



**The Heron**  
**April, 2014**

**Upcoming Club Meeting:**  
**April 28, 2014 7:30 pm**  
**VISITORS WELCOME**

**Wing 404/Rotary Adult Centre**  
**510 Dutton Drive, Waterloo**

[www.kwfn.ca](http://www.kwfn.ca)

**April Meeting**

**Speaker: Sheila Colla, Ph.D.**

**MEET THE BUMBLEBEES:** Learn to recognize and help conserve local species of these important pollinators. Sheila will present her current findings on the threats to bumblebees and how people can help conserve them during this crucial time.

**THE MONTGOMERY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

At its February Meeting the Montgomery Committee decided to begin tackling the Garlic Mustard that is creeping in to our property and displacing native species especially in the flood plain area. This will be a difficult task and needs a lot of manpower.

We must pull every year for at least three years and probably longer. We must pull it while the plant is in bloom (easier to recognize), and before it goes to seed. We have set a date and hope that as many members as possible will come.

**Are you able to help on Thursday May 22 at 9am?**

The committee will provide the equipment needed although members will need to bring their own gloves, boots and water. Bug repellent might also be needed. Cookies and juices will be your reward. If it is pouring rain we will cancel and try to rebook.

**We would so appreciate your help!**

If you are coming please contact: Marg Macdonald 519-634-5633 or  
 email: [margmac63@execulink.com](mailto:margmac63@execulink.com)

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**Half price for new memberships!**

For the balance of the 2013-2014 membership year the fees for **new** members are half the amounts listed in The Heron. Please visit our web site, [www.kwfn.ca](http://www.kwfn.ca) or contact the Membership Director for complete details regarding memberships.

## KWFN Directors

### President

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\*\*\*\*\*

### Heron Editor

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March 11 is the next  
submission deadline.  
Restrict submissions to a  
maximum of 700 words.

## Other Contacts

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### Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP)

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### Waterloo Stewardship Council

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## Mark Your Calendars

**Sat. May 10 at rare  
ECO Centre**

KWFN's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Ceremonial planting of  
8 native trees

**Mon. May 26 – 7:00 pm**  
Celebrating KWFN's 80<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary with a special  
meeting.

## Welcome New Members!

John & Karen Lichty  
Emily Cho, David and Ava  
Martindale

## Thank you to our Donors

Janice Bock  
Emily Cho, David and Ava  
Martindale  
Jim and Joanne Lackenbauer  
John and Karen Lichty  
Roger and Petra Suffling  
Gail Vanderzee

## Condolences

Condolences sent to:  
Harold Ellenton for the loss of  
his wife Gloria

## Outings

### Long Point and Environs

The Burrells, 699-4695

**RESCHEDULED: Saturday, March 29**

#### **Meeting Time/Place**

**8:00 am Homer Watson Blvd. / Fountain Street 401 carpool lot**

Join us for this popular annual outing to Long Point, one of Lake Erie's birding hotspots. We will focus on returning waterfowl as they stop on their way northward. Bring a lunch, binos, field guides and a scope if you have one. Dress warmly as it may be cooler near the lake at this time of year

## **The KWFN needs YOU to volunteer!**

Volunteers formed the KWFN in 1934 and volunteers have grown the club through the decades. Volunteers have powered the club through 80 years of working together in conservation, sharing knowledge and values, and deepening a love of nature in all its members. The KWFN exists only because of its volunteers. Without its monthly programs, frequent outings, well-received newsletter, and so on, the club would cease to be the vibrant and educational association it is now. Without a Secretary and Vice-president, the club may cease to function at all.

The KWFN provides so much to its membership in terms of a sense of community and kinship. Please consider giving back to your club by volunteering your time and energy. While the KWFN will gain from your input, you will also gain, personally, in terms of developing or maintaining your leadership skills, public speaking, networking, and so much more. I encourage our newest members to put aside any thoughts that they are too new to the KWFN to contribute. We are always looking for fresh ideas and new ways of thinking. Please don't assume that someone else will step up. We currently have five vacancies to fill.

Here's what we need:

Three year Board terms starting in June 2014: Vice-President, Secretary, Conservation Director, Program Director. Alternatively, the Conservation Director and/or Program Director could be turned into non-Board positions and one or two members-at-large could sit on the Board in their place.

