



THE BULLETIN

August / September, 2003 No. 429

2003 - 2004 EXECUTIVE

| | |
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Events calendar

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Annual Corn Roast | Date : Saturday September 6, 2003: 5pm. Location: Amos Wright Heritage Centre, 19 Church Street North |
| General Meeting | Date: September 18, 2003 at 7:30 pm (note: This is a change of time from 8 pm) Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church hall 10066 Yonge Street |
| Executive Meeting | Date : Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at 7:30pm Location : McConaghy Centre |
| Field Trips: | |
| "Canopy Walk" | Date: Saturday October 4, 2003: 8am-1pm. Location: Haliburton Martin Chen (905) 709-0246 |
| "Walk for the Moraine" | Date: Sunday, October 19, 2003: 9:30am Location: Seneca College, King Campus. |

See Details on Page 2

Oak Ridges Moraine update:

We wait for either the Ministry of Natural Resources or the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority to announce management of the Richmond Hill Moraine Lands.

These lands are what we have tried to promote as the "Kettle Lakes Park".

At the same time we applaud the town for negotiating purchase of 30 acres of land beside Lake Wilcox, and drive aghast along the Bayview extension south of Bethesda Road as we see the extent of the clearing of what we thought were "Oak Ridges Moraine Connecting Lands" on Lebovic owned lands.

We also wait for developers (Metrus and others) to finish with their poker game exchange for connecting lands west of Yonge St. near Phillips Lake, where the Moraine Reserve shrinks to 200 metres wide.

Personally, I dream and promote a "green bridge" over Yonge Street as I step down as your president.

I will be organizing a walk around the boundaries of the Moraine Lands (the Kettle Lakes Park) in Richmond Hill this fall when the bugs are gentler.

- Michael White



The Bulletin is published 9 times per year, from September to May inclusive, by the *Richmond Hill Naturalists*, and is mailed free to members. The Bulletin is the official publication of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, a non-profit organization, the objectives of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural areas.

Address Correspondence to: **Richmond Hill Naturalists, P.O. Box 32217, RPO Harding, Richmond Hill, On, L4C 9S3**

Deadlines: The editor encourages submissions from any member on any topic related to nature or conservation, and in particular, any issue that might be of interest or concern to members of this club. e-mail: lhelferty@sympatico.ca Deadlines are the first day of each month.

Bulletin Advertisers have been selected because of their relevance to member interests.

Members are encouraged to patronize our advertisers and please mention that you saw their ad in our Bulletin.

Change of Address: Any change of email or street address should be sent to Mike Turk who prints the envelopes for the Bulletin mailing. See the Executive List for contact information.

MEMBERSHIP IN RHN

The *Membership Application Form*, is available at each General Meeting from Mike Turk, Past President, or in our club brochure, available from any executive member listed (see page 1).

NEW MEMBERS

No new members this month.

Meet new members at club events and say Hello!

EVENTS FUTURE

RHN Events:

- **Saturday September 6, 2003:** 5pm, Dinner at 6pm. Don't miss the Annual **Corn Roast!** This year we will be holding the corn roast at Amos Wright Heritage Centre at 19 Church Street North (@ Centre St.) in Richmond Hill. Note: Due to the cost of renting a public facility, the price for the dinner may be higher than in previous years.

- **Tuesday, September 9, 2003:** 7:30pm. Executive Meeting at the McConaghy Centre.

- **Thursday September 18, 2003:** 8:00 pm. General meeting at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church hall, 10066 Yonge Street.

- **Saturday October 4, 2003:** 8am-1pm. Haliburton "Canopy Walk". Call Martin Chen at (905)709-0246 to join. For more info call the Haliburton Forest at (705) 754-2198 or visit www.haliburtonforest.com.

- **Monday October 6, 2003:** The Botany Group meets for the first session of the fall.

- **Wednesday, October 8, 2003:** Bird Group meeting. Contact group leader for more information.

- **Sunday, October 19, 2003:** 9:30am to 2pm. 3rd Annual "Walk for the Moraine" hosted by the [Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust](#) (ORMLT) and the [Oak Ridges Trail Association](#) (ORTA) at Seneca College, King Campus. Two satellite walks on the same day will be held in Whitchurch Stouffville's York Regional Forest and another on Clarington's 'Blue Bird' Trail. Join us at one of these venues to experience the beauty of nature while helping the ORMLT raise funds to further our conservation activities on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Seneca College King campus will also be featuring an Environmental Fair Day. For more information, or to ask for a pledge form, please contact the ORMLT office at landtrust@bellnet.ca or 905-841-3678.

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Please note: Richmond Hill Naturalists welcomes anyone to volunteer as an outing leader. If you would like to volunteer or you have any ideas, please submit them to Martin Chen (905-709-0246, jmchentoronto@rogers.com).

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (<http://www.oakridgesmoraine.org/>)

- **Thursday, November 6, 2003:** 6pm. "The tenth annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner" and silent auction, featuring Dr. Jane Goodall, keynote speaker. Hosted by the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and The [Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto](#). Contact Tom Atkins 905-841-9583, Don Prince 905-677-6090.

