

# The Wood Duck

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*A Longnose Gar and some Common Carp in the Ottawa Street Slip.  
See page 174.*

# Significant 2004 Hamilton Study Area Plant Records from the Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium (HAM).

## Part I: Alphabetical Families Aceraceae to Lamiaceae

by C.J. Rothfels

These records from the Hamilton Study Area are the result of fieldwork by RBG staff, fieldwork by other individuals who then deposited their specimens in HAM, or are from herbarium work on previously collected specimens (re-identifications, etc.). Included are any species that are listed as rare in Hamilton or Halton, or which are new for Royal Botanical Gardens (with a few other interesting records thrown in). There is more information on these records available (including UTMs, etc.) upon request.

The following resources were used when determining whether or not a given record was significant in the following areas: Smith 2003 for RBG; Goodban 2004 for Hamilton; Varga et al. 2000 for Halton; and Newmaster et al. 1998 for Ontario. Since Varga et al. don't name the sites where a particular species has been found (they just give the total number of sites for each species), for Halton records I note the Halton status (as per Varga et al.), which may or may not include the site of the 2004 record. This is a different approach from that of the earlier summaries of this type (Rothfels 2003, 2004, 2005b; Rothfels, Spisani & Sylvester 2004), where we attempted to guess as to whether our site was previously known or not. Nomenclature follows Newmaster et al. except for *Amaranthus tuberculatus* var. *rudis* (a new combination), and *Erectites hieraciifolia*, which was corrected to adhere to the botanical rules of nomenclature (J.S.Pringle, pers. comm.).

Acknowledgments and works cited will follow at the end of Part II of this summary, to appear in next month's *Duck*. Non-native records are marked with a "\*".

### ACERACEAE

\* *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. **Sycamore Maple**. SE1

One more large population in Hamilton: downtown, between the railway and Hunter Street, just east of Catherine St., with *Acer negundo* and *Morus alba*. We also collected this species on the harbour side of the High Level, below Dundurn Castle, where it was first reported by J.S. Pringle (1994). Both populations had many trees, of mixed age classes. CJR 1055; 1427, M.T.Johnson et al.

### AMARANTHACEAE

\* *Amaranthus tuberculatus* (Moq.) Sauer var. *rudis* (Sauer) Costea & Tardif. **Common Water-hemp**.

New for Hamilton. This species was abundant on an unused railway spur, Wellington Ave at Burlington Street, in north Hamilton, with *Panicum dichotomiflorum*, *Amaranthus* cf. *retroflexus*, *Setaria faberi*, etc. This taxon is the invasive relative of the Tall Water-hemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus* var. *tuberculatus*), which

is a native species of wetlands in southern Ontario (Costea and Tardiff 2003). Common Water-hemp was first discovered in Canada in 2002; it is now known as a weed in soybean fields in Lambton (Petrolia), Essex (Cottam), and Huron Counties (Walkerton) (Costea et al. in press). CJR 1437, G.Lewer, V.Brcic. Det'd M.Costea.

### ANACARDIACEAE

*Rhus aromatica* Aiton. **Fragrant Sumac**. S5

Three sites in Halton. Paul O'Hara found a large clump of this species (8m x 6m, and 1.8m tall) in Aldershot Woods at the active brickworks north of Hwy 403, in a *Quercus alba*, *Q. rubra*, *Q. velutina*, and *Carya ovata* woodland. With *Helianthus divaricatus*, *Cornus racemosa*, and *Poa compressa*. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM 18606).

*Rhus vernix* L. **Poison Sumac**. S4

New for Halton. A student on a field course found one shrub in Hendrie Valley: "on the left hand side of the trail as you proceed into the reserve, across from the point where the trail veers about 90 degrees past the chain link fence enclosed area." The plant was about 1.5 m tall and no fruit was in evidence. "The cover in this area is a really mixed bag of upland and lowland species (White Pine/Red Oak/Yellow Birch/White & Black Ash) plus old plantings and ornamental escapes." This species was found on RBG property, at Cootes Paradise, in 1970, but that population is extirpated (Smith 2003). Jim Dougan s.n., Ed Fife, et al. (HAM 18501). Verified by J.S. Pringle.

