



# The Orchid

**Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists**

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

Published 9 times yearly

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

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

## COMING EVENTS

Sundays September 5 to October 31 8:00 a.m. Ptbo Zoo Parking Lot	<b>Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks</b> 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!  Leaders are confirmed for the following outings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sept 5th John Bottomley</li><li>- Sept 19th Jerry Ball</li><li>- Oct 17th Jerry Ball (whole-day outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park - see below)</li></ul>
Wednesday September 8th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Public Library	<b>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Photographic journey to the Galapagos and Amazon"</b> Eileen Nolan will speak to us about her trip to the Galapagos Islands and the Amazon Rainforest in eastern Ecuador. The Galapagos archipelago is located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and are world-renowned as the seed of inspiration for Charles Darwin's controversial and insightful theory on Natural Selection. Some of the animals encountered include blue footed boobies, frigate birds, giant tortoises, iguanas, penguins, sea rays and turtles and of course Darwin's finches! The islands and the rainforest are also a photographer's paradise - join us for a photographic journey to this extraordinary part of the world.
Sunday October 17 8:00 a.m.	<b>Birding at Presqu'ile Provincial Park</b> Jerry Ball will lead a full day trip to Presqu'ile for the bird migration - water fowl a speciality. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and rubber boots if you have them (may not be needed). Meet at 8am at the Country Style at the junction of Old Keene Road and Highway 7.

## Other Events of interest

Saturday Sept 11	<p><b>Peterborough Horticultural Society's Fall Plant Sale</b> will take place on Saturday, September 11th, 9:30 - 11:30 AM at St. Alban's Church, 567 Monaghan Rd (corner of Monaghan &amp; Cameron). A great way to get a start on next year's garden with a wide variety of perennials. Rain or shine, come early for best selection and bring a friend.</p>
Saturday Sept 18	<p><b>Know Your Moraine: Knowledge and Tools for Action.</b> <i>Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Millbrook Arena Hall.</i> Come out and learn about the natural wonders of the Oak Ridges Moraine, why it is important to protect, and how you can get involved! Lunch provided between sessions. Registration required. For more information or to register please contact Allison at 647-258-3280 ext. 2008 or <a href="mailto:allison@ecospark.ca">allison@ecospark.ca</a> .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>THE STORY OF THE MORAINE 10am-11:30am</b> - a morning session to learn about the ecology, policy, and people of the Oak Ridges Moraine <i>and/or</i></li><li>- <b>MORAINE WATCH 12:30pm-2:00pm</b> - an afternoon session to learn how you can help us track land use activities on the Oak Ridges Moraine</li></ul>
Wednesday Sept 22	<p><b>Peterborough Horticultural Society's</b> hosts their <b>monthly meeting</b> on Wednesday, September 22nd at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street N. at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 for socializing and refreshments. This month's guest speaker will be Beatte Heissler who will be talking about native planting.</p>
Sept 29 to Oct 23	<p><b>GALAPAGOS Forty Days and Forty Nights - An Artist's Sojourn</b> Kelly Dodge will be exhibiting pastel paintings highlighting conservation challenges of the unique, threatened habitat and endangered species of Galapagos, Ecuador. Parts of Artists for Conservation 2009 Flag Expedition. Location: the Lindsay Gallery (<i>Upstairs in the public library in Downtown Lindsay</i>).</p>

## JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

We won't be having a JFN program happening this month as we will let folks get back into their routines. Stay tuned for some fun nature happenings come October.  
Happy September! Good Luck with the return to school...Neil/Dan



Smooth  
Green  
Snake,  
Hubble  
Road. July  
7, 2010.  
Photo by  
Tony Bigg.

## Mourning Doves

- by June Hitchcox, for The Apsley Voice ([www.apsleyvoice.com](http://www.apsleyvoice.com))