GTA Events:

- **Sunday August 17, 2003:** 2 - 4pm. Waterfront Gardens Walk. Meet at southwest corner of Bathurst and Queen's Quay West. Toronto Bay Initiative: (416) 943-8080 ext. 227.

- **Wednesday August 20, 2003:** 6:45pm. High Park Walking Tours. \$2 donation appreciated. For more information contact: Colborne Lodge @ (416) 392-6916.

- **Sunday August 24, 2003:** 10:30am, 2003: Toronto Field Naturalists Leslie Spit "Birds and Butterflies" with Ann Gray. Meet at the foot of Leslie St. Bring lunch and extra water, binoculars. (416) 593-2656.

- **Monday September 22nd and Tuesday September 23rd, 2003:** "GTA Infrastructure Summit". Conference focusing on the implications of recent action plans on the future of the GTA. Topics include questions on public-private partnerships, coping with gridlock, housing, funding. Public, private and institutional officials. Contact 'Strategy Institute' at 416-944-8833

<http://www.strategyinstitute.com/gtainfra.html>

North Toronto Green Community (<http://www.ntgc.ca/>)

- **Tuesday, August 19, 2003:** 7pm. "Butterflies and Insects" workshop presented by Evergreen. North Toronto Heritage Community Garden: 200 Eglinton Ave W. Contact Carrie @ garden@ntgc.ca or 416-781-7663.

"**Volunteer for Nature**" outings (from the *Federation of Ontario Naturalists* and Nature Conservancy of Canada) see: <http://www.ontarionature.org/action/schedule.php>.

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Toronto Ornithological Club **Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks** (all walks free to the public) see www.torontobirding.ca/outings.html#upcoming

- **Saturday September 13, 2003:** 8am-12noon. Lambton Woods "Fall Migration". Meet Don Burton in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Drive).

- **Saturday September 20, 2003:** 8am-12noon. High Park "Fall Migration". Meet Steven Favier in the parking lot inside the Bloor St. entrance at High Park Ave.

- **Saturday September 27, 2003:** 8am (all day). Leslie St. Spit "Shorebirds and other Migrants". Meet Norm Murr at the foot of Leslie St. Bring a lunch.

- **Saturday October 4, 2003:** 8am (all day). Toronto Islands "Late Migration". Meet Herb Elliott at the Toronto Islands Ferry Dock (foot of Bay St.) to catch the 8:15 ferry to Hanlan's point. Bring a lunch.

Kortright Centre for Conservation

9550 Pine Valley Drive, Woodbridge (905) 832-2289 www.kortright.org

- **Monday August 18 - Friday August 22, 2003:** 9:30am - 3:30pm. "Woodland Wonders Summer Camp" for kids. Discover the importance of wood in our lives. Hands on studies in forest ecology and wood carving. Lectures by forestry experts, outdoor studies in natural history and by expert members of Ontario Wood Carvers Association. Children 12-15 years of age. Cost is \$200, Call 416 667-6295.

- **Friday August 15 & Saturday August 16th, 2003:** 7 - 9pm. "Bat Night at the Kortright Centre" with Dan Stuckey. Presentations on bats of Ontario. Slide show, guided hike. Reservations- \$10 adult, \$6 student. Call 416 667-6295.

- **Saturday, August 16 and Sunday, August 17, 2003:** 10am - 4pm. "Summer on the Humber" Celebrate the Humber watershed with stream side and in-stream activities all weekend.

- **Saturday, August 23, 2003:** 10:30am - 12:30pm. "Back to Nature" Workshop - Summer Meadow Gardening. \$10 for adults, \$6 for children.

- **Saturday, September 6 to Sunday, September 28, 2003:** Weekend Guided Hikes
11:30 a.m. - Life of a Dead Tree 1 p.m. - Kid's Stuff - Drips and Drops 2:30 p.m. - Nature This Week

- **Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14, 2003:** "Hawk Watch" with the Canadian Peregrine Foundation

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MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

- Fair Lake, Ayr, Ontario, 7 July, 2003.

Harry Lumsden's swans are off to fly free again this year. They are two years old and Harry has driven 34 of them to three different parts of southern Ontario to begin their real lives. Elsie and I, my daughter Jennifer, friend Ray joined Harry and his Aurora colleague "Merlin" (aka David Tomlinson) to corral and prepare the young trumpeter cygnets to join more than 400 of their brothers and sisters. This is the rough number who have been freed since the Trumpeter swan restoration program began



releases in 1990, eight years after Harry and colleagues began the restoration.

Thirty five year-old cygnets, and one two year old with a nutritional condition called paddle wing, remain. The year-olds will spend another year to gain strength and avoid ingested lead-shot poisoning. The two year old will go, via Guelph, to join Harry's flock in Aurora.

Entering a pen of 13 flustered, apprehensive and huge young birds to mark out and grab the next candidate for release is, at first, a daunting experience. That was especially the case for 16 year old Ben Thompson who learned to make his first captures with us on July 7. Ben is the son of Arlene, who is also Zoe the Clown, leader of the "Chuckle Gang" who make laughter in the Cambridge area.

