



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

# **80 Years of the Peterborough Field Naturalists**

## **A Brief History**

**1940 - 2020**

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Note – as part of the preparation of the PFN Strategic Plan, work is underway to add to this document by compiling a summary of PFN activities for 2020 – 2023. *Stay tuned!*

## **Preamble**

The following is the compilation of four publications, each written to celebrate an anniversary of the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

A brief history of events, memorable moments, and efforts of the Club are described.

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.... John E. Fitzgerald wrote the first Club history for the years 1940 to 1980.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.... Susan Malan wrote the second history that included information from John Fitzgerald's publication as well as information from past newsletters of the Club.

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.... Lynn Smith & Rene Gareau gleaned information from the Orchid newsletters from 1990 to 2015.

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.... Lynn Smith continued to summarize the Orchid newsletters from 2015 to 2020.

The Peterborough Field Naturalists is an industrious Club with a rich history.

Take a look.... it's a good read!

## **Peterborough Field Naturalist History 1940 – 1980**

### **Prologue**

It seemed logical that someone should prepare a compilation of events, items, and history of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, particularly so when this is our 40th Anniversary.

So, on this January day of 1980, with tongue in cheek and considerable doubts as to what is to follow, we submit our humble efforts.

Respectfully yours,  
John E. Fitzgerald, Editor

#### **1940 to 1950**

On Saturday, May 18, 1940, the fifth annual outing of the Peterborough and visiting naturalists was taken.

Fifth Annual? Then why is this our 40th Anniversary? Shouldn't it be our 45th?

There is an answer for all things and as we go right back to the beginning.

The opening sentence is the first recorded word about the:

Peterborough Nature Club, The Peterborough Naturalists Club and today's club, the Peterborough Field Naturalists. For five years the men and women who formed the PNC held field outings with members of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. They were not an organized club nor associated with the FON in any official way.

Mrs. Harry Graham (her husband was our first secretary) recounted some of the early history. It seems that Dr. Mackenzie of the Grove School was invited to organize an outing with the FON, in this area, in 1937. An outing was held. The following year, along with help from F.J.A. Morris a second outing was held and people from the Universities of Toronto, Western Ontario and from Queen's attended.

Two more outings followed, leading up to the 1940 outing from which our club became organized. Messrs. Frank Morris, H.H. Graham and John Hooper led that outing.

Following the 1940 outing and lunch, a meeting was held and from it our club was organized. Thirty-two adults and four juniors became club members, with the membership fee set at \$1.00. Mr. Graham was elected president. He served two years and then Dr. A.J. Madill served a similar term to be followed by V.R. Henry in 1944 and then by Miss Margaret Eastwood. (This had to be the start of women's lib.) Alex Shearer then followed Miss Eastwood as president in 1946.

It was an active group, taking three to four outings each year. These outings were limited in distance at that time as it was during the war years and gasoline was rationed. The new club, however, joined the FON so our association with that body has been of considerable duration.

The minutes of the few meetings held each year were hand-written into a journal along with a brief report on finances.

Entertainment was part of the 1947 annual meeting at which V.R. Henry was elected president. Howard Vaughan, accompanied by Charles Allen, sang. However, a motion to have no musical entertainment was approved for the 1948 annual meeting. (Ed.'s note: There are several conclusions one could draw from that motion.)

Morley Powell took on the post of president for 1948. Margaret Eastwood was still working on her plant census and a book for recording the plants was purchased. Note: They had trouble, too, in those days of collecting dues.

J. L. McKeever, who certainly was a great asset to the club, became president in 1949. A junior club was still in evidence. The start of the Orchid was made in this year. It was then known as a newsletter and two were issued.

Mr. McKeever was returned as president for 1950 even though, at the time of the annual meeting, J. L. was absent due to illness.

It is noted that through many of these years the financial report by the treasurer was given but the figures or bank balance never recorded. They must have been good. The club kept operating.

One of our illustrious members, J.L. McKeever, became active with a typewriter and produced three years of the Peterborough Nature Club News, which preceded our Orchid. In March of 1950 No.1, Vol.1 was circulated to the members. McKeever wrote that an association with the Audubon Society was created, and the Screen Tour series introduced. That year a Mr. Lewis Bird (how fitting) was the Secretary-Treasurer of the club.

The fees for 1949-50 were raised to \$2. for membership and with five lectures included it worked out to 40¢ per. All of them being Audubon presentations. And selling tickets for the 400-seat hall at Queen Mary Auditorium wasn't any easier than it is today. The club did, however, induce the School Board to show the films to the pupils. The Grove School showed three of them and then subscribed for the full series for 1950-51. Mr. Bird, meanwhile, was having trouble building a junior club. Seems as if that problem has lasted, as long as our current club. We are still having the same problem.

### **1950 - 1960**

In December of '50 they were looking for evening grosbeaks as none had been spotted. They don't seem hard to find these past few years, at least. On one of the field trips that October Miss Eastwood found wild lettuce of the extraordinary height of eight feet. Anyone seen this plant since?

Roger Tory Peterson was the guest speaker at the annual dinner held in January of 1951. Mr. Lewis Bird was elected president.

Mr. Bird remained as president for 1952 and the members enjoyed Walt Disney's Beaver Valley as entertainment at the annual meeting. Only about 40, however, were present. They had 60 the following year, 1953, when Eric Whiteley was elected president.

Audubon Screen Tours were still a big crowd pleaser and frequently offered by the club. That year it was also decided to prepare the year's programme of events, etc., and distribute it to members and prospective members. The year ended with an increase of 30 paid members and for this, Eric Whiteley was returned as president for 1954. The Screen Tours were again

approved for a repeat performance, but the admission was raised from \$2.50 to \$3.00 for the series.

The F.O.N. held its first Annual Public Convention in Peterborough that year with a three-day programme. About 300 were expected to attend. Also, that year, in conjunction with the Peterborough Recreation Commission, a bird house building contest for boys under 10, 10 to 12 and 13 to 15 years old was held. Over 100 entered.

More than 80 attended the 1955 annual meeting at which John D. Hooper was elected president. No less than 18 indoor and outdoor meetings and events were published in the Programmes of Activities as well as being advertised in the Examiner.

Up until 1956 the club bulletin was known as The PNC News. That year was the first for it to take the name that has stayed with us, that of "The Orchid". According to the issue of Feb. 1956 it was named in honour of the former president and most active member in the formation of the club, the late F.J.A. Morris (1869-1949). That same year Doug Sadler was elected president.

An unusual find was made in Jan. of '56. A female purple martin was picked up on George St. Doug Sadler forwarded the carcass to J.L. Baillie, the well-known ornithologist, who examined the bird. A broken bill had been sustained which seriously handicapped the bird's insect diet. These birds, according to Baillie, winter in the Amazon Valley in Brazil.

As we progress through the years of our club, we note that also in 1956 it was decided that a club history should be compiled and put into suitable form. It was stated that it could take several years to do it. At that time, they only had 17 years of background history. I hope the remainder of the years have been chronicled. We'll see as we turn the pages of our club's history as reported in The Orchid.

In 1956 a small boy reported: The four seasons are: Salt, pepper, vinegar, and mustard. Well!

To start off 1957, Doug Sadler was re-elected president and Burnham Woods became a provincial park. This 100-acre woodlot, located east of Peterborough on Hwy. #7 is believed to be the first such park ever deeded by a family estate to the people of Ontario. Mark S. Burnham willed it to the crown. He died in 1953. The property was a crown grant given to the Hon. Zaccheus Burnham of Cobourg in 1830.

Walt Disney's nature films were very popular with the PFN in those days. The Living Desert, Beaver Valley, Olympic Elk, and Bear Country were all shown at the club and proved highly popular.

The club enjoyed several field trips in 1957 and the F.O.N. likewise enjoyed growth in club membership. All told, 37 clubs had become affiliated with the F.O.N. It was also noticeable that as we turned the pages of our history, our "birders" were active every winter on the bird count. We were not, in those days, inactive.

With the arrival of 1958 Frank R. Pammatt moved into the presidency.

It might also be noted that the club wound up its 1957 activities with the largest membership on record, 128 paid-up in all. (Ed's. note: While our city has grown, our membership has not increased percentage-wise with it.)

Doug Sadler was elected Hon. Recording Secretary of the F.O.N. and Morley V. Powell was the camera and photo expert of the club.

Our spring migration observations were also important, in those days, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All sightings and estimates in numbers were reported to them. Another sighting of interest that year was that of the wildflower Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia virginica*) by Ken Stasser. This plant was found growing in profusion along the north shore of Bottle Creek (Catchacoma Lake) and was identified by Dr. James H. Soper, Dept. of Botany, U. of T. It seems that *Rhexia* shouldn't have been here as it was 250 miles out of its normal habitat. Wonder if it is still in existence?

Nick Nickels also wrote that year of freshwater jellyfish being found in several lakes in Ontario. They were identified and we wonder if they are still in existence. Kosh Lake was the nearest location to Peterborough.

Over 100 attended the annual meeting and dinner in January of 1959 with F. Heilingbrunner being elected as president. The Orchid for March gave the dimensions for making bird houses for six different species. The club also bought a new beaded screen and was saving for its own projector. (Do we still have them?)

In the Orchid of this (1959) year E.W. Calvert of Lindsay did a comparison of birds of today and 100 to 150 years ago. He wrote that the Sparrow Hawk had been very scarce but, on the increase, while the common Red-shouldered Hawk "has declined until it is now quite rare." (Wonder if this still holds true?) He mentioned several species that had declined. He also wrote about a heronry near Stirling in Hastings County that once contained about 10,000 birds. Surely not all herons?

Did you know that Rice Lake once had thousands of acres of wild rice with a crop, in 1817, estimated to 10 thousand bushels. H. Reeve, who, in the 1959 Orchid, wrote about the rice and about it vanishing to zilch. He offered that a weed, *myriophyllum*, might have caused the demise of the vast rice beds.

Our first woman president, Margaret Eastwood, passed away in Nov. of 1959 after 20 years of being a member of our club. One of her contributions to the club was a checklist of plants of the area. (Is this list in our archives?) For 1959 we wound up with a bank balance of \$225.67 and a membership of 44 family memberships, 62 adults and 15 juniors (students).

## **1960 - 1970**

1960 started off in good style. The slide projector was purchased and F. Heilingbrunner was returned as president. There was, weeks prior to the meeting, a resolution to change the club's fiscal year from Feb. to Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st. It happened at the Feb. meeting.

In the May edition of the Orchid was a request from Lands and Forests office at Sioux Lookout. Two birds were seen, blue grey in colour with well-rounded wing edge and about as large as a good-sized hawk. One was seen doing a "tumbling act" and a straight dive over the lake (Pickle Lake) before joining its companion and heading south. It had a strange call, sounding like Morse code, four dots and then two in a perfectly modulated musical tone. Any of our watchers got a clue?

