



The Peninsula Naturalist

Volume 220

Newsletter of the Peninsula Field Naturalists Club

February 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to two gentlemen who have likely never met, but clearly are on the same page about the environment. I refer to St. Catharines Councillor Mark Elliott, and U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu.

Dr. Chu, a Nobel-winning physicist, recently spoke out about potential effects of climate change on agriculture in the United States. He foresees California probably being unable to sustain agricultural production, as a result of severe drought in the southwestern USA. In the worst case, the loss of up to 90% of the Sierra snowpack would almost eliminate California's agricultural water supply. (One might add to this scenario the additional problem that the Ogallala aquifer, which is pumped by most of the American Southwest, is running low [G. Dyer, *Climate Wars*], and Lake Mead is becoming a mere pond.). Chu's suggestion that California might find agriculture impossible by the end of the century points up the seriousness with which the Obama government views climate change. Hopefully the usual doubters will take his message seriously.

Councillor Elliott was cited recently in the St. Catharines *Standard* for his concerns about the city's urban forest, more specifically for his urging that the city should increase the tree canopy, both on city-owned boulevards and in private yards. He is keen to see the city choose

long-lived trees and to plant them in places, particularly downtown, where they would not be considered a nuisance and where they would not be mutilated because of conflicting with business signs or utility wires. As he told the *Standard*, "Trees are the lungs of a city. They remove pollutants from the air, provide cooling effects, reduce energy consumption, and allow rain to reach the water table." He also advocates the city having a plan for regular tree-planting, especially when trees are removed. At one time the city had a complete registry of all boulevard trees, with GPS coordinates; whether that still exists is unknown to me.

So how might Niagara respond? Well, besides the planting of boulevard and yard trees in St. Catharines, Niagara has a history of growing fruit trees - peach, cherry, pear, apricot, apple - not citrus as yet - and thus far we still have a reasonable supply of water available for orchard irrigation. In a slightly warmer climate, almonds would also grow here. Perhaps the Greenbelt may yet be more valuable as farmland and fruitland than as golf courses, and possibly Niagara should prepare to be a greater marketer of fruit for North America.

(Thanks to Doug Woodard for suggesting this column).

IN MEMORIAM
MARY DEER

BIRDING & SIGHTSEEING ECUADOR

On our Annual General Meeting and Dessert Night, Nov. 24, 2008, a 'capacity crowd' gathered to hear and see the results of Maggie Smiley's globetrotting to Ecuador. Maggie, a former PFN President and a former organizer of the winter Waterfowl Count, is an excellent birder. In the mountainous area of Ecuador where she travelled, an ecological success story is being written by the native peoples.

High in the Andes, the snowmelt from peaks reaching 14,000 feet spawns the first streams and rivers that eventually become the mighty Amazon. Here the natives were formerly a forest-dwelling hunting people. However, they now have taken to preserving the native animals and birds which they used to hunt. This came about because they discovered that affluent outsiders will pay well for the opportunity to come and watch exotic birds. And the Ecuadoran mountains and foothills have many species of birds unusual to North Americans.

Since outsiders like their comfort, the Ecuadorans have developed tasteful and harmonious lodges, built with traditional thatched roofs but also providing the requisite comfort. To hear Maggie talk about the meal service, and the degree to which the Ecuadorans look after their tourist guests, clearly shows that these people know how to spoil a visitor.

The birding? Imagine travelling with eight or ten others in a dugout canoe, propelled by paddling, on a quiet river where caymans lurk in the shadows, and seeing clusters of green and yellow parrots, multi-coloured toucans, Orinoco geese and other water-birds; in the forests, blue tanagers, unusual woodpeckers and about 40 species of hummingbirds. To sum up the birding, Maggie reported seeing about 340 species in the course of her visit. Needless to say, her trip was a memorable experience for her, and was delightful to have shared with us.

NECROLOGY

Nature walks in the Niagara Peninsula and elsewhere will not be the same without **Mary Deer**. Sadly, our good friend and long-time Life-Member passed away suddenly on January 31, 2009, in her 84th year.