Harry keeps his swans penned in a Conservation Authority facility at Fair Lake, near Ayr, Ontario. This is a few miles south of the 401, west of Cambridge. Zoe, not in costume, (cygnets don't need amusing) was part of an earlier capture of 14 cygnets in June, this year. They went to near North Bay.

Ben's swan went with 11 of his fellows to Cataraqui, near Kingston, Ontario. Their wings span 7 or more feet. The bigger of them weigh twenty pounds at two years. They can deliver a sound whack with their "elbows". They got young Ben a couple of times before he gathered up his courage and agility and moved to take hold of the swan's neck just below the head. At once the frantic escape flapping stops.

The trumpeter cygnet's neck is remarkable soft and supple, not strong as one would expect. Nor are the young swans aggressive, as one sees with feral geese and swans or parents guarding nests or young. A few warning hisses and then frantic and seemingly dangerous flight around the small catching pen. Harry, David, Ben, Elsie and I had herded the flock into this earlier.



In the release process, Harry, rather unceremoniously, squats astride each young cygnet, determines his or her sex, checks for an original wing band, places a number band on an appropriate leg (avoiding sharp toe claws), snaps large numbered bright yellow wing bands on the elastic skin just above the wing-elbow, and if necessary clips off the still un-molted flight feathers from one wing. "That stops them from trying to fly back here", explains Harry, wielding clippers. "By the time they grow in their new flight set of feathers in September they will no longer want to do that".

Harry Lumsden has been involved in the Trumpeter Reintroduction program since it began in the Ministry of Lands and Forests and then Natural Resources, where he worked, in 1982. He has energetically



continued the program since his retirement. His large garden in Aurora is shared between his collection of exotic flora and the ponds that are home to the as many as twenty breeding trumpeter swans. Some are refugees from his own restoration program, injured and no longer able to fly free. Some who can fly but remain, mated to a member of his resident flock. There is also one whistling swan, the slightly smaller cousin of the trumpeters which migrate to the arctic, unlike their larger more southern look-alikes. Whistlers are still numerous and a game bird in some States, creating some resistance to reintroduction of the rare and protected trumpeters. The two breeds are hard to distinguish in flight, though the trumpeters tend to be in pairs or families, while the whistlers fly in larger flocks. Farmers in both east and western Canada, leave fields of corn standing to help the whistlers on their long migrations.

I sat writing in my cottage window facing Wilcox Lake in February, 1994 when I first looked out on a large white bird in the middle of the ice. When I approached her I could see Number 273 on the yellow wing tag. In a phone call, Theo Hoffman told me about Harry's swans and from there to helping with releases in 2003, has been a wonderful experience.



This year, the amazing movie, "Winged Migration" takes one into much of the life of these wonderful peoples. That's what I prefer to call the families and communities of animals, we less than fairly share this world with. But helping Harry, like my work with Dr. Henry Regier and what he called "The Salmonid Tribes and Peoples", trout, salmon and even whitefish "tribes" of the Great Lakes, allows one to really meet these rare and special beings and work with them to convince all of us to amend our lives so that the world remains healthy and sane. Having trumpeter swans again breeding on

our lakes and ponds does just that.

Up to date information on the Trumpeter restoration program appears in the Feb, 2002 edition of "Waterbirds" and will soon be published in the North American Swans Journal. Harry Lumsden is a director of the Richmond Hill Naturalists.

- Michael White (photos courtesy of Ian McAlpine, Kingston Whig Standard)

EVENTS PAST

Richmond Hill Naturalist Trip to Rondeau Provincial Park – May 10, 2003

The group included Gene and Charlene Denzel (leaders), Martin, Judy, Kristen and Gregory Chen, and Jim Petkoglou and Sandy Vanderbrug.

We all stayed together at a turn of the century bed without breakfast called "Dempster House" in Ridgetown. On Saturday at 6:30am we headed towards Rondeau, stopping along the way at a beautiful flowering apple tree which was just a-buzz with Baltimore and Orchard Orioles and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. I had never seen anything like it!

We arrived at the Park's Visitor Centre as it started raining, giving us a chance to have a leisurely breakfast offered by *Friends of Rondeau* (for a small donation) and watch the Visitor Centre bird feeders.

We soon became glued to the window. Some of the highlights were, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, White-crowned, Chipping and Lincoln Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles and a White-breasted Nuthatch. The weather cleared by 8:30am, so Gene & Charlene led the way through the Spicebush Trail. Gregory saw our first warbler - a beautiful American Redstart - and soon after Kristen spotted a beautiful Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Martin and Judy's kids are excellent birders.

At one point on the trail, a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers were following us. The spring wild flowers were all blooming and we saw beautiful red and white trilliums, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Mayapple, Creeping Charlie and Clintonia, just to name a few.

We made a short stop at the Marsh area to add to our count and then headed into Morpeth for some lunch at the local diner. The afternoon started out slowly with lots of Orioles, and Gene was looking for the Prothonotary Warbler but it seemed to elude us, probably because we were all having trouble just saying the name.

