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President's Message

Ah the fickle February weather! First it nixes our regularly scheduled indoor meeting and then puts the kibosh on my planned tracking date. Oh well... I just complained to a gentleman whose son works in northern Alberta where daytime temperatures struggled to reach -20 Celsius for much of February. One night dropped below -40 (sans windchill). So, it could be worse.

Despite the weather, we're on the cusp of spring. Really!! Before the end of March, yellow spotted salamanders will methodically negotiate drifts of snow and ice to reach vernal pools. And wood frogs will thaw out... yes they freeze... and test their vocal sacs. And birds including woodcock, bluebirds and turkey vultures will begin winging back from the south.

As a club we will become more animated too as the sun reenergizes the land. We will be busy through the spring months with field trips, meadow maintenance, litter clean up and an exciting pollinator garden/biodiversity workshop. I'm really hoping that you'll be able to participate in some of these events.

Indoors we have a great line-up. Everyone's favourite group of invertebrates – spiders – will be the topic du jour in March, and in April Mark Engstrom from the ROM will drop by to tell us about the recovery of two blue whale skeletons in Newfoundland. It's a whale of a tale!

The cardinals are calling throughout the land. They know that winter's days are numbered. Here comes the sun, and I say... It's alright!

Don Scallen

Winter getting to you? The *Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory*

might be just what you need! Feel and breathe in the warm spring air, smell fragrant flowers, visit the "Emergence Window" to watch butterflies emerge from their chrysalides as well as see numerous species in flight and at feeding stations, not to mention some other interesting insects and colourful birds!

I've been getting reports about the brutal weather at home and thought this might be a nice suggestion to bring a little relief your way!

Laura

For information go to:

<https://www.cambridgebutterfly.com/>



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 March 12, 2019

Catherine Scott: 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/>

Tuesday April 9, 2019

Mark Engstrom: Out of the Depths. The sweat and science of the ROM's Blue Whale salvaging project.

Mark Engstrom is the Deputy Director for Collections Research at the Royal Ontario Museum. In 2014 Mark and his team travelled to Newfoundland to recover the skeletons of two blue whales that had washed ashore. Imagine overseeing the "flensing" of two of these 90-ton behemoths! That was Mark's task, one that demanded the coordination of research staff, government officialdom, and heavy equipment operators. Testimony to the success of the project was a blue whale skeleton unveiled at the ROM in 2017, anchoring a fascinating exhibit on the natural history of these magnificent animals.

Tuesday May 14, 2019

Don Scallen: Wetland Wildlife. Frisky Frogs, Salacious Salamanders and more.

Don has waded into the bailiwicks of various wetland amphibians, invertebrates reptiles and, photographing and videotaping their private lives, including their reproductive behaviour. In 2016 Don spoke to the club about vernal pool life. This presentation will include new images from vernal pools but will also touch on the fascinating diversity of life that inhabits permanent wetlands.



Outdoor Events

NEW: Please bring gloves and a bag to pick up any litter. Let's give Mother Nature a helping hand and you'll get some extra exercise out of it with bending and stretching!

Saturday March 16, 2019. Tundra Swans at Long Point

Flocks of Tundra Swans stop at Long Point during their spring migration to their northern breeding grounds. Many other species of waterfowl, early-returning songbirds, Bald Eagle, and Short-eared Owl may also be seen on this long day trip. Be advised that lunch at the restaurant is usually after 1:00 pm and we usually do not head for home until around sunset. Bring snacks, water, a lunch or money for the restaurant, and layers of warm clothing, etc. Call Ray Blower, [\(519\) 853-0171](tel:5198530171) by Friday, March 15 for more details.

Dates TBA

Salamanders and Frogs

Watch your inbox for dates and times in late March or early April to view the annual appearance of spotted and Jefferson salamanders at local ponds. These outings are somewhat weather dependent, so the timing can't be set in stone yet. We will try to give you at least three or four days' notice.

Saturday March 30, 2019 (provisional date...will be confirmed soon and a meeting time indicated)

Woody vegetation removal at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park

Watch your inbox for a confirmed date for phase two of the club's woody vegetation removal at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park – this to maintain a portion of the park as meadow habitat, a goal set out in the park's management plan. We'll work in partnership with the MNNRF.

Saturday April 13, 2019

Beamer Conservation Area Hawkwatch, Grimsby

Stops on the way to Grimsby include Scotch Block reservoir and La Salle Park to see waterfowl and early songbirds. Beamer C.A., at the top of the escarpment in Grimsby, provides a large clearing and two cliff-edge platforms to search the sky for migrating hawks. Walking trails in the surrounding woods show early wildflowers and more songbirds. Bring a lunch, hat sunscreen, binoculars, etc. Call Ray Blower [\(519\) 853-0171](tel:5198530171) for starting location and time.

