

NOVEMBER 2009



The Heron

KITCHENER-WATERLOO
Field Naturalists

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Next Club Meeting:
November 23 , 2009 at 7:30PM
Wing 404/Rotary Centre, Dutton Dr., Waterloo

UNDERWATER FISH MONITORING IN THE GRAND AND OTHER RIVERS

Dr. Christopher Bunt of Biotactic Incorporated will explain to us how his company uses a network of sensors and video cameras to study fish and other aquatic wildlife. See live video of what is happening in the Grand via the internet.

Coffee and Tea Available
at the Meeting



Please remember to bring
Your Mug!

KWFN Contacts for the 2009/2010 Season

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Editor's Corner



There are lots of upcoming activities for the KWFN. Check inside for details on Christmas Bird Counts, outings and our annual Festive Potluck.

Deb Fowler

Submissions for the Heron need to be received by the 15th of the month.

Submit via email,

<deb.heron_editor@rogers.com>

or mail to 30 Calmcrest Drive,
Kitchener N2E 1V3

Information for everyone

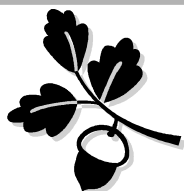
Streamlining Club Meetings

The membership survey was very clear; club members want shorter meetings. The following are some steps that we will implement:

- 1) Do you have an announcement to make to the membership? If so, please contact the president, either by phone or e-mail, at least 3 days in advance of the club meeting. You will then be put on the agenda. Contact information can be found on page 2 of *The Heron*.
- 2) Announcements should be no more than 2 minutes in length.
- 3) As well, concern has been raised regarding the overuse of clipboards at club meetings. To remedy this, two clipboards should always be used - one for each side of the room. If an individual wishes to collect more names at subsequent club meetings, a short announcement can be made and the collection of additional names can be done at a side table (without sending the clipboards around again).
- 4) The following is a timeline for club meetings. An attempt will be made to stick as closely as possible to it.

- 7:30 - meeting begins
- announcements
 - welcoming new members and first time visitors
 - sightings (Waterloo Region and Ontario only, please)
- 8:05 - break begins
- 8:20 - break ends
- motion to pass previous club meeting minutes, if required
 - introduction of the speaker
 - speaker presentation
 - Q + A
- 9:30 - approximate end of meeting

We're all in this together. For the goal to be achieved, the efforts of all will be required. We all have a part to play.

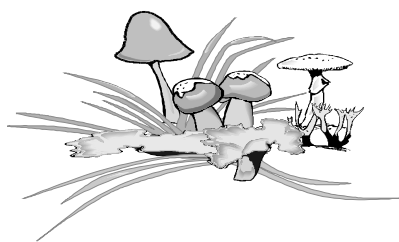


Congratulations
to our
"Native Plant Nut"
Wayne Buck
chosen
"Environmental Citizen of the Year
Wilmot Township"

Winter Weather Notice to Members:

In the situation where a winter storm may arise, please tune to 105.3 Kool FM for meeting cancellation notices. Information will also be available on our website, www.kwfn.ca

Native Plant Nuts



McCrone Lake

Do you know the difference between a bog and a fen? I know I have been told the difference but until I actually experienced it on our outing to McCrone Lake, I could never remember. The ancient Chinese proverb states, "I hear, and I forget. I see, and I remember. I do, and I understand."

Both are wetlands. But a bog holds the water; having no outlet such as a stream, causing the water to become acidified, allowing the growth of pitcher plants, sundew and sphagnum moss. A fen, on the other hand, has water flowing through it, albeit slowly, which does not allow the water to become acidified. Usually it's on the alkaline side of the pH scale.

The area of McCrone Lake we explored is virtually unknown botanically. Larry (Lamb) has not been able to find any reference to either Montgomery or Dickson having been there, which added to the excitement. From its appearance, Larry had supposed it to be a bog surrounding McCrone Lake. But, when we started exploring the area, it turned out to be a fen; a first for most of those attending. There were none of the aforementioned bog plant indicators such as we found at Spongy Lake.

We turned up a number of interesting plants nonetheless, some of which are listed below. Those with special significance are marked with *.

Trees

Hackberry*, Hill's Oak*, Black Oak, Red Ash, Green Ash, Slippery Elm, Tamarac

Shrubs

Shrubby Cinquefoil*, American Hazel, Poison Sumac*

Ferns

Royal, Lady, Marsh, Crested Shield, Cinnamon, Wood

Asters: Arrow-leaved, Flat-topped White,* Calico, Lance-leaved, New England

Goldenrods: Rough, Swamp, Blue-stemmed, Tall, Rough,



Other Forbs, Water Hemlock, Large Yellow Lady's Slipper, Arrowhead, Golden Alexanders, Groundnut, Turtlehead, Dewberry, Unusual Horsetail species* we were not able to identify, Northern Green Orchid, Swamp Thistle* This would be an interesting spot to visit again in June when some of the other forbs are

blooming. In addition Larry explained the special significance of Groundnut, a low growing sprawling plant that to me looked something like Hog Peanut. This was the plant that the First Nation People showed the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620 how to dig that kept them alive during their first winter in North America. It is higher in protein than potatoes.

