



# THE BULLETIN

April 2007 No. 463

## 2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

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## Events calendar

### Park Tree Planting

**Friday April 20, 2007. 10am**  
Where: Phyllis Rawlinson Park  
Leslie Street just north of 19th Ave

### Annual Mill Pond Cleanup

**Saturday April 28, 2007. 9:30am**  
Location: Mill Pond, Richmond Hill  
Contact: Marianne Yake

### Executive Meeting

**Tuesday May 8, 2007. 7:30pm**  
Where: Robert Holland Centre

### General Meeting

**Thursday September 21, 2007. 7:30pm**  
Speaker: To Be Announced  
Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church,  
Wallace Hall. 10066 Yonge St.  
North of Major Mackenzie Dr., West side

**Check for more Events and Outings on Page 2**

## How to Get Wall Street to Hug a Tree

Environmentalists and investment bankers are working together to put a price tag on nature. The new 'greens' think that human beings are ready to start paying for Mother Nature's services-and that calculating their financial worth will save the planet.

Increasingly, economic measures are being used to assess ecosystems by way of the universally comprehensible currency of money. The calculations can be quite explicit: A recent study by the [World Wildlife Fund](#) reckoned that the bees that pollinate a Costa Rican coffee farmer's crop, and by extension the nearby forest where the bees live, are worth as much as \$60,000 annually to the farmer. Last year, two entomologists, one from Cornell University and the other from the [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#), figured that a \$60-billion-a-year chunk of the U.S. economy is supported by wild bugs such as dung beetles and bees that pollinate plants, hasten the decomposition of manure, feed on crop pests and end up as dinner for birds, small mammals and fish.

And such huge numbers can be compelling. In 1997 a team of scientists led by [Robert Costanza](#), then with the University of Maryland, published a study in *Nature* that estimated the value of all the ecosystems and natural capital on the planet. The very rough figure: \$33 trillion a year.

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*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: [editor@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:editor@rhnaturalists.ca) **Deadlines are the 2nd Thursday 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

Mailing Database: Mike Turk

Distribution: Athena Antiochos

Visit our Website at [www.rhnaturalists.ca](http://www.rhnaturalists.ca)

#### 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. You may also sign up or renew at <http://www.rhnaturalists.ca/membership/>

#### NEW MEMBERS:

*Paul (Jong Ha) Lee (Student)*  
*Heather Mackey (Toronto)*

*Meet new members at club events and say Hello!*

## EVENTS FUTURE

-  - **Friday April 20, 2007.** 10am-3pm. **Phyllis Rawlinson Park tree planting** on Leslie Street just north of 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. Work gloves recommended. Volunteers needed! Contact Marianne Yake [president@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:president@rhnaturalists.ca).
-  - **Sunday April 22, 2007.** 8:00am Ron Fleming will guide a group of birders to **Tiny Marsh** on their annual Call Ron Fleming. Ontario Field Ornithologists. Meet at the Hwy 9 / Hwy 400 commuter parking lot or 9am at Tiny Marsh Nature Centre. See details at [www.ofo.ca](http://www.ofo.ca).
-  - **Sunday April 22, 2007.** 2pm-4pm. **Earth Day Celebrations @ Phyllis Rawlinson Park.** Hiking, planting & pond dipping along with Earth inspired Arts and crafts. Contact Laura @ 905-787-1441x231 [lyakutchik@richmondhill.ca](mailto:lyakutchik@richmondhill.ca).
-  - **Saturday April 28, 2007.** 9:30am. Annual **Mill Pond Cleanup!** Contact Tom Waechter [trips@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:trips@rhnaturalists.ca)
-  - **Saturday April 28, 2007.** 10am - 2pm. **Oak Ridges Community Clean Up.** Clean up the winter litter from our parks, wetlands and public areas. Contact Kathrine Mabley, [Kathrine.mabley@gmail.com](mailto:Kathrine.mabley@gmail.com).
-  - **Tuesday May 8, 2007.** 7:30pm. The May **Executive Meeting** will be held at [Phyllis Rawlinson Park](http://www.rhnaturalists.ca).
-  - **Saturday May 19, 2007.** 8:00am. **Mill Pond Birding** led by Gene Denzel. Meet at north end of Mill Pond.
-  - **Sunday June 3, 2007.** Noon – 4pm. Mill Pond Splash at the Mill Pond. This is one of the most important events of the spring. The *Richmond Hill Naturalists* will have their booth and will be assisting with tree planting, cleanups, hikes and other fund events. **Drop by and say hello!**  
**Please note: Richmond Hill Naturalists welcomes anyone to volunteer as an outing leader.**
-  - **Saturday April 21, 2007.** 10am-2pm. **April Spring Forest Festival**, Eldred King Woodland. Walk and tree planting. Don't forget to bring work gloves and shovel too...
-  - **Saturday April 27-29, 2007.** 10am-9pm. **Green Living Show**. Over 200 Exhibitors with practical 'Greenovations'. Entertainers, Eco experts, Authors and Guest Speakers. Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto. Tickets \$10 (seniors \$6, children under 12 Free). Friday, Saturday. Sunday 10-6pm. [www.greenliving.ca](http://www.greenliving.ca)
-  - **Saturday April 28, 2007.** 6pm–8pm. Environmental Defence **Pollution Fight Night**. A special evening celebrating pollution fighters who are making a difference in their communities. A benefit for Environmental Defence's **Toxic Nation** Campaign. Wesley Godden 416-323-9521x235 or [wgodden@environmentaldefence.ca](mailto:wgodden@environmentaldefence.ca). For more info go to <http://www.environmentaldefence.ca/events/pollutionfightnight.htm>. \$125.

