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ONLINE PRESENTATION

*Join us online November 23rd for a Special *virtual* presentation from the Toronto Zoo's Great Lakes Program*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Memberships will be automatically renewed for the 2020-2021 season, see page 10 for more information

HOLIDAY SOCIAL & TRIVIA

*December 14th from 7-9pm
 See page 6 for info*



Removing fallen trees over the trail at Montgomery Tract. Photo: A. Smith

**Montgomery Property Fall Clean-up Report**

By Anita Smith

What a wonderful morning the Montgomery Team had on Friday, October 16th! The air was crisp, the sun was shining, and the autumn colours were stunning! Members attending were Graham and Marg Macdonald, Donna and Marco DeBruin, Wayne and Lynda Buck, Paul Bigelow, Wendy Shaw, Jim Cappleman, Fraser Gibson, and Anita Smith. We look forward to having Pat Bigelow and Genie Berger join us again in the spring!

It had been a year since this team assembled at the property as a group because of the pandemic. Everyone wore masks as we assembled to discuss some business before heading onto the property for the work. We discussed the possibility of having WRN Teens come out on a Saturday after our spring clean up to do some garlic mustard pulls and setting tarps to deal with the invasive periwinkle.

As the newbie committee chairperson, I was thankful that this team is such a well-oiled machine! Everyone came dressed, brought tools and equipment, and set off to work.

There were numerous trees which had fallen over sections of our trail that needed to be removed. The whole team also bushwhacked their way through other sections that were overgrown with vegetation over our heads! Also, the trail marking has now been completed in both directions with more permanent metal blazes. Thank you, Graham!

Continued on page 11

SUBMISSIONS NEEDED!

If you have any articles, photographs, artwork, reviews, outing recaps, etc. you would like to see in our newsletter, please submit them to editor@waterlooregionnature.ca

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All WRN Club meetings are held in the Reception Hall of the Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church

50 Erb St. West

In-Person Club Meetings are currently cancelled for the duration of 2020 due to COVID-19.

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Submission Deadlines:

Spring Issue
February 15th
Fall Issue
July 15th
Winter Issue
October 15th



President's Corner

By David Gascoigne

It seems to defy belief, but we have now been dealing with the pandemic for seven months, and there is no end in sight, short of the development of a vaccine. That appears still to be several months away and at what point production will be able to satisfy global demand is another matter entirely.

I received a notification last week that the Huron Fringe Birding Festival has been cancelled for May 2021, and I suspect that is an augury of things to come. The prospects for our Club to meet in person for the entire 2020/2021 year are bleak. COVID-19, from all accounts, is entering a second wave, with winter and indoor confinement still to come, and already in many regions of the country, the number of cases has exceeded the first wave.

This bodes badly for naturalists in terms of getting together as we so much enjoy doing, but to a great extent our personal field activities need to suffer little. The risk of transmission while outdoors is substantially less than is the case with close contact indoors, and the natural world is there to greet us as it has always been, with all its secrets still to be discovered. For the adventurous among us, outdoor exploration can take place with little possibility of coming into contact with others, especially if you have access to private property where the public does not wander at large. And even in local parks it is not difficult to maintain appropriate social distancing, so perhaps our passion for nature renders us less susceptible to the emotional stress experienced by other segments of society.

An iNaturalist site has now been established for WRN members to report their sightings and in this way maintain a liaison, however tenuous, with other members of the club. Our first Nature Inventory Blitz at SpruceHaven was a success and we have other

nature blitzes planned for each season. I would urge you to get out and take part in such an event where you can chat to fellow naturalists you have not seen for months – all while maintaining appropriate distance of course!

Traditional outings with large numbers of participants are impractical, but we have been able to implement serial outings with low numbers, and this has proven very popular indeed. My bird outings have been largely booked within a couple of hours and everyone who has taken part has expressed great satisfaction. Fraser Gibson conducted two fern walks and I know had similar success. If others among you, especially those who have led outings in the past have similar ideas, we would welcome your input.

Your board of directors is examining other opportunities for involvement by our members, including Zoom meetings, but we are hearing from some who are experiencing internet fatigue, and to what extent a large percentage of our membership would participate is a moot point. The possibility of creating joint on-line presentations with another club is being explored; the opportunity of creating videos and uploading to YouTube is another option. Rest assured that we are not sitting idly by!

I have been encouraged at a couple of displays of vigilance on the part of members who have not let the pandemic stifle their environmental conscience. One involved shutting down an illegal, commercial mushroom foraging operation in a public park in contravention of the municipal bylaws. Bravo!

