

The Orchid

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Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Opossum, Adjacent to Jackson Park, Peterborough, March 11, 2015 ~ Submitted by Don Pettypiece

INSIDE: Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery – 2014 Summary
Spring Migration
Kermit's Friends and Timber-doodles
Mother Goose Revisited
Come Celebrate PFN's 75th Anniversary!

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

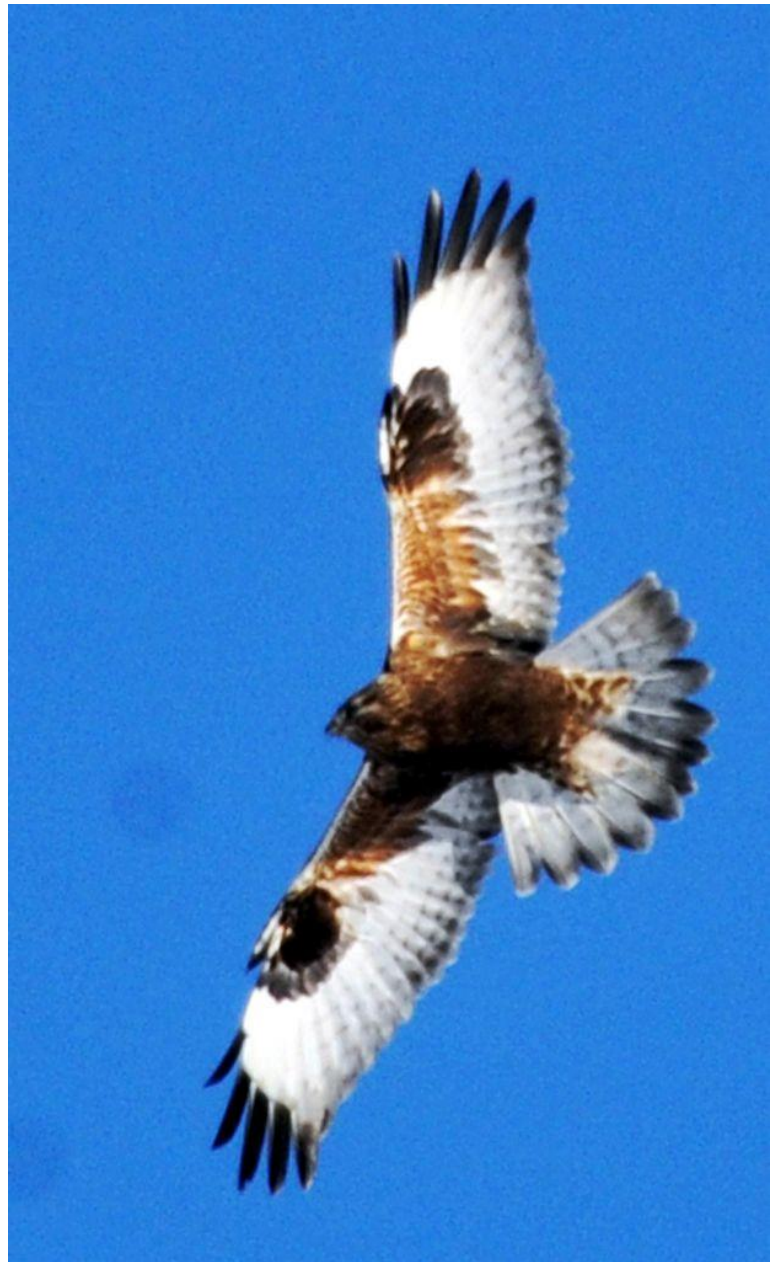
Laura Stone

Erin Copeland

Jamie Williams

Annalea Copeland Williams

Henry Copeland Williams



Rough-Legged Hawk, Peterborough Landfill
February 1

~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Coming Events

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sundays, April 5 to May 31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 to 11:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North Parking Lot, Peterborough Zoo, Water Street</p> | <p>Spring Wildlife Walks</p> <p>Our popular Spring wildlife walks will commence on Sunday, April 5th and continue until May 31st. Unless otherwise advertised walks will start at 8:00 am and we will carpool from the north parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases the leaders will confirm the destination on the day.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">5th April – Jerry Ball</td><td style="width: 50%;">3rd May – Tony Bigg</td></tr> <tr> <td>12th April – Walter Wehtje</td><td>10th, 17th, 24th, 31st May - TBA</td></tr> <tr> <td>19th April – Martin Parker</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>26th April – Drew Monkman</td><td></td></tr> </table> | 5 th April – Jerry Ball | 3 rd May – Tony Bigg | 12 th April – Walter Wehtje | 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st May - TBA | 19 th April – Martin Parker | | 26 th April – Drew Monkman | |
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| 12 th April – Walter Wehtje | 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st May - TBA | | | | | | | | |
| 19 th April – Martin Parker | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 th April – Drew Monkman | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p> | <p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Ecology and Evolution of Typha Hybrids</p> <p>Sara Pieper, PhD candidate at Trent University, will be presenting her talk on the role of hybridization as a driver for invasion in the hybrid cattail <i>Typha x glauca</i>. Her project is being supervised by Dr. Joanna Freeland and Dr. Marcel Dorken, Department of Biology.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 to 9:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tim Horton's (Sobey's Plaza) Lansdowne Street West</p> | <p>Kermit's Friends and Timber-doodles!</p> <p>The dusk air of the spring carries the mating songs of various species of frogs and the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-doodle. Join Martin Parker for a 2-hour outing listening to and distinguishing between the different species of calling frogs and toads of our region, and listen to the courtship flights of the American Woodcock.</p> <p>We will meet at the Tim Horton's and then travel to walk part of Hooton Line through the Cavan Swamp. Please bring a flashlight.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 to 11:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North Parking Lot, Peterborough Zoo</p> | <p>Night of Salamanders and Frogs</p> <p>Join this special evening trip to look for migrating salamanders as they are moving to their breeding pools. This inventory event will be at the Ingleton-Wells property of the Kawartha Land Trust (KLT). The event will commence with the checking of pools for egg masses of Spotted Salamanders. We will then record the frog species calling and check the roadways for migrating salamanders.</p> <p>This is an evening outing. Meet Martin Parker at 6:00 pm in the parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo, from where we will travel to the Ingleton-Wells property on the northwestern part of Stoney Lake. Wear clothes forecast for the weather, waterproof footwear, bring a head lamp or flashlight, and evening snack or packed supper. It is anticipated the trip will return to the City around 11 pm.</p> | | | | | | | | |