(P.S. They were Marsh Hawks in their nuptial flight.)

The club also held a 20th anniversary meeting on May 14, 1960, with over 100 attending. The editor of the Orchid for several years, F.R. Pammett, retired at the end of 1960 and '61 started

off with a new editor, Doug Sadler, who took on the arduous job, and a new president, J.L. McKeever.

George Green, the treasurer, had trouble at home and finally had to shoot the offender. It was a male sparrow who had decided to kick a nesting pair of tree swallows out of their home. For a half-day he did, but George put an end to that, and the tree swallows were able to return to their wedded bliss. Good for George.

One of the most active contributors to the Orchid during the Fifties and Sixties was Morley V. Powell. He was elected president for 1962 and followed in 1963 by Doug Sadler. Doug also returned to office for 1964. Harry Williams moved into the president's chair for 1965 and Dudley Hewitt became editor of the Orchid. One issue carried a comprehensive list of hospitals, etc., where snake bite antivenin could be obtained. (Ed's note: I always thought it was the LCBO that sold snake bite cure?)

The year 1966 was ushered in by hefty snowstorm on Christmas Day but the count went on just the same. A White Throat and Song Sparrow were spotted. Harry Williams returned as president and Dudley Hewitt remained as editor.

It was also noted that a large flock of ravens had demolished a deer that had died up near Burleigh Falls. The note also said that the frequently seen bird in this area was driven out due to lumbering. Also, a lynx had been trapped by a local farmer that same year while two had been trapped the previous winter. When was one last seen around here? In this year, too, we became the Peterborough Naturalists Club.

Dudley Hewitt gave over the job as editor of the Orchid to Harry Williams as 1967 started. Dudley moved into the president's chair. One note of interest in the April issue was about a starling proof bluebird house, designed by T.E. Musselman of Quincy, Ill. If you are interested it is in the April, Vol.12, No. 4 issue, 1967.

These two men retained their respective positions throughout 1968.

The members also enjoyed a day at Bancroft, switching from birders and botanists to rockhounds. They had some good luck in their diggings and enjoyed the change. It was back to the editor's chair for Dudley Hewitt. Harry Williams, due to pressure of business, retired as editor of the Orchid, and Dudley, after two years as president, was "re-hired".

The president that year, 1969, was Gerry Seabrooke. Also, the Orchid published an item about seeing a white hare or rabbit was an evil omen with Cornish miners and miners in France. You wonder how these superstitions start.

### **1970 - 1980**

We turned into the Seventies with Gerry Seabrooke again president and Dudley still editor. That year, too, Martin Parker, who was to follow Gerry Seabrooke as president, started setting up the archives of the club. Must admit, after reading what he needed, he did a pretty good job. This was also the year that the Club honoured Dr. Smith and Dr. Hinton of the Peterborough Pet Hospital for their great assistance, free of charge, in Larry and Mrs. McKeever's work with the owls. Unfortunately, that was also the year the McKeever's left these parts to carry on their great work in the Niagara area.

In 1972 the Lands and Forest Dept. issued a bulletin to the effect that dogs killed 63 deer as to 52 by wolves. Try and tell dog owners that. PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) were also becoming a prominent danger in '72 though not yet too prevalent in the lower lakes.



Into 1973 with Gordon Berry our new president but good old Dudley remained as the ever-efficient editor of the Orchid. (Having perused about 35 years of said publication his efforts were more than appreciated by this chronicler.)

The membership was polled as to their preference in articles in the Orchid. They voted interest in most subjects, 70% enjoyed the bird articles most, mammals were next with 27%, insects and geology tied at 18% with trees at 15% and others 5%. The March edition also contained several good diagrams for building four types of bird houses.

In October of 1973 Dudley had to retire from his editorship to take on a new post, chairman of the New Horizon Program, mostly devoted to producing audio-visual slides for senior citizens. Bernie and Dorothy O'Higgins accepted the post as co-editors.

Gordon Berry returned as president for 1974, which was a natural turn of events. Not that Gordon, in any way, could be related to tin cans and old bottles, but a lot of re-cycling was going on during his two years in office. Dudley and Olive Hewitt were trailering across the U.S. and supplied some great articles for the Orchid.

However, 1975 arrived and with it, Bruce Cossar moved into the president's chair. The club had a healthy bank balance and things were moving along well. Gordon also took a group of 26 on a canoe trip that was visited by a twister. For a few minutes it was touch and go as to whether it would cross over where the group was lunching. Fortunately, it veered away enough to miss them. But it was a testy and exciting few moments.

Bruce was also returned as president for 1976 and he kept the club moving right along in a progressive fashion. The only trouble was that in Sept. Bruce had to resign due to business pressures so Geoff Carpentier took over the duties of president.

Geoff remained as president for 1977, having been officially voted in.

The Hewitts were still doing their gypsy act in the south and western parts of the U.S. It was nice to read where the school kids of South Cavan P.S. collected enough money to have a goshawk (killed by crashing into a window) mounted, with wings spread, for the school.

This year also saw the passing of our long-time member, editor and friend, Dudley Hewitt. A long-time naturalist and possessing much knowledge of the outdoors, Dudley was a tireless worker for our club. In short, he will be hard to replace, if possible.

With the coming of 1978 Geoff Carpentier was returned as president and Bernie O'Higgins remained as our Orchid editor. To start the year off a bad storm arrived in time to upset our annual meeting and keep our guest speaker in Grimsby. Quentin Brown of Millbrook saved the day with an excellent talk. Bernie had to retire as editor, but we were fortunate to have the very capable Romney Robinson willing to step into the editor's chair. The year ended with an amendment to the constitution making it possible for Geoff to serve a third time.

We moved into 1979 with Geoff Carpentier in the president's chair for a third term, Romney Robinson still editing the Orchid and our finances in a stable condition. Our efforts to form a young naturalists club were still in the struggling stage but hope wells eternal.

Lola Leach finally took herself out of all active duties for the club after many years of service the like of which will never be replaced. She served in many capacities on the board, but Margaret Eastwood remains, to this day, the only woman to be elected president of the PFN.

So, we review our 40 years of organized activities. Those years saw many great outings, the Orchids contained articles of great interest by a list of writers as long as our years of operation. They covered a multitude of subjects from many parts of the world and many of them written by our own travelling members.

Before we wind up these gleanings of our 40-year history of the PFN I would like to extend grateful thanks to Olive Hewitt and Ann Heideman for their research into our past.

### **Addenda**

There are names that did not appear in our 40-year summary of PFN activities that should not be omitted. Others that made many contributions that should also be specially mentioned. One name (two, actually) that we should mention is that of Keith and Phil Pilkington.

Keith and Phil worked hard for three years on the Audubon Tour Series of great film nights. Without their efforts in arranging for the film and speakers, the hall and moving the tickets, the shows would not have attained the success they did.

Dorothy Hunter is another not to be overlooked. Dorothy's book of flowers that is shown at our annual meeting is one she put together. A splendid photographer and with a good sense of continuity, her book is a work of art. She also directed the Tree Bee program with the schools. This comprised planting of many trees between the Quaker Oats property and Nichol's Park along the river.

Special mention should also be made of Gordon Berry and Bernie O'Higgins who produced the fine booklet "Woodlots, Water, Wildlife and Wilderness" all pertaining to our local area. There are still copies available of this book.

These are some of the members of the past and present that we know produced many good things for the PFN.

And last, but not least, one of our oldest active members in years of service, Harry Williams, was given an Hon. Dr. of Law degree this past summer by Trent University. Any member of the PFN aware of the work that Harry contributed to the club and area will agree that it was well earned.

Now, come 2020, someone else can report on the next 40 years.

We'll be too tired.

## A BRIEF 50 YEAR HISTORY

The following is a brief history of the last fifty years of the Club. A great deal of information was gleaned for the 40th anniversary publication edited by John E. Fitzgerald, more information was taken from all the past newsletters of our Club. This Editor (Susan Malan) must extend my appreciation to Pat Dunsire who read over all the old newsletters and pulled together a concise outline of the past 50 years for me. Thanks Pat.

**1940** - Club was formed with 32 adults and 4 juniors; fee was \$1.00.

H. H. Graham was President serving for two years, then Dr. A. J. Madill served a similar term to be followed by V. R. Henry in 1944 and then by Miss Margaret Eastwood. (start of women's lib!) Alex Shearer then followed Miss Eastwood as president in 1946. This group took 3 or 4 outings a year and were limited in distance because of gasoline rationing. The new club joined the FON so our association with that body has been of considerable duration.

Entertainment was part of the 1947 Annual Meeting at which V. R. Henry was elected president. Howard Vaughan, accompanied by Charles Allen, sang. However, a motion to have no musical entertainment was approved for the 1948 Annual Meeting. (One could draw your own conclusions to that.)

**1948** - Morley Powell took on the post of president for 1948. Margaret Eastwood was still working on her plant census and a book for recording the plants was purchased. Note: They were having trouble collecting dues then, too.

J. L. McKeever, who certainly was a great asset to the club, became president in 1949. A junior club was still in evidence. The start of the Orchid was made in this year.

**1950** - J. L. McKeever was returned as president for 1950. He produced three years of the Peterborough Nature Club News, which preceded the Orchid. Mr. Lewis Bird was the Secretary Treasurer of the Club.

The fees for 1949-50 were raised to \$2.00. They had five lectures that year, all of them being Audubon presentations. Selling tickets for the 400 seating hall at Queen Mary Auditorium wasn't any easier then, than it is today. The Club induced the School Board to show the films to the pupils. Mr. Bird was having trouble building a junior club.

In December of 1950 they were looking for Evening Grosbeaks as none had been spotted. They don't seem too hard to find these past few years. Miss Eastwood found wild lettuce on a field trip in October; it was the extraordinary height of eight feet.

**1951** - Roger Tory Peterson was the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Lewis Bird was elected president.

**1952**- Mr. Bird remained as president for 1952 and the members enjoyed Walt Disney's Beaver Valley as entertainment at the Annual Meeting.

**1953** - Eric Whiteley elected president. They had 30 paid members. Mr. Whiteley returned as President in 1954. The F.O.N. held its first Annual Public Convention in Peterborough that year with a three-day programme. About 300 were expected to attend. A bird house building contest was held for boys. Over 100 entered the contest. Membership was \$1.00 for single and \$1.50 per family.

The first Nature Photography night was held, but it was not a contest.

One Christmas Bird count was held, covering seven areas, all on Boxing Day - 21 species were spotted with a total of 1025 birds.