Stay safe! Stay well! The great outdoors is still there for all to enjoy.

OUTINGS, ACTIVITIES, THINGS TO DO &

COVID has presented many challenges, not the least of which is our ability to conduct outings safely and in a manner that can be enjoyed by all participants. Social distancing is a paramount concern, of course, and that reality alone places restrictions on the number of members who can join together for an outing.

We are pleased with the strong support for and interest in the outings that David Gascoigne and Fraser Gibson lead this fall. These outings were kept small with COVID precautions in place and were well attended.

We would love to hear from other club members who are interested in leading similar outings through the remainder of the fall and winter. Please contact Outings Director Shannon Pennington (outings@waterlooregionnature.ca) if interested.

Christmas Bird Counts 2020

2020 Dates	Location	Coordinator
December 19	Kitchener Area	Ethan Gosnell ethan.gosnell2@gmail.com 519-570-1256
December 20	Cambridge Area	Levi Moore levicmoore1@gmail.com 519-501-4031
TBD	Linwood Area	Ken Burrell kenneth.gd.burrell@gmail.com 519-498-0605



If you would like to participate in any of these counts, please contact the Coordinator.

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

February 12-15, 2021.



Over-Wintering Raptors in Wellesley Township

Join Jim Burrell on an outing to view birds along roadways in Wellesley Township with a limit of five cars. Carloads should consist of members of the same family/social bubble.

The same outing will be offered two times, on a first come first served basis for each date. **Prior registration is required** and if you have a close friend or family member who is not a member of the club they would be welcome to take part, subject to usual liability waivers.

Dates: Sunday January 23, 2021 & Sunday January 30, 2021

Meeting Time & Location: 9:00am at the Food Basics parking lot, Laurelwood and Erbsville Rd., Waterloo

Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Leader: Jim Burrell, jim.g.burrell@gmail.com

We will travel the roads of Wellesley Township up to the Conestoga Dam looking for over-wintering raptors and whatever else we see along the way. Bring binoculars and scopes if you have them. No washrooms available along route. **Prior registration is required. Please contact Jim Burrell by email to register.**

SpruceHaven Nature Inventory Blitz: Winter

The SpruceHaven Nature Inventory Blitz (Fall) was held October 10-11th. Together, 27 on-site observers tallied 462 observations of 212 species, with identification help and support from 94 online identifiers.

Thanks to all those who participated!

50% of observations were of plants, 25% insects, and the remainder a mix of fungi, birds, mammals, and other wildlife. The most observed species are shown here ->

Watch for details about an upcoming winter inventory in 2021 and join us in continuing the exploration at SpruceHaven.



Most Observed Species

Eastern Red-backed S... 9



Herb Robert

9



New England Aster

8



Wood Nettle

7



Canadian Wild Ginger

6



Common Eastern Bumble Bee 6

ID Help Needed!

Dust off your field guides and keep your field skills fresh by helping fellow WRN members and the greater community identify local nature sightings on our iNaturalist project.

<https://inaturalist.ca/projects/waterloo-region-nature-local-nature-sightings>

Join the Waterloo Region Nature: Local Nature Sightings project and all nature sightings you post to iNaturalist from Waterloo Region will be automatically added,

New to iNaturalist? Visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started> for help getting started.

Online Presentation: Aquatic Species at Risk in the Great Lakes

Join us online, from the comfort of your own social bubble, for this special presentation by Kat Lucas from the Toronto Zoo's Great Lakes Program about some of the species at risk in the Great Lakes and how we can protect them.



Monday, November 23rd at 7pm

The Presenter: Kat Lucas is the Aqua-Links Program Assistant at the Toronto Zoo. She has a passion for conservation education and connecting others with the environment. She graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science, Zoology and a Master of Environmental Science with a focus on aquatic toxicology and fish reproduction.

To Attend This Meeting: You must pre-register online on the WRN website and then you will receive an email with a link to the Zoom meeting. You will simply need to have Zoom downloaded on your device, and follow the provided link to join the meeting. No microphone or webcam is required, and we will ask all attendees to remain muted for the duration of the presentation.

To pre-register: <https://waterlooregionnature.ca/event/great-lakes-aquatic-species-at-risk/>

To learn more about ZOOM: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>

DECEMBER 14

7:00pm-9:00pm

ONLINE

Our Annual Holiday Social, only virtual this year! Join us for some nature trivia and socializing.

