

# The Orchid



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*Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



## Her Ride Finally Came!

Photo of Armour Road Wild Turkey submitted by the Orchid Editor

Inside:

**A Christmas Turkey Story**

**New Bat Species for Peterborough County: Silver-haired Bat!**

**Drew Monkman's Guide to the Great Places to Enjoy Nature in Peterborough**

**Updates on Peterborough's Natural Heritage System Plan**



## In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events .....	3
PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12).....	4
Other Events of Interest.....	4
PFN Volunteer Corner .....	5
Junior Naturalists Help with Shoreline Planting .....	5
PFN Citizen Science Projects .....	6
From the Archives – Christmas Bird Count Memories .	7
Nature-viewing in the Kawarthas: Part One .....	7
President’s Message .....	10
Peterborough’s Natural Heritage System Plan .....	12
Witch Hazel Sighting .....	13
A Christmas Turkey Story .....	14
Harper Park Reveals its Autumn Colours .....	19
Five Bat Species Located .....	20
Silver-haired Bat in Peterborough County .....	20
The Orchid Diary .....	21
PFN Membership Application .....	23



Assorted fungi found in Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park near Anstruther Lake in 2017. Clockwise from above: 1) Inky caps (possibly *Coprinopsis atramentaria*), 2) red waxy cap mushrooms (possibly *Hygrocybe*), 3) possible *Pholiota squarrosoides*, 4) sulphur bracket fungi/chicken-of-the-woods (possibly *Laetiporus sulphureus*). Photos: Robert Pratten

## Welcome new PFN members!

Ryan Hill & Clara Doucette  
Steve & Helga Ogilvie  
Graham Knowles &  
juniors Maxwell Knowles and Zoe Knowles  
Bill Crins



PFN Coming Events	
<p>Saturday, Dec. 2</p> <p>7 a.m.</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p><b>World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls</b></p> <p>This day trip will be a birding outing to the Niagara River, a designated Important Birding Area because of 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! We should see thousands of gulls from ten or more species. Besides the gulls there will be other water birds, 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>This outing will end in the Niagara Region in the late afternoon. For those wishing to spend the weekend at Niagara the secondary meeting location at Queenston gives you this opportunity.</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and a 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. Accessibility: easy walking.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Dec. 13</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Rd Peterborough ON</p>	<p><b>Members' Slide Show Night</b></p> <p>The members slide show, held at our December monthly meeting, is a highly anticipated annual PFN tradition. Show fellow PFN members your photos of a recent trip. Display those great nature moments or wildlife encounters that you have recently experienced. This is your night to 'show and tell'!</p> <p>Contact Jim Young at <a href="mailto:jbyoung559@gmail.com">jbyoung559@gmail.com</a> or phone 705-760-9397 to add your name to the list. Sharing your photos and your narrative makes for an interesting and educational evening for all.</p> <p>Sharing some Christmas baking is also part of the December PFN traditions, so please don't feel shy about bringing a goodie or two!</p>
<p>Sunday, Dec. 17</p> <p>All day</p>	<p><b>66th Peterborough Christmas Bird Count – A Christmas Tradition</b></p> <p>Please see article further on for more information.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Dec. 27</p> <p>All day</p>	<p><b>32nd Annual Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count</b></p> <p>Please see article further on for more information.</p>
<p>December to March</p> <p>Dates, times and locations TBD</p>	<p><b>Wildlife Tracking Outings</b></p> <p>Once again, PFN member and expert tracker Don McLeod will lead one or more outings during the months of December to March, focusing on tracks and other wildlife signs. These outings will be scheduled when weather conditions permit. The place and time will be announced by e-mail shortly before each outing.</p> <p>Anyone interested in attending should send an e-mail to Don McLeod at <a href="mailto:donaldmcLeod.com@gmail.com">donaldmcLeod.com@gmail.com</a> so he can add you to an e-mail distribution list. If you signed up for last year's outings, you will automatically receive an e-mail.</p>

PFN Coming Events	
	Accessibility: moderate to somewhat challenging. These outings will all involve walking in snowy conditions.
Friday, Jan. 19 Doors open at 5 p.m. Peterborough Naval Association 24 Whitlaw Street	<p><b>Join us for PFN's 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b></p> <p>Keep up-to-date on PFN business, elect the next board, enter the raffle for prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation!</p> <p>Tickets are just \$35 for the evening, and can be reserved by contacting Jim Young at 705-760-9397 or email <a href="mailto:jbyoung559@gmail.com">jbyoung559@gmail.com</a> Please RSVP NO LATER THAN Fri Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; meal begins at 6:00 p.m.</li> <li>• Meeting at 7:00 p.m., followed by raffle/silent auction at 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>• Keynote speaker, Steve Burrows, begins at 8:00 p.m.</li> </ul> <p>Check out the AGM poster on last page for further details.</p>

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)
<p>Junior naturalist families are reminded to check the website for event listings and email <a href="mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com">pfnjuniors@gmail.com</a> if you're not on the members distribution list for event announcements. Bookings can be made online at <a href="https://peterboroughnature.org/junior/">https://peterboroughnature.org/junior/</a></p>
<p><b>Christmas Bird Count for Kids:</b> Details and date will be posted on the PFN website when available.</p>

Other Events of Interest	
First Friday of each month 7:00 p.m. Guest Services Building, Riverview Park & Zoo	<p><b>Peterborough Astronomical Association Monthly Meeting</b></p> <p>For more information on their monthly meetings, please visit <a href="http://www.peterboroughastronomy.com">www.peterboroughastronomy.com</a></p> <p>Dec. 1: 7 p.m. Annual General Meeting &amp; Christmas Social - Details on website</p> <p>8 p.m. "Citizen Science and Serendipity in the Astronomical Context" presented by Dr. Julie Banfield</p>
Fourth Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m. Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street	<p><b>Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting</b></p> <p>Join us at 6:30 p.m. for socializing. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Annual membership rates are \$20 individual, \$25 family, and \$2 guest. All are welcome - and you don't have to be an experienced gardener! For more info visit <a href="http://www.peterboroughhort.com">www.peterboroughhort.com</a>.</p> <p>Jan 25: Marcy Adzich from Greenup on "Edible Urban Ecology: Food Forests and Beekeeping in our Urban Community"</p>



## PFN Volunteer Corner

### Notice to PFN Members – Nominations for Director

The affairs of the Peterborough Field Naturalists are managed by 12 members who comprise the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee annually prepares a slate of Directors for approval at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday January 19, 2018.

There is 1 vacancy on the Board which the Nominating Committee has to fill. The normal term of a Director is 3 years.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or would like to suggest a member who may be interested, please contact Lynn Smith at [smithfam@nexicom.net](mailto:smithfam@nexicom.net) or phone 705-944-5599



### Call for Bucket Draw and Silent Auction Items

A tradition at the Annual Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists is the generous donation of items to the PFN's annual bucket draw and silent auction. Attendees at the Annual Meeting will be given one ticket for the bucket draw. Additional tickets can be purchased at the meeting. Place the ticket in the 'bucket' beside the item(s) you want. Purchase of additional tickets will provide additional chances to win.

