



copy

# The Peninsula Naturalist

Volume 215

Newsletter of the Peninsula Field Naturalists Club

November 2007

## President's Message – November 2007

### Niagara Environmental Corps – A Group to Watch For!

Back in midsummer (July 27<sup>th</sup>) I received by email an invitation from someone named Kasia at Niagara College. Kasia's invitation was for the PFN to attend what was being called 'Green Day Niagara', an environmental awareness event being organized by the Niagara Environment Corps (NEC), a new student-run organization at Niagara College. The date, Sept. 12, seemed far enough away to allow for planning a display; the objective seemed to fit with the PFN mandate; so I agreed that PFN could provide a display.

As the day approached, more emails arrived, with a registration form, a request for door prizes (if possible), and instructions on when to arrive to set up a display. This was beginning to look like a big deal, I thought, especially when I noted the names of some prominent corporate sponsors. I polished up the PFN's display board, ran off 60 copies of our one-pager promo sheet, and unearthed some other appropriate literature.

When the big day came, I was duly impressed with the effort and the results that NEC had achieved. Displays on everything from wind-power generation to rapid-growing trees were on hand; a gaggle of dignitaries brought greetings and congratulations; and dozens of students milled about, looking, reading, asking

questions – three hours flew by before I finally took a break for coffee and sausage-in-a-bun. I even met Kasia, an exuberant young lady who was clearly pleased at the success of NEC's big day. A couple of the Ecological Restoration instructors also stopped by to chat – both of whom I knew from other organizations we both attend.

I came away impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge of the students who I had met, and their eagerness to make a difference to this ailing world. If there is a second 'Green Day in Niagara', next year, I hope that the PFN and the other Nature Clubs are all represented with displays and members on hand. These young people have much to offer; they deserve our encouragement! In my opinion, anyway.....

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Peninsula Field Naturalists Club's Election of Officers will take place at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, November 26/07, 7:30 p.m., Mountainview United Church, 150 Glendale Avenue, St. Catharines.

A slate of candidates will be submitted by a Nominating Committee. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the AGM. One Director is eligible for re-election for a 2-year term; 2 other Directors may be elected for 2-year terms.



## THE BARBEQUE THAT ALMOST WASN'T

For the PFN's 2007 Season's End Outing and Barbeque, Woodend CA was chosen as the venue. The date, originally set for June 16, was deferred to the rain-date of June 17, not because of rain but as a result of a scheduling problem for your President/Barbeque Chef.

Now, changing a date is not a simple decision. Members must be informed of the change, preferably well in advance – hopefully, soon enough so that prospective attendees are able to adjust their schedules. In the case of Woodend, the CA had been contacted about using the property, and had advised us that a number of dog-walkers might be using the field near the house – watch out for dog-poop in the grass! The School Board had approved using the deck of the house at Woodend for the barbeque – all was in order – for June 16...

So, upon arrival at 9:45 a.m. on June 17, we found the road leading to Woodend blocked by a chained and locked gate, and several vehicles parked at the entrance, their dog-owner drivers looking hopeful that we might have a key. One dog-owner volunteered that a CA employee usually opened the gate around 10:00 a.m.

PFN members arrived, joined the gathering crowd parked in the entrance area, and waited. A few disgruntled dog-owners gave up and left. With about 15 PFN members waiting for action, it was decided that those wishing to walk would set out on the trail up to the Woodend house area, whilst the Barbeque Chef and Nancy Luft would remain in case the key-holder showed up. Needless to say, the key-holder never arrived.

By about 11:00, when it was clear that the gate would not be opened, Nancy and the BC agreed that this year's Barbeque would be a tailgate party affair. We set up the portable barbeque at the side of the driveway, arranged the condiments and drink-cooler on the truck

tailgate, and made do. When the walkers returned, those who had thought to bring lawn chairs were able to sit, the rest stood, burgers and hotdogs were cooked, and everyone somehow managed to have lunch – interrupted occasionally by off-leash dogs whose owners looked curiously at our impromptu Event.

(Memo to Self: Next year, find a venue with washrooms – without gates or dogs – and double-check that the authorities know we're coming!).

