

6.0 Human History, Trails, Community Partnerships & Education Programs

Sifton Bog ESA is a popular site for nature appreciation, photography, walking/ hiking and education. However, it has not always been this way. This chapter discusses the history, trails/ access system and permitted activities as well as the role the community has played in maintaining and improving the site. A description of the many research projects and educational programs that have been carried out at the ESA is also given.

6.1 Human History

Humans have interacted with the Sifton Bog site for hundreds of years. This section describes some of the people and events that have influenced the site over its long history.

6.1.1 Pre-European Period: Pre-1820

In the pre-European time frame, the bog was likely used by Aboriginal people as a hunting ground. As well, the bog may have provided many unique foods and materials not commonly available in the surrounding deciduous forests. The fruits of the Highbush Blueberry, Black Huckleberry and Cranberry were likely eaten. A flavourful tea could be made from the leaves of the Labrador Tea. A vitamin C-rich tea could be made from the needles of White Pine and Black Spruce. Peat could be dried and burned for heat and cooking. Peat could also be used as a diaper, wound gauze, packing material, and for many other purposes. Spruce roots could be used to “sew” canoes and spruce gum was used as a sealant. On the high ridges around the bog, oaks and hickories provided acorns and nuts, a food staple for many people through the ages. Archaeological remnants and sites have been found in and around Sifton Bog ESA, confirming aboriginal use of the area.

6.1.2 Early European Period: 1820 - 1900

The landscape of southwestern Ontario changed greatly with the arrival of the European settlers. From 1820 to 1880 the forests were cleared and by 1900 the bog was surrounded by farm fields. In the 1870s or 1880s, early reference to the bog was as Foster’s Swamp or Bog or Redmond’s Swamp or Bog. George Foster owned part of the site and Michael Redmond owned another part. The bog was located at Lot 26, Concession 1, London Township.

London’s pioneer naturalist, W.E. Saunders, collected plants from the bog in 1888 and recorded the site as the Spruce Swamp. In 1889 a study of the area was made by the Entomological Society of Canada (which later became the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London). At that time the depth of peat was measured at 60 ft (18 m) at the centre and a minimum of 8 ft (2.4 m) around the outside. Later, in 1894, naturalists J.A. Blackwell and W.T. McClement called it the Spruce Swamp Bog.

In 1896, an engineer’s report to the Waterworks Commission of London stated that the water in the pond was surface water and probably the source of springs along the north bank of the Thames River (London Waterworks Commission 1896). The report indicated the pond was 40 acres (16 ha) in size. In 1896 - 1897, a drain was dug in a southwesterly direction from the pond for investigation purposes by the waterworks commission. Soundings made in the pond showed the water was about 24 ft (7.3 m) deep and the muck was 20 ft (6 m) deep, the bottom being white sand. These tests led the engineer to suggest the bog might supply a half million gallons of water per day, but the colouration and acidity of the water were not acceptable.

In 1900, the north drain from the pond was dug for drainage purposes (Crawford 1926).

6.1.3 Early 20th Century Period: 1900 - 1945

In the 20th century there were many attempts to derive some commercial benefit from the bog's natural resources. From 1900 - 1902, a series of clay tiles (Kirk Drain) was installed about 3 m below ground, from the pond southwest to the Thames River in an attempt to drain it for growing celery (Figure 9). The undertaking failed and was abandoned. A linear line or 'scar' is still seen on aerial photographs today (Map 6).

In the fall of 1911, Lillian Robinson, a student at the Normal School, recorded in her scrapbook an outing her class took to "Redmond's Peat Bog" with Dr. Dearness. The group walked from the Thames River, past the Sanatorium for Consumptives, onto Mr. Sanders Lane, through a celery farm and into the woods. Lillian wrote: "Going into the Bog we came upon a ditch which ran a considerable distance through it. At a turn in the ditch where there seemed to be a well covered over with boards. We all halted while Mr. Dearness told us the purpose of the ditch. It had been dug for the purpose of increasing the city water supply. The water proved to be no good. The ditch had drained away a great deal of water from the pond in the centre of the Bog. The banks of the ditch were lined on either side with various Heathy Shrubs. On the side of the ditch we were on was a soft springy path of Peat which had been thrown up when the ditch was dug." Lillian Robinson collected and/or noted the following species: Marsh or Wild Rosemary, Leatherleaf, peat, Sphagnum Moss, a rush, Cotton sedge, a sedge, Tamarack, Black Spruce, Cranberry, Sundews, Pitcher Plant, Sweet Wintergreen, and a fern.

