

2014 Otty Lake Shoreline Planting Program Report

Native locally grown shrubs and wildflowers were available again this year for shoreline planting through the Otty Lake Shoreline Planting Program. Plant pick-up day at Otty Lake was Sat. July 5. Members of the Otty Lake community arrived in vehicles of all sizes and also by boat (photos are attached) to take the plants to 21 new homes. Thanks to Evelyn Dore (who also provided the prototypes for the shrub protectors), Gail Read, Robert Cosh and Murray Hunt who helped with the plant pick-up and Judith Landles who came in advance to organize the orders. Cathy Kari's help to clean up after the event was much appreciated.

Wildflowers – this was the second year that we were able to include the wildflowers as part of the program. The wildflowers were obtained through Philip Fry at the Old Field Garden and Wildflower Nursery in Oxford Station. Many thanks to Evelyn Dore for assisting with the transporting of the plants to Otty Lake for pick-up by Otty Lake residents. Philip Fry, who is a wealth of knowledge about local wildflowers, provided helpful tips as we picked up the plants. This information was included in a sheet available at the plant pick-up and is included as an attachment with this report along with a description of each of the plant species available.

75 wildflowers were ordered (25 each of Purple Coneflower, Hairy Penstemon and Wild Bergamot (Monarda/Bee Balm). The OLA subsidized 50 % of the cost of the wildflowers which meant that shoreline property owners paid \$4.00 per plant.

Shrubs - 100 shrubs were ordered from the Ferguson Forest Centre in Kemptville. (25 Sweet Gale, 25 Red Osier Dogwood, 25 Pussy Willow, 25 Highbush Cranberry). The OLA subsidized the cost of the shrubs making the shrubs available to shoreline residents at \$3.00 each). Thanks to Rick Stojak, Chris Harrison and Murray Hunt who worked together to transport the shrubs to Otty Lake. A description of the 2014 shrubs is attached.

Interest in ordering both shrubs and wildflowers was very high and all available plants sold out very quickly through pre-orders. A note about the 2014 program was included in the winter issue of Capt'n Otty's Log and an email notice distributed in the early spring.

Both the shrubs and wildflowers were ordered from the suppliers in the fall of 2013 in order to ensure their availability for our 2014 planting program and *I would recommend the same for the 2015 orders.

*Philip Fry (wildflowers@ripnet.com) has asked that we let him know later this summer which plants we are interested in for 2015 so that he can collect seed and start the plants for our order. **If the OLA Board could make a decision about the 2015 Planting Program at their August 1, 2014 Board Meeting, this would facilitate the wildflower plant ordering.**

The shrubs were ordered through the RVCA Shoreline Planting Program. The contact for this program is andrea.klymko@rvca.ca. Meaghan McDonald from the RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program attended the Otty Lake shoreline plant distribution day on July 5 to provide planting information and advice to Otty Lake residents. This support was much appreciated by Otty Lake residents.

Total plants available for the 2014 program = 100 shrubs + 75 wildflowers

Final cost to OLA **after** residents paid their 50% share = \$378.00 (shrubs) + \$300.00 = \$678.00 but actual cost to the OLA will be \$666.80 as Philip Fry included 3 additional plants at no charge.

Looking ahead - 2015 Plant Order

After discussion with Philip Fry (Old Field Garden and Wildflower Nursery) and Eleanor Thompson (a Merrickville botanist who is very familiar with local native plants), the following are recommendations for potential consideration for 2015 wildflower choices. There are certainly other plants which might be considered as well.

Swamp Milkweed

Fringed Yellow Loosestrife

Cardinal Flower (ordered in 2013 but heavily requested to be repeated)

Note: in 2014 we ordered 25 each of three different plants. Philip Fry would prefer that plants be ordered in lots of 24 rather than 25

Report submitted by Karen Hunt on behalf of the Lake Plan Action Committee, July 10, 2014