

# The Orchid



April 2023

Volume 69, No. 3

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

## *Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

Published nine times yearly. Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Cedar Waxwings. Photo: Laurie Healey

**Inside:** Nature in April  
Hepatica's Beauty and Grit  
PFN Annual Report for 2022  
Book Review: Permanent Astonishment  
Steve's Swan Sightings: Barcovan Beach

## In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events .....	3
Other Events of Interest .....	6
Volunteer Corner .....	8
PFN's Annual General Meeting.....	8
Annual Report for 2022.....	9
April Nature at a Glance.....	15
Hepatica: Beauty, Grit.....	15
Outing Report - Rotary Park .....	16
Outing Report - Returning Waterfowl.....	17
PFN Winter Tracking .....	17
Book Review: Permanent Astonishment.....	18
Poem: Birds of Esteem.....	19
From the Archives - Investments in Nature .....	20
Steve's Swan Sightings.....	20
The Orchid Diary .....	22
2023 Butterfly Counts: Save the Dates .....	23
PFN Membership Application.....	24

### Welcome new PFN members!



- David, Meaghan & Kelly Newberry
- Julia Szabo
- Ali Giroux
- Shelby Cohen & Gavin Ramsay
- Kathy Hardill
- Alannah Paterson, Dane Bowe
- Susan Bartsch



From top down: Northern Shrike (Marilyn Hubley), American Mink bounding across ice on Katchewanooka Lake on March 12, (Steve Paul), and Snow Bunting (Marilyn Hubley). Above: A photo of a snapping turtle from a previous year by Marilyn Hubley. Turtles will be coming out of hibernation this month.



## PFN Coming Events


<p>April 8 and 22 1 to 4 p.m. 15 participants</p>	<p><b>The Fascinating World of a Vernal Pool</b></p>  <p>In the spring forest when vernal pools melt and fill with rain, life returns to these ephemeral wetlands. As soon as water appears, fairy shrimp hatch and are soon joined by hundreds of other organisms. These are the breeding grounds of wood frogs, spotted and blue-spotted salamanders and numerous other creatures. The salamanders migrate to the pools on the first warm (10 °C) rainy night and generally stay in the pond a few weeks to mate. We hope to put down cover boards to find some species and will be checking a pool for the eggs of wood frogs, spotted and blue-spotted salamanders and for some of the many organisms that live and breed in these unique woodland ponds. We will also be listening for calling frogs. Dress according to the weather and consider wearing rubber boots. We will return to the location on April 22 to check on progress and enjoy some early spring wildflowers. Sue Paradisis and Jeff Cooper will be leading. To register and for more information on location, contact Sue after March 4 at <a href="mailto:sueparadisis@hotmail.com">sueparadisis@hotmail.com</a> or call 705-559-2061.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate with walking around woodland ponds</p>
<p>Thursday, Apr. 13 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>PFN Annual General Meeting at Peterborough Golf &amp; Country Club</b></p> <p>Please see advertisement on page 8 for details.</p>
<p>Saturday, Apr. 15 7 to 9 p.m. 20 participants</p>	<p><b>Sounds of Spring</b></p>  <p>The dusk air of the spring carries the mating songs of various species of frogs and the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-doodle. Join Sue Paradisis and Rachel Baehr for a 2-hour outing to distinguish between the different species of calling frogs and listen to the courtship flights of the American Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe in the provincially significant Cavan Swamp wetland. Contact Sue after March 4 at <a href="mailto:sueparadisis@hotmail.com">sueparadisis@hotmail.com</a> or 705-559-2061 to register and for further information.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy, walking along a closed roadway.</p>
<p>Sunday, Apr. 16 9 a.m. to noon 10 participants</p>	<p><b>Early Spring Birding in the Petroglyphs Forest</b></p> <p>Migration is underway and birding this time of year can turn up winter and summer birds as well as those travelling through. Cathy Douglas will lead us on the access roads of the park which are relatively flat and easy. The outing will begin at the park at 9:00 a.m. but the drive from Peterborough takes almost an hour. One needs to exercise caution on Northey's Bay Road as there are a lot of deer in the area. Dress for the weather of the day and sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. Accessibility: Easy</p> <p>To register and for more information, contact Cathy after April 8 at <a href="mailto:cddouglas77@gmail.com">cddouglas77@gmail.com</a> or 905-751-5292</p>

