



ENJOYING NATURE IN HURON-BRUCE



THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS' FRINGE NOTES

**WINTER, 2021...
WALKS,
MEETINGS &
POTLUCKS**

~~~~~  
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## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, LYNN JOHNSTON:



### LATE 2021 REPORTS

Welcome back. We are now re-opening our meetings and outings, thanks to vaccinations, masks, and physical distancing and the drop in Covid cases. Of course, we are not out of the woods yet!

I am so glad that we can finally meet in person and go on outings together. I need to be outdoors experiencing nature first hand. I don't know about you but I am zoomed out.

I am fatigued by being so isolated, not being able to go on a holiday anywhere or to have much contact with people. It has sapped me of energy. Zoom webinars were great to watch. But I seem to have gotten zoomed out over the past year or so.

We were able to have the Corn Roast which many of you attended on Sept. 11/21 and we have now had several hikes to see plants and flowers. Thanks to Susan Greco for running them. We even had our first birding outing in a long time in Kincardine in September too. Thanks to James Turland.

I seem to be getting my energy back now that we are getting back on track. For those of you who love zoom webinars, we received an email from Christine recently outlining several more that are coming. I watched the ButterflyWay Webinar on Sun. Oct. 17/21 at 1pm. It was a strong reminder that we need to plant butterfly and insect friendly plants if we want to save the Monarch Butterfly, the pollinators, and us. I downloaded a list the plants that we should plant in this region. I will make it available for all. If you want to see what it's all about for yourself, go to the David Suzuki foundation website and you should easily be able to find it.

My term as your President was up at the end of August of this year. I have agreed to stay on for 1 more year as we did not have the usual meetings/outings. See next page....

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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.,\*\* MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL. EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS (P. 2.) & MORE INFO INSIDE,**

**\*\*except April, Annual Dinner at another venue.**



Birdfeeder bandit! Photo: J.Pepper

## UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Full details inside.

### OUTINGS:

All outings will be emailed or published as they are finalized.

At time of publication we have no specific outings listed, but please keep your eye on your emails from Christine!

### MEETINGS:

November 23:  
Speaker **ROB KEEN**, CEO, Forest Ontario:  
Status update and Initiatives discussion.  
2022—TBA!



TITLE PHOTO CREDIT: Point Clark Fall, J. Pepper

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:**  
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Christine Roberts 395-5008

**Secretary:**  
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**Memberships:**  
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**Outings:**  
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◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
**>> Our Club Executive <<**

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

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***FRINGE NOTES***  
PRINTED BY:



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**President's comments....**

We had a wonderful summer but it's over. The cool temperatures are setting in now and it's time to enjoy the changing seasons. Stay safe and I will see you soon!

Your President ~ *Lynn Johnston*



Announcements!



**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Our second indoor meeting** takes place **Tuesday, November 23** at the **Ripley-Huron Community Centre**, 17 Queen St., Ripley, in the auditorium upstairs. The auditorium is a large room with good ventilation where social distancing is possible.

We have the space booked for 2 hours: **7:30 – 9:30 pm**. Please **plan to arrive about 7:30** and expect the meeting to begin about 7:45. When the session has ended, we need to vacate the room by 9:30. The auditorium lacks kitchen facilities. Therefore, no drinks or treats will be available. Bring your own drink and snack if you wish.

When you arrive, **wearing a mask**, please enter by the west doors (left side of building from parking lot). Township staff will check government-issued photo identification and proof of full vaccination. You will proceed upstairs; please let us know if you will need to use the elevator.

The chairs will be set up and spaced for safety. When you are seated, you may remove your mask but must put it on to move about the room. Washrooms are located at the back of the auditorium. Please feel free to contact us with feedback following the meeting. **Rob Keen, CEO of Forests Ontario**, will update us on the organization's programmes.

**MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS INFORMATION:**

HFFN has set up an e-mail account for the club, to be used for paying membership dues by e-transfer, so that payments will go directly into the account. The membership form has been altered accordingly.

Payment by cheque is also accepted, or you can make cash payments to Barb Simpson, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting.

The new address for the e-transfer is: [huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca)

**Please see the MEMBERSHIP FORM on Page 20**

**2022 HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL:**

Scheduled from May 27 to 30 and June 2 to 5.

Preregistration date is **March 1st**.

**Bluebird Boxes:** will be examined sometime in the Spring for occupancy and to determine whether more boxes will be needed.

**A little bluebird box history:**



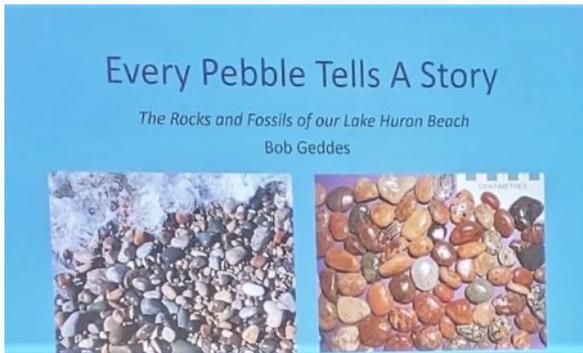
HFFN first built bluebird boxes in the first year or so of its beginnings. Geoff Walker arranged the first 'Bluebird Box Building Bee' in a borrowed barn; a total of 34 boxes were completed in an afternoon by a host of willing sawers and hammerers. Some of these boxes were found to be still in place along Con. 6 of Huron Kinloss in 2018, and one or two had been used that year. Pictured are Eileen (?) with Jeni and a pile of boxes!  
**Photo:** Geoff Walker, early 1980s



~~~~ PAST MEETINGS:.... ~~~~

The Huron Fringe Field Naturalists October meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 26th, 2021

Christine Roberts



What a wonderful turnout for our first indoor meeting in 19 months! The auditorium of the Ripley-Huron Community Centre was the venue that welcomed over 60 members and guests (friends and neighbours of the Geddes) October 26th to Bob Geddes' seminar, **"Every Pebble Tells a Story: The Rocks and Fossils of Our Lake Huron Beach"**.