Annually there are a number of special items available through a silent auction. In the past, a print or sketch donated by artist Kelly Dodge has been the highlight of the silent auction,

If you have any items to donate for the bucket draw or silent auction, please advise Rene Gareau (e-mail [rene.gareau@sympatico.ca](mailto:rene.gareau@sympatico.ca) or phone 705-741-4560) in advance or bring to the December meeting or the Annual Meeting.

Proceeds of the Bucket Draw and Silent Auction are used for special projects of the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

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## Junior Naturalists Help with Shoreline Planting

Submitted by Lara Griffin



A crew of hard working Junior Naturalists helped Otonabee Conservation plant Eastern White Cedar along Bears Creek near Northcrest arena on Sunday November 19. This planting project will help prevent shoreline erosion. And as new plants and shrubs establish in the area, they will improve habitat for insects and wildlife. Many thanks to Otonabee Conservation for sharing this opportunity with us and to our hardy tree planters who didn't mind digging on a chilly day!



## **PFN Citizen Science Projects**

### **66th Annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count – A Christmas Tradition**

Sunday, December 17 – all day

The Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now in its 66th year, is the longest running wildlife survey in Peterborough County. The Peterborough CBC participants cover an area contained within a circle with a diameter of 24 kilometers, centered on the intersection of Chemong Road and Sunset Boulevard. This total count area is divided into smaller areas. A team of participants is assigned to each area.

Organization of the count is coming together and lots of members and friends of the PFN have registered to participate. There is still room for more participants. There are 10 areas within the count circle, each of which will be covered by a specific group of participants.

The areas and Party Leaders are as follows

Chemong/Bridgenorth	Don McLeod
Miller Creek/Selwyn	Brian Wales
Lakefield/Otonabee East	Dave Milsom
Douro Wedge	Warren Dunlop & Mike Oldham
Burnham	Drew Monkman
Stewart Hall/Landfill	Scott McKinlay
Airport	Mike McMurtry & Matthew Tobey
Cavan Swamp	Chris Risley and Erica Nol
Jackson Park	Jerry Ball
Downtown	to be determined

There is still time to register and participate in this Peterborough Birding Tradition and long-term Citizen Science project. To register, contact Martin Parker (count compiler) as soon as possible by phone (705) 745-4750 or by e-mail at [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca).

### **32nd Annual Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count**

Wednesday December 27th

This is the second Christmas Bird Count conducted in the Peterborough region by members and friends of the PFN. This count samples the bird life in an area which stretches from the north shore of Stoney Lake northward to the Aspley-Jack lake area.

The compiler for this count is Colin Jones. New participants are welcome. Participants will be split into a number of field parties, each covering a different part of the overall count circle. At the end of the day, all the parties will gather to compile the final results.

To participate in this count contact Colin Jones in advance at [colin.jones@ontario.ca](mailto:colin.jones@ontario.ca).

This is the 118th year that Christmas Bird Counts are being held across North America. Come join this Christmas birding tradition!

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## From the Archives – Christmas Bird Count Memories from the Past

### Submitted by Martin Parker

The following are some of the highlights of the Peterborough Christmas Bird Counts held in the years 1990 to 1993.

1990 Count – from The Orchid, January 1991, Volume 37, No. 1 by Douglas Sadler

- The Bald Eagle was a new count species, now regular.
- Only one Great Horned Owl was found, down from previous high of 37.

1991 Count – from The Orchid, January 1992, Volume 38, Number 1, no author given

- There were record high counts for four species, including Mourning Dove, White-breasted Nuthatch and Northern Cardinal. But the explosion of House Finches really hit us, with a total about four times greater than the previous record. (Ed. Note: 1197 compared to 277 in the 1987 count)

1992 Count – from The Orchid, January 1993, Volume 39, Number 1, no author given

- There were record highs for many species: Common Goldeneye (98), Ring-billed Gull (37), Great Horned Owl (40), Pileated Woodpecker (14), Blue Jay (324). Black-capped Chickadee (1567), American Robin (50), Purple Finch (222). There was a total of 45 species of birds.

1993 Count – from The Orchid, January 1994, Volume 40, Number 1, by Tony Bigg

- The Count turned up the second highest number of species (55), since the count began, beaten by the 58 species seen in 1987.
- The Carolina Wren just missed the count day for the second year in a row. This year it is hanging around Oriole Drive.
- The Barrow's Goldeneye was known to be around on the river below Lakefield before the count and we hoped to make it a new species for the count day. Unfortunately, it was not there on the day, but probably moved upstream above the bridge in Lakefield, where it can now be found, which is just outside the count area.

The January/February issue of The Orchid will provide the results and highlights of the 2017 Peterborough CBC. Consider participating and creating you own Count memories.

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## Nature-viewing in the Kawarthas: Where to go? Part One

### Submitted by Drew Monkman

People often ask me where they should go to see birds and other wildlife. My initial answer is usually “just about anywhere.” Although this is true, I realize that a little more detail might be helpful. This month I'd like to begin a series of articles on nature destinations in Peterborough and the Kawarthas in order to take best advantage of the many nature-viewing opportunities available. But first, a little background information is helpful.

Peterborough County and the Kawarthas is largely defined by the Trent-Severn Waterway and the Kawartha Lakes. It also embraces two of Canada's main physiographic regions. Driving north from Peterborough along Highway 28, we enter the southern edge of the Canadian Shield at Burleigh Falls. Suddenly, beautiful pink granite and other Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks are easily visible along the roadside, and White Pine becomes much more common. Satellite images clearly show a largely unbroken expanse of dark green tree cover on the Shield, interspersed with lakes, wetlands and rock barrens.

The land south of the Shield is lower in elevation and has more fertile, calcareous soils. It belongs to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowland, a region of younger sedimentary rock. Limestone, laid down 490 million years ago during the

Ordovician period, overlies the basal Shield rock deep below. This limestone is most visible in road cuts all along the edge of the Shield such as the southern entrance to the village of Buckhorn.

This mix of Shield country, lowlands and waterways makes for one of the richest assortments of habitats in the province. These also include rarer habitats like the bare rock ridges and acidic bogs of Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park and the flat, open limestone pavement habitat of the Carden Alvar.

With such a wide variety of habitat types, the Kawarthas enjoys one of the greatest diversities of plants and animals in the province. Nature-watching destinations abound. The list of destinations that I am proposing is by no means exhaustive, nor is the list of highlights. To see a detailed list of what bird species can be found in the more popular destinations (e.g., Jackson Park, Little Lake, Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, Harper Park) go to [ebird.org](http://ebird.org). Click on Explore Data, Explore a Region, type in Peterborough, click on Hotspots, click on the destination of your choice and then click on Bar Charts. You will see a list of all birds seen, along with their seasonal abundance. You can choose different date ranges, as well. I suggest Jan-Dec, 1900-2017 (or present year).