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, Apr. 23 8 to 11 a.m. 5 participants <b>This outing is FULL</b></p>	<p><b>Johnston Drive Pond Trail</b></p> <p>This area is a hidden gem few people know exist and provides a great opportunity to see and hear some shy and elusive herons, bitterns and rails. There were 34 species seen on this walk last time it was offered.</p> <p>You will definitely need rubber boots and as the trail provides a few crossing challenges, the walk is considered moderate difficulty. Also, you must be VERY quiet to NOT disturb wildlife. Register by email to <a href="mailto:stevepaul70@gmail.com">stevepaul70@gmail.com</a> (or call 705-930-8370) after March 4. Details on the meeting place will be sent when Steve confirms your spot. Accessibility: moderate 3.2 km</p> 
<p>Sunday, May 7 8 to 11 a.m. 10 participants</p>	<p><b>Lang-Hastings Rail Trail</b></p> <p>Steve Paul will lead a walk along the Lang-Hastings Trail (LHT), from Keene Rd to Technology Drive and back. This section of the LHT travels through two beautiful marshland sections with a deciduous forest in the middle. This mixed habitat is great for seeing all that spring has to offer and provides a chance to see lots of returning birds. Be sure to bring your binoculars and dress for the weather of the day. Register by email to <a href="mailto:stevepaul70@gmail.com">stevepaul70@gmail.com</a> (or call 705-930-8370) after March 4. Details on the meeting place will be sent when Steve confirms your spot.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy walking along a level rail trail. 2.6 km</p>
<p>Thursday, May 11 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.  Hybrid meeting: Zoom + in-person at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road  Maximum 45 attendees</p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Presentation #1: Maela Kaminski on "Variations in the Brood Sex Ratios of Tree Swallows in Response to Environmental Quality."</b></p> <p>Maela is in her fourth year of Biomedical Science at Trent University and intends to pursue a masters degree in Public Health. Maela's project compares the nestling sexes of tree swallow broods to the environmental quality pre and post laying. Her long-term data set was created using unmanipulated nests from past field seasons, alongside her 2022 field season, which had only unmanipulated nests. Small blood samples were taken from these nestlings, with protocols approved by Trent University Animal Care. Lab work was then performed on these blood samples to determine if each nestling was male or female to create the sex ratios.</p> <p><b>Presentation #2: Sarah Jamieson on "Urban Ecology"</b></p> <p>Much of Dr. Sarah Jamieson's career involved traipsing around the globe studying bird behavioural ecology in remote settings like the Alaskan tundra and offshore islands. However, she now calls Peterborough home, where she works as an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department of Trent University. Her current research</p>  


PFN Coming Events	
	focuses on the wildlife that also call Peterborough home. She will be discussing how the urban environment provides both opportunities and challenges for wildlife and she will share some of her student's research on Robin nesting ecology and mesocarnivore (and birds!) scavenging behaviours.
Sunday, May 14 8 to 11 a.m. Omemee 15 participants	<b>A Walk on the Hogsback Trail, an Esker near Omemee</b> Join Scott McKinlay for a birding and nature hike along the Hogsback Trail, Omemee Esker. While on our way there, we will be making a couple of stops in the Cavan hills and swamps. The 2.5 km Hogsback trail is hilly and rocky in areas and can be muddy after a rainfall, so wear sturdy footwear. For those that are comfortable with carpooling we will employ cars at both ends of the trail to ferry our way back to the beginning. Those NOT comfortable with carpooling will need to turn back on the trail at some point. Bring binoculars and wear weather-appropriate clothing. We will be meeting at 8:00 a.m., WEST of Peterborough. Contact Scott after April 8 at smckinlay59@yahoo.ca or 705-944-5522 for further details and to register. Please indicate your preference for carpooling or not at that time. Accessibility: moderate to challenging.
Sunday, May 21 8 to 11 a.m. 15 Participants	<b>Spring Birding in the Catchacoma Old Growth Forest</b> The Catchacoma Old Growth Forest, located in the Northern Kawarthas, is well known for its giant eastern hemlocks (some of which are over 300 years old) as well as its numerous moss-covered granite boulders, lichens and fungi. It is also a sanctuary for many bird and animal species. This outing, led again by Stewart MacDonald, will focus on searching for spring migrants including warblers and other songbirds known to breed and pass through the Kawarthas. The meeting place will be the Forest Parking Lot off Hwy 507. Stewart will provide more details upon registration. The outing is on uneven and occasionally muddy trails and would be considered of moderate difficulty. Good walking footwear is recommended. Participants should dress for the weather of the day and be prepared for the arrival of spring insects. Please e-mail Stewart at stewjmacdonald@aol.com to register after March 4 and preferably before May 1, or call Sue at 705-559-2061. Accessibility: moderate.
Sunday, May 28 8 to 11 a.m. 15 participants	<b>Exploring Cavan Back Roads</b> Enjoy a spring nature hike in the Cavan area. We'll walk along a quiet road, some wooded trails and edges of farmland. We'll watch out for 'all things nature' so bring your knowledge of plants, mammals, birds, insects, tracks etc. and we'll learn from each other. Accessibility easy for the most part but some spots moderate because of a few hills. Bring binoculars, bug spray and wear comfortable footwear. Please register with Lynn Smith smithfam@nexicom.net or 705-768-5287 after April 8. Further details will be sent to those who register. Accessibility: easy to moderate



## PFN Coming Events

<p>Monday, June 19 to Thursday, June 22 Algonquin Park</p>	<p><b>PFN's First Annual Camping Trip to Algonquin Park</b></p> <p>Pog Lake, Campground A, is in a pine forest setting centrally located on the Hwy 60 Corridor and close to many attractions. Activities can include canoeing, hiking, biking, birding, butterflying, botanizing etc. Both Tents &amp; Trailers (RVs) sites are available. Hosts are Colleen Lynch &amp; Don McLeod - Site 177 and Sue Paradisis - Site 133</p> <p>Each member is responsible for booking their own campsite asap as sites are filling up fast. To date those who have registered have sites adjacent to each other. For Campground Reservations go to the Ontario Parks Website: <a href="https://reservations.ontarioparks.com/">https://reservations.ontarioparks.com/</a> Please email Colleen Lynch at <a href="mailto:clynch166@gmail.com">clynch166@gmail.com</a> to register for this event and provide Campsite # &amp; equipment (tent or trailer). This trip is for PFN members only.</p> <p>Any questions please contact Colleen Lynch at <a href="mailto:clynch166@gmail.com">clynch166@gmail.com</a> or Sue Paradisis at <a href="mailto:sueparadisis@hotmail.com">sueparadisis@hotmail.com</a> or 705-559-2061. In addition, members who are not camping are welcome to join in on Tuesday, June 20 and Wednesday June 21 for day outings. More information will follow.</p>	
<p>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.</p>		

