



The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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

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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>Friday January 23rd 5:30 pm</p> <p>Baker's Hill Centre</p>	<p>69th PFN Annual General Meeting Key Note Speaker: James Raffan of the Canadian Canoe Museum will present a talk titled "National Treasure: Exploring Possible Futures for the Canadian Canoe Museum"</p> <p>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. Deadline to reserve tickets is January 16th.</p>
<p>Wednesday Feb 11th 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Intrigue in Natural History" Speaker: Tom Hutchinson Location: Peterborough Public Library</p>
<p>Wednesday March 11th 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ptbo Museum</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting - joint event with the Peterborough Museum and Archives: "Our Feathered Friends" Speaker: Mike Cadman, Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator Note: March meeting will be held at the Museum instead of the library. The event will start at 6:30 to give you a chance to visit the Museum's exhibit prior to Mike's presentation. Further details will follow in the March edition of the Orchid. For information contact the Museum at 743-5180.</p>

OTHER EVENTS of INTEREST

<p>Wednesday January 28th 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Peterborough Horticultural Society's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28th at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street N. at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7. This month's guest speaker will be Terry Kennedy who will be talking about the world of orchids. New members welcome.</p>
<p>March 14 - 15 & March 21 - 22 10 am - 4 pm Presqu'ile Provincial Park</p>	<p>Presqu'ile Waterfowl Viewing Weekends - March 14-15, & 21-22, 2009, 10am to 4pm Presqu'ile will once again be hosting waterfowl viewing weekends, where nature enthusiasts can come and appreciate one of the great natural spectacles on earth - the return of migrating waterfowl to their staging areas along the lower Great Lakes. Presqu'ile is well situated to experience this phenomenon with close viewing and a good variety of species. Seeing 20 different species of waterfowl in a day is not unusual and 25+ species are usually tallied during the season. During viewing weekends, volunteers with scopes are situated at key areas to help visitors find and ID the different species. The Nature Centre, featuring "ducky" displays and children's activities is open 10am to 3pm and the Lighthouse Centre with hot drinks and snacks and the friends Gift Store is open 10am to 4pm. A Bushnell representative is usually on hand one weekend to answer your questions and show you the latest in optical equipment.</p> <p>If you want to come learn about ducks this is a great opportunity. If you are interested in coming out and helping with duck ID or in one of Visitor Centres I would be more than happy to hear from you. For more information on the event or on volunteering please contact David Bree at 613 475-4324 ext 225 or david.bree@ontario.ca.</p>

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

<p>Sunday January 25th 2:00 p.m. Camp Kawartha</p>	<p>Cross County Skiing at Camp Kawartha Meet Neil at for an afternoon of Cross Country Skiing! Dress warmly and bring skis if you have them (equipment for those who need it, including parents). We'll check out a trail or two and have some hot chocolate. Cross your fingers for lots of snow!</p>
<p>Sunday February 22nd 2:00 p.m. Trent Nature Centre</p>	<p>Snowshoeing & Animal Tracking at Trent Nature Centre Come on out for some snowshoeing and animal tracking! We'll meet at the Trent Nature Centre - dress warmly!</p>



Peterborough Museum & Archives

Our Feathered Friends

From the Canadian Museum of Nature

On exhibit: January 24 to March 22, 2009



An Evening Lecture by Mike Cadman
editor of the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario*

Wed. March 11, 6:30pm

Museum Drive / 300 Hunter Street, E.
Peterborough, ON

All welcome



in partnership with the
Peterborough Field Naturalists

For more information: 705.743.5180
www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED!



Please send in your stories, pictures, poetry, artwork, articles, reviews or PFN outing write-ups. This is your newsletter and we need your help to make it great!

Deadline for submissions for the March issue: Sunday, February 22nd, 2009

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



Bald Eagle at Stony Lake, December 12, 2008. Photograph by Michael Butler.

Note: This edition of the Orchid is a combined January-February issue - the next issue will be in March

New Members

Jane Bevin

Dar Gagnon & Andrew Nowell - with children

Josh, Shane, and Chadwick

Welcome!

