

Annual Report for 2022

MEMBERSHIP

The Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) welcomed 128 new members in 2022. As of the end of Dec. 2022 we had a total of 421 members (267 memberships), which is a slight decrease of the total members in 2021 (458). In submitting new applications and renewals, our members have made full use of both online and mail-in hard copy options and the three ways to pay dues (e-transfer, credit card payment through Canada Helps or by mailing a cheque).

Jim Young, Cathy Douglas and Ted Vale work as a team in managing the tasks associated with membership. A big THANK YOU to Jim for a decade of volunteer service in the membership secretary role! In 2022, Cathy Douglas has been working, with technical assistance from Gooderham Productions, to establish a secure digital database for the PFN membership records. The work is progressing well and is expected to be completed in 2023.

PFN Members' Meetings: The PFN team of Steve Paul, Philip Shaw and Reem Ali organized 10 meetings via Zoom in 2022 which included presentations on a wide and interesting range of topics. In January, we learned about how the Peterborough ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) team works with farmers to enhance habitats and other land stewardship opportunities on their lands. We discovered how the Kawartha Wildlife Centre promotes healthy wildlife coexistence in an effort to keep Kawartha wild. At the Annual Meeting held in March, we heard about TRACKS (TRent Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Science) Youth Program that works with youth to build connections with their responsibilities to the land. The presentations at the spring meetings of the PFN, described the restoration of Tall Grass Prairie in the Rice Lake Plains, the natural history and geology of the Niagara Escarpment, and a program which helps owls in Southern Ontario.

After the summer break, we heard about the impact of climate change on nature in the Kawarthas. In October, we went on a virtual journey to Algonquin Park, and enjoyed the natural history and beauty that each season brings. In November, it was inspiring to hear about provincial and national efforts to protect and restore Ontario's at risk butterflies. To finish off the year, we learned about the work of important new partnerships that have developed to document environmental inequality and resilience in the Peterborough region.

Year-end 2022 saw an investment in audio-visual equipment and a flurry of activity by the team at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre to ensure the PFN could return to in-person meetings delivered in a hybrid model with virtual connection through Zoom.

Outings: Outings are always in high demand and a great way to connect with other PFN members who always bring their enthusiasm for nature and the outdoors. In 2022, member registrations totalled 319 for 34 outings, thanks to 22 volunteers who stepped forward to share their expertise and lead an outing. In 2022, Sue Paradisis compiled a written handbook which is available to outing leaders to support their efforts in organizing and leading a PFN outing.

Outings were offered in each of the four seasons and visited a variety of habitats including: a tall grass prairie, old growth forests, swamps, and rail trails. In addition to the always popular birding excursions, outing participants had the opportunity to learn about: trees, butterflies, bats, frogs, fungi, lichens and animal tracks and signs.

2022 Outing Leaders: Rachel Baehr, Jerry Ball, Sam Clapperton, Val Deziel, Cathy Douglas, Paul Elliott, Joel Grandmont, Laurie Healey, Marilyn Huble, Colleen Lynch, Stewart MacDonald, Fiona

McKay, Scott McKinlay, Don McLeod, Drew Monkman, Bryan O'Connor, Sue Paradisis, Martin Parker, Steve Paul, Chris Risley, Lynn Smith and Dawson Wainman.

Peterborough Junior Field Naturalist: There were 39 children enrolled as part of PFN family memberships at the end of December, 2022. Shelley King and Jennifer Lennie answered the call to take an active role in inspiring the next generation of naturalists in the Peterborough area. As part of the preliminary work to re-start Junior Field Naturalist programming in 2023, Shelley and Jennifer, along with Board Liaison Anda Rungis, explored options for programming and organized new ways to communicate (juniors@peterboroughnature.org) and manage events. We look forward to delivering a robust program in 2023 and meeting our PFN Junior members.

The Orchid: *The Orchid* is one of the PFN's primary means of communicating to members about upcoming events and key PFN initiatives. The newsletter contains articles on a variety of topics, and encourages readers to "Know, appreciate and conserve nature in all its forms." In 2022, Volume 68 of *The Orchid* saw 9 bulletins published in both electronic and hard copy formats. PFN members are the first to receive each bulletin directly to their home or virtual mailboxes, and *The Orchid* is also posted on the PFN website (<https://peterboroughnature.org/the-orchid/>).

The Orchid team is led by editor Kathryn Sheridan and Board liaison Fiona McKay. Proofreading is provided by Rene Gareau, Lynn Smith, Ted Vale and Cathy Douglas. Jim Young, Mary Thomas, and Cathy Douglas worked to ensure the Orchid was distributed to each PFN member. In 2022, Marilyn Hubley took on the role of Orchid Diary compiler and a dedicated email (orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org) was set up to report nature observations. We also acknowledge and appreciate the regular contributions of Drew Monkman (Nature's Almanac), Marilyn Freeman (book reviews), Murray Palmer (poems) and Martin Parker (From the Archives).