## THE SILENCE OF THE SONGBIRDS

Bridget Stutchbury, the guest speaker at the Bert Miller Nature Club meeting on Sept. 17, raised a number of uncomfortable truths about what happens to 'our' birds in the time that they are away from us on migration and 'vacation'. While we are accustomed to the spring and fall migrations, and expect to see certain birds returning annually to the same nesting areas, the birds may face rather different circumstances while they are 'away'.

Bridget teaches at U. of Toronto, but one of her research sites is in west Pennsylvania, since the birds she studies make their summer home there. As she explained, some species use specific sites in Central or South America during winter, just as they return to certain specific forests and woodlots in North America in spring and summer. These migrants face hazards while migrating due to tall buildings in cities, etc. However, even more serious is the fact that all too often, on their return south, they find that the forest they were accustomed to has been depleted or cut down entirely, to clear land for farm pastures or for coffee plantations. Unlike the Monarch Butterfly, nobody has yet made an effort to ensure the winter feeding-grounds for birds will be left unspoiled.

One action that we can take to help this situation is to buy shade-grown coffee. At present the coffee imported to fuel our morning



almost all grown in plantations established on land that was cleared of forest – these plantations take away the birds' habitat. Shade-grown coffee, on the other hand, is grown on coffee plants that are raised on the forest floor, in the shade. Thus no forests are removed for their cultivation, and no birds deprived of a winter range.

Next time you are at your grocery store, ask about shade-grown coffee. You'll find that Sobeys carry such a product, and other chains may also. Then ask your favourite Timmies where their coffee comes from – and whether it is shade-grown. Keep asking!!

---

## ROCK POINT PROVINCIAL PARK OUTING

This first outing of the Fall, on Sept. 23, 2007, was a shared event with the Niagara Falls Nature Club, with Rick Young leading the outing. The day was another dry sunny fall day – a sunscreen day when near large bodies of water. A group of 15 set out from Fonthill, travelling first to Port Colborne where the pond along Cement Plant Road yielded several Great Blue Herons, Blue-winged Teal, and a pair of Egrets; American Robins were numerous in a nearby field.

Turning west along Lakeshore Road, we stopped at Morgan's Point, where Mallards and gulls were plentiful, but shorebirds were few; one Caspian Tern was seen. As we motored along, Barb West commented on the lack of a Wild Turkey on her annual bird list. About 30 yards before the entrance to Rock Point, Rick's van came to a sudden halt, as a Wild Turkey paraded across the road and into the bordering woods – Barb had her turkey!

At Rock Point PP, we were met by Paul and Karen Philp from the Bert Miller Nature Club. From the observation platform high on the dune, we could see a mixture of water bird species just

offshore. Amongst the flock of gulls, geese and Mallards, the experts spotted a Redhead and an American Wigeon.

Moving down onto the rocky shore, we soon had a spirited discussion over whether we were seeing three Killdeer, or whether one was a Semi-Palmated Plover – consensus was three Killdeer. Another debate centred on a Yellowlegs, whether Greater or Lesser – the Greater seemed more plausible.

An Indigo Bunting in fall plumage and a bashful male Cardinal were spotted in brush along the edge of the sand dune, a Kingfisher and a Palm Warbler made brief appearances, and a Black Saddlebags dragonfly was also seen. For those less skilled in bird-lore, fossil formations and hardy plants growing in the rock crevices provided a sideshow.

We lunched in a picnic area near the Bird Banding Station, entertained by a pair of young Flickers and with speculation about whether a woodpecker's nesthole in a dead poplar was or wasn't occupied by 'something'. Following lunch, we explored some forest and meadow trails, seeing different types of Dogwood and Viburnum all bearing fruit. A few Monarch butterflies and some Sulphurs and Whites were skimming over the goldenrods and asters, and a damselfly did its best not to be photographed. John avoided the Poison Ivy...

Leaving Rock Point PP, we trekked to some ponds near Port Maitland. Again, Great Blue Herons were present, and also an obliging Green Heron which stood still for pictures before flying off. Painted Turtles were basking on every available log.

We returned along the Feeder Canal, spotting another Great Blue Heron and noting evidence of muskrat holes along the banks of the canal. A very satisfying day – thanks to Rick as leader, and the 'scope crew' (Don, Paul and Rick)!



## HOW PLANTS DEAL WITH STRESS

Imagine your head and upper limbs are out in the hot sun (without sun-screen), you can't get enough water, your feet are firmly planted in the dusty soil so you can't move, you've acquired a skin disease, and some obnoxious woodpecker is chipping a hole in your torso – that's what it felt like being a tree this past summer. You say you have stress??

