

The Orchid

June/July 2015
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Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Vocalizing Porcupine at Stoney Lake, May 21 ~ Submitted by Rene Gareau

INSIDE: 75th Anniversary Celebration A Big Success!
Harper Park Stewardship Initiative: Cleanup Project and September Lecture
Red-winged Blackbird Observations
Lecture Series Notes: Rick Beaver and the Rice Lake Plains
Beavermead Bat Walk

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Painted Trillium near Haliburton, May 2015
~ Submitted by Ted and Marion Vale

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Peter Hughes
Eric Snyder
Evan Thomas



Common Loon, Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, May 24
~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Coming Events

<p style="text-align: right;">Sunday, June 7</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7:30 am</p> <p>Peterborough Zoo North Parking Lot</p>	<p>Alderville Black Oak Savanna</p> <p>This visit will include a tour of one of the best surviving examples of a once abundant Ontario habitat. Hard work and determination have helped to preserve and restore this habitat with its rich flora and diverse bird life. Up to forty species designated as Species at Risk have been recorded at the site.</p> <p>Carpool from Peterborough Zoo parking lot on Water Street at 7:30 am or join the group at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Ecology Centre at 8:30 am (for details check out the website: http://www.alderillesavanna.ca/)</p> <p>We will tour the site in the morning. If you would like to bring a packed lunch, the centre will provide a picnic spot on their deck, with tea, coffee and spring water available.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wednesday, June 10</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: The Culture of Ontario's Native Mussels</p> <p>Mussels play an important role in the ecosystem of our lakes and rivers. There are over 40 native species of mussels in Ontario, yet 40% of species are at risk in the south of the province. Kevin Loftus, Manager of The Fish Culture Section at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, will present to us their early efforts to culture 'At Risk' mussels for reintroduction and stocking in our waters.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Saturday, June 20</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7:00 am</p> <p>Peterborough Zoo North Parking Lot</p>	<p>Hike at Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park</p> <p>Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park protects over 37,000 hectares of the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, including many significant species and habitats. Rock Barrens is a unique ecosystem that occurs throughout this provincial park, located just 45 minutes north of Peterborough. Characterized by exposed granitic bedrock and stunted trees and shrubs, these areas have a subtle beauty and hold great ecological value. Join park staff to explore a section of rock barren during a four kilometre hike where many characteristic species of birds, reptiles, insects and plants will be sought.</p> <p>This hike will be moderately challenging. Hiking boots, sun- and bug-protective clothing, water and snacks are recommended. Carpooling from the Peterborough Zoo parking lot is necessary due to limited parking at the site.</p> <p>To minimize impact on the park, this hike is limited to 15 participants. If you would like to reserve one or more places please contact Paul Elliott (705-740-0501 or email pauelliott@trentu.ca).</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Saturday, August 8</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8:15 pm</p> <p>Beavermead Park, Ashburnham Drive, Peterborough</p>	<p>Bat Walk at Beavermead</p> <p>PFN members are invited to join a bat walk at Beavermead Park, Ashburnham Drive in Peterborough. We will use ultra-sonic bat detectors to listen in to the fascinating sounds made by foraging bats. Join Paul Elliott at the entrance to the camp ground adjacent to the parking lot. The walk is organized in collaboration with ORCA and will also be open to people staying at their campsites. Accompanied children are welcome. The session will last around one hour.</p>

Coming Events continued

<p>Wednesday, September 9</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Harper Park - A Local Stewardship Initiative</p> <p>Kim Zippel, Chair of the Harper Park Stewardship Initiative, will deliver a presentation on Harper Park, a 60-hectare municipal park located in the southwest end of Peterborough. Although impacted by surrounding development, the park has remained largely natural with a variety of biological communities, and high floral diversity representative of the Kawartha Lakes region.</p> <p>In 2011, a community driven stewardship group, The Harper Park Stewardship Initiative (HPSI), was created to provide ongoing protection and restoration of Harper Park's forested uplands, wetlands and the coldwater brook trout stream known as Harper Creek. The HPSI has recently been folded into the Peterborough Field Naturalists club as a committee, and this talk will introduce the park, as well as the efforts and goals of the HPSI, to PFN members.</p>
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PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

PFN Juniors will be invited to a few events during the summer, so please get in touch with Lara Griffin at 705-749-3639 for details and to join the email distribution list. Have a safe and happy summer!

Other Events of Interest

<p>Saturday, June 6th</p> <p>1:00 to 5:00 pm</p> <p>Viamede Resort on Stoney Lake</p> <p>595 Mount Julian Road, Woodview</p>	<p>Emerald Summit: Protecting Our Green Spaces Presented by the Friends of the Fraser Wetlands</p> <p>This exceptional event will feature keynote speakers Gord Miller, former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, and Curve Lake First Nation Elder Doug Williams, as well as former Ontario Minister of the Environment Ruth Grier, Curve Lake First Nation Chief Phyllis Williams and an expert panel who will share their thoughts on preserving the unique landscape of The Land Between – a region of rugged beauty and biodiversity on the edge of the Canadian Shield. Opening and closing ceremonies by Traditional Knowledge holder Dorothy Taylor. Includes information viewing session (1:00 pm), presentations (2:00) and refreshments.</p> <p>While there is no charge for this event, seating is limited. For more information visit www.friendsoffraserwetlands.com or email us at: emeraldjune6th@gmail.com.</p>
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Chestnut-sided Warbler, Herkimer Point, May 17
 ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Other Events of Interest continued

