



Spring 2009

## Upcoming Events

### Annual General Meeting

Orono Town Hall  
Thursday May 7th, 2009  
6:30 pm

Silent Auction & Social

### Guest Speakers

Einstein, Whistler, Calypso,  
& Socrates — A Live Inter-  
active Birds of Prey Presen-  
tation from the Ontario  
Vetrinary College, Univer-  
sity of Guelph

### Annual Corn Roast & BBQ

Saturday August 29, 2009  
11 am to 3 pm

Ochonski Rd/Station St.

## Trail Maps

Now available on our  
website!

[www.oronocrownlands.com](http://www.oronocrownlands.com)

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## The Coyote

Article by Tori Carmichael

They are around us, but rarely seen. The coyote evolved in North America and is found throughout North and Central America. The coyote is a cousin of the wolf but unlike the wolf, the coyotes feet are relatively small in relation to the rest of their body. A coyote may reach speeds of up to 69 km/h and can jump a distance of over 4 meters. Coyotes primarily hunt in pairs. Coyotes are mainly nocturnal and live in burrows. They have a normal range of about 19 kilometres around their burrow. In winter, deep snow hampers the coyote's ability to hunt, reducing their numbers.

The lifespan of a wild coyote can be up to 15 years. Their weight can range from 20-50 lbs. The overall length including their tail ranges from 40-60", and their shoulder height is between 15-20".

They normally live in a close range of their food. In the winter, coyotes don't hibernate, they adapt. Their typical diet consists of small mammals, insects, reptiles, and fruit.

Mating season begins in January. The female can have a litter of 3 to 9 puppies a year. The gestation period is from 63 to 65 days. The newborn eyes open at around 14 days, and they can eat fairly solid food at about 3 weeks old. While the female is taking care of her litter the male coyote is gathering food to feed the female. At 6 to 10 weeks old the pups can go hunting with the mother and father. Within a year the family splits up and the young coyotes go their own way.

If you are wondering "do coyotes attack people?" Although rare, coyotes have been known to attack, and the attacks have been increasing due to cities expanding over their habitat. Normally coyotes shy away because of their fear of people, as they are a lot smaller than us.

If you happen to spot a Coyote you want the coyote to fear you and leave, and you can increase their fear by waving your arms to look bigger, like a predator. Also make loud noises by

yelling, clapping hands, or blowing a whistle. Some things that you can do using the objects around you are hitting sticks together or throwing rocks.

To keep citizens safe from attacks please never feed Coyotes. Also remove food sources, such as trash, fruit, and pet food from open areas like lawns and keep your small pets inside during the night to insure safety.

Have you noticed your livestock or domestic pets being harmed by Coyotes?

To reduce the chance of any damage that could be done to your animals use net-wire fencing around the environment the livestock use. At night, keep livestock in a coyote-proof corral with lights above these corrals. Remove any dead livestock so the smell doesn't attract Coyotes. Also use guard animals, such as dogs or donkeys.

Coyotes are potentially dangerous to small children and small livestock. It is good to maintain a sense of fear. Use the safety tips given.



Coyote

Photo by Billie Cromwell, PPG

The Orono Crown Lands Trust is a member of  
Ontario Nature

## Amphibians of the Orono Crown Lands

This short note is presented to not only record the presence of amphibians recorded on the Orono Crown Lands (OCL), with a comment about their status, but also to encourage the reporting by trail users of these and other Ontario species.

Of the 21 species of amphibians typically found in Ontario, only 9 species have been recorded on the OCL as known by this author, as follows:

Red-spotted Newt – rare  
 Eastern Red-back Salamander – uncommon  
 American Toad – abundant  
 Spring Peeper – common  
 Gray Treefrog – rare



Gray Treefrog

Wood Frog – common  
 Northern Leopard Frog – common  
 Green Frog – common  
 Pickerel Frog – once fairly common, now rare



Wood Frog



Green Frog

### Other Ontario species: (not yet recorded on the OCL site)

Mudpuppy – OCL is within its normal range  
 Spotted Salamander – OCL is within its normal range  
 Blue-spotted Salamander – OCL is within its normal range  
 Four-toed Salamander – usually found north of the Great lakes



Pickerel Frog

Fowler's Toad – found in southwestern Ontario  
 Stripped Chorus Frog – OCL is within its normal range  
 Mink Frog – not generally found quite this far south  
 Bullfrog – OCL is within its normal range, but this species is becoming very scarce

*In the next newsletter, we will present a note about reptiles of the Orono Crown Lands*

*Article and photos by  
 Jim Richards*



Northern Leopard Frog



American Toad



Red-spotted Newt



## Cavity Trees are Refuges for Wildlife

To many people, a dead or dying, partly hollowed tree hardly seems worth preserving. Yet to many birds and mammals, these "cavity" trees are a vital source of food, shelter and safety.