Orchid readers may wish to submit their own favourite locations, which will be published as an on-going feature in the newsletter.

### **City of Peterborough and Vicinity**

The best birding in Peterborough is often along the Otonabee River-Little Lake corridor and adjacent green spaces. Linear green spaces such as rail-trails can also be excellent. Birds often travel along these corridors during spring and fall migration. Our various wetlands often attract interesting migrants, too, as do large stands of tall trees. Jackson Park and Promise Rock (a Trent University Nature Area on the west side of the Rotary Greenway Trail) are two such areas.

**Little Lake:** Located east of George St. south. Good observation points include Little Lake Cemetery, Mark St. boat launch, Edgewater Blvd. and Lock 20. Highlights: Waterbirds in early spring, late fall and winter (ice conditions permitting) including diving ducks, grebes, loons and uncommon gulls; Bald Eagles possible in winter; land birds in the cemetery (e.g., Merlin) and a wide variety of mature native and non-native trees.

**River Road:** Also called County Rd. 32. Located on east bank of Otonabee River between Trent University and Lakefield. Highlights: Diving ducks such as goldeneyes and mergansers during migration and in winter; migrating swallows in spring; Bald Eagles and otters sometimes seen.

**Otonabee River South:** Located just north of the Peterborough By-Pass (Hwy. 7), this section of the river is best viewed either from Sherin Ave. on the east or Cameron St. on the west. Highlights: Diving ducks and sometimes grebes during migration and in winter; Bald Eagle possible.

**Lock 19 on Otonabee River:** Take Sherburne St. south from Lansdowne St. Turn left at Morrow St. and follow to Lock 19 parking lot. Highlights: Spawning Walleye and suckers in early April; diving ducks in late fall, winter and spring.

**Crawford Rail Trail:** From Monaghan Rd., just south of Lansdowne St., to Crawford Dr. Highlights: Good general birding, especially at Crawford Dr. end.

**Harper Park:** Located west of Harper Rd./Rye St. Access from entrance to Harper Road Composting Facility where Harper Creek passes under Harper Rd. Highlights: 150-acre natural environment park, provincially-significant wetland, coldwater creeks, meadows, forest, wild brook trout, deer, diverse native birds and plants not normally found within city limits (e.g., Great Horned Owl, Great Lobelia), numerous migrants in spring. Go to [harperpark.ca](http://harperpark.ca) for more information including a trail map.

**Kawartha Heights Park:** Located between Kawartha Heights Blvd. and Redwood Dr. Access from south end of Crestwood Ave. Highlights: birds, plants, butterflies, amphibians, mature trees



Harper Park. Photo: Drew Monkman



**Loggerhead Marsh:** Located on north side of Ireland Dr., east of Brealey Dr. Highlights: Provincially significant wetland, two large ponds, diverse shorebirds and songbirds during migration, wetland species like rails, warblers, snipe, herons, and ducks, raptors such as Osprey and Cooper's Hawk, amphibian chorus in spring. Go to [loggerheadmarsh.org](http://loggerheadmarsh.org) for more information.

**Jackson Park:** Located at junction of Parkhill Rd. and Monaghan Rd. in Peterborough. Highlights: Migrant land birds in spring and fall, stream invertebrates, numerous old-growth trees such as White Pine, Eastern Hemlock, Eastern White Cedar and American Beech, diverse ferns and wildflowers (e.g., Turtlehead) along rail-trail and especially in the wooded section of the path that borders the east side of the lagoon.

**Fairbairn Street Wetland:** Located on west side of Fairbairn St., just north of Co. Rd. 19 (Line Rd. 3). Highlights: Wetland species like bitterns, gallinules, rails and ducks. Occasional rarities like Nelson's Sparrow (Oct. 2017)

**Trans-Canada Trail:** From Jackson Park, east to Omemee Highlights: Wide variety of trees, shrubs (e.g., Silky Dogwood), ferns and wildflowers border the trail; wetland species at Lily Lake and east to Ackison Rd. (e.g., Wood Duck, Swamp Sparrow, Beaver, River Otter, Snapping Turtle, Nannyberry, High-bush Cranberry); Fringed Gentian and Ladies'-tresses; Orchids just east of Hwy. 7 overpass.

**Parkway Trail:** A paved trail extending from corner of Fairbairn St. and Highland Rd. to Cumberland Ave. Highlights: Hilliard to Cumberland section has large concentrations of migrant sparrows in fall and robins in winter, occasional Barred Owls, abundant Virginia Creeper and Wild Grape. Chemong to Hilliard section has a section of wetland (Common Yellowthroat) and a large retention pond (ducks, herons).



Lily Lake on Trans-Canada Trail east of Ackison Road. Photo: Drew Monkman

**Trent University Nature Areas:** Numerous trails traverse a variety of habitats on both sides of the Otonabee River. These include the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary trails east of University Rd., the Canal Nature Area west of University Rd. and the Promise Rock Trail, which can be accessed opposite the small parking lot on the west side of Nassau Mills Rd. near Lock 22. Highlights: wetland, forest and meadow habitats, diverse birds (e.g., Warblers, Winter Wren, American Woodcock, Great Horned Owl, Great Blue Heron nesting colony, active Tree Swallow nesting boxes), butterflies, amphibians, etc.



Boardwalk at beginning of de Pencier Trail in Canal Nature Area at Trent U. Photo: Drew Monkman

**University Road Wetland:** Located just north of the Warsaw Rd. (Co. Rd. 4) on University Rd. Highlights: Impressive frog and toad chorus in spring.

**Rotary-Greenway Trail:** A 20 km, mostly paved trail from the Ecology Park on Ashburnham Dr., through East City in Peterborough and north to Lakefield. Highlights: Birds (especially in the marsh just north of the Trent Science Complex), butterflies, amphibian chorus in spring.

**Meadowvale Park:** Located at west end of Frances Stewart Rd. at Ashdale Crescent W. Extends west of Rotary Greenway Trail. Highlights: woodland, field and stream habitat, good general birding, ducks on river.

**GreenUP Ecology Park:** Located on Ashburnham Dr. just south of Maria St. Highlights: wide variety of display gardens, native plant nursery and sales, diverse butterflies and nesting songbirds, winter bird feeder trail maintained by PFN, migrants in spring in fall, nature education program, gardening workshops.

**Beavermead Park:** Located on Ashburnham Dr. just south of Maria St. Best locations include Tollington Bridge area and Beavermead Campground. Highlights: ducks and herons along Meade Cr., spring and fall migrants in campground.

**Downer's Corners Wetland:** Located on east side of Television Road at Highway 7. Highlights: Wetland birds including Trumpeter Swans.

**Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park:** Located on north side of Highway 7, just east of Peterborough. Highlights: Remnant stand of large native trees (e.g., Sugar Maple, Eastern Hemlock), rich and diverse flora including ferns, sedges and spring wildflowers, diverse fungi.

