



## rare At A Glance

Founded in 2001, the **rare** Charitable Research Reserve exists to preserve, intact in perpetuity, a 913-acre land reserve along the Grand and Speed Rivers. It is not only a beautiful cultural landscape in one of the fastest growing areas of the country but includes trees more than 230 years old and provides over 24 habitat types – including 6 of 8 pre-settlement landscapes – that are home to a diversity of organisms some of which are species at risk regionally, provincially, nationally and globally. Located within the designated Blair-Bechtel-Cruickston Environmentally Sensitive Landscape, **rare's** lands provide a natural laboratory for scientific study, research-based education programs, archaeology and trails.

*Together we are stewards of this magnificent natural jewel, striving to protect it because of its role in our lives, economies, and even our survival. Our goal is to preserve the land for future generations by focusing on research, education, conservation, and ecological restoration.*

## A Walk with Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources (MNR)

On the morning of June 6<sup>th</sup>, as the Honourable Donna Cansfield made her way across the Springbank Farm lands at **rare**, she discussed with her staff and her **rare** hosts the significance of the property and the community's efforts to protect it in perpetuity while also making it available for education and research.



Photo by: Don Kirk

The visit to **rare** was part of a day-long tour of the area and, in keeping with the priority she gives to the environment, Ms Cansfield made this her first stop of the day.

Along the way she also heard about the collaborative effort between the MNR and local citizens to monitor the provincially endangered Bald Eagle along our stretch of the Grand River – something with which readers of the **rare review** will be familiar.

The relationship between **rare** and the MNR is an important one. The Ministry develops natural resource management standards and policies in the areas of forest management, fish and wildlife, land and waters, and Ontario Parks, among others. Of course, these are natural (pardon the pun!) areas of conservation and research for **rare** as well. We have always believed and maintained that partners are crucial to our continued success in preserving, intact and in perpetuity, the 913-acres of ecologically significant lands that form the **rare** Reserve.

The Region of Waterloo, and the Province of Ontario, even Canada, is richer for having this urban ecological gem within its borders. We look forward to a continued conversation and partnership with the Ministry.

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Masthead Photo by: Martha Gay Scroggins. Inside This Issue Photo by: Larry Lamb.



## Working for Wetlands *by Amanda Newell*

Wetlands could be the poster child for illustrating direct human impact on the physical environment. In the last hundred years, it is estimated that at least 50 percent of the wetlands in North America have been lost. Some say that wetlands are the ecosystem globally most at risk. Whether that is the case or not, over the last century our ancestors have spent significant time and resources draining, paving over and building upon these habitats. Our predecessors were working hard to create a healthy and stable society, without necessarily realizing that the growth they were supporting was unsustainable and causing a major loss of ecosystem services that humans, and all other species, depend on. As with all sorts of habitat loss, there is no one culprit. Private property owners (from farmers to developers), governments at all levels, and corporations have all played a role in the destruction of wetlands. Thankfully, the vital importance of healthy wetland habitats is more understood in recent years, and there are efforts to restore them and to conserve those that remain all over the world.



Photo by: Larry Lamb

It's no secret that the **rare** Charitable Research Reserve is a landscape of incredible richness and diversity. The protection of this natural wealth is the very reason the community created a charity to be its steward in perpetuity. There is a matrix of distinct ecological features and transitional habitat edge areas that meet and combine to create this landscape. We are fortunate to have within our property boundaries several types of wetland.

So, what is a wetland? According to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), "Wetlands mean lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants."

There are five major wetland types in the Great Lakes region, including marsh, swamp, bog, fen, and shallow open water. Often, as is so frequently the case in landscapes, a wetland area will support more than one of these types (i.e. different types of wetland can merge

from one to another, just as a meadow might merge into an alvar, and an alvar can merge into woodland).

The distinguishing features of the five major wetlands types are as follows:

- ♦ Marshes are areas that are covered in standing or slowly flowing water for all or the majority of the seasons, with little or no tree cover and the major vegetation being reeds, cattails, and sedges.
- ♦ Swamps are areas that flood either seasonally or have more constant water cover, and are dominated by coniferous and/or deciduous tree and/or shrub growth.
- ♦ Bogs are in low drainage, high water table areas, and are dominated by peat mosses. They are acidic, and unlike marshes and swamps, they are not rich in nutrients. They may or may not support tree cover.
- ♦ Fens, like bogs, are in areas of high water table, but they differ in that they have drainage (albeit slow). They are dominated vegetatively by sedges, and may or may not support shrubs and trees.
- ♦ Shallow open water wetlands are usually transitional features. They may represent a small lake or pond succeeding into a marsh, or they may be seasonal wetlands based on changing water levels.

