



The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

"Know ♦ Appreciate ♦ Conserve Nature In All Its Forms"

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www.peterboroughnature.org

Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Wed. of the month in the downstairs auditorium of the Peterborough Public Library at 345 Aylmer Street N.

COMING EVENTS

<p>Sunday Dec 6th 6:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Bird watching trip to the Niagara Region Join a full-day's outing to the Niagara region for some winter bird watching. Participants will meet at Tim Horton's on Landsdowne St. in the Canadian Tire Plaza at 6:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, lunch (we will also make stops at convenient Tim Horton's) and be sure to dress warmly. Leader: Tony Bigg.</p>
<p>Wednesday Dec 9th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Member's Slide Night It's time again for our December regular meeting. We will once again be asking members to come with nature-related slides presentations and stories to share with fellow club members. To make things even sweeter, please bring along some holiday baking to enhance the festivities. Note: if you are interested in making an informal slide presentation and/or talk, please contact Roger Jones at 742-0132.</p>
<p>Sunday Dec 20th & Sunday Dec 27th</p>	<p>Christmas Bird Counts The Peterborough CBC will be Sunday, December 20th, and the Petroglyphs CBC will be Sunday, December 27th. Participants should let Tony know as soon as possible if they are available for either or both. As usual the compilations will be at Kelsey's, opposite the Canadian Tire plaza on Landsdowne St. at 5:00p.m. Contact Tony at tanddbigg@sympatico.ca or phone 705-652-7541. Newcomers to the area, and newcomers to birding, are welcome to participate. They would be partnered with more experienced local birders. More eyes result in more birds seen! This count is an all day affair starting at daylight, or preferably earlier if you wish to add owls to the day's list and finish in time to make the compilation.</p>

Join us for our AGM on January 22, 2010 - see page 3 for more information

COMING EVENTS continued

<p>Friday January 22nd 5:30 pm Baker's Hill Centre</p>	<p>70th PFN Annual General Meeting Join us for the PFN's Annual General Meeting – a tradition you won't want to miss. Keep up to date on club business, elect the next executive, enter the raffle for fabulous prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation. Social hour begins at 5:30, supper starts at 6:00, meeting at 7:00, raffle at 7:30 and speaker beginning at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$25 per person, which includes admission and large dinner (vegetarian option available). To reserve your tickets, call Don & Emily Pettypiece at 750-1145, or purchase them at the December meeting.</p> <p>Guest speaker: John Etches <i>"Whales In The Desert, The Wadi el Hitan World Heritage Site, Fayoum Depression, Egypt"</i> Fossils of ancient whales found in the Sahara Desert have helped unlock the secrets of whale's evolution from land to sea. Geologist and environmental educator John Etches will guide you through this fascinating story and spectacular landscape via his work developing the educational experiences for the site with the United Nations Development Program.</p>
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JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

The Junior Naturalists are going to take a break through December and will get back together in January when we will look forward to a new year of exciting programs. Enjoy the holidays! ...Dan and Neil

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Membership in the Peterborough Naturalists gets you:

- a yearly subscription to the Orchid
- enrollment in the Junior Field Naturalists for your children
- notices advising you of interesting presentations and nature outings
- knowledge that you are supporting a long-standing local club focusing on the appreciation and conservation of nature

Membership fees are used by the club in many ways, including the support of local initiatives that research, rehabilitate, and protect nature in all its forms.

Doug Sadler Memorial Library

The PFN are creating a nature library in memory of the late Doug Sadler at the new Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. The collection includes books from Doug's collection that his family has generously donated and we will be adding new titles to the library through the coming years. We are also accepting donations from PFN members who might want to donate additional books to the library. If you would like to contribute a nature-oriented book to the library, please send us an e-mail (michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca) with the name and author of the book you would like to donate. We'll check it against our list and let you know if it's an appropriate title for the library.

The Peterborough Field Naturalists AGM 2010, Guest Presentation

WHALES in the DESERT

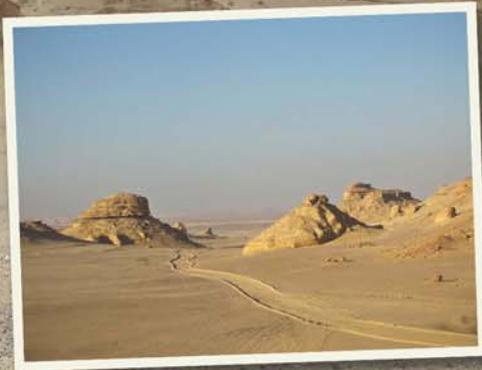
The Wadi el Hitan World Heritage Site,
Fayoum Depression, Egypt

Fossils of ancient whales found in the Sahara Desert have helped unlock the secrets of whale's evolution from land to sea. Geologist and environmental educator, John Etches, will guide you through this fascinating story and spectacular landscape via his work developing the educational experiences for the site with the United Nations Development Program.



