

The Orchid

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Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Barn Swallow, Carden Plain, June 10th ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Inside:

Explore the New Stony Lake Trails!
Enhanced Protection of Loggerhead Marsh
Peruse 'A Traveller's Guide to Feathers'
Hawks Over Cranberry Marsh
2016 Winter Finch Forecast



Ebony Boghaunter, Sandy Lake Road
May 11, 2016 ~ Submitted by Luke Berg



Above: 'Fishing Spider', Eels Lake, Summer 2016

Right: Otonabee Gravel Pits Conservation Area,
September 21st (see page 13)

Below: Eastern Garter Snake, Burnham Woods, June 29th
~ Photos submitted by Martin Parker



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Welcome New PFN Members!

Susan M. Weaver

Swetha Narayan

Coming Events									
<p>Sundays September 4th to October 23rd 8:00 am</p> <p>North Parking Lot, Riverview Zoo, Water Street, Peterborough</p>	<p>Sunday morning wildlife outings</p> <p>Unless otherwise stated the Sunday morning wildlife outings will begin at the Riverview Zoo parking lot on Water Street. From the zoo participants will carpool to local sites for bird watching and other wildlife encounters. Bring binoculars if you have them 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! Outings will be led by the following:</p> <table> <tr> <td>2nd October</td><td>Drew Monkman</td></tr> <tr> <td>9th October</td><td>Paul Frost – see separate entry for location details</td></tr> <tr> <td>16th October</td><td>Martin Parker</td></tr> <tr> <td>23rd October</td><td>Jerry Ball</td></tr> </table>	2 nd October	Drew Monkman	9 th October	Paul Frost – see separate entry for location details	16 th October	Martin Parker	23 rd October	Jerry Ball
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23 rd October	Jerry Ball								
<p>Sunday October 9th 8:00 am</p> <p>1419 Ireland Drive, Peterborough</p>	<p>Explore Loggerhead Marsh</p> <p>Join Trent University's professor of aquatic sciences, Paul Frost, who, together with the PFN, has advocated for the protection of Loggerhead Marsh from the impact of local urban development.</p> <p>Loggerhead Marsh has recently been upgraded to the status of provincially significant wetland. It contains a large area of cattail marsh, patches of forested wetland, and expanses of wet meadows. Its outflow stream flows through several forested areas and downstream into Jackson Creek. The marsh and its outflow stream are threatened by encroachment on all sides by new urban development.</p> <p>Meet at 1419 Ireland Drive. There is plenty of parking available on this street.</p> 								
<p>Wednesday October 12th 7:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Learning the Plants of the Kawarthas</p> <p>This presentation is aimed at naturalists with an interest in learning more about identifying plants in the wild in the Kawartha region. Mike will talk about the groups and families of plants and the characteristics used to confidently identify plants to the species level. He will also discuss the use of common names versus scientific names, the importance of considering timing and habitat, the best field guides and reference materials to use, and some other helpful resources. Mike will end with a quiz using photos of common and not-so-common plants that grow near Peterborough.</p> <p>Mike has spent most of his career working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, most recently with the Natural Heritage Information Centre. He is Past-president of the Field Botanists of Ontario, and volunteers with the Kawartha Land Trust.</p>								

Coming Events cont'd

<p>Saturday October 15th</p> <p>9:00 am</p> <p>Tim Horton's parking lot, Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Hawks over Cranberry Marsh</p> <p>As hawks and other raptors are heading southward each fall they are blocked by the water of Lake Ontario. The raptors will migrate westerly along the north shore of Lake Ontario looking for a way around the lake. On this outing we will travel to the Cranberry Marsh in Whitby to observe the annual fall hawk watch, which operates during the months of September through November. On this date there should be buteos and possibly eagles migrating through. The exact number will depend on weather conditions, especially the wind direction. If the hawk migration is slow there will be lots of other wildlife to see. The trip will also provide an excellent introduction to the prime hawk migration monitoring location on the north shore of Lake Ontario.</p> <p>We will carpool to the Cranberry Marsh and return in the late afternoon. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast. A portable stool will be handy if you have one.</p>
<p>Sunday October 30th</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Country Style at junction of Old Keene Road & 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 carpool, so bring a contribution for gas and the vehicle entry fee to the park.</p>
<p>Wednesday November 9th</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: The Art of Falconry</p> <p>Come and meet Artemis, a Harris Hawk, and Kallisto, a European Kestrel, along with their trainer Jeff Wiltshire and learn about the art of falconry.</p>

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Archers, take aim! PFN Juniors are invited to sign up for archery at the range at Camp Kawartha on Sunday, October 16th (event details are online). Limited spaces are available and registration is required.

Last call for the photo contest! As the fall colours have already started, we extended the deadline for our Junior Naturalists' Photo Contest to October 23rd. Take your camera on a Thanksgiving weekend family hike or look for natural wonders in your own backyard! There are great prizes to be won thanks to our sponsors, The Toy Shop of Peterborough and Christensen Fine Art. To sign up, just email pfnjuniors@gmail.com. Photos are not due until the deadline. Details: <http://peterboroughnature.org/junior/>.

