Welcome From Steering Committee Chair of F.L.L.

Hi, my name is Mark Signoretti and I am your Chair for the Steering Committee of our membership driven organization, the Friends of Lake Laurentian. My mission as your Chair is to ensure the active Steering Committee continue to bring about great changes and enhancements to the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area (LLCA). We will provide the best possible experience for you, our existing members, as well as any new members that would love to take part in our organization.

Since our launch in October 2011, we have continued to offer many different opportunities for Greater Sudbury Residents and their families to come, learn, and discover the great outdoors. From hiking trails, to snowshoeing, skiing, sightseeing, pond studies, nature learning, along with many different programs offered for all outdoor enthusiast, their families and for children in all age groups.

One fabulous opportunity that we offer is the popular summer day camp program - Camp Bitobig, which I highly endorse and recommend to any child that loves to explore nature. This program is open to children of 6 years and up. My son, who is 6, was part of this camp this past summer. He enjoyed every day of exploration and discoveries of the outdoors that were presented to him during his two week program. Camp Bitobig offers eight one week sessions throughout the summer months – all with a different theme.

I encourage all Sudbury residents to come, enjoy and participate in what Lake Laurentian has to offer and investigate the great outdoors.

Upcoming Events

- **F.L.L—FIRST A.G.M.**
  October 20th—Nature Chalet
  10:30-noon Meeting along with Ribbon Cutting– new NASA Trail
  Lunch for RSVP’d Members
  Noon-2:00pm FREE Family Fun Activities
  Meet with Alan Nursall & dissect some owl pellets + more...
  RSVP Required 705 674-5249

- **Nov 20** 7pm Astronomy Club-Star Party (rain date is Nov 21 7pm)
- **Dec** Christmas Nature craft Workshop
- **Winter Months**—Snowshoeing/Quinzhee Building
- **Spring** Plein Air Watercolor Workshop with Marlies Schoenefeld
- **RAINBOW ROUTES HIKE**
  Nov 3rd on NASA & Points Trails meet at Nature Chalet 9:30am
  Jan 5th from LLCA to Moonlight Beach—meet at BioSki Cottage 9:30am

MEMBERS of F.L.L. receive notices of all upcoming events via email.
Let your friends and neighbors know about becoming a Member so that they too can participate in these wonderful family oriented events only minutes from downtown.

‘Conservation Sudbury—Greetings from the Board! Lin Gibson/Chairperson

With our summer months behind us, upcoming activity from Conservation Sudbury abounds. As part of our ongoing Strategic Plan we are moving full force into a major awareness campaign for Conservation Sudbury along with the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area. You may already have seen billboards along Notre Dame Avenue, the Kingsway and in the South End depicting the strong message about our ‘watersheds’. We are also in the final stages of design work for two permanent billboards to be located on the Highway 17 Bypass on our LLCA property highlighting our ‘jewel’ only 10 minutes from downtown Sudbury.

We are proud of our conservation styled messages to the residents of Greater Sudbury and hope that you and others visit our website for upcoming news and events.

conservationsudbury.ca
Summer of 2012 at Lake Laurentian saw our best season of Camp Bitobig yet – over 350 campers braved the “Survivor, Camp Bitobig” activities, or had fun with our “Funky Forest Friends!” Canoeing, archery, fishing, and pond studies are always favorites, as are the challenges to test campers’ creativity and team work skills. Campers took on the challenge of building amazing survival shelters for their counselors – although some turned out to be more like outdoor showers, once we tested out their effectiveness... Counselors also braved the high seas of Lake Laurentian in cardboard box boats built by their campers – anyone whose boat floated was fair game for pirates!

Special highlights of this year’s Camp Bitobig season were our amazing summer staff, having the chance to be “Citizen CSI’s,” participating in a forensic entomology experiment through Laurentian University, participating in Métis cultural activities, and catching our Camp Bitobig record breaking pike!

Happy Days for Camp Bitobig ‘Friend of Lake Laurentian’

Hi! I went to Camp Bitobig twice this summer and I liked it because of the activities we got to do! We went fishing, caught frogs and turtles, did archery and went on some super hikes! We also went canoeing, and learned lots of cool stuff about nature from our awesome counselors.

As an extra treat, on Wednesday, August 8th, we got to meet Devon Kershaw. Devon is an Olympic cross-country skier from Sudbury, who has won multiple medals world-wide. Devon went to Camp Bitobig as well, when he was a kid, and he still remembers biking and hiking the trails in the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area! Meeting Devon makes me want to try cross-country skiing as well!

Camp Bitobig was so much fun, I hope I get to go again next year!

Eric
(Age 9)

As Camp Bitobig came to an end for the season, the changing leaves and cool nights signaled the arrival of Fall, one of the most beautiful times of the year at Lake Laurentian! Fall school programs are now in full swing, with students of all ages coming out to hike, play, explore, and LEARN outdoors. Fall program favorites include learning wilderness survival skills, and finding out how our local plants and animals are preparing for winter – imagine if you had the choice between migrating to a warmer place, or eating huge amounts of food and then hibernating through the cold season, or staying active all winter – what would you do?