Coming Events continued

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, May 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 to 10:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2027 Preston Road at Selwyn Road</p> | <p>Dusk Wildlife Walk</p> <p>Join Paul Elliott for a chance to explore a Kawartha Land Trust site at dusk. Situated between Young's Point and Lakefield in the Township of Selwyn, the Dance property is part of a provincially significant wetland, as well as creeks, forests, old fields and other diverse habitats. Ultrasonic bat detectors will be used to locate and listen to flying mammals and we will keep alert for other crepuscular activity. Bring bug repellent and a flashlight.</p> <p>The Dance property is at 2027 Preston Road at Selwyn Road (12th Line) west of Young's Point and north of Lakefield. Drive up the driveway and park in the field on the left just beyond the shed.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, May 13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Public Library</p> | <p>PFN Monthly Meeting: The Oak Ridges Moraine From Above</p> <p>Bill Lishman is an artist, inventor and explorer. Living in Blackstock by Lake Scugog, he has been flying his ultralight plane for the last 40 years over the Oak Ridges Moraine and taking thousands of photographs. He has observed it like no one else with a bird's eye perspective. He is launching his photographic book "The Oak Ridges Moraine From Above" on May 22nd and will come and share his knowledge and love of this precious geographical formation.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, May 31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 am to 5:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sobey's Parking Lot, Lansdowne Street West</p> | <p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA)</p> <p>An all-day visit to the Carden Plain, an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Jerry Ball will guide us through this globally rare habitat is only 65km from Peterborough. The trip offers the chance of seeing such birds as the Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrasher. Bring some lunch, water and binoculars.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, June 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Public Library</p> | <p>PFN Monthly Meeting</p> <p>Speaker to be announced. Mark your calendar!</p> |

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Sunday, April 19 @ 2:00 pm: Tour of the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

1434 Chemong Rd, Unit 4

<http://kawarthaturtle.org/blog/>

The PFN Juniors can look forward to a special tour of the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre on Sunday, April 19th, starting at 2:00 pm. For details about this event or to join the PFN Junior Naturalists email list, contact Lara Griffin at 705-749-3639.


Other Events of Interest

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Fourth Wednesday of each month</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p> | <p>Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meetings</p> <p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings take place at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street North. Doors open at 7:00 pm for socializing and a 7:30 pm start. All are welcome and you don't have to be an experienced gardener. Annual membership is \$20 individual, \$25 family. Visit www.peterboroughgardens.ca</p> <p>Upcoming Speakers & Events:</p> <p>April 2,3,4 - Peterborough Garden Show, Evinrude Centre - www.peterboroughgardenshow.com</p> <p>April 22 - Cathy Dueck's topic is "Butterflies"</p> <p>May 27 - John Stratham of John's Gardens in Uxbridge will be talking about "Perennial Grasses"</p> <p>June 24 - Cauleen Viscoff's topic is "What a Plant Knows"</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, April 7</p> <p>Open House 6:00 - 7:00 pm</p> <p>Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm</p> <p>Parkway Banquet Hall</p> <p>1135 Lansdowne St. West,</p> <p>Unit 200</p> | <p>Town Hall Meeting – Oak Ridges Moraine</p> <p>A town hall meeting on the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan Review is scheduled in Peterborough. Open House from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, followed by the meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. For more information visit http://moraine2015.ca/about-us/.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, April 11</p> <p>Alderville First Nation Black</p> <p>Oak Savanna</p> | <p>Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Spring Meeting</p> <p>The hosts for this special meeting are the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, who will highlight some of their many projects and programs.</p> <p>Turn to page 10 for more information about this unique event.</p> |

