



The Heron
June, 2014

Upcoming Club Meeting:
Monday, September 22, 2014
7:30 pm

visitors welcome

Wing 404/Rotary Adult Centre
510 Dutton Drive, Waterloo

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: September 22, 2014; Mark Nash, Peregrine Falcons
October 27, 2014; Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, 80th Anniversary of the KWFN
November 24, 2014 – Brendon Larson, Redefining our Relationship to Nature



Montgomery Work Crew (L to R): Graham, April, Lynda, Marg, Wayne, Paul, Marco, Fraser, Jim
FH Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary Annual Report on Page 10

Conservation Award



L to R: Graham Macdonald, President, KWFN, Kevin Thomason, Conservation Winner, Karen Buschert, Conservation Chair. Article on Page 8
Photo credit: Don Hill

2013/2014 Volunteer Recognition

The KWFN continues to function as a successful and vibrant community of naturalists due to the dedication and commitment of its members. Much work is done by many individuals, often unobtrusively and without active recognition. At the end of our year it is fitting to recognize everyone who has contributed so much to the running of our club. If anyone has inadvertently been missed please accept my apologies. In no way is your contribution unappreciated.

Please turn to page 5 for a complete listing of our volunteers!

KWFN Directors**President**

Graham Macdonald
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September submissions are due by
August 13th

Article submissions are
a maximum of 700 words.

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Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP)

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Waterloo Stewardship Council**WHAT'S INSIDE:**

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Welcome New Member!

Diane Bohonoski
Renate Boucher
Jillian Deman
Beth Hobson
Val and John Huggan
Stephanie Sobek-Swant

Welcome Returning Member!

Don McMurtry

Thank you to our Donors

Donna Cassidy
Don McMurtry

Outings and Events

June Outings

Summer will soon be here. If you're like me, you'll be hoping it's as long as our past winter. Here are a few things to do before we get together for another year. While you're out and about this summer exploring new and not so new areas, consider a fall outing to share with the rest of us at KWFN. If the inspiration grabs you, drop a line to burrellsc@golden.net or phone me at 519-699-4695. We are always looking for new venues and leaders. Have a really good summer. See you in September.

Bruce Botany Weekend June 7 - 8

Pat and Paul Bigelow patpaul@pbigelow.ca **519-888-7516**

We will be visiting a number of sites throughout the Bruce Peninsula to view gorgeous orchids, profusions of rare alvar flowers, and interesting fen plants. Although this is a plant oriented weekend, we won't turn a blind eye to the birds. We expect to spot a number of warblers and grassland birds in our travels.

If you think you might possibly be interested, please contact us so that we can keep you updated with any last minute changes.

Orchids

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2014

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Singing Sands parking lot. From Highway 6, turn west at Dorcas Bay Road, then turn right after 1 km.

Duration: 3 hours

Description: We will be looking for orchids along the trail at Dorcas Bay. Depending on what's in bloom we will also visit several other nearby sites. Bring a lunch and we'll end the morning with a picnic.

Alvars

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2014

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at the parking lot near the northeast corner of Highway 6 and Dyers Bay Road (at the end of Brinkmans Road).

Duration: 3 hours

Description: We will be visiting the Bruce Alvar Nature Reserve to view nature's parking lot in full colour. Depending on what's in bloom we will also visit some other nearby sites.

Fens

Date: Sunday, June 8, 2014

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Mar picnic area on the east side of Highway 6, 1 km south of Mar near Weirs Road.

Duration: 3 hours

Description: We will be visiting the Petrel Point Nature Reserve and Oliphant Fen. These alkaline coastal wetlands have a variety of carnivorous plants and orchids.

Outings and Events

Flutterbys and other insects at rare

Charlotte Moore charlotte.se.moore@gmail.com

Meeting Time/Place:

Saturday, June 21 at 1:00 pm at the Slit Barn off Blair Road

Come with a net and field guide to catch and identify some flying insects of various sizes, colours and shapes. Be sure to bring water and a sun hat. We will look primarily for butterflies, but also search for odonates and other wildlife forms. This outing will last approximately 2 hours.