**1954** - Eric Whiteley was President. The Editor of the Orchid was asking for contributions and wondering if anyone read the Orchid. (History does repeat itself.) We had a 100 paid up members. Many outings to Burnham Woods, Willow Beach, Nassau Heronry, Burleigh Falls, Crowe Lake, and many local outings. The FON trying to get legislation enacted to make hunting of all hawks and owls illegal.

**1955**- John Hooper is President. Membership is up to 121.

Campaign started to save a piece of land north of the city, approximately 1 acre cradled between a seldom used railway thoroughfare and 2 undeveloped streets - harbouring a lot of trees and dense shrubs and bushes, a haven for swarms of migrating and nesting birds. I guess this was not saved. Does anyone know where it might have been?

The Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary in Kingsville, Ont. was being touted as a Wonder of the World. The "Baldpate" was due to return around April 10th; a listing was in Birds Returning Column. The Dept. of Lands and Forests announced that Burnham Woods is to be developed as a Provincial Park. Outings for the year include Mount Pleasant, Willow Beach, Warsaw Caves, and Stoney Lake. The Dept. of Lands and Forests asked Canadian Wildlife Service to declare the Mourning Dove a game bird. Members of the PFN were asked to protest vigorously.

Two Christmas Bird Counts were held.

**1956** – Doug Sadler became President. The newsletter became "The Orchid" to honour the late F.J.A. Morris, a Past President and very active member of the club. He was a noted teacher and author of "Our Wild Orchids." The Mourning Dove was removed from the game bird list. Memberships were \$3.00 per family and \$ .50 for a student. Club motto developed "To Know, Appreciate and Conserve Nature in All Its Forms." The Club took on the policing of Burnham Provincial Park to discourage the picking of wildflowers during May and June.

Cardinals first reported in area, but not confirmed - an urgent appeal for members to call in confirmed sightings.

**1957** - Doug Sadler was President. We hosted FON Annual Conference with outing to Burnham Park, a Banquet, several afternoon sessions, and Nature Photography Session.

The need for wetland survey in Ontario was discussed.

Outings included Buckhorn, Lake Scugog, Willow Beach, Birdall Point, Algonquin Park, Deer Lake Fish Hatchery, Scotts Mills and Mazinaw Lake.

A Cardinal was spotted at a feeder in East City - causing quite a stir.

**1958** - Frank R. Pammett moved into Presidency, with 128 paid members.

A check list for Birds of Peterborough County was published.

A "Meadow Beauty" (*Rexia virginica*) flower discovered at Bottle Creek (Catchacoma Lake). It seems that *Rexia* shouldn't have been here as it was 250 miles out of its normal habitat.

Nick Nickels wrote of the freshwater jellyfish being found in several lakes in Ontario. Kosh Lake was the nearest location to Peterborough. Are they still in existence?

The first club census was taken on the noticeable lack of Bluebirds in area.

**1959** – F. Heilingbrunner took over as President. Miss Lola Leach began collecting information with a view to publishing a special Orchid in 1960 for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special "Save the Bluebird" project was initiated, urging members to build nest boxes. An outing to Burnham Park in June boasted 65 members. E.W. Calvert of Lindsay reported that the Sparrow Hawk had been very scarce, but on the increase, while the common Red-shouldered Hawk "has declined until it is now quite rare."

**1960** – F. Heilingbrunner was President. Mr. F. R. Pammett was the Orchid Editor. Club members made 12 Bluebird nest boxes to be placed on the resort property of Clearstone Lodge, Rice Lake.

Young Naturalist Gary Batting won top honours at the Ontario Science Fair in Toronto and the International Science Fair in Indianapolis for exhibit on "Variations on the Cynthia Silk Moth."

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was held at the estate of the Hon. and Mrs. G. K. Fraser.

Over 100 members attended.

Cape Henrietta Maria was established as a Wilderness area for Snow Geese breeding in the northeastern tip of Province, where Hudson and James Bay meet.

**1961**- J. L. McKeever became President again. Family memberships cost \$3.00.

Dick Bringeman reported seeing 5 Whistling Swans on Chemong Lake.

Fifty Wood Duck boxes were erected in the Warsaw, Little Lake, and Mt. Pleasant areas. Doug Sadler had a column called Observation of the Month later to become the Orchid Diary.

Frank Pammett, founding member and for many years editor of the Orchid, was killed in a car accident at the Lakehead.

**1962** - President was Morley V. Powell.

Conservation Council of Ontario issued a warning about drinking water being polluted by hundreds of new chemicals, the effects of which are not known to man.

The Young Naturalists Project was to have every Wolf Cub in the city to make a nest box.

The FON was very involved in pesticides and herbicides.

The Bruce Trail was finally becoming a reality - the FON optioned several areas in the Bruce Peninsula which were important to different wildflowers. They were involved in a feverish attempt to raise required funding for these areas.

I believe Doug Sadler was editing the Orchid at this time.

**1963**- Doug Sadler was once again President.

Red Fox were more plentiful in the area than in recent years.

Beavermead Park was formally opened on June 22, 1963.

Dudley Hewitt is now Editor of the Orchid.

**1964** - Doug Sadler - President.

Information about this period has escaped our searching.

**1965** - Harry Williams became President, with Dudley Hewitt the Editor of the Orchid.

**1966** - Harry Williams - President.

A hefty snowstorm on Christmas Day but the CBC went on just the same. A White-throat and Song Sparrow were spotted. A lynx was trapped by a local farmer, while 2 had been trapped the previous year.

We became the Peterborough Naturalists Club.

**1967** - Dudley Hewitt became President and Harry Williams took over the job of Editor of the Orchid.

**1968** - Dudley and Harry remained in the 1967 positions.  
Members of the club did some rock hounding in Bancroft.

**1969** - President was Gerry Seabrooke and Dudley took over the editor's chair again.

**1970** - Gerry Seabrooke and Dudley Hewitt in the 1969 chairs.

The club honoured Dr. Smith and Dr. Hinton of the Peterborough Pet Hospital for their great assistance, free of charge in Larry and Kay McKeever's work with the owls. Unfortunately, that was the year the McKeever's left these parts to carry on their great work in the Niagara area. (Note: We are very fortunate to be having the McKeever's coming to our 1990 May meeting to share some of their experiences with us.)

**1971**- Martin Parker became President of the club.

**1972**- Martin Parker - President.

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) were becoming a prominent danger in '72 though not yet too prevalent in the lower lakes.

**1973** - Gordon Berry became our new President, while Dudley Hewitt stayed on as Editor of the Orchid. In October Dudley retired due to new commitments and Bernie and Dorothy O'Higgins accepted the post as co-editors.

**1974** - Gordon Berry returned as President and a great deal of recycling was going on. The municipality did not see it as an urgent issue. My how things have changed in the past few years.

Rhea Bringeman started producing the Orchid Diary. She carried this on until 1983 when Geoff Carpentier took over. Mr. & Mrs. B. F. O'Higgins became editors of the Orchid.

**1975** - Bruce Cassar moved into President's chair.

The PFN hosted the FON Conference.

Doug McRae did a special bird count of Lily Lake all summer.

Jack and Nan Luscombe had a Bluebird trail established at Trent Nature Sanctuary and Dudley Hewitt had another at Rod Northey's farm. There were also several others started that same year.

Peterborough Square was opened.

Geoff Carpentier started his survey of mammals of Peterborough County - culminating in a book in 1988.

FON dues were now up to \$10.00 a year.

The O'Higgins remained the editors of the Orchid.

**1976** - Bruce Cassar remained President until June when Geoff Carpentier took over from September until the Annual General Meeting.

Annual dues were raised to \$6.00.  
There was a Royal Commission on Electrical Power Planning in Peterborough.  
There was an influx of Scarlet Tanagers this year.  
Long Point Bird Observatory has organized a Bird Feeder Survey.  
FON raised dues for Club membership to \$1.00 per paid membership.  
Bernie O'Higgins was editor of the Orchid.  
The Young Naturalists Club was formed.

**1977** - Geoff Carpentier elected as President.  
Electrical heating costs up 57.3% from 1974. Areas of concern for the club: Humane trapping, Falconry, Wolf bounties, hunting in Provincial parks, Jackson Creek clean-up.  
The McKeevers received an Honourary L. L. D. from Brock University.  
Two of our long-standing members died - Dudley Hewitt and Dick Bringeman.  
Bernie O'Higgins remains Editor of the Orchid.

**1978**- Geoff Carpentier remained President.  
Dues stay at \$8.00. Postage is up to 12 cents.  
The first Harlequin Duck was seen at Trent by McRae and Oldham.  
FON kicked off "Save the Whales" campaign.  
This year brought the start of Cavan Bog Protection.  
Bernie O'Higgins edited the Orchid, with Romney Robinson taking over mid-year.  
The Annual Meeting was upset by a bad storm and kept the guest speaker in Grimsby.  
Quentin Brown of Millbrook saved the day with an excellent talk.  
Bernie O' Higgins still Editor of the Orchid.

**1979** – Geoff Carpentier was once again President.  
The flora and fauna inventory of proposed Harper Road Park was completed.  
The Club protested sulphur dioxide emission by Inco in Sudbury.  
A completed aquatic plant inventory proposed in Ennismore Conservation Area – Chemong Lake.  
Protest held against Quetico National Park allowing outboard motors.  
Harry Williams received his Honourary L.L.D. from Trent University.  
Romney Robinson published the Orchid.

**1980** – Rhea Bringeman was the second woman to be elected President.  
Romney Robinson edited the Orchid.  
The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year a special commemorative program was put together by Johnny Fitzgerald.  
The MNR commenced an Osprey Nesting Inventory.  
The first House Finch was spotted during the summer in this area.  
The RAC committee was created – “to initiate, oversee and terminate projects designed to assist the PFN to realize its objectives as expressed in article 2.1 of the Constitution.”

**1981** - Rhea Bringeman - President.  
Warren Solomon took over the editorship in July '80. Postage up to 15 cents.  
RAC Committee researching how the changes under consideration for Jackson Creek may impinge on nature and the environment.  
Bacchus Woods in Southwestern Ontario was becoming an issue which we had become involved with.  
The commencement of the 5-year Breeding Bird Atlas.

A revision to the Birds of Peterborough County undertaken by Doug Sadler.

**1982** - Rhea Bringeman - President.

Warren Solomon - Editor of the Orchid. Dues up to \$8.00 and postage was 30 cents.

PFN became members of the Second Marsh Defence Association.

"Flora of Burnham Woods" compilation by Harry Williams and Roger Jones nearly ready for publication.

**1983** - President - Rhea Bringeman.

Warren Solomon hanging in as editor of the Orchid. Dues are up to \$10.00. Postage up to 32 cents.

