

The



review

Spring/Summer 2009

Indian Woods: The Jewel in the Crown

Of all the many special features on the rare lands, probably no one would argue against Indian Woods as the crowning jewel. It is remnant old-growth forest, unique in southern Ontario, representing a forest structure and functional ecosystem of which only 0.1% remains in southern Ontario. It merges with deciduous-mixed swamp surrounding the mid and upper reaches of Bauman Creek. Bauman Creek is significant in that it is a cold water creek and supports Brook Trout. As well, these woodlands connect in amoeba-like fashion with Blair Road Slope Woods, Manor House Woods and Barn Woods. Collectively, they form a somewhat contiguous 60 ha of mature and maturing woodlands.

Indian Woods is home to many species of birds; some dependent upon its old-growth characteristics; very large, old trees, swamp, cavities, trunks and branches, decaying windfalls and sunlit forest gaps. The catch-basin ponds in spring attract wood ducks and are habitat for frogs and salamanders. Under the canopy of red and white oaks, white ash, basswood and white pine, is a ground cover of ferns, shrubs and flowering plants in a mix of Northern Hardwood and Carolinian species. A third of the 17 species of ferns identified on the property, including interrupted fern, lie within Indian Woods. Unpalatable to white-tailed deer, spicebush thrives in the understory of the mixed swamp. The regionally rare squawroot grows at the base of massive oaks.

Vision in Spite of Adversity: A Defining Moment

Occasionally, the need to make a difficult decision forces one to come face-to-face with the true meaning of priority - what one thing is most important above all others?

Although the **rare Charitable Research Reserve** has many community offerings and programs - including its over-riding project of research that begins a Chain of Learning extending to even the youngest citizens, - the priority of the organization is to hold in trust, and in perpetuity, the 913 acres of land that it stewards on behalf of the public.

Holding land in trust, is an ongoing effort, involving diligence, perseverance and, occasionally, outright battles to maintain control. The charity has struggled to keep the 913 acres intact and has managed to do so only because of public outcry and support. None of this has been easy - to paraphrase one environmentalist, when it comes to the environment, our successes are always temporary but our failures are always permanent.

Right now **rare** has an opportunity that is wholly positive in nature - but gargantuan in size for a young organization still struggling to renovate the 1840s limestone slit barn for its education programs, to pay for the original lands and to keep the historic Lamb's Inn functioning.

There is a 93 acre parcel of land for sale, which we hope to acquire. It is immediately adjacent to Indian Woods, some of the last remnant old-growth forest in southern Ontario, and just to the west of our current boundary separated only by a heritage laneway - built in the late 1800s - which would provide incredible access for community education and interpretation.

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Photos by: Peter Kelly



rare Profile: The Pomeroy's by Peter Kelly

When fisheries biologist and environmental consultant Mark Pomeroy recently joined **rare's** Environmental Advisory Team, he completed a circle that began over 25 years ago when he was just a boy growing up in Galt.



Mark and his family (father Chuck, mother Delma and brother Dean) moved into the area from Scarborough in 1983 after Chuck accepted a new position as Quality Control Manager with Inglis. Little could Chuck and Delma have

realized that their decision to purchase a house a stone's throw away from the lands now held by **rare**, would significantly shape the future life and interests of their son Mark.

Apart from a period in university where he briefly considering pursuing music as a career (like his brother Dean), Mark has always had aspirations of being a biologist. While Mark has fond memories of collecting tadpoles with his dad while they still lived in Scarborough, he says that growing up adjacent to the Hogsback (a forest/wetland complex in **rare's** southeast corner) ignited his interest in biology. Mark spent hours and days in the Hogsback immersed in its natural surroundings. It was here that Mark developed his fascination for salamanders and it was here that he was driven to learn the names of all the plants and creatures he encountered on his expeditions.

His parents weren't surprised that Mark become a biologist because, much to Delma's dismay, he was always bringing little creatures home to the house. She recalls the time that she was seconds away from opening up a crazy carpet sled filled with frogs and snakes! Crickets weren't unusual guests in the hallways of the Pomeroy household either; escapees destined as food for the gecko in Mark's aquarium.

Chuck also recalls the time that a 10-year-old Mark trundled up the driveway pulling his toy dump-truck... with a dead owl in the back! Mark developed his ecological ethos early, becoming enraged as a teenager when a local development destroyed natural habitat close to his home.

Mark's passion for the natural world carried him to regular meetings of the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists Young Naturalists' Program at Laurel Creek Nature Centre. He also quenched his thirst for the outdoors via camping and hiking trips with the Scouts, hiking and fishing on family trips to the Muskokas and a summer with the Ontario Ranger program north of Parry Sound. He completed his degree in Natural Resource Management at the University of Guelph and then pursued various work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, a climate change research lab at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and the St. Clair Conservation Authority before joining Stantec, an environmental consulting firm with a branch in Guelph. Chuck meanwhile retired from Inglis five years ago and has spent that time pursuing interests including genealogy and model railroading.

