

May 2011



The Heron

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Next Club Meeting:

May 30, 2011 at 7:00PM

Wing 404/Rotary Centre, Dutton Dr., Waterloo

Presentation: A Visual Journey Through the Spectacular Smoky Mountains

Straddling the border of Tennessee and North Carolina, the Great Smoky Mountains are one of the gems of eastern North America. Every spring they put on a show of wildflowers that is perhaps unequalled elsewhere. For us Canadians, it represents an opportunity to get a jump on spring. For the past three years Walter Muma has visited the Smoky Mountains in late April to immerse himself in the millions of wildflowers that are blooming full blast at that time. Many of the species in the Smokies are also present here in Ontario, and as such, are familiar to us.

Join us on Monday May 30 as Walter takes us on a visual journey through the beauty of the spring wildflowers of this region.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our meeting, on May 30, is also the KWFN Annual General Meeting. To allow for club business to be completed the meeting will start one half hour early, at 7:00 PM

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Founder's Property committee struck

The Founder's Property committee recently held its first meeting with the intention of developing a mandate for this piece of land west of Cambridge that to date has largely been left untouched and unexplored by the larger membership.

First up, the committee decided that once the property is dry enough we will do a walkabout, take an inventory of flora and fauna, determine the spread of invasive species and determine whether there should be any trail building. We have also been aware that hunters have erected deer hunting platforms which we decided must be removed and signage posted to ensure anyone entering the property understands they are trespassing.

In addition we discussed the removal of the red pine plantation, the importance of staking the exact property lines and whether we will lead guided hikes through the property for the membership in the future.

Valerie Hill, Founder's Property committee

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

Plant Exchange

Do you have any extra plants, seedlings, cuttings or bulbs? Bring them, labelled, to the club meeting on May 30. Someone will provide them with a happy new home.

Baillie Birdathon 2011 - Neil E. Taylor

I have been proud to be a participant in the Baillie Birdathon for about 30 years. I am ever so grateful for the generosity of all who have supported this worthy cause.

Since 1993, I have been able to raise **\$11,431.00**. Neither the records of Bird Studies Canada nor mine are accurate before that year.

Many pledged directly on line using the internet. This is a completely safe, secure and easy method to pledge. All you need to do is link to:

<http://www.gifttool.com/athon/MyFundraisingPage?ID=1914&AID=1491&PID=> and click on 'Sponsor Me'. Each sponsor from other years has been given an ID #. I would be pleased to forward yours. Simply email me: neiletaylor@sympatico.ca

Last year, I was able to forward more than \$2000 to Bird Studies Canada. 25% of that amount (\$500+) was returned to the KWFN Sanctuary Fund.

This year I am seeking to raise at least **\$3000** in pledges to make it a new high. I am asking each sponsor to consider a higher amount according to the means of each. Please consider supporting once again. Thank you so very much.

BEREAVEMENT

A card has been sent to Janet Ozaruk and her family, expressing sympathy and support, as they come to grips with the loss of Janet's father-in-law, Hermann Bauer. Mr. Bauer passed away April 1, 2011, bringing to a close the challenges that have been presented by intermittent bouts of illness. He was a resident of New Hamburg. His funeral was held Monday, April 4, 2011. Janet is the Programs Director for KWFN. Our thoughts have been and will continue to be with Janet and her family during this time of adjustment.

Our New Members

Ben Dettweiler
Lenny Everson
Lisa House

Our Donors

Ben Dettweiler
(Operating Fund)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Our membership total for 2010-2011 now stands at 160, an increase of 1 over our 2009-2010 total of 159. To date, 23 new memberships have been purchased this year, bringing with them 28 new members. Our total number of members is now 229, compared with 237 for last year. Whenever you have a chance, please welcome all of our new members and help them find their way around the club. Also, keep sharing the good news about KWFN. It's working!!

Several factual errors were made in the previous write-up pertaining to raptors. A revised version of the document is available via the KWFN website. Sincere thanks to Richard Tofflemire for pointing this out. Michael Frind apologizes for the errors."