-  - **Sunday April 29, 2007.** 1:30-3:30pm. **Nature walk** with Robert Marshall at Rouge Park. Easy to moderately difficult on nature trails. Meet at the Rouge Marsh. Rain or shine. Call 416-282-8265 or 416-282-0453 for details.
-  - **Sunday April 29, 2007.** 2-4pm. A discussion by the authors of "**The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating**", a new new book by [Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon](#). Inspired by the statistic that on average, our food travels 1,500 miles to our plates, for a year the couple ate only food grown within a 100-mile radius of their home. Takes place at the Seniors Centre at 5 Municipal Way in Aurora. Call 905-727-8214 to register. Presented by Aurora's the environmental advisory committee as part of its Get Eco-Fit series. This event is free.
-  - **Monday April 30, 2007.** 5:30–8pm. Richmond Hill's "**Going Green**" **Open House** at the Oak Ridges Recreation Centre on Old Colony Road. The **Green Bin** has finally arrived in Richmond Hill. If you are confused as to what garbage goes where, this session is for you. The Open Houses are designed to provide full information and answer all of your questions about this important waste diversion program.
-  - **Sunday May 6, 2007.** 9am–12noon. Rouge Headwaters **Spring Tree Planting**. Yonge Street and Townwood Drive, (just north of Tower Rd/Jefferson Forest Dr. on the west side). Ontario Streams and the Town of Richmond Hill are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help plant over 300 trees and shrubs in a headwater area of the Rouge River. Contact Christine Pritchard 905-713-7399, [Christine.pritchard@ontariostreams.on.ca](mailto:Christine.pritchard@ontariostreams.on.ca)
-  - **Monday May 7, 2007.** 7:30pm. The [TFN](#) host a multi-media presentation, "**The Boreal Forest**", at St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts. Contact Jennifer at 416-444-8419 or e-mail [jenniferb@ontarionature.org](mailto:jenniferb@ontarionature.org).
-  - **Tuesday May 8, 2007.** 6-9pm. **Planning for Tomorrow** public input session. OMB Hearing Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Town of Richmond Hill building on Leslie. York Region is asking for your input on several growth scenarios developed over the past year. See [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) or call 905-830-4444x1526.
-  - **Saturday May 12, 2007.** 9:30am–12:30pm. **Jefferson Forest Hike** with ORTA. 7 km loop at moderate pace with steep hills. Meet at Sunset Beach parking lot, Bethesda Sdrd. and Bloomington Rd. For information contact hike leader *Peter Attfield* at 905-773-3935.
-  - **Wednesday May 16, 2007.** 6pm–8pm. Richmond Hill 'Spring Dig-In' **Moraine Walk and Stewardship at Briar Nine Park and Reserve**. Meet at the playground area in the southwest corner of the park on the south side if Bloomington Rd. east of Bathurst. (Street parking is available near the park entrance on Bloomington Trail Richmond Hill) For info contact Kelly at 416-596-1495, x244 or [kelly@evergreen.ca](mailto:kelly@evergreen.ca)
-  - **Thursday May 31, 2007.** 2pm–7pm. Richmond Hill **Healthy Yards Event** at the Richmond Green, Leslie and Elgin Mills. The Healthy Yards Program seeks to encourage and educate residents about the importance of planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers on their own property as well as ecologically-sound lawn-care practices. It also features [subsidized native plant kits](#) and [organic lawn care kits](#) (residents of Richmond Hill only). Contact Richmond Hill's Natural Heritage Section at 905-771-8800 or [naturalheritage@richmondhill.ca](mailto:naturalheritage@richmondhill.ca)
-  - **Saturday June 2, 2007.** 10am-noon. **Humber Flats EcoPark Tree planting**. Humber Flats is Located on Red Cardinal Dr., two blocks south of Bloomington Rd. (between Yonge and Bathurst). For info call Kelly at Evergreen, 416-596-1495, x244 or [kelly@evergreen.ca](mailto:kelly@evergreen.ca).
-  - **Saturday and Sunday June 16 & 17, 2007.** **The Moraine For Life Adventure Relay**. A non-stop 160km Team Challenge! Run, Hike, Bike Paddle... No experience necessary. Up to 15 people per team. For more information contact the [Oak Ridges Trail Association](#) at 1-877-319-0285 or go to: [www.moraineadventure.com](http://www.moraineadventure.com).

