

# The Orchid



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## *Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Photo of red-fruited pixie cup lichen amongst pine needles and haircap moss by Sue Paradisis

**Inside:** Ontario Nature Regional Meeting Notes  
Nature Almanac for December  
Book Review: Fox & I  
Reports from Fungi and Moss & Liverworts Outings  
Info on Upcoming Peterborough Christmas Bird Count

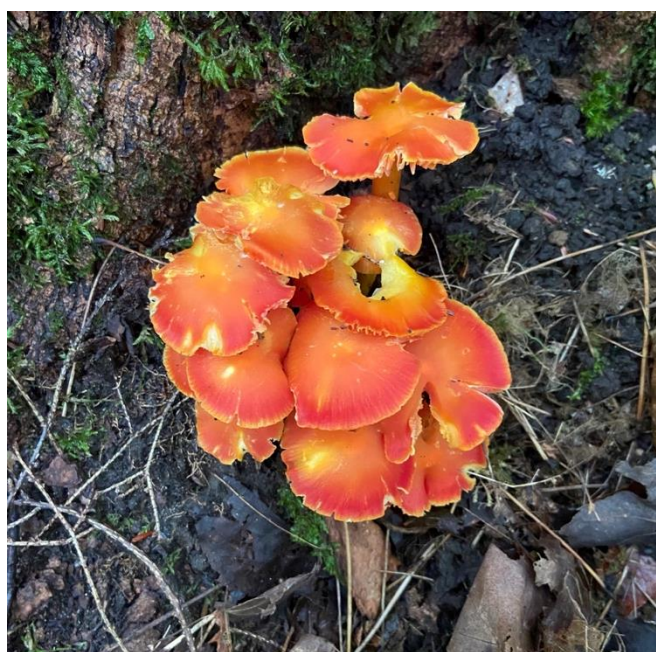


## In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events .....	3
Volunteer Corner: Outing Leaders.....	4
PFN Investments in Our Natural Heritage.....	4
Christmas Gift Ideas from the PFN.....	5
Giving Tuesday .....	5
Advert for Christmas Bird Count.....	6
Nature Almanac for December.....	7
Survey for Research Project.....	9
Fascinating Fungi Outing Report .....	10
Mosses & Liverworts Outing Report .....	10
Book Review: Fox & I.....	11
Ontario Nature Regional Meeting.....	12
Poem: The Flasher In The Woods.....	14
From The Archives: Natural Areas Strategy.....	15
The Orchid Diary .....	16
PFN Membership Application.....	20

### Welcome new PFN members!

- Julia Morris Thomson
- Catherine Sawatzky
- Marianne Pedretti
- June Campsell
- Olivia Maillet



Clockwise from top: Two of the many hundreds of Sandhill Cranes near Cambray on November 8 (Don McLeod). Fox Sparrow on October 22 (Ken McKeen). Orange jelly spot and scarlet waxy cap fungi at Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park on October 24 (Sue Paradisis).

## PFN Coming Events

### Wildlife Tracking Outings

PFN member, Don McLeod, will once again lead members on one or more outings during the months of November to March focusing on tracks and other wildlife sign. These outings will be scheduled when weather conditions permit. The place and time will be announced by e-mail shortly before each outing. Anyone interested in attending should send an e-mail to Don McLeod at donaldmcleod.com@gmail.com so he can add you to an e-mail distribution list. If you signed up for previous outings, you would automatically receive an e-mail to confirm.

Accessibility: Moderate to somewhat challenging. These outings will all involve walking in snowy conditions.



<p>Sunday, Nov. 28 1:00 p.m. until late afternoon 15 participants</p>	<p><b>Wave Riders of Rice Lake</b></p> <p>Join Martin Parker for this traditional late November afternoon exploration of sites along the northwestern shore of Rice Lake. We will be looking for the later migrating ducks and other birds. Highlights will be the rafts of ducks riding the waves of Rice Lake and the scenic vistas overlooking the lake. Bring binoculars, telescope if you have one, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day. The trip will last until the late afternoon. Register after November 5 by email to mparker19@cogeco.ca or 705-745-4750. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Thursday, Dec. 9 7 p.m. Virtual Meeting on Zoom Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p><b>PFN Meeting: Slideshow Night</b></p> <p>It's getting close to that time of the year again! Our second online members slideshow night builds on a long and enjoyable annual PFN tradition, and we're looking for presenters. This event is currently scheduled for Thursday December 9 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. If you are interested in participating, please contact Reem Ali: reemest@hotmail.com. Reem will then email you with further details about preparing your slideshow and will schedule a test-run via Zoom with each participant closer to the day of the event. She will also provide you with logistical support during your presentation. Please note that you will need to have your slideshow prepared and ready no later than November 29 in order to allow for enough time to schedule test-runs with all of the participants. We look forward to your participation and submissions and hope that you'll be able to join us then.</p>
<p>Saturday, Dec. 11 Rain date Dec. 12 1 to 3:30 p.m. 10 participants</p>	<p><b>The Miniature World of Lichens</b></p> <p>For such fascinating and beautiful organisms, lichens are incredibly overlooked. Most mature trees right outside your door will have several species on the bark. Try taking a photo with your phone or camera and enlarge it to see the detail. Amazing what you will see. The trail at the Kawartha Highlands Signature Park has many interesting examples of lichens growing on the trees, rocks, and ground. The cover photo on <i>The Orchid</i> was taken there. This walk by the Mississauga River is very scenic both on a large and small scale. Be sure to bring a mask, your phone or camera, a hand lens if you have one and binoculars. Dress according to the forecast for the day and wear sturdy footwear as we will be</p>



PFN Coming Events	
	walking over bare rock most of the time. Members can register after December 4 by contacting sueparadis@hotmai.com Given that most of the lichens we hope to see are at ground level, we will have to cancel if there is early snow.  Accessibility: moderate
Sunday, Dec. 19 All day	<b>70<sup>th</sup> Annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count</b> Please see article on page 6 for more information.
Thursday, Jan. 13 7:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting on Zoom Invitations e-mailed to members	<b>PFN Monthly Meeting: ALUS Peterborough</b>  Farmers provide so much for our communities; from food and fiber to equipment, experience, and knowledge, the list goes on. As natural stewards, farmers also have a strong relationship with the land and are well-positioned to provide ecological services and create habitat, which they can do with support through ALUS (originally an acronym for Alternative Land Use Services), a national program working with communities across Canada. As one of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters conservation programs, ALUS Peterborough has been in the region since 2017. Join us to learn more from Kate Powell about how it works, what we have done, and where we are headed!  Kate Powell is the ALUS Peterborough Program Coordinator at the OFAH, and a Fleming and Trent grad with several years of work experience in the environmental field.
Note: Recordings of past PFN Zoom meetings can be viewed on PFN's YouTube channel at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ</a> under the playlist menu.	

