



Winter 2008

Upcoming Events

Annual Corn Roast & BBQ

Saturday August 29, 2009
11 am to 3 pm

Ochonski Rd/Station St.
Entrance

Trail Maps

Now available on our
website!

www.oronocrownlands.com

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Birds of the Orono Crown Lands Program

In 2008 the OCLT embarked on another project to add to the biodiversity of the Orono Crown Lands.

OPG-Darlington Nuclear, "Fostering Partnerships Program" provided the necessary funding for materials to construct a number of bird boxes for distribution throughout the property.

Grade 5 students from Courtice North Public School teamed up with Courtice Secondary High School students to construct our nesting boxes. Under the direction of teacher Bruce Balsdon, teams of grade 5's worked with high school team members to prepare the materials and assemble the boxes.

This past May the enthusiastic students arrived by bus, armed with their newly completed boxes, and the necessary hardware to install them. The students installed a number of the boxes, went on an educational tour of the property, followed by snacks in our event area. The 6 remaining Screech Owl and Kestrel boxes were erected in October

by Orv Holland, Don Lycett and Jim Richards. Two Wood Duck boxes remain to be put up over the winter.

Thank you to our program partners.

Also new this year, is an attractive bird checklist prepared by Board member, Jim Richards, noted naturalist and wildlife photographer.

Two bird feeding trails have been added to provide our winter visitors with a steady food supply. The feeding trails will be maintained by volunteer teams and it is our intention to offer the birds an abundant supply of seeds from the end of September through the end of April each year.

The feeding trails, along with the checklist will serve to increase awareness of wildlife and habitat values along with the need to maintain our environment.

We would like to thank the Durham Land Stewardship Council, OPG-Darlington Nuclear, Armstrong IGA-Orono and Bragg's Wild Bird Seed for their sponsorship.



Photo supplied by OPG-Darlington Nuclear

Winter Birds and Feeders

Article and photos by Jim Richards

Unless you're really looking, I'm sure most readers think there are very few birds around in the winter months; not true! Each year, the avid birding community makes a list of all birds reliably observed during the winter months (1 Dec. - 31 January). You may be interested in knowing that 193 species were documented in Ontario during the 2007-8 round-up. The list for 2008-9 was already at 138 species by the end of the first week in December this year.

However, for the birding enthusiasts who limit their activities to their backyard feeding station, there is good news for watchers this winter. Reports of northern owls are on the increase, so if you live in a more rural location, you are apt to see one or two of these; birdseed attracts mice, and they are a staple in the owl diet. As well, we are expecting a good irruption of winter finches from the boreal reaches

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Winter Birds and Feeders, continued



Hairy Woodpecker

of Ontario to grace our area this winter. Be on the lookout for grosbeaks, crossbills, siskins and northern finches this winter.

Birds (especially in winter) depend on food and cover. How your yard is landscaped can have a great bearing on what birds you might attract. The provision of fruit and berry producing trees and shrubs (ie; apple spp., Mountain Ash, High bush Cranberry, European Buckthorn) will serve to attract many species. Likewise, it is important to provide water if you can. Your proximity to a wooded creek valley (where birds congregate in winter) can also serve to increase your likelihood of attracting winter birds.

Providing a constant source of birdseed is a prerequisite in determining an active birding season in your home environment. A silo feeder to dispense Niger seed is excellent for most all of the finches and some sparrows. Mixed seed scattered on the ground also serves to attract ground foragers like doves and juncos. A silo or hopper feeder to provide sunflower seed (the black oilseed is best as it provides more calorific value) will attract almost all local species. Offering foods such as bread, etc. is not a good idea as it contributes to avian

botulism.

Feeders can be suspended from tree limbs and/or near bushes on a pole (but not too close to low coniferous shrubs and dense groundcover where predators like cats can hide). Consider too, the provision of suet that can be offered by reusing a mesh onion bag. If you don't have any bushes in a location within the yard that also affords you a great view from a window, you might consider creating a brush pile of dead limbs and branches at the base of the feeder or nearby; a place for small birds to seek cover when needed.

Remember, when you provide food for winter birds and are successful in attracting them, you also provide an unnatural feeding location for some hawk species (Northern Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk) that typically feed on small birds.

Enjoy the birds of prey as they are a natural component of a healthy, diversified environment. Placing out food will also serve to attract squirrels - learn to like 'em!

Consult your field guide in advance so you will recognize



White-breasted Nuthatch

'strangers' when you see them. Enjoy the birds; enjoy the winter!

Regular winter (feeder) species in the Orono area include:

Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, and House Sparrow.

Uncommon, but not unexpected feeder visitors include:

Canada Goose, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Hoary Redpoll.

Regular avian predators, attracted by feeding stations:

Northern Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Kestrel, Merlin, Saw-whet Owl, Boreal Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Northern Shrike.

Invasive Species Update

Following up on our last report of Spring 08, the Durham Invasive Species Working Group was unsuccessful in obtaining funding from Environment Canada under the Alien Species Partnership Program. A funding application had been submitted for monies to publish our Top 10 Most Un-Wanted Terrestrial Invasive Species fact sheets.