...Continued from Page 1

## MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

The [Natural Capital Project](#) is a new \$15-million-plus program seeking to make conservation "economically attractive". It is a collaboration of Stanford's [Woods Institute for the Environment](#), the [Nature Conservancy](#) and the [World Wildlife Fund](#). The project will measure the carbon, hydrology and biodiversity benefits of the Afromontane region of East Africa; China's upper Yangtze River basin; California's Sierra Nevada range; and the islands of Hawaii. The goal is to put a price tag on all of them.

The hope is that once the spectrum of nature's needs and human activities are analyzed together, planners can make development decisions that minimize environmental costs while maximizing investment.

Reaching out to the likes of Goldman Sachs and other powerhouse financial institutions is part of the broader quest to show the world that capital markets could do wonders for environmental protection-and that there could be big money in nature for pioneering investors.

- Submitted by Diana Piché

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**RHN Bird Group Meeting in March** - By Muriel Farrant

On Wednesday March 14, 2007 5 members of the **Bird Group** gathered at Martin Chen's home to discuss the **Blackpoll** and **Black-and-White Warblers**. Some of our discussion revealed the following:



**Black-and-White Warbler (Mniotilta varia)**

These tiny 5 inch early spring migrants with their black and white striped crown and back are distinctive in all plumages. They can be found early in the season creeping along the tree trunks and branches gleaning insects and eggs from between bark crevices – or later in the season examining leaf clusters for beetles and caterpillars.

They breed in deciduous or mixed forests with heavy undergrowth. Their nest is often found against the base of a shrub or tree, holding 4 or 5 white or cream-coloured eggs dotted with brown. Incubation is 10-12 days and young leave the nest 8-10 days after hatching.

They nest from southern Northwest Territories, Alberta and central Saskatchewan to Newfoundland south to eastern Montana, central Texas, and North Carolina to Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia. They winter from Florida, southern Texas and Mexico southward to Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia.



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**Blackpoll Warbler (Dendroica striata)**

The blackpoll is a late spring migrant,

usually arriving toward the end of the warbler migration. The spring male has a large black cap, white cheek patch with a black moustachial stripe. It has a streaked gray back, streaking on the breast and flanks and two white wing bars. Breeding females are duller overall. They have a similar pattern except they have a pale eyebrow stripe, a greenish cap and upperparts and dusky streaks and underparts washed with yellowish and finely striped sides.

In fall as they head south all have a greenish coat looking more like bay-breasted warblers. Pale legs and white undertail identify the Blackpoll (Bay-breasted has dark legs, buffy under-tail coverts and a trace of chestnut on its flanks).

Blackpolls are sluggish and deliberate feeders of mostly insects with a few seeds and berries making up their diet, and tend to feed at upper and middle levels and stay within the canopy.

The nest is found in your conifers from 2-6 feet off the ground, or sometimes even on the ground. These warblers lay 4-5 white or off-white eggs marked with brown or lavender. Incubation is at least 11 days and the chick's eyes open when 5 days old. Both adults feed the young and they fledge 11-12 days after hatching.

Blackpolls breed from northern Alaska to southern Labrador and Newfoundland south to central British Columbia and east to western Massachusetts and southern Nova Scotia. They winter in South America east of the Andes in Colombia, Venezuela and Suriname – and some go as far as Chile and Argentina.

These champion long-distance migrants travel overland in spring but autumn migrants travel non-stop over open ocean from southern Canada and northwest U.S. to their wintering grounds in South America.

- Muriel Farrant



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**HONEYBEE LOSSES reaching Canada**

**Ontario beekeepers to seek financial aid - JOHN PARTRIDGE 14/04/07 Globe and Mail**



Beekeepers in Ontario are gearing up to ask the provincial government for financial aid after unusually high losses of honeybees over the winter that they figure have already cost them more than \$5-million.

Brent Halsall, president of the [Ontario Beekeepers' Association](#), said yesterday he plans to send a letter to [Leona Dombrowsky](#), Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, seeking funds to help pay for replacement bees and research to identify the cause or causes of the unusually high winter mortality rate.

Beekeepers and Agriculture Ministry officials say they have not yet found evidence to suggest that the killer is a mysterious condition dubbed "colony collapse disorder" that has devastated honeybee populations in about two dozen U.S. states since last fall. Instead, they are inclined to blame the unusual winter weather.

In Ontario, the losses are expected to total about **30 per cent** across the province this year, nearly twice the 18-per-cent average of the past 10 to 15 years, although in the southwestern section of the province they have been running at about **50 per cent**, and in at least one case, as high as **90 per cent**. The 30 per cent translates into about 23,000 colonies or hives, each of which would boast 40,000 to 60,000 bees – or 900 million to 1.38 billion of the insects in all.