## Volunteer Corner: Outing Leaders

### Submitted by Sue Paradis

I'm always looking for more volunteers so contact me if you are interested. Training is provided and an experienced leader will help until you feel ready to go on your own. I am particularly keen on finding someone with a knowledge of lichens. I can be reached by phone at 705-559-2061 or email at sueparadis@hotmai.com



## Further PFN Investments in Our Natural Heritage

### Submitted by PFN Board of Directors

At its October meeting, the Board of Directors approved two additional grants which meet our motto: "To Know, Appreciate and Conserve Nature in All Its Forms." The details are as follows:

#### PFN Community Projects Grant

A grant of \$270 to member Jay Fitzsimmons for a project in cooperation with the New Canadians Centre to introduce new Canadians to the Canadian tradition of tapping maple trees in the spring to make maple syrup. The funds will be used for materials and educational material.



### PFN Undergraduate Research Grant

A grant was awarded to Trent University student Anna Dlugosz for her 4th year thesis project which will examine *Daphnia* and determine the impact of nutrient level on gene expression.

Funding for these projects is possible due to the generosity of PFN members. Part of the funds are from the PFN Legacy Fund managed on behalf of the PFN by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. This Endowment Fund provides an annual grant which the Board has decided will be used for special projects. Applications for 2022 Community Project Grants are due in May and early June 2022.

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## Christmas Gift Ideas from the PFN

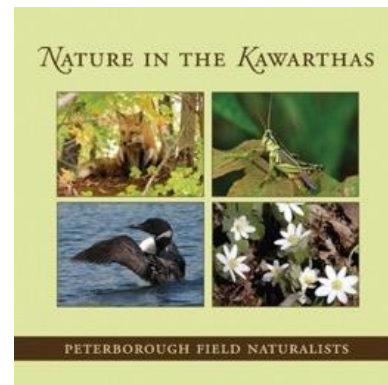
### Nature in the Kawarthas

If you are looking for a Christmas gift which focuses on the natural history of our region of the province, *Nature in the Kawarthas* is the book to purchase. *Nature in the Kawarthas* was written by PFN members and published in 2011 by Dundurn Press. It contains articles on the landforms of the region and how they were formed, along with chapters on various groups of plants and animals. There is a summary of places to visit in the region. The book contains multiple colour photographs taken primarily by PFN members. It makes a memorable gift to someone new to the region.

This PFN book can be purchased from the following retailers in Peterborough:

- Avant-Garden Shop, 165 Sherbrooke Street
- Green-Up Store, 378 Aylmer Street

(Retail price - \$32.99 plus tax)



### PFN 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pin

A pin was produced by the PFN to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PFN in 2020. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we were unable to hold an in-person celebration. Commemorative pins are still available for purchase at a cost of \$5.00 each.

Members can order the book *Nature in the Kawarthas* and the anniversary pins directly by contacting Cathy Douglas, the PFN Sales Coordinator, at [cddouglas77@gmail.com](mailto:cddouglas77@gmail.com).



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## Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, November 30 is "Giving Tuesday", which has become an increasingly well-recognized day of giving to charities, following the popular shopping events known as Black Friday and Cyber Monday. If you are in a position to do so, we would encourage you to consider making a donation to the Peterborough Field Naturalists. (Once again, a big "thank you" to those of you who have already made donations during the course of this year!)

Some of the factors that have affected our finances this past year include:

- The impact of our 2021 "membership fee holiday" for current PFN members (approx. \$4,000);
- A loss of profit normally realized at our traditional Annual General Meeting event from the bucket draw, silent auction, etc. (approx. \$700 - \$900)

In addition to this, the PFN has made a donation to the Kawartha Land Trust this year towards the acquisition of natural areas such as the Jones Wetland and Emily Creek Wetlands projects, as well as the stewardship agreement for the Bruce Kidd property in Douro Dummer. We have also incurred normal recurring expenses for the publication and mailing of our Orchid newsletter (\$3,100) as well as costs relating to insurance, ecology park bird feeders, and a number of other items.

Online donations can be made through the PFN website at <https://peterboroughnature.org>. Click on the "Make a Donation" button and follow the links. Your payment will be received, and your receipt will be issued by Canada Helps.

If you wish to renew your membership at the same time that you make a donation, click on the "Join Via Online Form" button and follow the links. Be sure to include your donation on the membership form.

General donations can be made by mailing a cheque to:

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Rene Gareau - President, Peterborough Field Naturalists

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## **70<sup>th</sup> Annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count - A Christmas Tradition**

### **Submitted by Martin Parker**

Sunday, December 19 - all day

The Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now in its 70<sup>th</sup> year, is the longest running wildlife survey in Peterborough County. The Peterborough CBC participants cover an area contained within a circle with a diameter of 24 kilometers, centered on the intersection of Chemong Road and Sunset Boulevard. This total count area is divided into smaller areas and a team of participants is assigned to each area.

Each year, Birds Canada and the National Audubon Society help coordinate and support the efforts of more than 2,500 counts throughout the western hemisphere. Christmas Bird Counts are run across Canada and the United States, as well as in Latin America, the Caribbean, and some Pacific Islands. Data collected during the Peterborough count includes details on the number of birds of each species seen or heard within a local 24-km diameter circle. Surveying this circle year after year contributes valuable long-term information on how winter birds are faring, both in our locale and across the country.

The Christmas Bird Count took root over a century ago when 27 birders in 25 localities from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, proposed a conservation-oriented alternative to the traditional 'side hunt,' a Christmas Day competition to hunt the most birds and small mammals. This alternative initiative to identify, count, and record all the birds found on Christmas Day 1900 has turned into one of North America's longest-running wildlife monitoring programs. For more information about the Christmas Bird Count, or to find the location of additional counts, visit Birds Canada's website at [birdscanada.org/cbc](http://birdscanada.org/cbc).

Organization of this year's Peterborough count has commenced and members and friends of the PFN are invited to participate. There are 10 areas within the count circle, each which will be covered by a specific group of participants. The count area will be subdivided by the area leader in order to enhance coverage.