### APIACEAE

\* *Anthriscus caucalis* M. Bieb. **Bur-chervil**

This species has re-appeared at the Laking Garden site (see Rothfels 2004), after being apparently absent in 2003. It was locally common (a 6m-long patch), although the population is much reduced from 2002. CJR 1035.

\* *Heracleum mantegazzianum* Som. & Levier **Giant Hogweed**. SE2

New for RBG and Hamilton. We found this invasive species at three locations in Hamilton this year: Spencer Creek at Cootes Drive; Spencer Creek west of McMaster University, south of Cootes Drive (by McMaster's Zone 7 area - found and reported by HydroOne workers); and the northeast corner of Churchill Park in Westdale. CJR 1023; 1139, E.Oberndorfer. Verified by S.Darbyshire.

*Sanicula canadensis* L. var. *canadensis* **Canada Snakeroot**. S4

New for Halton. Paul O'Hara found a dozen or so plants at the base of a south-facing slope of the Credit River, approximately 5-10m up the slope from the base. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM 18604).

## ARALIACEAE

### \* *Hedera helix* L. **English Ivy**

Second record for Hamilton. A 15-foot-long plant was growing on the west side of Sassafras Point, Cootes Paradise, with *Poa* cf. *nemoralis* in an open *Quercus* ridge with *Q. rubra*, *Hamamelis*, *Cornus*, *Fagus*, and one *Arctium minus*. This plant is far from any cultivated areas, and there were no cultivated-type plants anywhere in the vicinity. We removed the *Hedera* as completely as possible. This record is approximately 500m from the earlier record at Double Marsh (Rothfels 2005b). CJR 982, S.Spisani.

## ASPLENIACEAE

*Asplenium platyneuron* (L.) Oakes ex Eaton **Ebony Spleenwort**. S4  
Four records in Halton. In Guelph Junction Woods, south of Campbellville Road around the tracks (west of Twiss Road). We found two clumps, 10m apart, on low mossy rocks at margin of trail, with *Asarum*, *Prunella*, etc. At the edge of a regenerating pine plantation (hardwoods infiltrating). CJR 1326, P.G.O'Hara, D.Gugler.

## ASTERACEAE

### \* *Artemisia pontica* L. **Roman Wormwood**. SE2?

New for Halton. We found this species to be locally uncommon in loose patches on a regenerating open dry shrubby berm at railway edge, with *Rhus typhina*, *Solidago* cf. *canadensis*, *Solidago nemoralis*, *Prunus virginianum*, *Robinia*, *Daucus*, *Carex divulsa*, etc., at the Limehouse Conservation Area. We couldn't find any fertile plants. CJR 1403, P.G.O'Hara. Det'd J.S.Pringle, C.J.Rothfels.

### \* *Artemisia vulgaris* L. **Common Mugwort**. SE5

Sixth record for Hamilton. We now have six Hamilton collections of this species at HAM; it is almost certainly common and widespread in disturbed habitats in the area. CJR 1263, P.Smith.

### *Aster borealis* (Torr. & A. Gray) Prov. **Rush Aster**. S5

One Halton site. Paul O'Hara found this species, and many other interesting records, at the newly-coined "Paul's Fen": Guelph Junction Woods, on the south side of the railway tracks ~200-300 metres east from where they cross Campbellville Road. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18619).

*Bidens discoidea* (Torr. & A. Gray) Britton **Small Beggar-ticks**. S4  
Fourth Hamilton site. Four plants seen along the downtown Hamilton waterfront, on the west side of Pier 8, by the Marine Discovery Centre. They were growing between coarse limestone chunks along the water's edge, with *Bidens frondosa*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Calystegia sepium*, etc., (all sparse), and were very brittle. CJR 1310.

### \* *Centaurea maculosa* Lam. **Spotted Knapweed**. SE5

New for RBG. We found one clump of this common invasive species in the Arboretum; it is surprising that it hasn't been found on our properties earlier. CJR 1230.