There have also been anecdotal reports of unusually high losses this winter in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta -- which, with an average of about 220,000 colonies operating each year, produces more honey than any other province.

A similar mysterious decimation of bee populations in Germany also has beekeepers worried there.

***The consequences for agriculture and the economy could be enormous if bee populations collapse Worldwide!***

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### ***"What can you do to stop climate change?"***

The **Ministry of the Environment** (MOE) along with the **Ministry of Research and Innovation** (MRI) announced two new contests for Ontario's children and youth that ask this timely question.

These contests have great prizes and offer the chance for international recognition.

For more information, please visit the E-Zone's contest page at:

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/ezone/contest/index.php?color=blue> OR <http://www.obviously.ca/contest>.

Climate change is at the top of mind for many in the province and the government of Ontario is actively doing its part to address this critical issue. Part of this strategy involves engaging all Ontarians on what they can do to help find a solution to this significant problem.

Because today's students will become tomorrow's environmental leaders, we believe that the Ministry should engage and empower Ontario's children and youth on this vital issue by launching MOE's new websites aimed at young Ontarians. This is a great opportunity for your children to have their voice heard on this most important issue and we encourage you to have a look at the contest information on the websites and ask that you please pass this email on to anyone you believe may be interested - educators, students, fellow parents and concerned Ontarians.

Thank you for your time and good luck to all of Ontario's students!

Regards,

Daniel Cayen

Director, Transboundary Air Unit, MOE

- Submitted by Diana Piché

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## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **Richmond Hill Establishes New Tree Preservation By-law**

Richmond Hill Council passed a new By-law on March 19, 2007 that regulates the destruction or injury of trees on private lands within the Town of Richmond Hill. Specifically it requires residents to get a permit to injure or destroy any tree on private property that has a diameter of 20 cm or more as measured 1.4 metres above the ground. Permit applications are available on the Richmond Hill web site or from the Town offices or Operations Centre.

The application process requires an Arborist's report on the tree or trees prepared by a certified Arborist and the payment of a fee. There are some exceptions for dead, diseased or hazardous trees but these must be certified by an Arborist before removal. Like all By-laws there are penalties for contravention.

For more information on the By-law including a downloadable brochure or to get an application form visit:

[http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pageid=tree\\_preservation\\_bylaw](http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pageid=tree_preservation_bylaw)

- From The Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment E-News

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The Lake Erie Archipelago Islands are home to the most remote and diverse colonial bird colonies on the Great Lakes. Colonial birds, such as **great blue herons**, **black-crowned night herons**, **great egrets**, and **double-crested cormorants** are present in numbers of national significance. The coastal area provides habitat for a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, and herring gulls nest on the rocky shoreline. The Lake Erie Archipelago Islands are a jewel in an otherwise congested and polluted Great Lakes. They are as undisturbed and wild as any area can be in the province. The dynamic but tranquility of the communal nesting bird colonies are both humbling and inspiring to witness. Sadly, these two islands are scheduled for culling operations to dismantle the double-crested cormorant colonies. In doing so, these islands will be altered forever. This spring could be the last opportunity to witness their beauty untouched.



The **Peaceful Parks Coalition**, a non-profit organization ([www.peacefulparks.org](http://www.peacefulparks.org)) is organizing **boat tours** visiting the colonies of **East Sister Island** and **Middle Island** scheduled for **May 26 and 27, June 2 and 3, and June 9 and 10, 2007**. Cost is \$100 per person. Tours are a full day and leave from Leamington Ontario. Space is limited. All boats are completely insured, medical certified and Transport Canada Safety inspected & approved.

For more information, please call 416.785.8636 or email [ppc@peacefulparks.org](mailto:ppc@peacefulparks.org)

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The **Ontario Power Authority's** (OPA's) is planning to build another \$600 million **Hydro Transmission Corridor** !

The OPA is calling for **Hydro One** to construct a new high-voltage transmission corridor through the city's east end to carry nuclear-generated electricity to the city's downtown. The Megaproject is being dubbed the "**East Toronto transmission line**". If built, the giant 10-storey transmission towers would be easily visible from east Toronto backyards, parks and schoolyards and would pass through Markham, Scarborough, Leaside and Riverdale to the waterfront. Their plan for the new towers is in response to the OPA's single-minded focus on an old-style centralized power system fed by three giant nuclear plants. Toronto only generates about 2% of its own power within the city's limits. Compare this to New York City, which is required (by law) to have the capacity to generate 80% of its electricity *within the city's boundaries*.

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York Regional has shortlisted a **Greenbelt location** in East Gwillimbury a the site for a new **waste incinerator**

During a recent public consultation York Region consultants had indicated that they would not select this site. Last fall, Kelly Spitzig and Andy Campbell from York Region made a presentation promising that incinerator shortlist sites would not be located on Greenbelt lands. However, the East Gwillimbury site, located on the "**protected countryside**" portion of the provincial Greenbelt, appeared on the shortlist released at the end of March. The list was approved by York Regional council.