On Mark's birthday, two years ago, the family reconnected with **rare** while attending a hike during the region's Doors Open event. The hike made a lasting impression on both Mark and Chuck, and Mark leapt at the chance to join **rare's** Environmental Advisory Team as an aquatic specialist (among other things!) while Chuck has become a regular attendee at **rare** hikes, talks and other events. His favourite events, not surprisingly, are the outdoor hikes.

Chuck sees **rare's** legacy as the preservation of its land, its value heightened by its close proximity to the large urban centres of Cambridge and Kitchener-Waterloo. Mark believes further that the diversity of habitats at **rare** provide an invaluable natural learning environment for children and a place for kids to get excited about nature. We look forward to their involvement at **rare** for many years to come!

Organic Food Boxes at rare

Following our successful initial partnership in 2008, Plan B Organic Farm will once again be using **rare** as a depot for their organic food box deliveries. Customers will receive a box of local certified organic vegetables and/or fruits weekly for 18 weeks between the first week of June and the first week of October. Boxes can be picked up at **rare's** Administrative Offices at 1679 Blair Road in Cambridge. Prices vary from \$450 (suitable for one to two adults) to \$800 (suitable for a household of four hearty eaters) for the season depending on the size of the box. Fruit boxes are \$250 a season. For more information and a full list of the vegetables and fruits one can expect to receive throughout the summer, visit www.planborganicfarms.ca or call Plan B at 905-659-2572.

Nature Notes by Bill Wilson



During snow flurries on November 16, about 100 AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS fed on the seeds on the thousands of perennial plants in the Cruickston Creek restoration area at **rare**. On the harvested agricultural fields to the south, flocks of HORNED LARKS pecked through the stubble.

Andy and Kim Kelly reported an adult SNOW GOOSE on the river at the Cliffs on 28 November.

During the Cambridge Christmas Bird Count, 14 December 2008, which includes a large portion of **rare** lands, Jason Bracey reported a NORTHERN SHRIKE. Observations were also made of RED FOX tracks that led to a den as well as the remains of a WILD TURKEY kill about 10m from the den.

The small number of COMMON GOLDENEYE observed in early December at the Confluence by Jerry Guenther and Bill Wilson grew to 300+ on 20 December, the Kitchener Christmas Bird Count date. This number remained throughout the winter period for Marilyn Armstrong and Ruth Kroft counted 300+ on 21 February.

Winter visitors to **rare** included flocks of COMMON REDPOLLS, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS and PINE SISKINS.

Rarely do warblers overwinter along the river adjacent to the Cliffs at **rare**. In the last 15 years, a Pine Warbler and Yellow-rumped warbler have done so. This winter, Andy and Kim Kelly had a YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER visit their feeder immediately across the river from the Cliffs.

On January 16, Marco DeBruin, Jerry Guenther and Bill Wilson were joined by Finnish birder, Harry Lehto, searching for winter birds along the reaches of the Grand River below the Confluence as well as Blair and Preston Flats. Imagine their surprise to discover an adult BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON and PIED-BILLED GREBE.

On 19 January, Jason Bracey took his environmental science class snowshoeing; they observed WHITE-TAILED DEER on three separate occasions at three different locations for a total of eight deer. They also observed seven WILD TURKEYS behind the farmhouse at Springbank.

Once again, 28 Friends of **rare** and members of the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists (KWFN) monitored overwintering BALD EAGLES along the Grand River from Kitchener to Cambridge to Glen Morris. Monitoring

was also undertaken by eight observers in the Paris to Brantford corridor and, for the first time, eight observers monitored the Nith River. The co-ordinators of these monitoring activities are Bill and Heather Wilson, Bob Scott, and Ken Dance, respectively. A maximum of 20-21 BALD EAGLES was observed this season. The monitoring data are compiled by the co-ordinators and sent to Art Timmerman, OMNR. Josh Shea, **rare** Land Steward, has compiled the Monitoring Summary for the March monitoring dates. Thanks to everyone for their support!

The **rare** Owl Prowl led by Jason Bracey, 22 January, was an interesting evening of night-time sights and sounds. At the gate of the south field they heard COYOTES. Continuing down the Grand Allee trail to the bridge over Bauman Creek, they heard a very loud raspy-screechy bark that was coming from very close by and loud enough to startle them. A bit later, two screech owls called and flew in close to "check out" the group. About 15 minutes later, they heard the loud raspy-screechy sound again – perhaps a GREAT HORNED OWL? As the group headed back, an EASTERN SCREECH-OWL landed in a fork of a big tree where it perched for about five minutes before flying off into the night – a great view for all participants and a fitting end to another successful owl prowl at **rare**.

