



Winter Bulletin 2022



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Want to get Involved? There are currently spots available on the Board of Directors.

friendsoflaurierwoods@gmail.com
www.laurierwoods.com

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT?

MEMBERSHIPS:
SINGLE \$10.00
FAMILY \$20.00

[Membership Details](#)

Our Gratitude for the Many Helping Hands

We learned during COVID restrictions that the citizens of North Bay need an outdoor sanctuary where they **could safely exercise and share time** together while maintaining distance from others. They found it in Laurier Woods CA. The numbers of visitors increased by more than 10-fold and we continue to see a high number of users even after restrictions were lifted. The parking lot is often full. We appreciate these visits because it means residents are becoming more aware of the significance of this natural space. It is encouraging for us to see users clean up after their pets, pick up garbage & share their photos on our Facebook page.

Maintaining Laurier Woods CA is not without its costs though. Annual memberships are a steady source of income for us. We are grateful for this & to those who make monthly, annual, or memorial donations to the Friends of Laurier Woods. Over the years individuals & families have chosen to donate physical structures, such as a viewing platform, benches, picnic tables and boardwalks, which add to the trail experience (see Michael's Boardwalk write-up). Citizens, including our own board members, & community groups have chosen to contribute time and money to the many tasks a well-used trail requires (see Duke of Edinburgh student's write-up). Additionally, we must thank many corporate sponsors & the City of North Bay who provide materials, labour, discounts for materials, &/or donations. Last but not least, is our partner the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority who work closely with us on trail and forest management, care of the boardwalks and beaver ponds, map and sign creation and so much more, all dedicated to preserving Laurier Woods and offering a safe natural environment for us all to enjoy.

Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers

Local secondary students working toward their Bronze Award with The Duke of Edinburgh program volunteered throughout the summer at Laurier Woods. In total 16 students, along with parent volunteers worked tirelessly to move & spread wood chips along the trails. Their efforts made for significant improvements in trail conditions. Like so many other individuals & groups their support of Laurier Woods is beneficial to the natural environment & the community & greatly appreciated.

★ **The Award is designed to encourage youth to set and achieve goals. It is a journey of self-development, self-training, and personal achievement.**



Michael's Boardwalk' Dedication Ceremony

The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority, along with the Friends of Laurier Woods, were finally able to host the dedication ceremony for 'Michael's Boardwalk' on September 3rd. The 180-foot boardwalk was built in Laurier Woods to honour the memory of 28-year-old Michael Gauthier who died during a fishing trip in 2018. He & his wife, Samantha made many memories hiking the trails at Laurier Woods. The family, friends & a number of local contractors & suppliers came together in March 2020 to contribute to the construction. Our thanks go out to the Gauthier & Seguin families & friends for this significant contribution.



New Opportunities to Contribute - The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority & the Friends of Laurier Woods have determined it is time to replace the 2 deteriorating boardwalks that skirt the main pond and provide key access to the Woods. The reconstruction will include new footings, decking, a safety border along the edges & increased width allowing for improved safety & social distancing. Over the past year Laurier Woods has experienced a ten-fold increase in users of all ages seeking an area close-to-home to exercise, be close to nature & ease feelings of mental stress & isolation. FLW has not, as of yet, been successful in submissions for funding from foundations or government programs. The project budget has been estimated at \$32,900. Construction is planned to take place in the winter. With the large cost of replacing and improving the boardwalks, we will be directing donations towards this project. The project cost works out to approximately \$1000 per 3 metres. We are planning to have sections of the boardwalk sponsored by our community. If you want to sponsor a section of the boardwalk, please get in touch! (friendsoflaurierwoods@gmail.com)

Watch for our Campaign Launch in January.