By letting cavity trees remain on your property, you can provide important habitat for wildlife.

### What are cavity trees?

Cavity trees are dead or dying trees that have one or more holes in the trunk or main branches. Cavities can also be found in some healthy trees, such as basswoods.

Cavities are excavated by birds. They are also created by decay and by broken branches. In Ontario, more than 50 species of birds and mammals depend on cavity trees for nesting, rearing young, roosting, feeding, storing food, escaping predators and hibernating. The bird and mammal species that use tree cavities are divided into two groups. Primary cavity-users, such as woodpeckers, chickadees and the red-breasted nuthatch, make their own cavities. Secondary cavity-users are unable to excavate their own cavities. They rely on cavities excavated by other birds and on naturally occurring cavities.

Secondary cavity users include saw-whet owls, barred owls and kestrels. Common goldeneyes, wood ducks and other duck species are members of this group. Many songbirds, including eastern bluebirds, great-crested flycatchers and white-breasted nuthatches are secondary cavity users. Mammals also rely on cavities made by excavating birds. They include deer mice, martens, fishers, raccoons, porcupines, weasels and black bears.

## A Message from the Chair

After a cold and snowy winter we welcome the arrival of spring. This past winter saw our feathered friends adapt very well to our dedicated feeding trails. We would like to thank the members of our community who answered the call to top up the feeders, while enjoying their morning walk.

The OPG "Fostering Partnerships Program" is again hard at work with students from Courtice North Public School and Courtice Secondary High School busy constructing platform feeders from materials supplied by OPG. On May 21<sup>st</sup> the students will visit the Orono Crown Lands and help erect the feeders.

The Roy Forrester Butterfly Garden has received its annual spring haircut and new shoots are emerging. The blue bird boxes have been cleaned out in anticipation of their spring arrival. Four of the boxes contained bluebird nests last year, including the box directly behind the butterfly garden. This is the second year in a row bluebirds have nested in this area. Two wood duck boxes have been erected along the Orono Mill Pond.

We will be planting some hardwood seedlings this spring. They include 10 Butternut, 10 Bitternut Hickory and 10 Black Cherry. We will also be planting 100 Redosier Dogwood and 50 Highbush Cranberry.

On the negative sign of things, this winter we experienced trespassers who chose to enter the Crown Lands on ATV's and snowmobiles through the sod farm in the Taunton Area. The Taunton area contains over 5,000 seedlings which were planted in 07 and 08. It is also home to an active research trial site for Dog-Strangling Vine control. The unlawful use of paintball guns and the construction of mountain bike ramps and jumps are also a major concern. All of the above are illegal activities in the Orono Crown Lands and perpetrators will be dealt with accordingly.

To all the responsible stewards (def. "one who cares") please enjoy the 633 acre Orono Crown Lands. The board appreciates your strong support and we will continue to add to the bio-diversity of these lands.

'Enjoy the property, and please leave it as you found it.'

## We Would Like to Say Thank You!!

The Board of the Orono Crown Lands Trust would like to thank the following people for their generous donations and support:

June Smith	John Slater	Robert Harness
Murray & Arlene Yeo	Raye & Marion West	Herb Duvall
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Keith & Dianne Tregunna	Joanne & John Crookshank	Durham Outdoors Club
Ron & Susan Beacock	Siegfried Bloc	Durham Region Field Naturalists

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**Escape or Roost Cavities**

Not all holes in trees are suitable for nesting. Some provide temporary shelter from the elements or protection from predators. These are called escape or roost cavities.

Pileated woodpeckers, for example, create roosting trees by excavating many football-shaped holes along the trunk of a hollow tree. At night they enter the hollow by one of the holes and cling to the inside and sleep. This gives them many exits to choose from if a predator tries to trap them inside.

Trees with large escape cavities are also used by larger mammals, such as black bears, who use them for shelter and winter hibernation.

**It's 2009 Stewardship Time...**

The Board of Directors would like to thank our membership for their continued support. A stewardship cost \$10 per year and your dollars contribute to the protection and enhancement of our 633 acre jewel. Recently, we have added your current stewardship status to our address labels. If your label reads 09 your membership is current and you are entitled to vote at our upcoming AGM. A stewardship application is included on this back page or available online @ [www.oronocrownlands.com](http://www.oronocrownlands.com). Stewardships will also be available at our AGM on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Visit Us On The Web at  
[www.oronocrownlands.com](http://www.oronocrownlands.com)

**2009 STEWARDSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Charitable # 864232137 R0001

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	
<b>Please accept an additional contribution of \$ _____ towards ongoing conservation activities at of the Orono Crown Lands.</b> Please Note: A charitable receipt will be issued for the additional contribution.	

Please mail the completed Stewardship application, along with a cheque for \$10 to:  
Orono Crown Lands Trust  
P.O. Box 242 Orono, ON L0B 1M0