

# Fall Planting

Updates from along the Champlain Heights Trail

by [Grace Nombrado](#)

## Alexander Laidlaw Co-op



With the support of a [Neighbourhood Small Grant](#) and the [Free the Fern Art for Plant Fundraiser](#), Martin was able to fund a successful [community planting event](#) on Saturday, September 18, adjacent to Alexander Laidlaw Co-op.

The area had been cleared of Himalayan blackberry at a previous volunteer event in May. This time 5 volunteers helped to plant many native plants, including sword

fern, low oregon grape, Douglas Fir, Douglas Maple and others. We even had a 4-year-old volunteer lend a hand. Everyone enjoyed a pizza lunch together after.

Alexander Laidlaw Co-op will also be receiving 43 native plants as part of a major fall order from [Nat's Nursery](#), including 25 low Oregon grape, 8 ferns, 5 Douglas fir and 5 vine maple. Martin may plan another public planting for November (TBD).

## Cartier Place



Thanks to our [Art for Plant Fundraiser](#), Free the Fern purchased 12 native plants for a [Cartier Place Mini Planting](#) on September 17, 2021. Plants included: 1 Douglas fir, 3 salal, 1 red flowering currant, 3 mock orange and 4 oceanspray. The planting area, along the Red Alder Trail, just opposite the forest playground, had been previously cleared of invasives by Ann and Olga, two residents of Cartier Place.

Free the Fern members, Paola and Susan, will serve as volunteer leaders at our [Community Planting Event](#) on **Sunday, October 24**. Thimbleberry, salal, wooly sunflower, oceanspray, and vine maple will be planted adjacent to Cartier place.

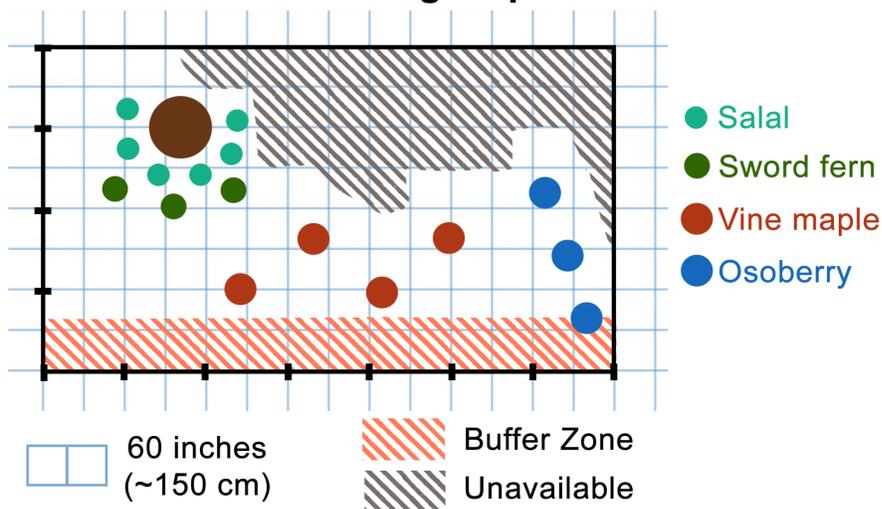
## Kinross Creek Co-op



Thanks to a [TD Park People Grant](#) and our [Art for Plants Fundraiser](#), Free the Fern is ordering hundreds of plants to create a native plant teaching garden, adjacent to Kinross Creek Co-op. We will have a public planting event on **October 24, from 10am-12pm**. We have had 25 people contact us with an interest in volunteering, but we are still looking for more volunteer leaders, planters, table monitors, and entertainers for this major public event. Contact [freethefern@gmail.com](mailto:freethefern@gmail.com) to sign up.