Have you noticed the asters this year? It's hard to miss them. I suspect the weather this summer had a lot to do with their glorious display; the royal purple of the New England Aster; the large white clumps of Lance-leaved Aster. Here and there along highway 7&8 west of Kitchener we see patches of Heath Aster; white like Lance-leaved but shorter and bushier. We have also seen a few Amethyst asters; the hybrid between New England and Heath aster.





~ Fraser Gibson

Ontario Nature-Great Lakes West-Fall Regional Meeting

The Guelph Field Naturalists will host our next Regional Meeting on Saturday November 7, from 10:00 to approximately 3:00.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn a little more about Ontario Nature's Regional structure, hear about the activities of other clubs in our region and be updated on Ontario Nature activities. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet other naturalists and share ideas among our network. Since Guelph is our closest neighbouring club, the drive time is very short making this a wonderful opportunity for you to visit.

I welcome members to attend this meeting with me. It is a great learning opportunity.

The agenda includes member-group updates, reports from Ontario Nature, and a presentation on (possibly a trip to) Guelph's new Pollinator Park. I do not have complete details on the agenda as yet but can forward them to anyone who is interested once details are available.

If interested, please email me at the address shown in the Heron.

Exciting News at Petrel Point

Submitted by Mark Carabetta, Ontario Nature

Thanks to the generous land donation from John Grandy and Meg Salter, a 23.3-acre parcel of land will be added to Ontario Nature's Petrel Point nature reserve (located just north of Oliphant on the Bruce Peninsula). This wonderful addition means globally rare Great Lakes coastal meadow marshes, containing rare species and a diverse community of plants including many species of orchids, will be better protected.

However, we still need your support! Ontario Nature must raise funds to cover the costs associated with transferring ownership, inventory work and long-term stewardship.

To learn more about the reserve and to see pictures of it visit: http://www.ontarionature.org/enviroandcons/reserves/res_petrel.html. To find out how you can contribute to

growing Petrel Point, please contact Randie Hanlan at 416-444-8419 ext. 233, or randieh@ontarionature.org.

Highway Expansion

Submitted by Amber Cowie, Ontario Nature

A new highway expansion in the Windsor-Detroit region is raising eyebrows among species at risk advocates across Ontario, due to its potential to set an alarming precedent under the Endangered Species Act. The proposal will impact eight Carolinian species at risk in the area, from Butler's gartersnake to the beautiful dense blazing star. The project is going forward under an Endangered Species Act permit, which needs to be carefully monitored by Ontario Nature and other partners and supporters, to ensure that the least amount of harm possible is done to our province's threatened species and that the project compensates for habitat loss through mitigation and other means.

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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Our thanks to all who have renewed their memberships for the 2009-10 year! For those who have yet do so, please take note.

The deadline for renewing your membership is November 15, 2009. You are encouraged to take advantage of the Membership Renewal table at the back of the hall on October 26th. Other options are to obtain a membership form from the KWFN website or directly by email from the Membership Director and follow the directions at the bottom of the form.

Following November 15, 2009, the Membership List will be revised and only paid up members will remain on the active list and receive The Heron when it is distributed in subsequent months.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR

MEMBERSHIP WITHOUT DELAY! This will eliminate the necessity for me to do the required follow up activities as well as the costs involved.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members and encourage “old” members to seek them out and provide a personal welcome.

As of October 5th, our new members are: George Buckton, Blair Hatch, Don Frei, Linda and Herminio Schmidt, Nicole and Srinivasan Keshav, Donald and Jan Roberts, Paul Widmeyer.

We encourage all members, and particularly our new members, to seek out the Directors and other resource people listed on the contact page in The Heron to get whatever information you need and to offer assistance in areas of interest to you..

If there are any errors or omissions in the above list

please advise the Membership Director. While this list does not include former members who have rejoined the KWFN for the 2009-10 year, we extend a special welcome and encourage them to renew their involvement in club activities.

Yes, it is that time of our year! Please use the form in included with the September Heron to renew your membership for the 2009 -2010 year. Unsure if you need to renew? Simply check your mailing label. If there is an “R” on it you will need to renew your membership. I and my helpers will be at the back of the hall at the September meeting to help you take this item off your ‘To Do List’. Or, you may use the mail-in option indicated at the bottom of the form. It would be good (and helpful) if we could have all renewals completed by the end of the September meeting. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



Membership Fees September to August (After Feb.1/10 - 1/2 price*) * new members only (senior = 60 yrs)	
Family/Couple	\$35.00
Senior Couple	\$30.00
Adult Individual	\$30.00
Senior Individual	\$25.00
Student	\$25.00
18 and under	Free

from the Conservation Director's desk....

