



ENJOYING NATURE IN HURON-BRUCE



# THE HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS'

# FRINGE NOTES

WINTER INTO  
SPRING, 2017...  
WALKS, MEETINGS  
&  
POTLUCKS  
~~~~~  
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FROM OUR  
SPONSORS  
THREE TIMES A  
YEAR

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### LIKE TO JOIN US?

**HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS MEETS THE 4TH TUESDAY OF FEB., MAR., APR., MAY & JUNE, AND SEPT., OCT., & NOV., AT PINE RIVER UNITED CHURCH, HWY 21\*\*. MEMBERSHIP IS NOMINAL. (EXECUTIVE CONTACT NUMBERS & MORE INFO INSIDE.)**  
**\*\*except April, Annual Dinner at another venue.**



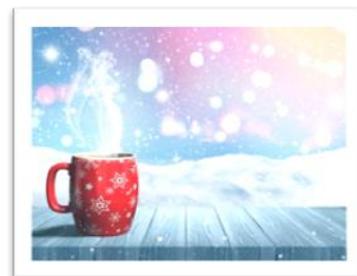
Primroses in the lovely perennial garden, Inglis Falls.



From our **PRESIDENT**,  
**Gina Dalkin-Davis**

*'January cold and desolate;  
February dripping wet;  
March wind ranges;  
April changes;  
Birds sing in tune,  
To flowers of May.....'*

~ Christina Georgina Rossetti, *The Months*



Greetings.

Although we've enjoyed an especially mild January, I don't hold out hope for mild months in February and March.

So much to learn; so little time...

Looking back at the previous months since our last newsletter, we've enjoyed three excellent speakers. In September, John Van den Broeck, a Management Biologist with the MNRF, revealed hitherto little-known facts about the eco-regional transition among the highest biodiverse geographies in the north and the influence on the unique species assemblages that ensued. Boy! That's a mouthful. Very enlightening, though. In October, Glen Holmes demonstrated bird calls. Songs and birds were matched in his presentation. As a late blooming naturalist, I especially enjoyed Glen's exhibits as it was a 'catch up' moment for me. My fellow HFFN members are seasoned naturalists and always helpful but sometimes it's nice 'to know'.

Which brings us to November. At that meeting we had the rare privilege of hearing the latest climate change news out of Paris (France, that is...) from Mitch Twolan, Mayor of Huron-Kinloss and a warden of Bruce County.

Turning our attention to the broader picture, that is, provincially, 

### UPCOMING EVENTS — PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Full details inside.*

#### MEETINGS:

- FEBRUARY 28th:** Annual Potluck & Photo Contest
- MARCH 28th:** Matthew Hoy: Coastal Conservation
- APRIL 25th:** Annual Dinner Meeting
- MAY 16th:** TBA (meeting held a week early)
- JUNE 27th:** Kerry Jarvis: Monarchs in Peril

#### OUTINGS:

Early Spring outings are generally announced via email, due to weather variances. Annually, we try to have a May Spring Walk and Bruce Peninsula trip.

TITLE PHOTO CREDIT: SWANS AT LAMBTON, (PROBABLY J. CAMPBELL)



## PLEASE NOTE:

IF YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR  
EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES,  
PLEASE NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

### H.F.F.N. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND CONTACT NUMBERS:

President:

Gina D. Davis 519-440-0403

Past President:

Marion Fink 395-3701

Vice-President:

Margie Visser 395-3173

Secretary:

Jackie Clements 396-3655

Treasurer:

Rhodora Doughty 396-4368

Memberships:

Barb Simpson 396-5486

Outings:

Tom Lobb 482-3342

(1 Open position)

Speakers:

Bob Simpson 396-5486

Newsletter Editor:

Jeni Pepper 395-5616

Members-at-Large:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

Joy Munn 395-3570

Social Convener:

Linda Campbell, 396-5144

Ontario Nature (FON) Rep:

Tom Lobb 482-3342

Website Administrator/Communications:

Steve Pepper 395-5616

Publicity:

Christine Roberts 395-5008

>>Our Club Executive<<  
*is always ready to welcome  
new members with fresh  
thoughts and ideas! We meet  
three times a year over lunch,  
and new Executive members  
are given any help they may  
need for whatever assistance  
they may wish to give.* <<

FRINGE NOTES

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President's Comments, Cont.:

...we have lent our support to two **Ontario Nature initiatives:** last November we supported ON's submission concerning the **MNR's Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario**. This Strategy sets out a series of actions to improved wetland conservation in the province and to reverse the net loss of wetlands that is currently occurring. While it appears to be a positive approach, we agree with Ontario Nature that work still needs to be done to achieve the MNR's objective.

Taking us into the New Year, HFFN joined Ontario Nature in calling for an **end to hunting of Snapping Turtles and Bullfrogs**. Why did the Snapping Turtle cross the road? We all know that the Snapping Turtle is a single minded creature with a purpose. Frequently, that purpose takes it on a busy road where disaster awaits. The Snapping Turtle is a species at risk and well on the road to extinction. How can an initiative that is contrary to the purpose of the Endangered Species Act, 2007, which is to protect and promote the recovery of species at risk, be justified? And the Snapping Turtle is definitely one at risk.

**Bullfrogs** - The MNR's opinion is that the current status of the American Bullfrog is at "Least Concern". However, given the sad situation of shrinking habitats, food harvesting and educational research, this is a recipe for disaster for bullfrog populations in many wetlands. No other way of looking at this deplorable situation other than to see that these creatures are in a precarious state. (ref: Ontario Nature website).

Please remember that **February is Photo Contest month**. Subject is 'Rocks and Ridges'. Read on for details...

We are looking forward to a good turnout at our **April Dinner Meeting**. Please circle **Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** on your Calendar. We will meet once again at the United Church in Lucknow. Bonnie Sitter is our guest speaker. Bonnie's topic is the '**The Beauty and Bounty of Huron County**'.

**Please remember** to bring a suitable nature article *per person* if participating in our Draw. *More details to follow*.

**In membership news**, some positions will be opening up in the HFFN Executive. If you are interested in giving us a little of your time, current positions run till the end of August 2017, so this will give you an opportunity to think about participating. Please let Steve Pepper know of your interest.