Saturday April 20, 2019

Timberdoodles at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park

The nuptial flights of amorous male woodcocks can be thrilling to witness. We'll meet at 8 pm in the parking lot at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park, accessed west off McLaren Road, Caledon between Forks of the Credit Road and Charleston Sideroad. There is a parking fee. The outing will last about an hour and the difficulty level is easy.

Sunday May 19, 2019

Spring Birding at Thickson Wood, Lynde Shores Conservation Area and Cranberry Marsh

If I had only one day in the spring to go birding, this is where I would go. These locations provide a wide variety of habitats including mature forest, meadows, swamps, marshes, old

fields and Lake Ontario and its shoreline. The result is a diverse collection of bird species, especially during spring migration. Scheduling on the Sunday of the Victoria Day holiday weekend has resulted, so far, in trouble-free driving to and from these Whitby birding hot spots. Bring a lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, binoculars, etc. Call Ray Blower (519) 853-0171 for starting location and times.

Three Other Events of Interest

Saturday April 27th 2019 - Earth Day

Closer to the time we'll invite club members to participate in the **Earth Day** events on Saturday, April 27 in the Town of Halton Hills. We'd like to have a group in the community litter pick up timed to allow members to purchase native trees and get free compost and woodchips as well as enjoy the BBQ at the event. We will also need volunteers for our booth at the Earth Day & Sustainability Fair at the Georgetown Market Place. ***We will send an e-blast with more details at a later date.***

Halton Hills Earth Day Event

Saturday April 27th 2019 - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Robert C. Austin Operations Centre: 11620 Trafalgar Road, Georgetown ON

Website: www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability/inOurCommunity.php

Celebrate Earth Day with the following activities:

- Residents can purchase trees for a nominal cost of \$5.00 (limit of 4 trees per person until 10:00 am). More on native trees available closer to the event.
- Pick up free compost and wood chips (bring your own shovel).
- Drop off Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), and Electronic Waste.
- Join us for a delicious breakfast and/or BBQ lunch.
- Donations for our local food banks will be gratefully accepted.

Community Open House and Sustainability Fair

Saturday April 27th 2019 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Georgetown Market Place - 280 Guelph St., Georgetown, ON

Website: www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability/inOurCommunity.php

For more information phone: 905-873-2601, ext. 2603



Saturday May 4 - Community Nature Walk and Clean Up

This walk, led by club president Don Scallen, is part of the Town of Halton Hills **Earth Week Celebrations**. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy the spring wildflowers and contribute to a cleaner environment by picking up litter. This outing is open to all community members, but naturalist club members are welcome. We'll meet at 1 pm on Miller Ave (between Lookout Court and View Point Circle) where parking is available along the side of the road. Then we'll descend into Hungry Hollow Ravine. The duration of the walk will be about 3 hours but participants can leave any time. This event will go rain or shine, unless thunderstorms are forecast. **Participation will be limited to 25 and will require registration in April.** Club members will be notified when registration opens. If you're really keen you can contact Don Scallen any time at dscallen@cogeco.ca

Bees and Beyond - A Pollinator and Biodiversity Workshop

This exciting club initiative, spearheaded by Alexis Buset and Fiona Reid, will offer native herbaceous plants to workshop participants. Those participants will also learn about local biodiversity and how to support biodiversity in their gardens. The club gratefully acknowledges the support of the Town of Halton Hills through their Community Sustainability Investment Fund.

Up to 12 spots will be made available to members of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club on a first come, first served basis. RSVP details to follow.

Saturday May 25, 2019

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Halton Hills Cultural Centre, Studio Space

9 Church St, Georgetown

Free of charge



Stay tuned for more information about the Club's upcoming Pollinator Workshop!

Match the Bird to the Song

Sweet Judy Blue Eyes: Crosby Stills and Nash

I'm So Lonely I Could Cry: Hank Williams Sr.

Blue Skies: Allman Brothers

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square: Vera Lynn

Flesh and Blood: Johnny Cash

I'll be Your Baby Tonight: Bob Dylan

Answers on last page.

- *whip-poor-will*
- *cardinal*
- *nightingale*
- *mockingbird*
- *ruby throated sparrow*
- *bluebird*



Update on the Snake Hibernaculum at Willow Park

W.D. McIlveen

In October 1998, members of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist's Club participated in the construction of a snake hibernaculum at Willow Park in Norval. At that time, the Willow Park Ecology Centre was still very new and few of the displays had been arranged. The inclusion of a demonstration hibernaculum to sustain snakes over the winter seemed to be very appropriate and consistent with the purpose behind the Ecology Centre.

