



# THE BULLETIN

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE RICHMOND HILL NATURALISTS

SEPTEMBER 2009 No. 482

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## Events calendar

<b>Executive Meeting:</b>	<b>Tuesday October 13, 2009. 7:30pm</b> Location: Robert Holland Centre
<b>Corn Roast:</b>	<b>Saturday September 12, 2009 6:00pm</b> Russ Tilt's house 25 Bridgeford Street South, Richmond Hill
<b>General Meeting:</b>	<b>Thursday September 17, 2009. 7:30pm</b> Speaker: John Bacher Topic: Reforesting Ontario -- the story of Edmond Zavitz Location: Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church
<b>Botany Group:</b>	<b>October 5, 2009. 12:30pm.</b>
<b>Bird Group Meeting:</b>	<b>Wednesday October 14, 2009. 7:30pm</b>

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

## Town Unveils DDO Heritage Bylaw

Are there any surprises in the Town of Richmond Hill's David Dunlap Observatory heritage protection bylaw, released on Friday September 4? No surprises at all, according to the Metrus representative quoted in September 4th's Liberal newspaper. The developers knew the town was putting together this designation and knew the results of the Conservation Review Board hearing released on June 4. With the town's position clarified, Metrus is now in a position to finalize their development plans for the property.

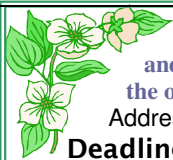
The bylaw is slated to be approved by council on September 14th at 7:30pm, with public discussion to take place at the Committee of the Whole meeting beginning at 4:30pm on September 8.

Richmond Hill Naturalists are cautious of the proposed bylaw. "It's far less than the 100% we strove for, but far more than the 48%" recommended in an earlier town-commissioned report, RH Naturalists president Marianne Yake said. She pointed out that the designation does not prohibit development on the site and that it depends on specific language to ensure protection of each item of heritage value itemized in the long bylaw document. She spent much of the Labour Day weekend poring through the bylaw looking for ways to make this tool stronger.

The town states on their website that: "No development of this site will take place without a rigorous planning process and the involvement of the community". That process is expected to begin this fall with community consultations and meetings.

"If you have any opinions about how the land should or shouldn't be developed, please get involved and make your views known to the town. Now's the time, with Metrus expected to submit proposals for development in the near future", Marianne said.

You can view the Bylaw yourself at <http://www.richmondhill.ca>.



**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: Denise Potter

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:

**Jasmine & Jennifer Leckey, John Kot, Michael Street, Bud Skinner, Trach & Justin Hancock, Laura McMullen, Terry Knight, Helen Snare, Elly Dowson, Carolyn Czege, Kristen Martyn**

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

## EVENTS FUTURE



- **Saturday September 12, 2009. 6pm. *Corn Roast.*** Russ Tilt's house, 25 Bridgeford Street South, Richmond Hill. The annual harvest feast for the Naturalists. Bring lawn chairs, plates, cups and cutlery, and perhaps a dessert to share!



- **Thursday September 17, 2009. 7:30pm. *General Meeting*** – Speaker: John Bacher: “Forestry in Ontario: the story of Edmund Zavitz”. A naturalist since childhood, Zavitz overcame obstacles to become the “Father of Afforestation” in Ontario. The meeting will take place at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Wallace Hall. 10066 Yonge St., North of Major Mackenzie Dr., West side. For info contact Marianne Yake at 905-883-3047, or visit [www.RHNaturalists.ca](http://www.RHNaturalists.ca).



- **Saturday September 19, 2009. 1:30pm *Beaver Creek Walk – Part 1*** – 2.5 KM walk on good path to explore Beaver Creek - Leader: Joe Agg. Meet at the entrance to the pond north of the Wal-Mart parking lot, east of Bayview Secondary School. Parking is available at the north end of the Wal-Mart parking lot.



- **Monday October 5, 2009. 12:30pm. *Botany Group meeting.***



- **Tuesday October 13, 2009. 7:30pm. *Executive Meeting*** at the Phyllis Rawlinson, Robert Holland Centre.