## Other Events of Interest

<p>Wednesday, Apr. 5 7 to 8:30 p.m. Webinar</p>	<p><b>Building Your Path to Well-Being Through Nature Connection</b></p> <p>Did you know that adults and children who spend at least two hours in nature each week report better health and well-being? Kawartha Land Trust kicks off its inaugural Passport to Nature program for 2023-24 with an inspiring webinar to help you learn about the benefits of getting outside and enjoying nature right outside your doorstep. Panellists include Dr. Thomas Piggott, Peterborough Public Health's Medical Officer of Health, Joseph Pitawanakwat, Founder and Director of Creators Garden, and Nancy Thomson (aka "Nature Nancy"), Owner of Think Outside. KLT will also share a preview of KLT's Passport to Nature program and how you can participate in a year of in-person and online events.</p> <p>Register online here: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/building-your-path-to-wellbeing-through-nature-connection-webinar-tickets-565351450407">https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/building-your-path-to-wellbeing-through-nature-connection-webinar-tickets-565351450407</a></p>	
<p>Saturday, Apr. 22 9:30 a.m. to....</p>	<p><b>Spring Ontario Nature Regional Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Nature Network Lake Ontario North Region will be hosted by the Durham Region Field Naturalists, Thickson's Wood Land Trust and Pickering Field Naturalists with a field trip to Thickson's Woods. Alia Tulloch,</p>	



<p>South Oshawa Community Centre</p>	<p>Planning Analyst for Regional Municipality of Durham, will be speaking on the Durham Meadoway Project, proposed linear park and trail that will connect people to destinations across &gt;27 km of Durham Region through the Gatineau Hydro Corridor. This meeting will also include an election for the Lake Ontario North Regional Director (2-year term for a total of 3 terms). Regional Directors also sit on the Ontario Nature Board of Directors. If anyone would like to nominate a candidate for this position, please contact Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia (barbaraw@ontarionature.org).</p> <p>PFN members are welcome to attend. Room capacity for the meeting is 35 so interested folks should RSVP to Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia ASAP barbaraw@ontarionature.org</p>
<p>Saturday, Apr. 29 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jackson Park</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p><b>City of Peterborough Bioblitz</b></p> </div> <div>  </div> </div> <p>PFN is excited to be partnering with the City of Peterborough to participate in the global City Nature Challenge competition to record nature sightings within communities. From Friday, April 28 to Monday, May 1, people are encouraged to report all their nature sightings on iNaturalist. On Saturday, an in-person bioblitz will be held in Jackson Park with naturalists searching for as many species as they can find. Teams will focus on a specific theme such as birds, plants, insects, trees and shrubs or life in the creek. Volunteers are needed to lead or help with a team throughout the day. Participating in a bioblitz is a great way to learn while contributing to citizen science. A good inventory of the biodiversity of the park can be useful in protecting it from encroachment.</p> <p>In addition, volunteers are needed to lead short hikes throughout the day to share their enthusiasm about nature to citizens who come to learn. A good knowledge of iNaturalist and general knowledge of nature is all that's needed as people will be learning to use iNaturalist to identify what they find. For more information on how you can participate, contact Sue Paradisis at 705-559-2061 or sueparadisis@hotmail.com</p>
<p>May 26 to 28 Friday to Sunday South Bruce Peninsula</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p><b>Bruce Peninsula Nature Weekend</b></p> </div> <div>  </div> </div> <p>Limestone cliffs and sand beaches, hardwood forests and cedar swamps, fens and alvars – this variety of ecosystems on the Bruce Peninsula makes it a special place to explore.</p> <p>After a hiatus of three years due to COVID-19, South Peel Naturalists' Club (SPNC) is again hosting its annual Red Bay Weekend. This event provides the opportunity to explore the Bruce with knowledgeable leaders, share time with fellow naturalists and enjoy accommodations on the shore of Lake Huron.</p> <p>The cost for the weekend is \$20 per person registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for our volunteer leaders - payable in advance by cheque or e-transfer to mail@spnc.ca – plus \$139.59 per person/per night (minimum two nights) accommodation at Evergreen Resort, Mar, ON (includes all meals and snacks). For further information, write to mail@spnc.ca or contact Audrey at 905-820-2571 (oswalda@sympatico.ca)</p>

## Volunteer Corner



### Call for Board Members

The Board of Directors is responsible for making all the good things happen that you enjoy as a PFN member. We organize meetings, outings and programs; and carry out advocacy to protect the environment that we love.

Are you interested in helping to manage the PFN as it faces the challenges of the next year, which include:

- a return to live services after the COVID-19 epidemic fades;
- continuing our transition to the world of digital communications;
- advocating to protect our natural environment in the face of pressures from development and climate change;
- involving more young people in PFN objectives and activities.

