

November 2011



**What's Inside**

KWFN Contacts	2
Info for everyone	3
Native Plant Nuts	4
Ontario Nature	5
In Memoriam - Fred Schneider	6
Ancient Cedars Recap	7
Outings	8
Membership Report	10
Winter Visitors/Finch	11
Update on Hidden Valley	13
President's Corner	14
Outings at a Glance	15
Update Board of Directors	

**Next Club Meeting:**

**November 28, 2011 at 7:30 PM**  
**Wing 404/Rotary Centre, Dutton Dr., Waterloo**

Few people know bears as intimately as Else Poulsen. She has raised bears, comforted bears, taught bears, learned from bears, had bears communicate their needs to her, and nursed bears back to health. Join Else Paulsen talk of some of her insights about bears and their lives.

In her book "Smiling Bears-A Zookeeper Explores the Behaviour and Emotional Life of Bears" she describes an enlightening and moving portrait of bears in all their richness and complexity and of Poulsen's exhilarating work with them.

**77th Kitchener Christmas Bird Count**

The 2011 installment of the Kitchener CBC will be held Saturday, December 17, 2011. Especially wanted are new feeder counters within the circle. New field participants are also welcome. Anyone interested in participating should contact Mike Burrell as far in advance as possible. Regular participants should expect to be contacted in late November.

**6th Linwood Christmas Bird Count**

The date of this count is still TBA but contact Mike Burrell if you are interested in participating.

Mike Burrell phone - 613-442-0020 email - [mike.burrell.on@gmail.com](mailto:mike.burrell.on@gmail.com)

## KWFN Contacts for the 2011/2012 Season

### Directors

#### President

Fraser Gibson (519 576-9287)  
fn.gib@sympatico.ca

#### Vice President

Janet Ozaruk (519-893-0490)  
janeto@golden.net

#### Past President

Mary Ann Vanden Elzen (519 741-8272)  
mave@microverse.on.ca

#### Conservation

Karen Buschert (519-880-8321)  
Karen.Buschert@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

Jim Cappleman (519 885-0380)  
jim@mcdsigns.com

#### Membership

Larry Hamel (519 894-5140)  
hamell@sympatico.ca

#### Secretary

Kelly Holdaway (519-742-1006)  
kellyholdaway@rogers.com

#### Programs

April Morrissey (519-696-3677)  
amorrissey@golden.net

#### Publicity

Valerie Hill (519 578-8113)  
vhill@therecord.com

#### Outings

Mary Voisin (519 884-6881)  
maryvoisin@rogers.com

Submissions for the Heron need to be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Submit via email,  
<deb.heron\_editor@rogers.com>  
or mail to 30 Calmcrest Drive,  
Kitchener N2E 1V3

### Other

#### Editor

Deb Fowler (519 576-2788)  
deb.heron\_editor@rogers.com

#### Mailing Team

Rick and Jan Hook (519-742-7419)  
rjhook@sympatico.ca

#### ON Representative

Fraser Gibson (519 576-9287)  
fn.gib@sympatico.ca

#### F. H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary

April Morrissey (519-696-3677)  
amorrissey@golden.net

#### KWFN Web Site Manager

www.kwfn.ca  
Larry Hamel 519 894-5140  
hamell@sympatico.ca

#### Noteworthy Bird Sightings

Ken Burrell (519 699-4695)  
kenard89@hotmail.com

#### Librarian Archivist

Betty Cooper (519 743-3827)  
n/a

#### Native Plant Nuts

Wayne Buck (519 662-2529)  
waylyn2@cwisp.ca

#### Waterloo Stewardship Committee Representative

Neil E. Taylor (519 893-6469)  
neiletaylor@sympatico.ca

#### Young Naturalists

Kelly Holdaway (519-742-1006)  
kellyholdaway@rogers.com

#### Kitchener's Natural Areas Program

Josh Shea 519-741-3400 ext 3349, Joshua.Shea@kitchener.ca  
Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287, fn.gib@sympatico.ca

After editing the Heron for 7 years I feel it's time for a change. I have advised the Board that this will be my last year as editor. If anyone is interested in taking on this position I would certainly be available to get the new editor started. All you need is email, Microsoft Publisher, Acrobat distiller and know how to cut and paste! If anyone is interested contact Fraser Gibson or myself or come talk to me at a meeting.

Thanks,  
Deb Fowler  
Editor

HELP WANTED

# Information for everyone

## Young Naturalists Update

The Young Naturalists have a lot of fun and exciting programs planned for this year. All the programs are listed in the 'Young Nats' section of the KWFN website. After each program, our blog will be updated so you can read all about the fun we've had at each of our programs. Just go to <http://kwfnyn.blogspot.com/> and see what we've been up to!

In September, we had a wonderful sunny day to catch creatures from the pond at the Laurel Creek Nature Centre. Some of the creatures gathered were: tadpoles, leopard frogs, water boatman, caddis fly nymph, water striders and water scorpion. It was a great start to our programs for the year.

## **Nominations for Conservation Award Due December 15, 2011.**

The Conservation Award acknowledges the contribution(s) made by an individual, group, organization or corporation toward the conservation/preservation of the natural environment of the Region of Waterloo. † The nominee shall have participated in or instigated or increased public awareness of (an) endeavour(s) that has/have contributed to the conservation/preservation of the natural environment of the Region of Waterloo.

On behalf of KWFN, the President invites members to submit, in writing, nominations for this award. Prospective nominators must contact the President to receive a copy of the Award Criteria, prior to submitting a nomination. (Please see page 2 for contact information.)

## **Nominations for Honorary Life Membership Award - Due December 15, 2011**

This prestigious award acknowledges the valuable and exceptional service made by an individual to the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists. † The recipient must be a long-time KWFN member who has demonstrated outstanding personal service and made a significant contribution to KWFN, over a long period of time.

