

LAURIER WOODS CONSERVATION AREA Newsletter



Photo by: Catharine Mayne

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Note from the President...

Many may not know of the recent additions to the lands under control and preservation by The Friends of Laurier Woods.

Some 25 or so more acres were added just this year to the original 115. They were obtained from the city. This acquisition was assisted by a considerable charitable gift from the survey firm of – Miller & Urso, Surveyors, which did the necessary surveying for the transfer. The lands lay to the southwest adjacent to the original Laurier Woods parcel.

The Laurier Woods Conservation Area now includes all of the parallel wetland (or maybe a better name is - slough). In addition, the new lands offer a lovely trail with a variety of wooded and rocky sections and some very inspiring lookout points on the south side of the slough. New boardwalk access is currently being planned that will allow entry from the Old Callander Road.

The area on the south side of the slough goes all the way to the top of the rocky hill, behind which the city (out of view) will be using as its new yard area close to the old, Callander Rd. By the way, soon the current city yard next to Home Depot, it

is hoped, will be filled with new, valuable, likely touristy, more attractive, (to us) usages.

One can therefore now properly cross the slough via an old beaver dam, repaired by intrepid trail fixer – Ron Slater.

He and Ike Chrest, of our board, have also fixed up a trail running along that southerly side all the way to a new entrance upon Old Callander Road. So, now one can have a neat round-trip route using the road as a part of the traveled portion (without having to go along the railway tracks back to the beginning, as some more intrepid walkers have followed, in the past).

This new trail shows off the Pre-Cambrian, rocky outlook of our region, perhaps better than the balance of our woods. But, it is especially pretty, and does add a new dimension to the original habitats. It also ensures better protection to the wetlands.

Go look for it. It will add even more enjoyment of this lovely, city-centre preserve.

December 2009



Redpoll

Photo by: Elaine Hurst



Downy Woodpecker

Photo by: Elaine Hurst

Laurier Birding Highlights from 2009

As usual, Laurier provided some spectacular birding during the spring migration months of April and May. The beautiful little warblers were ever present and providing their usual colour spectacular. The list included Black-throated Blue Warblers, a not-so-common Northern Parula, Blackburnians, Cape Mays, Palms, Pines and Blackpoll Warblers. A Northern Waterthrush was also recorded in May and June along with overhead flights of Chimney Swifts.

Virginia Rail, Sora and Green Heron were return residents in our marsh area and birds of prey included an Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk and Merlin.

At least one Least Flycatcher was regularly present near the first boardwalk in from the Brule entrance and Horned Larks were observed in the parking lot area in July. A Scarlet Tanager was also reported in May; a pretty good year!



Pine Grosbeak

Photo by: Elaine Hurst

Resident Bird Species



Dark-eyed Junco

Photo by: Elaine Hurst

Blue-winged Teal	Ovenbird
Gray Catbird	Eastern Kingbird
Ruffed Grouse	Common Yellowthroat
Brown Thrasher	Tree Swallow
Belted Kingfisher	Song Sparrow
Warbling Vireo	Blue Jay
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Swamp Sparrow
Red-eyed Vireo	American Crow
Downy Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Yellow Warbler	Black-capped Chickadee
Hairy Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Veery
Northern Flicker	Common Grackle
Black and White Warbler	Hermit Thrush
Least Flycatcher	American Goldfinch
American Redstart	American Robin
Great Crested Flycatcher	

The Friends of Laurier Woods Welcome Your Support!

“To preserve Laurier Woods for Future Generations”

Each year the Board of Directors, is elected to oversee the management and development of Laurier Woods based on the Management Plan. Board members serve for a minimum one-year term and are expected to attend 8 to 10 meetings a year.

New members, those interested in the protection of this provincially significant wetland, **are always welcome**.

Members may also participate on any of the committees established to oversee the planning and development of this beautiful 140 acre site.

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

Friends of Laurier Woods C/o North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority

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You can show your support for the Friends of Laurier Woods by purchasing a \$20.00 annual membership!