

THIS ISSUE

Cover: Black-bellied Whistling Duck
2: Contacts
3: President's Corner
4-7: Outings, Activities, & Things To Do
8: WRN Teens & Kids Updates
9: WRN Teens Photo Gallery
10-11: Mini Group on Songbirds, A Recap
12: Swifts; New Board Members
13: WRN Photo Gallery
14: Membership Report
15: ON Nature Report

**Black-bellied Whistling Duck Sighting**

Many local and visiting birders enjoyed a rare sight this July. The Black-bellied Whistling Duck was spotted for the first time in Waterloo Region. As the name suggests, this bright-billed duck whistles rather than quacks.

For more details visit: www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/black-bellied-whistling-duck-waterloo-1.6523893

**JOIN THE WRN BOARD!****We need a Program Director!**

No experience needed, learn 'on the job' with this small and welcoming board.

Contact Janet Ozaruk for more information!
pastpresident@waterlooregionnature.ca

Photos: WRN Teen Simon Daub

WRN Directors

President

Jenna Quinn
519-362-7921
president@waterlooregionnature.ca

Vice President

Heather Polan
226-234-1492
vicepresident@waterlooregionnature.ca

Past President

Janet Ozaruk
226-748-9905
pastpresident@waterlooregionnature.ca

Conservation Director

Levi Moore
519-501-4031
conservation@waterlooregionnature.ca

Treasurer

Paul Bigelow
519-888-7516
treasurer@waterlooregionnature.ca

Membership Director

Judy Watson
membership@waterlooregionnature.ca

Secretary

Hashveenah Manoharan
647-606-4607
secretary@waterlooregionnature.ca

Outings Director

Shannon Pennington
519-239-3015
outings@waterlooregionnature.ca

Program Director

Vacant — Consider Volunteering!
programs@waterlooregionnature.ca

Publicity Director

Jason Earle
519-505-3797
publicity@waterlooregionnature.ca

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

50 Erb St. West

Regular Meetings begin at 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

All parking is FREE

All parking access is off Dupont Street.

Positions of Responsibility

Web Site Manager

Paul Bigelow 519-888-7516
web@waterlooregionnature.ca

Mailing Team

Rick and Jan Hook 519-742-7419
mailing@waterlooregionnature.ca

Archivist

Mary Ann Vanden Elzen 519-741-8272
archivist@waterlooregionnature.ca

Noteworthy Bird Sightings

Jim Burrell
birds@waterlooregionnature.ca

Ontario Nature Representative

<http://ontarionature.org/index.php>
Fraser Gibson 519-576-9287
onrep@waterlooregionnature.ca

Facebook Page Administrator

Cathi Stewart
facebook@waterlooregionnature.ca

WRN Kids Coordinator

Rachelle Swayze
kids@waterlooregionnature.ca

WRN Teens Coordinator

Marg Paré 519-500-3450
teens@waterlooregionnature.ca

F. H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary

Anita Smith 519-500-2676
montgomery@waterlooregionnature.ca

Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP)

Josh Shea 519-741-3400 ext.3349
knap@waterlooregionnature.ca

Other Inquiries

info@waterlooregionnature.ca

Heron Editor

Jenna Quinn
519-362-7921
editor@waterlooregionnature.ca

Submission Deadlines:

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



(Waterloo Region) Nature is Calling

Stop me if you've heard this one before- but we need your help! I am looking forward to meeting again in-person for the first time in over two years this September. It will feel like a celebration of sorts, with long time members reuniting after time away and many new members joining for the first time to share nature news, local sightings, and hear from our speaker on the topic of freshwater mussels. I know for some, the thought of in-person meetings may bring some apprehension as well. We are working on a solution to offer hybrid meetings so people not yet ready or able to meet in a group in-person setting can still take part in our monthly meetings. And that brings me back to needing your help! No matter your experience or availability, you may be just who we are looking for to support Waterloo Region Nature efforts.