Mary was a one-of-a-kind cheerful gal who delighted in nature and enjoyed showing others the unusual sights that she knew and could find in dense swamps or on rocky outcrops. The Bruce Peninsula was a special place to her. She had the uncanny ability to remember where every species of orchid grew, a skill honed (I suspect) by frequent trips to her favourite haunts. I was always amazed when Mary would mention having been away on one of her solo excursions, car-trunk loaded with supplies, to far-flung corners of the Province. I also recall her startled look of disgust and surprise when an unleashed dog stole a 'burger right out of her hands at a PFN picnic at Woodend CA. We had quite a chat on one occasion when we discovered that we shared a connection in Oxford County; my father having known Mary's late brother Jim Deer.

Mary's family included sister Dorothy Cucksey and husband Ralph of Woodstock, Jean Cook of Tillsonburg, Don Deer and Lise of Cobden, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by brother Jim Deer and wife Mavis, and brother-in-law Don Cook

Mary was a Life Member of the Peninsula Field Naturalists, a member of Niagara Falls Nature Club and Long Point Bird Conservatory. A service to celebrate Mary's life was held at the Arn-Lockie funeral home, Norwich, on Thursday, February 5, 2009 with Rev. David Snihur officiating. A spring interment will be at the C.G. Walker (Quaker St.) Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to Save a Life Fund, Bird Studies Canada, or The Owl Foundation.

BRAIN FOOD (BOOK REPORT)

Okay, hands up - those who have never heard of Gwynne Dyer, or those who wouldn't read a book by Gwynne Dyer if their life depended on it. Thank you! You're excused.

For the rest of you, who would read a book by Gwynne Dyer if their life depended on it, have I got a book for you! It's called 'Climate Wars', and if you know the usual focus of Dyer's writings, you can anticipate that somehow military matters will slip into the book. Although a reporter on geopolitical events, Dyer naturally looks for military involvement in whatever area of activity tweaks his interest. After all, he has served in the Canadian, American and British navies, has a Ph.D. in war studies from the University of London, and has taught at the Canadian Forces College and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. So why wouldn't he introduce military content into a book on climate change?

Military involvement in climate change, you ask? Without giving away too much of the plot of 'Climate Wars', let's think for a moment about what matters most to a large segment of the human population of Planet Earth - where's my next meal coming from? And if my country is facing famine and the neighbouring country has an adequate harvest, am I going to see my family starve? If that neighbour country parks its army along our mutual border and says we aren't invited to the harvest, how long will I put up with that? My country has guns, too - right?

Lest you think that 'Climate Wars' is only about the military keeping the neighbours out of the granary, I will say that Dyer has done a thorough job of researching climate change (= global warming), has assimilated concepts and scenarios from many of the most knowledgeable people who understand the implications of greenhouse gasses, methane and carbon dioxide excesses, over-use of fossil fuels and of fossil water, and has spelled out in no uncertain terms what the future looks like. It isn't pretty!

First of all, to survive, we need to keep the carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration in the air at less than 450 ppm (parts per million), to slow down climate change. At any CO₂ concentration above 350 ppm, all of the polar ice will eventually melt because of global warming. We are already at about 380 ppm of CO₂ with no sign of the CO₂ concentration being reduced, thanks to our release of the stuff by industrial processes. So, when all the polar ice and all ice in mountain glaciers melts, we can expect the sea level to rise about 70 metres. That's about 230 feet. Ask yourself how high Toronto is above present sea-level...

Dyer's take on what we face within the next half-century, with respect to fresh water supplies and the needs of every country on the Planet, is enough to make even the most devout Maude Barlow follower think twice. Think of China with no water, after the Himalayan glaciers all melt and their rivers run dry...

After hearing Dyer hold an audience of 500 spellbound at Brock University on Nov. 12, 2008, spinning his tale of what we have done and what we might - just might - manage to do to survive our mistakes, I knew that 'Climate Wars' was on my 'must-read' list. It's from Random House, it's \$34.95 and believe me, it's worth every dime!

MALCOMSON ECO-PARK Native Plant Sale Days

**Saturday, April 25th and May 9th
8 a.m to 1 p.m.**

Wildflowers for Monarch butterflies and for beneficial insects; trees and shrubs; native grasses and grass seed; a wide selection to be available.