On behalf of KWFN, the President invites members to submit, in writing, nominations for this award. Prospective nominators must contact the President to receive a copy of the Award Criteria, prior to submitting a nomination. (Please see page 2 for contact information.)

The awards and commemorative tree planting ceremony for the **2011 Champion Tree Hunt of Waterloo** will be at Huron Natural Area on Trillium Drive on Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 am until noon.

## **Announcements at Club Meetings**

Do you have an announcement to make to the membership? If so, please contact the president at least 3 days prior of the club meeting so that you can be added to the agenda. If you plan to pass clipboards you will be placed earlier in the sequence. To keep the club meetings within reasonable time frames, announcements should be no more than 2 minutes in length.

Contact information is on page two of the Heron.

## **2011/12 KWFM Members' Meetings At-A-Glance**

September 26, 2011	7:30 p.m.	General program
October 24, 2011	7:30 p.m.	General program
November 28, 2011	7:30 p.m.	General program
December 12, 2011	6:00 p.m.	Christmas potluck
January 23, 2012	7:30 p.m.	General program
February 27, 2012	7:30 p.m.	General program
March 26, 2012	7:30 p.m.	General program
April 23, 2012	7:30 p.m.	General program
May 28, 2012	7:00 p.m.	AGM and program

## **CONESTOGO BIRD FEED**

4003 Line 73  
RR 1 Newton ON NOK 1R0  
1-519-595-7587



*Manufacturers of Quality Wild Bird Mixes  
Over 100 styles of Bird Feeders  
Droll Yankee, Aspects, Duncraft, Audubon and more*

**Also at St. Jacobs Farmers Market  
\*\*And now at the Stratford Farmers Market\*\***



Grass Lake; July 2011

2 weeks after our outing to Dean's Lake, the Native Plant Nuts, set out to botanize the plant life around the perimeter of Grass Lake, the area we intended to explore on the aforementioned Dean's Lake trip but had to abandon due to the amount of time we spent with all of the significant discoveries. The trip was, once again, again led by Larry L. and Graham B.. The plan was to start again on the south side of Grass Lake and to go around the perimeter, exploring the forest slope adjacent to the lake, an area that, to the best of Larry's information, had heretofore not been botanized by any one including our founders, F.W Dickson or F. Montgomery.

The weather that morning was definitely "ify", with dark grey clouds everywhere, and the vegetation wet from the previous night's rain. We debated whether to head out or not. However, the decision to forge ahead turned out to be the correct one. We had hardly entered the forest when a loud bird sound was heard from the area of the lake which was quickly ID'd by Larry and Fraser G. as a Small Green Heron. It was also heard again later at the other end of the lake. On at least 2 occasions we saw and heard the cacophonous squawks of several Sandhill Cranes calling as they flew above the lake. What a thrill! And to round out the list, we ID'd the call the call of an American Moorhen from the wet area. This marked the third time in as many trips this summer that we saw Sandhill Cranes during an outing

# Native Plant Nuts

By Wayne Buck

to this region. On 2 of those occasions, we saw 2 adult cranes with a fuzzy chick, a special treat!

The underbrush was dense on the slope, which made navigation a wet experience and plant spotting a challenge. There were no trails to follow so we bushwhacked as we usually do on these outings. Larry described it as classic North Dumfries undergrowth which was comprised of species such as: Downy Arrowwood, Maple-leaved Viburnum, Carolina Rose, Witch Hazel, Round-leaved Dogwood and Spicebush. We saw some large Sassafras trees which were noteworthy along with American Hazel which was not seen on the previous outing. Other trees included Hill's, Black, Red and White Oak, Pignut Hickory, Hackberry, along with all 4 of the tree-form willow's found in this area: White, Peach-leaved, Crack and Black; two of which are non-native. Forbs included Poke Milkweed, Orange-fruited Horse Gentian, Northern Bedstraw, Harebell and Whorled Loosestrife. 2 plants were seen that are worth special mention. The first was a shrub form species of serviceberry that Larry ID'd as *Amelanchier stolonifera*, a.k.a Running Serviceberry. Definitely one of the less common species. It was the first time any of us had ever seen this species. It stood about 1.5 m tall and was shrub-like in appearance with leaves like the other serviceberries. The other goodie that Graham found was a species of sedge, *Carex muhlenburgii* which is also rare in the region.

Although the outing didn't yield any of the goodies that we had

hoped for; (e.g. American Chestnut), it did allow us a glimpse into what is there in an area that was previously not known. It's definitely worth another look.

On September 28, 2011, Fraser Gibson and I were hiking the Bruce Trail near Orangeville and while crossing a wet meadow on a boardwalk I looked down and saw a plant about 20 cm tall with several white blossoms that looked like Lily of the Valley. Closer inspection revealed that it had larger flowers than Lily of the Valley but narrower leaves. It was Nodding Lady's Tresses, a member of the orchid family. Later that same day I was hiking through a draw or ravine when I came across a plant 1.0 m to 1.5 m tall with segregated leaves and a cluster of seeds on top. It turned out to be Spikenard, a plant that grows in damp areas that I have seen only a few times before.

At our September meeting, during the sightings, someone reported seeing clusters of small insects on the branch of a Beech tree waving what looked to be white fans. While hiking the Bruce trail in the Mono Centre area the following week, Fraser and I both saw and photographed these insects. As someone at the meeting suggested, they are called the Woolly Beech Aphid, so called because the body is covered with waxy wool-like filaments. These aphids are gregarious and tend to congregate primarily on the undersides of leaves. (from U of Illinois website). It's

the first time I've ever seen them and I'm sure I would have missed them had this person not mentioned them at the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

The recent warm sunny weather of Thanksgiving has been a welcome change from the cold and rain earlier in the week. It put me in mind of a poem by Emily Dickenson entitled Indian Summer. I don't know the definition of Indian Summer but this weekend felt like it.