There are several current needs for volunteers:

1. **Join our Board of Directors!** We are looking to fill a vacant spot on our board as Program Director. This essential position oversees scheduling and introducing our monthly speakers. Speakers have been booked through 2022 but we need to fill this vacancy to continue to offer nature presentations. Interested in learning more about the board? Join as a Director-at-Large to learn the ropes before accepting a specific position.
2. **Become a Tech Support Volunteer!** We are looking for one to two people who regularly attend monthly meetings to support the technical set up to record and live stream hybrid meetings. Training provided!
3. **Join the Montgomery Tract Committee!** This stewardship group takes care of maintenance, monitoring, and other conservation concerns at the Montgomery Tract. Attend seasonal visits with a group and discuss challenges and approaches related to the care and stewardship of these lands.
4. **Join our Conservation Action Committee!** This group formed during the pandemic to help WRN respond and mobilize to emerging policy and environmental issues in our area. You can help research, draft responses, and discuss challenges and approaches related to local issues and member concerns.
5. **Volunteer with WRN Teens and Kids!** Teens meet on Saturday mornings weekly from April to July and September to October for monitoring in St. Agatha, and on Saturday afternoons year-round once or twice a month for work projects and outings. Kids meet in the morning on the last Saturday of each month for planned outings and programs. Adult volunteers come out as they are available, to supervise and participate with Teens and Kids in these activities. Other adult volunteer jobs involve communicating with community partners, coordinating opportunities, recruiting new members, etc.
6. **Become an Outings Leader!** Have a favourite place to walk, nature knowledge to share, or want to gather to explore together? Anyone can lead a club outing, no experience necessary.
7. **Volunteer to support our monthly meetings!** Now that we are set to resume in-person meetings, we will once welcome helpers to assist in setting up and putting away chairs before and after meetings, and to welcome and greet members upon arrival.

If you can help WRN with any of these duties, please see the contacts page and reach out to a board member! If you have a special skill you want to share, reach out and we will find a role that fits your abilities.

I am immensely grateful for all of the incredible WRN volunteers and have great excitement for meeting many new faces in September.

- Jenna

OUTINGS, ACTIVITIES, THINGS TO DO &

Monthly Member Meeting & Nature Presentations

Anyone with an interest in nature is welcome to attend our free monthly meetings. We start with a few announcements of noteworthy upcoming events, conservation issues or projects. We welcome new members and guests and we invite all to share their recent local noteworthy nature sightings. The main feature is a presentation by a guest speaker on one of a variety of interesting topics.

We are excited to be resuming in-person meetings in September and are exploring options for hybrid meetings to accommodate all members.

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm at Reception Hall, Waterloo Knox Presbyterian Church, 50 Erb St. West, Waterloo.

Upcoming Meeting:

Monday, September 26, 2022 @7:30pm—Freshwater Mussels, Sarah Richer

Monday, October 24, 2022 @7:30pm—Flying Squirrels, Jeff Bowman

Monday, November 28, 2022 @7:30pm—Nature Conservancy in Canada, Kristyn Ferguson

Monday, December 5th, 2022 @7:00pm—Annual Holiday Social! (*Note the special date and time*)

For full presentation descriptions and presenter biographies visit: waterlooregionnature.ca/meetings

Outing Leaders Wanted!

Our club can only offer outings if there are people willing to lead them! If you are interested in leading an outing, please email Outings Director Shannon Pennington at outings@waterlooregionnature.ca.

Remember, you don't need to be an expert to lead an outing! It's a great chance to share common interests with other nature lovers and perhaps introduce some to an area they've never visited before.

UPCOMING CLUB OUTINGS

Fall is such a gorgeous and interesting time to get out in nature, especially with other nature lovers!

The most up to date public health guidelines will be followed for all outings. Pre-registration, by contacting the outing leader, is required. See the contact info in the descriptions below. Non-members are welcome but are required to sign an insurance waiver.

