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*protecting the land we love for future generations*

# Blitzing the Dahl Forest

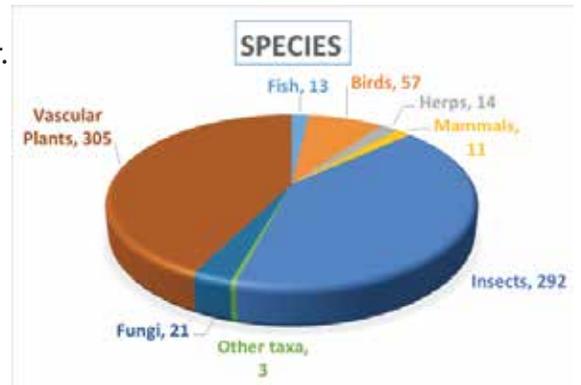


The Dahl Forest is a magnificent 500 acre property nestled among the banks of the pristine Burnt River in Haliburton County. Owned and managed by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, the property offers a blend of mixed forests, fields, deciduous woods, wetlands, and riverine habitats- the perfect location for the first BioBlitz in Haliburton County.

On June 24-25, 2017, under mostly sunny conditions, some 45 scientists, naturalists, and nature enthusiasts scoured the Dahl Forest for 24 hours, recording as many species as possible. Thirteen teams of knowledgeable people fanned out in all directions to survey the biodiversity present - birds, plants, insects, fungi, fish, and a variety of other lifeforms. The fish team arrived with nets, traps, and electrofishing units. Insect teams grabbed their bug nets and headed to opposite corners of the property. Botany teams crept slowly along, documenting everything they could find. Birding teams listened carefully to what was singing, identifying most species by ear.



By the time 24 hours had expired, our teams catalogued an astounding 716 species of organisms. The final list of species provided testimony that at least 18 Species at Risk call this amazing property "home". Rare Tubercled Orchids grow along the river banks, Canada Warblers sing from deep in the coniferous swamps, Eastern Milksnakes hide among the rock outcrops, and Harpoon Clubtail dragonflies patrol territories along the swifts of the Burnt River.



While teams travelled to the far corners of the Forest, donating blood to the abundant biting insects, about 80 people from the general public were treated to a variety of expert guided hikes, a special "Wetland Wildlife" program put on by Scales Nature Park, and, of course, a wonderful cake celebrating Canada's 150th birthday!

Supper was a highlight, as Into the Blue Bakery provided an awesome wood-fired pizza and salad dinner for all the volunteers. It was a much needed nutrition break after being out in the woods all day, and a fantastic time to catch up with old friends, or to meet new ones.



Scales Nature Park brought along a snapping turtle as part of their "Wetland Wildlife" program, as well as other wetland specimens for people to interact with.

As evening descended on Dahl Forest, the night creatures took over. The moth team set up light traps, bat detectors were turned on, and we were even treated to a duet by a pair of local Barred Owls.

The first BioBlitz of Haliburton County was an enormous success, and it would not have been possible without support. Many people were instrumental in making this event the success that it was – the volunteers at the registration desk, the people expertly monitoring parking, the individuals who assisted with erecting and dismantling tents, the clean-up crew, and, of course, the many scientists and naturalists that gave up their time and expertise to provide the HHLT with much needed data. A sincere thank you to everyone.



Left: Ed Poropat welcomes scientists, naturalists, and volunteers at the Dahl home.

Right: Guided hike participants search for butterflies with Dan Bone.

Finally, it would not have been possible to run such a high quality event without the support of our funders, and donors. Their vital, generous financial support allowed us to rent or purchase equipment, to advertise, and to provide supper free of charge for all the hard working volunteers. Thank you for believing in our cause!



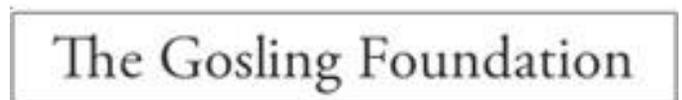
As well as thanking all scientists, naturalists, and other volunteers for their energy and expertise, the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust would like to thank all of our local BioBlitz donors and sponsors for their generous support.

Media Sponsor - The Highlander  
 Food - Into the Blue Bakery, and Foodland Haliburton  
 Signage - County Signs and Display  
 Water - The Pump Shop  
 Site Preparation - Peter Dahl  
 Science Coordinator - Ed Poropat

HHLT acknowledges the funding contributions of:



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**TD Friends of the Environment Foundation**