Other Events of Interest continued

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am to 12:00 pm</p> <p>Meet at main entrance to Jackson Park, Peterborough Monaghan Road at Parkhill Road</p> | <p>17th Annual Earth Day Jackson Creek Clean Up</p> <p>Join us for the 17th Annual Earth Day Jackson Creek Clean Up, hosted by ORCA and the Otonabee Conservation Foundation in partnership with Swish Maintenance, Tim Hortons and community supporters.</p> <p>Volunteers will help clean up Jackson Park and the Trans Canada Trail to celebrate Earth Month, and to help make every day Earth Day! Bags and gloves will be provided. This is a family friendly event and will be held rain or shine.</p> <p>Since 1999, over 1500 people have participated in the Jackson Creek Clean Up and removed nearly 40 tonnes of litter from Jackson Park and the Trans Canada Trail. Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Check out www.earthday.ca or www.otonabee.com for more events.</p> <p>For more information please contact Meredith Carter, Environmental and Technical Services, Otonabee Conservation (mcarter@otonabee.com 705-745-5791, ext. 223).</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, May 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am to 3:00 pm</p> <p>Markham Civic Centre 101 Town Centre Blvd. Markham (Highway 7 at Warden)</p> | <p>North American Native Plant Society Annual Sale</p> <p>The North American Native Plant Society is a volunteer-based, registered charitable organization dedicated to the study, conservation, cultivation and restoration of native plants. The Society is hosting its annual sale of wildflowers, ferns, grasses and sedges as well as trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Our sale showcases hundreds of native species and introduces thousands of native plants into gardens. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.</p> <p>Member online ordering: The plant list is available at www.nanps.org. Pickup will be at the Markham venue only, on May 9th.</p> |
| <p>GreenUP Ecology Park Ashburnham Road, Peterborough</p> | <p>2015 GreenUP Ecology Park Programs and Events</p> <p>May 9th 10:00 – 4:00 Ecology Park compost sales ONLY</p> <p>May 17th 12:00 – 4:00 Ecology Park Annual Spring Plant Sale</p> <p>May 23 11:00 – 12:00 Spring Backyard Compost Workshop</p> <p>June 13th 1:00 – 2:30 Stay Calm But Watch Your Ash (Emerald Ash Borer information session)</p> <p>June 20th 1:00 - 3:00 Pollinator Garden workshop</p> <p>* Workshop information is found on the GreenUp website www.greenup.on.ca ('Ecology Park/Workshops and Events'), or email workshops@greenup.on.ca.</p> <p>Bulk Sales & Costs:</p> <p>\$2 / bucket leaf compost \$3 / bucket cedar mulch \$7 straw bale</p> <p>Bring your own buckets and only available during garden market hours. May 17th to October 29th; Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 to 7:00 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 to 4:00 pm.</p> |

Other Events of Interest continued

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| <p>Thursday, May 14</p> <p>Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments Lecture begins at 7:15 pm</p> <p>Market Hall, Peterborough</p> | <p>Kawartha Land Trust 2nd Lecture</p> <p>The second talk will be given by Rick Beaver, Research and Restoration Co-ordinator at Alderville Black Oak Savanna, and member of Alderville First Nation.</p> <p>Rick will draw from his experience as a restoration ecologist and an artist, his background in biology and as a holder of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and will share with us dynamic ways of understanding and connecting to land.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, May 23</p> <p>rareECO Centre Cambridge</p> | <p>A Day on the Grand</p> <p>Dreaming of being outdoors in warmer weather? Ontario Nature and Rare Charitable Research Reserve invite you to our one-day event, A Day on the Grand, to be held on May 23rd at rare ECO Centre along the beautiful Grand River in Cambridge.</p> <p>This joint event is the perfect opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and have a day of fun in the outdoors. Highlights of the day include bird banding, guided nature hikes, a special presentation on sustainability, and the chance to become a citizen scientist alongside local researchers.</p> <p>You can also join us in celebrating our shared conservation successes and discuss our vision for the year ahead at Ontario Nature's 84th Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Register now on the Ontario Nature website before spots fill up! Registration deadline is May 4th. We hope to see you in May!</p> |
| <p>Saturday, May 23</p> | <p>2nd Annual Feathered Friends Festival</p>  <p>Elizabeth Kellogg releasing a newly banded Yellow Warbler. Photo taken by Katsu Sakuma, 2014 Feathered Friends Festival</p> |

Other Events of Interest continued

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| Sunday, June 14 | <p>Farms at Work Pollinator Habitat Field Day</p> <p>Peterborough County Bring your own lunch \$10 (snacks included)</p> <p>Join us for a tour showcasing how two local farms (Buckhorn Berry Farm and Rocky Lane Farm) have created and/or maintained pollinator habitat as part of their farming systems. The day will culminate in a new pollinator habitat project on Leahy Stock Farm near Lakefield. Participants will receive a copy of A Landowner's Guide to Conserving Native Pollinators in Ontario and a Bumble Bee ID Guide. Pre-registration required. For more information, contact: info@farmsatwork.ca (705) 743-7671.</p> |
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PFN Officers and Directors

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--|----------|
| President | Lynn Smith | smithfam@nexicom.net | 944-5599 |
| Vice President, Fisheries Council | Kim Zippel | kimzippel@nexicom.net | 740-0587 |
| Secretary, Archives | Martin Parker | mparker19@cogeco.ca | 745-4750 |
| Treasurer | Don Pettypiece | don.pettypiece@gmail.com | 750-1145 |
| Membership | Jim Young | jbyoung559@gmail.com | 760-9397 |
| Program (indoor), Stewardship Council, Fisheries Council | Phil Shaw | pshaw78@hotmail.com | 874-1688 |
| Program (indoor) | Marie Duchesneau | Duchesneau13@hotmail.com | 874-5739 |
| Program (outdoor) | Paul Elliott | paulelliott@trentu.ca | 740-0501 |
| | Rene Gareau | rene.gareau@sympatico.ca | 741-4560 |
| Webmaster, Jane's Walks | Chris Gooderham | webmaster@peterboroughnature.org | 740-2081 |
| Ontario Nature Representative | Ted Vale | tedandmarion@sympatico.ca | 741-3641 |

Other Volunteers

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------|
| Ecology Park Feeders | JB Jaboor & Don Finigan | 745-4750 |
| Orchid Diary | Tony Bigg | 652-7541 |
| Orchid Mailout | Mary Thomas | |
| Orchid Editor | Marla Williams | 874-5653 |
| Jr. Naturalists | Lara Griffin | 749-3639 |
| Miller Creek Management Area | Jim Cashmore & Jim Young | |
| Municipal Planning Committee | Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Lynn Smith, Martin Parker, Ted Vale | |



Membership Renewals:

PFN memberships expire on December 31st each year but Orchid deliveries will continue until March. After August new memberships are valid until the end of the following year. A tax receipt is issued for memberships and donations.



