



THE BULLETIN

August / September 2005 No. 447

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

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Events calendar

RHN Corn roast	Saturday September 10, 2005 6pm at Russ Tilt's House.
Executive Meeting	Tuesday, September 13, 2005 7:30PM and Tuesday October 11, 2005 7:30PM
General Meeting	Thursday, September 15, 2005 7:30PM Topic: Costa Rica with Steve Gahbauer Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall. 10066 Yonge St.
Botany Group	Monday October 3, 2005
Bird Group	Wednesday October 12, 2005. 12:30pm
Field Trips	Sunday September 18, 2005. 7:00AM Presqu'île Provincial Park with Martin Chen

See more Details on Page 2

Richmond Hill Naturalists Welcome You Back to the Fall Program

The Corn Roast is Saturday September 10th at 6:00 pm.

Join us for our Annual Corn Roast to be held again this year at Russ Tilt's lovely acre garden property. Russ lives at 25 Bridgewater Street South (south off Centre Street, west of Yonge Street). The corn roast is \$5.00 per person. Please bring your own cutlery, plate, mug/glass and lawn chair. If you would like to contribute to the dessert table that would be greatly appreciated.

It is also time to renew your annual Richmond Hill Naturalists membership. Please bring your \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family membership to the corn roast. Also please check your personal information on our records when you pay your fee. If you are unable to attend the corn roast we would be happy to take your membership money at the September general meeting.

The September General Meeting is Thursday September 15th at 7:30 pm.
We resume our regular meetings the on the Third Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall.

This month the speaker is Steve Gahbauer who will be talking about Costa Rica.



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.

Editor: Lloyd Helferty

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MEMBERSHIP IN RHN

The *Membership Application Form*, is available at each General Meeting from Mike Turk, or in our club brochure, available from any executive member listed.

NEW MEMBERS:

Lee Weiss

Meet new members at club events and say Hello!

EVENTS FUTURE

- **Saturday September 10, 2005.** Corn Roast at Russ Tilt's at 25 Bridgewater Street South, Richmond Hill.

- **Tuesday September 13, 2005.** 7:30pm. Executive meeting. Natalie's townhouse. 27A - 81 Northern Heights Drive, Richmond Hill, ON 905-881-8403.

- **Thursday September 15, 2005. 7:30pm.** General Meeting at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall. 10066 Yonge St., North of Major Mackenzie Dr., West side. Our first speaker this year is Steve Gahbauer who will give us a presentation called "Madagascar: The Eighth Continent". We are welcoming back Steve Gahbauer from the Rouge Valley Foundation to show us his amazing 3-week trip to Madagascar where he traipsed through rainforest parks and research stations in quest of leaping lemurs and baobab and pachybodiu trees.



From Aye-ayes to Zebus, Steve will show us a kaleidoscope of natural and cultural riches of one of the world's biodiversity hotspots! Join us on **September 15th at 7:30pm** for this wondrous display of nature.

- **Sunday September 18, 2005.** 7:00am. Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Enjoy a fall trip to the central Lake Ontario waterfront where we will search for migrating passerines, waterfowl and shorebirds. This is always a great trip with a wide variety of species possible. Meet at Vellore Hall (9545 Weston Rd, 1km S of Major Mackenzie Dr) to car pool or at Presqu'ile outside the park gate at 9:00am. Be prepared for a variety of weather conditions, especially close to the lake. Bring a lunch. Questions? Call Bill Edmunds at 905-731-7551.

- **Monday October 3, 2005.** The first meeting of the Botany Group is to be held on this day.

- **Wednesday October 12, 2005.** 12:30pm. The first meeting of the Bird Group will be held on this day.

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, imchentoronto@rogers.com).

- **Sunday September 11, 2005.** 1:30 pm. Rouge Valley Conservation Centre public hike. "Trees and Shrubs in the Rouge Valley". Starts and finishes at the Pearse House / Rouge Valley Conservation Centre, 1749 Meadowvale Road, Scarborough. Free. Donations welcome. Call Steve Gahbauer 416-282-0453 for more info.

- **Wednesday September 21, 2005.** "The Future of the Carden Alvar Natural Heritage" hosted by the Couchiching Conservancy. Conference will feature speakers from a variety of organizations. Come learn more about alvars and how you can help to protect them. For more info contact the Couchiching Conservancy by phone at (705)326-1620.

- **Wednesday and Thursday September 21 & 22, 2005.** Tallgrass Prairie & Savanna Forum. The topic will be "Old Prairies and New Prairies". See <http://www.tallgrassontario.org> for more information.

