



# The Esquesing

Nov - Dec 2018 Newsletter  
Volume 53, Number 2



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## President's Message

To complain is human. And those of us with an affinity for nature and the environment, certainly have lots to complain about. But what value does complaining have, if that is all we do? Complaining should surely not be an end in itself, but a prompt to take positive action.

Laura Weihs, our newsletter editor, has recognized a problem and is now taking initial steps towards solving it. She is concerned with the profuse garbage that despoils roadsides throughout our area. She is also alarmed that plastics are fouling our oceans and harming wildlife.

Laura has already shared her concerns with Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and has connected with a group in Nova Scotia called Plastic Free Lunenburg to find out how they have tackled the problem of plastic waste. Laura also believes in walking the talk. On many occasions she has cleaned up neighbourhood roadsides, both in Georgetown and in rural Halton Hills. In September she was joined by several club members who made a modest dent in the profuse garbage along Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown.

Laura and the club executive will be discussing how the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club can work with the Town of Halton Hills on strategies to reduce waste. And she will be looking for some motivated club members to get involved in finding solutions.

Another club initiative, now in the planning stages, is a project offering a pollinator garden workshop for homeowners in the spring of 2019. The club has secured a grant from the Town of Halton Hills Community Sustainability Investment Fund to purchase plants to give to workshop participants. Those participants will also learn about local biodiversity and how to support biodiversity in their gardens. In this initiative, it was club members Alexis Buset and Fiona Reid who chose to move beyond complaining to action.

Another initiative, just over, was the club's Norway maple removal at Silver Creek Conservation Area. Again, this was action in response to a problem. Many of us complain about Norway maples... this was an opportunity to set back a local naturalized population. About ten club members turned out and removed over 100 Norway maples of various dimensions. Upon reflection, we now generally acknowledge that we were overly zealous in cutting large trees that should have been left to experts with power saws. We will adjust our approach next time. Regardless, a significant reduction in the number of Norway maples at this site has been achieved. Special credit must be given to club member Jonah Hobbs, a grade nine student, whose metal wedge, fabricated in his high school shop class, worked wonders – prying open cuts so that the saws wouldn't bind and get stuck.

I'll finish with one more example of our club taking positive action, one that despite lauding in previous President's Messages, bears another mention: our bird box program at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park and Scotsdale Farm. The bird boxes, constructed by club member Kim Dobson, are another shining example of action yielding very positive results – in this case satisfying the housing needs of various cavity nesting songbirds.

I'm glad club members use their complaints and concerns as a springboard to action. Though negative environmental news dominates our world, there are glimmers of hope. That hope can be nurtured by learning more from people who are dedicated to the conservation of the nature we love. In upcoming meetings we'll hear from advocates for spiders, for Ontario's badgers, and for insects... "the little things that run the world". And watch your inbox for outdoor nature discovery opportunities. Winter birds, winter tree identification and animal tracking await.

**Don Scallen**

## Talks and Walks

**Indoor Events:** Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, September to June at St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, 537 Main Street, Glen Williams, unless stated otherwise.

**Tuesday November 13, 2018**

**Josh Sayers: Ontario Badgers**

Josh Sayers of Ontario Badgers will tell us about a mammal that most Ontarians don't realize exists in the province. Ontario Badgers is involved in advocacy work, conservation and research to protect and better understand the ecology of badgers in the province. To learn more, visit their site <http://www.ontariobadgers.org/>

**Thursday, November 22, 2018 at 7:30 pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the New "Local Litter & Waste Reduction Committee"!**

The new "Local Litter and Waste Reduction Committee" needs your help! Single use plastics are a hot topic and for good reason, consumerism is growing out of hand and our world is becoming a disposable world! Please come to share your ideas on what we can do as a club to effect positive change and create initiatives to inspire others to reverse this dangerous trend! See page 6 for more details. Please RSVP Laura Weihs at [biker\\_chic@sympatico.ca](mailto:biker_chic@sympatico.ca) or cell: 289-839-2156. **Note the location of the meeting is at Laura's home: Townhouse unit #28 at 76 River Dr., Georgetown.**

**Tuesday December 11, 2018**

**Annual Pot Luck and Slide Show**

Come for Ray Blower's legendary bean salad and also for the opportunity to share some of your nature experiences with the club. If you participate in the slide show, please limit your presentation to ten minutes or less. ***Please remember to bring your own plates, cutlery and mugs!***

**Tuesday January 8, 2019**

**Laura Timms, PhD: The little things that run the world: Trends and issues in insect conservation**

Laura Timms works for Credit Valley Conservation. Katie McDonnell, also with CVC, provided this description of Laura's presentation: "Headlines around the world have been

discussing a potential “Insect Armageddon” as a recent study from Germany found a 75% decline in insect biomass in protected areas over 30 years, and other researchers have been noting alarming trends in insect decline. Laura Timms an Ecologist at CVC with a background in entomology, will discuss this study and provide some general context about global trends in insect populations, why you should care, and what we can do.”