The KWFN's role in environmental protection, locally, provincially and in some cases, across Canada, will play an even greater role this year and we are appealing to our membership to be our eyes and ears to what is going on out there. Most recently, some of our members were involved in saving so-called "surplus lands" deemed by the City of

Kitchener as having no value and therefore ripe for development. Members of the KWFN saw it differently and supported a group of folks whose mission was to save green spaces such as the lovely Lakeside Park. I'm thrilled to report, their efforts were successful.

In the past we have also shown support for protecting Hidden Valley and we are monitoring what is happening to save places such as the Oak Ridges Moraine.

As a group of people who love and respect our natural world, it is incumbent upon us to do what we can to support causes that protect what is so precious: our environment. If you have issues you would like to bring to the attention of the KWFN board of directors for our consideration, please advise me either by phone or email. Thank you.

Valerie Hill
Conservation Director
519-578-8113
vhill296@rogers.com

Fun Facts About Black-capped Chickadees

Chickadees usually mate for life.

Only about 20% of the Black-capped's daily energy intake comes from feeders, and about half of the overall winter diet is made up of such animal matter as spiders, dormant insects, and even carrion.

Have you noticed how ravenously the birds eat at your bird feeders, especially first thing in the morning and just before dusk? Chickadees can gain as much as 10 percent of their body weight each day and lose it all again during a cold winter night.

Black-capped chickadees keep an eye on the food-finding success of other individuals, if one bird is doing especially well; they adapt their behaviour, whereas un-

productive tactics are not copied.

The Black-capped generally sings out a "fee-bee" call while the Carolina sings "fee-bee fee-bay;" however, this song is learned and, in overlapping territories, may be learned from the "wrong" bird.

Chickadee's wing beats are about 27 times per second. This compares to a hummingbird's 80 beats per second.

They are cavity nesters. They will excavate their own nest site in a rotten or decaying wood, use an old woodpecker hole or use a nesting box. They add a cozy nest on a moss base.

Usually lay 6-8 white eggs with a light reddish-brown speckling. They hatch in about 12 days and fledge about 21 days later.

When the temperature falls

From Wild Birds Unlimited electronic newsletter

below 10 degrees, research has shown that the survival rate of chickadees almost doubled when they had access to feeders, this resulted in an overall higher winter survival rate of 69% versus a 37% survival rate for populations without access to feeders.

Chickadees are a tough little bird that do not migrate. During cold weather Chickadees have been found to need twenty times more food than they do in summer.

They like to eat seeds, suet and even coconut.

Chickadees weigh less than one-half of an ounce.

The oldest banded Black-capped Chickadee recaptured in the wild had lived 12 years and 5 months.

Outings Schedule



By Mary Voisin

Beverly Swamp ESPA
Monday, November 2
Jim Lackenbauer 893-2815
& Janice Bock traveljb
@hotmail.com by Sunday please.

Meeting Time/Place
9:00 am at Deer Ridge Plaza behind Tim Hortons and near The Brick.

This area of 4000+ acres in Flamborough crosses 3 watersheds. We'll walk ~ 4 km along boardwalk and through mixed forests on the Lafarge Trail with some ups and downs. We will enjoy the rich diversity of plant and animal life east of Cambridge and near Freelon.

Chickadees and More at F.W.R. Dickson Wilderness Area
Tuesday November 10
Marco DeBruin
658-5372

Meeting Time/Place
9:30 am in the carpool parking lot at Fountain St (Homer Watson) and the 401

Dickson is a 98 acre property originally bought by KWFN and donated to the GRCA. The property encompasses two ponds and provides a home for a vari-



ety of birds, plants, fungi etc. The boardwalks through the wetland are good locations for bird watching and seeing chickadees and nuthatches up close. Don't forget your camera, binoculars and seed to feed the birds!

If time permits we may also visit Bannister Lake to see any remaining waterfowl. Sandhill cranes have been seen here in the past.

Huron Natural Area (HNA) **Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15** Neil Taylor 893-6469

Meeting Time/Place 9:00 am Saturday and 1:00 pm Sunday

Pavilion area – 801 Trillium Park Dr.

Directions – Take Strassburg Rd. south from Bleams Rd. to Trillium Drive . Turn west (right) about 1 km. to the parking lot on south side (left).

Neil will lead this hike through a very valuable wildlife area in the City of Kitchener that contains an amazing representation of this area's biodiversity. This regionally significant 107 hectare (360 acre) park is the city's largest park. It contains a cold water stream that supports a population of brook trout flows through the site. There is a diverse habitat including Class I Provincially Significant Wetlands, kettles, ponds, upland maple/beech forest, cultural meadows, as well as pine plantations. Significant

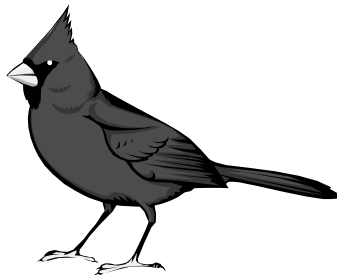
species breed here and the ponds are visited by migrants. It has been said that there are more than 400 different plant species, and 18 different vegetation zones. While the wildlife is quieter at this time of year, we may encounter surprises. Join Neil for this fresh air experience and learn about the more than 100 wildlife species, including dragonflies, butterflies, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Some of these species are regionally and provincially significant. This will be about a 3 hour hike, but anyone may leave if they have a time constraint.