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Native Plant Nuts

By Wayne Buck

Back in the summer in the 1980's, we had a downpour which produced 20 cm. of rain in a few hours, somewhat reminiscent of Hurricane Hazel. Culverts flooded over the road. Low spots were inundated. During the clean up, a dump truck deposited a load of soil on the road embankment near the creek that runs through our property. A few weeks later some plants emerged strong and stout, obviously not growing from seeds. I recognized them as sunflowers but did not know which species they were. I remember running out one day to save them from the Township mower which was coming along doing its annual roadside trim. I needn't have worried, because, more than 30 years later, despite my best efforts, we still have those sunflowers. I have dug them up, eaten them, given roots of them away, mowed them down trying to eradicate them from our property; all to no avail. They are still here; tenuously mind you, but still here.

By now you may have guessed which species of sunflower they were; Jerusalem Artichoke, (J.A.) (*Helianthus tuberosa*). J.A. have nothing to do with artichokes, which are members of the Thistle family. J.A. are one of our native sunflowers, in the *Helianthus* genus that includes species such as Tall Sunflower (*H. gigantea*), Thin-leaved Sunflower (*H. decapetalus*), Pale-leaved Sunflower (*H. strumosus*) and Woodland Sunflower (*H. divaricatus*). Tuberosa refers to the reddish,

segmented and knobby, 1-4 in (2.5-10 cm) long, starch-filled tubers or roots that the plant produces to provide energy for growth the following season. The starch they contain is inulin (NOT insulin), a less common type of starch that is harder for the human body to break down, thereby producing a foul gas, until one's digestive system becomes sufficiently adapted. They can be baked or boiled, any number of different ways.

The name, Jerusalem Artichoke is thought to have come from the Italian name, *Giriole articiocco* or Sunflower Artichoke. The French call them *Topinambour*. J.A. have nothing to do with artichokes, which are members of the Thistle family, and are in fact a member one of our (i.e. N.A.) native sunflower families, *Helianthus*. Tuberosa refers to the fact that the plant produces a starch-filled tuber after blooming to provide energy for growth the following season. J.A. could be confused with Oxeye (a.k.a. False Sunflower) which I have seen growing rampantly along the Walter Bean Trail near Bridgeport.

To be sure, they are a native plant, although no one can say for sure from where in North America they originated. First Nation people had moved them all across North America. by the sixteenth century when white explorers first encountered the edible tubers. In 1605, Samuel de Champlain sent tubers back to

France. In 1617, John Good-year in England received some roots which he successfully cultivated in his garden. He cooked the tubers in various ways but was not very complimentary in evaluating the results, saying; "they stirre and cause a filthe, loathsome, stinking winde within the bodie, ... and are a meat more fit for swine than men."

On April 9, 1805, members of the Lewis and Clarke expedition encamped for the evening and a native woman took a sharp stick and poked into some nearby prairie dog burrows, producing large numbers of J.A. tubers which were cooked and eaten.

The following description is from www.Floridata.com: "This is a large, gangly, multi-branched perennial with rough, sandpapery leaves and stems, and numerous yellow flowerheads. It can get 10 ft (3 m) tall and its branches can spread to nearly as much. They sometimes break under their own weight, and often fall over. The leaves are ovate (broadest below the middle) and 5-10 in (12.7-25.4 cm) long. The flowerheads are 3-4 (7.6-10 cm) across and have 10-20 bright yellow rays. Jerusalem artichoke is quite showy in bloom during late summer and early fall."

If you decide to plant these, make sure you are prepared to dig up the tubers at the end of each growing season to prevent them from taking your garden over.