North Dumfries

Larry Lamb 519-744-5354 lelamb37sd@gmail.com

Meeting Time/Place

June 22 at 1300 (1PM) at Fountain St. carpool lot

Taylor Lake, (Beake Pond) N Dumfries Twp. Spectacularly scenic, private, marl lake, carolinian forest and prairie complex. Moderate to easy hike on and off trails and boardwalk. Incredible number of rare plants and animals characteristic of carolinian forest at its northern limit as well as marl lake, fen fringe. Special 80th anniversary field trip treat. First KWFN outing ever to this gem! Wear good footwear and bring water, a hat and insect repellent.

Native Plant Nuts

Wayne Buck (519-662-2529)

waylyn2@cwisp.ca

If you would like receive notice of possible outings with Larry Lamb or me to look at native plants during the summer months, send me an email or phone and I will keep a list and contact you **IF** such an outing is arranged. It would likely be short 'spur of the moment' notice. *Wayne Buck*

2013/2014 Volunteer Recognition

Board: Graham Macdonald, David Gascoigne, Paul Bigelow, Kelly Holdaway, Janet Ozaruk, Karen Buschert, Carol Foxall, Jim Burrell, April Morrissey, Roger Suffling

Auditor: Jim Cappelman

80th Anniversary: David Gascoigne, Graham Macdonald, Janet Ozaruk, Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, April Morrissey, Miriam Bauman

Programme: Jane Schneider, Jim Burrell, Carol Gregory, Genie Berger, Paul and Pat Bigelow, Donna Debruin, Margaret Macdonald, Jan Hook, Karen Buschert, Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, Larry and Judy Hamel, Elaine LaRonde, Doris Hilker, Alan and Anne Morgan, Mary Voisin, Dennis Hilker, Jim Lackenbauer, Janet Ozaruk, David Gascoigne, Thelma Beaubien, Peter Bisset, Wayne and Linda Buck, Miriam Bauman, Michael Frind, Robert McNair, Ken Quantz, Scott Beemer

Montgomery Committee: Margaret Macdonald, Wayne and Lynda Buck, Paul and Pat Bigelow, Fraser Gibson, Jim Cappelman, Graham Macdonald, April Morrissey, Marco Debruin

Web Site: Larry Hamel

Heron Editor: Thelma Beaubien **Heron Mailing Team:** Rick and Jan Hook

Archives: Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, Betty Cooper

Native Plant Nuts: Wayne Buck

Bird Sightings: Ken Burrell

Ontario Nature and KNAP: Fraser Gibson

Waterloo Stewardship Council: Neil Taylor

Sightings Hosts: Marco DeBruin, David Gascoigne, Fraser Gibson, Jim Burrell, John Sanderson, Roger Suffling

Outings: Wayne Buck, Jim, Ken and Mike Burrell, David Gascoigne, Dale Ingrey, Jim Cappelman, Marco DeBruin, Neil Taylor, Fraser Gibson, Levi Moore, Karen Buschert, Mary Ann Vanden Elzen, Janet Ozaruk, Peter Coe, Dawn Miles, Larry Lamb, Paul and Pat Bigelow

Baillie Birdathon: Jim, Ken and Mike Burrell

Young Naturalists: Karen Buschert, Shailyn Drukis, Kelly Holdaway, Pat Bigelow, Mirabai Alexander, Kira Peters, Julia Ribble

Publicity: Shailyn Drukis, Janet Ozaruk, David Gascoigne, Joshua Shea, Graham Macdonald, Larry Hamel, Kelly Holdaway, Thelma Beaubien, Valerie Hill, April Morrissey, Karen Buschert

Christmas Card Sales: Fraser Gibson, Pat Bigelow, Louise Litwiller

Earth Day: Fraser Gibson, Cameron Bates, Jim Burrell, Paul Bigelow, Katharina Walton, Peter Bisset, John Sanderson, Derek Hitchins, Dennis and Doris Hilker, Jim Lackenbauer, Nancy Gibson, Ron and Thelma Beaubien, Ross Dickson, Geraldine Sanderson, Roger Suffling

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

80th Anniversary Celebration Speech by Graham Macdonald

To our invited guests, Members of KWFN, our partners here at rare, members of the public -- Welcome to this celebration.

I must first thank David Gascoigne, our Vice-President and the several other members for the hours of work that they have given to making this day a reality. And I thank **rare** for their generosity in making their facilities available and for the cheerful and willing support of their staff. You have all been wonderful.