~~~ **We are especially pleased to welcome Joy Munn back on the Executive as Member-at-Large.** ~~~

**Please check your membership records to determine whether you need to renew.** Some last notes, but important ones:



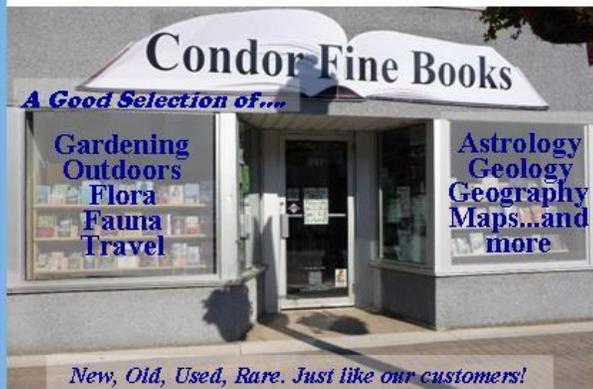
*We regret to note the passing of Jim Hogg, the husband of our past President, Catherine Hogg, on January 24th, 2017. We extend our sympathy, support and friendship at this difficult time to Catherine and her family.*



*Also of long-time HFFN member Wilk Gillin, who passed away on December 23, 2016. Amongst her many other interests, Wilk was an enthusiastic supporter of HFFN; she also served brilliantly on the HFFN Executive for some time. Her colourful presence will certainly be missed at our meetings.*

~ Gina D. Davis



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**PAST MEETINGS:****Sept. 27th: John van Den Broeck**

John, Northwestern Ontario Management Biologist with the MNR and Forestry, used his extensive knowledge of the similarities and contrasts between the Minnesota/Manitoba area and Southern Ontario to give his very interesting presentation. He first showed us how the prehistoric glaciers retreated, helping to create the landforms that we see today. He explained how the land ultimately dictated the flora and fauna found in it, and areas where some rarer species such as the Franklin Ground Squirrel, Grey Fox and American Badgers mix with the general population of boreal species we are more familiar with, creating a unique biodiversity and one of the highest bio-diverse geographies in the north.

Resource management in such a region, ranging from nearby prairie eco-system to boreal forest, is a specialised occupation. We would not be surprised to see John back again as he proved a great speaker with a fascinating world to show to us.

~ Ed.

**Oct. 25th : Glen Holmes**

Long-time HFFN member Glen Holmes gave an extensive and interesting presentation on local birds and their calls. Glen paired audio snippets from the internet to his own photos to give members an impressive tour of local feathered residents. At the beginning of his talk he took great delight in testing our knowledge of bird vocalizations. There were many good guesses but few correct answers. After enjoying what is undoubtedly a small representation of his photographic catalogue, it's easy to see why he wins the February photo contest so consistently. Thank you for sharing, Glen!