We are also looking forward to a skulls identification workshop (for kids) on November 6th. Susan Chow will teach us how to identify the skulls of animals found in Ontario. We will learn about clues that biologists use to determine whether the skull belongs to a predator or prey species, the type of foods the animal ate, how it moved around, how old the animal was, whether it had any injuries, and more. Registration is required for this event.

Lastly, help is needed with a woodworking project: Lara is looking for a PFN member who would be interested in helping to prepare materials for the Juniors to build small bird houses (pre-cut the wood pieces and drill holes). Please email Lara at pfnjuniors@gmail.com if you are interested - your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

Other Events of Interest

<p>Friday October 7th</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>Guest Services Building, Riverview Park & Zoo</p>	<p>Peterborough Astronomical Association monthly meeting</p> <p>For more information on their monthly meetings (October is Dr. Julie Banfield discussing Supermassive Black Holes via Skype from Australia), please visit www.peterboroughastronomy.com.</p> <p>New this fall! Novice Astronomy Classes begin October 7th at the Riverview Zoo. The monthly classes are designed for novice backyard stargazers. Starting time is 6:00 pm in the Rotary Education Centre at the Riverview Zoo. The novice meetings last approximately 60 minutes, after which the regular 2-hour PAA meeting will take place. Bring a notebook, pencil or pen, and your sense of curiosity! Contact John Crossen at 705-657-7717 or johnstargazer@nexicom.net for details.</p>
<p>Fourth Wednesday of each month</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough</p>	<p>Peterborough Horticultural Society monthly meeting</p> <p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Lions Centre, 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough. Join us at 6:30 pm for socializing; the meeting begins at 7 pm. Annual membership rates are \$20 individual, \$25 family, \$2 guest. All are welcome and you don't have to be an experienced gardener! For more info visit www.peterboroughhort.com.</p> <p>October 26th - All About Garlic, Gail & Todd Grainger November 23rd - Bugs in the Garden, Professor David Beresford, Trent University</p>
<p>Sunday October 16th</p> <p>10:00 am to 4:00 pm</p> <p>Ecology Park, Peterborough</p>	<p>Little Autumn Tree Sale</p> <p>Autumn is the best time to transplant trees and shrubs in your yard. GreenUP's Ecology Park is holding a nursery sale to make room for new trees coming this spring. Plants, shrubs and trees will be for sale, starting at only \$1! All sales are final, and no additional discounts (sorry, Friends of GreenUP discount is not applicable at this sale).</p>
<p>Sunday October 23rd</p> <p>11:30 to 1:30 pm</p> <p>Ecology Park, Peterborough</p>	<p>Ecology Park Leaf Tuck-in</p> <p>Join us for this annual family volunteer event! Before winter arrives, we need to tuck all our tender trees, shrubs, and plants into deep beds of dry leaves to protect them from the harsh elements, until next spring. We would love your help, and you get to play in large piles of leaves! Drop in anytime from 11:30 to 1:30 to volunteer.</p>
<p>Thursday November 10th</p> <p>6:30 to 8:00 pm</p> <p>The Chapel at the Mount Community Centre 1545 Monaghan Road, Peterborough</p>	<p>You are invited to KLT's annual Thanks. Giving. Event!</p> <p>Please join the Kawartha Land Trust as they thank their dedicated and generous volunteers & donors, highlight this year's accomplishments, and share their vision for protecting more of the land you love in the Kawarthas. Mingling begins at 6:30 pm, with presentations at 7:00. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Please RSVP at www.kawarthalandtrust.org by no later than November 1st. For further details please call 705-743-5599 or email tking@kawarthalandtrust.org.</p>

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

Submission deadline for the November issue is **Tuesday, October 25th**.

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





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.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers		
President	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Membership Secretary	Jim Young	760-9397
Vice President	Kim Zippel	kimzippel@nexicom.net	740-0587	Orchid Editor	Marla Williams 874-5653 orchid@peterboroughnature.org	
Secretary	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas	
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	don.pettypiece@gmail.com	750-1145	Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin 749-3639 pfnjuniors@gmail.com	
Program (indoor)	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor, Don Finigan	
Program (indoor)	Marie Duchesneau	duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739	Orchid Diary	Martin Parker	745-4750
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501	Miller Creek Management	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young	
Harper Park, Stewardship	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Advocacy Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Marilyn Hubley	
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081	Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC)	Martin Parker	
Ontario Nature Rep	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball	
Special Projects	Marilyn Hubley	maykeema@hotmail.com	760-9378	Petroglyphs CBC	Colin Jones	
Peterborough Field Naturalists PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7						

PFN Volunteer Corner: Orchid Editor Needed!

Marla has greatly enjoyed volunteering as Orchid Editor over the last 3 years; however, she has decided to move on to new adventures.



Our Club is now looking for someone willing to volunteer as editor of the Orchid newsletter. Marla can vouch that The Orchid is "a labour of love" and she is happy to help her successor with the transition. For more information on this position please contact Marla (orchid@peterboroughnature.org) or Lynn Smith (smithfam@nexicom.net).