I am truly honoured to be able to lead the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists into their ninth decade. Many dedicated people have preceded me since this club was founded 80 years ago on this day in 1934. The founders believed fervently in the value and beauty of our natural heritage and set this club on its path of observation, education, and conservation that continues today. Founder FWR Dickson is commemorated in the name of the tract of land near Wrigleys Corners that the club purchased and later donated to the Grand River Conservation Authority. Founder FH Montgomery is remembered in the name of the tract of floodplain forest that the club now owns near Haysville on the Nith River. Our Sanctuary Fund continues to contribute to the acquisition and protection of conservation lands.

In more recent times the club has vigorously supported conservation efforts by the region's cities, townships, and the Region itself. You are standing today in one of the results of those efforts, the Blair-Bechtel-Cruickston Environmentally Sensitive Landscape, one of four areas now bearing the ESL designation. We are fortunate that this one is also largely privately owned and managed as the rare Charitable Research Reserve. The Grand River Conservation Authority does sterling work in protecting our Grand River, and conserving its watershed resources. Ontario Nature, a federation of Naturalist Clubs, of which KWFN has been a member since 1935, can also boast of more than eight decades of conservation on a provincial scale.

I consider "Conservation" to be a truly remarkable word -- simply by exchanging the "S" and the "V" it turns into "Conversation". A conversation is an essential prelude to conservation -- all parties must

exchange and discuss ideas, debate the pros and cons, find the ways and means to achieve what will almost always be a compromise, but one in which all parties can feel satisfied. It is conversation and compromise that we expect from all levels of government, leading to conservation of our natural heritage both locally, provincially and nationally. For 80 years our club has played, and will continue to play, its part in that conversation.

Tomorrow is Mothers' Day, a time when we honour the parent who gave us birth, or the mother that brings our grandchildren to this world to carry on our work. I hope you all will give some small gift tomorrow to Mother Nature and remember that she needs nurturing today, more than ever.

Tree planting has been a feature of the conservation efforts of our club. Our records show that more than 2500 trees have been planted at various times since 1966. Some of our members have themselves planted many more.

To mark our eight decades of nurturing nature we are planting eight trees, trees that we should expect to survive for another eight decades. When the first settlers arrived here they found a vast forest that was to them both a barrier to travel and a boon to survival. The First Nations people who lived here, whose story will be shared with many of you this afternoon, showed the newcomers the paths through the forest and the sustenance that the trees, plants, and animals could provide. The sap of the Sugar Maple was an essential ingredient in their survival, and the wood of this and other species gave them shelter, implements, warmth and the comforts of home. The two trees flanking this trailhead are once again going to be Sugar Maples.

Living trees and the urban forest provide many often unrecognized services to life. They exhale the oxygen that we breathe; they absorb and store the carbon dioxide and pollutants that our machines and ourselves exhale.

Trees shade and cool our buildings and roadways, cool the very air by evaporating water. Trees stabilize the ground and help control flood waters. Trees provide homes for many creatures and are part of a complex and intermeshed ecosystem that we can barely claim to understand. Trees improve our property values and our quality of life.

.....80th Speech continued

These eight trees will serve you and me for a long time to come. In a few minutes you will all be invited to help plant them, to give back just a fraction of what we have taken from Mother Nature.

Thank you all for helping us nurture nature.

**Member Survey for Suggested
KWFN Name Change
By Graham Macdonald**

The following summarizes the results of the informal survey of members regarding a possible change of name as part of the process of modernizing the club’s image. We received 50 suggestion slips at the March 24 Club meeting; we received 27 responses by email and mail following my letter, sent to all members.

CAUTION: Do not try to rationalize the following numbers too much. The club meeting slips were anonymous; the emails were signed; so I don’t know how many people voted by both methods! One or two did declare and I have taken that into account. Many people made two (or more) name suggestions; some agreed with change but made no suggestion. I have listed all suggested names, but only counted a slip or a reply as a single Yes, No, or Maybe. Nonetheless, I believe we have a very good directive from the membership.