Visit <https://waterlooregionnature.ca/event/holiday-trivia-social/>

for more information and to pre-register (required)



Ontario Showshoe Hare Project

Help Trent University undergraduate student Victoria Reimer by posting your sightings of snowshoe hares to iNaturalist this fall and winter. Victoria is interested in any snowshoe hare sightings, but particularly is focused on first sightings of white or molting hares for the season.

Learn more at: <https://reimervictoria.wixsite.com/snowshoehare>
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ontario-snowshoe-hares>



Secrets of the Hive

By Janet Ozaruk

Picture a structure, built by tiny animals, that's as complex as the Egyptian pyramids. A veritable fortress filled with many chambers, constructed by hundreds of individuals working together in an advanced society. A home that expands in dimension to accommodate the swelling population within. A home where the very material it is made from, is manufactured by its inhabitants. This describes the nest of the bald-faced hornet.

Early winter is a good time to spot hornet hangouts. These papery apartment buildings are often located up in deciduous trees, the fabric of the nest enfolding the slender twigs. Their presence is revealed as the trees discard their leaves. As an added bonus, the nest becomes inactive at this time of year. It's safe to approach and even handle a nest after it's been abandoned and a killing frost has decimated the nest's erstwhile population. Paper wasps, honeybees, yellow jackets and hornets all nest in colonies. In the case of honeybees, the whole population overwinters by living off its stores of honey. However, with wasp, hornet, or yellow jacket populations, the vast majority of the colony dies off, leaving only the new queens. These queens overwinter by burrowing into the soil or protected cavities. Having been impregnated in the fall, they are ready to lay their eggs in the spring, thereby, starting a brand new colony.

My neighbours had a fine hornets' nest sprouting from their crabapple tree. So, with their permission, I perched up on a stepladder and used gardening shears to carefully clip the twigs holding it in place. It was shaped roughly like a turnip, rounded at the top and tapering to a soft point. The sole entrance into the nest was a 1 inch diameter hole offset from the bottom. The nest's circumference at the widest point was 27 inches/69 cm, with a length of 15 inches/38 cm. I was surprised at how lightweight it was in my hands. It weighed in at only 4 oz/117grams. You really need to examine a nest up close to appreciate the artistry of it. It looked like a puffy quilted pillow made of soft newsprint. Bands of sand, grey and chalk-hued paper arced over the surface, the different colours reflecting the original

source of the material. In the summer, I've seen worker hornets methodically chewing their way across dry wood on old unpainted fence posts and picnic benches. The wood fibres are mixed with the hornet's saliva and then spit out to form the thin, uniform layers forming the interior and shell of the hive.



Inside the paper covering of a bald-faced hornet nest are several suspended combs containing chambers for larvae

Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. Photo: Wasrts

There's nothing like some investigative work, so I spread out some newspapers on the dining room table, got a pair of sharp scissors, and said "Cover me, I'm going in!". I gently snipped away layer after layer until I had removed one side of the paper shell. Inside were four suspended tiers packed with hundreds of hexagonal cells. Each tier was attached to the one above by one or more sturdy stalks and was free of the outer shell. Each hexagonal cell, at one time, would have held an egg, which then hatched into an immobile larvae. After metamorphosis, the larvae would have been transformed into a worker, male, or new queen. But now, this former "hive of activity", once protected by fierce warriors, lay abandoned and revealing its secrets.

Waterloo Region Nature Teens

By Marg Paré

Since the last Heron, WRN Teens has made the transition from our virtual version back to our in-person selves! We hope we can keep seeing each other for real but are trying to stay flexible in case things change again.

We wrapped up our spring-summer series of 13 Zoom meetings in early September. In July, we learned about tree identification from UW Ecology Lab Assistants Shayne Poleyko and Riley Jauniaux. In August, Logan Mercier, Conservation Technician Assistant at **rare Charitable Research Reserve** introduced us (virtually) to some very cool baby turtles while explaining **rare's** turtle egg rescue and hatching program. And, just before school started again, Tim Alamenciak, a PhD candidate in Social and Ecological Sustainability at UW taught us all about native wildflower seed collection, storage and propagation. Thanks to all these experts who shared their knowledge and helped Teens network with mentors and stay connected.

In mid-September, WRN made the decision to allow in-person, outdoor activities with various precautions in place. At our first project, adult volunteers decided to add mask-wearing as an additional precaution since distancing is hard when working together. We are pleased with how this works and are impressed with the maturity our Teens show as they respect our request.