If you are unable to participate in one of the field parties you can still assist by registering your feeder and counting the birds which visit during the day. Other participants will contribute by walking their neighbourhood. Others walk unopened road allowances. There are many ways to participate and learn more about our winter birds.

A map showing the count circle and areas is available on the PFN website [www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org). Plan now to register and participate in this Peterborough birding tradition and citizen science project. To register contact Martin Parker (count compiler) as soon as possible by phone 705-745-4750 or by e-mail [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca). The area leaders can be contacted as well.

The areas and confirmed area leaders are as follows:

Chemong/Bridgenorth .....	Don McLeod
Miller Creek/Selwyn .....	Drew Monkman
Lakefield/Otonabee East .....	Dave Milsom
Douro Wedge .....	Bill Crins & Mike Oldham
Burnham .....	Warren Dunlop & Janet Kelly
Stewart Hall/Landfill .....	Joan DiFruscia & Scott McKinlay
Airport .....	Matthew Tobey
Cavan Swamp .....	Chris Risley and Erica Nol
Jackson Park .....	Jerry Ball & Kathy Parker
Downtown .....	Martin Parker

This is the 122<sup>nd</sup> year that Christmas bird counts are being held across North America. Join this Christmas birding tradition.

## Nature Almanac for December - The Sun Stands Still

By Drew Monkman

With the fall's first snow now upon us, much of the natural world seems to slip into a gentle slumber. This is certainly not the case for humankind, however, caught up as we are in the frenzy of the holiday season. Not surprisingly, we often forget that a mystic celestial event takes place this month. Just when the sun seems to be on the brink of vanishing completely, it suddenly stops its southward march and essentially "stands still," hence the word solstice. It will then proceed to move northward once again, to climb higher and higher into the sky and to provide longer and longer days for the next six months. So it was with great joy and relief that ancient cultures on every continent celebrated this life-affirming event, an event that may even have been a precursor to faith. The Christmas tree, too, proclaims life's vigour in the face of winter. It fills our homes with the resinous fragrance of the northern forest and is the centrepiece of our holiday decorations.



Northern Cardinal photo by Don McLeod

The natural world provides many other Yuletide adornments, as well: festive winterberry holly fruits, radiant cardinals at our feeders, fluffy chickadee baubles, hoar-frosted windows, and shimmering icicles. Nature also supplies its own array of sounds for the festive season - the cracking and rumbling of ice forming on the lakes, the shrill scolding of red squirrels, the croaking of ravens patrolling shield country and the roar of the north wind as it ushers in winter. Although December sees the year come full circle, it is neither an end nor a beginning. Like every other month, it is simply part of an indivisible whole.

1. Almost all migratory birds that breed in the Kawarthas are now on their wintering grounds. Large numbers of robins spend the winter in South Carolina, most hummingbirds choose the Yucatan Peninsula, while Baltimore orioles fly all the way to Costa Rica.

2. Throughout the late fall and winter, gray squirrels are often seen high up in maple trees feeding on the keys.
3. You may still see farmers harvesting hard corn this month. Even though the plants are dry, withered and often frozen, they still have excellent food value.
4. A December moon rises about 30 degrees north of due east and sets 30 degrees north of due west.
5. Ducks lingering until freeze-up usually include common goldeneyes, common mergansers, mallards, and American black ducks. A small number of common loons, too, often remain quite late.
6. In early December, the easily-identifiable constellation Cassiopeia looms like a big letter "M" in the north sky in the evening. The Inuit imagined the shape as a pattern of stairs sculpted in the snow.
7. Balsam fir makes the perfect Christmas tree – a symmetrical shape, long-lasting needles, and a wonderful fragrance. Buying a real tree is a better environmental choice than purchasing an artificial tree.
8. Great black-backed, glaucous, and Iceland gulls turn up at the Bensfort Road landfill, at Little Lake, and on open patches of water on the larger Kawartha Lakes.
9. Most years, a small number of snowy owls arrive in the Kawarthas this month. The concessions east of Lindsay are often the best place to see them.
10. Loons sometimes become trapped in the ice when an expanse of open water freezes overnight. Iced-in birds can fall prey to bald eagles.
11. On local lakes such as Jack, Katchewanooka, Buckhorn, and Stoney, eagles are sometimes seen sitting on the ice near open water or perched in nearby trees.
12. In past decades, all of the Kawartha Lakes were usually frozen by December 12. However, freeze-up is often much later now as a result of climate change.
13. The Geminid meteor shower usually peaks around the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is thought to be intensifying every year. Recent showers have seen 120 to 160 meteors per hour under optimal conditions.
14. Skunks may emerge from their winter slumber to search for food during mild spells.
15. The red squirrel's coat is now a brilliant russet. It is also much thicker than the summer coat.
16. White spruce and eastern hemlock release their seeds during late fall and winter. It is not uncommon to find the snow beneath these species powdered with seeds.
17. Between mid-December and early January, Christmas Bird Counts take place across North and Central America. There are two local counts: the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count and the Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count.
18. "Nip twigs" on the ground below conifers are a sure sign of red squirrel activity. Squirrels nip off the tips of conifer branches allowing the twig to fall to the ground. They then scurry down the tree, remove the cones and buds, and leave the rest of the twig there. The buds are usually consumed immediately.
19. By 8 p.m., the Andromeda galaxy is nearly directly overhead. At 2.2 million light years away, it is the farthest celestial object detectable with the naked eye.
20. December is the peak calling month for both the eastern screech-owl and the great horned owl.



Common Loon in winter plumage. Photo: Laurie Healey



21. In 2021, December 21 marks the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year and the first official day of winter. The sun rises at its southernmost point on the eastern horizon, and sets at its southernmost point in the west. Sunrise is not until about 7:45 am, while sunset is upon us by about 4:35 pm! This means that it traces its lowest and shortest trajectory of the year through the southern sky. With nights as long as June days, it's no wonder that the ancients prayed that the sun would not disappear altogether.
22. Moose shed their antlers between now and February.
23. The last of our local "giant" Canada geese usually depart in late December. Most go no further south than Pennsylvania.
24. When viewed from a distance, the upper branches of white birch create a beautiful purple haze in the forest canopy.
25. The chance of having a white Christmas in the Kawarthas is over 80%.
26. In the southeast night sky, look for the Winter Six: Orion, Taurus, Auriga, Canis Major and Canis Minor. The winter constellations shine brightly and are easy to pick out.
27. A huge bank of clouds along the horizon is a common winter sight when you look south from Peterborough on a clear day. These clouds form over Lake Ontario as a result of water vapour rising from the relatively warm lake and condensing in the colder air above.
28. Both the sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks are quite common in the city during the winter months. They are probably attracted by the large number of prey species such as starlings and mourning doves to be found in built up areas. These hawks fly with a characteristic flap-flap-glide style and can be easily identified at considerable distances.
29. Watch for overwintering birds such as robins feeding on clusters of mountain-ash berries, wild grape, sumac, and European buckthorn.
30. If you live outside of the city near a forest or woodlot, you may have flying squirrels providing nightly entertainment at your bird feeder. They are quite tame.
31. Even though the days grow longer after the winter solstice, the increase in daylight is in the afternoon, not in the morning.