After the Tulip Tree trail we all split up. Gene and Charlene were attending "An Evening in the Park" dinner and slide show and the Chen family had to start the drive home. Jim and I thought we would try just one more trail.

The South Point Trail is 8km, and the weather turned nice and warm for late afternoon.

Jim commented that the birds were quiet and I told him they were all still around but had no time for singing since it was food time. It was about 6pm when we started to really see the birds: Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireos, Eastern Towhee and several different warblers.

Then, a Pileated Woodpecker swooped in front of us! What a fantastic bird. A short distance from there and Jim spotted a Scarlet Tanager. I see it too and sharp focus my binoculars just when Jim tells me it's gone -- but I still have it focused. But then, we realized there were two tanagers. That was funny.

We reached the parking lot at about 7:20pm and discovered our car was 8km away at the other side of the trail -- but our lucky streak continued when the owners of the only car in the lot offered us a ride to our car. We learned a valuable lesson that day! Pay better attention to the trail map.

We would like to thank Gene and Charlene for organizing such a wonderful trip, and to thank Martin, Judy, Kristen and Gregory for all the good bird sightings.

- Sandy Vanderbrug & Jim Petkoglou

The second annual Dragonboat Festival was held on Lake Wilcox Fun Day, June 22, 2003. With 20 dragonboats of 20 rowers each, it added up to a great party atmosphere of good-natured competition. Each team was decked out in their team colours, with members of our own Oak Ridge Morainers sporting various shades of green (their shirts not their faces).



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With 23 rowers having been signed up by our stalwart captain, Martin Chen, and some breathing room between races, we fared rather well considering the number of pro dragonboat teams we were competing against this year. With our 'wet behind the ears' team having gotten their feet (and pride) wet in the first race, we were thus pooled in the lower half of the teams. We got our act together, with synchronization the all important factor in dragonboating, to trounce the competition in the second race, with a great time of 2:37 to boot.

The third race was for the top spot in Pool C and we seemed to flounder at the end, losing our stroke beat and thus the final race. Despite our ups and downs of the day, the team spirit was definitely up with Ian ?at the helm! Everyone had a great day on the beach and we realized that stirring up the algae and weeds wasn't the only reason to be on Lake Wilcox that day.



- On July 29, 2003 a coalition to combat urban sprawl was launched entitled, "[Kyoto & Sprawl](#)", members of which pledged to get key provincial policies changed. One of the workshops with the title, "It's only a swamp" took a look at the issue of sprawl and the natural world. Workshop attendees included [Save the Rouge Valley](#) president Glenn De Baeremaeker, [Pembina Institute](#) researcher Mark Winfield, and Richmond Hill deputy mayor Brenda Hogg.

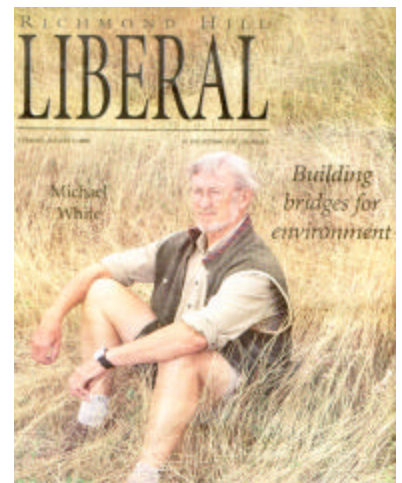
General Interest

- On Tuesday, August 5, 2003 Michael White, last year's president of the Richmond Hill Naturalists, Michael White, was featured on the front page of the Richmond Hill Liberal newspaper.

The article outlines some of Michael's accomplishments over the last few decades, including his successful bids to have two bridges built over sensitive natural areas threatened by road construction.

His ultimate goal is to convince people that a 'third bridge' is needed -- one that crosses over Yonge Street in central Oak Ridges -- a "green" bridge that would link the two halves of the now severed Oak Ridges Moraine.

- On August 6, 2003 the Ontario Trillium Foundation announced a \$50,000 grant to the "Grant House Collaborative", a part of the *Couchiching Conservancy* in Orillia. The money will be used to complete renovations at Grant House, which will become a conservation training centre serving northern Simcoe County.



(photo courtesy of the Richmond hill Liberal)

- On Tuesday July 29th the Town of Richmond Hill held an open house at the Oak Ridges Recreation Centre to review a proposed trail plan for the new Oak Ridges Moraine park. The town was considering constructing the trails using asphalt because of lower maintenance requirements and wheel-chair accessibility. The Richmond Hill Naturalists recommend that it is NOT a good idea to hard-top all the trails since most birds need grit or dust which they often get from dirt roads trails for dust bathing and digestion. The dust bathing helps to keep the plumage fluffy, to remove excess moisture and preening oil, and to flush out parasites. The grit is essential for digestion in the gizzard where it is used to grind up food, especially seeds, buds and other coarse vegetable matter.

Contact your councillor to find out more about this issue and voice what you think.

