



NORTHUMBERLAND  
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May 10, 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. There really wasn't much to report at that time. Since receiving your cheque, we have only just begun to prep the site for the plantings that will make up the tall grass prairie. Here is a list of the things done and a list of the plans for the next several months.

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.

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.
- Students will be planting the prairie seedlings and scattering the remaining seed
- 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
- Hardware for the benches which will include lag bolts and handles: \$300.00 – 400.00 estimated
- 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.



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- 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
- Purchase of appropriate soil mix for the planters. The cost is unknown until we have an accurate size and depth for the finished planters.

#### 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.

The plan for later in the fall is to have an opening and dedication ceremony with representatives from all of our partner organizations. Currently we have received donations from the Willow Beach Field Naturalist, Legion Branch 133, The Ontario Wildlife Foundation and the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority. Together they make up about half of the initial budget first presented.

#### 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. I hope to be able to turn the lights on next fall as part of the dedication.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the school. I would be happy to have you visit us and show you around so you can see the things we have started. I will let you know about the dedication planned for the fall and send you an official invite. Thank you for your patience and your investment in our project.

Sincerely

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Pictures from last night's afterschool program:



Taking out the Red osier Dogwood that was in the walkway for the east entrance.

Replanting those shrubs off the pathway to the entrance.



The cleared path for the East entrance.



The 10 White Oaks we didn't have time to plant last night after school. They will go in within the week. I apologize that the trees are hardly distinguishable from the surrounding foliage. I will send pictures once they are in the ground.

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This is a shot of the site as of today. Much of the grass from last year is up but it is the poison ivy and dog-strangling vine that need to be up and green before the spraying happens. The wigwam frame is up as of Earth Day 2016 and the Birch bark will be harvested in the next couple of weeks to cover it. We have been given permission to harvest the bark from an area under development by the developer. This will be a student and volunteer trip.

