

**Willow Beach Field Naturalists
In Partnership with Ontario Parks**



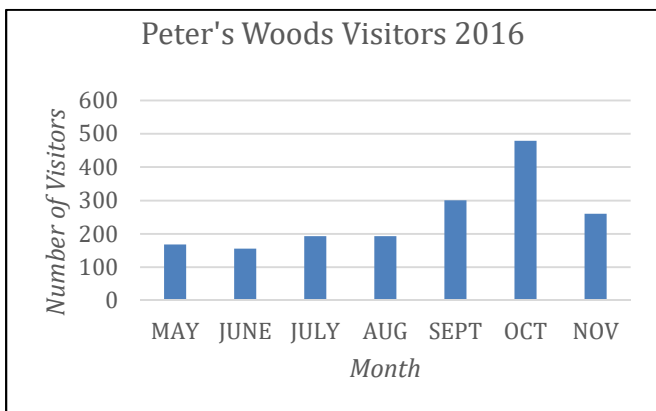
**PETER’S WOODS MAINTENANCE AND VISITORS REPORT
2016**

Another season for Peter’s Woods has come and gone. During the 6 months that this wonderful Provincial Nature Reserve is open (the last Saturday’s, April 30 until November 26 this year), about twenty volunteers visit and monitor “the Woods”. They cut grass when needed, clean outhouses and supply toilet paper, cut and remove trees and branches when obstructing the trail, clean garbage up as required, replenish trail guides and collect visitor record pages on an ongoing basis, and pile brush as needed to discourage walking off the main trail. These stewards also suggest improvements which are reported to Ontario Parks for their consideration. The Peter’s Woods Maintenance Volunteers deserve a huge “thank you”!

In addition, Ontario Parks staff conducted some needed maintenance this year. They replaced the cedar posts holding up the Tall Grass Prairie sign in the parking lot, they added "no fires permitted" sign for the parking lot area, and a "please keep dogs on a leash" sign. They also installed a new cedar post for the gate at the entranceway, installed a new box to house the visitor registry and trail guides, and removed the broken plastic box used previously for the trail guides. The entranceway cable lock was also in need of replacement this year.

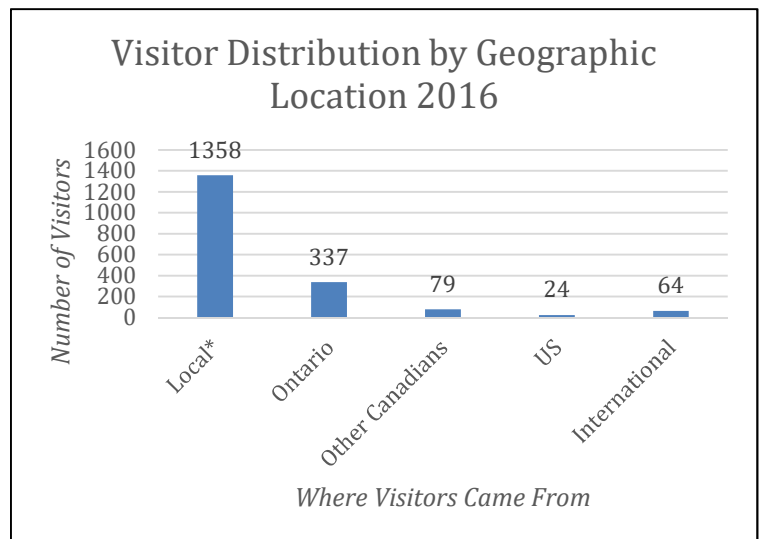
The following visitor data has been obtained from visitors who sign the provided Visitor Registry located at the beginning of the trail. Registered visitors this year totaled 1862, which is up from 2015 by 596 visitors and up from 2014 by 425 visitors.

MONTHLY VISITOR DISTRIBUTION



* Local is within a 45 minute drive (Peterborough, Oshawa, Belleville)

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION



This delightful old growth forest also attracts visitors as larger groups. This year saw the often usual visitors in the form of Cobourg Sparks, Brownies and Guides, but also had a group of Dart teams from Morganston, a group of 19 from Locust Hill Ontario, and a group of 50, presumably a bus load from Grande Prairie Alberta! The Canadians visiting from provinces other than Ontario came from Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Alberta including Fort McMurray, Gatineau, Nova Scotia, Vancouver and Fernie B.C., New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and Edmonton. American visitors came from Florida, California, North Carolina, Washington, Ohio, and Texas. International visitors originated from England, Barbados, Austria, Italy, Spain, Germany, Ireland, Iceland, Belgium, and Switzerland. You can see that this unique spot on Earth is appreciated by travelers from all over our larger global village.

On behalf of the Volunteers of Peter's Woods and in partnership with Willow Beach Field Naturalists and Ontario Parks, we encourage you to take a drive, bike or hike out to Peter's Woods next season and bring your friends and family. Spring, summer and fall provide diverse and plentiful photograph opportunities in a calm environment. You will leave feeling more connected to nature and with peace in your heart. And of course, please stay on the trails, and take only your peace away with you.

Karen and Chris Drew

Co-coordinators of Maintenance and Volunteers for Peter's Woods Provincial Park

January 2017