

Connecting the Past to the Present

*80 Years of
Kitchener Waterloo Field Naturalists
1934 – 2014*



Mary Ann Vanden Elzen

The following is an adapted version of a PowerPoint presentation by Mary Ann Vanden Elzen to the members of the Kitchener Waterloo Field Naturalists at the club meeting held on Oct. 27, 2014 as part of the organization's 80th anniversary celebration.

Cover photo: Margaret Bechtel and Madge Douglas. 1966. Location unknown.

Connecting the Past to the Present

80 Years of KWFN

Well, I believe this is a first. For a change, tonight, it's all about us! The Kitchener Waterloo Field Naturalists.

This presentation is the last in a year-long series of articles and events celebrating our club's 80 years of existence. 80 years! Lots of stories to tell. Impossible to tell them all; not even close. So, tonight, I offer you a general overview of trends, developments and accomplishments over the years with the occasional snapshot of specific individuals and events.

My aims this evening are three: to discover our origins, to connect our past to our present, and to understand who we are.

The Founders

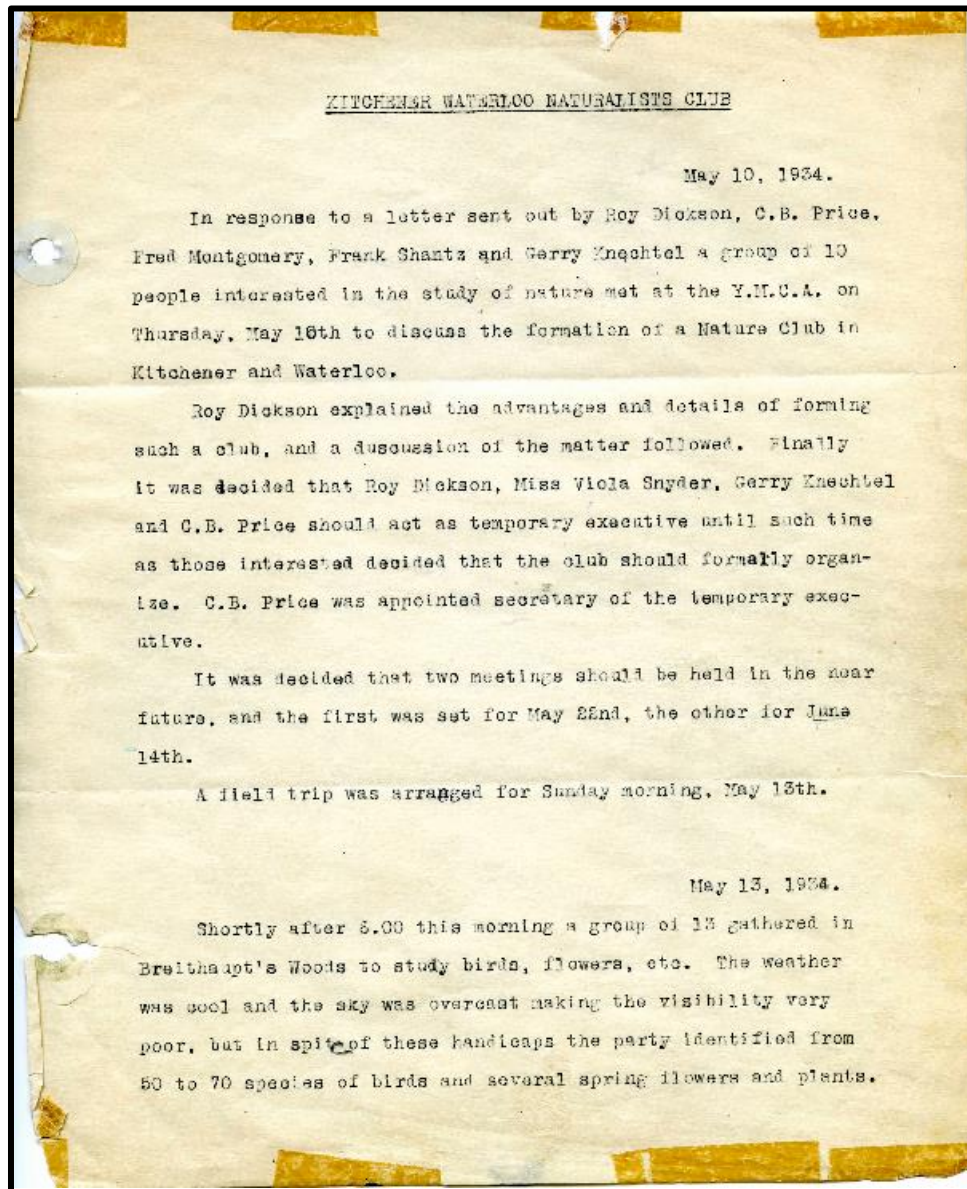
So, let's get started, at the beginning, with the founders of our club.



Outing at Puslinch Lake. Date unknown. Roy Dickson is on far right.

Back in 1934, there were already some naturalists in Waterloo County. They shared a common interest, and they would often meet at the Grand River Railway in Hespeler and Preston and

bicycle or walk to Puslinch Lake to study water birds. They were probably stimulated to form a study group when they encountered other naturalists there. Five of them – Roy Dickson, Clarence Price, Fred Montgomery, Frank Schantz and Gerry Knechtel – sent out letters to local naturalists calling for a meeting at the local Y with the intent of forming a naturalists club in Kitchener and Waterloo. The ten people who attended that meeting on Thurs. May 10, 1934 are generally considered to be the founders of our club.



Original minutes of the Kitchener Naturalists Club, May 10, 1934 meeting.

Founding Members of KWFN

F.W. Roy Dickson
Clarence B. Price
Fred Montgomery
Frank Schantz
Gerry Knechtel
Viola Snyder Hanson
Edmund Pugsley
Marjorie White James
Tom Withington

But there's a mystery here. Appearing in the original minutes of that very first meeting are the names of the five men who sent out those letters. Viola Snyder's name also appears. In one history of the club, these six names, plus three additional names, are listed as the founders of the club.

But that's only nine, not ten.

And yet, in an account written 25 years later, Roy Dickson states that there were ten people present at that inaugural meeting. But we don't know for certain just who was present because no attendance was taken.

And here's another mystery. Below is an excerpt from a 1974-75 Heron article titled *Our Fortieth Anniversary Dinner* at which time the club's founders were honoured.

"A search of Club records revealed the names of the ten persons who founded the Club on May 10th, 1934, four of whom have since passed away. They were:

*Mr. Edmund Pugsley
Mr. C.B. Price
Mr. Frank Schantz and
Flying Officer Tom Withington*

Since there were six of the original ten Founding Members living, it was decided to hold a Fortieth Anniversary Dinner in their honour. They are:

*Margaret Detweiler
F.W.R. Dickson
Marie Kirkness
F.H. Montgomery
Viola Snyder (Mrs. Hanson) and
Marjorie White (Mrs. James)"*

Ten are listed here. Margaret Detweiler and Marie Kirkness appear on this list. But not Gerry Knechtel. If Gerry Knechtel, one of the five men who had sent out the original letter, had been included it would have brought the number of founders to eleven, not ten. Many questions arise, and we may never know the answers to them.