Under the guidance of John Morton, soil was removed at the base of the shale cliff in the northwest corner of the park. In this excavated area, several small chambers were constructed of larger stones. These were covered sequentially by smaller stones and landscape fabric before the constructed chambers were covered over by soil. The design called for the chambers to be below the frost line but also to remain above the water table which would be dictated by water levels in the nearby Credit River. Two access openings were created between the now subterranean chambers and the surface so that any snakes could reach the protected locations. The attached photos illustrate two stages in the construction process.



Above hibernaculum during construction, October 1998 and below hibernaculum completed July 1999.



After the construction was done, there was nothing more to do than wait to see if the new facility was being used as intended. This would require three steps. The first was that snakes had to be present in the Park. Secondly, they had to find the site and lastly, they had to find it satisfactory. We know the first condition was easily met. We don't know for certain if the snakes are using the hibernaculum since no one has yet observed them entering or exiting the facility. A few casual verbal reports have snakes in the general vicinity.

I recently received the following information from Heather Marcks of CVC. Staff from CVC made opportunistic visits to check the hibernaculum. Her report includes the following positive summary.

“Ten snakes were observed at Willow Park during the spring surveys. No spring or fall snake records were identified in the database. Seven of the ten snakes were observed within 40 m or less of the constructed hibernaculum. The constructed hibernaculum is located at the base of a southeast-facing slope consisting of a mixed forest dominated by White Pine and Sugar Maple. A pond and river are in close vicinity and there is an abundance of downed logs in the immediate area of the hibernaculum. On April 13, 2015 an Eastern Gartersnake was observed basking on the slope of the constructed hibernaculum and on April 18, 2016 five Eastern Gartersnakes were observed in close proximity to each other and the hibernaculum. The area was identified as confirmed snake hibernaculum significant wildlife habitat (Ecoregion 6E criteria) based on the habitat in combination with the early spring observations”.

At this time, the Naturalist Club has not scheduled any events to visit the Park. We would, however, like to remind members that we are still interested in confirming the use of the hibernaculum (e.g. snakes entering or exiting). Members are encouraged to visit the site during warm sunny days through April and to check the hibernaculum for snakes.

Spring is on the way!

Before you know it we'll have the miracle of Spring upon us. This picture is sure to bring a smile to your face!

Credit for this adorable photograph goes to photographer Rick Seet for his amazing animal pictures found on the boredpanda.com website



Poaching Wild Animals – for Sale in Canada

By Fiona Reid

I think I speak for most naturalists when I reel in shock and fury at the latest horror – a rhino killed in a French zoo for its horn; a huge shipment of ivory intercepted in Tanzania; and 13 tons of pangolins killed for their scales for TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) and exotic meals for the elite of Vietnam and China. It is all too easy to feel just a bit superior knowing “that would not happen here in Canada.” Sadly, though, we are not innocent of persecuting wild animals from other parts of the globe for equally ridiculous uses.

Recently I went into Green Earth Store and was horrified and disgusted to see framed, stuffed bats on sale. I asked for the manager and requested more information about the bats and how they were obtained. She responded that the animals were “farmed” and only ones that died a natural death were preserved. She pointed me to a brochure explaining that all the animals on display (butterflies, moths, other insects and bats) were farmed and their sales benefited communities and did not affect populations of the animals. This could be the case for butterflies, as the adults lay numerous eggs and these animals can be raised in large numbers in captivity. The idea that they die a natural death is, to say the least, unlikely. The butterflies and moths are in pristine condition, as they are on emergence. A butterfly that dies of natural causes tends to be a beat-up old fellow. A bat that dies of natural causes will fall to the ground below its roost and be devoured by beetles in a matter of minutes. Clearly none of these framed animals actually died of natural causes. I tried to explain this to the store manager but she was not interested. She followed the store line, their literature even stating that they are supporting conservation by farming endangered species. I took a few photos and left.



The framed bats were identified as Javan Pipistrelles and Horseshoe bats. At home I searched the internet and found that numerous outlets, from Etsy to eBay and Amazon, market stuffed bats. Almost all specimens were identified as one of the above two species, even though many clearly belonged to different families of bats (including flying foxes).

Back to Green Earth and Canada specifically – why are we allowing the sale of bats in this manner? It turns out that if a species is not listed on CITES (a worldwide listing for endangered animals) it is possible to obtain permits to import trinkets like these. Most bats are not CITES-listed, due in part to our lack of knowledge of their population size and range. So the bats can come in, along with mounted heads of Zebra and other such trophies, as long as they are prepared in a way to be considered disease-free.

But why do we need to have a constant supply of stuffed animals for people to hang on their walls? Dr. Merlin Tuttle thinks it is because of the fear factor around bats, and others suggest it is the Goth populous that like this kind of décor. Isn't it time we put nature first and our own trivial desires last? An animal with a reproductive rate only a little faster than our own can be greatly affected by human activity, whether through habitat loss, misguided killing out of fear, and now by this unnecessary market.