From about 1900-1930, peat was extracted for fuel but was found to be of very poor quality. Around the same time, 1914-1940, Black Spruce were cut and sold as Christmas trees by the Foster family. During the winter of 1941-42 the Fosters sold carloads of Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) to Defense Industries who used it in making fuse powder. The shrubs were cut to ground level and burned to produce a high quality carbon (McLeod 1992).

In 1926, UWO graduate student Margaret Crawford produced an M.A. thesis on the growth patterns of Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) (Crawford 1926). She called the site Redmond Swamp and recorded the dominant flora of the bog. She wrote: "According to John Dearness, shrub growth in the northwest corner is recent. Only 25 years ago [1901], the area was covered solely by *Sphagnum* and about this time it was scalped."

6.1.4 Post War Period: 1945 - 1967

In the 1950s, aggregate extraction took place on lands along the east side of the bog, as is evident in the 1950 and 1955 aerial photos (see Map 7a). The extent of the open bog mat (shrub bog) appears larger than it is today, extending farther to the northeast in the area of the boardwalk as well as farther to the southeast. Presumably, this was a result of the peat and tree extraction which disturbed and removed the treed bog community.

Mr. Davis, the original owner of the greenhouse on Riverside Drive (Figure 9), hand dug a shallow pond within the swamp at the end of Naomee Place sometime prior to 1950. This landowner owned the strip of land from the southern edge of Naomee Park to Riverside Drive and used water from this pond for his greenhouse operation. The pond was likely enlarged and deepened at some point to retain enough water for this operation. John Schalk, the most recent owner, had a small pumphouse on the edge of this pond to pump the water to the greenhouses. The pumphouse was dismantled in the mid 1990s, when the land between the greenhouses on Riverside Drive and the pond to the north was severed for the new subdivision.

During the summer of 1956, Dr. W. W. Judd began daily visits to Sifton Bog as part of his work with the Department of Zoology at the University of Western Ontario. During these visits it occurred to him that Sifton Bog should be preserved as an educational and recreational facility in London for future generations. Dr. Judd worked tirelessly from 1958 to 1966 to have the bog properties publicly owned. He created a collection of 433 letters, reports, newspaper columns and other documents that are preserved on microfilm as "*Preservation of the Byron Bog - a Case History in Conservation*" and stored at the UWO library. The archives of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Inc., stored at the Central Library, also contain a copy.

In 1957, the Official Plan of the Township of London zoned the Byron Bog as “open space area.” In 1960, Mowbray Sifton of the Sifton Construction Company Limited, which had acquired part of the bog, offered it to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority but the UTRCA executive committee decided against it at that time.

In 1961, the area was annexed into the City of London from the Township of London. Soon after, a joint committee of the Kiwanis Club of London, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and London City Council took steps to have the bog preserved. Mr. Sifton donated his 27 acres (10.9 ha) to the City with the understanding the remaining acres would be purchased and preserved. In 1963, the UTRCA applied to the Ontario government for financial aid following a resolution from the city supporting the purchase of the bog. In 1964 the UTRCA was successful in receiving a grant of \$9,900 from the Province of Ontario to purchase the remaining acres. In 1966, City Council changed the name to Sifton Botanical Bog, later shortened to Sifton Bog.

The Oakridge Park subdivision was built in the 1960s.

6.1.5 Early Public Ownership Period: 1967 - 1993

Soon after purchase of the bog, the London PUC and UTRCA undertook a plan of development for the site. From 1967 to 1968, a 1200-metre trail was blazed around the bog. Some 600 m of fencing was installed along the east and south borders and along the north border between the bog and St. Aidan’s Church. In 1968, the parking lot off Oxford Street was opened. The City’s Parks Department erected a small brick field house at this entrance to be used for education programs. A map contained in an early brochure of the site (Appendix M1) shows the extent of the site, location of a loop trail, parking lot and field house as depicted in an early PUC brochure of the bog.