Initial discussions on the cull of overpopulation of deer in Peterborough Crown Game Preserve - an issue the PFN subsequently got deeply involved in.

Geoff Carpentier took over the Orchid Diary which Rhea had written from 1974.

This was year 2 of 5 in Breeding Bird Atlas - 24 areas of 70 completed and 21 of 70 areas well started.

The FON accepted our invitation to host the 1986 Annual Conference.

Murray Palmer took over the Bluebird Trail from Jack and Nan Luscombe.

Doug Sadler's "Our Heritage of Birds" was ready for publication.

**1984** - President was Rhea Bringeman for first half of year and then Jack Evans took over.

Second Marsh Defence Association was embroiled in a battle re: preservation of the marsh.

In March of the year the Kawartha Field Naturalists were formed in Fenelon Falls.

Dorothy McCord was Editor of the Orchid.

**1985** - Jack Evans remains President. Membership - \$10.00. Postage up to 34 cents.

Planning well under way for '86 FON conference.

Bird Breeding Atlas now ending the 4th year and in "blitz" mentality with publication late in 1986.

MNR announced that deer hunt would go this fall in Peterborough Crown Game Preserve using shotguns.

Wildlife Habitat Conservation stamp was issued to hunters for the first time.

FON has decided to sell Buckhorn Wilderness Centre to "Wildlife Conservation Club."

Our new Orchid Masthead was unveiled - generously donated by Michael Dumas.

MNR unveiled their Osprey Adopt-A-Nest Program to record breeding success.

Dorothy McCord was still editing the Orchid.

Lola Leach, a long-standing and diligent worker for the Club died this year. We will remember her for her hot chocolate served after the Christmas Bird Count. The Lola Leach Award was established as a memorial.

**1986** - Jack Evans - President to August, and Dorothy McCord took over the Presidency in September. Membership was \$11.00 and postage 34 cents.

Dorothy turned her editorship over to Pat Dunsire.

The RAC Committee led a bird feeder project and built 19 bird feeders and installed them at retirement homes in the community.

LPBO suffered major storm damage in Dec. '85, requesting donations and "muscle" or research could be seriously impaired.

The first Lola Leach award was presented to Nan Luscombe for the work she and husband Jack had done over the years on the Bluebird nest box project.

South Moresby in the Queen Charlotte Islands in the news re: proposed logging.



The FON Conference was held here after three years of planning and many hundreds of hours of work by many volunteers, culminating in a very successful conference with 400 people attending.

Doug Sadler was appointed to the Peterborough County Waste Management Study. (A 2-year study) still ongoing in 1990.

A Northern Water Shrew identified; a first for the county.

A ban has been placed on further hunts by the MNR until further cabinet approval is obtained, and a detailed management plan is prepared.

**1987** - Dorothy McCord remained as President. Pat Dunsire editing the Orchid. Dues are \$11.00.

CWF designated the year as Wildlife '87. PFN is creating a junior program to celebrate. Doug Sadler was awarded the Richardson Education award by the FON. Geoff Carpentier was awarded the Achievement Certificate by the FON.

The Club adopted an owl from Larry and Kay McKeever with profits going to the "Dowry of Owls", a book written by the McKeever's. The Owl's name is Little Soo" – a Great Grey.

Rhea Bringeman won the Lola Leach Award.

Vince Kerio, then Natural Resources Minister decided to allow hunting and mining in Provincial Parks!!

The PFN held a Garage Sale- what an effort- \$1108.47 to offset the cost of Geoff's book.

Publication of "Atlas of Breeding Birds in Ontario"; Geoff Carpentier's "Mammals of Peterborough County" and Doug Sadler's, "Reading Nature Is Clues".

"Save the Rouge" fight in full swing.

The Juniors built 9 birdhouses in Geoff Carpentier's garage. The Jr. Programme running very well.

South Moresby in the Queen Charlotte's designated a National Park Reserve after a 13-year struggle.

**1988**- President - Geoff Carpentier. Dues - \$12.00. Pat Dunsire - Editor of the Orchid. The Lakefield Marsh is in danger because of rezoning application by Doughty Aggregates.

The Peterborough Crown Game Preserve (PCGP) again on the line. MNR wants to control the deer population without an environmental assessment.

The Lola Leach award was given to Maurice Niblett for his work on our behalf to ban hunting in the PCGP.

The government issued permission to build the Red Squirrel Logging Road in Temagami – an ongoing battle.

Don Porter set up 55 Bluebird nest boxes and the Niblett's put up at least 19.

Doug Sadler was awarded an Honourary Doctor of Law degree from Trent University.

**1989** - President - Geoff Carpentier. Pat Dunsire editing the Orchid. Dues - \$12.00.

The RAC Committee built 10 Osprey nesting platforms.

The Lola Leach Award was awarded to Harry Williams.

A Broad-billed Hummingbird - first ever - seen at a feeder near Buckhorn in late October. Pat Dunsire, Ted Nugent and Gord Berry hard at work on our upcoming book to commemorate our 50th Anniversary. The book is tentatively scheduled for publication in the fall of 1990. The book will be titled The Natural History of the Kawarthas.

The club paid to protect 22 acres of rainforest in South America.

Maurice Niblett, a valued member of the Club passed away Oct. '89.

**1990** -President - Clay Vardy. Editor of Orchid - Susan Malan.

The Lola Leach Award to Don Porter for his work with Bluebird boxes and trails.

The RAC Committee is preparing to build a viewing tower at Miller Creek.  
Recycled paper being used to publish the Orchid.  
After 8 years Geoff Carpenter has had to give up his work on the Orchid Diary. Doug Sadler is now carrying on with the Orchid Diary.

**Editor's Note:** Well, that is us for the last fifty years. It appears that there have been a great number of worthwhile projects carried out in that time. There has certainly been several dynamic leaders and many volunteers to do the work that was originally contemplated 50 years ago. Our numbers are on the increase and hopefully we will be able to carry on with many more projects to aid our ever increasingly fragile world.

### ***A CONTINUING HISTORY OF THE PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS (PFN) 1990 to 2015***

#### **1990 – President- Clayton Vardy; Orchid Editor - Susan Malan.**

The **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** was celebrated with a talk by Larry & Kay McKeever on Owls and their work at the Owl Research & Rehabilitation Foundation.  
Held at the Red Oak Inn. Tickets \$5.00.

Alex Shearer (one of the founding members of the PFN and President in 1946) and John E. Fitzgerald (a long- time member and editor of the 40th anniversary edition of the PFN Newsbook) both passed away in 1990.

#### ***Many Projects Undertaken:***

- Preservation of Loggerhead Marsh
- Miller Creek improvements
- Osprey nest platforms
- Peterborough Conservation Strategy.... organizers and field workers were needed to prepare a detailed inventory of green areas in Peterborough.
- PFN helped with red-shouldered hawk survey. They brought in hawks by using a tape recording of its call.
- Eco-Council of the Peterborough Area was formed. Two PFN members were on the Eco-Council executive, Doug Sadler (Chairperson) and Clayton Vardy (Chairperson of the Visionary subcommittee).

Bluebird report was given by Don Porter. 107 bluebird boxes were erected on local farms, mostly in Millbrook area. 117 young fledged. Don received the Lola Leach Award for his Bluebird work.

The negative impacts of Zebra mussels and purple loosestrife are reported.

Doug Sadler wrote "Winter a Natural History," which was launched Nov 15, 1990

Terry Hunter and Tom Atkinson reported some wildflowers in the County, including Rose Pogonia, Grass Pink, Meadow Beauty, Virginia Chain Fern, Ragged Fringed Orchid, Indian Paint Brush, Spikenard, Pink and Yellow Lady Slippers, Ladies' Tresses, and Ginseng.

Viewing tower completed at Miller Creek Conservation area. Thanks to Terry Hunter, Len Lockwood, Ted Nugent, Don White, Brian Pearce, Tom Atkinson, Stan Reiten, Aus Hill, Del Burke, Clayton Vardy, Jim Dunshire.

**1991 – President -Clayton Vardy; Orchid Editor - Paula Hughes**

Annual General Meeting was held at Royal Canadian Legion on Murray St. Cost was \$13.50 for members and \$14.50 for non-members. Board was subsidizing 50 cents per meal. Doug McRae spoke on his work at Long Point Bird Observatory.

Peterborough Ecological Strategy Committee (PESC) planned to survey all green areas in Peterborough to help protect these areas in the future, with respect to city planning. The PFN donated \$1500.00 to help with this work, and possibly another \$1500.00 donation. The understanding was that it would be voted upon by City Council to become part of the official city plan.

The Executive Committee of the Eco-Council sent resolution to Ontario government supporting the concept of maintaining abandoned rail lines in public ownership for use as recreational trails.

PFN was instrumental in preserving Loggerhead Marsh, a Class 3 Wetland, the highest class given to a wetland in an urban setting. City Hall planning staff created a new zoning category, "Open space" classification as a way of protecting Loggerhead Marsh.

A Club picnic was planned for June, potluck at Burnham Woods. An annual canoe trip with optional overnight campout was planned at Nogies Creek.

A full slate of activities planned for the Junior Field Naturalists. Osprey Nest platforms needed repair, request for help.

Peterborough Eco-Council sponsored a meeting that discussed 'the need for foresight in the battle to ensure Kawartha Lakes' Future.' The environmental state of the Kawartha Lakes was the main topic.

Membership dues increased: Adults/Family: \$16.00; Students: \$12.00

**1992 – President- Clayton Vardy; Orchid Editors - Mathilde & Ralph Colley**

AGM held at St. James United Church. Cost was \$13.00. Speaker was Terry Carpenter from Peterborough Photographic Society.

Strong Junior Naturalist Program planned.

Ted Nugent reported on the progress of the PFN's Book: The book was originally titled "Nature in the Kawarthas" but Boston Mills Press changed the title to "Kawartha's Nature." Book was published later in the year.

Reverend Cyril Youll, long -time member, passed away.

An outing of x-country skiing planned at Helen Kennedy's farm.

The Orchid started to publish 'Hi-Lights of the Board Meetings' to keep club members informed.

PFN sent a letter to Lakefield Village opposing a proposed development on the edge of Lakefield Marsh.

PFN made a submission to Council against the use of any wetland for the new Waste Management Site.

PFN made a presentation to City Council against the plan to downgrade Loggerhead Marsh from a #1 wetland.

The Club planned to host the FON conference in May 1994 and asked for volunteers.

Little Lake Cemetery Project: PFN is looking for volunteers to plant native trees and shrubs along the river at the Cemetery.

**1993 – President - Drew Monkman; Orchid Editors - Mathilde & Ralph Colley**

AGM held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Phil Schappert of the Ontario Entomologists Society spoke on "A Naturalist Sojourn in Jamaica." Tickets cost \$10.00.