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## Survey for Research Project

Participate in this short survey to help us understand and improve environmental sustainability initiatives in Peterborough!



This research project is being conducted by Carson Hvenegaard, a Master's student at Trent University.

It is looking at municipal governments and local environmental organizations in the Peterborough area. It aims to understand how they collaborate on environmental initiatives and how these collaborations make them more effective.

This survey will ask 12 questions about your participation in and knowledge of local environmental initiatives. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. Please click the link below to complete the survey.

[https://trentu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dnJ6dsC6W38iBTw](https://trentu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dnJ6dsC6W38iBTw)

## Outing Report for October 24: Fascinating Fungi

Submitted by Lynn Smith

Thirteen participants gathered at Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park for a walk amongst some very old trees in search of fungi. Sue Paradisis introduced us to her coleader, Rachel Baehr. Rachel is a graduate of the Fleming College Conservation Biology program and has a keen interest in mushrooms and assorted fungi.

Throughout the walk, Sue had us looking up, up the tall, straight trunks of trees hundreds of years old and into the canopy above. She pointed out traits such as ridged or plated bark that indicate that a tree is older. Rachel had us looking down, down at the base of trees, along logs, amongst leaf litter, and part way up trunks. There are many shapes, textures and colours in the world of fungi that we explored. Rachel was a wealth of knowledge and we enjoyed her enthusiasm, especially when she came upon an unexpected fungi.

Burnham forest really is an 'enchanted' forest. We all learned something new that day and were inspired to learn more. I promptly went out and bought a book that Rachel recommended: *Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada* by George Barron.

A few fungi found on our walk:

- Turkey tail
- Brown banded polypore
- Dead man's fingers
- Scarlet waxy cap
- Various colours of jelly fungi and slime fungi
- Shaggy mane



Turkey tail fungi. Photo: Sue Paradisis

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## Outing Report for November 13: Exploring The Boundary Layer Through Mosses & Liverworts

Submitted by Fiona McKay

On Saturday, November 13, a group of ten PFN members joined Sue Paradisis and Leila Grace at Fleming College's Sutherland Campus for an afternoon of moss and liverwort discovery. The weather forecast had called for rain but fortune was with the group and the rain held off. The day was partly sunny and the temperature a brisk but pleasant 7 °C.

The group walked the Creekside Crawl Trail, on the southside of the campus. While only 316 m long and purported to take only three minutes to bike, it took our group about two hours to navigate the route and back to the starting point. Leila, a former Rouge Valley Park hike leader with a degree in botany, gave the group a quick lesson in moss reproduction and structure, which would help us understand what we were going to see as we searched for mosses and liverworts.

Mosses and liverworts belong to the bryophyte division of plants, an ancient grouping believed to have evolved from green algae. They are the earliest land plants and are small, lack vascular tissue, reproduce with spores and like moist environments. It is because of the lack of vascular tissue to transport water and nutrients that mosses and liverworts remain so small. Mosses have tiny leaves, usually pointed, with a midvein that helps to move water from one part of a leaf to another and the leaves grow in a spiral pattern. Liverworts have lobed leaves - only one cell thick - which tend to grow in rows, have a leatherlike



Photo: Sue Paradisis

appearance and lack the midvein found in mosses. Fun fact: Liverworts tend to synthesize volatile oils, which gives them a spicy aroma.

We learned that mosses and liverworts are very niche-specific and are often found by searching for the specific habitat type. We also learned first-hand that mosses and liverworts are extremely hard to identify in the field. Often it was only possible to identify them to the family level. But that did not stop folks from spending considerable time hunkered down examining specimens with magnifying glasses, or reverse binoculars which, yes, does work. While a formal tally of species found was not kept, we were fortunate to find a number of species of mosses and club-mosses and three species of liverwort (various-leaved cresswort, snakewort and flat-leaved scalewort).

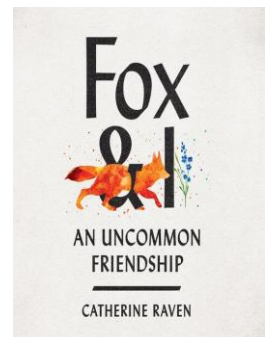


Left: An ant-like beetle (*Anthicus*) traversing some flat-leaved scalewort on a tree in Fleming Forest Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

## Book Review: *Fox & I: An Uncommon Friendship* by Catherine Raven

Reviewed by Marilyn Freeman

Author Catherine Raven had a difficult start in life. She was born into a violent, unloving family who told her she would never amount to anything. After multiple US park ranger jobs in beautiful places, a PhD in biology, and membership in the American Mensa Society, Raven proved them wrong but still had trouble relating to people. While trying to figure out what direction in life would suit her best, she bought a piece of land and built a cabin in central Montana – 100 km from the nearest small city and 50 km from the nearest grocery store. It is here that she meets the fox that she calls Fox.



Fox is clearly interested in this human and visits every day at precisely 4:15. Raven reads to him from St. Exupery's *The Little Prince*. At no point does the author try to tame the fox into being a pet. The very idea is abhorrent to one who is so engaged with wildness as it exists and is fearful of the wreckage by humans as well as the coming effects of climate change.

This rolling memoir combines observation, nature lore, past experiences as a park ranger, more present experiences as a university instructor and philosophy (specifically lessons from *The Little Prince* and *Moby Dick*). The reader comes to know a lot more about central Montana, foxes, magpies, elk, voles and various plants.

At one point, Raven muses on how to write a book on natural history. Start small, she thinks. How small? Molecules? That would be like "beginning Abraham Lincoln's biography by discussing his blood type." She reflects on advice from the famous conservationist, John Muir, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it is attached to everything else in the universe."