I hope some of you will take the time to join me in writing to Green Earth to question this practice and the whole concept of promoting the framing and selling of animals. There is nothing Green about it. Scorched Earth might be a better name for such a store.

You can provide the Green Earth Head Office with your feedback or ask them a question at the bottom of the page at this link:

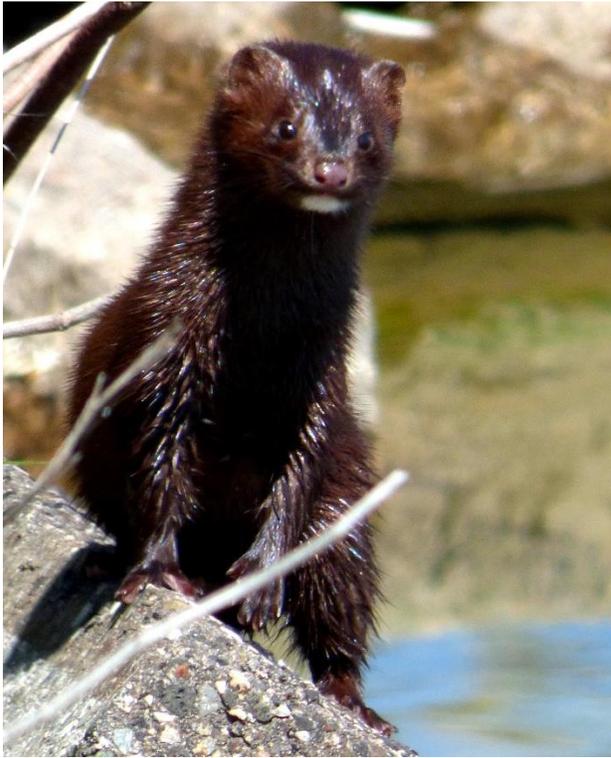
<https://www.greenearthstores.com/?p=help#contact>

Alternatively, you can write to them at:

Green Earth Stores Ltd.
23 Buchanan Crt.
London, Ontario N5Z 4P9

Mink and predation

By Don Scallen



Some people would rather not think about predation in nature. Its violence can be disturbing. Simply put though, thriving carnivores mean thriving ecosystems. That mink are so common in this area, for example, signals the ecological vitality of many of our streams and wetlands.

Mink are active both day and night. They can be oblivious to human presence with their laser focus on finding food. Watching them, and following their tracks, opens a fascinating portal into the predatory life.

Winter is the best time to find evidence of mink. With snow cover, mink tracks can readily be found along streams or the verges of ponds and lakes. Tracks on ice sometimes end abruptly at open water. Icy plunges are all in a day's hunt.





Mink find most of their meals in the water. Fish yes, but just about any other animal they can subdue. One winter's day while tracking mink at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park, I found some scat, dug into it, and discovered it full of indigestible crayfish parts. Another time I watched a mink emerge from a pond with a leopard frog hanging limply in its jaws.

Larger prey is sometimes tackled. Some years ago when I was still teaching, a colleague returned to the school with her class after leading them on a walk along Etobicoke Creek in Brampton. She was ashen-faced, her students abuzz with excitement. They had just witnessed a real “nature red in tooth and claw” moment – a mink wrestling with a squirrel on the bank of the creek.



It was a battle the mink won, but not easily. The squirrel, almost as big as its attacker, fought desperately until the end. As a science teacher I would have seized this teachable moment and taught a lesson about the role of predation in nature. I hope, after a few deep breaths, my rattled colleague decided to do the same.

(This article first appeared in Don Scallen's blog at <https://www.inthehills.ca/2018/03/mink-master-predators/>)

Excerpts from - **THE SEABIRD'S CRY** by Adam Nicolson

Submitted by David Williams

Now and then a gull seemed to be cleverer than you might think. On a summer afternoon in July 2005 in the Tuileries Gardens in Paris, people as usual were feeding bread to the ducks in the big stone pools laid out in the seventeenth century. At one pool, where a couple of bird scientists happened to be watching, a herring gull arrived, rushed into the gang of mallards, grabbed a piece of bread, swam a few feet away towards the middle of the pool, and then started to lift and drop the bread into the water. Each time, the bread broke into smaller pieces. Once he had scattered it into perfect crumbs, the gull stayed there waiting, as still as glass, neck out, head down, looking intently at the surface of the water. After a few seconds, the goldfish in the pool came up to nibble at the crumbs and the gull struck, about one in every two strikes resulting in a catch and a goldfish down the gullet. Once the bread had gone, the gull swam over to the people around the edge of the pool, stared hard at them, waiting for another piece of bread to be thrown in. After they had given it one, the gull repeated the whole process. It never ate the bread.

