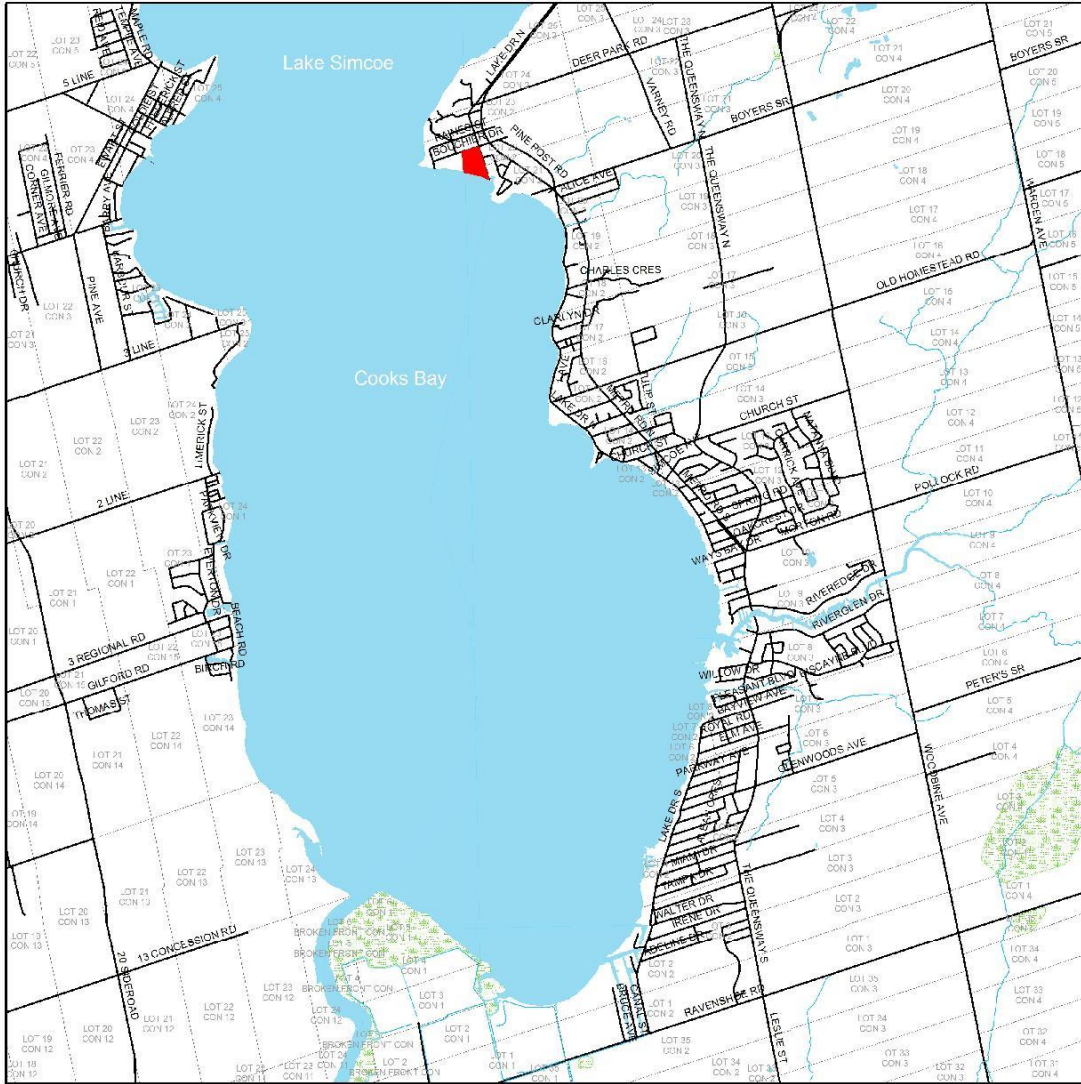


The Loretto Maryholme Restoration Project: Managing a Historical Property into a Sustainable, Forest Ecosystem

Mary Mallany IBVM
Environmental Animator
Loretto Maryholme

 **LorettoMaryholme**
something more than ordinary








Map 2.0 Compartments
Loretto Maryholme

379a Bouchier St



LEGEND

-  Property location
-  Compartments
-  Watercourses

Loretto Maryholme

something more than ordinary



Plantation Stands

1946



White
Pine
plantation
1925?





