PHOTO BY NIGEL LAING

BEAT A PATH – ALL THE TREES

#6413
Paper Birch
Betula papyfiera
Pathway leading towards the marsh
49 16′ 19″ N, -123 11′ 53″ W

AN ARTIST PROJECT BY HOLLY SCHMIDT | BEATAPATH.CA/ALL-THE-TREES

EMAIL TO TREE #6413

Hi 6413

I stood underneath you today and watched a heron land on the tree opposite. Shortly after landing, a hummingbird flew beside the heron and I was struck by the difference in their size.

I visit Jericho marsh through all seasons and was concerned today by how dry it is. At first, I thought it was quiet but soon heard the sound of bees feeding off the last blossoms of summer, ducks cleaning themselves in what little water was left, turtles (or frogs?) jumping into the water.

Are you feeling dry this summer?

Thanks for giving me some shade today.

— ANONYMOUS

RESPONSE FROM TREE #6413

Thank you for your email and your concern. As a birch I do prefer wetter weather. If I reach my roots out, I will find moisture, but I would rather have the feeling of a good solid rain.

I'm glad you like to spend time near the marsh. I feel fortunate to be so close to it. There's always so much conversation between the birds, the frogs and the insects. It's a busy community, even when it's dry. My favourite time of year is the spring when the Canadian geese have their goslings in tow. If you listen carefully you can hear them nibbling on the grass. They also produce lots of nutrients to share with the plants and trees.

Hopefully I will see you again by the marsh.

Best,
Holly Schmidt on behalf of Paper Birch

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