Malcolm Bluff Shores Continues to Grow

Submitted by †Mark Carabetta, Ontario Nature

Ontario Nature is very pleased to announce that the "Bruce Trail Conservancy" raised sufficient funds to purchase 'Parcel B' of the Malcolm Bluff Shores property by the end of March 2011. This 281-acre (113.7-hectare) parcel includes 2.5 km of Georgian Bay shoreline and 1 km of the Bruce Trail, and is lo-

cated immediately south of the 575-acre piece Ontario Nature purchased last year. The final parcel will be purchased in March, 2012. All 3 properties are on the north shore of Colpoys Bay. For more information about Malcolm Bluff Shores, visit http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/species/breeding_bird_atlas.php. ††††

Dark Skies, Bright Minds

Submitted by Glenda Clarke†

The Sources of Knowledge Subcommittee is excited to an-

nounce the upcoming Sources of Knowledge Forum 2011 - Dark Skies Bright Minds - on April 29-30 in Tobermory. This fascinating forum will explore the natural and social significance of the Bruce Peninsula's dark skies, and provide participants with an understanding of their role in its protections. The event will feature local, national and international leaders through a series†of presentations, workshops and field trips.†For more information and to register for the 2011 Forum, please visit www.sourcesofknowledge.ca.

Warren Stauch – Grand River Natural and Cultural Heritage

Warren Stauch, a seasoned secondary and post-secondary geography teacher and a long-time member of the Waterloo Historical Society, gave an engaging and thought-provoking overview of the densely interwoven natural and cultural history of the Grand River Watershed. His carefully chosen, well-composed photographs were presented as traditional-style slides, and they provided a rich visual tour of the watershed.

The armchair tour began with physical geography. The Grand River Watershed is southern Ontario's largest at over 7,000 km². Born during the last ice age, the Grand River meanders 290 km from near Dundalk down to Port Maitland at Lake Erie, dropping 352 metres in elevation along the way. Along the way, it is joined by its tributaries, the Conestogo, Speed, Eramosa, and Nith rivers, as well as smaller tributaries such as Laurel, Irvine and Whiteman's Creeks and even smaller brooks. The total collective shoreline length of all these waterways is a remarkable 20,000 km.

Warren described how the Grand Valley was formed, and how it owes its fascinating geology and intriguing landforms to glaciofluvial influences.

This is due to our most-recent ice age: the Wisconsin glaciation retreat of about 10-20,000 years ago.

One of the most intriguing places to observe local geology is at Elora, where the fast-flowing glacial meltwaters deeply eroded limestone deposits (which were formed 350 million years ago from fossil deposits when the area was under seawater) to create what is today the 22-metre deep Elora Gorge. The Grand River and Irvine Creek continue this erosive work today, leaving a precarious-looking flowerpot formation that will eventually collapse. Elora Gorge is popular with whitewater kayakers, and it also attracts people who casually raft down the turbulent waters.

Another equally intriguing site of geology can be found at Rockwood, where glaciers formed potholes. There are over 200 of these cylindrical holes of varying sizes. They were effectively drilled by the fast-flowing glacial meltwaters as they swirled loose rocks in endless circles. Rockwood attracts canoeists and swimmers, as well as people intrigued by the geology.

The Grand River, designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1994, was once known for its regular flooding events. The Grand River Conservation Authority was formed with the initial intent of protecting human settlements from flood damage. Today,

Recap by Michael Frind

the GRCA owns, operates, and maintains 32 dams, including three major ones (Shand, Guelph, and Conestogo) which create sizeable lakes and generate hydroelectricity, as well as four mid-sized ones (Luther, Laurel, Woolwich, and Shade's Mills). These provide opportunities for recreation, including angling and sailing. The area downstream of the Shand Dam offers some of the finest fly-fishing in North America.

The dams and reservoirs also serve the purpose of low-flow augmentation. This valuable feature enhances water quality (by diluting effluent from the 29 wastewater-treatment plants that serve 700,000 people) during dry summer periods, when 70% of the water in the river can be from upstream GRCA reservoirs. Dam outputs are carefully managed to balance floodwater-storage capacity with low-flow augmentation. An extensive network of automatic gauges and sensors allows the GRCA to monitor water levels, as well as water quality and general weather. This enables optimal decision-making.