A retired Presbyterian minister and former geologist, Bob, and his wife Lynne, spend much of their retirement time at their South Bruce Beach cottage where they enjoy walking the beach and studying the rocks, pebbles and fossils they find on the shore.

Geddes began his presentation by explaining glacial processes and ages of glaciation before launching into what he jokingly referred to as a "crash course in Ontario geology" which included a review of rock types and geological time scales. Geological history, particularly different phases of ancient lakes and their shifting shorelines, was brought into the present using photos of familiar hills and bluffs along the Huron shoreline.

His explanations were enhanced with numerous illustrations and excellent photographs of rocks, minerals and fossils with amusing personal anecdotes sprinkled throughout.

The talk ended with Geddes expressing the hope that while walking along local beaches, people would give more consideration to where the rocks came from and where they fit in Ontario's geological history.

Prior to Bob's seminar, President Lynn Johnston introduced the current HFFN executive including new Outings Director Susan Greco, Member-At-Large Joan McLaughlin and Social Convenor Valerie Gibson. Susan Greco reported on the hikes she's led so far this season and Christine reported that thanks to Marshall Byle's design and manufacturing skills, three new benches would soon be installed in the George G Newton Nature Reserve paid for from Tom Lobb memorial funds. Barb Simpson was busy registering members which now number at least 75.

Unlike meetings in the "before times", there were no refreshments available. Lynn addressed the issue stating that it had become a problem because of lack of volunteers. If members want snacks in the future, they will have to offer to help.

The Executive were encouraged by the strong turnout and look forward to solidifying plans for activities and meetings in the new year.

~ *Christine Roberts*



(Right to left) Bob Geddes points out the local bedrock and explains different rock layers and formations to Lois Hunter, Bo Jurkiewicz and Jackie Clements prior to the meeting.
Photos this page: Christine Roberts



Following his presentation, Bob Geddes (left) discusses rock types with Lynn Johnston, Jackie Clements, Bo Jurkiewicz and Marg MacDonald while Jayne Miltenburg examines some of his samples.

~~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~~

HFFN Wildflower Walk, August 28, 2021

Susan Greco



Posing at the entrance to the Petrel Point Nature Reserve: John and Helena Hill, Joanne Stanley, Jane Neilsen, Heather Keetch, Lynn Johnston and Susan Greco. Missing is photographer Donna Murray.

The poor weather report did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the seven keen walkers who turned out to join me on the first HFFN outing since the start of Covid-19 and 2020 lockdown.

The group wasted no time getting on the road, stopping briefly for a coffee pickup and washroom break at Tim Horton's in Southampton. It was decided that, in view of the forecasted rain we would head out, without any in-between stops, to the major places we wanted to see on the itinerary. As it happened, the rain stayed ahead of us for the whole trip; only a few drips were encountered here and there. We stopped at the main beach and marina at **Oliphant** for a view of the Fishing Islands then onwards a short distance down the road to the **Oliphant Conservation Area** boardwalk trail. Here we were more than rewarded by seeing a surprising variety of late summer exotic flowers. Fringed Blue Gentian, Ladies' Tresses orchids, Rose Pogonia orchids, Grass-of-Parnassus and Purple Rattlesnake Root (the latter two for me, new finds, which is always a thrill) also still in attendance, masses of Pitcher Plants with blooms

still intact were a treat for the eyes. Many other of the more common late summer/early fall flowers were filling in the scene, such as many varieties of Goldenrods and Asters. At the end of the trail walking back to the cars, along the road between the lake and boardwalk on the edge of the road and in the ditches, we were amazed to see a repeat of the flowers seen on the boardwalk in great quantities.

Next up, lunch; we had to pass up the planned Red Bay Beach area for our picnic, as it was too crowded. A substitute location at **Petrel Point** was deemed a great place to eat, though missing picnic tables; seated on rocks with no other people around, we ate and enjoyed a different view of the beautiful Fishing Islands. A water snake was sighted by John and Helena Hill slithering into the water close to where they were eating. Lynn Johnston also sighted a snake on the road, as we were in the process of making a turnaround at a dead end road, due to an error of direction for which I take full responsibility!

Our last official stop was the **Petrel Point Conservation Area** boardwalk trail. Here we saw pretty much all that we saw at Oliphant, other than Snakeroot. It did not disappoint. It always is wonderful to see there the vast amount of coastal wetland area that the Ontario Conservation Authority is committed to preserving at Petrel Point.

Our outing came to an end here, the group of eight lovely nature lovers said farewell, some going in a different direction, taking a detour home, some heading straight home. Thanks for coming - looking forward to our next outing!

~ Susan Greco



GRASS OF PARNASSUS is one of the few plants sporting smartly-striped petals! This was one of many wind-blown ones at Singing Sands in October of 2015.  
Photo - J. Pepper

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~~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~~

Sept. 11th: Annual HFFN Corn Roast

Christine Roberts

Enjoying nature is a pastime well suited to individuals and small groups and during "Covid times", most members continued to watch birds, raise butterflies, fight invasive species, help turtles, explore new trails and generally participate in their favourite nature-related pursuits. However, at a certain point, we all crave the company of like-minded comrades.