### INDIAN SUMMER

By Emily Dickenson

*These are the days when birds  
come back,  
A very few, a bird or two,  
To take a backward look.*

*These are the days when skies  
put on  
The old, old sophistries of  
June,—  
A blue and gold mistake.*

*Oh, fraud that cannot cheat the  
bee,  
Almost thy plausibility  
Induces my belief,*

*Till ranks of seeds their witness  
bear,  
And softly through the altered air  
Hurries a timid leaf!*

*Oh, sacrament of summer days,  
Oh, last communion in the haze,  
Permit a child to join,*

*Thy sacred emblems to partake,  
Thy consecrated bread to break,  
Taste thine immortal wine!*



### Ontario Nature-Great Lakes West-Fall Regional Meeting

The Stratford Field Naturalists will host our next Regional Meeting on Saturday November 5, 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 great chance to meet other naturalists and share ideas among our network.

I welcome members to attend this meeting with me. For more details about the agenda or if interested in attending, please email me at the address shown in the Heron.

### Saving the Oak Ridges Mo- raine Again Ontario Nature

The 10-year anniversary of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act was on September 12, 2011.

Now, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM), Earthroots and Ontario Nature have joined forces to shine a spotlight on the most severe threats to the moraine.

"We can't wait until the 2015 review of the Conservation Plan, during which time these problems will only get worse," says Debbe Crandall, Executive Director of STORM.

The stunning Oak Ridges Moraine extends for 160 kilometres end to end, north of the Greater

~ Fraser Gibson

Toronto Area. This unique land formation possesses important prairie, forest and wetland habitats, many of which are a refuge for rare plants, birds and turtles. The moraine is likened to a rain barrel because it supplies drinking water to more than 250,000 people. But despite the legislation passed a decade ago, the ecological integrity of the moraine remains highly vulnerable to numerous environmental assaults.

"Unmonitored water taking is one of the most troubling concerns we have about the moraine," says Josh Garfinkel, Senior Campaigner with Earthroots. "Millions of litres of water are pumped out of the aquifers every day and millions more leak into the sewage system."

Additional threats to the moraine include ongoing development as a result of proposals that were approved before the Conservation Act was passed, dumping fill – in some cases contaminated with heavy metals – into abandoned aggregate pits, and infrastructure that continues to be built, even in core natural areas.

Says Caroline Schultz, Executive Director of Ontario Nature, "The Oak Ridges Moraine is an ecological treasure and critical natural area for nearly half of Ontario's species at risk. Right now, roads and transmission lines are fragmenting sensitive areas that harbour some of our most vulnerable wildlife."

The groups are raising awareness about the deficiencies in the Conservation Act and Plan for the moraine in the weeks leading up to the provincial election.

## In Memoriam - Fred Schneider



(1926 - 2011)

Fred Schneider, a long time member of KWFN, passed away on September 19, 2011. Fred had a deep appreciation for nature and an exceptional dedication to conservation that has been evident for many years. His numerous acts have quietly improved the lives of Waterloo Region residents.

One of the best-known examples of Fred's generosity is evident at their Wilmot Line property. Instead of placing "No Trespassing" signs, around the large rural property, as is often the case, the Schneider property is posted with "permitted uses" signs. What a unique gesture this is!

Now that the city is at their doorstep, hundreds of visitors traverse the natural habitats found there annually!

Fred became a member of the Kitchener Waterloo Field Naturalists in 1964 and in 1995 the Schneiders were the recipients of the KWFN Conservation Award. The minutes from the presentation cite, "their generosity in sharing property, support of Sunfish Lake, Paris-Cambridge Rail trail, aid in restoration of landfill and many other activities."

Fred also served for a number of years on the Waterloo Stewardship Network (WSN) and was one of its pioneers.

He was a strong supporter of Outdoor and Environmental Education. When a new Outdoor Education Centre opened at Erbsville School in 1990, natural areas in the vicinity that could be used by students were desperately needed. The Schneider property was immediately made available for educational purposes.

When residential development was proposed on the Waterloo Moraine in the northwest section of the City of Waterloo in 2001, the Schneiders invited councillors and staff to their home to see for themselves and to learn of the uniqueness and the fragility of the area.

In 2004, the Region of Waterloo proposed a new land designation known as an Environmentally Sensitive Landscape (ESL). This proposal brought fierce debate from impacted landowners. The Schneiders canvassed tirelessly in support of the Laurel Creek Headwaters ESL and helped the Regional Municipality of Waterloo become the first region to add the Environmentally Sensitive Landscape (ESL) designation to their Official Plan.

In June of 2011, Fred and Jane were the recipients of Ontario Nature's W.W. H. Gunn Conservation Award. Some details of that award were printed in the September 2011 edition of the KWFN newsletter, The Heron.

Fred's ethic of conservation and sharing nature and open space with others is commendable. He led by "quiet" anonymous example. He was a respected member of his neighbourhood and within the Region in general.

The name Schneider is synonymous with long term commitment to sharing space, sharing knowledge of nature, and sharing the results of his efforts in conservation.

We extend our sincere condolences to Jane and her family.

Respectfully submitted.

Fraser Gibson

## Peter Kelly – The Ancient Cliff-Face Cedar Forest of the Niagara Escarpment

Peter Kelly, an ecologist formerly with the University of Guelph Cliff Ecology Research (CERG) Group and now Director of Research at the Cambridge-based *rare* property, and co-author of the book *The Last Stand*, has been studying old trees since his days of graduate studies. He noted that old trees are expected to be big, and that this relationship holds true in some cases, such as the temperate rainforest. Examples include the giant Sequoias found in California and the repeatedly logging-threatened giant Cedars in British Columbia's Clayoquot Sound. Peter showed many stunning photos from his large collection of old trees residing in a variety of settings and habitats.