On February 7, about 20 registered guests and **rare** staff joined Josh Shea, Andy Steinberg and Bill Wilson to observe BALD EAGLES and attend an indoor workshop describing the monitoring effort and its goals. While organizing the morning's outing and car parking in the **rare** headquarters' parking lot, all participants were totally surprised by an adult BALD EAGLE that flew in and landed just off the river in a nearby tall conifer. Guess how many cameras were "prepared" for that opportunity?!

On 9 February, while leading a group owl prowling, Jason Bracey reported hearing at least two EASTERN SCREECH-OWLS as well as the strange screechy-bark sound heard on a previous outing along with the hoots of a GREAT HORNED OWL – mystery solved?

During a hike to the Hogsback on 13 February, John Macdonald observed tracks in the snow from WILD TURKEY, WHITE-TAILED DEER, VIRGINIA OPOSSUM and possibly RED FOX and COYOTE. As he neared the **rare** Organics field, John observed at least 23 WHITE-TAILED DEER.

During a KWFN outing to Preston on 15 February, a stop at the Confluence provided an opportunity to view seven species of waterfowl including a LONG-TAILED DUCK spotted by Jerry Guenther. During the next month, Ruth Kroft and Marilyn Armstrong observed up to three of these ducks; Jennie Clayfield reported two on 17 March.



Red-Bellied Woodpecker

Photo by: Norm Lighfoot

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Nature Notes Continued from Page 3

On February 15, during a hike to the Hogsback, Josh Shea and Jill Marshall confirmed the presence of a GREAT HORNED OWL at **rare!** The owl has been observed on several occasions since nesting in the branches of a tall white pine.

Along the Grand Allee and adjacent fields on 16 February, Jason Bracey reported seeing BROWN CREEPER, RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, two PILEATED WOODPECKERS, both RED- and WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, DARK-EYED JUNCO, AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, RED-TAILED HAWK, DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS. On a slow drive (fortunately) along Langdon Drive, deer crossed right in front of his car: four does and two younger deer.

Ruth Kroft observed two NORTHERN PINTAIL drakes downstream of the Confluence on February 17. On another visit to Linear Trail on February 25, Ruth observed a MERLIN perched along the Speed River across from Preston Flats.

Several observers including Marilyn Armstrong observed small numbers of GREEN-WINGED TEAL throughout mid-winter.

Brett Fried, Jason Bracey and Erica Hentsch heard at least two, and possibly three, EASTERN SCREECH-OWLS calling along the Grand Allee on 5 March. Between owl calls, two COYOTES were howling back and forth to one another.

A ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was spotted by Brett Fried in early March flying over fields near Indian Woods.

Spring has arrived! COMMON GRACKLES and RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were observed March 7 by eagle monitors along the reaches of the river through **rare**. Jerry Guenther reported HOODED MERGANSERS, KILLDEER AND TRUMPETER SWANS near the Confluence on March 16.

On March 20th, Jason Bracey and Josh Shea walked sections of **rare** in hopes of catching some early signs of spring and observed 3 EASTERN BLUEBIRDS, PILEATED WOODPECKER, several RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS with 1 male checking out a potential nest cavity, both DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS, plenty of SONG SPARROWS belting out their songs, TURKEY VULTURES and 2 RED-TAILED HAWKS flying together. Another highlight was 2 SANDHILL CRANES walking together in South Field.

On a sunny Monday afternoon in March, **rare** Research Director Peter Kelly and **rare** Land Steward Josh Shea were joined by Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Joy Roberts and Doug McMullen for a leisurely hike to the Hogsback. During this outing, they were delighted to observe a Pileated Woodpecker excavating a feeding cavity, lots of signs of Wild Turkeys, several deer running through the field and a watchful Great Horned Owl guarding its territory.

On March 28th, Jason Bracey, Josh Shea and Christopher Giesler observed three PILEATED WOODPECKERS in the Hogsback including a possible female that disappeared into a large cavity. A BROWN CREEPER was also seen wedging itself into a crevice in a tree.

What is happening up at Springbank Farm this Summer? by Matthew Crooks

Great Question! Springbank Farm (located at 681 Blair Road) is the new home of Here We Grow! Springbank Farms Community Gardens project. Started in 2008, this project is seeing the radical transformation of the farm into educational demonstration gardens. This season will see the installation of native plant gardens, habitat gardens, and in keeping with the movement of 'Every Child Outdoors,' a natural Children's play space in addition to the rejuvenation and expansion of the biointensive vegetable gardens, that were created in 2008. There are, once again, community plots available as well, for those who don't have the space elsewhere to grow their own fruits, flowers, and vegetables.

The Here We Grow! project links with our Chain of Learning and includes, new Environmental Education school programs. These gardens offer a unique learning opportunity for people to develop an understanding of our environment – its role in their lives, in their community, and in the future of their planet. We will use these gardens to help people of all ages and education levels learn about everything from land use matters, and invasive species, to water quality, organic agriculture, eating locally grown foods, supporting a more sustainable lifestyle, reducing our individual and collective contribution to green house gases and global warming.