If so, the Board is looking for new members to join our group of volunteers committed to the PFN. We are anticipating two vacancies this year and would like to bring the Board up to full complement. If you are interested, please contact Ted Vale, the Chair of the Nominating Committee at [treasurer@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:treasurer@peterboroughnature.org).

### Tech Support for Hybrid Meetings

As we move into offering our monthly meetings through a hybrid model, we are looking for volunteer(s) to provide in-person tech support during these meetings at the Environment Centre. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to volunteer a little bit of their time with the PFN and who also happens to regularly attend our monthly meetings. Tasks include getting the speaker and their presentation set up on the laptop that's available and ready to go at the Environment Centre, and starting and monitoring the Zoom portion of the meeting using the same laptop. A document with detailed instructions will be included. If interested to learn more or to sign up, please e-mail Reem Ali: [reemest@hotmail.com](mailto:reemest@hotmail.com). She will walk you through all of the steps and answer any questions you might have about the process.

### PFN's Annual General Meeting

Please join us! Details as follows:

Date: Thursday, April 13

Location: Peterborough Golf & Country Club

- 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Social hour: hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic drinks (cash bar)
- 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. - AGM
- 8:00 to 8:15 p.m. - Bucket draw and silent auction
- 8:15 to 9:15 p.m. - Speakers

Admission is free for this members-only event. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting with a Zoom connection available.

Reservations will be through Eventbrite. The invitation was e-mailed to members on March 24. The RSVP date is April 1.

This year's AGM guest speakers will be Gerry McKenna and Jenny Jackman. Their talk is entitled: **The Ecology of Wesleyville and the Activities of Our Joint Working Group**

Please join us on Thursday,  
April 13 at 6:30 p.m. for  
PFN's **Annual General  
Meeting!**



Willow Beach Field Naturalists (WBFN) members Gerry McKenna and Jenny Jackman will provide an overview of the activities of the Joint Working Group – Wesleyville; a joint group of the WBFN and the Northumberland Land Trust. Their presentation will include a description of the ecological features that make Wesleyville important in their County, a synopsis of the surveys undertaken by volunteers of the two clubs, and some of the challenges in conserving these lands.

Jenny Jackman is a retired materials scientist, and worked at the CanmetMATERIALS federal laboratory for many years. She is now a member of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists and spends most of her time working on conservation.

Gerry McKenna is a biologist who retired from Ontario Power Generation in 2020 as the manager of the Climate Change and Biodiversity section. Gerry is a member of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists and spends his time on habitat conservation issues.



Collage of images from the Wesleyville Natural Heritage Area from the WBFN website

In conjunction with the AGM, the PFN will be holding its 2nd ANNUAL ONLINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER. The auction will run for the week prior to the AGM, starting April 5 at noon and ending the evening before the AGM on April 12 at 11:45 pm. Successful bidders attending the AGM in person may pick up their prizes at the AGM if the items are paid in full. Last year's auction was hugely successful and this year we have some great items to bid on, including books, prints, original artwork and crafts, leisure activity items, and more. The link to the auction will be sent to all members, as well as posted on our social media platforms. The auction is open to both members and non-members so be sure to share the link! If you'd planned to donate an item(s) but didn't get around to it, it's not too late; Email Fiona at [fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org) for donation inquiries or questions regarding the auction website.



**PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS**

## 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 Hubley, 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 Naturalists:** 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 nine 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 e-mail ([orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 3,040 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://cfgp.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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 led 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 Hubley (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 81<sup>st</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Editor's note: This report and the rest of the AGM documents are posted on the PFN website here: [peterboroughnature.org/about/annual-general-meeting/](https://peterboroughnature.org/about/annual-general-meeting/)*



## April Nature at a Glance

### From the Book *Nature's Year in the Kawarthas* by Drew Monkman

April is a month of ardent bird song and court ship displays such as the nightly skydance of the American Woodcock. Migration grows with the arrival of rails, swallows, kinglets, sparrows and the first shorebirds and warblers. Waterfowl numbers peak early in the month and huge flocks of Tree Swallows are often seen over the Otonabee River. Resident birds and earlier migrants are busy nesting. Canada Geese bound for James Bay pass over in high, long "v" formations.



Northern Leopard Frog. Photo: Marilyn Hubley

Raccoons, as well as most members of the weasel family, give birth this month. Male groundhogs arise from their six-month siesta to search out a mate. Otter watching is often at its best.

Local wetlands come alive with the clamorous calls of Spring Peepers, Chorus Frogs, Wood Frogs and Leopard Frogs. Salamanders breed in woodland ponds on wet, mild nights. Turtles emerge from hibernation and Eastern Garter Snakes mate.

Walleye, White Suckers, Northern Pike, Muskellunge and Rainbow Trout spawn this month. There are great opportunities to actually see the fish spawning.

Watch for the early butterflies such as the Mourning Cloak, the Eastern Comma and, by the months end, the Spring Azure. Swarms of mating midges are a common site as is a variety of flies and bees. Warm air from the south often brings in migrant Green Darner dragonflies.

A variety of maples, poplars, willows, alders and elms flower this month. The flowers and swelling leaf buds give trees a hazy appearance. The first wildflowers and sedges bloom. Watch especially for Coltsfoot and Hepatica.