- On Thursday, July 14th at the Richmond Hill Town Hall building, three baby Peregrine falcon chicks were banded. The chick's blood were also sampled and they were inoculated for West Nile Virus.

- On June 20th, 2003, the Eves' Gov. passed Bill 25 under the guise of "Smart Transportation Act, 2003". The Government called it, "An Act to Enhance Public Transit and provide for a smart transportation system in Ontario". It proposes High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes (HOV), and it announced a "Smartcard" for Public Transit. What the Government has Buried in the Bill and NOT advertised is its attempt to prevent the Public from having any meaningful input into the planning process of *future* highways, and squash any opposition to the construction of those highways. Some major Implications of Bill 25 are that the Minister of Transportation will have ultimate authority to develop "Transportation infrastructure corridor plans" and establish "infrastructure corridor planning areas". (It translates in plain English into 'highways').

It also states that the setting aside of land for a highway corridor will NOT be subject to an Environmental Assessment (EA) process. The Government will have to only "survey" and "investigate", and will not have to justify the NEED for a highway, let alone alternatives to it.

While the "actual undertaking" i.e. construction of a highway will be subject to the EA Act, in order to minimize the environmental damage caused by the actual building of the road, the EA Act will be so emasculated that its role to protect the environment or people's health will be almost meaningless.

The Minister may also confer with any 'person or public body' that he considers "may have an interest in the proposed plan", therefore any communication with the Public will be at the discretion of the Minister. It also states that "the Minister may make such modifications to the proposed plan as *the Minister considers desirable*" after considering (any) submissions received.

While Bill 25 will apply to any highway construction, these measures seem to be intended specifically to squash opposition to the Mid-peninsula highway in Burlington, across the Niagara Escarpment and through Weinfleet Bog, the Medad wetland, and other sensitive lands.


Its implications to ALL future highways (the 427, 407 East, 414 -- the one intended for Muskoka) will be devastating. This is what you might call the 'Tory Paving Ontario Plan'.

For more information see: www.ontla.on.ca/documents/Bills/37_Parliament/Session4/b025_e.htm

- Helene Dutka, Hamilton Naturalists' Club

- York Region's Health Department may be using 'Malathion' to control mosquitoes when necessary. The York Region Environmental Alliance believes that the use of malathion can be compared to "using a sledgehammer to kill a fly", and is not a safe practice since people who are sensitive to pesticides could suffer long-term health problems. This includes children, seniors and others with fragile immune systems. Malathion may increase the incidence of infections, pneumonia, ear infections, and tuberculosis and may contain chemical impurities which have been found to weaken immune system function. Technical grade malathion may even have the potential to produce chromosomal changes.



 Malathion and other 'adulticides' do not work since they may only kill about 50 to 80 per-cent of the mosquito population for a period of only 12 to 36 hours. Application of malathion will be from trucks driving around residential areas both upwind and downwind of mosquito-infested yards. If the wind doesn't carry the insecticide to the mosquito, the mosquito doesn't die. Malathion also kills beneficial insects such as bees and butterflies.

The York Region Environmental Alliance is asking people to let their councillor and the Medical Officer of Health for York Region know that you do not support the use of malathion.

Contact: Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk, 905-830-4444 ext.1320, 1-877-464-9675 or regionalclerk@region.york.on.ca or Dr Kassam, Associate Medical Officer of Health 905-830-4444 ext.4012 hanis.kassam@region.york.on.ca
Get on the West Nile Virus Registry to receive personal notification by telephone of plans to adulticide in your area. Contact York Region Health Services 1-800-361-5653.

- On July 25, 2003 the [Federation of Ontario Naturalists](#) (along with 25 other groups) helped found a new organization, the "[Ontario Smart Growth Network](#)", whose mandate is to fight urban sprawl, promote compact, healthy communities, and support community involvement in land use planning.

- On July 31, 2003, [Environmental Defence Canada](#) launched a program called the international [Blue Flag](#) program. This is the first program of its kind in North America to measure Lake water quality against international standards. The program measures [Toronto's 14 beaches](#) against 27 strict water quality and environmental criteria. Toronto is the first city in North America to apply for the Blue Flag designation.

NATURE NEWS

- On Thursday, July 3, 2003 Gary Gallon passed away at Montreal General Hospital after a long battle with cancer. Gary was a leading Canadian environmental advocate. Gary will be missed by hundreds of friends and admirers. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, July 8 at the Church of the Advent, 4119 de Maisonneuve, Westmount.



Gary published the "Gallon Environment Letter" for many years, was president of the Canadian Institute for Business, helped to found the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation and the Environment and Probe International, served as senior policy adviser to the Ontario Liberals, supported many conservation groups including Captain Paul Watson's Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, and has received many awards for his accomplishments including Canada's National Life-Time Achievement Environment Award by the Canadian Geographic society. In memory of Gary, donations can be made to: The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, PO Box 48446, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A2, or The Sierra Club of Canada, 1 Nicholas Street #412, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7.

- Armando, who works at St. Lawrence Cement, has announced that 'Nate', the Peregrine falcon hatched out on the rooftop of the Richmond Hill Town Hall (Ontario) in 1999, is a father! Armando reports that two of the four eggs have hatched so far. Nate was one of the Canadian Peregrine Foundation's (CPF) first hatched released birds.