~ Christine Roberts

**November 22: Mitch Twolan**

It was a pleasure to have Mitch Twolan, Mayor of Huron-Kinloss, be our speaker at our November meeting. Mitch talked about his opportunities to meet with Mayors from cities on both sides of the Great Lakes. In these meetings, the Mayors discuss common issues such as protection of drinking water and farm management practices. Mitch has explained the Huron-Kinloss septic inspection program and the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN) to Mayors in other jurisdictions as examples of good practice.

Mitch emphasized that we are fortunate in Ontario to have the Clean Water Act which protects source drinking water and to have farm management practices which protect our water system. We are years ahead of most, if not all, the states in these areas.

Mitch took part in the Climate Change Summit in Paris, France following the terrorist attack in 2015 and attended a meeting at the White House in Washington to participate in discussions with Mayors from the Middle East. Mitch is such a benefit to our area, and a Mayor to be proud of.

~ M. Visser

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# Membership Forms in our Issues...

These will now be included in each issue for your convenience. Fill out, add your dues, and mail or hand in to join or renew. Done!



(This issue: pg. 10)



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## PAST OUTINGS



### October 12th: Maitland Groves with Tom



About 12 people met up with Tom on a sunny, warm Fall afternoon at the Goderich Cemetery for a walk through some of the various town-owned Groves (24 acres) behind the Cemetery. Each of the groves have been planted by various community groups over the last number of years to replace trees lost in the Goderich tornado.

After the F3 storm tore through the town on August 21, 2012, it continued inland. Goderich Courthouse Square lost over ninety trees. But, according to media reports too numerous to mention, trees in the thousands were shattered like matchsticks by the 300 kph winds, which carved a path of about 20 km alongside the Maitland River and on through Benmiller, finally petering out near Lonsborough. It was estimated that almost 90 hectares (200 acres) of woodlots over the properties of some sixty owners suffered extensive damage.

Various groups such as *Trees for Benmiller* and *Goderich Trees* have since worked extremely hard to get the land cleared and replant native species. Now, there are many replanted groves of trees donated/planted by concerned groups, individuals and businesses. The area is a hiker's delight thanks to these people. HFFN members Wendy and Heinz Hoernig were actively involved, and the Huron Stewardship Network, which hosts

our website, has been the lead agency of *Trees for Benmiller*.

Donna Murray had the foresight to jot down the names of flora and fauna (one) as soon as she got back to her vehicle. Here is her list:

*Butter and Eggs; Common/Glossy Buckthorn; Wild Columbine; Privet; Tulip Tree; Red Osier Dogwood; Wild Grapes; European Cranberry; Aster; Red and White Oak; planted Spruce, White & Smooth Pine, Scots Pine, Lily of the Valley, Black Locust, Nannyberry, Sumac, Wild Rose, Wild Strawberry and Poison Ivy.* Plus one 'brown snake'! The weathered wood chips on the ground also hosted some interesting fungi.

The HFFN tour lasted about 2 hours and was just completed as a light shower approached. It didn't last long and didn't dampen the group's enthusiasm. A convivial visit to Tim's followed for some of the group.

~ S. J. J. Pepper

All photos in this article:  
D. Murray

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SEE NEXT PAGE :



PAST OUTINGS....

Maitland Groves.....cont.



These are just a few of Donna's images.



**October 22nd: Annual Beach Birding Walk/Potluck**

This year our annual Shoreline Walk and Potluck was led by James Turland. Even though it was a bit windy with intermittent showers, a number of members turned out for the walk.

Bob Taylor remembers: *The weather wasn't great for seeing many birds that day. We went to the Kincardine lagoons and did see two Surf Scoters that had been seen there by James a bit previously. There were also Mallards, Northern Shovellers, Buffleheads, a Robin and the regular Herring Gulls and Canada Geese. We also saw some Snow Geese at the Inverlyn Lakes Estate ponds.* Afterwards about 20-22 people gathered at Barb and Bob Simpson's home for our wrap up potluck, and as usual we had enough great choices for a small army. A number of hours was pleasantly spent in conversation as well as enjoying our potluck.

Many thanks to Barb and Bob for hosting us this year, as well as to James for leading the walk.

Looking forward to next year already!