---- ~ ----

Compared with a land bird, the bone of the guillemot skull is not pneumatized, as the anatomists say. Cut open a wren or a toucan and the bones you see are not solid objects like ours. They are as light as physics will allow, in places a fine filigree that is more like bone froth or bone mousse than bone itself. The guillemot is not like that. As it is in puffins and razorbills, and in the penguins of the southern hemisphere, this bone is solid. Squeeze the guillemot skull as hard as you can...and nothing gives. The bone is ballast – but also because this is a helmet, a power-head, the leading point in the bird's encounter with its world.

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Marine mammals can rely on blubber to insulate themselves against the cold of the sea, but blubber is heavy for a bird, and water birds usually wrap themselves in air trapped in their feathers to keep warm. Trapped air, when diving for fish, is highly buoyant and birds have to struggle to get or stay down. Small diving ducks, for example, most of which fish in the shallow upper few feet of water, are said to put up to 95% of their mechanical work to counter buoyancy during dives. One answer is to dive deep. Water pressure squeezes the air that remains lodged between the feathers so that down at its fishing depths the bird does not have to fight its own buoyancy. Some diving birds are known to breathe out before they dive, reducing the oxygen in the lungs, and others have muscles in their body which pull their chest and back feathers tight to the body as they dive, to increase their density.

THE SEABIRD'S CRY, The Lives and Loves of the Planet's Great Ocean Voyagers, by Adam Nicolson, Henry Holt and Company, 2018.

An enthralling book of ten chapters, each devoted to a different seabird.
Available by inter-library loan through the Halton Hills Public Library.

Trash Talk ... Condensed Summary from the Committee Meeting

Jan. 15, 2019, 7:30 pm @ Fiona Reid's

Report by Laura Weihs

There were 6 members in attendance: Fiona Reid, Laura Weihs, Alexis Buset, Karen Hobbs, John and Margaret Beaudette (Regrets: Sue Sibley)

We discussed a listing of items that are confusing regarding recycling vs compost vs garbage that Laura put together. It pertains only to Halton Region and the same should be done for our Brampton members. It was approved as accurate by Nicole Meek in Halton Region and should go in the newsletter and on club FB page. (It follows this article.)

It was agreed to have Eva Omes at Wastewise speak to the Litter Committee about Wastewise probably in May. They give scholarships, help to fund environmental programs, provide recycle bins in park and much more. The committee could decide how to use her ideas, suggestions and connections in its initiatives, then make a report to the club. We'll consider Eva briefly speaking to the club prior to a main speaker.

Hosting a fall event: We have considered looking into providing samples of eco-friendly products (plastic take out containers, cutlery, cups, straws etc.) to restaurant owners to consider in order to lessen their environmental impact. Laura is looking into booking a Lunch and Learn workshop through Halton Region Waste Diversion Education Coordinator, Nicole Watt. In the past they have provided samples of greener cutlery, stainless steel straws, reusable plastic containers for sandwiches/snacks, reusable cloth shopping bags and reusable produce bags. They have a dedicated staff member that can conduct "Lunch and learn" sessions to businesses. Research will need to be done to set this up.

Laura and Margaret will meet with Nicole Meek, Waste Management Program Coordinator to discuss our goals and what is acceptable or not in recycling and the green cart. Note that Nicole e-mailed: "When companies make the claim about compostable or biodegradable, they are usually referring to either laboratory testing or a certain composting facility that is not the same as ours. Halton uses an in-vessel aerobic system that generally is a 28 day process." ***This means that anything made of PLA*** (which looks and feels like plastic even though it is plant based) is ***not*** compostable or recyclable in Halton (or anywhere in Canada) even though it claims to be 100% biodegradable and 100% compostable! It will take some research to accurately come up with products to present to businesses. Nicole Meek provided Laura with a list of suppliers.

There was discussion, If not businesses, we could target the general public and have samples of water bottles, mugs, reusable bags and takeout/doggie bag kits to keep in your car. Survey people to see what changes they would like to see in stores, then go to businesses with feedback. Alexis will look into partnering with the Eco-film event in the fall.

There was discussion about the importance of voicing our opinions to store owners and grocery store managers. Karen will look into contact information for the main local grocery stores.

It was agreed the club should participate in the Earth Day events including picking up litter and hosting a booth at the Earth Day & Sustainability Fair at the Georgetown Market Place. Details will be put in the newsletter with an e-blast closer to the time of the event.

It was agreed that we should continue to do some group litter pickups after Earth Day. We could work out the details then – either one group or a few in the different areas where members live – Georgetown and Brampton perhaps.

Laura will look into WRW Waste Reduction Week in Canada October 21 – 27, 2019. At some point we'll decide if we will participate and in what way.

We decided to promote the “**Litterati**” app for summer use. John will look into making a group for members to upload to. We should have a demo for interested members sometime.

We still need to give thought to Alexis' suggestion of a cute acronym for the things you should have with you before you leave home. Keys, Bags, Mug, Bottle, Doggie Bag Kit etc. For club outings: bins, cameras, bags, gloves?