Daily maximums now average 12°C and minimums 0°C. Most lakes are ice-free by April 20. Flooding however, is a possibility. In mid-April, sunrise is at about 6:30 AM and sunset near 8 PM.

The spring sky is dominated by the constellation Leo. Orion and Canis Major are low in the west while Bootes is rising in the northeast. The Big Dipper is high in the northeast.

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## Hepatica: Beauty, Grit and the Race Against Time

### By Jason & Lou Smyrlis

Hike our forests this time of year and you will witness them literally coming back to life from the ground up. This is the time of the spring ephemerals, the wildflowers taking first advantage of the warming soil and full sun to push through the previous year's leaf litter towards the life-giving light. Their shapes and colors bear sharp contrast to the austerity of the winter months, and they will provide critical sustenance for the first emerging insects.

Beautiful and vitally important they may be but, as their name suggests, they will only be with us a short while. Their existence is an annual sprint against time. They have only a handful of weeks to take full advantage of the ample spring sunlight hitting the forest floor to photosynthesize, flower and produce the seeds to continue their species. It all must happen before



Hepatica photo by Lou Smyrlis

the deciduous trees that tower above them grow their leaves. The crowns of mature deciduous trees can block as much as 97% of the available sunlight from reaching the forest floor.

It's a daunting task growing that fast but, over the millennia of their existence, ephemerals have evolved adaptations that give them distinct advantages. Take hepatica, which thrives in open woodlands, as an example. With its glossy smooth three-lobed leaves and clusters of delicate white, pink, lavender or blue flowers, hepatica has the appearance of a flower grown by floriculturists for ornamental gardening. Don't let its appearance deceive you; hepatica is as hardy as they come with a series of secret advantages.

The first is leaves that are actually evergreen and toxic to eat. They turn to a russet or purple color in the fall but don't drop off the plant. In the early spring they're ready to start photosynthesizing before other woodland flowers have even broken through the ground.

Hepatica's bright flowers contrast strongly against the browns and tans of the surrounding leaf mulch so they're easy for pollinators such as bees, flies and beetles to find. Insects may be looking for nectar (essentially carbs) but hepatica doesn't provide that for them. Instead, hepatica concentrates the precious energy created by photosynthesizing in cool spring temperatures into producing pollen (essentially a protein) which some insects need just as much as nectar in the spring.

Although a source of early sustenance for pollinators, hepatica doesn't have to rely on them in turn. Weather in the early spring can be fickle. One day's warm sunshine can turn into next day's cold rain or drifting snow squall, conditions which inhibit pollinators. But hepatica is capable of self-pollination so it can produce seeds without pollinators if necessary.

Beauty, grit and self-sufficiency are all in one little plant about 12 inches tall, humbly growing amidst the roots of forest giants.

## Outing Report – Rotary Park

Submitted by Steve Paul

It was a chilly start to the day for our outing to Rotary Park on Saturday, February 25. Seven people braved the elements, and we had a great time. Temperatures ranged between -15 and -9 °C during our walk, and we had periods of flurries which diminished our visibility. With 172 species recorded on eBird, Rotary Park ranks 13th all-time highest for total bird species seen in Peterborough County. There is always a chance to see something interesting, especially during both spring and fall



Peregrine Falcon photo by Steve Paul



Photo: Steve Paul

migration.

Our walk started at the Hazlitt St. entrance, where we walked up the trail, then detoured down around Turtle Island to the London St. bridge, then along the trail to Douro St, then back again. The two primary highlights were seeing one of the local Peregrine Falcons sitting in a tree overlooking Turtle Island, and a Red-Breasted Nuthatch displaying early courtship behaviour.

There was a total of 21 species on this outing, including:

Canada Goose (18), Mallard (85), Rock Pigeon (15), Mourning Dove (6), Red-Bellied Woodpecker (1), Downy Woodpecker (1), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Peregrine Falcon (1), Blue Jay (1), American Crow (1),

Common Raven (1), Black-Capped Chickadee (11), Red-Breasted Nuthatch (2), White-Breasted Nuthatch (3), European Starling (38), House Sparrow (8), House Finch (10), American Goldfinch (1), American Tree Sparrow (2), Dark-Eyed Junco (5), Northern Cardinal (2).

## Outing Report - Returning Waterfowl

Submitted by Linda Sunderland

Ten PFN members met up Sunday morning on March 12 at the Peterborough Zoo and headed up River Road on an excellent birding adventure led by Steve Paul and organized by Sue Paradisis with Laurie Healey managing the eBird reports. We had a great time



Photo: Steve Paul



Pileated Woodpecker eating Juniper berries. Photo: Shayla McIsaac

touring the Otonabee River from Peterborough to Young's Point.

The group saw 32 species of birds. Highlights included a large flock of Wild Turkeys, close-range viewings of Cedar Waxwings, a couple of Bald Eagles, a muskrat, white-tailed deer, two American mink, and four Trumpeter Swans.

The most unusual observation took place in Young's Point where we all watched a female Pileated Woodpecker eating Juniper berries. She was closely observed interacting with a Robin who also wanted to eat the berries. They both hopped around in the Juniper bushes with the large woodpecker even venturing to the ground to retrieve a branch she had dislodged. Luckily there were plenty of berries to share and both birds eventually flew off after eating all they could.

