



HIBOU NEWS

News from the Friends of Hibou

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Donate to help Hibou projects.

<https://canadahelps.org/en/charities/id/5364>

Under *Apply Your Donation*
select *Friends of Hibou*
Thank You



Bob and Marie Knapp

founded the Friends of Hibou in partnership with GSCA, under the enthusiastic leadership of John Cottrill and Chris Hachey in 2013.

We aspire to enhance the recreational and natural appreciation of Hibou Conservation Area. Friends of Hibou is run totally by volunteers.

The committee consists of volunteers: Bob Knapp, Marie Knapp, Krista McKee, Don Sankey, Barry Lewin, Susan McGowan and Brian Tannahill

Through the Challenges

Article by Marie Knapp

Just like everyone else, Friends of Hibou had challenges to work around. In December we had scheduled guided hikes for outdoor winter activities but in the new year they had to be cancelled. We are pleased many used the trails on their own.

Usually in the spring we ask for volunteers to help with trail clipping, shoreline cleanup and removing debris along the beach. Instead each committee member volunteered to do a section of shoreline cleanup. We have a good committee. Bob and others have been doing some clipping whenever they are out on the trail so we can let that go. The beach area does need to have the debris removed again this year. It is a big job and we need a larger group of volunteers to help us when we are allowed to gather. It requires raking and wheel barrowing it back into large piles that Grey Sauble Conservation can remove later. If you would like to help please email me at friendsofhibou@rogers.com.

Several boards along the boardwalk have been replaced. Thanks to Bob Knapp, Don Sankey, Brian Tannahill and Barry Lewin. It was a job that could be done keeping distance. The large boardwalk was laid down over 25 years ago. The cost of lumber has skyrocketed just when we need to replace all the aged boards. We will have to raise money for 140 ten foot boards.

Donations are welcome. **Donate to help Hibou projects.**

<https://canadahelps.org/en/charities/id/5364> We will also hunt for grant money.



**Conservation Area
Etiquette**

1. Clean up after yourselves. Pack out what you bring in, including pet waste. Read all signage – Observe signs noting permitted uses and trail rules.
2. Keep dogs on a leash and under control at all times.
3. Stay on the trail – Follow the marked trail, respect private property and trail closures.
4. Do not damage live trees or plants.
5. Please be respectful to other visitors and remember some are there to enjoy the quiet No open fires are allowed.
6. No camping anywhere on Hibou Conservation Property.
7. Do not disturb or collect wildlife Plan ahead! Please check the GSCA website for any updates. Be prepared to pay for parking and use the washroom facilities provided.
8. Observe all COVID-19 Protocols Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.

Thank you for joining us in keeping Hibou safe and clean.

Hiking with Children

Article by Krista McKee

Taking your children for a hike helps them develop a life-long relationship with nature and the great outdoors. Of course the best experience is one that is prepared for - pack your backpack with water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, band aids and extra clothing! Visit the Friends of Hibou Web page and download the map or view the map to pick your route.



Keep things simple! Make your first hike a fun memory so the enthusiasm will be there for the next hike! Don't forget to go over the rules of hiking: stay on the trail, keep together and don't touch plants (poison ivy).

Start out easy, "The Point Loop Trail" (on the water side, across from the water plant building). You can play Simon Says, or I Spy with My Eye (pick a colour for your children to find,

eg. yellow or white). This will keep children engaged and eager to find something. Stop, look, listen, what do you hear, stop at the cobblestone beach, can you skip a rock, did you find the pointed stumps that the beaver chewed on? Find a spot to sit and enjoy your snacks, talk about the neat things you have found or the things you heard.

Hiking with kids is fun, let them get muddy, let them look for interesting rocks, let them get wet. You will improve their mood and self-esteem. You just created a memory of exploring nature and enjoying the day you spent at Hibou. See you again next weekend to explore another trail!



Spring Comes to Hibou

Article by Susan McGowan

It was a beautiful Sunday on May 16th and families were having small picnics and several children were playing in the water along the beach. I headed off to the interpretive trail for a walk and along the trail I saw:



Marsh marigolds, a native wetland plant, are one of the earliest flowers to appear in spring. The petals reflect ultra-violet light which attract insects like bees, which then spread the pollen from plant to plant. Ruffed grouse eat the seeds, and deer eat the plants. Safe for wildlife but, the plant is hazardous for humans so don't pick the flowers, as they can cause toxic burn to the skin.

Another native flower I saw was the fringed polygala, also known as gaywings. It grows through eastern Canada in moist forests. This plant resembles an orchid but is in the Milkwort family and looks like a small plane with a clustered propeller.



I saw a new poison ivy vine creeping up through the boardwalk. Notice the three leaves in a whorl, and the colour is a deep green. Don't touch!

I saw new leaves emerging, although not quite at full size yet. Leaves of each tree species are different and show wonderful characteristics. The silver and red maples grow in our wet land, and have deep lobes with forked veins. It is red now, but will turn green soon for the summer.



Another leaf shape belongs to the white birch, which can grow on dry and damp areas. The leaves are toothed with definite parallel veins.

I heard a great splash and just caught a beaver as it slipped through the water. I was amazed that I got a picture, although blurry, of the mammal.



There's always something new to see along the trail at Hibou Conservation Area. Enjoy your walk!

Playground Equipment Comes to Hibou

By Katie Holovaci, President Optimist Club of Sydenham and District

The Optimist Club of Sydenham and District is super excited to be approaching our fundraising goal for the Inclusive Playground at Hibou/Paynters Bay. We hope to add a couple of benches and accessible play table if funds allow. We anticipate playground installation by late May or early June, dependant on the scheduling of excavation and the playground company's schedule.

The Optimists are endlessly grateful to all who have supported this project!! We have donations from bottle drives, plant sales, pizza fundraisers, a Christmas market/wreath fundraiser, neighbourhood resident's donations from a recent flyer mail-out, local businesses', organizations' and families' contributions, and Walker's donation in kind for the excavation. This project has benefited from the generosity of so many people!!



The focus is on the incorporation of as many accessible and inclusive features as possible, which at this point will include a spinning chair, a hammock, accessible swing, and brail board. A Communication Board is in the works, as well as the benches and play table. (Update on washroom facilities, there will be an accessible portable washroom on site which will open when pandemic restrictions allow.) Please stay tuned for the announcement of a grand opening celebration!! The Owen Sound and District Junior

Optimist Club is working with their adult advisors to come up with something that can work with various levels of pandemic restrictions. Both the adult and junior Optimist Clubs can be contacted at owensoundjoi@gmail.com, and are always welcoming new members!

New Parking Fees Reminder

The single park, single day parking pass has increased to \$10 and a season parking pass will cost non-residents \$75 for the calendar year. The membership fee for residents of the GSCA designated area will remain at \$40, which has been the fee for a yearly parking pass for the past four years.

The Membership Pass is intended to offer local residents a means of investing directly into the work of their local Conservation Authority and comes with perks. Those who sign up for memberships will also receive event notifications, newsletters, and other important information.

For more information about how to pay for parking on a GSCA property or how to purchase a season pass or membership, please visit: www.greysauble.on.ca/parking.