<p>GreenUP Ecology Park Ashburnham Road, Peterborough</p>	<p>2015 GreenUP Ecology Park Programs and Events</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>August 20th 6:00 – 8:30 Ecology Park Family Night & Lantern Festival</p> <p>August 22nd 10:00 - 1:30 Monarch Workshop</p> <p>Sept 13th 1:30 – 4:00 Ecology Park Tea Party & Pie Fundraiser</p> <p>Sept 19th 12:00 – 2:00 Monarch Release Celebration</p> <p>October 18th Autumn Little Tree Sale</p> <p>October 29th Last day at Ecology Park</p> <p>* Visit the GreenUp website www.greenup.on.ca or email workshops @ greenup.on.ca.</p> <p>* Ecology Park plant catalogue is online; see 'Ecology Park/Garden Market'.</p> <p>Bulk Sales & Costs:</p> <p>\$2 / bucket leaf compost</p> <p>\$3 / bucket cedar mulch</p> <p>\$7 straw bale</p> <p>Bring your own buckets and only available during garden market hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 to 7:00 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 to 4:00 pm, to October 29th.</p>
<p>Sunday, June 14</p>	<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>
<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>June 24 - Cauleen Viscoff's topic is "What a Plant Knows"</p>

Other Events of Interest continued

Fabulous Fall Fungi Workshop

Now in its 6th year, this popular 3-day workshop explores the impressive diversity of mushrooms and other fungi found in Southern Ontario. Suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced. Activities include daily field trips to collect specimens, working in the classroom to identify our finds, and discussions on fungal ecology, natural history, and uses.

There will also be one or more evening presentations, plus the opportunity to see a bioluminescent mushroom in action. If we find any edibles our cook is always amenable to cooking up samples for us to try. Participants will have access to a class set of field guides, 10x loupes, and an extensive collection of reference books.

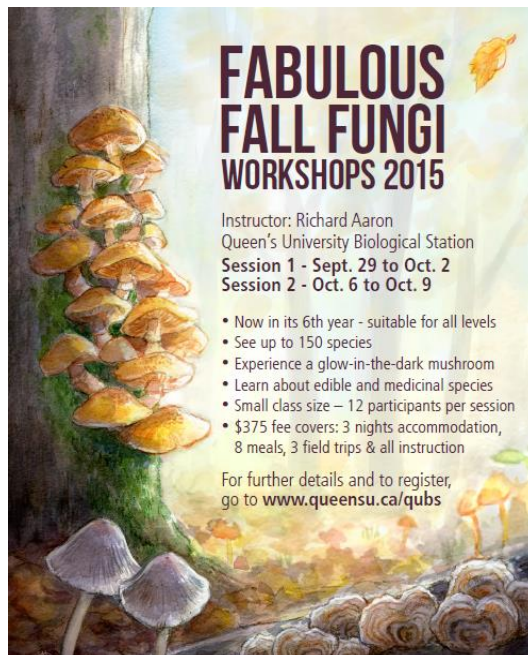
Cost includes 3 nights' accommodation, all meals, instruction, printed materials, and use of classroom. Small class size (maximum 12 students). Register early to avoid disappointment as each year there is a waiting list. Location: Queen's University Biological Station. Details: www.queensu.ca/qubs.

Session 1

Tuesday September 9
(8:00 pm) to
Friday October 2 (4:00 pm)

Session 2

Tuesday October 6
(8:00 pm) to
Friday October 9 (4:00 pm)



Veery, Peterborough, May 17
~ Submitted by Matthew Tobey



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
Special Projects	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 September issue is **Monday, August 17th.**

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



2015 Peterborough Regional Science Fair Winners

The Peterborough Field Naturalists annually awards four prizes in the Grade 7 & 8 category at the Annual Peterborough Regional Science Fair, which was held in April. This year the four winners each received a cash award of \$25, a copy of the PFN publication 'The Mammals of Peterborough County' and a copy of the April issue of The Orchid.

The following acknowledgements were received from two of the winners:

Eli McColl – "Thank you for your generous monetary gift given for my project that won the Elementary First Place Award at the Trent University Science Fair 2015. It is appreciated."

Jacob Bowman – "Thank you for your generous donation of \$25, The Mammals of Peterborough County, and a copy of 'The Orchid'. I sincerely enjoyed 'Mammals of Peterborough County'. It is interesting to compare the status of animals from 1989 to the animals of present day. My project involved monitoring a Brook Trout stream near Peterborough for fish, invertebrates, plants and the physical stream."

PFN Trip Report: Night with Kermit's Friends and Timber-doodles **Submitted by Martin Parker; Photo courtesy of Gord and Enid Mallory**

On the evening of April 18th, nineteen members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists participated in the evening outing to listen to the calls of frogs, as well as the courtship flights of American Woodcocks. We walked along the Hooton Line through the Cavan Swamp. The road was blocked just prior to entering the swamp, so the participants did not have to contend with traffic.

Both Spring Peepers and Wood Frogs cooperated for the participants. There was a good chorus of both. The double quack call of the Wood Frog emanated from more wooded areas. Later in the evening at a stop along Preston Road the chorus of Spring Peepers was joined by a few Striped Chorus Frogs.



On the walk back to the car the participants were serenaded by the flight song of Common Snipe. As the group reached the cars the Common Snipes stopped calling and the sounds of American Woodcock took over – both the 'peep' call while on the ground and then the flight songs.

This evening outing was a successful introduction to the calls of frogs and the arial displays of both Common Snipe and American Woodcock (Timber-doodles). These are all signs of spring in the Kawarthas.

PFN Trip Report: May 17th Wildlife Walk **Article and photo submitted by Dave Milsom**

Nine participants attended the May 17th PFN hike on a beautiful sunny spring morning. We spent most of our time at Herkimer Point on Rice Lake, at the adjacent wetland, Rice Lake at the south end of Hiawatha Line, and a grassy meadow just north of County Road 2.



