



The Town of Aylmer's Rotary Park has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Thom Polland, Municipal Parks and Property Manager, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status for Rotary Park and is recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Mr. Polland noted, briefly, the following steps that led to the prestigious designation for the Town of Aylmer's Rotary Park and for his role in Environmental Stewardship.

- Started in late summer 1999 with a no-mow zone of 646 square feet in the middle of the park.
- Hills and slopes were also classified no-mow zones with an additional 873 square feet.
- Several reforestation projects have occurred in the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 with approximately 60% survival rate of native hardwoods and pines.
- Installation of grass walking trails winding through the naturalized areas to access different sections of the park.
- Butterfly garden created in 2001 with all plant material specific to support the life cycle of the butterfly.
- Wildlife and butterfly identification posters put up annually, 2006 permanent posters are targeted to be installed.
- 25 blue bird boxes are installed through out the park, with more being planned in 2006.
- Purple martin house installed 2002 and upgraded in 2005.
- A 200 capacity bat house was installed in the naturalized area 2005.
- Fallen trees in the naturalized areas are left to provide shelter and food source for the parks wildlife.

- Integrated pest management is working better than expected and maintaining well below our threshold limit.
- As part of Aylmer's involvement in Communities in Bloom over the years, Rotary Park was always highly regarded and scored high on the judging criteria.
- Through various publications, golf courses were obtaining Audubon certification, the criteria were reviewed and it was believed that Rotary Park fit the profile perfectly and that's when it was decided to take the challenge for certification.
- Rotary park passed all criteria and exceeded in some, we can now claim and promote environmental stewardship to the highest level national and internationally.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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 Certified Audubon Cooperative  
 Sanctuary Home of Rotary Park

