



MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release
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Join the Friends at their AGM on Earth Day

What do Earth Day, a chili cook-off and a business meeting have in common? The Friends of Murphys Point Park Annual General Meeting – that's what!

Join the Friends on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, at McMartin House (125 Gore St. E. in Perth) starting at 4:30 p.m. for an event featuring special guest speaker Tim Wood, Species at Risk coordinator for the Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council, who will bring his presentation titled "Common Ground – Sharing the Earth with Species at Risk."

"We thought Earth Day would be a fitting occasion to bring old Friends and new Friends together to talk about some of the great projects we do and to hear about some interesting programs being offered in the area," said Beth Peterkin, Friends event coordinator.

The Friends formed as a registered charity in 1995 and offers many and varied programs that are managed by a volunteer Board of Directors representative of the community. Programming is developed and carried out by dedicated volunteers on a year-round basis to meet the organization's mandate to enhance the natural and cultural resources of Murphys Point Provincial Park, just 20 minutes from downtown Perth.

The Earth Day event kicks off with a slide show and displays of Friends' programs and activities, a brief AGM, a draw and a dinner featuring a fabulous chili cook-off, all followed by Mr. Wood's presentation. Members and non-members are welcome to attend.

"The AGM will feature Friends' reports from the past year as well as the election of directors for the coming year," explained Stephanie Gray, Friends president. "We do have a few positions to fill on the board, so anyone who is interested in learning more about being a director is encouraged to contact us. It is a rewarding and interesting volunteer role that benefits a beautiful park."

Following the AGM, the Friends' will be drawing one member's name to win a 2012 Summer Season Day Pass for Ontario Parks. Any member who has joined the Friends or renewed their membership between Oct. 1 and March 31 will be entered into the draw. There's still time to get a membership before March 31 – just visit www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca or call Linda McLaren at 613-267-4761.

If your chili recipe is the best ever and you would like to enter the chili cook-off competition, please register in advance. Everyone attending the AGM will have an opportunity to vote for the "best chili" and there are prizes for the winners. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy all the chilis as dinner is shared together.

The event is capped off with Mr. Wood's presentation. "Tim is an engaging and enthusiastic speaker and we look forward to welcoming him back to Perth," Ms. Peterkin said.

Mr. Wood worked for several years as a park naturalist at Murphys Point and was also employed for eight years as a park planner/manager for Credit Valley Conservation. His presentation will introduce people to species at risk themes in Ontario, discuss the natural history of specific species at risk in eastern Ontario and look into the factors contributing to the loss of biodiversity as well as discussing things we all can do to help.

To register your chili or reserve a ticket to attend this Earth Day Event and AGM, please contact Beth Peterkin at 613-267-5340 or email eventsmurphys@ripnet.com. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased at the door with advance notice.

“Your support will assist the Friends in continuing to provide high-quality programming,” Ms. Gray added. “We hope to see you there on April 22.”

For more information about the Friends, visit www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca or contact Stephanie Gray for details about becoming a director at 613-264-0447 or friendsofmurphyspointpark@yahoo.ca.

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Stephanie Gray
President, Friends of Murphys Point Park
613-264-0447
friendsofmurphyspointpark@yahoo.ca

Beth Peterkin
Event Coordinator, Friends of Murphys Point Park
613-267-5340
eventsmurphys@ripnet.com

Attached:

Photo of Tim Wood, Species at Risk Coordinator for the Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council