



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>Sundays</p> <p>October 9 to October 30</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Ptbo Zoo Parking Lot</p>	<p>Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks</p> <p>A weekly chance to explore local habitats. Each walk is led by one of our experienced members or a guest leader. Unless otherwise indicated, walks last around 3 hours and start out from the Peterborough Zoo parking lot from which we car pool. Please remember your binoculars and bring some change to contribute to gas costs. The walks are very informal and newcomers are welcome!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 9th - John Bottomley • Oct 16th - Jerry Ball (Presqu'ile Provincial Park - see details below) • Oct 23rd - Drew Monkman • Oct 30th - Jerry Ball
<p>Wednesday October 12th</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ptbo Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "The Antler Growth Cycle"</p> <p>John McFeeters will take us through a discussion about the cycle of antler growth. Other areas to be touched upon include: the purpose of antlers, composition and coloration, the difference between antlers and horns, causes of deformations in antlers, and the purpose of antler research.</p>
<p>Sunday October 16th</p> <p>8:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Birding at Presqu'ile Provincial Park</p> <p>Jerry Ball will lead a full day trip to Presqu'ile for the fall bird migration, particularly migrating waterfowl. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and rubber boots if you have them (they may not be needed). Meet at 8am at the Country Style at the junction of Old Keene Road and Highway 7.</p>

COMING EVENTS continued

Wednesday Nov 9 th	PFN Monthly Meeting: "Restoration of Highly Disturbed Ecosystems" - talk led by Mark Browning
Wednesday Dec 14 th	PFN Monthly Meeting: "Member's Slide Night" - please let Gina Varrin (gina.varrin@gmail.com) know if you've got slides to show & stories to tell at this December's meeting.

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

Sunday October 30 th 2:00 p.m.	Halloween at the Environment Centre The JFN's will meet at the Environment Centre Oct. 30th 2:00pm for a scary good time. Fall will be in full swing and we'll see how animals are getting into their winter costumes as well as a little pumpkin carving/decorating. Come dressed warm and bring a mug for some hot chocolate or apple cider. See you then...Neil	
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Other Events of Interest

October 13 th 3:00 - 7:00 pm	The Incredible World of Bugs Exhibit. View insects from around the world and Canada between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. in the main foyer of the Fleming Frost Campus, Lindsay. John Powers, exhibit creator will give a presentation at 7:00 p.m. in the Glen Crombie Lecture Hall (Room 250 Flemings Frost Campus).
Saturday October 15 th	Mark your calendars! Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting to be held at the Howard Park Tennis Club, 430 Parkside Drive, eastern perimeter of High Park, Toronto. High Park Nature is our host and they want you to 'discover the rich and diverse nature of High Park.'
Wednesday October 26 th	The Peterborough Garden Club will meet at the Peterborough Library, 345 Aylmer Street N. at 7:30 PM. Guest speaker, Marjory Mason will be talking about "Inspirations from Gardens Around the World". Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and refreshments.
Wednesday November 23 rd	The Peterborough Garden Club will meet at the Peterborough Library, 345 Aylmer Street N. at 7:30 PM. Guest speaker, Vikki Whitney's topic will be ideas for "Christmas Decor". Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and refreshments.
June 8 - 12, 2012	Ontario Nature 81 st Annual General Meeting. To be held at the Opincon Resort hotel, northeast of Kingston in the Frontenac Arch.

Our Many Kinds of Sparrows

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

No more Mourning Doves in “our” nest after July 25. Perhaps they found a better nesting spot or just decided to take the rest of the summer off! Now it is October and many bird species have migrated out of our area. Because there are not only fewer birds but also the trees have lost their leaves, birds are easier to spot and identify. Take for instance, the Sparrow families. They are able to stay longer in our area because they are seed eaters and there are lots of seeds. To help identify a Sparrow, try to quickly note some specific features: * a stout seed-cracking bill; * a streaked or plain breast; patterned or plain head; any eyebrow. A look through your bird book in the Sparrow section with these features in mind, should put a name to that Sparrow. Three of my favourites are the White-throated Sparrow (a few may stay here for our winter); the White-crowned Sparrow that breeds in the far north (and some may stay here for our winter) and the Tree Sparrow (with its plain breast and usually only one black dot in the middle) that is also from the far north and will spend the winter in southern Ontario. Happy Birding



PFN Trip to Toronto Zoo. Grant Ankenman with Great Hornbill in Indo-Malaya Pavilion. Photo by Martin Parker.