### \* *Coreopsis grandiflora* Hogg ex Sweet **Large-flowered Coreopsis**. SE3?

Third site for Hamilton (Rothfels, Spisani & Sylvester 2004). It was common for 15m along the weedy edge of the railway tracks by the intersection of Walnut and Augusta streets with *Potentilla recta*, *Bromus* sp., *Melilotus* sp., *Dactylis*, etc. CJR 1052

### \* *Coreopsis lanceolata* L. **Lance-leaved Coreopsis**. S4?

Wellington County. Paul O'Hara collected this species along the railway tracks at Puslinch and Highway #6, on the east side. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18585).

### *Erechtites hieraciifolia* (L.) Raf. ex DC. **Pilewort**. S5

Three Halton sites. We found this species at two sites in Halton this year: Nelson Escarpment Woods ESA, Extension 6A and Guelph Junction Woods. Interestingly, it was also common at Sassafras Point after the prescribed burn there this spring – living up to its other common name of American Burnweed. CJR 1239; 1322; 1283, E.Oberndorfer, P.G.O'Hara, D.Gugler.

### *Erigeron pulchellus* Michx. **Robin's Plantain**. S5

Two Halton sites. We found this species in a disturbed habitat in Guelph Junction Woods, on the south side of the railway tracks ~200-300 metres east from where they cross Campbellville Road. CJR 1413, P.G.O'Hara, J.L.Sylvester, S.R.Spisani.

### \* *Helianthus maximiliani* Schrad. **Maximilian's Sunflower**. SE3?

New for Halton. This sunflower was locally common along a weedy roadside sloping down to a *Phragmites* marsh, with *Solidago* cf. *canadensis*, *Coronilla*, *Melilotus alba*, *Poa pratensis*, *Aster pilosus*, etc., on the west side of Guelph Line, ~300m s. of Britannia Rd., Lowville. Ken Ursic reports (pers. comm.) that it was part of a seeding mix used on Guelph Line north of Lowville; these plants could have a similar introduction. CJR 1495.

### *Helianthus strumosus* L. **Pale-leaved Sunflower**. S5

Three sites in Halton. I found this species in Aldershot, north of the North Service Road, west of King Road, in a small disturbed opening in oak clay ravine forest, with *Ceanothus americanus*, *Cornus*, *Fraxinus* seedlings, *Aster laevis*, etc. CJR 1225.

### \* *Hieracium lachenalii* C.C.Gmel. **Lachenal's Hawkweed**. SE2?

Paul O'Hara found this species in the Hilton Falls Complex, Extension A, in weedy gravelly areas on edge of woodland along a driveway. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18617).

### *Lactuca biennis* (Moench) Fern. **Tall Blue Lettuce**. S5

Three Halton sites. Approximately six plants were growing under Sugar Maple, Bitternut, and Bitternut Hickory, in upland woods next to Silver Maple swamp, Hilton Falls Complex Extension A. The tallest plants were ~2m or more tall. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM 18600).

*Lactuca canadensis* L. **Canada Lettuce**. S5

Two Halton sites. We found this species in a dry sandy open field near the railway tracks, with *Carex pennsylvanica*, *Danthonia spicata*, and *Panicum acuminatum*, at Guelph Junction Woods (some plants had toothed cauline leaves, and some did not – P.G.O’Hara s.n. [HAM18614]) and at two locations in the Limehouse Conservation Area (CJR 1392, P.G.O’Hara).

*Lactuca hirsuta* Muhlenb. ex Nutt. **Hairy Lettuce**. S4?

New for Halton. There were three flowering stems growing along the irregularly mowed margin of a trail in young shrubby hardwoods, with poison ivy, *Clinopodium*, *Veronica officinalis*, etc., at Guelph Junction Woods (south side of Campbellville Road around the tracks). CJR 1328, P.G.O’Hara, D.Gugler.

\* *Senecio viscosus* L. **Sticky Groundsel**. SE3

Fifth record for Hamilton? This little weed was locally common on the Stelco Canada property, between North Outfall and the Ottawa Street Slip. CJR 1272, P.Smith.

\* *Solidago sempervirens* L. **Seaside Goldenrod**. SE2

Second Hamilton site. One large clump (>30 stems) was growing beside the West Side Open Cut at Stelco Canada, on shrubby fill, under *Ailanthus*, etc. CJR 1257, P.Smith. This species was first found in Hamilton, under the Skyway, by M.J.Oldham (1997).

