

CELEBRATION OF CANADA 150

The National Capital Greenbelt Sand Dunes Walk

WALK THE RECENTLY RESTORED PARTS OF OTTAWA'S 6000 YEAR OLD SAND DUNES SYSTEM

When: Tuesday, 11 July 2017, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Dune entrance at Pineland Avenue & Vaan Drive, Nepean, east of Woodroffe Avenue and north of Slack Road

Contact: Stephen Aitken or Joanne Hakkaku info@biodiversityconservancy.org
613-825-5492, 613-212-1411 (cell)

Bring: A hat, sun screen, sun glasses, water and a camera

Parts of the 6000-year-old Ottawa Sand Dunes System have been restored to their natural state. Therein lies a unique community of dune-dwelling plants (grasses, sedges, berries, shrubs etc.) and animals (mostly invertebrates like insects, spiders and other arthropods) many of which have been threatened with extirpation (local extinction). These organisms have adapted for thousands of years in this extreme environment under an intensely hot sun, with sand surface temperatures as high as 70-72⁰ C, and frequent gusty winds that ripple the dune surface and create dust devils.

The objective of the restoration effort is to: (i) protect and conserve a rare and threatened ecosystem; (ii) diversify habitats and biodiversity in the National Capital Greenbelt; (iii) provide a natural outdoor class room and laboratory for hands-on study of the dune habitat and its inhabitants under BCI/NCC educational programs (every year since the dune restoration commenced in 2012, 500-800 youth from various schools, universities, summer camps. and youth organizations in Ottawa-Carleton have come to the dunes to study as part of their extracurricular activities); and (iv) restore a portion of a unique and rare 6000 year old landscape to Canada's Capital.

The dune restoration is a collaborative effort between Biodiversity Conservancy International and the National Capital Commission with funding assistance from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Project Grant Program and TD Friends of the Environment.

The Greenbelt Sand Dune Tour is organized by Biodiversity Conservancy International (BCI) to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary. During the tour you will learn the history of how this dune system was formed and how it came to the point of almost complete loss in 2011. You will also experience first-hand the dune environment and the activities of the dune dwelling organisms.

You are warmly invited to walk the hottest place in town with us! We hope to see you there. RSVP as this is an invitation-only event.

