

The following article was submitted by Willow Park Ecology Centre (WPEC) volunteer and Grade 7 student at Stewarttown Middle School, Harnoor Gill. Please visit www.willowparkecology.ca to find out more; all are welcome to visit the park.

Willow Park Ecology Centre kicked off its first Volunteer Stewardship Day of this summer on Sunday, May 29. The focus was on the Butterfly Garden.

It was a busy day at the butterfly garden today pulling out weeds and dead plants that hadn't survived. All the buckthorn, dandelions and most of the dead plants were the ones that we pulled out of the garden for the butterflies.

In all of this commotion I had gained one thing that I would rather wished that I hadn't. A sliver. Yes those pesky little needle-like sharp things that end up giving you a sliver that takes you about an hour to get out.

But all in all I had a great experience tearing away the invasive species of the park and transplanting the trees. Some of the trees I had transplanted were ash, oak, beach and maple that shouldn't have been placed in the butterfly garden.

These trees were hard to transplant because you would have to get all the

roots of the tree to be positive that they were going to grow back in their new habitat. If sometimes you just missed a bit of the root on the bottom it wouldn't be that big of a deal because it could probably grow secondary routes to help itself to nourish in a new habitat than the butterfly garden.

Other than transplanting trees and digging out unwanted invasive species you must be wondering where we put this huge heap of weeds, twigs and buckthorn. Well it was all compostable, so we threw all of it into the compost bin and some of it into the snake hibernaculum. The snake hibernaculum could use some of the heap because the snakes could make a home out of the unwanted heap of invasive species.

This would benefit many species by doing this because first we are nourishing the butterfly garden and then we are giving the snakes a habitat to live in. It's a win-win situation on each side and we don't harm the environment at all.

That's probably the most awesome fact I have ever heard in my life by being a kid environmentalist. So at WPEC this is why and how we conserve the species from getting invaded from the invasive ones and gaining benefits at the same time.

The next Volunteer Day

Sunday, June 26, 12-3 p.m.
at Willow Park Ecology Centre.

If you can help maintain this volunteer-run park, please contact tundotto@hotmail.com



Receiving prizes at the Bridge for Charity event hosted by the Georgetown Bridge Club were from left, Ken and Louise Hills and Elizabeth Hall and Rosemary Klotz.

Bridge tourney supports Lewis Foundation

By TOM GIBBS

Georgetown Bridge Club

The spring charity bridge tournament had a new twist this year. It was a combination event for both duplicate and contract players.

It was in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which works with orphaned children in Africa.

It was very well attended with many players from the district.

We had an extensive prize table thanks to the generous support of local businesses, notably: Royal Bank,



Receiving prizes at the Bridge for Charity event hosted by the Georgetown Bridge Club were from left, Ed and Midge McKelvey and Marion and Bob Sinclair.

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