



## Annual Report for 2021

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

#### **Memberships - Jim Young**

At the end of 2021, there were 264 memberships (up from 176) representing 458 individuals (up from 275). Online membership application and fee/donation payment appears to be contributing to membership increase.

#### **Members Meetings - Steve Paul**

Since moving to Zoom-only presentation format in May 2020, we have continued to provide great content for our members all the way through 2021! We learned about tracking migration patterns and threats to songbirds on their journey to Central and South America. We looked at effective methods in using herbicides in land restoration efforts to remove invasive plants while protecting native plants. We discovered the passion of dedicated volunteers in helping restore the population of Trumpeter Swans and Monarch butterflies in Ontario. We looked at gardening with native plants, and the insects they attract. We were presented with fascinating research on the shifting distributions of Canada lynx and bobcat in Ontario. We heard about conservation projects to help protect turtles and snakes in Central Ontario, and were even taken on a journey to learn about reptiles and amphibians in Arizona. I want to provide a very special thank you to Reem Ali for all her hard work and dedication behind the scenes, to make sure each and every presentation went off without a hitch. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

#### **Outings - Sue Paradisis**

For the second year in a row, PFN was severely limited by COVID-19 in its ability to offer outings to members. Although many were planned, less than half took place. Throughout spring and summer, we were restricted by provincial mandates. Nonetheless, what we were able to offer at the beginning and end of the year was enthusiastically embraced by members. After months of lockdowns, people were happy to spend some time outdoors with like-minded individuals. In addition to birding, we learned more about fungi, lichens, mosses and liverworts. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers who shared their time and knowledge.

#### **The Orchid - Kathryn Sheridan**

It was another COVID-19 year for the PFN's newsletter, The Orchid, meaning fewer outings and nature events to advertise and report on. However, a sense of normalcy in the newsletter was maintained by regular features (e.g., book reviews, nature almanacs, Orchid Diary, From the Archives, poems...) and many excellent photos of flora and fauna that members sent in. Orchid contributors are listed further on in this document. Many thanks to all of them for sharing their observations and talents, and for helping to keep the club connected via our newsletter!

#### **Junior Field Naturalists - Jay Fitzsimmons, Stephanie Collins, Lara Griffin**

Due to the pandemic, we did not conduct any activities in 2021. Hopefully conditions will allow activities in 2022.

### **Digital Communication – Marilyn Hubley**

The PFN Facebook page has 2793 followers, broken down as follows: Peterborough, ON, 24.1%, Toronto, ON, 4.9%, Lakefield, ON, 2%, Ottawa, ON, 1.9%, Lindsay, ON, 1.2%, Douro, ON, 1%, Millbrook, ON, 1%, Bucharest, Romania 0.8%, Hamilton, ON, 0.8%, Keene, ON, 0.8%

Instagram followers have gone from 580 in Jan 2021 to 892 (up 312) and Twitter has gone from 2,319 to 2,385 (up 66). Our new TikTok page has 17 followers. The PFN YouTube channel has 102 subscribers. Recordings of past PFN Zoom meetings can be viewed on PFN's YouTube channel under the playlist menu.

PFN Social Media Sites: Instagram: @PtboNature Twitter: @PtboNature YouTube: peterboroughnature  
TikTok: peterboroughnature

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Ontario Nature Representative – Fiona McKay**

As part of its commitment to nature, in both advocating for and spreading the word, Ontario Nature (ON) maintains a province-wide network of individuals and over 155 conservation groups: the "Nature Network". The PFN is one of 29 groups that make up the Lake Ontario North Region. The Region hosts two meetings a year - one in the spring and one in the fall - to share knowledge, challenges, accomplishments and best practices with other groups in the region.

2021 had many of the same challenges as 2020, with the continuing COVID-19 pandemic affecting most of the clubs' normal operations. The move from in-person to virtual meetings was adopted by most clubs, while outdoor activities were reduced to limited handfuls of individuals or canceled outright. Somewhat counter-intuitively, most clubs experienced an increase in membership. Video-meetings were generally well attended, perhaps in response to people getting out more, as indoor options were minimal. While the increased use of club properties and trails was welcomed, it also resulted in an increase in vandalism and dumping. Consequently, several clubs commented on having to erect signs to educate users about trail etiquette.

The PFN supported several advocacy submissions of Ontario Nature including: ongoing support opposing Minister's Zoning Orders (MZO) that override legal and policy protections for farmland and natural heritage features and areas across Ontario; signatory to ON's letter to the province strongly opposing its delay in protections for Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) under the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA), and; signatory to ON's submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO # 019-3136), "Grow the Greenbelt" to promote a more ambitious approach to protect precious farmland, groundwater and natural areas across the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH), building the region's resilience to climate change.