WRN Volunteer Party at AO's Reconciliation Garden, Breslau

RSVP to: Jenna Quinn jenna.quinn@raresites.org

When: Friday September 2 at 9:00am for approximately 3 hours

Location: Spritzig Rd., Breslau (specifics provided upon registration)

Description: Anishnabeg Outreach (AO)'s Reconciliation Garden is working together with community volunteers and partners to plant seeds for Reconciliation efforts in Kitchener, Waterloo, and surrounding areas. This 10 acre garden is home to fresh produce, the four sacred medicines, large pumpkins, and ancient Indigenous squash that have not been grown for hundreds of years; all of which will be provided to the over 1500 self-identifying First Nations, Inuit and Metis community members who access AO's Spirit Bundle Offering Program.

The Reconciliation Garden, paired with other wrap-around programming and services AO delivers, provides an opportunity for AO's team members, as well as community volunteers and partners, to interact with the land while working to help move the needle on Reconciliation in the Region.

AO invites WRN members and friends to assist in the maintenance and harvesting of their garden.

Register by contacting Jenna Quinn by email for a WRN group outing on Friday, September 2nd.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or attending a Friday Volunteer Garden Party on another date, please email Shannon at Shannon@aocan.org.

Hullett Marsh, Huron County

Leader: David Gascoigne theospreynest@sympatico.ca 519-725-0866 226-747-7299 (C)

When: Saturday September 3 beginning at 8:30am for a full day outing

Location: Meet at SpruceHaven, 2005 Notre Dame Drive, St. Agatha, ON (carpool from this location).

Description: For several years my good friend Curtiss MacDonald, who was born and raised in the area, organized a trip to Hullett Marsh in Huron County. Like everything else it was interrupted by COVID, but we are ready to do it again. Curtiss has agreed to accompany us and has already advised that he has room for three others in his car. We will stop at various spots to search for waterfowl, raptors, resident and migrating passerines, and anything else that captures our interest. A moderate amount of walking is involved, but nothing too strenuous. On this outing nature's bathroom is pretty much your only option – so be prepared! This is a full day's outing so be sure to pack a lunch and snacks if you need them. Bring a folding chair so that we can have lunch in the field. Dress according to the weather, bring binoculars, a field guide and lots of enthusiasm. It became a tradition on visits to Hullett Marsh that at the end of the day we would swing by a country store where Curtiss would buy everyone an ice cream. No doubt we can convince him to do this again!

Registration is required, please contact David Gascoigne to register.

Fern Hike at Stamm Woodlot, Waterloo

Leader: Fraser Gibson fn.gib@sympatico.ca 519-576-9287

When: Thursday September 8 at 6:00pm for approximately 2 hours

Location: Near the intersection of Pinery Trail and Springwater Cr.

Description: Stamm Woodlot is a beautiful hardwood sugar bush on Waterloo's northern border. Most of our route is a wide trail over gently rolling terrain, some wood-chipped. The focus of the outing will be learning to identify some of Waterloo Region's ferns. This mature forest is my favourite bush, in the Region, for ferns. We should be able to find about 10 species on the property, some uncommon in the area.

No washrooms available. **Registration is required.** Please contact Fraser Gibson by email to register.



SpruceHaven, St. Agatha

Leader: David Gascoigne theospreynest@sympatico.ca 519-725-0866 226-747-7299 (C)

When: Saturday September 10 at 9:00am for approximately 3 hours

Location: 2025 Notre Dame Drive. Meet at the red barn to the north of the driveway.

Description: COVID has impacted all of us in many different ways, not the least of which has been the cancellation for the past few years of our annual fall visit to SpruceHaven. We are happy to say that we are now able to resume this very enjoyable event. We will start our tour at the barn where a full explanation of the Barn Swallow colony will be just what we need to get us ready for a walk. We will explore the restored grassland, the woodlot, Teen Hollow, talk about the nesting success of Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens and other species, and meander around the property paying attention to all aspects of natural history. The walk should end around 11:00 am at which time we are invited into the house to enjoy tea, coffee and snacks, and to enjoy the company of Dave, Sandy and Jamie.

Registration is required. Please contact David Gascoigne to register.

Hawk Cliff, Port Stanley

Leader: Jim Burrell burrellsc@golden.net

When: Sunday September 18 beginning at 8:30am for a full day outing

Location: Meet at the carpool parking lot on Foundation St and 401, Cambridge

Description: We will travel to Hawk Cliff near Port Stanley to do a Big Sit.