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Submission deadline for the May issue is **Friday, April 24th**.

Send submissions to Marla Williams via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7

Come Celebrate!

You are Invited to the 75th Anniversary of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

DATE: Monday May 18, 2015 (Victoria Day)

Three hikes are planned:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 7 am – 9 am | Miller Creek Management Area for the 'early birds' |
| | ➤ Meet at Peterborough Zoo Parking Lot at 7 am to carpool |
| 10 am – 12 pm | Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park with a focus on spring wildflowers & other flora |
| | ➤ Meet at Parking Lot of the Park, 846 Highway 7 |
| 2 pm – 4 pm | Camp Kawartha Trails with a focus on butterflies and exploring the geology of area |
| | ➤ 1010 Birchview Road, Douro-Dummer |

Family activities are planned:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10 am – 12 pm | Lakefield Marsh for pond-dipping with nets, fun in the wetland |
| | ➤ Meet at Lakefield Marshland Centre, 65 Hague Boulevard, Lakefield |
| 2 pm – 4 pm | Camp Kawartha for some entertaining children's games and activities |
| | ➤ 1010 Birchview Road, Douro-Dummer |

Social Hour at Camp Kawartha:

- 4 pm – 5 pm
- Displays from a variety of organizations
 - Appetizers
 - Wine and beer

Presentations:

- 5 pm – 5:30 pm
- Introductions & elected officials

BBQ Hamburgers & Sausages/Anniversary Cake: (a donation is appreciated)*

5:30 pm – 7 pm

*** The caterers need to know by May 10th how many will be attending the BBQ so please confirm your attendance by contacting Jim Young at 705-760-9397 or email Jim at: jbyoung559@gmail.com**

Further Presentations:

7 pm A few words from past presidents & others

This is your day, folks! All ages are welcome.

Choose any or all of the planned events.

It's a day to enjoy with friends, the 75 years that the Peterborough Field Naturalists has been in existence.

Come Celebrate!

Boreal Chickadee, Algonquin Provincial Park, March 13

~ Submitted by Tony Bigg



Mother Goose Revisited

Submitted by Murray Palmer

Little Miss Campbell
Went for a ramble
Over hill and dale one day.
Along came a spider,
Who sat down beside her,
And had these wise words to say:

"I presume you're a human
Of impeccable groomin',
And you accept the rules of fair play.
That I have several eyes
May come as a surprise,
But don't let that cause you dismay.

When you look at my face,
You think there's no trace
Of our common ancestral past.
In your home or the wild,
We're often feared or reviled,
But yet we're all part of Nature's cast.

We have formidable mugs
To kill all sorts of 'bugs',
And we bite with a venomous injection.
Our digestion evolved
To suck out innards dissolved;
There's no need to bite off a section."

Little Miss Campbell replied,
"That I can abide,
If you rid my fine home of pests.
Every moth, louse, and fly,
I bid you all goodbye,
And welcome my good arachnid guests."

Now everything's groovy
Despite that dumb movie;
Arachnophobia is fear exaggerated.
A poem by Mother Goose
Lets Western folklore loose,
So spiders, like wolves, aren't venerated.

Murray Palmer, 2015

Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Spring Meeting

Submitted by Ted Vale

The Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Spring Meeting will take place at Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna, on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

The hosts for this special meeting are the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, who will highlight some of their many projects and programs.

This is a wonderful opportunity for members to visit and learn more about Canada's easternmost prairie—and one of the most endangered plant communities in Ontario. Located south of Rice Lake, on the eastern edge of the Oak Ridges Moraine, Alderville First Nation's Black Oak Savanna/Tallgrass Prairie is the largest single remaining parcel of its kind in east central Ontario. Scientists refer to the Alderville Black Oak Savanna as "the Jewel".

The afternoon hike will visit Peter's Wood Provincial Nature Reserve. This special area represents the sole-surviving Oak Ridges Moraine "old growth" forest in Ontario. A 0.8 km trail passes through an open field and circles the maple-beech forest. You will not want to miss this opportunity! Visit http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/member_groups/regional_meetings.php for more information.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery – 2014 Adopt-A-Site Survey Results