Wild foxes, like other "unboxed" (pet) animals, fulfil their biological role by eating, reproducing and seeking shelter. But do they have hobbies? Fox seems to have hobbies. He spies on the author by standing on his hind legs while peering into her windows. He plays hide and seek with her. He brings her voles. He seems to appreciate her company in a parallel fashion. While she does outdoor work, he does whatever foxes do nearby. He definitely enjoys being read to.

I appreciated the manner in which Raven describes what she sees while inserting natural science information. On dry, sunny, windless days of deep winter, in order to stay warm, Fox would wear his hair



standing straight up looking like a “giant salsify seed head”. Foxes belong to the dog family but their bones are less dense and weigh less than a dog of the same size. Fox weighed - maybe - 6 lbs.

This book is quirkily charming, beautifully written and engaging, but the reader has to be prepared for a rather free flowing thought approach to the narrative. *Fox & I* upends the hierarchy that places humans at the top of a pyramid. Above all, this is not a political book. It's a call for understanding, not only for what humans and climate change are doing to other sentient creatures, but how a relationship with a fox made the author more comfortable in the world. It's also an observation on how modern human life is not “evolutionarily stable.”

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## Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting

Submitted by Fiona McKay



The fall Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting, for member clubs of Ontario Nature's Nature Network, was held virtually on October 27. These meetings usually have a guest presenter on a subject of interest to clubs, as well as Ontario Nature (ON) and club updates. In this meeting, participants were treated to two informative presentations and this report will focus on those presentations and ON's update.

The meeting started with an acknowledgment and celebration of Ontario Nature's 90th Anniversary as a charity that has been protecting wild species and spaces through education, conservation and public engagement. The 7 founding clubs in 1931 were: Brodie Club (Toronto); Biological Club (Toronto); McIlwraith Ornithological Club, now called Nature London; Kent Nature Club (Chatham); Hamilton Bird Protection Society, now called Hamilton Naturalists' Club; Queen's Natural History Society (Kingston); Toronto Field Naturalists Club. While Ontario Nature's (formerly the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON)) involvement in advocacy in natural resource protection is extensive, they list the following as significant accomplishments:

- 1934: A FON report led to the designation of wilderness areas in Algonquin Park and a nature reserve at Point Pelee National Park.
- 1941: Along with the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association, FON launched the Conservation Authority system in Ontario.
- 1954: The Ontario Parks Act is passed, largely due to the efforts of FON.
- 1971: FON's "Mail a Can to John" campaign inspires Ontarians to mail in thousands of cans and bottles to Premier John Robarts as a call for legislation on disposable containers. A FON campaign results in Ontario's first Endangered Species Act.
- 1992: After two decades of FON campaigning, the Ontario Wetlands Policy was approved by the government.
- 1998: More than 1,500 people arrived at Queen's Park to participate in the "Portage for Wilderness", a call to encourage the government to create new parks and protected areas in northern Ontario.
- 2001: FON's work results in the passage of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001, protecting almost 195,000 hectares of land on the moraine from urban development.
- 2009: Ontario Nature works closely with the provincial government to draft effective policies and regulations to support implementation of the Endangered Species Act, 2007.
- 2015: Ontario Nature and its Youth Council play a lead role in convincing the provincial government to restrict the use of neonicotinoids.

- 2017: Snapping Turtle hunting was banned – Over 10,000 people signed ON's action alert. Currently, ON voices are getting louder with over 20,000 people signing the alerts.
- 2019: With the support of members and Nature Network member groups, ON helped stop Schedule 10 of Bill 66, which threatened the drinking water, farmland and natural heritage of every municipality in Ontario.

A full listing of Ontario Nature's accomplishments can be found on their website at <http://ontarionature.org/about/history-milestones/>

Ontario Nature welcomed three new Nature Network groups: Trees for Halton Hills (Carolinian East region) – self-proclaimed “tree huggers” with a mission to plant 65,000 trees in the next 5 years – one for every resident; Street to Trail (Lake Ontario North region) – a Toronto based group that takes homeless and marginalized adults into nature for day hikes and camping trips; Toronto Nature Stewards (Lake Ontario North region) – volunteers, citizens and scientists dedicated to “protecting, regenerating and celebrating” the Toronto Ravine System and natural spaces through stewardship by providing training and resources to lead stewards, and in helping to form long term stewardships to each piece of land through a local lens.

Details for the Annual Gathering and AGM were released: it is to be held June 10-12, 2022 in Sudbury and hosted by Sudbury Naturalists and Junction Creek Stewardship Committee. Accommodations through Laurentian University; Saturday evening events at Science North & Dynamic Earth. The plenary theme has been announced as well as some of the workshops and field trips. Information released so far include:

Plenary: “Climate Change and the North”, Dr. David Pearson, Project Lead, Climate Change and Science Communication, Up North on Climate;

Workshops: Turtle recovery and studies (Dr. Jackie Litzgus); Lake recovery (Dr. John Gunn); Insects with Entomologist Dr. Joe Shorthouse; Group of Seven and Killarney Park (Will Kershaw) [Fun Fact: Will Kershaw's son, Devon Kershaw, represented Canada in the Winter Olympics in cross-country skiing from 2005-2018. He is Canada's most decorated cross-country skier.]

Field Trips: Field Bird Sanctuary; Regreening Sites (Dr. Peter Beckett); Junction Creek; Science North VIP tour; Cruise on Ramsay Lake. You can sign up on the ON website for email alerts when more information is available and registration opens.

Ontario Nature's Jackie Ho, Protected Places Coordinator, presented an update on their Protected Places Campaign. She discussed Canada's embracing of new international targets for protected lands and waters – at least 25% protected by 2025, and at least 30% by 2030. For Ontario, this would mean doubling the protected areas in 4 years. Ontario Nature sees this as an opportunity and has created a shared vision called Your Protected Places. They are encouraging people/groups to nominate places they want to see permanently protected. The vision is presented through an interactive Story Map explorable on their website. It presents the candidate protected areas, each with a short description, photos, and links to more information, accessible by clicking on a point on the map. So far, there are about 200 sites. Check it out at: [tinyurl.com/yourprotectedplaces](https://tinyurl.com/yourprotectedplaces).