So it should come as no surprise that the club corn roast and potluck, a popular fall tradition which usually heralds the club's new season, was extremely well attended with 45 members and guests enjoying the generous hospitality and beautiful recreational property of President Lynn Johnston and Paul Zinn on September 11th.

Before the meal, attendees had the opportunity to walk the wooded areas, hike down the lane or feed the trout in the pond.

Mindful of safety concerns, a contact tracing list was compiled and the food was served outside by a small number of volunteers. Participants feasted on corn on the cob, hot dogs, and a deliciously dizzying variety of salads and desserts.

Everyone was eager to catch up with friends and compare Covid notes. After the meal was finished, Ruth McKague asked to learn more about members' interests, which prompted a round of introductions and sharing. Christine thanked Lynn and Paul for hosting once again, and Lynn made a touching toast to the memory of HFFN members Tom Lobb and Pat Guay. Many thanks to our hosts for yet another great gathering!

~ *Christine Roberts*



Evidently a good time was had by all....
Christine Roberts photos



→
Wikipedia: *Conopholis americana*, the American cancer-root, squawroot, bumeh or bear corn, is a perennial, non-photosynthesizing parasitic plant that occurs only where it can grow attached to the roots of some species of oak.
Found: Blair's Grove, (Gordon St. and Vozka Dr.)



Photo: C. Roberts

Around the Bay and Stops on the Way, Thursday Sept. 30th

Susan Greco

Torrential rain forced the cancellation of the first date chosen for this outing, leaving fifteen disappointed trippers. However, on Thursday Sept. 30th, the rain date, ten eager participants with their lunches packed, took off from Kincardine towards the first stop, **Inglis Falls**. It was a fine day. Each of the ten had visited this stop at some time or other, but all agree it never ceases to amaze, this day was no different. The sight of these picturesque falls, at the beginning of Autumn was a sneak peek of even more spectacular views to come as the fall unfolds. With the recent rains there was no lack of water thundering over the ancient rocks which form a part of the ancient Niagara Escarpment.

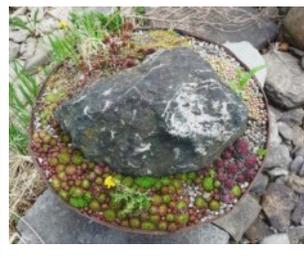
With our lungs filled with invigorating ions coming off the waterfalls, we set off once more. As we travelled more northward, Autumn colours were becoming quite a bit more visible than in Kincardine, providing for us an even more scenic ride along the way.

Leaving the Falls our little convoy headed north of **Springmount** to catch scenic Grey Road #1, which took us up to our picnic stop at **Keppel Croft Gardens**. Here our hosts Dawn and Bill had tables, complete with tablecloths and table flowers, awaiting us, set up on the patio of their house. With a delightful view of their lovely rambling gardens we ate our picnic lunch then wandered through the amazing four acres of gardens. Lots of hidden surprises await in every little nook and cranny at Keppel Croft, including different styles of sundials modelled from the past times, built into the ground using stones, tiles and grass patches that formed a trail which eventually leads to their very unique Keppel Henge! With promises to go back and spend more time in the gardens, on a next visit, the group boarded their cars ready for the next stop.

Back on Grey Road #1 following the Bay's scenic shoreline, from Wiarton to Colpoy's Bay, with its amazing views, we made a very brief stop at **Colpoy's Bay Lookout**, not planned, but it's just impossible not to go by without peering over the wall at this famous view no matter how many times you've done it before. We arrived at **Bruce's Caves**, accessed just north of Oxenden, all up for a challenge, where, after a short walk from the car park, we scrambled through the caves having great fun whilst marvelling at nature's own creative construction. Some of the group squeezed through the 'eye of the needle' at the very back of the cave, coming out the other side feeling quite pleased at their daring efforts. What a great Boomer magazine caption this would make (with pictures).....Want to Know what OAP's do in their Spare Time?

Wiarthon's lovely waterfront was next stop, for a stretch and coffee break and visit with Wiarthon Willie before moving on to **Spirit Rock**, just a short drive north of Wiarthon. Here just a short walk from the parking lot is the site of Alexander McNeill's historic house, "Corran". McNeill was a Federal member of Parliament from 1881-1901. The thumbprint of this once lavish house can be seen, along with some parts of the walls, but nothing can be seen of the extensive rose gardens he had created that was popular with his many guests and visiting Dignitaries. Part of the walls and thumbprints of this once beautiful 17-room mansion is there for exploring, as we did, in passing through to the top of Spirit Rock to take the spiral staircase to the waters edge below, the continuation of the Bruce trail into Wiarthon. Nine out of ten took this challenge of descending the steps, after a few moments of observation, as it does look a little scary at first glance but all succeeded in making it back up as well, so happy to report none the worse for wear afterwards!

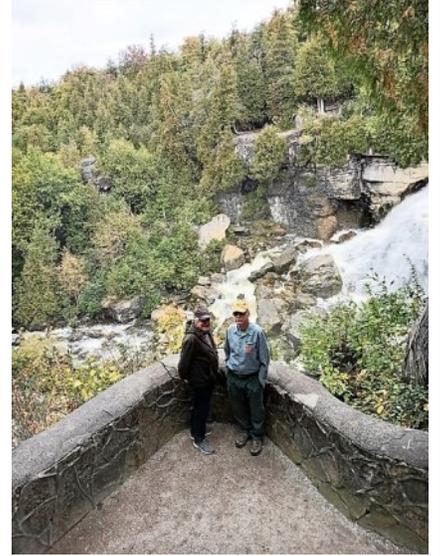
(Continued next page....)



