

The Orchid

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Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Canadian Tiger Swallowtails, Charlie Allen Road, May 28 ~ Submitted in June 2015 by Tony Bigg

INSIDE: Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks Resume
 Saw-whet Owl Banding Opportunity
 Results from Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count
 PFN Members Shine at Carden Challenge
 8th Annual Prairie Day at Alderville Black Oak Savanna

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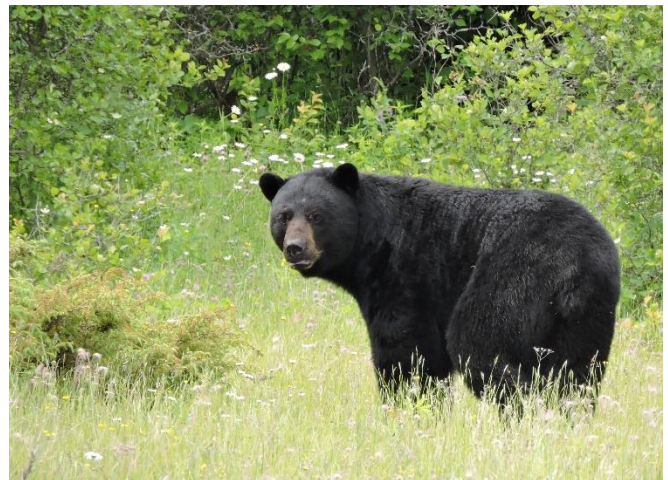
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Nesting hummingbird observed from a distance
~ Submitted by Stevi Lyn Dulmage



Jay Amer, right, President of Camp Kawartha,
with Martin Parker, PFN Secretary;
This tree was planted at Camp Kawartha, on
Clear Lake, in honour of PFN's 75th Anniversary
~ Submitted by Jacob Rodenburg



Black bear observed at the Sedge Wren Marsh,
Carden Plain, in June
~ Submitted by Paul Elliott

Coming Events

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday August 29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tim Horton's at Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Shorebirds and Monarchs</p> <p>This outing will be to Presqu'ile Provincial Park to view the gathering of migrating shorebirds as they are making their migration from their Arctic breeding grounds to their wintering areas, primarily in the southern hemisphere. In the fall the birds linger longer than in the spring. We will be visiting the viewing locations in the Owens Point area to view the shorebirds and other fall migrants.</p> <p>The fall migrations of Monarch butterflies will be commencing at this time of the year, and arrangements have been made with Park Staff to conduct a demonstration of Monarch banding for the participants of this outing. Time will also be spent looking for some of the other species of fall butterflies.</p> <p>The leaders for this outing are Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey. There will be an early departure for this outing in order to increase the opportunities of seeing shorebirds prior to them being disturbed by falcons and people. The outing will return to Peterborough in the mid-afternoon. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, camera, and telescope (if you have one).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday September 6 to Sunday October 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North Parking Lot Peterborough Zoo Water Street</p>	<p>Sunday Morning Wildlife Outings</p> <p>Our autumnal season of Sunday morning wildlife outings will start on 6th September and run through to the last weekend of October.</p> <p>Unless otherwise stated, the outings will begin at Peterborough Zoo parking lot on Water Street at 8:00 am. From the zoo participants will carpool to local sites for bird watching and other wildlife encounters. Please try to bring binoculars and pay attention to the weather forecast when deciding what to wear.</p> <p>The walks are suitable for novices and experienced naturalists alike. We welcome newcomers.</p> <p>Outings will be led by the following:</p> <p>6th September Dave Milsom 13th September Scott McKinlay 20st September Martin Parker – a visit to Bruce Kidd's farm to see wild apples and giant puffballs! 27th September Mike McMurtry</p> <p>4th October Jerry Ball 11th October Dave Milsom 18th October TBC 25th October Jerry Ball</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>
<p>Wednesday, October 14</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>Weird and Wonderful Fungi</p> <p>Jan Thornhill is a member of the Toronto Mycological Society, who admits to being obsessed with fungi. She will be sharing her knowledge of the weird and wonderful wild mushrooms of our region at our October 6th meeting. Jan is a renowned writer and illustrator of nature- and science-related children's books. She lives in Havelock.</p> <p>You can read her blog at: http://weirdandwonderfulwildmushrooms.blogspot.ca</p>
<p>Sunday November 1</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Country Style Restaurant Junction of Old Keene Road and Highway 7</p>	<p>Birding at Presqu'ile Provincial Park</p> <p>Jerry Ball will lead a day-long trip to view migrant birds at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, with other stops of interest on the way. In particular, expect to see many interesting waterfowl. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and, if you have them, rubber boots (not essential). Meet at 8:00 am at the Country Style at the junction of Old Keene Road and Highway 7, east of Peterborough. We will likely carpool, so bring a contribution for gas and the entry fee to the park.</p>
<p>Sunday November 29</p> <p>1:00 pm</p> <p>Tim Horton's at Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Wave Riders of Rice Lake</p> <p>Join Martin Parker and Luke Berg for this traditional Grey Cup afternoon exploration of sites along the northwestern shore of Rice Lake. We will be looking for the later migrating ducks and other birds. Highlights will be the rafts of ducks riding the waves of Rice Lake and the scenic vistas overlooking the lake. Bring binoculars, telescope if you have one, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day.</p> <p>The trip will last until the late afternoon and CFL fans will be home in time for the Grey Cup game.</p>