To learn more <http://theconversation.com/insect-armageddon-five-crucial-questions-answered-86171>

**Tuesday February 12, 2019**

**TBA**

**Tuesday March 12, 2019**

**Eat Prey Love: The Secret Lives of Spiders**

Catherine Scott has studied spiders around the world and is working on her PhD from the University of Toronto researching spiders, particularly the reproductive lives of Black Widow Spiders. Her presentation will highlight aspects of the natural history of spiders near and far. A passionate spider advocate, Scott will challenge common assumptions about just how dangerous our North American spiders are. This quote captures her take on spiders: “Spiders are among the most misunderstood animals we humans share this planet with, but a glimpse into their world of ingenious silk traps, masterful masquerade, and dangerous liaisons will show that they are far more fascinating than fearsome.”

To learn more visit Catherine Scott’s cleverly coined blog <http://spiderbytes.org/>

## **Outdoor Events**

**Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 1pm**

**Late Flowering Plants Survey Hike at Willow Park in Norval**

Bill McIlveen will again be leading this 17th annual survey to find and identify any flowering plants that are still blooming late in the season at sites around Halton Hills. Meet at the parking lot of the old public school, Mary Street, Norval at 1:00 pm where we will start our usual monitoring at the Lucy Maude Montgomery Garden and Willow Park. Afterwards, we will check the Dominion Seedhouse Gardens.

**Thursday, December 27, 2018**

**Christmas Bird Count**

The 28th annual Christmas Count for Halton Hills will take place in the standard survey area around Halton Hills on Thursday, December 27. The area will be divided into smaller areas with participants assisting experienced leaders. This is a great way for beginners to learn their birds. If you would like to join in any aspect of the count, please contact Bill McIlveen via e-mail at [wmcilveen@sympatico.ca](mailto:wmcilveen@sympatico.ca), at (519) 853-3948, or send us a message at [info@hnpnc.com](mailto:info@hnpnc.com). More details are forthcoming.

**TBA:** Watch your inbox for other autumn/early winter outdoor club events which will likely include winter tree identification, animal tracking and searches for owls.

**Outdoor Event Questions? Contact Don Scallen at [dscallen@cogeco.ca](mailto:dscallen@cogeco.ca)**

## Member Survey

Don Scallen is interested in the species of birds that nest in our yards. Please note that this does not include the species that avail themselves of our yards on migration or those that drop by to forage for a while and then return to wilder places.

Here is the list that Don Scallen has compiled from his neighborhood in Georgetown over the last half century:

house wren  
black-capped chickadee  
starling  
house sparrow  
house finch  
mourning dove  
rock pigeon  
American robin  
American crow  
cardinal  
grackle  
chipping sparrow  
tree swallow (one nesting record)  
**13 species total**

Sorry! Don, being a townie, is just interested in urban bird nesting records at this time. He casts covetous eyes on the bird-rich properties that so many of our members occupy in rural areas. Also, if you add to Don's list please tell him whether your urban property backs onto a greenbelt area like a ravine. Such a setting will influence the nesting of birds. Send your records to:

[dscallen@cogeco.ca](mailto:dscallen@cogeco.ca)

*Ah, for life to always be  
as free as the birds  
and as sweet as their song!*

Unknown Author



# New “Local Litter & Waste Reduction Committee” needs your help!

By Laura Weihs

I’m thrilled to report that a new committee was formed at the last executive meeting on October 26th! Perhaps the name isn’t catchy, but it defines the goal. Litter is a problem along our roadsides and in some of our local parks. Picking litter up is helpful but certainly



is not near enough! We need a change in mindset to litter intolerance, just as we’ve changed attitudes towards our tolerance of smoking as well as drinking and driving. This takes time, but as we’ve seen, it can be done! In addition, we all need to make changes in moving towards a “Zero Waste Lifestyle” by reducing our own waste to the landfill and recycling depot while encouraging others to do so the same.

Barber Mill Park where I regularly pick up litter laying right beside the garbage can!

The new “Local Litter and Waste Reduction Committee” needs your help... we need your ideas to make positive changes, inspire others to do so and put pressure on government to enact change. We need to actually “do” something about it. Public pressure is key, it was what brought about the European Parliament to ban single-use plastic items where there are available valid alternatives and make companies more accountable for their plastic waste!

Litter, especially single use-plastics is a growing global problem, consumerism is growing out of hand and our world is becoming a disposable world BUT together we can effect positive change and create initiatives to inspire others to reverse this dangerous trend!

*Please come to help* in whatever capacity you are able, whether it is sharing ideas, gathering information, helping plan an event or helping at an event, anything you can offer will be appreciated!