NOTE: For those who have yet to enjoy Keppelcroft, these little glimpses were added from your Editor's photo album.

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

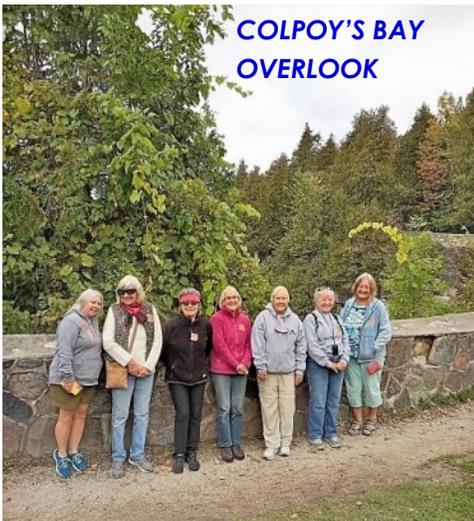
**Around the Bay and Stops on the Way, Thursday Sept. 30th**  
Susan Greco photos



~~~ *A Pause at Inglis Falls* ~~~



~~~ *Kepplecroft magic* ~~~



**COLPOY'S BAY  
OVERLOOK**

**(continued...)**

**Spirit Rock** [next page] was the end of the our day's adventure, and from here half the group chose their own way home. The other half chose to follow the leader across from Wiarton to **Oliphant** which ended up in an extra little to stop at the Marina to view the Fishing Islands, then one thing led to another and the next thing we knew we were walking on the boardwalk trail in Oliphant. This then was definitely the end.

A wonderful day out 'Around the Bay'! Thanks for trusting me to be your guide and leader for the day.

~ *Susan Greco*

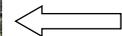
~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

Around the Bay and Stops on the Way, Thursday Sept. 30th

Susan Greco photos



Bruce's Caves formation is a remnant of wave action from the Algonquian sea, seven to eight thousand years ago. The Caves were named after a Scotsman who lived in the caves until his death in 1908. His name was Robert Bruce, born 1824. There is information and more photographs online about this formation. The trail to the Caves is a fascinating, prehistoric landscape of boulders amongst which grow wildflowers and ferns. Sturdy boots are best here for safety on rugged terrain and slippery rock.