Coming Events continued

<p>Saturday December 5</p> <p>7:00 am</p> <p>Tim Horton's at Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls</p> <p>This day trip will be a birding outing to the Niagara River, a designated Important Birding Area due to the variety and number of gulls which utilize the river in the late fall. More species can be observed in a day than anywhere else in the world. There will be thousands of gulls consisting of ten or more species. Besides the gulls there will be other waterbirds, and southern specialties such as Tufted Titmouse. The leaders for this outing will be Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>The trip will start from Peterborough with a secondary gathering location at the Adam Beck Generating Station Lookout at Queenston. If you are planning to meet the group at Queenston please advise Martin (705-745-4750) in advance.</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and telescope if you have one. A camera may be handy as well. Wear clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the Niagara River area for the day of this excursion. This outing will end in the Niagara Region in the late afternoon.</p>
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PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

PFN Juniors are invited to contact Lara Griffin at 705-749-3639 for upcoming events and to join the email distribution list. See you soon!

Other Events of Interest

<p>GreenUP Ecology Park Ashburnham Road, Peterborough</p>	<p>2015 GreenUP Ecology Park Programs and Events</p> <p>Sept 13th 1:30 – 4:00 Ecology Park Tea Party & Pie Fundraiser Sept 19th 12:00 – 2:00 Monarch Release Celebration October 18th Autumn Little Tree Sale October 29th Last day at Ecology Park</p> <p>* Visit 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: \$2/bucket leaf compost \$3/bucket cedar mulch \$7 straw bale</p> <p>Bring your own buckets. 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>
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Other Events of Interest continued

<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>Session 1 Tuesday September 8 (8:00 pm) to Friday September 11 (4:00 pm)</p> <p>Session 2 Tuesday September 29 (8:00 pm) to Friday October 2 (4:00 pm)</p> <p>Session 3 Tuesday October 6 (8:00 pm) to Friday October 9 (4:00 pm) Tuesday</p>	<p>Fabulous Fall Fungi Workshop</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cost includes 3 nights' accommodation, all meals, instruction, printed materials, and use of classroom. Small class size (max 12 students). Register early to avoid disappointment as each year there are waiting lists. Location: Queen's University Biological Station.</p> <p>Details: www.queensu.ca/qubs.</p> <p>Due to increased demand, there are <u>three</u> sessions to choose from this year (see sidebar).</p> <div data-bbox="865 997 1490 1782">  </div>

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	pauelliott@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		
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 October issue is **Friday September 25th**.

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



A Tour of the Magnificent McKim-Garsonnin Property

Text and photos submitted by Lynn Smith

It was a beautiful summer morning as we all arrived at the property of Ralph McKim and Jean Garsonnin. The Kawartha Land Trust has a conservation easement agreement with McKim-Garsonnin on this 260-acre property that lies on the Oak Ridges Moraine just west of Bethany. The property contains springs and coldwater streams at the headwaters of Fleetwood Creek.

