



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Welcome spring with a visit to the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Syrup Festival at Purple Woods Conservation Area

OSHAWA, ON — With the approach of spring a person may be sure of several things: birds will be singing and pancakes will be flipping at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Syrup Festival at Purple Woods Conservation Area in Oshawa. Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) will be hosting the Festival that starts on Friday, March 13, 2020. The dates of the Festival are as follows:

Spring Break: March 13 to 15, 18 to 22, and the weekends of March 28 to 29 and April 4 to 5. The Festival will be closed on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17. More information and tickets are available on CLOCA's website at [www.cloca.com](http://www.cloca.com)

Tribute Communities returns with half-price admission on advance afternoon admission tickets on Saturday, March 14. Advance general admission tickets are available online or at the CLOCA Administration Office at 100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at a cost of \$7/person (+ HST). Children age 2 and under are free. **It is STRONGLY advised that visitors purchase tickets in advance to avoid disappointment.** Only a limited number of general admission tickets will be available at the door at Purple Woods, at a cost of \$10/person (including HST—debit and credit cards only, no cash).

As always, visitors will enjoy a memorable and affordable family experience at the 45th Annual Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival. Sap collected from over 800 sugar maple trees is boiled on site into delicious maple syrup and our modern evaporator can be viewed in action!

The Festival showcases 400 years of maple syrup history in Ontario through interpretive displays; Heritage Hall provides a rustic indoor, heated gathering place to enjoy pancakes covered in 100 per cent maple syrup, and the Heritage Store will be open to satisfy your sweet tooth with maple syrup, maple treats and so much more. The Festival also offers free hands-on activities, games and crafts for kids and kids at heart. For a \$2 fee (per person), one can enjoy fresh maple taffy on ice or for \$3/person, a horse-drawn wagon ride is offered daily (weather permitting), down by the Sugar Shack.

For those who find the trails too challenging or those with physical limitations, a shuttle service for individuals is available. Please inform staff when you arrive, if you require this service.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation continues to reduce the environmental footprint of the Annual Maple Syrup Festival at Purple Woods Conservation Area:

- There is a cistern on site that captures roof rainwater from Heritage Hall which is used for flushing the toilets at the Hall.
- The Heritage Hall building (where you'll get your pancakes) is made of recycled timbers from a Trenton Air Base Hangar.
- The evaporator used to cook the sap is completely air tight, so less energy is used to make the maple syrup.
- New for 2020, CLOCA will be giving the boot to single-use plastic knives and forks, offering a reusable stainless steel option. Visitors can help out even more by bringing and using their own refillable mug. Why not bring along the kids refillable water bottles or cups, too? Every little bit helps.

Purple Woods Conservation Area is located at 38 Coates Road East in north Oshawa, just off Simcoe Street at the Oshawa/Scugog boundary.

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### **About Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA)**

Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) is a local, community based, environmental organization and one of 36 Conservation Authorities responsible for managing watershed resources across Ontario. Established in 1958, CLOCA's jurisdiction is based on the watershed boundaries of four major watercourses and 18 minor watercourses draining an area of over 639 square kilometres. Central Lake Ontario Conservation's watershed stretches from the municipal boundaries of Ajax/Pickering to Clarington, and north from Lake Ontario to the crest of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation provides a wide variety of science-based watershed management programs and services, delivered in partnership with their municipal partners, local landowners, environmental agencies and all levels of government. Central Lake Ontario Conservation's municipal partners include the Region of Durham, the cities of Oshawa and Pickering, the towns of Ajax and Whitby, the Municipality of Clarington, and the townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.