But the oldest and least-disturbed-by-humans forest ecosystem is not found in logging-ravaged British Columbia. Nor is it found in the perennially mining-threatened Boreal forest band that covers much of northern Canada. Rather, it is found in the Niagara Escarpment, much of which has (ironically) been surrounded by development. The unique old-growth Eastern White Cedars that make their home in the inhospitable setting of exposed cliff faces have fascinating stories to tell, and Peter has spent extensive hours studying and cataloguing the tenaciously rooted individuals found there.

Peter noted that the old-growth trees that he currently focuses his research on are quite ordinary in size, given that they grow in a substantially less-rich environment: either at high altitude, or on open, windswept cliff faces. Barren limestone cliff faces are common on the Niagara Escarpment; they can also be found on the limestone cliffs of the *rare* property overlooking the Grand River. Here we find gnarled, stunted cedars, bravely clinging to life via roots that have painstakingly penetrated into whatever cracks

they have found over their years of tortured, extreme-elements existence. It is in these settings that the humble cedar—the same species that we find in wetlands and other landscapes throughout Ontario—survives for many hundreds of years without complaining.

It is not surprising that the trees often adopt a windblown form, as if coyly trying to escape the wind by growing away from it.

The stories told by the trees, as read through the overall morphology plus the core, speak volumes about how these cedars cope with and adapt to an unforgivingly hostile environment—and thrive. Valuable insights are also gleaned from the occasional time-ravaged tree that ends up at the bottom of the cliff: a complete cross-section of its trunk enables one to see the history with sparkling clarity. For example, the causes of asymmetric growth, such as fires, are recorded with high resolution as scars directly in the growth rings.

Peter noted that the oldest tree (877 years old, hence born in 1134) in the southern portion of the Bruce Peninsula was found at Mount Nemo Conservation Area. In total, there are 124 500-year-old trees, and ten 1000-year-old trees. Various 700- to 800-year-old trees can be found at Owen Sound, Beaver Valley, and Purple Valley. But the most venerable trees were found on the storied Bruce Peninsula, at Lion's Head: 1322 years old (born in 688 AD, oldest in Ontario) and 1309 (born in 701 AD). This means that these two trees were juveniles 800 years before the Genoese explorer Christopher Columbus began opening the continent to European colonization.

The ancient cedars also provide habitat for various birds and mammals. Porcupines and raccoons are also common at the cliffs: they enjoy climbing the trees and sleeping in them. Turkey vultures, who soar endlessly while looking for carrion

Recap by Michael Frind

meals, enjoy nesting in these settings. Peter was careful to keep his distance (especially given that the chicks vomit as a defense mechanism). A wide variety of other birds, including the Bald Eagle, also take advantage of the Niagara Escarpment's imposing limestone cliffs for nesting and breeding purposes.

The old cedars growing on the Niagara Escarpment are protected from land development by virtue of their inhospitable location and their obviously difficult access. But they are not completely immune to the effects of ongoing urban growth. Air pollution does not seem to be an issue, but recreational rock-climbing can be. Starting in the 1950s, rock-climbing became marketed as a sport, and today its popularity continues to grow. In those days, it was common practice for climbers to cut off old cedars to make room for running climbing ropes. Many old cedars were lost in this way. Their stumps remain in mute testament to this.

Fortunately, improved educational and outreach efforts have given recreational climbers an appreciation for the old-growth cedars. However, many vintage trees still find themselves serving as anchor points for ropes, and it is common to see abrasions and bark-wear patterns at popular climbing locations. It is unknown whether this use, over time, brings harm or not. The natural world is filled with examples of species of all types surviving hostile conditions for millennia, only to succumb when humans intrude. Although recreational rock-climbing is only common in certain areas of the Niagara Escarpment, these same places also tend to be home to some of the oldest and most remarkable of the ancient cedars.

Sincere thanks to Peter Kelly for his penetrating insight into the venerable cliff-face forest of the Niagara Escarpment.

# Outings Schedule



By Mary Voisin

## **Drynan Regional Forest** **Saturday, November 1, 2011** **Neil Taylor 893-6469**

**Meeting Time/Place**  
**9:00 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. We will be exploring nearby wetland areas as well. This will also include stops at various other birding hotspots in the area.

## **Dickson Wilderness Area and Bannister Lake** **Tuesday November 8, 2011** **Marco DeBruin** **519-658-5372**

**Meeting Time/Place**  
**9:30 am in the carpool parking lot at Fountain St (Homer Watson) and the 401. Fountain is Homer Watson on the Kitchener side of 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 variety of birds, plants, fungi etc. The boardwalks through the wetland are good locations for bird watching and seeing chickadees and nut-

hatches up close. Don't forget your camera, binoculars and seed to feed the birds!

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

## **Hidden Valley Treasures** **Saturday, November 12, 9:00 am** **Rain date: Sunday, November 13, 1:30 pm** **Neil Taylor 519-893-6469**

**Meeting Time/Place**  
**9:00 am (1:30 pm if rain date) at the junction of Goodrich Dr. and Hidden Valley Rd. in Kitchener (near the tracks past the old Goodrich plant)**

A visitation to Hidden Valley might be of interest as a result of the update Neil Taylor has provided in the current Heron. The hike will take us along spectacular eskers left behind during glacial melt by the deposition of sediments from melt water rivers flowing on the ice (channel fills) or beneath a glacier (tunnel fills).

After the retaining ice walls melt away, stream deposits remain as these long winding ridges. In Hidden Valley, the eskers are made up of sand and gravel sediment and cobble-sized rocks. The vernal ponds and upland deciduous forest, habitat of the Jefferson Salamander will be noted. A good variety of fall migrants and late fall flora should be seen. We may cross a beaver dam so sturdy hiking footwear is suggested for this approximately 3-hour outing.