**Cold Springs Wetland:** Follow Monaghan Rd. south of Hwy 7 by-pass to Johnston Dr. and Beardsmore Dr. Highlights: Wetland birds in marshes and wet fields (e.g., Great Egret in summer some years, Blue-winged Teal), amphibian chorus.

**Mervin Line/Peterborough Airport:** Follow Airport Rd. (Co. Rd. 11) south of Hwy 7 by-pass to Mervin Line. Turn east and drive towards Otonabee River until you arrive in a large Silver Maple swamp. Highlights: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-bellied Woodpecker N.B. Check airport runways for Snowy Owls and Horned Larks in late fall and winter. Migrating shorebirds sometimes turn up at large pond on east side of bottom of Airport Rd. Pond can also be viewed from new road that runs south off Mervin Line East and connects with Co. Rd. 11 South.

Next month, I'll look at destinations north and east of Peterborough.



On a maple tree on the side trail across the bridge just north of Joanne's on Water Street, John Fautley observed the swarm of bees shown in these photos. They were crawling over each other, as if to share the morning sunlight, he wrote. They stayed for a few days and then departed to an unknown destination.



## President's Message

### Reply from the Premier

We received a response from the premier to our letter regarding the Parkway. A copy of the letter is presented below.



### Meeting with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Lynn Smith and I had the pleasure of attending a round table meeting with Dominic Leblanc, arranged by Maryam Monsef. Kim Zippel kindly put forward our names to Ms. Monsef. We took the opportunity, along with several others, to inform the Minister about the need to preserve Harper Park, and about the impact of development and invasive species on local waterways and aquatic wildlife.

The Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1



La première ministre de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative, Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1A1

October 17, 2017

Mr. Edward Vale  
President  
Peterborough Field Naturalists  
PO Box 1532  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9J 7H7

Dear Mr. Vale:

Thank you for taking the time to send your letter on behalf of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. I appreciate your sharing your concerns about the City of Peterborough's Parkway Corridor Extension.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change wants to ensure that environmental protection is appropriately considered in municipal infrastructure projects. In this case, after an extensive and careful review, the previous minister determined that an individual environmental assessment is required for the proposed project.

An individual environmental assessment evaluates the potential environmental effects of a proposal. Our government takes public concerns very seriously and we believe an individual environmental assessment will determine how this proposed project should best proceed.

The ministry has offered to meet with city staff to discuss this project including requirements under the individual environmental assessment process. I note that you have also sent a copy of your letter to my colleague the Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. I trust that he will also give your views his careful consideration.

Once again, thank you for raising this matter with me. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kathleen Wynne'.

Kathleen Wynne  
Premier

c: The Honourable Chris Ballard



## Updates on Peterborough's Natural Heritage System Plan

### Submitted by Dylan Radcliffe

This year City council has embarked on the process of revising the City of Peterborough's official plan. The official plan will have far reaching consequences on the structure and function of our city far into the future. In the past few decades, the province has mandated that a natural heritage system plan be integrated into the process of the official plan.

Over the past several decades, environmentally minded planners have recognized that a healthy environment is not just made up of individual parks and greenspaces, but includes the connections between those spaces. Consider that many different creatures require different habitats as they progress through the stages of their life. A Blanding's turtle, for instance, will live its life in forests, wetlands, rivers and fields. If the turtle is not able to travel effectively between those spaces, it will be unlikely to reproduce and live a full life. A robust and effective natural heritage system will map out these core natural areas and recommend strategies to enhance and protect connections between them.

This holistic approach to protecting healthy ecosystems acknowledges that natural communities require the ability of creatures to move from place to place. It also recognizes that humans are just as much a part of the environment, and that there are benefits to protecting our natural spaces. An effective natural heritage system can help a municipality meet health, recreation, and infrastructure objectives in addition to any environmental benefit. Therefore, it is critical that the official plan and the city's natural heritage system strategy be completed in a way that is recognized and put into practice by all city departments.

In order to effectively implement a natural heritage system strategy, there are a number of key principles that can help us protect our environment into the future.

#### **Principle #1: The Natural Heritage System Should Be a Living Document**

Nature is not static, and neither should our relationship with it be. In the past, governments have allowed the destruction of critical habitat simply because it was not written down as such. The natural heritage of our community is too large for one person or company to map out or write down.

Fallow fields and meadows can turn to wetlands or forests given time. It is therefore critical that as the landscape changes, so should the way that we protect it.

#### **Principle #2: The Natural Heritage System Strategy Should Include Commitment to Improving Our Natural Environment**

Currently, the City of Peterborough is far below the recommended targets for natural space protection and connection. The strategy should set out objectives for the city and a plan to achieve them. With the ecological integrity of our environment under threat from climate change, habitat loss, pollution etc., we must work to improve the natural environment, not just maintain the status quo. A strategy to expand the natural heritage system of our city will provide benefits for years to come.

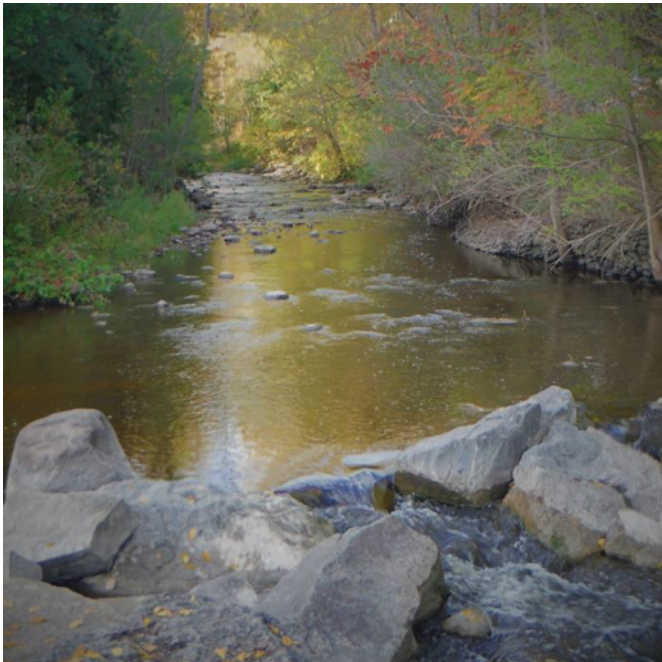


Spring-fed brook and wetlands in Harper Park.

Photo: Dylan Radcliffe



### **Principle #3: Citizens and Groups Should Be Involved in The Protection and Identification of Natural Heritage Features**



Jackson Creek, just south of Parkhill Road and Jackson Park. Photo: Dylan Radcliffe

The city of Peterborough is full to the brim with some of the most knowledgeable and committed naturalists I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Again, it is important to note that every single significant feature of our city's natural heritage system would be impossible to map out and catalogue by any one group. With all of the work in this city being completed by so many talented people, it would be a waste to not include their input towards protecting our natural environment.