Location: Lakeshore Road at north end of Niagara Street in St. Catharines, just west of Lock One of the Welland Canal.

Information: Doug Woodard (905) 682-4349

LATHROP FALL-COLOUR HIKE

A lovely unusually mild November 1/08 day greeted us for a walk in the Lathrop Nature Conservancy. Although the height of the colour had passed, the fall leaves of green and gold filled the sky and the ground. Christmas fern stood out in its dark green. Most other ferns had vanished although Bracken Fern was noted. The distinct bark of Spicebush was observed and a tiny scratch of a branch sniffed for its delightful odour.

Leaves were identified—Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Basswood, Sassafras, some very large Hickory and a White Oak sp. Black Cherry has a distinctive bark. The lovely Tulip Trees reached straight up to branches still holding some of their unmistakable leaves. We found a number of American Chestnut seedlings and noted the shape of those leaves.

Horsebalm still stood tall. We were able to still identify Wild Ginger, Canada and Blue Stemmed Goldenrod, Wild Geranium, Large-Leaved Aster, Hog Peanut, Early Meadow Rue, Wild Madder and Sweet Cicely. There were several bunches of Round Leaved Hepatica. Periwinkle has an invasive presence.

A Hairy Woodpecker climbed a tree for all to see and the front group watched three Wild Turkeys disappear into the woods.

The meadow areas on Pelham St. and the two near Haist St. appeared to have been cut or sprayed. Unfortunately young people have been building bike trails and left some rather deep holes. The main pond has a shaky dock and above this pond a structure of cut branches and birch bark has a sitting ledge. It is a problem.

We wandered from Pelham St. along the rail bed past the pond up to the fields by the buildings. The upper trail was used to gradually return to the rail bed. Some people were busy trying to identify while other just enjoyed friends, the surroundings and the beauty of the day. (*by Janet Damude*)

PFN SPRING NATURE CALENDAR

8TH ANNUAL MAPLE SYRUP FEST

Saturday, March 14, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Meet at the corner of Metler Road and Centre Street, North Pelham, for a winter walk with other club members and the Bert Miller Nature Club. Lunch to follow at Agape Valley. Contact: John Potter 905-892-2566.

ANNUAL PENINSULA HAWK WATCH

Friday, April 10, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - all day.

The Good Friday Hawk Watch at Beamer Conservation Area south of Grimsby provides a fine opportunity to see many species of raptors and meet birders from all over. Especially good for beginners! Contact: John Potter 905-892-2566.

SHORT HILLS PROV. PARK - MOSSES AND LICHENS

Sunday April 19, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Outing leader Roman Olszewski will point out common or infrequent moss and lichen species along the Wiley Road and Terrace Creek Trails, and a rare crustose lichen at Terrace Creek Falls. Bring appropriate footwear and a magnifier, if you have one. Meet at the parking lot at the Wiley Road entrance off Cataract Road, south of Decew Road.

Contact: Roman Olszewski 905-732-9955.

POTLUCK DINNER MEETING

Monday, April 27, 2009, 6:00 p.m.,
Mountainview United Church

Surnames from A to M bring something for the main course, N to Z bring a salad or desert. Donations of artwork, nature books, and other treasures for the Chinese auction are greatly appreciated. Again, we will have a photography gallery featuring photos by Club members. **Contact: Barbara Austin 905-892-7870 for details about displaying your best snaps!**

(Thanks to Brian and Roman for this schedule.)

**JANUARY 11/ 2009 LAKE ONTARIO
MID-WINTER WATERFOWL SURVEY -
NIAGARA**

This year there were 11 participants in the Survey. As we did last year, we covered the shore line from 50 Point to Niagara-on-the-Lake, with the exception of walking the east side of the Port Weller piers which extend out about 1 km into the lake from the shore and protect the Welland canal from wave action. The canal often has a number of sheltering ducks in it. We also observed ducks in the old Canal from Lakeshore Road out into the lake at Port Dalhousie (it is not necessary to walk out on to the piers).

A total of 18 species of waterfowl were seen; the most numerous species was White-winged Scoter. There were rafts of 100s of mixed ducks, primarily Scaup, Long-tailed Ducks and Mergansers at large distances from the shore from Fifty Point to Port Weller West. Not possible to count but probably at least 1000 birds in total.