A total of 74 species were recorded. Best find was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo which sang for 5 minutes just over our heads at Herkimer Point. It was well seen by all the group, as also were all of the following birds : Scarlet Tanager, Veery (photo, left), Wood and Swainson's Thrushes, 3 Sandhill Cranes, 4 Osprey (one carrying a large fish), Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blue-winged, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Pine Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Catbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 6 Great-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Kingbirds, 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, Cedar Waxwings and Baltimore Orioles. All birds were seen well, particularly the Pine Warbler which landed at our feet!

At Rice Lake we saw 3 Purple Martins near the restaurant as well as many Barn Swallows.

On Hiawatha Line north of County Road 2 we scoped up to four male Bobolinks and also saw an Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher, and Savannah Sparrow. Altogether it was a very satisfactory morning. Many thanks to co-leader Matthew Tobey for his expertise.

Peterborough Field Naturalists' 75th Anniversary Celebration A Big Success!

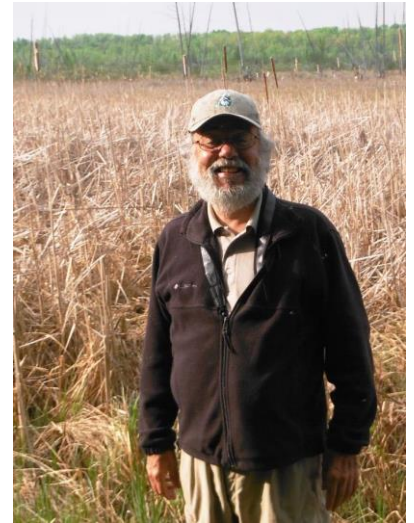
Article submitted by Lynn Smith

Photos courtesy of Anne Elliott, Kathy Parker, Martin Parker and Kim Zippel

They came! They celebrated!

Our day began at Miller Creek Management Area with a group of 16 early birders. As we arrived we were welcomed with the song of the Northern Waterthrush, loud and clear. Martin Parker (**photo, right**) led the group to the observation tower, along the path by the marsh and up through the fields. The weather co-operated until the moment Dave Milsom pressed 'play' on his iphone to broadcast the song of the Sora. It had the effect of a Ceremonial Rain Dance; the skies opened up and yes, the rains came, fortunately just for a short time.

Matthew Tobey and his youthful eyes and ears did not disappoint us as he scanned the great expanse of cattail and announced that he saw an American Bittern. Wow, I was impressed. Then he detailed the exact location of the well-camouflaged bird so we could all enjoy the sighting. Other highlights included a Virginia Rail that scurried out into the open, much to our delight, and the distant coo-coo-coo of a Least Bittern.



The second hike was held at Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park, with a focus on wildflowers and old growth trees. Mike McMurtry and Roger Jones (**photo, left**) were our capable leaders. As we walked they explained the characteristics to look for in an older tree, differentiated 5 different ferns, pointed out the over 400 year-old hemlock, confirmed red or white baneberry, cited the subtle difference between Meadow Rue and Blue Cohosh and, my goodness, the list goes on. So much to learn! In addition, Basil sleuthed out a garter snake and a red-backed salamander.

The third hike was lead by Tony Bigg and John Etches at Camp Kawartha on Birchview Road. Tony identified butterflies while John educated the group on the many geological features of the area. Unfortunately I did not attend this hike. However, CHEX Television was there and from it a video was uploaded to YouTube of the Club's event.

In the meantime, two events were organized for families. The morning activity took place at Lakefield Marsh, with lots of fun at the wetland for the 30 people who attended (**photo, right**). The second event saw smiling kids engaged in games and adventure at Camp Kawartha.

By 4:00 people congregated at Camp Kawartha and were greeted with appetizers and beverages. Thanks to our two bartenders, Mark Zippel and Larry Smith, wine and beer were ably served after a hot day. Displays were set up around the room by organizations with whom the PFN often associates, including the Kawartha Land Trust, Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre, Alderville Black Oak Savanna, Ontario Field Ornithologists and Kawartha Highlands Signature Site. Our Club also had a display of memorabilia.



At 5:00 it was time for speeches. Recognition of the Club's work over the past 75 years in the areas of the environment, education and natural heritage was revealed to everyone in attendance. This recognition included a letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a certificate from Premier Kathleen Wynne, and congratulations from MPP Jeff Leal, Mayor Daryl Bennett, and the County of Peterborough. The Club received the Environmental Excellence Stewardship award from the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority as well as the Samuel Armour Award from the Peterborough Historical Society.

Liberal MPP Jeff Leal was present and had congratulatory remarks to share. Ian Attridge, Lands Manager at Kawartha Land Trust, and Peter Hughes, Executive Director of Peterborough GreenUp, both spoke highly of our Club and look forward to continuing work with us.

The Executive Director of Camp Kawartha, Jacob Rodenburg, announced that a white birch would be planted on the property in honour of the Peterborough Field Naturalists' 75th anniversary. We will take all this recognition and encouragement into the next 75 years!

An amazing BBQ of hamburgers, sausages, vegetarian and vegan burgers, tossed salad, sauerkraut and millet salad was capably served by the Camp Kawartha kitchen staff, followed by a "tastefully decorated" anniversary cake. It was so very nice to look around the room and witness the camaraderie, reminiscing and good times.



Next on the agenda were anecdotes from past PFN Presidents and members. We heard nostalgic, thoughtful and entertaining speeches from King Baker (**photo, right**), Gordon Berry, Geoff Carpentier, Drew Monkman, Martin Parker, Roger Jones, and Jim Cashmore. Now there's a lot of history! Hilarious antics were described and many previous

members such as Doug Sadler, Harry and Claire Williams, Rhea Bringeman, Lola Leach, Ray Chandler, among others, were fondly remembered.