'A Traveller's Guide to Feathers'

Submitted by Glen Chilton

Glen Chilton is a professor of biology at James Cook University in Australia, and author of the bestselling *The Curse of the Labrador Duck* and *The Attack of the Killer Rhododendrons*. Glen writes a weekly column concerning recent advances in the field of bird biology under the title *A Traveller's Guide to Feathers*; PFN members are invited to view these columns on his website: glenchilton.com. Each piece describes the highlights of a recently-published paper from a scholarly journal. Glen's writings are meant for bird enthusiasts who are curious about the latest advances in the field. The studies are global in scope, and consider birds of all types. From penguins on Bouvet Island to snake-eagles in Israel, *A Traveller's Guide to Feathers* provides all of the content with none of the jargon.

Glen Chilton, Ph.D., Centre for Tropical Biodiversity and Climate Change, College of Marine and Environmental Science, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland, 4811, Australia

Protection of Loggerhead Marsh Enhanced

Submitted by Martin Parker and Paul Frost; Photos courtesy of Paul Frost

Loggerhead Marsh, in the western section of the City of Peterborough, was previously identified as a significant natural area in the report 'Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy', which was initiated by the Peterborough Field Naturalists. The Steering Committee consisted of a wide range of community representatives representing the City of Peterborough, Eco-Council of Peterborough, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, Parks Canada, Peterborough Home Builders, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority and Trent University along with representatives of the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

In March 2015, LTM Land Corp., represented by Murray Davenport, applied to the City of Peterborough to develop a new subdivision on the lands to the north of Loggerhead Marsh. Mr. Davenport originally proposed installing a sewer line through part of the marsh and along the outlet stream. The buffer between the marsh and proposed subdivision would have been minimized. The City's Planning Committee did not approve the application and a final decision was delayed pending revision by LTM Land Corp. It should be noted that Mr. Davenport was a member of the steering committee for the Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy.

In March 2016, a revised proposal for a new development returned to the Planning Committee. Again the buffer between the subdivision and the marsh would have been minimized and, in many ways, the revised plan was unchanged from its original version. It was argued by the developer at the meeting that the Loggerhead Marsh was not a provincially significant wetland and did not require natural space buffers normally provided by the Province through its Planning Policy Statements.

This past summer the MNRF completed a re-evaluation of Loggerhead Marsh and determined that it meets the criteria for provincially significant status.

Information from MNRF Peterborough District (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)

Update Completion Date: **Aug 2016**

Wetland Name: **Loggerhead Marsh** Wetland Code: PB-PET-OR-051

New Significance: **Provincial (PSW)** Coastal: **No**

Size (ha):6.7 Eco-District: 6e-8

Previous Evaluation History

1993-Oct Original evaluation, 2nd ed. D. Cunningham, Niblett Non-PSW

New Update Summary Notes

The Special Features component was updated to include three species at risk (Threatened status) found within the wetland. The least bittern was found in the marsh in both 2001 and 2009, during the breeding season. The barn swallow has been observed in the marsh 2001, 2006, 2009 and 2011. The bank swallow was observed in the marsh in 2008. Although the barn swallow and bank swallow do not nest in wetlands, wetlands provide suitable feeding areas for these species. Additionally, the western chorus frog is considered a provincially significant species, as it is listed federally as a species at risk. It has been heard calling in the marsh in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2010. All observations were made by the Otonabee Conservation Authority as part of the Loggerhead Marsh monitoring program.

The wetland was **re-scored** using the current Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) version 3.2 (2013) manual. Under the new scoring methodology, the wetland has been upgraded to **Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)** status.

Implication:

The upgrade of the Loggerhead Marsh is an important step in protecting the ecological integrity of this wetland within the City of Peterborough. Future developments will need wider buffer protections and construction should be placed further from the marsh boundary than originally proposed by the developer. It is noteworthy that the

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Director of Planning for the City and the Conservation Authority were prepared to recommend set-backs less than the Provincial Planning Policies, as they felt Loggerhead Marsh was only Locally Significant. However, ongoing monitoring by the Conservation Authority and reviewed by the City, provided the data used by the Ministry to Natural Resources and Forestry to decide Loggerhead Marsh is a Provincially Significant Wetland.

It is hoped that the designation of Loggerhead Marsh as a Provincially Significant Wetland will result in the City of Peterborough taking a much more proactive stance in the protection of this wetland.



Future:

LTM Land Corp. has applied to the Ontario Municipal Board for an order to force the City to approve its third draft plan on subdivision with minimal protection to Loggerhead Marsh. The pre-hearing meeting is scheduled in the City's Council Chambers on October 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Join Paul Frost on the October 9th Sunday Morning Wildlife Walk for a visit to parts of Loggerhead Marsh. See 'Coming Events' for more details.

