



Spring 2025

The Mill Pond Matters

This newsletter is published by The Mill Pond Committee Members who work together to preserve, restore and promote the natural and historical amenities of the Dorchester Mill Pond. The Committee meets monthly and welcomes new volunteers to help with preservation efforts.

To learn more about our mission or if you have any questions please see our website at themillpond.ca or email us at dorchestermillpond@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you on the trail!



Upcoming Events

Invasive species removal

Saturday April 12th, 8:30-10:30am

Meet at Dreamland parking lot (98 Mill Rd). Please bring your own gardening trowel/pruners. Gloves & bags will be supplied.

Mill Pond and Thames River cleanup

Saturday April 26, 2025 8-10:30am

Meet at the dam and register between 8-8:30 for a chance to win a Nova Craft Canoe! Gloves and bags will be provided! Volunteers wanted for cleanup and Invasive plant removal.

“Celebrate the Mill Pond” event

September 13th

More details to come!

Lookout for new Tree Labels to help you identify the Carolinian species of trees as you walk along the trail!

Trail Use Guidelines

- Keep on trail to minimize your impact on this sensitive environment.
- Please walk your dog on a leash (and stoop & scoop).
- Poison Ivy is abundant at the Mill Pond so learn to recognize and avoid it by staying on the trail.

Did you know ?

- Dogs are hunters by nature and if allowed to roam loose, they put great stress on birds and small mammals, particularly in the Spring when waterfowl are nesting.
- Poison Ivy berries provide food for birds & small mammals so please stay on trail, to avoid them!



Native Plants

Mike Parris

For residents in the Mill Pond area who are considering adding ground cover to their property, there are many native ground covers that should be considered for added aesthetics or for hard to grow areas. The benefits of utilizing native ground covers include erosion control, water retention, weed suppression and improved soil health. Here are five native ground covers to consider.

Highly invasive, non-native plants such as English Ivy, Periwinkle and Lilly of the Valley should be avoided as they are causing problems at the Millpond. For more information on invasive plants see the link below.

1. Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*):

Low-growing perennial with heart-shaped leaves, thrives in shade or partial shade, prefers moist, well-drained soil. This perennial can form dense colonies under deciduous forests.



2. Creeping Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*):

Hardy evergreen with needle-like foliage, tolerates dry conditions, suitable for sunny or partially sunny areas.



3. Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*):

Low-growing dogwood with white flowers and red berries, grows well in acidic, moist soil, and part to full shade. Its attractive foliage turns wine-red to purple shades in the fall.



4. Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*):

Perennial with white flowers and bright green foliage, thrives in moist, well-drained soils, prefers partial to full sun. Pollinators that love this plant include small bees, such as miner and sweat bees, as well as hoverflies.