That was not quite the scenario that Teresa Rigg proposed at the September PFN meeting, but it comes close. As Teresa explained, plants have to live with their immediate surroundings and make the best of it. So it should not be surprising to learn that the vegetative world has tricks of its own for surviving stresses.

All plants need chlorophyll to make energy-storing sugars using sunlight, water and carbon dioxide – right? Wrong! Some plants lack chlorophyll and steal their sugar-fix from the roots of other plants by parasitic means. Some forest-floor flowering plants put their leaves out in early spring, before the trees leaf out, and thus get all the sunlight that reaches the forest floor. Other plants in a similar location pop up flowers first and reproduce, before sending out leaves to create stored starches in bulbs that will feed the following year's flowers.

Plants have a multitude of ways to produce seed, and some rather ingenious methods of attracting and retaining insects that will spread their pollen only to others of their species. When a long trumpet-shaped flower connives to be pollinated by a butterfly or moth with a long proboscis capable of reaching the stamens down that trumpet, who can say which came first – or did flower and insect evolve together?

How to spread the seeds around? We all recognize milkweeds and related plants with their seeds wafting on the breeze on a silky parachute. We've all watched maple keys pinwheeling down to the earth from a high treetop.

How about plants such as the geranium family or the jewelweeds, which propel their seeds long distances from the parent using spring-mechanisms? Or the seeds of tick-trefoils, burdocks, avens, and sticktights that catch a ride on the fur of passing animals (or the clothes of humans)?

With excellent photos (of the non-digital kind) and a wide range of examples, Teresa reminded us that coping with stress isn't confined only to we bipeds – and Nature has had a long time to perfect many of the coping mechanisms in the plant world. Think about it on your next nature walk – what stress-releases can you see around you in the vegetation?

## WHAT NEXT, MA NATURE?

To say that this past year has been unusual, from a nature standpoint, is stating the case mildly. At least in Niagara, most observers would say that this summer was unusually dry; enough to completely eliminate free-standing water from vernal pools in the slough forests. Yes, I know – 'vernal' implies a pool that is water-filled in spring and dries up through the summer season. But a slough forest is supposed to have standing pools through the summer. As one naturalist observed, the loss of water in the slough forests seems to coincide with a complete lack of wood frogs, and a very low incidence of salamanders. That's not good...

Forests are feeling the crunch. In Niagara, one area of about 1100 ha was sprayed with Bt bacteria against Gypsy Moth in the spring. The estimated area of Niagara infested with Gypsy Moth increased this summer from about 6,000 ha to over 30,000 ha. That's not good...

Also, in the forests, by late summer I and others have noticed that small trees, maples of about 6-inches diameter as an example, had their leaves simply dry up, turn brown and drop in late August or early September. That's not good...



What else? Well, in the past month, I and others have observed wild Violets blooming, Spring Beauty in flower, Chokecherries in full blossom, and Trillium shoots an inch tall above ground. None of this is good...

Even the wildlife is acting strangely. In the woodlot behind my house, 50 feet from the yard, I've seen a yearling deer herding turkeys. Yes, that's right, chasing a flock of about a dozen turkeys just the same way a Border Collie would herd sheep. Maybe the deer was just playing; I don't know. Or maybe this was a yearling that still wanted to play and was rejected by Mama – in any case, it was odd, curious, strange, funny – but maybe not good...

Is anyone else wondering what Ma Nature has in store for next year?

---

### FALL COLOURS AT WOODEND

Through most of Ontario, on October 27 in a 'normal' year, the fall colours might be expected to be fading and the leaves falling. In this unusual year, although many leaves had already dropped by the end of October, there were numerous trees with enough leaves unshed to make for an interesting walk. The hardy party of a dozen or so who followed Brian Calvert onto the Ridge Trail at Woodend still enjoyed the views.