## **Tour of Region of Waterloo Archives** **Wednesday, November 16, 2011** **Lesley Webb (Region of Waterloo Archivist)** **519-575-4757 ext. 3027**

**Meeting Time/Place:**  
**7 pm in the main lobby of the Region of Waterloo Headquarters Building**  
**150 Frederick Street, Kitchener**  
**Free parking available (after 6 pm) at KPL and (possibly) Centre in the Square**

The Region of Waterloo Archives welcomes KWFN members to



*Wild Birds Unlimited*

951 Gordon St., Guelph  
519-821-BIRD (2473)  
<http://www.guelph.wbu.com>

Our Optics are Worth Looking Into

We carry  
Bushnell, Celestron,  
Nikon, Vortex,  
EagleOptics, Kowa &  
Swarovski.

We also have a great line  
up of field guides, feeders  
and birdfood.



*"Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialists"*

Birdfood \* Feeders \* Baths \* Optics \* Gifts \* Shade - Grown Coffee

tour the Archives research room and gallery. Visit the storage vault to see where and how the KWFN collection is stored. Learn how you can access KWFN archives through a demonstration of our online database and subscription service with Archive-It, the Internet Archive. Questions are welcome throughout.

**Dumfries Conservation Area**  
**Saturday, November 19, 2011**  
**Jenny Clayfield**  
**519-653-6965**

**Meeting Time/Place:**  
**9:00 am at the Cambridge YMCA, 250 Hespeler Road, Cambridge. Park at the back of the parking lot where the trail starts.**

Join Jenny on a morning walk through Dumfries Conservation Area. Dumfries offers a surprising number of diverse habitats for naturalists to explore. "The area contains a forest consisting of a variety of species including red and white oak, maple, beech, white pine and white cedar and an arboretum planted by Cambridge Horticultural Society. Other vegetation includes hawthorn, red-osier dogwood, poplar, aspen, black cherry, sedges, swamp buttercup and skunk cabbage. Water features include two ponds and Groff Mill Creek. Numerous bird species can be found in the conservation area including screech owl, Canada goose and mallard duck. A large lilac stand (which blooms each spring) is found in the northeastern portion of the park beside one of the former homesteads." (description from [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca))

If time permits, we will do a por-

tion of the nearby Linear Trail.

**Searching For Gulls at Niagara**  
**Saturday, November 26, 2011**  
**Jim, Mike, and Ken Burrell**  
**519-699-4696**

**Meeting Time/Place:**  
8:00 am in the carpool parking lot at Fountain St (Homer Watson) and the 401. Fountain is Homer Watson on the Kitchener side of the 401

Join Jim and sons Mike and Ken for this all day outing to the Niagara River in search of various species of gulls that congregate there for the winter. Rare species of gulls are sometimes present as well as other interesting waterfowl. The boys will head to Hamilton first then onto Niagara River and the Falls. It is always cold so wear layers of warm clothing and good boots. Bring a lunch, binoculars, scopes and field guides. Walky talkies may be useful, too. It should be a good day; lots of birds and tiring!



**Christmas Bird Count – Learn the Basics – Part I**  
**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**Neil Taylor 893-6469**

**Meeting Time/Place**  
**1:00 pm at the 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 10<sup>th</sup> outing, but in a new location in the area of Doon Pioneer Tower. See the earlier information.

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

submitted by Larry Hamel

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

To date we have processed 94 renewals and 8 new memberships to give us a total of 102 memberships for 2011-12. Thank you to all who have taken out their membership for the new year. Including our 5 lifetime memberships our current total is 107.

We ended the 2010-11 year with 161 memberships. We encourage all who haven't as yet renewed their membership to do so by the end of the October 24<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Also, we urge everyone to invite friends and relatives to our meetings and encourage them to join our club.

### RENEW AT THE OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OR BY MAIL

Take advantage of the Membership table at the back of the hall. We have a form for you and will be pleased to take your money. After October 24<sup>th</sup>, if you can't find the Membership Form that was sent with the September issue of The Heron, go to our web site [www.kwfn.ca](http://www.kwfn.ca) and download a copy or contact the Membership Director for fast and courteous service.

### RENEWAL DEADLINE

Check your mailing label on The Heron. If it shows an "R" on it at the lower right side, you need to renew your membership.

November 15, 2011 is the deadline for Membership Renewal. Following this date, the Membership List will be revised and only paid up members will remain on the active list and receive The Heron for December/January and beyond. A mailing will be sent to all who did not renew by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Help us to save money and time by renewing as soon as possible please!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FOR 2011-2012

Look for and help us welcome the following individuals on October 24<sup>h</sup> and at subsequent meetings. Their name tags will help you recognize them.

Aitken, Grainne and Gordon	Kelterborn, Marion	Spearn, Diana and John
Epp, Gary	Keshav, Leela	Stewart, Neill
Hatch, Blair	Keshav, Maya	Wilson, Vivienne
Jones, Cynthia	Nicholls, Audrey	Wyatt, Judy
Jones-Epp, Faith	Oswald, Margaret	

New members are encouraged to seek out the Directors and Other Resource People listed on page 2 in The Heron to get the information you need and to offer assistance in areas of interest to you, as you are ready.

### DONATIONS

We express appreciation to the following members and nonmembers who have made a donation to one or more of our Special Funds (Operating, Sanctuary and/or Young Naturalists) since last June.