Winter camping at Nogies Creek.

Junior Field Naturalist Club going strong.

Little Lake Cemetery Shoreline Restoration: volunteers planted trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to naturalize the waterfront.

PFN started "Birding Central Ontario" Series.... a year-long series of birding outings designed for all levels of expertise.

Prepared for 1995 Federation of Ontario Naturalists conference.... lots of help requested.

Peterborough Ecology Strategy is still active trying to map out, study and hopefully protect Peterborough's remaining natural areas.

Constructed new trail at Miller Creek property and purchased interpretive signs.

Club continued to be involved with the Peterborough Eco-Council.

Club hosted a Waterfowl Viewing Weekend that was well attended.

**1994 – President- Drew Monkman; Orchid Editor - Pat Dunshire**

AGM held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Cost \$9.50.

Speaker was Michael Bradstreet, executive director of the Long Point Bird Observatory. Topic discussed was the cull of the white-tailed deer at Long Point.

Hosted another Waterfowl Viewing Weekend in April.

Organized a field trip to Prince Edward Point in May with option to stay overnight.

Overnight camping enjoyed at Nogie's Creek. Potluck dinner with hike at Terry & Ruth Hunter's farm.

Club fees have increased to \$20. Single/ \$25.00 family.

**1995 – President Susan Malan; Orchid Editor - Jim Karagatzides**

AGM was at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Speaker was Peter Burke and topic was "A Naturalist in Papua New Guinea." Cost \$11.00.

Planned a fourth annual Waterfowl Viewing Weekend. PFN had use of Liftlock Visitors Centre for displays.

Roger Jones involved with Cavan Bog project.

Harper Creek area was under development pressure. At the urging of the Peterborough Eco-Council (of which PFN was on the steering committee), ORCA & City of Peterborough initiated a sub-watershed study of the area. Wanted to develop a conservation plan which would ensure protection of ecological features as the area was developed.

FON conference held at Trent University May 26 – 28, hosted by PFN. Was a success!

Draft of Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy was available for comment in October.

**1996 – President -Susan Malan; Orchid Editor - Jim Karagatzides**

AGM held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Speaker: Paul Healy, spoke on Belize focusing on the tropical rainforest ecosystems.

Winter camping at Nogies Creek.

New meeting time & location: PFN meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of every month at the Lions Club Center, 374 Burnham St. East City.

Sandhill Crane sightings becoming more common.

Great Gray Owl Invasion: Doug Sadler estimated that 330+ separate birds noted and this number probably conservative. Area stretched from Lake Simcoe and Little Britain to Bancroft and Combermere, Tweed, Madoc. The period involved: Oct. 1995 – May 1996.

Comet Hyakutake passed over during late March, early April.

Junior Naturalist Club attracted about 20 or more children each month.

PFN involved with shoreline revegetation project at Little Lake Cemetery.

Erected a set of feeders at Ecology Park in Beavermead Park.

**1997 – President- Chris Risley; Orchid Editors- Anne Anthony & Tina Therien**

AGM held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Michael Dumas speaking on "Journey to the Antarctic." Tickets \$12.00.

A day-long workshop was held at Edmison Heights Public School to explore habitat restoration in Peterborough. Participants chose between two programs, either "Endangered Species and

Spaces” (for teachers) or “Habitats at Home.” (for general public). Topics included garden design, native plants, ponds, butterfly gardens etc.

A **Conservation Committee** was set up to respond to the increasing number of environmental concerns. The Club wrote letters on the Natural Areas Strategy, reviewed environmental plans for the Peterborough Airport, talked about environmental problems on Pigeon Lake and kept track of a sub-watershed plan being developed for the Harper Creek area.

Upcoming meetings discussed a proposed tree cutting bylaw and the future of the rail trail from Lindsay to Corbyville.

The club prepared a response to the City’s draft policy statement on natural areas. In it, the City designated natural areas for protection and create a linked green space across the city with recreational trails, forest corridors and nature paths. This stems from the Natural Areas Strategy which the club started.

Comet Halle-Bopp was visible with best show from March 24 to April 10.

Sherri Neiman created a homepage for the Club...we’re on the World Wide Web.

PFN held an evening to recognize and honour Doug Sadler, a well-known naturalist, educator, and writer. Nearly 200 people came, one person was from Vancouver.

Meeting time changed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of month, still at Lions Club Community Centre.

New Book for Sale “A Nature Guide to Ontario,” edited by Winifred Wake (published by FON).

The Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund Program was launched Aug 11, 1997. It provided money and advice to landowners to conserve their wetlands as habitats for wildlife. In the Peterborough area, the first landowner to benefit was the Parent Farm near Bobcaygeon.

#### **1998 – President- Chris Risley; Orchid Editor - Anne Anthony**

AGM held at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church. Speaker Donald Davis spoke on “Exploring the Miracle of the Monarch Butterfly.” Tickets are \$12.00.

Ecology Garden bird feeders up and feeding.

Friends of Chemong Portage Trails planned to map the route of the original portage trail between Peterborough and Bridgenorth. This event used the 1818 Survey Map & Field Notes by Samuel Wilmot.

A Butterfly Count was held June 27<sup>th</sup>. The count was centered in Young’s Point area and included both Shield and off-Shield habitats.

PFN members invited to participate in the re-establishment of a native Rice Lake Plains Tallgrass Prairie ecosystem.

The Peterborough City Planning Department released a draft **Natural Areas Policy** which mapped and categorized natural areas into core areas, corridors and connecting links. Draft policies described how these areas would be managed for the future. PFN members including Earl Hus Hagen, Drew Monkman and Clayton Vardy as well as other members of the

Peterborough Eco-Council provided the City with their finalized Natural Areas Strategy Report. After public hearings, the City planned to then “set in stone” the natural areas to be protected and the policies to maintain them through the Official Plan.

Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) introduced ONTBIRDS, the ‘electronic’ way to notify birders of new Ontario bird sightings of interest.

PFN donated \$700.00 to “Imagine the Marsh”, a group that purchased some property overlooking the Lakefield Marsh and built a viewing tower. Further plans included planting native trees and shrubs and building a path.

**1999 – President- Chris Risley; Orchid Editor- Anne Anthony**

AGM held at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church. Speaker was Martyn Obbard, “The lives of Two Bears: The Ecology of Black and Polar Bears in Northern Ontario. Tickets cost \$12.00.

PFN trip to the Butterfly Conservancy in Niagara Falls, organized by Drew Monkman.

Jr. Field Naturalists have been meeting at Lady Eaton College, Trent University.

The publication, “Natural History Summary for Peterborough County” was a joint project of PFN, Natural Heritage Information Centre and Trent University. Cost \$10.00.

The Lakefield Marsh viewing tower was dedicated to Doug Sadler.

**City staff will soon be presenting new Official Plan Policies** and zoning for the City’s Open Space, Parks, and Natural Areas. They are responding to the Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy report presented in 1996. Several events were planned to help the public become aware of the Natural Areas that Peterborough has.

**“The City Fails to Protect Our Natural Areas”** .... The City of Peterborough’s proposed new Open Space, Parks and Natural Areas Policies was seriously flawed when it came to protecting our natural heritage.

**Further Natural Areas Policy Update**.... City Council heard from 10 speakers and the City voted to refer the draft policy back to staff and meet with environmentalists.... *The Saga Continues*.

Fanwort, a common aquarium plant, is invading Ontario Waters.

Bobcat sighted near Trent University.

June 2, 1999, McMaster University honoured Larry & Kay McKeever by conferring upon them an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree.

**2000 – President – Jim Cashmore; Orchid Editor - Anne Anthony**

AGM held at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church. Ken Abraham, waterfowl ecologist with MNR, spoke on the exploding snow goose population and its effects on the Southern Hudson Bay lowlands. Tickets \$12.00.

Subsidies available from PFN to help send one or more youths to one of the FON summer camps for young naturalists.

Three members passed away.... Harry Williams, Elizabeth Stairs, and Gordon Herzog.

**Large Woodlands Conservation Co-operative (LWCC)** was established by citizens and agencies from Peterborough, Northumberland, and Victoria Counties in Ontario. A grant was provided by the Richard Ivey Foundation as part of their forest conservation & biodiversity program. Goal was to inform landowners that are part of a large woodlands complex containing primarily Eastern Deciduous hardwood forests, that their properties are extremely valuable remnants of a very fragmented Southern Ontario Forest cover. LWCC hopes to be able to provide all participating landowners with aerial photos, on-site tours of the woodlot and workshops on sound management principles.

Two species declared endangered: Prothonotary warbler and King Rail

Third annual Peterborough Butterfly Count was held.

Oliver Property on Pigeon Lake recently donated to Trent University. PFN has potluck & hikes.

In June, the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Team successfully released a single, first generation, captive-bred female loggerhead shrike. It paired with a wild male.

Saw-whet owl banding at the Oliver property was in 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

An outbreak of avian botulism occurred in Cranberry Marsh with over 500 ducks dying.

MNR was undertaking a 5-year cormorant program to monitor the potential negative impact of the growing population of double-crested cormorants.

Doug Sadler's unpublished book, "Nature's Great Survival Game: How Sustainability Really Works," was appearing on the Web in a series of monthly instalments.

**Natural Areas Policies Finally in Place:** A ten-year saga finally came to an end on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, as Peterborough City Council gave final approval to a new set of Open Space, Parks, and Natural Areas policies for the City's Official Plan. The new policies were the culmination of a process initiated by the PFN in 1990, when then-president Clayton Vardy approached the City Planning division with a proposal to better identify and protect the city's natural areas.

While the new policies were not perfect, they did contain many important changes which should result in much better protection for Peterborough's natural heritage. Some highlights were:

- 1) There is a new land use designation, Protected Natural Areas, into which the city's most important natural areas will be placed. The new designation was applied to only 6 properties in the City.
- 2) Redefinition of the zoning categories within the Open Space designation to include a no- build zone into which natural areas not qualifying for the new land use designation can be placed.
- 3) Requirements of an Environmental Study when development is proposed in or near areas identified as natural area, fish habitat or provincially significant wetlands.



4) Establishment of a Natural Areas Advisory Committee to provide input into planning decisions affecting the city's natural areas. The Committee will run for a trial 18-month period, and then be made permanent if it is found to be effective.

**2001 – President - Jim Cashmore; Orchid Editor - Anne Anthony**

AGM held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Tickets \$12.00. Speaker, Ed Addison, retired MNR wildlife biologist, spoke on studies conducted on the moose and other animals of Algonquin Park.

Submission was made to the Provincial Government by PFN requesting that the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site be designated a Provincial Park rather than a Conservation Reserve.