The pair of Mourning Doves that built an unusually tidy nest on the top edge of the cedar hedge which surrounds our patio, were not successful the first time around. One day there were no eggs, shells or adult. A huge maple tree is high over head and from there, it would be easy to spot the nest. However, they tried again, using the same nest. From above, it would be now difficult to see the nest, the hedge having grown up a foot or so. Because the passage way to the back garden is about 6" from the nest, the adults and I have become quite friendly. We look each other in the eye as I pass through and I say "Hello". They aren't concerned, just stay perfectly still. The male Dove incubates the 2 white eggs during the day and the female at night. I have never heard them calling at night - perhaps they do - but from dawn to dark, the female, her turn off the nest, is regularly sending different messages. Her "co-ab, coo. coo, coo" seems to me to be telling her mate that all is well. Her "oh^oh", (up and down) when someone is close to the nest appears to be saying "Keep watch, someone/something is near that may be trouble." Both parents, as in all Doves and Pigeons, have evolved a neat way to feed their "squabs" (their young). Both the females and the males produce "crop milk", held in a storage pouch in the gullet. This milk is like a thick yogurt, very full of protein. When the squab is hungry, it sticks its bill down the adult's throat and sucks up the milk. After 3-4 days, small seeds and insects are introduced into the milk to soften. I was amazed when looking at the parent - seemed to be just a few days - to see a squab beside her, almost the same size! Not long after that, all were gone. The squab would be somewhere nearby, fluttering its wings to become strong enough to fly, learning how to perch and eating seeds brought by the parents - then would be on its own. There was still one white egg in the nest and the weather very hot. For parts of the day, a parent would come and go and always be on the nest at night. Now the male is there all day. Did Mom lay more eggs? Or is she hoping that the second egg will hatch? They breed from March to September, so we will have to wait and see.

## ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

**Deadline for submissions for the October issue: Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

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](mailto:rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca)

### PFN Officers and Directors

President	John Bottomley	<a href="mailto:johnbottomley@sympatico.ca">johnbottomley@sympatico.ca</a>	742-1524
Secretary	Emily Pettypiece	<a href="mailto:donem.pettypiece@bell.net">donem.pettypiece@bell.net</a>	750-1145
Membership	Don Pettypiece	<a href="mailto:donem.pettypiece@bell.net">donem.pettypiece@bell.net</a>	750-1145
Newsletter Editor	Rebecca Zeran	<a href="mailto:rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca">rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca</a>	743-2660
Program (indoor)	Janine McLeod	<a href="mailto:janine@sdf1.net">janine@sdf1.net</a>	778-1479
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	<a href="mailto:paulelliott@trentu.ca">paulelliott@trentu.ca</a>	740-0501
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	<a href="mailto:nkfortin@sympatico.ca">nkfortin@sympatico.ca</a>	292-6185
Special Projects	Mike McMurtry	<a href="mailto:michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca">michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca</a>	748-5353
Special Projects	Gina Varrin	<a href="mailto:gina@theorem.ca">gina@theorem.ca</a>	761-7787
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	<a href="mailto:webmaster@peterboroughnature.org">webmaster@peterboroughnature.org</a>	740-2081
FON Rep	Lynn Smith	<a href="mailto:smithfam@nexicom.net">smithfam@nexicom.net</a>	944-5599

### Other Volunteers

Book Sales	Anne Storey	743-0345
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
JFN Trip Leader	Neil Fortin	



## Experience Algonquin - Photography Series:

### True Colors (Open)

**Date:** Friday, September 24, 2010

**Time:** 9:00am to 3:30pm

**Location:** East Beach Picnic Pavilion, Algonquin Park (km 35.4)

#### **Description:**

Enjoy a day of photography capturing the natural beauty of Algonquin Park, beginning with an indoor instructional session and review, followed by an afternoon field excursion for practice. A Park Naturalist will lead the group on a guided walk to a scenic lookout, making stops to explain how and why Algonquin's hardwoods turn such beautiful shades of yellow, orange, and red. There will be ample opportunity to explore and photograph along the way, with a focus on use of wide angle and zoom/telephoto lenses, and creative photography techniques. This workshop is suitable for point & shoot digital / advanced compact, digital SLR, and film cameras, and will cover application of general camera settings.

### The Importance of Light & Exposure (Advanced)

**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2010

**Time:** 9:00am to 3:30pm

**Location:** East Beach Picnic Pavilion, Algonquin Park (km 35.4)

#### **Description:**

Enjoy a day of photography capturing the natural beauty of Algonquin Park, beginning with an indoor instructional session and review, followed by an afternoon field excursion for practice. Today's session is all about examining the quality and quantity of light to determine the right exposure. Learn how to master settings such as white balance, ISO, exposure compensation and how to read the histogram for immediate feedback. You will gain a good understanding of the effect when using flash, dealing with backlight - learning how to adjust your exposure for the best possible result. This course is geared toward digital camera users with knowledge of basic settings, as most time will be spent working on advanced applications.

