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Newsletter of the Halton / North Peel Naturalist Club

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Volume 41, Number 2

January-February 2007

## Club Activities

**Indoor:** Meetings begin at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month, October to June at St. Andrew's United Church, 89 Mountainview Road South (at Sinclair) in Georgetown unless stated otherwise.

**Feb. 13: Central and South America, and the Bruce Peninsula.** Bev Whatmough will be giving a presentation on some of the flora and fauna, and a look at the new Bruce Peninsula Park and Fathom Five Park interpretive centre.

**Mar. 13: Re-introduction of Elk into Ontario.** Meagan Hazell will speak about her research on the release of large ruminants into Ontario

**Apr. 10: Halton Natural Areas Inventory.** Andrea Dunn, Conservation Halton, will be talking on the results of the Sixteen Mile Creek Monitoring Study. Andrea was the coordinator of the project.

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**Outdoor:** Trips begin at the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) parking lot at Guelph and Mountainview Road, Georgetown, unless stated otherwise. If you would like to meet the group at the trip site, please speak to the trip leader for the location and directions to the starting point.

**Jan. 21: Burlington Waterfowl.** Meet 8:00 am. In case of inclement weather, check ahead with the trip leaders, Kelly Bowen and Andrew Kellman (905) 873-7338

**Feb.18: Butterfly Conservatory, Niagara Falls, Ontario.** Meet at the NEC parking lot at 8:00 am, or at the conservatory at about 9:30 am. Admission is \$11 for adults. This should be a great opportunity to photograph butterflies and get a winter taste of the tropics! Depending on the weather and the group's interests we may do some birding along the Niagara River or Lake Ontario in the afternoon. In case of inclement weather, check ahead with trip leaders Kelly and Andrew (905) 873-7338.

**Mar. 17: Annual trip to Long Point.** Long Point is a resting and feeding stop for Tundra Swans on the way to their breeding grounds in the far north. Many other species of waterfowl and some returning songbirds are usually seen too. Meet Ray Blower at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch or money for lunch, binoculars, and scopes. Call Ray to join the outing at another location (519) 853-0171.

**Apr. 21: Beamer Conservation Area Hawk Watch, Grimsby.** Meet 9:00 am. On this trip we stop at the Scotch Block reservoir, Islay Lake, and La Salle Park on the way to the Beamer Hawk Watch at the top of the escarpment in Grimsby. Even though the hawks may not blacken the sky during our trip we will always see some. In addition, a good variety of songbirds and waterfowl will be seen. Some things to bring: binoculars, scope, water, lunch, hat and sunscreen. Call Ray Blower, (519) 853-0171 with any questions.

**May 20: Thickson Wood Spring Birding, Whitby.** Meeting times and locations to be arranged with trip leader, Ray Blower, (519) 853-0171 in Acton or (905) 444-9454 in Whitby. This trip is scheduled on the Sunday of the Victoria Day weekend to minimize the effect of traffic on participants coming from points west. Meeting times at Thickson Wood could be arranged for any time between 06:00 to 11:00 if the weather is reasonable. Lynde Shores Conservation Area and Cranberry Marsh are the other places visited. All locations are near that cool lake, Ontario, so bring warm clothing, binoculars, scope, water, lunch, hat and sunscreen. These places provide a variety of habitats including mature forest, meadows, marshes, swamps, scrub land and Lake Ontario. Almost any song bird may be seen as well as a variety of the "late" ducks

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## Young Naturalists

**Note:** Meetings and outings begin at 1:00 pm the last Saturday of the month.

**Jan. 27:** For details call Nancy and Andy Kovacs (905) 702-1132.

## President's Message

I hope that everyone had a great Christmas holiday season, and best wishes for the year to come. I think that everyone who attended our Christmas potluck at Limehouse had a good time, and much food and photos were shared by all. The lack of winter weather this year so far has made it easier to travel about, but I'm sure a few club members are itching to don their skis and snowshoes and head into the woods. Oh well, winter's not over yet – maybe you'll be reading this in the middle of a snowstorm!

The Christmas Bird Count, held on Dec. 27, was a success as always. A big thanks goes out to Bill McIlveen for organizing this annual event. My overall impression of the count this year was that some songbirds seemed to be less abundant, especially blue jays and mourning doves. This may have been due to mild weather, lack of snow and the lowered dependence on feeders this year. Similarly, snow buntings, longspurs, horned larks and redpolls were absent this year. However, the abundance of waterfowl, (especially Canada geese and mallards) brought our total numbers up to about average levels. I'm sure you'll hear more from Bill about actual numbers from the count.