PFN Trip to Toronto Zoo. Seahorse breeding areas in Animal Health Facility, 25 September 2011. Photo by Martin Parker.

CWF's 2011 Reflections of Nature Photo Contest

Next year marks 50 years of conservation for the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Set your sights on moments and photos that represent Canada's past, present or future; it could be an owl perched on a century old pine, a chipmunk storing food near an urban center and everything else in between that reminds you of how Canada once was, is or might be someday. The winning photos from the contest will be featured in a 10-page spread in CWF's magazines in January 2012. All high resolution photos that feature flora, fauna, landscape or urban wildlife will be judged. Prizes include a year-long magazine subscription to Canadian Wildlife, CWF goodies from our online store, Photo printers from HP, a poster of your photo courtesy of PhotoJack and so much more! So start snapping today! You have until October 31, 2011 to capture and submit your winning shot! Visit www.cwf-fcf.org for more information.



Sunday Bird-walk Report: 4 September 2011

-b y John Bottomley

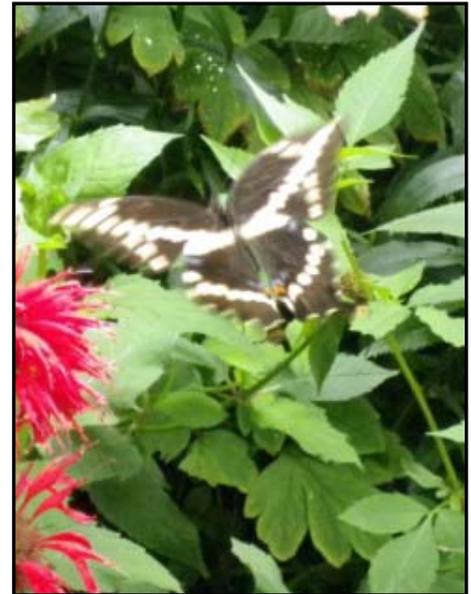
A small group took advantage of an overcast, warm but not rainy morning to explore the east side of the Otonabee, Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and the Sawyers Creek loop. We steadily built up our species total which ended, for this time of the season, at a very respectable forty-one. Warblers were few and far between but we ended up seeing four species including the trip highlight for many; very good views of a Northern Parula. We all enjoyed the trip, especially McDougall the dog who took a keen interest in everything.

The forty-one species seen are listed below:

Double-crested Cormorant	Wild Turkey	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Spotted Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
Wood Duck	Ring-billed Gull	American Crow	Common Yellowthroat
Mallard	Caspian Tern	Tree Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Gadwall	Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Rock Dove (Feral pigeon)	Black-capped Chickadee	Savannah Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	Song Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Flicker	European Starling	Common Grackle
Osprey	Pileated Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Baltimore Oriole
American Kestrel	Eastern Phoebe	Northern Parula	American Goldfinch
Ruffed Grouse			



Club members explore the new march board walk at Curve Lake reserve on Sunday September 18th. Photo by Paul Elliott.



Giant Swallowtail, Burnham Rd, Peterborough, August 15, 2011. Photo by Andrew Bigg.

PFN Sunday Morning Outing to the Robert Johnston Eco-Forest Trails

-by Tony Bigg

On September 11th our group drove to explore the new Robert Johnston Eco-Forest Trail. The official opening of the new nature area was on August 25th. The forest is on the east side Duoro 5th Line between Cty Rd 8 and Division Rd.

Our first stop was at the marsh on University Rd where, with a little patience, we discovered Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Green Heron (which sat nicely on top of a snag allowing all to see it well through telescopes), Turkey Vulture, Swamp Sparrow (many), Black-capped Chickadee, Red-eyed Vireo, American Robin, Common Yellowthroat, American Goldfinch, American Crow, Brown Creeper (close up and in the open), and Northern Flicker. Stops on the way to the forest added Mourning Dove, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow and, White-throated Sparrow. The forest trails are well groomed and pass through a variety of habitats. However the bird life was sparse on this day. Added were Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Pileated Woodpecker. Outside of the forest on Duoro 5th Line we found American Kestrel, and Merlin. Ring-billed Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, and Cedar Waxwings completed the list as we returned to the car park at the Zoo.