Nate was also one of the first of juvenile peregrines to wear a back pack transmitter (part of the CPF's 'Project Track-Em' - www.peregrine-foundation.ca/trackem.html). For three years he has migrated and wintered in Colombia and South America and has returned to Ontario each spring. Nate was not outfitted with a transmitter in 2002, but has stayed around the St. Lawrence Cement plant throughout the fall and winter of 2002. Nate disappeared for several weeks in the winter and early spring of 2002-2003, but returned back to the St. Lawrence Cement plant in the late spring of 2003. As yet CPF has not been able to identify his mate by her band number. Congratulations to Nate, and St. Lawrence Cement, and a huge thank you to all that supported us with hack releases and Project 'Track-Em'.



- Mark Nash, Canadian Peregrine Foundation www.peregrine-foundation.ca

- On June 17, 2003, the Ontario government passed legislation to make the [Kawartha Highlands Signature Site](#) a fully operational Provincial Park. 35,318 hectares of wilderness will now become the largest protected area in Ontario south of Algonquin. The legislation would outlaw mining and aggregate activities along with commercial logging and will prevent, with some exceptions, the construction of new roads or trails. However, hunting, fishing and trapping will still be allowed due to the presence of 1,400 privately owned cottages, hunt camps and businesses that are already in the area. Many thanks to those supported increased protection for this area. -ed

- On another note, a recent article in the [Toronto Star](#) on July 8 caught the attention of our new president, Natalie Helferty, and made it into the "ElectricGreen Environment Newsletter", Volume #188 on July 12, 2003.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS



Earlier this year Theo Hofman, who has been faithfully collecting our bird observations for many years now, was beset by several unfortunate circumstances. Now that Theo is back, some of the bird observations that have not been included in the Bulletin since March have now been updated and compiled for this edition of the Bulletin.

On behalf of all our members, welcome back Theo!

MARCH

Durham Region

Eastern Bluebird - 4 at NW of Claremont March 24 (RL fide NH). Overwintered in their breeding box.

Toronto

Northern Mockingbird - 1 at Rail tracks, Don R. & Front St. March 27 (SVa).

Out-of-Area

Ring-necked Pheasant and Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Mono Mills March 15 (RJF).

Peel Region

Great Blue Heron - 18 at Castlederg Road March 29 (anon) in rookery.

Turkey Vulture - 3 at Hwy 9 and 50 March 20 (BCa).

Snow Goose - 2 at Palgrave Conservation Area March 27 (EM).
 Bald Eagle - 1 Ad at Centreville Creek March 18 (anon. fide PG,). Also on 29 March at Cedar Mills and on 6 April at Gibson Lake.
 Cooper's Hawk - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion March 12,25 (BCa).
 Rough-legged Hawk - 1 at King and Torbram Roads March 18 (BCa).
 Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 at Church Road March 08 (BCa).
 Wild Turkey - over 40 at Gore Rd. N of Mill Road March 08 (BCa).
 Sandhill Crane - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area March 23 (GoC).
 Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area March 23 (GoC). 2 at Albion Hills Cons. Area March 27 (EM,PG,).
 Horned Lark - 5 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove March 10 (PG).
 Brown Creeper - 2 at Cameron Property, Albion March 25 (BCa).
 Cedar Waxwing - 30 at Palgrave Conservation Area March 08 (PG).
 Fox Sparrow - 3 at Cameron Property, Albion March 25-31 (BCa).
 Snow Bunting - over 50 at Castledeger & 10 S.R. King March 08 (BCa).
 Eastern Meadowlark - 1 at Albion Hills Cons. Area March 23 (GoC).
 Purple Finch - 1 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove March 17 (PG). 1 at Cameron Property, Albion March 23 (BCa).

