

A Continuation of the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists' History 1983 - 1994

Prepared by Betty Cooper and published in *The Heron*, April 1993
January 1983 saw "The Heron" change from the annual publication it had been since 1957 to a monthly "notice of meeting" with articles, bird records, etc.

1984 was a big year for the KWFN! We celebrated our 50th anniversary on March 26 with a banquet at the Mutual Life Auditorium. Two of our founding members were able to attend – FWR Dickson and Marjorie (White) James – and were presented with framed scrolls. Viola Hanson, nee

Snyder, was similarly honoured at the May meeting. The Roseville Swamp/Hallman property was renamed the 'Founders' Wildlife Sanctuary'.
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Our other special guest was Norm Lightfoot who showed his new film *The Hooded Seal*.

In May we hosted the Annual meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Chandler Robbins, author of *Birds of North America*, and Dr. Robert Dorney, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University, were guest speakers. The talents of many members in our organization, arranging field trips, indoor sessions, exhibits, and the photo salon provided an enjoyable and successful meeting.

A sad note was the passing of three long-time members over the summer -
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Roy Dickson, Norm Friedmann and Fred Cooper. The year ended with the establishment of another tradition for the KWFN - our Christmas potluck supper.

Through the 80's we used displays at malls, hobby shows and Victoria Park to publicize the FON and KWFN; provided leaders for nature walks and outings for the public; produced a bird checklist for our area; erected 5 osprey nesting platforms (4 locally); and began honouring our long-time members with a life membership and framed scroll. It became possible for us to contribute to other groups' purchases of natural areas as well as many

worthwhile projects parallel to our aims.

In 1998 the opportunity to participate in the Peregrine Falcon Release Project arose and members once again provided the expertise to successfully

run the program and raise 5 chicks to free-flying 'immatures'. Club membership rose to close to 300 and we outgrew the facilities at Highland Road United Church. After much searching, we moved to the Wing 404-Rotary Adult Centre in Waterloo in April of 1990. We initiated "The Great Tree Hunt" in the Waterloo region which has developed into an annual tree planting program of native species locally. Today, dedicated members continue to attend many meetings to keep us informed on city and regional affairs that are of concern - threats to ESAs, our parks and woodlots - and work for ecologically sound alternatives.