



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

WINTER/SPRING, 2018... WALKS, MEETINGS & POTLUCKS ~~~~~ FREE FROM OUR SPONSORS THREE TIMES A YEAR

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT, GINA DALKIN-DAVIS:



Greetings,
As I write, it is already mid-January. The month seems to be flying by in a flash... and not a second too soon in my opinion. Although not the coldest month on record (that's 1981 and 1994) the biting winter chill has presented a challenge to any hardy soul venturing out

with camera in hand to take that prize-winning 'Winter Wonderland' photo in readiness for our February Pot Luck.

Our Communications Director, Christine Roberts, continues to develop new publicity opportunities. HFFN is now on the **Grey-Bruce Community Living** site.

We would like to announce that **Lynn Johnston** has joined our Executive as Vice-President. Lynn has already shouldered responsibilities putting together our April Annual Dinner Meeting.

Vacancy – Jackie Clements, our valued scribe, has stepped down following many years of accurately recording the minutes of our Executive meetings. Please let us know if you would like to take a turn as Recording Secretary.

On a provincial/global scale, HFFN is a signatory to the **Protected Places Campaign**. As a party to the declaration, we are urging Provincial and Federal governments to *protect a minimum of 17 percent of our lands and inland waterways by 2020*. This is in line with a target, set under the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity**, signed by Canada in 2010. Interesting to note that Ontario has fallen way



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LIKE TO JOIN US?

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS MEETS THE 4TH TUESDAY OF FEB., MAR., APR., MAY & JUNE, AND SEPT., OCT., & NOV., AT PINE RIVER UNITED CHURCH, HWY 21.** MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL. (EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS & MORE INFO INSIDE, P. 2.)

**except April, Annual Dinner at another venue.



Pepper photo

UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

MEETINGS:

- FEB 27th: (12:30 pm) POTLUCK/PHOTO CONTEST
- MARCH 27th: Allan Kempert on BATS!
- APRIL 24th: ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

OUTINGS:

- FEB. 10th: WINTER BIRDING
- FEB. 17th: WINTER SKI/HIKE
- SPRING WATERFALLS
- SPRING WELCOME WALK
- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



TITLE PHOTO CREDIT: Bebamikawe Trail, Manitoulin Island, C. Roberts

PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR
EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES,
PLEASE NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

H.F.F.N. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONTACT NUMBERS:

President:

Gina D. Davis 519-440-0403

Past President:

Marion Fink 395-3701

Vice-President:

Lynn Johnston 528-2411

Secretary:

VACANCY

Treasurer:

Onno Visser 395-3173

Memberships:

Barb Simpson 396-5486

Outings:

Tom Lobb 482-3342

(1 Open position)

Speakers:

Bob Simpson 396-5486

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616

Members-at-Large:

Joy Munn 395-3570

Social Convener:

Linda Campbell 396-5144

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368

Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:

Jim Roberts

Website Administrator:

Steve Pepper 395-5616

Communications:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

Publicity:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

>> Our Club Executive <<

is always ready to welcome new members with fresh thoughts and ideas! We meet three times a year over a meal and new Executive members are given any help they may need for whatever assistance they may wish to give.

FRINGE NOTES

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President's comments....

short of the promised target.

Our Facebook page is underutilized! Please check it out as a place to share those great sightings, ask questions, post your photos, get in touch with other like-minded folks, and look at the photographs others have shared. Bookmark that site!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Huron-Naturalists/1654123064825494>



Copy and paste this address to your Browser. See you there!

Happy Spring!

~ *Gina D. Davis*



PAST MEETINGS:....

September 26, 2017: Damien Mullin

HFFN launched the new 2017/18 season with a great crowd Tuesday, Sept. 26th.

President Gina welcomed everyone and introduced new executive members; Vice President Lynn Johnston and Treasurer Onno Visser.

We were very pleased to welcome nine new members, and look forward to becoming better acquainted in the coming months.

Rachel White of the Huron Stewardship

Council attended and reported on the International Plowing Match, which took place the previous week. She provided public exposure for HFFN by displaying bird boxes and distributing our brochure. Rachel also facilitated production of our 'Brake for Turtles' magnets, which members purchased at the meeting.

After a recap of summer activities and description of upcoming outings, Tom introduced speaker **Damien Mullin**.

Damien holds an undergraduate science degree with a zoology specialization from Laurentian University and is continuing toward earning a Master's degree in science. His work experience has included a variety of research and conservation studies of salamanders and turtles for Scales Nature Park, the Algonquin Wildlife Station and he has just completed his second season with the Huron Stewardship Council.

Damien informed the audience that turtles are among the most endangered animals in the world, and one prime reason derives from a quirk of reproductive evolution. While many large mammals are reproductively mature after only a few years, some species of turtles may live 17 years or more before reproducing.

There are 8 species of turtles in Ontario, of which seven are considered at risk due to threats which can include habitat loss, poaching for the pet trade, harvesting for food and persecution. However, the greatest threat to turtles is road mortality.

Turtles are most visible in June as they search for suitable nesting sites. Many females travel several kilometers when nesting which, in Southern Ontario, increases the likelihood of crossing a road.

Damien's research involves a process called "headstarting". To counteract low survival rates of eggs and hatchlings, nesting sites are monitored, turtle eggs are collected, hatched, and the young raised in captivity at the Toronto Zoo for one or two years. To determine which length of time produces optimal results, he used radio transmitters attached to turtles' shells to track a selection of subjects in three cohorts: hatchlings, one year olds →



Tom Lobb chats with Damien
(Roberts photo)

PAST MEETINGS:....