And perhaps you remember reading from our Winter 2009 issue of the **rare review** about the GROUNDWORKS project. Led by Render this project involves youth from the local community and from Six Nations and uses innovative and creative methods to encourage stewardship and constructive, positive dialogue rooted in a richer understanding of the land and related social/cultural history of the area. While the process of developing a productive garden that reflects a significant consideration of design and symbolic content will be the primary focus, GROUNDWORKS will also incorporate other activities (visitors' talks and creative workshops in response to the garden) and will close with a public gathering in the fall of 2009.

This summer, feel free to come for a walk at Springbank Farm to see all of the gardens take shape!

We wish to express our thanks for the kind support of the Ages Foundation Fund within the Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation, the Cloverleaf Foundation and a Wal-Mart – Evergreen grant.

Citizen Scientists at *rare* by Peter Kelly

What does a scientist look like? If your thoughts immediately turned to images of a wild-haired professor hunched over a bench full of chemicals, then think again. A scientist could be someone like your parents, your next-door neighbour, your children or even you! All that may be required is an interest in nature, some basic knowledge of plants and animals and the desire to contribute to the knowledge base of how our environment is changing.

Federal initiatives known as 'Citizen Science' programs are facilitated by an umbrella organization called NatureWatch whose purpose is to recruit Canadian citizens to make observations in their own communities on natural phenomena such as frogs, plants, pollinating insects or even worms! Data collected by participants can be entered on-line or sent in the mail.

This national database is already yielding interesting trends from across Canada and *rare* would like to recruit some volunteers to make observations on our property. These can be done on the volunteer's own time and for as little as a few hours. Good news as well - spring is an ideal time for starting your observations especially of frogs and plants. Please contact *rare's* Research Director Peter Kelly at 519-650-9336 x126 if you are interested in becoming a Citizen Scientist at *rare*! Details on the various NatureWatch programs available are included below. Some NatureWatch materials (posters, booklets, CDs) are available from *rare*.

FrogWatch (www.frogwatch.ca)



A decline in frog populations around the world has become an early warning sign for environmental degradation with blame assigned to phenomena such as global warming, habitat destruction, chemical pollution and increased ultraviolet radiation. FrogWatch data will help us determine if a similar decline in frog populations is taking place in Canada.



Green Frog

Photo by: Jessica Grealey

Frog monitoring is largely done in spring when frogs make their way to their breeding ponds. Frogs are easy to identify at this time of year because the male frogs are calling and each frog species has a distinctive call. Frog calls are relatively easy to learn even for the beginner because there are so few frog species in eastern Canada. You can listen to their calls on the FrogWatch web-site or with a handy frog call CD. Soon you will be able to separate the wonderful bass tones of the Bullfrog from the sharp 'peeps' of the Spring Peeper!

PlantWatch (www.plantwatch.ca)



The onset of flowering in the spring will vary with climate. i.e. warmer winters and springs will lead to earlier blooming times. Records indicate that some plants are flowering almost a month earlier than they were a century ago!

Anyone can participate in PlantWatch, the only skill you will need is the ability to identify the plants that are part of the program and record the day in the spring that you first see them flowering. This may sound intimidating but the plants chosen for PlantWatch are relatively easy to identify. For example, dandelions, lilacs and white trilliums are part of the list, so even inexperienced botanists can participate. A handy PlantWatch guide includes photographs of all plants included in the program. It also includes general descriptions of their flowers, fruits, leaves, twigs and habitat and helpful pointers for the observer. Data submitted on-line is instantly mapped and participants can view flowering times that have already been reported from across Canada!

WormWatch (www.wormwatch.ca)



Earthworms are an under-appreciated but critical part of our ecosystems. A healthy soil can hold as many as half a million earthworms in just one hectare of soil and in one year these worms can eat nine tonnes of dead stems, leaves and roots and turn over 36 tonnes of soil!

Many people will be surprised at the diversity of worms that live in our soil. The WormWatch web-site has all the necessary information you will need to learn how to distinguish the different species of earthworms from each other. There is also information on worm biology and a description of the protocols you will need to use when you are monitoring their populations. Some worms will be found close to the soil surface while others will be found under rocks, logs and associated bark. There is also a handy WormWatch poster with lots of handy details.

The large number of different habitats at *rare* (i.e. agricultural fields to old-growth forests) make it an ideal spot to implement a WormWatch program.

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Look familiar? Look revitalized? *by Patti Leather*

When I started professionally fundraising about 10 years ago, capital projects/campaigns were often referred to as 'bricks and mortar.' True? Maybe, in most cases anyway – but not this time.