Founding Members of KWFN

F.W. Roy Dickson
Clarence B. Price
Fred Montgomery
Frank Schantz
Gerry Knechtel
Viola Snyder Hanson
Edmund Pugsley
Marjorie White James
Tom Withington

.....
-Gerry Knechtel

.....
+Margaret Detweiler
+Marie Kirkness



Fred Montgomery



Frank Schantz



Marjorie
White James



Roy Dickson



Marie Kirkness



Clarence Price



Viola Snyder Hanson

A composite of the founders (i.e., those for whom a photo exists.)

Breithaupt Outing – May 13, 1934

The original minutes also mention an outing to Breithaupt Woods “...to study birds, flowers, etc.” No photos of that outing exist but it would have looked quite a bit like this one held exactly 80 years later

- on the exact same date – May 13
- at the exact same time – 6 a.m.
- with similar weather – overcast and rain
- with a similar number of participants – 13
- and similar number of bird species observed – 57

As for the plants, no formal record was kept either time.



Outing to Breithaupt Woods on May 13, 2014. From left to right:
Harold Russell, Paul Bigelow, Graham Macdonald, Betty Cooper, Fraser Gibson, Jim Burrell, Mary Ann
Vanden Elzen, Janet Ozaruk, David Gascoigne, Peter Coe, ?, ?, Mike Burrell, Dawn Miles

Where Did the Club Meet?

The very first meeting in 1934 was held at the YMCA on Queen St. in Kitchener. But they only stayed for four years. Maybe it was all those bouncing basketballs; the noise became distracting.



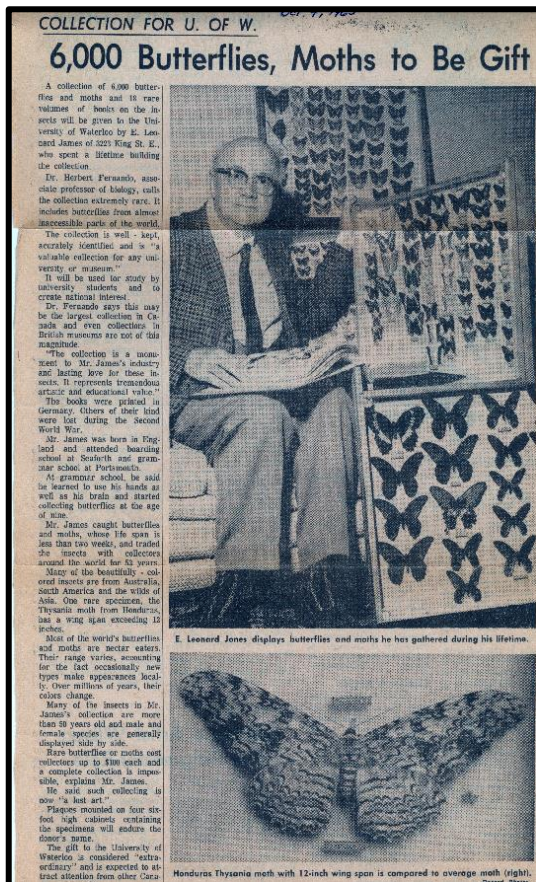
So, in 1938, they moved across the street to the Old Carnegie Library on Weber and Queen.

Photos courtesy UW Record Collection

Meetings were held in the Story Room at the old Carnegie Library. The KWFN was affectionately called "The Bug Society" and the room was regularly filled.



The Story Room at the KPL. Photo courtesy KPL Collection



Presenters were often KWFN members. There was considerable expertise within the club, just as there is now. For example:

Left: Ernest Leonard James with his moth and butterfly collection.

Right: Floyd and Evelyn Caesar with his butterfly collection.





STUDY ROCKS — Arnold Boggs, right, shows K-W Collegiate students June Zinger, left, and Donald Stewart rocks from his collection gathered in the district. Mr. Boggs specializes in geology for the naturalists' club.

Club meetings were occasionally held at other locations when the situation warranted. For instance...

...at KCI to admire Roy Dickson's collection of 55 stuffed and mounted birds

or...

...to examine slides of bacteria including anthrax and tuberculosis in the physics lab there.

Sometimes, for club meetings The Assembly Room of Kitchener City Hall was reserved when a particularly large crowd was expected as was done for the presentation on the Natural History of Bermuda using coloured slides – a very new technology at the time. One hundred and fifteen people showed up!



Roy Dickson



Courtesy KPL Collection

In 1962, the KWFN took up residence in the "new" library which had just opened on Queen St. There they met for the next 20 years until insufficient parking space and the 10 p.m. curfew became issues.

In 1981, the club relocated to Highland Rd. United Church. Here they remained...



...until 1990 when club meetings were moved to our present location.



Wing 404 Rotary Adult Centre on Dutton Dr. in Waterloo.

A Typical Club Meeting

In those very early days how were meetings run? Keep in mind that four of the club's founders were teachers. And it showed. At club meetings, it was not uncommon to have available mimeographed booklets of the topic being presented. And there were quizzes! In his history of the club, FWR Dickson writes:

"In 1940, a feature of the meetings was a quiz on the subject matter of the previous meeting. This was not a cause for decreased attendance, for each marked [their] own work."

And attendance was taken. These records are fascinating! They contain a wealth of information: names of members (some misspelled), who came together, dates meetings were held, fees paid. Fees were voluntary. Remember, it was the Depression. They ranged in amount from zero to 25¢ to 50¢ according to ability to pay. Some records showed total attendance numbers at the bottom. In these years, the average was 22. Occasionally, other interesting details about individual members were recorded (e.g., John Spiers "to Cincinnati").

	Fees.	1938					1939				
		Sep. 15	Oct. 11	Nov. 2	Dec. 1	Jan. 5	Feb. 2	Mar. 2	Apr. 19	May	June
Bender Fred 1876M	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bender Mrs.	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boothroy Royal	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Element Miss											
Dingman Frank											
Dixon W.R.	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dixon Mrs.	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Douglas Madge 1170M		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hetcher Gordon	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hetcher Mrs.	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gillies Earl 3928W											
Haviland Miss											
James Ernest	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knechtel Gerald 70				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McQuarrie H.L. 1324W		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montgomery Fred	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montgomery Mrs.	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Narrow Helen											
Pryce La St.	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pryce Mrs.	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pageby E. 4680	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reuter Gustaf				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reuter Mrs.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reuter (J.)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shantz Frank				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sloan Clarence											
Spiers John	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tompson Andrew		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wambold Lew.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wambold Mrs.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wattlaugh Lorne											
White Myra		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White Grace	25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wickham H.G.											
Wotton Bob											

Attendance records from 1938 and 1939

The War Years

Then came the Second World War. Tom Withington, one of the club's founders, was a fighter pilot. He was killed in action over France.

The club, only five years old and still in its infancy, was also becoming a casualty of the war. Attendance was dropping; people were busy with activities and duties connected to the war effort. By 1942, paid memberships had dropped to 15. The decision was made to disband the club. Roy Dickson was appointed chair to look after club interests and call a reorganizational meeting at an opportune time sometime in the future. As a result, except for the occasional outing and Christmas Bird Counts, the club became largely inactive. The KWFN's involvement with CBCs had been initiated in 1934 by Gerry Knechtel once described as a most "ardent ornithologist". The CBCs continued throughout the war years.