Then, all too soon, the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Peterborough Field Naturalists came to a close.

A heartfelt thank you to all who planned, lead, served, participated and otherwise enjoyed the day!

Some of the congratulatory certificates awarded to the PFN:





Early birds gathered on May 18 at 7:00 am
at the Peterborough Zoo to carpool to the
Miller Creek Wildlife Area



PROCLAMATION

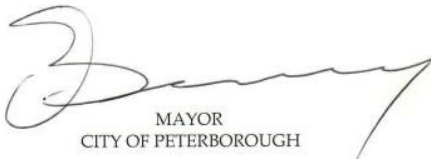
75th Anniversary of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

May 18, 2015

- WHEREAS The Peterborough Field Naturalists, initially called the Peterborough Nature Club, was founded by a gathering of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in the Peterborough area on May 18, 1940;
- WHEREAS The guiding principles of the Peterborough Field Naturalists are "To Know, To Appreciate, To Conserve Nature in All its Forms";
- WHEREAS The organization has published a regular newsletter, a number of special publications on the natural history of the Peterborough area, and numerous articles on the natural history of the region;
- WHEREAS The Peterborough Field Naturalists has been an informed advocate on natural history, and environmental and planning issues in the region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Daryl Bennett, Mayor of the City of Peterborough, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2015 as a day of celebration in recognition of the 75th anniversary of Peterborough Field Naturalists.




MAYOR
CITY OF PETERBOROUGH



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking the 75th anniversary of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN).

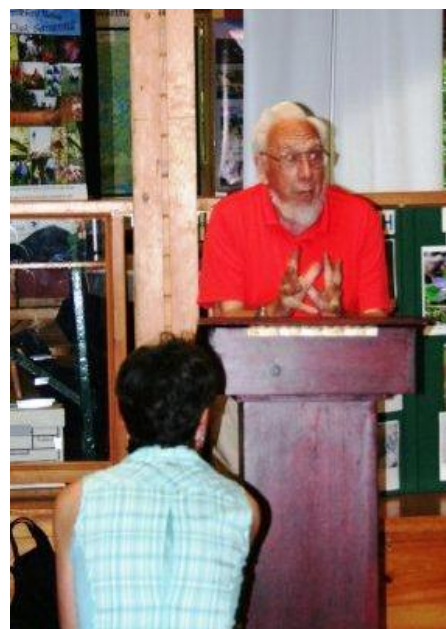
Canada's wilderness landscapes are treasures to behold, and the Kawartha Lakes-Trent River watershed offers a variety of ecosystems for wildlife enthusiasts to study and appreciate. For 75 years, the Peterborough Field Naturalists has offered a forum for nature lovers to learn more about the area's flora and fauna, and to share this knowledge with others. This special milestone provides an ideal opportunity to reflect on your club's many achievements, including the popular annual Christmas bird and butterfly counts.

I would like to commend the members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists for their dedication to enhancing knowledge of the community's natural heritage while working to preserve local habitats for future generations to enjoy. Your efforts are deeply appreciated.

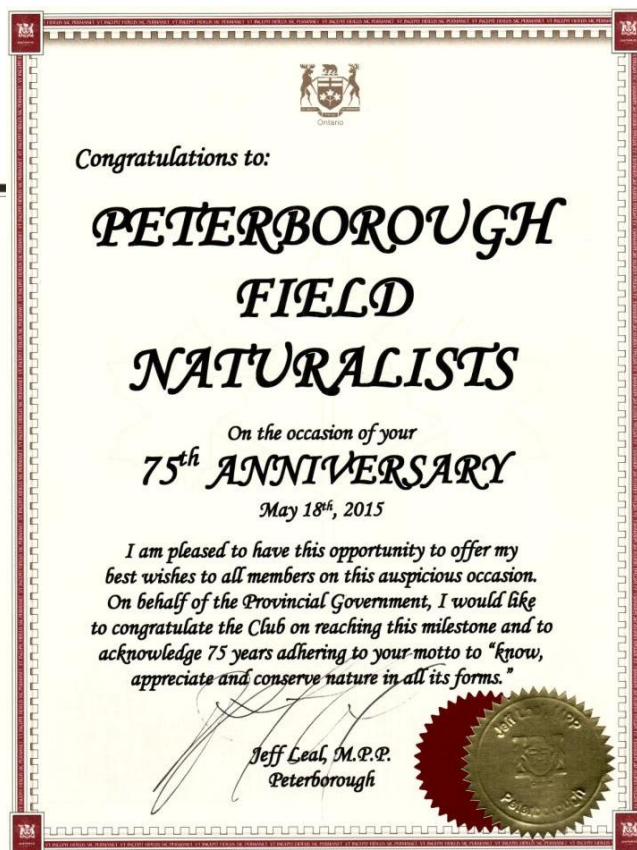
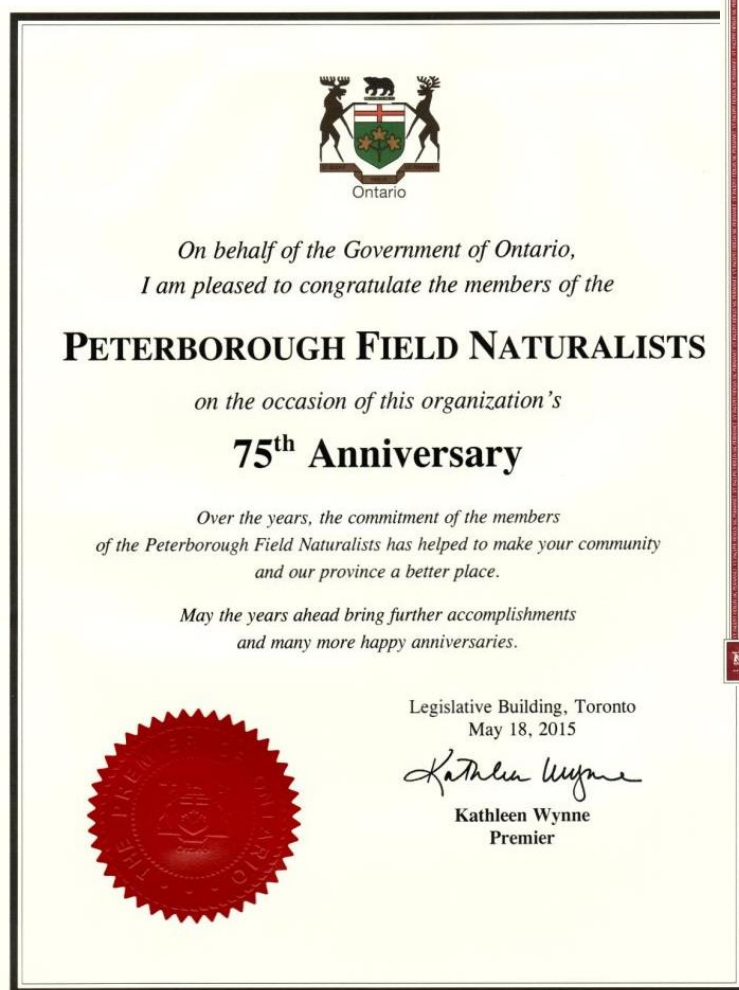
On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a memorable anniversary and every future success.