January 22nd
Baker's Hill Centre
\$25/per

5:30PM Reception
6:00PM Dinner
7:00PM AGM
8:00PM Guest Speaker,
John Etches



For more info, visit:
www.peterboroughnature.org

John Etches, Geologist,
Environmental Educator

Local Artist Kelly Dodge Donates Artwork to the 70th Annual PFN AGM

Canadian artist Kelly Dodge regards her inspirations and artistic talent as gifts from God and considers it a great blessing to be surrounded by this natural world of beauty and wonder. Each of her paintings has something specific to say, communicating the essence of creation in simplicity and truth.

In what has been a whirlwind career as a professional artist whose first show was in 2001, Dodge has achieved much recognition internationally. In 2003/2004 she was elected to full signature membership with the Society of Animal Artists, The Pastel Society of America and The Pastel Society of Canada. She has been a signature member with Artists for Conservation since 2001, a community of world-class artists whose mission is to support wildlife and habitat conservation through art that celebrates our natural heritage.

Dodge has had the opportunity to explore the Southern Hemisphere flora, fauna and skies in Kenya in 2005, while in the summer of 2007; Dodge was the accompanying artist on an AFC Flag Expedition to the Indian Himalayas. In 2008 she journeyed on a scouting mission with her husband to Ecuador to explore the Galapagos Islands. A highlight of her career is the 2009 fellowship grant award of \$5,000, under the AFC Flag Expeditions Program, to return and study the endangered species of the Galapagos Islands while supporting wildlife conservation and environmental education with her art.

To learn more about Kelly and her work, you can visit her website at www.kellydodgeart.com

This year our AGM will feature one of Kelly's pieces in our silent auction:

Title: "Moonlighting"

Artist: Kelly Dodge

Details: Ltd edition paper giclee, 9 x 4 3/4

Framed Retail Value: \$90.00

Description: The species portrayed in this piece is a Gray Tree Frog. Although these frogs do sing at all hours of the day and night, I've chosen to depict this little fellow at night. We got to know him quite well as he spent several very late nights performing solos on our patio.



Special Message from Kelly:

I have just returned from my Galapagos Expedition and there are numerous photographs and video uploaded. The pictures depict the various wildlife I observed and sketched while there. The information is below and I have included an image of the Artists for Conservation Flag as well. Interested people can just go to my site and click on the flag. This will take them to the blog.



Kelly Dodge
Artists for Conservation Flag
Expedition # 10
Galapagos
Forty Days and Forty Nights
An Artist's Sojourn
Sept. 28 - Nov. 6, 2009
Follow the Journey
www.natureartists.com/dodgek.htm

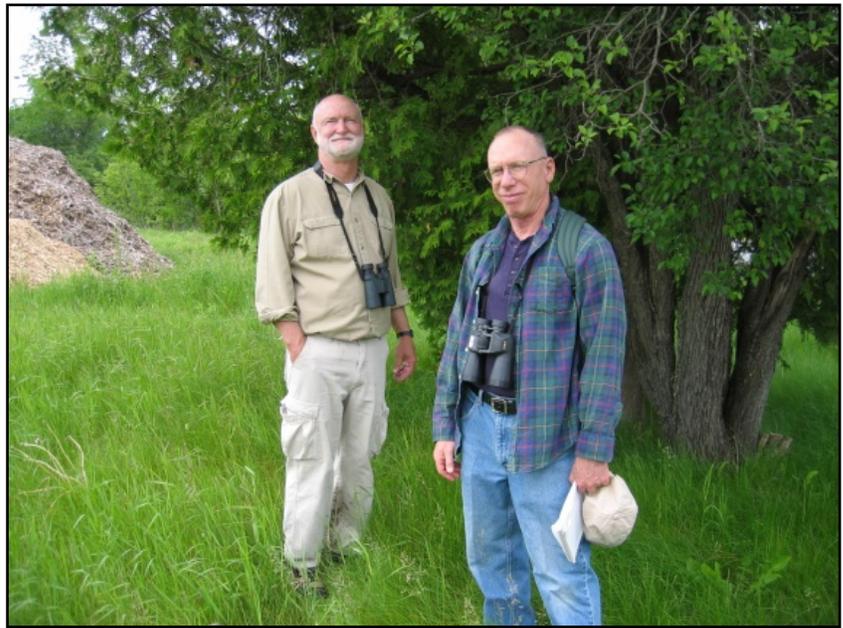
Peterborough Field Naturalists Tally Species in Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary

– by Mike McMurtry

On June 14, 2009, Jim Parker, Mitch Brownstein and I spent the morning tallying species in the Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary adjacent to the new Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. We found 169 species, including plants and animals.