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**Be a “Zero Hero” and help us promote zero waste!** Come to our 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting at Laura’s home Unit #28 at 76 River Dr., Georgetown  
**Thursday, November 22 at 7:30 pm**  
Please RSVP Laura at [biker\\_chic@sympatico.ca](mailto:biker_chic@sympatico.ca) or cell 289-839-2156

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## The Remarkable Red-backed Salamander

Article and photos by Don Scallen

Quick, what is the most common vertebrate species in our local woodlands? Almost certainly the red-backed salamander. The population densities of these small, slender



Red-backed salamander up close and personal.

amphibians have been estimated at 500 to 9,000 per hectare in studies in neighbouring Michigan. And a study of red-backed salamander biomass found that it outstripped that of all breeding woodland birds at the research site by 2.5 times. Another estimate suggests that their biomass is about equal to the biomass of all the small mammals (mice, shrews, chipmunks and squirrels) in woodlands.

These numbers are easy to believe if you've looked for red-backs after dark on moist evenings in the autumn. I've been out a few times with friends at this time of year to do just that. On one recent evening at Silver Creek Conservation Area we found over 30 red-backed salamanders in a small patch of woodland in about one hour of searching. Another search in mid-October yielded over 60 in a similar time period.



Mottled form of red-backed salamander, apparently a rarity.

One of the most striking features of this nocturnal salamander bonanza is the fact that many of them were well off the ground, perched atop herbaceous plants and the branches of shrubs. Several were even observed climbing the trunks of trees.

I assumed, until recently, that the main objective of the nocturnal wanderings of these salamanders was foraging – the search for last suppers of spiders, springtails, pill bugs and worms before the onset of winter.

They probably do feed in the fall, but they also have another excellent reason to be above ground – sex. I've recently read that red-backed salamanders mate in the fall. Some of the behaviour we witnessed suggests that reproduction may in fact be their primary autumnal focus. We came across one tree (a large bitternut hickory) that had 10 red-backed salamanders on and around its base. We came across another group of five salamanders on the forest floor, all within ten cm or so of each other. One salamander was clearly following another and would periodically vibrate its tail.



Red-backed salamanders tree climbing

And the red-backed salamanders on the trunks of trees or climbing on branches? This climbing may have reproductive value too. By getting above the quiet air of the forest floor, pheromones may have a better opportunity to travel. (This behaviour is common to other creatures like the giant silkworm moths I raise. Female cecropia and polyphemus moths attract males with pheromones. The female moths, if confined, will usually climb upwards in an enclosure, presumably to be able to better disperse their pheromones.)

I am marvelling at my new-found knowledge of autumn red-backed salamander reproductive activity. The gatherings we saw could well be analogous to the mating congregations of

spotted salamanders in vernal pools, that we have long enjoyed observing in the spring. Of course, unlike spotted salamander breeding, all the reproductive activity of red-backed salamanders takes place on terra firma, instead of in the water. Though most amphibians need to lay eggs in water, not so the red-backs. Females lay small grape-like clusters of eggs under stones or suspended in the cavities of rotting logs. And they care for the eggs, keeping them moist and protecting them from other salamanders and predatory insects.



Lead backed phase of red-backed salamander

But the fascinating story of red-backed salamanders extends beyond their interesting reproductive lives. For example, though they are land-dwelling vertebrates, they don't have lungs. Instead, they absorb oxygen through their skin. This odd method of respiration explains why red-backed salamanders only walk the world on humid nights. Their skin needs to be moist to allow oxygen to diffuse into their bodies.



Red-backed salamander regrowing severed tail

I was reminded of another exceptional characteristic of red-backed salamanders when we found a tailless individual. Red-backed salamanders, like some lizards, lose their tails easily when attacked. Predators fixate on the squirming appendages while the newly tailless salamanders make good their getaways. And as befits these amazing creatures, they can grow their tails back.