The lands are proposed "employment lands" scheduled for an upcoming Official Plan Amendment in East Gwillimbury. When [the Town of East Gwillimbury](#) had released its plans for these lands last year, the [York Simcoe Naturalists](#) had immediately raised concerns with the Town about intrusion onto Greenbelt lands.

The site is not appropriate for an incinerator because it will pollute the surrounding area with dioxins and mercury, rendering produce nearby potentially unsafe and impacting birds and fish in the area, which is in the Black River watershed, and is adjacent to meadows, mixed forest and intensive agricultural lands.

In 1999 the Ministry of the Environment released a study that noted that an incinerator would likely render mercury and dioxin levels unsafe for nearby fish and wildlife and contaminate local foods.

A [Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority](#) Study also noted that the Black River is already contaminated with several heavy metals, including mercury.

The announcement comes after the region refused to disclose to the public the air pollution controls set forth in its procurement plans, any potential conflicts of interest or the long list of sites. The Region's consultants for the project have also refused to discuss the environmental impacts of the project from air pollution or how the highly hazardous fly ash waste would be disposed of.

- Laura Bowman, Public Consultation Coordinator, York Simcoe Naturalists, 416-873-8752

## NATURE NEWS

### Richmond Hill's Jefferson Forest under Threat for Development!

The town of Richmond Hill approved in September 2006 the demolition of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Log Cabin formerly owned by famous artist Isabel McLaughlin. Ms. McLaughlin was a prominent Canadian artist who trained under the group of seven. She founded the Canadian Group of Painter in 1933 following the breakup of the Group of SEven and became it's first woman president in 1939. She was awarded the Order of Ontario in 1993 and the Order of Canada in 1998. The cabin was built in the 1870's and was relocated to the property in Jefferson forest in the 1950's. A.Y. Jackson painted the shutters on the cabin. Trees have been removed to put in an 8500 square foot house on the site, replacing the cabin. This is contrary to both the Oak Ridges Conservation Act and OPA 218. Carrie Hoffelner is working with town council to address the violation.

- **Rouge Park** is looking for experienced birders to participate in the **2nd Breeding Bird Survey** this summer. Volunteers are needed to identify and document the level of breeding evidence observed for all bird species within the Park from May - June. Please pass this message on to anyone who might be interested in participating. For more information, or to register, please contact [birdcount@rougepark.com](mailto:birdcount@rougepark.com) or 905-713-7729  
- Vicki MacDonald, Biologist, Rouge Park [www.rougepark.com](http://www.rougepark.com)

- Gene Denzel is once again doing the **Baillie Birdathon** on behalf of the Richmond Hill Naturalists in May. Please support his efforts in the annual fundraising event. Please contact Gene at [lezned@yorku.ca](mailto:lezned@yorku.ca) or 905-889-7888. Donations go to Bird Studies Canada with 25% coming back to our club!

### What is that Sound? Frogs and Toads!

With the warmer temperatures come curious sounds from our natural spaces. An evening stroll by a pond or wetland will be greeted by various sounds like peeps, glunks, clucks or trills. These sounds are the mating calls of our local frogs and toads.

The earliest in the season are in order, Wood Frogs, Spring Peepers, Leopard Frogs, American Toad, Grey Treefrogs, Green Frogs and Bullfrogs follow as the air and water warms up. For more information and aids to identifying the specific sources of the marsh sounds visit:

<http://www.torontozoo.com/AdoptAPond/frogs.asp>

Of course spring also brings the return of the birds, both those who stay in our area and those passing through to the north. The Bird Studies Canada field centre at Long Point on Lake Erie compiles a weekly report of what is passing through so you can anticipate what you might see during their travels.

Visit <http://www.bsc-eoc.org:80/lpbo/sightings.html> for more info.

- Adapted from The Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment E-News



### Good news – Mount Nemo on the Niagara Escarpment

Nelson Aggregates proposed quarry expansion is being fought by PERL (Protecting Escarpment Rural Lands, co-founded by singer Sarah Harmer). Jefferson salamander wetlands declared provincially significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Sarah's musical documentary, Escarpment Blues, of her singing tour across the escarpment won her a Juno award. Natalie Helferty is helping PERL on Jefferson salamander ecology.

[www.perloburlington.org](http://www.perloburlington.org)

- On Friday, March 30, 2007 [CBC News](#) reported that a team of Canadian and U.S. scientists have reported that **large predator sharks** are now “functionally extinct”. The overfishing of large shark species off the eastern seaboard of the United States has upset the balance of marine life. The huge decline in big sharks such as hammerheads over the past 35 years has caused a dangerous ripple effect through the marine food chain.