After the War

A few months following the end of the war, in February of 1946, Roy Dickson called for that organizational meeting. And, it was at that meeting that Frank Schantz, the club's eldest member and one of the original founders, was elected president. The club came back to life resuming its pre-war pattern of monthly meetings except during the summer, an outing on the Saturday following the meeting and, sometimes, a picnic after the outing.



1934 photo of Frank Schantz and double tree

Many outings were made to local destinations.

Here's a wonderful scene from 1950 showing club members at Cressman's Woods (now called Homer Watson Park) roasting hot dogs and drying socks following an afternoon hike.



And another picnic scene.



Outings were very much a social coming together of family and friends sharing a mutual interest in nature. The club was still small enough that everyone knew each other.

This 1946 photo depicts a gathering in the backyard of the James property in Freeport.



l-r: Standing back row: Bob Davis, Russell Tilt, Len Wambold, Frank Schantz, ?, Floyd Caesar, Marjorie White James, Ernest James, Fred Bender, Fred Montgomery
Seated middle row: Roy Dickson, Harold Russell, Lyla Dickson, Dorothy Russell, Doreen Davis, Evelyn Caesar, Mrs. Grace White, Robert Montgomery
Seated front row: Bender daughter, Patsy Montgomery, ?, ?, Madge Douglas, Bender son

Here we see people of all ages and generations.

- Some are here with family members
 - Fred Montgomery, with son Robert and daughter Patsy
 - Marjorie White James and her mother Grace White, and her husband Ernest Leonard James
 - Frank Schantz, niece Dorothy Russell, and her son Harold Russell
 - Fred Bender with his daughter and son
 - Lyla and Roy Dickson
 - Floyd and Evelyn Caesar
 - Doreen and Bob Davis
- And some are here on their own
 - Russell Tilt, Madge Douglas, Len Wambold



May 17, 1947 field trip to Paradise Lake. Many of the same individuals here as in the 1946 photo.

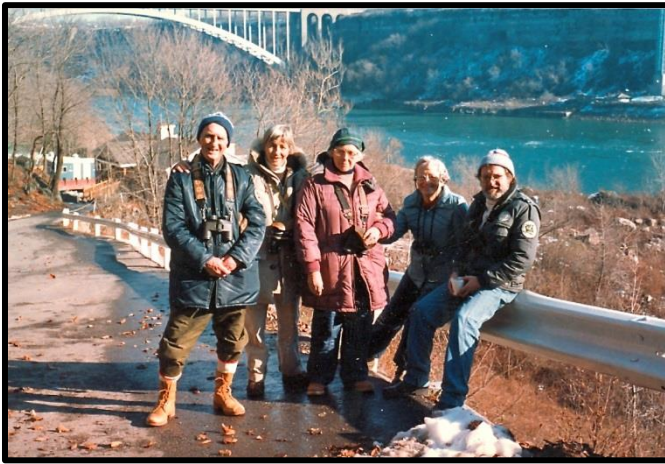


Above: Dorothy Russell, Harry Walker, Miriam Sokvitne at Pioneers Tower, Kitchener.



Right: Dorothy Russell, ?, Larry Lamb, ? at an unknown location.

But they did not confine themselves only to local destinations.
They were just as likely to explore further afield in southern Ontario.



There was the annual November outing for gulls to the Niagara River.

l-r: Harry Walker, Marion Scholz, Madge Douglas, Gloria Zimmerman, Erwin Meissner in 1986

Point Pelee,
of course.



And the traditional yearly excursion to Tobermory and Flowerpot Island where they'd frequently gather with other naturalists' groups which, at least on one occasion, included renowned Canadian artist, Robert Bateman (with extended arm).





Outing to Woodstock

They'd go in any kind of weather...

...and under any kind of personal circumstance.



Dorothy Russell assisted by Marie Walker

Hardy souls, them!

The KWFN was primarily a study group as the following photos attest.

Floyd Caesar



Eric Carter Spring 1954



Roy Dickson with scope

The KWFN also did educational outreach in the community. In an article marking the club's 25th anniversary, Roy Dickson commented on the hundreds of illustrated talks presented to many local organizations. Here he makes a slide presentation to local school children.



Explosion of Activities – 1950s and 1960s

By the 1950s, the club was viable and healthy again with 50 paid memberships and an average of 35 attending the monthly meetings. Due to this new vitality and a broader base from which to draw volunteers, the club experienced an explosion of major new initiatives during this period. As you will see, one thing led to another.

Explosion of Activities 1950s and 1960s

- Audubon films
- obtaining properties
- conservation activism
- incorporation
- newsletter

In 1953, the club began sponsoring Audubon Wildlife films in public schools and other venues throughout Waterloo County. It was a wildly successful venture which, particularly in the first ten years, raised substantial funds for the club.

The very first showing was at Suddaby Public School.



Admission was 50 cents. Attendance far exceeded expectation; an astounding 500 people turned up. The showing of these films continued for almost three decades and contributed significantly to KWFN's newly created "Special Account" set up in 1958 for the purpose of *"...establishing a sanctuary, building or other specific project."* It was sometimes called "The Audubon Account". This was the origin of our present day "Sanctuary Account," from which the club most recently donated \$10000 to the Bruce Trail Conservancy and \$3000 toward Ontario Nature's Lost Bay Nature Reserve.

Not only were the 1950s and '60s a time of increased engagement with the general public through the showing of Audubon films, it was also a time of tremendous change for the club.

With the end of the war, changes were sweeping across the country.

- The soldiers were back,
- families were growing,
- houses were being built,
- industry was booming,
- the economy was bouncing back.

The '50s and '60s were decades of prosperity, expansion and growth in Canada as well as in Waterloo County. But it all came at a price – damage to the natural environment – something club members found deeply disturbing.

Lew Jenkins, an active member of the club and one-time president, captured these concerns in an article printed in the Heron newsletter:

“The trend today is to place a house on every hilltop, drain every marsh or pollute every creek, or turn it into a concrete ditch.”

The club was determined to do something about it. Their solution, again, in the words of Lew Jenkins:

“The FON and the KWFN feel that the acquisition of pieces of property that contain unique or rapidly disappearing natural characteristics and which are now threatened by development, is not only a good idea but is a very important function of the many naturalist groups throughout the country.

The purchase of small pieces of desirable property gives a small section of our disappearing flora and fauna somewhere to make a last ditch, and give us a chance to see in a small way what only a few years ago covered many square miles.”

