



The Heron
March, 2014

Upcoming Club Meeting:
March 24, 2014 7:30 pm
VISITORS WELCOME

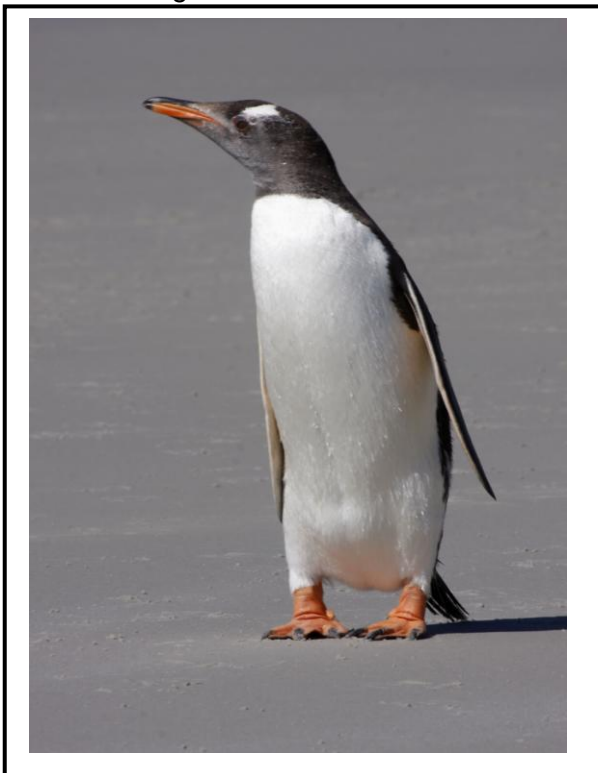
Wing 404/Rotary Adult Centre
510 Dutton Drive, Waterloo

www.kwfn.ca

March Meeting
Speaker: David Brewer

David's presentation will be on penguin biology, systematics, predation, food and conservation.

Photo credit: Jean Weller
 Gentoo Penguin



Chin Strap Penguin



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Mark Your Calendars

Mon. April 28 – 7:30 pm

Sheila Colla -
 The Bumble Bee Decline

Sat. May 10 at rare

ECO Centre

KWFN's 80th Anniversary
 Ceremonial planting of
 8 native trees

Mon. May 26 – 7:00 pm

Celebrating KWFN's 80th Anniversary with a
 Special meeting.

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

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Volunteers Needed for the KWFN!

Please consider helping the club continue its rich 80 year history by serving in a much-needed capacity. You will be working with a great bunch of people and giving back to the club in a meaningful way.

Three year Board terms starting in June 2014:

Vice-President – A VP is needed for the coming year. The first year of the three year term allows the VP an opportunity to observe and learn how the club operates. During the second year, the VP becomes the President and oversees club business with the capable assistance of the Directors. The third year is as Past President, offering advice to those who follow.

Secretary – Help keep the record straight by preparing the agendas and taking the minutes of club meetings.

Conservation Director – On behalf of the club, be aware of, investigate and respond to, heritage and environmental conservation issues.

Program Director – Book speakers for the monthly meetings and manage presentation setup. Manage the December Social Meeting.

Interested in the Program Director or Conservation Director responsibilities but not in serving on the Board, or vice versa? Talk to us about **flexible options!**

Open-term non-Board position:

Heron Editor – produce the monthly Heron by soliciting items for publication, editing contributions as needed and doing layout.

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).

March Outings and Events Schedule

Long Point and Environs

The Burrells, 699-4695

Saturday, March 15

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(binoculars), field guides and a scope if you have one. Dress warmly as it may be cooler near the lake at this time of year.

Waterfowl in the Area

Jim and Ken Burrell

699-4695

burrellsc@golden.net

Saturday, March 29

Meeting Time/Place

8:00 am at the Northfield Sobey's

Come and see what waterfowl are in the area. We will visit Laurel Creek, the Conestoga River and Conestoga Lake in our search for waterfowl and other migrants. Bring binos(binoculars), scopes, field guides and warm clothes. We should be back by noon.

Update from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on February 3rd, the following items were discussed:

- Bruce Trail Conservancy donor program
- Sponsorship for an applicant to attend Ontario Nature's 2014 Youth Summit
- Action Letter re: KWFN's position on Neonicotinoids
- Board of Directors turnover for 2014-2015
- KWFN publicity initiatives

The Board will meet again March 3rd. The minutes of the February meeting are available once approved and are filed in the library. Alternatively, you can receive the minutes by email by contacting Kelly Holdaway(contact information on Page 2 of The Heron).