First boardwalk over the bog mat, circa 1979

The first boardwalk with rails was installed in 1974 by the Kiwanis Club and London’s Public Utilities Commission. The 162 m (530 ft) structure was designed as self-supporting units that floated on the bog on styrofoam pads. It survived until 1989 when a new boardwalk, without rails, was installed over the remains of the first one.

Around 1980, the PUC produced the first brochure about Sifton Bog. Since that time, at least four other brochures have been produced. Copies of all five brochures (circa 1980, 1986, 1990, 1995, 2009) are included in Appendices M1 - M5.

In 1979, a development proposal for lands south of the bog was submitted and a detailed Hydrogeological and Life Science Study was prepared (Gartner Lee Associates Ltd. 1979). In 1986, the Hazelden North subdivision was constructed. During construction, in 1986 or 1987, the Kirk Drain was found and reconnected to storm sewers in the subdivision being built south of the woodlot behind John Dearness School (Norquay homes development, Chalfont Crescent area). This resulted in a drawdown of water levels in the southwest corner of the natural area. Gradually the ponds/swamps in the Naomee Place area dried up. One of these ponds was being used to take water samples as part of the Integrated Resource Assessment for Sifton Bog that was underway. Golder Associates Ltd. estimated 60 gallons per minute flowed out of the Kirk Drain.

Hyde Park Road, which dissected the eastern wing of the ESA, was re-routed around the area between 1974 and 1982 creating a dead end “Old Hyde Park Road.” In 1988-90 the Hazelden North subdivision was built.

On Friday, July 1, 1988, a fire occurred in the peat, south of the major bend in the boardwalk. The fire re-flared for three days, requiring several visits by the Fire Department and Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The fire occurred during a hot, dry summer in which the water levels in Sifton Bog were lower than average. The fire fighters were hindered by the distance to the nearest fire hydrant (Hartson Road). When the fire was eventually extinguished, the burnt-out area measured about 75 ft (23 m) across (Rosemary Dickinson, personal communication).

In 1989, City of London Planning Committee rejected several applications for high-density residential development on three parcels adjacent to the east boundary of the bog and west of Hyde Park Road. There was a great deal of public concern over the potential environmental impacts of this development on the bog’s ecology and there was a demand for scientific information to guide development. Maaiké Froelich, a neighbour and scientist, spearheaded community efforts to push for good hydrological studies and the closure of the Kirk Drain.

From 1990 to 1992 an Integrated Resource Management Study of the Sifton Bog was undertaken to address concerns relating to the potential impact of future development on the site’s hydrological and ecological features. Several recommendations were made (see Chapter 8). The study was to be used as a baseline document and Conservation Master Plan for future development and management considerations. The study also recommended that the isolated pockets of swamp in the southeast and southwest corners be included as part of the Sifton Bog wetland complex.

The Kirk Drain was finally closed in October of 1991 after the study had concluded its data-collection phase. It had been open for four or five years.

In September of 1992, a large group of volunteers and staff from the UTRCA pulled Purple Loosestrife from the marsh near the trail head, with great success. This non-native plant has not re-colonized the area to any great extent.

6.1.6 Recent Period: 1994 - 2007

In 1998 the field house building was removed as it was not being used and was subject to vandalism. The concrete pad (floor) was retained.

In 1999, the Oxford Street entrance parking lot and lands were re-graded to direct runoff away from eroding areas. The parking lot was then paved. Volunteers and staff planted trees, shrubs and flowers to naturalize the lawn area; due to low survivorship, the planting continued for several years.

Friends of Sifton Bog formed in the 1990s from a subcommittee of the Oakridge Hazelden Community Association.

In 2001 the Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) Management Team was formed, funded by City of London and staffed by UTRCA, to do the hands-on management of London’s ESAs including trail maintenance, enforcement, education, and safety. In addition, 10 interpretive signs were installed along the boardwalk to describe the plants and animals and origins of the bog, a project of the UTRCA and Friends of Sifton Bog. All but the large sign at the entrance were destroyed by vandals the same year.

In 2002, the Oxford Street entranceway was redesigned again to move the trail around an eroding area. A cedar pole fence was added to re-direct foot traffic. Limestone blocks were added to the concrete pad as sitting areas. In 2003, the boardwalk was extended another 100 metres and the platform by Redmond’s Pond was rebuilt with steel railings. UTRCA staff did the work with funding provided by Friends of Sifton Bog.

