

## NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT WILLOW PARK ECOLOGY CENTRE From past accomplishments to 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans

Here's our lineup of volunteer directors on the board of Willow Park Ecology Centre for this year. "We're proud to have a diverse group of standing members and new members," said program director Tunde Otto, "with an impressive range of skills to continue our successes and build new strengths."



Front: Frank Silva continues as Treasurer. Brenda B assumes the role of Secretary. Tunde Otto is the staff Program Director. Manuel Spiller, Jason Bassels (absent) continue as directors. Back: Steve Jackson stays as co-Chair. Narasimhan Bhagavan assumes a new role as co-Chair. New directors David Harder and Mark Knight are absent from the photo.

Willow Park Ecology Centre celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. Strategic planning for the next three years is underway. This involves tracking and re-evaluating the current mix of activities, programs and events, fine-tuning future plans and clarifying the business model that best serves the purposes of the diverse offerings of the community-based, Ecology Centre.

Much of the Centre's success is thanks to its youth and adult volunteers who help with park stewardship in after school mentorship programs, scout and guide outings, corporate team-building days, and themed maintenance events.

Over the last three years, more than 1,500 elementary school students have enjoyed nature immersion experiences with "Get to Know Nature Near You" all-season programs in the park. Annual events have included Earth Day, Jane's Walks, Wildlife Days, Pumpkin Days, Bird Days and Solstice Celebrations.

In addition to in-park activities, Willow Park Ecology Centre has been an award-winning leader in local ecological restoration with two years of the Hungry Hollow Collaborative, a seven-member partnership.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, there will be a festive 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration event at the riverside location in Norval. Details will be posted in the website at [willowparkecology.ca](http://willowparkecology.ca).