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KANATA SOUTH

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Carp River offers 'living classroom' next door

Waterway's return to natural state draws more wildlife

BY NEVIL HUNT

There's a lot of wildlife on Kanata's doorstep, and more of it is accessible thanks to the Carp River Restoration Project.

Four kilometres of the Carp River just north of Highway 417 have been transformed as part of the restoration project, including an asphalt trail for walkers, bikers and – except for a short unpaved spot – rollerblades, scooters and wheelchairs.

The Carp River starts near Bridlewood and flows through Glen Cairn into Arcadia in Kanata, and then through agricultural lands and the villages of Carp, Kinburn and Fitzroy Harbour in West Carleton. It empties into the Ottawa River at Fitzroy Provincial Park just below Chats Falls.

A few generations ago, farmers straightened the Carp River in many places to make more land available for planting. That led to the faster flow of water and more erosion and sediment, while reducing the capacity of the Carp to hold water following extreme storms.

Restoration began in 2016 and was completed in 2018, and the land is improving year by year. The project saw thousands of native trees, shrubs, plants and grasses planted to support biodiversity and to provide a larger habitat for wildlife, although many non-native and invasive species have taken hold as well.

Where once the Carp was arrow straight, it now meanders through the bullrushes, grasses and wetlands. The water moves slowly, meaning less sediment and more fish.

The payoff is time spent with wading birds such as herons and



Nevil Hunt photo

Madeline Gaillardetz of the Ottawa Ospreys senior women's rugby team, right, fends off teammates during a practice drill in Kanata on July 12. The team practises in Whalen Park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6 p.m., and play their home games at Twin Elm Rugby Park near Richmond.

PLEASE SEE CARP, PAGE 10



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- An attractive candidate would have administrative experience in the construction industry.
- A diploma, certificate or degree would also be considered an asset.
- We are looking with a candidate who is comfortable with change, organized, possesses a positive attitude and a desire to learn.
- This is a part-time position working 8am-4pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week. Hours and days of the week are subject to change.
- Office location is on the Carp Road, reliable transportation required.
- Remuneration based on qualifications.
- Pri-Tec has a friendly, fun, and hardworking office and we are looking forward to adding a new member to our team.



Email resumes or questions to info@pritec.ca



Nevil Hunt photos

A short stroll along the Carp River in Kanata can turn up a lot of wildlife. The restoration of the river has been successful in drawing many birds, animals and plants.

CARP FROM PAGE 1

egrets that eat the fish, bees and wildflowers, turtles, otters and flocks of migrating birds, all just steps from local homes. The area is now one of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' top birding sites in Ottawa.

There are interpretive signs along the way, explaining the project and describing the types of plants and animals that are making a comeback. It's part of what the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority calls a "living classroom."

During a recent tour of the area by the MVCA board of directors, biologist Kelly Stiles said endangered species such as snapping turtles, barn swallows and bank swallows have been seen in the immediate area, along with ospreys and a bald eagle.

Northern pike have returned to the river, making their way upstream from the Ottawa River.

She said a young American eel was spotted in Stittsville's Poole Creek,

a tributary of the Carp, which she described as good news about the quality of the water.

"They're migrating up the Carp from the Ottawa River," she said. "They're an endangered species all the way from the Atlantic Ocean."

WATERSHED MAPPING

The MVCA is carrying out a remapping of the entire Carp River watershed – 50 kilometres in length – and the authority's director of engineering, Juraj Cunderlik, said it's been more than 40 years since mapping was done, and it's possible some areas may be added to the floodplain or receive designations limiting development.

"The new watershed will be different," said Cunderlik. "It will be addressed as part of a public consultation process, and we will notify landowners."

He said public consultations could begin as soon as late 2023.

VISITING

Many people in Kanata



Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority map

The twists and turns of the Carp River, where it passes between Highway 417 and Richardson Side Road, provide animal and plant habitat right between Kanata Lakes, top, and Arcadia, bottom left.

can walk or bike to the trails, but if you're driving, you can park at Insmill Park, in a lot opposite 102 Insmill Cres. There are no washrooms available. Binoculars are a good idea if you want to see the more skittish wildlife, such as the herons and egrets. Additional information is available at mvc.on.ca, including downloads of

maps, brochures and an extensive history of the Carp River and its continuing restoration.

The site also offers a link to iNaturalist, a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. It allows anyone to record and share their findings in any natural area.

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AUCTION SALE

Saturday July 23, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

To be held at our home located at 3624 Farmview Rd., Kinburn, Ontario. We will be selling the complete contents of an Arnprior Estate.

2008 Harley Davidson Softail Deluxe; 1999 Triple E Commander RV - both are in excellent condition; 28' Cabin Cruiser, twin outboards, trailer - selling as is. These items will be offered for sale at 1:00PM - Motorcycle and RV selling subject to a reserve bid.

2 wheel car transporter; Air compressors; fishing tackle; Cross Bow; Compound Bow; Pressure washer; hand tools; weed eaters; power tools; Cameras; Watches; Stereo set; ATV jack; upright freezer; refrigerator; Bar fridge; Stove; work bench; table and chairs; china cabinet; Chubb Mosley safe; assorted books, VHS tapes, DVD's; furniture; chairs; etc. etc. For a complete listing and pictures please visit our website www.oneillsauctions.ca

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