Our city still has a long way to go towards protecting and enhancing the nature which we all seem to cherish. A robust and important natural heritage system is an important first step. Whatever the results of our renewed official plan may bring us, there is no doubt that the citizens of Peterborough care very much about our shared natural heritage. Let us hope that council and city staff see the benefit of having a well-protected and connected natural environment, and that our shared passion for the environment is recognized in the process. Be sure to stay tuned to city hall and voice your support for a strong and resilient natural heritage system for Peterborough.

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### **Witch Hazel Sighting**

**Submitted by Sue Paradisis**

Witch Hazel is known to most people for its soothing, astringent, skincare properties. Its oil, made from the leaves, twigs and bark, can be found in shaving lotion, diaper cream and salves for poison ivy and burns. A forked branch of Witch Hazel is prized for divining rods. This "magical" ability to find water is probably where the "witch" in the name came from.

I found a shrub growing and blooming in a back corner of Ecology Park in November. It was most likely planted there as it is not normally found this far north. None the less, this shrub was a good size and doing quite well. The late blooming time is just one unusual trait of this plant. It takes advantage of the lack of competition for the attention of pollinators that are still around this late in the year. I did see a little moth and some flies that day. The flowers are very unusual and delicate looking and have a light lemon scent. There is so much yellow in the October landscape that the tiny flowers are easily overlooked.

Another name for Witch Hazel is Snapping-Hazel, which is due to the explosive seed pods. These pods hold two chambers, each with a black seed. They ripen around the same time as the shrub blooms again the next year, and they explode, sending the seeds up to 12 metres away. I was told by someone whose family had a seed business when he was young, that they would gather hundreds of pounds of the seed pods and dry them in an 8' x 8' x 8' metal-lined room. They would shake the racks every 12 hours wearing protective eye and face masks because the pods would explode like popcorn, sending seeds ricocheting off the walls.

I found the Beavermead plant too late in the year to really observe the seed pods. There were only two left on the branches and they may not be viable. Now that I know where to find this non-descript shrub, I will go back again and monitor the growth of the pods for next fall.



From left: Witch Hazel in bloom; close-up of flower; seed pods. Photos: Sue Paradisis

## A Christmas Turkey Story

### Submitted by the Orchid Editor

*This account concerns the famed "Armour Road Turkeys" of 2013. Anyone who regularly drove along Armour Road in Peterborough would have noticed these wandering turkeys and wondered what the heck they were doing there. The turkeys even made it into the local papers a number of times. It seemed they had the whole town talking. There was a lot of hand-wringing but not much action until...*

### Wednesday, Dec. 4

I've seen only one wild turkey on Armour Road lately. I fear that something unfortunate has happened to its companion. With the snow having arrived, I have decided to offer it food. I imagine it will find foraging difficult in the city when there's snow on the ground. I have put in the car some of the cracked corn that I bought for the ducks. I'd like to catch the turkeys and take them to the country but I just haven't figured out how to go about doing it, yet

### Thursday, Dec. 5

On my way home from work, I saw the wild turkey by the bus stop near the Auburn Retirement Village on Armour Road, so I pulled into the laneway and sprinkled some of the cracked corn on a patch cleared of snow. It seemed grateful as it pecked hungrily at the ground.

### Friday, Dec. 6

On my way to work, I noticed the wild turkey at the Auburn Bible Chapel so I pulled in and fed it. This time, when I got out of the car, it seemed excited to see me. It ran up to me.

I Googled "wild turkeys" and "Armour Road" and found out that the other turkey was run over a week ago. Darn it. According to the Peterborough This Week article, they were sisters. All the time that I've been seeing these turkeys foraging along the side of Armour



Road, which is about five months now, I've fretted about the day when there would only be one. They are social creatures. I vicariously felt how lonely and fearful the last one might be. Now the day has come.

I called up someone who I thought might be able to help. Oliver was a friendly sort and he knew a bit about the turkey situation. He told me that the mother had been run over a number of months ago. He didn't know where the turkeys came from. He said that if I could gain the turkey's confidence and if I could corner her somewhere that had an overhang such that the turkey couldn't fly straight up, I could call him and he'd try to net her. He knows of a spot nearby in the country where there is a flock of wild turkeys. He would take the turkey there.

### ***Sunday, Dec. 8***

I drove around the turkey's regular haunts but I couldn't find her.

### ***Monday, Dec. 9***

On my way to work, I stopped by the retirement village because I saw the wild turkey hanging out by the bus stop again. As I pulled into the lane way, she noticed me right away. She seemed to recognize my car and she rushed right over to my car as I parked it. I got out and poured some cracked corn on the ground for her, but she didn't seem all that interested in the food. I was surprised since she liked the food the other times. I got back in my car and headed to the end of the laneway so I could turn around and proceed to work. The turkey chased after my car, chattering at me loudly! I was perplexed. So I got out and put some more food out. Again, no interest. There was nothing more I could do so I got back in the car and drove to the street. Again, the turkey chased after the car. I had to get out of the car once more, this time to chase her a way. I didn't want her following me onto Armour Road and getting run over.

I spent a great deal of my work day brooding about the turkey and the manner in which we had parted. I felt awfully bad leaving her with the impression that I might not be a friend. Did I just lose all my chances at gaining her confidence? Since a local article said that the turkeys had once tried to board a bus, I had a little fantasy that the turkey would try to board my car if I opened up the back hatch for her. I prepared my car for a turkey passenger during break time by shifting some stuff around and putting down the seats to give her more room. I looked for the turkey on my way home but sadly didn't see any sign of her.

At home, I Googled "wild turkeys" and found a YouTube video that presented the various turkey calls. If I'm not mistaken, the sound the wild turkey was making while chasing my car was the "assembly call."

### ***Tuesday, Dec.10***

Both on my way to and from work, I drove around the areas I knew the turkey to have hung out but I had no luck finding her. I read about wild turkeys online tonight. I have to say that I was just a little dismayed that most of the information that comes up in a Google search is information for or by hunters. The wild turkeys aren't birds per se; they are *game*-birds. They don't even merit a video, let alone a fact sheet, from Hinterland Who's Who. Jeesh. A long time ago, they were common in Ontario but they were wiped out for almost a century due to habitat loss and hunting. They were reintroduced in the 1980s - thanks to hunters who lobbied the government to do so. I'm not sure how I feel about the seeming paradox: an aspect of the ecosystem is set aright by the reintroduction of wild turkeys and this is apparently due to the efforts of people who want to kill them. Anyway, those hunters had better stay away from my turkey friend. That's all I have to say about that.

### ***Wednesday, Dec. 11***

Same as yesterday: no sign of her. A coworker gave me a lovely idea, though. Since the zoo is just across the river and the zoo has wild turkeys, she thinks that the turkey may have heard or sensed their presence. She thinks that it's likely that the turkey has flown across the river to be with them. I don't know how probable that scenario is, but it's comforting.