Winter Finch Forecast 2016-2017

Compiled by Ron Pittaway, Ontario Field Ornithologists

General Forecast: Cone crops average poor in Southern Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic Canada, New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, but crops are generally good to bumper in Northern Ontario, Western Canada and Alaska. The dividing line is roughly James Bay south along the Ontario-Quebec border. White-winged Crossbills and often Pine Siskins prefer to move east or west rather than go south in search of cone crops. Many crossbills and some siskins may have already relocated to northern Ontario and across the boreal forest to Yukon where spruce cone crops are abundant. Purple Finches in the east are currently moving south in numbers. See individual forecasts for other finches and further details.

Note: Many birds will have a difficult time finding natural food sources this winter in Southern Ontario.

Individual Forecasts: Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed. Follow finch wanderings this fall and winter on eBird.

Pine Grosbeak: Most should stay in the north because native Mountain-ash berry crops are good to bumper (some poor areas) across the boreal forest. A few may wander to southern Ontario where they like European Mountain-ash berries and small ornamental crabapples. At feeders they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

Purple Finch: Eastern Purple Finches were moving in early September at the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac in Quebec. The poor seed crops on most coniferous and deciduous trees indicate that Purple Finches will leave northern breeding areas. Purples prefer black oil sunflower seeds at feeders.

Red Crossbill: A scattering of Red Crossbills will likely wander widely in the Northeast this winter. Listen and watch for them on large-coned ornamental pines and spruces. Red Crossbills comprise at least 10 "call types" in North America. Most types are impossible to identify without analyzing recordings of their flight calls. Matt Young (may6@cornell.edu) at The Cornell Lab of Ornithology will identify types if you email him recordings.

White-winged Crossbill: This crossbill irrupts south only in years of widespread cone crop failures. Many eastern crossbills have probably moved to northern Ontario and to abundant spruce cone crops in western Canada. However, expect some White-winged Crossbills to be scattered across southern Canada and the northeastern USA. Both crossbill species increasingly use feeders with black oil sunflower seeds when conifer seeds are scarce.

Common Redpoll: Last fall and winter's large irruptive southward flight was unexpectedly halted north of latitude 45 degrees by a bumper seed crop on Balsam Fir. If redpolls move south this year, they will likely continue to southern Canada and the northern states because birch seed crops are generally low across the Northeast. In redpoll flocks, check for larger and darker "Greater" Common Redpolls (subspecies *rostrata*) from Baffin Island (Nunavut) and Greenland. Redpolls prefer nyger seeds in silo feeders with or without perches.

Hoary Redpoll: Watch for Hoaries in flocks of Common Redpolls. The "Southern" Hoary Redpoll (nominate subspecies *exilipes*) breeds south to northern Ontario and is the subspecies usually seen in southern Canada and northern USA. However, "Hornemann's" Hoary Redpoll (nominate *hornemanni*) which was formerly considered a great rarity south of the tundra is now reported more often likely because its ID features are better known. See link #2 below for photos and identification marks of Common and Hoary Redpoll subspecies.

Pine Siskin: Some will irrupt south because cone crops in the Northeast are generally poor. Siskins were moving south in mid-September at the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac in Quebec. However, some eastern siskins have likely relocated to abundant spruce crops in western Canada. Siskins prefer nyger seeds in silo feeders. See link #4 which discusses siskin irruptions related to climate variability.

Evening Grosbeak: The Evening Grosbeak is the world's most spectacular winter finch. Its breeding populations continue to increase in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick due to increasing outbreaks of spruce budworm. Watch for them in Algonquin Park, Adirondacks and northern New England. A few are likely at feeders in southern Ontario where they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

Three Irruptive Passerines: Movements of these three passerines are often linked to the boreal finches.

Blue Jay: Expect a much larger than usual flight of jays from mid-September to mid-October along the north shorelines of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The acorn, beechnut and hazelnut crops were generally poor but variable in central and southern Ontario. Drought has damaged many seed crops.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: An early southward movement began in early summer and continues as this forecast was posted (September 22nd, 2016). This widespread movement is evidence of poor cone crops in the Northeast. It indicates that Purple Finches, White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins are on the move too.

Bohemian Waxwing: Very few Bohemians breed east of James Bay in Canada. Most Bohemians will likely stay in northern Ontario and western Canada because native Mountain-ash berry crops are good to bumper (some poor areas) across the boreal forest. In recent winters, however, Bohemians have been coming south regularly every winter possibly due to reliable annual crops of abundant Buckthorn (*Rhamnus*) berries. Watch for Pine Grosbeaks eating their favorite European Mountain-ash berries and small ornamental crabapples.

Where to see Finches: Algonquin Park is an exciting winter experience. Most cone crops are poor (good on White Cedar) in Algonquin Park so crossbills and siskins will be very scarce or absent. However, feeders at the Visitor Centre (km 43) should attract Common Redpolls (watch for Hoaries), Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. The Visitor Centre and restaurant are open weekends in winter. On winter weekdays, the facility is open but with limited services (no restaurant; however, snacks and drinks are available for purchase). Birders can call ahead to make arrangements to view feeders on weekdays by phoning 613-637-2828. The bookstore has one of the best selections of natural history books anywhere. Be sure to get *Birds of Algonquin Park* (2012) by retired park naturalist Ron Tozer. It is one of the finest regional bird books ever published. The nearby Spruce Bog Trail at km 42.5 and Opeongo Road at km 44.5 are the best spots for finches and other species such as Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse and Black-backed Woodpecker.