We take this opportunity to thank each and every contributor who took the time to prepare and submit an article, information item or photograph to *The Orchid* in 2022. Submissions from PFN members and others to *The Orchid* are always encouraged through orchid@peterboroughnature.org.

PFN Online & Social Media: The PFN also has a strong web presence and active following on numerous social media channels, thanks to Marilyn Hubley, the PFN digital communications lead. The PFN website (<https://peterboroughnature.org/>) contains a wealth of information about the PFN, coming events and digital copies of *The Orchid*, amongst other information.

Did you know that of our 3040 Facebook friends, 71.8% are women and 28.2% are men? While our followers are based primarily in Peterborough, Toronto, and Lakefield, 8.9% call the United States home. In 2022, the most significant increases in PFN followers were on TikTok (104, up from 17 followers in 2021) and the PFN YouTube channel (310 subscribers, up from 102 in 2021). Strong interest in the PFN was also evident on Instagram (1001, up from 892 in 2021) and Twitter (2,413, up from 2,385 in 2021).

If you haven't yet subscribed to PFN online, a good place to start would be to check out the PFN website (<https://peterboroughnature.org/>) or recordings of the 2022 PFN Monthly Members' meetings on YouTube: [peterborough field naturalists](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpeterboroughfieldnaturalists).

PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

PFN Legacy Fund: The PFN Legacy Fund is an endowment fund managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough (<https://cfqp.ca/project/peterborough-field-naturalists-legacy-fund/>). The fund was established through a major bequest received by the PFN from which the PFN

receives an annual income. The PFN Board of Directors allocated those funds to the following projects in 2022:

Youth Education:

Peterborough Science Fair - The PFN sponsored four Awards in 2022 for the two best Elementary and Junior projects related to nature and wildlife, environment, conservation, or pollution. In addition to a cash prize of \$40, each winner received the book *The Mammals of Peterborough County* by Geoff Carpentier.

Camp Kawartha - A joint project of the New Canadian Centre, the Peterborough Field Naturalists, and Camp Kawartha sponsored two newcomer children to attend summer programming at Camp Kawartha. One candidate attended the week long Nature Camp, while the other candidate attended a two week day camp session. Thanks to Jay Fitzsimmons for facilitating the nomination of the two participants through the New Canadian Centre, and to Camp Kawartha for donating the day camp registration.

Ontario Nature Youth Summit – The Youth Summit for Mother Earth was held in September, 2022. The PFN sponsored Trent University student Chloe Lapensee. Virtually, Chloe was able to attend sessions on Colouring Bkejwanong, Climate Change, Careers/Networking in Environment and attend an in-person land-based activity in the Nogojiwanong Hub where they processed Bearberry, a plant used for medicinal purposes in the Anishinaabek culture.

Research: Four grants were provided to Trent University students to assist in their 4th year thesis course. Topics included: understanding of Pentatomidae (stinkbugs) in the Trent Nature Area, predation of dead birds under windows, spatial habitat selections for Deer and possible changes in sex ratio of Tree Swallow nestlings in response to weather conditions.

Information is included in The Orchid when recipients of PFN grants have their results published in academic journals. Check out a recent article about the research project completed by the 2019 recipient (Volume 69, No. 2 (<https://peterboroughnature.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Orchid-2023-03-3.pdf>)).

Citizen-Science Projects: the costs and registration fees for the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count and the Petroglyphs Butterfly and Fenelon Falls Butterfly Counts were covered. Thanks to organizers Martin Parker and Jerry Ball, respectively, and to the numerous PFN members that participated in these events.

Ontario Nature: Ontario Nature (ON) is the provincial voice for nature representing 155 naturalist clubs in Ontario, including the PFN. PFN was represented at ON's spring and fall Nature Network (NN) meetings, where on-the-ground learning/ information sharing/ connectivity with other local groups occurs. The spring meeting was held virtually but the fall meeting took place at the Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna, south of Rice Lake. PFN participated in an in-depth survey to evaluate the support of the NN to clubs and how it can be improved.

In 2022, PFN supported several advocacy and awareness campaigns lead by Ontario Nature. As signatory, PFN raised concerns and objections to the Province's violation of public consultation requirements under the Environmental Bill of Rights, called for Canada's action at the Montreal Nature Summit in October (CBD COP15) to halt and reverse nature loss, and opposed the Province's plan to develop natural heritage or environmental offsetting policy. Through ON, the PFN also objected to the conversion of protected Greenbelt lands to development.

As part of ON membership, the PFN receives its club insurance. It also took advantage of free legal counsel to discuss various governance matters, such as revision of club by-laws under the recent Ontario *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* (ONCA).

Bird Friendly Peterborough (BFP): Peterborough received certification by Nature Canada as a Bird Friendly City in May of 2022. Following the June 2022 resolution by Peterborough City Council to support certification, the BFP team launched a community-wide competition to select Peterborough's official City bird, the winner of which was the Great Blue Heron.