I found an entry on Drew Monkman's Sightings website about an adult turkey spotted on upper Armour Road on May 6. That must be the mother – the one who started all this. Someone at work actually remembers seeing the mother with five poults at one point. I only ever saw two, maybe three, plus the mother.

#### **Thursday, Dec. 12**

I stopped to feed the turkey at 7:30 a.m. She was standing inside the bus shelter which is in front of the retirement village. Since her sister was run over, the turkey appears to not wander very far anymore. The two of them used to roam a stretch of about three kilometres up and down Armour Road. This remaining turkey has decided to limit her present wanderings to an area of refuge bookended by the Auburn Bible Chapel at one end and the New Life Church at the other end with retired folks in the middle.

Today, the turkey was complacent about both the food and me. She didn't act like she recognized me. Perhaps she was miffed at my chasing her away the other day. She sure didn't hop into my car as I had hoped she would. I called Oliver when I got to work and I told him about the bus shelter. We made a plan.

#### **Friday, Dec. 13**

I fed the turkey at 7:45 a.m. She chased after my car. Someone who lives in the building told me that she chases a lot of cars in the parking lot. He's sure she will get run over one day. He didn't seem to have much respect for the poor thing. He thought she was stupid. I don't know why some people expect animals to be able to think like we do in order to be worthy of our respect. We are a relatively new species on Earth and we have the gall to judge the intelligence and therefore worth of other species that have been around far, far, far longer than us. I mean, really!



#### **Saturday, Dec. 14**

I looked for the turkey at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. but saw no sign of her. I hope she is okay because it's very cold out. It's -19 °C.

#### **Sunday, Dec. 15**

No sign of the turkey at 10 a.m. I'm trying to keep track of when I see her so that I can check on her every day. Lately, she seems to be making herself available at the retirement village from 7:30 to 8 a.m. I have no idea where she spends the rest of the day.

#### **Monday, Dec. 16**

I fed the turkey at ~8 a.m. It's still very cold out and there's quite a bit of snow on the ground. Evidently, other people have been feeding her as well. I've noticed whole, dried, kernels of corn on the ground, and some Cheerios.

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 17**

I fed the turkey at 7:50 a.m. She was hanging about the front entrance of the main building, perhaps waiting for someone. She chased my car and stood in front of it when the car came to a standstill.

On my way home from work, I spotted her inside the bus shelter. I called Oliver but he wasn't able to come. He told me to keep trying.

Seeing the turkey waiting at the bus stop poignantly reminded me of my poor, senile granny. She used to pack her bags on a regular basis and wait in the reception area at the old age home – fully expecting that someone would eventually come to take her home – which they never did.



**Wednesday, Dec. 18**

On my way to work, I spotted the turkey on the sidewalk near the bush shelter. I parked my car and walked over to her. I enticed her into the bus shelter and poured some food on the ground. When I looked up, I noticed an older woman smoking outside her apartment. She was watching me so I waved at her. She just gave me a slow shake of her head. She's probably one of those people who believes we shouldn't be feeding the wildlife, even if they are trapped in a mad-made environment; someone who thinks something should be done about the bird but who wouldn't raise a finger to help. I nodded slowly back to her with a giddy smile. She didn't like that. She went back inside, perhaps to spy on me from her window or maybe to ask her husband who to call to get rid of me.

While the turkey was eating, I went back to my car and grabbed the hatchback cargo cover. I calmly walked back to the bus shelter so as to not alarm the turkey, and I barricaded the entrance with the cargo cover. Then I called Oliver. Oliver seemed very pleased with the situation when he arrived. He cheerily said, "Good work!" to me a number of times. He easily netted the turkey with something that resembled a giant butterfly net. While he held the turkey, I looked her in the eyes and gave her my heartfelt best wishes. Then off she went to a nice place in the country.

I felt exhilarated all day. I had been so worried about this bird and now I can rest assured that she is going to be as safe as can be expected of a bird living in the wild. When I was talking about the turkey to Dad on the phone tonight, he mentioned that people generally think of turkeys as being ugly, like vultures, because of their bald heads. I do admit that their heads aren't their most attractive feature, but their plumage is quite something and I think their eyes are quite nice, too - kind of big and dreamy like a cow's eyes except scaled way down. Anyway, that was my impression as I gazed at this turkey's face for the last time this morning.

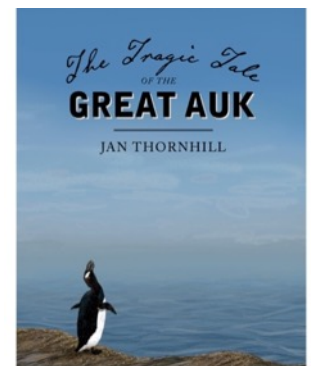
**Thursday, Dec. 19**

I called Oliver to find out how things went yesterday. He told me that when he took her to the countryside and set her free, she flew all the way across the field and landed right in the middle of the flock of wild turkeys. Yay! He then asked me not to publicize what he did because he didn't want to be given any credit. (His (or her!) identity has been changed for the sake of this account.) At the same time, he did say that he was very pleased to have been able to help the turkey.

I Googled the turkey once more and discovered that someone else had also taken a picture of her at the bus stop, and the picture had gone viral. It's too bad I can't let the local papers know the whole story of what happened to her. I'd love to see a headline on the front page of the Christmas edition that joyously exclaims: "Her Ride Finally Came!"

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Jane Thornhill has won the TD Canadian Children's award with her book "The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk". Jane was guest speaker at the October PFN meeting in 2015 in which she talked about the weird and wonderful fungi of our region. She is known for her educational books on science and nature and is also a great illustrator.





# HAVE YOU SEEN A WILD TURKEY? WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT!

## Why?

Using data collected from eBird and iNaturalist, we aim to estimate the size of Peterborough County's wild turkey population

## What do we need from you?

Wild turkey observations!



## eBird

Download the app  
and add your  
observations to eBird  
making sure to  
include the location  
and number of  
turkeys observed

## iNaturalist

Share a photo of the  
flock to the  
Peterborough Wild  
Turkey Count project  
on the iNaturalist app

### Contact:

Jenn Baici, PhD Student,  
ENLS  
[jenniferbaici@trentu.ca](mailto:jenniferbaici@trentu.ca)

Lizzie Pearce, M. Sc.  
Student, ENLS  
[elizabethpear@trentu.ca](mailto:elizabethpear@trentu.ca)

[wildturkeycount.wordpress.com](http://wildturkeycount.wordpress.com)

## Harper Park Reveals its Autumn Colours as We Search for That 100th Species of Bird

Submitted by Lynn Smith

A group of four (Kim, Scott, Marilyn and I) headed into Harper Park on a sunny, crisp Nov 16<sup>th</sup> morning. The eBird list for Harper Park has grown steadily as more Naturalists enjoy a walk through Harper Park identifying and reporting to eBird both resident and migrating birds. In fact, the eBird list has reached 99 species. We were in search of that 100th species. Chickadees, blues jays, goldfinch, cardinal, red-breasted nuthatches, a golden crowned kinglet, downy, hairy and pileated woodpeckers and crows all serenaded us that morning, but we were unsuccessful in sleuthing out the 100th species.