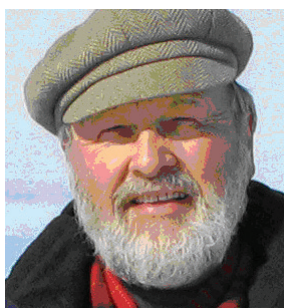
Wetlands present on **rare** Charitable Research Reserve are part of the larger system within the local landscape known as the Barrie's Lake-Bauman Creek Wetland Complex (as defined by the OMNR). The complex is fifty-seven percent swamp, forty-two percent marsh, and one percent bog, and is comprised of fifteen different wetlands.

In both the Hogsback and Indian Woods at **rare**, there is mixed swamp. Picture deciduous and coniferous trees growing among pools and wet soil. Visible on the north side of Blair Road across from Springbank Farm is deciduous swamp and marsh habitat, fed by Cruikston Creek and extending into the alvar habitat towards the Grand River. There is more marsh habitat extending west from where the Grand Trunk Trail meets Blair Road near **rare's** Slit Barn. Look for areas thick with cattails, little tree cover and often visible open water. There is also a pond (a shallow open-water wetland) on the south edge of Fountain Street, north of the Preston Flats agricultural field.

The extent of wetlands is significant within the Reserve, as is their importance. They offer vital habitat to creatures of all sorts, from the microscopic to our largest birds and mammals and are immeasurably connected to the rest of the landscape. They provide countless key natural-resource services through water retention and recharge, biological productivity, and even climate regulation. The health of these ecosystems, like that of all ecosystems, affects the economic, social and cultural well-being of humans. This is a topic that has led to international discussion, research, and even some co-operation. It is fortunate that **rare** has the opportunity to preserve at least the valuable wetlands that exist within the Reserve – and to add to the growing awareness of this precious resource around the world.



## Nature Notes by Bill Wilson



The sixth and final BALD EAGLE monitoring effort took place on 21 March. Often by this date the overwintering eagles have left for their breeding grounds; however, this year, eagles remained until at least April 3. The report, *Bald Eagles in the Grand River Watershed Winter 2007/2008* is available from OMNR.

On March 21, Bill and Heather Wilson heard a GREAT HORNED OWL hooting at mid-day in Slope Woods at **rare**.

A large raft of waterfowl settled in for the night of March 23 in the baylet upstream from the Confluence: 57 BUFFLEHEAD, 30+ COMMON MERGANSERS, 120+COMMON GOLDENEYES, 18 RING-NECKED DUCKS and 6 HOODED MERGANSERS together with the usual numbers of MALLARDS, AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS and CANADA GEESE. Jerry Guenther reported 4 AMERICAN WIGEONS in this location earlier in the day.

Jason Bracey led the *Signs-of-Spring* outing at **rare** on April 12. SWALLOWS, EASTERN PHOEBES and RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were expected but GRAY CATBIRD was a very early spring arrival.

On April 19, an EASTERN SCREECH-OWL was photographed at **rare** by University of Waterloo student, Omar.

The Cliffs provided Jason Bracey with the opportunity to observe more than 24 species of birds on April 24 including BLUE-GREY GNATCATCHER, a Regionally Rare species.

Ken and Kevin Dance led 25+ people on a **rare** outing on April 26 to observe AMERICAN WOODCOCK and other signs of spring. The birding high-light was a first – and bird species #205 – for the nature reserve: a migrating WHIP-POOR-WILL. Breeding bird surveys conducted in southern Ontario have shown a continuing dramatic decline in this species since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. Currently, in southwestern Ontario, isolated breeding pairs occur only near Long Point and Rondeau along Lake Erie and The Pinery, Lake Huron.

Birders visiting **rare** in late April and May submitted sightings of warblers they observed. In total, 22 species were tallied. Of special note were GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (Jason Bracey), BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (several observers), CANADA WARBLER (Larry Hubble) and MOURNING WARBLER (Bill Wilson and Doug Snyder), all Regionally Rare.