The GRCA, which owns 50,000 acres of land in the watershed, also fulfills important roles in environmental pro-

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Outings Schedule



By Mary Voisin

Musselman Woods
Wednesday, April 27, 2011
Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667

Meeting Time/Place
9:30 am at the Food Basics
Plaza, corner of Erbsville Rd.
and Laurelwood Drive
(across from Sir John A. Mac-
Donald S.S.)

Join Dale for a leisurely morning hike through this privately owned mixed coniferous and deciduous woodlot on the west side of Waterloo (with permission). The trail is part of the Avon Trail that runs from St. Mary's to Conestogo with a few breaks here and there. We'll look for spring ephemerals in the upper conifer forest and the lower hardwood forest. We may also encounter a few returning birds such as the wood ducks that use the vernal ponds, and the usual woodpeckers, nut-hatches, chickadees and possibly wild turkeys. The walking is fairly easy but there are a couple of hills and wet sections so wear appropriate footwear. Bring your field guides, binoculars and a drink.

Natchez Woods
Friday, May 6, 2011
Dennis and Doris Hilker 519-
893-8696

Meeting Time/Place
9:30 am at the Food Basics
Plaza at Lackner and Ottawa
St. N.
Join Dennis and Doris for a

spring stroll through Natchez Woods on the banks of the Grand River (an Ontario Heritage River). Spring flowers should be in abundance. With luck, we might see deer, coyote and a variety of birds.

Lakeside Park in Spring
Tuesday, May 10, 2011
Josh Shea 519-208-8442

Meeting Time/Place
7:00 pm at the parking lot on
Lakeside Drive located half
way along the western mar-
gin of the park.

Josh Shea will lead a nature hike to view the birds, vegetation and aquatic life that abound in this City of Kitchener Park. The walking is easy and the hike will last 1½ -2 hrs.

Springtime in Backus
Woods
Saturday, May 14, 2011
Colleen Dale 519-512-0240

Meeting Time/Place
9 a.m. at Homer Watson
Bldv./Fountain St. 401 car-
pool

Come out and join naturalist Colleen Dale for a springtime stroll in the unique Carolinian trails of Backus Woods. (2 K north of Port Rowan) This is a great time to view the abundance of spring ephemerals carpeting the forest floor and search for woodland wildlife such as frogs and salamanders. Backus Woods is one of

the best remaining examples of Carolinian forest remaining in Canada and provides important habitat to many species at risk. Don't forget to bring your binoculars, as this is a great spot for bird watching as well!

Point Pelee National Park
Wednesday, May 11, 2011
Dale Ingrey 519-884-3667
Mary Voisin 519-884-6881

A visit to Point Pelee during May is an exciting time as migrating songbirds stop here to rest and feed before continuing northward. The Park, located at the southernmost tip of Canada, is one of the premier bird watching locations in North America. More than 370 species of birds have been recorded here and in the surrounding area; Hillman Marsh Conservation Area, Wheatley Provincial Park, Kopegaron Woods Conservation Area and the onion fields. As many as 39 warbler species have been seen during a single migration, as was the case in 1979. Point Pelee is located 12 km south of Leamington. Join Mary and Dale at the park visitor center at 11 am for an interesting day of birding. If you would like to car pool, please email mary-voisin@rogers.com and she will try to organize a group to drive together and share gas expenses.

Health Valley Trail
Wednesday, May 18, 2011
Marco DeBruin 519-208-8442

Meeting Time/Place:
9:30 a.m. at the Riverworks parking lot, St. Jacobs, at the extreme east end (follow the signs for buses and campers)

The Health Valley Trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail. This part of the trail goes from St. Jacobs to Martin's Creek. Varied habitats will be encountered as you follow the trail along the river through woods, cross open pastureland and skirt some backwater ponds. Be on the lookout for a variety of wildflowers, butterflies, and birds such as warblers, flycatchers, herons and shorebirds. Bring a drink and snack for this leisurely 2 ½ hour hike. Binoculars, field guides and appropriate footwear would add to the enjoyment of this outing.