The 1840s Slit Barn and companion farmhouse capital renovations project is so much more than a traditional 'bricks and mortar' building project. This renovation, which you will have read about in previous issues of the *rare review*, is about breathing new life into a local iconic building; a building that tells a story of times gone by, that has seen over a century and a half of change in the landscape and in the people using the lands.

Now imagine the future, and imagine your children or grandchildren having the opportunity to participate in outdoor education programs that start from a building made of locally quarried limestone formed 420 million years ago and embedded with fossils of sea lilies, snails, corals, clams, brachiopods and sponges.

The idea is not to raise money to build something new, but to revitalize something that has stood there for over 160 years. We aim to create, as depicted here in a rendering by PLANT Architect Inc., a space that respects and celebrates the original architecture and historical features.

We are several steps closer to this goal today, thanks to the help of many. To date, with generous funding from many different donors, we have been able to:

- hire PLANT Architect Inc. to lead the Slit barn renovations design;
- complete an Environmental Impact Study for the site;
- finish the buildings design and drawings;
- apply for and acquire appropriate zoning for the site from the Township of North Dumfries upon completion of a conservation easement signed with the Regional Municipality of Waterloo;
- hire The Walter Fedy Partnership (TWFP) to act as Construction Management on the project;
- submit a Site Plan application, which is now under consideration by the relevant authorities; and,
- complete a final costing for the project now that the design is complete and the scope of work realized.

Whew! I'm tired just recapping the work it's taken to get this far. Let me interject here to add a **BIG THANKS** to a few key people, in addition to our hired consultants, who have donated time and expertise that has helped us get this far – Jim Hallman, Roger Farwell, Bob Butt, Lasso Construction, and Angela Tsementzis.

But, we're not done yet. In fact, the fun is just beginning. The next step is for TWFP to issue tender packages for bidding by the individual trades. Very simplified, this means that we can break ground as long as funds continue to come in to cover the work contracts.

The final costing shows the total constructions costs of phase 1 are \$736,000. This will mean:

- a complete renovation/salvage of the historic Slit Barn (structural reinforcement of the original timber roofing system, rebuilding the door lintel and replacing the front doors, tearing up the old, cracked concrete floor and



Concept Drawing of the 1840's Slit Barn and Companion House by Plant Architect Inc.

- renewing the fill before re-pouring a new floor, creating a second exit for building code and safety reasons, and re-creating unique heritage features like the half-sized wood doors on the west wall of the barn, etc.);
- improvements to the existing driveway to create commercial access plus creating a courtyard-like circular drive for school buses and emergency vehicles;
- building a permeable surface 30-car parking area for public events;
- installing geo-thermal heating for the house and washrooms;
- building a new 6 washroom structure on the back of the house, accessible from the outdoors to accommodate hiking groups, classes, and functions in the barn; and,
- a new tertiary septic system.



Aerial View Concept Drawing of the 1840's Slit Barn and Companion House

Help us get to ribbon-cutting day!

There is much more fundraising to be done and we need your help. There are building components at every price point – a gift of any size makes a big difference; every gift counts. No donation is too small (or too big!).

Consider Jane Urquhart's comments in the Winter 2009 issue of the *rare review*, "I think we forget how important it is to have some landscape that doesn't change." There is no question that the 1840's barn is in serious need of protection from falling down. This structure has been an important part of the breathtaking panorama along Blair Road for over 160 years. Please help ensure that our future generations have the same chance to appreciate this important structure.



Slit Barn Fog

Photo by: Peter Kelly

PLANT Architect is an interdisciplinary firm that branches into the domains of architecture, landscape, ecology, furniture, art and graphic design. Synthesizing the insights and expertise of related disciplines, the practice responds to and embraces the increasing complexity of the world and the ambiguity of where landscape, built-form and design intersect. PLANT's integrated approach fosters a collaborative spirit, a multi-layered design solution and enriches each project with a fine grain of detail.

<http://www.branchplant.com/whowere.html>

Citizen Scientists at *rare* Continued from Page 5

PollinatorWatch (www.pollinationcanada.ca)

What are pollinators and why are they important? Quite simply, pollinators are the insects that pollinate flowers. Without pollinators, it would be impossible to maintain populations of many of our native plants. As well, pollinators are critical to the propagation of many fruits and vegetables including apples, pears, melons, berries and cucumbers. Birds and other animals are dependent on the seeds of these fruits so a decline in pollinators affects the entire ecosystem. The populations of some pollinators have declined in recent years with disease, pesticides, habitat loss and a decline in food sources being the primary culprits.



The most common pollinators fall into several key groups including bees, wasps, flies, moths and beetles. Choosing a site at *rare* to monitor pollinators is as simple as finding someplace where flowers grow. You can download a complete Observer's Manual from the Pollination Canada web-site at www.pollinationcanada.ca. Then all you need to do is lie amongst the flowers with your observation sheets and take notes on what you see. The gardens and meadows at *rare* would be perfect observatories for pollinators. What a great way to spend an afternoon!