Upcoming Events

NEW BRUCE TRAIL NATURE RESERVES DONOR TOURS

KWFN Sanctuary Fund recently donated \$10,000 to the Bruce Trail Conservancy Nature Reserves 2013 Campaign. The three reserves are now secured through the generosity of 1180 donors, including KWFN. In celebration of your gift to help preserve these three new nature reserves, the BTC invites you to join them on an interpretive tour of a nature reserve you helped create. More info on the reserves can be found on the BTC web site: <http://brucetrail.org/pages/land-conservation/nature-reserves-2013>

Tour 1: May 24, 2014

Silent Valley – Sydenham, 21 Km east of Owen Sound

This interpretive hike will allow you to explore and learn about the rich heritage of this nature reserve and its unique history, biology and geology.

Tour 2: May 31, 2014

Duntroon Crevice Heights – Blue Mountains, 3.8 km east of Singhampton

The geology and cliff ecology of this reserve truly sets it apart. We will skirt past massive islands of rock and get an intimate look at the Escarpment's unique ancient cedars.

Tour 3: June 8, 2014

Fairmount-Webwood Passage – Beaver Valley, 14 km south west of Thornbury

A close look at this lively stream habitat, and the wetland and waterfall it connects will amaze visitors. Spring flowers and nesting birds will be an added treat.

REGISTRATION: Deadline 15 March 2014

Pick the tour you want to go on;

Email Graham Macdonald grahamacd@execulink.com or phone 519-634-5633 with number of participants; include your contact info (names, email, phone);

Note the date in your calendar!

We will consolidate the bookings and advise BTC. From that point on you will be contacted by BTC with details.

Thank you to all who have donated to the KWFN Sanctuary Fund.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND KEEN TEEN BIRDERS!

The Long Point Bird Observatory is looking for keen teen birders to apply for the 2014 Doug Tarry Natural History Fund - Young Ornithologist Workshop to be held from Saturday August 2 to Sunday August 10. Participants will receive hands-on training in field ornithology including bird banding, monitoring, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due April 30, 2014. For more information and an application form, contact us at lpbo@birdscanada.org, or visit www.birdscanada.org/lpbo.

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), 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/

Thank you to our Donors

Janet Carey

Bruce and Mary Lois Cooper

Dennis and Doris Hilker

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

Sat. Feb. 22 – Shelter Building

Sat. March 29 – Sugar Shack

Sat. April 26 – Salamander Hike

Sat. May 24 – Bats and Moths

Membership Report By Carol Foxall

Income tax receipts:

Income tax receipts for 2013 membership dues and donations will be available for pickup at the February club meeting. Please see our treasurer Paul Bigelow at the back of the room. Receipts not picked up at the meeting will be mailed in late February. If you have any questions about your tax receipt please contact the membership director.

Half price for new memberships :

Membership fees for new members, for the balance of the 2013-14 membership year, are half the amounts listed in The Heron. Please visit our web site, www.kwfn.ca or contact the Membership Director for complete details regarding memberships.

Welcome New Member!

Lynn Conway

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Graham Macdonald

The snow must have drifted across my thought paths this time, as I am lacking in inspiration for a topic. Perhaps, like Wiarton Willie, I should make a prediction; or perhaps a New Year's resolution would be in order? I hope many of you have made a resolution to serve your fellow members as a Director or in a volunteer capacity this year. I can predict with certainty that we will need your help in many ways. Janet Ozaruk will be canvassing for the several positions that must be filled – a slate that is posted elsewhere in this issue and on our website. Have you also made a resolution to check the website regularly for outings and notices? The web site and the e-mail notices, the latter started this year, are valuable aids to keeping you informed.

Wiarion Willie saw his shadow this year – a harbinger of an extended winter. We too have shadows hanging over us: the threat of audit by the Canada Revenue Agency of Charitable Corporations that engage in political activity – a threat that is being carried out on at least seven of the environmental advocacy groups that are most critical of the Federal Government's policies affecting the environment. This action is at least partly in response to a complaint registered with CRA by Ethical Oil, a misnomer if ever there was one. This shadow has an oily sheen to it! I predict that more than ever it will devolve upon concerned individuals to put pressure upon their elected representatives to enact wise legislation for the planet, and for each of you to exercise your vote with conscience.