- **Wednesday October 14, 2009. 7:30pm. *Bird Group meeting.*** Host Charlene Denzel, 9 Idleswift Drive, Thornhill, 905-889-7888. Topic: Hermit Thrush and Swainsons Thrush. New Members Welcome!

**Please note: Richmond Hill Naturalists welcomes anyone to volunteer as an outing leader.**



- **Saturday-Sunday, September 12, 13 and 26, 27, 2009. *Tour de Greenbelt.*** Cycle sections of the Green Belt, a different section on each day of the event, on fully paved, marshaled routes with rest stops and free bike tuneups. Lunch time features live entertainment and freshly-prepared local food. To get informed and get involved, call **1-888-960-0030** or email [info@tourdegreenbelt.ca](mailto:info@tourdegreenbelt.ca)



- **Sunday, Oct 4, 2009 – *Mushrooms of the Moraine:*** 9:30AM to 5:00PM  
An all-day workshop. Learn to identify mushrooms and other fungi with naturalist and mushroom maven Richard Aaron ([natureteacher1@gmail.com](mailto:natureteacher1@gmail.com)) at the Koffler Scientific Reserve, located near Newmarket, Ont. This workshop is suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced. Workshop is limited to 16 participants; register early to avoid disappointment. Registration fee: \$36, includes lunch. Register at: [www.ksr.utoronto.ca](http://www.ksr.utoronto.ca) starting Sept 15).



### **Toronto Ornithological Club Jim Baillie Memorial Walks –**

These outings are aimed at the intermediate birder but beginners are also welcome. Free to the public.

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

**Saturday, September 19 8am-12noon.** *Fall Migration - Lambton Woods* - Leader: Don Burton. Meet in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Drive)



**Saturday, September 26 8am - all day.** *Shorebirds and Other Migrants* - Leslie St. Spit -. Leader: Bob Kortright. Meet at the foot of Leslie St. Bring a lunch.

## **MEMBER SUBMISSIONS**

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### **DON WATERSHED REGENERATION COUNCIL – NEW MEMBER WANTED**

If you are interested in learning more about the Don Watershed area in which we live, and in being a part of the effort to bring it back to a healthy state, Joe Agg has just the thing. He's looking for someone to take on his role in representing the Naturalists with the Don Watershed Regeneration Council. Formed in 1995 to improve the Don river and its whole watershed, the council is made up of city and town councillors, members of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, watershed residents, members of local interest groups – "people from all walks of life who are interested in conservation", Joe says, adding that the group functions as a kind of interface between the TRCA and the politicians. Two of the annual events the council sponsors are "Paddle the Don" and "The Mill Pond Splash".

Joe has been a member of the Council for the past two years. He's had a great time and has learned a huge amount about the area, the wildlife, the interrelationships of the local rivers and creeks with the bigger world. Now he's looking for someone who shares these interests to take over the torch. If you are interested or if you know somebody who might be interested, contact Joe at [trips@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:trips@rhnaturalists.ca).

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### **Shift in Controversy**

*By Denise Potter with notes from Fiona Cowles, Chair of King Heritage Committee*

At certain times of the year buried in vegetation like a lost Mayan ruin, at times covered in snow, a mysterious work of art dwells in the south-east of the village of King City, in the Region of York, Ontario. Constructed by the American sculptor Richard Serra during the summers of 1971 and 1972, Shift is a series of six walls stretching enigmatically across 815 feet of undulating farmland. Unexpected to most viewers who come across it as they hike across the farmland, woods and wetlands that cradle it, Shift is – perhaps -- about changing perspective, adaptation to environment, interface.

Now King's Heritage Committee is trying to figure out how to protect this sculpture in the face of development pressure. They were to go before Town council on September 8 to request a heritage designation for the work.

#### **The sculptor, Richard Serra**

Internationally renowned for his monumental sculptures, and proclaimed by many art critics as one of the major sculptors of the 21st century, Richard Serra works principally in metal rather than cement or concrete. He retains his fascination with creating major art forms in open landscapes and in urban plaza settings, and he regards 'Shift' as one of his seminal works. He is very interested and supportive of the efforts of Heritage King and the Historical Society to preserve his early sculptural work.