September 26, 2017: Damien Mullin Cont:

and two year olds over several years. Analysis of his findings concluded that the headstarted two year old group demonstrated superior survivorship. From the start of the presentation, it was abundantly clear that Damien loves his work and his subject matter. His enthusiasm was inspiring and HFFN members found his anecdotes highly entertaining.



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HFFN Oct 24 meeting :

Dr. Janice Gilbert on Phragmites

Another meeting, another great speaker!

Gina welcomed 3 more new members and invited them to introduce themselves. We look forward to getting to know everyone better in the coming months (and years!)

Steve Pepper reported on the Oct. 3rd outing to Harrison Park in Owen Sound and Tom related details regarding the fall birding outing Oct. 28th in Point Clark and Kincardine. Bob and Barb Simpson generously offered to host the potluck lunch afterward. Lynn Johnston and Paul Zinn once again offered to host a winter snowshoe outing.

Dr. Janice Gilbert is a wetland ecologist specializing in freshwater wetland ecosystems and an expert in the control of the invasive grass. She has extensive involvement in wetland restoration projects throughout Ontario and founded the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre, a not-for-profit organization providing solutions and services for phragmites control (www.phragcontrol.com).

Phragmites australis is a robust reed that out-competes native plants (including a native phragmites subspecies) and has spread extensively through waterways, wetlands, roadside ditches and agricultural drainage conduits. Fast-growing with many ways to propagate, phragmites is very difficult to control. Its dominance in the landscape is of great concern in many areas: reduction of biodiversity impacts habitat and food sources for many species of animals and plants, the wall of reeds reduces recreational opportunities and enjoyment of property; dry stands of phragmites can be fire hazards....and the hardy reed can even grow through asphalt.

Dr. Gilbert explained various methods of control, most of which she conceded were inadequate to address the magnitude of the problem. Non-chemical methods such as manual cutting can be effective but are labour intensive. Recently a Swedish amphibious cutting vehicle cleared the Bruce Dale Conservation Area shoreline and will be deployed in other areas of Lake Huron and Lake Erie's coasts.

According to Gilbert, the most effective control methods involve application of specialized herbicides followed by complete removal of biomass. Challenges include avoiding harm to sensitive plant and animal species and regulatory restrictions, particularly when spraying near water. She praised the foresight of local municipal officials for early recognition of the problem and highlighted the work of local conservation and community based groups such as Kincardine Residents Against Phragmites. Dr. Gilbert strongly encouraged us to maintain pressure on all levels of government to continue financial support, develop management plans and provide public education.

Throughout the presentation Dr. Gilbert made her point with astonishing photos contrasting impenetrable reed walls and subsequent tranquil coastal views. Her passion was intense and her message resonated deeply with HFFN members.



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Dr. Gilbert exchanges Phragmites tales with your Editor after the presentation. Roberts photo.

PAST MEETINGS:....



Liz Miltenburg models the tree planting harness and shovel with Todd Devlin. (Roberts photo)



Membership Forms in our Issues...

These will now be included in each issue for your convenience. Fill out, add your dues, and mail or hand in to join or renew. Done!



HFFN November 28 Meeting: Liz Miltenburg, tree planter

President Gina welcomed everyone including 2 more new members. Tom and Christine gave a brief report on the Ontario Nature regional meeting held at Formosa November 4th. Tom went on to report on the shoreline birding outing October 28th and introduced the possibility of a snowshoe outing at Lynn Johnston and Paul Zinn's property sometime in January, weather permitting. James Turland provided details of the Christmas Bird Count 2017 taking place Dec. 15th. He urged all interested members to contact him. (See the REPORT further in this issue...)

Lucknow native **Liz Miltenburg**, daughter of HFFN member Jayne, and friend **Todd Devlin** provided an educational and entertaining presentation based on their tree-planting experiences in the British Columbian interior this past spring and summer. Liz spent her summer working in BC as a tree planter, after having done the job a few summers ago in Northern Ontario. She currently resides in London, Ontario, working and taking courses part-time at Western University. She has always enjoyed spending time outside ever since

she was young, growing up on a farm just south of Lucknow, Ontario. Her other interests include photography and playing guitar.

To give some context, Liz and Todd provided background information on the Canadian forestry industry, which sells \$63 billion in forestry products annually and is the second largest exporter worldwide. Approximately 780,000 hectares of trees are harvested annually and of that, 50-55% is reforested. The industry is highly regulated, and all plans must receive government approval.

Liz and Todd worked inland for Celtic Reforestation starting near Williams Lake (fortunately before the fires) and moved north to the MacKenzie and Prince George areas.

The basic compensation structure of the job is payment per tree based on number of trees planted in a day. Rates per tree varied from 11¢ to 25¢ depending on the type of tree; balsam fir, pine or spruce, and difficulty of planting conditions. A tree planter averages between 500 and 3,000 trees/day working a 10 hour day in a 3 month season from spring to mid-August. A normal work cycle consists of 4 days planting and 1 day off.

Their description of daily life in a reforestation camp elicited many expressions of surprise and admiration from the audience. A camp is a gathering of several crews of 12-18 people each. Workers provide their own tents and equipment including dishes and work clothes and pay a daily camp fee for food and facilities such as portable toilets, showers and laundry. Meals are prepared by cooks in a kitchen trailer and eaten in a mess hall.

A typical day begins at 5:30 am with a hot breakfast and travel to the "block" of the day. Liz modeled tree planting gear consisting of 3 bags attached to a harness: one on either side to carry trees with a third utility bag in the back and a short shovel. Once on site, planters load 300-400 trees in the bags and set out with a partner.