*Solidago squarrosa* Muhl. ex Nutt. **Rugged Goldenrod**. S5

Four Halton Sites. Paul found approximately six flowering stalks and a dozen rosettes growing along the old Bruce Trail sidetrail, Georgetown Credit River Valley, on a dry west-facing slope under *Thuja occidentalis*, *Tsuga canadensis*, *Pinus strobus*, *Betula papyrifera* and *Ostrya virginiana*, with *Cornus rugosa*, *Aster macrophyllus*, *Danthonia spicata*, etc. More plants found along slope a little further down the river. P.G.O’Hara s.n. (HAM 18605).

**BRASSICACEAE**

\* *Coronopus didymus* (L.) J.E. SM. **Lesser Wart-cress**. SE1

Second Hamilton site. First found for Hamilton in 2002 (Rothfels 2003), I found this little weedy mustard again, this time in downtown Hamilton, at the corner of Young St. and John St. It was uncommon, growing with small *Polygonum* (doorweeds), etc., in driveway cracks. CJR 1034.

\* *Sisymbrium loeselii* L. **Tall Hedge Mustard**. SE2

Third Hamilton site. Another “weedy yellow mustard,” this species was locally common in dense tall *Melilotus* on waste fill, on the Stelco Canada property. CJR 1267, P.Smith.

**CALLITRICHACEAE**

*Callitriche palustris* L. **Marsh Water-starwort**. S5

Two Halton sites. We found this species to be locally common at two sites in Halton this year: Nelson Escarpment Woods ESA, Extension 6A, and Limehouse Conservation Area. CJR 1284; 1391, E.Oberndorfer, P.G.O’Hara.

**CARYOPHYLLACEAE**

\* *Silene cserei* Baumg. **Csere’s Pink**. SE4

Fourth Hamilton site. This species was common and widespread across the Stelco property. Interestingly, we didn’t see any *Silene vulgaris* on this site. CJR 1250, P.Smith.

\* *Silene dioica* (L.) Clairv. **Red Campion**.

New for RBG, Hamilton and Ontario. We found this species at two locations, both in the Arboretum area, on the north shore of Cootes Paradise. The first plants (nine stems) were behind the Nature Interpretive Centre at the edge of a forested ravine, with *Alliaria*, *Cirsium vulgare*, *Leonurus*, and *Rhus typhina*. The second location was along the Pinetum Trail, ~30m w. of the Arboretum, where over 20 stems were growing along an unmowed path margin at forest edge, with some woody waste material. Associated species included *Daucus*, *Erigeron annuus*, *Poa cf. pratensis*, *Aster* sp., *Geum canadense*, *Sonchus arvensis*, *Trifolium pratense*, etc. CJR 1080; 1250, D.Gugler.

\* *Spergularia media* (L.) C. Presl ex Griseb. **Salt-marsh Sand-spurry**. SE3

Fourth Hamilton site (Rothfels 2003). This little pink was abundant at the intersection of York Road and Sovereign Rd, north of Cootes Paradise. The Hamilton population was on a compacted roadside shoulder, with *Puccinellia*, one of the small *Polygonum*, etc. CJR 1048, S.Rehman.

**CELASTRACEAE**

\* *Euonymus fortunei* (Turcz.) Hand.-Mazz. **Winter Creeper**. SE1  
Since it’s a non-native species, I can’t determine its status in Hamilton and Halton from the available checklists, but I’m sure it is seldom reported. We made two collections this year, the first from the south shore of Cootes Paradise where hundreds of stems formed a dense patch, 6m across (no cultivated plants anywhere near), and the second spreading from the edge of the RBG Rose Garden area, down the ravine. Currently the spread is limited (one patch ~5m across). CJR 1028; 1199, S.Rehman.

**CHENOPODIACEAE**

\* *Chenopodium botrys* L. **Jerusalem-Oak**. SE4

Second Hamilton site. This little chenopod was common on the Stelco Canada property, in waste habitats. CJR 1264, P.Smith.

