

## A Stroll in Spruce Woods - 19 November 2022



Steffany, Olwyn, Dennis, Di and Spirit, James, Carlene (shown from left to right in the photo above) and Bert (behind the camera) hiked the Spruce, Juniper and Cedar trails in the Epinette trails area of Spruce Woods Provincial Park, estimated at 9.4 km total. Judy, who did most of the organizing for the event, begged off because she tested positive for COVID on the morning of the hike. That was unfortunate because it was a glorious hike.

Carlene, on her first hike with this group, was unsure whether she could keep up, so planned to do a partial hike, but soon realized that she had at least as much stamina and speed as others on the hike, and easily completed the whole loop.

On a hike last summer, as we exited the Spruce trail on our way back to the parking lot, someone doing trail maintenance told Judy that Cedar, a recently opened trail, was the most scenic of the Epinette trails. We thought the Spruce loop was terrific, and it is, but my vote goes to Cedar for the most scenic.

While Judy was not on the hike, she was there in spirit, she sent cookies which all enjoyed at the snack stop along Cedar (photo), and again at the lunch stop in Cabin 2 on our return trip. However, her spirit let us down by not having a fire going and hot chocolate waiting for us when we returned to Cabin 2, as she promised in the invite for the event.

Wildlife sightings? A few squirrels, Steffany and Bert saw a red headed woodpecker and we briefly encountered a couple of Quebecois hikers who were on a day off from course at DND 17 Wing.