Todd demonstrated tree planting technique while Liz explained the rigorous criteria for spacing and planting.

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PAST MEETINGS:....

November 28 Meeting, cont:

Miltenburg and Devlin found the experience of living rough and 'unplugged, challenging, and the work physically demanding, but cited the positives of working closely with a diverse, often international, team in beautiful settings while performing a valuable function.

President Gina wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe holiday season.

~ *Christine Roberts*

PAST OUTINGS...

Harrison Park outing – Oct 3rd

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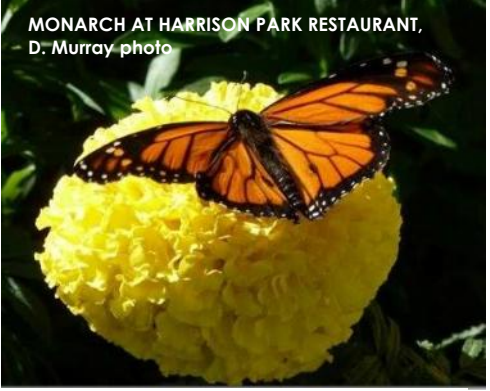
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Six members gathered at Harrison Park in Owen Sound on October 3rd, which turned out to be a beautiful sunny day for a walk in the park. On the 'Mile Drive Trail' we walked along the Sydenham River looking for salmon. They were

definitely running, and as well, a pair of dabbling Mergansers and some Mallards were seen. The trail follows the river, and crosses over several times. We then took the other small side trail, 'Weaver's Creek Boardwalk', bringing us eventually back to the parking lot. We saw some fungi, as well as some trees that had been visited by Pileated woodpeckers. A walk to the Park's waterfalls completed the morning tour.

After the morning walk, the Peppers stopped at the popular Harrison Park Restaurant to have a lunch and relax while the Roberts and Linda Somerville enjoyed a picnic lunch and then continued their hike on the Bruce Trail through the Arboretum and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority grounds to Inglis Falls (approx. 2.5 km) Christine and Jim then continued on the Bruce Trail back to town and eventually into the park for a healthy 2 hr loop.



NEXT PAGE : ↩



SEVERAL LOOKOUT POINTS ALONG THE RIVERBANK - Pepper photo

MIGRATING SALMON. D. Murray photo

PAST OUTINGS...

Harrison Park Fall Colour Tour cont.



While there, Christine made an important discovery as they re-entered the park boundary. She spotted, and Jim caught, a young Milk Snake. Christine writes: 'It was very feisty and lunged at Jim as he tried to take a photo and tried to bite him multiple times when picked up. He even vibrated his tail like a rattler! When we returned home Jim entered the sighting in the Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, and it was a square-changer. That means there have been no reported sightings of milk snakes in that area.' Great catch, Jim!

The day was ideal for hiking, as the weather was sunny and warm.

This description comes from the tourist brochure for the park: *Harrison Park is a 100-acre retreat featuring gardens, playgrounds, trails and recreational facilities, plus access to two beautiful waterfalls and the famous Bruce Trail.* ~ C. Roberts



The beautiful area in which we live certainly has plenty of choice when it comes to waterfalls! Right, pretty Weaver's Creek shows its colours prior to a view of its falls. Left, the milk snake and below, Inglis Falls, as taken by Christine on this hike.



Beach Birding and Potluck: October



Beach Birding....

This event proved as popular as always with some dozen hardy, well-wrapped-up members gathered at Point Clark Harbour to explore the waves and see what waterfowl were out on the Lake.

Even more members gathered for a wonderful potluck and social time, thanks again to Barb and Bob Simpson who generously opened their home to get us all warmed up and fed! Thirty-one species of birds, including shorebirds and land birds were counted. Bob Taylor provided the following list of birds:



SEE NEXT PAGE :



PAST OUTINGS...

Bob Taylor's bird list - Oct. beach birding.

Locations:

- Point Clark
- Kincardine Sewage Lagoons
- Boiler Beach
- Simpson's (feeders)



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada Goose | Turkey Vulture |
| Northern Shoveler | Bonaparte's Gull |
| Mallard | Ring-billed Gull |
| American Black Duck | Herring Gull |
| Green-winged Teal | American Crow |
| Redhead | Blue Jay |
| Lesser Scaup | Northern Cardinal |
| White-winged Scoter | Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| Black Scoter | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Long-tailed Duck | Black-capped Chickadee |
| Common Goldeneye | Brown Creeper |
| Bufflehead | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Ruddy Duck | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Red-throated Loon | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Horned Grebe | American Goldfinch |
| American Coot | |



A flock of Starlings, as you know, is called a **Murmuration**. Wonder what the correct term might be for this chatty group of Naturalists?! Old friendships were renewed and plenty of information, on various aspects of nature and otherwise, were exchanged. Hunger was abolished!



HELP WANTED:

PLEASANT, WILLING INDIVIDUAL (OR TWO) TO ASSIST SEVERAL OTHERS SAME; SOME NOTES TO TAKE, SOME PHONE CALLS TO MAKE, THREE BUSINESS LUNCHES PER YEAR; PAID IN GRATEFUL THANKS FROM SAID SEVERAL PLEASANT INDIVIDUALS AFOREMENTIONED WITH ADDED BONUS OF NEW FRIENDS AND SOME INTERESTING LOCAL AREA INFORMATION. APPLY ANYTIME: STEVE PEPPER, 395-5616

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Membership renewals

MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:
Barb Simpson, 396-5486.