\* *Salsola collina* Pall. **Katune**. SE4

Second Hamilton site. This species was rare between the rails of abandoned weedy rail line through old industrial area, with *Setaria*, *Eragrostis*, etc., at the railway tracks area between Bay Street and Victoria Street, North Hamilton. This location is close to the first Hamilton record (Oldham 1997), and in a similar habitat. Note: the locally common Russian Thistle is now known as *Salsola tragus* (see, for example, the OPL); *Salsola kali*, while often reported, nearly always refers to collections of *S. tragus*. True *S. kali* is very rare in Ontario. CJR 1440, G.Lewer, V.Brcic.

## CONVOLVULACEAE

*Calystegia spithamea* (L.) Pursh ssp. *spithamea* **Low Bindweed**. S4S5

Four Halton sites. It was locally common at the Bridgeview Survey, Aldershot, in a small shrubby open area on red clay under hydroline at edge of steep ravine, with *Cornus racemosa*, *Solidago juncea*, *Rosa* cf. *carolina*, etc. CJR 1144, P.G.O'Hara, E.Oberndorfer, S.Rehman.

## CORNACEAE

*Cornus florida* L. **Flowering Dogwood**. S4

Paul's discovery of at least six apparently healthy trees with evidence of good recruitment in Nelson Escarpment Woods, Burlington, is significant because this species is being decimated across Ontario by an introduced blight. One stem was ~12cm dbh/8m tall. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18610).

## CUCURBITACEAE

*Sicyos angulatus* L. **Bur Cucumber**. S5

Fifth Hamilton site. This species was uncommon, with *Hesperis*, *Dactylis*, *Vitis*, *Solidago*, etc., on weedy railway edge at the Aberdeen Railyard complex. CJR 1514.

## CYPERACEAE

*Carex brunnescens* (Pers.) Poir. ex Lam. ssp. *brunnescens* **Brownish Sedge**. S5

New for Halton. Two stations from Guelph Junction Woods. P.G.O'Hara s.n., C.J.Rothfels (HAM18578; HAM18590).

*Carex crawfordii* Fern. **Crawford's Sedge**. S5

New for Hamilton. I found several clumps of this dry-land sedge in a small railyard at the south end of Gage Road, downtown Hamilton. It's a disturbed site, so I don't know whether this record should be considered a native occurrence of this species. CJR 1083. Verified by A.A. Reznicek.

*Carex diandra* Schrank **Lesser Panicked Sedge**. S5

Third Hamilton site, also collected from Wellington. We collected this species from the north edge of Beverly Swamp, on the east side of Lennon Road, ~500m s. of Gore Road, and from the Puslinch Wetland Reserve, aka Crieff Bog. CJR 1066; 1070, J.L.Sylvester, G.Lewer.

\* *Carex divulsa* Stokes ssp. *divulsa* **Separated Sedge**. SE1

New for Halton. This species was common at the Limehouse Conservation Area, on a regenerating open dry shrubby berm at the railway edge, with *Rhus typhina*, *Solidago* cf. *canadensis*, *Solidago nemoralis*, *Prunus virginiana*, *Robinia*, *Daucus*, etc. *Artemisia pontica* was also collected from this location. The *Carex* was cespitose and tough. A.A. Reznicek confirmed the species-level identification, but was unable to be sure which subspecies was involved, as he has difficulty applying "the European subspecies distinctions to plants introduced into North America" (pers. comm.). CJR 1402, P.G.O'Hara.

\* *Carex flacca* Schreb. **Heath Sedge**. SE2

Wellington County. We made two more collections of this species from the Puslinch area. The first was along the railway tracks at Puslinch and Highway #6, on the east side, and the second from the north side of Gore Road at Lennon Road (boundary with Hamilton) where it was very common. CJR 1063, J.L.Sylvester, P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18586), et al.

*Carex livida* (Wahlenb.) Willd. **Livid Sedge**. S5

Wellington County. Local, in the Puslinch Wetland Reserve, aka Crieff Bog, between Puslinch and Crieff. CJR 1073, G.Lewer, J.L.Sylvester.

*Carex prairea* Dewey **Fen Panicked Sedge**. S5

Wellington County. Local, in the Puslinch Wetland Reserve, aka Crieff Bog, between Puslinch and Crieff. CJR 1072, J.L.Sylvester, G.Lewer. Verified by A.A. Reznicek.

