

Conservation Corner August 2024

Orchid Rescue - Meanwhile, in Deep River....

Just after the August long weekend, Peter and I drove to Deep River to work with Nick Cox on his quest to save the colonies of *Cypripedium acaule*, or Moccasin Flowers that are abundant in parts of the area. Nick has been doing an amazing job at tracking and plotting where the *Cyp. acaule* can be found on several development projects in the area. The goal is to be able to move the plants in danger of being destroyed to safer conditions and hopefully aid in their survival. In addition to walking several of the properties with Nick, he also arranged a meeting with Christian Kaiser, Director of Growth & Sustainability for the Town of Deep River. Nick has worked diligently to foster working relationships with the town in his quest to save the orchids. The four of us discussed the developments in question, and Christian was able to give us a detailed overview of timelines involved. This was a great relief, as the three of us were concerned that we would need to organize moving well over 400 plants by the end of the fall. Fortunately, the first property to be developed is also the property with the fewest number of orchids. This gives us the opportunity to work on a more manageable rescue first and monitor our success before needing to move a greater number of plants. Daniel Brumar, Conservation Committee Chair for the Ottawa Orchid Society, joined Nick on Sunday to continue surveying, recording and planning our next steps. Along with members of the OOS Conservation Committee, we will be planning a small rescue operation later this fall. Nick continues to work with the town and local land owners to ascertain the best location to move the first group of plants. We will have further information and updates at the next SOOS monthly meeting, and a better idea of how many additional volunteers we may need. You can see from the photos what we were looking for.

John Alexander