

Summer Newsletter - 2018



SUMMER SPLENDOUR AWAITS YOU ! SHARE A WALK IN THE WOODS WITH SOMEONE SPECIAL.

2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pinto Fred , President
Haist, David , Vice President
Joyce O'Halloran, Treasurer
Theresa Haist, Secretary
Susan Christian, Media
Lori Beckerton
Issac Chrest
Riley Cormier
Dorothy de Kiewiet
Julie Falsetti
Michael Guy
Bill Hagborg
Jim Hassler
Bill Marsh
Chris Mayne
Andrew Mutchmor
Michael Toye
Louise Vaillancourt
Troy Storms, NBMCA Rep

Here's how to contact us:

www.laurierwoods.com

Want to get Involved?

"There are currently positions available on our board."

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of Laurier Woods hosted their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 12/2018. Approximately 25 "friends" of Laurier Woods joined the Board of Directors at a social hour and dinner, followed by the formal AGM.

The accepted Treasurer's Report showed Revenues for 2017 at \$5182.72 and Expenses were \$3033.85, leaving a yearend balance of \$12511.83. The Board thanked Connie Sturge for auditing the books and our dedicated bookkeeper Joyce O'Halloran. In his President's Report, Fred reviewed the work that had been done and major events that had taken place in 2017. He thanked the Directors who had assumed a variety of tasks, the Conservation Authority for their continuing support, Ron Slater, a volunteer who is invaluable maintaining and upgrading the trails, and Don Fudge for his donation of loads of gravel for trail upgrading. Fred thanked Photo Metro for donating a powerpoint presentation of Laurier Woods photos which we watched during dinner. These benefactors are crucial to Laurier Woods. Michael Toye gave a brief presentation on his plans to host a cache-in-trash-out (CITO) event for those interested in geo-caching on April 28th. All former board members agreed to serve for another year and 2 new members, Jim Hassler and Michael Toye, were elected to serve on the board for 2018.

The meeting ended with an informative presentation by Jeremy St. Onge, Professor of School of Environmental Studies & Biotechnology at Canadore College. He spoke on "A Year of Living off the Land". In 2019 he and his partner, Delphanie, plan to bring all of their gained knowledge to bear on a year of research, eating only wild food. They will focus on traditional food collection and preparation, sourcing seasonal abundance, storing surplus and exploring flavours with natural spices. The Professor entertained us all with the story of harvesting a bear he came upon, freshly killed on the highway, and the fact that the bear-stew became a little bit lacklustre after multiple meals . Look Jeremy up online for more information.



Thank you!

We have noticed that the dog waste bags provided (thanks to Lisa's Dog House) are being used and that most walkers are respecting the obligation to keep their dogs leashed. This makes the woods a more enjoyable place to walk and offers a secure environment for everyone including creature residents such as, ground nesting birds, beaver, squirrels and chipmunks.

Who's on the Board of Directors and What do They do???

We are receiving compliments on the condition of the trails. Wood chips and gravel are being spread by dedicated volunteers and will this will continue throughout the summer. The directors are in the woods weekly removing garbage. This spring began with the popular and well attended bird walks, led by Director Dick Tafel. These guided walks took place every Saturday morning in May, when the woods were bursting with numerous species of migrating birds, many just passing through and not seen at other times. Director Lori Beckerton hosted plant walks the last Saturday in May and was happy to see that the registry filled up early.

Mike Toye, a new Director, introduced an original activity with a cleanup and geo-caching event he called CITO (cache-in-trash-out). The group took out many bags of garbage just in time for the Walk for Hospice on May 6th and then they had some fun focused on geo-caching. This is a great idea for other groups looking to contribute to the woods.

The Walk for Hospice on May 6th was attended by over 400 fundraiser-walkers. Their volunteers did a great job in planning and managing this event. The woods were left in good condition and funds raised will support a caring end of life environment when needed. Our partners, The Conservation Authority worked with Lori Beckerton and the Nipissing Hospice group to ensure the event was a success. Plan to sign up next year!

Bill Hagborg is another Director, an unsung hero, who coordinates all our technical needs as well as updating our Home Page and Facebook. Keep an eye on our Home Page for upcoming events and Facebook to enjoy wonderful snapshots taken in Laurier Woods and posted by our very talented local photographers.

These are just a few of the Directors who form our hard working board. We plan future projects and maintain and plan boardwalks and trails. Director Bill Marsh was responsible for obtaining and organizing the planting of hundreds of saplings last year. Isaac Chrest does a spring cleanup of dog waste each spring. Finally, our President Fred Pinto coordinates the Annual Nature Festival (August 18th this year).

Insect Life in Laurier Woods

A small group of nature lovers were treated to an interesting and different view of the woods when Julie Falsetti and Riley Cormier led an insect walk on June 2nd. They discovered and examined an assortment of tiny residents. Among them were may flies, many species of dragonflies, beetles, moth, butterflies, spiders and bees. Riley and Julie have recently joined the board and are a tremendous asset having studied insects and developed knowledge of and respect for them describing their life cycles, habits and methods of feeding, mating and hiding. This was a wonderful opportunity to find and photograph these small creatures often hidden from our sight in the foliage. Riley and Julie will be hosting more walks in the future. Please keep an eye on our calendar of events. This would be an interesting activity for youngsters too.