Hullet Provincial Wildlife Area
Saturday, June 4, 2011
Curtis MacDonald
Geraldine & John Sanderson

Meeting Time/Place
8:00 am at the Blue Moon Café in Petersburg on Notre

Dame St (Hwy 20) ½ km north of Hwy 7
Join us as we travel to the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area near Clinton in Huron County. It is one of the most spectacular wildlife habitat developments in Eastern Canada. This 2200-hectare site located along the South Maitland River has extensive wetlands and marshes with viewing stands, as well as forests, fields and trails. This site is on the paths of two major waterfowl flyways (Atlantic and Mississippi). This will be an all day outing with 1+ hours of driving each way. Bring a lunch, drinks, binoculars, field guide and a scope if you have one.

Heads up for some June/ July KNAP Outings
Pre registration is required as enrolment is limited
(519) 741-3400 ext 3349

Birds of Breithaupt Park
Saturday June 11, 8am-10am
Entrance off Union St, adjacent to 804 Union St.
The mature forests and regenerating fields of Breithaupt

Park provide great habitat for a variety of bird species. This hike will take birders of all ages and skill levels on a casual walk to learn about some of the urban birds found living in our City. No experience necessary. Bring along binoculars if available.

All about Bats
Saturday June 18, 8-10pm
Huron Natural Area, 801 Trillium Drive, Kitchener.
Meet at the School Portable.
Spend an evening learning about the amazing lives of bats. These creatures are common in urban areas and are a great animal to have living in your neighbourhood. This program will feature an indoor presentation and outdoor hike. **Registration Required!**

Huron Natural Area Butterfly Count
Saturday July 9, 1-4pm
Huron Natural Area, 801 Trillium Drive, Kitchener.
Join fellow volunteers and local naturalists in the 1st ever Huron Natural Area Butterfly Count. This count is being delivered in coordination with Jessica Grealey who has been working on butterfly conservation and research in Waterloo Region for many years. Participants will learn about the amazing variety of butterfly species found living in the Huron Natural Area and will assist with an inventory. Be prepared to be outside for the afternoon. Suitable for people of all ages and skill levels!

Registration Required!



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Warren Stauch – Grand River Natural and Cultural Heritage

tection, conservation, urban planning, and protection of both terrestrial and aquatic habitat throughout the watershed. The GRCA is also engaged in tree-planting, given that the watershed's current 19% tree cover is far below the 30% forest cover that is considered a minimum for ecological and hydrogeological health. All of these roles are traceable to its original goal of protecting both the quality and quantity of water in the Grand River.

The Waterloo Moraine, a 30- to 100-metre thick deposit of glacial till, sand, gravel, and boulders (generated by the scouring action of the ice), was formed during the last ice age by the retreat of the Laurentide ice sheet's three lobes. This formation provides about 75% of the water supply for the Region of Waterloo, making this area the most heavily groundwater-dependent area in all of North America. The Waterloo Moraine also provides groundwater baseflow to streams, including the Grand River itself.

The Waterloo Moraine is known for its gently rolling topography. On the West Side of Waterloo, a delightful 2-km interpretive walking trail, with beautifully annotated signs created by UW Earth Sciences Professor Alan Morgan, reviews, for example, how kettle lakes were formed (i.e. from ice blocks left by the glacier). Spongy Lake, near Baden, is an example of such a lake.

Marked changes can be seen in the local geology even within a 20-minute drive. For example, gravel pits proliferate just west of Cambridge. And, at Brantford and Glen Morris, piles of rocks, cleared by farmers in order to make their land arable, can be seen. Natural areas here include the Dryden Tract, named after Scottish settler Andrew Dryden.

Rocky limestone outcrops dot farm fields west of Guelph, while east of the city, the Paris Moraine (Arnell Aquifer) provides this city's water supply. The same aquifer is also tapped for bottled water, a lucrative yet controversial industry. The glaciers also left the Guelph area with a collection of 300 oblong, spindle-

shaped hills. Known as drumlins, these are aligned in the direction of glacial movement.