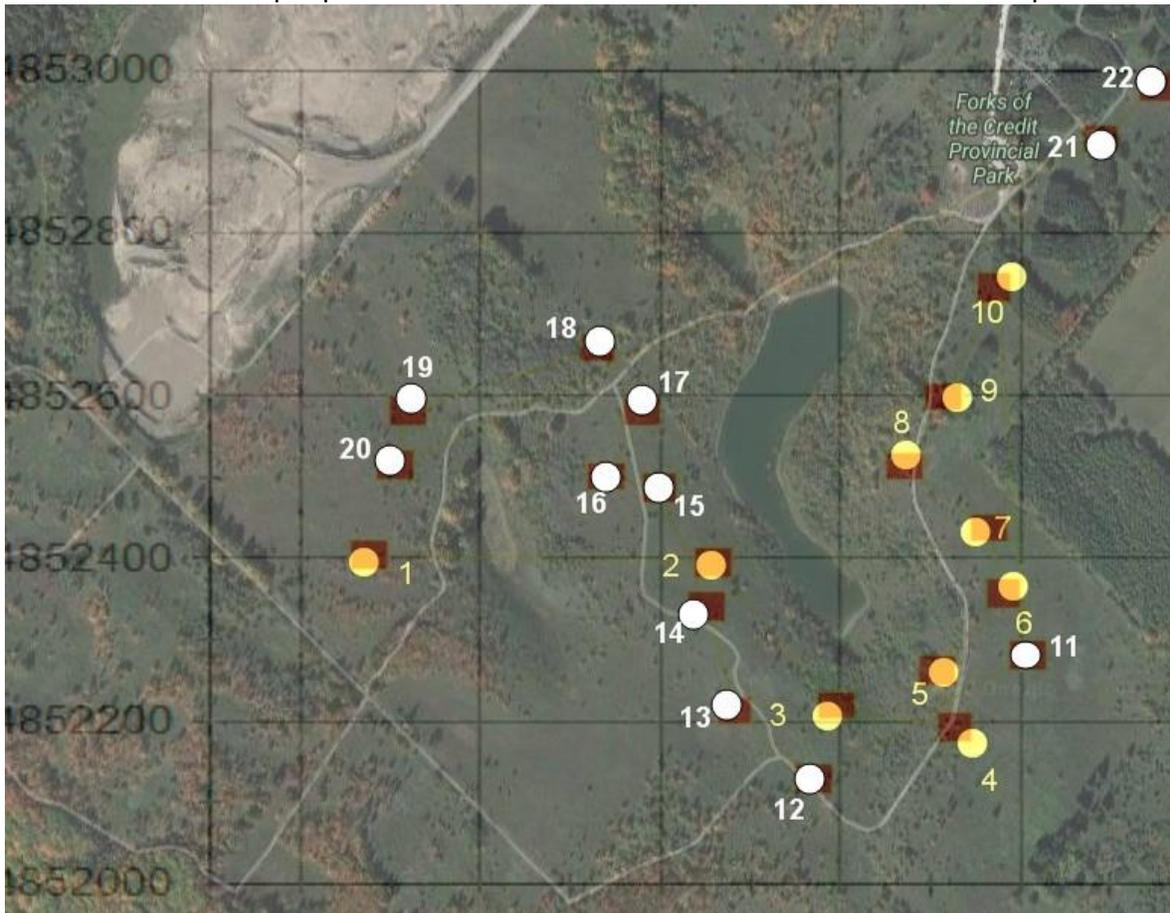
I could go on. But I'll end with this. Research has shown that red-backed salamander skin hosts bacteria that provides a protective shield against the deadly chytrid fungi that is ravaging amphibian populations in various parts of the world. Red-backed salamanders are truly remarkable animals.

## Bird Box Use at Forks-of-the-Credit Provincial Park, 2018

Article and photos by W.D. McIlveen

In 2017, the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club (HNP) established an initial set of ten bird nesting boxes in the Forks-of-the-Credit Provincial Park in Caledon. Based on the high rate (100%) and multiple use of the bird boxes [McIlveen, 2018], it was suggested that there was a need for additional nesting opportunities for cavity-nesting bird species. In response, the nest box trail was more-than-doubled to 22 boxes.

This suggests that there is a shortage of breeding sites for cavity-nesting species in the Forks-of-the-Credit Park, at least in the grassland sites where the boxes were placed. In response, the box tally was more than doubled to 22 boxes on April 22, 2018. The new boxes followed the same design and used the same metal T-bar fence post supports and were supplied with baffles. The boxes were of a design suitable for Eastern Bluebirds or Tree Swallows. The boxes were placed in open sites to reduce predation by snakes or certain mammals. One of these (Box FC-01) was dedicated to the memory of Valerie Dobson with a small plaque. The locations of the boxes are indicated on the map below.

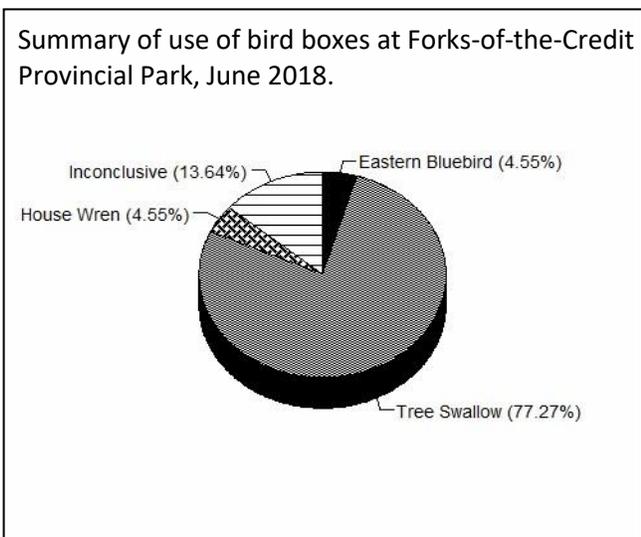


Location of bird boxes at Forks-of-the-Credit Provincial Park.