Our group of 14 was from the New Canadians Centre, organized by Kawartha Land Trust and the New Canadians Centre with the Peterborough Field Naturalist volunteers sharing their knowledge of flora and fauna.





Ralph McKim greeted us and kindly invited our group to return to his back deck for lunch which had a spectacular view of the countryside.

Scott McKinlay led the way, with Philip Shaw and Lynn Smith adding to the “naturalist” experience. What a great day we had! The group was very interested with lots of questions. Two children had fun chasing butterflies and dragonflies. The highlight was a smooth green snake that most (although not all) took the opportunity to hold.

I’m certain another trip to the McKim-Garsonnin property will be planned.

Skipper Numbers Down on Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count

Submitted by Martin Parker and Jerry Ball

On Saturday, July 18th twenty butterfly enthusiasts conducted the Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count under the direction of compiler Jerry Ball. This annual count covers an area in the northern section of Peterborough County contained within a circle. The circle’s diameter is 24 kilometres and extends from the north shore of Stoney Lake to County Road 504 in the Apsley area, and from Highway 28 on the west to County Road 46 on the east. The participants were divided into seven field parties, with each party covering a different part of the count circle.

According to Jerry Ball, a total of 53 species of adult butterflies were observed. Only caterpillars were observed for another species, the American Lady. The number of species recorded is the same as recorded for the past two years. However the number of individuals this year were down significantly from previous years, to a total of 2157 adults and 7 caterpillars.

For example there were 431 Dun Skippers observed this year. This contrasts with 2,000 on the 2012 count and 2,760 on the 2013 count. Last year the number dropped to 863. Jerry Ball feels that the frost on the night of May 22-23 had a major impact on the caterpillars of this species and other butterflies. The frost not only damaged many plants, it would have also killed many caterpillars. Similar declines were recorded for other species of butterflies.

Since there are fewer adults to lay eggs for next year’s generation, next year’s count will give an indication if populations are starting to recover from this year’s late frost.

For other species, such as the three species of fritillaries observed (Great Spangled, Aphrodite and Atlantis), the numbers of adults observed were similar to the numbers observed over the previous three counts.

The number of Monarch butterflies also declined from last year. The late May frost would have not impacted their numbers since they were still migrating northwards to Ontario. Numbers of this species have been declining across the continent and wintering populations in Mexico have declined significantly.

Continent-wide efforts are occurring to help the recovery of Monarch populations. This year a total of 25 adults and 2 caterpillars were spotted, with 62 and 301 adults in 2014 and 2012 respectively. Only 7 adults were recorded in 2013.



Arctic Skipper, Charlie Allen Road, May 28
~ Submitted in June by Tony Bigg

Total count results:

Swallowtails	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (19)
Whites & Sulphurs	Mustard White (12), Cabbage White (28), Clouded Sulphur (154), Orange Sulphur (2), Pink-edged Sulphur (12)
Coppers, Hairstreaks and Blues	Bronze Copper (1), Bog Copper (3), Acadian Hairstreak (29), Coral Hairstreak (69), Banded Hairstreak (22), Hickory Hairstreak (2), Edward's Hairstreak (7), Striped Hairstreak (6), Grey Hairstreak (4), Summer Azure (47)
Brush-footed	Great Spangled Fritillary (69), Aphrodite Fritillary (51), Atlantis Fritillary (2), Silver-bordered Fritillary (1), Pearl Crescent (12), Northern Crescent (202), Question mark (1), Eastern Comma (6), Grey Comma (3), Mourning Cloak (1), American Painted Lady (19), Painted Lady (1), Red Admiral (11), White Admiral (23), Viceroy (1), Monarch (25), Northern Pearly-eye (24), Eyed Brown (75), Appalachian Brown (1), Little Wood-Satyr (3), Common Wood-Nymph (19)
Skippers	Columbine Duskywing (107), Delaware Skipper (47), Least Skipper (45), European Skipper (152), Peck's Skipper (8), Tawny-edged Skipper (8), Crossline Skipper (7), Long Dash Skipper (8), Northern Broken-Dash (12), Little Glassywing (25), Hobomok Skipper (1), Mulberry Wing (102), Broad-winged Skipper (156), Dion Skipper (23), Two-spotted Skipper (4), Dun Skipper (431)
Unidentified	Hairstreak species (4), Large Fritillary species (27), Sulphur species (9), Crescent species (1), Skipper species (13)
Caterpillars	Monarch (5), American Lady (2)