The area surveyed included old fields with a mixture of pasture and early successional species, conifer forests dominated by Eastern White Cedar, and swamps with Black Ash and Silver Maple. The wetlands are the least disturbed of these communities. Pileated Woodpecker and Northern Waterthrush both depend on the treed wetlands for their habitat. Many of the plants observed are not native to Ontario. This is not surprising given that most of the upland portions of the Wildlife Sanctuary were cleared and being used for agricultural purposes less than a century ago. Some plants, such as European Buckthorn and European Swallow-wort can be aggressive in colonizing new areas. The presence of Smooth Brome Grass and Alfalfa reflects the fact that much of the area was used as pasture land until recently. A more complete description of the land use history of the Nature Areas of Trent University can be found in Ben-Oliel, Jones and Marsh (1989).

This inventory is by no means exhaustive - all of the habitat types have not been explored thoroughly and observations have not been made in all seasons - but we hope it will encourage other naturalists, especially young naturalists, to learn about the plants and animals of the Wildlife Sanctuary and challenge them to find more species. If you arrive earlier in the season, you are likely to find a greater variety of spring-flowering plants such as *Trillium* and violets and if you visit in late summer, you are sure to see more goldenrods and asters. Insects provide still more scope for new discoveries. We expect that the list of species could be doubled or tripled with more effort. A copy of the species list will be made available at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre in the Doug Sadler Memorial Library.



Jim Parker and Mitch Brownstein take part in the inventory at the Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary. Photo by Mike McMurtry.

Reference: Ben-Oliel, R., R. Jones and J. Marsh. 1989. Nature areas and their use on the Nassau Campus, Trent University. A report submitted to the Wildlife Sanctuary Committee, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. 117 p.

Forecasts

- by June Hitchcox, for *The Apsley Voice* (www.apsleyvoice.com)

I have been told that the Farmers' Almanac is forecasting a cold, snowy winter. The Woollybear Caterpillars, with rust and black rings – appear to be very “furry” - a folklore indication of a cold winter. A different kind of forecast is all about Winter Birds – what will we see and where? With birds, it depends mainly on their food supply. A network of birders across Ontario examine the availability of berries, nuts, seeds, voles, rabbits etc. in their areas and submit their findings to Ron Pittaway, Field Ornithologist in Minden, Ontario. Based on this food information, Ron is able to forecast where the majority of Winter Finches and a few other species will be found. Some species will be able to stay near their summer homes and others must fly elsewhere to survive. Here is his forecast for the winter of 2009-10: Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings will stay in the north due to the excellent Mountain-ash berry crop (Rowan Berry), as will White-winged Crossbills, due to good cone crops there of Hemlock and White, Black and Red Spruces - if seed supplies last; Purple Finches will migrate south, out of Ontario, their many types of seeds poor this year, as will Blue Jays due to a poor crop of acorns, hazel nuts and beechnuts; Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches must go east or west to look for sufficient food, due to the poor cone crop of Hemlock, White Spruce, Balsam Fir and White Pine in mid Ontario. We may see Evening Grosbeaks - a few may move south to take advantage of the large crop of Manitoba Maple seeds and sunflower seeds at feeders; a few Common and Hoary Redpolls may move into southern Ontario but most will go west; Northern Goshawks may be plentiful in the south, due to their prey (Hares, Grouse and Red Squirrels). So that is the forecast. Sounds as if everyone should get out their feeders this winter for the few that do not follow what is expected and may come our way. It will be interesting to see how these 3 forecasts work out.

ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the Jan/Feb issue: Monday, December 28th, 2009

Please send all submissions to: **Rebecca Zeran, PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7H7**
or via e-mail to: rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca

PFN Officers and Directors

President	John Bottomley	johnbottomley@sympatico.ca	742-1524
Treasurer	Jim Young	jbyoung@persona.ca	292-5444
Secretary	Emily Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@sympatico.ca	750-1145
Membership	Don Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@sympatico.ca	750-1145
Newsletter Editor	Rebecca Zeran	rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca	743-2660
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Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	nkfortin@sympatico.ca	292-6185
Special Projects	Mike McMurtry	michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca	748-5353
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
Member @ Large	Janine McLeod	janine@sdf1.net	778-1479

Other Volunteers

Book Sales	Anne Storey	743-0345
FON Rep	Janine McLeod	778-1479
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
JFN Trip Leader	Neil Fortin	





ONTARIO NATURE'S WRITING AND ART CONTEST

This year's topic is: Wild species and wild spaces: why biodiversity is important to me.