Other dangers are lurking in the shadows of global corporations and secret trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). If the TPP, and other pacts like the China FIPA deal that has been stalled for over a year by public outcry, becomes law then we will be beholden for decades to corporate greed trumping our country's democratic processes. Keep a keen ear to the ground for rapidly growing concern over neonicotinoids – insecticides applied to crop and other seeds, now banned in Europe, that are being linked to the decline of honeybees and other pollinators, as well as insect eating birds, bats and other organisms. These poisons disrupt immune systems, are cumulative and non-reversible in non-lethal doses, and are highly soluble in water. Remember DDT? Neonics may well be the next lethal chemical to creep out of the shadows to pervade the web of life.

I predict that you could ignore all this gloom, do nothing, and live a much happier life – but wouldn't it be better to resolve to take some action, to preserve the Monarch miracle, to keep our food chemical free, to make your vote count? You have lots of opportunity to deny me this prediction! Living in a burrow does not cut it today.

I guess the snow drifts blew away during the writing of this!

SAVE AMHERST ISLAND

A proposed industrial wind turbine project threatens wildlife and habitat on pristine Amherst Island. Windlectric/Algonquin Power plans to blanket this tiny Island with 36 industrial wind turbines. Roads will be widened, trees will be destroyed and new access roads will fragment and destroy habitat.

Amherst Island is an Important Bird Area of Global Importance on the Atlantic Migratory flyway. The Island known as North America's owl capital hosts the greatest variety of owls in Canada. If the turbines are built, four will be located adjacent to Owl Woods dividing where the owls roost from where they hunt.

What has been the cost to nearby Wolfe Island? The bird kill is the second highest of any wind-turbine installation in North America and experts forecast the same, or worse, kill rate on Amherst Island.

You can help stop what Senator Runciman has called the "desecration of Amherst Island" by sending your comments to the Ontario Government on this form:

<http://protectamherstisland.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e884c8cb838be6963cbe7efad&id=b765c7aefd&e=feab50e242>

Or you can send an email to Susanne Edwards, Ontario Ministry of the Environment with EBR 012-0774 in the subject line by March 8, 2014.

To: susanne.edwards@ontario.ca, with copies to premier@ontario.ca, minister.moe@ontario.ca, agatha.garciawright@ontario.ca and protectai@kos.net

You can learn more about Amherst Island on the Association to Protect Amherst Island website:

<http://protectamherstisland.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e884c8cb838be6963cbe7efad&id=99cc52e9111&e=feab50e242>

From the Editor:

Larry Lamb has kindly provided permission to The Heron Editor to publish 'Attracting Animal Life to Your Garden' as space permits. Due to the length of the article, one section has been scanned and is provided below. Other sections will appear in future Heron editions.

**Attracting Animal Life to Your Garden,
Part 2
by Larry Lamb**

Make your effort a neighbourhood one in order to create a larger area for attraction, Plant things your neighbours do not have to increase diversity. Also, if someone has a male bayberry, sumac or whatever, why not plant a female in your yard?

In a former backyard, I created a fencerow environment along three sides with a split rail fence weaving through rows and clumps of primarily native trees, shrubs and herbs. A few scattered boulders, a rock pile (rock garden) and a water basin added to the rustic effect. Where I live now, I have a tall grass prairie ecosystem (a stupendous butterfly garden) in the backyard and a northern meadowscape in the front yard.

Use of native wild plants is preferable to using exotics if you want a truly convincing natural habitat. Some alien species are good but tend to be invasive and should be avoided. If you must use non-indigenous plants use benign species that do not spread vigourously from roots or via seed dispersal from wind or animals. Indigenous plants are adapted to local climate and disease conditions and are familiar to local animal species. They are also the best to use to maintain the purity of your globally unique bioregion. These can be purchased at some nurseries, started from seed or cuttings, or dug with discretion from the wild (along future road or hydro rights-of-way, or areas about to be cleared for sub-development).

Also keep in mind that all will not be rosy for Breasted Grosbeaks. You may also get English sparrows, starlings, rats and other pests competing with the more desirable species for these species also appreciate a good thing.

One final note. Free ranging pets such as cats and dogs will play havoc with the best efforts to attract animal life to your neighbourhood.