- **Sunday September 25, 2005.** 1:30pm. Rouge Valley Conservation Centre Public Hike. "The Old Finch Meander" Easy to moderately difficult walk on a nature trail. Duration approx. two hours. Hike starts and finishes at the parking lot at the foot of the Bailey Bridge at old Finch Road at the traffic lights. Steve Gahbauer 416-282-0453

- **Monday September 26, 2005.** 7pm. "Youth, Environment and Education" with Elise Houghton. an environmental educator and a Board member of [Everdale Environmental Learning Center](#). Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Suite 200 (Yonge & Eglinton). Toronto.

- **Thursday September 29, 2005.** 7:30pm. Environment-friendly energy sources – a look at options. Presentation by Alex Waters from the [Kortright Conservation Centre](#). Location: Rouge Valley Conservation Centre. Call Steve Gahbauer 416-282-0453 for more info.

- **Saturday October 1, 2005.** 10am. Stormwater management Swale Restoration in Scarborough with the North American Native Plant Society (in conjunction with the TRCA and the City of Toronto). Volunteers are needed including "Section Captains" and people who can provide surplus plants or seeds from this year's production for planting. Location: Sheppard Ave. just west of Morningside Ave. Contact Natalie Helferty 905-881-8403. (Rain day: Sunday October 2).

- **Saturday October 15, 2005.** 1-5pm. North American Native Plant Society AGM. Speakers Frederick W. Case Jr. presenting "A Sampler of Wildflowers of the Great Lakes Region" and Ken Parker speaking about ecological solutions for garden enthusiasts and an introduction to culinary, medicinal and spiritual uses of indigenous North American flora. Toronto Botanical Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. (at Leslie), Toronto. \$10 for non-members. <http://www.nanps.org>

- **Saturday October 22, 2005.** A reminder that the [Ontario Nature](#) fall regional meeting for Lake Ontario North will be held in Peterborough. Contact Jennifer Baker: 416-444-8419 ext. 224 or Toll-Free 1-800-440-2366. E-mail: jenniferb@ontarionature.org.

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Environment Update

The Richmond Hill Naturalists [RHN] have been involved in two major projects occurring simultaneously in Richmond Hill. One is the 'big pipe' trunk sewer proposed across 19th Avenue between Yonge St. and Highway 404 and the other is the new public "Oak Ridges Park" that will be created as part of the provincial land swap deal on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The first project (the 'big pipe') will likely facilitate future urban development on the "North Leslie lands". According to our experts, John Morton a professional engineer and geologist, and Dr. Ernst Zaltsberg, a hydrogeologist who was a former reviewer of infrastructure impacts for the Ministry of Environment, this project will also interfere with the groundwater feeding the Jefferson swamp and the headwaters of the Rouge River.

York Region has proceeded with tendering for the project despite the fact it has yet to conduct its own "peer review". Applications for development of the North Leslie lands between Bayview and Hwy 404 north of Elgin Mills, as well as for the "Gormley West" lands north of Gormley on the west side of Leslie Street, are both currently before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

The Ministry of Environment [MOE] will be reviewing York Region's proposal to see if it meets the Minister's conditions before proceeding, one of which was to "find an alternative to the 19th Avenue route". Some members of the Interceptor Sewer Advisory Committee (ISAC), including RHN reps Marianne and Natalie, have co-written a letter to the MOE outlining our concerns and also providing the Morton and Zaltsberg "alternative route" along the current urban boundary across the North Leslie lands. This route would not interfere with groundwater flows into the Rouge and would avoid an ORM Linkage area.



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The second project that concerns the Public Park proposal is a more positive input process. Sharon Bradley is sitting as the RHN representative for the Oak Ridges Trail Association [ORTA]. The main ORTA Trail is proposed to cross through Richmond Hill in the future. Discussions are on-going, but there will be \$3.5 million provided by the developers to the "Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation" to support development of a new trail and restoration initiatives.

- Natalie Helferty, past President

- The **Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan** identified a "Natural Core Area" around Bond Lake, just north of Stouffville Road (with "Natural Linkage Areas" to the west and east).

This provided an opportunity for a second route of the Oak Ridges Trail to cross Yonge Street near Bond Lake. Due to this change a new "Richmond Hill Chapter" of the [Oak Ridges Trail Association](#) (ORTA) has been formed.

Members of the Aurora Chapter who live south of Bloomington Road in the Yonge Street corridor bounded by Bathurst and Hwy 404 were invited to transfer to the new Richmond Hill Chapter and those residing the north of Bloomington continue to belong to the Aurora Chapter. There are currently opportunities to join the Richmond Hill chapter of ORTA and help in the exciting task of creating a new element of the Oak Ridges Trail.

Contact Stanley G. Butcher, President of ORTA, Home Phone: 905-773-3960, email: president@orta.on.ca.



- San Francisco is the adopted home of a growing flock of Red-masked Parakeets. A true tale is brought to your bookshelf in Mark Bittner's book, "[The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill](#)", and to the big screen in [Judy Irving's feature film](#) of the same name. The film is loaded with romance, humour, life lessons and gripping drama. Your soul will soar with the parakeets when you see this movie. In Toronto, it opened on July 15th at the Varsity VIP Screening Rooms. For a nice look at what you can expect, check out www.wildparrotsfilm.com.