Fiona will give a verbal update on the Committee meeting to the membership at the next club meeting.

Next Committee Meeting tentatively on Tuesday, March 26 at 7:30 pm - location to be confirmed closer to the time.

While we're "Talkin' Trash" - Don't Trash it, Fix it!

Every Wednesday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm Wastewise has a drop in “Do Not Toss It – Fix It” open to everyone who wants to try to fix that special item. Bring your project to us and we will try to fix it together.

WHERE: Wastewise (12 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown)

CONTACT: Eva Omes, Outreach Co-ordinator – Wastewise 647-544-4667

wastewise.outreach@gmail.com

COST: Free (You may have to buy a part, but fixing it is offered free!)

Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It has a global outreach. Find out how you can get involved.

You can read more at: <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/en>

Pussywillows, Cat-Tails: Gordon Lightfoot

Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses
Rainbows in the woodland, water to my knees
Shivering, quivering, the warm breath of spring
Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses

Catbirds and cornfields, daydreams together
Riding on the roadside the dust gets in your eyes
Reveling, disheveling, the summer nights can bring
Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses

Slanted rays and colored days, stark blue horizons
Naked limbs and wheat bins, hazy afternoons
Voicing, rejoicing, the wine cups do bring
Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses

Harsh nights and candlelights, woodfires a-blazin'
Soft lips and fingertips resting in my soul
Treasuring, remembering, the promise of spring
Pussywillows, cat-tails, soft winds and roses



March/April Quiz

Photos by Ian Jarvie

Answers on the next page!



Answers to the March / April Quiz

1. Eastern Bluebird
2. Long-eared Owl
3. Osprey
4. Long-tailed Duck
5. Northern Parula
6. Pine Siskin
7. Swallow-tailed Kite
8. Yellow-rumped Warbler
9. Red-necked Grebe
10. Wood Duck

Have Your Say - Voice Your Opinions...

By Laura Weihs

Members of the Litter and Waste Reduction Committee have discussed the importance of voicing our opinions to store owners when we see an area where they could be doing more to cut back on plastic packaging. Of course please remember to provide good feedback when you see positive changes too! This applies to our small local businesses as well as the larger grocery and department store chains. Our local small business owners seem quite interested in our opinions and enjoy discussing these important issues. It takes all their time to run their businesses and it can be helpful if you can share examples of positive changes that they can implement. Time for research is at a premium for them.

Produce suppliers can be contacted directly. A call to Sunset Greenhouses to discuss their plastic wrapped cucumbers revealed they have received many phone calls putting pressure on them to *lose the plastic!* We can also request the larger stores to pressure their suppliers to provide positive greener options to their packaging. They'll get the message if we speak up and change our purchasing habits! Below is contact info for a few of the large local grocery chains. It is difficult to obtain the Manager's e-mail address as their head offices handle communications of this nature.

Metro Georgetown South, Manager: Sal (Could not obtain last name) -905-702-8844
367 Mountainview Road South, Georgetown , Ontario L7G 5X3
Head office customer care can be reached at 1 877 763-7374 or you can contact them at <https://corpo.metro.ca/en/ontario-contact.html>

Real Canadian Superstore, Manager: Darryl Thew - 905-877-5393, Ext. 301
171 Guelph Street, Halton Hills, ON L7G4A1
Head office customer care can be reached at: [1-866-999-9890](tel:1-866-999-9890) or <https://www.realcanadiansuperstore.ca/contact-us>

Longo's Mount Pleasant - (905) 843-1820
65 Dufay Rd, Brampton, ON L7A 0B5
Head office customer care can be reached at: 1.800.956.6467 or e-mail 1800@Longos.com

Feeling Confused About Certain Recycling Items?

Information for Halton Region followed by Peel Region 2019

By Laura Weihs

Recently I've had many conversations with friends wondering if items go in the blue box, green cart or garbage. The result is a list I've put together of where some of the confusing items go. The first list pertains to **Halton Region** and notable differences for **Peel Region** follow below it. Halton's list was reviewed by staff at the region and I used their online tool to google the items for Peel Region to make this as accurate as possible.

To specifically check about an item you can:

- Check your current printed guide.
- My favourite, the **Halton Region's** easy online search tool for specific items at <http://beta.halton.ca/For-Residents/Recycling-Waste/Recycling-and-Waste-Tools/Put-Waste-In-Its-Place> **Peel Region's** tool follows their information.
- Call 311 if you prefer to speak with a real person!

Below are some answers on how to dispose of a few items that people find confusing. This pertains only to **Halton Region as of January 2019**.

Acceptable in the **Blue Box** in Halton Region:

Must be free of grease, liquid or food.

