



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is no President's message this month. As you know, we are in the process of revitalizing the Club. The new executive will be announced soon.

*Dorothy Harper*

## CLUB NEWS



In Memoriam The club was very saddened to learn of the death of Dot Hadlington. Dot has been a long time member of the Field Nats, giving of her time and enthusiasm along with her husband Sid. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sid for his loss. A more lengthy tribute to Dot will appear in the next issue.

MPFN Trip to Minesing Swamp On Saturday March 21 we had 20 people participate in a trip to Minesing, it was a beautiful sunny day and we saw 29 species of birds. We had a nice flock of Sandhill Cranes, a number of Pintail, Green-wing teal a Northern shrike a number of swans also early plants skunk cabbage and coltsfoot. We enjoyed our lunch while watching the birds in the water. Enjoyed by all. *Sid Hadlington*

Book Club " The Living Beach" by Silver Donald Cameron is about as perfect a tonic for the overload of "doom&gloom" news we daily endure as you could wish for. With a broad field of experience & an unfettered outlook Silver { Don't ask me why that name.} unrolls the seemingly eternal & infinite reality of the ebb & flow of planet earth. Not only profound & poetic, this book is interesting, engaging & more importantly a delight to read. This polymath can communicate. Humour & personal foibles hold the readers attention. If you plan on reading a "beach book" this summer, choose this one. You won't be disappointed.

" The Lightning Bird" by Lyall Watson is something that you will have been culturally programmed to dismiss as impossible. Question: " How many lions can a hungry teenager frighten off their kill so that he might eat?" You would imagine that no one would be brave &/or stupid enough to even try. Adrian Boshier, a youngster from England, tried to find out in the wilds of Africa. You'll be surprised. Dr. Lyall Watson is a scientist with an open mind who embraces the vastness of human experience even if our society "knows better". For a better glimpse into the reality the other 89 % of humanity try this one. *Dave Whitehead*

Club Revitalization The process of restructuring our club has begun. After the meeting in March a number of committees were set up to look into improving both our internal structure and our outreach to the public. They are now on-going, but if you have any suggestions or comments, just talk to one of the executives at the meetings, or email Liz or Carolynn.

Liz is at [liz@whittierca.ca](mailto:liz@whittierca.ca) and Carolynn is at [waynecar@sympatico.ca](mailto:waynecar@sympatico.ca) Thanks! *Dorothy Harper*

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President:  
Vice President: David Whitehead  
Treasurer: Carolynn Fishleigh  
Secretary: Lyn Barnett  
Past Presidents: Greg Lutick and  
Adrienne Jex



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*To study and appreciate nature.  
To protect and preserve wildlife and  
the environment.  
To stimulate public interest in, and  
promote protection and  
preservation of  
nature.*

## Schedule



*Here are the club meetings for the rest  
of the year. Check the brochure for more  
information*

**ALIENS**  
Thursday May 21, 2009

**MUSKOKA WILDLIFE CENTRE**  
Saturday May 23, 2009

**78<sup>th</sup> ON AGM**  
May 30, 2009

**POT LUCK AND MEMBERS NIGHT**  
Thursday June 18, 2009  
**Tiny Marsh**

## July 1<sup>st</sup> Gold



Blooming:  
buttercup  
St. Johnswort  
whorled loosestrife  
mullein  
moneywort



the yellows shine  
on Canada Day.



*Betty Carter*

## Community News



### Update on site 41

The momentum to stopping dumpsite 41 is building everyday. Dale Goldhawke is relentlessly pursuing Simcoe County Council and the public to find out a reason WHY we need this dump now. Listeners from all over North America are calling in to his show on 740 am from 11 am to 1 pm say what a travesty this is and have re-named the site DUMBSITE 41. Only 2 Councillors out of 32 had the guts to come on his show and neither of them had a reason why we need this dump NOW. Only that it had been approved to be built. Dale along with all his viewers are disgusted.

On May 4th, led by Maude Barlow, 600 participants, including Dale, walked 6 kms from the Spring in Elmvale to site 41. Maude told us this fight is NOT over and she is preparing a class action suit for every level of Government who passed this exploitation of our people.