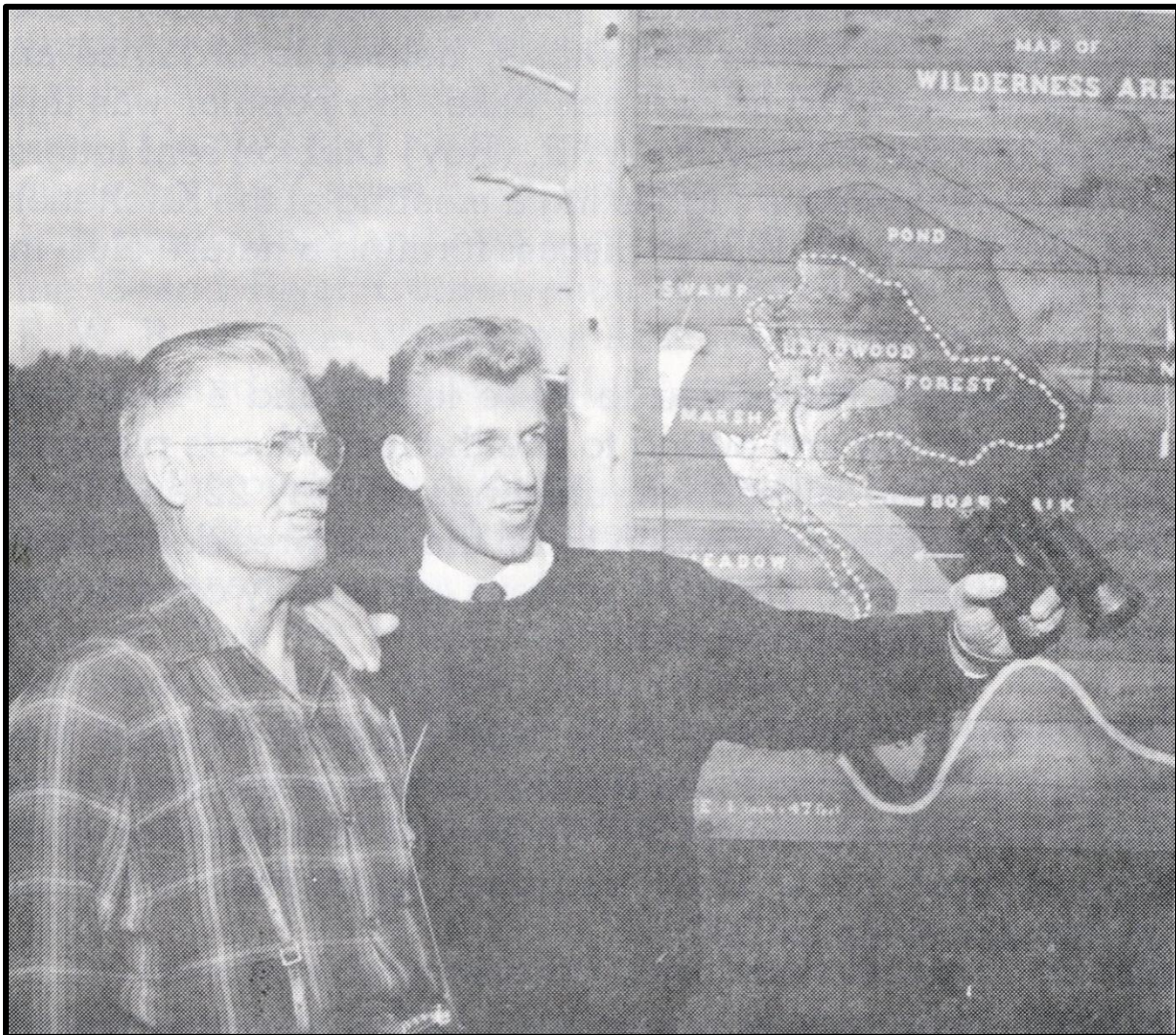
Thus began the push to acquire properties or “sanctuaries” for nature.

Sanctuary Committee – Properties

In 1959, under the leadership of Roy Dickson, a Sanctuary Committee was formed. It was tasked with looking for a suitable property in Waterloo County containing unique or rapidly disappearing natural characteristics which the club could potentially purchase, preserve and maintain as a nature sanctuary.

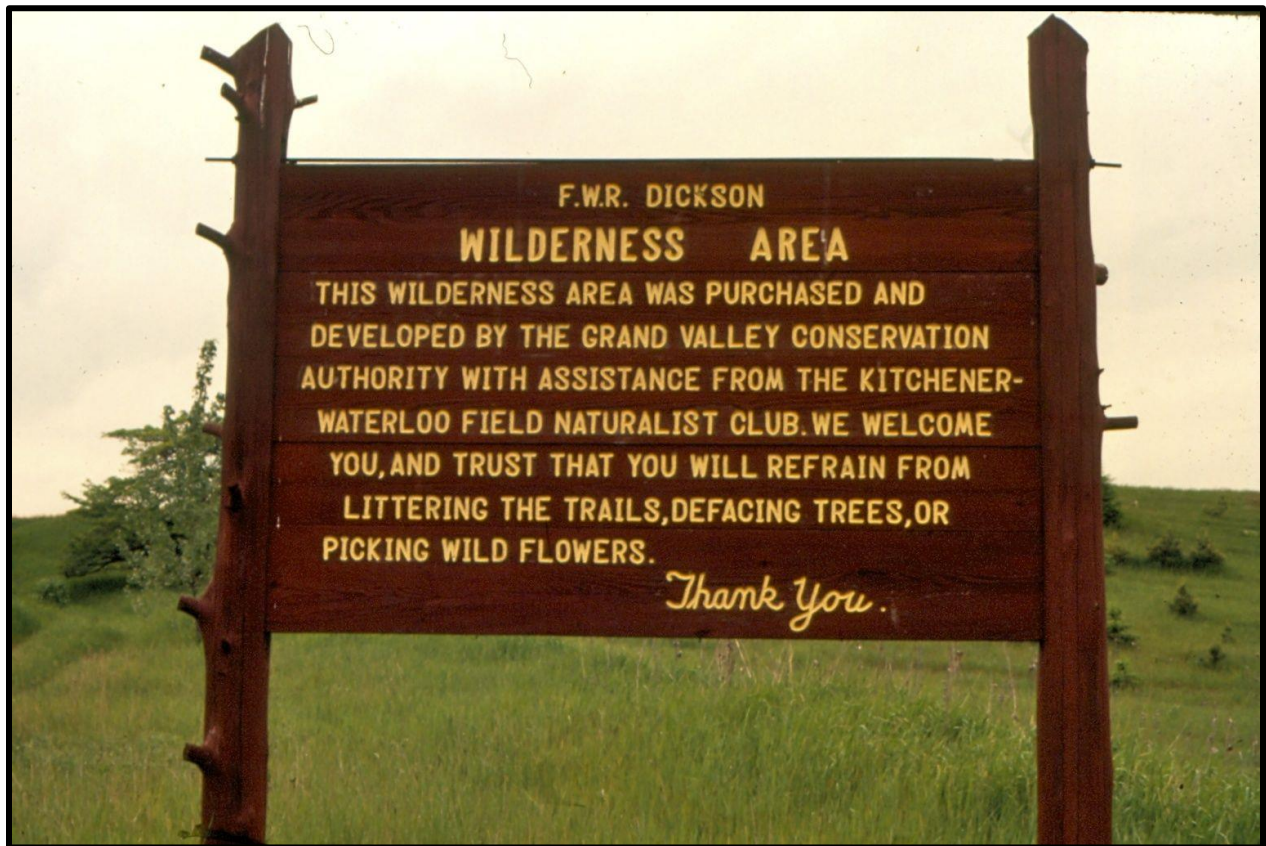
And, three years later, using the revenues accumulated from Audubon films, an 87-acre wilderness area in North Dumphries Twp. was purchased by the club.

