

Peter's Woods Maintenance

Report: June 2011

Our thanks to the Ministry of Natural Resources – specifically to Curt Morris, our representative – for always being there when we need him. His department has supplied the materials to build the board walks, and the paint for the privies. The boardwalk has received many positive comments and will be completed by the fall.

The privies have a new coat of paint on the new doors, and the cubicles will be painted inside and out within the next couple of weeks. Our volunteers are amazing – they record what needs to be done to improve and make safe the woods for everyone. They clean the privies, supply toilet tissue, and let us know when the brochures need replacing, grass cut or when a tree has fallen over the trail.

June 12th Ontario Nature celebrated their 80th Anniversary with special events, one of which was a tour through Peter's Woods. Participants were bused from the Ganaraska Forest Centre where Brendon Larsen led the tour, and I welcomed them to the 'Woods' on behalf of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists. Normal walking will take about 20 minutes around the loop – this tour took almost 3 hours! With Brendon and two other biologists giving interesting talks on plants, birds and the terrain, the time flew by quickly. There were many favourable comments and promises of a return trip.

June 19th Chris cut grass on the trail to the privies and cut up three deadfall trees across the trail in the woods - and all on Father's Day!!

This year we have a new stand at the visitor sign in that holds the brochures of which we are so proud. These brochures were designed, printed and supplied by Ontario Parks – many thanks to them, too.

The bird count has been completed for June (the list will be made available shortly). In the mean time, come and hear the oven bird's call, watch signs for porcupines, check out the many different ferns - Christmas ferns, sensitive ferns, intermediate ferns and always remember to stay on the trail.

Chris Drew and Petra Hartwig – Co-coordinators of Volunteers for Peter's Woods 2011