Information on the trails can be found at:

<http://www.dourodummer.on.ca/documents/3%20panel%20Robert%20Johnson%20EcoForest%20Trails%20Brochure.pdf>



Caterpillar of the Hitched Arches Moth, Providence Line at rail trail, September 25, 2011. Photo by Tony Bigg.



A horntail wasp (*Tremex columba*) uses its long, black ovipositor to lay eggs beneath the bark of a tree on Lady Eaton Drumlin, Trent University Nature Area. 20 September. Photo by Paul Elliott.



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the November issue: Tuesday, October 25th, 2011

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

Magic in the leaves

-By Drew Monkman, from "Our Changing Seasons", The Examiner, Thursday, September 24, 2009,

There is a beautiful Native American legend that talks of hunters in the north sky who killed the Great Bear – represented by the constellation bearing the same name – in autumn, and its blood dripped down over forests coloring the maples red.

Later, as they cooked the meat, fat dripped from the heavens turning the leaves of the aspens and birch yellow.

Quite clearly, the fall colours have never ceased to amaze human beings and to make us wonder why they appear. Together with the cooler air and the dreamy quality of fall sunlight, so different from the light of summer, there's something about fall colours that lifts the spirits and provides a new-found energy.

This year, a spectacular colour show is being predicted, thanks to a relatively wet, cool summer that the trees loved. The foliage is thick, the leaves on most trees are healthy and there is lots of sunshine in the forecast until at least mid-October.

A basic understanding of how and why leaves change colour adds a great deal to our enjoyment of this annual spectacle. There's much more to the story than the leaves simply falling off as a reaction to cold. Colour change and the shedding of leaves are manifestations of a tree's preparation for winter. It is a coordinated undertaking on the part of the entire organism.

The first question to ask ourselves is why trees bother to shed their leaves in the first place? Since winter is a time of drought in which water is locked up in the form of ice, trees are no longer able to take up water through their roots. Because leaves are continually releasing water vapour (think of the high humidity of a greenhouse), trees must therefore get rid of their

leaves in order to minimize water loss and desiccation.

However, if the leaves just froze in place and were blown off little by little by winter winds, the results would be disastrous. Snow and ice would build up on the foliage and branches and break off entire limbs.

The tree would also lose the minute but precious quantities of minerals originally obtained through its roots from the soil. These minerals are concentrated nearly entirely in the leaves since this is where most of the tree's chemical activity occurs. The minerals include magnesium (a key building-block of chlorophyll), nitrogen (a part of all proteins), phosphorous, and potassium.

The tree could never afford to lose all of these valuable substances each fall by simply allowing them to fall off with the leaves. This would leave the tree without an adequate supply of minerals to produce enough chlorophyll for its new leaves in the spring. Its still half-frozen roots



could never absorb enough new minerals – remember, they are usually present in very small quantities in the soil – to do the job in time.

A complex process has therefore evolved to salvage as much of the mineral content from the leaves as possible and store it in the trees woody tissues before the leaves are lost.

The process of removing minerals begins as soon as the long growing days of June and early July are over, and the days slowly begin to grow shorter. By September, most of the trees have lost their ability to manufacture chlorophyll, since a large proportion of the essential minerals have already been removed by enzymes.

Chlorophyll is the green pigment that captures the sun's energy. Through the process of photosynthesis, it uses sunlight to convert water and carbon dioxide into the sugar-based substances like starch and cellulose that make up the tree's tissues – everything from wood and leaves to flowers and seeds. The tree replenishes the chlorophyll in the leaves all summer long, because it is continually being broken down by the very sunlight it absorbs.

We rarely pause to appreciate just how extraordinary and spiritually enriching it is that all of the plants around us have been created by the interaction of sunlight, water, and an invisible, odourless gas. And, if that's not enough, photosynthesis gives us life-supporting oxygen!

As summer progresses and the leaves produce less and less chlorophyll, colour change slowly becomes apparent.

A similar phenomenon occurs when the grass on your lawn yellows after a few days of being covered with a board or tent. With less and less chlorophyll there to conceal them, other pigments in the leaves gradually become visible. The yellows and oranges come from carotene pigments which have been present in the leaves all along. Leaves also contain another pigment

known as tannin. It lingers longest and eventually gives all leaves a dull brown colour.