Bean, Robert and Ann	Holdaway, Kelly	Morton, Doug and Su
Bigelow, Pat and Paul	Ingrey, Dale and Nina	Pennington, Susanne
Brechun, Betty	Kelterborn, Marion	Prudham, Marilyn and Wil
Campbell, Craig	Keshav, Nicole and Srinivasan	Roberts, Don and Janet
Cassidy, Gord and Donna	Krebs, Marlene	Slater, Meg
Clayfield, Jennifer and Robert Oswald	Kroft, Ruth	Schnurr, Jeff and Jessica
DeBruin, Marco and Donna	La Ronde, Elaine	Tomins, Michelle and John
Fowler, Randy and Deborah	Litwiller, Louise	Trip, Julie
Frind, Michael	Martin, Beth and Virgil	Weiler, Dan
Greenfield, Grant	Meldahl, Ole	Wilson, Vivienne
Gibson, Nancy	Morrissey, April	

### BEREAVEMENT

A card, expressing our sympathy regarding the passing of her husband Fred P. Schneider, has been sent to Jane Schneider and her family. Please refer to the In Memoriam elsewhere in this newsletter.

### NAME TAGS

At each meeting Members can pick up their name tag from one of the green blankets at the side of the room. If you can't find yours, please notify the Membership Director so he can have one there for you at the next meeting.

## Winter Visitors

(previously printed in the Baden Outlook) by Ken Quanz

Irruptions of northern birds such as crossbills and purple finches often show up in this area due to lack of food supplies in their winter areas. There is, however, another group of birds which regularly migrate from the north into our area for the winter; birds such as eagles, juncos and American tree sparrows – the subject of this article.

American tree sparrows are easily identified by their sparrow shape and brown colouring. To distinguish them from other sparrows look for a rusty-cap and a large central dark spot on unstreaked breast. You may also note the two-toned bill and black legs. While these birds are mostly seen along fence rows and bush edges, they also frequent platform feeders and the ground under the feeders.

An estimated population of 10-20 million pairs of American tree sparrows breed along the edge of the tree line in tundra areas. For Ontario this means only parts of the southern shores of Hudson's Bay. Northern areas of other provinces as well as the territories also provide breeding habitat. During the breeding season insects are the food of choice, but in the winter these birds must switch to seeds. Seed bearing plants in these areas are often heavily snow covered in winter, forcing these birds to migrate.

Rarely do you see a single American tree sparrow! Along with juncos, they travel in small flocks which I suspect are family flocks. During my time at Wrigley Corners Outdoor Education Centre, we banded hundreds of these sparrows. What I found

most interesting were the many birds which we would recapture the next year, and up to seven years later. Obviously, they were using the same winter range each year. Perhaps the most interesting observations came as we looked through our records and found that birds which were banded on the same day one year showed up together the next year. Usually there were unbanded birds with them which we then banded that second year. Sure enough, the following winter we would often get banded birds from both years coming back together. On the other hand, early studies of flock behaviour found that the flocks were loosely formed, showed little structure, and had an average range of  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 kilometres. Perhaps it is time for another study of the flock behaviour of this very common winter bird.

## WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2011-2012 – Prepared by Ron Pittaway, OFO

Edited for local use with permission - Neil E. Taylor

This winter's theme is that cone crops are excellent and extensive across much of the boreal forest and the Northeast. It will not be a flight year.

Finches will be spread thinly over a vast area from western Canada east across the Hudson Bay Lowlands into Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces. White-winged and Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins should be widespread in low numbers. A small movement of Pine Grosbeaks is probable because mountain-ash berry crops are variable and some are of poor quality in the boreal forest. Evening Grosbeak numbers are increasing as

spruce budworm outbreaks expand in the boreal forest so some may show up at feeders in southern Ontario. Redpolls are unlikely to come south because the dwarf birch crop is bumper in the Hudson Bay Lowlands. See individual finch forecasts below for details. Three irruptive non-finch passerines are also discussed.

**PINE GROSBEAK:** Small numbers are likely in southern Ontario because the mountain-ash berry crop is variable with some poor quality crops in the boreal forest of Ontario. Pine Grosbeaks wandering to southern

Ontario will find average berry crops on European mountain-ash, good crops on Buckthorn and average crops on ornamental crabapples. Expect a few at sunflower seed feeders.

**PURPLE FINCH:** Purple Finches will be uncommon in Ontario, but probably in higher numbers in New York state where cone crops are excellent. A few may frequent feeders in southern Ontario. The Purple Finch has declined significantly in recent decades. Some suggest it declined due to competition with the House Finch. However, the drop in numbers began before House Finches were

common in eastern North America and also occurred where House Finches were absent. A better explanation for the decrease is the absence of large spruce budworm outbreaks that probably sustained higher Purple Finch populations in the past.

**RED CROSSBILL:** Red Crossbills should be widespread in Ontario in very small numbers, but much more frequent in the Northeast where cone crops are excellent. This crossbill comprises at least 10 "call types" in North America. Some types may be separate species. Most types are almost impossible to identify without recordings of their "flight calls". Most Red Crossbill types in winter prefer pines, but they also use introduced spruces and European larch. The smallest-billed Type 3 prefers the small soft cones of hemlock and white spruce

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** Good numbers of White-winged Crossbills are currently widespread in the Hudson Bay Lowlands where the white and black spruce cone crops are bumper. They may remain there this winter or some could wander to the Northeast where spruce and hemlock cone crops are excellent. A few should be in traditional areas such as Algonquin Park where spruce and hemlock cone crops are better than last winter. Unlike the Red Crossbill, the White-winged Crossbill in North America has no subspecies and call types.

**COMMON and HOARY RED-POLLS:** Redpolls in winter are a birch seed specialist and movements are linked to the size of the birch crop. Redpolls are unlikely to come south in numbers this winter because the dwarf birch crop is bumper in the

Hudson Bay Lowlands. Those that wander south of the boreal forest will be stopped by a fair to good seed crop on white and yellow birches in the mixed coniferous/deciduous forest region north of Lake Ontario.

**PINE SISKIN:** The nomadic siskin is a spruce seed specialist. There are currently large numbers of siskins in Yukon. They will move because the spruce crop is average in Yukon and Alaska this year, possibly coming to the East. Siskins are expected to be widespread across Ontario.