Drynan Regional Forest,
Saturday, November 21
Valerie Hill 518-578-8113

Cell 519-841-3228

Meeting Time/Place
9 a.m. for car pool at parking lot at Highway 401 & Homer Watson Road, otherwise meet at the Drynan Tract parking lot 9:30 a.m. Located on Concession 8, east of Dumfries Road, south of Greenfield Drive .

The Drynan Tract is a 45 hectare site located in North Dumfries , a rolling forest with rugged topography and low lying marsh as well as several small lakes. This Carolinian forest provides habitat for several significant species.



Christmas Bird Count – Learn the Basics – Part I
Saturday, December `12th, 2009
Neil Taylor 893-6469

Meeting Time/Place:
9:00 a. m. Parking lot of Doon Presbyterian Church (with permission) at 35 Roos St., Kitchener, (off Old Mill Rd. in Doon).

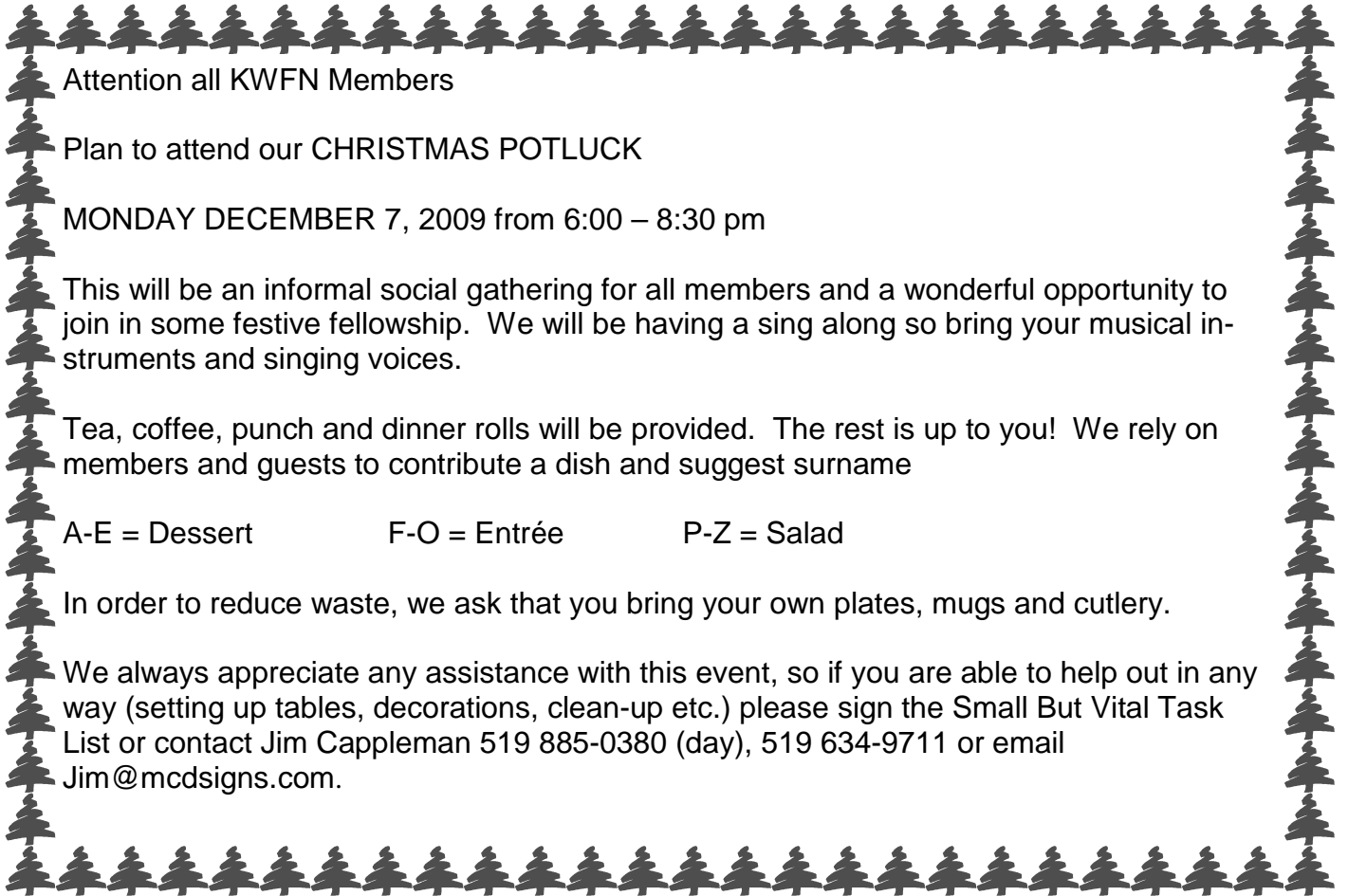
The annual Christmas Bird Count for Kitchener will take place later on December 19th. New participants are needed to complete this census and make it successful. If you would like to take part in the count but are unsure of what's involved, then join Neil to learn the basics and gain self-confidence to volunteer