~ Steve



BOB TAYLOR



BOB TAYLOR





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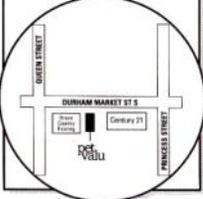
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### PAST OUTINGS...

Beach Birding Walk/Potluck cont.....



**Host Bob Simpson checks over part of the buffet - while some of the hungry participants warm up in anticipation of a good feed!**



B. SIMPSON

### Reptiles at Risk Workshop. November 18th:

**This event was announced by email as it fell between outings announced in two Newsletters:**

It was a packed room for the Reptiles At Risk workshop at the OMAFRA office in Clinton in November. Sponsored by the Huron Stewardship Council, Scales Nature Park boss Jeff Hathaway and his assistants gave a fantastic presentation on the rare lizard, snakes, and turtles in Ontario. As each species was introduced (live specimens), Jeff gave a compelling account of its life history, why they are rare, and what is being done to help them. Following the talk, everyone had a chance to examine the critters close up. These individuals, for various reasons, can't be released into the wild, so are used for educational purposes. Fox Snake, Hog Nose Snake, Wood Turtle, and Snapping Turtle were some of my favourite ones. We were very fortunate to have Jeff lead the presentation, as he is usually busy in the field doing research, leaving the workshops to his capable staff.

Scales Nature Park is a 21 hectare conservation area just south of Orillia. Their focus is the conservation of reptiles, amphibians, and fish, and the habitats that these animals require. Jeff Hathaway and Jenny Pearce, operators of 'Sciensational Sssnakes!!', purchased Scales in 2002. It has been open to the public since 2010. There, you will see exhibits and hands-on educational programs featuring live reptiles, amphibians, and fish from Canada and around the world. You can also enjoy the nature trails and outdoor programs about the ecology and conservation of these fascinating animals. Scales now offers a variety of Outreach Programs including Reptiles At Risk, Turtle Troubles, and Wetland Wildlife.

~ Tom Lobb

**Note:** Come to the February meeting to see paintings by Tubs the Wood Turtle and Piglet the Hog Nose Snake!



### Birding Hike, Feb. 2nd:



Four of 'The Five', B. Taylor

**Five brave souls headed out** to find a few birds in a 40 Km wind and  $-5$  C temperatures. As you can see from the photo it included Tom Lobb, Ralph and Mary-Ann Knowles, Anne-Marie and Bob (behind the lens). We stopped at Baie du Dore first and checked out all the birds that did not have their viewing impeded by waves. These included:

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Bald Eagle</b>             | <b>Mallard</b>                 |
| <b>Canada Goose</b>           | <b>American Black duck</b>     |
| <b>Redhead</b>                | <b>Common merganser</b>        |
| <b>Canvasback</b>             | <b>Red-breasted merganser</b>  |
| <b>Bufflehead</b>             | <b>Hooded merganser</b>        |
| <b>Common goldeneye</b>       | <b>Mute swan</b>               |
| <b>Greater scaup</b>          | <b>Herring gull</b>            |
| <b>Mallard</b>                | <b>Glaucous gull</b>           |
| <b>American Black duck</b>    | <b>Great Black-backed gull</b> |
| <b>Common merganser</b>       | <b>Common raven</b>            |
| <b>Red-breasted merganser</b> | <b>American crow</b>           |



Roosting Eagles. B. Taylor

After almost succumbing to frostbite while trying to scope out the birds in the 40 Km winds we hopped in the cars and headed out to the countryside to see what was trying to hide out there from the wind. The Snowy owls managed to hide out quite nicely as none of them showed up to be counted on our tour. One cause of that could have been the drifting snow that sometimes blocked our views of the fields that the owls were probably sitting in smiling as we passed them by! Even with the drifting snow, blowing snow, and icy roads we managed to stay on the road and see the following birds:

**American Crow, Rock Pigeon, European Starling, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Common Raven.**

On the way home at noon we stopped by the trees on the E/F sideroad where Bald eagles often roost out of the west wind. Here we saw 25 Bald eagles of which most were adults with the white head and tail. It's hard to say how many of these were repeats of the ones seen first at Baie du Dore but as a conservative estimate we probably saw at least 30 Bald eagles today.