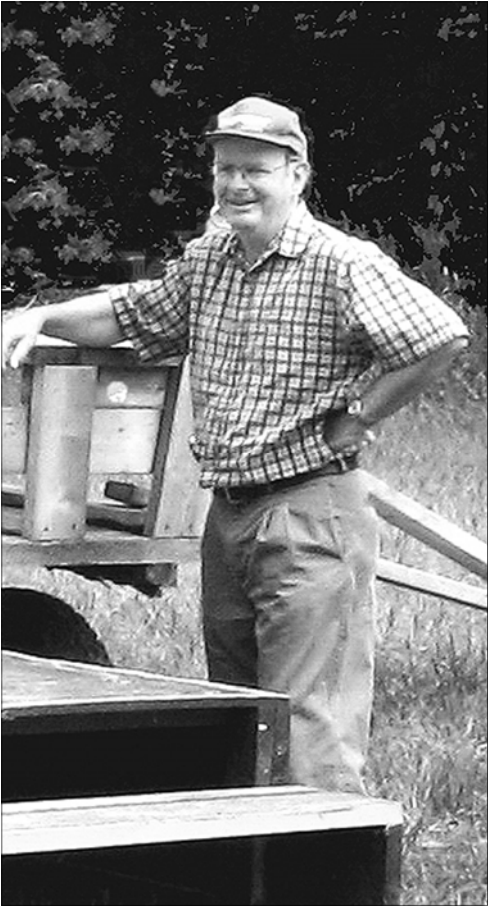
The Orono Crown Lands Trust is a member of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC). Formed in 2007, the OIPC is a coalition of government, non government, First Nations and academic

institutions working together to respond to the growing threat of invasive plant species in Ontario.

Dog-strangling Vine research trials have begun in the Taunton area of the Orono Crown Lands. These trials are being conducted to register products for use in mature pine forests or for use in industrial/non crop land. They will also provide a demonstration of effective treatments in forest and industrial/non-crop land sites. Research trials for use on industrial/non crop land began in 2008 and the pine forest trials will begin

in 2009. These trials are headed by a team of Dr. Michael Irvine, Provincial Vegetation Management Specialist-MNR Sault Ste. Marie, Dr. Nancy Cain, Cain Vegetation Inc. and Mike Cowbrough, Weed Management Lead-OMAFRA University of Guelph.

John Slater, Chair of the Orono Crown Lands Trust was a presenter at the Partners for Land Protection conference recently held in London. John's Invasive Species Management workshop presentation highlighted our experiences



Don Lycett— 1942 - 2008

It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the loss of fellow Board member and Vice Chair Don Lycett. Don's enthusiasm and love for the Orono Crown Lands was unparalleled. During the winter months, Don could often be found in one of the many plantations, "Pruning for Exercise" as he called it. Our sincere condolences go out to Don's wife Betty and to the family members.

We Want Your Photos!!

If you have digital photos of the Orono Crown Lands, and would like to see them published in The Steward, please send them by e-mail to:

slaterman@sympatico.ca

Forestry Update

Thinning operations were completed this fall in the Linton Trail area. This was the second thinning for the large Red Pine which line the lower road area. Originally planted in 1924, some of these trees have reached a height of 30 metres. The wood of Red Pine, heavier and harder than White Pine, is used for structural timber and construction. Because of its great mechanical strength, red pine is often used for utility poles.

As you continue south along the trail there are White Pine plantations which were planted in 1966. They received a long overdue and much needed first thinning. This thinning will provide more space for the remaining White Pine to mature and let in some sunlight to encourage under storey growth of shrubs. This will be beneficial to wildlife searching for food.

This past May, with the assistance of Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd. 1,180 additional tree seedlings were planted in the Taunton area patches. The species included 600 White Pine, 530 Red Oak and 50 Black Cherry. A scheduled application of glyphosate was applied in June to help combat the Dog-strangling Vine infestations.

Invasive Species, continued

and ongoing battle with dog-strangling vine, and the research trials which have begun. The conference was hosted by the Carolinian Canada Coalition and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. Keynote speakers for the event were the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources and Dr. John Howard, Professor of Paediatrics and Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine-University of Western Ontario. Dr. Howard's academic focus is on ecosystem health and in creating positive social and institutional change. Ecosystem Health is about the health of the whole-from the human to the planet.

Congratulations to our Raffle Winners

Leafs Package	• Donna Mudd, Orono
Signet Tool Set	• Mary Perkins, Oshawa
Framed Wildlife Print	• Rick Werry, Oshawa

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:

Darlene Blades	Roy Crooks
Roy Forrester	Hamilton Insurance Service
Robert Harness	Mark Hendrikx CA
Sylvia Hill	Michael MacGregor
Becky McLean	Olive Ona Miller Foundation
June Smith	Gary Thompson
Christopher Tregunna	



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Dedicated Picnic Tables

Our picnic tables in the events area are becoming old and tired. We would like to start a replacement program and the Board is looking for donors to help fund the program. The tables we have in mind are made of 100% recycled plastic as are the dedicated benches which we presently have located throughout the property. A dedication plaque will be installed on the top of each table.

If you are interested in participating in the Dedicated Picnic Table program, please give our Chair, John Slater, a call @ 905-983-9785 or email slaterman@sympatico.ca



It's 2009 Stewardship Time...

The Board of Directors would like to thank our membership for their continued support. A Stewardship costs \$10 per year---for the price of 8 cups of coffee, your dollars contribute to the protection and enhancement of our 633 acre jewel. Please pledge your commitment to the Orono Crown Lands by purchasing a 2009 Stewardship. A Stewardship application is included on this back page or available online @ www.oronocrownlands.com Each member receives "The Steward" newsletter and is entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Visit Us On The Web at
www.oronocrownlands.com

2009 STEWARDSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Charitable # 864232137 R0001

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	
Please accept an additional contribution of \$_____ towards ongoing conservation activities at of the Orono Crown Lands. 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