He has worked closely with Frank Gehry (the architect for the renovation of the Art Gallery of Ontario) most recently at the Bilbao Guggenheim Museum. There are massive Serra installations in many cities and parks around the world, and a new Serra Sculpture 'Tilted Spheres' has recently been installed at the new Terminal One

at Pearson Airport. His Canadian connection continues today since for many years he has spent his summers at an old farm in Cape Breton.

### What next for the 'Shift'?

Although in good repair after 36 years of wind, weather and wild vines, Shift is in need of care. While the location of the sculpture is protected by the Natural Core Zoning of the provincial Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and as part of an 'environmental protection zone' due to the wetlands and forest in the area, Heritage King wants to designate the sculpture itself under the Ontario Heritage Act to legally protect it from demolition. The property owner, developer Great Gulf Homes, has asked that the town hold off from designation so that dialogue may continue.

To learn more about Shift, and what you can do to help, please contact Fiona Cowles of the Heritage King Committee at [fionacowles@sympatico.ca](mailto:fionacowles@sympatico.ca).

### SIGN UP!

The Richmond Hill Naturalists and community groups such as the DDO Defenders and Observatory Hill Homeowners Association continue to advocate for the complete protection of the David Dunlap Observatory and Park. Please call your local councilor (905-771-8800), write a letter and/or buy a sign. Tell Town Council you want LEADERSHIP & ALL Dunlap Parklands protected! If you support the community drive to preserve the entire Dunlap Observatory property, please purchase one of our beautiful lawn signs. Our volunteers will be happy to deliver a sign to your door. Buttons and T-Shirts also available.



Contact [DDOSigns@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:DDOSigns@rhnaturalists.ca) for details.

### ENVIRONMENT AND THE INTERNET

If you are on Facebook, Environmental Studies student Gwen Potter needs your help. As part of her degree at York University, Gwen is conducting a short online survey that examines how Facebook, as a representative example of new communications tools, is used by environmentalists and environmental organizations to act on their beliefs. "If you are a Facebook user, by participating in this survey and sending the link to your friends, you will be helping me to complete this research, which may help identify strategies that environmental groups can use to communicate and coordinate their activities," Gwen writes.

You can participate in this survey by clicking here or pasting this link into your browser:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YDeoAbMQnXq5l32PQCnTkA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YDeoAbMQnXq5l32PQCnTkA_3d_3d)

She has also created a Facebook group, which anyone can join, where she will make the results of the survey available; it is linked here:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=209036085463>



# PHOTOGRAPHY

## A Flickr of Hope for RHN Photographers

By Rod Potter

At the technological level, digital cameras and the internet have made sharing images extremely easy for photographers of every calibre. For the past two years, an informal group of RHN photographers has been sharing photos via Flickr.Com, one of the better photo sharing and archiving services. Here's how it works: simply browse to [Flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) and sign-up for a free account that enables you to upload and store up to 100MB of photographs each month. Depending on your camera model, this is enough to store 10 to 50 new photographs each month. If you want to share more photos, a yearly subscription allows you to upload an unlimited number of images. Flickr provides easy-to-use tools to help you upload photos and organize them in sets and collections. If you wish, you can add titles and descriptions to any or all of your photos, so they can be searched. You can also share your photos with others by joining any of the thousands of available Flickr Groups. In particular, RHN members are invited to join the RHN Flickr group.