The boxes were examined for evidence of breeding birds during 2018 by members of HNP. The first visit was made on June 15 during the peak of the breeding season. The last visit was made on October 14 to document the nest box contents and to clean the boxes.



All 22 boxes were used during the 2018 breeding season. One box each were used by Eastern Bluebird and House Wren at the time of the June visit. Seventeen boxes were used by Tree Swallows. The remaining three boxes were listed as inconclusive with respect to occupants but they were likely being used by additional Tree Swallows. Of the 12 Tree Swallow boxes where the contents were determined, a total of 49 nestlings were tallied. Assuming comparable brood size for the other boxes, it would be quite reasonable to believe that the total Tree Swallow cohort was at least 60 young Swallows. The Bluebird nest had two eggs at the time of the first visit and it is quite possible additional eggs could still have been produced after the visit.

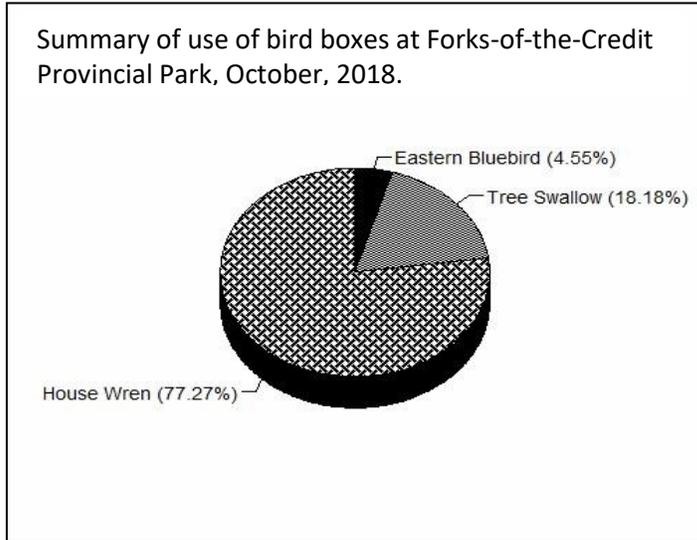


The contents of the nest boxes were quite different at the October clean-out date. The Bluebird box was unchanged and four boxes had only typical Tree Swallow nests. The big change was that 17 boxes had typical Tree Swallow nests in the bottom (corresponding to the nest contents observed in June) but they had sticks typical of Wren nests built on top of the Tree Swallow nests. While some of these Wren nests may only have been dummy

nests, some had cups within the sticks suggesting that the Wrens used those nests for breeding after the Swallows had departed. A small part of one Wren egg was found in one of the nests. Two boxes contained White-footed or possibly Deer Mice. One Mouse had used the down from the abundant Milkweed to build its nest.



Bird box with Tree Swallow nest on bottom, House Wren nest in middle and topped by mouse nest made from Milkweed seed fluff.



With the exception of one box that needs only to be raised back to its intended position, the boxes are all in good condition and ready for occupancy in 2019.

Reference

McIlveen, W.D. 2018. Bird Box Use at Forks-of-the-Credit Provincial Park, 2017. *The Esquesing*. Vol. 52 (4) pp. 18-19.

**From the Web:**

A great reason why we should plant native shrubs, trees and wildflowers on our properties <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/news/new-smithsonian-study-links-declines-suburban-backyard-birds-presence-nonnative-plants>

For a far deeper treatment of this topic read *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy. (reviewed by DJW in the September/October issue of *The Esquesing*)

**A macabre caterpillar tale from National Geographic on YouTube. Caution... not suitable for anyone prone to excessive squeamishness!**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMG-LWYncAs>

**Project FeederWatch:** a citizen science opportunity for anyone who feeds the birds.  
<https://www.birdscanada.org/news/join-project-feederwatch-a-fascinating-way-to-help-birds>

# Group Litter Pick Up Report

By Laura Weihs

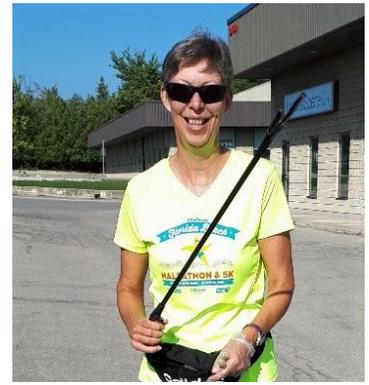
On Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 six of us met in the assigned parking lot on Armstrong Ave. to pick up litter. We were thankful for the fairly early start time because it was a very hot day!