### **Club Sales – Cathy Douglas**

Sales of PFN publications continued. Books are available for purchase by contacting either Martin Parker or Cathy Douglas. In addition, the PFN also supplies its book *Nature in the Kawarthas* to two local businesses: the Avant-Garden Shop and the GreenUP Store. Courtesy of an article that appeared in the Peterborough Examiner in December, both of these stores sold out of books at Christmas, and additional stock had to be purchased by the PFN.

80th anniversary pins are still available for purchase through Cathy Douglas.

### **Archives – Martin Parker**

Regular maintenance of the PFN Archives continued during the year. Donald Sutherland undertook the task of digitizing the issues from the 1950s and 1960s.

### **PFN Legacy Fund – Martin Parker**

The annual grant to the PFN from the PFN Legacy Fund (an endowed fund managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough) was \$2,230. These funds were used for the following special initiatives of the PFN: PFN Awards and Support of the Peterborough Regional Science Fair; registration fees for the participants of the Petroglyphs & Fenelon Falls Butterfly Counts; costs for organizing the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count; PFN Research Grant to Anna Dlugosz at Trent University; PFN Community Project Grant to Brian Wales for Bird Houses at the Lakefield Lagoon, Turtle Conservation Centre for special UV Lights, and Jay Fitzsimmons for a project to introduce new Canadians to maple syrup production; and a special grant to Otonabee Conservation for rehabilitation of Jackson Creek Trail.

### **CITIZEN-SCIENCE – NATURE STUDY**

The principal citizen-science or nature studies projects conducted by PFN were the annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count, Petroglyphs Bird Count, and Petroglyphs Butterfly Count, continuing documentation of flora and fauna of Harper Park, and The Orchid Diary. This year the PFN co-sponsored the Fenelon Falls Butterfly Count in cooperation with the Kawartha Field Naturalists. 2021 was the initial year of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas-3 and many PFN members participated.

Two students who were enrolled in the Conservation Biology course at Trent University completed their placements with the PFN as part of their course requirements. Karina Bissonnette is preparing a summary of the reptiles and amphibians of the County and Shelby Cohen is updating information on mammals of Peterborough.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

#### **The Harper Park Stewardship – Lynn Smith**

A Watershed Planning Study was initiated by the City of Peterborough to explore the impacts of activities and a growing population across the watershed. It will provide insight to help the City develop best practices for land use and management of water resources.

In addition, the Harper Creek Subwatershed Study was started. The Harper Creek Subwatershed (SWS) contains one of the largest natural features in Peterborough: Harper Park and the Harper Creek Provincially Significant Wetland. According to Ian Boland, Senior Watershed Project Manager, a detailed inventory of the water resource system will be undertaken which includes the natural heritage features, functions and cultural values. In 2021, Phase 1, Watershed Characterization was completed and a Public Open House was planned for January 18.

Ultimately, the Harper Creek Subwatershed Study will recommend a land use plan and a detailed management and stormwater strategy that satisfies the policy direction of the Provincial Policy Statement, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and the City of Peterborough Official Plan. This study has provided an opportunity for two PFN members (Sue Paradisis and Lynn Smith) to participate in a Working Group and to contribute concerns and comments especially as it pertains to Harper Park. Throughout the process, open houses will be organized to inform the public and to encourage input.

#### **Ecology Park Bird Feeders – JB Jaboor and Kathryn Sheridan**

The three bird feeders at Ecology Park were filled weekly by PFN volunteers with black oilseed for the months of January to March, November and December.

#### **Advocacy Committee – Anda Rungis, Sue Paradisis, Ted Vale and Martin Parker**

The PFN participated in numerous community engagement opportunities associated with land use policy and development proposals within the City of Peterborough and the County of Peterborough, including the Transportation Master Plan, Canadian Canoe Museum and the Trent Lands Plan. In this way we heard

directly from the proponents about how natural features and areas would be considered in the proposals and we exercised our opportunity to proactively provide comments. PFN presented to Council and submitted written recommendations for the mitigation of environmental impacts and protection of greenspace in the City of Peterborough's new Official Plan which was adopted on November 21, 2021. Written input was also sent regarding the Trent University Integrated Senior's Village and development proposals in the Harper Creek watershed. The PFN supported advocacy efforts by Ontario Nature seeking a rigorous environmental assessment process for the Bradford by-pass highway.

### **PROMOTION**

Unfortunately, the normal shows and displays attended by PFN were not held in 2021 due to COVID-19. The PFN was mentioned regularly in the 'Northcrest' and periodically in the 'Changing Seasons' columns in the *Peterborough Examiner* along with other articles in the newspaper. The August 27th 'Changing Seasons' article was on the PFN. Surplus copies of *The Orchid* were provided to local businesses for distribution to their customers.

