



**Dedicated to conserving, improving and appreciating Ashburnham Memorial Park
in the city of Peterborough Ontario Canada**

Annual Report 2023

This report provides a summary of activities including financial status for the calendar year 2023. This has been a busy year for Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group (AMSG) with a lot accomplished. We are looking forward to 2024.

Steering Committee

Nancy Cockburn (Co-chair)
Jenn McCallum (Co-chair)

Jim Angel
Jane Wild

In 2023 AMSG welcomed two new Steering Committee members:

Angelica Gallucci
Matthew Walmsley

We are actively seeking new committee members. Contact ashburnhamstewardship@gmail.com

The AMSG committee met monthly with the exception of July/August and December. We raised some seed funding from individuals and were successful in receiving a Community Grant from the City of Peterborough and a United Way Neighbourhood Fund Grant.

Please visit our updated website at ashburnhamstewardship.com
follow us on instagram [armourhill_ptbo](https://www.instagram.com/armourhill_ptbo)

Design work for AMSG publications was donated by Scott Adams of Birchbark Media (website, logo, door-hanger, postcards, magnets, business cards)

2023 Activity Highlights

In total 225 people participated in 11 projects planned by AMSG and the number of volunteer hours topped out at 535.



AMSG organized a **Spring Bird Walk** led by naturalist and author Drew Monkman on May 25. The walk included lessons on ornithology, geology, local history and botany. Ten participants observed and logged 22 bird species on the [e-bird project](#) for Peterborough-Armour Hill, among the world's largest biodiversity-related science projects.

AMSG continues to advocate for event participants to join the Ashburnham Memorial Park Project on **iNaturalist** and record their observations in the park. At the end of 2023 there were over 250 different species identified in the park, these are listed on the [Ashburnham Memorial Park](#) project page, including over 140 plant species, 40 insect species and 32 bird species. The project serves as a way to track the biodiversity and health of the park as well as to increase engagement with the community.

AMSG's **Summer Bat Walk** was led by ecologist Sarah Robbins, from [Birks Natural Heritage Consultants Inc.](#) In advance of the event, two tree-mounted bat detectors were installed in the park, with permission from the City of Peterborough. These remained in place for 10 days and four species of Ontario bats were tracked: Big Brown Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, and the Silver-haired Bat. The public bat walk took place on June 29, with nine participants using hand-held bat detectors to observe Big Brown Bats.



Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group participated in a **City Tree Planting** event in Ashburnham Memorial Park on June 7. City Staff planted large trees in the park along Museum Drive to help slow the vehicular traffic on the roadway. City staff, Ontario Hydro workers and AMSG volunteers planted hundreds of new trees throughout Ashburnham Memorial Park. The trees were donated by Ontario Hydro and included species native to the area, including white pine, sugar maple, silver maple, black cherry, white spruce, white cedar, and yellow birch.

AMSG Steering Committee participated in the public consultations for the City of Peterborough's [Eastside Transportation Study](#) associated with upgrading Ashburnham Drive and the MacFarlane Street Bridge, potentially impacting the park. We were successful in raising awareness of the park's memorial status with the consultant group.

AMSG continues to support Trent University students undertaking research through the **Trent Community Research Centre** and in a range of courses. Projects in 2023 included: 1) designing a computer application connecting the iNaturalist project to the database on the AMSG website. This will then auto-populate new species observations in the Park onto the AMSG website. 2) Collecting qualitative interview data from the public on use and perceptions of the park and 3) Performing a biological inventory (completion in 2024). These projects contribute to AMSG's understanding of the role the park plays in the community. As we aim to improve the park's biodiversity and resilience, we strive to ensure any improvements to the park are grounded in science.

AMSG completed two **Clean-ups** in Ashburnham Memorial Park on April 15 and November 4 with a total of 90 participants. 56 bags of garbage were collected along with a variety of other large waste items. Sadly, it is evident that the park has become a local dumping ground. This is a behaviour that we hope will change with more public engagement, increased positive uses of the space and ongoing research, education and advocacy. Vocal public support is vital for change to happen and our 2024 goals will address this.



The *Peterborough Examiner*, *Kawartha Now* and *CHEX Global* promoted and covered AMSG events.



A major culminating project was the **“Open Your Eyes” Art Project**. In the fall of 2023, Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group entered into a project with Kaawaate East City Public School to offer outdoor art education for twenty-five grade 7 & 8 students. The project encouraged students to learn more about the natural habitat, history and cultural importance of Ashburnham Memorial Park. Students were led by AMSG volunteers for a guided hike, then directed in art activities and the techniques of “en plein air” painting with local artist- educator Laurel Paluck. Students shared their experiences and many of them now see Ashburnham Memorial Park with new eyes.

On December 20, the Peterborough Museum & Archives hosted a public reception and art show of the students’ work with artist statements, a slideshow and refreshments. 150 museum visitors attended the display over the week-long run of the exhibition.

“Open Your Eyes”
 An exhibition of paintings by students from
 Kaawaate E.C.P.S inspired by Ashburnham
 Memorial Park

**December
 19th-30th**
 (holiday hours)

**Peterborough Museum
 and Archives (lower level)**

*A project by the Ashburnham Memorial
 Stewardship group supported by funding from:*

Poster Design by Samantha Hebert - Trent TCRC student 2021



Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group

Financial Overview January 1 - December 31 2023

Revenue Summary:	
Donations:	\$ 330.00
City Grant:	\$ 450.00
United Way Grant	\$1525.00
2022 year end balance	\$ 500.99
Revenue Total:	\$2805.99
Expense Summary:	
School Art Project	\$ 714.83
Bird Walk	\$ 125.00
Bat Walk	\$ 673.25
Bank Charges (\$3.00/mth)	\$ 36.00
Misc (e.g., Park Clean-up, Marketing, supplies)	\$ 518.90
Expense Total:	\$2067.98
Balance remaining as of Dec 30, 2023	\$ 738.01

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