



The Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group (AMSG) is a grassroots volunteer-led community group dedicated to promoting stewardship and respect for the natural, historical and social aspects of Ashburnham Memorial Park (known colloquially as “Armour Hill”).

AMSG was founded in June 2021 and since then has been involved in park cleanups, nature hikes, bird walks, children’s art projects, Trent University programs, bat research, tree plantings and nature



2024 - A Year of Awards and Accolades

*On Sept 24, 2024, Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group received the **Environmental Stewardship /Sustainability Award** from the City of Peterborough in recognition for our contribution to the community during the year 2023.*

L to R Mayor Jeff Leal, AMSG Steering Committee members: Jenn McCallum, Nancy Cockburn, Jim Angel and Councillor, Joy Lachica.

Dedicated to conserving, improving and appreciating Ashburnham Memorial Park



Trent Community Research Centre Award

AMSG co-chair Jenn McCallum accepted the Certificate of Achievement Award for Community Commitment to Student Learning from Tina Namiesniowski, (Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Development), at the [Trent Community Research Centre](#), Annual Celebration of Research on March 28.

Since 2022, AMSG has provided meaningful student learning support to bring academic studies to life. The recognition included a grant of \$1,000 to continue AMSG's work.



Rotary Environment Innovators

In 2024, AMSG received the [Rotary Environmental Innovators Fund](#) award accompanied by



L to R - Martin Yuill (Executive Director of Cleantech Commons), AMSG Steering Committee members, Nancy Cockburn, Jenn McCallum and Jim Angel, Graham Wilkins (Director of REIF), at the presentation ceremony April 19 at Camp Kawartha, Peterborough.

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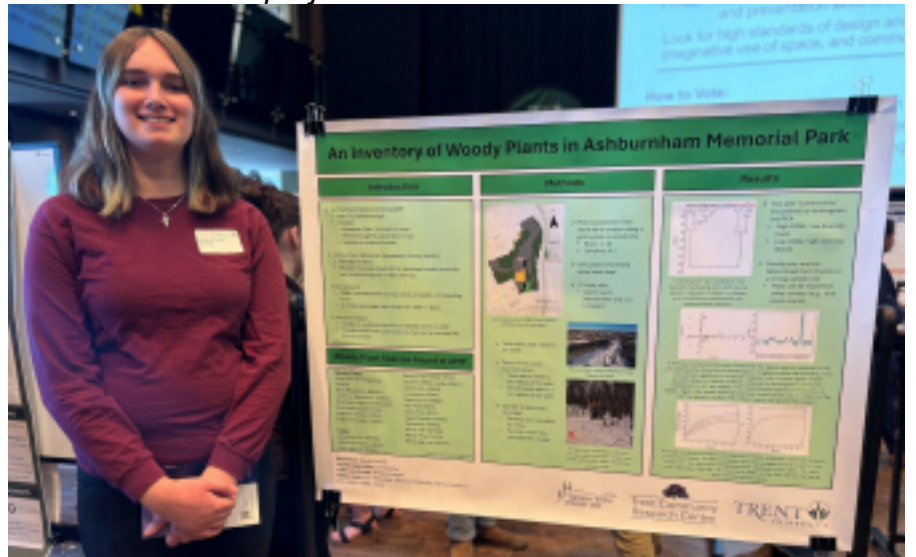


Trent University Partnership

*AMSG continues to support Trent University students researching through the **Trent Community Research Centre** and in a range of courses. In 2024 two projects were undertaken:*

Noelle Deane completed a biological inventory identifying 22 different woody plants. This project also created permanent plot locations to be used for future surveys such as bird counts and plant surveys.

Noelle with her work on Ashburnham Memorial Park at the Trent Annual Celebration of Research Presentations, March 28.



Trent University student Emily Beesley studied community outreach best practices, focusing on understanding main user groups of the park, and how to connect with people currently underserved. The research, scheduled to be completed in 2025, will be helpful in increasing the connections AMSG can make with other stakeholder groups.



May 11, AMSG members set up a public information session at the annual East City Yard Sale event. L to R - Jim Angel, Ilona Wille, Jane Wild, Nancy Cockburn and Jenn McCallum.

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Cleanups

AMSG completed two **Cleanups** of Ashburnham Memorial Park on April 12 and November 4 with over 110 volunteers joining in.

More than 60 bags of waste material were collected along with 700 cigarette butts and a variety of other large items, such as discarded car parts, furniture, and construction waste. Tim Horton's Restaurant of Hunter Street East in Peterborough, kindly donated refreshments for both AMSG park cleanups.

Trent University students, L to R - Bec, Ella and Kiera participate in the AMSG fall park cleanup.



On September 28, AMSG partnered with **Clean Up Peterborough** for the first time, to co-host a cigarette butt cleanup, helping to fulfill an [UnSmoke Canada](#) grant. Over 5,000 cigarette butts were removed from the roadway and parking areas of Ashburnham Memorial Park. These were sent, along with the rest of Clean Up Peterborough's collection of cigarette waste, to Terracycle to be recycled into raw materials for new products such as plastic lumber planks and benches.

AMSG and Clean Up Peterborough volunteers also collected another 14 bags of garbage and 3 bags of recycling from Ashburnham Memorial Park on that day.