What we wanted of the property

- The vision for the property is to establish a productive, **sustainable forest ecosystem**
- which **replicates**, to the greatest degree possible, **the native forest conditions**, contributes
- to the area's biodiversity and ecology,
- expands existing forest cover, and
- buffers and protects Lake Simcoe's shoreline.

Ecological Purpose

- contribution to York Region's Greenland System by increasing forest cover and enhancing its function on the property.
- enhance the health of Lake Simcoe, by controlling erosion, capturing excess soil nutrients and creating wildlife habitat:
- an activity promoted in the MNR Lake Simcoe Environmental Strategy and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority.
- help to secure a globally threatened ecosystem; tall grass prairie habitat.
- Implementation will rely heavily on partnerships with local volunteers, environmental groups and funding agencies.

Conservation Plan 2007

Controlling Invasive Weeds

- Targets
 - DSV
 - Garlic mustard
 - Japanese knotweed
 - Buckthorn, honeysuckle, celandine, Norway maple
lilac
 - Let's have a look

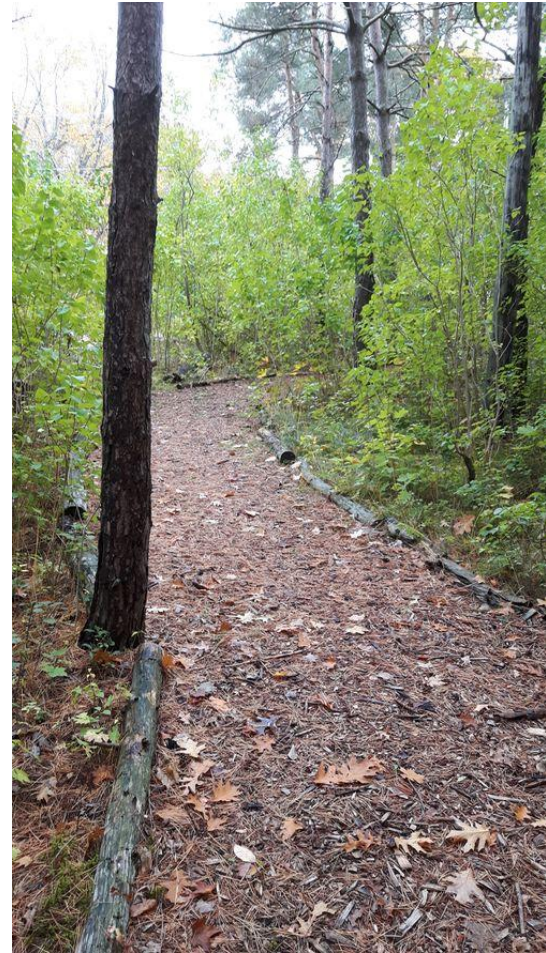
Dog Strangling Vine



Path work



Pathways 2016





Norway Maple Garden

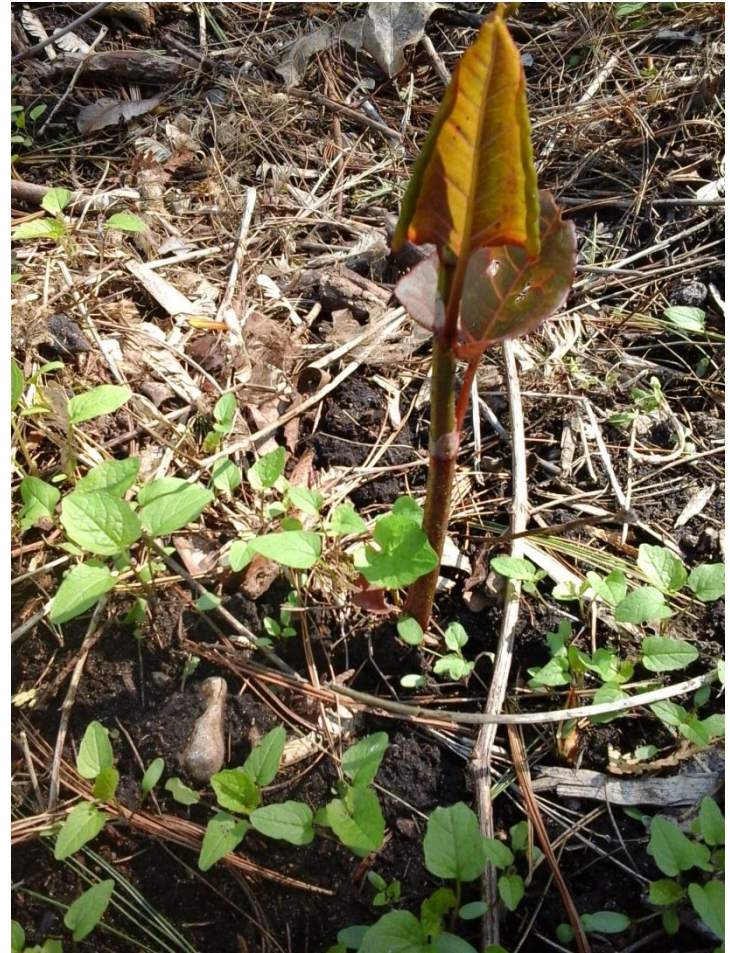
Garlic Mustard