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** We can expect another good showing at feeders similar to last winter in central Ontario and probably elsewhere in the Northeast. Grosbeak numbers are increasing as spruce budworm outbreaks expand in Ontario and Quebec. However, current populations are still much lower than several decades ago when budworm outbreaks were widespread and extensive.

**THREE IRRUPTIVE PASSERINES:** Movements of these species are often linked to the boreal finches.

**BLUE JAY:** There will be a moderate flight, much smaller than last year, along the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie. Hazelnut crops were average. Beechnut crops were fair to good. Acorn crops were poor or spotty north of Lake Ontario, but with some good acorn crops in the deciduous forest region (Carolinian Zone) of southwestern Ontario.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** This nuthatch is a conifer seed specialist when it winters in the north and its movements are triggered by the same crops as some of the boreal finches. There has been very little south-

ward movement.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** The mountain-ash berry crop is generally good but variable and some crops are of poor quality in the boreal forest. Expect to see some Bohemians in traditional areas of southern Ontario such as Orillia, Peterborough and Ottawa where European mountain-ash berries, Buckthorn berries and small ornamental crabapples are available.

**WINTER FINCH BASICS:** I wrote this article in 1998 but it still should interest birders learning the basics about winter finches, seed crops and irruptions. From OFO News 16(1):5-7, 1998.

[www.jeaniron.ca/2011/WinterFinches.pdf](http://www.jeaniron.ca/2011/WinterFinches.pdf)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** I thank staff of the OMNR resources from across the province designated by an asterisk\* and others whose reports allow me to make annual forecasts: Dennis Barry (Durham Region), Peter Burke (James Bay), Bruce Di Labio (Eastern Ontario), Carolle Eady (Dryden), Michel Gosselin (Canadian Museum of Nature), Charity Hendry\* (Ontario Tree Seed Facility), Leo Heyens\* (Kenora), Tyler Hoar (northern Ontario), Eric Howe\*, Jean Iron (Northeastern Ontario and James Bay), Andree Morneau\* (Nipissing), Brian Naylor\* (Nipissing), Martyn Obbard\*, Stephen O'Donnell (Parry Sound District), Justin Peter\* (Algonquin Park), Fred Pinto\* (North Bay), Don Sutherland\* (Northern Ontario), Ron Tozer (Algonquin Park), Mike Turner\* (Haliburton Highlands), and John Woodcock (Thunder Cape Bird Observatory). I thank Jean Iron for proofing the forecast and making many helpful comments.

## Update on Hidden Valley –

Last February, I heard that in spite of earlier field investigations, the Region was once again pursuing the 4 lane Bleams Rd./River Rd. extension through this Environmentally Sensitive Policy Area with 3 Provincially Significant Wetlands. I immediately sent off letters to the Region and the Ministry of Natural Resources seeking in particular how all life stages of the “threatened” Jefferson salamander, a ‘Species At Risk’ might be protected. From the onset, I have been stonewalled re. real information. However, one MNR biologist did reveal after 8 weeks a habitat regulation. The MNR used American studies, that I provided, which introduced the 1 km as a concern, and which is embedded in legislation as follows:

### *Jefferson salamander habitat*

**28.** For the purpose of clause (a) of the definition of “habitat” in subsection 2 (1) of the Act, the following areas are prescribed as the habitat of the Jefferson salamander:

1. In the City of Hamilton, the counties of Brant, Dufferin, Elgin, Grey, Haldimand, Norfolk and Wellington and the regional municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York,

i. a wetland, pond or vernal or other temporary pool that is being used by a Jefferson salamander or Jefferson dominated polyploid or was used by a Jefferson salamander or Jefferson dominated polyploid at any time during the previous five years,

ii. an area that is within 300 metres of a wetland, pond or vernal or other temporary pool described in subparagraph i and that provides suitable foraging, dispersal, migration or hibernation conditions for Jefferson salamanders or Jefferson dominated polyploids,

iii. a wetland, pond or vernal or other temporary pool that,

A. would provide suitable breeding conditions for Jefferson salamanders or Jefferson dominated polyploids, B. is within one kilometre of an area described in subparagraph i, and C. is connected to the area described in subparagraph i by an area de-

*scribed in subparagraph iv, and iv. an area that provides suitable conditions for Jefferson salamanders or Jefferson dominated polyploids to disperse and is within one kilometre of an area described in subparagraph i. O. Reg. 436/09, s. 1.*

I was unable to attend the May 17<sup>th</sup> public information meeting, but when I finally was given the information package, I was alarmed. No reference was made to the 1 km requirement and the map showed the MNR regulated area to be for the most part less than 300m. When I sought data that was relied upon by the Region and MNR, I was treated to an exercise in obfuscation. Finally, the Region agreed to let me merely view the documents. This was unacceptable to me. I solicited support from elected federal, provincial, and municipal representatives and within 24 hours, 100 pages of documents were delivered to my home. This left me less than a week to review the studies before a regional committee meeting. Fortunately, while several made presentations, a power outage allowed the meeting to reconvene on October 5<sup>th</sup>. By then, I had discovered 2 valuable maps missing. These were delivered to me along with still another even more important document that has no reference in the Environmental Assessment documents. This data that I had requested for 7 months included maps re. location of egg masses and of the Jefferson salamander polyploid complex. One specimen was located within inches of the proposed highway alignment, yet it remains outside the MNR regulated area. Earlier, staff indicated that there were only 17 specimens in the area even though 366 had been located during field studies...possibly the greatest concentration in Southern Ontario. I also learned that Jefferson salamander had been elevated to be an endangered species, not merely threatened. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, I made a presentation that made reference to the above. About ½ of the Council