Table 1: Summary results

Option	Slips at Club Meeting	By reply to letter	Total
Yes (suggested change)	40	23	62
No Change	8	2	10
Maybe	2	2	4
Total Responses	50	27	76

Table 2: Name Suggestions

Suggested Name	# votes
Nature Waterloo Region	13
Nature Waterloo	8
Waterloo Region Nature	7
Grand River Nature	6
Grand Nature	5
Nature Grand River	4
Waterloo Region Field Naturalists	2
Waterloo Nature	2
KW Nature	2
Nature Club of Waterloo Region	1
Natural Waterloo Region	1
Waterloo Wild	1
Waterloo Region Nature Lovers	1
Waterloo Region Loves Nature	1
Regional Nature Club	1
Nature Kitchener Waterloo	1
Friends of Nature Waterloo Region	1
Tri-Nature	1
Nature Tri-Cities	1
Tri-City Nature	1
Nature KWC	1
KWC Nature	1
Friends of Nature	1
Grand River Naturalist Club	1
Nature Grand Valley	1
WATNATS or WATNATURE	1
Total Suggestions	66

I will now delete all of the names that only scored 1 point. Four names remain that do not meet the basic requirement of inclusivity – they either contain the word “naturalist” or reference one or two of our three cities. I will also delete these four names.

It is only fair to note that some of those who opted for “No change” also said they wanted to keep the “Field Naturalist” or “Naturalist” emphasis of the club. This has also been conveyed to me verbally. However, since there is very broad support for change overall I believe that I am justified in deleting the names containing the word.

.....KWFN Name Change continued

The remaining names now fall naturally into two groups: the two names referring to “Waterloo Region”, and the three referring to “Grand” or “Grand River”.

At the May 26 Club meeting members will be asked to indicate their preference from these names, or to again choose “No Change”. One might argue that the vote lead of Group 1, though not a majority, should indicate a win for that group. However, I feel that a run-off vote with these finalist names to consider is the proper and fair way to proceed since those whose suggestions have been sidelined, now have to be given the chance to make a choice. This is the kind of tiered voting used in leadership elections.

Table 3: Final Groupings

GROUP 1	
Nature Waterloo Region	13
Waterloo Region Nature	7
GROUP 2	
Grand River Nature	6
Grand Nature	5
Nature Grand River	4
KWFN (No Change)	
	10

So the choice is yours to decide how to define our club and its membership. The Board expects that a motion for name change will be put to a special general meeting in the Fall. Thank you all for your participation in this process.

KWFN Conservation Award



L to R: Don McMurtry, Jane Schneider, Marg Macdonald, Kevin Thomason, Deb Swidrovich, Karen Buschert Photo Credit: Don Hill

NOMINATION FOR THE KWFN CONSERVATION AWARD 2014

KEVIN THOMASON

Kevin Thomason has been a driving force for the environmental movement in the Region of Waterloo for more than twenty years.

His love for and appreciation of the natural world was evident at the age of five when he joined the Boy Scouts of Canada. At 19, his involvement and passion earned him the Duke of Edinburgh's Award that was presented to him by Prince Philip; an award that is given to those "citizens who give back to their community and strive to be the best that they can possibly be". For the next 35 years, he continued his involvement with the scouting movement. These activities included bringing groups of cub scouts to his home on Sunfish Lake, and while there encouraging them to explore and appreciate nature. He recently stepped down from his position with the Boy Scouts of Canada to concentrate on local/provincial/national/international environmental issues.

Kevin's activism for the environment has been apparent throughout his term as President of the Sunfish Lake Association from 2000-2013. He has worked tirelessly with the Sunfish Lake residents and outlying communities promoting better stewardship and protection of the Laurel Creek Headwaters including this very rare meromictic lake. He has spent countless hours sharing his experiences and encouraging other environmental groups throughout his term as President; and continues to serve as Past President representing the Sunfish Lake Association at environmental forums and political arenas.

In 2004 Kevin (as part of His Sunfish Lake responsibilities) played a key role in the regional efforts to promote a greenbelt plan for the Region of Waterloo. He left his fulltime employment with Quarry Integrated Communications to concentrate his efforts on persuading city and regional councilors, and citizens at large, to embrace the concept of a greenbelt plan. He put his well-hewn expertise in Marketing and Communications to work, attending many, many meetings, speaking at community and business gatherings, persisting in the face of powerful, organized opposition until the Regional Council on behalf of its citizens approved the countryside line concept and the Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes designation, thereby preserving local farm land and specific geographic areas in their natural state.

.....Conservation Award continued

In 2005 Kevin, along with Region of Waterloo staff, proposed to the provincial authorities at Queen's Park that the Region of Waterloo be included in the Provincial Greenbelt Plan. He now sits on the Steering Committee for the Greenbelt Alliance, an organization coordinated by Environmental Defense that remains committed to the protection and expansion of Ontario's Greenbelt. His strength is in his ability to engage with people of diverse interests, to bring them together to share their points of view and learn about and from one another. This has been key to his successes in his promotion of a healthy environment in the Region of Waterloo.