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
Program (indoor)	Roger Jones	rjones@trentu.ca	742-0132
Program (outdoor)			
Jr. Naturalists			
Special Projects	Mike McMurtry	michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca	748-5353
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
Member @ Large	Janine McLeod	janinemcloed@sympatico.ca	778-1479

Other Volunteers

Book Sales	Anne Storey	743-0345
FON Rep	Rhea Bringeman	742-1035
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
JFN Trip Leader	Neil Fortin	



Ontario Nature's 4th Annual Youth Writing Contest

http://www.ontarionature.org/events/youth_writing_contest.html

We bet you've had a great experience with some part of nature. Perhaps it was collecting and studying frogs at the lake this summer? Perhaps it was climbing your favourite tree in the park close to your home. Nature is everywhere, miles away from nowhere, and right in your own backyard!

We'd like to hear about what *you* think about nature.

The challenge:

Think about it and be creative. Your topic is:

Every day we make choices that could help or harm our environment. What are you doing that has a positive impact on our environment?

What you need to know:

- You must be an Ontario grade 7 or 8 student.
- It can be an essay, a story, or a piece of creative writing, with a maximum count of 700 words, typed and double-spaced.
- The top three entries will be published in *ON Nature* magazine, the award-winning nature and environment magazine in Ontario.
- The winners will receive cool prizes for their work, and will be honoured for their achievement at Ontario Nature's Annual General Meeting & Conference.

Send your original entries by **February 25, 2009**

to:

Youth Writing Contest

Ontario Nature

366 Adelaide Street West, Suite 201

Toronto, ON M5V 1R9

Monarch Butterfly Documentary to Air on NOVA on January 27, 2009

-submitted by Don Davis, Toronto, ON

I have just received this message from my friend, Dr. Lincoln Brower, world renowned monarch butterfly researcher. I thought some of you might enjoy viewing this outstanding documentary. The original film maker and film company are based in Toronto.

The long awaited US showing of "The Incredible Journey of the Butterflies" will be aired on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 8 pm on PBS. More information is available on the following website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/butterflies/>

The website includes: a two-minute online segment featuring butterfly researchers Chip Taylor, Lincoln Brower and Bill Calvert, an online interview with film maker, Nick de Pencier, and a listing of monarch links and books.

This documentary was originally entitled "Four Wings and a Prayer", after the book with the same title. Nova purchased the rights to this documentary, has shortened it and added new footage. "Four Wings and a Prayer" has won awards in Los Angeles and Houston, and most recently won in June 9, 2008 the Rockie Award for Best Wildlife and Natural History Program at the Banff World Television Festival.

Please note that local PBS stations usually air a NOVA episode at least one more time after the initial airing (i.e. a 12 am viewing a few days later!), so check the viewing times for your local or cable PBS station.

“Birds of the Kingston Region” now available

- Submitted by Chris Grooms, Kingston Field Naturalists
- from Ontario Nature Network News, December 15, 2008

The new Birds of the Kingston Region, 2nd edition, 2008 is ready for ordering at a rate of \$30.

Birds of the Kingston Region, 2nd edition, 2008, 611pp, Kingston Field Naturalists, Ron D. Weir

The 2nd edition of the Birds of the Kingston Region is completely revised from the original version that appeared in 1989. The new work includes an analysis of all the KFN records since 1948 of which over 500,000 are new since 1988. The species accounts number 371 which is an increase from the 343 species known in 1988, and include average arrival and departure dates for the migrants and breeding species, their earliest and latest known dates of occurrence. Egg dates and brood dates are provided for the 192 species that have been confirmed breeding in the Kingston area. Dr. Martin Edwards has written the Foreword.

There are 19 appendices that contain tabulated information which can easily be read. Among the appendices are the updated official Checklist of the Birds of the Kingston Region, the summary table showing the average arrival and departure dates based on calculations for up to 60 years of

records, the results from the several local Christmas Counts and Midwinter Waterfowl survey results since 1988. For the first time the estimated number of pairs of flycatchers, vireos, swallows, wrens, thrushes, warblers, sparrows and blackbirds that nest in the area are provided, each ranked within its own family in separate appendices to make for easy reading. Also for the first time a summary from some of the surveys from the night time counts of migrant songbirds over one station in Kingston are presented.