York Region

Turkey Vulture - 10 at Richmond Hill March 23 (RJF).
 Trumpeter Swan - 2 at Lumsden Property, Aurora March 30 (HL). These are wild swans.
 Tundra Swan - 7 at N End Bathurst Street March 24 (RJF).
 Northern Pintail - 60 at N End Bathurst Street March 24 (RJF).
 Ring-necked Duck - 30 at N End Bathurst Street March 24 (RJF).
 Hooded Merganser - 4 at Coyote Pond, Markham March 16,17 (SLo).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at Hwy 407 and 427 Mar 1 (MCh). 1 at 4 Grenfell Mrkham March 05 (CMK). 2 at Rchmnd Hill March 23 (RJF).
 Cooper's Hawk - 1 at 10820 Pine Valley Dr. March 10 (D&AD). Eating a junco. 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) March 13 (CMK).
 Northern Goshawk - 1 Juv at N End Bathurst Street March 22 (RJF).
 Merlin - 1 at Aurora Highlands G.C.& Bathurs March 14 (RJF). 1 at Yonge & Dawson Manor Newmarket March 14 (KRS).
 Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 M at 5 Stacey Crescent Thornhill March 08 (anon. fide KRS). 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham March 26 (SLo).
 Wild Turkey - 4 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love March 19 (JLo). 2 at Hwy 11 and Holland Landing March 28 (CBr).
 Killdeer - 4 at Coyote Pond, Markham March 17 (SLo).
 Long-eared Owl - 2 at Beechwood Cemetery March 04 (BB).
 Belted Kingfisher - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love March 27 (JLo).
 Downy Woodpecker - up to 3 daily at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H March 01-30 (FWh).
 Northern Flicker - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) March 15 (CMK).
 Northern Shrike - 1@ Pine Vly Dr Mar 14 (D&AD). 1@ Yonge & Savage Rd. Nwmrkt Mar 14 + 1 at N End Bathurst St Mar 22 (RJF).
 Horned Lark - 3 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love March 15 (JLo).
 Cedar Waxwing - 18 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love March 10 (JLo).
 Eastern Towhee - 1 at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H March 03,05,15,26,27 (FWh).
 Common Grackle - 6 at Carrying Pl.Trail Weston Rd. March 16 (CAT). 8 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges March 16 (SDP).
 American Goldfinch - up to 15 daily at Whillans, Bridgport Richmond H March 01-06 (FWh).

APRIL

Durham Region

Glaucous Gull - 1 Ad at Seaton Trail - Whitevale Apr.29 (SLo).

Peel Region

Ring-necked Duck - 2 at Gibson Lake Apr.05 (EM).
 Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion Apr.09 (BCa).
 Cooper's Hawk - 1 at Cameron Property, Albion Apr.04,08 (BCa).
 Fox Sparrow - 3 at Cameron Property, Albion Apr.01-11 (BCa). 3 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Apr.03 (PG).

Dark-eyed Junco - 30 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove Apr.03 (PG).

York Region

Pied-billed Grebe - 2 (pair) at St Johns SR Marsh Apr.20 (RJF).
Double-crested Cormorant - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.24 (SLo).
Great Blue Heron - 6 at Kipling N of Kirby Apr.10 (JLo) in rookery. 2 at Seneca College Apr.18 (RJF).
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 1 at Snider Marsh Markham Apr.16 (SLo).
Turkey Vulture - 2 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges Apr.19 (SDP).
Ross' Goose - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.01,02 (SLo).
Wood Duck - 4 at Oakbank Pond Thornhill Apr.18 (TH). 2 (pair) at Seneca College Apr.18 (RJF).
Blue-winged Teal - 2 (pair) at Oakbank Pond Thornhill Apr.18 (TH).
Northern Shoveler - 6 at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.21 (SLo).
Ring-necked Duck - 4 at St Johns SR Marsh Apr.13 (RJF).
Bufflehead - 2 (pair) at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.01 (SLo).
Hooded Merganser - 2 at St Johns SR Marsh Apr.13 (RJF). 1 F at Dufflang Pond Apr.18 (TH).
Common Merganser - 4 at St Johns SR Marsh Apr.13 (RJF).
Ruddy Duck - 2 at Holland Marsh Apr.13 (RJF). 3 at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.13 (SLo).
Osprey - 2 (pair) at Seneca College Apr.18 [Adult entering] (RJF). 1 M at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.28 (SLo).
Northern Harrier - 2 (pair) at Woodbine & Aurora S.R. Apr.13 (RJF).
Cooper's Hawk - 2 (pair) at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.02 (SLo).
Red-shouldered Hawk - 1 at Kipling N of Kirby Apr.10 (JLo). 5 in the York Region Forest Tracts around Vivian Apr.14 (TH).
Merlin - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.02 (SLo).
Wild Turkey - 1 at Rutherford and Pine Valley Apr.12 (RJF). 3 at Jokers Hill Property Apr.19 (KRS).
Spotted Sandpiper - 1 at Autumn Hill Pond Thornhill Apr.18 (TH).
American Woodcock - at Wooten Way S. Markham Apr.08 (SLo).
Belted Kingfisher - 2 (pair) at Pangman Springs Cons. Area Apr.20 (RJF).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1 M at 10820 Pine Valley Drive Apr.07 (D&AD).
Downy Woodpecker - 2 (pair) at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) Apr.07 (CMK).
Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Seneca College Apr.18 (RJF).
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 at 10820 Pine Valley Drive Apr.04 (D&AD).
Brown Creeper - 1 at 10820 Pine Valley Drive Apr.01 (D&AD).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 4 at Pangman Springs Cons. Area Apr.20 (RJF).
Hermit Thrush - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) Apr.28 (CMK).
Brown Thrasher - 1 at Jokers Hill Property Apr.19 (KRS).
Black-throated Green Warbler - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) Apr.28 (CMK).
Pine Warbler - 1 at Anchor Park Holland Landing Apr.20 (BB). 2 at Seneca College Apr.21 [Singing Male] (RJF).
Purple Finch - 1 M at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) Apr.05-07 (CMK).

MAY

Toronto

Turkey Vulture - 2 (pair) at York University Keele Campus May 24-28 (JNo).