Since 2008 he has been active in organizing and promoting support for the Region of Waterloo's Light Rail Transit system, an essential component in curbing urban sprawl and thus protecting our rural landscapes and our green spaces.

In 2012 he became Vice-Chair of the Grand River Environmental Network, an umbrella group of local activists involved in making representations on various environmental issues along the Grand River (pesticides, aggregate mining, air quality, ESLs, etc.).

In 2013 Kevin co-founded "Smart Growth Waterloo", an organization that has brought to the general public and members of parliament an awareness of environmental issues related to sustainable growth. He is actively supporting and promoting the Region of Waterloo's right, based on the support of its citizens, to determine land use planning in the face of the considerable pressure placed on the Region to develop protected lands by a recent decision made by the Ontario Municipal Board. This group organized a Panel Discussion for citizens of the Region of Waterloo to discuss "Smart Growth".

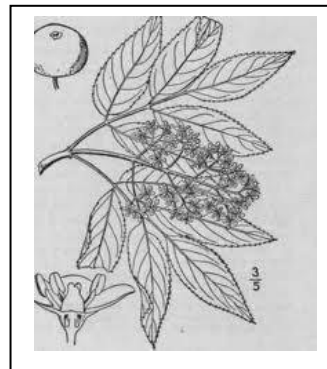
Kevin is the current Vice President of the Board of Ontario Nature so his influence is being felt at the provincial level as well as locally. He is a great believer in the power of Social Media. He has encouraged Ontario Nature's staff to reach out to youth through effective use of social media. We heard at the October regional meeting of ON that these efforts are ongoing and being well received by our provincial youth.

He is also the Secretary on the Board of Directors with Youth Challenge International and has travelled extensively in his work with volunteers in third world countries, bringing those experiences back to this

area and speaking on third world environmental and social challenges to local groups.

There is no question that Kevin Thomason has a passion for nature and a profound commitment to the preservation of a healthy environment at the regional level, at the provincial level and beyond. His energy, his communication skills, his respect for people of diverse opinions - all these characteristics have contributed to his many achievements in improving and conserving our environment in the Region of Waterloo.

Nominated by Marg Macdonald, Deb Swidrovich, Jane Schneider, Don McMurtry



Native Plant Nuts

Red Elderberry By Wayne Buck

Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols.* Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 3: 268. Courtesy of [Kentucky Native Plant Society](#).

During the months of March and April, as I walked around our naturalized (as opposed to restored) property and snow shod trails in local forests, I noticed the purple bullet-shaped buds of the Red Elderberry bushes swelling. We have planted several Red Elderberries on the property since they grow in profusion in the nearby woods. The one adjacent to the bird feeders gets a beating every year as it endures thousands of bird landings and takeoffs as birds come and go. This year they took more of a beating from the 10-12 Wild Turkeys, who, no doubt due to the long harsh winter, started showing up under our feeders almost daily in March. They broke several branches as they tried to use the branches to get on to the feeders.

In his book, *Growing Trees and Shrubs from Seed*, the late Henry Kock of the U of Guelph mentions several species of Elderberry that are found locally. The native Common or Black Elderberry, ***Sambucus canadensis***, whose small round almost black berries are delicious in pies and jelly, or when fermented, as wine, are among my very favourite fruits. Their taste is not for everyone and for some; the tiny seeds

.....Red Elderberry continued

working under dentures are not to be endured. The European Black Elderberry *S. nigra* is a common garden and elderberry farm escapee that is also found in the wild. The golden-leaved *S. nigra var. Aurea* is a horticultural variety of the aforementioned European Black Elderberry that has become naturalized in parts of Ontario. Kock suggests that these should be removed whenever they are encountered.

The native Red Elderberry is *Sambucus pubens*. Kock states that Red Elder is “the only bush in the forest with bright green leaves and purple flower buds when the trilliums are blooming.” The leaves are adapted to capture the energy in the sunlight before the forest canopy develops fully.

