

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 18, 2017

Learn how to manage beavers on your property from the “Beaver Whisperer” May 11

(North Bay, ON, April 18, 2017) Learn how to manage beavers and create a peaceful co-existence on May 11 at the Beaver Management Workshop, hosted by the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) and Friends of Laurier Woods.

“Beavers can be a benefit and a burden,” explains Troy Storms, NBMCA’s Supervisor, Field Operations.

“They help maintain important wetland ecosystems. They create habitat for themselves, as well as several other species. But they can damage vegetation, farmland, municipal infrastructure and water quality,” he added.

This workshop includes a morning presentation by "beaver whisperer" Michel Leclair, followed by an afternoon field trip to Laurier Woods Conservation Area to see a "beaver baffle" in action.

Michel Leclair has successfully managed beavers for over 30 years including 300 beaver colonies within the 360 sq km Gatineau Park. He is the owner/operator of Eco-Odysee; a 500 acre eco-park featuring a 70 acre marshland maze and beaver habitat, explorable by paddle boat. Michel was featured on the CBC show The Nature of Things for his work managing beavers.

“Often times you remove a beaver, and another one moves right in. And they go right on blocking culverts, taking down trees, and flooding land, which in some cases, may pose safety hazards for people and properties. Michel will show us ways to prevent some of the problems that beavers can create. We’ll also show participants the beaver baffle we’ve installed at Laurier Woods Conservation Area to help maintain water levels while protecting beaver habitat,” said Storms.

The May 11th workshop will be held at the Rorab Shriners Club, 1260 Brookes St. North Bay, from 8:30 am to 3 pm. A light lunch is included. Please advise of any dietary restrictions. Please bring a re-usable water bottle/coffee travel mug.

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit www.beavermanagementworkshop.eventbrite.com or call NBMCA at 705-474-5420. Tickets are \$48.36 (includes ticket fee & HST)

The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority was founded in 1972 by the Province of Ontario and its 10 member municipalities. A non-profit organization, the NBMCA works closely with the



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public to balance human needs with environmental needs throughout the region's watershed. The NBMCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities who are members of Conservation Ontario.

Friends of Laurier Woods is a volunteer organization, established in 1989 as a non-profit, charitable organization committed to preserving the ecological and cultural integrity of Laurier Woods. They work collaboratively with NBMCA in the ownership and management of Laurier Woods Conservation Area. www.laurierwoods.com.

You can follow NBMCA on [facebook.com/NBMCA](https://www.facebook.com/NBMCA) and twitter [@theNBMCA](https://twitter.com/theNBMCA)

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