for this year's CBC. Dress warmly and bring your binoculars, field guide, notepad, and pen/pencil. To volunteer, see the notice elsewhere in this month's Heron or see the Web Page for contact information. Neil confesses that he is also using this outing as a means of scouting out his area for rare birds in advance of the count itself. You may and really should register for the CBC in advance of this event. Sturdy hiking footwear is suggested. (3 hours)

Christmas Bird Count – Learn the Basics – Part II
Sunday, December 13th, 2009
Neil Taylor 893-6469

Meeting Time/Place
1:00 p. m. Parking lot of Pioneer Memorial Tower. From Fairway Rd., take King St. E. past Riverbank Dr. and Highway 8. Turn right onto Deer Ridge Dr. and follow to the end, ignoring Pioneer Tower Road. Turn right onto Lookout Lane and proceed to the parking lot.

This is a repeat of the December 13th outing, but in a new location in the area of Doon Pioneer Tower. See the earlier information.



Attention all KWFN Members

Plan to attend our CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

MONDAY DECEMBER 7, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm

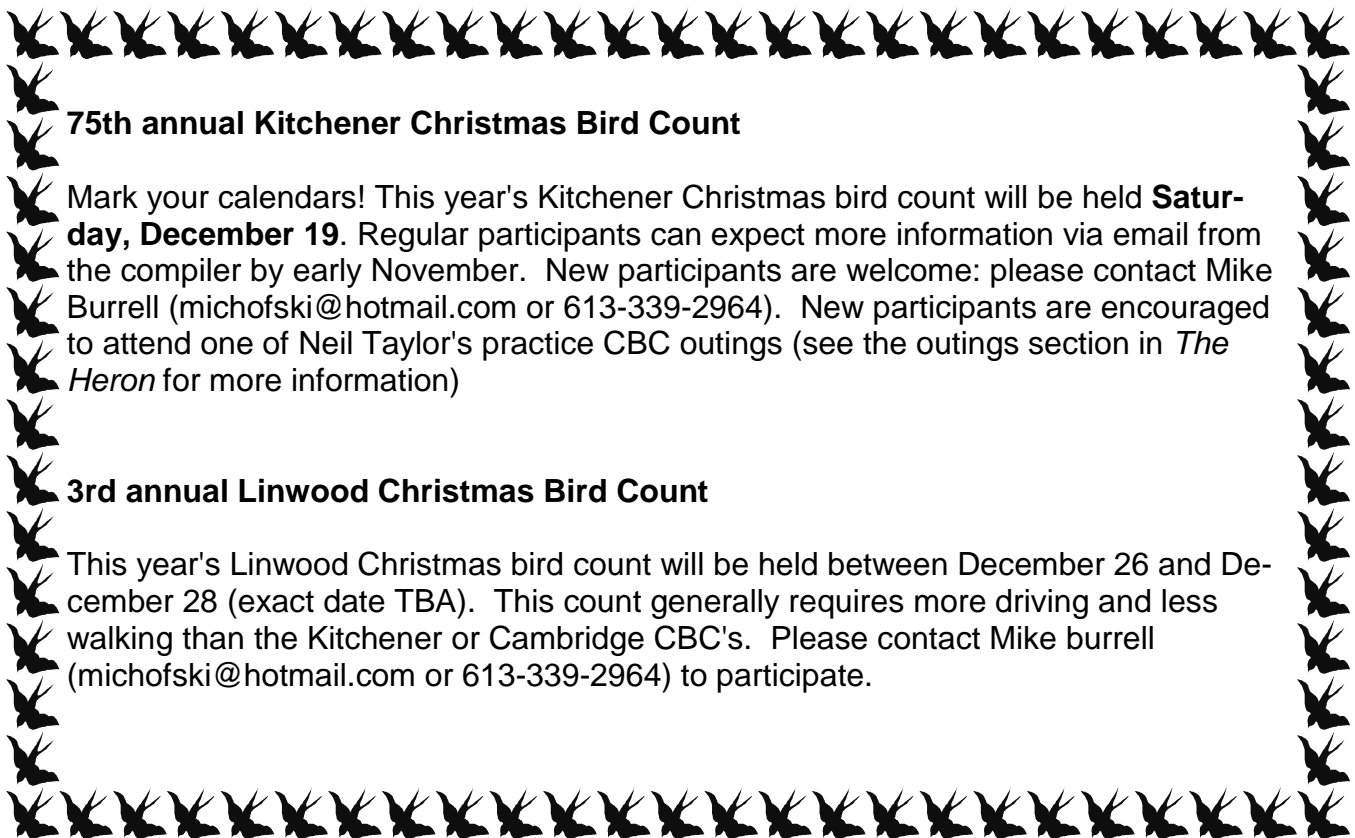
This will be an informal social gathering for all members and a wonderful opportunity to join in some festive fellowship. We will be having a sing along so bring your musical instruments and singing voices.