Tom had seen a **Red-tailed Hawk** and an **American Kestrel** on his way in this morning, and in our yard we saw: **Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Black-capped Chickadee, American Crow, Herring Gull.** Even though the weather was far less than ideal, the 'fantastic five' managed to see 29 species of birds today. A clear day with less wind would probably have upped that total by at least 10 species. Maybe next time!! It's always hard to second guess Mother Nature when picking a birding day in winter in Bruce County. Tom also mentioned that he saw **Horned Larks** on his way home.



Greater scaup, B. Taylor

(See over for more pictures of birds seen on this outing.....)

~Bob Taylor



### PAST ISSUES OF FRINGE NOTES...

IF FOR WHATEVER REASON YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCESS THESE, THEY ARE HELD ONLINE ON OUR WEB PAGE, WHICH IS PART OF THE HURON STEWARDSHIP WEBSITE. HOWEVER, ONCE ON THE HFFN PAGE YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE LINK AT THE TOP TO GET THE RECENT ISSUES. THERE IS ANOTHER LINK TO THE RIGHT, HOWEVER IT GIVES ACCESS ONLY TO OLDER ISSUES AND NOT TO THE LATER ONES. ENJOY YOUR VISIT! <http://hfn.huronstewardship.ca/>

#### >> Birding Hike, Feb, 2nd, cont:



Redheads, B. Taylor



Glaucous Gull,  
B. Taylor



Snow Bunting, B. Taylor (archive)

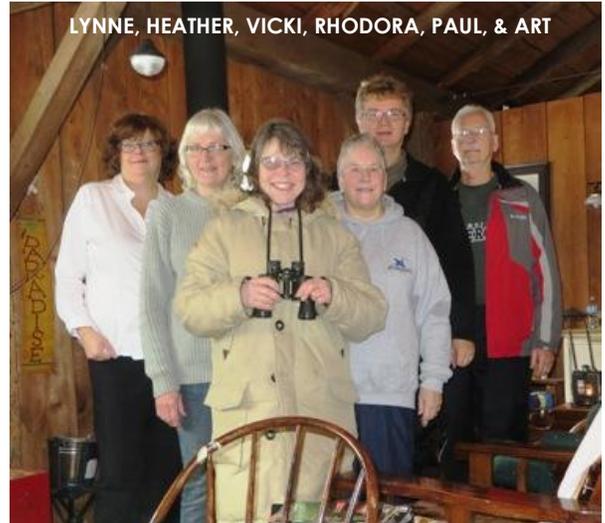
#### Ski/Hike/Snowshoe at the Zinn Property: Feb. 11th

**Great day for snowshoeing** and a beautiful property to do it at. The Zinn Johnston farm, just a bit north of Lucknow, is a little piece of paradise.

Six of us braved the extreme weather conditions - sun, warmth, no wind and very pleasant - to spend a few hours enjoying the peace and solitude of snowshoeing there.



LYNNE, RHODORA AND HEATHER WITH FEROCIOUS GUARDIAN QUINCY



LYNNE, HEATHER, VICKI, RHODORA, PAUL, & ART

Accompanied by Quincy, a ferocious guard dog, we enjoyed the scenery, birds, hot chocolate and a cozy couple hours in front of a blazing fire. What better way to spend time beating those February blahs?

After warming up and snowshoeing back to our vehicles, Lynn treated us to a scrumptious lunch back at their home in Lucknow.

Pictures tell the rest of the story. According to the Fitbit, we did 10,000 steps which is equivalent to 6 kms. Burned a few calories too! Great excursion.

~ Rhodora

(Thanks to Art and Rhodora Doughty for pictures!)



LYNNE, HEATHER, RHODORA AND ART, LOOKING A LITTLE WARMER



# Members' Page... What Our Members are Doing!

Photographs always welcome;  
please send them in JPEG  
format, over 100 kbs and under  
500 kbs....thanks!



*\*Guests welcome!*

## CRITTER CAM-EOS...



Thanks to motion-detecting camera technology, Paul and Lynn Zinn have been able to capture these shots of local denizens around their cabin. The Fisher was seemingly in a hurry, but the Coyote had time to linger. (Taken with a Wildgame Innovation camera last October) Thanks for these great images, guys!

## Eagles Aloft ...

We have Bob Taylor's keen eye and steady hands to thank for these great shots. Taken at Baie Du Dore awhile before the February HFFN birding outing. Excellent view of the colouring on the immature bird.



## GOING AWAY SOMEWHERE!



Wear your HFFN clothing anywhere in the world, get a photo of yourself in it with a nice background, and send it to the Peppers.... we'll publish it!