*Carex prasina* Wahlenb. **Drooping Sedge**. S4

Three Halton sites. This species was locally common in Aldershot, on the east side of King Rd, north of old brickworks. CJR 1111, I.Vaithilingam.

*Carex trisperma* Dewey var. *billingsii* Knight **Billings's Sedge**. S2S3

Wellington County. Common in Puslinch Bog (on the south side of Puslinch Lake). CJR 1098.

*Carex viridula* Michx. ssp. *viridula* **Greenish Sedge**. S5

One Halton site, also collected in Wellington. The Halton specimen was collected ~300m southeast of the intersection of Hwy 6 and Hwy 5 (Clappison's Corners), in an old gravel pit on top of Escarpment behind Liburdi Engineering. The Wellington plants are also from an old gravel pit, this time at the north end of the Puslinch Wetland Reserve, between Puslinch and Crieff. CJR 1105; 1062, G.Lewer, J.L.Sylvester.

*Carex X subviridula* (Kukenth.) Fern. **Somewhat-green Sedge**. S2

New for Halton. This taxon was growing with *Carex viridula* (see above) ~300m southeast of the intersection of Hwy 6 and Hwy 5 (Clappison's Corners), in an old gravel pit on top of the Escarpment behind Liburdi Engineering. It favoured wet areas, with *Panicum* sp., *Juncus* spp., *Carex viridula*, *Scirpus pendulus*, etc. There were several robust clumps, but no *Carex flava* seen, oddly (it's the other parent of this taxon). CJR 1104.

\* *Cyperus bipartitus* Torr. **River Cyperus**. S5

Four Halton sites. This species has been introduced to an artificial pond in the Guelph Junction Woods, via sand trucked in the sand from the Long Point area. It is otherwise native to our area. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18607).

*Cyperus lupulinus* (Spreng.) Marcks ssp. *macilentus* (Fern.) Marcks **Slender Cyperus**. S4

New for Halton. This is an exciting, and odd, find, being a species I associate with sand plains further south. Paul found it at the

Guelph Junction Woods, in a dry sandy open field near railway tracks with *Thymus serpyllum*, *Danthonia spicata*, *Panicum acuminatum*, and *Carex* spp. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18612).

*Dulichium arundinaceum* (L.) Britton **Three-way Sedge**. S5  
Two Halton sites. From a marsh in the backside of the Neeland Property, Sayer's Mills corners, (bounded by 20 and 15 Sideroads and 5th and 6th Lines). P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18598).

*Eleocharis intermedia* Schult. **Matted Spike-rush**. S4  
Two Halton sites, fourth Hamilton site. We found this species on rich mud of the bank of Bronte Creek, ~100m s. of Campbellville Road, with *Sparganium* sp., *Ludwigia*, *Veronica* cf. *americana*, etc. in Guelph Junction Woods, and then at the proposed quarry site, north of Carlisle, in Flamborough. CJR 1336, 1502; P.G.O'Hara.

*Scirpus hudsonianus* (Michx.) Fern. **Hudsonian Bulrush**. S5  
New for Halton. Another very exciting find from "Paul's Fen" (see the *Aster borealis* entry), Guelph Junction Woods. This "bulrush that wants to be a cottongrass" was common in the small linear fen paralleling the railway, with cedars, *Juncus balticus*, *Equisetum variegatum*, *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*, *Carex flava*, etc. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM 18618), CJR 1409.

#### EUPHORBIACEAE

*Chamaesyce vermiculata* (Raf) House **Hairy Spurge**. S5  
Second Hamilton site, first Hamilton record since 1957 (when Tamsalu collected it from a railway near RBG property). This species was rare, local, at the Stelco Canada site. CJR 1255, P.Smith.

\* *Euphorbia marginata* Pursh **Snow-on-the-mountain**. SE2  
New for RBG. Smith (2003) excluded this species from the RBG list based on the lack of evidence for self-perpetuating populations. The 2004 collection, from the Mercer's Glen compost area, complements the pattern of earlier occurrences of this species as a short-term weed of disturbed habitats. The 2004 record is of one tall plant (~5 feet tall), on rich topsoil/coarse woody debris pile, with *Alliaria* rosettes, *Nepeta*, etc. CJR 1506.