**Instructor:** Debbie Bradley

**Cost per workshop:** \$60 includes Park permit, plus a workshop booklet and registration package provided compliments of Cavalcade Color Lab, Huntsville

Pre-registration required. Most workshops are limited to 15 or fewer participants. To register for a workshop, or for more information, contact: Sophie Mazowitaat (613) 637-2828 ext. 227 or via [groupeducation@algonquinpark.on.ca](mailto:groupeducation@algonquinpark.on.ca) (please be ready with full contact details and a Visa or MasterCard). Workshops are open to members of The Friends of Algonquin Park (membership can be purchased at the time of registration for \$12 (single), \$17 (family) or \$7 (senior)).



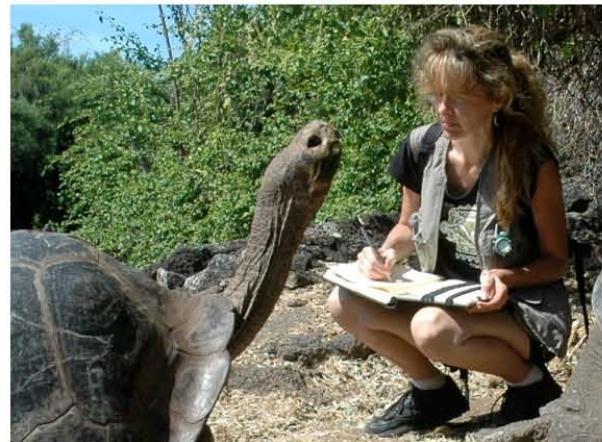
Gentle Giant - Galapagos Giant Tortoise - Original Pastel Painting

# GALAPAGOS

Forty Days and Forty Nights  
An Artist's Sojourn

September 29 - October 23

Kelly Dodge - Lakefield



the  
**LINDSAY  
GALLERY**  
for the **art** in everyone

Pastel paintings highlighting conservation challenges of the unique, threatened habitat and endangered species of Galapagos, Ecuador.  
Artists for Conservation 2009 Flag Expedition.

Opening Reception:  
Saturday, October 2, 1- 2:30

*Upstairs in the public library in Downtown Lindsay*  
190 Kent St. West, 2nd floor, Lindsay, ON K9V 2Y6 [www.thelindsaygallery.com](http://www.thelindsaygallery.com) 705.324.1780  
OPEN Tuesday - Saturday, 10 -11:30 am and 12- 4 pm Admission Free

# Know Your Moraine:

## Knowledge and Tools for Action on the Oak Ridges Moraine



Photos courtesy of (left to right): Luke Reinstra, Bud Newton, EcoSpark

Join the Monitoring the Moraine Project Partners  
for our fall workshop series!

**THE STORY OF THE MORAINE** 10am-11:30am – a morning session to learn about the ecology, policy, and people of the Oak Ridges Moraine

*and/or*

**MORAINE WATCH** 12:30pm-2:00pm – an afternoon session to learn how you can help us track land use activities on the Oak Ridges Moraine

### Workshop Dates and Locations:

**September 11<sup>th</sup> 2010 – Wyndance Golf Club Uxbridge**

**September 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 – Millbrook Community Centre**

**September 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 – Enniskillen Conservation Area**

Lunch provided between sessions. Registration is required.

For more information and to register, contact Allison at  
647-258-3280 x 2008 or [allison@ecospark.ca](mailto:allison@ecospark.ca).

### MTM Project Partners:



Workshops made possible by:



**METCALF FOUNDATION**



## CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION PHOTO CONTESTS

### Show Us Your Corner of Canada!

Whether you live near the towering mountains in the west, by the salty seaside out east, amid the vast expanse of the golden prairies or bare the chill of the north; this year share photos of the Canada you're surrounded by. We're going to be looking at digital photos of wildlife and habitat from across the country that represent nature in a way that inspires you the most – from the smallest blossom of a native plant to a great horned owl perched atop the tallest tree!



Submit photos that fall into our four categories Flora, Fauna, Urban Wildlife and Landscape. Prizes include – Published photos in Canadian Wildlife Magazine, prizes from Computer Media Group, your photo printed as a poster courtesy of Posterjack and much more!

The contest will open 12:00 a.m. E.S.T. August 1st 2010 and we will accept submissions until 11:59 p.m. E.S.T. October 31, 2010. The winner will be notified by 5 p.m. November 30, 2010.