Those interested in experiencing the changes in the river as it traverses the watershed can canoe its length or hike the Grand Valley trail, which runs the length of the river. Several old rail trails, as well as quiet rural roads, enable cyclists to explore the countryside at a leisurely pace. Meanwhile, opportunities for photographers abound in locations too numerous to list. Birdwatchers have many locations for sightings throughout the watershed's natural and rural areas. Rarely seen species such as Bald Eagles and Trumpeter Swans are making a comeback, and sightings of these are always noteworthy.

The watershed has seen human habitation for the last 9000 years, with most of this time being accounted for by aboriginals (First Nations). Agriculture-favouring settlers arrived over 200 years ago, beginning with the British (United Empire Loyalists, late 1700s) and the Pennsylvania German Mennonites. These were followed by the Scots, the English, the Irish, the Germans, and various other groups.

The human element continues to grow and evolve today, making the watershed's urban areas internationally multicultural. The population is expected to grow by 50% within the next 30 years, thus resulting in an increase in paved area (hence reduced groundwater recharge), lost farmland, fragmented natural habitat, and other concerns stemming from the ongoing attempts at stretching the inherently limited carrying capacity of the landscape. Growth-generated issues such as water-supply expansion, and also the Grand River's limited capacity for wastewater assimilation, will need to be addressed on an ongoing basis.

Agriculture continues to be dominant feature of the landscape, with crops ranging from corn, soybeans, and grains to market gardening. The watershed is also home to hundreds of thousands of cows and pigs. These generate large volumes of manure which require careful management in order to protect water quality.

The Grand Valley encompasses several distinct climatic regions and forest zones. Warren noted that, during

the aboriginal era and prior to the advent of large-scale land-clearing for agriculture, an energetic squirrel could have run from Cornwall to Windsor without ever touching the ground. Meanwhile, global climate change is expected to bring a gradual shift in forest composition, as well as changes in the distribution of many species of plants and animals.

The Grand River Watershed is also important ecologically. For example, 80 of the Ontario's Species at Risk can be found in this watershed. A remarkable 82 species of fish, 50% of the Canadian total, make their home here. And, invasive species such as Purple Loosestrife, Garlic Mustard, Goutweed, Buckthorn and Periwinkle continue to keep the GRCA's foresters and biologists busy on projects for re-establishing native species. Biological controls, for example insect predators of invasive plants, have brought encouraging successes in some areas.

Warren continues to be active in disseminating and preserving local history. Towards this end, he runs Shunpiking (an old term that implies shunning main roads for less-travelled ones) bus tours. These enlightening tours, which cover in several eye-opening hours the historical nuggets that could take weeks to discover otherwise, are popular with people of all ages.

Warren's plethora of slides, compiled over his many years of travel throughout the watershed, provided a visual feast of tremendous variety. In addition to the aforementioned areas, his slides depicted natural sights such as the Grand River from Homer Watson Park, Starkey Hill, the Spottiswood Lakes, and various wetlands and rural vistas. His cultural sights included the Pioneer Tower and the Joseph Schneider House (both in Kitchener), the Elora flour mill (today an inn), the Seagram distillery in Waterloo, as well as Alexander Graham Bell's homestead, the Nelles Settlement and the Six Nations Reservation (all near Brantford). Warren also noted the many historical plaques throughout the watershed.

Sincere thanks to Warren Stauch for his insight and overview of how the Grand River watershed came to be what it is today.

Neil E. Taylor
Waterloo Stewardship Network
April, 2011



Waterloo Stewardship Network (WSN)

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

Project Updates

Envirothon – The competition for secondary school students within the Grand River watershed will be April 15th. Neil Taylor will assist in this event.

Prairie Projects - A prescribed burn is planned for Branchton this spring. Additional planting dollars have been secured through the Species At Risk programme.

Demonstration Forest Update - Signs are to be installed in May of 2011. Buckthorn that was treated in 2010 will be assessed and follow up treatment will be planned as necessary.