We filled bags with waste and managed to separate some recycling materials out. We tried filling mostly paper bags vs green garbage bags to avoid putting more plastic into the landfill and they worked quite nicely, so we'll do that again. It's amazing (and unfortunate) how much was picked up in only 1/2 kilometer distance. There were even some large items pulled out of the vegetation that I had to call the works department to pick up.

Afterwards we enjoyed cooling down and having a chat. Of course we talked a lot about the litter problem and recycling issues!

***I want to thank everyone for the huge effort that they put into this!***

We'll be looking for more recruits for our next pick up which will most likely happen in the Spring!!!



Watch out litter, Laura's armed and dangerous!



Our hardworking "Litter Patrol" left to right: Lorysa Cornish, Duncan Mounsey, Alexis Buset, Yves Scholten & Don Scallen.



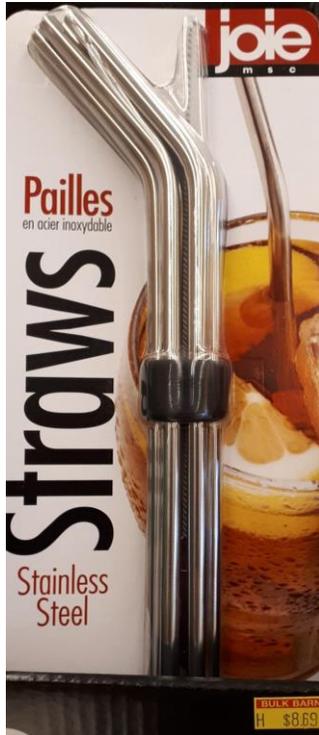
Photo from the LITTERATI app photo gallery.

Below: two piles for the Works Department to pick up.



## Work Toward a Zero Waste Lifestyle!

By Laura Weihs



While shopping at BulkBarn I noticed a package of reusable stainless steel straws along with a cleaning brush displayed at the checkout. These seem like a great idea to replace plastic or paper straws! The girl at the counter said she loved hers for smoothies and used the brush with vinegar and water for an easy clean up.

As well, there are all sorts of reusable and inexpensive travel mugs and cups available at most department stores. You can boycott single-use plastic water bottles by bringing our own reusable travel cup or bottle when we are out and about. Many public places such as airports and malls have a special spigot at the water fountain usually near a washroom. This premise applies to single-use coffee cups and lids. We keep two extra travel mugs in the van in case we make an unscheduled stop for a cup of coffee. This simple act saves us money, the resources used to make single use cups or bottles and most important... safeguards the environment! I have a real “bee in my bonnet” about take out coffee cups and water bottles as they make up a large percentage of the litter I pick up! In a survey through

Greenpeace Canada's oceans and plastics campaign they recorded Nestlé Pure Life and Tim Hortons as the top two brands accounting for 40 per cent of identifiable trash. See <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/greenpeace-plastic-brand-audits-1.4855450>

Kudos to those of you who I saw using your reusable mugs and water bottles at the last club meeting – you’re setting a great example!

If anyone has any tips or environmentally friendly product suggestions, please feel free to e-mail them to me at [biker\\_chic@sympatico.ca](mailto:biker_chic@sympatico.ca) I’d be glad to share these in the newsletter!

### **Reduce — Reuse — Recycle!**

Reduce what you consume.

Repair when possible.

Reuse by choosing second-hand and reusable options.

Recycle what remains.

## Report on Evening Walks for 2018 – South Peel Naturalists and Halton/North Peel Naturalists

W.D. McIlveen

The South Peel Naturalists (SPN) have hosted evening walks for the members since before 1992. For many years now, the walks have been a joint venture between SPN and the Halton/North Peel Naturalists Club. The program continued during the summer of 2018 when a total of 16 evening walks were scheduled between May 14 and August 27. As usual, all walks were done in various areas of Halton and Peel Regions as indicated in the following table. The names of the leaders and the numbers of participants on each walk are indicated. As in previous years, an attempt was made to alternate sites in the south and the north part of the area. Overall, there were 5 different leaders (Kirsten Burling, Emily Dobson, W. McIlveen, Fiona Reid, and Dawn Renfrew). Some energetic soul may want to make a more accurate count of all of the walks over the years as listed in old newsletters but a reasonable estimate of the total walks that have been conducted should stand at about 350 after this current year.