Severn Cullis-Suzuki, one of *rare's* International Ambassadors



Severn Cullis-Suzuki Hike

Photo by: Peter Kelly

If you've been spending any time on YouTube lately, you might have seen *rare* mentioned in a video with Severn Cullis-Suzuki, one of *rare's* International Ambassadors. In fact, it's inspiring to listen to her 1992 UN speech in Rio when she was just 12 years old, and it's heartening to hear her talk about her interest in *rare* and other efforts that she witnesses around the Waterloo and Wellington regions on her visits here.

Since leading her first hike at *rare* in 2003, Severn has been a committed supporter of *rare's* vision and a fan of all those who work so hard to make contributions to the challenge of global warming by acting in their own communities.

Over the past few months, Severn has paid a couple of visits to the area. In January she spoke at Studio Earth, organized by Social Innovation Generation and held at Kitchener City Hall, and presented

a keynote address at the University of Guelph Environmental Sciences Symposium. In addition, on a beautiful sunny Sunday she joined friends of *rare* for a breakfast buffet and snowshoe hike led by ecologist Ken Dance.

Recently, she was back in the area to give the keynote address at a gala event for the Grand River Conservation Authority. She also spent a Sunday afternoon at the Guelph Youth Music Centre where she made her singing debut and played the Guelph Guitar in a session led by Douglas Larson, *rare* Advisor, U of G professor turned guitar-maker. If you have seen the guitar before, you will know that it has been handcrafted from many pieces of wood from around our community, each piece having its own story to tell. On this occasion, with Severn playing along, the guitar told a story entitled, "We Built it Ourselves." This theme is especially appropriate to Severn's life and to our community. So many things that we treasure in our community were started by dedicated individuals, working diligently and yet always in the context of, and with the support of, their community.

The next night, Severn was delighted to learn from a group of local citizens and organizations that environmental education is important across the community. The group came together to talk about making "Every Child Outdoors" a slogan for a movement across the Waterloo Wellington regions. She also learned that students from U of G had followed-up on her earlier visit and were committing to an effort to get "100 Thousand on the Hill" - a youth protest about Canada's current environmental stance.

Severn, who grew up in Vancouver, now lives on the islands of Haida Gwaii. She and her husband are expecting their first child this summer.

You can listen to Severn's 1992 UN speech at www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXGwqbI37Ks and watch a short recap of her visit to *rare* at www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZsDliXzyAY.

The Founder's Club; supporting a vision

\$7,400,000 raised
899 total gifts
514 donors
\$2 a square meter
1 common vision

That vision is 913-acres, protected intact in perpetuity for the protection of biodiversity and the benefit of future generations. How do we achieve that vision? With the help of individuals like you, and many others like you.

Launched publicly in 2005, **rare** continues its quest to raise the \$17 million required to fund its major capital campaign – a campaign that would see the \$5 million dollar mortgage on the Reserve paid off, historical buildings renovated, land restoration projects undertaken, the operation of a bona fide research site, an expansion of the trail network, community education programs for students of all ages and the general public, beautiful and inspiring community demonstration gardens ready for classes or self-guided tours, etc, etc. As the above play on words suggests, we have now raised over \$7.4 million and have less than \$10 million remaining. Thank you. We continue to be amazed by the community support.

Every one of the now 514+ donors who have given a gift to the campaign are members of our **Founders Club** – their names to be listed, in perpetuity. No matter the size of the gift, every donation brings us closer to realizing our goal.



Keith Martin and Jackie Hatherly-Martin

On May 22, **rare** will – with the help of volunteers, donors, and Co-Chairs Jackie Hatherly-Martin & Keith Martin - officially launch an exciting new Peer-to-Peer program. This is a unique opportunity for **rare** donors to help us gather

new support. The idea is simple, really. Remember the old saying, "If you tell two friends, and they tell two friends..." Well, you probably get the idea. If you believe in the vision, and have given your support, perhaps you would consider talking with your contacts, friends, and family about getting to know and supporting **rare**. Peer-to-peer asks those who have made a donation to extend an invitation to their friends to consider doing the same.

rare rare facts

9500 years of cultural history
913 acres of land
205 species of birds
24 habitats
5 kilometres of trails
2 rivers
1 beautiful place

visit us at Lamb's Inn, Springbank, the Slit Barn, and

www.RARESITES.org

Keith and Jackie have already begun the exciting task of bringing Peers together, and meeting with members of our **Founders Club** to understand why others like them have chosen **rare** in their philanthropic giving. Many of our supporters tell us they recognize the importance of this project not just for the immediate environmental benefits locally, but also for the benefit of future generations. Still others give gifts in the name of loved ones, in honor of special occasions, or in memory of someone special.

If you might be interested in this effort, please join us on Friday, May 22nd beginning at 5:30 pm in the **rare** offices for an evening of information, refreshments and community building. We're even planning a special evening guided hike for the group!