Finch Information Links:

#1. Finch Facts, Seed Crops and Irruptions

<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2012/winterfinches.htm>

#2. Subspecies of Common and Hoary Redpolls – ID Tips and Photos

<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2015/redpollsRP.htm>

#3. Interview with Ron Pittaway in OFO News 34(1):1-3, 2016

<http://jeaniron.ca/articles/FinchForecasterFe2016.pdf>

#4. Climatic dipoles drive two principal modes of North American boreal bird irruption

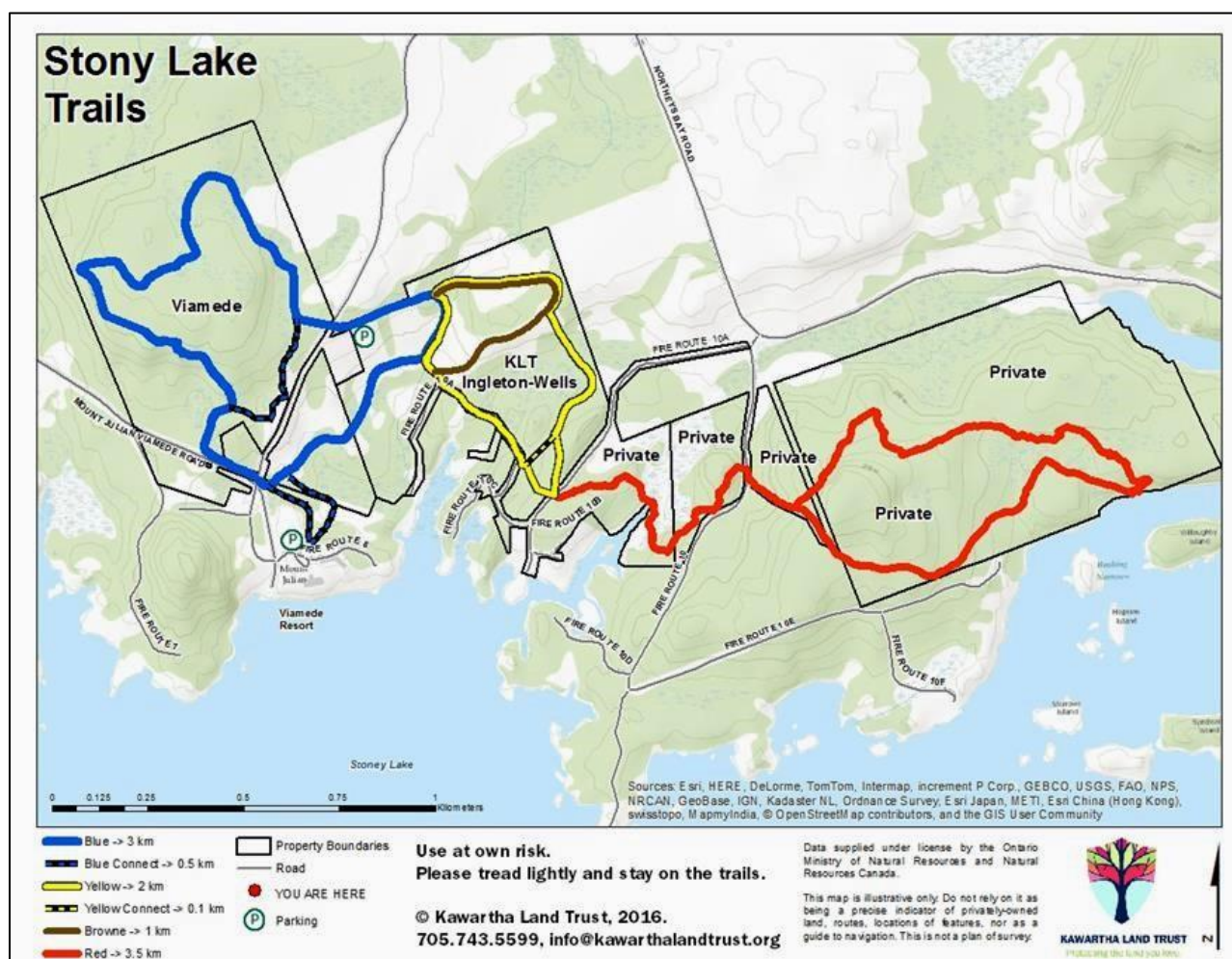
<http://bit.ly/1UrmTsl>

Hike the new Stony Lake Trails!

Kawartha Land Trust (KLT), Viamede Resort and private landowners have worked together to establish a publically-accessible trail featuring the Stony Lake area's fascinating historical and ecological features, with support from the Stony Lake Heritage Foundation.

The Stony Lake trails are free to use and can be accessed year-round! The 80-acre property on the north shore of Stony Lake was donated to the KLT in 2011 by the Ingleton and Wells families.