Although the KWFN purchased the land, they did not have the necessary funds to build boardwalks or trails, to pay the annual property taxes, or for ongoing maintenance. So, in the following year, on the club's 30th anniversary, an agreement was struck with the Grand Valley Conservation Authority for them to take over ownership and maintenance of the property.



This photo illustrates the partnership between the two organizations: Roy Dickson of the KWFN and John Bindernagel of the GVCA in front of a map of the property.

At this time, too, the property was officially named the F.W.R. Dickson Wildlife Sanctuary. It is often referred to by its shorter name, The Dickson Wilderness Area, or just Dickson.



With the purchase of the Wilderness Area, a new phase of club activity began.

In the words of Fred Cooper, club president at the time...

"Until now we had been a group of nature lovers sharing mutual interests and enjoyment of nature. Now we found ourselves committed to the conservation of the rapidly disappearing natural areas in our part of Ontario."

And people in Waterloo County, concerned about deteriorating natural areas, began looking to the KWFN for leadership.

Conservation Committee – Properties



To this purpose, in 1964, the KWFN board established the Conservation Committee spearheaded by Craig Campbell (above) and assisted by Willard Schaefer “...to keep an eye on threatened local natural areas so that the club could take steps to save as many as possible within its ability.” Over time, through the work of the Conservation Committee, and of Craig Campbell and Willard Schaefer in particular, five additional properties were preserved.

Properties Preserved or Owned by KWFN

1962	F.W.R. Dickson Wildlife Sanctuary
1966/67	Bannister Marsh Wrigley Lake
1968	Phillipsburg Heronry
1967	Founders’ Wildlife Sanctuary
1973	F.H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary

The ownership of the first three properties was almost immediately turned over to the GRCA.

Shortly after taking ownership of the Phillipsburg Heronry, a severe windstorm blew through destroying many of the trees. As well, the neighbouring landowner cut down the trees on his adjoining property. All the herons left. There being no longer any reason to preserve the property, the club sold it.

The Hallman Property, south of Roseville, was renamed the Founders' Wildlife Sanctuary at the club's 50th anniversary. The property outside of New Dundee variously known as the Haysville Flats, the Nith River Flats and the Weicher Property (referring to its former owners) was renamed the F.H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary on the occasion of the club's 40th anniversary, after one of the club's founders – Fred Montgomery.

Both the Founders' Property and the Montgomery Property remain under club ownership to this day.



Fred Montgomery and his family attend the dedication ceremony on the F.H. Montgomery Wildlife Sanctuary property in 1974.

While maintenance of the Founders' Property is largely passive, a very committed Montgomery Committee takes an active role in looking after the Montgomery Property.



Montgomery work crew 2010. l-r: Graham Macdonald, April Morrissey, Lynda Buck, Marg Macdonald, Wayne Buck, Paul Bigelow, Marco DeBruin, Fraser Gibson, Jim Cappleman. Photo taken by Pat Bigelow.

Incorporation and Charitable Status

Now with the club owning land came the recommendation that the KWFN become incorporated. This it did in 1969. Among other things, this designation formalized election of officers and directors to the board and spelled out the objectives of the KWFN. These objectives regularly appear on the back of each issue of the Heron.

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

Not long afterwards, the club applied for and received official non-profit charitable status allowing it to issue tax receipts for donations which members continue to receive to this day.

Now a final brief note on the Conservation Committee. For 25 years, it was the activist arm of the club

- keeping watch over conservation issues in Waterloo and surrounding counties
- making environmental inventories, assessments and recommendations
- initiating projects such as:
 - bird conservation – a team headed by Frank Blok and Virgil Martin
 - erecting over 200 bluebird boxes – a team headed by Betty Cooper
 - conducting plant inventories – a team headed by Larry Lamb (below)



Conferences Organized by KWFN

Conference at Steckle Woods

When only one year old, in 1935, the newly formed club hosted its very first regional conference at Steckle Woods. Earlier in that same year, the club officially adopted its current name, Kitchener Waterloo Field Naturalists, and became affiliated with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON), now Ontario Nature. We are presently in our 79th year of that affiliation.

Conference at WLU March 13-14, 1970

The KWFN Conservation Committee organized a two-day workshop / conference at Waterloo Lutheran University with speakers and field trips. One of the field trips was a tour of the Schneider Meat plant.



KWFN member, Jane Schneider, conducts a tour of the Schneider Meat plant on Courtland Ave. in Kitchener.

1984 FON AGM and Conference

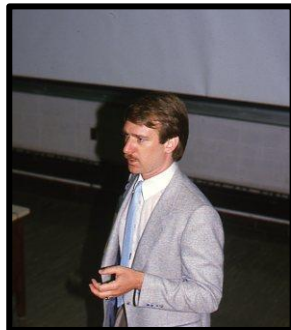
Presenters
included:



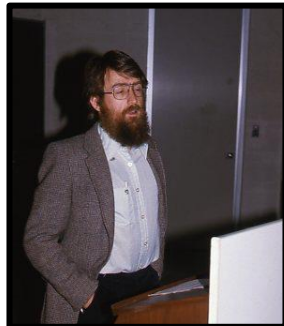
Danny Schneider



Larry Lamb



Ken Dance



Alan Morgan



Bob Dorney



Glen Moores



Paul Eagles



Bob Hounsell

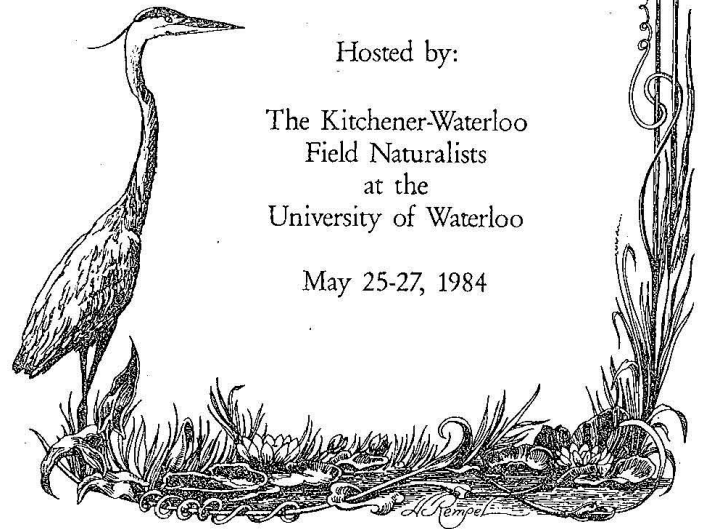
Federation of Ontario Naturalists

Annual General Meeting and Conference

Hosted by:

The Kitchener-Waterloo
Field Naturalists
at the
University of Waterloo

May 25-27, 1984



"Pieces of Green" Man and Nature in Harmony
Supplement to SEASONS, Spring, March 23, 1984