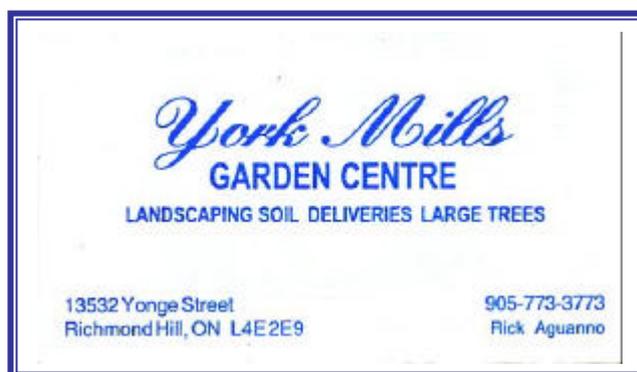
Because the sharks are no longer there to perform their role of controlling ‘middle predators’ in the marine ecosystem, this has resulted in an explosion in the numbers of fish the sharks once ate, such as the [cownose ray](#), whose population has grown by 20X in 30 years (to around 40 million). This has in turn resulted in a crash in the populations of bay scallops and oysters as well as soft and hard-shell clams. Therefore, the decline in sharks is in fact partly responsible for the collapse of the century-old bay-scallop fishery.

## EVENTS PAST

- On March 30, 2007 the Ontario Government put forward [Bill 184](#), the revised **Endangered Species Act** for second reading. The Act is the result of extensive public and industry consultations carried out by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Opposition parties calling more delay even though Ontario’s leading environmental groups are underlining the necessity for quick action. The Bill sets out an innovative and promising new approach to protecting and recovering Ontario’s endangered plants and animals, while addressing the concerns of landowners and resource users. The public was invited to comment on the proposed legislation until April 19, 2007. MNR will host town hall meetings across Ontario in May.

- On Wednesday March 14, 2007 Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Minister of the Environment John Baird announced that the Government of Canada intends to invest \$225 million in a “matching funds” initiative to conserve ecologically significant lands across southern Canada over the next five years.

The **Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)** has agreed to lead this ambitious new effort that will protect ecologically significant lands all across Canada, from prairie grasslands, to old-growth woodlands, to shorelines on each coast. There could hardly be a better time to support the NCC!



## BIRD OBSERVATIONS

March 2007

### Peel Region

Great Blue Heron - 4 at Humber Station Road Heronry March 22 (GoC).

Wood Duck - 2 at Albion Trail March 30 (GoC).

Ring-necked Duck - 8 at Pond King-Caledon S.R. March 30 (GoC).

Common Merganser - 5 at Pond King-Caledon S.R. March 30 (GoC).

Northern Harrier - 1 at Caledon East March 19 (GoC). 1 at King-Caledon S.R. March 30 (GoC).

Northern Goshawk - 1 at Caledon East March 01 (GoC).

American Kestrel - 1 at Dixie & Mayfield rds. March 20 (GoC). 1 at King-Caledon S.R. March 30 (GoC).

Wild Turkey – 4@Albion Trail Mar 12(GoC). 7@Hall's Lk & Wolfe Rd. Mar 23(GoC). 26 @Albion Trail Mar 30(GoC).

American Woodcock – 4@Albion Trl Mar27(GoC)-Call&Display.

Eastern Screech-Owl – 1 at Mountainview Rd. Caledon March 27 (GoC).

Northern Flicker - 2 at Albion Trail March 30 (GoC).

Pileated Woodpecker – 1@Graydon Property, Humber Grv Mrch1(PG). 1@Hall's Lk/Wolfe Rd. Mar23(GoC).  
1@Albion Trail Mar 30 (GoC).

Carolina Wren – 2@Caledon-King Twnln Mar1(anon fide PG). 2nd Wren joined for half of Feb@suet feeder.

Varied Thrush - 1 at Heart Lake Conservation Area March 22 (BNo).

White-winged Crossbill - 2 at Graydon Property, Humber Grove March 01 (PG).