They are committed to Indigenous engagement in support of protecting nature on unceded lands. They have held community workshops on Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and are continuing discussions on collaboration, co-management and co-governance. It is estimated that 2.87M ha of Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), 105K ha of provincially significant wetland (PSW) and approximately 12.5K ha of Provincial Wildlife Areas could be realized on unceded crown lands in the province. Closer to home, they estimate 92.9K ha of ANSI and 203K ha of PSW could be realized within the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Jackie also discussed the opportunity presented by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Areas. These areas include lands identified and set aside by industry. FSC embraces Free Prior and Informed

Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous communities. FSC lands could realize over 1M ha of candidate protected areas.

Jackie also described Ontario Nature's efforts regarding Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss. They have hired 3 Protected Places interns, are conducting research on Nature-Based Climate Solutions (NBCS), and are developing a carbon assessment tool for candidate protected areas. They continue to release new blogs and articles.

For more information on Ontario Nature, its programs, campaigns and membership, check out their website at <https://ontarionature.org>.

Emma Bider, of Climate Legacy, gave an interesting presentation on this relatively new organization. It was started in 2019 by a few retired individuals. Its intent is to engage and inspire seniors in climate change action. They believe seniors are a huge source of energy and enthusiasm and that the most impressive work comes from community-minded people caring about their neighbourhoods, their ecosystems and their family's future. It accomplishes this through three pillars: Voice, Time and Money. They believe that just talking about climate change can make a big difference. Seniors can use their voice by sending letters, joining consultations or contributing to reports and through these venues have a big impact. They believe that retirees have more time than young people (or at least more flexibility with that time) to organize events, go to council meetings or tinker with small solutions to big problems. She identified a few initiatives that folks may be interested in checking out: Climate Network Lanark (<https://climatenetworklanark.ca/>); For Our Grandchildren (<https://forourgrandchildren.ca/>) – check out the Peterborough Chapter news under 'Learn More'; Below 2 C (<https://below2c.org/>) – a website dedicated to raising awareness of the need to limit the warming of the planet to less than 2 degrees C. And lastly money: they have organized webinars on green investing, pension advocacy and public investments in fossil fuels, as examples. Money is a major element of the climate crisis and the issue needs to be tackled from all sides, including individual and public spending. For more information, visit their website at <https://climatelegacy.ca>.

## The Flasher In The Woods

'Confusion' expresses aptly how chaotic your little flock is seen  
As it searches for bugs among leaves, some turned tan, others still green.  
A spritely Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, you brighten my afternoon  
Spent watching birds and wondering, knowing, you'll fly south too soon.

Perching fleetingly on a white cedar, showing your subtle plumage of fall,  
You converse with your fellow bug hunters with a sharp 'chep' call.  
Deciduous leaves turn yellow and drop, looking crinkled and brown.  
We must wait till next spring to see your flashy butt, flanks, and crown.

For now you'll stay on, glean and hawk insects and spiders in scarce number,  
Eating berries, fruit, and seeds until you depart as bare trees slumber.  
Nature celebrates the passing of the breeding season with colour and flair,  
But it won't be the same at all for a woodland walk when you're not there.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2021



Yellow-rumped Warbler in September. Photo: Cathy Douglas



## From The Archives: Have You Responded to the Natural Areas Strategy?

By Drew Monkman; From *The Orchid*, Vol. 40, No. 8, November 1994

As you are probably aware, the PFN continues to spearhead a drive to protect and better manage our city's remaining natural areas. The project, known as the Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy, is soliciting public opinion on how to best go about safeguarding natural features in the City. An eight-page tabloid describing the project was distributed to 27,000 addresses in Peterborough and included a response form by which people can provide us with their input. This public consultation is essential if the project is to receive the necessary support from City Council.

I am therefore asking members to make sure you read the tabloid and, if at all possible, to fill out the response form and let us know what you think.

Editorial Note: This November, the City Council was considering the adoption of a new Official Plan for the City. A component is a Natural Areas Strategy. Twenty-six years after the first attempt, the need to have a Natural Strategy incorporated into the Official Plan continues.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
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Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Thursday, December 23.

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org

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





## The Orchid Diary



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

Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker

at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone 705-745-4750

In last month's "The Orchid Diary," the dates given for the previous records on <b>Red Phalarope</b> were incorrect. The actual sightings were on October 1, 1984 and October 22, 2018. All sightings were of a single individual who was present one day only according to Donald Sutherland.	
Several interesting reports from mid-October from Iain Rayner at his nocturnal night call (NFC) station near Lakefield: On October 13, he recorded <b>Solitary Sandpiper, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Northern Parula, Scarlet Tanager, &amp; Rose-breasted Grosbeak.</b> On October 14 he recorded <b>Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, &amp; Indigo Bunting.</b> On both nights there were also lots of regular migrants.	
Oct 16	Luke Berg had a <b>House Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler &amp; Nashville Warbler</b> within the Trent University Nature Area. Tim Haan had another Nashville Warbler in the Corrigan Hill area of the city.
Oct 19	Donald Sutherland had 3 <b>Red-necked Grebes</b> on Pigeon Lake off Sandy Point. Iain Rayner recorded the overflight of a <b>Solitary Sandpiper</b> & several <b>Common Redpolls</b> at his NFC near Lakefield. He also recorded the call notes of a presumed <b>Nelson's Sparrow.</b> Dave Milsom had a <b>Swainson's Thrush</b> in the Thompson Bay area of the city.
Oct 20	Luke Berg had a <b>Red-eyed Vireo</b> in the Trent University Nature Area. Matthew Gavin reported a <b>Carolina Wren</b> was visiting his feeder in the northern part of Armour Road. Tim Haan had a <b>Common Redpoll</b> in the Corrigan Hill area. The Rayner NFC near Lakefield recorded overflights of <b>Swainson's Thrushes, Common Redpolls, Bay-breasted Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warblers, &amp; Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>
Oct 21	Donald Sutherland had an <b>Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Parula &amp; Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b> at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
Oct 22	Scott Gibson located a <b>Ross's Goose</b> with the <b>Canada Geese</b> in the pond at the north end of the Peterborough Landfill Site -- seen during the day by 18+ observers and photo was in the last issue of <i>The Orchid</i> . <b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b> reports: Mike Burrell from the 8 <sup>th</sup> Line of Douro, and by Dave Milsom & Cathy Douglas from Nephton Ridge and by Andrew Brown from the Trent U. Rotary Trail. Kristyn Ferguson & Mhairi McFarlane had an <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> at Viamede Resort, Stoney Lake. Chris Risley & Ben Taylor had a <b>Nashville Warbler</b> in the Corrigan Hill area of the city.
Oct 23	The <b>Ross's Goose</b> initially reported yesterday was relocated on the south shore of Little Lake and seen by multiple observers (16+) Donald Sutherland located 2 <b>Black Scoters</b> off Sandy Point, Stoney Lake -- seen by others during the day. Still present the next day according to other reports on eBird. Iain Rayner's NFC recorded the passage of a <b>Swainson's Thrush.</b> Luke Berg had a <b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> along the Lang-Hastings Trail between Villiers and Blezard.
Oct 24	Donald Sutherland had a <b>Northern Goshawk &amp; Red-shouldered Hawk</b> at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.