Visit Canadian Wildlife Federation's website (<http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/action/contests/photo-contest/annual-contest/>) for more info on contest, prizes, rules & regulations, etc.

### Kids' Photo Contest

It's the photo contest that's just for kids! Send in your photographs of Canadian animals, plants and landscapes. If you love taking photographs, and you're between the ages of five and thirteen, this contest is for you! There are just a few rules:

1. You have to take the photograph yourself.
2. You must be between five and thirteen years old.
3. The photograph must be taken in Canada.
4. Photos must be a digital photograph at least 3 megabytes in size.
5. Photo 'retouching' is not permitted.

The deadline for entries is the end of the day on Wednesday, September 17, 2010. Visit <http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/action/contests/photo-contest/kids-contest/> for more information on the contest, prizes, entry rules etc.



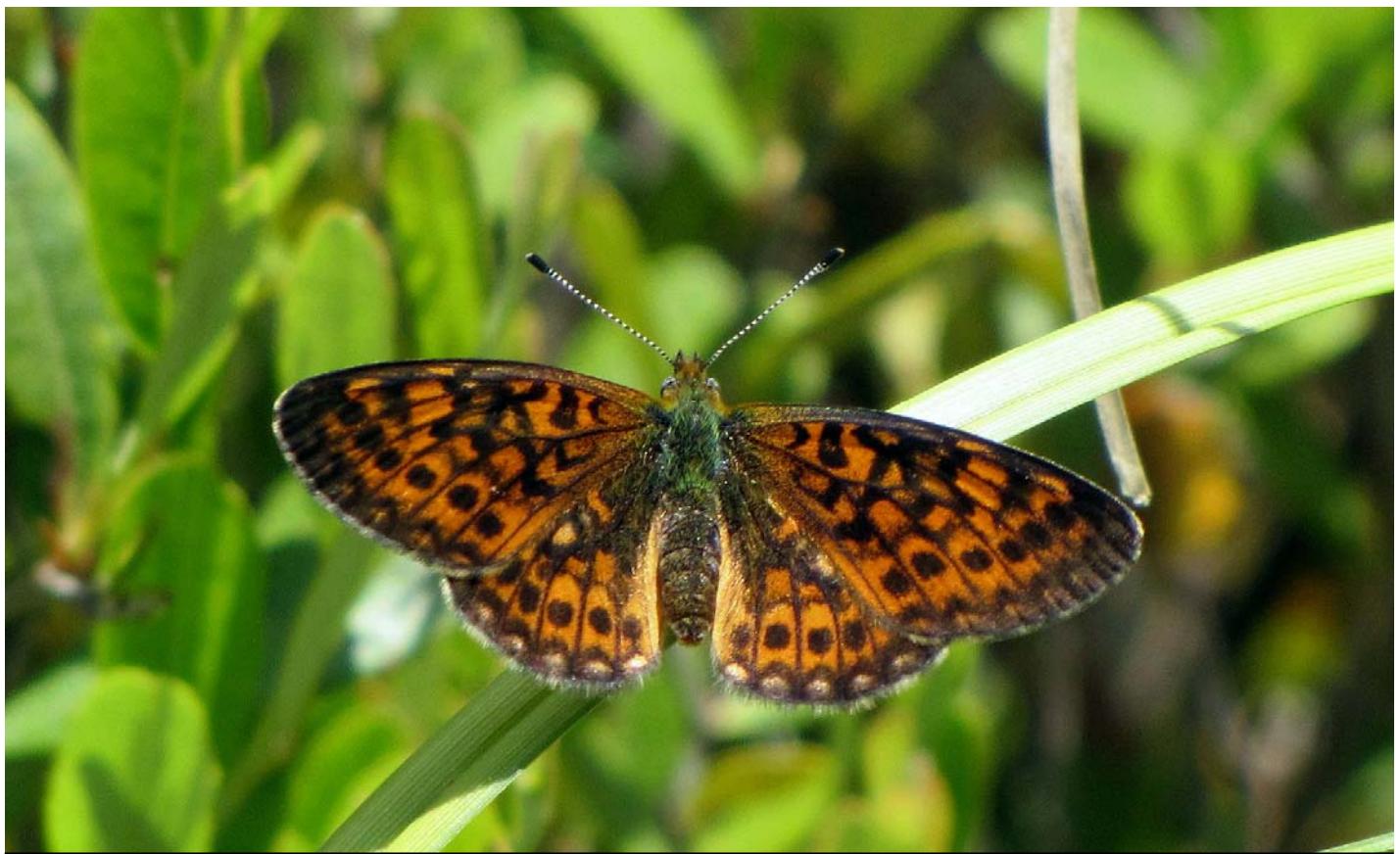


## The ORCHID DIARY for 31 May - 31 Aug 2010

Compiled by Tony Bigg, 652-7541, [tanddbigg@sympatico.ca](mailto:tanddbigg@sympatico.ca)

Reports of sightings once again slowed considerably during the summer period, partly because unusual sightings decrease and partly because observers are busy with other things. The most notable things of this summer were the early sightings of many butterflies and the early blossoming of plants.