Membership/renewal forms are included in this issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the meetings.

As always, we encourage members to lend us their help and ideas - you can always approach the Executive with your thoughts, and we look forward to having new Executive Members, or Members-at-Large. New members have the support and help of all the Executive. Executive terms run two years, or longer if you like....we hold two or three meetings over a meal, per year. No great shakes!

Second HFFN Bluebird Box Building Bee...February 6th, 2018



which was enjoyed by all, including Jeni and Margie who were visiting with Christine.

On Feb 6th, Bob Simpson, Onno Visser, and Steve Pepper gathered at Jim and Christine Roberts' in Lurgan Beach and assembled 18 Bluebird boxes to be used to replace and update the HFFN Bluebird house trail in the Spring. We worked away comfortably in Jim's garage and managed to assemble the boxes in about 2 hours.

Afterwards Christine served up some much appreciated squash soup, homemade bread, cheese and crackers, coffee, and banana loaf,

~ *Steve Pepper*



Getting the Word Out.... A note to us from Christine Roberts

[Coastal Speakers Series hosted by the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, Thursday, March 1st, 6:30-8:30 pm at the TownePlace Suites and Conference Centre, Kincardine.](#)

This evening will be an opportunity to discover diverse topics from across Bruce County regarding Lake Huron's unique coastal habitats. Participants will have a chance to share experiences across Lake Huron, learn a bit from our speakers, and hear an update on our Coastal Action Plan for Lake Huron. Speakers will include:

Mike Warkentin (Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association, Director)

DARK SKIES ON THE BRUCE

Emily Martin (Pine River Watershed Initiative Network)

RE-FORESTING LAKE HURON

Tineasha Brenot (Coastal Centre)

BRUCEDALE WETLAND PHRAGMITES REMOVAL

[Coastal Speaker Series, Tuesday, March 6th, 6:30-8:30 pm, Huron County Museum, Goderich](#)

Rachel White (Huron Stewardship Council)

"A master of trickery discovered along the Maitland"

Patrick Donnelly (City of London)

"Beaches at the River's Mouth"

TBD

Both events are meant to be fun opportunities for learning, sharing and experiencing more around Lake Huron. These events are FREE, family friendly, and open to all.

We would love to see you there!

RSVP to coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca

For more Notes, please turn to Page 12...

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT from James Turland:

Christmas Bird Counts are run by volunteers and in 2016 nearly 80,000 participants in 2,005 count circles counted an astonishing 59 million birds. Of the 2,607 different species seen, the most tallied in a single count circle was 509 in Ecuador. In all of Canada, 297 species were found, and 185 were located in Ontario.

The 2017 Kincardine Christmas Bird Count was held on Friday, December 15th. Environment Canada had issued a 'weather advisory' and the dedicated 22 field participants battled poor visibility and wintry road conditions all day. They amassed 51 species which is average, but many birds were recorded in lower than typical numbers. Weather, snow depth and amount of ice coverage are all recorded so that compilers can relate weather conditions to bird numbers. For example: normally we see several Bald Eagles but the single sighting this year is of no concern because it is attributed to weather and not a decline in population. A Ring-necked Pheasant made its fourth appearance but is probably an 'escapee' for there is no breeding population of pheasants in Bruce County. The White-crowned Sparrow seen in Point Clark has only been found on one previous Kincardine count and is probably surviving by visiting feeders. The first ever Baltimore Oriole seen brought the historic 33 year total to 121 species. The Oriole was an anticipated find for it had been eating peanuts at a feeder on the south side of Kincardine for a week prior. Many people are familiar with the Oriole's beautiful song and orange color during our summer months. Orioles, along with the majority of song birds, migrate south but on occasion stragglers get left behind.

Here are the complete 2017 Kincardine Christmas Bird Count results. Twenty-two participants counted 2366 individual birds of 51 species. Goldfinch and Juncos were found in greater than usual numbers. Baltimore Oriole was new to the count.

Canada Goose 182,

Mallard 68,

American Black Duck 11,

Greater Scaup 1,

Long-tailed Duck 7,

Bufflehead 101,

Common Goldeneye 31,

Common Merganser 48,

Red-breasted Merganser 29,

Ring-necked Pheasant 1,

Wild Turkey 64,

Sharp-shinned Hawk 3,

Cooper's Hawk 1,

Bald Eagle 1,

Red-tailed Hawk 3,

Rough-legged Hawk 8,

Ring-billed Gull 6,

Herring Gull 181,

Great Black-backed Gull 2,

Rock Pigeon 88,

Mourning Dove 87,

Snowy Owl 11,

Red-bellied Woodpecker 2,

Downy Woodpecker 20,

Hairy Woodpecker 3

Pileated Woodpecker 1,

American Kestrel 2,

Northern Shrike 4,

Blue Jay 93,

American Crow 357,

Common Raven 9,

Horned Lark 6,

Black-capped Chickadee 170,

Red-breasted Nuthatch 21,

White-breasted Nuthatch 9,

Brown Creeper 1,

Golden-crowned Kinglet 2,

American Robin 1,

European Starling 274,

Snow Bunting 220,

American Tree Sparrow 26,

Dark-eyed Junco 215,

White-crowned Sparrow 1,

Song Sparrow 1,

Northern Cardinal 84,

Baltimore Oriole 1,

House Finch 33,

Purple Finch 4,

Common Redpoll 1,

American Goldfinch 498,

House Sparrow 225



Mountain Bluebird was photographed near Kitchener by Bruce Edmunds.