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Most photos are still clear. Check for size options at the top of the PDF page.**

~~~ PAST OUTINGS... ~~~

**Annual Migratory Bird and Shorebird Hike, October 2nd**  
**James Turland**



**At 9:00 AM on Saturday October 2** about a dozen members of the HFFN met at the **Kincardine Lagoons** as the first stop in a morning of birding. The weather was beautiful and several bird species were seen including Ruddy Ducks and Yellow-Rumped Warblers. Ruddy Ducks are in the family of StiffTails and are easily recognized, even in silhouette, by their long, stiff, vertically pointing tails. We were hampered by a late hatch of pesky mosquitoes and had to hike in the sunny areas to avoid them. We travelled convoy style to **Point Clark** and added a few more species including a Northern Harrier. We arrived at Jim and Christine Roberts'

home for the potluck around 11:00. We hiked **Blair's Grove Nature Trail** which is easily accessed from the Roberts' back yard. It is quite a unique forest, very similar to the Oak Savannas found at Pinery Provincial Park. Due to Covid, chairs were set up outside and Jim's workshop was used as a base for the potlucks to be served. It was wonderful, the weather cooperated and the food was delicious. Thanks so much to the Roberts for hosting this potluck.

Following is the list of the 27 bird species seen on this hike.

~ *James Turland.*

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Canada Goose      | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| Wood Duck         | Downy Woodpecker         |
| Northern Shoveler | Northern Flicker         |
| Mallard           | Blue Jay                 |
| Lesser Scaup      | American Crow            |
| Common Merganser  | Black-capped Chickadee   |
| Ruddy Duck        | Ruby-crowned Kinglet     |
| Mourning Dove     | European Starling        |
| Ring-billed Gull  | American Robin           |
| Herring Gull      | American Goldfinch       |
| Double-crested    | White-crowned Sparrow    |
| Cormorant         | White-throated Sparrow   |
| Turkey Vulture    | Yellow-rumped Warbler    |
| Northern Harrier  |                          |



Bob Taylor took this excellent shot of a Yellow-Rumped Warbler several years ago. A treat to see!





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~~~ *PAST OUTINGS...* ~~~

Afternoon Fall Walk In Inverhuron Provincial Park # 1, Tuesday 12th October

Susan Greco

On the twelfth of October a group of eight met to take an easy walk in the nearby treasure of Inverhuron Provincial Park. With a rich cultural history, there is a lot to explore here.

We lucked out on weather, though rain was on the radar and it looked like rain when we left the car park, however we ended up with a fine afternoon and sunshine.

The walk: starting at the main gate, travelling down the main road a short distance before we cut off to the right catching the Chain trail, where, after a few minutes in, we veered off to the right again to catch a side trail that loops around what had once been the site of a farm dwelling; along the way, evidence of the farm's existence can be seen including the foundation of the farm house. There is a nice selection of hardwood trees in this part of the park, making for a nice fall-time walk. Coming back to the Chain trail, we travelled towards the lake, breaking off onto the left fork of the trail that leads to the park office and main road. From there we headed to the lake area to take in the wonder of the sand dunes that flank the long, beautiful beach area within the park. It wasn't hard to linger here while taking in the sun and just being still, with no one but ourselves in sight. On the move again, we walked the beach to the boat launch, then travelled back up to the main road to a side trail that took us to a cemetery situated on the edge of a vast sand dune area in the interior of the park. The small cemetery is a private one, with headstones bearing the names of early settlers who contributed to the founding of this community. The cemetery, located in a pretty and peaceful spot in the park, is a most unusual find in any Provincial Park. This was the last stop on the walk; from here we headed back to our cars.

I think this little afternoon walk gave us all different reasons to keep coming back to explore more of the park's history and see the natural wonders at different times of the seasons. For some of us, mushrooms/fungi were a feature of this fall walk, we saw many varieties and colours popping up along the way we travelled, but for others something entirely different could have spoken to them. This is the joy of walking!

~ *Susan Greco*



Photos: Susan Greco



PAST OUTINGS...

Fall Walk In Inverhuron Provincial Park # 1 con't...



Photos: Susan Greco

Fungi galore!



The River Walk" in Inverhuron Provincial Park,

2, 19th October 2021

Susan Greco

Nine happy walkers

met in the Quinn's car park at 2 p.m. eager to get on the move for the second walk in Inverhuron Park. We set off with bright sunshine.

For this walk, we turned onto Victoria Street in the village of Inverhuron, parking on the side of the road, after the bend, we entered by a side entrance into the Park. Local walkers and dog walkers use this spot to enter while others use it as a quick access to The River Walk Trail, situated on the south boundary of the park. The river running through the park is called the "Little Saugeen".

The River Walk trail is a lovely meander in all seasons, full of wild flowers in the spring and, if timing is right, one can see the rainbow and brown trout spawning in the river. On stepping through the pole pylons from the road, we walked a short distance on the main trail in, turning right at the River Walk sign onto the trail. Walking over a portion of open sand dunes that stretch from this point on right through the south side of the park towards the centre road, the trail becomes well-treed with an interesting mix of bushes, hardwood trees, cedar and a good smattering of pine. There were still some remnants of flowers if you looked purposely for them, some of which were False Solomon's Seal, Wild Ginger, Agrimony and of course fall wouldn't be fall without the many varieties of Asters and Goldenrods. In abundance is Poison Ivy, so a good awareness of this nasty leaf is essential in order to avoid an unpleasant few weeks of discomfort. Lots of small hills and more challenging ones make this walk interesting and fun. Ten minutes in, the river soon comes into view as the trail follows its curves at low points and high. At the bottom of a high point, a four-hundred-year-old White Cedar stands at the side of the river, a wonderful sight. An information board stands by the tree giving interesting facts, about the demise of the White Pines due to intense logging in the early years of the settlers, and the importance placed on these trees by the Indigenous peoples who looked to them to for a multitude of purposes, from medicines, drink and food, to building their canoes, shelter, and much more.