The pyramidal shape and purplish colour of the blooms which are insect pollinated and open mid-May make this species easy to identify from the large round flat white blooms of Black Elder which open later in June. The late Waterloo author Edna Staebler who had a cottage at Sunfish Lake for many years suggested snipping the blooms of Black Elder and inserting them into some of her delicious Buttermilk Pancakes as a summer treat. Kock further states that native elderberries are important food sources for more than 30 species of birds that are reported to feed on the fruits of both species. Red Elder blooms and fruit are to avoided but are not poisonous according to Kock.

A non native species of Red Elderberry *S. racemosa*, is sometimes encountered in the wild. It attains only about half the size of the native *S. pubens*. If you check the stems and leaves of *S. racemosa* as they emerge in early spring, they are glabrous or smooth whereas the stems and leaves of *S. pubens* are pubescent or hairy. When I read this I went outside and checked the buds on our bushes. They were pubescent. Ahhhhh!

Fraser Gibson at the City of Kitchener, Earth Day Event.



FH Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary Annual Report 2013-2014

MANDATE

In accordance with The Management Plan for the property, the Conservation Director of the club is asked to submit an Annual Report about the property to the Board. The Montgomery Committee is to prepare the report. This report covers the period from March 2013 to March 2014 and will be published in the Heron for the information of the members.

REPORT OF ACTIVITY

Our spring clean-up day had to be cancelled twice because of rain and very wet conditions. It was then impossible to arrange to have our full compliments of committee members present to do anything but the essential work – trail clearing, trail marking and checking the tarps.

PERIWINKLE ERADICATION:

In spring 2012 tarps were not moved because they had been moved the year before. It takes two years for the periwinkle kill under the tarps. In 2013 the tarps were checked and a few were moved, only a few due to lack of manpower. This means that in 2014 all tarps can be moved and the periwinkle die off assessed thoroughly.

Other Invasives:

We continue to cut Manitoba Maples as found. Increased presence of garlic mustard has been observed every year. In our February planning meeting for the season 2014 we decided to assess and start a pull of garlic mustard. We will begin in the upland area which is much less affected by GM than is the flood plain below. We also decided to ask club members to help out with this pull. We will assess the severity of the GM in the flood plain and assess whether this should be an ongoing effort to rid Montgomery of this plant.

Trail Guide

No changes were made to the trail guide. We continue to display them for sale at club meetings. Fraser Gibson has agreed to review and revise the trail guide by January 2015.

Montgomery Property Report Inspection

Inspection was performed on a lovely day October 18, 2013. The inspection report was submitted and approved by the KWFN Board. Of note in this year's inspection - more erosion was observed in the flood plain and upper forested areas following the very wet and cool spring and summer. A dead raccoon was found and there was noticeable beech tree death this year.

.....Montgomery Annual Report continued

Wood Duck Boxes

Again there was evidence of wood duck box habitation over the summer. The wood duck box by the Nith may have had wood duck eggs but the evidence was unclear and the second box more inland was used by, we think, several species but it was thought that wasps were the dominant users. Evidence also suggested a screech owl sat and ate inside this box. The boxes were cleaned and prepared for use in spring 2014. This task requires 3 people.

80th Anniversary KWFN

We have been asked to provide an outing in Montgomery as a part of the KWFN 80th Anniversary celebration. Marco DeBruin has kindly volunteered to lead this outing and will write an outing description and give it to the "Heron" Editor, The 80th Activity Convener (David Gascoigne), and the Outings Director.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to committee members who not only provide their hours of work but also needed supplies and equipment for our work. Many thanks!

Respectfully submitted by ,
The Montgomery Property Committee (in alpha order):

Pat and Paul Bigelow, Wayne and Lynda Buck, Karen Buschert, Marco DeBruin, Jim Cappleman, Pat Deacon, Fraser Gibson, Graham & Marg Macdonald, April Morrissey.

Report compiled by Margaret Macdonald,
March 9, 2014

Board meeting update

The following items were discussed at the May meeting:

- Website, social media and their role in publicity for the club
- Feedback received from President's letter to Members
- Update on volunteer positions for next year
- Youth Summit candidate update
- Review and approval of financial statements 2013-2014
- Review of draft budget for 2014-2015
- 80th Anniversary celebration update

The Board will meet again June 2nd. The minutes of the May meeting are available once approved and are filed in the library. Alternatively, you can receive the minutes by email by contacting Kelly Holdaway.



By Fraser Gibson

IS FSC CERTIFICATION PROTECTING OUR FORESTS?