### **PFN AWARDS**

At the Annual Meeting, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following individuals: Lynn Smith for years as a dedicated volunteer, Marie Duchesneau for arranging members meetings for several years and other volunteer efforts, Donald Sutherland for years being a leader in documenting the flora and fauna of the province, and Jim Cashmore for his efforts ensuring natural areas were protected and walking trails were provided in the Lily Lake area.

### **2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President** – Rene Gareau

**Vice-President** – Sue Paradisis

**Secretary** – Martin Parker

**Treasurer** – Ted Vale

**Directors** – Philip Shaw, Reem Ali, Sue Paradisis, Fiona McKay, Anda Rungis, Steve Paul, Cathy Douglas, Lynn Smith, Marilyn Hubley and Maela Kaminski (board intern)

### **VOLUNTEERS**

#### **Members Meetings**

Coordinators – Steve Paul and Philip Shaw

Speakers – Bridget Stutchbury, Verena Sesin, Donna Lewis, Shelby Colby, Karina Bissonnette, Basil Conlin, Jeff Bowman, Katie Andrews, Jeff Hathaway, and Joe Crowley

Zoom Coordination – Reem Ali, Anda Rungis, and Cathy Douglas

#### **Outings**

Coordinator – Sue Paradisis

Leaders – Sue Paradisis, Scott McKinlay, Lynn Smith, Martin Parker, Cathy Douglas, Steve Paul, Chris Risley, Bruce Kidd, Leila Grace, Rachel Baehr and Don McLeod

#### **The Orchid**

Editor – Kathryn Sheridan

Contributors: Steve Paul, Sue Paradisis, Jim Young, Don McLeod, Ken Morrison, Rene Gareau, Lynn Smith, Martin Parker, Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan, Maxwell Matchim, Dave Milsom, Lucie Blouin, Gillian

Trowbridge, Cathy Douglas, Ontario Nature, Marilyn Hubley, Terry Moodie, Drew Monkman, Don Munro, Enid Mallory, Stephan Ragaz, Ted Vale, Ken McKeen, Colin Jones, James Kamstra, Murray Palmer, Marilyn Freeman, Sue Carstairs, Scott McKinlay, Jim Cashmore, Don Davis, North American Native Plant Society, Laurie Healey, Susan Bartsch, Kathryn Sheridan, Reem Ali, Shelby Cohen, Marla Williams, Donna Lewis, Heidi St. Tomas, Peter Andreas, Collen Lynch, Fiona McKay, Chris Risley, Julie Davis, Joanne Sutherland, Marie Duchesneau, Evan Thomas, Jerry Ball, Bradley Howell, Noah Cole, Peterborough County Stewardship Council, Maggie Eaton, Tyler Hoar, Susan Chow, Ian Attridge, Phil Shaw, Carson Hvenegaard, Kawartha Field Naturalists, and Anda Rungis  
Orchid Mailing – Mary Thomas, James Young

### **Junior Field Naturalists**

Coordinators – Jay Fitzsimmons, Lara Griffin and Stephanie Collins

### **Digital Communications**

Webmaster -- Marilyn Hubley and Chris Gooderham

Blog and Facebook Postings – Marilyn Hubley

### **Nature Studies**

Orchid Diary – Martin Parker and many contributors.

Peterborough Christmas Bird Count – Martin Parker, compiler, and 91 participants.

Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count – Colin Jones, compiler, and 37 participants.

Petroglyphs Butterfly Count – Jerry Ball, compiler, and 25 observers

Fenelon Falls Butterfly Count -- Martin Parker, compiler, and 14 observers

Bird Feeders at Ecology Park – JB Jaboor and Kathryn Sheridan

Harper Park Inventory and Monitoring – many members

### **Community Advocacy**

City of Peterborough Official Plan Committee – Martin Parker

Kawarthas, Naturally Connected – Fiona McKay

Harper Creek Sub-watershed Study - Sue Paradisis and Lynn Smith

### **Promotion**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the shows and displays normally attended by the PFN were cancelled.

### **Partnerships**

Ontario Nature Spring and Fall Regional Meetings -- Fiona McKay

Kawartha Land Trust – field outing destinations and donation towards the easement for the Kidd farm

Kawartha Naturally Connected -- participating organization

Bird Friendly Peterborough Initiative -- Reem Ali. A collaborative initiative of several local organizations and City of Peterborough

Camp Kawartha – donation

Ecology Park, Peterborough Green-up – location of PFN bird feeders

Peterborough Regional Science Fair – awards and support

Trent University – newsletter reproduction, student projects and grants

FMZ17 Fisheries Advisory Council – Lynn Smith and Phil Shaw

Peterborough Stewardship Council – Phil Shaw

Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough – management of PFN Legacy and PFN Investment Funds

**Donors** - Many members gave a donation to the Club through the year which was used by the PFN for special initiatives on behalf of the members.