## York Region

- Common Loon - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve March 31 [Flying NJ] (RJF,RHNC).  
Great Blue Heron - 2 at Lake Wilcox March 21,29 (S&JB).  
5 at Heronry on Leslie N of Elgin M March 22; 11 on 24 (GL).  
Turkey Vulture – 2@Bathurst,Aurora & Newmarket Mar16[Flying NJ](RJF). 1@Bayview/16th,Rich Hill Mar18(GL).  
2@Keele/Kirby SR March 29 (S&JB).  
Snow Goose - 1 at Reesor Ponds Markham March 13 (SLo).  
Trumpeter Swan - 10 (tagged) at Pond on Dufferin S of Hwy 9 March 16 (KDu fide RJF).  
Tundra Swan – 41 @N End Bathurst St Mar12(RJF), 25 on Mar27(CDu,JuM). 52 @Hochreiter Rd/Bathurst Mar23(RJF).  
Wood Duck – 4@Hochreiter Rd/Bathurst Mar23(RJF). 6@Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons March 29 (RJF).  
2@Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons March 31 (RJF,RHNC).  
American Black Duck - 10 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End March 23 (RJF).  
Northern Shoveler - 5 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End March 23 (RJF).  
Northern Pintail – 50@Hchrtr Rd/Bthrst Mar23(RJF);20 on Mar31(RJF,RHNC). 40@Hchrtr Rd/Bthrst Mar27(CDu,JuM).  
20 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End March 31 (RJF,RHNC).  
Green-winged Teal – 25 @Hchrtr Rd/Bthrst Mar27(CDu,JuM). 15@Hochreiter Rd/Bathurst Mar31(RJF,RHNC).  
Canvasback - 2 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End March 23 (RJF).  
Ring-necked Duck – 2@Hochreiter Rd/Bathurst Mar23(RJF). 2 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons March 29 (RJF).  
6@St Johns SR Mrsh Mar 29;18 on Mar31(RJF). 6@Hllnd Lndng Swge Lagns Mar31(RJF,RHNC)  
Hooded Merganser - 2(pair)@W Humber Riv Kortright Mar23(JuM). 2(pair)@Lk Wilcox Mar24(S&JB).  
2@Hllnd Lndng Swg Lgns Mar29(RJF). 2(pair)@St Johns SR Marsh Mar29; 6 on Mar31(RJF).  
Common Merganser - 8 at St Johns SR Marsh March 31 (RJF).  
Northern Harrier - 1M@Holland Marsh York Mar10(RJF). 1 @N End Bathurst St Mar16(RJF).  
1@Hochreiter Rd/Bathurst N End Mar31(RJF,RHNC).  
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1@Grenfell Markham Mar2(CMcK). 1@Grenfell Mrkhm Mar19(CMcK). (eating Junco)  
Cooper's Hawk – 1@Lk Wilcox Mar5(S&JB). 1@Lk Wilcox Mar15(S&JB). (Caught Mourning Dove in mid-air).  
1(almost daily)@Lk Wilcox Mar20-29(S&JB). 1M@Arnold Ave, Thrnhl Mar21(TH,DTH).  
1@W End Holborn Rd Mar29(RJF). 1@Langstaff Eco-Park Mar31[Flying West](TH).  
1@Cawthra-Mulock Reserve March 31(RJF,RHNC). (Carrying kill).  
Northern Goshawk - 1 at YRF North Tract March 09 (RJF).  
Red-shouldered Hawk – 1 @Hwy 9/Newmarket Mar1-2(CDu,JuM). 1@Faulkner Ave Woods Mar23(ChvR).  
1@Kennedy W of YRF N Tract Mar23(ChvR). 1@Hwy 400/16th SR King Mar31(GoC).  
Rough-legged Hawk – 1@W. End Ravenshoe Rd. Mar17(KRS).  
Late Golden Eagle - 1 Juv at Keele St. N of Hwy 9 March 10 [Migrant] (RJF).  
American Kestrel – 2@Holland Marsh Mar10(RJF). 1 @Centre St/Hwy 7 Mar21(TH). 1F@Leslie Heronry Mar22(GL).  
1M@Redstone & Frank Endean Dr. RH March 24 (GL).  
Peregrine Falcon - 2 at Hwy 7 and 404 March 07 (SiB).  
Wild Turkey – 33@Jane St.East side, N of King SR Mar4(RBHS,WP). 5@M.MacK/Hwy.27 Mar16(JLo).  
10@M.MacK/Hwy.27 Mar17(JLo).  
Killdeer - 4 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love March 27 (JLo).  
American Woodcock – 1M@Bathurst N of Morningside Rd Mar23(BB) [Singing]. 4M @M.MacK/Hwy.27 Mar26(JLo).  
1@Cawthra-Mulock Reserve March 29 (RJF).  
Snowy Owl - 1 at W. End Ravenshoe Rd. March 03 (KDu fide RJF). 1 Ad-M at Holland Marsh York March 10,16 (RJF).  
Belted Kingfisher - 2 at St Johns SR Marsh March 31 (RJF).  
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1 at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End March 29 (RJF).  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1 at Holland Landing Woods March 29 (RJF).  
Hairy Woodpecker - 2 at Lake Wilcox March 19 (S&JB). 2 (pair) at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) March 24 (CMcK).  
Northern Flicker – 2@W End Holborn Rd Mar29(RJF). 1@Aurora Golf Crse Mar31(TEt).  
2@Cawthra-Mulock Res March 31 (RJF,RHNC). 1@Shady Lane Thornhill March 31 (SVa).  
Pileated Woodpecker – 1@Lk Wilcox Mar19(S&JB). 1@Cawthra-Mulock Res Mar23(RJF).  
1@Holland Landing Woods Mar29(RJF). 2 (pair)@Aurora River Valley March 31 (TEt).  
Eastern Phoebe – 1@Newmarket NE Corn Mar23(RJF). 1@Bathurst/Mulock, Newmarket Mar27(CDu,JuM).  
3M@Cawthra-Mulock Res Mar29(RJF) [Singing]. 1@Hllnd Lndng Wds Mar30(CDu,JuM).  
4@Cawthra-Mulock Reserve March 31 (RJF,RHNC).  
Northern Shrike - 1 at York-Durham Townline at Taunt March 08 (GL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 2(pair) @Grenfell Mrkhm Mar1-31(CMcK). 2@Woodward Ave, Thornhill Mar2(H&MF).  
 Brown Creeper - 2 at Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons March 29 (RJF).  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet – 20 @Cawthra-Mulock Res Mar23,29(RJF). Many @ Cwthra-Mlck Res Mar31(RJF,RHNC).  
 Hermit Thrush - 1 at Newmarket NE Corner March 23 (RJF).  
 Northern Mockingbird - 1 at Newmarket NE Corner March 23 (RJF).  
 Cedar Waxwing - over 30 at Highland Golf Course Aurora March 12 (TEt).  
 Chipping Sparrow - 1 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill March 31 (SVa).  
 Fox Sparrow - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve March 31 [Singing Male] (RJF,RHNC).  
 Song Sparrow - 1 (first of season) at Hochreiter Road/Bathurst N End March 17 (KRS).  
 1 (first of season) at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love March 17 [Singing Male] (JLo).  
 1 (first of season) at Lake Wilcox March 24 (S&JB).  
 Dark-eyed Junco - 10 at Langstaff Eco-Park March 31 (TH).  
 Snow Bunting – 1000@ Hwy 9Jane St Mar3(RJF,KDu) [Circling above]. 200@N End Bathurst St Mar10(RJF).  
 Red-winged Blackbird - 1 M at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) March 12 (CMcK).  
 Eastern Meadowlark - 1 at Cawthra-Mulock Reserve March 31 [Singing Male] (RJF,RHNC).  
 Rusty Blackbird - 1 at M.MacKenzie & Hwy.27,J.Love March 01 (JLo).  
 Common Grackle - 15 at 4 Grenfell Markham (Carol McK) March 12 (CMcK).  
 Brown-headed Cowbird - 3 at 34 Shady Lane Thornhill March 31 (SVa).