OTTAWA
2015



Past PFN President Gordon Berry
offered glimpses into the PFN,
circa 1970s



**Warm wishes for another 75
memorable years!**



Red-winged Blackbirds

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

Bronte Harbour is full of boats, some moored now in the harbour, others coming and going for a sail or motor on Lake Ontario. Signs of spring are everywhere as I write this article on May 1st. Blue Scilla flowers carpet lawns, gardens and wild spots. Forsythia bushes are out in their yellow splendour. Mourning Doves have been coo-coo-cooing for quite a while. Red-winged Blackbirds are everywhere, most migrating north from at least mid U.S.A. although some stay over the winter even as far north as Peterborough.

They are one of the most abundant and widespread birds in North America. You will hear the male calling "o-ka-lee" (with the last note high and quavering) while he spreads his wings, showing his beautiful red wing patch which is bordered by a buff-yellow lower bottom line of feathers. Otherwise the male is all black. He also calls "check", which is easy to imitate and sometimes the bird will come closer.

The female is entirely different in colour, resembling a large, brown sparrow with heavily-streaked underparts; colours that blend with their surroundings and thus make them less conspicuous. Red-wings are smaller than an American Robin, with the female smaller than the male. Males arrive 2 to 3 weeks before the females to establish nesting territory in a wetland, meadow or pasture, and since he may have at least 3 mates at one time the territory has to be rather large. The brilliant red wings of the male impress the female and intimidate the inferior males.

Mating bonds established, the female builds the nest right away; a well-made cup, close to the ground, and soon there are 3 to 5 pale-blue spotted eggs laid. The males offer little assistance in the nest building, incubation and raising of the young. Bob and I watched a swamp where males were in hot pursuit of their females to get them back to their territory and also pursued other males that had the nerve to come to **his** "land".

To show his territory, the male spreads his wings so that the red is displayed. When two males perch near each other at edges of their territories, they tilt their bills to settle a dispute. Red-wings feed mostly on the ground: waste grain from agriculture, cracked corn, worms, insects, fruits, berries and ripening corn. They are not loved by farmers, even though they eat many insects that damage agricultural crops.

After raising their young, red-wings gather in huge flocks of up to 1,000,000 or even more, and may include other blackbirds such as Brown-headed Cowbirds and Common Grackles. What a sight that must be!

Red-winged Blackbirds are easily seen and heard. I am going to pay more attention to these smart birds; a good bird for birders to observe and from whom to learn about bird behaviour.



Red-winged Blackbird, Carden Alvar,
May 23

~ Submitted by Martin Parker

Super Spring Clean-up of Harper Park

Article and photos submitted by Kim Zippel, Chair of the Harper Park Stewardship Initiative

The second annual Super Spring Clean-up of Harper Park took place on Saturday, May 2nd. The Super Spring Clean-up is an annual, city wide event sponsored by Tim Hortons, and organized and administered by the three local Rotary Clubs: Kawartha, Peterborough and BEL. The weather was absolutely perfect for the twenty-four enthusiastic people who came out to help at the Harper Park site.

This year the focus was on larger items. The volunteers came prepared with wheelbarrows for transporting awkward, hefty objects that had been identified last year, but didn't have the capacity to remove. The park is surprisingly large, covering approximately 150 acres, and has no formal entrance, so it is a tricky business ferrying waste from park to roadside.



Scrap metal dominated the pile of refuse this year as a refrigerator, BBQ, toaster oven, lawn chairs and cans were left alongside Harper Road for later pick-up by the city. Several loads of extremely heavy debris were removed from the park, which produced an incredible improvement. It is hoped that everyone feels really good about what was accomplished, and that the volunteers return to the park for a more relaxing visit sometime soon. **Pictured left** is enthusiastic and hard-working volunteer Laura Irving.

Time cleaning up in the park also allowed volunteers to meet some of the inhabitants as two snakes hitched a ride to the road in an old tin can. Two young red-bellied snakes were returned to the site from which the tins were removed, unharmed by both travel and all the attention. A purse, with identification, found during the clean-up was dropped off at the Peterborough police station. Hopefully it too has been returned home.