On another note, I wish to congratulate and thank all the people involved in the Halton Natural Areas Inventory, completed in 2006. Again, Bill was instrumental in making this project a success. Copies of the inventory's final report have been distributed to the local public libraries. Andrew and I also have a copy of the two-volume report and a CD if anyone would like to borrow them. Finally, for those people involved in the salamander boards or the Hungry Hollow ecological monitoring programs, now is a good time to get your results organized and submitted! Thanks!

Sincerely,  
*Kelly Bowen*

Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club, Box 115, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4T1

### Executive

President: Kelly Bowen (905) 873-7338  
Past-President Andy Kovacs (905)702-1132  
Vice-President: Andrew Kellman (905) 873-7338  
Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Janice Sukhiani (905) 693-8227

### Appointments

Membership: Vacant  
Newsletter: Gerda Potzel (905) 702-1681  
Ontario Nature Representative: Teresa Rigg  
Public Relations: Vacant  
Young Naturalists: Nancy Kovacs (905) 702-1132

Membership .for one year: \$20 Single; \$30 Family  
The Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club is an affiliated member of Ontario Nature

Email submissions/questions/concerns to: [gpotzel@sympatico.ca](mailto:gpotzel@sympatico.ca)  
<http://haltonnorthpeelnaturalists.org>



The Upper Credit Humane Society Thrift Shop  
Moore Park Plaza, Georgetown (next to the Laundromat)

We have now been open two months! We have a fantastic array of collectibles, china, glassware, children's toys, CD's – a store easy on the pocket book!

Hours – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Saturday – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Ongoing donations of merchandise are needed, but NO CLOTHES are accepted at this time. All proceeds go to the animals. For more information or volunteer call (519) 833-2287.



## The Perils of Bird Monitoring – Adventures in Hungry Hollow

Last spring, our club was approached by the Town of Halton Hills to carry out breeding bird monitoring in the Hungry Hollow ravine. We were given copies of aerial photograph-based maps superimposed with dots to represent the monitoring stations and a protocol based on the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The first time Andrew and I set out to monitor our three assigned stations, it was a Wednesday morning in mid-June. This was our first mistake. As we approached the 8<sup>th</sup> line bridge over Silver Creek, it became apparent that town contractors had beat us to the area. A backhoe was busy rumbling around in the ditch. Undaunted, we headed into the dew-soaked brush and tall grasses to find our first station. It was up to us to establish the exact locations, as we had not been provided with coordinates. What was immediately apparent was the hoard of swarming mosquitoes. I had forgotten my bug jacket. My second mistake... After a minute or two of bushwhacking, we found a spot that vaguely resembled the dot on the map. Good enough. I tried to put the hum of the mosquitoes out of my thoughts and concentrate on bird calls. However, about the only thing we could hear was the stupid backhoe. Frustrated, we fled back to the car. I was late for work anyway...

We returned to the 8<sup>th</sup> line bridge the following Sunday morning when it was much quieter. The construction equipment lay dormant. The mosquitoes, however, were not. Bravely, we traipsed into the undergrowth to our chosen site, and began listening for birds. Nothing out of the ordinary – song sparrows, chickadees, indigo buntings and a great crested flycatcher. This was good, as my bird call identification skills are far from perfect. However, half way through the 10 minute period, my ankles began to burn. I looked down, only to find that I had chosen to stand in a red ant superhighway. All thoughts of birds vanished as I stomped, swore, ripped my shoes off and danced in an effort to rid my ankles of biting ants. I HATE biting ants, as they're among the few insects that I react badly to. Finally rid of ants, I tried to focus once again on birds.

A minute or two later, our attention was drawn to splashing in the creek. Maybe a deer, we thought! No, there were two dogs crossing the creek in our direction, one a big aggressive-behaving rottweiler. The owner was somewhere far behind on the opposite bank. The dogs drew closer, the rotti not looking very pleased about our presence. Andrew took the hood off his bug jacket, thinking it was spooking the dog. Andrew is normally able to charm just about any dog or cat, but not this one. The owner arrived in time to retrieve her growling dog before things got ugly. Amid her apologies and nature anecdotes, we decided that this station was a lost cause, and we moved on to the next one further into

the valley. The remaining two stations were less traumatic, and yielded a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a Cooper's Hawk.