Submitted by Neil E. Taylor

asked me several questions for clarification. This indicated that they were not only interested, but that they were sympathetic to my concerns. Councillor Craig recalled how the Region had planned to relieve traffic in Cambridge by building a major road through Cruickston Park or ‘rare’ as it is now called. (Dallas Johnson and I made representations to the City of Cambridge in opposition to the road on behalf of the KWFN.) Councillor Craig went on to say that Cambridge traffic has not been brought to a ‘stand still’. He stated that as the importance of ‘rare’ is to Cambridge, so Hidden Valley is to Kitchener. He gave notice that he may not support Regional Staff in the future. Councillor Tom Galloway, after a lengthy editorial, reminded Council that the MNR is not the only agency responsible to enforce the regulated habitat and that the Region may well be challenged by a “bump up” to the Minister of the Environment. He is unaware that I petitioned the Minister on March 30, 2007 for a ‘Part II Order’ that does just that. I was advised that such action was premature at that time. In addition, Councillors Halloran, Mitchell, Millar, Haalboom, and Strickland were very concerned re. the regulated habitat discrepancies. They requested an immediate clarification. Staff indicated their intention to meet with me along with the MNR. I have promised city Councillor Gazzola that I would meet with the Project Team of which he and Councillor Haalboom are members. I also hope to be supported by others.

Finally, others such as Daphne and Gord Nicholls have pursued their concerns from other points of view. All of us appreciate the support we have received by your attendance at these meetings as well as by email and telephone calls. If you wish to be kept up to date, please contact me at: neiletaylor@sympatico.ca. Sincere thanks!

## Art in the Park Mysteries

I have read numerous books that attempt to sort out the mystery surrounding Tom Thomson's death but Roy MacGregor's Northern Light, is the most recent. MacGregor presents numerous convincing arguments, some backed by sophisticated modern science.

On our trip to Algonquin this past August I took with me a map of Canoe Lake showing the area as it was in 1917 at the time of Thomson's death. Once in the park we decided to paddle Canoe Lake looking for landmarks of the 1917 era. The sun was bright and the wind low, allowing us to travel in a leisurely manner around most of the lake. We visited numerous sites including Hayhurst Point and Thomson's cairn as well as the location of the Canoe Lake Train Station. We pulled up on a rock outcrop hoping to find a trail to the hill-top cemetery where Thomson was initially buried.

Immediately inside the thickly forested edge we found numerous old stonewalls, well-rotted wooden timbers and many long metal rods. The map told us we were at the site of Mowat Lodge, a Thomson hangout and possibly the site of his death! The bush was thick and overgrown and no path to the cemetery was revealed! We continued canoeing past the cottage of Thomson's fiancée, Winnie Trainor and then paddled between Little Wapomio and Wapomio Islands.

To our amazement we learned that Roy MacGregor was speaking that evening at the amphitheatre! We had heard him speak on Thomson previously at The Museum in Kitchener but hearing him again was even better. The amphitheatre overflowed with more than 700 people! Some got their books autographed, (unfortunately mine was at home) but I lined up for a different reason. Roy confirmed my suspicion-the cemetery was accessible only by following roads that are out of bounds to campers and reserved for a few cottagers. The next day I found the path! The cemetery, now surrounded by forest, contains 2 marked graves, one with a very impressive natural stone, and is surrounded by a small fence and protected by one very stately white birch. Thompson's unmarked grave is likely nearby. After some quiet time I followed the trail back through the bush.

It was interesting that a 1917 map provided a challenge to us that made for a very different but rewarding canoe trip around Canoe Lake.

Our simple challenge reminded me of Sue and Jim Waddington whom we had met several years ago in Killarney Provincial Park. Back in 1977 they set out with a small copy of A.Y. Jackson's "Hills, Killarney (Nellie Lake)". Their personal challenge was to find the "view" that Jackson painted.

After carefully checking topographical maps and numerous hikes to viewpoints, the Waddingtons not only found the "view" that he painted but found the spot where Jackson must have sat while sketching! Thus began their 35-year challenge-to find the locations where the Group of Seven artists sketched some of Canada's best-known art.

Over the years they have found about 70 Group of Seven painting sites in the La Cloche mountains, an ancient range running through Killarney Provincial Park. (They have found over 200 locations in total!)

The stories of their searches are captivating. The similarity between the renowned pieces of art and the photographs they have taken from the same locations is amazing. What became a hobby for the Waddingtons has also become a valuable database for Canadian art.

If you are interested in learning a little more about the mystery around Tom Thomson, I would recommend reading Roy MacGregor's Northern Light.

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection has set up a website that gives more information on the Waddingtons. See [www.groupofseven.ca](http://www.groupofseven.ca)

Try adding a little challenge to your next outing; it may help put new interest into exploring a familiar location.

**November 2011 at a Glance** - refer to page 8 of this Heron for full outing details

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Drynen 9:00 am	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Dickson Wilderness Area 9:30 am	9	10	11	12 Hidden Valley 9:00 am
13 <i>rain date</i> Hidden Valley 1:30 pm	14	15	16 Waterloo Archives 7 pm	17	18	19 Dumfries Conservation Area 9:30
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Niagara Gulls 8 am
27	28 KWFN Meeting	29	30	31		

**Update from the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors met on October 4<sup>th</sup>, the following items were discussed:

- Revisions to Conservation & HLM Award Guidelines
- Updates to the birding checklist
- Membership and Treasurer reports received
- Suggestions to increase KWFN club memberships
- Improvements for presentations at club meetings (microphone, light)
- 

The Board will meet again Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>. The minutes of the October meeting will be approved then. Once they are approved, they are filed in the Library, so they can be viewed at the KWFN general club meeting. Alternatively, you can receive the minutes by email by contacting Kelly Holdaway.



317 Highland Road East  
Kitchener, ON N2M 3W6

# Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Canada Post Publication  
Mail Sales Agreement  
No. 40037542

### Membership Fees September to August (After Feb. 1/12 - 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).

[www.kwfn.ca](http://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/>