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/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 otonabeeeca@otonabee.com.

Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Project



**Shoreline
Assessment**

Arrange for an expert shoreline
advisor to visit your property and
suggest ways to maintain or
improve the health of your
shoreline free of charge!

 **OTONABEE
CONSERVATION**
www.otonabee.com

**Reflections From the Kawartha Land Trust/Trent University Speaker Series:
 'A Sense of Place: Perspectives on Relationship to Land and Water in the Kawarthas'
 Submitted by Becky Lyon, Outreach Coordinator, Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative
 Photos courtesy of Radek Odolczyk, Natural Resources Intern at Alderville Black Oak Savanna**



The case of Alderville First Nation on the Rice Lake Plains was presented by Rick Beaver, Research and Restoration Coordinator at Alderville Black Oak Savanna. Rick Beaver greeted the audience at Peterborough's Market Hall, and shared with us a common vision of conservation and restoration of the Tallgrass Prairie and Black Oak Savanna Ecosystems in the Rice Lake Plains.

Grounded in the culture and context of environmental stewardship, Beaver shared his Anishinaabe background united with his formal education as a wildlife biologist. We were firstly pointed to the considerations of Traditional Knowledge: a cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief about the relationship of living beings (including humans) with one another and the environment (UNESCO 2003). As a painter, Beaver illustrated the traditional drum, understood as the telescope of the heart. And through the telescope, we see that the universe itself beats. Through this symbolism, it was understood that synergies between scientific and indigenous knowledge of the world around us is grounded in an understanding of the land we inhabit.

To be familiar with the Rice Lake Plains, we were presented with the understanding of the rare ecosystems Tallgrass Prairie and Black Oak Savanna.

When we hear the word prairie, do we think of agriculture? Great sweeping fields producing grain? Or do we think of landscapes shaped by native grasses and wildflowers that punctuated the grassy sea? That which offers explosions of colour in the spring, tall graceful wildflowers in summer, and rich restful bronzes, golds, reds, and purples in fall, as seed-heads matured. Even in cold prairie winters, the seed-heads stood sentinel, covered with snow and next year's promise of growth. (Johnson 1998)

Native grassland communities that once stretched from the edges of the great eastern deciduous forest to the Rockies are highly endangered; 1% of these communities remain in Ontario, and 3% remaining in Canada. Most experts agree that of the perhaps 1 million square kilometres of tallgrass prairie that existed in North America prior to European settlement, less than one-tenth of 1% remains (Johnson 1998). It was recognized that 40% of Canada's 350 species at-risk are found on First Nation's lands, which constitute only 1% of the country's total land mass. Alderville Black Oak Savanna is the largest remnant of intact Tallgrass Prairie and Black Oak Savanna in the Rice Lake Plains, and so points of consideration included the connection between species at-risk and the ecosystems they occupy. Considerations for conservation and restoration of these rare communities highlighted the need for collaboration to address ecosystem degradation and rarity.

An ecosystem's preservation entails human mediation to continue the stewardship of the land, through environmental conservation efforts, education and outreach, and shared common goals. It is recognized that protection through collaborative efforts and shared common understanding is exemplified in the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative, a multi stakeholder collaboration of 10 non-profit organizations, land trusts, naturalists, and conservation authorities.

This initiative offers shared resources, workshops, data sharing, funding, outreach and collaboration to ensure prolonged success of restoration. Within a cultural context, this entails a foundation of shared goals, focusing on common themes and mutually agreeable priorities. Among them is the recognition of the importance of fire. Fire has played a crucial role in the development and maintenance of the prairies. It functions to set back invading trees and shrubs, to warm the soil and to contribute to the recycling of accumulated nutrients in the thick surface litter. Challenges to this technique include incompatible development, lack of awareness and lack of resources and coordination to maintain this restorative method. Through education and cooperative agreements, it has been possible to surmount challenges with the involvement of engaged citizens, collaboration on land securement, and dialogue.



From the words of Rick Beaver, a special thanks to landowners, partners and educators.

"In patience, dedication, adaptability, partnership, and your heart forward in science and restoration, these are the critical elements to carry forward in conservation."

[We admire] the strength and resilience of a prairie: windswept acres, little arboreal shelter, periods of prolonged drought and soaring temperatures; the killing cold of winter's blast; the accumulated chomping of thousands of nibbling grazers and the instant immolation by roaring, rapidly advancing fires. Not only have prairie plants survived such stresses, they positively depend on them. (Johnson 1998)

References:

Johnson, 1998: Grow Wild! Native Plant Gardening in Canada. Denise Schon Books Inc.
 UNESCO, 2013: The Contribution of Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.
 Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative. A Landowner's Guide for Restoring Central Ontario's Rice Lake Plains and Tallgrass Prairie. Peterborough County Stewardship Council and the Natural Conservancy of Canada.



The Rice Lake Plains is home to Canada's easternmost prairie and is the focus of a multi-partner conservation and stewardship project. To learn more about the initiative and to help support our work, please visit: www.ricelakeplains.ca.

Upcoming Events	Details
Plug Planting Event Saturday June 20 th	The Nature Conservancy of Canada's Volunteer Plug Planting Event. Become a conservation volunteer! Details at www.ricelakeplains.ca
June Butterfly Count Saturday June 27 th	Alderville Black Oak Savanna Butterfly Count! Field season has begun, please join us in the recording of common, rare and species at-risk butterflies and moths. Details at www.ricelakeplains.ca
8 th Annual Prairie Day Saturday September 26 th	8 th Annual Prairie Day at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna. Details at www.ricelakeplains.ca www.alderillesavanna.ca
Contact	Email: outreach@ricelakeplains.ca Facebook: Savanna Sparrow

Explorations at 'A Day on the Grand'

Article and photos submitted by Gord and Enid Mallory

A Day on the Grand (the 84th AGM of Ontario Nature) let us explore a rare Charitable Research Reserve consisting of 370 hectares along the Grand River. We found mayflowers, leeks, trilliums, enormous old beech trees you could go inside, salamanders, a snapping turtle on the river bank, an osprey eating fish on a tree. Other hikers explored pollinators, flintknapping, tallgrass prairie, river health, ambush bugs, raptors and a solar home. From a picnic table at the Eco Centre some of us watched an indigo bunting sing at the top of a dead tree.