On a Saturday morning in early July I returned alone to Hungry Hollow. The protocol requires two mornings between May 24 and July 10. The weather was still hot and humid, and the mosquitoes were still annoying. This day was a little easier, as we had already established the station locations on GPS. I avoided the ants this time, and was generally pleased with my efforts. I encountered the usual suspects of bird life in a southern Ontario river valley, including a Common Yellowthroat and a House Wren.



The mosquitoes in Hungry Hollow reminded me of Andrew birdwatching in Manitoba in early summer of 2004!

Hot and sticky in my bug gear, I followed a faint trail along the riverbank back toward my car on 8<sup>th</sup> line. Suddenly feeling rather alone, I heard movement in the undergrowth ahead. I am normally much at home in the woods, but I had a bad feeling about this. Rounding a bend, I was suddenly confronted with the same free-ranging rottweiler we encountered before. Once again, the owner was far behind. Armed only with my notebook, I backed into a tree trunk and tried to calm the growling dog. I have been around dogs most of my life, but this one scared me. Just as the owner arrived, the dog moved in and grabbed my forearm. It didn't break the skin, but left a big bruise. Badly shaken and angry, I confronted the apologetic woman about allowing aggressive dogs to run off-leash in public areas. I hope my message sunk in – what would have happened if I had a child or our elderly border collie with me?

Christmas has now come and gone, and I am finally compiling the bird monitoring data onto the proper forms. Despite the trials of our 2006 ordeal, I think it was a worthwhile project. I contemplate repeating the survey in 2007, and think that it might be time to invest in that bear spray. Bears, after all, have been sighted in Halton Hills in recent years. Maybe it's also time to begin using a stout walking stick. You can never be too careful in the woods these days!

*Kelly Bowen*

## Results of the 2006 Halton Hills Christmas Count

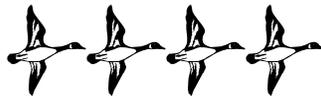
The 2006 Christmas Bird Count for Halton Hills was completed on December 27. The day was unusually warm and mostly overcast. There was no snow on the ground and nearly all bodies of water were open. The overall results for the Count were moderately good but there were differences from earlier years, likely in response to the unseasonably warm weather. The data for the day are summarized in the attached table. For comparison, the average, high, and low numbers for the previous 15 years are included in the table.

The number of species recorded for the day was 47, just below the long-term count average of 49. The total number of birds (9492) is lower than the long-term average of 9742. This is only about two thirds of the rather high numbers counted in 2005. Overall, 10 species were noted in numbers that exceeded the long-term average. Only Black Duck was present in new high total. Only four species were seen in high numbers (i.e. with over 500 individuals) and these were Canada Goose, Mallard, Black-capped Chickadee, and European Starling. There were no winter finches although this seems consistent with

other Christmas Counts in 2006. Regular species such as Ruffed Grouse and Northern Shrike were not seen and Blue Jay numbers were lower than normal. The new species for 2006 was a Snow Goose bringing the total species ever seen in the Halton Hills Christmas Count to 93.

In total, 28 people participated in the count, either as observers or as feeder watchers. Thanks to the following participants. Ray Blower, Kelly Bowen, Elaine Carney, Bill Doekes, Ross Evans, Don Ford, Kerry Jarvis, Andrew Kellman, Kurt Koster, Andy Kovacs, Nancy Kovacs, Charles Hildebrandt, Lou Marsh, Larry Martyn, Irene McIlveen, W.D. McIlveen, Cecil Morris, Michael Pearson, Fiona Reid, Teresa Rigg, Don Scallen, Melitta Smole, Rick Stroud, Janice Sukhiani, Jake Veerman, George Wilkes, Margaret Wilkes, Dave Williams. Appreciation is extended to Larry May for arranging access to the Maple Lodge Farms property and to Halton Regional Police for use of their boardroom for the wrap-up session

*W.D. McIlveen.*



## Other Events of Interest

**Friday, January 12-Saturday, January 13, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm, Adult night (Friday) 7 pm start; Family night (Saturday) 6:30 pm start. Owl Prowl.**

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, Campbellville, Joint Mountsberg staff for an unforgettable visit with some special feathered friends as we explore the night-time world of owls. The program includes a multi-media presentation (a puppet show on family nights), an up close visit with our resident owls, and a moonlit walk through the woods to call for owls in the wild. Adults \$12, children 14 and under \$10. Advance ticket purchase required, call or email [mtsberg@hrca.on.ca](mailto:mtsberg@hrca.on.ca), (905) 854-2276.