May 8th there was a press conference at Queen's Park led by Native Ceremonial Elders, Robert-john Knapp of California and Arnold Thomas of Utah. Their plea was joined by elders Jimelda Johnson and Wilmer Nadjiwon of Cape Crocker and Danny Beaton, Mohawk Turtle Clan Nation. They demanded that Premier Dalton McGuinty immediately rescind his approval of Site 41. May 8th, 9th and 10th, natives from Christian Island camped out in the pouring rain across from the dumpsite to show their disapproval.

**TO HELP CALL 416-325-1941** to ask **DALTON MCGUINTY** to intervene and stop dumpsite 41. Call every member of your family and everyone else you know and give them this number and ask them to call also. Don't be embarrassed to do this. If we have no water, we all die and Maude Barlow tells us that people all over the world have already run out of clean water and are dying because of it. This **WILL** happen to us and our future generations if we don't fight back now.

*Carolynn & Wayne Fishleigh*

**Wings Over Muskoka**, *May 29th - 31st, 2009*, is an event to raise awareness to the decline of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the world. Proceeds from the event will go to ***Kids for Turtles Environmental Education***. The weekend events will include a presentation by Artist Dwayne Harty, birding walks with Naturalists Al Sinclair, Robin Tapley, Bob Bowles, a keynote address from Bridget Stutchbury, author of the Silence of the Songbirds as well as a demonstration by Canada's First Lady of Wildlife Art, Christine Marshall. Programming for kids will include displays, activities and crafts. 705 765-1900 or go to [www.redleavesmuskoka.com](http://www.redleavesmuskoka.com) or [www.kidsforturtles.com](http://www.kidsforturtles.com)

The Third Annual [Carden Nature Festival](http://www.cardenguide.com) will be held **June 5th - 7th 2009**. Any Club or group that sends 12 or more people to the Festival will receive a 25% rebate on all festival passes. For details or to register call (705)326-1620, email [gayle@couchconservancy.ca](mailto:gayle@couchconservancy.ca) or go to [www.cardenguide.com](http://www.cardenguide.com)

**A wind energy development (48 industrial sized turbines) is planned for 2500 hectares adjacent to the border of Algonquin Park near the East Gate. You may want to check out the Keep Whitney Wild Website at <http://www.keepwhitneywild.com/> to find out for more about this situation.**

*Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia  
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## PIPING PLOVERS: WHAT A SUMMER!



adult piping plover



winter plumage



chick

Last spring I never thought I would spend hours during the summer standing around at Wasaga Beach watching birds. But I did, and those little shore birds made last summer a memorable one. In June and July for 2 or 3 days each week I spent 3 or 4 hours helping monitor the Piping Plover nesting in the busiest part of that most busy of beaches.

I started just after the first nest lost its chicks to a freak hail storm and the second nest had hatched 3 tiny fluffballs on legs. We were very aware just how precarious life on the beach is for the plovers. Watching those chicks grow and develop was amazing. I looked forward each time to see how much bigger they were, how much more independent, how much closer to looking like their parents with flight feathers and wings that worked. I was amazed at just how important those birds became in my life. Observing one species of bird over a period of weeks was remarkable, seeing their interactions together, their feeding habits, periods of intense activity and periods of rest. There were moments of pain when chicks were lost, especially the one I saw predated by a gull, but mainly moments of joy, especially seeing the remaining chicks start to fly. In the end one chick survived to depart on its first migration south and our hopes stay with it, that it will survive to return to Ontario and increase our small population of these very special birds.

Our job as volunteers was to keep an eye on the birds to ensure they were disturbed as little as possible and to talk to the public, explaining why a big section of the beach was closed. Since the gulls were much more visible than the plovers, some people wondered why we were protecting those birds! The great majority of people were fascinated, even excited, especially when we explained just how rare these birds are in Ontario, having only nested last year at Sauble Beach after a 30 year disappearance from our province. We also met a variety of interesting people as we talked to beach visitors and made friends with other volunteers. But most important was the feeling that you had made a small contribution to helping these birds survive in the face so many difficulties. I hope to see them again next year and repeat a wonderful experience.

If you are interested in helping in 2009, the birds should return in May and stay till early August. You can sign up each week for a shift depending on your time available. Wasaga Beach Provincial Park coordinates the monitoring and supports you when necessary, providing guidelines as to what to do in various situations, information pamphlets to hand out, a telescope, and security help if needed. Call the park office in the spring for information. (705-429-2516)

*Irene Berry*