From the damp weather overnight, parts of the trail were slippery underfoot. Early in the walk, we noted Chokecherry flowers in bloom, a curious find in late fall. As we progressed, Brian pointed out various layers of the sedimentary rock composing the Escarpment, the red Queenston shale being the oldest visible bedrock (400-500 million years old). Where the trails met the former sewage ponds, behind Niagara College, we reversed direction, travelling back to the parking lot, urged on by a Redtailed Hawk. Sharp-leaved hepaticas and wood ferns were noted by the trailside.

we then motored up to the parking area nearest the white house and prowled the grounds, with Brian mentioning that the poet Archibald Lampman had lived in the house at one point. Brian explained the formation and layering of the various fine-grained shales and dolostones (limestone with magnesium replacing calcium). At the northeast corner of the house lot, he explained how a pulse of glacial water and sand carved grooves in the rock of the Escarpment in the Silurian period. This resulted in 'noses' of rock projecting from the main ridge, all pointing toward Kingston area where the pulse had been generated. A similar 'nose' occurs at Beamer CA.

We followed the Bruce Trail partway along the Escarpment, noting the remains of a lime kiln, and then took a side trail to the parking lot – some of us stopping along the way to photograph a rather large lobular slime-mold growing on a downed oak limb. Between geology, botany and photography, the morning slipped by rapidly, with no lack of sights and features to be experienced. Another good day...

---

### CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Nature photographers are invited to contribute their favourite pictures to a display at the Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting, 28 April 2008. Subjects: anything related to nature. Size: 5x7 in. or smaller. Maximum number of photos: 3 per photographer.

The photos will need to be mounted and labelled for display. To allow time for this, please bring them to one of the next three indoor meetings (January, February or March). At that time we will have labels available, one per photo, that will be clipped to the picture. Leave the backing on the label, as we will peel it off later when the photos are mounted. You can retrieve your photos at the end of the dinner. Many people bring their cameras on outings. It will be fun to see some of the results. Pass them on at the meetings to Barbara Austin or Barb West.



## COLLISION COURSE

It is no secret that a 'love/hate' relationship exists between birds and modern cities. In a well-treed city, such as Toronto, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls or Welland, ample habitat is available for the kinds of birds that can accept open-treed surroundings. For those more adapted to meadowlands or deep woods, the city-scape may not be as welcoming. There is no doubt that the tall and night-lighted towers of a modern city are unfriendly places for many birds, particularly migrating species.

In early May 2007, in Toronto, FLAP (the Fatal Light Awareness Program group) released data on their records of birds that were found dead or injured after flying into Toronto buildings in the previous 12 months. The total was 5461 birds, with 2248 found alive and 3213 dead; 93 species of birds were listed by the group. According to FLAP, the numbers have been increasing ever since 1993 when FLAP first began their 'census'. This number only includes those birds collected by FLAP; many more collisions occur without record. The group estimates that the real total may be over 1 million birds killed annually in Toronto alone.

Over 100 dead or injured birds were found for 11 species:- Golden-crowned Kinglet(722), White-throated Sparrow(613), Ruby-crowned Kinglet(376), Ovenbird(337), Dark-eyed Junco(336), Brown Creeper(233), Nashville Warbler(223), Hermit Thrush(207), Common Yellowthroat(187), Black-throated Blue Warbler(166), Magnolia Warbler(161), Black-and-white Warbler(117).

Species for which 10-100 dead or injured birds were found:- Fox Sparrow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swainson's Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Northern Waterthrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Song Sparrow, American Woodcock, Blackburnian Warbler, American Redstart, Wilson's Warbler,

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Flicker, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Canada Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Gray Catbird, Mourning Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Palm Warbler, Grey-cheeked Thrush, American Robin, Orange-crowned Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Virginia Rail, Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay and House Sparrow.

Species for which 1-10 dead or injured birds were found:- Yellow Warbler, Eastern Woodpeewee, Black-capped Chickadee, Rock Dove, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Indigo Bunting, Philadelphia Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, Whippoorwill, Common Grackle, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Veery, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Connecticut Warbler, Field Sparrow, Sora, American Goldfinch, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cape May Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, House Finch, Belted Kingfisher, Red-winged Blackbird, Saw-whet Owl, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Eastern Screech-owl, American Pipit, Barn Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Cardinal, Peregrine Falcon, Savannah Sparrow, Warbling Vireo, Long-eared Owl, Alder Flycatcher. In addition, 276 birds of undetermined species were injured or killed.

A spokesman for FLAP reported that the most common form of injury was head trauma, with brain hemorrhage as the most common cause of death; broken beaks and feather damage were also found frequently. Of birds recovered alive, about 40% were released into the wild, mostly after recovering in the Toronto Wildlife Centre.