- Michael Biro (on behalf of Natalie Helferty, past President) and Martin Chen

Michael Biro is a birder in Richmond Hill who has a group of birders he takes with him on his trips 'at cost'. If you are interested in getting on Michael's email list, contact him at michaelbiro@rogers.com.

- For those members who may want a **wood duck box** in their local wetland/pond on either public (free) or private (\$160) lands, the TRCA has an initiative to install wood duck nesting boxes on private lands (cost \$160).

I contacted them about the creek in my area to see if this might be a viable project for our group and was told that since this area is public lands they would install it free of charge if the site was appropriate. The box was installed on within a week.

If you know of any suitable areas around town, you can contact John DiRocco at the TRCA 416-661-6600 x 5231.



- In the Northwest of The Netherlands, a **Winter Wren** (the only wren species in the Netherlands) has bred in a farmer's car that was used daily to bring the children to school. It struck the farmer's wife that every time she put the car back in the barn, a wren soon came to the car. After a while she also heard peeps from the car -- and then they found the nest in the wheel house, near the gas filling tube. Despite all the driving, five young had hatched.

The nest was carefully removed and put in a small box near the car. The parent wrens soon found their young again because of the peeping, and the young successfully fledged. Source: Het Vogeljaar - L. van der Vaart.

- submitted by Theo Hofmann on behalf of John van der Woude, The Netherlands.

- September 25, 2005 is **World Rivers Day**, a global celebration of our rivers. A number of activities are already planned, but groups are encouraged to organize their own event. Festivities include stream clean-ups, festivals, educational activities, ceremonial and cultural events and community riverside celebrations. One of the day's major aims is to compliment the goals of the United Nations "Water for Life Decade" initiative which is striving to increase public awareness of the need to better care for our water resources. Watch for [Canadian Geographic's](#) feature on World Rivers Day in the September issue.

- Diana Piche

LOCAL ISSUES

- Early in August Richmond Hill Council was considering making a request to **change the Official Plan** to reclassify some Oak Ridges Moraine land in order to allow building of churches on protected land.

One of the major issues is the proposal to **change to the “Countryside” protected land designation from “Agriculture Policy Area” to “Rural Policy Area”**.

The “Rural” designation would permit construction of some things like churches and recreational facilities but not large scale developments. There is a concern that this could mean that there would be no land protected for purely agricultural uses in Richmond Hill and there is also a fear that this change will open up more land for debate as to the scale of things like churches and recreational facilities that can or should be allowed on these lands, along with the accompanying need for services and paved parking and so forth.

We would be very interested in hearing from our membership regarding what you think about the changes being proposed by Richmond Hill. Contact Sharon Bradley, Environment Co-Chair and member of the executive of Oak Ridges “Friends of the Environment” (905) 773-7415 or sbradley@aci.on.ca.



U.S. agenda is pushing Great Lakes water deal (Article from the St. Catharines Standard, Saturday, July 09, 2005)

Ontario, Quebec and the eight U.S. Great Lakes states recently came to a tentative agreement to regulate water use and prevent almost all water diversion from the Great Lakes, but thanks to the U.S., Canadians have only 60 days to make recommendations on the agreement.

Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay has admitted he failed to negotiate a total ban on water diversion from the lakes -- excluded from the agreement is the “Chicago Diversion”, by which **billions of litres of water are siphoned from Lake Michigan into the Mississippi River**. Illinois wants to increase the project — the largest of its kind on the lakes — in the next few years.

The first of several public meetings on the agreement was held in St. Catharines, but only 25 people showed up. The Ministry of Natural Resources said the province tried to get a 90-day consultation process, but pressure from U.S. states to conclude the agreement prevented that.

American states are arguing for a “limited exception” for U.S. communities near the basin to divert water because they have contaminated ground water. Under the proposal, that water may only be used for a public water supply and all water taken out must be returned to the lakes basin. The Americans are trying to rush this agreement without giving Canadians enough time to make an informed decision.

- Submitted by Diana Piche

EVENTS PAST

- On July 20, 2005 Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment, and Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced the addition of 32 terrestrial species and 7 aquatic species to the [Species at Risk Act](#) (SARA). This is the second group of species added to the list since the Act was proclaimed in 2003.

- In mid-July the OMB approved expansion of the **Dufferin Aggregates Milton Quarry** in Milton by 83 hectares (18%). The Quarry is already the largest active quarry in Canada. The project will have serious adverse consequences for water resources, provincially significant wetlands and species-at-risk. It may also negatively impact the Niagara Escarpment. See http://www.niagaraescarpment.org/dufferin_release.html for more info.