Open-term non-Board position: Heron Editor

Commit to getting involved in YOUR club at a deeper level and shaping its future. You will benefit in personal growth and skills development and be rewarded in the knowledge that you are leading the club into its next 80 years. For full details on any of these exciting opportunities or to suggest the name of a suitable candidate, **please contact Janet Ozaruk (519-893-0490 or janeto@golden.net).**

## An Interview with Betty Cooper By Janet Ozaruk

As the KWFN approaches its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the history of the club and Betty Cooper is an appropriate person to speak with. Betty and her husband Fred joined the club in September 1959 soon after their marriage. They did so at the invitation of KCI school teacher and founding KWFN member, F.W.R. Dickson. Mr. Dickson had been a friend of Betty's family and she had joined him on informal nature outings before. Betty and Fred were quickly put to work in the club serving on the Board and the Conservation Committee. Following Fred's passing in 1984, Betty became the club librarian/archivist, holding that position until only recently.

Betty recalls that in the early 1960s, the demographics of the club were different than today in that there were many more junior members. This group in their late teens and early 20s was very active in the club especially in areas of conservation and bird surveys. However, like today, many of the other members were school teachers, university professors, and professionals with a general interest in nature.

The minutes of the earliest meetings show that the monthly meetings did not normally have guest speakers but rather consisted of members sharing their knowledge. Outings were held both locally and more far-reaching, such as weekend trips to Long Point and Tobermory and Flowerpot Island.

Key conservation issues during that time included encouraging the return of bluebirds through the building and placing of nest boxes, opposition of the proposed creation of a reservoir downstream of Elora that would have flooded farmland and natural lands, and purchases of valuable lands by the club to keep them from falling into private hands and possibly being developed. High profile activities in the 1980s that brought publicity to the club included the peregrine falcon hack in downtown Kitchener, the Great Tree Hunt (which was reprised in 2011) and hosting the Federation of Ontario Naturalists annual general meeting in 1984. More recent highpoints for the KWFN include involvement in the Kitchener Natural Areas Program, advocacy for preservation of Hidden Valley and financial contributions toward land purchases at *rare* and on the Bruce Trail.

Betty herself has only barely slowed down after 55 years with the KWFN. She finds that nature still brings her a sense of peace and working in the garden lets her forget any problems. As we spoke in her sun-filled living room, Betty pointed out the boulevard that she has naturalized that will be filled with asters and goldenrods come summer. From the kitchen window, we could see the feeders she has set out and the rabbit and squirrel tracks in the snow beneath. For Betty, the club has been a constant in her life, bringing her new interests and allowing her to expand her knowledge.

### APPLY NOW FOR YOUTH SUMMIT 2014 KWFN SPONSORSHIP

The 2014 Youth Summit, part of Ontario Nature's *Nature Guardians* program, will be held September 19-21 at YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia. KWFN will sponsor a grade 9 - 12 student (13 to 17 years of age). This sponsorship covers accommodation, food and workshops for the three-day event. The Youth Summit brings young leaders from across the province together for a weekend of sharing environmental concerns, building friendships and exploring beautiful Lake Couchiching. Ontario Nature's Youth Council will host the summit.

If you know someone in this age category who has an interest in nature, biodiversity and environmental involvement, please encourage them to contact David Gascoigne, KWFN Vice-President by **April 30, 2014**. (519-725-0866, email [theosprenest@sympatico.ca](mailto:theosprenest@sympatico.ca)), or any other director from KWFN website at <http://www.kwfn.ca/contacts.html>.

A brief proposal outlining any previous involvement with nature related initiatives and including reasons for attending will be accepted as the application. More than one student may be sponsored if the situation warrants. For further details regarding selection criteria and post-sponsorship expectations please contact the Vice-President.

Additional information about the *Nature Guardians* Program is available on the Ontario Nature website: [http://www.ontarionature.org/connect/nature\\_guardians/](http://www.ontarionature.org/connect/nature_guardians/)



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER By Graham Macdonald

Well folks, it's only 9 weeks (as I write) to our 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration! We want this to be a day that our members will talk about with excitement for a long time to come. Few organizations survive so long, and it is entirely due to the energy and dedication of our members that we have done so.