Kincardine Count Circle is centred near Ripley. Anyone can add birds by contacting jaturland@gmail.com

In other birding news a mega-rare Rock Wren was found in Bruce County earlier this year. Rock Wrens native to southwestern United States have only been recorded in Ontario twice before. This rare visitor seemed at home on the escarpment and rocky shores of Bruce Peninsula National Park. Unfortunately it was a 'one day wonder' in a Park full to capacity, and was only seen by a handful of birders. Recently a Mountain Bluebird delighted birders by its appearance near Kitchener. Mountain Bluebirds are rarely found east of the prairies so this bird is a long way from home. Birds that unexpectedly stray outside their normal range create an exciting challenge and complexity for the birding community.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT ...

Prudent and dedicated birders will go to great lengths to see a new species. Some will even challenge themselves to a 'Big Year.' The 'Big Year' is defined as an informal, personal competition to find the most species of birds in a given area (ie Ontario) in a calendar year. On November 2, 2017 when Jeremy Bensettes sighted a Northern Gannet near Hamilton he set a new 'Ontario Big Year' record at 343 species. There is no 'rest' for a 'Big Year' birder until midnight, December 31st. Check out Jeremy's link for his 'Big Year' story and his final tally: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/this-man-travelled-90-000-km-across-ontario-to-break-a-bird-watching-record-1.4410182>

If you enjoy watching or taking photographs of birds then consider getting more involved in some of our local bird clubs and festival. The Bruce Birding Club has bi-monthly outings seeing over 200 bird species each year. The Huron Fringe Birding Festival hosted in MacGregor Point Provincial Park offers guided hikes two weekends in late May. The Huron Fringe Field Naturalists have a monthly meeting February-June and at Pine River Church with guest speakers. If you have seen an interesting species or would like more information contact James Turland jaturland@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP PAGE





**WELCOME
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

**HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS
EXTEND A HEARTY WELCOME TO THOSE
WHO ARE JOINING US. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY
OUR PRESENTATIONS AND REAP THE BENEFITS OF ALL
OR ANY OF THE WALKS OR HIKES YOU FANCY COMING ALONG ON!
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO US SO THAT
WE CAN DRAW YOU INTO OUR MIDST AND GET TO KNOW YOU!**




~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 2018/2019 dues are \$20.00 per person. Under 18's are free. (form at right) Come out and enjoy the company, the outings and the speakers. Memberships for the 2018/2019 year are due in September. If there are any questions about membership or changes to your contact information, please contact me, Barb Simpson: 396-5486 or bsimpsonbob@gmail.com.

Thanks Barb

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application or renewal

SEPTEMBER 2017 to SEPTEMBER 2018

....or CATCHUP?

Membership Cost: \$20.00 per person. Youths 18 or less are free.
Please mail completed form with payment to:

**Huron Fringe Field Naturalists,
Box 143, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 2Y6**

(Please print:)

Name(s): _____

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone No: _____

E-Mail: _____



Members' Page.... What Our Members are Doing!

Photographs always welcome;
please send them in JPEG
format, over 100 kbs and under
500 kbs....thanks!



**Guests welcome!*

Update on turtle hospital fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who purchased "Brake for Turtles" or "Brake for Snakes" magnets in support of the Georgian Bay Turtle Hospital. Sales so far have raised \$75. Damien Mullin, our September speaker, donated his speaker's fee to the club and so, at the fall executive meeting it was decided to combine that amount with the fundraising results to bring our total donation to \$150. **Like their namesakes, the turtle magnets are hibernating but will return in the spring** for anyone who wishes to add this stylish conservation message to their vehicle. In the meantime, I encourage all members to check out the CBC short doc, 'Fix and Release' (<http://www.cbc.ca/shortdocs/shorts/fix-and-release>), a 15 minute movie highlighting the work of the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in Peterborough. You will be amazed by the resilience of turtles and the unorthodox methods of treatment.



~ *Christine Roberts*



Members' Meeting: Photo Contest & potluck!

Pot Luck Lunch, 12:30 pm.

Share your favourite dish....wrap it well to keep hot! Please bring your own plates, mugs and cutlery to simplify cleanup.

Photo Contest Rules:

Each February the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists hold a photo contest for members. Each person may enter 2 prints in each of 2 sizes: 4"X6 "and 5"X7". The content must be Canadian, and the prints unretouched. Each member attending the February meeting has 4 votes: 2 in each size category. Winners receive a small prize and bragging rights. If willing and able to share with the newsletter editor, Jeni Pepper, their photos are included in the Spring-Summer HFFN newsletter.

This year's contest theme is "Winter Wonderland".

~ *Christine Roberts*



CHRISTINE ROBERTS HAD A WINTER BEACH MEANDER AND GOT THIS NICE SHOT IN PT. CLARK.

GOING AWAY SOMEWHERE!



Wear your HFFN clothing anywhere in the world, get a photo of yourself in it with a nice background, and send it to the Peppers.... we'll publish it!



Members' Page....



This year's PHOTO CONTEST....
WINTER WONDERLAND
DON'T FORGET TO BRING ALONG YOUR PHOTOS FOR ENTRY!

One or two each, 4"x6" and/or 5"x7", un-retouched,
 Canadian content. Bring them to Christine at the table
 to enter. Good Luck!