- On July 6, 2005 the first public meeting of the **Oak Ridges Corridor Park Management Plan** was held at the Richvale Community Centre, 160 Avenue Road in Richmond Hill to start preparing a management plan for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park. The new 1,000 acre park is located between Bathurst Street and Bayview Avenue, north of Jefferson Sideroad and south of the community of Oak Ridges.

- On June 21, 2005 the Regional Municipality of York Transportation & Works Department held workshops in the Town of Richmond Hill to obtain public input on **alternatives to landfilling** in Michigan and Ontario. Feedback obtained from these workshops will be used to develop the Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference for the Durham/York “Residual Waste Study” which is examining alternative approaches to waste disposal in York Region. York Region currently exports the majority of its garbage to landfill sites in Michigan.

- On June 13, 2005 Bill 136, the "[Places to Grow Act](#)" passed 3rd reading and received Royal Assent. The Act helps to identify where and how growth should occur, provides for the co-ordination of growth policies among all levels of government, and enables planning for growth in a manner that reflects a broad geographical perspective and is integrated across both *natural* and municipal boundaries. This is an important piece of legislation as it complements the Greenbelt Act since it ensures that community design is addressed with public input into how their community develops. To read the Act go to:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/Bills/38_Parliament/Session1/b136ra_e.htm

- On June 12 the Richmond Hill Canoe Club hosted its annual **Dragon Boat Festival** at Sunset Beach on Lake Wilcox to Celebrate "Canadian Rivers Day". Twenty crews competed during the day including a crew made up of members of the Richmond Hill Naturalists.

- On June 10, 2005 Richmond Hill's "**Healthy Yards Program**" was launched at the Richmond Green where residents could pick up some free mulch, visit the informative displays and enjoy the Richmond Hill Lions Club BBQ.

- On June 9, 2005 a **new Niagara Escarpment Plan** was unveiled. The new Plan is quite similar to the 1994 version of the Plan but does have some modest improvements over the 1994 Plan.

- On June 7 the City of Pickering was named in a contempt application filed with the Ontario Municipal Board for unilaterally terminating agricultural easements in the [Duffins-Rouge Agricultural Preserve](#) at the end of February. Pickering terminated the easements without the knowledge or consent of the other parties to a 1999 agreement that required Pickering to place easements on these lands in order to prevent urbanization.

A coalition of environmental groups, ratepayers and individuals are seeking to enforce the 1999 Ontario Municipal Board Order that created the easements. About 800 hectares of prime agricultural land are affected by the violation of the Order. Although the land continues to carry several restrictive land use designations, including those in the Ontario government's new **Greenbelt Plan** and a Minister of Municipal Affairs Zoning Order, none of the restrictions are permanent, whereas easements are.

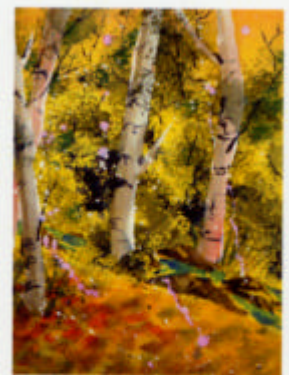
- On June 2, 2005 Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing John Gerretsen announced the appointment of a "**Greenbelt Council**". The council will provide advice on the administration of the Greenbelt and will guide the Government on such matters as the implementation of the Greenbelt Plan, performance measures and the 10-year review of the plan. The council is chaired by Dr. Robert Elgie, a former MPP and cabinet minister. The nine members of the Greenbelt Council are experienced, knowledgeable and are dedicated to greenbelt protection. Council members serve a term of two to three years on a voluntary basis. **Linda Pim**, who is a conservation policy analyst at Ontario Nature, is one of the nine persons appointed to sit on the current council.

- On June 2, 2005 in celebration of Earth Day 2005, [Earth Day Canada](#) recognized many "**local heroes**" by celebrating their valuable efforts and achievements. One of the recipients of the Earth Day Hometown Heroes Award was out very own [Natalie Helferty](#), past President of the Richmond Hill Naturalists. Natalie is thankful that Tracey Etwell (Environment Chair) nominated her for this Award.

See http://www.earthday.ca/EDy2k/hometown/finalists/Natalie_Helferty.php

- On May 24, 2005 Natalie Helferty also received the [Canadian Urban Institute's 'Urban Leadership Award'](#) for her contributions as a member of the [Greenbelt Task Force](#) during a luncheon and award event at the Royal York Hotel. The award was in recognition of "a heck of a lot of volunteer work" [as Natalie put it]. (The Task Force met every Friday all day.) But it was worth it: Not for the Award but for the outcome: a Greenbelt around Toronto!