Submitted by Stephanie Casutt, Wildlife Preservation Canada



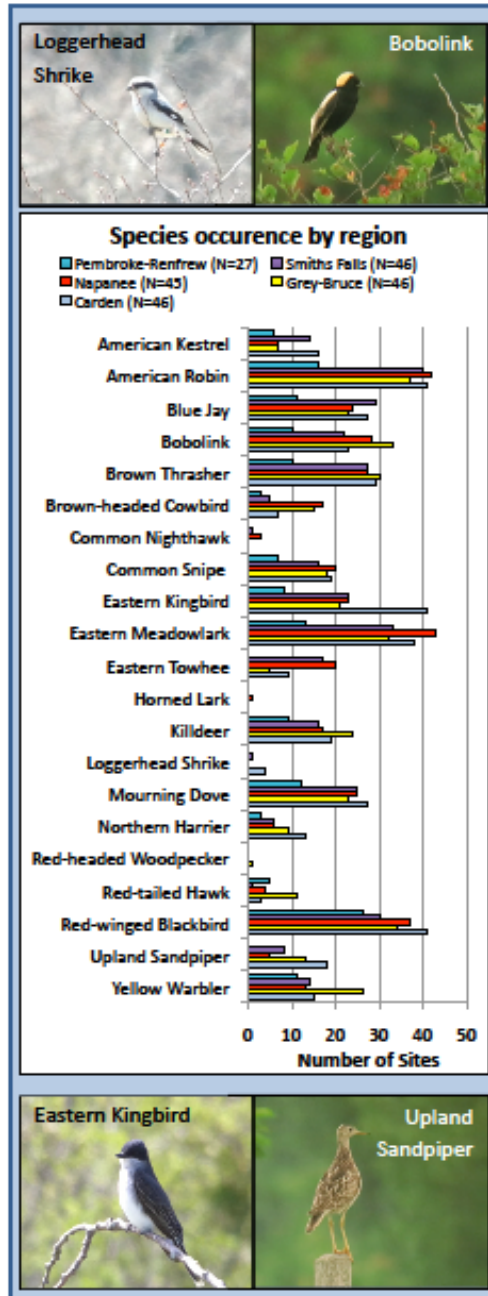
2014 Adopt-A-Site Survey Results



The 2014 Adopt-A-Site (AAS) Program was developed to engage volunteers to help locate shrikes throughout their breeding range in Ontario. While surveying for shrike, volunteers also recorded the presence of a subset of other important grassland birds, including other Species-at-Risk, in these habitats. Grassland birds have demonstrated more significant and widespread population declines than any other group in North America, and the Loggerhead Shrike (eastern subspecies) was designated Endangered in Canada in 1991, and Ontario in 1992. Since 2003, Wildlife Preservation Canada has been leading the recovery effort for this bird. Participation in the AAS Survey is a direct and vital contribution to these efforts.

This year, 38 volunteers surveyed 213 sites across the 5 core areas (Carden; Napanee; Grey-Bruce, including Manitoulin; Smiths Falls; and Pembroke-Renfrew), amounting to almost 190 hours of survey effort. Our main target, the Loggerhead Shrike, was located at five sites: four sites in Carden (three of which were historically active), and one historically active site in Smiths Falls. As in 2013, Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolink (both designated as Threatened, provincially and federally) were amongst the most observed bird species by volunteers. Eastern Meadowlark was the third most prevalent species, found on 159 of the sites surveyed, surpassed only by American Robin (176 sites) and Red-winged Blackbird (168 sites); Bobolink was the fourth most common, on 126 sites. These results highlight the importance of the remaining grassland habitat in Ontario: nowhere else will you find these species in such numbers. By locating these important areas now, we create a baseline with which to track how the population changes over time, and assess if recovery efforts are achieving their goals. Two other species-at-risk, Common Nighthawk and Red-headed Woodpecker, were spotted by volunteers, though observations were rare.

Many thanks to those who participated in AAS Program this year. Volunteer involvement is crucial to broadening our search efforts, locating all shrike who return to Ontario, and identifying as much breeding habitat for shrike in the province as possible. With your help, we will continue to work towards protecting these important grassland ecosystems for future generations, avian and human alike.



Photos by Stephanie Casutt

To participate in the program next year, or if you have any questions or comments, contact:
Hazel Wheeler, Species Recovery Biologist E: hazel@wildlifepreservation.ca C: 519-993-5155

From the Archives – Nature Reserve to Honour Claire and Harry Williams Submitted by Martin Parker

(Based on an article in the *Millbrook River*; March 5, 2015 edition, by Celia Hunter)

There are now 40 acres of woodland on the Bruce Peninsula, north of Wiarton, where Yellow Ladies-slippers grow in profusion, which has been set aside for preservation as the Williams Nature Reserve. This reserve is in the memory of Claire and Harry Williams. The property was donated recently to the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy by the Williams' two daughters, Jill and Joanne.

Claire and Harry Williams were both science teachers at the Millbrook High School and were renowned and respected botanists and naturalists. Harry Williams was President of the Peterborough Field Naturalists in 1965 and 1966. Harry was an Editor of the *Orchid* in 1967 and 1968. Claire Williams was also a Director of the PFN and served as Secretary in 1964 and as Vice-President in 1971. Both annually lead a number of field outings.

The Williams hosted the annual Dawn Chorus outing of the club. On the first weekend in June in the 1960s and into the 1970s members would gather in Millbrook at 3:15 am (yes, before dawn), and then travel to the Williams farm southwest of Millbrook. Groups of observers would be stationed at various locations to record the time when each species of bird started to sing. At 6 am we would gather at the Williams cabin for a hot breakfast prepared by Claire and other volunteers. Approximately 30 people attended this outing annually.

The Williams Nature Reserve consists of property purchased on the Bruce Peninsula by the Williams and by Claire's brother Vincent Elliott, another botanist. The Williams' daughters recently decided to donate the property to the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, a charitable land trust that establishes, maintains and manages a system of nature reserves along the Niagara Escarpment from Rockwood to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula and onto Manitoulin Island. This Reserve is a fitting tribute to Harry and Claire, who both valued the environment so highly and shared their knowledge with their fellow members in the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

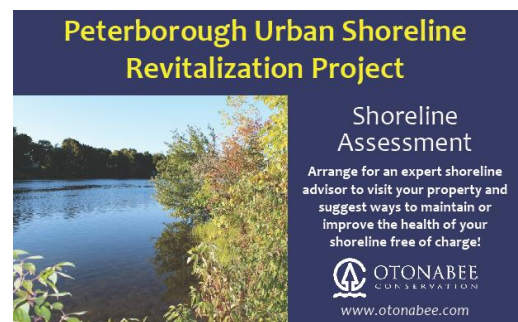
Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Program Submitted by Erin McGauley

Do you live on an urban watercourse within the City of Peterborough - or know someone who does? Please help us to promote the Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Program by taking part in or telling your friends and family about this unique opportunity.