HFFN Photo Contest rules:

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 ANNE HAS
 BEEN ENJOY-
 ING THE
 BALMY
 BREEZES IN
 MEXICO**



Getting the Word Out.... A note to us from Christine Roberts, Cont:

The members of HFFN; their passions, interests, skills and talents, represent the wealth of the club. However, we are never so rich that we don't have room for more treasured participants. With that in mind, HFFN is constantly looking for ways to extend the reach of its membership invitation to those who love to learn about and experience nature. Over the course of the past year steps have been taken to expand the club's public exposure. In July a new display board and promotional poster was unveiled at the Kincardine Coastal Cleanup. It has since appeared at the Kincardine Tourism Arts IgNight open house in September and the Kincardine Home Hardware Ladies Night in November. The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation has invited HFFN to mount its display at coastal workshops in Goderich and Kincardine in March. Monthly meetings are widely advertised in print, on local television and media websites from Saugeen Shores to Goderich and written reports appear regularly in same.

The club is listed with the Huron-Kinloss municipality as a community service and contact information will appear in the 2018 Discovery Guide. We are also included in the Grey Bruce 211 community listing

CONTINUED →



Roberts Photo

Getting the Word Out... A note to us from Christine Roberts, Cont:

<https://brucegreycommunityinfo.cioc.ca/record/BRU0326> and have made application to Huron County 211. Although personal invitation of members to friends, family and neighbours remains a strong membership draw, clearly some of the above methods helped increase new membership application this year. To our new friends; welcome, we look forward to getting to know you and sharing your interest in the natural world. Any ideas for further outreach would be gratefully accepted.

Nature Network Petitions



Thank you to everyone who signed the online petition in support of Ontario Nature's Protected Places Declaration. On your behalf, HFFN's executive added our club's name and logo to the list of organizations endorsing this campaign.

<http://protected-places.good.do/OntarioNature/declaration/>

If you would like a more direct link to Ontario Nature's updates you can register to receive news via email at: <https://www.ontarionature.org/act/index.php> .

~ *Christine*



PAST ISSUES OF FRINGE NOTES...

IF FOR WHATEVER REASON YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCESS THESE, THEY ARE HELD ONLINE ON OUR WEB PAGE, WHICH IS PART OF THE HURON STEWARDSHIP WEBSITE. HOWEVER, ONCE ON THE HFFN PAGE YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE LINK AT THE TOP TO GET THE RECENT ISSUES. THERE IS ANOTHER LINK TO THE RIGHT, HOWEVER IT GIVES ACCESS ONLY TO OLDER ISSUES AND NOT TO THE LATER ONES. ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

<http://hfn.huronstewardship.ca/>

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE!



The Peppers were pleased to see that a Tufted Titmouse, solitary for two seasons, now seems to have found a friend to lunch with!

Great Lakes West Ontario Nature regional meeting - Saturday, November 4th, Formosa

Christine Roberts reports:

Gina and Walter, Tom, Jim and I attended the Ontario Nature Great Lakes West (GLW) Fall 2017 Regional Meeting November 4th. Chaired by Nature Network Coordinator Lisa Richardson, it was hosted by Saugeen Nature at the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Head Quarters in Formosa and attended by representatives from 5 clubs: Saugeen Nature, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Nature Guelph, Waterloo Region Nature and HFFN.

After welcoming the attendees, Lisa initiated round table introductions and invited clubs to share their accomplishments, concerns and queries. Once again I recorded many ideas which may be of use to HFFN in the future.

Beth Ann Currie of the **Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory** followed up on her spring fundraising appeal reporting a successful campaign and refurbishment of the centre's septic system. Going forward the next project will be to switch to solar-generated power to avoid frequent and disruptive electrical outages.

Lisa presented updates on **Ontario Nature** staffing, programs and activities with the following highlights: The long-running court battle against a provincial regulation that exempts major industrial activities— including forestry, mining, energy, and residential development — from the strict protection standards outlined in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was denied by the Supreme Court in May.

In other legal action, Ontario Nature is calling for more research to assess the impact of Neonicotinoids on bees and pollinators. The case was initially won July 5th but was subsequently appealed and a further hearing is scheduled for November 15/16th.

The eighth annual **Youth Summit for Biodiversity** was another great success, with 98 14-19 year olds involved representing 50 communities.

All **Nature Reserve management plans** are being updated and half of Ontario's Nature Reserves were visited this year. [HFFN completed and submitted inspection data for GG Newton Nature Reserve in July but has not received feedback yet.]



Great Lakes West Ontario Nature Meeting....cont.

The new **Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas** app was launched and was very successful, receiving over 11,000 new observations since the spring.

A few more programs mentioned included this summer's **Boreal Communities Outreach** with 30 workshops connecting 1600 people in Ontario's north; a **Forest Carbon Technical Working Group** forum to be held in Toronto in November; and the **Boreal Caribou Federal Recovery Strategy** whereby provinces were to have caribou range plans in place by early October 2017, but to date no provinces have achieved their targets.

Lisa introduced her colleague, Anne Bell, Director of Conservation and Education to present **Ontario Nature's Protected Places Campaign**. In 2010 Canada endorsed the United Nations target to protect at least 17 % of the planet's land and inland waters by 2020. The current percentage of protected area in Ontario is less than 11 and to achieve the 17% goal, 68,000 km² would need to be added. Anne outlined many of the challenges and opportunities to be addressed in pursuing this initiative. To learn more about this topic, visit; https://www.ontarionature.org/protect/campaigns/protected_areas.php; <http://www.conservation2020canada.ca/home>; <http://www.wwf.ca/newsroom/reports/lprc.cfm>.

The spring meeting is scheduled for May 5th, 2018 at the rare Charitable Research Reserve in Cambridge.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR A MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT CANCELLED! WE WILL EMAIL UP TO THE LAST MINUTE....IF NOT ONLINE, PLEASE CALL ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE. THERE MAY BE NOBODY AT THE CHURCH.

