

## Tree Maintenance Along Mill Pond Trails: February - March 2010

A range of site works are planned for the Jaycee Trail, Livingston Park and municipally-owned land north of the C.P. Railway Line and west of Martin Street Public School. (See map on next page.) The work will include tree removal and maintenance along the trail that runs alongside the Mill Pond. The removal of a number of trees, mostly Black Willows, will take place this winter along with additional tree pruning and maintenance, followed by replanting of the area in the spring. Additional trees will be removed in Livingston Park and area.



### Maintenance of Mill Pond Area and Trails

Historically, efforts have been made to preserve the integrity of the Mill Pond, including the heritage, water quality, vegetation and ecological balance, which includes the regular maintenance of the trees along the south bank of the pond. Annual pruning and removal of trees is part of the Town's ongoing maintenance program to ensure public safety and the health of the environment.

### Mill Pond Walkway Plans

#### Tree Removal

Despite annual pruning and maintenance programs, studies have identified certain trees that need to be removed in a timely fashion. Most of the trees being removed at this time are Black Willows over 60 years old that have reached the end of their life span within the same timeframe and are all in poor health. The decaying Black Willow trees are slated for removal this year as they are leaning over or are close to the existing trail along the Mill Pond. Without tree removal, steps would need to be taken to restrict public access to this area. Additional vegetation in the area will be trimmed and pruned at the same time.

The tree removal must be completed during the cold weather while the ground is frozen; this will avoid compacting the soil, which will lessen the impact the removal equipment and procedures may have on surrounding plants and their roots. This work will take place in February-March and take about three to four weeks to complete, with replanting scheduled for late May.

#### Re-use of Existing Plant Material

The Town of Milton will be ensuring the continuity of the genetic heritage of the site, an approach supported by Conservation Halton. This approach will retain and re-use

tree materials as follows:

- The root systems of the trees being removed will remain intact onsite, which will help stabilize the banks by the trail.
- Trimmed materials, such as branches and trunks, will be used as edging to define the trail walkways and further protect the slopes beside the trails from erosion.
- Excess wood will be chipped and used to resurface the existing trail pathways.
- Some wood materials will be left onsite to form a natural habitat for local wildlife.
- Some of the viable branches that are removed will be nurtured and then replanted in the area this spring.

#### Replanting and Planning for the Future

The area will be rehabilitated after the trees are removed using "nucleation planting." This technique will plant clusters containing a mixed variety of species and sizes to ensure stability of the banks and trails while adding visually appealing views. These clusters will be surrounded by fencing in the early stages to help protect the plantings. Black Willows will be one of the species used as part of this planting as they thrive in the high-moisture environment by the pond and will continue the heritage look and feel of the site.

### Background Trails Studies and Plans

Trails development plans and studies focus the direction for trails development and maintenance to provide safe and enjoyable access to residents for navigating throughout the community. For more information, refer to the web pages noted below or call 905-878-7252, ext. 2211:

- **Trails Master Plan (2007):** Presents a vision of a trail network that unifies neighbourhoods and destinations within the community of Milton.  
([www.milton.ca/residents/parksandrec/parks/parksprojects.htm](http://www.milton.ca/residents/parksandrec/parks/parksprojects.htm))
- **Jaycee Trail Study and Management Plan (2007):** Provides direction for the development of a trail system and management plan for the site and surrounding public open space at the Mill Pond, Livingston Park and Town-owned woodland west of Martin Street Public School.  
([http://www.milton.ca/commserv/parks/Jaycee\\_Study\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.milton.ca/commserv/parks/Jaycee_Study_Presentation.pdf))
- **Tree Conservation and Active Management Plan (2010):** Technical report outlining implementation.  
([www.milton.ca/residents/parksandrec/parks/parksprojects.htm](http://www.milton.ca/residents/parksandrec/parks/parksprojects.htm))



## Community Involvement With Trails

The Town of Milton invites residents to stay involved with parks and open space initiatives and projects. For more details, visit [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca) or call 905-878-7252, ext. 2211:

### Parks and Open Space Public Information

**Session:** Receive updates on parks, trails and open space projects. (April 2010; date to be announced)

**Community Planting Event:** Help with replanting along the Mill Pond walkway (Late May 2010, date to be announced)

**Online Trails Reporting Form:** Report obstructions, required repairs, trip hazards and tree maintenance issues (trimming, removal, etc.) that may be impacting trail navigation ([www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca))