Valerie Kent
Artist



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NATURE NEWS

- Climate change researchers have detected the first signs of a **slowdown in the Gulf Stream** — the mighty ocean current that keeps Britain and Europe from freezing. They have found that one of the “engines” driving the Gulf Stream — the sinking of supercooled water in the Greenland Sea — has weakened to less than a quarter of its former strength. The weakening could herald big changes in the current over the next few years or decades. Paradoxically, it could lead to Britain and northwestern and Europe undergoing a sharp drop in temperatures. Such a change has long been predicted by scientists but the new research is among the first to show clear experimental evidence of the phenomenon.

See <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1602579,00.html> for the full story.

- 2005 is the Year of Extremes

A NASA scientist, James Hansen, had predicted back in 2004 that 2005 would be the **hottest year on record** in the last 2000 years.

Dr. Hansen has been proven correct!

An El Nino event over the Pacific Ocean has led to global weather extremes, including southern Ontario. We had a record-breaking number of heat days over 30C. Hurricanes and bad weather events in general are also increasing in severity. Toronto's damages from the one severe downpour on Friday, August 19th are estimated at over \$200 million, which included Finch Avenue collapsing south of York University. Severe weather events will become more frequent as climate change effects continue to be felt due to elevated ocean temperatures. Good planning to reduce emissions and increase natural cover will help mitigate extremes in climate.

For more information see: http://www.livescience.com/environment/050210_2005_temp.html and http://www.livescience.com/forcesofnature/ap_050731_hurricanes_stronger.html



BIRD OBSERVATIONS

15 May to 4 August 2005

Peel Region

- Horned Grebe - 4 at Lakeshore Promenade Prt.Credit Apr.28 (SLo).
- American Bittern - 1 at Caledon Area May 28, June 10 (RTa).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron – 1@Lkshr Prom PrtCred Apr28(SLo)
- Cooper's Hawk – 1@Caledon Area Jun10(RTa). 1@Heart Lake Cons Area July 04(BNo).
- Wild Turkey - few daily@Palgrave May1-30(RTa). daily@Palgrave Jun1-30, July 01-16 (RTa).
- Virginia Rail – nest@Heart Lk Cons Jul6[Fledged young](BNo). 1@Caledon Area Jul11(RTa).
- Sora - nesting at Heart Lake Conservation Area July 06 [Fledged young] (BNo).
- Black-billed Cuckoo – 1 at Caledon Area June 10 (RTa).
- Common Raven - 1 at Caledon Area June 10 [Flying over] (RTa).
- Tufted Titmouse - 1 at Lakeshore Promenade Prt Credit Apr.28 (SLo).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1 at Clairville Cons. Area May 07 (GD).
- Purple Martin - several at Centreville Creek July 13 (anon.,PG).
- Cliff Swallow - 6 - 8 Nests at Maple Farms King W of Bolton May 18 (PG).
- Sedge Wren - 1 at Caledon Area May 27 (RTa).
- Veery - 1 at Clairville Cons. Area May 07 (GD).
- Northern Mockingbird - Nesting at Caledon Area June 10 (RTa).
- Blue-winged Warbler - 1 at Caledon Area June 10, July 08 (RTa).
- Golden-winged Warbler - 1 at Humber Valley Herit.Tr.Bolton June 02 [Singing Male] (PG).
- Nashville Warbler - 1 at Heart Lake Conservation Area July 06 (BNo).
- Black-throated Green Warbler - 1 at Heart Lake Conservation Area June 26, July 04 (BNo).

Clay-colored Sparrow - 1 at Humber Valley Herit.Tr.Bolton June 02 [Singing Male] (PG).
Field Sparrow - 4 at Clairville Cons. Area May 07 (GD).
Purple Finch - daily@Palgrave May1-30, Jun1-30, July 01-16 (RTa). 1@Graydon Prpty, Humber Grv Jul13(PG).