Please RSVP by calling Sarah at 519-650-9336 x 112 or by email at smmcgoldrick@raresites.org. The success of **rare** depends largely on community. Starting with gifts of just \$2 per square meter to protect the Reserve forever, every gift counts and helps keep our doors open, our programs running and our 913 acres protected. Help **rare** turn the map green!!!!

Visit us online at www.raresites.org and give a gift today! It's easy, secure, and is the most cost-effective way for the charity to process gifts. Your one-time gift can even be given in the name of someone you care about; a gift in perpetuity is something so special. Or, if you prefer, a monthly giving option is available and allows you to support the organization ongoing while spreading your gift out over time.

From Land to Grand

A fun, non-gala fundraising event for a good cause!

Come take a "Grand" voyage with us! Join **rare Charitable Research Reserve** on Saturday, June 20 from 2 to 10 pm for a fun and exciting day that includes a dinner cruise along a stretch of the Grand River – a Canadian Heritage River.

Every now and then Big Opportunities arise causing us to look for ways to fill the piggy bank faster. In this issue of the **rare review**, beginning on page 1, we told you of a last chance opportunity for the charity to add an additional 93 acres of ecologically significant lands to its land holdings. It is impossible to think of missing this opportunity!

And now, a group of **rare** volunteers have graciously stepped forward to help us reach our goal. Starting with a champagne reception, the funds and awareness raising event will emphasize the uniqueness of **rare**. Our afternoon will feature music by Kenny Munshawa and live auction with many 'rare' items including a photograph by renowned artist, environmentalist and International Ambassador to **rare**, Ed Burtynsky, before we head off in style to board our river rhapsody.

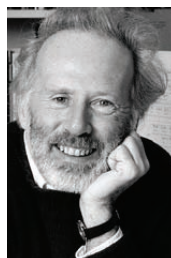
Won't you please join us in celebration of the amazing opportunity currently available to us? Bring Dad for Father's day - it promises to be something amazing and beyond the norm! Dad's name will be listed, in perpetuity, among our donors who are helping to protect **rare** forever.

Tickets are \$150 and available at the **rare** offices by calling Ian at 519-650-9336 x 117, by email at ierowett@rareplaces.org, or drop in to 1679 Blair Road in Cambridge.

If you are not able to 'come aboard' this time (though we wish you would!), but would like more information about the land purchase or would like to discuss the gift giving options to support this important acquisition, please don't hesitate to call Patti Leather at 519-650-9336 x 118.



Composer R. Murray Schafer comes to rare by Tarah Walsh



R. Murray Schafer

American theatre director Peter Sellars was once quoted as saying "The purpose of art is to find a way to wake people up." At a time when environmental issues are so pressing, it only seems natural that art be one of the primary forces that stir people and, with hope, help them wake up and realize the urgency of such problems. Here at **rare**, art has been a medium to connect with nature and a means to

create the change we hope to inspire. Starting with what some might remember as "The Art of Cruickston" back in 2004, and with a long list of cultural ambassadors, including author Jane Urquhart, photographer/film-maker Ed Burtynsky and multimedia artist David Buckland, **rare** relies on, and encourages, art both to express the importance of this natural landscape and to help strengthen its impact and influence on the world.

This spring, **rare** is proud to be hosting The Harbingers of Spring: A **rare** Soundwalk. This event is part of a larger production known as the Open Ears Festival, a biennial festival presented by the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and other local art organizations. R. Murray Schafer, world renowned composer and acoustic ecologist, leads this particular event with a short lecture on outdoor performance and listening. Following this, the audience will be led on a vigorous hike through the **rare** Charitable Reserve, along the Grand River. There, they will encounter outdoor performances and sound installations that highlight the sounds of the river, the forest and the cultural history of the area.

Known around the world for his work as a composer, writer, music educator, visual artist and environmentalist, Schafer is perhaps best known for his work surrounding the concept of Acoustic Ecology. Acoustic Ecology aims to increase personal and social awareness of our sound environment. The primary intention of such an event is to increase awareness of sound-related environmental issues with the hope of developing ethical approaches in regards to the sounds of a natural environment (such as **rare**).

This event will be taking place on Wednesday April 29th through to Saturday May 2nd with a scheduled rain date of Sunday May 3rd. Tickets are available by calling 519-745-4711 ext. 267 or by emailing info@openeears.ca. More information is also available at www.openeears.ca.



Vision in Spite of Adversity:

Continued from Page 1

Adding acres around Indian Woods, for example, creates a natural buffer, something which is essential for protecting the ecological integrity of a sensitive area.

These lands consist of deciduous forest contiguous with Indian Woods, the headwaters of Bauman Creek, as well as old fields undergoing successional growth and a mixed plantation. This property has provided breeding habitat for a number of threatened bird species including hooded warbler, mourning warbler and saw-whet owl.