Barnacle Goose Directions (presumably the same bird as seen last year.): This morning (Jan.12/09) a single Barnacle Goose was seen in the company of Canada Geese in the marina lagoon beside the old pirate ship, located on the North Service Road just east of Jordan Harbour at the motel beside the ship. Park at the end of the dirt road left of the hotel entrance and scan the lagoon. The bird was on the rocks on January 11.

Total party hours from 50 Point to Niagara-on-the-Lake = 12. Total person-hours from 50 Point to Niagara-on-the-Lake = 32.

Participants:

John Black (Coordinator), Drew Campbell, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Marcia Jacklin, Carol O'Shae, Tim Seburn, John Stevens, Katherine Stoltz.

Duck Count 2009 Niagara

SPECIES	Totals
Common Loon	
Pied-billed Grebe	
Horned Grebe	
Red-necked Grebe	
Double-crested Cormorant	2
Tundra Swan	0
Trumpeter Swan	0
Mute Swan	4
Snow Goose	0
Canada Goose	2211
Wood Duck	0
Green-winged Teal	0
American Black Duck	26
Mallard	766
Northern Pintail	1
Northern Shoveller	0
Gadwall	0
American Widgeon	0
Canvasback	0
Redhead	9
Ring-necked Duck	0
Tufted Duck	0
Greater Scaup	280
Lesser Scaup	0
Scaup(sp)	62
Harlequin duck	0
Long-tailed Duck	2456
Black Scoter	0
White-winged Scoter	2314
Surf Scoter	0
Common Goldeneye	1757
Bufflehead	636
Hooded Merganser	3
Common Merganser	276
Red-breasted Merganser	480
Ruddy Duck	0
American Coot	2
Red-throated Loon	0
King Eider	0
Barnacle Goose	1
Great Blue Heron	0
Bald Eagle	0
Unknown	

(Thanks to John Black for this report)

ST. CATHARINES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, DEC. 14, 2008

After last years delayed count, I decided to hold the count on the first available Sunday, which was December 14th. It turned out to be a great birding day and with 81 species (plus 1 on count week), tying for 6th highest count since 1982. The day was mostly cloudy with a slight drizzle at times, breezy and temperatures hovering about zero, just enough to keep the birds at the feeders. The weather by the way, on the following Sunday was terrible.

This year we had 44 participants in 13 parties. They spent 101 hours in the field and walked or drove 1046 km including 2.5 hours and 16 km owling. The final count was 81 species, plus 1 on count week, and 26,318 individuals.

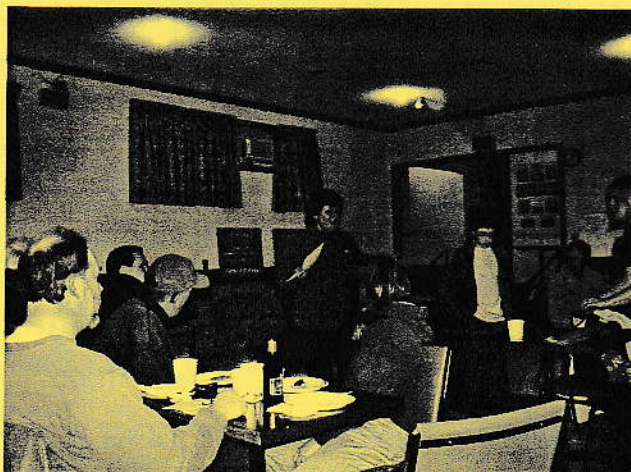
Many thanks are due to all the participants. Also a big thank you to Mary and John Potter, Brian Calvert, Dora Young, Janet Kellam, Emma Carlson, Wendy Bradley, Janet Damude, Elaine Dimond and all the others (sorry if I forgot you) who helped organize the wonderful round-up party. A great big THANK YOU to everyone who brought the yummy food. What a feast!!!

We found two new species this year, Thayer's Gull and White-winged Crossbill. We recorded Pomarine Jaeger for the second time. Record high counts included Double-crested Cormorant (85), Red-breasted Merganser (571), Wild Turkey (82), Snowy Owl (2), American Robin (1136), and Cedar Waxwing (511).