York Region

Horned Grebe - 1 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Apr.18 (SLo).
Double-crested Cormorant - 2 at Milne Cons. Area, Markham Apr.18 (SLo).
American Bittern - 1 at N End Bathurst Street May 01 (RJF).
Great Blue Heron - 10nest Nor of Elgin M Apr19(SLo). 1@Nantckt Dr. OkRdgs Apr22-29(SDP).
2@Coyte Pnd, Mrkm Apr29(SLo). 1@Nantckt Dr. OkRdgs May2-15, Jun1-06, Jul1-31(SDP).
1@Okbnk Pnd Thrnhl Jul24,Aug1(MCh). 2@Oakbnk Pnd Thrnhl Jul31, Aug.01-07(TH,DTH).
Turkey Vulture - 15@Reesor Pnd Mrkhm Jun25(SLo). 1wkly@Nantkt Dr. Ok Rdgs Jul1(SDP).
Trumpeter Swan - Tags746,787@Reesor Rd Dewpnd,Tag851@Walden Pnd Unvile Apr16(SLo).
Wood Duck - 5@LkWilcx Jul11[Fledgd](S&JB). 6@Cook's By, Lk Smco Jul20[Fledgd](GEC).
7 at Oakbank Pond Thornhill July 31, Aug.04 (TH,DTH).
Gadwall - 2@Schmbrg Swge Lagns, 2@Holnd Lndng Swge Lagns May21 (KRS,KDu,RJF).
Northern Shoveler - 2 (pair) at Schomberg Sewage Lagoons May 21 (KDu,KRS).
Northern Pintail - 100 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End Apr.23 (RJF,KDu).
Ruddy Duck - 1 M at Reesor Ponds Markham May 27 (SLo).
Osprey - 2@Hochreiter Rd/Bathurst N End May1(RJF). 2 on Georgina Island Aug.6 (TH,PHa)
Northern Harrier - 4@Hochrter Rd/Bathurst N End May1(RJF). 1@Schmbrg Area Jun22(RTa).
Red-shlder'd Hawk -1@Nantkt OkRdgs Apr2,15,May2-15(SDP).1@YRF-Porritt May29(RJF).
2@Faulknr Av Wds May11[Nest/young](ChvR). 4@Flknr Av Wds Jul11[Fledged](ChvR,TH).
Merlin - 1@Church/Weldrick Jun1(FP). 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) July 27 (CMK).
Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 M@Coyote Pnd, Mrkhm Apr19(SLo). 1@Schombrg June 22 (RTa).
Wild Turkey - 1@Bathurst/Green Ln May 01 (RJF). a few at YRF - Porritt Tract May 29 (RJF).
Black-bellied Plover - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham July 29 (SLo).
Semipalmated Plover - 5@Coyote Pnd, Mrkhm May30(SLo). 4@Reesor Pnds Jul26-27(SLo).
Greater Yellowlegs - 10@Hochreiter Rd/Bathrst N End Apr23,May1(RJF,KDu).
Lesser Yellowlegs - 1@Coyte Pnd Mrkhm Apr19(SLo). 3@Hochrtr Rd/Bath NEnd May1 (RJF).
2@Reesor Pnds Mrkhm Jul3, 3 on Jul25(SLo). 2 at Snider Marsh Markham July 30 (CMK).
Solitary Sandpiper - 1@Hochreiter Rd/Bath N End May1(RJF).
1@Woodlnd Pnd Vandorf/Hwy 48 May16(SLo). 1@Snider Mrsh Mrkhm May17, July30 (CMK).
1 at Lumsden Property, Aurora July 20 (HL).
Spotted Sandpiper - 1st in '05@Coyte Pnd, Mrkhm Apr16(SLo). 5@Pnd in Bolton May27(DMi).
Upland Sandpiper - 4 at Coyote Pond, Markham Apr.29 (SLo).
Whimbrel - 1 at Sibbald Point Prov. Park July 15 (MCa fide RJF).
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 3 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 16, 13 on June 08 (SLo).
Least Sandpiper - 14@Schmbrg Swge Lagns May27(DMi). 2@Reesor Pnds Mrkhm Jul1 (SLo)
White-rumped Sandpiper - 4@Coyote Pnd, Mrkhm May 30; 6 on June 08: 3 on July 01 (SLo).
Baird's Sandpiper - 2 Ad at Reesor Ponds Markham July 25-27 (SLo,JI,RJP).
Pectoral Sandpiper - 3 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 27; 2 on July 03 (SLo).
Dunlin - 18@Hochreiter Rd/Bath N End May1(RJF). 3@Schmbrg Swg Lagoons May 27(DMi).
35 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 27 (SLo). 150 at Coyote Pond, Markham May 30 (SLo).
Stilt Sandpiper - 11 at Reesor Ponds Markham July 17 (SLo fide CMK).
Short-billed Dowitcher - 2@Pnd in Bolton May27(DMi). 17@Schmbrg Swg Lgns May 27(DMi).
Long-billed Dowitcher - 1 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End Apr.23 (RJF,KDu).
American Woodcock-1@McCwn/Blmngtn Apr16(RJF). Ad+2yg@Schmbrg Jun12(PKi,JSchm).
Iceland Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 11 (SLo).
Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham Apr.29 (SLo).
Glaucous Gull - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 11 (SLo).