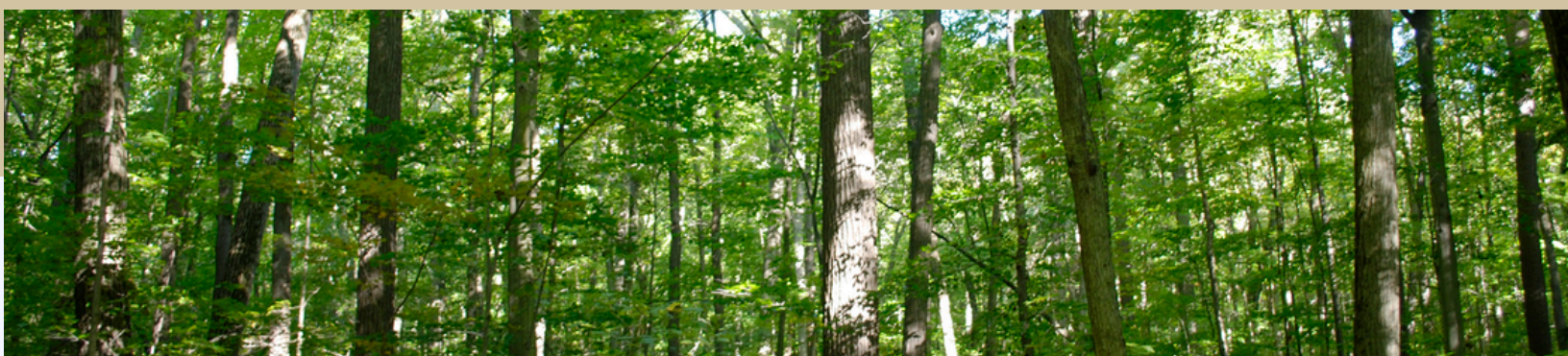


5. Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*):

Low-growing plant with white flowers and small strawberries, suitable for areas with a mix of sun and shade.



If you are interested in learning more about native plants in the area, [click here!](#)
For more information about invasive species in the area, [click here](#)



Mother Earth

Ron Foster

When topsoil was being removed to prepare for the Tiner subdivision on Mill Road, evidence of an ancient village was uncovered , archaeologists were contacted and after several areas were excavated it was confirmed that a thousand year old Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse) village site had been discovered.



There was a village overlooking a valley with a creek running through it, a marsh, and maybe a large beaver pond a thousand years ago. A healthy ecosystem and natural resources sustaining the thriving population of the village. We take for granted the beauty of nature, the changing seasons and the positive effect on our wellbeing. But for those people of a thousand years ago it was a life giving gift of Mother Earth. The inhabitants of the village worked relentlessly to harvest this bounty and turn it into nourishing food or practical tools as well as objects of art and leisure.

Crop's were grown and harvested such as the "three sisters" : maize, beans , squash, and also sunflowers and tobacco. They were in fact the first farmers. Canoes plied the currents of Antler River (Thames), the 401 of a thousand years ago carrying people and trade goods far afield. The people of this village were indigenous to this land. Their very existence relied on being good custodians of the environment. An ideal we should all embrace. Respect, Protect, and Enjoy, and Mother Earth will nourish body and soul.



Thames Centre residents can take their yard waste to the Thames Centre Landfill for FREE on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

[Click here](#) to learn more about encroaching and the legal consequences in Municipal By-Law No 1- 2015 5.2

Why the Mill Pond Matters

Jim Rule

Nature surrounds us, from parks and backyards to streets and alleyways. Next time you go out for a walk, tread gently and remember that we are both inhabitants and stewards of nature in our neighbourhoods'.

(David Suzuki)

Inhale, exhale. Inhale deeper, exhale deeper. We do this unconsciously to relieve our anxiety during these stressful times. I have another remedy take a walk, preferably on the Mill Pond pathway. Open your senses to this 'island of peace and tranquility'.

Each season offers a gift of beauty to those ready to receive its natural endowments. Listen closely and you will hear the cracking of melting ice in the spring as it flows over the dam. Observe carefully at the array of turtles basking in the rays of a warming sun on a fallen log. The autumn splendour of the Carolinian trees provides a plethora of colour worthy of an artist's creation. And, one can hear the shouts of joy of children skating on the frozen pond in the dead of winter.



The circuitous pathway at the Mill Pond was a vision of a Municipal Council many decades ago. Council members, when realizing the encroachment of impending developments, agreed to allow public access around the Pond for future residents. Thus, the 3.1 km pathway was created to ensure generations to come would enjoy the natural amenities of the area. When walking on the path, reflect upon our indigenous peoples who lived on this location practicing the principles of sustainability. The land was gifted to us by our ancestors. The land is not ours to own; we are its custodians. Be the change you want to see in the world; begin the journey by walking the Mill Pond pathway as its steward. In that role, you will see the Mill Pond with a 'different set of eyes'.

Questions? Concerns? Feedback?

Contact: dorchestermillpond@gmail.com

Or visit: www.themillpond.ca

Safety concerns on the trail?

Contact: Devon Brown, Thames Centre

519-268-7334 ext 703



**Look out for the next edition of the Millpond Matters
coming in Fall of 2025!**