Examining Monarch Butterfly Declines**Posted by Bird Studies Canada; August 5, 2015**

Monarch butterfly populations have declined steadily at overwintering sites in Mexico over the last 20 years. Little is known about what's causing the declines, and whether declines are also occurring across North American breeding grounds, and during southbound migration to Mexico each fall.

This week, **seven monarch studies** were published in the *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*. The articles examine population trends using data collected by Citizen Scientists. Included in this series is a paper by Dr. Tara Crewe and Jon McCracken of Bird Studies Canada, examining long-term trends in monarch numbers counted migrating through Long Point, Ontario from 1995-2014. Monarchs were counted daily during fall migration by Long Point Bird Observatory volunteers. The results suggest that the number of monarchs migrating through Long Point has declined by up to 7.8% *per year* since 1995.

Saw-whet Owl Banding Opportunity for PFN Members**Submitted by Tianna Burke**

It is almost autumn once again! For many of us, this means the return of one of our favourite migrants, the Saw-whet Owl. The Nol Lab at Trent University will again be heading out to the James McLean Oliver Ecological Centre, near Bobcaygeon, during the month of October for owl banding.

We always welcome members of the community to visit us; however, visitors are required to register for this opportunity. Sign-up for owl banding will occur in mid-September and will occur via an email notification. To be on our contact list to receive an email link to our sign-up page, or for any further questions, please email: tiannaburke@trentu.ca.

From the Archives – ‘Ode to a Board Meeting’ by Dorothy McCord Submitted by Martin Parker

From ‘The Orchid’, September 1985, Volume 31, Number 6

Ode to a Board Meeting

In the latter part of August
The Board agreed to make
The place of their next outing
On Mississauga Lake.

Now a boat is a necessity
To get to Jack’s abode;
One has to cross the Lake you see,
There isn’t any road.

So at the Mississauga Dam
We had to get afloat,
And Jack was there to meet us
In his mighty motorboat.

The cottage is exquisite
With a quite outstanding view;
We watched the sun a-setting
And we saw the moon rise too.

Our dinner was fantastic,
We all had food galore;
The socializing lasted
Till there wasn’t any more.

Then our business session started,
We covered lots of ground,
Till Geoff adjourned the meeting
And homeward we were bound.

The first bunch safely made it
To the lot on the far shore,
Any Jack returned to ferry back
Another three or four.

The key was tuned, the engine primed
But there was not a sound;
Despite Jack’s exhortations
We’d be staying there, we found.

The key was tuned, the engine primed
But there was not a sound;
Despite Jack’s exhortations
We’d be staying there, we found.

But not for fear, canoes were found,
And in the moonlit night,
We paddled Mississauga Lake
Much to our delight.

No roar of motors could be heard,
The lake was ours alone;
We could have stayed forever
In that lovely, magic zone.

Now Geoff and Clay and Peter
Had been the first ones in:
They wondered what was keeping us,
Their patience wore quite thin.

With a well-place toss from Peter,
There was a mighty splash,
And Geoff was soaked as Clay did laugh
And Peter made a dash.

Now credit might go to Stan,
The man of magic hands
Who revived the failing motor
Just as we were reaching land.

So when we all returned to shore
’Twas past time to depart,
But Jack and Norma, we all say
Thanks from all our heart!