L to R - Nancy Cockburn of AMSG and Steve Paul of Clean Up Peterborough

*AMSG acknowledges the work of **Donna Reid of Butt1 Community**. Donna has removed several thousand cigarette butts from Armour Hill over the past 3 years. In 2024 Donna registered AMSG as her charity of choice to receive funds redeemed through [TerraCycle's Recycling Rewards](#) program. **Thank you Donna!***

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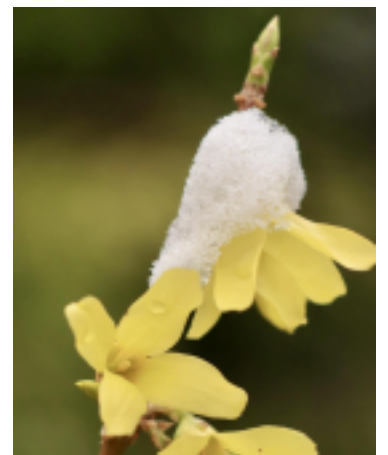
A Walk in the Park for Earth Day with Kevin Callan

On the evening of April 22, AMSG invited the public to Ashburnham Memorial Park for an Earth Day event - a fun and educational species identification walk, with noted media personality, author and naturalist, Kevin Callan, "The Happy Camper."

Participants arrived from as far away as Ottawa and Sweden to take part in this enjoyable learning event.

iNaturalist

Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group continues its work with [iNaturalist](#) (nature data collection App) to record species observations in Ashburnham Memorial Park. The iNaturalist project serves as a way to track the biodiversity and health of the park and informs conservation



efforts. Currently there are 360 combined observers and identifiers and 26 members.

At the end of 2024 there were 351 different species identified in the park including 181 species of plants, 69 insect and 39 bird species. For a complete list of species in AMP or to join the project, visit [iNaturalist](#).

All observations recorded within the park are automatically included in the project data and on the AMMSG website.

The public are encouraged to participate in the upcoming [City Nature Challenge](#) April 25-28, 2025.

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From a Parking Lot to a Park

AMSG envisions a transformation of Ashburnham Memorial Park, specifically, the upper parking area, into a safer, greener, more inclusive and beautiful space for people and wildlife. To this end, AMMSG hosts public engagement events to collect ideas from community members as they re-imagine the space.

Participants at our events have been invited to fill out a survey answering questions about usage, perceptions, and hopes for the park's future. The survey is ongoing at ashburnhamstewardship.com.

The results from the engagement events and surveys are being shared with **Basterfield and Associates Landscape Architects**, to render a conceptual design of a re-imagined parking area in Ashburnham Memorial Park. The conceptual design will be shared at AMMSG community events in 2025 and used as a discussion tool for the continued collection and refinement of ideas.

Funding partners and grants for this pivotal project include:

- **United Way of Peterborough and District, Neighbourhood Fund** (\$2,950)
- **Rotary Environment Innovators Fund** (\$1,000)
- **Basterfield and Associates** (in-kind support)

Presentations

Ashburnham Memorial Stewardship Group made several presentations throughout the community in

2024. On August 29, Steering Committee member Jane Wild spoke to the **Annual General Meeting for [Peterborough and District United Way](#)**, to share how AMMSG is working to protect and improve Ashburnham Memorial Park.



On November 26, AMMSG co-chair Nancy Cockburn led an information sharing activity with members of **Beta Sigma Phi Sorority**, bringing awareness of Ashburnham Memorial Park and Stewardship to the group.



Steering Committee members Jane Wild and Nancy Cockburn addressed the **Rotary Club of Peterborough**, on September 23.

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Financial Statement 2024

Opening balance Jan 1, 2024 602.99

2024 Revenues:

- Fundraising and Donations 148.50
- Trent Community Research Award 1,000.00
- City of Peterborough Community Grant 600.00
- United Way Neighbourhood Fund 2,300.00
- Rotary Environmental Innovators Grant 1,000.00
- TerraCycle Donation (from Donna Reid) 300.00

Total Revenue 5,348.50

2024 Expenses:

- Office Expenses & Printing 355.93
- Promotional Materials 96.99



Education 222.30
Draw Prizes 64.17
Refreshments for Events 38.41
Presentations 32.76
Bank Fees 36.00
Conceptual Design 2,825.00

Total Expenses 3,671.56

**Ashburnham Memorial Park
for all ages**

Revenues minus Expenses 1,676.94
Plus Opening Balance 602.99 2,279.93
Closing Balance Dec 31, 2024 2,279.93

In 2024, 420 people were served in 11 different AMMSG community projects.

AMMSG volunteers contributed 980 hours working to promote the well being of this important urban forest and recreational asset.

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McCallum (Co-chair) Jim Angel
Angelica Gallucci
Matthew Walmsley
Jane Wild

2024 Steering Committee

Nancy Cockburn (Co-chair) Jenn



Joining AMMSG Steering Committee

for 2025, Steve Paul

Web and graphic design for AMSG donated
by Scott Adams of [Birchbark Media](#)

Contact AMSG at:

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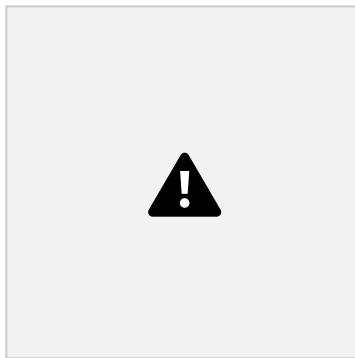
[instagram.com/armourhill_ptbo/](https://www.instagram.com/armourhill_ptbo/) *Ashburnham Memorial Park for all seasons*

Mailing Address:

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Partners:



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