Date	Location	Leader	Attendance
14-May	Oakville - The Parkway	Bill McIlveen	4 people
21-May	Winston Woods	Bill McIlveen	5 people
28-May	Speyside and Scotch Block	Fiona Reid	4 people
4-Jun	Acton Swift Watch	Emily Dobson	8 people
11-Jun	Scotsdale Bird Box	Bill McIlveen	10 people
18-Jun	Fisher's Pond	Bill McIlveen	2 people
25-Jun	Vanderleck Trail, Speyside	Dawn Renfrew	7 people
2-Jul	Morrison Valley Park	Bill McIlveen	4people
9-Jul	Crozier Tract	Bill McIlveen	5 people
16-Jul	Erindale Park	Bill McIlveen	Rained out
23-Jul	Britton Tract East	Bill McIlveen	6 people
30-Jul	Sixteen Valley Creek	Bill McIlveen	8 people
6-Aug	Swift Night Out	Emily Dobson	9 people
13-Aug	Elliott Tract	Bill McIlveen	4 people
20-Aug	Ratray Marsh	Kirsten Burling	15 people
27-Aug	Speyside Bats	Fiona Reid	10 people

The event on July 16 was rained out by a fierce thunderstorm right at the time the walk was scheduled. Excluding this event, attendance was fairly good with an overall average of 6.7 people per event which is lower than usual but not the lowest since we started to track participation.

As in the last three years, two of the walks were timed allow people to participate in two Chimney Swift watches at Acton and the former Oakville Trafalgar High School. It has become customary to include at least one walk at the Crozier Tract to maintain custodial responsibilities for that and the adjoining Hardy Tract, one walk to conduct monitoring of

the bird nest box trail at Scotsdale, and one to visit Rattray Marsh during the migration period for Common Nighthawks. Other walks were done at a variety of different locations, each with its own interesting features.

On every outing, one, or more often, many interesting things were seen. This included good views or high numbers or new encounters of different animals, plants, birds, insects, etc. All indications were that the participants who did attend enjoyed their time on the walks. While it is far too early to plan any details for next season, it is highly probable that a similar program will be arranged in 2019.



Naturalist Club members admiring stand of Cardinal flower at Elliot Tract, August 13, 2018.



Naturalist Club members preparing for walk in Rattray Marsh, August 20, 2018.

## Were You Paying Attention?

We had a suggestion that some publications include a quiz to see how much you paid attention to what you read! It would have a question perhaps from each article. I thought it could be fun, so I've given it a try! Please let us know what you think of it.

- 1) How many species were on Don Scallen's list of nesting birds in his urban Georgetown neighborhood over the last half century?
- 2) What is the name of the new committee formed on October 26th?
- 3) Other than feeding in the fall, what other excellent reason do red-backed salamanders have to be above ground?
- 4) How many bird nest boxes does the club currently have installed at Forks-of-the-Credit Park?
- 5) How many bird nest boxes were used during the 2018 breeding season?
- 6) When will our next litter pick up likely be?
- 7) What were the 4 R's listed at the bottom of the *Work Towards a Zero Waste Lifestyle* article?
- 8) Who led the most Evening Walks?
- 9) How many Evening Walks did Bill estimate took place over the years?

**The answers are on the last page.**

# November/December Quiz

Answers on last page of newsletter



## Autumn

No melancholy days are these!  
Not where the maple changing stands,  
Not in the shade of fluttering oaks,  
Nor in the bands

Of twisting vines and sturdy shrubs,  
Scarlet and yellow, green and brown,  
Falling, or swinging on their stalks,  
Is Sorrow's crown.

The sparkling fields of dewy grass,  
Woodpaths and roadsides decked with flowers,  
Starred asters and the goldenrod,  
Date Autumn's hours.

The shining banks of snowy clouds,  
Steadfast in the aerial blue,  
The silent, shimmering, silver sea,  
To Joy are true.

My spirit in this happy air  
Can thus embrace the dying year,  
And with it wrap me in a shroud  
As bright and clear!

Elizabeth Drew Stoddard

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

Charity Registration number 869778761RR0001

**Executive**

President: Don Scallen (905) 876-6180  
Past President: Fiona Reid (905) 693-9719  
Vice President: Ian Jarvie (905) 877-1441  
Secretary: Ann Fraser  
Treasurer: Janice Sukhiani (647) 408-9515