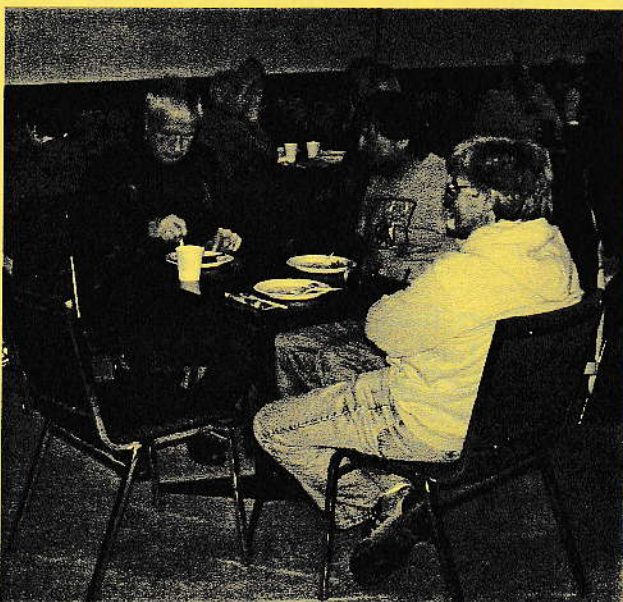
We tallied a record low count for Ring-billed Gulls (451) and the lowest count in 20 years for Bonaparte's Gulls (51). The count week birds (2 individuals) were Purple Finches.

THE PARTICIPANTS: Brian Ahara, Rhonda Armstrong, Barbara Austin, John Black, Paul Chapman, Sue Chapman, Paula Clark, Trevor Cornfield, Carl Damude, Janet Damude, Elizabeth Dentan, Don Dimond, Elaine Dimond, Rob Dobos, Cheryl Edgecombe, Jason Elliott,

Ben Escott, Chris Escott, Denys Gardiner, Simon Gawn, Steve Gillis, Jean Hampton, Bob Highcock, Marcie Jacklin, Myra Kennedy, Nabil Khairallah, Ramsey Khairallah, Kara Kristjanson, Nadine Litwin, Eric Maki, Kiirstin Maki, Kevin McLaughlin, Don Mills, Roman Olszewski, Kayo Roy, Karin Schneider, Tim Seburn, Dave Smith, Pat Smith, Roy Sorgenfrei, John Stevens, Rob Waldhuber, Scott Watson, Rick Young.



Marcie and Jeremy run a tight ship



This bird-counting business stirs the appetite!

**CHRISTMAS BIRD
COUNT 2008**

Red-throated Loon	4	Belted Kingfisher	4
Common Loon	2	Red-bellied Woodpecker	30
Red-necked Grebe	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Double-crested Cormorant	85	Downy Woodpecker	71
Great Blue Heron	4	Hairy Woodpecker	11
Mute Swan	10	Northern Flicker	13
Canada Goose	1927	Horned Lark	3
American Black Duck	16	Blue Jay	197
Mallard	587	American Crow	199
Ring-necked Scaup	8	Black-capped Chickadee	331
Greater Scaup	69	Tufted Titmouse	3
Lesser Scaup	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	11
Long-tailed Duck	535	White-breasted Nuthatch	38
White-winged Scoter	72	Brown Creeper	6
Common Goldeneye	109	Carolina Wren	15
Bufflehead	52	Winter Wren	1
Hooded Merganser	33	Golden-crowned Kinglet	22
Common Merganser	537	Eastern Bluebird	76
Red-breasted Merganser	571	American Robin	1136
duck sp.	12	Northern Mockingbird	50
Bald Eagle	1	Cedar Waxwing	511
Northern Harrier	8	Northern Shrike	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	Eastern Starling	12303
Cooper's Hawk	9	Northern Cardinal	151
Red-tailed Hawk	96	American Tree Sparrow	280
Rough-legged Hawk	5	Field Sparrow	1
American Kestrel	18	Song Sparrow	11
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	White-throated Sparrow	18
Wild Turkey	82	White-crowned Sparrow	5
American Coot	6	Dark-eyed Junco	657
Bonaparte's Gull	51	Lapland Longspur	2
Ring-billed Gull	451	Snow Bunting	229
Herring Gull	294	Red-winged Blackbird	2
Thayer's Gull	1	Common Grackle	1
Iceland Gull	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	136
Great Black-backed Gull	19	Purple Finch	2
gull sp.	16	House Finch	213
Pomarine Jaeger	1	White-winged Crossbill	1
Rock Pigeon	626	Pine Siskin	28
Mourning Dove	958	American Goldfinch	543
Eastern Screech Owl	10	House Sparrow	1701
Great Horned Owl	2		
Snowy Owl	2	Total # (all species)	26318

