



October 24, 2017

To the Ontario Wildlife Foundation,

Thank you for your financial support with our Long Grass Project. I apologize for not sending in a report sooner. Since the last report we have run into some road blocks in getting things done. Here is the list of the things we have finished and a list of the plans for the next several months. It is very similar to the Spring Report however I have noted the areas that are delayed and the plans we have with ****.

Fall 2016:

- Rototilling and stump grinding of the central area of the long grass: \$1123.00
- Cedar logs for the benches were donated

Spring 2017:

- Purchase of 10 prairie species seeds from the Alderville Black Oaks Savanna: \$500.00
- Students begin planting plug trays with the seed: \$0.00. The students reused found containers and planters and local soil.
- 10 White Oak trees were purchased as an additional planting to the wetter southern edge of the Long Grass Area: \$100.00. They should be in the ground within the next week. ***8 of the 10 of the oak trees planted survived and are thriving***

Spring to come:

- Invasive species spraying will happen when the plants have greened up: \$1200.00 estimated. The cost includes both the initial spray and spot spraying later in the season.
****The professional we had called to come could not schedule us for spraying until the very late summer. This means that the site was not ready to receive the seed for this year. We are first on his list for the spring and then he says we can set the seed two weeks later*****
- Students will be planting the prairie seedlings and scattering the remaining seed two weeks after the second spraying is complete.
****we are hopeful that the plants will survive the “wet bed” they are in until the site is ready****



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- Acquisition and setting of the 6 cedar poles that make up the backdrop of the stage area: cost is unknown since we are hoping for donations of the poles and labour.
****The cedar posts have not been purchased. Setting them up before the second spraying would interfere with the spray equipment so it was decided to wait until next spring to purchase and set them up****
- Hardware for the benches which will include lag bolts and handles: \$300.00 – 400.00 estimated.
**** We have been trying to source a product that will stand up the being outside and the work with the design of the benches. These will be purchased as soon as the right product is found****
- Stone & mortar for the planters: \$ 1500.00. To minimize this cost, we are beginning a campaign to have students and their families bring in large rocks from their properties to be included in each planter. A dedication will be a part of the building of the planters.
****Storage of the cement until the site is sprayed was a problem. This will wait until the spring. Families have already started bringing in large coloured stones to be used in the planters****
- Purchase of local root stock of the 3 sacred medicines for the planters from the Alderville Black Oak Savanna. Estimated cost is \$100.00 – 200.00
**** This will be purchased when we are able to get on the site after the final spray****
- Purchase of appropriate soil mix for the planters. The cost is unknown until we have an accurate size and depth for the finished planters.
**** This will be purchased when we are able to get on the site after the final spray****

Fall 2017

- Black Oaks and Cedar trees will be purchased and planted: cost is unknown since we are in discussion with the Highway of Heroes organization to help with this part of the project. The cost for this may include the trees and the tree spade needed to plant them. How much comes from our budget and how much is from the Highway of Heroes is still in the discussion stages.
**** This is moving forward. The students have been pulling out the buckthorn and sumac in preparation for the Black Oak trees and cedars. Fortunately this area has no poison ivy and very little dog-strangling-vine which can be controlled with a small



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sprayer. We have not heard from the Highway of Heroes this fall and thus have decided to go ahead with the purchases and acquisition of the trees on our own. The planting is scheduled for late in November. We do not have the final costs on this since we have some equipment volunteered and possibly some trees donated. As soon as the planting is scheduled I will send an invitation to you****

2017 Dreams:

- Electrical to the amphitheatre area. We did not receive enough funding to contract the installation of the electrical outlets to the stage areas. I am still in conversation with some of our families who have the resources to help with this area of the project.

It seems that everything hinges on the spraying of the site. It was recommended to us to do this very well or we would be fighting the dog-strangling-vine and poison ivy forever. Unfortunately this has added an extra year on to our time line. I will send another report to you as soon as things start moving in the spring after the spraying is completed.

Thank you for your patience and your investment in our project.

Sincerely

Wilma Van Barneveld
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