**Appointments**

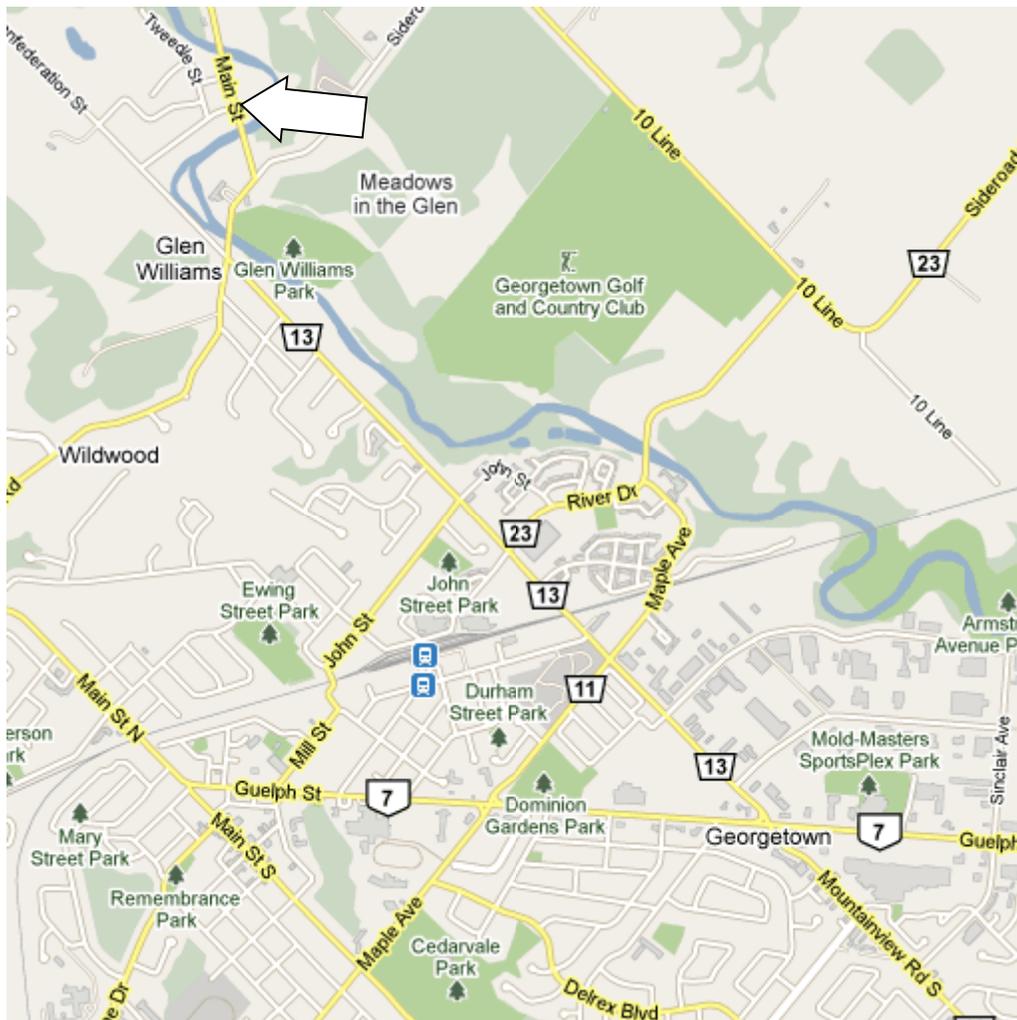
Membership: Lorysa Cornish  
Newsletter: Laura Weihs  
Ontario Nature Representative: Don Scallen  
Webmaster: John Beaudette  
Crozier Property Steward  
Hardy Property Steward Ray Blower

Membership for one year: \$30 Single; \$40 Family  
The Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club is an affiliated member of Ontario Nature.

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

**Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club**

Meetings are at St Alban’s Church in Glen Williams starting at 7:30 p.m.



## Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club Membership Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal or \_\_\_\_\_ New Member(s)                      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New membership fee for the period:

from September through to August	_____	Single (\$30.00)	_____	Family (\$40.00)	
from December through to August	_____	Single (\$22.50)	_____	Family (\$30.00)	from
March through to August	_____	Single (\$15.00)	_____	Family (\$20.00)	
from June through to August	_____	Single (\$ 7.50)	_____	Family (\$10.00)	

Would you like to make a donation to help send a youth to the **Ontario Nature Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership**? If yes, amount of donation:

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any suggestions for programs or field trips?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### WAIVER OF LIABILITY

(must be signed by anyone planning to attend field trips or other outdoor activities)

In making this application, I affirm that I am in good health, capable of performing the exercise required to participate, and that I accept as my personal risk the hazards of such participation and will not hold the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club or its representatives responsible.

In consideration of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club accepting my application, I hereby and forever release and discharge the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club and its officers, directors, servants and agents from any liability whatsoever arising as a result of my participation in these trips and declare that this is binding upon me, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigned.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Please fill out this form and bring it in to next indoor meeting or mail with payment to:

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

## **Answers to “Were you Paying Attention?”**

1. There were 13 species on Don’s list.
2. “Local Litter & Waste Reduction Committee”
3. Sex of course!
4. We have 22 nest boxes at Forks-of-the-Credit Park.
5. All 22 boxes were used during the 2018 breeding season!
6. In the Spring.
7. Reduce what you consume. Repair when possible. Reuse by choosing second-hand and reusable options. Recycle what remains.
8. Bill lead the most Evening Walks.
9. Bill estimated that 350 Evening Walks took place over the years!

## **Answers to the Picture Quiz**

1. Tulip tree leaf and seed pod
2. Hairy woodpecker
3. Sycamore tree
4. Red-tailed hawk
5. Yellow birch
6. White-crowned sparrow
7. Trumpeter swan
8. Artist conk fungi
9. Beech leaves
10. Pawpaw leaves and fruit