~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21 at Concession 4, Huron Twp., during the months of February to June and September to November.

February meeting is a potluck and photo contest/hobby display at 12:30 pm

Meetings are cancelled in event of bad weather - you are advised to check the status of a meeting before leaving home.

LUG-A-MUG ... BRING YOUR OWN MUG TO THE MEETING!



Social Time: 7. 30 pm.



Meeting: 8:00 pm.



Feed the Frog!

Beverages: 1.00; treats: free.



Tuesday, February 27th at 12:30 pm for lunch and photo contest

Our next meeting at the Pine River United Church is the annual potluck **lunch** and photo contest and takes place Tuesday, February 27th at **12:30 pm**. Please bring your own tableware along with your potluck dish. We expect to be 'snowed under' with submissions under the category of Winter Wonderland!

See Members' Page for further information.



A Note from your Speaker Chair, Spring 2018

Selecting speakers for the 2018 program is underway. To date two speakers have been scheduled. Allan Kempert will speak about Bats at the March 27th meeting and David Gascoigne will speak about Birds for our Annual Dinner meeting to be held April 25.

March 27th:

Allan Kempert is a Bat expert and will talk about Bat Behavior, Myth Busters-True or False, Amazing & Fun Facts about Bats and the Benefits of Bats. He will also enlighten us about when to evict Bats and how to evict Bats safely. For those interested he will also show us how to build a simple Bat House.



NOTE: TICKETS TO THE ANNUAL DINNER WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THIS MEETING, OR CALL STEVE, 395-5616



UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONT.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING, APRIL 24TH:

For our ADM, to be held at the Lucknow United Church, David Gascoigne, a Bird Expert, will speak to us after we enjoy our meal. David has travelled the world to discover new birds and study their ecology. He has given many presentations in the Kitchener Library's 'Nature in the City' series, and to many other organizations and schools and has travelled as far as to Kansas, USA to give a presentation. Be sure to join us for David's presentation. Although the title of his talk is not 100% firmed up, I asked that he consider giving the presentation – 'Sex and the Single Bird'. David gave this presentation at the Kitchener Library Series and I understand it was very well received.

Bob Simpson—Speaker Chair

Lucknow United Church Hall - DIRECTIONS

Lucknow United Church, 505 Campbell Street Lucknow, ON (corner of Campbell and Havelock) on the main street.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR TICKET SALES, SEE PREVIOUS PAGE, BOTTOM.

AT THE END OF THE MARCH MEETING, ANY TICKETS REMAINING UNSOLD ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO MIGHT LIKE TO BRING A GUEST.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DUE TO HFFN'S COMMITMENT TO PAY FOR THE EVENING, TICKET COST IS UNREFUNDABLE. NUMBER OF DINERS IS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED TO THE CHURCH SECRETARY TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.



Word to the Wise:



Several people have contacted us lately to ask the date of a meeting. Perhaps it's worth reiterating that our meetings always take place on the *fourth* Tuesday of the months February through June and September through November, unless you are notified otherwise.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



UPCOMING OUTINGS

TELL US WHERE TO GO!

Know of any good places to enjoy nature?



Please bring them to the attention of your HFFN Executive. You don't have to lead an outing unless you'd like to. We will arrange outings to these new places so

that everyone can enjoy them.

Call Tom at 482-3342. Or talk to any of the Executive at any meeting..... we'll do the rest!

Eagle/Owl outing: Baie Du Dore

Bob Taylor, Feb. 10th, 9 am - noon

Meet: The Taylors in Tiverton, side of street near Patz Pizza and St Andrews Park.

Bring: Binoculars, or scope if you have one, a lunch (optional) or lunch with Bob and Ann-Marie in Inverhuron if you wish. Home along side roads hoping to see some Snowies!



Ski/Snowshoe outing at the Zinn's, Feb. 17th.

Snowshoe Outing: Saturday, February 17th, meet at 1 pm at the Zinn property, 659 Karishea Ave (6th Con Kinloss)

Dress appropriately for winter. Bring snowshoes, skis or just walk in winter boots. Also – binoculars, camera, bird seed (for chickadees) and a mug. Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided. There are washroom facilities and a few extra sets of snowshoes. **Please RSVP to Christine** so we have an idea of

numbers for refreshments. According to Lynn, "We just walk in and enjoy the nature, use the cabin and walk out when done!" Sounds like a great plan!

Swans at the Lambton Museum. Sometime in mid-March - (self guided tour)

Details: Yes! We are thinking Spring already. This is always a great viewing outing, but when, depends on the swans. **In early March keep watching the web-site www.returnoftheswans.com** to pick the best viewing day. Based on this web-site, last year many people chose their own day to go.



UPCOMING OUTINGS

Tour by car beside the flooded fields of the Thedford Bog south of Grand Bend. There are washrooms at the Lambton Museum. Bring a lunch. There are usually drinks to be purchased in the museum and the 2018 fee is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors and students, and \$3 for children 4 -12. Under 4 free.

The Museum is recently reopened after renovations and will probably soon have information updated for its 2018 events.



THIS PHOTO BY JACK CAMPBELL, TAKEN IN 2009.

Chi-Cheemaun spring sailing

The following information is taken from the Owen Sound Transportation Co. Website:



PEPPER PHOTO

The Chi-Cheemaun Annual Spring Cruise from Owen Sound to Tobermory will take place Thursday May 3rd, 2018. Tickets are now on sale and available for purchase at the Owen Sound Transportation Company & Tourist Information Centre in Springmount or by calling 1-800-265-3163.

