

## 1 Bird Watchers' Paradise

Stop, look and listen! More than 33 species of nesting birds live in Laurier Woods (and many migratory birds stop over) right here within the North Bay city limits! How many songs do you hear? How many birds can you spot?

## 2 Wetlands Are Wonderful

With characteristics of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, wetlands are the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems! Acting like giant sponges, they soak up rain and snow which helps reduce floods. They aid in erosion control, store excess water, replenish ground water supplies and help filter polluted waters before releasing them into the watershed.

## 3 The Beaver - An Ecosystem Engineer

In one year, a beaver family can consume 1 acre of poplar trees, fell 1 metric ton of wood and as a result change the structure of a forest and the diversity of its tree species. When beavers clear cut around their pond, mature trees are replaced with dense undergrowth as you see here. By clearing out poplar and willow trees (their favorite feast), fir and spruce trees soon grow to take their place.

## 4 Forest Zones

Start by looking up! *Canopy*: formed by upper branches of trees up to 30m. Home to hawks and owls. *Understory*: home to birds and insects – 10 to 15 m high. *Herb and shrub layer*: herbaceous plants, shrubs, tree seedlings, ferns, flying insects, mice, porcupine and skunks. *Forest floor*: decay and leaf litter support mushrooms, chipmunks, insects, amphibians, earthworms.



Yellow Warbler  
(Dendroica petechia)

continued



### FACILITIES & ATTRACTIONS



Interpretive Sites Parking Picnic Area Trailhead Boardwalk

### PERMITTED USES



Biking/ Multi Use Hiking Snow-shoeing Scenery/ Photography Wildlife Viewing Bird Watching Pets on Leash Poop and Scoop

Located in the heart of the city, the 97 hectare (240 acre) Laurier Woods Conservation Area encompasses a provincially significant wetland, rocky outcrops and upland forest, and is a sanctuary to a broad range of wetland and woodland creatures, including migrating birds.

A 6.5 kilometer trail network spans the site offering excellent opportunities for hiking and wildlife observations. There is much to appreciate in Laurier Woods – some of which is featured at the interpretive sites along the trail. Stop at the dipping platform on the lower pond to catch a glimpse of the wetland birds and aquatic life. Have a seat at the Haist Lookout for a birds' eye view.

The **Friends of Laurier Woods** was established in 1989 as a non-profit, charitable organization committed to preserving the ecological and cultural integrity of the woods, enabling it to last as a legacy for future generations. Together with other organizations and agencies, the Friends of Laurier Woods spearheaded a campaign to save the area from urban encroachment. A Management Plan approved in 2004 identifies conservation, land-use planning, tourism, recreation, education and scientific research as key objectives. In 2006, 34 hectares was transferred to the Friends of Laurier Woods and the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority in joint ownership, and since then Laurier Woods is managed and maintained in partnership.

Laurier Woods is protected under the **Conservation Areas Regulation 125, R.R.O. 1990**. Visitors to Laurier Woods are encouraged to tread lightly and share wildlife observations on the entrance billboard. To protect wildlife and show consideration for all users, dogs are to be leashed and under control at all times.

**Please help the Friends by reporting any incident of vandalism to the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority at 705-474-5420.**



**Friends of Laurier Woods**

In 2011, with the support of the local community, the Friends spearheaded the purchase of an additional 40 hectares adding an important buffer to the existing 57 hectare Conservation Area and allowing for the future expansion of the trail network.

Your support as an annual member, a donor, and/or a Director makes a difference!

**Yes! I Support Friends of Laurier Woods.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership**

Enclosed is my \$20 annual membership

**Volunteering**

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

I am interested in serving as a Board Director

**Donation**

Enclosed is a cheque for

\$20  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to *Friends of Laurier Woods*. Receipts will be provided for donations over \$20.

Mail to: Friends of Laurier Woods  
c/o North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority  
15 Janey Ave., North Bay, ON P1C 1N1

**Thank You!**

For more information and details of events sponsored by the **Friends**, visit [www.laurierwoods.com](http://www.laurierwoods.com)

Charitable#: 89406 5861 RR 0001



**5 Cavity Trees**

A dead hollow tree gives life to many birds and mammals! It's a place for nesting, raising young, storing food and hibernation. Cavities created by decay or broken branches invite Saw-Whet and Barred Owls, White-breasted Nuthatches, Deer Mice, Martens, Fishers, Raccoons, Porcupines and Weasels. Woodpeckers, Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches like to make their own cavities in these trees.

**6 White Versus Red Pine**

In early 1900s, these trees were exported to Britain to meet their high demand for square timber. Today, the White Pine has new fame as the official tree of Ontario. The difference between the two species can be found in their bark, needles and cones. Red Pine: reddish bark, 4" to 6" long needles bundled in two, smooth egg shaped cone 2" long. White Pine: grey bark that darkens as ages, 2" to 4" soft needles bundled in five, long slender cone 3 to 10" long.

**7 Hydrology**

Water flows into Laurier Woods from two subwatersheds: Parks Creek and Chippewa Creek. Park's Creek's headwaters originate from Circle Lake, flowing through Laurier Woods and the City, eventually reaching Lake Nipissing, drawing from an area of approximately 16.07 km<sup>2</sup>. Chippewa Creek originates above the escarpment, flows into Lake Nipissing at Amelia Beach and drains approximately 40km<sup>2</sup> of surrounding land.

**8 Coniferous Tree Stand**

A group of trees of different species with similar characteristics – like the coniferous trees you see here – but distinctly different from surrounding trees is called a "tree stand". The thick mat of pine needles creates an acidic soil. The acidity, together with the lack of sunlight reaching the forest floor, limits the type and diversity of plant species.

**9 Forest Succession**

Pioneer species that quickly repopulate an area are usually shade-intolerant (such as the Aspen and White Birch you see here), so when the climax species (such as Sugar Maple) move in, they shade out the other trees and they can no longer grow there. The succession from a pioneer to a climax forest results in a more complex ecosystem and an increase in the forest's stability.

**10 Up-rooted Trees**

Trees that grow on the thin layer of soil that covers bedrock develop a horizontal root system that is shallow and prone to uprooting during heavy wind storms. A tree's stability in a storm is also affected by the strength of their wood, shape of the bole (trunk), and shape and size of the crown. Trees in sandy soils are more deeply rooted and more stable than those in a clay layer or high water table.

**11 Glacial Erratic**

This large rock was carried by glacial ice, and could quite possibly have been carried hundreds of kilometres before resting here. Larger erratics are formed when glaciers crack pieces of bedrock off in a process called "plucking". Smaller erratics are formed when the rock is scraped in a process similar to sanding a piece of wood. They are important as they mark the path of a moving glacier.

**12 Glacial Striations**

Rock fragments lodged in the base of a moving glacier act like sandpaper, gouging out hard bedrock such as quartzite into long straight parallel lines or grooves called striations. The orientation of the scratches is parallel to the direction of ice movement. Softer rock and polished surfaces do not preserve the striations. Even under immense pressure, glacial ice cannot cut the underlying rock.



# Laurier Woods Conservation Area



Pink Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*)



Friends of Laurier Woods



NORTH BAY-MATTAWA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

[www.laurierwoods.com](http://www.laurierwoods.com)  
[www.nbmca.on.ca](http://www.nbmca.on.ca) (705) 474-5420