During the May 10 bird outing led by Andy Steinberg, a pair of ORCHARD ORIOLES were observed. Ruth Kroft and Jerry Guenther located a nest of this Regionally Rare species along Linear Trail on the opposite shoreline of the river.

Several observers reported that the pair of OSPREY had returned to the nest site at Fountain Street bridge. As well, Osprey (same pair?) periodically perched on the nesting platform at **rare** and one Osprey has added sticks to the **rare** platform.

Jim Burrell located a 30+cm MILK SNAKE near the Stone Slit-barn on May 24.

Marco DeBruin, Jerry Guenther and Bill Wilson observed two LITTLE BROWN SNAKES near the Woodland Trail on May 27.

Ten volunteers turned out on the last two weekends of May to assist Kevin Grundy to re-establish the **rare** Birdbanding Station (See *Our Readers Ask...* page 7). Species banded included ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, YELLOW WARBLER, BROWN THRASHER, CEDAR WAXWING and MOURNING WARBLER. A total of 94 species were observed by participants.

YELLOW LADYSLIPPERS were in full bloom and an early Giant Swallowtail was observed during Larry Lamb's *Wetlands Wander* in early June.



Photo by: Larry Lamb

On June 22, Friends of **rare** learned to "key out" and identify the several Regional species of DOGWOOD and VIBURNUM with Larry Lamb. BLADDERNUT, NORTHERN PRICKLY ASH, SPIREA and others were all part of the *Snubbed Shrubs* outing at **rare**.

Andy Kelly reported BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON on the river near the **rare** Cliffs in mid-June.

Nests located by visiting birders/naturalists included BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, COOPER'S HAWK, DOWNY WOODPECKER, HAIRY WOODPECKER, WARBLING VIREO and YELLOW WARBLER. Fledgling AMERICAN WOODCOCK were observed by Larry Hubble.

A milksnake was seen in the area to the east of the stone slit barn mid-morning during early June by Patti Leather and Jessica Grealey

Board of Director Dr. Gerald Achtymichuk and his family watched a coyote run across the Blair flats early Sunday evening, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

During the 3rd Annual Butterfly Count on Saturday, 12 July 2008, count co-compilers, Jessica Grealey and Larry Lamb, report discovery of two new species of butterfly for the Reserve: **SNOUT BUTTERFLY** and **TAWNY EMPEROR**; and, a new plant species: **UPRIGHT BINDWEED**, a member of the Morning Glory family. This native species was discovered in the north edge of **rare's** south field regeneration buffer. A summary of the butterfly count will be available later this fall.

# Focusing on Climate Change

Environmental education at **rare** happens not only locally, on the Reserve, but also extends across the country and around the world. When the Cape Farewell voyage sets off this September to sail around Greenland from Iceland and into the Canadian Northwest Passage, students Chisomo Mchaina (from Southwood Secondary in Cambridge) and Alejandra Henao (from Carson Graham Secondary in Vancouver) will be on board, thanks to **rare's** Chain of Learning efforts.

Chisomo and Alejandra will be accompanied by Southwood teacher, Christopher Giesler, and will be joined by students from each province and territory in Canada, as well as from Germany, England, India, Mexico, Ireland, Scotland and Brazil. And thanks to **rare's** efforts at securing an in-kind gift of satellite time, this international team's experience will be available to students around the world through daily blogs and video feeds.

Not only will the students undertake science projects to demonstrate the impact of climate change evidenced in

the Arctic, but they will also demonstrate the role of art in motivating change – at no time, perhaps, has creativity been called for with such urgency.

Founded by **rare's** International Advisor, David Buckland – himself an established artist whose works are collected by the MoMA in NY, the National Portrait Gallery in London and the Centre Pompidou in Paris – Cape Farewell ([www.capefarewell.com](http://www.capefarewell.com)) has been responsible for motivating and inspiring some of the best-known artists to be active in the fight against climate change.