Dorothy McCord, 1985

PFN Members Win at Carden Challenge

Submitted by Martin Parker

The 10th Annual Carden Challenge began at 6 pm on Friday, May 22nd and concluded at 6 pm on Saturday, May 23rd. Two PFN members participated in the Carden Challenge this year. Kathy Parker was a member of 'The Basketcases' team, which competed for the Biodiversity Award. Teams in the Biodiversity Challenge record all the species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies which they can find and identify over the 24 hour period of completion. Bonus points are awarded for species which are identified as species at risk. The Basketcases earned a first place finish. This is the fourth year Kathy Parker has been a member of the team that has won the Biodiversity Challenge.



Kathy Parker on far right



Matthew Tobey is second from right

Matthew Tobey joined a new team called 'The Wylie Cowhands'. The team he was recruited for competed in the Recreation Category for birds. Matthew's team found a total of 122 species of birds; very good for a day when the temperature dipped to minus 4 degrees with a steady wind all day Saturday. Matthew and his team placed first in the Recreation Category and won the 'Recreation' Trophy. They managed to see more species of birds than the Competitive Team! Last year Matthew was a member of the team that had won the Competitive Category.

Congratulations to both Kathy and Matthew on their achievements!



Red-necked Phalaropes, Juveniles, Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, August 19 ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Elegy for Cecil the Lion

Submitted by Murray Palmer

Cecil, what a shame for a wild African lion so watched and cherished
 To have, at the hands of a few thoughtless, cruel, evil men, perished.
 Part of every conscious man and woman died along with your death.
 Humanity itself is now badly wounded, struggling to regain its breath.
 Walter Palmer lured you outside a protected park, a trophy to be slain,
 Prompting some to call for commensurate justice involving equal pain.
 Walter Palmer wounded you; then came shooting, beheading, skinning.
 Some wonder if the human population could use a little thinning?
 You were to so many people an icon, a source of beauty in dull lives,
 Not a 'renewable resource' as rocker Ted Nugent callously contrives.
 Wild animals are not resources for individuals to use as they please;
 Humans themselves evolved to greater, albeit some to lesser, degrees.
 You were a black-maned, genetically superior lion still in your prime,
 Not ready to be removed from your gene pool so soon before your time.
 Ted Nugent and Walter Palmer are throwbacks to an uncivilized age
 When unstable aspirations for dominance overflowed to acts of rage.
 You, Cecil, were a tourist magnet, a boon to the Zimbabwean nation;
 Let us hope true justice for your murder is applied without hesitation.
 Though I never knew you, Cecil, please know you did not die in vain.
 May your pride be ruled by handsome males sporting your black mane.

Murray Palmer, 2015

Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Program

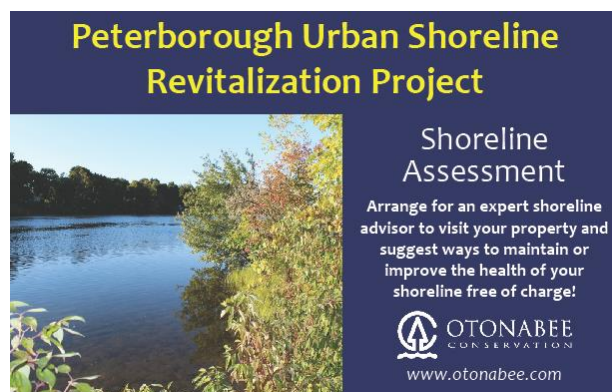
Submitted by Erin McGauley

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.

There are many 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.



8th Annual Prairie Day at Alderville Black Oak Savanna Submitted by Becky Lyon

Please join us for our Annual Prairie Day! This year our celebration will be taking place on Saturday, September 26th at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna.

Fun for the whole family, students and field naturalists alike, we are pleased to offer guided hikes, activities, entertainment and interactive displays. Jeff Beaver will be offering traditional practices of wild rice harvesting. Please come with your questions about gathering, planting, and the benefits of wild rice.

Come view our progress in the Interpretive Gardens! Our Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative partners will also be happy to share with you their environmental conservation efforts.

Saturday, September 26th 2015 • 10am-4pm

Alderville First Nation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada
present the
8th Annual Prairie Day
at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna.