Steve shared that he had last led this outing 1106 days ago, due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was wonderful to enjoy nature again with other PFN members and I encourage you all to check out the many outings planned for the upcoming months.

## PFN Winter Tracking

By Don McLeod

Members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) were able to choose from a range of dates including March 3, 5 and 7 to look for tracks and birds. Friday, March 3 proved to be the most productive highlighting Ermine and Fisher. Eastern Cottontail and Red Squirrel tracks were seen during all three dates. Challenges to finding tracks included deep snow that was subject to daily melt turning crusty at night. Few of the nightly tracks registered due to the crusty snow. Among the 11 bird species submitted to eBird, a male Red-winged Blackbird was noteworthy.





Fisher tracks and trail. Photos: Don McLeod

## Book Review: Permanent Astonishment by Thomson Highway

Reviewed by Marilyn Freeman

Many of you will be familiar with Cree author/playwright Thomson Highway. You may have even listened to the 2022 Massey Lectures delivered by Highway (highly recommend, especially if you want to be transfixed by consummate storytelling and humour.). And if you pick up *Permanent Astonishment* after listening to one Massey lecture or the entire five in the series, you will hear this amazing memoir being related in Highway's own voice.

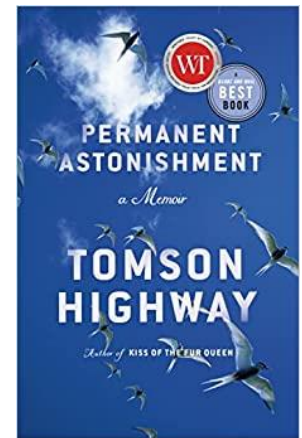
As Highway tells it, he was born in a snowbank (literally) up where Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories meet; the Canadian sub-Arctic. The people of the land are Dene, Cree and Inuit with very few "moony-ass" (white folks) thrown in. It is also a place of astonishing beauty. In a landscape without roads, Highway's early years seem to exist outside of time, a life of hunting and fishing, near tragedies and harsh losses, laughter and singing.

The time period covered in Highway's life goes from his birth until his graduation from high school at the Guy Hill Indian Residential School.

Language plays a role in this book. Historically, the French Jesuits, mostly from Quebec, made their way into this area to convert the people to Catholicism. The Cree had a hard time getting their tongues around the French and later the English language and the words and nicknames that arise from this mixing are very funny. For example, bubble gum morphs into pawpilly-cum. Pelagie, Highway's mother's name in French, becomes Balazee. A cultural delicacy made for weddings and other celebrations gets named lapwachin. This was derived from French - la pudding but there is no hard "d" in Cree so it came out as "dzeen".

Once Highway started school, he would be flown out of his territory by bush plane to school where he would live for 10 months and then get flown back for the 2 summer months to go live on the land hunting, fishing and gathering with his family. School was mostly wonderful for Highway (yes, there is a reference to sexual abuse by a priest) and he ended up getting a post-secondary education (and, of course, going on to become famous!)

While the stories in this memoir will make you laugh out loud, you will be mesmerized by the descriptions of the land of the sub-Arctic. Just before leaving for high school in Winnipeg, Highway, his younger brother, Rene, and his parents were up in the Keewet'nook territory. He knew this would be his last full



summer on the land with his family. In one scene he praises Arctic terns. "The tern is as graceful as a ballet dancer. She is exotic, she is a star...As she flies, she looks in that water for the minnows to feed her babies, until she sees one glimmering like tinsel a mere five inches beneath the surface of even choppy water. At which point she swoops like an arrow and, splash! Her head, her neck, her entire body, tail included, all cut like a blade into the crystalline blue." Happy that her chicks will eat that day, she soars off establishing the fact "that her vision is as sharp as a saapoo-nigaan (needle)." Arctic terns nest in colonies of thousands and on this day, Highway and his family go eggging. This involves sneaking up on the nesting area and then surprising the birds calling "awas, awas!" (Get away! Shoo!) "Startled to within an inch of their lives, one thousand Arctic terns take to the air in one huge cloud, so many that we are lucky if we can get even two percent of their eggs in the short time we have."

Highway's insights in this book are both hilarious and profound. It is the cultural connection to the land and Highway's joy that creates "permanent astonishment" in this reader.

### These Birds of Esteem Prefer Fast-flowing Streams

The creek spills out from the forest, and enters a large river,  
 Attracting hungry wanderers to discover what morsels it has to deliver.  
 Look, there are four birds riding the current to and fro, end to end,  
 Apparently finding this a very pleasant way to spend  
 A sunny, late autumn day. I watch with sheer delight  
 One with cinnamon crest, three with theirs of black-edged white.



Male Hooded Merganser.  
 Photo: Steve Paul

To any birdwatcher, these drakes and hen would be a welcome find.  
 Though very shy, their beauty rivals the wood duck; it blows my mind.  
 This duck will nest in a wood duck box if not in a tree cavity.  
 Its low swimming posture and roiling waves make it hard to see,  
 But when one sees the male's erect 'hood', there's only one answer:  
 It's none other than the splendid, usually solitary Hooded Merganser.