Many raptors and other migrants are already moving at this time of year. We will identify, count and discuss what we see. There will also be opportunity to walk the forest and road edges to look for other migrants. We will disperse from Hawk Cliff at about 1400 h. Bring a lawn chair, hat, water, lunch, binoculars, scopes, ID materials.

Washrooms can be visited on route. **Registration is required.** Please contact Jim Burrell to register.



Toronto—Mississauga—Oakville

Leader: David Gascoigne theospreynest@sympatico.ca 519-725-0866 226-747-7299 (C)

When: Saturday October 8 beginning at 9:00am for a full day outing

Location: Meet at Humber Bay Park, West, Lakeshore Boulevard,
Toronto (specific instructions will be provided when you register)

Description: Beginning at Humber Bay Park, both East and West, we will scour Lake Ontario for waterfowl of every description, Horned and Red-necked Grebes, late migrants and early winter arrivals along the shore, raptors, mammals such as Muskrat and Mink, possibly American Coot, Common Loon – and whatever else we can find! Northern Mockingbird is always a possibility at Humber Bay. There will be a number of stops to increase our chances of finding a wide variety of species. As mentioned, we will start at Humber Bay Park, moving from there to Colonel Samuel Smith Park, on to Lakefront Promenade in Mississauga, and ending at Bronte Park in Oakville. This is a full day's outing so be sure to pack a lunch and snacks if you need them. Dress according to the weather, bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, a field guide and lots of enthusiasm. Car pooling should be possible and we encourage this practice as long as you are comfortable riding with others.



Washrooms can be visited on route. **Registration is required**, but we can accommodate twenty-five people for this outing as long as COVID restrictions are not reimposed. Please contact David Gascoigne to register.

Work 'Bee' at *raresites* Property 1, Wellington County

Save the Date: Saturday October 22!

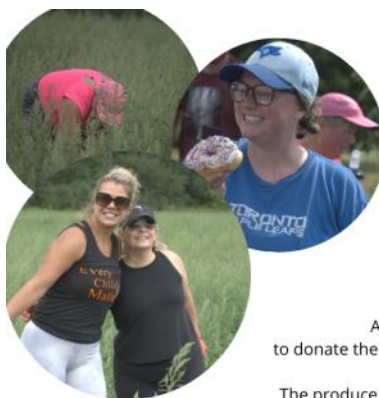
Description: Every year, *rare* takes on ecological restoration initiatives to enhance and rehabilitate the unique native habitats of this urban land trust. Join for this cooperative volunteer event with *rare* and Nature Guelph to help conserve native biodiversity through the removal of invasive species! Volunteers can expect to learn invasive plant identification as well as proper removal techniques. This is a great opportunity for those looking to gain in-field experience with ecological restoration and become more familiar with the flora of southern Ontario.

Visit www.waterlooregionnature.ca/outings and watch your email for further details.

Pipits Outings

WRN members are invited to attend Pipits club outings. Pipits outings typically run on Sunday mornings and WRN members can attend for \$5 per outing, or can purchase a membership for \$40.

To learn more about the group and outings, please visit:
<https://thepipits.wildapricot.org/Trips>
or contact Colleen at:
thepipitsbirdingclub@gmail.com.



AO's Reconciliation Garden Volunteer Garden Parties

Every Friday, starting Aug 5th
9am-12pm

Anishnabeg Outreach (AO) is looking for volunteers to donate their time to assist with our Reconciliation Garden in Breslau, ON.

The produce harvested from this garden in the Fall will be provided to First Nations, Inuit and Métis community members through AO's Spirit Bundle Offering Program.

For more information or to volunteer, please email shannon@aocan.org

WRN Teens Report

By Marg Paré

Before **spring monitoring** at SpruceHaven farm, WRN Teens got a Zoom refresher from Graeme Smith, Teens volunteer and salamander MA, and a data management talk from Cory Wallace, forestry post-doc, about what our salamander monitoring data can tell us.