\* *Mercurialis annua* L. **Herb-mercury**. SEH  
Second Hamilton site. I found this species again at the Mercer's Glen compost area (see Rothfels 2004, 2005b), where two plants were growing at the base of a freshly disturbed topsoil/coarse woody debris mound. A new population, on the north shore of Cootes Paradise, behind the Lath House in the Arboretum, had more plants – approximately 12 males and 12 females. I hadn't realized that this species was dioecious, so the male and female plants caused me considerable confusion for a while. The Lath House plants grew in a rich waste area, with *Euphorbia* cf. *peplus*, *Myosotis* sp., Purslane, *Malva neglecta*, *Thlaspi*, etc. CJR 1231; 1505.

\* *Ricinus communis* L. **Castor-bean**.  
New for RBG, Hamilton, and Ontario. A single large (>7ft tall) plant was growing on top of a rich mound of topsoil, with *Datura*, etc. in RBG's Mercer's Glen compost area - between Old Guelph Rd and

Mercer's Glen. This is a waste area used as repository for coarse woody horticultural debris. CJR 1497.

#### FABACEAE

*Desmodium cuspidatum* (Mulhemb. ex Willd.) DC. ex Loudon var. *cuspidatum* **Large-bracted Tick-trefoil**. S3  
Three Halton sites. We found ~30 plants on an open savannah-like crest of hill, with *Desmodium glutinosum*, *Aster* cf. *macrophyllus*, *Ceanothus americanus*, *Helianthus divaricatus*, *Cornus* sp., *Taenidia*, etc., under *Q. rubra*, Witch-hazel, *Acer saccharum*, etc., in Aldershot, east side of King Road, on north side of the old brickworks. CJR 1109, I.Vaithilingam.

\* *Glycine max* (L.) Merr. **Soya Bean**. SE2  
New for Hamilton. There was one plant growing resolutely from the crack between the pavement of York Blvd and the curb, just north of the High Level Bridge. I biked by it every day, but never stopped to collect it (it would be a little hazardous to do so!) And it felt wrong to pick so plucky a plant.

\* *Trifolium arvense* L. **Rabbit-foot Clover**. SE4.  
New for RBG, second Hamilton site (see Rothfels 2003). Two individuals were growing on RBG's York Blvd Prairie, on the southeast edge of the main (upper) plateau, in an old field, with *Berteroa*, *Poa pratense*, etc. CJR 1103.

#### FUMARIACEAE

*Corydalis aurea* Willd. ssp. *aurea* **Golden Corydalis**. S5  
Three Halton sites. Brenda Van Ryswyk took an excellent photo of this species from the Guelph Junction Woods. B. Van Ryswyk s.n., et al. (HAM17953).

#### HYDROCHARITACEAE

*Vallisneria americana* Michx. **Water Celery**. S5  
Third Hamilton site? This species was abundant for ~20m x 5m in the non-contact cooling water outflow (1-2m deep) at the Stelco Canada West Side Open Cut. There is an earlier report of this species from "Hamilton Harbour," (Goodban 2003), but I don't know where within the harbour it was found. CJR 1260, P.Smith.

#### JUNCACEAE

*Juncus balticus* Willd. **Baltic Rush**. S5  
One Halton site. Another very exciting find from "Paul's Fen" (see the *Aster borealis* entry), Guelph Junction Woods. Locally common (and surprisingly large) in the small linear fen paralleling the railway, with cedars, *Equisetum variegatum*, *Scirpus hudsonianus*, *Carex flava*, *Spiranthes* cf. *romanzoffiana*, etc. CJR 1414, P.G.O'Hara, J.L.Sylvester, S.R.Spisani.

#### LAMIACEAE

*Lycopus asper* Greene **Western Bugleweed**. S2  
Second Hamilton site? One robust clump at edge of coarse fill at harbour's edge, with *Bidens* sp., *Polygonum* sp., *Xanthium*, etc., Stelco Canada property. Also seen ~200m to the east, towards the Ottawa Street Slip. CJR 1253, P.Smith.