Around 2000, neighbours of the bog began complaining about large numbers of White-tailed Deer grazing in their gardens. Concerns were expressed about the impacts of the large herd on human safety (i.e., deer-car collisions) and the sensitive bog habitat. In 2001, the UTRCA facilitated a community committee to study the issue. In 2003, after 18 months of investigation, the Sifton Bog White-tailed Deer Community Steering Committee produced a report outlining management options to deal with the overabundance of deer and their impact on neighbourhoods and the bog (Sifton Bog White-tailed Deer Community Steering Committee, 2003). The final recommendation was that the herd be culled through a controlled archery hunt. The UTRCA Board of Directors supported the recommendation, but London's Planning Committee and Municipal Council did not. Council requested a seven-point action plan be prepared to address other matters (see Appendix K).

One of the recommendations centered on a deer count. The ESA Management Team organized annual deer counts in November of 2003 to 2007, estimating 27 to 59 deer respectively (see Chapter 7.8 for further discussion). The carrying capacity of a 50-ha site is estimated to be three deer.

In 2004/05, retail and townhouse development (Marsh Trail) on lands along Hyde Park Road proceeded. In the summer of 2006, the Sifton Bog Master Plan Update was initiated. In the fall of 2006, a third extension to the boardwalk was made, taking it close to the Oxford Street entrance.

In the fall of 2006, Dr. W.W. Judd was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of London and the UTRCA for his dedication to protecting Sifton Bog ESA. The accompanying page describes more fully Dr. Judd's involvement with the bog.

6.1.7 People and Preservation

Several individuals have made exceptional contributions towards the awareness, acquisition and ongoing protection of the Sifton Bog. The key individuals are listed in the table below. A great number of other people have made contributions along the way as well, working alongside the 'leaders' or working in the background.

Key individuals involved in the protection of Sifton Bog

Name	Affiliation	Years	Actions
Dr. John Dearness	Principle at the Normal School and McIlwraith Field Naturalist member.	1889 -1920s	Collected and catalogued plant samples from the bog in the late 1880s to early 1900s. Brought students to the bog. (He lived to be over 100 yrs old and died in the 1950s.)
Dr. W. W. Judd	Biology Professor and neighbour of the bog.	1956 onward	Raised awareness, led push to acquire land, studied plants and animals and published numerous articles on the bog.
Sifton family	Landowners of the bog and land developers.	1960s	Donated land to the UTRCA and City
Maaïke Froelich	Neighbour	1985-1995	Spearheaded community response to development proposals that could negatively impact the bog, particularly water quality and quantity issues. Maaïke took the lead on getting something done about the fire in the 1980s and spearheaded efforts to get the Kirk Drain closed.
Rosemary Dickinson	Member of the Oakridge Hazelden Community Association	1985 onward	Worked with Maaïke Froelich on the above issues. Rosemary also led the Friends of Sifton Bog community group that assisted with plantings at the Oxford Street entrance, and fundraised for money to help extend the boardwalk and install educational signs at the main entrance.

Dr. W.W. Judd and Sifton Bog

Dr. Judd is inextricably linked with Sifton Bog. Throughout his long life (both academic and personal), he has taken great interest in the animals and plants of the bog and has lead efforts to ensure its long term preservation.



Dr. William W. Judd with his Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007

During the summer of 1956, Dr. Judd began daily visits to Sifton Bog as part of his work with the Department of Zoology at UWO. His home was located just north of Oxford Street, so the site was in handy proximity. Dr. Judd had studied bogs and insects in other regions of Canada before discovering this bog in 1950.

During these visits it occurred to him that Sifton Bog (Byron Bog) should be preserved as an educational and recreational facility. From 1958 to 1966, Dr. Judd worked with the City of London to have the bog publicly owned.

Dr. Judd created a collection of 433 letters, reports, newspaper columns and other documents that are preserved on microfilm as "Preservation of the Byron Bog – a Case History in Conservation" and stored at the UWO library. The archives of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, Inc., stored at the Central Library, also contain a copy.