*"While I was on board I soon realized that the boot room, where we all changed our clothing and left our shoes, had turned into a scene of social chaos," McEwan said, describing how the eminent scientists, who down the hall were gathering to talk earnestly about the future of the humankind, were also capable of stealing each others' footwear and regarding their colleagues with deep distrust. "I realized that it's all about human nature," he said. "The way to write about climate change is through writing about human nature."*

*Author Ian McEwan joined Cape Farewell on the 2005 Art/Science Expedition.*

## Voyagers

### Christopher Giesler

Geography Teacher, Southwood Secondary School



Christopher teaches physical, regional, and Canadian geography at Southwood Secondary School in Cambridge. Before becoming a teacher, he worked in the Marine Environment Branch at Environment Canada and enjoyed work terms as a hydrographer at Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans. He is also one of two Canadian geoscience teachers selected to help lead this year's Cape Farewell Youth Expedition.

Christopher's interest in the environment began when he spent his summers at camp Ki-Wa-Y which has now become an Eco-Centre. His high school geography teacher fostered this interest and helped to open up new and more technical understandings of the world around him. Christopher knows how important environmental education is for students, and is the lead instructor of the school's Sustainable Living course. This course is designed to help students learn about energy efficiency, water conservation, food sustainability and green building construction. His commitment to the

environment is also evident in the volunteer work he chooses, having donated his time at a vehicle emissions clinic and at the Canadian Museum of Nature where he taught elementary student visitors about the problem of marine debris. On a more personal note, Christopher's artistic side shows up in his amateur photography and as a self stated "hobby drummer" (he studied traditional Korean drumming while living in Seoul).

*"Without **rare**, Southwood's involvement in the Cape Farewell program would not have been possible; **rare's** staff and vision are proactive, optimistic and mindful of the ripple effect that this kind of experiential environmental learning will have in Southwood and its community."*

### Chisomo Mchaina

Student, Southwood Secondary School



Chisomo is an accomplished grade 10 student at Southwood Secondary School in Cambridge. She is involved in the school's Student Activity Council, Concert Choir, Cross Country and Track teams (provincial Champion in 2007), International Languages Club and, now, the Cape Farewell Collective environment team.

Her interest in the environment started at an early age. When the opportunity arose, Chisomo's father arranged to take her to work with him. They would go out into the field and observe the effects of mining on the environment. This early exposure combined with her more recent involvement in Southwood's grade 10 Sustainable Living Course – and public awareness-raising

initiatives like the showing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" – fueled her interest in the environment, and climate change in particular.

Chisomo hopes to use the Cape Farewell Youth Expedition as an opportunity to learn about climate change from experts who have been studying its effects in detail for many years. *"My aim is to initiate change among my family, friends, community and the world."* She has already started taking an active role in working towards a better environment in her own back yard as her Sustainable Living Class took on a court yard clean up project at their school.

### Alejandra Henao Student, Carson Graham Secondary School



Alejandra was born in South America (Medellin, Colombia), in 1991 and grew up watching her mother paint landscapes. This experience led to Alejandra's love of art and taught her about the freedom of art and the impact it can have. She is ready to challenge herself artistically as well as scientifically on the Cape Farewell voyage, where she intends to try pencil drawings of landscapes (something she has not done before) while also studying her school's chosen topic of oceanography.

Moving to Canada almost six years ago, Alejandra noticed how environmentally-friendly Canada seemed and started developing an interest in working towards a better environment. She became actively involved in environmental causes when she joined Carson Graham Secondary Schools' Roots and Shoots club, which works towards humanitarian rights and environmental awareness.

Along with other club members Alejandra has pulled invasive plants in a local park and participated in Carson Graham's "adopt a highway" program. The Club also allowed her to grow as an artist as Alejandra designed the Roots and Shoots logo.

Upon Alejandra's selection as her school's representative for the Cape Farewell 2008 student voyage she stated, *"I am very thankful to have this opportunity to learn and to be a witness of the climate change that is currently happening...This opportunity is a step towards change and our hope for now and our future. I and many more are ready to make a difference."*

Christopher, Chisomo and Alejandra will be on this exciting journey from September 7-20, 2008. Their experience will be captured on daily blogs, video feeds and post voyage presentations and projects. You can keep up with all the news by checking on our website at [www.raresites.org](http://www.raresites.org) and view the blogs at [www.capefarewellcanada.ca](http://www.capefarewellcanada.ca).