Continued.....

Inverhuron Provincial Park, # 2....(con't:)

To them this was "The Tree of Life" and they named it thus. Though this particular tree is old, apparently, in other places on the Niagara Escarpment, 1,500 year old White Cedars can be found still standing. Moving on from this point, the trail climbs higher above the river where a choice of direction is offered: one is a precarious narrow trail that follows the bend in the river and can be a challenge when wet, becoming slippery; the other choice is the easier, and we took it. This leads aside a little rapid in the river where another Information board tells of the fish that spawn there and inhabit the lake, with fish stocks of today, and the history of the Indigenous peoples, setting up their summer camp on the banks of the river, fishing and preserving their catch for their winter survival.

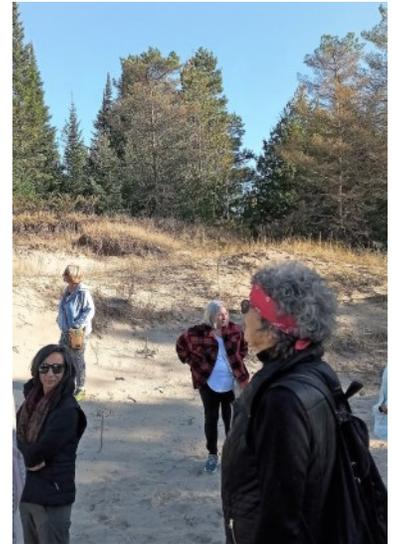
Next, the trail required a little tricky bit of climbing to get up a steep bank, thankfully all nine of us without incident succeeded this small challenge. From there, the trail begins heading back, passing the site of a saw mill on the way. We arrived back, rejoining the main trail which we took from the road; doubling back on the main trail, we went to view the sand dunes that we had briefly passed at the start of the River Walk trail; walking into them, one realizes their vastness. Then backing up again to the main trail, we followed it to the end, crossing a bridge over the river to the main beach....over the dunes flanking the beach we enjoyed the sun and views of the lake before heading back to our cars.

It was evident that an enjoyable time was had by all. Those who had not been on this trail before found a new hiking experience within Inverhuron Prov. Park, and it's likely they will return. Try it in the winter....it's beautiful, great for skiing and snowshoeing.

~ Sue Greco



Photos: Susan Greco



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, hat, water, binoculars, bird/plant/other guides, bug repellent, 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!



PAST OUTINGS...

Walking the Menesetung Bridge/Tiger Dunlop Trail (and Sifto Loop) Trail November 5th: Susan Greco



Photos: Sue Greco

When converted for pedestrian use in 1992, the former railway bridge over the Maitland River was dubbed *Menesetung* - which is how the Chippewa referred to the laughing waters of the Maitland River. I knew very little about the Tiger Dunlop trail, but had passed it often on trips to Goderich. The trail was new for me, other than a quick test walk just prior to the group walk. It wasn't a hard sell to walk it again; I was excited to do it before the weather changed. So the 5th group walk suddenly became an easy choice.

Those who had done this trail before in past times seemed happy to do it again, and found it a rediscovery of a very enjoyable walk. The group of six walkers were wowed by a beautiful colour display radiating off the forest of mixed hardwood trees that line the ridge above and below the trail, which winds along the Maitland River to Goderich Harbour and the salt mine.

The trail access and parking lot being situated well for those coming from north of Goderich, according to the trail description we tackled the trail back to front. This access comes up on the right before driving over the bridge across the river; it is well marked, with easy-to-see signage and safe turning lane.



We took the short uphill track leading to rustic steps built into the slope, to the main trail from the car park, also leading to Tiger Dunlop's Tomb. Along the way there are several benches where views of the river can be enjoyed. After about 30 to 40 minutes, the Menesetung railway bridge comes into sight. From the bridge, the Sifto Loop begins off on the right side (north) of the bridge. This lovely side loop offers views from the north side of the river, lake and the Salt Mine, before heading on through the forest below the ridge, featuring the magnificent Heritage Oak tree (starting out its life in 1780). After about 15 minutes, the trail delivered us right back at the Menesetung Bridge. We crossed the bridge, stopping here and there to take in the vistas, read some history notes about the train track, the bridge, the mysterious black hole, and other interesting snippets of history.

Once at the harbour, since it was a nice day to sit outside, some of the group voted to try out the fish and chips at Saltie's, so we could decide if indeed they are as claimed; the best fish and chips for miles around. We think they are!

This one-way walk to the harbour is 3.2 km., and is an easy, level walk (unless you head off on some of the side trails) and can be tackled briskly or at relaxed speed, perfect for an afternoon's outing. We had left the car park at 1.30 p.m. and arrived back at 4.30p.m.

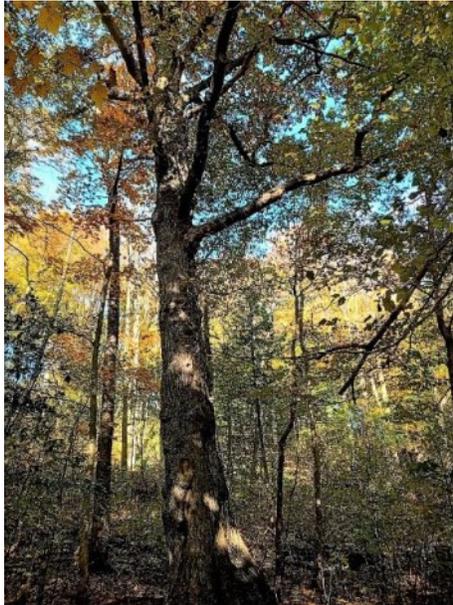
This concludes HFFN's fair weather walks for this year. However, that being said, the wheels are turning... just maybe, a snowshoeing event could pop up once the snow is settled on the ground!

Thank you to all the members who have joined me on the walks these passed three months, it has been great fun and a delightful experience sharing a love of walking in the amazing beauty of Mother Earth.

(More photos next page....) ~ *Sue Greco*

Walking the Menesetung Bridge/Tiger Dunlop Trail (and Sitto Loop) Trail November 5th:

Susan Greco



A wonderful show of Ontario's autumnal artistry was to be enjoyed on this late fall walk. Photos: Susan Greco



As a member of Ontario Nature, HFFN has access to a wider range of information about ongoing nature and environment issues. Members of our group are entitled to attend the Spring and Fall Regional Meetings, enjoy lunch provided by the hosting club, and often take tours of one of the host club's nature areas. Club Presidents and Ontario Nature representatives will attend these meetings and may be accompanied by several interested club members. An RSVP is required, but otherwise just a knowledge of the meeting date is all that is needed. Host clubs include the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Ltd., Friends of McGregor Point, Friends of Sauble Beach, Nature Guelph, HFFN, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Rankin Resource Group, Saugeen Nature, Stratford Field Naturalists, Sunfish Lake Association, Upper Credit Field Naturalists, and Waterloo Region Nature.

The website is:

<https://ontarionature.org/about/nature-network/> Interested parties can arrange there to be kept informed of the group's activities and nature news. ~ Ed.