	Dave Milsom & Cathy Douglas had a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> at Nephton Ridge. They had an <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> & <b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Ian Sturdee & Brad Xamin had a <b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b> near Cardova Lake. Mike Burrell had an <b>Eastern Towhee</b> in his yard on the 8 <sup>th</sup> Line of Douro. Ken McKeen photographed a Fox Sparrow in his yard near Buckhorn. He noted there were also some <b>White-crowned Sparrows</b> and 20 <b>Golden-crowned Kinglets</b> .
Oct 26	<b>Ross's Goose</b> still present on Little Lake according to Trevor MacLaurin.
Oct 27	Iain Rayner had a <b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b> near Lakefield. Luke Berg had an <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> on Webster Road, Douro-Dummer Twp. Donald Sutherland had a <b>Gray Catbird</b> on Edenderry Line, Ennismore area - still present next day... Seen on Nov 5 in same area by Cathy Douglas.
Oct 29	Luke Berg had a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> near Lakefield. Donald Sutherland had an <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
Oct 30	Donald Sutherland had 7 <b>Red-necked Grebes</b> on Pigeon Lake off Sandy Point.
Oct 31	Brendan Boyd reported a <b>Carolina Wren</b> is still present in the northern end of Armour Rd - observed again on Nov 4 - may remain in area for the winter. Jerry Ball had 8 <b>Snow Buntings</b> near Elim Lodge, Trent Lakes. Off the Fothergill Causeway, he had 7 <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> , 5 <b>Hooded Mergansers</b> & 2 <b>Wood Ducks</b> .
Nov 1	Donald Sutherland had a late-departing <b>Turkey Vulture</b> at the Peterborough Landfill area. Colin Jones had a <b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b> in the Raymond/Cochrane Park area. Jerry Ball had a <b>Belted Kingfisher</b> on the Otonabee River at south end of Monaghan Road.
Nov 2	Iain Rayner's NFC recorded overflights of 3 <b>Dunlin</b> with two more on Nov 3. Jerry Ball & Martin Parker had a <b>Northern Shrike</b> near Buckley Lake, several <b>Eastern Bluebirds</b> on Scriven Line, a <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> off Pengelly Point, Rice Lake and 4 <b>River Otters</b> playing in the Otonabee River south of Lock 24. Off Pengelly, they also observed in the setting sun a large mixed flock of <b>scaup</b> and other waterfowl.
Nov 4	Sheila Craig reported an <b>American Widgeon</b> off Pengelly Point, Rice Lake. Up to three present in the same area in the days following by multiple observers.
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owls</b> were recorded during the evenings of Nov 3 & 4 at the NFC by Jeff Stewart near Millbrook and by Iain Rayner at his NFC near Lakefield from Nov 4 to 10.	
Nov 6	Donald Sutherland & Amy Simple had a <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake
Nov 7	A <b>Snow Goose</b> was present in a flock of Canada Geese on the Otonabee River above Lock 25. First report was in the morning by Iain Rayner with numerous reports throughout the day. Was being reported daily in the same area until end of period. At dawn, Iain Rayner & Matthew Gavin had a <b>Horned Grebe</b> and a <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> off Pengelly Point, Rice Lake - still present the next day. Matthew Gavin had an <b>American Woodcock</b> along Scriven Road, Bailieboro area. <b>Fox Sparrow</b> reports on this day: Tony Barrett in his yard on Whitfield Drive; Luke Berg from Lang-Hastings Trail, Villiers Line to Blezard; Matthew Gavin & Iain Rayner at Pengelly Point. Donald Sutherland had an <b>Eastern Towhee</b> along Hannah Road, Bailieboro. Tony Barrett also had a <b>Common Grackle</b> at his feeder on Whitfield Drive - present following days.
Nov 8	Olivia Maillet & Andrew Brown had a <b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b> along the Rotary Greenway Trail near Trent. Bill Crins had a <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in Beavermead Park. Ainsley Boyd had a <b>Common Grackle</b> on Parkhill Road west of the city.
Nov 9	Additional <b>Common Grackles</b> reports: Marty Obbard from Lakehurst, Wendy Hogan from Catchacoma area and Donald Sutherland from Kerry Line, Ennismore.



	Donald McLeod photographed a <b>Golden Eagle</b> flying over in the Lancaster Bay area of Chemong Lake. He also noted a large raft of approximately 1000 <b>Scaup</b> were present on the bay.
Nov 10	At Pengelly Point, Donald Sutherland had 2 <b>American Wigeon</b> , 86 <b>Redhead</b> , 2 <b>Horned Grebe</b> and a <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> . <b>Fox Sparrow</b> reports by Tony Barrett from Whitfield Road (present until Nov 13) & Donald Sutherland from Squirrel Creek CA. <b>Common Grackle</b> report by Dave Milsom from Scollard Drive & Tim Haan from Corrigan Hill. King Baker observed a <b>Bald Eagle</b> attack an <b>Osprey</b> at Chandos Lake. The Osprey had a fish and the two conducted an aerial dance for about five minutes. The Osprey won and retained the fish it had in its talons.
Nov 11	A <b>Dunlin</b> was recorded flying over at the NFC operated by Jeff Stewart near Millbrook. Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet had a <b>Golden Eagle</b> flying over along the Rotary Greenway Trail near Trent U. Mike Burrell had a <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in his yard on 8 <sup>th</sup> Line of Douro - still present on Nov 14.
Nov 12	Dave Milsom had a <b>Redhead</b> on Pigeon Lake off Edenderry Line, Ennismore. Iain Rayner had a <b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b> in a large flock of gulls at the Peterborough Landfill Site area. <b>Common Grackle</b> observed by Sue Paradisis, Lynn Smith & Marilyn Hubley from Wood Duck Lane, Bailieboro. Jerry Ball had 3 <b>Bonaparte's Gulls</b> on Rice Lake off Hall's Landing, 40 <b>Snow Buntings</b> along David Fife Line and 12 <b>Cedar Waxwings</b> near Buckley Lake.
Nov 13	Gillian Holmes, Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet had 124 <b>Redheads</b> , 1 <b>Horned Grebe</b> & 1 <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> at Pengelly Point, Rice Lake. Cathy Dueck reported a very late <b>Broad-winged Hawk</b> in the Havelock area. Luke Berg had a <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in the Trent U. Nature Area. Joanne Driscoll photographed a <b>Barred Owl</b> in her yard in the Raymond Street area.
Nov 14	Cathy Douglas had 3 <b>American Wigeon</b> , 90 <b>Redhead</b> , & 1 <b>Horned Grebe</b> at Pengelly Point; and had a <b>Double-crested Cormorant</b> off Island View Drive. Iain Rayner had a late-departing <b>Marsh Wren</b> at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Colin Jones observed a <b>Gray Catbird</b> along the Parkway between Fairbairn and Hilliard.
Nov 14	Amy Semple reported the 3 <b>American Wigeon</b> are still present off Pengelly Point, Rice Lake. <b>Sandhill Crane</b> reports: Cathy Douglas had 2 near Lock 19, Donald Sutherland had 2 in the Birdsall Wildlife Area, and Luke Berg & Matthew Tobey had 18 fly over at Nephton Ridge. Luke Berg & Matthew Tobey also had a <b>Golden Eagle</b> at Nephton Ridge.