If you answered staying active all winter, stay tuned for all the exciting events we are planning for the next few months at Lake Laurentian! The Astronomy Club will be back for another crisp evening Star Party in mid-November – hot apple cider and getting up close with the moon and constellations is a great way to beat the November blahs! In December, we’ll be getting into the holiday spirit with our Christmas nature craft event.

We’re keeping our fingers crossed for lots of snow for some fantastic family snowshoeing and quinzhee building days in the New Year too! We look forward to seeing all of you non-hibernators out at events and on the trails this winter!

We are always looking for community input on what events you would like to see hosted at Lake Laurentian Conservation Area. If you have ideas to share, or would like to assist with organizing any of the upcoming events, please contact Daniela today.

Thank you to everyone for your support and participation so far, and let’s look forward to a terrific year of exciting events and happenings!

Write to Daniela Stuewer, our Environmental Education Coordinator at lakelaurentian@gmail.com

CAMP BITOBIG is designed for young people interested in learning and playing in the outdoors at our conservation day camp. As a member of the Friends of Lake Laurentian, you are entitled to register in the Early Bird days, ahead of the published public registration dates in Feb. 2013. JOIN up as a FAMILY MEMBERSHIP, now being offered for a 2 and 3 year term.

Photo courtesy of the Cecchetto family. Shown with a huge pike is Kiana at Camp Bitobig.
Killarney Ontario Rangers Help Build Our Newest Venture– The N.A.S.A. Trail

It was my pleasure to have the Killarney Ontario Ranger camp staff and rangers assist with trail work at the Conservation Area this summer. As many of our FLL members know, the trail system is currently undergoing some much needed updating including trail signage and maintenance. This is the second year that the Killarney Rangers have worked with us, and this year they cleared over 25 km’s of trail. The Rangers also helped clear a new trail which leads to an historic NASA Observatory site.

The NASA Trail is a short 100 m hike off of the Link Trail which can be accessed from the parking lot at the Nature Chalet. The site, one of 180 similar located all over the world, was used to track and photograph a particular satellite, the “Geos B”. Data was collected over a two year period and was used to determine the shape of the Earth and to find any gravitational anomalies. It was used in the late 1960’s by researchers at Laurentian University to assist NASA with a project. It was concluded that the Earth is not round, it is in fact flatter at the poles. At the end of the experiment the dome and telescope were donated to the Sudbury Astronomy club, but the base of the station remains on site. There is a small metal plate in the middle of the base with a NASA engraving.

The Rangers were also a part of a short film documentary in partnership with Rainbow Routes. They were filmed clearing trails (NASA Trail), and were interviewed for the video, which will be aired in the second season of the “Take a Hike” series.

The community and all users of the LLCA will benefit from all of the Rangers’ hard work. I extend my thanks and hope to have the Killarney Ontario Rangers back in 2013.

Natalie Webster is our Community Stewardship staff person. You may reach her at natalie.webster@sudbury.ca

Patrons of the Friends of Lake Laurentian

Four new Patrons will be announced at the
First ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for the Friends of Lake Laurentian on October 20th—at the Nature Chalet
Starting at 10:30am—noon
Lunch provided to registered members only
CALL to RSVP 705 674-5249 TODAY

Can you guess who our 2012 Patrons will be?
Hint #1 They are all from Greater Sudbury
Hint #2 Patron A is a Scientist AND TV Personality
Hint #3 Patron B is a Nationally Acclaimed Photographer
Hint #4 Patron C loves to climb tall mountain peaks
Hint #5 Patron D can wear both hockey & figure skates

2011 PATRONS WERE:
Dr. Roberta Bondar
Mr. Spike Hennessy (in memoriam)
Mr. Devon Kershaw
Dr. David Pearson

For a current print out of our latest Trail map go online to:
http://nickeldistrict.ca/friendsoflakelaurentian
Best Wishes to Bob Rogers—Past Chair Conservation Sudbury/NDCA

Bob respectfully decided to resign as Chair for Conservation Sudbury this summer to pursue he & his wife’s passion for travel and all things enjoyable in retirement. Bob’s eager dedication over more than 12 years to our organization is appreciated beyond words. Through his leadership and vision, our organization is moving towards exciting times.

Thank you dear Friend of Lake Laurentian and supporter of our community through your many years of innovation and countless hours of contribution.

FLL Steering Committee
Mark Signoretti (NDCA/NDCF) Chair of FLL
Sheilah Arena (NDCF) Paul Sajatovic (Staff)
Gerard Courtin (NDCF) Daniela Stuewer (Staff)
Lin Gibson (NDCA/NDCF) Natalie Webster (Staff)
Carolyn Hunt (NDCF)

NDCA-Nickel District Conservation Authority
NDCF-Nickel District Conservation Foundation

We wish to thank our current sponsors who have helped us grow. Through their kind support and donations, we have begun to fulfill our Vision.

Proud Recipients of 2012 Community Builders Awards of Excellence
Environmental Category

Lake Laurentian was highlighted in the 2013 Picture our Lakes Calendar twice! Our ‘Jewel’ is pictured above on the award winning cover. Conservation Sudbury was a sponsor for this contest (see April). Calendars can be purchased at Artists on Elgin, Library branches and sell for $20 each. In bulk 3-20 they are $15 each.