The year 2010 has been declared the year of biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variety of plants and animals in the world, or in a particular area. If the earth's living systems are to remain strong, those systems must have a high level of biodiversity. Our well-being depends on it.

New this year!
Our contest now includes artwork submissions. Prizes will be given to the top three essays AND the top three paintings or drawings.

What to write: Send us an essay or story that is a maximum of 700 words in length. Your submission should be typed and double-spaced. Please be sure that your submission reflects the topic.

What to draw or paint: Send us your artwork on an 8.5" x 11" sheet. Drawings or paintings should reflect the topic.

Include: An official entry form with your name, address, telephone number, email address, your parents' or guardian's name and signature, your grade and the name of your school. **To download your entry form, visit www.ontarionature.org.**

Entry is limited to grade 7 and 8 students.

You can send us a written submission or a piece of artwork or both. A panel of judges will review all submissions. The three winning entries for each category (writing and art) will be published in our award-winning magazine, *ON Nature*.

The grand prize for each category is a \$500 Canada Savings Bond and \$250 for the winner's class to go toward a nature-based activity. The prize for 2nd and 3rd place in each category is a mountain bike. All winners will receive a prize pack containing a gift certificate courtesy of Mountain Equipment Co-op, a one-year family membership to Ontario Nature and other cool stuff. The winners will also be honoured for their achievement at Ontario Nature's Annual General Meeting on May 29th, 2010, at Lambton College in Sarnia.

To see last year's winning entries and for more information on the contest, visit Ontario Nature's website at www.ontarionature.org.

Deadline: February 26th, 2010

SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO:
Youth Writing and Art Contest
Ontario Nature
366 Adelaide Street West, Suite 201
Toronto, ON M5V 1R9
Email: lenoren@ontarionature.org



Sponsored by:



Fall Hiking Destinations: Ontario Nature Reserves

- by Mark Carabetta, Ontario Nature, Ontario Nature Network News – November 15, 2009 (www.ontarionature.org)

Autumn is a great time to go for a hike. Many of Ontario Nature's nature reserves have marked trail systems and offer great hiking experiences. Bright colours, cool temperatures, and no bugs make fall outings especially enjoyable. As fall turns to winter, hikers can strap on snowshoes or cross-country skis and see animal tracks and winter birds. Ontario Nature owns and manages 21 nature reserves totaling over 5,200 acres across southern Ontario. All of our reserves are open to the public for passive recreation such as walking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, photography, bird watching and enjoyment of nature. Many of the reserves have parking, marked trails and boardwalks. Others are completely wild with no trails.

For more information about Ontario Nature's nature reserve system, or to get directions to a reserve, visit: www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/reserves/index.html or call Ontario Nature at 416-444-8419 or 1-800-440-2366.

Advocate for Nature

- from Ontario Nature Network News – November 15, 2009 (www.ontarionature.org)

As an Advocate for Nature, you will receive important conservation action alerts by e-mail when your help is urgently needed. Each alert includes an issue summary and a recommended action. Ontario Nature has recently issued alerts on the Endangered Species Act, reforming the Mining Act and the Far North Act.

Thank you to the individuals who have had added their names to our Advocate for Nature list. Please help spread the word about the Advocate for Nature e-mail list by posting this in your newsletter, sharing it with your members at the next meeting, announcing it at your next Board of Directors meeting or making a presentation at your Annual General Meeting. Every little bit helps!

In October 2009 we welcomed 6 new subscribers to our Advocate for Nature e-mail list. We now have 1,853 Advocates for Nature.

To add your name online, copy and paste this link in your web browser or click here www.ontarionature.org/news/archive.php?type=action.



*Great Horned Owl,
Hwy 28, November 11,
2009. Photo by Tony
Bigg.*



The **ORCHID DIARY** for 21 October - 27 November 2009

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

A virtually snowless November did not appear to change the normal southwards movement of the fall migrants.

If your not seeing much of interest these days on your walks, try looking at all the lichens on the trees, rocks and ground. There is a fascinating variety around and at this time they are easy to pick out. A good low cost reference book on lichens is "Lichens of the North Woods" (North Woods Naturalist Series) by Joe Walewski. It presently cost less than \$15 on Amazon.com.