Norway Garden today



Japanese Knotweed



Forest overstory management

- Thin the plantation stands in three stages (nature did one of these)
- Infill includes red & white oaks, sugar and Norway maples, lots of small ash, mulberry, bird cherry, black locust and common lilac.
- with assistance from the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, we planted 450 white pines.
- added other native trees and bushes: Kentucky coffee tree, elderberry, native honeysuckle, cedars, hemlock, hickory. This is an annual commitment to diversify these woods.

Culling by nature and by forester





New trees



Kentucky Coffee tree



New cedars along lake side hill



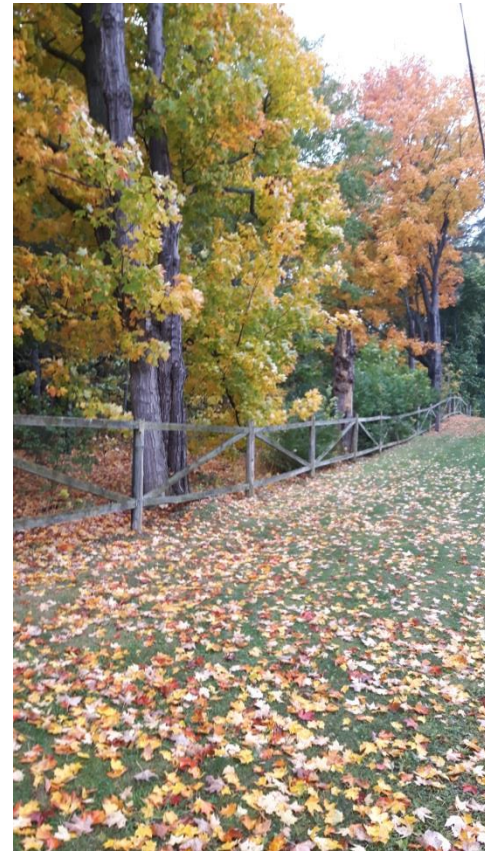
new bushes in the woods



Added a hedgerow



Hedgerow today



**Rescue
garden=
404 gift**



Preparations for the plant







Savannah

Stopped mowing the grass

Put up a sign about savannah ecosystems

Added 5 oak trees widely spaced

Added big blue stem plugs to grasses already present: red top, orchard, yellow bed straw +

Planted a wildflower meadow as a demo

Transplant new walnuts, & oaks

Collect seed pods from DSV & other invasives

June



September



WILDFLOWER MEADOW

These drought tolerant native plant species have been specially selected because they naturally thrive in dry soils.