As an attempt to address this problem, at a news conference the City of Toronto announced guidelines for architects and developers,



advising how to design buildings less hazardous to birds. Some of the recommendations included covering windows with film to dull the reflections, using less-reflective glass, shading windows with overhangs and awnings, and reducing light pollution. These suggestions are not mandatory, but some developers are building 'greener' on their own. Good for them! One also must wonder how many birds strike night-lighted windows in pursuit of insects that are attracted by the lights...

As a small addition to this story, my experience (having a rural house surrounded by woods and using several birdfeeders) has been that we reduced significantly the number of birds killed by striking windows, by simply installing dark screens about one-half inch away from the glass on our larger windows. If the birds do hit the windows, they bounce off the screen and most fly off immediately. A very few are stunned but recover quickly if left alone. I've become a believer in using window screens, and not just for bug control!

*(Thanks to Joyce Auty, for supplying the article by Theresa Boyle in the Toronto Star, on which this report is based).*

## AND WE SAW BRYOPHYTES...

*(Hopefully my fellow Editor at Niagara Falls will forgive me parodying her favorite headline...)*

Armed with cameras, hand-lenses, and a healthy lack of knowledge about mosses and such, ten naturalists met Roman Olszewski at Heartland Forest on Nov.3/07, a brisk but bright morning. Mosses, including sphagnum, and liverworts were on the menu, according to the PFN brochure, and who better than Roman to lead such an outing?

Fortunately for us, Roman had pre-scouted the location, and had prepared a tablet with 20

or so specimens of the most likely species of mosses that we would be searching for. It was good to have the 'cheat-sheet' along with us. We were also reminded that the moss species we were seeking are not vascular, unlike the higher plants and the fern-relatives such as the Club-mosses (*Lycopodium*). They also seem to have a complex sexlife...

It was fairly evident, after a few yards of walking into the woods, that Heartland Forest is a bryologist's idea of the Promised Land. Anyone who has discussed non-vascular plants with Roman will know that mosses and lichens tend to lack common names. Thus we were quickly introduced to a diet of Latin binomials when we asked the name of each new-find. We (Roman) quickly found *Fissidens*, *Climacium*, *Polytrichum*, and *Tetraphis*, with *Climacium dendroides* aka 'Tree Moss' being one of the few that had a common English name. A common liverwort and a *Cladonia* lichen (species unknown) were also noted.

Most of us had heard of *Sphagnum*, so that genus was not an unfamiliar name when Roman finally showed it to us. Even more awesome, we actually began to recognize the different genera when we next encountered them. The digital cameras received a workout as some of us tried to snap absolutely sharp closeups of mosses with identifying features that were best viewed with a 10X hand-lens.

The morning passed too quickly, finishing with an enjoyable walk through the woods, with commentary by Paul Philp about the varieties of trees, shrubs, and critters that would normally inhabit this slough forest. Unfortunately, the summer drought had dried up the vernal pools and left few wet areas for amphibians. Not even his favorite salamander was hiding under its usual shelter of a large cable-reel, and Woody Woodfrog was absent. It is to be hoped that this winter and next spring will replenish the watertable in Heartland Forest.



blings...

Too many years ago, I recall reading a book by Richard Rohmer, titled 'Exxoneration'. If memory serves, the book detailed the circumstances whereby our neighbour, the United States of America, saw fit to invade Canada militarily, with the objective of securing a new source of petroleum for itself. I believe our neighbour had exhausted its own supplies...

Curiously, that scenario recently crossed my mind, while reading literature from a well-known Canadian advocacy group. Amongst other issues, this organization has a serious concern about exporting water to the United States. Of course, at the present time nobody has overtly suggested that we (our Government, that is) are actually considering selling water over the border. Other than, perhaps, bottled water. But that's not an important and large enough quantity to worry about - is it?

Besides, why should we fret about our neighbour expecting us to provide water? One of the Great Lakes lies entirely within US borders and, as I recall, already a river has been reversed so as to draw water from that Great Lake into the mighty muddy Mississippi. So our neighbour already has a tap to turn on, to drain from the greatest bodies of water on this Continent - what more could they require?