Bequest of \$1,000.00 received from the Estate of Harry Williams. Harry Williams was remembered by many PFN members for leading an inspiring "Dawn Chorus" at his Millbrook farm for 11 years, starting before daylight (4 a.m.)

Second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas 2001-2005 was being undertaken to develop an up-to-date and accurate picture of the status and distribution of all bird species throughout Ontario. This followed the 1<sup>st</sup> Atlas 1981-1985.

First meeting of the Shorebird Habitat Project was held. Representatives included from PFN, Trent University, Ministry of Natural Resources, Wetland Habitat Fund, Ducks Unlimited, Peterborough Stewardship Council, and the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority. Dan Mansell was project coordinator.

PFN donated \$500.00 to the Peterborough "Millennium Walk" fund.

PFN joined a group called "The Friends of Downer's Corners," to help protect the wetland through which Meade Creek flows. The provincially significant wetland was under pressure from housing developments.

Large Woodlands Conservation Cooperative (LWCC) produced a brochure for landowners of any sized woodlot.

Summer of 2001 was Southern Ontario's driest in more than half a century. Also, 23 days with temperatures of 30 degrees, about double the normal average.

**2002- President -Anne Anthony; Orchid Editors - Carrie Sadowski & Jon Oldham**

AGM held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Tickets cost \$12.00. Speaker was Paul Wilson, supervisor, researcher, and professor from the Natural Resources DNA Profiling & Forensic Centre at Trent University. Talked about 'eastern wolf' and wolf/coyote genetics.

Ontario birder, Alan Wormington, was selected as one of the pair to undertake the search for the ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana. Final report on ivory-billed woodpecker: ...the team did not obtain photographs but found possible evidence of its presence.

PFN donated \$500.00 to Thickson's Woods Foundation to help raise down payment to purchase "the Meadow" which they were able to do.

2002 Lola Leach Award presented to Jean Greig.

Second 5 years for Breeding Bird Atlas underway.

PFN Board of Directors passed a motion to support “Kids for Turtles” in their initiative and will assist the children, along with local turtle experts, in deciding where the most critical areas are for the signs to be placed.

J. Larry McKeever passed away May 14, 2002. He was a longstanding executive member of the PFN and was President in 1949, 1950, 1961. He was also one of the founding executives of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON). He was instrumental in starting Christmas bird counts in 1955 (10-mile radius from City Hall). In 1949, as President, he wrote and circulated the first Club Newsletter known as Peterborough Nature Club News. He went on to establish The Owl Foundation, in Vineland, Ontario.

PFN meetings now located in the Peterborough Public Library.

PFN Board donated \$500.00 towards the campaign to acquire Cameron Ranch in the Carden Alvar.

PFN member, Jim Cashmore, co-ordinated a Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) project in the Wildlife Sanctuary. A 250-foot boardwalk was built across a treed swamp to connect two fields that have been almost inaccessible for much of the year, to the main sanctuary.

**2003 – President- Anne Anthony; Orchid Editors - Carrie Sadowski & Jon Oldham**  
AGM held at Rock Haven Motel & Convention Centre. Tickets \$17.00. Speaker, Doug Sadler on “Images in Nature: The Human Response.”

The Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre was asked to house some Wood Turtles involved with a research project this year.

PFN volunteers were invited to join British and FON conservation volunteers working on nature trail improvements in the Trent University Nature Areas from Aug 16 – 24, 2003.

Mapping of Natural Heritage...PFN members were asked to recall personal experiences of important local natural areas. Ian Attridge of Kawartha Heritage Conservancy will use the information in several local programs, including Peterborough County’s new Land Use Plan. Second annual canoe outing was held on Squirrel Creek.

Federation of Ontario Naturalist (FON) and Peterborough Field Naturalists co-hosted a presentation based on the new publication from the FON, ‘A Smart Future for Ontario: How to Protect Nature and Curb Sprawl in Your Community.’

PFN donated \$200.00 to the Owl Foundation in Vineland – a raptor rehabilitation centre that has been hard-hit by West Nile over the past couple of years.

PFN donated \$750.00 to the ‘No Parkway’ group to show the PFN’s support for this campaign. Money went towards educating citizens about the value of retaining the existing corridor and the negative impact the proposed extension would have on our community.

**2004 – President - Heather Smith; Orchid Editors - Carrie Sadowski & Jon Oldham**

AGM held at Rock Haven Motel. Tickets \$18.00. Speaker Ron Tozer, talk was “Algonquin Park Birds in Winter.”

Jon Oldham, co-editor of Orchid, worked at Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives. He found **the first newsletter for PFN, Vol. 1 No. 1, written in March 1949 by Larry McKeever**. The publication was initially called **Peterborough Nature Club News**. **In 1953, the club bulletin was called Nature Notes**. **In 1956, at the AGM, the club newsletter was henceforth to be known as “The Orchid,”** in honour of the late Francies J.A. Morris, well-known local naturalist, teacher, author, poet, and orchid enthusiast. Former Club member, and aspiring artist, Reg Chandler designed a new “Orchid” logo. Then the newsletter, following the AGM, **(February 1956) was officially the first “Orchid” and was identified as Vol. 1 No.1**. Frank Pammatt was 1<sup>st</sup> editor of the Orchid; Doug Sadler was the second editor.

George Maynard, Del Burke, and Bob Quinn kept bird feeders filled at Ecology Park.

PFN sold copies of Doug Sadler’s latest book, “Birds from the Ground: The Record of Archaeology in Ontario.”

Large Woodlot Project: Dave Hambly represented the committee at the Ontario Woodlots Association conference in Lindsay and reported that the display was well-received.

Shorebird Project: main objective at this point was to find a suitable site. Potential areas were being investigated.

An article from Peterborough Examiner 1895 was on Catharine Parr Trail.

Federation of Ontario Naturalist (FON) changed name to Ontario Nature ON.

A motion was passed to contribute \$500 – 1,000.00 per year for three years to the Large Woodlands Conservation Co-operative (LWCC). New LWCC co-ordinator: Danielle Tassie.

**2005 – President - Heather Smith; Orchid Editor- Rebecca Zeran**

AGM held at Baker Hill. Tickets \$25.00. Terry Sprague spoke on “10 Days on the Rideau.”

The Shorebird Project was put on hold.

Orono Creek Restoration.... Mike McMurtry, representing PFN, participated in a stream rehabilitation project on Orono Creek. The PFN Board was interested in placing more emphasis on hands-on participation by Club members in such ecological restoration projects.

Large Woodlands Conservation Co-operative (LWCC) held an open house at the Memorial Temple (north of Port Hope) on March 5th. LWCC looked for a woodlot suitable for a demonstration project. Twenty local woodlot owners met at the Long Sault Conservation Area for a guided forest walk. Trails went through large unfragmented forest.

Final year for the Ontario breeding Bird Atlas.

Robert “Bob” Sarginson passed away July 23, 2005. For 18 years he had watched, counted, and reported on the nesting success and productivity of the common loon on Pigeon Lake.

PFN considers hosting the Ontario Nature 2007 Annual Meeting.

\$150.00 donated to the Saw-whet Owl Banding Project at the Oliver Property for the purchase of 2 mist nets.

**2006 – President - Heather Smith; Orchid Editor- Rebecca Zerán**

AGM held at Curling Club. Michael Runtz was speaker.

In memory of her husband, Tom Imada, who was a regular participant on the PFN's Sunday bird walks, Sachi Imada made a \$100.00 donation in Tom's name.

Stan Reiten, a long-time active member of the PFN, passed away Feb 15, 2006.

LWCC received another Trillium cheque in Fall, 2005.

Organizational meetings set for planning Ontario Nature AGM in 2007. Roger Jones was event co-ordinator.

**Update on Large Woodlands Conservation Co-operative by Danielle Tassie, co-ordinator:**

LWCC was created (by landowners, naturalists, biologists, foresters) in 1999 to provide stewardship information to local woodlot owners, whose properties make up large forests in and around the Kawarthas, and to promote conservation of these unique ecosystems.

Several events were organized for landowners throughout 2005. A workshop on "forest management & planning," a tree & bird ID forest hike and an all-day session on Seed Collecting were the first year's events.

Newsletters, fact sheets and a website ([www.trentu.ca/org/woodlands](http://www.trentu.ca/org/woodlands)) also provided information on many subjects such as invasive species, species at risk, forest fragmentation.

Upcoming events for LWCC in 2006 included new workshops on planning for tree planting, invasive species ID & management, more nature hikes and a new workshop on seed collecting. LWCC scheduled site visits with landowners to see if landowners qualified for funding for restoration & sustainable harvesting projects. Dave Pridham was the new LWCC coordinator. The PFN was a vital partner of the LWCC since its inception.

PFN joined the Restoration Round Table.

**Regarding development pressure on the Harper Park Complex/Byersville Creek System:**

In the Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy report/final report released in October 1996/ on page 50, the Harper Park Complex was declared as follows: "Easily the most ecologically important natural area in the City, the area contains a variety of features that warrant protection." The Strategy then continued to outline an implementation strategy that today, almost ten years later, has not been fully realized.

PFN, working with other community organizations, should provide leadership in facilitating action towards developing a Greenspace Plan for the entrance to the City.

A meeting was planned for May 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss.

PFN was involved with a Peterborough Green-Up event where native plants were planted along the Parkway right-of-way.

**2007 – President- Heather Smith/John Bottomley; Orchid Editor - Rebecca Zeran**

AGM held at Baker's Hill Centre, \$25.00 per person.

Speaker Jim Schaefer, "People and the deer: Humans and caribou in a changing world."

PFN and Kawartha Heritage Conservancy did some conservation stewardship work on a rural property being co-managed by the KHC and the Sharpe family. Tasks included marking pines for thinning and marking and clearing a hiking trail. The property was donated to Kawartha Heritage Conservancy by Alice Sharpe.

Gina Varrin became the new co-ordinator of LWCC.

**Update was given by Roger Jones on Ontario Nature's 76<sup>th</sup> AGM & Conference held June 8-10, 2007. Hosted by PFN. See full report in Orchid November 2007.**

Approximately 100 individuals were involved in organizing and running the AGM and Conference. It covered 3 days. It included a speaking program, field trips, displays, exhibits, facilities, budget brochure, registration, website, fundraising, and advertising. About 250 persons registered. It was a most successful weekend.

**2008 – President - John Bottomley; Orchid Editor - Rebecca Zeran**

Peterborough Museum Property Bioblitz organized by Mike McMurtry for June.

Large Woodlands Conservation Co-operative (LWCC) ended. The Club was the lead organization in this multi-year Trillium funded project. It had been designed to improve the environmental management of privately owned woodlots in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough, Northumberland, and part of Durham counties. The project had been well received.