Snow and February are synonymous;  
Either one appeals to none of us  
Winds and cold are simultaneous -  
This freezing month is so ridiculous -  
And with our suffering, quite meticulous!  
Yet still, it does no good to fuss -  
February's autonomous!

~ J.L.P., 7.2. '80

Member Catherine Hogg reports nesting Great Horned Owls somewhere near her home. As yet the nest is undiscovered.



PHOTO: B. TAYLOR, (ARCHIVE)

# Members' Page....

...Continued



## 2017 PHOTO CONTEST!

### 'Rocks and Ridges'

Up to 2 prints each, 4" x 6" OR 5" x 7"  
Canadian content, unretouched.

Bring in your photo(s), drop them off at the display table, register... and enjoy the show!

FEBRUARY 28th, 12:30 PM

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

HURON FRINGE FIELD NATURALISTS EXTEND A HEARTY WELCOME TO THOSE WHO ARE JOINING US. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY OUR PRESENTATIONS AND REAP THE BENEFITS OF ALL OR ANY OF THE WALKS OR HIKES YOU FANCY COMING ALONG ON! PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO US SO THAT WE CAN DRAW YOU INTO OUR MIDST AND GET TO KNOW YOU!



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

new member application or  renewal

SEPTEMBER 2017 to SEPTEMBER 2018

....or CATCHUP?

**Membership Cost:** \$20.00 per person. Youths 18 or less are free.

Please mail completed form with payment to:

**Huron Fringe Field Naturalists,  
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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Please tell us....where did you hear of our group?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you!*

### ~~ MEMBERSHIPS: ~~

The fee structure for 2017/2018 is a straight \$20 per person, with all under 18 years of age being free. An application form is included at left to accompany payment and to advise of any change of contact information. Note also that this form can be used for new members; it is always timely to suggest that anyone you know who is interested in joining send in the form with payment and join us!

There are still a few members from last year who have not yet paid their dues for our 2016/2017 (September 2016 to September 2017) club year. Hopefully these members intend to retain their membership. Hence it would be appreciated if their payment could now be made (see form at left). If you have any questions about your membership, or changes to your contact information, please contact Barb Simpson at 396-5486 or: [bsimpsonbob@gmail.com](mailto:bsimpsonbob@gmail.com)

*Thanks .... Barb*

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# Members' Page....

...Continued

Members Barb and Bob Simpson have been out stalking with a camera....while in Mexico. They got some good shots which will certainly provide us with something a little different on this page!



**Bob comments:** 'We saw as many as 12 to 15 Lemurs at a time. Friendly little guys.' An Internet search turned up similar and dissimilar species, often called Coaticundis. Their behaviour is described as being somewhere between raccoons and monkeys.

**The Iguanas** here appear to be Spiny-Tailed species. The spines on these animals are generally larger in size than on other species. Native to Central America and Mexico, there are different species and colours of Spiny-Tailed Iguanas. Length ranges from about five inches to four feet. - Ed



***BLAST FROM THE PAST:** the first HFFN outing, in 1985, was to a roadside location somewhere in the environs of Lucknow, to view a Blue Heron nesting site in adjacent woods. The first take-along lunch was eaten at the Point Clark home of HFFN founders, Joe and Crystal Burgess. Many of the members attending these events made some new long-time friends.*

## ~ ~ ~ REGULAR MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

**Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Pine River United Church on Hwy 21, during the months of February to June and September to November.**

February meeting is a potluck and photo contest/hobby display at 12:30 pm;

April meeting is our Annual General Meeting, held at the Lucknow United Church, 7pm.

Meetings are cancelled in event of bad weather - you are advised to check the status of a meeting before leaving home.

**LUG-A-MUG ... BRING YOUR OWN MUG TO THE MEETING!**

**FEED THE FROG!**

Social Time: 7. 30 pm.



Meeting: 8:00 pm.



Beverages: 1.00; treats: free.



REGULAR MEETINGS

**WINTER WEATHER CAUTION:**

BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR A MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT CANCELLED! WE WILL EMAIL UP TO THE LAST MINUTE....IF NOT ONLINE, PLEASE CALL ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE. THERE MAY BE NOBODY AT THE CHURCH.

**“IF ROADS MAY BE CLOSED....THE MEETING IS**

REGULAR MEETINGS



**Tuesday, February 28th: ANNUAL POTLUCK AND PHOTO CONTEST, 12:30, Pine River Church.**



This will definitely NOT be a Pancake Dinner (but maybe have some for supper if you have room....)