6.2 Trails and Access Points

The Sifton Bog ESA is a popular place for visitors. Map 9a illustrates the current system of trails (both managed and unmanaged) and access points in the Sifton Bog ESA. In total, there are about 2.5 km of designated or approved trails managed by the ESA Management Team. Another kilometre of unmanaged (i.e., unofficial, illegal) trail exists as well, some of it on adjoining private property and some of it in the southern end of the ESA. Some deer trails are so well used they resemble human foot trails.

The main entrance to the bog proper is on Oxford Street, west of Hyde Park Road. A large wooden sign has been erected near Oxford Street to indicate this entry point and identify the site as Sifton Bog ESA. The design of this sign is used at all of London's ESAs. There is a gated parking lot for about 15 cars, a sitting area (limestone blocks) and interpretive signs. The gate at the head of the parking lot is closed in the winter, so visitors must park elsewhere.

There is a small gate about half way along the east fence of the parking lot that is always left open for pedestrian access. A 370-m (1200-ft) boardwalk extends from near the entrance, over the lagg zone, through the swamp and bog to Redmond's Pond. At the pond there is a floating platform (with rails) that allows visitors to view the pond and open bog. No fishing is permitted in Redmond's Pond.

The other major trail runs east-west and is located along the south end of the ESA. This section of trail is a little over 2 km in length and has a few side



Main bog entrance at parking lot off Oxford Street



Boardwalk and viewing platform at Redmond's Pond

trails to neighbourhood access points. The trail runs from Santa Monica Street in the west to Old Hyde Park Road in the east. There are six access points along this stretch of trail, and vehicle parking is on city streets. Each access point has a sign (Figure 12) that lists the permitted and prohibited activities as per the Parks By-law. Members of the ESA Management Team are Provincial Offenses Officers and can fine people up to \$5000 for violating the By-law. The By-law is in place to protect the environment and the safety of users.

Figure 12. Parks By-law sign used at all ESA access points

**IN ALL ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS (ESAs)
AND NATURAL PARK AREAS**



Hiking

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES - NO PERSON SHALL

-  Enter or remain between the hours of 10:00 P.M. & 6:00 A.M.*
-   Operate a vehicle, bicycle or motorized snow vehicle unless signs are posted specifically allowing such activity.
-  Lead a dog on a leash greater than 2 metres, or permit a dog to run at large. Cause or permit any animal under their ownership or control to enter into or foul any of the waters of any pond, stream or river. Fail to remove and dispose of dog excrement.
-  Start or maintain a fire for any purpose.*
-  Remove, break, deface, or otherwise damage City/Conservation Authority property.
-  Consume or possess liquor.
-  Cut or remove any plant, aquatic vegetation, wood, turf, grass, soil, rock, sand or gravel.*
-  Deposit, dump or leave waste and/or refuse of any kind.
-  Disturb, wound, kill, or injure any vertebrate or invertebrate animal, whether domesticated or wild, including but not limited to, birds, fish, molluscs, and arthropods.* Where fishing is authorized, no person shall fish in violation of provincial or federal statutes or regulations.
-  Discharge a firearm or bow.
-  Swim in, bathe in, or pollute in any way the waters of any pond, stream or river.
-  Camp, set up a tent, park a trailer or hold a picnic, unless the area is specifically designated for such purpose.
-  Carry out any scientific investigation or study.*

WINTER MAINTENANCE: Park property is not maintained during winter season. Any maintenance to this area under winter conditions is gratuitous.

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK. MAXIMUM FINE \$5000.

* Activities prohibited without written authority of the General Manager of Community Services for the City of London



London
CANADA

An unmanaged trail connects the two managed trails via private property on the east side of Sifton Bog ESA. Negotiations are underway to acquire this land, which would allow completion of the trail system.

Some changes and improvements to the existing trail system are planned, especially in the south end of the ESA where numerous illegal trails are located. Map 9b shows the conceptual trail plan and access points. Chapter 7 discusses the impacts of trails on the environment and Chapter 8 lists recommendations regarding changes to the trail system.

6.3 Community Partnership Projects

Over the years, the UTRCA and City of London have partnered with neighbourhood associations, local businesses, agencies and foundations to help fund and construct projects in the bog. The Oakridge Hazelden Community Association and its sub-committee, Friends of Sifton Bog, have participated in many projects.