Thanks to a [Rising Youth Grant](#), Free the Fern member, Damian, is also organizing a planting event on **Saturday, October 30**, for the “plot j” just north of our new teaching garden. He will be organizing a group of youth to plant vine maple, sword fern, salal and ocean spray for the area. Please contact Damian at [assadi.9630@hotmail.com](mailto:assadi.9630@hotmail.com) if you know of any youth (15-30 years old) who would be interested to volunteer at this youth planting event on Saturday, October 30.

### Plot J - Planting Map



THIS MONTH'S  
OTHER STORIES

## Event Promo Video



Filmmaker, Daniel Akinshola, helped put together a short promo video for our Free the Fern Community Planting Event. Check out the video by clicking [here](#).

## Monthly Invasive Pulls

At our last Free the Fern meeting, we voted to approve the idea of having a monthly invasive pull for the fall and winter. This pull will be on the first Saturday of every month at a different location along the Champlain Heights Trail.

Mark your calendars for the 2021 dates:

**October 3 - Kinross Creek Co-op - Hosted by Grace**

**November 6 - Alexander Laidlaw Co-op - Hosted by Martin**

**December 4 - Cartier Place - Hosted by Paola or Susan**

Please RSVP if you can attend our invasive pull date

## Indigenous Plant Walk

by [Grace Nombrado](#)



With the support of a [Neighbourhood Small Grant](#), we were honored to be able to invite [Lori Snyder](#), Métis herbalist and educator, to host a [Indigenous Plant Walk](#) on September 11, 2021. She led a group of 15 people on a walk through [Champlain Heights Park](#), sharing the traditional uses of the native and naturalized plants. Our Free the Fern member, Kiki, was able to record a video with highlights from the walk. [This video has now been uploaded to youtube](#) for the public to enjoy.

# Plant Propagation Update

by Teresa Gagné



## **Background:**

In June 2021 members of Free the Fern, headed by Teresa Gagné, collected 47 softwood cuttings, representing 11 species (oceanspray, orange honeysuckle, ninebark, salal, re-flowering currant, tall oregon grape, thimbleberry, trailing blackberry, twin-berry honeysuckle, red huckleberry and rose) found along the Champlain Heights Trail. 7 Free the Fern volunteers agreed to babysit 2 or 3 pots of different cuttings - keeping them watered and protecting them from too much heat or humidity.

## **Current Status:**

After two months and very challenging hot dry summer, we have had the expected mix of successes, failures and 'maybes'. 15 cuttings (32%) survived the summer, but only 5 (11%) of the original cuttings (two huckleberries, 1 ninebark, 1 twinberry, and 1 red flowering currant) are showing any new growth. 34 cuttings (72%) are known to have died and a few of the remaining ones are in poor shape.

## **Lessons Learned:**

Although the results seem discouraging, they were not unexpected. All the volunteers did a great job in caring for the plants, and no one should feel bad if theirs didn't make it. We are pleased that any of the plants survived and are encouraged by the species that are showing new growth. We gained useful information about which cutting types and species were most successful and expect a greater success rate in the future.

## **Future Plans:**

With cooler weather approaching, we hope to take some hardwood or semi-hardwood cuttings for rooting over the winter. This will likely be made easier by the acquisition of a small greenhouse, funded by a [Rising Youth Grant](#) (applied for by Damian).

# Grant Writing Support Needed

by [Kiki Nombrado](#)



Free the Fern is looking at applying for a [Habitat Conservation Trust \(HCT\) Stewardship Grant](#). This grant can be for an up to 5 year stewardship project, with an annual funding from HCT of between \$10,000-\$80,000. The grant application is due by Friday, November 5, 2021. Kiki will be the point person researching the grant and application form. We are also looking for a few other volunteers to help with grant writing and editing. Please contact [cnombrado@gmail.com](mailto:cnombrado@gmail.com) to get in contact with Kiki and help out.

## Next Meeting



**Free the Fern's next monthly members meeting** will be held via Zoom on:

**Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7-8pm.**

A reminder and link will be sent out to members closer to the date.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Free the Fern.

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