Then, back to actual monitoring! Volunteers and outdoor educators Michelle MacMillan and Linda Dutka oversee our **nest box and salamander monitoring**. Along with 50 salamander boards, we now monitor 40 **tubes for tree frogs**, thanks to Levi Moore, outdoor educator and frequent Teens collaborator. We had lots of Red-backed Salamanders, a few Gray Tree Frogs, and all 9 nest boxes housed Tree Swallow families. **Bravo to our dedicated, skilled Teens who take responsibility for this work every Saturday morning for 5 months!**

As well as weekly monitoring, we've done occasional work projects and outings. In April, we worked with outdoor educators Fraser Gibson and Levi Moore to tackle **invasive plants at WRN's F.H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary** near New Dundee. Moving muddy tarps to discourage invasive Periwinkle was surprisingly fun! Also in April, we went **birding at Riverside Park** in Preston with our mentor, David Gascoigne. We had close-up experiences with raccoons!... and also lots of birds! Some Teens started their life lists that day.

In June, we **removed Garlic Mustard in White Cedar Forest** in Waterloo, **our first project initiated by a Teen!** Megan noticed invasives in a neighbourhood woodlot, got permission and training from the city, and invited Teens to help. She and her mom, Linda, do on-going monitoring. COVID postponed this job so long, Megan graduated and went to university! We worked with her when she was back home and heard about her environmental science studies.

In June, Cory took Teens families on an **ecology hike in Huron Natural Area**. We explored fungi, moss, lichen, invasive species, and epiphytic plants and learned how various plants live in communities and interact together. In July, we were at SpruceHaven for salamander board **maintenance, benthics study** with Michelle, and **tree monitoring** techniques that Graeme uses with Ontario Nature.

We are SO grateful to all the adults who share their knowledge with us and to the Westfall-Hill's for their hospitality at SpruceHaven where so much of this happens!

Our 5th year of WRN Teens starts September 17 with weekly Saturday morning monitoring and 1 or 2 Saturday afternoon projects per month. **New members are always welcome!** See the WRN website or email teens@waterlooregionnature.ca.

Waterloo Region Nature Kids!

By Rachelle Swayze

My name is Rachelle and I am the Waterloo Region Nature Kids coordinator. WRN Kids is a fantastic monthly nature program where families with children ages 7-12 meet to experience nature and learn about the plants, animals and insects that share their home with us. We meet the last Saturday of the month from 10 – 12, September - May, at various natural areas in Waterloo Region. Our plans for this year include bird watching and hand feeding chickadees, snowshoeing, and exploring a pond. At every meeting we also play games and chat about the interesting nature things we have seen or experienced recently. The program is a great way to get outside and spend time together learning about nearby nature. In September we are meeting at Huron Natural Area where we will play a couple of games and do a scavenger hunt. In September we will also have a bonus outing of a butterfly hike to learn about and observe Monarch butterflies. WRN Kids is a great way for parents, grandparents and other important adults to spend quality time with the kids in their lives. Tell your friends, neighbours and relatives!

You can register at <https://waterlooregionnature.ca/kids/>
If you have any questions or meeting ideas, contact me at kids@waterlooregionnature.ca.

I am looking forward to seeing you in September!



WRN Teens Activities

Photos: Marg Paré
waterlooregionnature.ca

Mini Group on Songbirds, a Recap

By Judy Watson

Five enthusiastic bird 'students' and 'teachers' met July 19, 2022 at a backyard patio for a Mini Group on Songbirds. Judy Gingrich, Judy Watson, Natalie Walker, Sophie Wilson and Theresa Marcus each had a song bird to study in order to share the information with the group. We all learned so much and we were surprised by some of the interesting facts about our songbirds! During the evening someone spotted a hummingbird come in and zoom off with lighting speed. A rabbit came out on the path and it looked like it was not expecting the patio to be filled with people and it quickly did a 180 turn and back into the shrubs!