In 1998/1999, a project by the Friends of Sifton Bog and the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London with the City of London and the UTRCA removed portions of the asphalt parking area and the field house building to naturalize the entrance at Oxford Street. The harsh growing conditions at the site (poor, compacted soil, heavy deer browse, surface runoff and erosion) resulted in poor success with only a few trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses surviving.

Several repairs and extensions to the boardwalk have been made over the last 20 years, the result of partnerships between the Oakridge Hazelden Community Association through the Urban League of London, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and City of London.

In 2000, several information signs were erected at locations along the boardwalk and at the viewing platform in the centre of the bog, as another partnership project between the Friends of Sifton Bog, Urban League of London, UTRCA and City of London. Unfortunately, these signs were vandalized soon afterwards, except for the large sign at the entrance. It was decided to replace the smaller signs with another large sign at the entrance, visible from the road, that would be more difficult to vandalize.



Information signs at Bog entrance

6.4 Research Opportunities and Needs

Many studies have been undertaken in Sifton Bog since its discovery by naturalists over 100 years ago. Researchers and scientists from the University of Western Ontario and further afield have used the bog as a unique and local study medium. Table 5 summarizes key scientific studies that have been carried out at Sifton Bog.

While there has been considerable research carried out in the bog over the years, new and continuing avenues of research are always needed to complete our understanding of issues and processes that inform good management of the site. Research can be carried out by the land managers and/or local universities and colleges.

The following is a short list of some of the research needs:

- **Hydrology.** Monitor provincial groundwater stations, surface water quantity, and water quality on an ongoing basis.
- **Peat.** Study rate of peat decomposition or growth, and rate of filling-in of Redmond's Pond.
- **Deer.** Study impact of deer on the vegetation and forest dynamics.
- **Botany.** Conduct regular botanical inventories on permanent plots to detect changes, and search for rare and specialized species
- **Wildlife Trees.** Conduct studies every 5 - 10 years to determine the impact of the tree hazard removal program on the number of wildlife trees.
- **Forest Regeneration.** Conduct basal area analysis every 2 - 5 years to monitor the regeneration and aging of the mature upland forests, especially considering the heavy deer browse.
- **Alien Plants.** Document the impact of buckthorn on species diversity (not limited to Sifton Bog ESA).
- **Insects.** Conduct insect surveys every 5 - 10 years to detect changes to or loss of species, etc.
- **Birds.** Conduct bird surveys every 2 - 5 years to detect changes to or loss of species, etc.
- **Animals.** Conduct herptile and mammal surveys every 10 years to detect changes to or loss of species, etc.
- **West Nile Virus.** Study the impact of mosquito control on species in the food chain (not limited to Sifton Bog ESA).
- **Human Use Impacts.** Study current and anticipated patterns of human use and the potential impact on the environment.

6.5 Student Education Programs

Over the years the bog has been the subject of many community and student education programs. For example, the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Incorporated led guided hikes to the bog for several decades as part of their field trip program and continue to do so. Scouts and Guides tour the site routinely, and teachers from local schools take their classes to the bog on outings.

The UTRCA has been involved in formal outdoor education programs at Sifton Bog for many years. Table 11 lists some of the recent programs co-sponsored by the UTRCA.

Table 11. Recent Education Programs at Sifton Bog

Name	Year	Partners	Description
Wetlands Education, Project Webfoot	2000 to present	TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, London Chapter, Ducks Unlimited Canada + UTRCA	Half day in-field and half day in-class program for Grade 4 students, delivered by UTRCA Community Education staff. The program introduces students to wetlands, their ecology and function. A resource kit is supplied. About 7-12 classes per year are accommodated.
ESA Education Program	2006	UTRCA, City of London	A one hour in-class program for grade 6 students delivered by UTRCA Community Education staff was delivered to 15 classes in schools near the bog in late winter/ early spring of 2006. The program was free for students, funded by the Sifton Bog Master Plan.
Natural Areas Day, Nature Nearby, Doors Open London	Early 1990s to present	UTRCA, McIlwraith Field Naturalists, City of London	Interpretive hikes for the general public have been held at all of London's ESAs (including Sifton Bog) on a Sunday in early fall, first under Natural Areas Day (early to late 1990s), Nature Nearby (late 1990s to early 2000s). Sifton Bog was a site for Doors Open London in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.