Nature workshops, hikes, art sale, entertainment, food and fun!
Join us for this family friendly event!
Admission by donation.

Contact us about volunteer and vendor opportunities.

Please No Pets

Contact 905-352-1008 or visit
www.ricelakeplains.ca

A Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative

Please visit our website and Facebook pages for up-to-date information. Volunteer and vendor opportunities! Contact us at:

(e) outreach@ricelakeplains.ca
(fb) Savannah Sparrow
Prairie Day
Alderville Black Oak Savanna
(url) www.alderillesavanna.ca

50 Years in Iceland

Submitted by Don and Emily Pettypiece

On May 15, 2015 we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary.

Given our normal inclinations, we thought a holiday somewhere would be ideal. Emily had other events scheduled all summer, so our window of opportunity was settled, conveniently, to be mid-May. Iceland had been on our radar for some time. I, in particular, like to drive. It gives me the freedom to stop, turn around, go back etc. and take pictures, find the right camera angle for scenery, get a good shot, or simply admire bird life (an Emily specialty). Although Iceland travel is somewhat year-round, mid-May is a shoulder season for circumnavigating. Mid-May is also prime bird mating season. Emily found an organization that offers 'complete Iceland' trips, even in mid-May. Travelling to the Western Fjords area requires crossing a mountain pass, which may or may not be open. We booked and held our breath.

"Nordic Visitor" made all of our 'in Iceland' arrangements. They provided airport transfers, a rental car, pre-booked accommodations to fit a particular schedule, and a ferry booking for one afternoon. Included was a large scale map with the route mapped out, overnights located, and suggested scenic stops. They list and describe, and will 'book' excursions / trips along the way (much like a cruise ship). Included in our 'goodies package' was a prepaid (20 minutes) cell phone and a GPS. The vouchers for the overnights included all contact information and GPS coordinates (there are not a lot of streets in rural Iceland). They even included a very detailed 500 page book on Iceland travel. Iceland is covered by Wi-Fi. Iceland weather is updated via automated weather stations on a web page.



So how did this all turn out? I believe that we lucked out enormously. We had packed appropriate clothing for cool (ranging 5 to 10°C) and very windy days. We wore our rain gear on the Puffin excursion for wind protection and because we were leaving access to our car. We had one mediocre day; light mist and low ceiling, but still adequate for birding. We waited until 10AM one morning for the road to the Western Fjords to open – the Wi-Fi website coloured it red (closed) and then eventually green. We brought home about 1000 images (after deletes and dupes).

The above photo was taken at the site of the original Geyser, getting ready to blow approximately 40 feet high. Very few people would 'catch' this; Emily did!

We saw many waterfalls



Gullfoss



Skogafoss

We saw awesome landscapes

We travelled around many fjords. It really is difficult to convey in a photo. One really requires a panorama setup; a wide-angle lens may capture the scene but distorts the perspective.



We saw snow

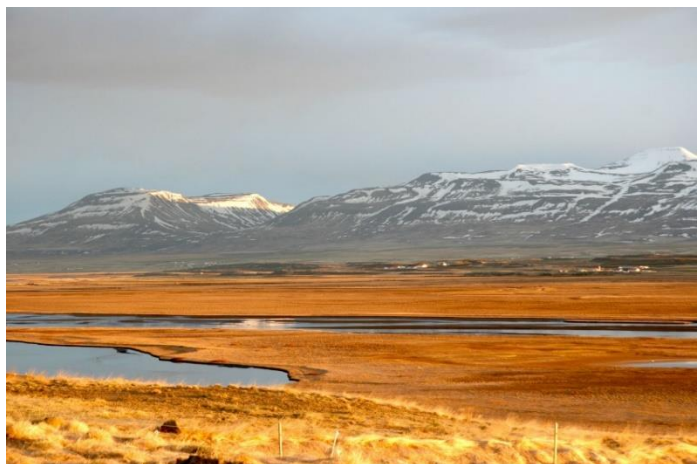


Road to Western Fjords



Seydisfjörður – Ferry from Denmark via Faroes

We saw sunsets and are maybe 50km south of the Arctic Circle in the photos below. The sun sets (?) in the north, approximately over the island on the right on the horizon – if you wait up long enough.