A special Appendix has been prepared by Dr. D.V. Weseloh (Canadian Wildlife Service) in which he has provided a summary of the current status of the colonial water birds in our region that incorporates survey findings unpublished to date.

Within the literature cited there are about 461 references provided of which 172 have been published since 1988. The text is supported by two indices, one that contains the English and Latin names and the second French to English names. The second index has been included to help the increasing numbers of birders from Quebec who travel to Kingston to see the birds.

Contact Owen Weir at (613) 354-1877 or owin@sympatico.ca or visit <http://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org> for additional information.

Now Accepting Nominations for PFN Board

Ever wondered what Board members do behind closed doors? Now's your chance to find out - we'll be accepting nominations for the 2009 PFN Board of Directors at our annual AGM on January 23rd.

Memorial for Doug Sadler at our AGM

To commemorate the passing of long-time naturalist Doug Salder, we ask that members bring some of their pictures and memories of Doug to our annual AGM on January 23rd to share with others.



Building roosting and nesting towers for Chimney Swifts

-by John Bottomley

As you may be aware the Club has been engaged recently in building roosting and nesting towers for Chimney Swifts. The project received seed funding from the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) Wildlife Program. The overall objective of the Waterway Wildlife Program is to protect and enhance the ecological integrity of the Waterway and the species at risk found therein. As I mentioned in an earlier article the Chimney Swift has suffered population declines across its range and is at risk in Ontario. One of the causes of its decline is thought to be the loss of suitable nesting and roosting sites. Originally users of hollows in old trees they became very dependent on the use of open brick chimneys. Compared with decades past these are now relatively scarce.

The goals of the Wildlife Program are achieved through habitat protection, habitat restoration and public education. A number of local projects were funded. Among these were putting in place basking logs for turtles and nest-boxes for Black Terns, the installation of educational signs at key points along the TSW, shoreline restoration and re-vegetation and the construction and installation of chimney swift towers. The PFN is responsible for four chimneys and the Kawartha Field Naturalists in Lindsay for five.

The project contributes to habitat restoration and public education both directly through the placement of towers and indirectly through the involvement of a number of partners. Our partners include the TSW who provided locations for towers at Lock 20 in Peterborough and Lock 31 in Buckhorn, the Peterborough Utilities Group who made a site available for a tower at the Riverview Park and Zoo and Fairhaven Long-term Care Facility who provided us with our fourth site. Also involved are the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority which is responsible for all signs and, very importantly, Adam Scott CVI. Dennis

Moloney, a teacher at Adam Scott, worked with his Grade 10-12 students to build our towers. Without their help the project would simply not have been possible. All our partners were a pleasure to work with.



The tower at Lock 31 in Buckhorn immediately following installation.

Most of the materials needed to build the towers were donated by businesses in Peterborough and Lindsay. The following were donors. We are most grateful for their interest and generous support

- Alf Curtis Building Products, Peterborough.
- City of Peterborough.
- Dufferin Concrete, Peterborough.
- Handley Lumber, Castle Building Centre, Fenelon Falls.
- Home Depot, Peterborough.
- Kaycan Vinyl Products, Peterborough.
- Lafarge Canada Inc. Peterborough.
- Rona Cashway, Lindsay.

Members of the Kawartha Field Naturalists provided early inspiration, excellent advice and assistance.

The completed towers are an attractive structure as can be seen in the below photographs.



The tower at the Riverview Park and Zoo.



Installing the tower at Lock 20 adjacent to TSW offices.



The tower at Fairhaven prior to the removal of concrete forms.

There is still a certain amount of work required to complete the project although this is limited compared with what has been achieved to date. The biggest remaining tasks are to install the signs once these become available and to write up the final report. Everything looks like being completed on time by the end of January. It has been a lot of work. Keep your fingers crossed that the towers are made use of next Summer!