As part of the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) Species at Risk initiative, PFN received a grant to install four Chimney Swift towers in the local region.

Doug Sadler, who contributed so much to Peterborough and the Club, passed away in 2008.

**2009 – President - John Bottomley; Orchid Editor - Rebecca Zeran**

AGM was held at Baker's Hill. Tickets cost \$25.00. Speaker was James Raffan of the Canadian Canoe Museum. Talk titled, "National Treasure: Exploring Possible Futures for the Canadian Canoe Museum."

Chimney Swift structures were completed.

Bioblitz was organized at Trent University Nature Area by Mike McMurtry; planned for June.

**2010- President - John Bottomley; Orchid Editor - Rebecca Zeran**

AGM held at Baker's Hill. Tickets cost \$25.00. Speaker: John Etches "Whales in the Desert, The Wadi el Hitan World Heritage Site, Fayoum Depression, Egypt."

In co-operation with Camp Kawartha, the PFN had a bookcase built to create the Doug Sadler Memorial Library and installed it at the new Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. Doug's own collection of books was generously donated by his family. PFN members were welcome to donate additional books to the library. The library will make a significant contribution to raising the level of environmental understanding in the local community.

Tony van Hoeckel passed away. Tony performed the annual financial audits for the PFN.

Joan Sadler, wife of the late Doug Sadler, passed away at age 95 on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

PFN has a membership on the County of Peterborough Stewardship Council.

Bioblitz organized by Mike McMurtry.

**2011 – President - John Bottomley; Orchid Editor - Rebecca Zeran**

AGM held at Baker's Hill Centre. Tickets cost \$25.00. Dr. Laurence Packer spoke on Bees.

PFN hosted the Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre.

PFN hosted a Jane's Walk along the Otonabee River in downtown Peterborough.

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>: 'Nature in the Kawarthas,' book launch event** held at Titles Bookstore, 379 George St. North Peterborough. Hosts were Anne & Dave Heuft of Titles Bookstore.

In 2011, Jerry Ball, PFN member and trip leader accomplished the rare feat of observing 301 species in the southern part of the province within a one-year period.

**2012 - President - Martin Parker; Orchid Editor - Rebecca Zeran**

AGM held at Baker's Hill Centre. Speaker Doug Larson, "Storyteller Guitar": award-winning scientist, author, lecturer & musician on his philosophy blending the union of art, science, and history. Tickets \$27.50.

"Nature in the Kawarthas" book getting good reviews and sales.

A celebration of the publication, "Nature's Year: Changing Seasons in Central and Eastern Ontario" by Drew Monkman was held at Titles Bookstore in April

PFN's newly- overhauled and upgraded website (Peterboroughnature.org) was introduced. Project was undertaken by Chris Gooderham. Website has greatly improved functionality.

"Transit of Venus" across the face of the sun was observed on June 5 through telescopes set up by Peterborough Astronomical Association at Ashburnham Memorial Park on Armour Hill

In December 2011, the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy received 74 acres of land overlooking Stony Lake near Mount Julian as a gift from the Ingleton and Wells families.

"State of Canada's Birds" report released by Bird Studies Canada and North American bird conservation initiative partners.

Ontario Nature's Lake Ontario North regional meeting was held at the Toronto Zoo, which.

included an update on the highly successful 2012 Rouge Park Bioblitz (250 participants. more than 1,350 plant and animal species identified).

PFN announced the “Peterborough Treasured Tree Hunt” which gave residents the opportunity to nominate their favourite /special tree located anywhere within the city limits. The Award Gala was held on November 20.

**The history of the Orchid and the Peterborough Nature Club News was reported in an article by Martin Parker in the December 2012 issue (page 4).**

**2013 - President - Martin Parker; Orchid Editor - Rebecca Zeran\***

*(\* Chris, Martin, and Lynn assembled the Nov. & Dec. 2013 editions)*

AGM held at Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club. Speaker: Mark Peck, Royal Ontario Museum, “Tied up in Knots”: shorebird surveys along west coast of James Bay. Tickets \$36.00.

Long-time member and Lola Leach award recipient Don Quinn, who undertook the Orchid mail-out for many years, passed away in December 2012.

**Lily Lake Functional Planning Study:** feature article written by Drew Monkman for the Examiner on massive project which may eventually see 3,000 new dwellings and 8,000 people occupy the area. PFN formed a sub-committee to work with the City Planning Department to address concerns with the impact on sensitive wetlands and wooded ravine adjacent to the planned development; to assure that future residents will have access to a natural environment that includes plenty of parks and trails; and to encourage efforts to intensify housing in the city’s downtown core.

The Global Great Backyard Bird Count became the world’s largest-ever bird count, with more than 25.5 million birds and 3,144 species recorded on 120,000+ checklists.

PFN member Neil Fortin received an award at the 2013 AGM for his many years of work with the Junior Field Naturalists.

Long-term PFN volunteer, Board member and Lola Leach award recipient Rhea Bringeman passed away on April 14, 2013. Her accomplishments included summarizing natural history observations for the Orchid Diary, representing the PFN on the Board of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature) and organizing and hosting their 1995 Annual Meeting and Conference in Peterborough.

Peterborough Green-Up introduced a new book on Peterborough’s urban forest and Heritage trees entitled “Beneath the Canopy”.

In October 2013, the PFN decided to participate in the Peterborough Greenspace Coalition, consisting of Friends of Jackson Park, the ‘No Parkway’ group and the PFN. The overall aim of the group was to protect and preserve green space in the city of Peterborough.

The PFN outlined four major concerns with the Lily Lake Secondary Plan in a private meeting with a City Planner, and provided recommendations aimed at ensuring the protection of sensitive areas around the proposed development, including Jackson Creek, Jackson Park, Lily Lake, the Trans-Canada Trail, and several adjacent wetlands.

The PFN Board decided to become a signatory to the Peterborough Declaration on Climate Change in November 2014.

**2014 - President - Martin Parker; Orchid Editor – Marla Williams\***

*(\* Chris, Martin, and Lynn assembled the Jan/Feb 2014 edition)*

AGM held at the McDonnell Street Activity Centre. Speaker: Rick Stankiewicz - "The Wonders Above Us": atmospheric and astronomical wonders in the day and night skies. Tickets \$36.

Volunteer guest speakers were sought to speak about wildlife for the New Canadians Centre LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) program, hosted by Fleming College at the Bonaccord Street campus.

The Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre moved to a new location at 1434 Chemong Road & Third Line. Approximately 100 adult turtles and 600 "babies" were currently under care, and 370 turtles were treated in 2013. Over 1,000 members of the community attended a successful open house at the new location in March.

A special members' forum on "*The Next 75 Years – What are the Possibilities for the PFN*" was conducted at Camp Kawartha on March 22, and a summary report was later provided to PFN members.

The Ontario Climate Consortium organized a town hall forum on March 25 on the subject of "Climate Change in my Backyard: Climate Change Impacts in the Peterborough and Kawarthas Region".

The PFN was advised that it will be receiving up to \$40,000 from the estate of long-time PFN member Rhea Bringeman, who passed away in April. This will be a tremendous legacy for the club, and the Board solicited input from members regarding the use of these funds.

The PFN Board submitted a brief to the Minister of Environment outlining its position on **the Parkway Environmental Assessment process**, requesting that the Minister force a Part II Order under the Environmental Assessment Act so that a full assessment is required for the proposed project. PFN stated the preliminary EA overstates the economic and transportation value of the Parkway, understates the cultural and natural value of the project, and that a more realistic cost/benefit assessment would not support the project.

The PFN's lady slipper orchid logo was made available for clothing purchased at Mark's Work Warehouse on Lansdowne Street West, at a cost of \$5.00 for the embroidery. PFN cardholders obtain a 10% discount on new items purchased at the store.

The PFN makes an annual contribution to the Peterborough Regional Science Fair of \$100.00. Four deserving projects in the elementary category are awarded the PFN award and a cash prize.

After 10 years, Neil Fortin has stepped down as the coordinator of the Junior Field Naturalists due to other commitments.

The PFN Board proposed investing the principal from the Rhea Bringeman bequest into an endowed fund to be known as **the PFN Legacy Fund**, to be invested in a pool administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough as an endowed fund, in which the principal



will always need to be maintained. Annual interest could be used for initiatives such as an annual scholarship for a student at a post-secondary education institution, funding for special projects and committees, and support for other organizations.

### **2015 - President – Lynn Smith; Orchid Editor – Marla Williams**

AGM held at the McDonnell Street Activity Centre.

Speaker: Dave Ireland, Managing Director, ROM Biodiversity- “The world’s largest Bio-Blitz initiative and telling our stories effectively”.

Tickets: \$36.

**May 18, 2015, marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PFN.** A full day of activities to commemorate this important date in the club’s history were planned.

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration held on May 18, 2015**

The day included birds, butterflies and plants at Miller Creek Management Area, Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park, and Camp Kawartha. Activities for kids were organized at Lakefield Marsh and Camp Kawartha. Festivities continued at Camp Kawartha where a barbeque was enjoyed and display booths from like-minded organizations were set up.

Recognition of the Club’s work over the past 75 years was revealed.

- Letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper
- Certificate from Premier Kathleen Wynne
- Congratulations from MPP Jeff Leal, Mayor Daryl Bennett, and the County of Peterborough
- **The Environmental Excellence Award for Stewardship** which had been presented to PFN by the mayor of Peterborough and the Otonabee Conservation, in recognition of projects and programs undertaken to contribute to a healthier watershed. These include a variety of educational outings for its members, the annual Christmas bird and butterfly counts, providing input to the city and county on environmental and planning issues, and the ongoing care of the Miller Creek Wildlife Area
- **Samuel Armour Award** which had been presented to PFN from the Peterborough Historical Society for its commitment to broadening the knowledge and appreciation of our region’s natural heritage.

Congratulatory speeches were given by Liberal MPP Jeff Leal, Ian Attridge of Kawartha Land Trust and Peter Hughes, Peterborough GreenUP.

Jacob Rodenburg, Executive Director of Camp Kawartha, announced that a white birch would be planted on the property in honour of the PFN’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Finally, anecdotes were given from past Presidents and members: King Baker, Gordon Berry, Geoff Carpentier, Drew Monkman, Martin Parker, Roger Jones, and Jim Cashmore.

A successful day of camaraderie, reminiscing and good times!

### **Additional Awards in Recognition of 75<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary**

- Environmental Stewardship/Sustainability Award from City of Peterborough
- Special award of Recognition from Peterborough County and Haliburton Kawartha Lakes & Brock
- Congratulatory letters from the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, Otonabee Conservation, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change

PFN members, Enid and Gord Mallory published their book, “Travels with Birds: In Eastern North America”.