GOODALL & HILLS

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Watch for the SNOW BUNTINGS as you progress along our roads and highways! Photo: Bob Taylor



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

Photographs always welcome; please send them in JPEG format, over 100 kbs and under 200 kbs....thanks!



Swans at Grand Bend, March 11th, 2021

Art and Rhodora Doughty reported:

Beautiful day for a car ride. Took a picnic lunch and saw at least one thousand swans, and the closest to the road we have ever seen them. Lots of cars were parked on both sides of the road. Wind so strong, it almost blew Art and I away. Since the area was in red status, we couldn't go anywhere for a coffee.



Photographed at the Labyrinth Gardens, Geddes Park, Kincardine.



Barb and Bob Simpson have been fortunate enough to capture this mamma fox going on her way, and have also discovered some unusual fungi near their cottage.



Any thoughts on this strange specimen? Has it been parasitized?



Maithel Lee Wilson
Sales Representative
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Susan Greco took this photo of 'Bloodroot and Maiden-hair'. →



WANT A BETTER VIEW?
Fringe Notes will enlarge to 150% on your screen when viewed in a PDF.
Most photos are still clear. Check for size options at the top of the PDF page.



PHOTO: ANDREA SWANK, ON UNSPLASH



Photo by Mitchell Luo on Unsplash

Tom Lobb memorial presentation in Clinton

Margie Visser

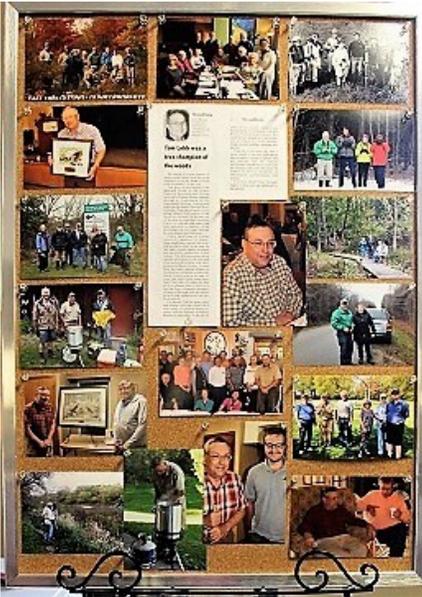


Photo: Christine Roberts

On Sunday, June 20, 2021, the Clinton Horticultural Society hosted a memorial celebration for Tom Lobb. Nancy Scriver, the President of the Clinton Horticultural Society, had invited representatives from the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists (HFFN) to attend. Onno and Margie Visser and Lynn Johnston, and her husband, Paul Zinn, attended the event.

The weather was beautiful for this outdoor gathering. About twenty family members were there: Tom's three siblings and their families of children and grandchildren. Tom's dad, Jim Lobb, was there and had just celebrated his 95th birthday. There were also a few close friends of Tom's, and a former teacher.

Tom had been a member of the Clinton Horticultural Society for about 4 years before he passed away. The Society had purchased a butterfly bush to plant in Tom's memory in a flower bed that they maintain. Margie gave a short talk about Tom, highlighting the contributions he had made to the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, including that he was the Ontario Nature representative for our group and was our Outings Coordinator for a lot of years. Tom helped the Ministry of Natural Resources through the

Huron Stewardship Council with conserving at-risk species. In more recent years, Tom connected our group and the Huron Stewardship Council (HSC). Tom also looked after the George G. Newton Reserve, trimming branches and organizing spring cleanups. Margie added, "Luckily, in the last few years, as Tom was struggling with walking, waiting for a hip replacement, he got another member of our Huron Fringe group, Jim Roberts, involved with this work and I am so glad he did. Otherwise with Tom's sudden passing, no one else may have known the work Tom was doing and the species he was tracking. Now this work is continuing between the HFFN and the HSC."

Onno and Margie brought along the board that Christine had made for our HFFN group last year with an article and photos of Tom. This photo board sat on a table and was looked at by most of the attendees.

Most of the money which was donated for Tom from HFFN is still in the bank. \$200 has been donated to the Huron Stewardship Council to continue the species-at-risk conservation that Tom was involved with. Christine and Jim have spoken to Ontario Nature about having Tom's name on the new sign which will be coming for the Newton Reserve. Plans for a bench at the Newton Reserve have now been realized, with three benches. Plans have been on-going to find ways to remember Tom and his contributions to the environment.

~ Margie Visser

(A report on the installation of the aforesaid benches follows.)

Lynn and Paul listening to the proceedings



Centre, Jim Lobb, Tom's brother Ernie to his left, Ernie's wife on the other side, looking at the HFFN photo board of Tom.



Photos: Onno Visser

Tom's siblings planting the butterfly bush. From left is Ernie, Eleanor and Len with father Jim seated behind.



In Memory of Tom Lobb

Christine Roberts



Photo: Christine Roberts

It's hard to believe that it's almost 2 years since Tom's untimely death in January 2020. We had almost no time to mourn as a group since CoVid-19 shuttered the church in March 2020. Many members made memorial donations and over the past 18 months the executive have entertained many ideas of how best to honour and preserve Tom's legacy.

Jim and I do our best to continue some of his work by helping the Huron Stewardship Council with turtle nesting sites and stewardship of the George G. Newton Nature Reserve. This spring HFFN made a \$200 donation from the Tom's memorial fund to the Huron Stewardship Council to be applied to equipment for nesting sites.

Another favourite idea was to add some benches to the nature reserve. Many designs were considered but cost and Ontario Nature's own preferences were hindrances. Finally, in August, we reached out to Marshall Byle who quickly designed, sourced and priced the materials for simple benches made from metal pipe supports with a wooden seat. On September 1st, Marshall and Jim welded and drilled the components for 3 benches.

October 29th was a damp day but it was also the end of the mild temperatures so Marshall, Steve Pepper and Jim and Christine decided to go ahead with the installation of the new benches. The guys easily pounded the posts into the ground and quickly assembled the seats.

The first bench was placed near the entrance, the second is near the old barn foundation and replaces a rotted bench that had originally been built and installed by Tom. The third bench is located where the Pine Loop Trail and the Cedar Side Trail meet and replaces a bench that was decayed.

We also hope to commemorate Tom's involvement in the creation of the nature reserve with a sign or plaque.
~ *Christine Roberts*



Kudos go to the four intrepid bench-builders who lugged Marshall's innovative components along the Newton Reserve trails in the rain!

Marshall Byle, Steve Pepper, Jim & Christine Roberts.

Photos: Christine Roberts

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REPORTS

George G Newton Nature Reserve Updates

Christine Roberts