Currently a dozen members have been lugging their cameras all across Ontario and posting photographs to the RHN Flickr Group. These can be viewed on the Richmond Hill Naturalists website ([rhnnaturalists.ca](http://rhnnaturalists.ca)) by clicking on the "Latest Photos" link or by browsing to the the group's Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/rhn/>. If you haven't looked lately, you'll find some gorgeous shots of Eastern Bluebirds and Wilson's Snipe taken by Mike Turk at the Carden Alvar. You will also find some special memories captured in distant places, such as the incredible Frigate birds taken by Martin Chen near Barbadoes and Gene Denzel's gorgeous shot of an Australian Bee Eater. Deb Chute has contributed a collection of butterflies and insect images taken in the meadows around the Dunlap Observatory. Browse a little longer and you'll find photos taken during a number of RHN group outings, an AstroNats' Star Party and past RHN Corn Roasts. We've got Wood Ducks in Richmond hill, Green Herons at Point Pelee and much more.

### Photo Activism

To help generate interest in the David Dunlap Observatory issue, we also created a separate Flickr Photo Group for DDO-related photos. That group can be found here: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/save-david-dunlap/>. This group features 140 photographs taken by 13 different photographers. It includes a number of interior photographs of the DDO Library and artifacts and telescopes, shots from the Save the DDO rallies and many, many images of the DDO domes and surrounding green space. Membership in the Save David Dunlap Flickr group is open to everyone, so please feel to sign up and share your own memories -- and hopes -- of the DDO.

### RHN Scanning

The history of the Richmond Hill Naturalists now spans more than half a century and much of the club's history is safely stowed away in the Archives at York University. If any members have photographs, negatives or transparencies from club outings, special meetings or any other RHN activity, and are willing to allow them to be scanned for the archives, please contact [rod.potter@gmail.com](mailto:rod.potter@gmail.com)



## NATURE NEWS

### Chimney Crayfish in Richmond Hill

*Fallicambarus fodiens*

We were lucky to be with naturalist Andy McKinnon earlier this summer on a walk through parts of the Rouge Park. When we marvelled at the miniature mud volcanoes apparently bubbling up along the muddy banks of a pond on Reesor Road, Andy told us that they were built by the Chimney Crayfish, an ecologically important “mudbug” whose future is in doubt.



Chimney Crayfish stacks have been spotted in the swampy area in the southeast corner of the David Dunlap Observatory property. The Chimney (also known as the “Digger” Crayfish), builds its telltale chimneys of mud or mud mixed with stone by piling up soil as it burrows below the ground. The chimneys can be up to 12 centimeters tall, but they are literally just the tip of the “mudberg”. The burrows have been known to go three or four feet below the surface to reach the water table, though the Chimney Crayfish itself may grow to only 2 to 3 cm in length. The small crawdad digs down to the water table, creating a comfy home (by crustacean standards) that helps it hide from its many predators and stay moist through both wet and dry seasons. Its burrows also provide a home for even tinier creatures...and all provide a tasty meal for herons and other birds, many species of fish, and mammals. If you like lobster, you might appreciate the important role that crayfish play in the wilderness food supply.

The Ministry of Natural Resources lists the Chimney Crayfish as a species of “provincial conservation concern”. One of seven native species of crayfish in Ontario, the Chimney is not considered to be immediately at risk but according to the MNR it could become at risk if steps are not taken to preserve it. Habitat loss and competition from exotic crayfish species have made the Digger’s future insecure.

Of 540 species of crayfish in the world, only nine occur in Ontario. Of these nine, the “Obscure” and the “Rusty” are non-native, and five of the native species are considered secure. But like its cousin the Meadow or “Devil” crayfish, there’s a big question mark over the Digger’s future in Ontario.

Watch for their little towers when walking near marshy fields, ponds and drainage ditches.

-DP

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### POLLINATOR PARK IN GUELPH



As pollinating insects quietly disappear from our gardens and farms, a group called Pollination Guelph is trying to turn the tide with the construction of a Pollinator Park on a former landfill site. The group hopes to convert the decommissioned Eastview landfill into a meadow supporting bees and other pollinating insects. In the works for many months now, there are still a few hurdles to overcome before the park can become a reality. The Pollinator Park would be one of the first in the world.

The group also encourages people to plant pollinator-friendly gardens and take other actions to help these vital partners. Visit <http://www.pollinator.ca/guelph/> for more information.

