



**Brant Resource
Stewardship Network**

BRANT RESOURCE
STEWARDSHIP NETWORK
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Healthy plant and wild-
life populations require
healthy habitats. The
goal of the Natural Con-
nections Program wildlife
habitat management ob-
jective is to encourage
the protection of tallgrass
habitats through sound
management.

The Brantford Golf and
Country Savannas is one
of the most important
natural areas in world. It
sustains a globally rare
habitat type—black oak
(Hill’s oak) - white oak
tallgrass savanna. Nu-
merous plants on the
property are provincially
and regionally signifi-
cant including:
Provincially significant:
Birdsfoot violet
Green milkweed
Side-oats gramma grass
Hoary tick-trefoil

Regionally significant:
Hoary puccoon
Tall cinquefoil
Death camas

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project was provided by
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dation and Habitat
Stewardship Program.

Natural Connections Program

Wildlife Habitat Management

Brantford Golf and Country Club Restoration Project



The prescribed burn of the oak savanna on the Brantford Golf and Country Club (BGCC) was completed in April. The fire covered most of the habitat setting the invasive plants that had colonized the remnant (left) .

Although a shrub, New Jersey Tea is an oak sa-
vanna species that is promoted by fire. It resprouts
vigorously from a large tap root and flowers on the
new woody growth. Last years seeds, lying just be-
low the soil surface are stimulated to germinate by
the hot temperatures as the fire passes over them.
The New Jersey tea patch at the golf course is a lot
larger in 2006 than in the previous years (below).

The fire also reduced the canopy of spe-
cies such as sumac, which had become
over abundant due to a lack of fire. Below
is a picture of big bluestem grass, a prairie
and oak savanna indicator species flower-
ing amongst the sprouts of sumac. Al-
though the sumac was not killed by the
fire, the canopy is lower, allowing plants
to receive more light and grow up through
it.



Tall Cinquefoil (pictured below) is one of
the rarest plants in the Grand River Plains.
The population at the BGCC is the flour-
ishing as a result of the fire which reduced
the vigour of an encroaching lilac thicket.

Cutting will be required to further reduce the
encroaching invasive species. A student will be
hired with money granted by the Habitat Stew-
ardship Program to work with the golf course to
complete the work.