Three Ontario Nature staff in charge of Nature Reserves (Gabriella Zagorski, Nature Reserves Coordinator; Keeva Fitzpatrick, Nature Reserves Intern and another staff member) conducted a tour of the George G. Newton Nature Reserve, Wednesday, July 28th at 10 am. It was attended by HFFN members Christine Roberts, Steve Pepper, Murray Jamieson, Linda Somerville and Donna Butson. Also present were 5 members of the Huron Stewardship Council including Marcus Maddalena, Biologist/Stewardship Coordinator and Cristen Watt, Species at Risk Field Coordinator.

The Ontario Nature team's plan was to do some invasive species mapping and removal, put up a new welcome sign and replace old trail signs, conduct a site inspection and map the existing trail network. Gabby conducted a tour of the main trail, focusing on interesting species of plants and trees both native and invasive. Steve and Christine were able to provide some information with regards to the history of the site becoming a nature reserve and more recent activity in the reserve.

Unfortunately, the new signs were left behind. Gabby will arrange to meet this fall with Jim and Christine who will install them.

Gabby demonstrated the use of an "extractigator" to remove small trees and shrubs specifically invasive species: buckthorn, honeysuckle and multiflora rose. She will loan 2 or 3 units to us for the fall.

The garlic mustard removal will get a big boost in the spring if funding from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation is granted. Money will be used to host a community invasive species removal event.

Donna generously invited us back to her home to enjoy our lunches in her car port and provided drinks and treats. The conversation with Gabby continued with her promising to send their map of invasive species so that some work may be done in the fall. We also talked about other signage that we would like to see, including permitted uses sign and a sign or plaque highlighting the contributions of Tom Lobb. The idea of a brochure box to contain information for the public about removing garlic mustard was discussed.

Gabby promised to send a summary of the work completed during this visit and a new management plan in the future.

~ *Christine Roberts*



Gabby Zagorski pauses to speak on the trail into the G.G. Newton Reserve.



The 'Extractigator' is demonstrated by Gabby.



Jim mowing garlic mustard.

The challenge of removing invasive garlic mustard is demonstrated in Christine Roberts' photo (right) of the plant taking over a patch of May apple. Removing garlic mustard is best after a rain, in damp soil. A slightly sideways pull often works best since the roots seem designed to prevent vertical pull. This actually works with most weeds. Plants should be removed when large enough to pull well but before seeds develop. Put all into black garbage bags and leave in the sun several weeks - all parts can re-grow. As per online advice, **DO NOT COMPOST** or leave unbagged.



MEMBERSHIP PAGE

Membership renewals

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

Membership/renewal forms are included in each issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the meetings. Renewals are generally made in September. Those who have missed renewals will receive one reminder before being dropped from our lists.

HFFN has now set up an e-mail account for the Club, to be used for paying membership dues by e-transfer, so that payments will go directly into the account. The membership form has been altered accordingly. Payment by cheque is also accepted, or you can make cash payments to Barb Simpson, our Membership Co-ordinator, at any meeting.

The new address for the e-transfer is:
huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca

~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

Welcome back old members, and a warm welcome to new ones. Over-18 2021/2022 annual dues are \$25.00 per person. Under 18's are free. (New/renewal membership form at right.)

Come out and enjoy the company, the outings and the speakers.

Memberships for the 2021/2022 year are due in September and before February. Those who have not renewed by the end of February will be sent one reminder before being dropped from our membership list.

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 2021 to SEPTEMBER 2022

....or CATCHUP?



Membership Cost: \$25.00 per person. Youths 18 or under are free.
Please mail completed form with payment to:

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

Payment can also be e-transferred to Huron Fringe Field Naturalists at: huronnaturalist@hurontel.on.ca

Name(s): (Please print:)

Contact Information:

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone No: _____

E-Mail: _____

Cut out or scan this form.



HFFN Donations

The Huron Fringe Field Naturalists once again supported Ontario Nature's Youth Summit by providing funding to sponsor one young person. The 2021 Youth Summit for Mother Earth was held as a series of online and offline events, with key events happening on September 25 and 26, and a follow-up virtual event in October. The Youth Summit featured workshops, keynote speakers, and plenty of group activities and challenges to get participants outdoors.

Did you attend any nature-related Zoom lectures and workshops in 2021? The Owen Sound Field Naturalist and Nature Guelph generously shared their virtual programming with HFFN members. There were many interesting and highly informative sessions. To show our appreciation, the executive voted to send a \$50 donation to each of the clubs.

~~~ UPCOMING MEETINGS: ~~~

Tuesday, November 23rd Speaker:

NOTE:

THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE RIPLEY ARENA.
SEE PAGE 2 FOR COVID CONSIDERATIONS.

Rob Keen, CEO, Forest Ontario

We are very fortunate to have Rob speak to us at our November meeting. Rob was scheduled to speak earlier, however like everything else, his presentation was put on hold due to Covid 19.

Forest Ontario had a number of programs planned that would support their initiative to plant 50 Million trees by 2025. Rob will update the status of this program and will detail some of the initiatives they have in place supporting the programme.

Forest Ontario partners with landowners, municipalities, and First Nations, to name a few.

Remember the **Call of the Forest** Video we presented at one of our meetings? Benefits of trees and the impact on civilization when trees are removed was clearly defined. Forest Ontario has, and continues to make, a positive impact on the environment.

~ Bob Simpson, Speaker Coordinator



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!



OTHER OUTINGS:

New (or changed/ cancelled) outings, WE WILL NOTIFY BY EMAIL. Please verify details before leaving for an outing.

WINTER WEATHER CAUTION:

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.

"IF HIGHWAY 21 IS CLOSED....THE MEETING IS CANCELLED."



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