As part of the **Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Project**, Otonabee Conservation is offering Shoreline Assessments that are free, voluntary and confidential.

Benefits of Participation:

Protect your shoreline Enhance landscaping Reduce erosion
Improve water quality Up to \$50 towards plants or rain barrels



Book your Shoreline Assessment by phoning 705-745-5791, extension 200, or email otonabee@otonabee.com.

PFN Outing Along the Lake Ontario North Shore

Submitted by Tony Bigg

On Sunday March 29, 2015 a group of sixteen members travelled down to Cobourg, then along the lakeshore to Bond Head (Newcastle) and then across country through Garden Hill and back to Peterborough. As we departed the weather was bright with a temperature of minus 1 degree Celsius with light winds. The weather stayed this way throughout the day although the wind speed picked up substantially in the afternoon. The trip down to Cobourg was uneventful with only a few common birds being seen - Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, American Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, House Sparrow, Canada Goose, and Blue Jay.

The harbour in Cobourg was extremely rewarding with good close-up looks at many waterfowl species. A Red-necked Grebe and a White-winged Scoter gave great close-up opportunities for photographs, as did an American Coot wandering along the shore in front of our cars. Other seen were Mallard, American Black Duck, American Widgeon, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Long-tailed Duck, and Wood Duck. Good looks were had at two Glaucous Gulls, one adult and the other a 2nd winter bird. Great Black-backed Gull, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were on the shore.



American Coot, Durham Region, March 29
~ Submitted by Martin Parker

After a break at Tim Horton's we entered Port Hope, turned south on Hopes Street South and followed Lake Street to its end. Driving along the cliff top some people were able to add an adult Iceland Gull. We parked at the end whilst we added a number of land birds - Common Grackle, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, American Tree Sparrow, American Goldfinch, and a flyover Common Redpoll (those with good ears). In the Port Hope harbour we were delighted with the sight of two Tree Swallows, hawking over the water. On the wall enclosing the harbour a Killdeer was feeding.

Driving west again along Lakeshore Road we stopped to check out a large flock of Canada Geese to check for Greater White-fronted Goose (no luck) but as the whole flock took to the air the group was treated to a Peregrine Falcon flying over. A Northern Cardinal and a female Northern Harrier were added before we took a short detour up Haskill Road and back down Dickinson Road. This loop added us a Horned Lark, the first of many subsequent Turkey Vultures, and for two sharp-eyed young observers, a Greater White-fronted Goose, flying with a flock of Canada Geese, through a scope at 500 metres.

Travelling on to Bond Head Downy Woodpecker, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Dark-eyed Junco were added. Whilst taking a lunch break at Bond Head the group was able to walk up close to friendly Mute Swans and another American Coot.

The final stretch took us to Garden Hill where we added Cackling Goose, and a Downy Woodpecker. A small side trip to the grist mill on Grist Mill Road, always a pretty spot added two Trumpeter Swans. The final stops were east of Bailieboro where we had a good look at an adult Bald Eagle was seen Lakeview Road, sitting and then flying. At the south end of Nicholson Road we had a close look at two Sandhill Cranes who slowly walked away from picking up great clods of mud on their feet from the wet cornfield. Our last birds were two American Kestrels as we returned west along the 3rd Line of South Monaghan. In all fifty-five species were seen.

Spring Migration

Submitted by June Hitchcox, *Courtesy of the Apsley Voice*

April - migration begins in earnest. Each migratory species has its own characteristic route between its nesting and winter ranges. These paths are rather broad. It was thought at one time that birds followed specific flyways, such as the Mississippi Flyway or Atlantic Flyway, which does apply somewhat to waterfowl which tend to follow a more restricted path. Banding studies have shown, however, that migrating songbirds fly across broad areas and are not tightly grouped into specific flyways. Nevertheless, some general patterns can be observed and four main migration routes through North America to the Arctic have been identified.

Along these routes, different species branch off - in the spring, to areas where they will nest – or join the routes – in the autumn to fly to areas where they spend the winter. One of these “flyways” follows along the Pacific Coast overland from South America then out over the ocean to overland again. A second “flyway” goes overland east of the Rocky Mountains. The third crosses 500 miles non-stop over the waters of the Gulf of Mexico - sometimes birds see and land on ships to take a break. The fourth “flyway” also crosses the Gulf of Mexico but has several islands for resting. Still, it is a long way to be over the water.

Imagine our tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbird flying 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico, non-stop! It is a good thing that they can store up to 2 grams of fat for this trip. They are exhausted and in need of food when they arrive in Canada – some as early as late April when there are very, very few flowers in bloom to feed them. However, the Sapsuckers arrive mid-April and drill holes in trees so that they can drink the sap for food. Hummingbirds also drink this sap and also eat the small bugs that are attracted to the sap. Isn't nature wonderful, with all the interlocking between species! You can help, too. Thoroughly wash your hummingbird feeders and fill them with a boiled, then cooled, solution of one cup white sugar to four cups water. Best to avoid red food colouring as it may be harmful. These feeders are usually red-coloured and that is enough to attract the hummers.