We saw birds



Black-tailed Godwit



Red-throated Loon



Red Shank



Atlantic Puffin

And we visited Reykjavik – with its Viking heritage



Leif Eriksson statue in front of Hallgrímskirkja



Solfar sculpture



Hofdi – site of Reagan / Gorbachev Summit – 1986

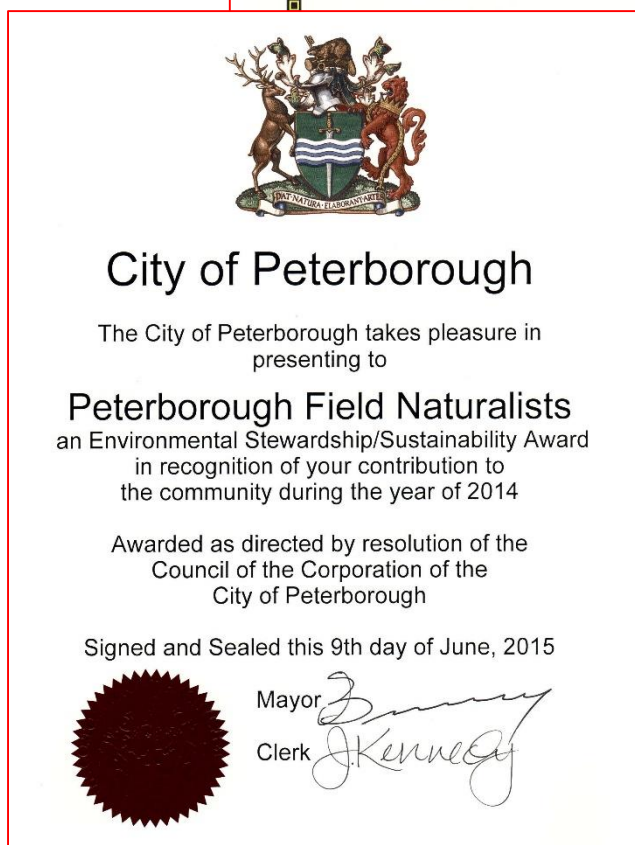
This is difficult to summarize (though not as difficult as selecting pictures). Emily added about 2 dozen birds to her life list. The birds were in prime mating season plumage. The snow was clean and white and there seemed little moisture in the air, so everything sparkled. Given all the black ash, I thought we would get dusty – not so. It was quite windy sometimes, making photography at the foot of a falls impossible. Traffic was quite light; I felt safe parking on the shoulders after making sure I was well around a corner or over a brow. There was little commercial transport. We made many U-turns, as pull-offs are seldom. Most of the bird pictures were from the roadside. Emily's geyser picture and the road down to Seydisfjörður are incredible.

Everyone speaks excellent English, and all but 200 km of the 3000 km of road we travelled was excellent. The bridges and most tunnels (about 40km altogether) are single lane (with bypass sections well marked). What would have been useful is independently-operated eyeballs so one could drive and sightsee simultaneously. There were no dull moments.

Put Iceland on your list – book it!

More Certificates and Awards for the PFN!

In recognition of PFN's 75th Anniversary, several more certificates were awarded in recent months. Also, the PFN was the proud recipient of the City of Peterborough's 2014 Environmental Stewardship/Sustainability Award.





14 May 2015

Peterborough Field Naturalists
P.O. Box 1532
Peterborough, ON
K9J 7H7

Dear Partner in Nature,

On behalf of the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, it gives us great pleasure to offer the Peterborough Field Naturalists our congratulations on celebrating your 75th Anniversary.

Over the years, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority has enjoyed an excellent relationship with your organization. We have developed and supported a number of programs and activities that have made a positive difference in our community. These include, your support in leading the Bat Walk at Beavermead Campground during the Watershed Weekends of Environmental Activities. As well as, the delivery of educational programs to the Junior Field Naturalists have provided instructive lessons for the youth of the area.

Additionally, Peterborough Field Naturalists, for more than a decade have volunteered to assist with the management of the Miller Creek Wildlife Area.