The current trailhead is accessed through KLT's Property at 105 Reids Road, Harcourt and Viamede Resort. Trail maps are available at Kawartha Park Marina, Viamede Resort, and Juniper Island.



If you love butterflies...give your rake a rest

Courtesy of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations

Why NOT to rake your leaves! Because butterflies begin in leaves, as larvae. Those brown, dead leaves are the planet's butterfly nursery. The leaves are home to butterfly larvae, microbes and worms. And leaf litter is where many species of butterflies and moths overwinter as pupae. Animals like toads, shrews and salamanders benefit from leaf litter to hide and hunt, too. This fall let your rake collect only dust.

Can't leave all of your leaves where they fall? Here are a few other ideas: Mulch leaves in your planter beds, use your mower to mulch leaves on the lawn and improve your lawn health by suppressing weeds and fertilizing the soil, or balance "greens" with "browns" in your compost bin by adding leaves to your backyard composter throughout the winter months. DO rake leaves out of sewers and drainage pathways.

More actions you can take to help butterflies: Plant a butterfly garden, get your yard off grass, and/or sign the Monarch Manifesto.

From the Archives – Harper Park Area from Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy

Submitted by Martin Parker

In the early 1990s the Peterborough Field Naturalists initiated the development of a Natural Areas Strategy for the City of Peterborough. The Steering Committee, co-chaired by the PFN and the Eco-Council of the Peterborough Area, consisted of representatives of the PFN, the Eco-Council, City of Peterborough -- Culture & Heritage Division, Planning Division and Parks and Forestry Division, the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, Parks Canada, Peterborough Home Builders Association, Ministry of Natural Resources, Otonabee Conservation and Trent University.

The report states the following about the Harper Park complex:

This large area contains several adjacent natural areas: the Harper Road area, the Harper Park wooded fen, the Parkway Woods, and Crawford Drive Woods. Easily the most ecologically important natural area in the city, the area contains a variety of features that warrant protection. A sub watershed study is being developed for the area, which will help to identify and bound significant features.

Rationale

- Diversity of habitat types
- Large area of woodland habitat
- High diversity of plant species
- Locally uncommon habitat types and plant species (wooded fen, spikenard, crested wood fern)
- Cold water streams support brook trout
- Provides a vegetative buffer for creeks
- Used extensively for nature-based recreation and ecological studies
- Partly in public ownership (City)

The report identifies mechanisms for the protection of the Harper Park area. The area is currently being impacted by proposed development on land adjacent to the identified natural areas.

PFN Trip Report: A Sunday Morning Sojourn to Harper Park

Submitted by Lynn Smith; Photo courtesy of Jim Young

Sunday, September 25th was a spectacular fall morning, with a bright blue sky and warmth from the sun. Eleven PFN members met at the elusive entrance to Harper Park. Kim Zippel led us through the Park, highlighting the biological, hydrological, historical and archaeological values of Harper Park, as well as the many challenges facing this important natural area.



From meadow to marsh, cedar woodlot to ephemeral pond, we traversed a diverse number of habitats within the 60-hectare park. Harper Creek was never far away, flowing cold and clear despite the hot dry summer. Eleven species of birds were identified. The Harper family and early settlers were discussed. We hunted for snakes and salamanders. We pondered the criteria for ephemeral ponds. Goldenrod and willow pine cone gallflies were noted. We saw firsthand the stormwater scars. And lots more!

Harper Park is under the stewardship of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, and members experienced the Park with that in mind.

Suggestions to further the flora and fauna species list, erect much needed signage, improve the trails, and create a picnic area are all ideas for the Park, at such time when the PFN is able to move forward on a management plan.

In the meantime, do take a moment out of your day to sleuth out the entrance and enjoy the peaceful tranquility of Harper Park.

Boyd or Big Island is known as Chiminis by Indigenous communities, and is the largest undeveloped and unprotected island in southern Ontario. The site is home to unspoiled wetlands, diverse and old growth forests, wildlife, and a wide variety of plant species.

According to the Kawartha Land Trust, now that the fundraising goals have been achieved plans are currently underway to establish a stewardship committee that will develop and implement a detailed management activities and stewardship plan for the property, including signage, trails, picnic sites, wildlife and invasive management, and permitted uses.



Yellow Leaves Splattered On The Water **Poem and photo submitted by Murray Palmer**

It's a mid-October morning as I paddle over the shallow lake bottom,
Observing changes brought to beaver habitat by the advent of autumn.
Days are cooler with a pleasant breeze, and the sun is lower in the sky,
But it's floating, yellow silver maple leaves which captivate my eye.
Bright pigments masked in the leaves by chlorophyll now reflect the sun
As though Nature brings the demands of winter, but not before some fun.
Green leaves turned water and carbon dioxide to oxygen and sugary food;
Now glowing, spent leaves splattered on the water instill a playful mood.
The trees store food during the winter for next spring's green revival...
Too little light or water in winter, some shed leaves to ensure survival.
If one looks to the sandy bottom littered with old, grey-brown leaves,
One is grateful for the decomposition and recycling that Nature achieves.
The beavers haven't begun to build their submerged winter food store;
Perhaps there's still time to enjoy this idyllic place for a few weeks more.