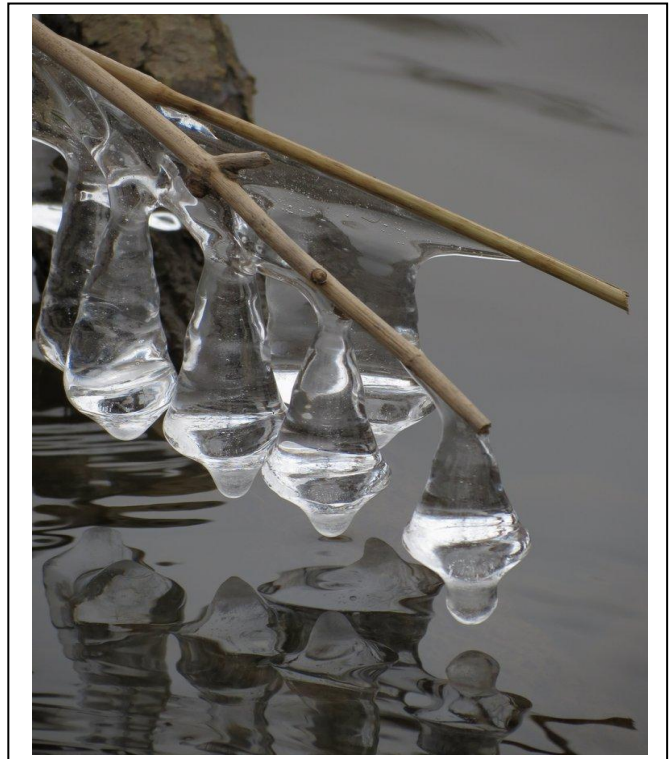


Photo Credit: Don Thomas

Vanishing Orange And Blacks by Anne Morgan

Recent reports from the overwintering sites of the monarchs in Mexico show that their numbers have dropped for a third year in a row. In 2013 alone the numbers have decreased by 59%.

One factor affecting monarch numbers has been the adverse weather conditions in recent years. The spring and summer of 2012 and 2013 were very hot along the US migration route so that the butterflies arrived far too early in the north where it was still very cold and where the milkweed and adequate nectar sources had not yet developed.

The most important factor in the decline of the monarchs is that about 266 thousand square miles of monarch habitat have been lost since 1996. This is an area slightly larger than the entire province of Alberta! This loss is mainly due to the increase in roundup ready corn and soya bean production (for ethanol, not food!). Farmers' fields used to be the main source of common milkweed, but now these GM crops are sprayed with glyphosate to control all weeds including the milkweed.

Monarch numbers may rebound slowly, but only if weather conditions improve, if logging is stopped in the Mexican overwintering sites and if there is enough milkweed both in the US and in Canada. We all need to be planting milkweeds for monarch caterpillars (the ONLY plant they eat) as well as nectar producing plants for the butterflies. Even though milkweeds are on the noxious weed list, our local by-laws allow for them to be planted as long as they do not affect agricultural or horticultural production. Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) seems to be one of the best milkweeds for nectar production and like whorled milkweed (*A. verticillata*) it provides good caterpillar food. Both will grow under almost any conditions in a garden. Orange butterfly milkweed (*A. tuberosa*) is certainly the most showy for dry sunny spots, and common milkweed (*A. syriaca*) is very easy to grow, but only plant this species where it is allowed to spread (by underground roots and seeds) without interfering with other plants. It can become invasive!

Monarchs are like the flagship for our environment because they live in habitats where a lot of other insects, birds and small mammals also live. Pollinators are critical for most of the plants in these ecosystems and in turn these support birds and all higher organisms. It is a complex web of life and ultimately we humans at the top suffer too. Healthy habitats mean healthy humans, so plant more milkweeds and help the beautiful orange and black butterflies.

The Great Butterfly Hunt tells the story of incredible journeys. The first is that of the remarkable Monarch migration, which is the longest insect migration on Earth. The second story is that of Fred Urquhart, the determined Canadian scientist who spent 40 years trying to discover exactly where the butterflies mysteriously disappeared when they flew south for the winter. Watch online at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/the-great-butterfly-hunt>

Article from The Record on Monarch habitat:

<http://www.therecord.com/news-story/4362586-butterfly-expert-urges-planting-habitats-for-struggling-monarchs/>

Monarch Watch, Mexican overwintering population status from January 29, 2014:

<http://monarchwatch.org/blog/>



By Fraser Gibson

Ontario's Herpetofaunal Atlas Program Turns 30

In 1984, Ontario became the first region in North America to create a reptile and amphibian atlas, the Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary (OHS). Since that time, Ontario Nature's Reptile & Amphibian Atlas was established and the data generated by these 2 projects greatly benefited herpetofaunal conservation in the province. To celebrate this 30-year milestone, Ontario Nature and our partners will host several "herp blitzes" in 2014. To learn where and when these blitzes will be held, contact Tanya Pulfer at tanyap@ontarionature.org.