Photo Captions (photos left to right):

Photo 1 - Grant Linney holds two views of the earth as he talks about our hopes and fears for the future and what each of us can do about it. Trained by Al Gore, Grant has delivered his sustainability presentation 102 times. He gives us a lot to think about: leave fossil fuels in the ground; limit families to one child; get children outside again; don't keep quiet about threats to nature - talk can accomplish a lot!

Photo 2 - Tanya Pulfer leads a hike on reptiles and amphibians. Tanya grew up on a farm east of Peterborough and works for Ontario Nature. The 'snake board' is tilted upward, revealing warming snakes underneath.

Photo 3 - Mature trees like this one in Indian Woods were a special feature on the 'Children in the Woods' walk. In a sunlit glade in the mature woods we joined hands to play a silly game; children of all ages!



Left:
Short-billed Dowitcher,
Lakefield Lagoons,
May 21

Right:
Black-billed Cuckoo,
Peterborough,
May 24

~ Submitted by
Dave Milsom





The Orchid Diary



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

ORCHID DIARY - May 1 to May 31, 2015

Spring finally arrives and with it a host of bird migrants and emerging butterflies.

- May 01 Near the junction of Northeys Bay Rd and the 14th Line of Smith Tony Bigg saw two **Lesser Yellowlegs**. On Tie's Mountain Rd he saw a **Chipping Sparrow**. He also saw a **Northern Water Snake** on Bass Lake Rd. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard by Jane Bremner in Warsaw by the Indian River.
- May 02 A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited JB Jaboor's feeder on Hazel Crescent just south of County Rd 2.
- May 03 An evening visit to Sandy Lake by Tyler Hoar found him hearing three rare **Yellow Rails**, a **Barred Owl**, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, and a **Sandhill Crane**. The **Warbling Vireos** returned to Lakefield Park right on time. Over the last eight years Tony Bigg has always found his first Warbling Vireo in this park between April 30th and May 6th. Later in the day Mike Gillespie and Tony found a **Brown Elfin** butterfly on Sandy Lake Rd. Bill Snowden's feeder was visited by two **Pine Siskins**.
- May 04 Sue Paradisis comments that the spring wildflower parade is well underway. She was in Burnham Woods and counted twelve species in bloom - **Spring Beauty**, **Round-leaved Hepatica**, **Sharp-leaved Hepatica**, **White Trillium**, **Red Trillium**, **Blue Cohosh**, **Early Meadow Rue**, **Trout Lily**, **Round-leaved Yellow Violet**, **Large-flowered Bellwort**, **Bloodroot**, and **Coltsfoot**. The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the year was seen by Stephanie Armstrong in Warsaw.
- May 05 Iain Rayner saw a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, and a **Gray Catbird** along the canal path, south of Parkhill Rd. Iain also had an **Eastern Kingbird** on McFarlane Rd. Several **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen and heard in the Lakefield Park by Tony Bigg. Jeff Keller had a **Cape May Warbler** in his yard in Bridgenorth.
- May 06 A **Mute Swan** was reported by Ben Taylor and Sheila Collett in the Lakefield Marsh. Basil Conlin heard/saw a **White-winged Crossbill** in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary. He also saw a **Black Swallowtail** butterfly. As Rob Welsh was driving through Lakefield he saw a **Northern Mockingbird** fly across Queen St.
- May 07 A **Common Yellowthroat** was seen and heard by Tony Bigg by the Lakefield Marsh. Tony and Luke Berg, on a trip to the northeast of the County, found **Least Flycatcher**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Yellow Warbler** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** on County Rd 44, **Scarlet Tanager**, and **Golden-winged Warbler** on Hubble Rd., and **Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** on Devil's Four Mile Rd. For the butterflies a **Cabbage White** on Line 8 N. Dummer was added, **Dreamy Dustywing** and **Mustard White** were on Hubble Rd, **Eastern Pine Elfin** was found on Devil's Four Mile Rd, and **Chryxus Arctic** and **Juvenal's Duskywing** were seen on Sandy Lake Rd. Near Buckhorn Toni Sinclair saw a Baltimore Oriole. Jeff Stewart also saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler and Scarlet Tanager near Carveth Drive, Millbrook. Bill Snowden saw a male Bobolink on Listowel Rd and a Baltimore Oriole was at his hummingbird feeder. An Indigo Bunting visited Cindy Bartoli's feeder in Peterborough.
- May 08 A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen in the canal area west of the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary by Scott and Fraser Gibson (Another BCNH was seen by M.Garvin a week previous near Beavermead Park on an unknown date).
- May 09 Donald Sutherland heard/saw a pair of **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Gadwall**, **Brown Thrasher**, **American Redstart** and **Northern Parula** near the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
- May 10 Two **Black-bellied Plovers** and seventy-one **Caspian Terns** were found by Don Sutherland in a field by Island View Drive near Rice Lake. He also saw sixteen **Purple Martins** by a martin house. On County Rd 38 north of Hwy 7, Don also saw an **Upland Sandpiper**.
- May 13 A **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen by Scott Kendall in the Petroglyphs PP.
- May 14 A **Sora** and a **Red-eyed Vireo** were among a total of 44 species reported by Dave Milsom from his home on Scollard Drive. On the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) between Blezard Line and Cty Rd 38, Tony Bigg found **American Lady**, **Red Admiral** and **Silvery Blue** butterflies. A **Canada Warbler** was seen by Scott Gibson by the Millbrook fishing ponds.
- May 15 Both Martin Parker and Matthew Garvin reported their first **Mourning Warbler** of the year. Martin's was at Miller Creek and Garvin's was in the Rotary Park near London St bridge.