Murray Palmer, 2015





The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in the Peterborough Region.

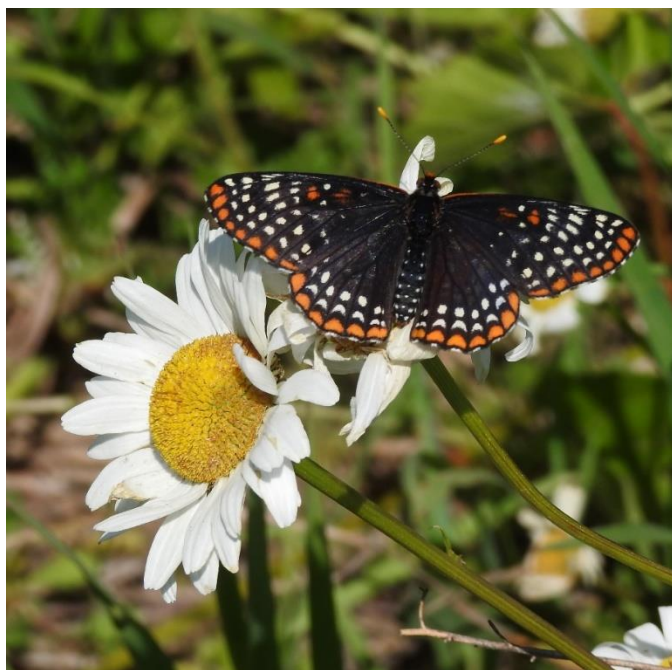
Information is compiled from e-bird, the Drew Monkman Sightings website, PTBO Sightings, and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone (705) 745-4750.

Lack of rain	The drought continued through August with wild flowering plants drying up, causing a decline in nectar sources for pollinators. In sites like the Kawartha Land Trust Dance Property over half of the Common Milkweed had died. Impact on aquatic systems would have also occurred.
August 1	Beverly McClenaghan found a Least Bittern in the Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area and Ian Sturdee had a Blue-Grey Gnatcatcher in the Cordova Lake area.
Early August	The Drew Monkman sightings page contained several reports of Giant Swallowtail butterflies. Tim Dyson had one in his yard near Norwood on July 26. Drew Monkman had one at the Peterborough Zoo on August 4. The same day Barb Evett had an individual at Lakehurst, near Buckhorn.
August 5	While tending his garden Bill Snowden had a Tomato Hornworm which will eventually become a Five-spotted Hawkmoth . He placed it on some tomato plants growing from his compost pile.
August 7	Iain Rayner had 5 Least Sandpipers , 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper , along with Killdeer , Spotted Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs in the Otonabee Gravel Pits Conservation Area . This little-known site is at the southern end of Crowley Line, north of the Otonabee River. A new birding area worth visiting.
August 8	Trudy Gibson had a Black Swallowtail caterpillar feeding on the dill in her garden.
August 9	Bill Snowden happily reported two adult Monarch Butterflies , three caterpillars and eggs on the Swamp Milkweed at his property south of Buckhorn Lake. Populations away from drought-stricken Peterborough appear to be doing better. Jerry Ball found 5 Leonard's Skippers in the Sandy Lake Road area, north of Havelock, the first of the year.
August 13	A Common Goldeneye showed up on the Lakefield Sewage Lagoon, initially reported by Iain Rayner and seen by many others. Still present at the end of this reporting period. Matthew Gavin & Iain Rayner spotted a Philadelphia Vireo in the area of Edgewood Blvd and the CPR railway tracks in Ashburnham.
August 15	The 100 th Anniversary of the signing of the landmark International Migratory Bird Treaty between Canada and the United States, and now Mexico. This treaty has ensured the survival of many species of migratory birds in North America.
August 16	David Beaucage Johnson observed a feeding flock of an estimated 50 Common Nighthawks , 100 Tree Swallows and ten gulls above his residence at Curve Lake First Nation. They were feeding on a swarm of recently emerged insects. The Common Nighthawks were probably a migrating flock. A similar flock of Common Nighthawks was also swarming on August 20 according to Johnson.
August 17	The Butterfly Survey of the Kawartha Land Trust Dance Property on this date documented 5 species of butterflies representing 46 individuals. A similar survey on August 19, 2015 found a total of 10 species and 369 individuals. The drought and lack of flowers was a major factor in the decline from one year to the next.
August 18	A Red-headed Woodpecker was spotted on the Curve Lake First Nature Reserve by David Beaucage Johnson.