Other interesting facts: 1) Migrating Crows fly at 65 km an hour; ducks at 95; Robins are slow; Gray-cheeked Thrush at 200 km/day. 2) If you put netting over the outside of your windows as we did, to prevent collisions, stretch it as taut as you can onto screws placed at each corner of the window. I would think that any relatively small-sized, strong netting would work – as long as birds can see it and it will stretch taut. Often stores with bird supplies sell netting. We never have had a casualty after putting up netting and never have had a bird get caught in the netting because they can see it. So fill up your bird feeders with seed and your hummingbird feeders with the sugar/water mixture – then enjoy!

Bohemian Waxwing, David Fife Line, March 19

~ Submitted by Tony Bigg





The Orchid Diary



Compiled by Tony Bigg 705-652-7541 tanddbigg@sympatico.ca

ORCHID DIARY - February 22 to March 28, 2015

The cold weather continued to the end of the month, slowing migration considerably. At the end of the month, as the ice on the Otonabee River thawed, a large increase in waterfowl movement was seen. Also of note was the unusual reporting of three Eastern Screech-Owls during the month.

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- Feb 23 Sue Paradisis spotted an **Eastern Screech-Owl** just two metres from her in a spruce tree in her yard on Tudor Crescent, Ashburnham.
 - Feb 24 Another **Eastern Screech-Owl** was photographed by Michael Gillespie sitting on the top of suet at his feeder at the south end of David Fife Line.
 - Feb 25 A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was photographed on Westwood Drive, by a neighbour of Martin Parker, beneath the neighbour's feeder. It is not known whether this bird has been released, or is wild.
 - Mar 01 The pair of **Eastern Bluebirds** on Mike Gillespie's property at the south end of David Fife Line are reported to have survived the winter to date. In the late afternoon Martin and Kathy Parker reported that a large gathering of ducks was at the intersection of River Road and Cty Rd 37. They estimated the flock of ducks contained 60 **Common Goldeneyes** along with 2 **Common Mergansers** and 1 **Red-breasted Merganser**. Small flocks of 2 and 3 Goldeneye were observed flying in to join the flock on the river.
 - Mar 04 Luke Berg watched crazy dive bombing going on between a **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and three **American Crows** near the London Street foot bridge. He also had a **Red-breasted Merganser** and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** fly over his house.
 - Mar 05 Jerry Ball checking the **Bald Eagles** on Lake Katchewanooka, found that a bird was already on the nest.
 - Mar 06 Matthew Tobey and Martin Parker travelled to Hastings to look for birds. The Trent River above and below the bridge was full of **Common Goldeneyes**, in excess of 300 birds. **Hooded**, **Common**, and **Red-breasted Mergansers** were present. A flock of **Cedar Waxwings** were below the dam and an adult **Bald Eagle** flew over. A small flock of **Snow Buntings** was found by Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball near the junction of Cty Rd 2 and David Fife Line.
 - Mar 07 Erica Nol reports that a **Hoary Redpoll** is still coming to a feeder on Northey's Bay Rd.
 - Mar 10 A single **Horned Lark** was found by Jerry Ball in the fields off Scriven Rd. He also saw a herd of eight **White-tailed Deer** on David Fife Line. A **Merlin** was seen by Luke Berg flying over his house.
 - Mar 11 A **Red-necked Grebe** was found by Jerry Ball, north of the bridge in Hastings.
 - Mar 13 Jerry Ball reported a **Canvasback** on the Otonabee River between Lock 25 and Lakefield.
 - Mar 14 Scott Gibson, on Bissonnette Dr in Peterborough had good looks at two mixed flocks of **Cedar** and **Bohemian Waxwings**. The first flock had one Bohemian Waxwing and a number of Cedar Waxwings, and the second flock was twelve Bohemian Waxwings with a half dozen Cedar Waxwings.
 - Mar 15 A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen by Don Sutherland at the south end of Asphodel 5th Line on the Trent River. A **Killdeer** was seen by Jerry Ball on Scriven Rd in the south of the County.
 - Mar 16 Tony Bigg saw half-a-dozen **Red-winged Blackbirds** in the Lakefield Marsh. The same day he noted a large increase in the number of **American Robins** and **Eurasian Starlings** in the area. Jerry Ball also noted a **Red-winged Blackbird** near Scollard Drive in the north of Peterborough. A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen associating with **Black-capped Chickadees** in spruce trees at Nicholls Oval. Ryan Lamoureux saw a **Barred Owl**, carrying a black furry animal, being chased by two **Pileated Woodpeckers**.

