



# A MESSAGE FROM THE

## ***FRIENDS OF LAURIER WOODS***

*“To preserve Laurier Woods for Future Generations”*

### **DOGGIE DO’S AND DON’TS**

We all love nature and the great outdoors that’s why we go to Laurier Woods. It is a place to escape the traffic, congestion and noise of the city. Many people enjoy hiking with their dogs in natural areas, since dogs derive a lot of pleasure from sampling all the scents in such areas, as well as getting some great exercise.

The Friends of Laurier Woods wants to remind pet owners that ***poop-and-scoop rules apply and pets are to be leashed and under control at all times*** while using the Laurier Woods Conservation Area. These rules are consistent with Conservation Area Regulations and the City of North Bay’s by-laws. An increase in reports of dog excrements, dogs off leash, and dog attacks in the conservation area has prompted more rigid enforcement of these posted rules.

The reasoning behind the poop-and-scoop and leashing of pets is three-fold:

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY** – medium and large-sized dogs can easily knock over small children, the handicapped and elderly if jumped on or taken by surprise. Non-dog owners may be afraid of dogs and uncertain how to handle or approach them.
2. **DOG SAFETY** – Leashed dogs have limited opportunity to defend themselves against attacks from those off leash. Dogs can spread disease through their feces. Off leash dogs may be subject to wildlife (bear, fox) attacks.
3. **CONSERVATION** – Pets are no more members of the natural ecosystem than humans. Direct predation involves dogs chasing wildlife and while they may not always catch and kill the animal, they may injure it enough to cause subsequent death. Many wildlife species are instinctively fearful of pets, such as dogs, causing them to become startled, stressed, abandon nests, vacate an area and use their limited energy reserves to flee. Dogs can transmit a number of pathogens to wildlife such as Parvovirus, Muscle Cysts, Leptospirosis and parasites (ticks, tapeworms and fleas) through feces. Dogs roaming off trail can trample vegetation, and if dogs are numerous they can remove the vegetation in popular areas by trampling, scratching and digging. Dog feces add significant nitrogen to the soil, which encourages the growth of non-native plants at the expense of native plants.

***NO ONE wants to see anyone get hurt; NO ONE wants to see a pet get hurt;  
and NO ONE wants to see Laurier Woods, a provincially significant wetland preserve  
in the heart of North Bay, unintentionally destroyed.***

***THANK YOU to all responsible pet owners for helping to keep Laurier Woods in its pristine natural state.***

Laurier Woods Conservation Area is jointly owned and managed by



***Friends of  
Laurier Woods***

[www.laurierwoods.com](http://www.laurierwoods.com)



**NORTH BAY-MATTAWA  
CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY**

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