Well, let's review the situation. As of right now, the American Southeast (Georgia, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Alabama) are all experiencing unheard-of drought, with reservoirs that will possibly run dry before Lincoln's Birthday (Feb.12). Florida is at loggerheads with those other States because aquatic life in Florida (mussels and manatees, I believe) requires water from the other States. California has had severe drought, and wildfires following in the dry forests. Texas has a prediction of future floods and droughts

- which sounds as if no reservoirs exist to contain floodwater there. A recent report predicts that 36 of the Lower 48 States will face severe water shortages within 5 years, caused by rising temperatures, drought, population growth, urban sprawl, waste and excess. Experts there already consider 'water efficiency' as their next national objective.

What we've got, folks, is a mighty thirsty country to the south of us, with ten times our population.

Now, pundits point to Canada and say that we've got excess water - more than enough for our population - something like 20% of the water reserves in the world.

Ah, yes, but almost all except 2 or 3% of that water is either locked up in ice and permafrost, or flowing into rivers that lead to the Arctic Ocean, while our population is strung out in a hundred-mile-wide band along our great undefended border. In real terms, considering renewable water available to our population, we've actually got something like 2.6% of world reserves - which is about what our southern neighbours have also.

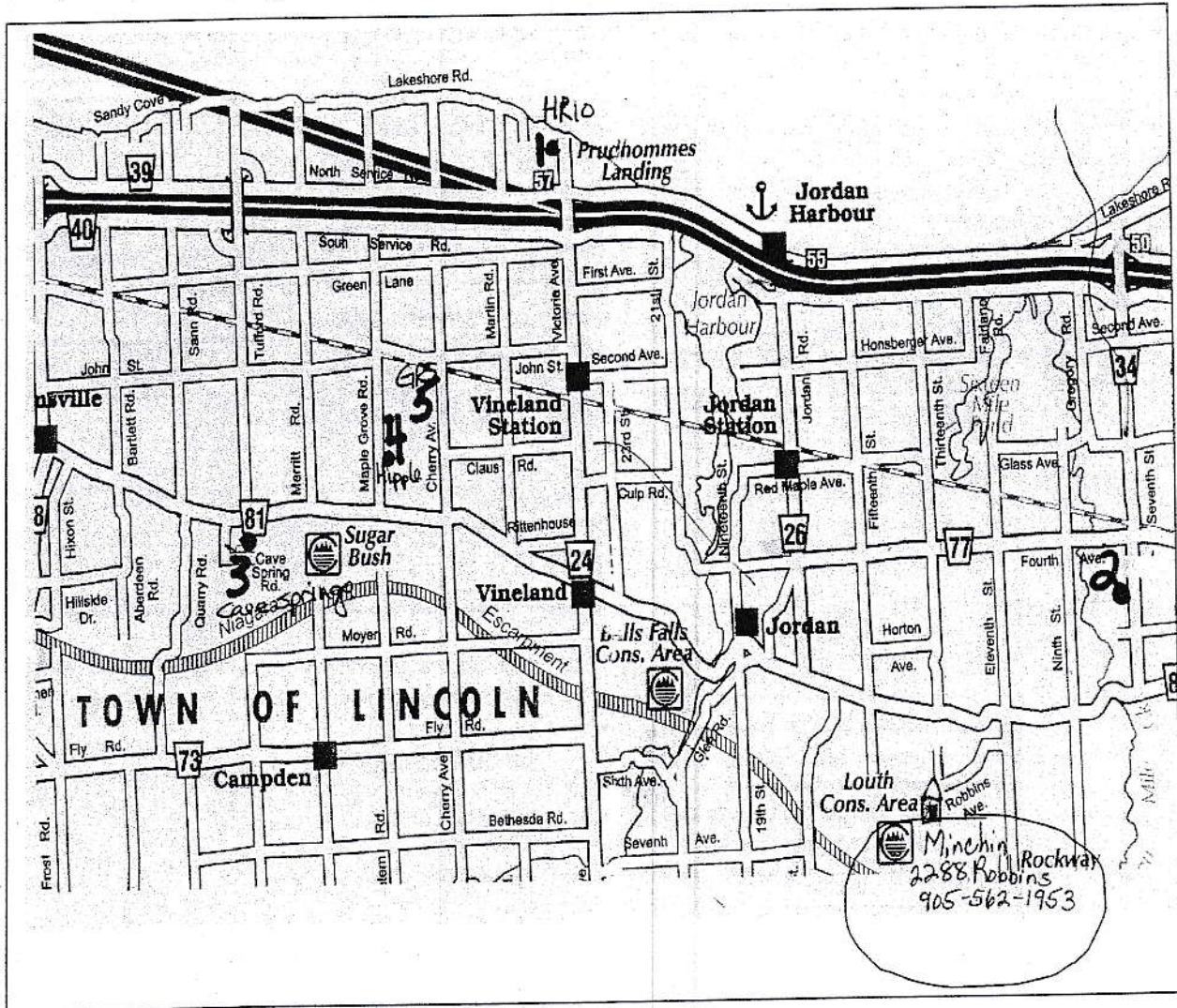
So let's think about this water export thing. Are we our neighbour's keeper? I guess that's the question we will all have to think about before deciding - if given the option of deciding - whether to ship water south, and for what price...