*Snowberry Clearwing Hummingbird Moth pollinating in Richmond Hill back yard*

## GENERAL INTEREST



### ART CLASSES

Valerie Kent, Richmond Hill artist and long-time Naturalist club member, is offering courses for adults at the Mill Pond Gallery starting with Watercolours on Wed. Sept. 16th from 7 to 10 and oil/acrylic (either or both) on Sun. Sept. 27th. The cost of the program is \$250 for 8 weeks, 3 hours per week. The classes will cover many techniques and students will learn to do images by watching the demonstrations. It is a wonderful way to enjoy 3 hours. For children 7 to 14 at her home studio there is a mixed media course every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Snacks and supplies included. \$225 for 8 weeks.

Catch Valerie at the Richmond Hill Studio Tour and Art Sale at the Mill Pond Gallery, 314 Mill Street, RH on October 17 and 18th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
905 508 5531    [artistvalerie@yahoo.ca](mailto:artistvalerie@yahoo.ca)    [www.valerickent.com](http://www.valerickent.com)

### ORGANIC LAWN CARE FOR THE CHEAP AND LAZY -- Workshop

- € Saturday, September 12 - 10am -2pm  
Elgin West Community Centre, Palisade Room B, 11099 Bathurst Street
- € Thursday, September 24 7-9pm  
Rouge Woods Community Centre, Aspen Room B, 110 Shirley Drive

This workshop includes a presentation, displays and draws for prizes.

Register online <http://ereg.richmondhill.ca>, by TouchTone phone at 905-771-7545 or at any Town Community Centre. For more information, call 905-508-7012 ext 230.



### COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING EVENTS

All residents are invited to participate in the following neighbourhood tree planting events. Email [naturalheritage@richmondhill.ca](mailto:naturalheritage@richmondhill.ca) to confirm dates, times and locations. Bring sunscreen, bugspray, gloves and drinking water!

- € Toll Bar Park: Saturday, September 19, 10am - 12 pm
- € Nursery tree planting at Phyllis Rawlinson Park - WARD 3 - Saturday Oct. 3, 2009 -10am-12 noon
- € Russell Tilt Park Tree Planting - WARD 1 -Saturday October 24 - 10am-12 noon

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## Astronomy Group

### Listening to Space -- Radio Astronomy

By Heide Bond

#### Astronomy Group Chair

We have had a wonderful summer of observing celestial splendours from David Dunlap Observatory Park. Saturn was exciting to see this summer as tilted in such a way that its famous rings were nearly invisible. Jupiter, king of planets flanked by its Galilean moons awed many viewers at the eyepiece of our telescopes. Many galaxies, clusters and nebulae revealed their stunning splendours to our viewers. Visitors to our sessions were often treated to tours of the features on our own moon. Lessons on how to observe and the proper use of astronomical equipment were available each night. In August we were delighted by the spectacular light show provided by the Perseid meteor shower.



The fun will continue this fall with observing sessions that will be posted on our website ([astro.rhnaturalists.ca](http://astro.rhnaturalists.ca)). We will continue with our interesting speakers on various astronomical topics.

I am pleased to present a new section of the Astronomy group: the Radio Astronomy group. To launch the new group, our first speaker this September will be the Group Leader: Ken Baine. At our next meeting Ken will introduce you to this fascinating aspect of astronomy:

With relatively inexpensive equipment, it is possible to enjoy an area of astronomy quite different from optical observing - Radio Astronomy.

Listen to meteors that are passing into the atmosphere or probe earth-produced atmospheric noise due to solar flares. All you need is some inexpensive shortwave equipment and some easily built antenna systems.

From here, there are emissions from Jupiter, pulsars, mapping the plane of the Milky Way, and detection of the galactic arms of the Milky Way, all accessible with amateur radio astronomy.

We hope to see you all at our observing sessions and speakers meetings!

Observing sessions are the first Friday night of each month (weather permitting) and usually take place at David Dunlap Observatory Park, just up the stairs behind (north of) the Elvis Stojko Arena at 350 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Dress warmly with layers for observing sessions!