The PFN is a local partner of Bird Friendly Peterborough (BFP) with liaison through director, Reem Ali. In 2022, the PFN provided funding, through a generous donation by the Hunter family, to enable the creation of birding kits that will be available to the community through a collaboration with BFP and the Peterborough Public Library. The PFN is very excited to be a part of BFP as it moves from certification to implementation and serves as a role model for other Canadian cities in actioning what it means to be a Bird Friendly City.

GOVERNANCE

Oversight for the Corporation known as the Peterborough Field Naturalists is managed by the Board of Directors (Board). In 2022, the Board included the following individuals:

President – Rene Gareau

Vice-President – Sue Paradisis

Treasurer – Edward Vale

Secretary – Martin Parker (January – March), Anda Rungis (March – December)

Directors: Philip Shaw, Reem Ali, Marilyn Hublely (January - September), Cathy Douglas, Steve Paul, Fiona McKay, Daniel Cadieux.

In 2022, the PFN Board held 12 business meetings and as a group participated in training delivered by Reem Ali to help build diversity, equity and inclusiveness in the naturalist community. In addition, ad hoc committee (Advocacy and Policy) meetings were called, as necessary.

The 81st Annual General Meeting was held virtually on March 10, 2022. As part of the business meeting agenda, the Financial Statements and Nominating Committee report were approved. The Lola Leach Memorial Award was presented to Lynn Smith and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Ian Attridge, Mike McMurtry, Chris Risley and Warren Dunlop.

Advocacy Committee: The Advocacy Committee (Sue Paradisis, Martin Parker (January -June, 2022), Rene Gareau, Ted Vale, Anda Rungis) serves as a voice for the PFN when proposals which raise concerns about the environment come up. In 2022, our focus was on legislative (Bill 23) and policy changes initiated at the provincial level proposing significant implications for Ontario's Greenbelt, wildlife, wetlands and forests. Supported by extensive communication, research and analysis undertaken by Ontario Nature and other environmental organizations, the PFN supported several campaigns and sent letters to members of provincial parliament and government officials outlining specific concerns and objections. Thank you to the PFN members who took the initiative to attend a local rally or write a letter of concern to decision makers. We expect that 2023 will again be busy as we advocate for nature and environmental protection.

Policy Committee: The Board established an ad hoc Policy Committee in 2021 with the task of reviewing and developing governance policies for the PFN. The Policy Committee (Reem Ali, Ted Vale, Fiona McKay and Rene Gareau) met several times over the course of 2022 and developed the following policies which have been approved by the PFN Board of Directors: Code of Conduct for Board Members and Harassment, Violence and Bullying Prevention and Response Policy. A Complaint Procedure was also developed for dealing with a harassment complaint or a complaint that a Director has violated the Code of Conduct.

The Policy Committee will continue work in 2023 with the goal of having a Board approved Financial Policy, developing a Communications Policy, and carrying out a review of Bylaw #2001-1 to align with the requirements of Ontario's *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010*.

Administration: The PFN Board examined many of the administrative processes used in managing PFN business and where necessary, made adjustments to achieve greater co-ordination, efficiency and assure secure management of sensitive information. A repository of PFN Board minutes and other records was established and is managed on the PFN web-hosting site.

The PFN Archives are maintained by Martin Parker. Regular maintenance of the PFN Archives continued in 2022. Information and reports contained in the Archives were used for a regular "From the Archives" article in *The Orchid* and by other individuals investigating aspects of natural history of the Peterborough Region.

FUNDRAISING

Donations: Many PFN members provided a donation when renewing their membership and at other times of the year. Thank you. In 2022, donations were also received in memory of former PFN members Terry Hunter, Emily Pettypiece and Mary Thomas. A donation from the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough was also received by the PFN in recognition of service provided by Reem Ali. The PFN made the following donations to support the work of partner organizations: Camp Kawartha 10th Anniversary and the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre.

Club Sales: The following items were available for purchase from Cathy Douglas:

- Nature in the Kawarthas, Peterborough Field Naturalists (also sold at: Avant Garden and Green-Up stores in Peterborough);
- Our Heritage of Birds: Peterborough County in the Kawarthas, by Doug Sadler;
- The Mammals of Peterborough County by Geoff Carpentier;
- Birds of the Cottage Country by William C. Mansell; and
- PFN Logo pins, commemorating PFN's 80th anniversary (limited supply).

Auction: With another virtual AGM in March 2022 and the absence of the silent auction fundraiser, the PFN hosted a trial virtual auction fundraiser. Organized by Fiona McKay, numerous individuals donated approximately 40 items. Running the week before the AGM, the auction was a huge success, raising over \$1100 to support club operations, special projects and events, and grants and sponsorships. A huge THANK YOU to all donors and we congratulate the participants on your "wins".

In closing the Board of Directors of the Peterborough Field Naturalists expresses their sincere appreciation to all members who have supported and participated in the activities of the PFN. Thank you!

March 21, 2023

Compiled by Anda Rungis, with submissions from Sue Paradisis, Ted Vale, Cathy Douglas, Steve Paul, Fiona McKay, Reem Ali, Martin Parker and Marilyn Hubley.