So, folks, the challenge is on for someone to report to eBird the 100<sup>th</sup> species before the end of 2017! To find the list of 99 species, check out the website, [ebird.org/ebird/explore](http://ebird.org/ebird/explore). Scroll down to Explore Hotspots. Type in Harper Park and 'enter' on Peterborough-Harper Park. You can also print off the list of birds reported so far. Are you up for the challenge? Go for it!

As we continued through Harper Park, we turned our focus to the Autumn colour that was surrounding us. Soon the cameras started clicking followed by oohs and ahhs. The vibrant green of mosses, blue-grays of lichens, brilliant orange fungus, red branches of the red-osier dogwood, yellow needles on the tamarack, shades of green of the balsam fir, white spruce, and white pine needles, red berries on the highbush cranberry, all stood out for us to appreciate.



Whether you're in search of the 100<sup>th</sup> species of bird or just out to enjoy a hike, be sure to take time to observe the Autumn colours in Harper Park.

Editor's Note: After this article was written, the 100<sup>th</sup> bird species was confirmed on eBird: Wild Turkey (!) tracks were seen by Jacob Bowman on Nov 12. The challenge now is to find the 101<sup>st</sup> bird species!

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## How Do You Rate Peterborough for Being Bike-Friendly?

Do you have favourite places to ride your bike, and places that you wish you could ride? Is Peterborough more bike-friendly than 3 years ago? The Peterborough Bicycle Advisory Committee (P-BAC) wants to know, and are asking you in their newly released survey. Whether you and your bike are somewhat strangers or encounter each other daily, whether you shy from cycling on roads or not, the Committee is interested to know your experience of cycling here. The survey results will be used to help P-BAC plan their next steps in making Peterborough more bike-friendly.

The idea for the survey came from the People for Bikes survey being done across the United States this past spring. When P-BAC looked at the survey, they wondered: How does Peterborough stack up against our neighbours to the south? They also saw that the information provided in the survey would be helpful to them in the work that they do.

The Peterborough Bicycle Advisory Committee is a multi-stakeholder group working to foster a culture of cycling in Peterborough City and County. P-BAC, among other activities, creates and distributes Cycling News, an electronically distributed newsletter that shares news about new and expanded trails and bike lanes and events that include cycling as a component. When you fill out the survey, there is a place to provide your email address if you would like to be added to the Cycling News distribution list.

**Who:** Peterborough Bicycle Advisory Committee

**What:** Cycling Survey

**Where:** On-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ptbocyclingsurvey>

**Contact:** Marilyn Freeman, P-BAC Vice-Chair at (705) 743-5811 or James Britton, P-BAC Chair at (705)-755-1870.

## Five Bat Species Located

from the Peterborough Examiner, October 4, 2017 edition

Five different bat species, including the Tri-coloured Bat and Little Brown Bat, which are endangered in Ontario, were spotted during recent Bat Walks hosted by Otonabee Conservation. Local bat expert Chris Ketola led night hikes at Warsaw Caves and the Beavermead Campground as part of this year's Discovery Days. Other species sighted included the Hoary Bat, the Big Brown Bat, and the Silver-haired Bat.

The Tri-coloured Bats (formerly known as the Eastern Pipistrelle) and Little Brown Bat are threatened by a disease known as white nose syndrome which is caused by the introduced fungi *Pseudogymnoascus oestromantis*.

Bat researchers use a bat detector which allows humans to hear the high-frequency sonic communications bat use to navigate while hunting in the dark. Different species have different sounds, allowing searchers to make the identification.

## Silver-haired Bat in Peterborough County – First Documentation

### Submitted by Martin Parker

The Bat Walks conducted by Chris Ketola for Otonabee Conservation documented the occurrence of Silver-haired Bat in Peterborough County. This bat species is one of the migratory bats, which migrate into Ontario each spring, spend the summer here and depart for more southern destinations in the fall. The Silver-haired Bat is solitary in the summer months. It is known to roost under loose bark, in holes in trees, or in bulky bird nests. It seldom comes in contact with people, and its presence is difficult to determine.

Chris Ketola stated, "The bats were located at Beavermead Park on the east side of Little Lake on August 12th and at the Warsaw Caves Conservation Area on August 19th." An Echo Meter Tour Bat Detector, manufactured by Wildlife Acoustics, was used to identify the bats. The Silver-haired Bat was identified on the basis of a characteristic long wavelength (13/100th of a second) with a consistent frequency call between 24 – 30 kHz.

According to the book 'The Mammals of Peterborough County' by Geoff Carpentier, published by the Peterborough Field Naturalists in 1987, "No local specimens could be found, but its range encompasses the County and it likely occurs here".

The book *Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario* by Jon (Sandy) Dobbyn (published by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in 1994) does not show any records for Silver-haired Bat for Peterborough County. There were records along the north shore of Lake Ontario in Northumberland County.

In the "Summary of Mammals" by Jennifer M. Line, (in the joint Peterborough Field Naturalists, Natural Heritage Information Centre and Trent University publication *1998 Peterborough County Natural History Summary*), there is no mention of Silver-haired Bat being present in the County in 1998 or previously.

Peterborough County is included in the range of the Silver-haired Bat in a number of general mammal guides.

The Silver-haired Bats detected by Chris Ketola are the first documented records for Peterborough County.

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is **Friday, December 22.**

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: [orchid@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org)

or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7







## The Orchid Diary



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

Information is compiled from eBird, Drew Monkman's Sightings web page, the ptbosightings Yahoo group, and individual submissions.

Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone 705-745-4750.