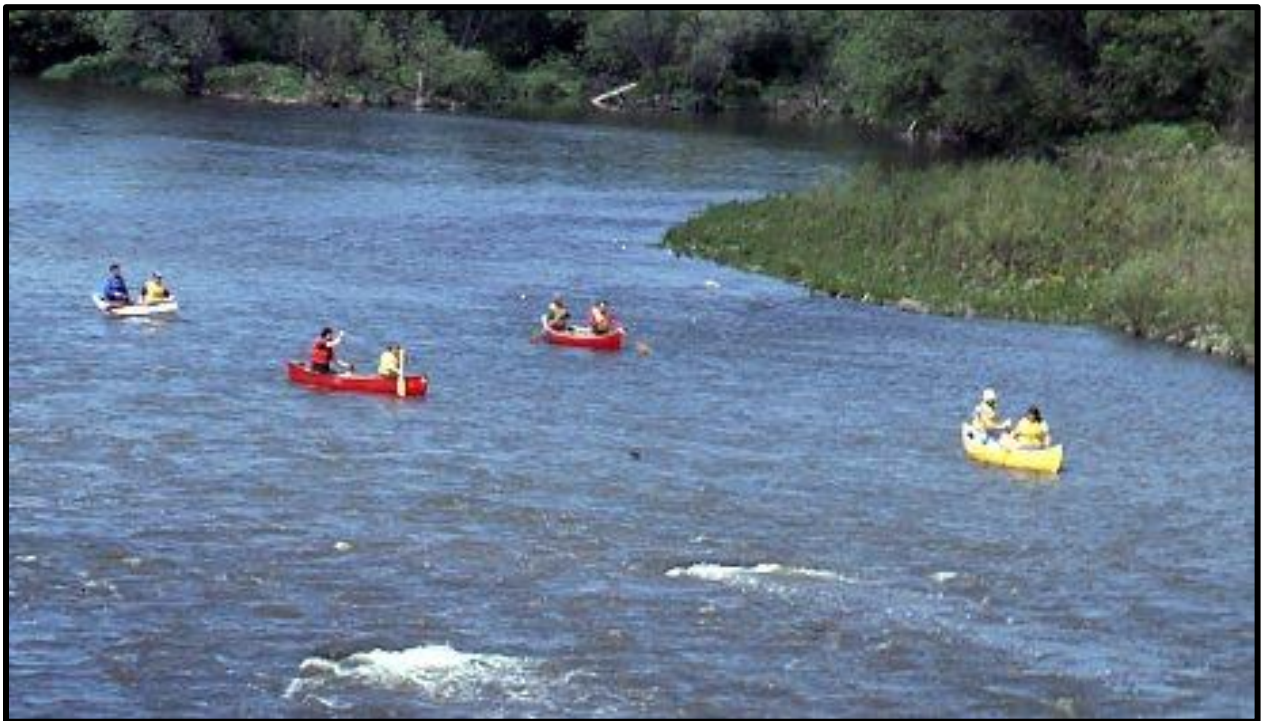
Field trips included:



A bus tour of Mennonite country with guide Fred Cooper



Bird banding at Columbia Lake with John Miles



Canoeing the Grand River

2006 Ontario Nature AGM and Conference

Conference committee meetings were chaired by Janet Ozaruk and involved almost one and a half years of planning. The conference was held from June 2-4, 2006 at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Newsletter

I want to tell you now about our newsletter and how it evolved to become the Heron which we are all familiar with today.

It began as a one or two page monthly publication to notify members of the next meeting, upcoming outings, special events and news. No name appeared on this newsletter. It was simply referred to as "The Bulletin." Beginning in 1952, an additional and much heftier version came out running anywhere from 15 pages to 40 or 50 pages. Because of its size, this newsletter was only published annually, sometimes semi-annually. The cover design changed with each new issue.



How was this newsletter put together? Betty Cooper has told me of those years when her husband, Fred, was editor of the Heron. The entire black and white publication was typed or hand drawn on stencils and cranked out on the old Gestetner machine down in their basement. Stacks of each separate page were piled on tables, then gathered, assembled and stapled to create a copy of the Heron. Those early cover drawings had to be large and of fairly simple design, perfect to take home for the kids to colour.

At some point, the club began looking for a prospective name for the publication as well as a standardized cover design. Names and designs were solicited from the membership. This is taken from the January 28, 1957 general meeting minutes:

"2 designs were exhibited for the cover of the KW Bulletin. The various names suggested for our publication were presented to the club and members marked ballots indicating their preferences."