Tea, coffee, punch and dinner rolls will be provided. The rest is up to you! We rely on members and guests to contribute a dish and suggest surname

A-E = Dessert F-O = Entrée P-Z = Salad

In order to reduce waste, we ask that you bring your own plates, mugs and cutlery.

We always appreciate any assistance with this event, so if you are able to help out in any way (setting up tables, decorations, clean-up etc.) please sign the Small But Vital Task List or contact Jim Cappleman 519 885-0380 (day), 519 634-9711 or email Jim@mcdsigns.com.



75th annual Kitchener Christmas Bird Count

Mark your calendars! This year's Kitchener Christmas bird count will be held **Saturday, December 19**. Regular participants can expect more information via email from the compiler by early November. New participants are welcome: please contact Mike Burrell (michofski@hotmail.com or 613-339-2964). New participants are encouraged to attend one of Neil Taylor's practice CBC outings (see the outings section in *The Heron* for more information)

3rd annual Linwood Christmas Bird Count

This year's Linwood Christmas bird count will be held between December 26 and December 28 (exact date TBA). This count generally requires more driving and less walking than the Kitchener or Cambridge CBC's. Please contact Mike burrell (michofski@hotmail.com or 613-339-2964) to participate.

HERON ADVERTISING RATES

<u>Size</u>	<u>Per issue</u>	<u>Full year</u> (9 issues)
Full page	\$200	\$1,600
1/2 page	\$100	\$ 800
1/4 page	\$ 50	\$ 400
1/10 page (business card)	\$ 25	\$ 200

Please contact Dale Ingrey at e-mail ingreyda@hotmail.com or phone 519-884-3667

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*Frigatebirds * Darwin Research Stn. * Finches...
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SLIDES-TUESDAY-Nov.3- Country Hills Library

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Guelph/Cambridge/ KW Birding

Birding in and around Guelph, Wel-
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Area

This forum is for sharing infor-
mation regarding birding and
wildlife "spotting" in the
Guelph, Wellington, Kitchener-
Waterloo, and Cambridge areas
of Ontario. Please feel free to
browse the forums, and to post
your own messages. If you
have info to impart to the
group, go ahead and post! If
you have questions, go ahead
and post them! Have some-
thing to say? Go ahead and
post it! Have a picture to share
with the group? Go ahead!

Shirley's Box-The Highgate Mastodon Story

by Karol Grainger

In 2005 Shirley Fenton of Waterloo donated a box to UW's Earth Sciences Museum that contained old bones. The box contained two molars, each as big as a softball, and a tusk from a lower jaw that is the length of a wine bottle. The bones were those of a mastodon, an enormous elephant-like animal that became extinct roughly 10,500 years ago. Shirley found the box in the attic of her parent's home in Highgate wrapped in the pages of a 1933 newspaper.

Highgate which is located south of London ON is an area where mastodons were known to roam. The Highgate Mastodon, one of the most famous mastodon skeletons excavated in North America was found in this area. That skeleton is displayed in the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck, ND. Researchers wondered if the bones from Shirley's box belonged to the Highgate Mastodon in North Dakota. If they did, how did they end up at the University of Waterloo.

Paul Karrow, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the University of Waterloo and Peter Russell, Curator of the Earth and Environ-

mental Sciences Museum at the University of Waterloo began a journey to look into this mystery.

According to newspaper reports from the 1890's, the Highgate Mastodon skeleton was discovered less than two metres under the surface when a farmer was digging a drainage ditch through the property. Nothing more was done at that time. Four years later two businessmen bought the rights to excavate the rest of the Highgate bones. The men displayed the unassembled bones in towns in Ontario, charging for a viewing. The bones were toured through western Canada by a man who later died. The bones disap-

peared at the same time. When they next appeared, the bones were being displayed in Minnesota and South Dakota. The skeleton was eventually sold in 1898 to the University of North Dakota where they lay forgotten until the early 1990's. Two North Dakota paleontologists "rediscovered" the bones and began the task of assembling the skeleton. During the course of the reconstruction it was discovered that a tooth was missing, as well as at least one of the lower-jaw tusks. Unfortunately, the bones in Shirley's box did not fit and so the mystery, of where these bones belong, continues.

Can you teach a teacher?