When Resolute Forest Products received a license to build a new sawmill in Thunder Bay, it promised to increase its network of protected areas. However, it has failed to establish a single new protected area in the forests that provide wood for the mill. They have also received Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for those same forests. Last summer, Ontario Nature appealed to FSC, arguing that Resolute's forest operations did not meet the high standards of the certification. FSC's third party auditors agreed. They concluded that the company is not taking precautions to protect [woodland caribou](#) and has not met biodiversity goals within its network of protected areas.

Register Now for Ontario Nature's Annual Gathering

Do you want to spend a great weekend outdoors with fellow nature lovers? Then join us on June 20-22 at YMCA Geneva Park on beautiful Lake Couchiching for Ontario Nature's 83rd Annual Gathering. The weekend will feature hands-on workshops, expert-guided field trips and a keynote address by Environment Canada's Senior Climatologist, David Philips. Registration is available through our [website](#).

Petition Opposes Energy East Pipeline Project

If you're concerned about TransCanada's Energy East pipeline proposal to export crude oil in converted natural gas pipelines through northern and eastern Ontario, please let northern leaders know by signing our petition at www.surveymonkey.com/s/SayNoToEnergyEastPipeline. Just one pipeline rupture could cause significant and permanent damage to the local economy, the health of our citizens and to the sensitive ecosystems within the Lake Superior watershed. To learn more about TransCanada's proposal and ways you can voice your concerns, contact Julee Boan at juleeb@ontarionature.org.

.....Ontario Nature continued

Great Lakes West Regional Meeting Report

The spring Regional Meeting hosted by the Friends of MacGregor Park, held the same day as our KNAP Earth Day, was attended by Graham and Marg Macdonald and David Gascoigne. Graham shared the following notes from the meeting.

There was quite a discussion about websites and social media. The following are bullet points from this meeting.

- Nature Guelph (NG) has updated their website and now have more traffic. See www.natureguelph.ca
- NG also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Access from their website – you don't need a Facebook account to view. They regularly post events from four clubs within driving distance – includes KWFN.
- NG officially changed their name by member vote in May 2013 with overwhelming support.
- NG has a new logo and newsletter format (not on website yet – next issue)
- Membership payment on-line via Paypal
- Owen Sound Field Naturalists (OSFN) has upgraded their website. See www.owensoundfieldnaturalists.ca
- They used OSIM Interactive of Harriston for website development.
- OSFN have online membership payment through Paypal. Club adds \$2 for online payment to cover Paypal charges.
- Ontario Nature has been focusing on Facebook and Twitter for the last year.
- Convinced this is the way to go. Must keep Facebook "fresh"

Newsletters – KWFN has 9 issues. All other clubs have between 3 and 5. Some clubs are entirely electronic, others still offer hard copy as well. Suggested that membership form should have default electronic delivery of newsletter with hard copy only on request, and possibly with an added cost of membership. Our ratio of Paper/Online is much higher than most.

Membership Fees – ON considers that most Naturalist club fees are too low for value delivered and compared to other categories of non-profit clubs. Guelph is considering eliminating the Couple, Family, and Senior discount categories of membership. They

feel that this is discriminating vs. single members. No club has an Affiliate or Corporate category. They agree that Corporate (for Profit) membership = sponsorship and can lead to trouble. Affiliate or Associate (Non-Profit) could be OK. Ontario Nature is considering introducing this.

Editor's Corner

Traditions are what we enjoy again and again with our family and friends. Such is The Heron newsletter - a tradition in which we as members participate and share our skills and talents. The greatest benefit of our newsletter is communication, plain and simple. From our Native Plant Nut guy to the outings co-ordinator and beyond, you all inspire our members and others to nurture nature.

Communication tools of today are now grasping new traditions. I applaud the Executive for their 'mail chimp' outings updates! Of course, not everyone today has the new tools and rely on a long standing tradition, The Heron. I enjoy the position of Editor and am proud to be a part of a past and present tradition of the KWFN.

When I began this position, many of you provided input on your newsletter. Now I am asking again for any ideas or suggestions from you, our members. My contact information is on page 2.

Sincerest thanks to my regular and not so regular contributors – you make The Heron great! Have a nature loving summer!





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youth 18 and under.
Club year runs from
Sept. to August

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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 (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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<http://www.ontarionature.org/index.php>