Plastic bags: Shopping or grocery bags, produce bags and newspaper bags – turn inside out to be sure empty and have no receipts or bits of anything left inside. Put these into a plastic bag, tie it closed and put under something heavy to keep it from blowing out of the blue box. These can also be returned to the store if they have a return bin.

Plastic film from around bulk packages where the wrap does not touch food eg. Bulk packages of toilet paper rolls, kleenex or other non-food items

Outer bread bags if they are outer bags that do not touch the bread (but if the bag has an additional bakery label that cannot be peeled off, it should be put in the garbage).

Outer milk bags but **not** inner 1L milk bags which have contained milk.

Pizza box (empty; no food residue or plastics)

Tie corrugated cardboard in bundles no larger than 120 cm x 120 cm x 30 cm (4 ft x 4 ft x 1 ft) and place beside your Blue Box.

Takeout Coffee cup lids

Cookie and cracker trays

Black plastic containers

Paper including envelopes with plastic windows and sticky notes. Papers can be bundled and tied. Do **not** place paper inside plastic bags.

Plastic plant pots and trays with dirt removed

Cooking pots and pans

Note: The blue box is intended for packaging and printed material. For example, a Tupperware container would be a garbage item as it is a product not a package. The exception in Halton is cooking pots and pans!

Please see the next two categories for confusing items that are **not** acceptable in the blue box.

Acceptable for the Compost Green Cart in Halton Region:

Takeout coffee cups This one trips most people up! They **go** in the green cart **not** the blue box. *(Please opt to use reusable mugs as much as possible.)* The Halton Region Waste Management Program Coordinator gave me this explanation: It is correct that all paper cups, including hot beverage cups are accepted in the Green Cart program. Some of the cups do have a thin plastic liner. At the facility where our Green Cart material is composted, the paper component of the cup breaks down and is composted. The thin plastic liner, which does not compost, is then screened out of the final compost and is garbage.

Cardboard roll from the center of toilet paper and paper towel rolls

Pizza box (greasy)

Paper towel and tissue

Butcher paper (no plastic lining) The butcher paper I took as a sample to Halton Region had a slight sheen on one side but it ripped easily and therefore goes in the green cart. The general rule is that if you can rip the paper item easily, it can go in the green cart.

Acceptable for the Garbage/Waste in Halton Region:

(Not for the Blue Box or Green Bin)

Plastic wrap like Saran. In general they do not accept this type of wrap in case it has touched food and left a residue.

Plastic food bags: sandwich bags, ziplock bags or inner 1L milk bags, liners, pasta bags, cookie bags, frozen food bags In general, they do not accept anything that may have touched food and left a residue.

Plastic Bread and milk tags.

Coffee bags

Styrofoam

Shower liners

Things without a recycle number such as pot scrubbers.

Again, if you're not sure about an item you can:

- Check your current printed guide.
- Use the easy online search tool for specific items at <http://beta.halton.ca/For-Residents/Recycling-Waste/Recycling-and-Waste-Tools/Put-Waste-In-Its-Place>
- Call 311 if you prefer to speak with a real person!

On the next page is info pertaining only to **Peel Region**. These items are disposed of quite differently to Halton Region.

Below is info pertaining only to **Peel Region**. These items are disposed of quite differently to Halton Region.

Acceptable in the Blue Box in Peel Region

Rinsed milk bags

Bread bags even if it has touched the bread

Cardboard rolls from the center of toilet paper and paper towel rolls

Some Styrofoam & polystyrene items – please check each specific item as not all types are acceptable in the Blue Box

Acceptable for the Garbage/Waste in Peel Region

Takeout Coffee cups

Takeout Coffee cup lids

Butcher paper

Note in Peel Region: If pots and pans are in good condition, take them to a Peel Community Recycling Centre (CRC) [reuse drop-off area](#). or [The Salvation Army Thrift Store, the Salvation Army Thrift Store Donor Welcome Centres](#), and the Bolton CRC [ReUstore](#) provide reuse services to Peel residents.

Use the easy online search tool for specific items in Peel Region:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/scripts/waste/how-to-sort-your-waste.pl>

“Were you Paying Attention?” (Answers on the last page.)

1. When and where did members of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist’s Club construct a snake hibernaculum?
2. How many access openings were created in the hibernaculum?
3. What did Bill remind members to do on warm sunny days through April?
4. What is CITES?
5. When are Mink active?
6. Where and when is the best time to find evidence of mink?
7. How should you dispose of used takeout coffee cups in Halton Region?
8. How should you dispose of used takeout coffee cups in Peel Region?