(Thanks to Marcie Jacklin)

NEW GUINEA: BIRDS & THEIR SURROUNDINGS

When John Black goes on a birding trip, the result may be as much an anthropology tour as a birding tour. Fortunately for us, John's latest foray resulted in a plethora of photographs, some of them even including birds! John's presentation to the PFN on October 27, 2008 gave us a look into a civilization that many of us may never see, but probably had never imagined as being so different in this present time.

We hear about tropical rain forests but can't imagine living in an area where houses are built on pilings, to avoid being swept away in a river flood. We have never experienced flying where the runways are bumpy grass strips, and the best way to get airborne is to take off downhill. In this area, the changing of seasons is so unremarkable that people do not mark time by seasonal change, have no calendars and don't know their age in years - years are meaningless to them! What matters is when a young couple are mature enough to have offspring.

Nevertheless, the residents of Papua-New Guinea are well aware of their 'home turf' and what the presence of industrialization (oil exploration) will do to their homeland. They are also aware that foreign currency is good. So these odd outsiders who want to look at birds are welcomed and accommodated.

John's particular interest on this trip seemed to be BOP's (Birds of Paradise, for those of us unfamiliar with birder-slang). Until that evening I had only thought of 'Bird-of-Paradise' in the botanical sense. Hence it came as a surprise that not only are there actually birds with that name, but many different species of BOPs, most of them elaborate in their plumage. And the native New Guineans include BOPs in their celebratory events, both by emulating them and by using their plumage as decoration.

John and his fellow travellers were also treated to a display of costumed dancing, part of which involved the dancers wearing special headgear made from (among other things) their own hair. Not only this, but a special School has been established which teaches the skills of wig-making using one's own hair, which requires a year's enrolment (the length of time required to grow the requisite material for the novice wig-maker to work with). A curious pastime, but probably more environmentally benign than some of the rituals that North Americans engage in - (football tailgate parties, as an example!). John being the good sport that he is, we even were treated to pictures of John going native - although his wig was not of his own making. Thanks for an entertaining and informative evening!

THANKS!!

There are a number of people who work behind the scenes, without whom the Peninsula Field Naturalists Club would not be the organization that it is.

Too often, we forget that when we arrive at a regular meeting, or when we go on an enjoyable outing, someone or several someones have been there before us, to get the route mapped out, to get the Hall unlocked and the lights on, to set out the chairs and put on the coffee-pot - all those little niceties that we tend to take for granted. When you receive your copy of the Newsletter, whether by email or as print copy, do you know who provided input? This note is a thank-you to some of those unseen benefactors - in no particular order:

David and Judy Gittings; Joyce Auty; Mary Potter; Brian Calvert; Douglas Woodard; Nancy Luft; Dora Young; Barb West; Janet Damude; Kay Smith; Rhonda Armstrong; Emma Carlson; Janet Kellam; Ruth Pryer; Connie Miller; John Black; Marcie Jacklin; Roman Olszewski; Don Minchin; Barbara Austin; Bob Layton. Thank you!

Ramblings...

I was thinking nostalgically today about a news item that popped up on the internet. It seems that the Yugo is gone forever. You remember the Yugo - a plain boxy little car intended to be Yugoslavia's answer to the VW Beetle? Remember Yugoslavia? Anyway, the brand name Yugo has apparently bit the dust, joining several other curious little non-mainstream vehicles like the Isetta, the Hyundai Pony, the Corvair... The point is, there seems to be something - let's call it a Law of Obsolescence - which winnows out all kinds of products that look like sure-fire winners at first glance but never catch on with the greater public. I suppose the poor little Yugo fitted into that category of products and, unlike the Hula Hoop, is not likely to return for another go-around.