The Moss Patrol (see p.7)



Map to Minchin's – for Birders on Christmas Bird Count



**Chief Bird Wrangler: Marcie Jacklin**  
**home: 905-871-2577 ; cell 905-341-6664**

**Date: December 16, 2007 (Sunday)**

**Hosts: Don and Sue Minchin 905-562-1953**  
**Location: 2288 Robbins Ave., Vineland**

**Directions:** From St. Catharines, drive west on Regional Road 81 to 11<sup>th</sup> St. Louth, turn left and drive south to Robbins Ave. (on right); continue to end of Robbins Ave. From anywhere else, see map above.

The Minchin property adjoins Louth Conservation Area; you might see bluebirds there.



## A Trip to the Owl Foundation

Long before the summer of 2007, we had won a free pass to take a trip to the Owl foundation where Kay McKeever lives. During September, we went down there. This was no ordinary owl sanctuary, though. This place was home to injured owls found in the wild. Sometimes seeing them breaks your heart. Like I said before, this was also home to Kay McKeever, bestselling author on owls. Inside of her house were many other owls freely flying around. One of my favorite's, however, was Big Bird, a Great Grey Owl that was basically blind. She was very sweet, however, and we even got to pet her. We also got to meet Kay, who signed one of our books. I have to admit that it was better than I expected it to be!

(-Thanks to our newest and youngest reporter-)

Long before the summer of 2007, we had won a free pass to take a trip to the Owl Foundation where Kay McKeever lives. During September, we went down there. This was no ordinary owl sanctuary, though. This place was home to injured owls found in the wild. Sometimes seeing them breaks your heart. Like I said before, this was also home to Kay McKeever, bestselling author on owls. Inside of her house were many other owls freely flying around. One of my favourite's, however, was Big Bird, a Great Grey Owl that was basically blind. She was very sweet, however, and we even got to pet her. We also got to meet Kay, who signed one of our books. I have to admit that it was better than I expected it to be!

Jeremy Knapton, 12 years old



### The Peninsula Field Naturalists Club

A non-profit organization started in 1954 with the objectives to preserve wildlife and protect its habitat, to promote public interest in and a knowledge of the natural history of the area, and to promote, encourage and cooperate with organizations and individuals having similar interests and objectives. Affiliated with Ontario Nature (ex-FCN) and Nature Canada.

P.O. Box 23031, 124 Welland Ave., St. Catharines, ON. L2R7P6

### The Peninsula Naturalist Newsletter

*Published:* February, May, October

*Circulation:* 150 copies per issue

The Editor welcomes written articles or artwork on any natural history topic. Handwritten articles will be accepted, and if possible, please submit typewritten articles, or computer disks containing your file. All pieces of artwork will be accepted, although line drawings are preferable, as they are better suited to photo copying. New ideas and constructive criticism are always welcome.

*Editorial Staff:* John Potter

*Labelling/Mailing:* Kay Smith

- please send submissions to the above address -

**Deadlines for submissions 2008:**

Jan. 26; April 12; Oct. 04

### 2006/7 PFN EXECUTIVE

President	John Potter
Past Pres.	Roman Olszewski
Vice-Pres.	
Secretary	Wendy Bradley
Treasurer	Don Minchin
Membership	Brian Calvert
Director	Barbara Austin
Director	John Black
Director	Brian Calvert
Director	Moira Davidson
Director	Lorraine Desjardins
Director	Bryan Joule
Director	Margarete Kormendy
Director	Don Stevenson