- Jun 06 Jim Lloyd reports that he has one or more pairs of **Whip-poor-wills** singing nightly near his house in Millbrook.
- Jun 08 The **Canada (Common) Elderberry** in Drew Monkman's yard started blooming at least three weeks ahead of the average date.
- Jun 11 Drew Monkman reports seeing the first **Common Milkweed** is in bloom. On average, we see the first blooms around July 1st!
- Jun 15 Sharon Simpkins has a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** on Kent's Bay. They are nesting in the swampy end of the Bay! We would certainly like to see them come back, even with their bugling during the wee hours of the day.
- Jul 02 Randy Smith confirmed that there were a pair of **Northern Harriers** nesting at Miller Creek Conservation area. Without walking directly to the nest he observed the female taking several small rodents to the exact same spot over a two day span. Other notables in the area were **Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and Wood Thrush**.
- Jul 05 Tony Bigg reported that a thriving colony of **Cliff Swallows** had set up under the new walking/cycling trail bridge by the rowing club south of Trent University. About thirty nests could be seen under the bridge, most of them with young peering out of the domed clay nests.
- Jul 28 A sub-adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen by Colin Jones flying over the Otonabee River at the London Street foot bridge. There are only a few records of this species for Peterborough County.
- Aug 01 Three Caspian Terns were seen by Tony Bigg sitting on the roof of the Lakefield Arena behind Tim Horton's. They were still there until the end of this reporting period.
- Aug 10 Harv Bell reported taking pictures of an **albino Common Grackle**. The bird and its family were around for a couple of days earlier this month.
- Aug 15 On his way into work at 6 a.m. this morning, Ron Clarence spotted an **albino American Crow**. He was driving south down Highway 7 out of Peterborough between Parkhill Rd and Lansdowne St. It was not quite as big as the other crows and a little leaner, as well, but totally pale. The bird was on the side of the road.
- Aug 17 D'Avril Allen reported a loud screaming wail on the night of August 17. As she describes it - 'I heard a wild, high screaming wail - not once, but twice - on the path between Langton and Oriole Crescent that stopped me in my tracks as I was getting ready to go to bed. All the windows in the house were open at the time and it sounded like the cry was moving north at a regular pace. I haven't ever heard such a wild, high scream and thought it resembled a Great Blue Heron gone nuts. It wasn't a heron cry. It was much higher in pitch, lasted a few seconds and ended with a loud clap of sorts .. the whole cry and clap was heard twice. The scream was then repeated once, but only in part, about 5 minutes later up on the crescent.' This description came up with a number of suggestions as to the origin of the call including Long-eared and Great Horned Owls, Rabbit, Red Fox, Coyote and Fisher.
- Aug 20 At mid-morning, Luke Berg watched a **Carolina Wren** at his feeder.
- Aug 23 **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed by Tony Bigg along the Otonabee River north of Trent University.
- Aug 30 In the morning Drew Monkman watched a large, female, **Cooper's Hawk** catch and simply stand upon a Mourning Dove in his neighbour's driveway. What was strange, however, was that another dove, possibly the victim's mate, landed on the driveway beside the hawk and walked past it, almost as if checking out what had just happened to its partner. A few minutes later, the hawk flew off to enjoy its meal.



Bog Fritillary, Beaver Lake, North Peterborough County, June 4, 2010. Photo by Tony Bigg.



Common Buckeye, Baseline-David Fife Rail Trail, August 30, 2010. Photo by Don Pettypiece.



# 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:		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="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:

<input type="radio"/> Joining the PFN Executive	<input type="radio"/> Sitting on research or conservation committees	<input type="radio"/> Working on field projects
<input type="radio"/> Helping with refreshments at meetings	<input type="radio"/> 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 terms on behalf of all of my underage children.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_