For our first work project of 2020-21, David Gascoigne led us in removing undesirable plants from the grassland that is being restored at SpruceHaven farm in St. Agatha. Wearing masks on a hot day at the end of September, we dug the very dry, hard earth in this native ecosystem (in the making) to remove thistles and sumac. The Teens created piles of debris then, during a break, learned more about the farm-to-nature-reserve transformation that was undertaken at SpruceHaven several years ago.

WRN Teens is extremely grateful to Dave Westfall,

Sandy Hill and Jamie Hill for welcoming us to their beautiful SpruceHaven. We have done other projects there but this year, as many of our usual partner organizations are not able to welcome volunteers, we particularly appreciate their hospitality. As you'll read, we're making good use of their generosity.

Because of the pandemic, we missed the spring season and part of our fall season monitoring the salamander population in the woods at SpruceHaven. We were thrilled to be able to resume monitoring in October with Linda Dutka coordinating again this year. We've been astounded at the huge numbers of Red-backed Salamanders and were also excited to see a Leadback phase Red-backed Salamander and an Eastern Spotted Newt, as well as various frog species.

We ended the month with a work day that combined salamander monitoring and an introduction to a nesting box monitoring project that we hope to start in the spring. We are very proud that after Mike Smith helped us with some basic woodworking to build nesting boxes last winter, one row of boxes at SpruceHaven has been named "Teens Row." We can't wait to learn the skills needed to record data on "our" row of nesting boxes! Enthusiastic thanks to David Gascoigne for coordinating all our efforts at SpruceHaven.

Our upcoming projects for 2020-21 remain unconfirmed. We hope to call on the expertise and ideas of WRN members to help keep our Teens busy working to protect the environment.

Huge thanks to: all the WRN adult volunteers who make Teens possible (Linda Dutka, Anita Smith, Michelle MacMillan, Francine Gilbert, Jim Huffman, and Thelma Beaubien); and to the long-suffering parent drivers some of whom also volunteer; and most of all, to our amazing Teens who care enough about their world to come out ready to work and to learn. We are encouraged to have a record registration of new members this fall as well as several returning members.

WRN Teens Photo Gallery



WRN Teens at SpruceHaven. Photo: T. Beaubien



Spring Peeper. Photo: N. Tin Yue Cheung



Salamander Cover Board.
Photo: Q. Plummer



WRN Teen working at SpruceHaven
Photo: M. Paré



Checking a Salamander Board
Photo: F. Gilbert



Record # of salamanders under one board!
Photo: N. Tin Yue Cheung



Red Eft. Photo: M. MacMillan

Membership Report

By Zack Stevens

All WRN memberships are free for the 2020-2021 season, including automatic renewal for existing members.

Welcome, New Members*

<i>Ann Allen</i>	<i>Charles Foley</i>	<i>John Kruzlics Sr.</i>	<i>Pauline Richards</i>
<i>Peter Allen</i>	<i>Rosalie Foyle</i>	<i>Eva Kruzlics</i>	<i>Angus Rogerson</i>
<i>Carol Anderson</i>	<i>Ross Getsinger</i>	<i>John Kruzlics</i>	<i>Marcus Rogerson</i>
<i>Nichole Bonner</i>	<i>Daniya Ghorpade</i>	<i>Valeri Kruzlics</i>	<i>Marcy Rogerson</i>
<i>Laura Cobham</i>	<i>Janak Ghorpade</i>	<i>Sonya Kurevija</i>	<i>Nigel Rogerson</i>
<i>Lyra Cooper</i>	<i>Sangram Ghorpade</i>	<i>Sheila Mayer</i>	<i>Carole Siew</i>
<i>Samson Cooper</i>	<i>Sarah Ghorpade</i>	<i>Logan Mercier</i>	<i>Kalynn Sinnamon</i>
<i>Scott Cooper</i>	<i>John Glass</i>	<i>Emma Osborne</i>	<i>Andrea Smith</i>
<i>Tiffany Cooper</i>	<i>Karen Golets Pancer</i>	<i>Iris Osborne</i>	<i>Brian Smith</i>
<i>Violet Cooper</i>	<i>Linda Hartnup</i>	<i>Millie Osborne</i>	<i>Natarajan Vaidyanatha</i>
<i>Nadina Donkersgoed</i>	<i>Allan Hills</i>	<i>Troy Osborne</i>	<i>Alyna Walji</i>
<i>Alexandra Engering</i>	<i>Frank Ingold</i>	<i>Ruta Patel</i>	<i>Gerald Wilson</i>
<i>Hannah Enns</i>	<i>Grethe Johnson</i>	<i>Abinaya Ravichandran</i>	

Thank You to Our Donors

Paul & Pat Bigelow
David Gascoigne & Miriam Bauman
Lorne Harding
Frank Ingold
Mary Louise & Evange Kattides



Share Your Sightings

We want to hear about your nature sightings and share them with our members and beyond through our social media channels. Photos will be published regularly on Facebook & Instagram.