Nature Reserves Upgrades Planned for 2014

The trail systems on several of our nature reserves will be revitalized with infrastructure upgrades this year to facilitate visitation. The work will focus on Malcolm Bluff Shores Nature Reserve (Colpoys Bay area), where we will install interpretive signs and create a parking area.

Ontario Nature Wins \$3000.00 for Caribou Film

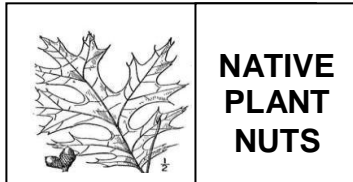
A big "thank you" to all Nature Network friends for helping Ontario Nature win \$3000.00 from Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) to produce a film about the impacts of industrial development in the Brightsand caribou range, just north of Thunder Bay. MEC Wild Bucks selected our project to compete against 4 other organizations across Canada and your votes secured us second place and \$3000.00.

Through our film, we will "speak for the trees" to inspire governments and the forest industry to stop logging in areas used by the woodland caribou. By protecting Ontario's northern wilderness, we will protect the threatened woodland caribou and other vulnerable wildlife that depend on undisturbed, mature boreal forest for survival.

Article recently published in The Waterloo Region Record on the decline of the chickadee population.

<http://www.therecord.com/news-story/4324179-local-chickadee-population-in-dramatic-decline/>

A Thing of Beauty By Wayne Buck



NATIVE PLANT NUTS

I am nuts about native plants; passionate about prairies; wild about wildflowers. One of my favourite wildflower genres is the Trillium. In fact, it is one of my plant totems; a plant that holds a special significance for me. There are 5 species of Trillium indigenous to Ontario: *T. grandiflorum*, Great White Trillium; *T. erectum*, Red Trillium, *T. flexipes*, Bent Trillium; *T. cernuum*, Nodding Trillium; *T. undulatum*, Painted Trillium. I believe the first 4 species are found in Waterloo Region. My favourite of these 5 Trillium species is the Painted Trillium. I have never seen a Painted Trillium in Ontario, but hope to in the not too distant future. As we hike the Bruce Trail, my friend Ken Quanz often quotes the opening line of a the poet John Keats who wrote, "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:

*Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet
breathing.* "

That line sort of sums up how I feel about Painted Trilliums. I first saw Painted Trillium when we were in Tennessee for the annual wildflower week. The trilliums were in full bloom and I saw a number of species for the first time, including *T. luteum*, Yellow Trillium and *T. cuneatum*, Large Toadshade Trillium. But the sight of the Painted Trillium remains in my memory most clearly with its deep red throat or base forming the centre of the 3 pure white petals. It's a sight not to be forgotten. The edges of the petals are wavy or undulating (hence the scientific name). Painted Trilliums are generally shorter than both Large White and Red Trillium; with narrower petals

and leaves. The petals have the familiar (to us) **pedicellate** form; that is the petals are open and lay flat parallel to the ground such as the Large White and Red Trilliums, unlike the **sessile** trilliums such as Great Toadshade and Yellow Trillium which have their petals upright and folded together in a vertical position, rather like hands in prayer.

Painted Trilliums prefer cool shaded places in the forest, although in Ontario it may tolerate more light than its southern relatives. It requires acidic soil and will grow on calcareous soil if there is a layer of sand underlying and the humus layer is at least 10-15 cm deep. According to Fred and Roberta Case, it grows as far north in Ontario as Sudbury and has been reported near Midland. It is also listed on the newly acquired Bruce Trail property Fairmont Webwood in The Beaver Valley. I hope to go on an outing with the Bruce Trail Conservancy in May to explore this area and possibly see my first Painted Trillium in Ontario. This is one of the 3 areas towards which KWFN made a donation in 2013 towards the purchase.

Please note the correction to the Native Plant Nuts Article printed in the February, 2014 Heron:

I switched the scientific names of the 2 species of cohosh in last month's Heron. Thank you to Walter Muma for pointing it out.

C. thalictroides (L.) Michx. = yellow-flowered blue cohosh (flowers 2 weeks later; shorter styles)
C. giganteum (Farwell) Loconte & W.H. Blackwell = purple-flowered blue cohosh (flowers 2 weeks earlier; long styles)



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Membership Annual Fees

Family/Couple \$35
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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 (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
Naturalists
Is a member of Ontario Nature.
<http://www.ontarionature.org/index.php>