Listen for the hen's soft, croaking "wrep", or the drake's "pahhwaaaaaa".  
 I want to stay longer to watch their lively courtship with awe.  
 C'mon, boys, raise your hoodies, do the Hoody at your glorious best.  
 The girl is watching you move, though she loves you with full crest.  
 Nod sharply three times, now throw your heads back in an arc ...  
 Show your best sides; she may decide which of you meets the mark.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2017

## From the Archives -- 2008 Investments in Nature

### Submitted by Martin Parker

The Peterborough Field Naturalists has had a long tradition in investing in various initiatives in accordance with the PFN motto, "To Know, Appreciate and Conserve Nature in All Its Forms." In the 2009 year-end Financial Report prepared by James Young, the PFN Treasurer at that time, the following contributions were made by the PFN on behalf of its members.

- Donation of \$100 to Peterborough Regional Science Fair for the PFN Awards
- Donation of \$500 to Ontario Nature in memory of Doug Sadler
- Donation of \$100 to the Canadian Canoe Museum in lieu of a speaker's gift
- Donation of \$200 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada for Little Bluestem Alvar
- Donation of \$10,000 to Camp Kawartha for the Environment Centre construction



PFN members at installation of Chimney Swift tower at Buckhorn lock. Photo from PFN archives.

That same year, the PFN received a grant of \$3,440 from Parks Canada for the construction and erection of three Chimney Swift roosting towers. One is located at the Parks Canada office on Little Lake, one is on the roof at Fairhaven Seniors residence and the third is at Lock 31 in Buckhorn.

This tradition continues with the PFN. Consult the Annual Report for a summary of donations and investments made in nature by the PFN in the past year.

## Steve's Swan Sightings

### Submitted by Steve Paul

On February 19, my partner Laurie Healey and I were invited to participate in something very special: a Trumpeter Swan tagging and banding event at Barcovan Beach, just over one hour south east of Peterborough, between Brighton and Quinte West.



Trumpeter and Mute Swans amongst the ice fragments at Barcovan Beach. Photo: Laurie Healey

Why Barcovan Beach? In 2014, during a very harsh winter, Lake

Ontario froze over. Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre and Foster Forest Wildlife Orphanage joined together to rescue starving waterfowl in the Barcovan Beach area. A winter-feeding program was established, relying on community donations to FFWO to cover costs of corn supplied by local stores. Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario (TRUSCO) was invited to come down to tag and band Trumpeter Swans, and it has now become an annual event.

Our feathered attendees for the day included 63 Mute Swans, nine Trumpeter Swans, one Tundra Swan, as well as Canada



Trumpeter Swans and Mallard at Barcovan Beach. Photo: Kim Stevenson



Geese, Mallards, American Black Ducks, and even a single female Redhead duck. In 2022, the weather was warmer, the bay was open, and the birds were free to come right to the beach. Last year, six Trumpeter Swans were given their special jewelry. What a difference a year makes. This year, the cold nights created heavy ice and slush in the bay. All day under windy conditions, the ice kept swirling around, making it difficult for the swans to come in for feeding.

The tagged Trumpeter Swans that visited included the following:

- K29 – Betty – a female of unknown age, tagged at LaSalle Park in Burlington in December 2013
- Y00 – Opal – a female born in 2020, and tagged last year at Barcovan
- Y48 – Indy – a male born in 2020, and tagged last year at Barcovan

There were five untagged, unbanded Trumpeter Swan adults plus a single cygnet that visited as well.

Throughout the course of the day, I was able to help catch two Trumpeter Swans. The first one was the cygnet, a male given the tag N40, later named Ruggles; and the second one was a very large male at ~ 26 lbs, given the tag N41, and later named Scotty in honour of Mr. Scott Henderson, a local resident who has helped feed the swans since 2014.

It was quite the learning experience, as it was my first time catching wild, healthy swans, and they are definitely very strong. I got whapped in the face multiple times while getting the large male under control. With the help from all the volunteers, the event was a success - even under the less-than-ideal conditions. I am extremely thankful to be working with all the amazing volunteers at TRUSCO, some of which came from over two hours away.

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Orchid Diary		<a href="mailto:orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org">orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org</a>

<b>PFN on Social Media:</b>	 YouTube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/peterboroughnature">peterboroughnature</a>
 Instagram <a href="https://www.instagram.com/PtboNature">@PtboNature</a>	 TikTok <a href="https://www.tiktok.com/peterboroughnature">peterboroughnature</a>
 Twitter <a href="https://twitter.com/PtboNature">@PtboNature</a>	 Facebook Peterborough Field Naturalists
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## The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in Peterborough County. Information compiled from e-bird, Drew Monkman's Sightings website, PTBO Sightings and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to Marilyn Hubley at [orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org) (Note: new address)