**List of Suggested
Names for the
Newsletter**

The Warbler

Wake Robin

Red Wing

Teal

Hyla

Naturalist

Heron

Vireo

Fawn

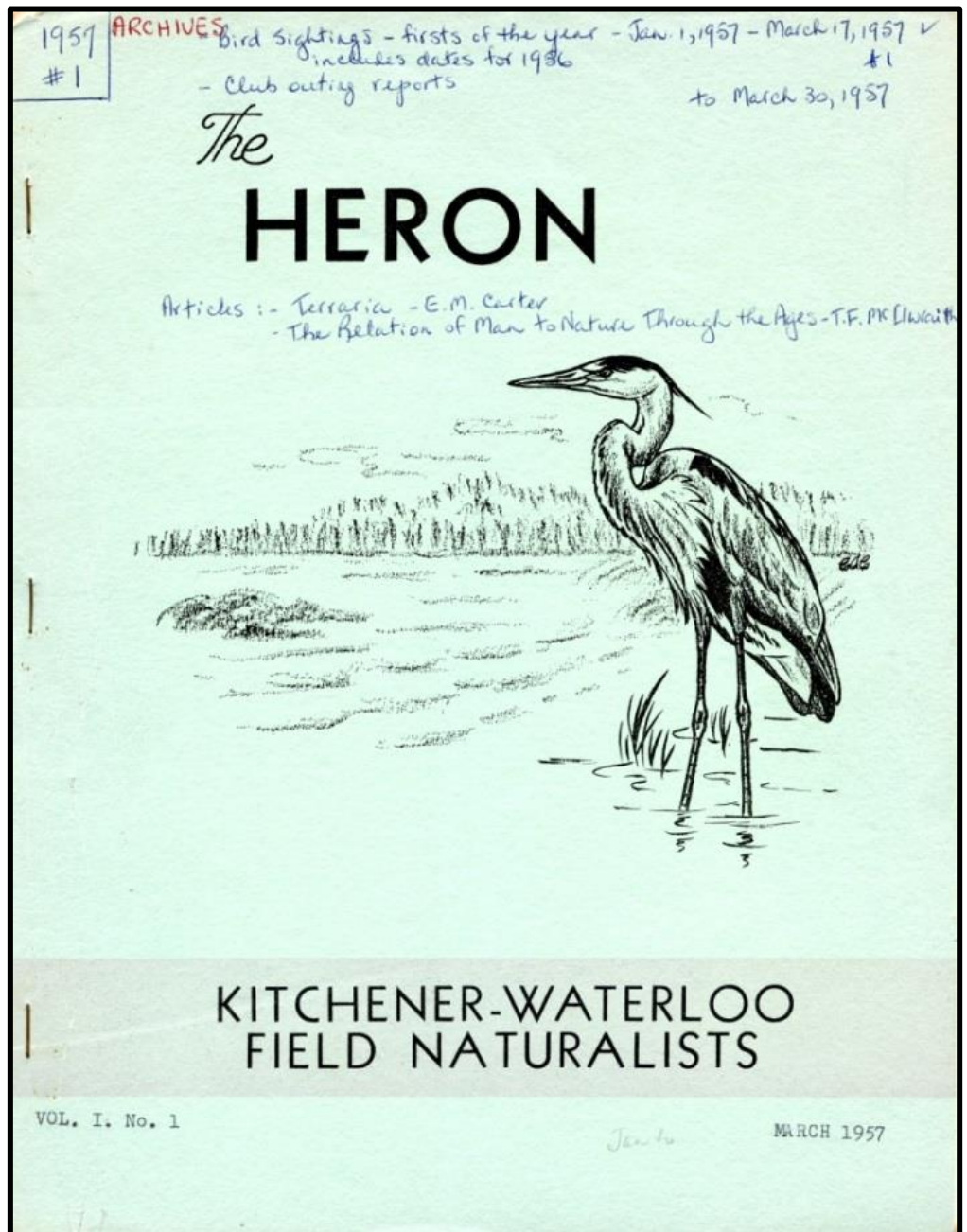
Water lily

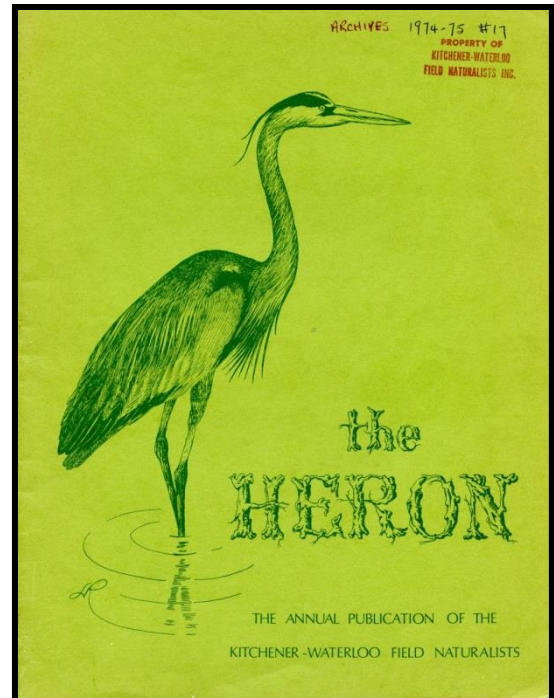
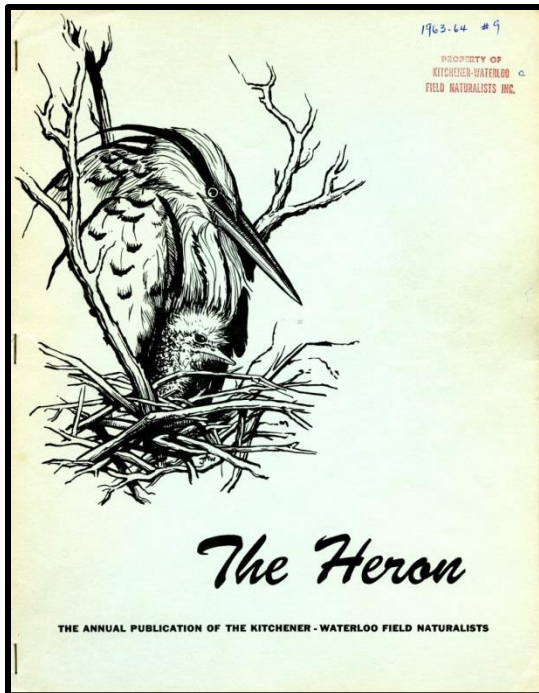
Newt

Nature Incorporated

"The Heron" won
and thus became the
official name of
KWFN's newsletter.

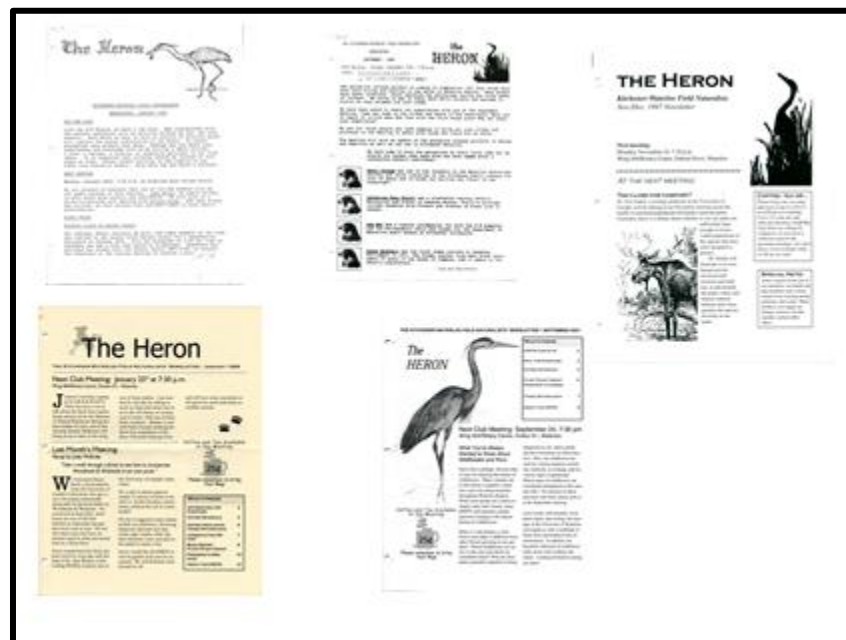
It was Craig Campbell's design of a heron which was selected as the cover for the newsletter making its very first appearance in March 1957. Craig Campbell's heron design was used for the next six years. From 1957 onward, a heron of some sort has always appeared on each issue of the KWFN's newsletter.





A second design, by John Walter, was used from 1963 to 1973. It depicted a heron with chick in a nest. A third design was used from 1973 to 1982. It was created by Helen Rempel, a club member and professional portrait artist. It depicted a lone heron standing in water.

In January of 1983, the Heron became a monthly newsletter. Various heron depictions graced the cover over the years including a return to Helen Rempel's original design.



In April of 2005, the KWFN had an official logo designed, the one we're all familiar with now.



Its inaugural appearance on the cover of the newsletter came with the March 2006 issue.

We have been fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers serve as Heron editors including most recently Deb Fowler and Thelma Beaubien. One of the very earliest was Marg Lemon, a very active member of the club. There are several photos of her in the archives but this one is really lovely.



Peregrine Falcon Release Project, 1988

Over the years, the KWFN has been involved in many, many projects all having to do with fulfilling its four objectives. One of these was the Falcon Release Project. The goals of this project were to raise public awareness of an endangered species, to reintroduce the species, and to ultimately see Peregrine Falcons breeding in Ontario.