## Climate Change Research at rare

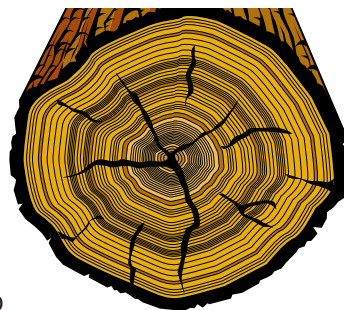
One of **rare's** crown jewels is its old-growth forest. Now researchers from the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo will be using information hidden within the wood of these trees to predict, and plan for, the effects of climate change on forests in Waterloo Region.

The information they need is found in the form of a tree's annual rings. These rings are produced each year by trees in temperate climates. Counting the rings allows researchers to determine a tree's age, with the width of the rings indicating the quality of the growing season in which they were formed; the wider the ring, the better the growing season.

Graduate student, Nigel Selig, who was the first undergraduate to win the Rupert H. MacNeill Award for best student paper while he was at Mount Allison, has collected tree core samples (pencil-shaped sections of wood that include these tree-ring records) from some of the oldest sugar maples, white pines and eastern hemlocks on **rare** property. Some of these trees are close to 200 years old! He will look at data previously collected from local meteorological stations and determine the precise

relationship between the width of the individual tree-rings and the average temperature/total precipitation in the years those tree-rings were formed.

Using forecasts of climate change for Waterloo region, Nigel will use the climate/tree-ring relationship he has determined for past years to predict the trees' response to future climate change. If he finds that even the 'best case' climate forecasts will lead to a marked reduction in tree-ring widths, it could mean trouble for some of our local tree species in the decades to come. This has important planning implications for the management of natural areas such as **rare**. The large numbers of century-old trees on **rare** was the critical factor that made it an essential site for this important study.





## Getting Kids Back to Nature

This past Spring, a grade 7 teacher and her class from St. Augustine school in Cambridge read in the Cambridge Times about a recent gift to **rare** and decided it would be a great place to see. At the teacher's suggestion, the students wrote to us in advance of their visit. What we heard from them speaks volumes:

*"We would like to learn some ways we could help and save our environment. We would like to have a hands on experience learning about what you do at **rare**."*  
Meghan, Natasha, Alexandra

*"We would love to see what you do up close...Our teacher has recently read your article in the Cambridge Times and noticed you have a program that's called 'Every Child Outdoors.' We would love to see how this program works..."* Mikayla and Emily

But what's even more remarkable is what the students had to say after their visit:

*"This was a great hands-on experience for all of us. We learned so much, from plants such as lily of the valley, to even birds such as bluebirds."* Emmalea D.

*"Thanks to this experience, I have new ideas about how to help the environment and also a new appreciation for wildlife."* Mackenzie W.

*"...we learned a lot of important things and we can tell our parents everything we learned..."* Samuel P.

The group spent the day with **rare's** Education Director, Leslie Work, who is developing a curriculum-linked Environmental Education Program, and intern, Lauren Cymbaly, who developed a management strategy for

invasive alien plant species on the Reserve. Together, they explored habitats and two key areas of restoration along the banks for the Grand River, at the confluence with the Speed River – an important area for waterfowl.

The students were so energized by their experience that they sent us individual thank-you letters, and donated toonies to help **rare** Colour the Map Green, with every toonie preserving one square metre of land. They helped save 11 square metres!

We want to give more children the opportunity to learn at **rare**. With your support as many as 20,000 students will visit the Reserve over the next 4 years as part of the *Every Child Outdoors* effort. If St. Augustine's experience is anything to go by – new environmental knowledge transforming schools, homes and communities – imagine what thousands of students will achieve!

To help make these opportunities available to our community's children, please see the enclosed insert that was generously donated by Sportswood Printing, or contact the office at 519-650-9336. Your gift today will see more students get 'back to school' at **rare** this fall.

*If you would like your class or group to visit **rare** before the Slit Barn renovations are complete, please inquire about our pilot Environmental Education Programs or our interpretive hikes through the cliffs and alvars area. The theme of these hikes can reflect curriculum expectations in the Life Systems or certain Earth and Space systems strands, or your group's particular interests. For more information on guided hikes check our website or call **rare's** Environmental Education Director Leslie Work at 519-650-9336 extension 114.*

## Thank You to...



**Sole Earth Apparel**, an environmentally and ethically conscious company that recently opened in Guelph, for hosting a benefit concert on their opening day and donating the proceeds to **rare**.