Caspian Tern – 10@Hchrtr R/Bath N End Apr23(RJF,KDu). 6@St Jhns SR Mrsh Apr23 (RJF).
 Black-billed Cuckoo - 1 at Miller SR Newmarket June 11 (RJF, BB).
 Great Horned Owl - 1 at McCowan & Bloomington Apr.16 (RJF).
 Chimney Swift - 1 at Snider Marsh Markham July 28 (CMK).
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1@Kleinburg May10(TS). 1@Wooten Way Mrkhm May16(SLo).
 Belted Kingfisher – 2@Milne Cons Mrkhm Apr18(SLo). 1@Reesor Pnds Mrkhm Jul27(SLo).
 Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at YRF - Porritt Tract May 29 (RJF).
 Common Raven - 1 at Hw9-Pottageville Swamp July 16 (RTa).
 Horned Lark - 1 at Schomberg Area June 22 (RTa).
 Cliff Swallow – few@Cawthra-Mulock Res May15(RJF). 25@Wallace S Wdbrdg Jul14 (TS).
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) Apr.15,21;Aug. 01-02 (CMK).
 2@34 Shdy Ln Thrhnl May3[Adult entering](SVa). 2@Snider Mrsh Mrkhm Jul20-31 (CMK).
 Carolina Wren - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) July 31 (GD).
 Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) May 02 (CMK).
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 2@Shdy Ln Thrhnl May2(SVa). 1@Grenfell Mrkhm May5-10(CMK).
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham May 17 (RJF).
 Veery - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) May 24 (CMK).
 Gray-cheeked Thrush - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) May 28 (CMK).
 Swainson's Thrush – 1@Idleswift Thrhnl May 17(G&CD). 1@Grenfell Markham May 28(CMK).
 Hermit Thrush – 1@Grenfell Markham Apr.30 (CMK).
 Brown Thrasher – 1@Bath/Green Ln May1(RJF). 1@Cawthra-Mulk Res May15(RJF).
 Cedar Waxwing - 2 at Woodbridge May 13 (TS).
 Tennessee Warbler - 1 at Woodbridge May 13 (TS). 1 at YRF - Porritt Tract May 29 (RJF).
 Nashville Warbler – 1@Shady Ln Thrhnl May14(SVa). 1@Uplands, Thornhill May 18 (GD).
 Yellow Warbler - 2 - 6 at Bond Lake Oak Ridges May 15-18 (TM&GR).
 Chestnut-sid'd Warblr – 1@Shady Ln Thrhnl May14(SVa).1@Bnd Lk OkRdgs May18(TM&GR).
 Magnolia Warbler - 1 at Idleswift Thornhill (G.Denzel) May 17 (G&CD).
 Black-throated Blue Warbler - 1 at Uplands Area, Thornhill May 18 (GD).
 Yellow-rumped Warbler - 2 at Bathurst & Green Lane May 01 (RJF).
 Black-throated Green Warbler - 1 at Uplands Area, Thornhill May 18 (GD).
 Blackburnian Warbler – 1@Uplnds Thornhill May18(GD). 1@Bartley Smth Grnwy July 28 (ICa).
 Pine Warbler - 1 M@Porritt Trct Apr16[Singing](RJF). 1@Hochreiter Rd/Bath Apr23(RJF,KDu).
 Palm Warbler - 1 at Uplands Area, Thornhill May 18 (GD).
 Blackpoll Warbler - 1 at YRF - Porritt Tract May 29 (RJF).
 American Redstart – 1@Uplands, Thrhnl May18(GD). 1@Grenfell Mrkhm May 28 (CMK).
 Wilson's Warbler - 1 at YRF - Porritt Tract May 29 (RJF).
 Scarlet Tanager - 1 at Uplands Area, Thornhill May 18 (GD).
 Eastern Towhee – 1@Cawthra-Mulk Res May15(RJF). 1@Miller SR Nwmrkt Jun11(RJF, BB).
 Clay-colored Sparrow – 2@Cawthra-Mulock Res May15,17(RJF fide TH).
 2@Mill SR Nwmrkt Jun11(RJF, BB). 1@11th Conc/7th SR King Jun12 [Singing Male] (BB).
 Grasshopper Sparrow - 2 at Miller SR Newmarket June 11 (RJF, BB).
 Lincoln's Sparrow – 1@Idleswift Thrhnl May16(GD). 1@Hnd Landing May 18 (BB).
 White-throated Sparrow – 1@Grenfell Mrkhm Apr21(CMK). 1@Idleswift Thrhnl May 03 (GD).
 White-crowned Sparrow – 1@Idleswift Thrhnl May3, several May 16 (GD).
 1@Arnold Av Thrhnl May9,10,14(TH,DTH). 1@Grenfell Mrkhm May 09-19 (CMK).
 2 at Smith Trail Newmarket May 13 (TS). 4 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill May 14 (SVa).
 Dark-eyed Junco - 1 (Last of Winter) at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) Apr.21 (CMK).
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 1@Idleswift Thrhnl May7(GD). 1@Shdy Ln Thrhnl May14(SVa).
 2@Arnold Ave., Thornhill May 15 (TH). several at Uplands Area, Thornhill May 18 (GD).
 Indigo Bunting – 1@Grenfell Mrkhm May18(CMK). 1@Islington Av Jun8 [Nest building] (JKi).