The criteria to be classed as a songbird does not necessarily mean a lovely song. Songbirds have a

highly specialized vocal organ with complex muscles allowing greater control. Songbirds also have a toe arrangement that allows for perching. No perching, no songbird! Songbirds are born with a 'template' of their songs and they need adult tutors to refine the songs. Two key functions of their songs are to defend territory and to woo a mate. The largest songbird, believe it or not, is a Raven. This proves that to be in the songbird club you don't have to have a nice voice.

Robins: We learned that there are 370 million Robins in North America! Robins don't mate for life but for a season. They are our Birds of Spring! the Robin usually builds two nests in a season and it is about a month from the eggs being laid to when the fledglings leave the nest. We talked about how cheerful the Robin's song is.



Red-breasted Nuthatch

Celebrating you!

\$20 OFF

Purchase of \$100, pre-tax or more*

*With coupon. One coupon per visit. Offer not valid on previous purchases, optics, gift cards, DSC memberships & Brome feeders. Offer valid in-store at the Kitchener location thru to November 30, 2022.



Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop

4391 King St. East, Kitchener, ON
(519) 650-9800 • www.wbu.com/kitchener

BIRD FOOD • FEEDERS • GARDEN ACCENTS • UNIQUE GIFTS



Photo: J.Quinn

Catbirds: Catbirds mate for a season also. Their song is a crazy frantic mix of a variety of sounds, like busy rapid chatter. They are called a catbird as they are said to also have a mew song. Catbirds build nests in lower branches and builds them deep. On a trail someone said she always hears the catbird at the same spot every time she goes by.



Photo: Mykola Swarnyk, CC BY-SA 3.0

Blue Jay: We were all impressed with the Blue Jay's contribution to fighting climate change. Blue Jays have a partnership with Pine and Oak trees. Imagine that. Blue Jays gather products from these trees such as acorns and store them here and there for future snacking. They don't eat all of these tree seeds which then can end up growing more Pine and Oak further abroad than where they fell thus developing much needed forest growth. Next time you are out in the woods pick up some acorns and take them home for your bird feeders and you will be certain to see Blue Jays come along. We all commented on the difference between Blue Jays and the elusive Blue Bird.

Kingfisher: Kingfishers are territorial and have a sharp rattling song that would surely alert to their claim of up to six miles along a river or creek and two feet on either side. We learned that a Kingfisher builds its nest on the east side of the river but we all wondered why. We were all enamoured by the Kingfisher's beautiful patterned colouring. And of big interest to us ladies was that the female Kingfisher is more colourful than a male Kingfisher.

Crow: It was a surprise to all of us that the dominant crow is a songbird! A crow is very intelligent and can make a tool out of a stick to dig for bugs. Crows are family oriented and someone reported she saw a family of crows and a misbehaving crow child was disciplined. Crows have funerals by gathering around the dead crow and calling out warnings of threats and then after the funeral they leave the area as it is considered unsafe. Crow mamas and their babies need lots of moisture. The male crow hunts for food and I have seen them dip the food in my birdbath so it can take the moist food back to the nest.

This is only a small bit of what we learned together about Songbirds. Isn't nature grand? Our learning time went fast. It was really nice to get to know each other and to share so much information.



Photos: J. Quinn

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

Swifts

By Roger Suffling



In late June 2022, a nest of fledgling chimney swifts was boarded up on a property near downtown Kitchener, and then the chimney that had housed them was demolished. The chimney swift population in Ontario has been declining precipitously, and this is a typical cause.

Sky flotsam given resonance by the wind
 Swifts whirl above, day long
 Hunting down the last winged bugs left to them
 Their endless twitter, animating the city's core
 Tells us that this is a storied place
 Swifts had nested in the hollow guts of ancient,
 fire-scarred pines
 Before settlers hurled them down for profit
 Then they resorted to the sooty gullets of summer chimneys
 But now those same stacks are felled for condos
 For today's immigrants, and for profit
 In golden July evenings the city assumes an aerial
 muteness
 That newcomers find normal
 The swifts are no more
 A mythic amnesia

© Roger Suffling

Meet the WRN Board!

WRN is pleased to welcome our incoming Membership Director and new Vice President to the Board of Directors. We thank outgoing members Zack Stevens and David Gascoigne for their time on the board!