The stunning reds and purples, however, are a different story. They are produced by anthocyanin pigments which are created by excess sugars in the leaf. These pigments seem to be brightest in years when there is lots of late summer and fall sunshine, accompanied by cool nights. Small amounts of anthocyanin are also produced even in June and July but are almost immediately destroyed by a special enzyme.

However, the cooler nights of late summer and fall slow the action of the enzyme and allow the red pigments to accumulate. Leaves getting the most sun produce the most sugars, hence the most red. Leaves in the shade are slower to change colour and usually never become as red.

Why evolution has favoured red pigments in only some types of trees is not fully understood. There is some evidence that the red pigments may serve as a sort sunscreen by absorbing sunlight that would otherwise damage the leaf's tissues and impede it from shipping precious minerals back into the woody tissues for storage until spring. Trees that do not produce red pigments may have evolved other, yet unknown, defences against harmful radiation.

The actual shedding of the leaves is achieved by the formation of an abscission layer between the leaf stem and the twig. This corky layer of cells makes it more difficult to transfer in the minerals the leaf needs to make more chlorophyll. Eventually, the leaf's connection with the twig is broken and it falls off in the wind, rain or simply from the warming effect of the morning sun. You have probably noticed how squirrel nests, made up largely of leaf-bearing twigs nipped off the tree during spring and summer, will hold their leaves for years at a time. This is because the cork layer never had the time to form.

Bright sunny days and consistently cool – but not freezing - nights seem to be the recipe for the best fall colour. A few hard frosts, however, will

cause the leaves to wither quickly and drop to the ground.

Frost kills the leaf's tissues and puts an end to the chemical processes that result in good colour production. An extended summer drought runs counter to good colour, as well. Because the tree lacks water for photosynthesis, it can't produce the sugars needed for intense red colours. Under drought conditions, colour change tends to come early and the colours are more muted. An extremely wet fall will also cause muted colours. There is also fear that climate change could put a permanent damper on the colour show. Since it tends to raise temperatures, especially at night, it may result in fall colours that are far less brilliant.

Fall colour follows a predictable timetable. Red and sugar Maples, which provide the most dramatic display of colour, usually reach their colour peak by the first week of October in the northern Kawarthas and at Thanksgiving further south.

What a wonderful coincidence that this special holiday falls precisely when the leaves are adorned in their autumn best. In addition to the intense reds of the red maple and the blazing yellows and oranges of sugar maples, some of the finest colour is provided by the white ash.

Its colour palette ranges from bronze yellows to wine-purples. More so than any species I know, the leaves positively scintillate in the dreamy fall sunshine. Many of the ash are at or near their peak right now.

As we move into the second half of October, the reds and burgundies of white and red oaks will join the colour parade, accompanied by the bright yellows of aspens and, at month's end, the smoky gold of tamaracks.

Be sure not to miss the colour changes happening in the vines and shrubs as well.

Virginia creeper, which loves to spiral over fences and wind up telephone poles, glows with some of the deepest reds. Dogwoods, viburnums, and blackberries provide a stunning display of reds, pinks, burgundies and purples. Staghorn sumac covers nearly all of the colour bases from yellows and oranges to luminous scarlets.

By mid-November, nearly all deciduous trees are leafless. Beech and oak are the last species to shed their leaves. Because they are both primarily southern species, they have an evolutionary history based on a longer growing season.

The leaves therefore tend to fall later. Younger trees and the younger branches on mature trees seem to hold their leaves the longest. They end up getting caught by a hard frost which kills the leaves before the abscission process is complete. The dead leaves often linger on the branches right into early spring.

Although there is spectacular colour to be seen just about everywhere, the Glen Alda area around Chandos Lake is often especially good.

Another beautiful colour drive is Highway 35 to Dorset where you can climb the fire tower and enjoy a wonderful view of the surrounding maple forests.

You can then carry on to Algonquin Park which is world famous for its fall colour. Be sure to take in the view from the observation deck at the visitor centre. To get twice-weekly updates on the progress of the fall colours throughout Ontario, visit www.ontariotravel.net, and follow the link to the Fall Colour Update.

Drew Monkman is a Peterborough teacher and author of Nature's Year in the Kawarthas. He can be reached at dmonkman1@cogeco.ca. Visit his website and see past columns at www.drewmonkman.com.



proudly presents

The Incredible World of Bugs

The John G. Powers Exhibit

Overview: The Incredible World of Bugs

Orkin PCO is proud to present the Incredible World of Bugs Travelling Exhibit. This tour entertains, engages and enlightens the general public about the strange and fascinating world of butterflies and insects.

