill Earth Club students.

Each year, as our reclaimed and restored prairie continues to mature, so do the interconnections within the greater community of which we are a part.

Thank you so very much to everyone listed above, and those I missed, for your ongoing interest and support.

*Environmentally yours,* Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett,  
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