Drynan Activities – Additional plantings will be done on May 14th. Plaques and signs are to be installed. Wood chips are to be spread along paths. A commemorative event to recognize the volunteer efforts of 10 individuals including Fred Schneider and Neil E. Taylor is scheduled for May 6th.

Green Classroom Project - This program is now called "Growing Native". It is scheduled to commence April 18th with a plant pickup/workshop. Over 30 classes are involved at this time.

Project Planning 2011-12 -

A Work Plan was circulated and generally supported.

Pollinator in Guelph Request - This request was heard and the council would be happy to provide technical support, but there is not a strong need for a seed orchard at this time. The Cambridge Pollinator Park and the Kyle pollinator prairie are enough sites for WSN to be actively involved with at this time.

Muskies Canada Nith Assessment - Muskies Canada is a group that has an interest in conducting a survey of habitat on the Nith River to determine its suitability as a habitat for muskie. This assessment would have other benefits to this waterway and provide information that may help guide future rehabilitation efforts. This group has funds and people to complete the tasks. The council may be able to assist regarding partnership opportunities.

Incorporation – The MNR will provide guidance to the council. Another option would be making a strong partnership with an existing organization to allow transfer of funds to a legal entity.

Elmira Garden Request – The WSN will support this project with \$700.

Cambridge City Green/Cambridge Stewardship submitted a request for \$4995 to support a series of volunteer based projects throughout the city. The WSN will support the request in the amount of \$5000.

Conservation Committee

The new conservation committee has been struck and a number of concerns brought forward including property owners encroaching onto the green space adjacent their properties, with very little backlash from the municipalities: we will look into municipal policies and bylaws in this regard.

We will also investigate the condition of the numerous lakes within the region and what, if anything, is being done to restore the integrity of the lakes' ecology. There is of course concern regarding the continued growth of urban areas, particularly a very large development in Kitchener south where green space is in danger of being gobbled up. Kitchener council will be discussing this development at a public meeting at the end of May and if anyone is interested in reading the city's PDF file, please contact me at vhill296@rogers.com and I'll send you the link (the document is around 150 pages).

In addition we discussed the impact on our region of a proposed pipeline drawing water from Lake Erie as the demand for water increases in our cities. We are also hoping the membership will be keen on becoming more involved in Ontario Nature projects.

Valerie Hill, Conservation Director

President's Corner

Lakeside – Evolution of a Community

What brings a community together? Several things – shared goals, special events, a crisis. These elements are all part of the Lakeside legacy; all have brought members of Kitchener's Lakeside community together.

Spring 2002. A small group of Lakesiders meet. Their goal – to plan an event that would promote interest in Lakeside Park. They organized the (first known) clean-up of the park and its adjacent wooded area. Rallying to that traditional Earth Day call, 30 people showed up. When the job was done, the park and its wooded area had received a much needed facelift.

By 2003, the goal had become two-fold: to promote interest in the park, and to develop a sense of neighbourhood connectedness. The one hour clean-up was followed by a potluck lunch in Marion's back yard. This was the perfect opportunity to mingle with neighbours and meet new ones while sampling a remarkable array of tasty homemade dishes.

For the first few years, clean-ups were intensive. Tires, grocery carts, camping equipment, battered couches, discarded clothing, old fridges, building materials, mounds of undelivered flyers - all hauled out of the woods. In the park, too, litter was extensive. Gradually, however, a perceptual change occurred - there was less garbage, other groups initiated their own clean-ups, and park users were often seen picking up litter. Lakeside Park had begun to take on a 'cared for' look. What was the change? People started to take ownership and pride in it. Lakeside Park had transitioned

from "the park" to "our park."

Now, each spring, the neighbourhood expects and looks forward to the annual clean-up and potluck lunch (CUPLL).

Next in the evolution - creating partnerships. The CUPLL event was officially registered with the City of Kitchener's Festival of Neighbourhoods. The City now supported it with clean-up supplies, and prizes which were handed out during the potluck.