The goal of the exhibit is to raise public awareness of the vital role these creatures play in our daily lives. They pollinate our crops, supply us with honey, silk, medicine and they help ensure our future.

The exhibit provides children, community groups, adults and educators the opportunity to see up close, real butterfly, moth and insect specimens collected from around the world and to interact with our on-site exhibit creator/manager: Mr. John G. Powers.

It also provides school groups with the opportunity to learn about the many current world issues which are impacting the eco-systems which these creatures exist within and how these issues are directly affecting the lives of butterflies and insects and in turn our lives.

Each year Orkin PCO Services finances up to 20 of these exhibitions across Canada in the hope that by raising public awareness to the many issues that are impacting the Incredible World of Bugs, that governments, educators, researchers and the general public will rally to address these issues, create and implement sustainable solutions and affect positive change that will ensure the stability of the butterfly and insect eco-systems in Canada and around the world.



The Incredible World of Bugs

The John G. Powers Exhibit

October 13th

3:00 – 7:00 pm

View insects from around the world and Canada

Location: main foyer of the Fleming Frost Campus, Lindsay

John Powers, exhibit creator will give a presentation at 7:00 p.m. in the Glen Crombie Lecture Hall (Room 250 Flemings Frost Campus)



The **ORCHID DIARY** for **Aug 29 - Sept 30, 2011**

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

Only a few reports were received this month even though it was the peak of the warbler migration. The butterfly season had decreased to about seven active species at the end of the month.

- Aug 31 Whilst walking the Cameron to Blezard section of the rail trail in the south of the county, Tony Bigg (TB) noticed a group of **Black-capped Chickadees** mobbing something in a small spruce tree. He looked for an owl without success but eventually found three entwined **Eastern Garter Snakes** on a branch at the centre of the raucous.
- Sep 07 A **Merlin** was seen by Jerry Ball (JB) at Sawyer's Creek on Duoro 3rd Line
- Sep 08 JB counted over 500 **Common Grackles** in a flock by Scriven Rd north of Rice Lake
- Sep 10 Walking the Cameron to Villiers Lines of the rail trail, JB saw a **Common Yellowthroat, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler**, two **Philadelphia Vireos**, two **Blue-headed Vireos**, three **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, three **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, three **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, five **Red-eyed Vireos**, and fifteen **Wood Ducks**.
- Sep 11 On a PFN Sunday morning walk to the Robert Johnston Eco-Forest, led by TB, the most notable birds seen were **Green Heron** and **Brown Creeper** on University Rd, **Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo** and **Pileated Woodpecker** in the forest, and **American Kestrel and Merlin** on Duoro 5th Line. (see report elsewhere for full details).
- Sep 12 An **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen by JB on Division Rd near Duoro 5th Line.
- Sep 18 TB and Alban Guillaumet, in the early morning, found a **Snow Goose** in a flock of **Canada Geese** on Cty Rd 38 south of Hwy 7. Returning by the same route in the late afternoon, the same flock was still there but had been joined by a pair of **Sandhill Cranes**
- Sep 22 On a walk on the Villiers to Cameron Lines section of the rail trail JB and TB saw **Common Yellowthroat, Broad-winged Hawk, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Parula, Brown Creeper, Lincoln's Sparrow, Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, House Wren, Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and twelve **Wood Ducks** as well as several more common birds. They also saw a **Red-bellied Snake**.
- Sep 24 Another **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen by JB on the 5th Line of South Monaghan.

PFN Officers and Directors

President	John Bottomley	johnbottomley@sympatico.ca	742-1524
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Other Volunteers

Anne Elliot	Publicity	
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	





PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing completed form and cheque to

Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

CONTACT

Name (s):		Home Tel:	
		Work Tel:	
Address:		Receive Orchid by:	<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please
		Email(s):	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 2. Single Student \$15 3. Single Child* (age 5-12) \$10

4. Family (couple or family with children*) \$30

*Please give the name(s) and age(s) of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

MAIN INTERESTS

<input type="radio"/> Birds	<input type="radio"/> Butterflies/insects	<input type="radio"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs)
<input type="radio"/> Astronomy	<input type="radio"/> Aquatic Life	<input type="radio"/> Geology <input type="radio"/> 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

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: _____