So what's the big deal about Obsolescence? If a product isn't desirable enough, or durable enough, or came in the wrong colours, then it deserves to become obsolete, right? Well, maybe yes and maybe no....

It almost seems perhaps a nasty little scheme is hidden away in some manufacturers' patent filing cabinets, a scheme called 'Planned Obsolescence'. Most people can cite a favorite example of a product seemingly designed and manufactured either to have a hidden flaw, or to have a short 'Best before...' life. Planned Obsolescence is the guarantee that a manufacturer will always find a ready market - unless the hidden flaw is too easy to spot when the product is brand new. Planned Obsolescence may mean that the product cannot be repaired after x-years because no parts are available - or the product is a 'one-time-use' item - or the maker just refuses to service the item after releasing a newer model.

To me, one computer software company's activities certainly look like Planned Obsolescence. This company has introduced at least 8 slightly 'improved' (= somewhat different) versions of a type of software in the past 20 years - and at present only two of those versions are eligible for help from the manufacturer in case of problems. In fact, even if you wished to buy an earlier version than the newest one, you can't buy it - it's not in stock! Didja ever hear of a car company that doesn't supply spare parts for any but the latest model, nor does it allow anyone else to make replica parts? Well, that's about the way this software company operates. And just so you know, if you have the latest version of that company's software, and you send an email or a file to a friend who doesn't have the same latest software, don't be surprised if eventually your friend admits that he didn't reply to your email because he couldn't open it to read it! His older software won't work with your new model. I call that 'Planned Obsolescence' with a big 'P.O.'....

Oddly enough, some objects have completely lost their original purpose in this modern world, but have not been consigned to the Obsolete lists. Example - men's neckties. The necktie's original purpose was to keep the unwashed male neck from soiling the cloth of the shirt collar, or in reverse, to catch the dust and grime before it was ground into the skin of the neck. Do neckties fulfill any similar useful purpose now? Not really. As useful wearing apparel, they are about as necessary as the buttons on a coatsleeve - which originally were put on soldiers' dress uniforms to keep said soldiers from wiping their runny noses on their sleeves. Nope, neckties are now something akin to the human appendix - a leftover bit that evolution just hasn't completely done away with. Neckties deserve Obsolescence! Just thinkin'....

EVENTS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

INNINGS:

The **ANNUAL PFN POTLUCK DINNER** will be at Mountainview United Church, 150 Glendale Ave., St. Catharines, on Monday, April 27 /09, starting at 6:00 p.m. As has been the custom, please bring your ex-treasures for the draw – draw tickets will be \$0.25. Those with surnames beginning with A-L please bring first course, surnames M-Z bring salad or desserts. All bring cutlery, cups, plates. Anyone willing to help set up, please arrive about 5:30 p.m.

Again this year, Barbara Austin and Barb West will be organizing a **Photographic Gala Display** for all members to contribute their most interesting/excellent photos of Nature or whatever. Please review your recent pics and contact Barbara (905-892-7870) to display your photographic gems. This is not a juried show – all contributions welcome!

OUTINGS: NOTE THE SCHEDULE OF OUTINGS ON PAGE 4 OF THIS NEWSLETTER. ALL OUTINGS ARE WEATHER-DEPENDENT – IF IN DOUBT, CALL THE DESIGNATED CONTACT.



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-FON) and Nature Canada.
P.O. Box 23031, 124 Welland Ave., St. Catharines, ON. L2R7P6

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The Editor welcomes written articles or artwork on any natural history topic. Handwritten articles will be accepted; if possible, please submit typewritten articles, computer disks, or email to jmpotter@vaxxine.com. 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 2009:

Jan. 28; April 10; Sept. 30

2008/09 PFN EXECUTIVE

President	John Potter
Past Pres.	Roman Olszewski
Vice-Pres.	
Secretary	Wendy Bradley
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Membership	Brian Calvert
Environment	Shannon Fletcher
Director	Barbara Austin
Director	John Black
Director	Brian Calvert
Director	Moira Davidson
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Director	Bryan Joule
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