PFN member, Drew Monkman, was awarded Honorary Degree at Trent University.

PFN set up displays at the Peterborough Garden Show and Buckhorn Art Festival.

### **Williams Nature Reserve**

Harry & Claire Williams were long time, active members of the PFN. Their daughters donated 40 acres of woodland on the Bruce Peninsula to the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy in memory of their parents.

First annual eBird workshop was led by Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.

### **Donations:**

PFN pledged \$1000.00 to the Kawartha Land Trust project, 'Help Save Boyd Island'.

PFN co-sponsored the documentary, "The Messenger" at the ReFrame Film Festival.

Long time, active PFN member, Tony Bigg passed away. He was the Orchid Diary Reporter; Sunday morning wildlife walk leader and Christmas bird count co-ordinator.

### **2016 – President – Lynn Smith; Orchid Editor – Marla Williams**

AGM held at The Peterborough Naval Association

Speaker: Arnold Zageris, author, and publisher, spoke on his book and experiences, "On the Labrador".

Tickets: \$35.00

PFN set up displays at: Peterborough Garden show, Gamiing Nature Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources Earth Day Event, Buckhorn Fine Art Festival, the Kawartha Land Trust 3<sup>rd</sup> Lecture – Trent Speaker Series.

### **Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area**

PFN built new bird houses and replaced the pathway sign that described the frog and toad species found at Miller Creek. Thanks to Brian Wales, Jim Cashmore, and Martin Parker.

### **Moths & Mothing**

PFN member, Basil Conlin wrote several articles in the Orchid on Moths & Mothing.

Check 2016 April, May, June, Sept., and 2017 June & Nov.

PFN member, Drew Monkman and Executive Director of Camp Kawartha, Jacob Rodenburg released their new book, "The Big Book of Nature Activities".

### **First Record in Peterborough County**

Female Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly was found on Sandy Lake Road off Highway 46 by Jerry Ball and Ken Morrison.

Loggerhead Marsh received Provincially Significant Wetland status.

**Donations:** PFN donated \$250.00 to The Mount Community Centre for the creation of a butterfly-pollinator garden on the property.

Canada Jay declared Canada's National Bird.

Rare to Ontario, Glossy Ibis, was seen by several PFN members at A.K. Sculthorpe Memorial Woodland Marsh in Port Hope.

Christmas Bird Count had a record number of American Robins (1,943), perhaps due to a bumper crop of grapes. Previous record high was 759 in 2011.

### **2017 – President - Ted Vale; Orchid Editor – Kathryn Sheridan**

AGM held at Peterborough Naval Association

Speaker: Leora Burman, Corporate Founder & CEO of ‘The Land Between’, spoke on The Land Between.

Tickets: \$35.00

Junior Field Naturalists received the Environmental Excellence Award for Stewardship from Otonabee Region Conservation Authority.

PFN hosted the Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional meeting in April at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre.

### **Harper Park News**

- PFN expressed concerns to City of Peterborough over the proposed location of casino and negative impacts to Harper Creek watershed.
- Harper Creek Wetland upgraded to a Provincially Significant Wetland
- PFN partnered with Trent University professor, Michael Fox, and MSc. Candidate, Scott Blair MSc. to conduct a 2-year study of the life history of the Brook Trout population in Harper Creek as well as urban stream ecology.
- 20 Brook trout were tagged with funding from members/organizations from the community.
- PFN participated in Earth Day Super Spring Cleanup organized by Rotary Clubs by cleaning up in Harper Park.
- PFN members, Ted Vale and Lynn Smith attended a meeting with Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Dominic LeBlanc, and MP Maryam Monsef to discuss the need to preserve Harper Park as well as the impact of development and invasive species on local waterways and aquatic wildlife.
- 100 species of birds had been reported on eBird for Harper Park.

Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne acknowledged the PFN's letter outlining its concerns about the City of Peterborough's Parkway corridor extension.

**First Record in Peterborough County** – Silver-haired bats detected by Chris Ketola.

### **Rhea Bringeman Bequest**

Rhea Bringeman was a long-time member and volunteer with the PFN. Her many accomplishments with the PFN included President from 1980 to 1983, director on the Board for 32 years. She also was the PFN representative to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, now Ontario Nature for 19 years. She was a main organizer of the Ontario Nature conference held in Peterborough in 1995. Bringeman also compiled The Orchid Diary for many years. Rhea Bringeman left the PFN a substantial bequest on her passing in 2013. A portion of her bequest was used to establish the PFN Legacy Fund, an endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. The annual disbursement from this fund is used for special projects.

PFN set up displays at: Peterborough Garden Show, Buckhorn Art Festival, Ministry of Natural Resources Earth Day Event.

PFN member, Martin Parker conducted a 2-year survey on the Kawartha Land Trust Dance Nature Sanctuary to determine seasonal occurrence of butterflies.

PFN partnered with Vanessa Potvin, 4<sup>th</sup> year Trent University student, through the Trent Community Research Centre. Vanessa digitally mapped ten core ecologically important areas as described in the 1996 report entitled, "Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy".

Government of Ontario announced its decision to terminate the Snapping Turtle hunt.

City of Peterborough began work to revise its Official Plan. PFN member, Martin Parker, participated on an Advisory Committee.

PFN members participated in a Bioblitz at Trent University.

Rare to Ontario, many Dickcissel were reported over a 3-week period in June.

Environmental Stewardship/Sustainability certificate was awarded by City of Peterborough to the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count Participants.

### **Nature-Viewing in the Kawarthas: Where to Go**

PFN member, Drew Monkman, wrote several articles in the Orchid describing locations in the area to view nature. Check Orchids Dec 2017, Jan 2018, and Feb 2018.

### **2018 – President - Ted Vale; Orchid Editor – Kathryn Sheridan**

AGM held at Peterborough Naval Association

Speaker: Steve Burrows, award winning Canadian mystery writer and journalist spoke on his journey from birder-to-birder murder mystery writer.

Tickets: \$35.00

PFN member, Steven Kerr was co-author of "Muskellunge Management: Fifty Years of Cooperation among Anglers, Scientists and Fisheries Biologists".

### **First Records for Peterborough County:**

- Butterfly, Early Hairstreak (*Erora laeta*) identified by PFN member, Basil Conlin
- Bird, Long billed Dowitcher reported by Scott Gibson off Bensford Road.

PFN member, Dylan Radcliffe, joined the steering committee for "The Kawarthas, Naturally Connected Project". This collaboration is working to create a complete natural heritage system map for Peterborough County and City of Kawartha Lakes. Check out [www.kawarthasnaturally.ca](http://www.kawarthasnaturally.ca) to explore the map.

PFN set up displays at Peterborough Garden Show and Buckhorn Art Festival.

### **Structured and Unstructured Citizen Science: Seventy Years of Bird Observations Near Peterborough**

A project supervised by PFN member, Martin Parker, and Trent University professor, Jim Schaefer and submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> year biology student, McLean Smith, Trent University May 2018.

McLean Smith reviewed The Orchid Diary from 1948 to 2016 and compiled reports of 7 species including Canada Goose, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, Purple Finch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Wild Turkey, and American Robin.

He compared the relative abundance and the number of reported sightings in The Orchid to the relative abundances from Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) and Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS). His analysis indicated that unstructured citizen science (The Orchid reviews) was a useful predictor of the appearance of a novel bird species to an area. Reports in The Orchid predated the detection of the species in the CBC and BBS. However, the observations weren't consistent for tracking the abundance of a species, once established.

This paper was published in The Journal for Nature Conservation which is a scientific journal focusing on methods and techniques used in nature conservation. It can be viewed at:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1617138119300457>

**Donation** of \$1000.00 contributed to Nature Conservancy of Canada towards the protection of Brighton Wetlands situated at the northern end of Presqu'ille Bay.

PFN members, Enid, and Gord Mallory, inducted to Peterborough Pathway of Fame – 2018 Literary

### **2019 – President –Ted Vale (June)/Dylan Radcliffe; Orchid Editor – Kathryn Sheridan**

AGM – Peterborough Curling Club

Speaker: PFN member, Annamarie Beckel spoke on “River Otters: Playful Enchanters”.

Tickets: \$40.00

**Advocacy** - PFN joined petitions on issues:

- Unlimited open season on cormorants
- Weakening the Endangered Species Act

PFN was invited as a key stakeholder to participate in the consultation on the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Study.

PFN member, Michael Burrell and brother, Kenneth, published “Best Places to Bird in Ontario”.

PFN member, Steve Kerr submitted a summary of the 2018 Loon Survey and the 2019 Turtle Observations on Jack Lake.

PFN set up a display at Peterborough Garden Show.

PFN Junior member, Jakob Griffin, was awarded the Margaret and Carl Nunn Memorial Camp Scholarship. The scholarship was offered by Ontario Nature through a donation from the Nunns. Costs for 4 days at Camp Kawartha's Nature Camp were covered.

**New Website** – PFN member, Dylan Radcliffe, has updated the PFN website.

PFN supported Holy Cross student, Maya Taylor, in a Conservation Project in South Africa.

JUNIOR Field Naturalists have new leaders. Welcome Jay Fitzsimmons, Erica Barkley, and Stephanie Collins. Lara Griffin has stepped back a little, but still involved.

The PFN submitted comments to Peterborough's Draft Official Plan.

### **First Records in Peterborough County**

- Yellow-throated Warbler, identified by PFN member, Scott McKinlay in Cavan
- Forster's Tern identified by Iain Rayner at Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake

### **Harper Park News**

- Scott Blair from Trent University defended his MSc thesis on the movement and habitat use of brook trout in Harper Creek.
- First Records: Jeff Bowman, research scientist, reported a Northern Flying Squirrel  
Two Blue-spotted Salamanders reported.
- eBird lists 135 bird species in Harper Park

### **2020 – President – Dylan Radcliffe/ Rene Gareau; Orchid Editor – Kathryn Sheridan** **YEAR of the PFN 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

AGM at Peterborough Curling Club

Speaker: Noel Alfonso, Canadian Museum of Nature spoke on "Fish and Other Tales".

Tickets: \$45.00

**\*\*\*\*DUE to the COVID-19 Pandemic the PFN 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was postponed. Outings and meetings for April, May and June were cancelled\*\*\*\***

In April, the Board of Directors had their meeting via Zoom. Goals moving forward were to publish the Orchid and host a Club meeting through the platform, Zoom.

The May Orchid described:

- Several favourite plant and wildlife viewing locations in the Peterborough area.
- Spring nature activities for the whole family

**First Record for Peterborough County** – a Yellow-crowned Night Heron was initially viewed by Jalyann Riches along Preston Rd in Cavan.