Bring your potluck dish, plate, mug and cutlery, and pictures to enter into our contest... (see Members' Pages). Enjoy catching up with your HFFN friends after the winter hiatus. Choose which photos most appeal to you and put in your vote. Above all, have fun! Pine River Church is on Hwy 21 at Con. Rd. 4 north of Amberley.

**Tuesday, March 28th: Matthew Hoy on our Lakes** (Note: Feb. & March dates are correct.)

Our speaker for the March Meeting will be Matthew Hoy, Executive Director for Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation. The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation is a non profit group supported by 5 highly qualified individuals who are very interested in protecting the shore line of Lake Huron from Sarnia to Tobermory.

The Lake Huron Centre was founded in 1998 with the goals of protecting and restoring Lake Huron's coastal environment and promoting a healthy coastal ecosystem. Typical resources include: Beaches and Dunes, Water Levels, Coastal Wetlands, Bluffs and Gullies etc. etc.

Be sure to join us on March 28th to get an update from Matthew on our favourite of the Great Lakes -- Lake Huron. See you there.

~ Bob Simpson

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH: ANNUAL DINNER MEETING IN LUCKNOW**

**Don't forget to pick up or reserve your tickets to this always popular Spring meeting. Available at the March meeting. If participating in the door draw, please bring a small, nature-oriented prize per diner.**

We are fortunate to have Bonnie Sitter as our speaker for this dinner presentation. A keen canoeist, winter photographer and tree lover, Bonnie has forty years' experience as a travel guide and after retiring has been doing lots of exploring around Huron County. Along with David Bishop, Bonnie is a photographic contributor to Telfer Wegg's recent publication of the beautiful book, 'The Beauty and Bounty of Huron County'. Bonnie's keen eye for detail highlights her website, which is a collection of inspiring nature photography including areas around the Maitland River, Long Lake and Killarney Park. She also creates abstracts from her photographs, and has her own line of all-occasion photographic cards. HFFN is very happy to welcome Bonnie and we look forward very much to her presentation.

~ Ed.

**TUESDAY, MAY 16th - TBA -** Information will be forwarded as soon as it becomes available. (**Note the date.**)

**TUESDAY, JUNE 27th: We have booked Kerry Jarvis of Southampton: Our Marvellous Monarch Butterflies Are In Trouble.** More information at a closer date...watch this space!



## UPCOMING OUTINGS



### Coming on an outing? Stay informed!

When planning to come along on a walk, or to a meeting, please check your email for any additional information before you leave home, in case the event has had to be cancelled or changed. We do try to have rain dates for walks, but cannot always arrange these in time for publication. If in doubt....suss it out!

Remember to bring a map or directions with you, and a charged cell phone if



**On Your Feet!** Many of our hikes are like a walk in the park....but not all! If you're thinking of lighter shoes for an outing, do check the announcements for a note on the expected terrain, or call the contact number. Bring your treaded hiking shoes or boots along....just in case!

**OUTING CHECKLIST:** cell phone, car charger, binoculars, bird/plant/other guides, bug repellent, hat, water, hiking stick, sunglasses, hanky, area map, snacks, thermos (in car), waist/backpack, boots for rough/wet terrain. In Spring and Fall: rain slicker, gloves.

**....AND DON'T FORGET THE DIRECTIONS TO THE HIKE!**

**UPCOMING OUTINGS:**

**May: Annual Spring Welcome Walk - TBA**



This outing largely depends on the capricious Spring weather, but is usually around the middle of the month.

A pleasant easy walk is planned, usually in or near one of the local towns or shorelines and often ending with a visit to Timmy's. Since we had to cancel last year's event we hope to be able to hold the walk this year. We will advise via email, again depending on how the weather looks to be panning out....

**HFFN Annual Bruce Peninsula Explorer: (see photo)**

This event takes place during the week right after the May Victoria Day weekend; this year, it also coincides with the HFFN regular meeting. Therefore, this year, the Executive is putting the May meeting forward in order to accommodate both events. In that case, the May meeting will take place on the Tuesday before, IE: the 16th. (No speaker has been confirmed as yet.) The Peninsula trip would then start on May 23.

Having this year's May meeting one week early will allow people who would normally be running, or participating in, the meeting to join the group heading up the Peninsula on May 23, if they so wish.

Further information regarding the Peninsula Explorer will be upcoming, either in the next issue of Fringe Notes or via email.