Weather	Above average temperatures continued for most of the month although there were a few nights below zero.
Oct 23	A late report of a <b>Carolina Wren</b> at a feeder near Harper Park by Phil McKeeting.
Oct 25	Jerry Ball had a <b>Northern Shrike</b> eating a grasshopper on Cameron Line, along with his last butterflies of the year: 1 <b>Monarch</b> and 1 <b>Clouded Sulphur</b>
Oct 26	Ian Rayner reported a <b>Black Scoter</b> is still present off Sandy Point on Pigeon Lake but at times difficult to locate. Still present on November 25. Rayner also spotted a <b>Ruddy Turnstone</b> in a flock of 26 <b>Dunlin</b> on a small islet in the southwest section of Chemong Lake (Fife's Bay). Luke Burg spotted a <b>Red-throated Loon</b> flying over his house in the Parkhill Rd and Water Street area At Nephton Ridge, Drew Monkman, Tim Dyson & Martin Parker had a 9 <b>Bald Eagles</b> , 2 <b>Red-shouldered Hawks</b> , 1 Northern <b>Goshawk</b> and 2 <b>Monarch</b> butterflies. Matthew Tobey had a <b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> along the railway corridor off Airport Road.
Oct 27	A <b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b> was spotted migrating over his yard by Luke Burg. Tim Dyson in the Warsaw area had 4 <b>Red-shouldered Hawks</b> , 9 <b>Red-tailed Hawks</b> , and 1 <b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b> pass over.
Oct 28	Sue Paradis had a <b>Cooper's Hawk</b> in her yard. She initially detected it when the <b>Morning Doves</b> flew out of the spruce tree they roost in. A <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> was found on Pigeon Lake off Sandy Point by Iain Rayner. Still present on Nov 5.
Oct 29	On PFN outing along the western shore of Pigeon Lake led by Jerry Ball, the highlights were 7 <b>Common Loons</b> , 7 <b>Bonaparte's Gulls</b> , 1 <b>Northern Harrier</b> & 3 <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> .
Oct 31	A late departing <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> was found on the Trent U campus near the Library by Demitria James.
Nov 1	Derek Anderson located at <b>Red-throated Loon</b> off the western end of the Chemong Lake causeway. Chris Risley & Iain Rayner found a late departing <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> in the Edgewater Blvd area of the city. Tim Haan had a late departing <b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> in the Corrigan Hill area in the city.
Nov 2	Dave Milsom located an late departing <b>American Wigeon</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon. A very late departing <b>Chipping Sparrow</b> was present in Sue Paradis yard in the city. Kathy Parker observed a <b>Coyote</b> run across Westbrook Drive and up the slope at 1 a.m.
Nov 6	First <b>Snow Buntings</b> of the winter at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake were spotted by Donald Sutherland (3 individuals) and later in day by John Bick (11 individuals).
Nov 7	A <b>Cackling Goose</b> was found on Little Lake by Toby Rowland. At the club meeting, Lynn Smith reported 22 <b>Wild Turkeys</b> in her yard near Cavan, and Karen Fisher had a <b>Red Fox</b> near the Wellness Centre.
Nov 8	Another <b>Cackling Goose</b> was found by Rowland in the wetland west of Jackson Park, near the TransCanada Trail. A <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> was calling in the yard of Iain Rayner in north of Gannon's Narrows.
Nov 10	Rick Stankiewicz erected his feeders and suet cake today and the next morning a <b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b> visited (Hazel Cres area of Otonabee/South Monaghan). Jerry Ball had 1 <b>American Tree Sparrow</b> at Young's Point.
Nov 11	Donald Sutherland reported a <b>Northern Shoveler</b> & <b>American Wigeon</b> on the Lakefield Lagoon. A late departing <b>Turkey Vulture</b> in the Flynn's Corner area was spotted by Wendy Hogan

Nov 12	Sue Paradis photographed the last flower of the year: <b>Witch Hazel</b> in Ecology Park. Late departing <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> was at the feeder of Michael Gillespie on David Fife Line. Matthew Garvin had a <b>Surf Scoter</b> on Chemong Lake.
Nov 14	First <b>Snowy Owl</b> of the winter was in the Lakefield area by Travis Cameron.
Nov 17	Iain Rayner had a <b>Double-crested Cormorant</b> in the Edgewater Blvd area. Bill Buddle reported four flocks of <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> passed over Lakefield numbering about 200 individuals.
Nov 18	E. Straka had a flock of 55 <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> over the Robert G. Lake Generating Station (north of Trent U.) J. Philpott had a female <b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b> visiting her oil seed feeder on the North Shore of Buckhorn Lake. A <b>Snowy Owl</b> was perched on a light at the Peterborough Airport by Ian Rayner.
Nov 19	Donald Sutherland had a <b>Red-throated Loon</b> & <b>Double-crested Cormorant</b> off Pengelly Point and another <b>Double-crested Cormorant</b> off Hall Landing on the N.W. shore of Rice Lake. Along Whittfield Road, Toney Barrett had a late departing <b>Common Grackle</b> . Matthew Tobey & Martin Parker had an <b>American Otter</b> on Pigeon Lake off the Fothergill Island Causeway.
Nov 21	<b>Northern Shoveler</b> still present at Lakefield Lagoon by Dave Milsom. There were 61 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> present as well.
Nov 22	A flock of 60 <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> was spotted flying over the northern end of Chemong Road by Ian Rayner. Another flock of 50 <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> was spotted in the area of Fife's Bay Road and Fifth Line of Selwyn by Robin Sinai.
Nov 25	4 <b>Double-crested Cormorants</b> off Six Mile Bay Road by Donald Sutherland, and another single bird at Hall Landing, Rice Lake by Warren Dunlop. <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> reports were 1 at Blind Channel, north end of Pigeon Lake and 1 at Sandy Point, both by Donald Sutherland & 2 off Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake by Toby Rowland.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
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Secretary	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750	Orchid Editor	Kathryn Sheridan orchid@peterboroughnature.org
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Special Projects	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Petroglyphs CBC	Colin Jones
				Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball

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



# PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

[www.peterboroughnature.org](http://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

<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: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Peterborough Field Naturalists 2018 AGM, Dinner, Guest Presentation

**Steve Burrows** is an award-winning mystery writer, journalist and past recipient of a "Nature Writer of the Year" award from BBC Wildlife.

Born in the U.K., he came to Canada as a youth. After studying at York University, he moved to Hong Kong where he served as editor of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society magazine and a contributing field editor for Asian Geographic.



In 2014, he published his debut novel, *A Siege of Bitterns*, followed by *A Pitying of Doves* (2015), *A Cast of Falcons* (2016) and *A Shimmer of Hummingbirds* (2017).

**Date:** January 19, 2018

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$35/person

Please RSVP by Friday Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.

To Reserve tickets, please contact

Jim Young at [jbyoung559@gmail.com](mailto:jbyoung559@gmail.com) or call 705-760-9397

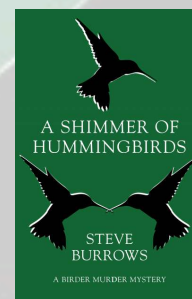
**Doors open:** 5:00 p.m.

**Dinner:** 6:00 p.m.

**Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

**Raffle:** 7:30 p.m.

**Keynote speaker:** 8:00 p.m.



Contact Rene Gareau if you have items to donate to the raffle or silent auction: [rene.gareau@sympatico.ca](mailto:rene.gareau@sympatico.ca) or 705-741-4560

**LOCATION:** The Peterborough Naval Association  
24 Whitlaw St., Peterborough, ON K9J 1K9

If you are interested in purchasing any of Steve Burrows' birder mysteries, Michelle Berry of Hunter Street Books (164 Hunter Street West, ph: 705-400-8229) has stocked her store with stacks of them. You can e-mail her at [hunterstreetbooks@gmail.com](mailto:hunterstreetbooks@gmail.com) and she will put one aside for you to pick up, or you can order from her webstore and she'll mail it to you at your expense.