\* *Melissa officinalis* L. **Lemon-balm**. SE1  
Second Hamilton site, from the north shore of Cootes Paradise, in the Arboretum. One small clump was growing in a portion of previously-mowed turf that has been allowed to go fallow. It was on a small mound (tree used to be planted there?) with *Arctium minus*, *Verbascum phlomoides* (see below), *Origanum* (see below), *Cirsium vulgare*, etc. It must have arrived in fill or compost from another area? CJR 1426; 1213, A.Purdy.

\* *Origanum vulgare* L. **Wild Marjoram**. SE5.  
New for RBG, and Halton. The RBG plants were growing with *Melissa* (see above) in the RBG Arboretum (Hamilton), and were much larger than the Halton plants, which were collected from the Limehouse Conservation Area, where they were uncommon on an open slope beside the railway tracks, with *Hieracium* cf. *caespitosum*, *Dactylis*, *Solidago* cf. *canadensis*, etc. CJR 1214; 1405, A.Purdy. P.G.O'Hara.

\* *Physostegia virginiana* (L.) Benth. ssp. *virginiana* **Obedient Plant**. S4  
"Rare" in Halton. For some reason, Varga doesn't list the number of Halton sites for this species, but only lists it as "rare." Paul found it at a spring-fed pond at a residence in Nelson Escarpment Woods, where it is probably planted; there was a variegated horticultural grass (*Phalaris*?) in the same natural habitat. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM 18615). ☒

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## Hamilton Community Peregrine Project Update

by Audrey Gamble

A pair of adult peregrines once again spent the winter with us in downtown Hamilton. The pair has appeared closely bonded all winter, frequently perching together and sharing meals even during the off season. As they have favourite sheltered perches where they soak up the winter sun, I generally know where to look for them and it was a rare day over the winter that I didn't spot at least one.

The downtown peregrines protect their nest area with a strong territorial instinct all year long. In January repairs were undertaken on the lighted sign on the Standard Life building next to the Sheraton and the pair displayed the characteristic team work that we have seen on other occasions. Madame X flew interference while Newbie stood point guard on the top of the Sheraton "t". I use these names advisedly as I have not as yet confirmed individual band numbers this season and heaven only knows, I've been caught out before.

Roof top personnel were not the only ones drawing fire from the falcon team during the winter months. On two separate occasions HCPP volunteers were

called out to rescue what was reported to be a downed peregrine near the Stelco Tower. On both occasions the downed birds were juvenile Red-tailed Hawks, presumably slowed down by the vigilant peregrines. Both youngsters were more shaken than injured and were put into the care of a raptor rehabilitator to get a bit of TLC before being released.

As the winter days lengthened, the peregrines focused their activities closer to the nest site. They are currently active around and in the nest ledge and, as everything indicates eggs on the way, we are gearing up for Falcon Watch 2005. It was around this time in 1995 that the first Hamilton nest was confirmed; one of only four occupied peregrine nest sites in southern Ontario. It's marvelous to know that since then twenty-eight young peregrines have fledged from the downtown Hamilton nest.

A most interesting development in the story of young Dundas, the lone male of the 2004 brood. Many of you will remember my reference to him as a "monkey" or a "holy terror." Even as a fledgling, Dundas earned his nicknames

with a fast and loose lifestyle, dodging amongst buildings and traffic, and coming to ground precariously close to people. Back in mid-November local birder Angus MacMillan spotted Dundas on Hamilton mountain and was able to read the leg band...singular.

It is unusual enough to come upon a young peregrine eating a pigeon on the sidewalk, but even more surprising was the fact that this bird was missing all of his right foot below the feathers. Subsequently, HCPP volunteers and Hamilton Animal Control had several reports of Dundas, all indicating that he was eating well and hunting his own prey.

He disappeared from my radar screen for awhile so I was thrilled to get a report in late February from Beth Barron of CHTV after she watched Dundas feasting on a pigeon on the east mountain. While prudent not to scare him away from his hard-earned meal, Beth was able to get clear images of him that indicate he is fine form despite the obvious disability. Here's hoping he can keep himself out of further mischief.

All in all things are looking up. ☒