Bobolink - many at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve May 15 (RJF).
Brown-headed Cowbird - 15 at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges May 02-15 (SDP).
Orchard Oriole - 1M@MableDavis C.A. NwMrkt May19(KDu,KRS).
2M@Milne Cons, Mrkhm May 20 (SLo,CMK). 2 (pair) at SW of Schomberg May 26 (JSchm).
Baltimore Oriole – 1@Bnd Lk OkRdgs May10-14(TM&GR). 1@Cwthra-Mlck Res May15 (RJF).
2 M at Snider Marsh Markham May 17 (CMK). 1 at Uplands Area, Thornhill May 18 (GD).
'Family' nesting at Nantucket Dr. Oak Ridges July ?? [Unknown Date] (SDP).
Purple Finch - 1 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol Mck) May 03 (CMK).

Durham Region

Trumpeter Swan - 1 at Oshawa Second Marsh Aug.01 (GD).

Toronto

Common Loon - 20 at Colonel Samuel Smith Park Apr.28 (GD).
Horned Grebe - 2 at Colonel Samuel Smith Park Apr.28 (GD).
Mute Swan - 2 (pair) nesting at Colonel Samuel Smith Park Apr.28 (GD).
Trumpeter Swan - 4 at Scarb-Pickering Line N Finch Aug.01 (GD fide TH). Not banded?
Northern Mockingbird - 2 (pair) at Colonel Samuel Smith Park Apr.28 (GD).

Out-of-Area

Common Loon - 2 at New Brunswick July 04 (MCh).
Bald Eagle - 1 Ad at July 04 (MCh).
American Avocet - 25 at Van Wagners Beach Hamilton May 02 (GL,RCu).
Willet - 13 at Van Wagners Beach Hamilton May 02 (GL,RCu).
Black Guillemot - 1 at New Brunswick July 04 (MCh).

BB Bruce Brydon, BNo Bob Noble, ChvR Christel von Richter, CMK Carol McKnight, DMi Dave Milsom, DTH Doris Hofmann, FP Frank Pinilla, G&CD Gene & Charlene Denzel, GD Gene Denzel, GEC George E Connell, GL Graham Leonard, HL Harry Lumsden, ICa Ian Cannell, JI Jean Iron, JKi Jane Kirkpatrick, JNo Joanne Nonnekes, JSchm John Schmelefske, KDu Keith Dunn, KRS Kevin Shackleton, MCA Mary Carnahan, MCh Martin Chen, NH Natalie Helferty, PG Phyllis Graydon, PHa Paul Harpley, PKi Pam Kirkpatrick, RCu Robert Cubbitt, RJF Ron Fleming, RJP Ron Pittaway, RTa Roger Taylor, S&JB Sharon & Jim Bradley, SDP Susan DiPucchio, SLo Stan Long, SVa Sandy Vanderbrug, TH Theo Hofmann, TM&GR Theresa McKenzie & Glenn Reed, TS Tessa Shelvey.

From the Editor

I remember a time when I was young and I took the elevator up to the observation deck of the CN Tower in downtown Toronto. As I walked about inside the glassed-in areas of the deck the person I was with squinted into the distance and asked me, "How far do you think you can see? It's been said that a person may be able to see up to 120km on a clear day from the [CN Tower](#). That seems far, but you know that from up here we can see more than one third of the Class 1 farmland in Canada, but sadly, much of this land is already paved over."

That was years ago. It was something I have never forgotten, and it has stayed in my mind as I watched more and more farms being subdivided into suburban lots twisting and turning into nowhere, with grassed over lawns and paved driveways leading to the paved streets and only the minimum effort put into parks and essentially no effort being put into gardens. These once prolific farms – the best in Canada -- are now places that have little potential for growing food.

People move to suburban houses because they feel they are moving away from the city and to the country. But, as James Howard Kunstler says, "*Suburbia is not country living — It's a cartoon of country living, and a cartoon of the country, in a cartoon of a country house.*" As I have grown up in this area I have seen the systematic destruction of the local agriculture around this town – around Toronto – and I just wonder how long this can continue. After all, only 0.5% of Canada's land is considered class 1 under the [Canada Land Inventory](#) (CLI), more than 50% of this class 1 land is found in Ontario, and at least 20% of class 1 land in Ontario is already urbanized.

But at least the current Provincial Government is taking steps to put in a Greenbelt and has a new Growth Plan that allows the public to now decide how communities will function and look. Cities are "people places" that need to function in tune with nature and the land. It's time to stop doodling and to really start drawing up blueprints for our future. 'Peak oil' and climate change will mean we have to start living honest "down-to-earth" lives -- not in a cartoon. There is no escaping from reality. We must learn to embrace what we have created, whether we like it or not. It's time to fix the mistakes of our past and prevent those same ones of the future.

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