At 80 years old, most people are in need of help from others, and KWFN is no different. We have a board of 9 directors, 4 of whom form the executive, which runs the business side of the club. The remainder takes on various tasks and, with the support of other volunteers, run the activities that engage the membership at large. Every year there is turnover due either to term expiry or to the exigencies and aspirations of other aspects of our lives. In recent years it seems that it has become harder and harder to find people to fill these positions, none of which except perhaps for Treasurer, require much if any, specialized knowledge. You can bring your own interests, knowledge, and ideas to these tasks; nobody punches a time clock – you decide how much time you can donate to the club; only directors have scheduled meetings – for 2 hours once a month except for July and August. This year we need two executive directors (VP and Secretary), and two directors at large who have traditionally run the Speaker Program and the Conservation portfolio, and a new Editor for our newsletter, *The Heron*.

*The Heron*, again traditionally, has been published 9 times a year, both in print and now on our website. It has until recently been our primary means of communication with our members, bringing outing, speaker, and member news, as well as articles of interest about the natural world. To some extent this vehicle is being superseded by our website, electronic downloads available to all, and by the email notices service instituted this year. These new media give us the ability to respond rapidly to changing situations and to give timely reminders of club activities. Perhaps it is now time to redefine the role of *The Heron*. The new Volunteer Editor will have that opportunity.

Conservation has a broad interpretation. The focus in recent years, and likely to continue, has been on participation in and support, mostly by letter writing, for campaigns to protect various aspects of our

environment such as the Hidden Valley issue and our recent letter concerning the dangers of new insecticides. Conservation also includes oversight and management of our conservation lands and support for Earth Day activities in the Region. Bring your own interests and initiatives to the table and help to make a difference.

Education is one of our main goals. This is what the monthly Speaker Program is all about. The more we learn about our natural world - and what we are doing to it – the better able we are to appreciate and protect it and to pass on that knowledge to those who follow us. The monthly club meeting is important also in bringing our active members together once a month for interchange of ideas and social contact. This was very evident in the success last December of the Celebration of Nature social gathering. The new Program Coordinator will find much of the program line-up already in place for the 2014-15 season.

An 80 year old person needs help, as does our 80 year old club. Much of our membership is aging, and it is understandable that older members, myself included, may not have the energy or the time. Many have already served more than once. We need the younger cohort, and especially new members, to step forward with the vigor and insights that our club needs in a fast changing world.

Let's drive forward into our next decade with energy, hope and determination to make a difference.

### K-W Field Naturalists 2013/2014 Young Naturalist Program

#### Who Are We?

We are a club sponsored by the K-W Field Naturalists to encourage kids to enjoy nature. It's a great place for kids (7-12 years of age) to get together, share exciting nature experiences and stories, and learn more about our amazing local environment. The programs will be held at the Laurel Creek Nature Centre, and will take place on Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon unless otherwise announced ahead of time.

**Contact: Shailyn Drukis at**  
[shailyn.drukis@gmail.com](mailto:shailyn.drukis@gmail.com)

**Sat. March 29 – Sugar Shack**  
**Sat. April 26 – Salamander Hike**  
**Sat. May 24 – Bats and Moths**



By Fraser Gibson

## Your Right to Speak up for a Healthy Environment is in Jeopardy

Political posturing and needless delay tactics at Queen's Park risk preventing the passage of a new law intended to protect our right to speak up for a healthy environment. We all need to tell our MPPs and political leaders that we expect better. It's time they got back to work to pass Bill 83, the Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014.

This proposed law would protect citizens from meritless lawsuits known as SLAPPs – Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. SLAPPs are deliberate attempts to silence and intimidate citizens, and to prevent them from exercising their right to speak up on environmental issues of concern. They are an insidious form of courtroom bullying.

For example, a former Thornhill Markham councillor was hit with a SLAPP by a developer because she supported a proposed foodbelt in Markham as a way to preserve valuable farmland in the area from encroaching development. In the end, the court dismissed the case, but not without significant personal and financial cost to the councillor. As her experience clearly demonstrates, SLAPPs waste time and money and put a chill on democratic decision-making.

Ontario may be facing a spring election, and time is running out to pass Bill 83. Please ask your MPP and political leaders to pass this law. Ontarians need to be able to exercise their democratic right to speak up for a healthy environment without fear of a SLAPP.