Feb. 22	1 <b>Boreal Chickadee</b> , Whitfield Road, Otonabee-South Monaghan, Peterborough, seen by Tony Barrett. Chestnut sides and brown cap. Very noticeable difference in colouring to the many Black-capped CDs at the feeders. Present from Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> to March 20 <sup>th</sup> and continues. Seen by many, lots of pictures taken. A big thanks goes out to Tony Barrett for being so accommodating as people come by to see the bird.
Feb. 24	6 <b>Eastern Bluebird</b> , Thorne Dr. Cavan Monaghan, Peterborough, seen by Marilyn Hubley
Feb. 26	5 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> , Trent River – Asphodel 5 <sup>th</sup> Line, Peterborough, seen by Donald A. Sutherland
Feb. 27	1 <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> , Peterborough, seen by Carrie Sadowski. Came upon NSWO perched in bare deciduous tree near cedar patch while walking in brushy, swampy habitat. Owl had about 10 noisy chickadees perched and flying around it.
Mar. 2	1 <b>American Woodcock</b> , Carveth Drive, Millbrook, Peterborough, seen by Jeff Stewart, 6:05 a.m. Single twitter flight (50 minutes before sunrise) with no peenting before or after. Possibly feeding in small snowless seepage area on south slope or perhaps soft mud beside nearby Baxter Creek – early  1 <b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b> , Kawartha Nordic Ski Club Trails, Peterborough, seen by Erica Nol, Clear view. Solid black back, scraping bark off red pine, tame, larger than HAWO. Seen on Kenner south just between bottom of Adam Scott and Deer. The bird has been seen by quite a few people now
Mar. 3	1 <b>Turkey Vulture</b> , Freshco, Peterborough, seen by Olivia Maillet. Riding thermals with RTHA over Freshco. Silvery flight feathers, tippy flight, holding wings in dihedral  1 <b>Bald Eagle</b> , Highway 7 towards Omemee, munching on roadkill, seen by Trudie Kroon.
Mar. 4	1 <b>Golden Eagle</b> , Kawartha Nordic Ski Club Trails, Peterborough, seen by Henrique Pacheco & Kevin Gevaert
Mar. 7	1 <b>Bald Eagle</b> , seen by the London Bridge, Peterborough, seen by Kathryn Sheridan 1 <b>Fox</b> , University Heights, Peterborough, seen by Paul Elliott 1 <b>Eastern Cottontail</b> , Peterborough, was seen by Rene & Antje Gareau Lots of <b>Snow Buntings</b> , in Little Britain area, seen by Marie Duchesneau & John Fautley as well as <b>Rabbits</b> in their yard.
Mar. 9	1 <b>Coopers Hawk</b> , Peterborough in Sue's Backyard seen by Sue Paradisis 2 <b>Northern Flickers</b> , Male and Female and 30 <b>Wild Turkeys</b> , heard a <b>Great Horned Owl</b> , Cavan, all by Lynn Smith

	<b>2 Mourning Doves</b> were caught in the act in Paul Elliott's backyard, "keeping up their end of things when it comes to the population staying stable."
Mar. 9	<b>1 American Robin</b> , seen by John Fautley in their yard, Peterborough King Baker has been seeing a <b>Long-tailed Weasel</b> for 4 months, Greenhill, Peterborough. Reem Ali saw a <b>Weasel</b> at Trent. <b>1 Common Grackle</b> , <b>1 Brown Creeper</b> , Old West End near Little Lake, seen by Reem Ali.
Mar. 12	<b>1 Black-backed Woodpecker</b> , Nephton Ridge, Peterborough, seen by Trevor MacLaurin and Andrew Brown
Mar. 14	<b>1 Double-crested Cormorant</b> , Beavermead Park, Peterborough, seen by Laurie Healey
Mar. 16	<b>1 Red-shouldered Hawk</b> , Carveth Drive, Millbrook, Peterborough, seen by Jeff Stewart. Mike Burrell & Erica Barkley have spotted one March 18 <sup>th</sup> , Donald Sutherland spotted one on March 19 <sup>th</sup> , as well as Scott Gibson March 19 <sup>th</sup>
Mar. 17	<b>1 Redhead</b> , Beavermead Park, Peterborough, seen by Amy Semple, and others over the next few days. <b>Eastern Bluebirds</b> and <b>Cedar</b> and <b>Bohemian Waxwings</b> are constantly popping up around the Millbrook/Rice Lake area and always a pleasure to see.
Mar. 18	First <b>Chipmunk</b> of the season seen by Cathy Douglas in the South Bay of Stoney Lake area.
Mar. 20	<b>1 Winter Wren</b> , Lakefield Road, Peterborough, seen by Iain Rayner <b>1 Snow Goose</b> , <b>1 Cackling Goose</b> , Auburn Reach, Peterborough seen by Dave Milsom, many people found both.

## 2023 Butterfly Counts: Save the Dates

### Submitted by Martin Parker

The tentative dates for this area's butterfly counts are:

- Petroglyphs Butterfly Count – Saturday, July 15. The compiler is Jerry Ball
- Fenelon Falls Butterfly Count – Saturday, July 22. The compiler is Martin Parker

Both of these counts follow the protocol established by the North American Butterfly Association. Each count covers an area contained within a circle with radius of 7 ½ miles. All counts occur during one calendar day. The count area is divided into smaller sections with groups assigned to each section. Each group is headed up by an experienced counter. The annual results provide an insight into the population trends of our butterflies. More details will be in the June issue of *The Orchid*.

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, April 21.

Please send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan at [orchid@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org) or mail submissions via post to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7

Submissions can be articles, photos, anecdotes, nature book reviews, poems, outing reports, nature news, recommendations, interesting things you've learned or observed about nature etc.

# 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.** For E-Transfer go to <https://peterboroughnature.org/membership/join-online/>

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: \_\_\_\_\_