An interest sheet for those wanting more information is normally made available at the April Dinner Meeting. If not attending, you may contact the Peppers or any member of the Executive (see p. 2).

~ Ed.

**Membership renewals ....**

**MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:**

**Barb Simpson, 396-5486.**

Membership/renewal forms are included in this issue, or catch up with Barb at one of the meetings.

As always, we encourage members to lend us their help and ideas - you can always approach the Executive with your thoughts, and we look forward to having new Executive Members, or Members-at-Large. New members have the support and help of all the Executive. Executive terms run two years, or longer if you like....we hold two or three lunch meetings per year. No great shakes!



**THE HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL**

Tom reminds us that registration began early in February. If you haven't yet

registered and want to attend ....here is the information!

~ Ed.

**TELL US WHERE TO GO!**

Know of any good places to enjoy nature?



Please bring them to the attention of your HFFN Executive. You don't have to lead an outing unless you'd like to. We will arrange outings to these new places so that everyone can enjoy them. Call Tom at 482-3342. Or talk to any of the Executive at any meeting..... we'll do the



**The 2017 MacGregor Point NABA butterfly count will be held on Sat., July 8th. Hope to see you there!**

**Kathleen H. Chayer**



One of Canada's Premier Birding and Nature Festivals

**Huron Fringe Birding Festival**

Celebrating 20 Years

May 26 - May 29 & June 1 - June 4, 2017

MacGregor Point Provincial Park

www.huronfringebirdingfestival.ca

Chi-Cheemaun Annual Spring Cruise...

Owen Sound to Tobermory



**This is a self-guided outing:**

The Chi-Cheemaun will depart the Owen Sound harbour at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and arrive in Tobermory at 4:30 p.m. School buses will meet the Ferry for transportation back to Owen Sound (arriving 6:30 pm). Boarding will begin at 11:00 a.m. (Limited parking....arrive very early!) Cost is \$49.47. There is a child rate of \$25.00 (ages 5 -11). **Please see further information at:**

<http://www.ontarioferries.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2017-Spring-Cruise.pdf>

Tickets are available for purchase at the Owen Sound Transportation office in Springmount. Or you can call to reserve: 1-800-265-3163. *Note that the date may have to change, depending on lake conditions.*

**Swans Festival at the Lambton Museum.**

**This is a self-guided tour - you may wish to contact other HFFN members you know to arrange a car pool group.**

The return of thousands of Swans from their winter environs to Ontario is legendary and draws many people to witness and welcome back the swans. This year's Swans Festival is from March 11<sup>th</sup> till April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The land near the Museum is a traditional staging area for the Swans, who are attracted by the wet fields and the remains of the old corn and bean crops. Ducks and geese also enjoy feeding on these flooded fields as they travel. This is always a great viewing outing, but *when* depends on the swans. In late February and early March, keep watching the web-site [www.returnoftheswans.com](http://www.returnoftheswans.com) to pick the best viewing day. There are washrooms at the Lambton Museum. Bring a lunch if spending more time. There are usually drinks to be purchased in the museum and the 2017 fee is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children.

**ADDITIONAL SPRING OUTINGS INFORMATION** may be communicated via email as it becomes available. (No need to reply to these unless you have a specific query. If we need to know how many are interested, we will enquire in the initial email or one following.)



A series of horizontal lines for taking notes, starting below the 'NOTES....' header.



Word to the Wise:

Several people have contacted us lately to ask the date of a meeting. Perhaps it' s worth reiterating that our meetings always take place on the *fourth* Tuesday of the months February through June and September through November. (Having said that...our May 2017 meeting is on the *third* Tuesday...hopefully this is a one-off. Sorry to confuse you!)



**HELP WANTED:**

PLEASANT, WILLING INDIVIDUAL (OR TWO) TO ASSIST SEVERAL OTHERS SAME; SOME NOTES TO TAKE, SOME PHONE CALLS TO MAKE, THREE BUSINESS LUNCHES PER YEAR; PAID IN GRATEFUL THANKS FROM SAID SEVERAL PLEASANT INDIVIDUALS AFOREMENTIONED WITH ADDED BONUS OF NEW FRIENDS AND SOME INTERESTING LOCAL AREA INFORMATION.

APPLY ANYTIME: STEVE PEPPER, 395-5616, TREK66@TNT21.COM

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~~ Please bring any Mistakes to the Attention of the PROOFREADER. ~~