Heather Polan — Vice President

I am an ecological consultant especially interested in birds and wetlands. I was born and raised in Waterloo and love exploring, birdwatching, and just generally spending time outside appreciating nature. I am excited to become more involved with this knowledgeable and passionate group of naturalists.



Judy Watson — Membership Director

I was raised in Waterloo and left 45 years ago, before I happily returned to settle here in 2020. I last lived in Barrie and was the Membership Director for Nature Barrie for a few years. I am also on the board for Friends of Minesing Wetlands and manage the membership, the Facebook Group and the email. I look forward to meeting members at meetings and on future outings. I am probably better at identifying members than identifying birds.

To meet the returning members of the board, see the Fall 2021 edition of the Heron online: <https://waterlooregionnature.ca/newsletter/>

WRN Photo Gallery



Photos: D. Thomas

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

Membership Report

By Judy Watson

A reminder that membership renewals can be made now for the upcoming year.

Membership information can be found by going to our membership page on our website:

<https://waterlooregionnature.ca/membership/>

Welcome, New Members

<i>Donna Armbrorst</i>	<i>Tabitha Ferguson</i>	<i>Jennifer MacAulay</i>	<i>Caelan Roderick</i>
<i>Joan Astley</i>	<i>Sydney Gilmour</i>	<i>Kate MacAulay</i>	<i>Ian Roderick</i>
<i>James Burns</i>	<i>James Godfrey</i>	<i>Rob MacAulay</i>	<i>Adin Schmidt</i>
<i>Kathy Burns</i>	<i>Barry Grant</i>	<i>Robert MacAulay</i>	<i>Steffanie Scott</i>
<i>Clint Cameron</i>	<i>Greg Harling</i>	<i>David Matthews</i>	<i>Amy Smith</i>
<i>Naomi Cameron</i>	<i>Catherine Jones</i>	<i>Nancy Matthews</i>	<i>Julie Stork</i>
<i>Carrie Copley</i>	<i>Matthew Kadey</i>	<i>Sande Minke</i>	<i>Adam Tambeau</i>
<i>Tina Den Besten</i>	<i>Akshay Kotwal</i>	<i>Elaine Mowbray</i>	<i>Vidar Tambeau</i>
<i>Shannon Dernes</i>	<i>Amit Kotwal</i>	<i>Shane Mulligan</i>	<i>Natalie Walker</i>
<i>Cevie Dubesky</i>	<i>Anisha Kotwal</i>	<i>Pranav Nath</i>	<i>Shelley Watters</i>
<i>Lois Dunlop</i>	<i>Meghana Kotwal</i>	<i>Liana Nolan</i>	<i>Oliver Watts</i>
<i>Lynne Elliot</i>	<i>Eleanore Kreiger-Pottruff</i>	<i>Cole O'Brien</i>	<i>Para Watts</i>
<i>Brent Elsey</i>	<i>Jessica Liu</i>	<i>Brynn Roderick</i>	<i>Ben Wiegand</i>

Thank You to Our Donors

Lois Dunlop
Kimberly Fellows
Shane Mulligan
Robert and Jennifer MacAulay
Karen and Barrie Earle
Marg and Frank Steinmoeller
Thelma and Ron Beaubien
Greg Harling and Linda Nolan
David and Nancy Matthews
Vidar Tambeau and Carrie Copley
Ian Roderick and Natalie Walker
James and Kathy Burns
Miriam Bauman and David Gascoigne
Kitchener Collegiate Institute
Our Anonymous Donors



30th Anniversary Open House

Monday September 5th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Free Coffee and Homemade Donuts

Lots of Deals

Thank You! to all our customers

At our warehouse: One road north of Millbank
 Turn right on Line 73 and we are the 1st farm on the right
 (Just north of the Kissing Bridge Walking Trail)

Manufacturers of Quality
Wildbird & Indoor Mixes
Since 1992
Custom Mixing & Packaging
St. Jacobs Farmers Market
Dealers Across Ontario



