

## Newport Forest

May 09/00

**Weather:** mixed sun/cloud, warm: 25+, humid, light breeze from south

**Purpose:** to begin marking trails and surveying trees in riverfront forest

**Participants:** Kee and Nick Mihlik

We found a game trail that began in the open grassy area next to the river and followed it up over the shoulder of the hogsback and then down along a gentle cliff, paralleling the river, until we arrived at the grassy knoll that marked the beginning of the riverfront forest. Along the way, we cut away bushes and branches that obtruded on the path. Along the cliff we also cut little foot notches where the going was either too steep or tricky for people with difficulty walking. We paused at the knoll to eat a little lunch and to explore the riverbank for a few minutes. The only animal life was a very large "plop" as something the size of a rather large frog leapt into the water. (Couldn't be a bullfrog, could it?)

We continued the path into the forest, not at all certain whether we were taking the best route, but heading for the centre. Nearly there, we stopped marking the trail and proceeded ahead to reconnoiter. Since it was getting a little late in the afternoon, we abandoned the ambition of marking the trail all the way to the end of the forest and decided to collect leaves. Nick did this while Kee walked from tree to tree, trying to determine species. He ended with the following list:

Sycamore - some very large trees in there, one at least 4' dbh!

Sugar Maple - mostly large trees, upwards of 2' dbh

White Ash - several trees, medium to large

Walnut - several suspected trees, most large walnut were cut years ago

Black Maple - several large trees from 2 to 2.5' dbh

Manitoba Maple - one young tree, at least

Pignut Hickory - at least one tree, about 1' dbh

American Elm - several trees seen

(there are many more to come)

Going out, we met Nina Hurdle who told us of a native Clematis growing at the bend in the trail that leads from the pasture to the river. She also told us of the remains of an old Mill by Fleming's Creek on Harvey's property.