The first part of the program – breeding the adults, incubating the eggs, and hatching – took place at the Peregrine Falcon Captive Breeding Facility in Wainwright, Alberta. When the chicks were a month old, Art and Aileen Hiller went to Wainwright to pick them up. They were placed in a hack box and airlifted back to Waterloo.



The four chicks were given names Mabel, Catharine, Ada and Agnes after four women of local and national accomplishment: Mabel Dunham, Catharine Parr Trail, Ada Eby and Agnes MacPhail. The hack box was placed atop the University of Waterloo library and food, quail, was made available to the young chicks. Then began the six week volunteer observation and monitoring period co-ordinated by Judy and Glen Moores.





Catharine inspecting the camera



Agnes on the roof



Betty Cooper keeping an eye on both of them



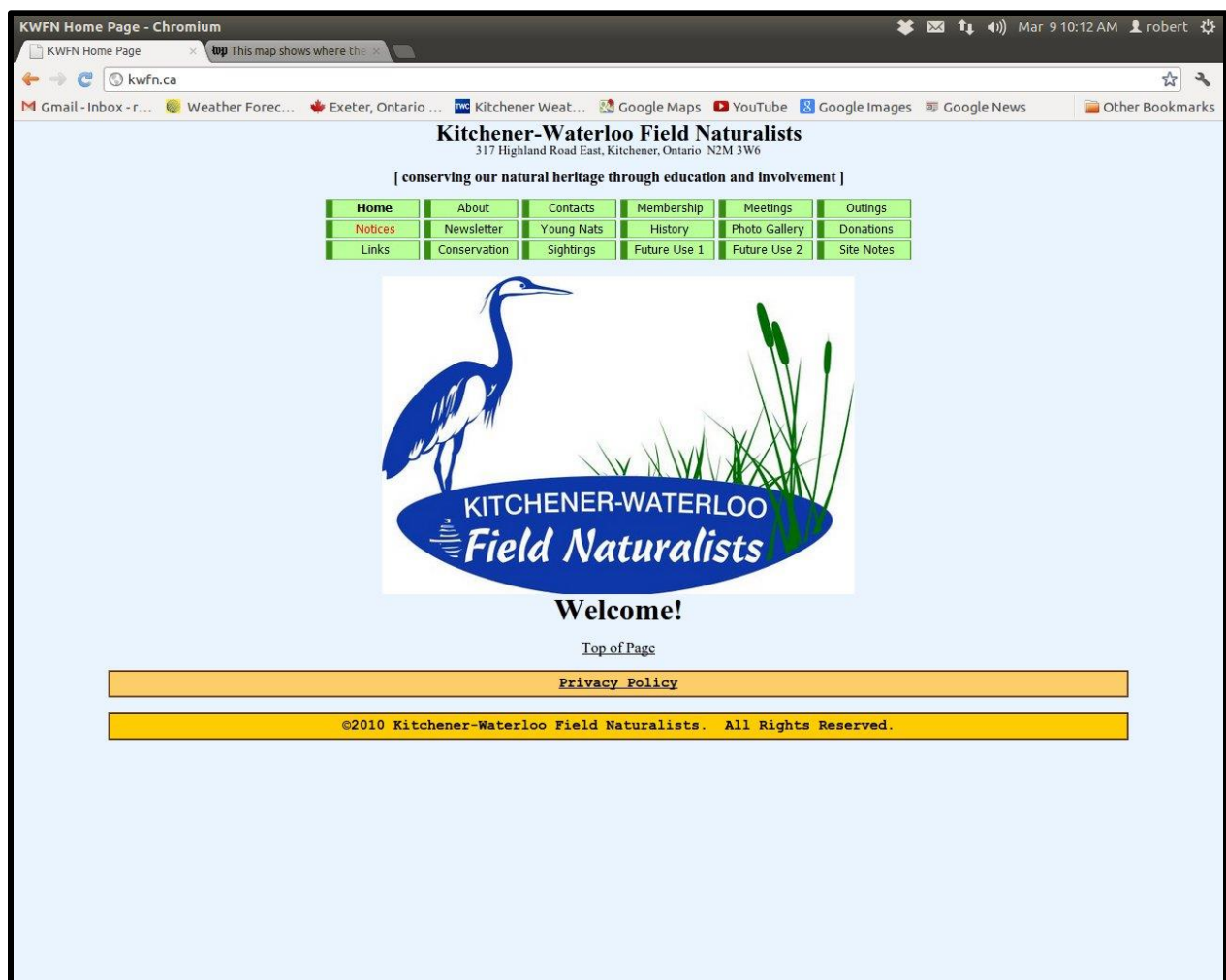
One of the girls all grown up

Careful monitoring and a smidgen of luck saw all four birds successfully fledged.

Our club has undertaken three major initiatives in recent years.

Website

The KWFN entered the digital age in 1997 when Neil Taylor created special pages for the club on his own personal website. In 2010, the club established its own stand-alone website with Larry Hamel as the website manager.



Kitchener Waterloo Field Naturalists website homepage

Creation of the Executive Guide

This document began with a review of the club's bylaw, an arduous task undertaken by Neil Taylor, Derek Hitchens and Fraser Gibson. It grew to include a compilation of formal job descriptions for each of the board positions and the other positions of responsibility in the club. Most of these jobs are regularly listed on page two of the Heron.

Over time, the Executive Guide has grown and now contains a surprising amount of information including a complete list of all board members since 1934 up to the present.

It's often referred to as a "living document" because of ongoing inputs to keep it updated and current.

KITCHENER - WATERLOO FIELD NATURALISTS

EXECUTIVE GUIDE

Revised August 2010
Third Edition



Derek Hitchens

Kitchener's Natural Areas Program (KNAP)



This program began with a coming together of three groups: the Waterloo Stewardship Network, the City of Kitchener, and the KWFN (represented by Fraser Gibson, left, and David Hunsberger, right). All were very concerned about the deterioration of urban natural areas in Kitchener.

In 2005, this collaborative, with the KWFN acting as lead agency, succeeded in securing a Trillium grant to initiate various stewardship and educational activities, and to help citizens understand and value the importance of healthy natural areas within the city.

Amongst many other activities, KNAP initiated and popularized the annual Earth Day event at Huron Natural Area.



In 2009, the City of Kitchener, besides approving long term funding for Kitchener's natural areas, also created a brand new full time position – Natural Areas Coordinator for the City of Kitchener. And the person the City selected for this position was Josh Shea, KWFN's current VP.



Annual Earth Day event at Huron Natural Area

Awards

Over the years, the KWFN has acknowledged many businesses, organizations, groups and individuals who have gone above and beyond in serving the club or preserving the natural environment within the Region of Waterloo. The club has recognized their outstanding efforts by awarding them the KWFN's Honorary Life Membership Award and / or Conservation Award.

The KWFN also recognizes that it could not exist without the efforts of its many volunteers, year after year. That includes many of you in this room today. The KWFN is grateful for your contributions.

And now it's time to roll the credits. My second last slide of the evening is this one. I am truly grateful to these individuals for their invaluable assistance in helping me put together the presentation this evening. I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

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And the final slide,
Unlike the meetings in those early years,
You'll be relieved...

NO

QUIZ

TODAY