Peel Region

Ruffed Grouse - 7 at Palgrave Conservation Area May 25 (DMi).
Sandhill Crane and Common Raven - 1 each at Palgrave Conservation Area May 25 (DMi).

York Region

Pied-billed Grebe - 2 (pair) at St Johns SR Marsh May 03 (RJF).
Great Egret - 1 Holland Marsh May 06 (KDu).
Green Heron - 1 at Coyote Pond, Markham May 05 (SLo).
Osprey -1 at Hwy 400 & Canal Road May 07 (RJF).

Sharp-shinned Hawk - 2 (pair) at Richmond Hill Mill Pond May 01,07 (RJF).
 Red-shouldered Hawk - 1 at McCowan & Vandorf S.R. May 14 (RJF).
 Broad-winged Hawk - 2 at Queensville May 07 (KRS,KDu). 2 (pair) at Mulock & Bathurst Newmarket May 14 (RJF).
 Common Moorhen - 1 at St Johns SR Marsh May 03 (RJF).
 Least Sandpiper - 10 at 9thLine & Major MacK. Markham May 20 (SLo).
 Caspian Tern - 2 at St Johns SR Marsh May 14 (RJF).
 Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 at Mable Davis C.A. Newmarket May 07 (KDu).
 Barred Owl - 1 at W of Newmarket May 18 (RJF,KRS,KDu,JMcL,JWa).
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 2 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill May 11 (SVa).
 Pileated Woodpecker - 2 at Case Woodlot Aurora May 07 (RJF). 2 at YRF North Tract May 28 [Nest with young] (AHe).
 Olive-sided Flycatcher - 1 at Pottageville May 18 (RJF,KRS,KDu,JMcL,JWa).
 Blue-headed Vireo - 2 at May 03 (RJF).
 Brown Creeper - 9 at May 03 (RJF).
 Carolina Wren - 1 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond May 01-07 (RJF).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 25 at May 03 (RJF).
 Eastern Bluebird - 1 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges May 26 (SDP).
 Hermit Thrush - 1 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill May 02 (DTH).
 Gray Catbird - 19 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill May 17 (SVa).
 Northern Mockingbird - 1 at Industr.Rd.& Enford Richm.Hill May 22 (GL).
 Cedar Waxwing - 100 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill May 19-29 (SVa). 50 at Maple Avenue Richmond Hill May 22 (GL).
 Blue-winged Warbler - 1 at Mable Davis C.A. Newmarket May 18 (RJF,KRS,KDu,JMcL,JWa).
 Northern Parula - 1 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond May 07 (RJF). 1 at Mable Davis C.A. Newmarket May 18 (RJF,KRS,KDu,JMcL,JWa).
 Chestnut-sided Warbler - 30 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond May 07 (RJF). 25 at Mable Davis C.A. Newmarket May 13 (KRS,KDu).
 Black-throated Blue Warbler - 30 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond May 07 (RJF).
 Black-throated Green Warbler - 9 at May 03 (RJF).
 Blackburnian Warbler - 30 at Richmond Hill Mill Pond May 07 (RJF).
 Black-and-white Warbler - 6 at SW Newmarket May 03 (RJF).
 American Redstart - 1 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill May 19 (SVa).
 White-crowned Sparrow - 2 at 199 Arnold Ave., Thornhill May 01 (DTH). 1 at Holland Marsh May 06 (KDu).
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1 M@ Idleswift Thrnhl May 05 (GD). 3 @ Shady Lane Thrnhl May 07-09 (SVa).
 Bobolink - 5 at 9th Line * MajorMacK. Markham May 20 (SLo).
 Baltimore Oriole - 6 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill May 11-12 (SVa).
 American Goldfinch - 20 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges May 05 (SDP).
AHe Allison Hegarty, ARa Alfred Raab, BB Bruce Brydon, BCa Barry Cameron, BE Bill Edmunds, BNo Bob Noble, CAT Carol Ann Trabert, Br Cathy Brydon, ChvR Christel von Richter, CMK Carol McKnight, D&AD David and Amy Darker, DMi Dave Milsom, DSt Dan Stuckey, DTH Doris Hofmann, EM Elizabeth Morton, FWh Freddy Whillans, GD Gene Denzel, GL Graham Leonard, GoC Gord Cameron, HL Harry Lumsden, JLo Joan Love, JMcL John McLean, JNo Joanne Nonnekes, JWa John Watson, KDu Keith Dunn, KRS Kevin Shackleton, LNo Lionel Normand, MCh Martin Chen, MWh Michael White, NH Natalie Helferty, PF Pat Fallis, PG Phyllis Graydon, RJF Ron Fleming, RL Raymond Leistner, RT Roger Taylor, SDP Susan DiPucchio, SH Sue Hayes, SLo Stan Long, SVa Sandy Vanderbrug, TH Theo Hofmann

From the Editor

Due to the limited amount of space available in this edition of the Bulletin, this month's comments will be kept to a minimum. Therefore, in keeping with the need for brevity I will say only this:

Have a great summer and see you all at the Corn Roast on September 6th!

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