- Oct 23 David Swales had a **Fox Sparrow** mixed in with a flock of **White-throated Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** on his back lawn. A flock of eighty **Brant** was seen by Ben Walters, flying over the Trent Campus. In Ennismore, Randy Smith observed an **American Tree Sparrow**, **White-throated Sparrow**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Northern Harrier**, and a **Great Blue Heron**.
- Oct 25 A **Cackling Goose** was seen by Luke Berg swimming with **Canada Geese** on the Otonabee River by Inverlea Park. Another **American Tree Sparrow** was reported by Jerry Ball leading a PFN outing at Mallard's Landing. The group also saw **Ring-necked Duck** and **Common Raven** at Gannon's Narrows
- Oct 27 One **American Pipit**, two **Cackling Geese** and one **Osprey** were seen flying on the north side of the Trent River, just east of Hastings, by Geoff Carpentier.
- Nov 02 Jerry Ball found a **Cooper's Hawk** on Ackison Rd near the Rotary Trail, 5 **Hooded Mergansers** on Best Pond (on Best Rd near Mt Pleasant), and 4 **Green-winged Teals** in the ponds by Beardsmore Rd. A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen by Tony Bigg, with **Golden-crowned Kinglets** on the rail trail between Baseline and David Fife Line. Luke Berg saw a **Northern Shrike** at the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nov 03 A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew past Randy Smith at his home on Gifford Drive on the west side of Chemong Lake. He also reports that **Common Loons** were swimming on both sides of the Bridgenorth Causeway.
- Nov 06 Travis Cameron had a productive day at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons finding a **Ruddy Duck**, a **Ring-necked Duck**, 225 **Buffleheads**, 60, **Lesser Scaup**, 10 **Common Goldeneye**, a **Hooded Merganser**, and a **Mallard**. Jerry Ball saw his first **Northern Shrike** of the Fall on Brown Line just north of Hwy 115.
- Nov 07 A late **Red-bellied Snake** (6" long) was found by Jerry Ball on the Cameron to Blezard rail trail. A **Mourning Cloak** was seen by Andrew Bigg at the Peterborough Airport.
- Nov 10 A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen in the marshy area on Cty Rd 28 north from Hwy 7 and just north of the railroad crossing, on the east side. Maureen Smith also reports that a **Belted Kingfisher** is still hanging around on the Indian River behind her house in Warsaw.
- Nov 11 A late **Clouded Sulphur** butterfly was seen by Wasyl Bakowsky on Cumberland Avenue. Maureen Smith and Tony Bigg saw a **Great Horned Owl** sitting out in daylight at the same marshy spot where the kingfisher was seen yesterday.
- Nov 12 A single **Snow Goose**, with a large flock of **Canada Geese**, was seen throughout the day by Colin Jones, Mike Burrell, and Tony Bigg, between Lock 23 and Lakefield.
- Nov 16 A **Northern Shrike** landed on the top of a tree in the backyard of Sue Paradisis on Tudor Crescent near Beavermead.
- Nov 19 Anne Anthony, Jerry Ball, Tony Bigg, and Bob Prentice saw a **Red Fox** crossing Cameron Rd early in the morning.
- Nov 20 Luke Berg reported a **Cackling Goose** on the Otonabee River across from Peterborough Manor on Water Street.
- Nov 21 A **River Otter** was seen by Tony Bigg at the north end of the Lakefield Marsh. Rob Welsh saw his first **Bald Eagle** of the season as it lumbered down the centre of the main body of Lower Stony Lake. He also has a flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** feeding on the stags of his sumacs
- Nov 23 Jerry Ball reported many **Common Mergansers** and **Hooded Mergansers** were on the Otonabee between Trent and Lakefield
- Nov 26 At least four **Cackling Geese** were seen by Tony Bigg, with a flock of **Canada Geese** and **Mallards** above Lock 23 on the Otonabee. He also saw and heard a pair of **Common Ravens** flying over the east end of the Baseline to David Fife Line rail trail. At the west end of the same section a late flock of 18 **Rusty Blackbirds** were calling in the top of a tree.



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:		Email(s):	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single (one adult or one child*) \$25
**Membership with the PFN automatically includes membership in the Junior Naturalists*

2. Family (couple or family with children) \$30
 Please give the names and ages of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age	Name	Age

MAIN INTERESTS

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

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

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

I am interested in the following:

Joining the PFN Executive Sitting on research or conservation committees Working on field projects

Helping with refreshments at meetings Please have a member of the executive call me

AGE GROUP

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

Under 20 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70-79 80< over

DONATIONS

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

LIABILITY WAIVER

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

Signature: _____