To the **Cloverleaf Foundation** for their generous support of our education initiatives with donations towards a pavilion and a graduate student scholarship for research conducted at **rare**. More information on the Scholarship will be available in our winter 2009 newsletter. Deadline for submissions is April 3, 2009. For more information contact our Research Director, Peter Kelly at 519-650-9336 x126.



*Photos supplied by St. Augustine School*



## Our Readers Ask...

**Q:** I was walking at **rare** one Saturday morning when I noticed something that looked like a Volleyball net in an open area back from the trail. What is it?

**A:** That is a mist net. Mist nets are used for bird banding. These nets are composed of lightweight nylon mesh and placed in areas where bird traffic is expected to be high. Birds fly into the nets and become trapped. The bird is then removed from the net and a numbered metal tag is attached around one leg. The bands come in different sizes depending on the species of bird and weigh less than the weight of a single feather! The bird is also identified, weighed and sexed, and the date, location and band number are recorded. Other information recorded includes wing length, the presence of fat deposits and the bird's age. Age can be determined in several ways including the shape, colour and texture of the feathers, the stage and type of plumage moult, bill or eye colour and the presence of other features only present in sexually mature adults.

Banding data has been critical to researchers studying the distribution of birds and their movements, particularly during migration. The data can also be used to determine bird numbers, annual production, life spans and causes of death. Recently, banding data has provided important insights into the extent of deforestation in birds' wintering grounds in Latin America. This increased knowledge of bird movements and habits helps in the development of strategies for their conservation. In Canada, the banding data is stored at the Canadian Bird Banding Office in Ottawa (established in 1923), which also issues permits and provides the bands to licensed banders and those holding sub-licenses under them.



Photo by: Heather Wilson

Bird banding began on the **rare** property in 2002 near Springbank Farm south of Blair Road but was discontinued in 2004 when the sub-licensed bander moved from the area. However, from May 24th to June 1st 2008, a two-weekend trial banding run was set up near the Grand River by coordinator and Environmental Advisory Team member Bill Wilson, bander Kevin Grundy and a team of volunteers. This trial run was deemed a great success even though the hours were reduced significantly on the

second weekend due to high winds. Fifty-eight birds representing 19 species were banded over the two weekends and casual observations were made of another 75 species. These numbers are comparable to some of the best birding spots in Southern Ontario! **rare** is excited that the banding team will be implementing a full banding program starting in mid-August that will extend to the end of October. This data will help assess the importance of the Grand River as a migration flyway.

### How can you help?

1. Please keep your pets on a leash! While the goal of the banding personnel is to remove, tag and release each bird as quickly as possible, a bird may be in a net for as long as 20 minutes. Dogs may be attracted to the bird's calls. A loose dog could endanger the bird's life and/or lead to the destruction of the mist net.
2. If you encounter a bird in the net, please leave it alone. In particular, do not attempt to remove the birds. This is a delicate procedure that should only be attempted by trained personnel.
3. If you find a bird band in Canada, flatten it and tape it to a piece of paper with relevant information including your name and address, the date and location the band was found, and the bird species and cause of death (if available). Send it to the: Canadian Bird Banding Office, National Wildlife Research Centre, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3. Alternatively, you can report the find on line, by visiting [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov). Your participation is critical for providing the data needed to develop strategies for bird conservation.

## Egg Collection Donated by Janet Carey

While spring cleaning, my aunt Marie came across an egg collection that belonged to my uncle, Russell McKellar, a lifelong Hespeler resident. Knowing that I was a birder, she asked if I would be interested in having it. Uncle Ross loved to climb trees when he was young and managed to collect about three dozen eggs from birds' nests in and around the Hespeler area. These eggs were collected in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Not having the knowledge to identify more than a few of the eggs, I sought help from Bill Wilson. Thanks to Bill's knowledge and efforts, he was able to identify most of the eggs.

The Eared Grebe egg is the only one that is not local to the area. Apparently, Uncle Russ traded it with someone from British Columbia, who had advertised in the Farmer's Almanac.

I'm pleased that the eggs will have a good home at **rare** Charitable Research Reserve, where they can be viewed and appreciated by young students and other naturalists.