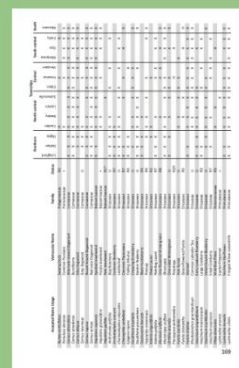
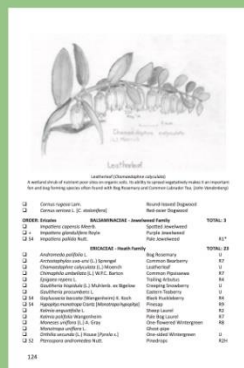
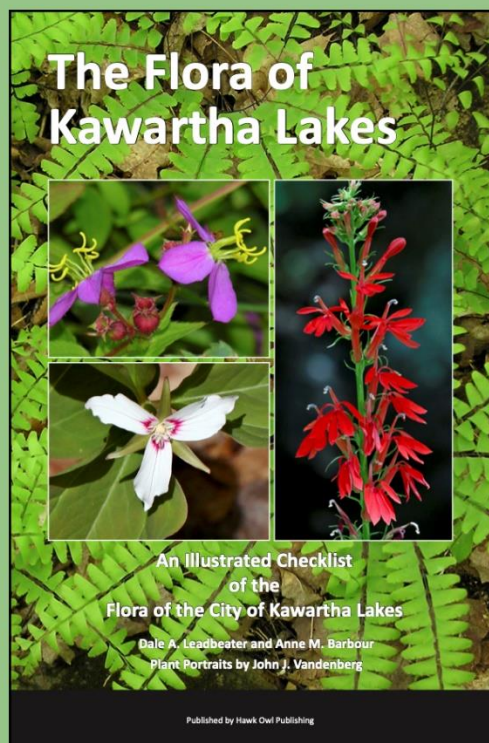


Left: Phil Shaw got a surprise when he found this salamander crawling in the grass in mid-November in East City on the Hargrove Trail off Marsdale Drive. It was unusual to find a salamander in an urban neighbourhood in the city, not to mention an energetic one at this time of year. The consensus on iNaturalist and The Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Facebook group was that it is an *Ambystoma* 'unisexual complex' mole salamander.

Martin Parker has copies of the book *The Flora of Kawartha Lakes* advertised on the next page. PFN members can contact him at mparker19@cogeco.ca or 705-745-4750 to obtain a copy.



# New Publication



## The Flora of Kawartha Lakes

### An Illustrated Checklist of the Flora of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Dale A. Leadbeater and Anne M. Barbour  
Plant Portraits by John J. Vandenberg

A fully researched, current and historical list of all documented plant species found in this wonderfully diverse part of Ontario. Introductory chapters cover history, geography and geology. The main list has the status of each species and a complete matrix lists all plant records as of 2021 geographically by CKL Townships. 216 pages with over 150 photographs and illustrations. Spiral bound for ease of use.

**\$39.00 Inc. Taxes**

Available from:

[www.hawkowlpublishing.ca](http://www.hawkowlpublishing.ca)

Dale Leadbeater: [ckl4flora@gmail.com](mailto:ckl4flora@gmail.com)

Anne Barbour: [anne.barbour31@yahoo.com](mailto:anne.barbour31@yahoo.com)

For more details contact Phill at Hawk Owl Publishing: [hawkowl@bell.net](mailto:hawkowl@bell.net)

# Membership Application Form

Memberships may be  
obtained by mailing this  
completed form to:

Peterborough Field Naturalists  
PO Box 1532  
Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7



**PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS**

## Contact Information:

Name(s):

Phone(s):

Address:

Email(s):

I would like to receive The Orchid by (pick one): ☐ Mail Delivery ☐ Email ☐ Both

## Membership type and fee schedule:

**Notice:** Membership fees provide only a small part of the funds required to operate the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Donations from members like you help us offer a diverse range of programming for everyone. Please consider including a donation with your membership so that we can continue to serve you and the Peterborough community. **Please make cheques payable to Peterborough Field Naturalists.**

I have included a donation with my membership fees:

☐ Yes or ☐ No

If yes, amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1. Single Adult \$30 ☐

2. Single Student or Youth \$15 ☐

3. Family \$40\* ☐

**\* Please give the names and ages of children wishing to enroll in the Junior Field Naturalists:**

Name	Age

Name	Age

## ◀◀◀ New Member Information ▶▶▶

### Main interests:

☐ Natural Environment

☐ Reptiles and Amphibians

☐ Botany

☐ Birds

☐ Aquatic Life

☐ Geology

☐ Insects

☐ Astronomy

☐ Mammals

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### How do you hope to participate?

☐ Outings

☐ Citizen Science

☐ Meetings

☐ Junior Naturalists

### Volunteers are always needed. Are you interested in any of these activities?

☐ Join the PFN Board

☐ Sit on research or conservation committees

☐ Lead an outing

☐ Assist with meetings

☐ Work on field projects

☐ Help with the Orchid publication

☐ Help the junior naturalists

☐ Give a presentation

### Liability Waiver (New and Returning Members):

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 my underage children.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_