- May 16 In Beavermead Park by Lock 20 Drew Monkman heard and saw a **Carolina Wren**. He also heard/saw a **Blackpoll Warbler** and a **Tennessee Warbler**. In the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary Michael Colley, Ariel Lenske, Dan Chronowic, and Tianna Burke found an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and a **Magnolia Warbler**. At the Lakefield Sewage lagoons Bill Crins saw a **Chimney Swift**, five **Northern Shovelers**, a **Least Sandpiper** and a **Solitary Sandpiper**. Jerry Ball found seven **West Virginia White** butterflies on Charlie Allen Rd.
- May 17 An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found by Beverly McClenaghan in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary. Dave Milsom led the PFN Sunday walk to Herkimer Point on Rice Lake. A total of 74 species were found including **Eastern Wood Pewee**, **Alder Flycatcher**, and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. A **Canadian Tiger Swallowtail** was found by Jerry Ball on Charlie Allen Rd.
- May 18 With the heat and humidity in recent days, Jim Watt saw the first fireflies of the season near Gannon Narrows.
- May 19 Four **Black Terns** were seen by Basil Conlin at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
- May 20 Luke Berg heard/saw a **Willow Flycatcher** and a **Wilson's Warbler** on the Trent Rotary Trail. He also noted that the **Cliff Swallows** were back at the footpath over canal south of the Trent campus.
- May 21 Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey visited the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and found twenty **Least Sandpipers**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, a **Short-billed Dowitcher** and a **Bonaparte's Gull**. Walking the TCT from Cameron Line to Cty Rd 38 Jerry Ball found two Meadow Fritillaries, two **Pearl Crescents** and five **Cherry Gall Azures**.
- May 22 An early morning nocturnal visit to Mervin Line by Don Sutherland, Tanya Taylor and C Tyson found two **Eastern Screech Owls**, a **Great Horned Owl**, a **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, and a **Yellow-throated Vireo**. Colin Jones found a **Pied-billed Grebe** on Cty Rd 504, 2km east of Apsley.
- May 23 Bill Crins, Janet Kelly, and Warren Dunlop saw a **Long-tailed Duck** on Little Lake. Luke Berg saw an **American Pipit** by the pools on Johnston Drive south of Hwy 115.
- May 24 A **Green Heron** was seen by Travis Cameron at the Sawyer's Creek wetland on Douro 3rd Line. At the Loggerhead Marsh Paul Frost saw thirty **Dunlin** flying overhead, two Common **Gallinules** in the pond, and a **Marsh Wren** in the cattails. In the ponds by Peterborough Airport Iain Rayner saw three **Semipalmated Plovers** and four **Dunlins** amongst other shorebirds. Two further **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen by Dave Milsom at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball found a **Columbine Duskywing** on Forest Access Rd off Jack Lake Rd.
- May 26 Doug McRae found nine **Whimbrel** roosting on a flat rock in Stoney Lake south of the Viamede Resort. There was a large increase in the number of butterfly species today (May 26). Jerry Ball and Tony Bigg walked the Trans-Canada Trail from County Rd 38 to Blezard Line and saw 21 species. New species for the year were **Common Ringlet** 3, **Northern Crescent** 12, **Hobomok Skipper** 4, **Tawny-edged Skipper** 7, **Viceroy** 1, **Arctic Skipper** 2.
- May 27 Paul Frost heard a Ring-necked Pheasant on Jones Quarter Line (previously reported by Scott Gibson but date unknown) and he saw a Grasshopper Sparrow. Iain Rayner heard and recorded a **Cerulean Warbler** on Deer Bay Reach. Andrew Jobes reported a **Common Tern** on the Bridgenorth Trail. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen by Don Sutherland, W.W. Humphrey-Sutherland and S.S. Sutherland-Humphrey on the Trent Rotary Trail just north of the campus.
- May 28 Luke Berg heard a **Least Bittern** calling from the Fairbairn St wetland. On Charlie Allen Rd Tony Bigg found three **Northern Cloudyings**, and on the GCH Forest Access Rd off Cty Rd 507 he found a **Long Dash**. Jerry Ball and Ken Morrison found a **Silver-spotted Skipper** on the Cameron Line to Cty Rd 38 section of the TCT.
- May 29 Martin Parker and Paul Frost heard a **Sedge Wren** calling at the Miller Creek CA. Scott Gibson heard a **Common Nighthawk** calling over Hunter St in downtown Peterborough. On Hubble Rd Tony Bigg and Ken Morrison saw three **Indian Skippers**, and on Devil's Four Mile Rd they saw a **Question Mark**.
- May 30 Luke Berg photographed a **Blue-winged Warbler** and a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at the south end of Jones Quarter Line.



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

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*

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"/> Field Trips
<input type="radio"/> Hiking	<input type="radio"/> Conservation	<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:

☐ Joining the PFN Executive ☐ Sitting on research or conservation committees ☐ Working on field projects
☐ Helping with refreshments at meetings ☐ 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

☐ Under 20 ☐ 20-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59 ☐ 60-69 ☐ 70-79 ☐ 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 term on behalf of all of my underage children.

Signature: _____