Then, in April of 2009 - a crisis! The 'surplus' park lands issue galvanized the citizens of Kitchener. City staff recommended that fourteen parcels of park lands be declared 'surplus' and sold off for development. One of those parcels was the wooded area connected to Lakeside Park.

This was the second time in recent decades that the park had been gravely threatened. Back in 1979, the City had approved a motion for the Homer Watson – Belmont Ave. extension and, by 1982, official discussions began. But the local community balked. It realized that this proposal would completely change the neighbourhood's character and effectively split the park in two. In the end, this determined group of citizens halted the proposed extension and, in 1987, it was deleted from the city's official plan.

And now, this! The community was determined to fight this latest threat. Many in the core group were people who, for the past eight years, had participated in the annual Lakeside Park CUPLL. As word got out, opposition increased. In the end, Kitchener City Council listened to the voice of its citizens. Most of the park lands, including the woods adjacent to Lakeside Park, were saved.

The following spring saw the largest ever turnout for the CUPLL. A

By Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

record 42 participants! This is testament to how the neighbourhood had come to care about their park and take ownership and responsibility for it.

The Lakeside community then reached another stage in its evolution. The new goal was to enhance the natural attributes of the park while continuing to build a strong sense of community. An enthusiastic brainstorming session generated thirteen proposals. Realizing that some required outside assistance, an additional partnership was developed with the City of Kitchener's Natural Areas Co-ordinator.

To date, several projects have been completed: planting of native trees and shrubs, a summer of turtle monitoring, building and installing bird boxes, and outings to enjoy and learn more about the flora and fauna of the park. In addition, an article on the biological history of Lakeside's 10000 year old kettle lake and surroundings is in the works for this year's Waterloo Historical Society's 100th anniversary publication.

The evolution of the Lakeside community over the past decade has brought many benefits. Among them: a decrease in undesirable behaviours in the park, a renewed sense of safety, connectedness and trust between neighbours, a heightened awareness of place, a knowledge that combined efforts make a difference, a sense of pride in accomplishments.

It has been rewarding to see how shared goals, special events and crises have spurred the development of Lakeside into a vibrant community. By combining talents, expertise and resources, much has been accomplished. Our Lakeside community continues to evolve.

April - May Outings at a Glance - refer to page 6 of this Heron for full outing details

April Outing

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
24	25	26	27 Musselman Woods 9:30 am	28	29	30

May – June Outings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Natchez Woods 9:30 am	7
8	9	10 Lakeside Park 7 pm	11 Point Pelee	12	13	14 Backus Woods 9am
15	16	17	18 Health Valley Trail 9:30 am	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 KWFN Meet- ing 7:00 PM	31	1	2	3	4 Hullet Provin- cial Wildlife Area 8 am

Update from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met April 4 and discussed the following topics:

- Update Board and non-board positions to be filled
- Honorary Life Membership Award
- Financial report for 2010-2011
- Draft budget for 2011-2012
- Membership report
- Montgomery Committee report
- Update on Founders' Committee
- A Montgomery Property Inspection Form has been developed and was accepted by the Board
- Publishing of a general meeting schedule

The minutes of the April meeting will be approved at the Board's next meeting May 9. The approved minutes can be viewed in the KWFN library at club meetings, or you can request to receive a digital version from Katharina Walton.

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Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6

Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Canada Post Publication
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Membership Fees
September to August
(After Feb. 1/11 - 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

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.

Pesticides in Ontario *It is KWFN's policy not to use pesticides on any club property or during any club activity. (November 2000)* In April 2009 the use of pesticides for commercial reasons was banned in the province of Ontario. This ban overrides all municipal by-laws. The main exceptions are for agriculture, human health and safety, golf courses, sports fields (though not parks), forestry, and in some instances to protect natural resources. Any pesticide identified as Class 9 is not allowed for residential or cosmetic use. To report non-compliance with the ban please contact the Guelph OMNR office at (519) 826-4955. For more information go to:
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides/>