## Federal Court Finds Canada Has Failed to Uphold Endangered Species Act - Ontario Could Be Next

By Andrew Reeves  
February 20, 2014

Ontario's Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller is warning Queen's Park could face sharp reprimands by the courts for its failure to uphold wildlife protections under the Endangered Species Act.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, a federal court confirmed recently the Government of Canada does indeed have a responsibility to follow its own species at risk legislation.

The decision, handed down by Madam Justice Anne Mactavish, stated the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the federal Ministry of the Environment "acted

unlawfully in failing to post proposed recovery strategies" for the Pacific Humpback Whale, the Nechako White Sturgeon, the Marbled Murrelet and the Southern Mountain Caribou "within the statutory timelines prescribed in the Species At Risk Act."

"It is simply not acceptable for the responsible Ministers to continue to miss the mandatory deadlines that have been established by Parliament," Mactavish found.

From the ruling:

The Species at Risk Act was enacted because some wildlife species in Canada are at risk. As the applicants note, many are in a race against the clock as increased pressure is put on their critical habitat, and their ultimate survival may be at stake.

For his part, Miller is concerned the same fate awaits the provincial government for its own failures to uphold the tenets of the Endangered Species Act.

"As I have reported to the Legislature, the Ontario government has committed the very same offence by ignoring the statutory deadlines for producing recovery strategies for species at risk as required by the province's Endangered Species Act, 2007," Miller wrote.

In his November report, Miller said the government has "failed miserably" in its efforts to protect endangered species in the province."

In September, a coalition of environmental groups announced a lawsuit against MNR over their July decision to gut the ESA through exemptions for industry from many of the strictest protections for species-at-risk and their habitat.

Ontario Nature and the Wildlands League hired lawyers from Ecojustice to represent them against the government and their implementation of Ontario Regulation 176/13.

"It's environmental deregulation, pure and simple," said Ontario Nature's executive director Caroline Schultz at the time. She believes industry has been left to police itself because government oversight of potentially harmful practices has been dramatically weakened as MNR's budget has shrunk substantially over much of the past two decades.

Miller concludes by hoping MNR responds to the warning from the federal court and that "accountability for taking action to protect species at risk does not have to be found in the Courts of Ontario."



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## The Burrells' Birdathon

Again this year my sons (Mike and Ken) and I will be taking part in the Baillie Birdathon.

We have scheduled our Birdathon for May 12 to 16 in the Point Pelee area. We would appreciate your support again. A donation of \$35 or more will permit you to receive BSC's newsletter, Bird Watch Canada, for 1 year. A portion of what is raised comes back to KWFN. You can sponsor us online at <http://birdscanada.kintera.org/birdathon/jimburrell>

Thank you for your continuing support.

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## Membership Annual Fees

Family/Couple \$35  
Senior Couple \$30  
Adult Individual \$30  
Senior (60+) \$25  
Student (19+) \$25  
Free Membership for  
youth 18 and under.  
Club year runs from  
Sept. to August

Cheques made payable  
to:  
K W Field Naturalists.

Bring payment to the next  
meeting or mail to:  
KWFN at 317 Highland Rd  
E., Kitchener, N2M 3W6

Membership details, on our  
web site at:  
<http://www.kwfn.ca/membership.html>

**KWFN is a registered  
charitable organization.  
Membership fees and  
all donations are tax  
deductible.**

## Objectives of the KWFN

TO acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history.  
TO protect and preserve wildlife.  
TO purchase and hold appropriate parcels of land for the advancement of conservation.  
TO support public interest in nature and its preservation by supporting the enactment of wise legislation and by other means as falls within the scope of the Corporation.

## General Information

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month, September to May with the exception of December. Our meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.  
Outings are scheduled almost every month.

### Advertising Rates for The Heron:

| Size                         | Per issue | Full year (9 issues) |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| full page                    | \$200     | \$1600               |
| half page                    | \$100     | \$ 800               |
| quarter page                 | \$ 50     | \$ 400               |
| 1/10 page<br>(business card) | \$ 25     | \$ 200               |

“The Heron” is the official publication of the KWFN. Information is written and submitted by volunteer members of the club. Articles reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily the views endorsed by the KWFN club.

The Heron is published from September to June with the exception of December.

Print copies of the newsletter are available at meetings free of charge to members.

Newsletters available on  
Our web site at:

<http://www.kwfn.ca/newsletter.html>

The Kitchener-Waterloo Field  
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