The purchase price is \$750,000. Two Real Estate agents and a Land Surveyor have commented on the price and determined it was fair market value. Needless to say, this favourable price is still an enormous challenge to the charity. But a priority is a priority. We must find a way to do this and we are hoping you will want to help.

"We are going to have to get very creative to find ways to raise these funds," says Patti Leather, Executive Director, "but this is not just the chance of a lifetime, it's the last chance forever to ensure these new lands are protected in perpetuity."

The **rare** Environmental Advisory Team believes this piece of land has tremendous ecological value and that it would add greatly to the functioning of the ecosystems on the adjacent **rare** lands. There is widespread agreement that every effort should be made to obtain it. Research Director, Peter Kelly, says the land purchase is vital to continuing the land protection process at **rare**. The area hosts the headwaters of Bauman Creek, which if acquired would mean that **rare** would own and administer the entire Bauman Creek watercourse - from its headwaters to its entrance into the Grand River. "This site would be



Indian Woods

Photo by: Peter Kelly

ideal for long-term watershed studies," says Kelly. "Researchers would know they have a research site that is secure for years to come."

UW's Larry Lamb, a well-known native plant expert, can't believe the charity's good luck and he applauds its foresight, "If you ever wanted a sign that the Board and Management of the charity were aligned with the mission and with the passions of those of us who are constantly, 'on the ground,' you need look no further. If we pull this off, we will have done something for this community that

people will be appreciating for generations and generations to come." Larry felt so excited about the possibility that he has championed his own fundraising effort to help the charity, leading the way with his personal donation.

Negotiations have been underway for some months and early fundraising requests have been started. A purchase agreement has now been signed. It gives

the charity favourable terms and until December to find the funds.

As donors and volunteers have heard about the lands, they have offered additional gifts to help with this one-time effort. Together, the funds have been adding up: almost \$90,000 has been designated to the new land purchase so far. Just last month, the EJLB Foundation (based in Montreal) committed \$50,000 to help with the purchase.

If we miss this opportunity to purchase and preserve these 93 acres, they will invariably be sold to someone else - another piece of our history and our children's environmental future lost to us collectively, forever.

If you want to learn more, please call Patti Leather, **rare's** Executive Director at 5169-659-9336 x 118. Perhaps you might be interested in having an opportunity to view the lands with Josh Shea, **rare's** Land Steward?

The EJLB Foundation

The EJLB Foundation was incorporated in February 1983 and has two main areas of interest. Among them is:

- *Protection of the environment, mainly through the acquisition and preservation, throughout Canada, of natural areas of ecological significance or of importance to the urban landscape. The Foundation also provides support, on a case by case basis, for a variety of other concrete environmental endeavours.*

More can be learned at <http://www.ejlb.qc.ca/>

New Web Launch for **rare**

Change and growth is inevitable. Nature is a prime example of this. Whether it is with the seasons or over the years, trees accumulate new rings and flowers bloom, seed and bloom again. In keeping with this natural process, people as well as organizations continue to mature and transform themselves when necessary. Over the past seven years, **rare** has continued to move forward with its initiatives, and in doing so, it has witnessed the creation and development of two different websites.

The first was an information based site (www.raresites.org) which included information on the

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New Web Launch for *rare*

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rare property itself, as well as detailed articles outlining the projections and proposals regarding land restoration, conservation and education. This site was driven by science and research and was designed primarily to inform the public as to what *rare* was all about.

Then, four years later, a second site (www.raretome.ca) was developed in order to increase *rare's* profile, to make its offerings more accessible to the general public and to help raise funds needed to continue operations and running costs. This site was crafted to highlight *rare's* fundraising campaigns and to allow people to donate time or money to its cause.

As you can probably imagine, having two websites got to be rather confusing. The overlap between the two sites made finding information rather difficult. So, in the fall of 2008, *rare* decided it would be much more effective to design a third site which would amalgamate the two existing sites into one – www.raresites.org. Taking the address from the original *rare* website, this freshly merged site will feature both up-to-date information about the land itself as well as concise information about becoming involved either as a volunteer or a donor. This site will also feature our educational and research programs, events, job listings, photos, videos and blogs, as well as a list of our supporters and staff. The intent in merging these two sites is to provide one simple way to access everything that is *rare*.



Contact Us!

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Musagetes Foundation
David Buckland, Founder, Cape Farewell www.capefarewell.com;
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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
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Musagetes Foundation
Sheila O'Donovan, Founder, Lisaard House
Jane Urquhart, Author
Morden Yolles, Multi-Award winning structural engineer; restaurateur;
photographer

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John MacDonald, (see previous)

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Louise Dawe, Teacher, community volunteer
Christopher Giesler, Southwood Secondary School, Cambridge
Susan Trotter, Teacher, New Dundee Public School, New Dundee

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