August 19	Don McLeod observed 9 Common Nighthawks in flight over lower Chemong Lake (Frank Hill Road area). It appeared they were feeding on the wing. Probably a migrating flock. Luke Berg & Iain Rayner reported a Great Egret on the pond on the northeast side of Television Road and Hwy 7 & 115 interchange. Seen regularly by many other observers. Iain Rayner had a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at the Lakefield Lagoon.
August 20	A Lesser Scaup arrived at the Lakefield Lagoon, initially spotted by Iain Rayner and continued to be observed until the end of the reporting period. Donald Sutherland had a Black-bellied Plover along the Rotary Trail at Trent University.
August 21	A Meadow Jumping Mouse was spotted and photographed by Philip Shaw and Eric Snyder in a meadow in the eastern section of the City. They also had a Mink .
August 23	Three Lesser Scaup now present at the Lakefield Lagoon according to Iain Rayner & Matthew Gavin.
August 26	A total of 85 Leonard's Skippers were found along Sandy Lake Road by Jerry Ball.
August 27	Matthew Tobey, Luke Berg & Martin Parker had 11 Great Egrets feeding on the Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary, north side of Millbrook Road, west of Cty Road 28. Record high number for Peterborough County
August 26	Luke Berg had a Willow Flycatcher in his yard in Peterborough.
August 28	At the Otonabee Gravel Pit Conservation Area there was a concentration of shorebirds including Spotted Sandpiper , Pectoral Sandpiper and Lesser & Greater Yellowlegs , along with a Green Heron according to Bill Crins. Also a good variety of waterfowl.
August 29	Brenda Dyson had a Great Egret on a pond north of the landfill site on Bensfort Road.
Sept 2	A Black-crowned Night Heron was observed by Iain Rayner & Matthew Gavin in the Edgewood Road on Little Lake. During September there were multiple reports of a Black-crowned Night Heron along the Otonabee River between Little Lake to just south of the Parkhill Road bridge. A Red-necked Phalarope arrived on the south pond at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoon. The earliest-reported sighting was by Wendy Hogan and it was seen by multiple observers, with the last report around noon on Sept. 4.
Sept 3	A Greater Scaup arrived at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoon according to Bill Crins. Is the early arrival of Common Goldeneye, Lesser and Greater Scaup at the Lakefield Lagoon a reflection of drought conditions in their breeding areas? Luke Berg has a Lincoln's Sparrow in his yard in the city. This species is a secretive migrant.
Sept 4	On the first fall Sunday morning outing lead by Jerry Ball the participants found Yellow-bellied Flycatcher , Olive-sided Flycatcher and Eastern Bluebirds along the Lang to Hastings Rail Trail, between Cameron and Blezard Lines.
Sept 5	Report on Drew Monkman Sightings website that 6 hatchling Blanding's Turtles were observed in the Nogies Creek area, west of Buckhorn. Steve Kerr found 8 to 10 hatchling Snapping Turtles in Rathbun Bay, Jack's Lake. He noted no nesting activity was observed at this site in the early summer. Brian Wales spotted a Mink in Jackson's Park.
Sept 6	Luke Berg had another Lincoln's Sparrow in the Trent Nature Area. Tim Dyson observed ten Map Turtles while paddling up from the mouth of Eel's Creek. Six were present on one log. This is a known location for this species in the region.
Sept 7	Loggerhead Marsh re-designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Good news regarding attempts to protect this wetland.
Sept 9	The last reported date for Eastern Kingbird in the region by Wendy Hogan at Gannon's Narrows, Mike Burrell & Donald Sutherland at Millennium Park, and Iain Rayner in Technology Road area. Matthew Tobey had a late Barn Swallow and Northern Waterthrush near Trent University.

	Don McLeod observed an Osprey dive for a fish in lower Chemong Lake and almost drown. It took several attempts to get out of the water and was submerged several times. It finally cleared the water with an estimated 1-pound bass.
Sept 10	A calling Carolina Wren was found in Hamilton Park, south of Jackson Park, by Erica Nol & Chris Risley. Donald Sutherland had a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at the Lakefield Lagoons. Meredith Clark observed a Red Fox along the Rotary Trail north of Trent University.
Sept 14	Bill Crins had a very late Barn Swallow at the Lakefield Lagoon. A late Yellow Warbler was spotted by Matthew Gavin & Iain Rayner in the Edgewood Road area. Marie Windover reported the emergence of hatchling Snapping Turtles in the Flynn's Corners area. Close encounters with a Black Bear . Barbara and Robert Saunders in the Apsley area had a Black Bear run in front their car. There was damage to the front bumper and the bear ran off. Jim Cashmore reported that a few days previous he observed a Bald Eagle soaring over the Peterborough Zoo.
Sept 15	A Dickcissel was heard flying over Beavermead Park by Bill Crins. There are historic records of birds showing up in Peterborough in the fall.
Sept 16	Dave Milsom had a migrating and secretive Orange-crowned Warbler at the Trent University Nature Areas.
Sept 16	Another great day for the natural areas of Peterborough when the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change requested a full Environmental Assessment for the Parkway , especially the proposed bridge over Jackson Park. A bridge which would have impacted close to three hundred year-old White Cedars and White Pines.
Sept 20	A Ruby-throated Hummingbird visited Don McLeod's feeder. This was two days later than last year. Don McLeod reported an Osprey was still present on lower Chemong Lake.

Baltimore Checkerspot, Summer 2016
~ Submitted by Dave Milsom



Rainbow over East City, Peterborough
Summer 2016
~ Submitted by Marla Williams





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:	Email(s):
		<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please	

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

<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: _____