

Nawautin Nature Sanctuary Association News



December 2017

As winter approaches, and -with it- the holiday season, the Nawautin Nature Sanctuary (NNS) executive would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Over the past Spring, Summer and Autumn, the Sanctuary has been home to some interesting events. For the first time in a few years, nesting mute swans -observed by many who closely followed their daily life- produced two hatchlings. Sadly, within a few days, one of the cygnets met an untimely end, possibly due to a snapping turtle.

The unusually high water level in Lake Ontario during the Spring and much of the Summer, combined with strong winds and big waves, caused a buildup of sand and stones along the shoreline. The dam that resulted below the covered bridge caused water in the ponds to reach levels higher than their banks could contain: pathways were periodically and temporarily flooded. Fortunately, by creating a small trench in the sand and stones that had accumulated, water began to flow out of the ponds, thus widening the trench and allowing water levels to return to normal. This pattern repeated itself about a half dozen times during the Spring/Summer before the lake level receded.

After four years of unusually low water levels in the Sanctuary ponds, beaver returned and created a dam below the covered bridge where the previously damaged dam exists. The water in the ponds is now back to an ideal level.

During the Spring, bat houses and a purple martin house were installed. It is unknown if any of these have been inhabited, but we'll keep watching. On Members' day, May 13, a small but enthusiastic group came out to help with a clean-up, removing old iron posts that had been installed to support planted trees, and clearing the Sanctuary of buckthorn. Thank you to all those who turned out and also to everyone who does their bit on their own time. An ongoing effort will be needed to manage the buckthorn. Our AGM on May 29 also saw a small turnout. Efforts will be made to increase active membership in the Association. Any suggestions in this regard would be welcomed.

A reminder: ALL dogs being walked through the Sanctuary must be on a leash, and the township's Poop & Scoop by-law must be observed by all pet owners.

For those interested, please note that minutes of Sanctuary Executive Meetings are always posted on the Alnwick/Haldimand township website. Annual NNS membership fees of \$5.00 per family can also be paid at the township office.

Thank you to executive members, Mike Filip, Jennie Giles, Maria Hendrickson and David Bryson for their ongoing efforts. Thank you also to Tom Groot for producing the newsletter and contributing photos.

Feedback from members is always welcome!
Please contact David Bryson: <davidkbryson@gmail.com>.