- Send your clear high quality photos to publicity@waterlooregionnature.ca (JPEG or PNG files)
- Include species & location if possible
- Name of photographer for photo credit



Montgomery Property Fall Clean-up Report

continued from pg. 1

The duck boxes are always a highlight of the morning. The west box had two unhatched screech owl eggs and many woodpecker feathers in it. The east box had a collection of feathers and several owl pellets, as well. It is surprising, and a bit disappointing, that there was no evidence of Wood Ducks using the boxes.

Not a single piece of garbage was collected, perhaps a sign that people really are heeding the message to stay home! How lovely to find the property in a “natural” state!

Several birds were heard and seen throughout the morning, including a downy woodpecker, several turkey vultures, and many blue jays. Fraser also pointed out a Greater Yellowlegs on an island outcropping in the river near the bridge. Apparently it is “Greater” because its call has three hoots whereas the Lesser Yellowlegs usually calls with only two! Thanks for the memory trick, Fraser!

Wayne noticed a large plant and suggested it might be Velvetleaf. iNaturalist agreed with his assessment. Velvetleaf is an introduced alien, which is moving north and becoming a nuisance in corn and soy crops, and considered a noxious weed in some US jurisdictions. A group of us had a conversation about giant ragweed. A little further down the path we discovered a small cluster of giant ragweed, some with simple leaves and some lobed. There is something to wonder about every day!

As we exited the property, we met two people wearing hip waders. I assumed they were there to fish but soon discovered they were working on an environmental assessment of the area as mandated before the reconstruction of the bridge can begin. Dean Fitzgerald is in charge of the assessment and he shared an explanation of the process, some of the findings and invited questions and comments. It was exciting to learn they have discovered two species of threatened fish under the bridge: silver shiner and black redbreast.

Following our conversation with Jessica and Dean we refreshed with some muffins and cider and headed off after a long but productive morning.

Well done, team!



Photos: A. Smith

WRN Photo Gallery



Gray Treefrog Photo: L. Dutka



Betty Cooper participating in a WRN Outing
Photo: D. Gascoigne



WRN Teens hiking at SpruceHaven
Photo: T. Beaubien



"Teens Row" at SpruceHaven Photo: D. Gascoigne

***Do you have nature or event photos to share? Send them to
editor@waterlooregionnature.ca***

Team Whimburrell Birdathon 2020 Summary

Submitted by Jim Burrell

After months of living in social bubbles, we decided to complete our Birdathon on Saturday, Sept 19th. We all met in New Hamburg at 3:15am and headed for Point Pelee. As we left we heard our first bird of the day: a Swainson's Thrush migrating overhead. We arrived at the park gates by 6:15am and while opening the gate had Great Horned Owl. Further into the park we heard an Eastern Screech-Owl. We went straight to the tip, and in the pre-dawn had more nocturnal migrants, including a Gray-cheeked Thrush and 2 Eastern Whip-poor-will hawking insects right in front of us on the road! The tip was very "birdy" and our list grew quickly. Some of the better sightings were lots of warblers, including Blackpoll, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Wilson's, Bay-breasted Warblers, and several Sanderling with a Red Knot mixed in, while scoping from the newly constructed tower. We were doing well.

We birded our way back to the Visitor Centre, where we managed to get more migrants in the sheltered sunny spots. More warblers, as well as Least Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Eastern Phoebe among others. The hawks were also starting to move and we picked up Merlin, Northern Harrier, and several Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

From here we left the park and headed into the Onion Fields towards Hillman Marsh. Around Hillman Marsh we found several shorebirds, including Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and one of the long-staying Black-necked Stilts. At Wheatley Harbour we managed several good birds, including Great Egret, Lesser Black-backed Gull, a late Northern Waterthrush, and a juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron. The day continued to get warmer and clearer. We headed for Blenheim Sewage Lagoons. Here we added Osprey, Pied-billed Grebe and Redhead. We also bought a sub for lunch and ate on the way to Keith McLeans Conservation Area, just outside Rondeau Provincial Park.