## Envirothon Winners Visit the Reserve

On May 8<sup>th</sup> **rare** hosted 140 of the best high school environmental students from across Ontario. As part of the 3-day event sponsored by the Ontario Forestry Association (OFA), these students participated in a series of five simultaneous hikes that showcased the special features of the **rare** Reserve, including the Hogsback, around Springbank gardens, through the Alvar river trail, the archaeological efforts and the outstanding views from the liner trail.

The focus of this year's Envirothon was on the importance of green spaces in the urban setting – a theme that made **rare** such a natural fit. The students' enthusiasm and appreciation for what we have here, locally, was inspiring. They were active in taking pictures of the alvar landscape, asking Bill Wilson to identify the birds (a Baltimore Oriole posed nicely for the cameras) or asking Larry Lamb to tell them about plants found throughout the Hogsback.

These bright, young people went back to their homes across the Province with a first-hand appreciation of the environmental and cultural history of the area. Kristina Quinlan of the OFA and coordinator of the event noted in her post-event letter that, *"The students, teachers and volunteers who attended the **rare** hikes could not stop talking about the wonderful experience they had while visiting your truly remarkable place."*

## Contact Us!

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**Sharon Bowes**, Community Outreach Coordinator  
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**Peter Kelly**, Research Director  
**Ian Rowett**, Bookkeeper  
**Leslie Work**, Education Director



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## rare Leadership

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**Brian McGee**, Chartered Accountant; Partner, Zeifman & Company LLP  
**Angela Tsementzis**, B.E.S., B.Arch.

### Environmental Advisory Team/Committee

**Chris Dalton**, Avocational Archaeologist, Licensed by the Province of Ontario  
**Larry Lamb**, Manager Ecology Lab, Adjunct Lecturer, Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo  
**Doug Larson**, Faculty Member, College of Biological Sciences, University of Guelph  
**Alan Morgan**, Faculty Member, Earth Sciences, University of Waterloo  
**Stephen Murphy**, Faculty Member, Environment & Resource Studies, University of Waterloo  
**Martin Neumann**, Supervisor of Terrestrial Resources, Grand River Conservation Authority  
**Mark Pomeroy**, Fisheries Biologist, Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
**Bill Wilson**, retired Teacher; Naturalist; Regional Co-ordinator, Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

### Ambassadors

**Michael Barnstijn**, retired partner, RIM; Philanthropist; Musagetes Foundation  
**David Buckland**, Founder, Cape Farewell www.capefarewell.com; director of Art from a Changing Artic  
**Ed Burtynsky**, Photographer; subject of award-winning documentary, *Manufactured Landscapes*  
**Severn Cullis-Suzuki**, Environmental activist; speaker; television host; author  
**Ron Dembo**, Founder, Zerofootprint www.zerofootprint.net  
**Louise MacCallum**, retired software engineer; Philanthropist; Musagetes Foundation  
**Sheila O'Donovan**, Founder, Lisaard House  
**Jane Urquhart**, Author  
**Morden Yolles**, Multi-Award winning structural engineer; restaurateur; photographer

### Building Committee

**Chris Dalton**, (see previous)  
**Graham Lobban**, Lobban Stroud Ltd. Building Inspections  
**Robert Milligan**, Environmental Health Analyst  
**Val Rynnimeri**, Faculty Member, School of Architecture, University of Waterloo

### Archaeology Committee

**Chris Dalton**, (see previous)  
**John MacDonald**, Senior Archaeologist, Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants Inc.

### Education Committee

**Jason Bracey**, Teacher, Southwood Secondary School, Cambridge  
**Susan Trotter**, Teacher, New Dundee Public School

### Research Advisory Team

**Doug Larson**, Co-Director (see previous)  
**Stephen Murphy**, Co-Director (see previous)

### Campaign Cabinet

**Keith Ainsworth**, Chairman, COM DEV International  
**John K. Bell**, Chairman, The Onbelay Group  
**Greg Buzbuzian**, Owner, Knar Jewellery  
**Stewart Campbell**, BlackTree Capital  
**Valerie Hall**, Administrator, Musagetes Foundation  
**Doug McMullen**, retired, CIBC Development Corporation  
**Simon Poladian**, Owner, Eagle Towing Equipment  
**Joy Roberts**, retired; community volunteer  
**Hugh Thompson**, President, Cambridge Towel; CEO, Thompson Centre for Art and Design