Keep checking the website for more details – <http://astro.rhnaturalists.ca>

## BIRD OBSERVATIONS

### Rod and Denise Potter's Baillie Birdathon Results from the Long Point area, May 15-16

If you wish to make a donation to the Birdathon, or if you pledged but we haven't had a chance to collect from you, you can go to this SECURE site:

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/support/birdathon/index.jsp?targetpg=donate&lang=EN&number=59091>

Using this link, sponsors can select our name and donate to our Birdathon online using their credit card. That way our group, the Richmond Hill Naturalists, will get a portion of the donation.



We had never been to the Long Point area before, and really enjoyed exploring the tall, dark Carolinian forests, the vast wetlands and the coastline scrub. For others who might be interested in venturing there, Port Rowan has several bed and breakfasts and half a dozen restaurants. We stayed at The Coach House B&B, where a different but always fabulous birder's breakfast, prepared by proprietor Cindy Vanderstar, conveniently appeared in the fridge each day, requiring just a quick heatup at whichever ungodly hour of the morning we woke up. Cindy has turned the property's old coach house into a gift shop on the ground floor and a large, totally private suite on the upper floor. The private walk-out deck gave us an eye-level view of our nearest neighbours -- a busy purple martin house. This was birding in comfort!

Never having been to the area before, we spent our first day trying to figure out where all the best spots were. We managed to find the banding observatory fairly quickly and fortunately they were selling (among many other bird and wildlife-related items) a booklet of birding hotspots in the area. Amazingly, even though "A Birding Guide to the Long Point Area" by Jeff Skevington, Bev Collier and Terrie Woodrow was printed in 1990 and is now almost 20 years old, the hooded warbler was still singing at the exact place specified in the map on page 19.

Although we hoped to get a lot of species for the birdathon, our goals also included hiking, cycling and appreciating the beautiful scenery, with as little driving as possible (although we still did too much). In total we identified 130 species over 3.5 days, but the most we got in a 24-hour period was 97. This number included exciting views of a Whippoorwill, American Woodcock, and Hooded Warblers...as well as the mundane House Sparrow. For our complete species list email [editor@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:editor@rhnaturalists.ca).



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Please submit Bird Observations using our electronic database, which can be found at: [www.rhnaturalists.ca/bird\\_sightings\\_form.php](http://www.rhnaturalists.ca/bird_sightings_form.php)

Submissions can be sent by e-mail to:

[Sightings@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:Sightings@rhnaturalists.ca) or [birds@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:birds@rhnaturalists.ca)

Written submissions can be sent by surface mail to:

Gene Denzel, 9 Idleswift Dr., Thornhill, ON L4J 1K8

Bird observations are viewable online or, if you prefer to receive a paper copy of this month's bird observations, contact Marianne Yake at 905-883-3047.

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE ON THE EXECUTIVE

The Richmond Hill Naturalists are looking for volunteers to join the Executive. Join us for a meeting the second Tuesday of the month and consider becoming part of our executive. We meet 8 times a year, September to May. Available positions include Secretary, Environment, Events and Publicity.

## From the Editor

### SUN SETS ON THE SUMMER OF 2009...

The summer of 2009 might not (quite) have broken any records for rainfall or frigid temperature in Richmond Hill, but the number of complaints was probably off the charts. It was too cold, too wet... "the summer that never was".



And yet it ended with a most glorious Labour Day Weekend, a delicious trio of blue sky, warm sun and spectacular sunsets. Was it the end of a wet, cold summer...or the beginning of something new?

For me, this sunset (and the awesome moonrise that immediately followed on the other side of the sky – which we failed to photograph) also mark the beginning of my new post as editor of the Richmond Hill Naturalists Bulletin.

I look forward to receiving your comments, ideas, photos and articles!

*Sun setting over Carden Alvar, September 6, 2009-09-09*

*R Potter*

**Denise Potter, Bulletin Editor** [editor@rhnaturalists.ca](mailto:editor@rhnaturalists.ca)  
647-504-4586 Mailing Address: 128 Pugsley Av, Richmond Hill, ON