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

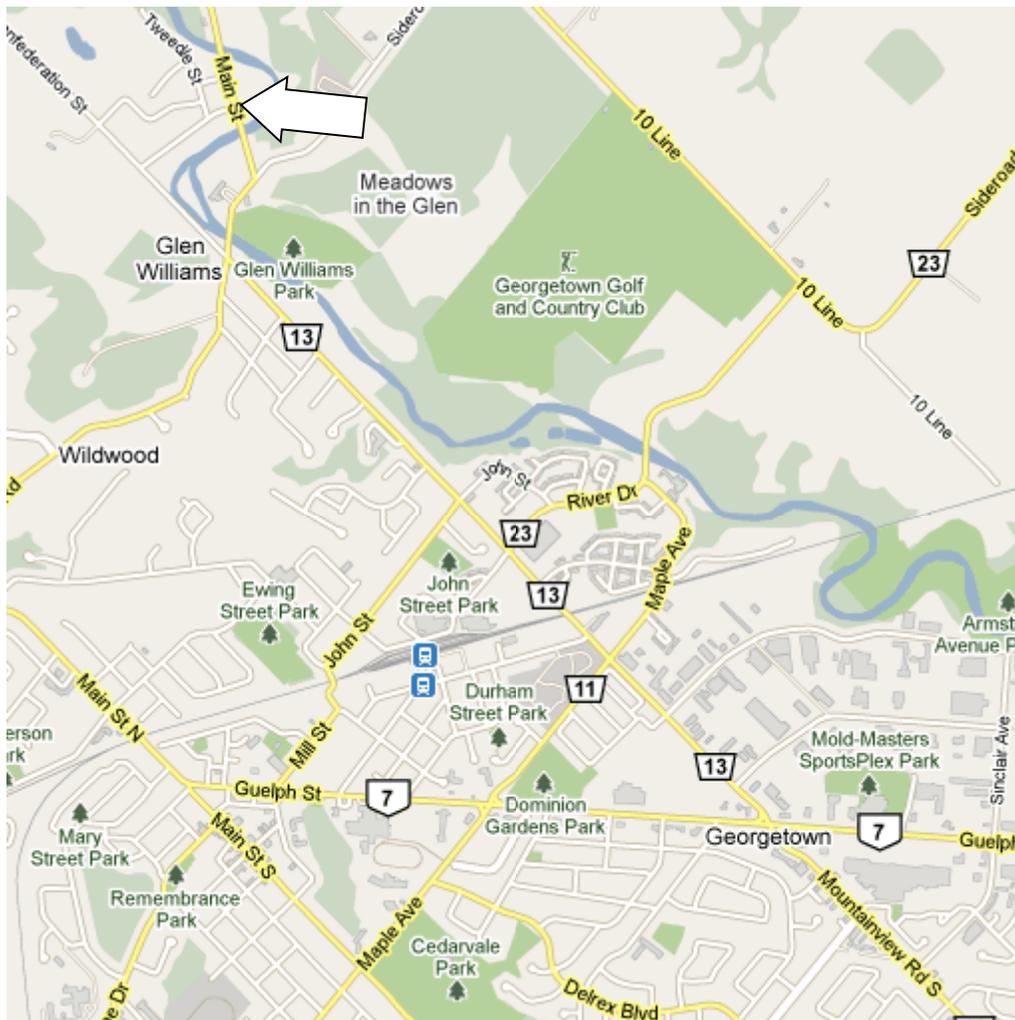
Membership: Lorysa Cornish
Newsletter: Laura Weihs
Ontario Nature Representative: Don Scallen
Webmaster: John Beaudette
Crozier Property Steward
Hardy Property Steward Ray Blower

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

www.hnpnc.com

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 “Match the Bird to the Song”

- Sweet Judy Blue Eyes: The seldom-seen *ruby-throated sparrow* gets a mention in this CSN song, as does the even rarer *chestnut-brown canary*.
- I’m So Lonely I Could Cry: *whip-poor-will*
- Blue Skies: *bluebird*
- A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square: *nightingale*
- Flesh and Blood: *cardinal*
- I’ll be Your Baby Tonight: *mockingbird*

Answers to “Were you Paying Attention?”

1. In October 1998, members of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist’s Club participated in the construction of a snake hibernaculum at Willow Park in Norval.
2. Two access openings were created between the now subterranean chambers and the surface so that any snakes could reach the protected locations.
3. Bill reminded members that we are still interested in confirming the use of the hibernaculum (e.g. snakes entering or exiting). Members are encouraged to visit the site during warm sunny days through April and to check the hibernaculum for snakes.
4. CITES is a worldwide listing for endangered animals. (CITES stands for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and is a global agreement between governments to follow rules to monitor, regulate, or ban international trade in species under threat.)
5. Mink are active both day and night.
6. Winter is the best time to find evidence of mink. With snow cover, mink tracks can readily be found along streams or the verges of ponds and lakes.
7. Takeout coffee cups should be put in the Compost Green Cart in Halton Region.
8. Takeout Coffee cups should be put the Garbage/Waste in Peel Region

Anything concerning the newsletter can be e-mailed to Laura Weihs at biker_chic@sympatico.ca