Saturday, February 10, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Tales by a Winter Fire.

Mountsberg Wildlife Area, Campbellville. A family winter tradition at Mounsberg with stores around the campfire, horse-drawn sleigh rides, hot drinks and snacks, and a star-lit walk through the woods. Adults \$12, children 14 and under \$10. For advance tickets call or email [mtsbert@hrca.on.ca](mailto:mtsbert@hrca.on.ca), (905) 854-2276.

**Saturday, March 3, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Annual Halton Environmental Network (HEN) Conference and Annual General.** Alexander Barn, Halton Regional Museum, Kelso Conservation Area in Milton (Kelso Road 28). Registration 9:00 am.

**Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Halton Eco-Festival.** . Glenn Abbey Recreation Centre, 1514 Third Line, Oakville, \$8, \$12 at the door F or information as it becomes available – [www.haltonecofest.ca](http://www.haltonecofest.ca).

**Thursday, February 15, 6:45 to 8:45 pm, How to Get Grants and Benefit the Environment,**

This is a HEN workshop and will be held at the Tansley Woods Public Library, 1996 Itabashi Way, Burlington. Free for club members.

Summary of 2006 Christmas Count Results for Halton Hills									
Species	2006	Avg	Low	High	Species	2006	Avg	Low	High
Great Blue Heron	1	2	0	4	Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	1	0	2
Mute Swan	1	7	2	15	Downy Woodpecker	40	53	21	91
Canada Goose	2706	1784	229	3534	Hairy Woodpecker	26	16	2	32
Snow Goose	1				Pileated Woodpecker	8	4	0	12
American Black Duck	67	17	2	34	Blue Jay	95	170	60	333
Mallard	1079	517	135	1636	American Crow	396	350	55	692
Common Goldeneye	2	2	1	3	Common Raven	2	2	0	3
Bufflehead	1	1	1	1	Black-capped Chickadee	710	704	244	1211
Common Merganser	19	17	2	66	Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	9	1	22
Northern Harrier	3	4	0	11	White-breasted Nuthatch	24	48	19	82
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	4	1	7	Brown Creeper	4	3	1	8
Cooper's Hawk	3	2	0	4	American Robin	3	36	1	206
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	1	2	Northern Mockingbird	3	2	0	2
Red-tailed Hawk	76	64	40	117	Northern Shrike	1	4	1	19
Rough-legged Hawk	10	8	1	45	European Starling	2292	2236	485	3490
American Kestrel	14	11	0	16	Northern Cardinal	42	57	29	95
Wild Turkey	25	21	0	49	American Tree Sparrow	209	321	95	837
Ring-billed Gull	30	224	4	2010	Song Sparrow	2	5	1	22
Herring Gull	39	50	1	222	White-crowned Sparrow	1	8	1	21
Rock Pigeon	477	659	210	1455	Slate-colored Junco	201	266	91	565
Mourning Dove	229	742	191	1385	House Finch	23	271	37	456
Eastern Screech Owl	1	2	0	4	American Goldfinch	305	172	37	470
Great Horned Owl	2	2	0	5	House Sparrow	300	719	196	1316
Belted Kingfisher	1	3	1	7	Total Birds	9492	9742	3131	15507
					Total Species	47	49	41	57

## Late-Fall Flowering Plants in North Halton

For the past five years (2002 to 2006) a few members of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club have conducted a survey of the plants that were still in flower late into the fall. The purpose was to establish a database that showed how late certain plant species remained in flower production. Such data, coupled with corresponding spring flowering dates, could provide useful information with respect to changes that might happen in response to climate change.