Call for raffle prizes at PFN Annual General Meeting in 2009

Every year at the PFN Annual General Meeting we raffle off prizes donated by members or businesses in Peterborough and surrounding area. This is our first call for folks to donate raffle prizes. Funds raised during the raffle go towards supporting club activities as well as to covering off some of the costs incurred by hosting the AGM. If you have anything you would like to donate, or would like to canvass a local business for support, please contact John at 742-1524.

Join us for our Annual General Meeting!

Open to both members and non-members alike, the AGM features a banquet dinner, a keynote speaker, a silent auction and a raffle.

Friday, January 23rd, 2009

Baker's Hill Centre, 555 Parkhill Road East

Tickets: \$25 per person (includes dinner)

Meet & Greet begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.



Key Note
Speaker:

James Raffan

*“National
Treasure:
Exploring
Possible
Futures for the
Canadian
Canoe
Museum”*

Reservations are required

and must be received by January 16th, 2008.

Please call (705) 750-1145 or e-mail:

donem.pettypiece@sympatico.ca to reserve your tickets.

It's time to renew your membership!



2009 PFN Membership
Fees are due.

Memberships can be renewed by sending a cheque (\$15 student, \$25 single, \$30 family) to Don Pettypiece at 18 Parkview Dr, Peterborough, ON, K9H 5M6 (please indicate "for PFN 2009 membership" on cheque).

Memberships can also be renewed at the reception desk at the PFN Annual General Meeting on January 23rd.

A membership in the Peterborough Naturalists Club 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 a variety of ways, including: publication of the *Orchid*, organization of the Annual General Meeting, and in support of initiatives to research, rehabilitate, and protect nature in all its forms.



The ORCHID DIARY for 28 Oct - 27 Nov 2008

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

- Oct 28 A flock of about a dozen male **Eastern Bluebirds** were seen by Toni Sinclair on the west side of 6 Ft Bay rd near Buckhorn, in an unused pasture.
- Oct 30 Randy Smith found a late **Tree Swallow** sitting on hydro wire on Keene Rd near Baseline Rd. He also noted a lot of **Dark-eyed Juncos** at his feeder.
- Oct 31 A flock of 30 to 40 **Snow Buntings** was seen by Myles Falconer just west of Lakefield.
- Nov 01 Myles Falconer had 40 to 50 **Common Redpolls** fly over his house on the Youngs Point Rd
- Nov 08 Tony Bigg watched a flock of about 120 **Pine Siskins** feeding in the tree tops in the Lakefield Park campsite. A well-fruited Mountain Ash tree in the center of the park was being well used by two dozen **American Robins** and 20 **Cedar Waxwings**.
- Nov 11 Flocks of 9 **Red Crossbills** and 11 **White-winged Crossbills** were seen by Chris Risley in the tops of some cone-laden White Pine on the Galway Forest Access Rd. He also saw a flock of 80 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Miller Creek.
- Nov 18 Randy Smith had a busy day finding a **Great Blue Heron** in Beavermead Park, a **Northern Harrier** near Hastings, and a **Great Black-backed Gull** on the pair in Little Lake.
- Nov 20 A **Northern Flicker** was seen by Randy Smith on Aylmer St in downtown Peterborough, and he also found another **Northern Harrier** near Keene.
- Nov 23 Joe Nocera reported that a late **Eastern Towhee** had been visiting his feeder in Millbrook for several days. It was in company with many **American Tree Sparrows**. Chris Risley's **Northern Flicker** returned to his feeder for the sixth or seventh year in a row. He also has a **White-throated Sparrow** and about 10 **Dark-eyed Juncos** at the feeder. Chris also had an **American Kestrel** on Moncrief Line south of the airport, and a **Northern Shrike** on Moore Line just west of Hwy 28.
- Nov 25 Tony Bigg reported that he had five **Northern Shrike** sightings within the last four days. Two sightings were near the car-pool at Parkway and Hwy 7, one was near Warsaw, one was along River Rd between Trent and Lakefield, and one was near the Lakefield marsh.
- Nov 26 Ed Czerwinski saw a female or immature **Snowy Owl** on Baseline Rd east of Bensfort Rd..



*Red-bellied Woodpecker
at Stony Lake, Dec17,
2008. Photo: Michael
Butler.*



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: _____