We're looking for volunteers with knowledge about the outdoors who would be interested in helping public elementary teachers learn a little nature interpretation for outside activities with kids. The format and timing are flexible. One possible arrangement is that a volunteer meets once or twice after school with 3 or 4 teachers in the schoolyard or nearby natural area to share a few basics about that habitat.

We think that getting some first-hand help about one specific spot might help teachers who are interested but inexperienced at interpreting nature. If you're interested please contact me! Thanks!

Marg Paré
for the Environmental Committee, Waterloo Region local of the
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
519-585-2377
margaret_pare@wrdsb.on.ca

Neil E. Taylor
KWFN Representative
Waterloo Stewardship Network
November, 2009



Waterloo Stewardship Network

"providing Waterloo Region with knowledge necessary to continue responsible stewardship of the natural resources we all share"

This is a brief report to update KWFN members of some of the highlights of recent activities and some future plans of the Waterloo Stewardship Network (WSN). Suggestions, comments, etc. are invited from members of the KWFN. The Waterloo Stewardship Council (WSC) is always looking for quality projects to assist with. If you have project ideas or are involved with a project that you feel the WSC could help with, please let me know.

Project Updates

- The prairie Species at Risk (SAR) project at Waynco was visited recently and the grass is responding to the burning. Three blocks totaling 3 ha. were weed controlled and planted this spring with appropriate species. Seed collection will start shortly. Some woody plant removal is also planned for this fall. Steve May (MNR) will consult with Larry Lamb regarding other sites to begin work including Veeder and Barrie Lakes, Branchton etc. Peter Kyle's neighbour is also interested in establishing a prairie site. A contractor will be hired to help with seed collection and planning of future activities at Waynco, Kyle, and other prairie sites in Waterloo Region.
- Aquatic Renewal 2009-10 Workshop Series - There is funding in place to continue this program in 2009-10. OSOFdollars (\$7K) and a surplus from 2008-09 (\$5K) are available for this program where we expect to host more work/training days to help build capacity of volunteers to do this type of project. Steve will talk with Anne Loeffler (GRCA) regarding some potential sites. Steve is to outline workshops with partners and hire a contractor within available budget to help with delivery of the work-shops.
- LEAF Implementation, fall, winter and spring - \$20K is available for this project to set up classrooms to plant native trees, shrubs and plants for restoration use in the City of Kitchener. Growing materials, seed, additional plant materials, and a contractor can all be covered with this grant. Steve is to hire a contractor and to meet with City of Kitchener Staff to outline this project further.
- Work Day for Direct Seeding with GRCA - Steve will meet with Nathan Munn from GRCA regarding a direct seeding tree project at Creekside Church in north Waterloo.
- Lunch and Learn Series - Following discussions, the OLEX site is not the best area for such events due to changes in the culture of the cattle sales. This program will be deferred and reorganized if suitable talks and venues can be determined at a future date. This idea may be better directed at education opportunities for council members and as an after school option for envirothon students.
- Evergreen School Grounds Support Promotion - Three schools are being supported with \$5K each. Two in the 2009 - 10 year and one in the 2010 - 11 seasons. Denis Wendland identified a person who has done excellent promotions work for his program that we may wish to look into hiring to improve profile from this project. Wayne Buck was interested in potentially moving trees from his site. Steve will look into the cost of hiring a promotions specialist.
- Training and Development and Conferences for Council Members - With a few requests for training events this past summer between council meetings, Steve would like direction as to providing approval for learning opportunities for council members. There is budget for these and the council is in support of members taking suitable training and education events. Steve's discretion can be used to financially support council member participation in training and educational opportunities. A rough budget of \$1K per member is available.
- Doon Demo Forest Work - The site has been marked and it is planned to have public information sessions in early October (1st and 3rd) to show local residents the plans for the site. Steve has also secured \$5K for sign creation and installation at Doon, Drynan. Steve and Albert Hovingh (Region) are to complete a public information night. Steve is to arrange a meeting of partners to talk about signs.
- Drynan Forest Potential - This site has the potential to be a demonstration site for the council. A site visit was held recently and three potential projects were discussed. A prairie/savannah entrance way, a direct seed experiment under thinned plantations, and a commemorative grove of trees that will also act as a Carolinian Tree species arboretum were discussed.
- Envirothon Program support kits - To support teams in their quest for excellence in this program the council could provide training materials to help teams prepare. Kits with the types of equipment they will encounter during training days and competitions can be prepared and given out on a library loan type system. The council will create two sets of kits for forestry, aquatics and soils for loan to school teams with a budget of \$2K to create these kits.
- Laurel Creek Headwaters ESL - This committee is moving forward with another workshop on November 19th. This workshop will introduce the ESL stewardship fund and how landowners can apply for funding for environmental projects in the ESL area.

Respectfully submitted,

President's Corner

-Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

Eureka Moment

I have often imagined the Earth to be a house – our home in which we all live.