Planted October 2005

Wild Columbine	Stiff Goldenrod	Showy Goldenrod
Butterflyweed	Bergamot	Spiderwort
Sky Blue Aster	Wild Quinine	Hoary Vervain
White Aster	Smooth Penstemon	Sideoats Grama
Lance Leaf Coreopsis	Beardtongues	Purple Prairie Clover
Pale Purple Coneflower	Black-Eyed Susan	Little Bluestem
Rough Blazing Star	Annual Rye (nurse crop)	Prairie Dropseed

Coreopsis in June

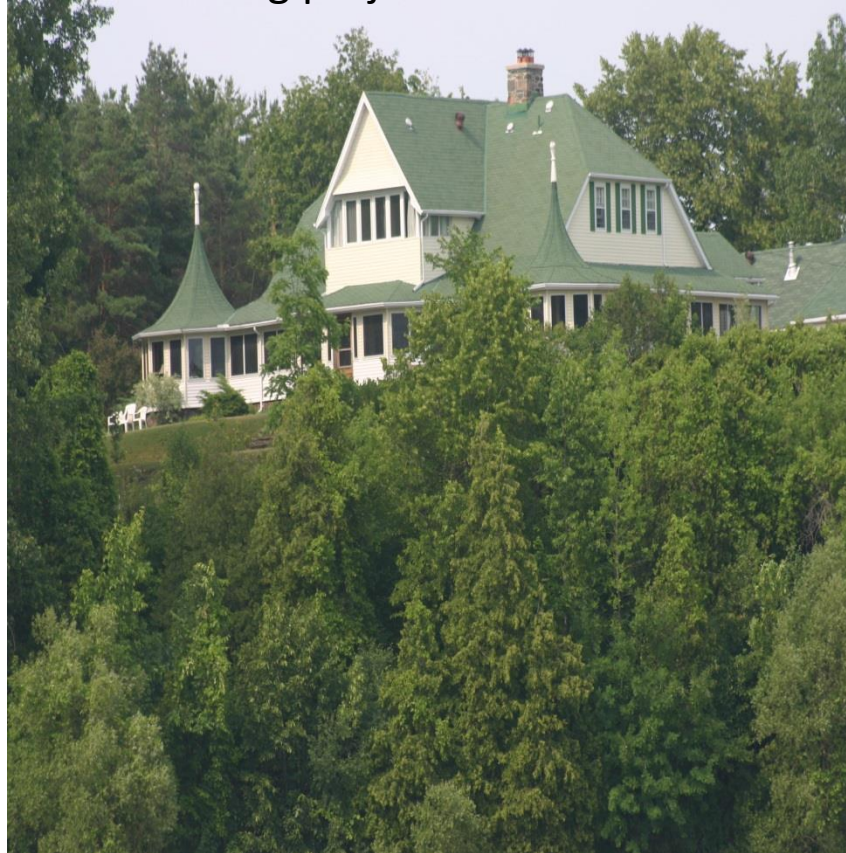


Little blue stem
September



What's next

Next thinning project



We work with a world view as we care for our common home

Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations

- (13) taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- (14) conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- (15) **protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss;**
- Tapping into the synergies among the goals will help to fast-track implementation.



Woodland Restoration

- Forest Management Plan
- Create trails & destination places
- Remove invasive weeds & bushes & replace with native groundcovers & bushes
- Thin the plantation stands
- Plant native trees
- Select specimen trees