#### Durham Region

Rough-legged Hawk - 2 at Halls Rd. March 11 (H&MF).  
 Wild Turkey - 4 at Halls Rd. March 11 (H&MF). 18 at Lakeridge Rd. S of 5th conc. March 12 (SLo).  
 White-winged Crossbill - 7 at Fall's Road March 12 (SLo,CMcK).

#### Toronto

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 10@Don Vly Mar1-31(SVa). (Seen almost daily from RichHill GO train)  
 Red-tailed Hawk - 2(pair)@Queen's Pk Mar21(MMcK,TH) [Nest with eggs]. (On ledge, SW corner of Parl. Building).  
 Belted Kingfisher – 1 @Don Valley Mar1-31(SVa). (Occasionally from GO train)  
 Northern Mockingbird - 1 at Don Valley March 01 (SVa). Very often from RH GO train.

#### Out-of-Area

Bald Eagle - 5 at East of Nanticoke power plant March 10 (TEt,TH).  
 Short-eared Owl - 6 at 6th & 7th conc. Fisherville March 10 (TEt,TH).  
 Horned Lark - some 20 at 6th Conc. Fisherville March 10 (TEt,TH).  
 Eastern Meadowlark - 1 at 6th concession Fisherville March 10 (TEt,TH).

anon anonymous, BB Bruce Brydon, BNo Bob Noble, CDu Chris Dunn, ChvR Christel von Richter, CMcK Carol McKnight, DTH Doris Hofmann, GL Graham Leonard, GoC Gord Cameron, H&MF Harold & Muriel Farrant, JLo Joan Love, JuM Julia Marko, KDu Keith Dunn, KRS Kevin Shackleton, MMcK Margaret McKone, PG Phyllis Graydon, RBHS Roy B.H. Smith, RHNC Richmond Hill Nats., RJF Ron Fleming, S&JB Sharon & Jim Bradley, SiB Sigmund Bodach, SLo Stan Long, SVa Sandy Vanderbrug, TEt Tracey Etwell, TH Theo Hofmann, WP Winnie Poon.

## From the Editor

### Support our Farmers -- EAT LOCAL!

When it comes to learning more & doing more to improve your life the choices you make in the food you eat every day can make a tremendous impact. There are lots of food choices that you can make that are better than pesticide-laden conventional, hormone-injected factory-farmed food. Eating Organic food has been a popular choice because it restricts and avoids using pesticides and herbicides and the farming practices used generally help to restore the soils used to grow the food, however there are many valid arguments that **Locally Grown Food** may be a better option if a choice has to be made between Organic produce grown thousands of miles away and potentially pesticide-laden locally produced food.

The reasons for this are many and include the fact that eating local means more money for the local economy, which could in the end support responsible land use by the farmer whose income you are supporting. Locally grown produce is fresher, is handled less, tastes better and consumes at least 10 times less energy than a typical diet based on food shipped across the country. For more info go to <http://100milediet.org/why-eat-local/>

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