Polluted rivers, diminishing fish stocks, endangered species, contaminated soils, holes in the ozone layer, climate change – all signs of stress to the Earth. These symptoms can be compared to damage in our home – cracking foundation, leaking roof, shattered windows, bursting pipes, heaving floorboards, dripping faucets.

That's how my imagination runs.

Word origins and meanings have long held a certain fascination for me. It struck me, recently, that the words "ecology" and "economy" looked as though they might share a common root. After some research, I discovered that, yes, indeed, they do. Both derive from the old Greek word "oikos" meaning "home" or "household."

Imagine my surprise! Even way back then, the ancient Greeks knew - the Earth is our home. For me, that was a eureka moment.

Apparently, this concept was known and intrinsically understood by the ancients. It is knowledge that our modern societies have lost and which

has resulted in the circumstances in which we now find ourselves – an Earth stretched beyond its biological limits, damaged natural systems... cracks in our home.

Some claim that we have now reached the apex of knowledge and sophistication. I would contend that, sometimes, with new knowledge gained, some ancient wisdom is forgotten and lost. It could validly be stated that some of the lost antediluvian knowledge is actually more essential to life on this planet than the new, recently acquired knowledge.

We need a return to the wisdom and attitudes of the ancients. Some would argue that a whole new spirituality of the Earth akin to that of ancient aboriginal cultures is required – one in which we recognize ourselves as *part* of the Earth, a species like every other, wholly dependent on the biological systems and functions of the Earth.

This December, nearly 200 world leaders will gather in Copenhagen for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The aim is to stem the tide and significantly reduce human produced greenhouse gas emissions post Kyoto. It is these rising greenhouse gas

levels that have been altering the climate and wreaking havoc in our home.

The eyes of the world are on our leaders.

I encourage you to become part of the rising tide. Join the chorus. Make your voices heard. Contact them. Flood them with letters and e-mails.

Phone

Fax

Write

Text

Tweet

Draw a picture for them.

See e-mail addresses below to contact Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Minister of the Environment Jim Prentice.

pm@pm.gc.ca

Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca

Help these leaders reach their own eureka moment.



November Outings at a Glance - refer to this Heron for full outing details

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 Beverly Swamp 9:00 a.m.	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Dickson Wilderness Area 9:30	11	12	13	14 Huron Natural Area 9:00
15 Huron Natural Area 1:00	16	17	18	19	20	21 Drynan Re- gional Forest 9:00 am
22	23 KWFN Meeting	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 KWFN Potluck 5:30 pm	8	9	10	11	12 Bird Count Doon 9 am and Dec. 13 at 1

Cut this calendar out (or photocopy it) and hang somewhere for a quick reference!

Update from the Board of Directors

The last Board meeting was held on October 5. The following topics were discussed:

- Membership survey and implementation of suggestions.
- Lapel microphones for speakers are being looked into.
- KWFN website. A website policy and webmaster job description are being established.
- A research award will be set up with the University of Waterloo.
- New advertising rates for *The Heron* have been approved.
- Club insurance coverage for trail users.
- Recording natural heritage information.
- Order of the general meeting was discussed.
- The Montgomery Committee's report was received.
- Conservation Award nominations are being sought.
- Christmas potluck planning has commenced.
- The Board will send a letter in support of Endangered Species.
- The Executive Guide has been updated and is complete. Thank you Fraser!
- Directors' and committee reports.

If you are interested in reviewing the minutes of the Board meeting, they will be available in the library next month, once they are approved by the Board. The next Board meeting will be held on November 2.



317 Highland Road East
Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6

Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists

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Membership Fees September to August (After Feb. 1/10 - 1/2 price*)

* new members only
(senior = 60 yrs)

Family/Couple
\$35.00

Senior Couple
\$30.00

Adult Individual
\$30.00

Senior Individual
\$25.00

Student \$25.00

18 and under Free

Bring payment for membership to the
next meeting or mail to KWFN at 317
Highland Rd E Kitchener N2M 3W6

Pesticide Policy Nov. 8, 2000

'that it is KWFN policy to
not use pesticides on any
club properties or during
any club activity'.



Objectives of the KWFN

- to acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history
- to protect and preserve wildlife
- to purchase and hold appropriate parcels of land for the advancement of conservation
- to support public interest in nature and its preservation by supporting the enactment of wise legislation and by other means as falls within the scope of the Corporation

General Information

Meetings are held monthly from September to May, on the fourth Monday of the month with the exception of December. Our meetings are free and visitors are always welcome. Outings are scheduled almost every month.

KWFN is a registered charitable organization. Membership fees and all donations are tax deductible. KWFN is affiliated with Ontario Nature (FON) and Nature Canada (Canadian Nature Federation)

www.kwfn.ca



"The Heron" is the official publication of the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists' Club and is produced by volunteer members of the club. It is published nine times yearly from September to June, except for December.

Copies of "The Heron" are available at meetings but will be mailed (free of charge) to members if not picked up.

Articles reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily the views endorsed by the KWFN club.