Your members have provided their expertise during Otonabee Conservation vegetation surveys at Loggerhead Marsh, as well as participated in the International Trails Festival, encouraging the community to celebrate the trails, their development, their uses, and the healthy lifestyle they encourage.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Authority, we would like to thank your members, volunteers, and donors —who have contributed to your achievements and who have made the projects we have worked on together such a success.

Please accept our best wishes for an enjoyable anniversary celebration, and we look forward to continuing our successful partnership in the future.

Yours in Conservation,

Andy Mitchell
Chair, Board of Directors

Dan Marinigh
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

The Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
250 Milroy Drive, Peterborough, ON K9H 7M9
Phone: 705-745-5791, Fax: 705-745-7488, Email: otonabee@otonabee.com, Website: www.otonabee.com

Member of Conservation Ontario



Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Office of the Minister

77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tel.: 416-314-6790
Fax: 416-314-6748

Ministère de l'Environnement
et de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Wellesley Ouest
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Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tél.: 416-314-6790
Télec.: 416-314-6748



May 15, 2015

Mr. Martin Parker
President
Peterborough Field Naturalist
PO Box 1532
Peterborough ON K9J 7H7

Dear Mr. Parker:

I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the Peterborough Field Naturalists on the occasion of your 75th Anniversary Celebration.

As the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, I understand the importance of grass-roots organizations that work to raise awareness about the need to appreciate and protect our precious wildlife and natural environment.

Through your efforts, the Peterborough Field Naturalists are helping to ensure that we preserve the gifts found in nature for future generations to enjoy.

Please accept my best wishes for a great celebration!

Sincerely,

Glen Murray
Minister



The Orchid Diary



A Fond Farewell

It is with great sadness and regret that the PFN Directors report the passing of Tony Bigg, the PFN's long-time Orchid Diary Reporter, Sunday Morning Wildlife Walk Leader, and Christmas Bird Count Coordinator. Tony was well known and admired for his extensive knowledge of birds and butterflies. He also led the annual Niagara Trip and the Cobourg-to-Whitby Trip. The PFN's Lola Leach Award was given to Tony in January, 2011 at the Annual General Meeting. Tony was a valued member of the PFN and his vast knowledge, enthusiasm, and thoughtful manner will be greatly missed.

A special thank you to Bob Prentice, who kindly shared his thoughts of Tony:

"I have known Tony Bigg for the past 28 years. I met Tony when I first started to be involved with the Peterborough birding community. I was fortunate to connect with a great person who was a great birder. For the most part I was involved with Tony on special birding occasions such as the Christmas Bird Counts and our annual 5-day trip to Point Pelee National Park along with Geoff, Clayton and Bill. There were also the chases for rare birds which happened several times a year. And all this done with Tony driving very fast but oh-so-safely!

Tony was great to scout out rare birds visiting all areas of the province. Along with other birders we took off in the early hours of the morning for areas of southern Ontario and as far north as Sudbury. Some of the birds we found included Rosy Finch, Cave Swallow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rufus Hummingbird, and Harris Sparrow.

As we know, Tony was the perfect gentleman. On one of our trips to Point Pelee, Geoff, Tony and I were having breakfast outside of the park. Just after we were served someone came into the restaurant to advise everyone there was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on a telephone wire down the street. Tony thought it inappropriate to have the waitress put our breakfast under the warming light for a few minutes. Geoff and I bolted while Tony remained to eat his breakfast. Unfortunately, this gentlemanly act cost him seeing that bird. Not to be outdone, Tony found a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher later the same year.

Tony loved his family. As we travelled we both talked about our respective families. He was proud of their accomplishments and enjoyed the season gatherings. We shared a common interest in what was going on in the stock market. Tony was one of a few people who have had a significant influence on my life. His forever smiling face will be missed."

Fellow birder Jerry Ball, left, with Tony Bigg. A familiar sight, with eyes to the sky and binoculars in hand.



The PFN extends its sympathy to Tony's family and friends.



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"/> 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:

☐ 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

<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
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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: _____