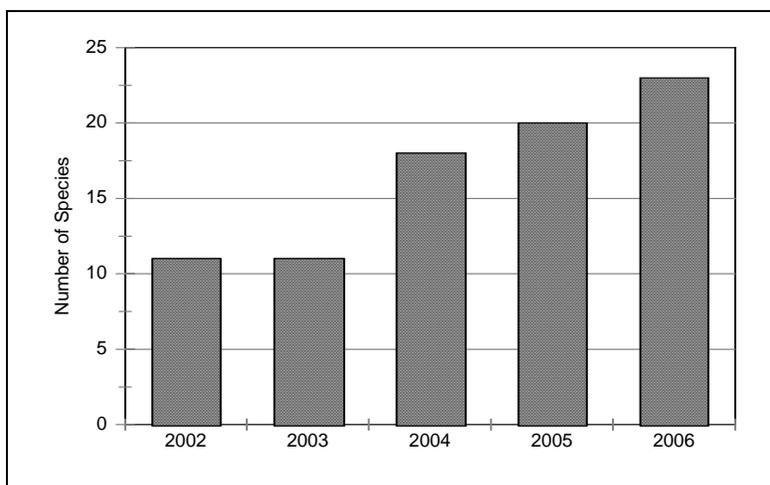
The dates of the field investigation fell on approximately the third weekend in November each year. The actual visit dates are shown in Table 1. Any plant, wild or cultivated, was considered without distinction. In fact, a large proportion of the plants observed were cultivated species. This posed a challenge in the identification to species in some cases. Plants were considered to be in flower if the blooms were of a normal colour and appeared relatively fresh. The probability that most of these flowers would actually go on to produce viable seed is extremely remote, perhaps with the exception of Dandelion and the mustards.

Each year, the gardens at the Lucy Maude Montgomery Garden in Norval and the gardens in the nearby Willow Park Ecology Centre in Norval were examined. The woods adjacent to the Georgetown Fairgrounds were also examined regularly (without seeing flowering plants). Some incidental observations in Georgetown were also included.

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Date	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 20	Nov 20	Nov 19
No. Species	11	11	18	20	23

Over the five years, a total of 44 different species were seen with flowers. In many cases, these were simply the last few flowers to be produced and might have involved a single flower. These are summarized in Table 2. Two species were recorded in flower in all five years. These were Common Dandelion and Wormseed Mustard. Canada Goldenrod and Musk Mallow were noted in four years of observation. All of the other species were seen in one to three years each.

The numbers of flowering species increased from a low of 11 in 2002 and 2003 to a high of 23 in 2006 (Figure 1). The explanation for the increase (doubling) in only five years is uncertain. The core observers remained the same and the effort expended was approximately equal across all years. The date of observation in the latter years were slightly later; therefore, this cannot provide the explanation. The possibility that the trend is due to climate change does present itself; however, such a dramatic change in so short a period seems most improbable. The most likely explanation is that we are only observing year-to-year variability in flower production. It is likely that the trend noted is only a chance phenomenon where the reverse pattern could have prevailed just as easily.