At Keith McLean's we were definitely not

disappointed! Here we added what we thought was an Ontario lifer for all of us; a Cinnamon Teal! Since then we've done more research and are not so sure we got the ID right on that one – oh well! With it were lots of ducks, many of which were new for the day: Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, and Northern Shoveler amongst others. Lots of shorebirds were here too, including Pectoral and Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers. What a stop!

Back in the car and we were off towards Long Point. Along the way we added Sandhill Crane and Brown-headed Cowbird. At the sewage lagoons in Port Rowan we found several Common Nighthawks and a Common Gallinule. It was now 4:00pm and dusk was coming. We headed straight for the Hamilton lakeshore with a fuel and coffee stop in Hagersville.

In Hamilton, at Van Wagners, right away we were able to see the visiting Brown Booby. We stayed an hour scoping the lake and were able to pick out Black Scoter, Red-necked Phalarope, and Parasitic Jaeger. At 7:00pm stopped at the Windemere Basin for a final kick at the can. Here we added Trumpeter Swan, American Black Duck and American Golden Plover. What a Day! We covered almost 800 km and had amassed a total of 148 species!

Once again we would like to thank all those who sponsored Team Whimburrell. All donations go directly to Birds Canada for conservation programs to enhance bird habitats and bird studies.



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Ontario Nature Report

By Fraser Gibson

Lawsuit Launched Over Bill 197

Represented by the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Ontario Nature and others are taking the provincial government to court. In July, the government pushed through Bill 197 overhauling the Environmental Assessment Act and amending many other laws without consulting the public as required under the Environmental Bill of Rights.

“Bill 197 holds true to an insidious pattern of environmental deregulation that reflects neither the values nor the long-term interests of Ontarians who understand the importance of a healthy environment,” says Caroline Schultz, Ontario Nature’s Executive Director.

Gord Miller, Chair of Earthroots says, “As Environmental Commissioner of Ontario for 15 years, I constantly had to work to protect and maintain the EBR rights of the people to participate in government decision making about our environmental heritage. Bill 197 has gutted those rights and set public policy back decades. We must react. We must defend those rights for the sake of future generations.”

The case also highlights inconsistencies with international law principles applicable in Ontario. Please read our [press release](#) to learn how we aim to hold political leaders accountable for their decisions.

Urge Proctor & Gamble to Protect Habitat and Support Indigenous-led Conservation

The Government of Ontario is prepared to nearly double the amount of industrial logging while dismissing concerns about how that could harm wildlife and water. We asked the provincial government to share the forest but it chose to prioritize industrial forestry uses. It's time to talk to the companies purchasing wood fibre from our forests. [Please sign our letter to Mr. David Taylor](#), calling on Proctor & Gamble to protect the habitat of species at risk in Ontario, increase the amount of post-consumer recycled content in its products and support Indigenous-led conservation.



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Photo: Fir0002

Cormorant Hunt Gets the Go-ahead

On July 30th the Ontario government announced the introduction of a fall hunting season for double-crested cormorants, using these fine words: [“Fall Harvest for Double-Crested Cormorants Introduced to Protect Local Ecosystems.”](#) The ugly truth is that from September 15 to December 31, anyone with a shotgun and a hunting licence will be able to kill up to 15 cormorants a day. There is no requirement for reporting and there are no measures in place to control how many cormorants will ultimately be killed locally or regionally. Read our [blog](#) explaining why this new hunt is a bad idea.

Virtual Youth Summit for Mother Earth a Resounding Success

Ontario Nature's first virtual Youth Summit for Mother Earth was a huge success thanks to the efforts of the Ontario Nature Youth Council and the Youth Circle for Mother Earth. Ninety-two young people and 12 mentors attended this year's summit. The event featured a series of live-streamed workshops over four Saturday afternoons from August 22 to September 19, with optional activities during the weeks. We'd like to thank all our Nature Network friends who sponsored an attendee this year.

Victory for Farabout Peninsula

Good news from the north! The Farabout Peninsula on Eagle Lake in northwestern Ontario has been granted a 10-year reprieve from logging. The peninsula is an unspoiled refuge for diverse rare species and is a sacred place for many members of Eagle Lake First Nation. This triumph was the result of 12 years of determined work by grassroots activists led by the Farabout Peninsula Coalition, a Nature Network member.

**Nominations are now open
for the WRN Conservation Award
and the Honorary Lifetime
Membership Award!**

Consider nominating someone today!

Due before December 15th.

Please contact David for more details.
president@waterlooregionnature.ca



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

Objectives of WRN

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:

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