Tickets are \$70.00 per person; includes Cruise, buffet lunch & shuttle bus. The Chi-Cheemaun will depart the Owen Sound Harbour at 12 Noon, boarding will begin at 11:00 a.m. with arrival in Tobermory at approximately 4:30 p.m. Passengers will be met at Tobermory by buses and arrival in Owen Sound is expected to be 6:30 p.m. <http://www.ontarioferries.com/en/public-notice/>

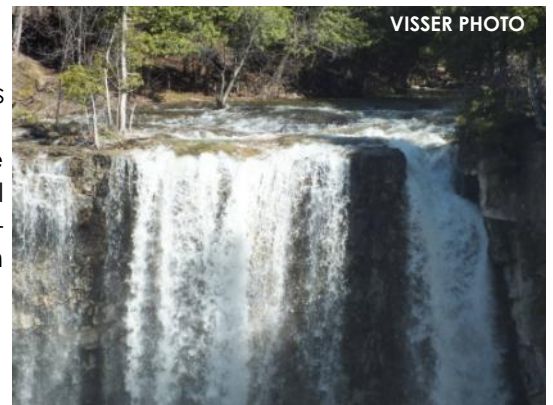
Waterfall Tour - April 17th or May 1st

Hosts: Margie and Onno Visser

There will be a spring outing to visit Hogg's and Eugenia Falls near Flesherton when they will be full with the spring melt.

The day will start from Sobeys' parking lot at 9 a.m. and will include an interesting stop or two on the way to Flesherton where we will have lunch. In the afternoon, we will see both waterfalls and perhaps a short walk on the Bruce Trail before returning to Sobeys' in Kincardine by 4 p.m.

Tentative dates are Tuesday, April 17 or May 1.



VISSER PHOTO

Spring Welcome Walk - Mid-May, late morning/afternoon



PEPPER PHOTO

Thoughts are turning toward trees clothed in pale green, spring flowers peeping, birds calling....time to look up your spring hiking jacket and shoes! A place and date will be set depending on how the weather shapes up. If anyone would like to show us a nice trail, we are open for suggestions. Care is taken to have an easy terrain, washrooms not too far away, and often a Tim's for lunch....maybe a picnic? **Contact: Steve.**

2018 Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer - May 22nd, 23rd, 24th and/or 25th:

Not quite in the works yet, but things are definitely stirring. We want to remind members that **the May meeting will probably be held the week prior, ie: on May 15th, as May 22nd is a Tuesday.**

NOTE: We schedule these dates as being during the week after the 24th of May holiday, (Victoria Day weekend) when the village is quieter and accommodation less expensive.



PEPPER PHOTO

2018 BRUCE PENINSULA EXPLORER - May, 2018 cont:



Photo: Bob Simpson - FROM A DISTANCE!!

One caveat for future trips: the group closely encountered four rattlesnakes, which is two more than we personally have seen in the past ten years or so. These animals have taken advantage of the break they were given, and have begun reappearing both at the tip of the Peninsula and points further south. Along with the appearance of Black-Legged ticks, which carry Lyme Disease and other tick-transmitted illnesses, we feel it's imperative to make sure that every-one has rattlesnake and tick proof



clothing and footwear for the trails. We aren't aware of how high/far a rattlesnake can strike, but we have heard residents speak of people bitten

on their legs. For this reason, we ask you to seriously consider your risk, and perhaps in early Spring, take advantage of winter footwear sales. Wearing boots that cover your calves may not be much fun, but it is more fun than the alternative of a hospital visit or stay. If bitten by a rattlesnake, you need to stay calm and elevate the bite above your heartthe latter would be very difficult if you were on a trail, and as park publications warn, cell phone reception is often not available out there. We suggest you also educate yourself on ticks, which are very small to begin with. After they bite, their bodies swell so that they can be more easily found....but it's too late then - you've been bitten. We want everyone to stay safe on these trips, so please keep this in mind.

Coming on an outing? Stay informed!

When planning to come along on a walk, or to a meeting, please check your email for any additional information before you leave home, in case the event has had to be cancelled or changed. We do try to have rain dates for walks, but cannot always arrange these in time for publication. If in doubt....suss it out! Remember to bring a map or directions with you, and a charged cell phone if you carry one.



THE SMALL PRINT:

On Your Feet! Many of our hikes are like a walk in the park....but not all! If you're thinking of lighter shoes for an outing, do check the announcements for a note on the expected terrain, or call the contact number. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!
OUTING CHECKLIST: cell phone, car phone charger, binoculars, bird/plant/other guides, bug repellent, hat, water, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves, folding umbrella.

....AND DON'T FORGET THE DIRECTIONS TO THE HIKE!

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

MacGregor Point BioBlitz 2018

JUNE 9TH, 10 AM - JUNE 10TH, 10 AM

Hosted by the Friends of MacGregor Point Park

From the Park's Facebook page:

Help MacGregor Point celebrate Ontario Parks' 125th anniversary by contributing to the ecological legacy of the park. Participants will complete a biological 'blitz' survey of MacGregor Point over a 24-hour period to collect data on what species can be found here in this unique complex of ecosystems. This information is extremely beneficial to our records and future projects. Surveying shifts and teams will be assigned based on experience and expertise. Stay tuned for more details on workshops and guest naturalists! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Please contact fompp@bmts.com if you would like more information.



WE'RE ON THE WEB! Visit us at: <http://hfn.huronstewardship.ca/> (Groups) ENJOY FRINGE NOTES IN COLOUR!

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Huron-Naturalists/1654123064825494>