**FIGURE 1.** Annual changes in numbers of late-flowering plant species in North Halton from 2002 to 2006

**Table 2.** Summary of plant species observed in flower in mid-November 2002 to 2005 in North Halton

Scientific Name	Common Name	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<i>Agalinis purpurea</i> (L.) Pennell	Large Purple Agalinis			+		
<i>Alcea rosea</i> L.	Hollyhock			+		
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> L.	Chives			+	+	
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> L.	False-indigo				+	
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i> L.	Yellow Chamomile			+		+
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i> L.	Garden Snapdragon				+	+
<i>Calendula officinalis</i> L.	Calendula				+	+
<i>Campanula carpatica</i> Jacq.	Carpathian Harebell			+		
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> L.	Harebell		+	+	+	
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	Lamb's-quarters		+			
<i>Chrysanthemum</i> hybrid sp.	Garden Chrysanthemum			+	+	+
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop.	Canada Thistle	+				
<i>Diplotaxis muralis</i> (L.) DC	Wall-rocket	+			+	+
<i>Erysimum chieranthoides</i> L.	Wormseed Mustard	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Geranium bicknellii</i> Britton	Bicknell's Crane's-bill			+	+	
<i>Geranium Wallichianum</i>	Perennial Geranium					
<i>Gypsophila elegans</i> M. Beib.	Annual Baby's-breath				+	
<i>Lamium album</i> L.	Snowflake					+
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i> L.	Fall Hawkbit			+		
<i>Liatris cylindracea</i> Michaux	Cylindric Blazing Star	+		+		+
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i> Miller	Yellow Toadflax	+				
<i>Lonicera japonica</i> (Thunb.)	Japanese Honeysuckle		+			
<i>Malva moschata</i> L.	Musk Mallow	+		+	+	+
<i>Malva neglecta</i> Wallr.	Cheeses			+		+
<i>Matricaria perforata</i> Merat	Scentless Chamomile		+		+	+
<i>Mentha</i> sp.	Mint sp.					+
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> L. Elkington	Shrubby Cinquefoil					+
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i> (Vent.) Barnhart	Gray-headed Coneflower	+				
<i>Rosa</i> sp.	Garden Rose				+	
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> L.	Sweetbrier Rose		+			
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> L.	Black-eyed Susan		+		+	
<i>Salvia officinalis</i> L.	Common Sage					+
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> L.	Common Groundsel		+		+	+
<i>Solidago canadensis</i> L.	Canada Goldenrod		+	+	+	+
<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i> (L.)	Heath Aster	+				+
<i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i> (L.) Britton	Aster, Calico	+	+			
<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i> (L.)	New England Aster	+			+	+
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i> (L.) Schultz-Bip.	Feverfew				+	+
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> L.	Common Tansy					+
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> G. Weber	Common Dandelion	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i> L.	Field Penny-cress			+		
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> L.	Red Clover			+		
<i>Vinca minor</i> L.	Periwinkle					+
<i>Viola tricolor</i> L. var. <i>hortensis</i> DC	Garden Pansy			+		

## Kayaking Adventures on Georgian Bay

Kelly and I headed to the north end of Georgian Bay in August for a sea kayaking trip starting at Killarney Provincial Park, and ending at the Key River and Hwy 69. With 12 days' supply of food and gear all packed into the 16' kayaks we started out late afternoon for our first trip, by ourselves, on the Great Lakes of Ontario. We camped on small rocky islands – some were designated sites near the French River, but most were isolated spots we picked on crown land. Tent pegs were often impossible given the bedrock, and the last day the only way we could hold the tent down in the howling wind was to put a rock in each corner.

On our journey out of Beaverstone Bay to the French River delta, we passed through a group of islands called The Chickens. We saw many Monarch butterflies here, but no chickens. The butterflies were often far from shore, but on land they seemed to prefer goldenrod.

On the nights that were clear we were treated to the Perseid meteor shower. What a sight when you have no light pollution! The trick was to hide in the tent at dusk, then lie on the still warm rocks when the mosquitoes died down. Sometimes the stars were joined by the call of loons.

We paddled across Georgian Bay from the French River to a group of islands called the Bustards. They sit about 5 km offshore with a few cottages and a couple of camp sites. This was a thriving commercial fishing settlement until the 1950s when the Sea Lamprey and over-fishing depleted the stocks. When reading about the history of Georgian Bay we also learned that fishermen blamed the saw mills as early as 1900 for destroying spawning beds with saw dust. You can still see the remnants of both these industries in Collin's Inlet, the Bustards, the French River and Key Harbour. In some spots, old dock pilings still line the water's edge.

While out in the Bustards we experienced some windy days, so we explored the sheltered channels between the islands. We were quite taken by the swirling colourful rock formations, and enjoyed going places that the big cruisers and sail boats could not go. One day we watched a watersnake eat a sculpin, a small bottom-dwelling fish. We also put our "new" used kayaks through their paces and learned what we could handle in terms of waves. Lots of fun once our confidence grew a bit!



We did not see many birds, but we did see a Bald Eagle, Common Loons, Caspian Terns and mergansers. The gulls, ravens and turkey vultures were our other companions. Some sites had many frogs living in the stagnant, mosquito-filled pools in the bedrock hollows. On the Bustards, a very bold vole repeatedly explored our cooking area. On our last night there, we also had a close visit by a young bear. Andrew yelled and scared it off, but we kept the bear bangers handy in case of any more visits.

After 10 days on the water, we headed up the Key River back civilization and the land of french fries. We really couldn't complain as we ate well on the trip (e.g., fresh baked pizza and cinnamon rolls)!

On our way back home we drove across Manitoulin Island – unexplored country for us. While driving across the island we saw over 20 Sandhill Cranes in the fields. That was a memorable sight to see, and a good ending to our fantastic trip.

*Andrew Kellman*