Spring Sale: First 2 weeks in April - Fall Sale: Last 3 weeks in November

Voicemail 1-519-595-7587
 4003 Line 73, R.R. 1, Newton, Ontario N0K 1R0

Ontario Nature Report

By Fraser Gibson

Become an Advocate for Nature

Tens of thousands of people are raising their voices as advocates for the protection of Ontario's wild species and wild spaces. They are willing to take the extra step of communicating with the government and other decision-makers about the need to protect our province's nature. Will you join them? As an advocate for nature you will receive Ontario Nature emails about important conservation issues and easy ways you can take action when your help is urgently needed. [Sign up today!](#)

Scott Beemer Nature Award

Nature Guelph established the Scott Beemer Nature Award after Scott's death in July 2020. This is an annual award of a certificate and \$200 presented by Nature Guelph to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to nature education, conservation or stewardship in Guelph or Wellington County. Born and raised in Guelph, Scott Beemer first started attending club meetings with his beloved mother Sue when he was a high school student. He was keenly interested in all speakers' subject matters, and often approached guest speakers after their presentations to engage in further exploration of the topic. Scott was always a gentle and good-natured presence on field outings of all kinds. His uncomplicated love of all nature is sadly missed. Nature Guelph wishes to honour his contributions by this award recognizing those who further our mission to educate about and conserve nature in Guelph.

Special note: Scott and his mother Sue were also members of WRN.

Ontario Court of Appeals Upholds Vital Habitat Protection

Environmental groups applauded the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision to uphold the Town of South Bruce Peninsula's conviction for damaging piping plover habitat at Sauble Beach on the shores of Lake Huron. Ecojustice, acting on behalf of Environmental Defence and Ontario Nature, intervened in the case. The groups say the court's decision sets a precedent that municipalities must protect critical habitat of vulnerable species.

In 2019, the Town of South Bruce Peninsula was convicted on two charges of damaging piping plover habitat. The charges related to mechanical raking with heavy equipment and bulldozing to level the sand and dunes, performed by the Town at Sauble Beach in 2017. The convictions were upheld on appeal, and the Town then brought a further appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal, which dismissed it.

We Remain Committed to Nature

Thank you to all of you who stood up for nature this election – be it writing letters, signing Action Alerts, speaking to candidates and voting. Ultimately, environmental issues did not get their due as other issues took centre stage. And, sadly, this provincial election had one of the lowest voter turnouts in history.

Looking forward, Ontario Nature will continue to advocate for the protection of wild species and wild spaces, by speaking up when nature is being threatened and pushing for immediate action on the biodiversity and climate change crises. We will endeavour to work with the provincial government to improve outcomes for nature. To be an effective voice for nature, we need our members and supporters now more than ever.

Canada Post Publication
Mail Sales Agreement
No. 40037542

Waterloo Region Nature
Suite #353
5-420 Erb Street West
Waterloo ON N2L 6K6
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Membership Annual Fees*

Family/Couple \$40
Senior Couple \$35
Adult Individual \$35
Senior (60+) \$30
Student (19+) \$25
Free Membership
for youth (<18)
Club year runs from
Sept. to August; New member-
ships 1/2 price after Jan.31st

Cheques made payable to:
Waterloo Region Nature
Bring payment to
the next meeting or mail to:

Waterloo Region Nature
Suite #353
5-420 Erb Street West
Waterloo ON N2L 6K6
Membership details at:

[waterlooregionnature.ca/
membership/](https://waterlooregionnature.ca/membership/)

**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:

Advertisement Size	Per issue	Full year (3 issues)
Full Page	\$200	\$520
Half Page	\$100	\$260
Quarter Page	\$50	\$130
One-tenth Page (business card)	\$25	\$65

"The Heron" is the official
publication of WRN.
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 WRN club.
The Heron is published
three times per year.
Please see page 2 for
details.

Print copies of the
newsletter are
available at meetings free
of charge to members.
Newsletters available on
our web site at:

[https://
waterlooregionnature.ca/
newsletter/](https://waterlooregionnature.ca/newsletter/)

**Waterloo Region Nature
is a member of Ontario
Nature.**
www.ontarionature.org/