- Mar 17 On the ice at Trent University Martin Parker saw a **Glaucous Gull** and an **Iceland Gull**. A **Common Grackle** was seen by Jerry Ball on Campbelltown Rd south of Cty Rd 2.
- Mar 19 Warren Dunlop photographed a **Northern Shrike** by the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. He also had a **Common Grackle** and three **Red-winged Blackbirds** on the Parkway north of Barnardo Rd. Two **Bohemian Waxwings** were found by Tony Bigg at the southernmost point of David Fife Line, and just north of there, on Michael Gillespie's property he saw the two **Eastern Bluebirds** (Martin Parker and Jerry Ball also saw these birds on this day). He notes that he still has a flock of about a hundred **Common Redpolls**, and the odd **Hoary Redpoll**, **Pine Siskin**, and **American Goldfinch** coming to his feeders at the north end of Lakefield. Bill Snowden also reports a large flock **Common Redpolls** at his feeder on Gail Park Drive in Ennismore. His **White-throated Sparrow** appears to have made it through the winter. Two immature and one adult **Bald Eagles** were seen feeding on a dead fish on the ice beside the channel behind his cottage. On Manorhill Dr near Weller St, Ken Abraham saw a **Northern Flicker**. Iain Rayner heard a **Song Sparrow** opposite Millenium Park. A second **Northern Shrike** was seen by Jerry Ball on Cty Rd 2.
- Mar 20 A **River Otter** was seen by Tony Bigg on the ice just north of the Lakefield Marsh.
- Mar 21 Tony Bigg saw his FOY **Turkey Vulture** over Crawford Drive in the south of Peterborough, and eight **Ring-necked Ducks** off the beach in Lakefield. The same ducks were reported by Luke Berg. An **Iceland Gull** and a **Great Blue Heron** were seen by Bill Crins between Lock 25 and Lakefield.
- Mar 22 A male **Northern Harrier** was seen by Luke Berg flying near Drummond Line north of Cty Rd 2. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard by Simon Dodsworth on Jennifer Drive in the north of Peterborough.
- Mar 24 Don Sutherland had eleven **Bohemian Waxwings** and one **Horned Lark** flying over the Rotary Trail north of Trent University. Luke Berg had four **Turkey Vultures** and a **Cooper's Hawk** migrating north over his house near Parkhill and George St. Matthew Tobey had a successful trip along the Otonabee between Trent and Lakefield with 32 species. This included an **American Black Duck**, two **Hooded Mergansers**, a **Great Blue Heron**, three **Turkey Vultures**, a **Red-shouldered Hawk**, a **Sandhill Crane**, a **Brown Creeper**, a **Snow Bunting**, eight **Red-winged Blackbirds**, a **Common Grackle**, and two **Brown-headed Cowbirds**. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and two **Glaucous Gulls** were seen by Jerry Ball on Little Lake.
- Mar 25 Mike Oldham, on Plati Avenue, had three **Pine Siskins** at his feeders. Dave Milsom saw three **Wood Ducks** from his home on Scollard Drive. A **Killdeer** flew over Dan Chronowic on the Trent University Campus. Between Johnston Drive and Hwy 115, Warren Dunlop saw two **Killdeer**, and an **Eastern Meadowlark** foraging with **Eurasian Starlings**. Four **Trumpeter Swans** were photographed on the ice by Luke Berg at the Peterborough Zoo. He also reported that **Wood Ducks** had increased to fifteen birds, the **Long-tailed Duck** was still between Lock 25 and Lakefield, and **Hooded Mergansers** had now increased to twenty-six. Scott Gibson reports seeing three **Mute Swans** downstream from the bridge in Hastings.
- Mar 26 Working the Otonabee River from Trent Campus to Lakefield Matthew Tobey found a **Belted Kingfisher**, two **Pied-billed Grebes**, a **Brown-headed Cowbird**, and a **Tree Swallow** among a total of 41 species. An **American Woodcock** was heard by Walter Wehtje, "peinting" just off Clonsilla Avenue. Jerry Ball found a **Snow Goose** between Locks 23 and 24. Two **Northern Pintails** and four **American Black Ducks** were seen on the run-off pond at Mathers Corners, by Jerry Ball.
- Mar 28 Ian Sturdee saw a **Red-shouldered Hawk** near Cordova Lake in the east of the County. Don Sutherland photographed the **Snow Goose** and two **Cackling Geese** between Locks 23 and 24 on the Otonabee River.



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing completed form and cheque to Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

CONTACT

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|-----------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Name (s): | | Home Tel: | |
| | | Work Tel: | |
| Address: | | Receive Orchid by: | <input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please |
| | | Email(s): | |

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 ☐ 2. Single Student \$15 ☐ 3. Single Child* (age 5-12) \$10 ☐
4. Family (couple or family with children*) \$30 ☐

*Please give the name(s) and age(s) of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

| Name | Age* | Name | Age* |
|------|------|------|------|
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MAIN INTERESTS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Birds | <input type="radio"/> Butterflies/insects | <input type="radio"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs) |
| <input type="radio"/> Astronomy | <input type="radio"/> Aquatic Life | <input type="radio"/> Geology |
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking | <input type="radio"/> Conservation | <input type="radio"/> Field Trips |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (specify) | | |

I (name _____) am knowledgeable in the following areas _____ and would be prepared to

- ☐ lead an outdoor session ☐ give a presentation ☐ prepare an article for The Orchid

I am interested in the following:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Joining the PFN Executive | <input type="radio"/> Sitting on research or conservation committees | <input type="radio"/> Working on field projects |
| <input type="radio"/> Helping with refreshments at meetings | <input type="radio"/> Please have a member of the executive call me | |

AGE GROUP

This information helps us to understand the needs of our members. If a family membership, please check for each adult

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 20 | <input type="radio"/> 20-29 | <input type="radio"/> 30-39 | <input type="radio"/> 40-49 | <input type="radio"/> 50-59 | <input type="radio"/> 60-69 | <input type="radio"/> 70-79 | <input type="radio"/> 80< over |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|

DONATIONS

Membership fees cover the general operating costs of the club while other sources of revenue are needed to fund special projects such as ecological restoration. You can assist the club by making a donation to help further our work in such areas. The PFN is a registered charity and issues receipts for income tax purposes. All donations are gratefully received and any member of the executive will be happy to speak to you concerning the use of such funds.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In consideration of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) accepting this application, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever release and discharge the PFN, their officers, directors, servants and agents from any liability whatsoever arising from my participation in PFN activities, whether by reason of negligence of the PFN or its representatives, or otherwise. I affirm that I am in good health, capable of performing the exercise required for field trips or other activities in which I participate, and accept as my personal risk the hazards of such participation. As a member of the PFN and/or as a parent/guardian of a member under 18 years of age, I have read and understood the above, and accept its terms on behalf of all of my underage children.

Signature: _____