

The
ra re
review
Winter 2015

From Osprey to Owls

By Jenna Quinn

Thursday, November 27th was one of those exceptionally rare off-season days where I get to spend almost the entire day outside. As the fall fades into winter, I, like many others, find myself spending more time at my desk and less time outdoors. This was not one of those days.

I started my morning seeing a project come to fruition that I have been involved with since June. Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro came to us with a problem - Osprey were attempting to nest on a hydro pole along the Grand River and were causing fires and power outages, in addition to risking their Osprey lives! We suggested providing an alternative nesting platform close by, and offered up a location on the **rare** reserve. The plan came into focus: hydro donated the pole and would be in charge of erecting the tower, a local Preston Highschool student, Korey, built the nesting platform as part of a school project, and together we all watched the tower go up at 11:30am on Thursday morning. It took about three hours for the entire process to happen - digging into the ground for the pole, building a crib to help secure the pole, attaching the platform to the pole, and ultimately raising it up.

Visible from both the roadside and the Grand Trunk Trail, the new tower is about 200 metres away from the Grand River and is at the eastern edge of the **rare** property. I'm humbled to have taken part

in a project that has seen a permanent change in the rare landscape. Now all we can do is wait for the Osprey to return to the area in the spring, and hope they find the new nest suitable.

Following the tower raising, I took off my hard hat and put on my tour guide badge as I joined my fellow coworkers on a lovely winter walk around the Maple Lane trail, introducing a new friend of **rare** to the property. It doesn't matter how many times I've been out on the trails and talked with my coworkers, we always learn something new from each other when spending time in nature. We chatted about the history of the Maple Lane Meadow, discussed the Pine-Walnut plantation, watched the water flow under the bridge over Bauman Creek and witnessed the beautiful row of maple trees that gives Maple Lane its name.

I finished my work day well after dark, hosting one of **rare's** favoured events - the Owl Prowl. Despite the snow, we had a full house of guests interested in learning about, seeing, and hearing owls. The snow was falling fast as we hiked single-file down the Grand Allée and began our search for owls. Standing in the forest at night, everyone silently listened for a hoot from the skies. Unfortunately, we were not treated to an owl sighting or call, but everyone still emerged from the forest with smiles. It was a full day of outdoor magic- a great day at **rare**.

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Cover photography : Robin in Winter by N. Lightfoot and Osprey by J. Moser and J. Dillon

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Sharing talent and meaning

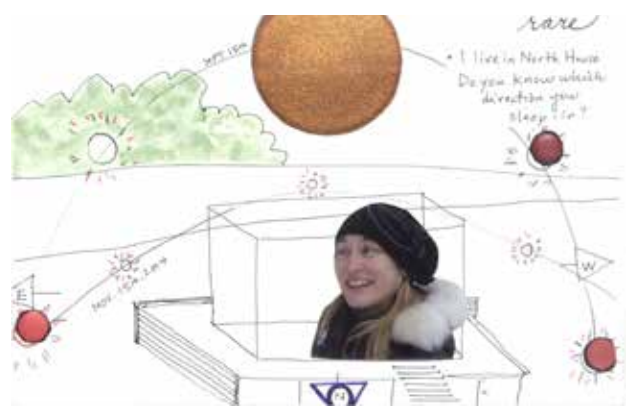
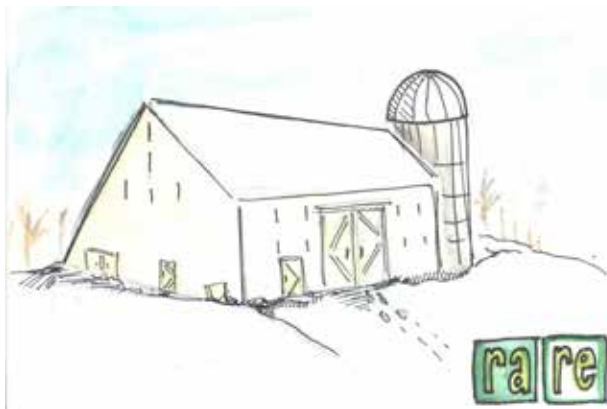
By Patti Leather

A Night of Postcards is a project of the University of Waterloo School of Architecture Bridge program which this fall asked residents to celebrate Cambridge with art. They were to write, draw, sketch or doodle on the postcards to illustrate what represents the community to them. Submissions were part of an exhibit in downtown Galt. The launch was December 4.

Based on the postcard art submitted, selected candidates were invited to participate in the next

phase, the 100 Notebook Project! It explores “the notebook as a medium for capturing creativity.” Participants are asked to fill their notebooks over the next four months lending their expressions to a unique exhibition and eventually, a circulating library.

Thank you to all the artists who submitted something **rare-related** and congratulations to Gerrit, Rhiannon and Kayla for the invite to the 100 Notebook Project.



From Left to Right:

rare Logo by Rhiannon Moore, Osprey by Kayla Martin, *Slit Barn* by Rhiannon Moore, *North House* by Karen Houle, *Cardinal* by Gerrit Kamminga and *Huggy Tree* by Gerrit Kamminga

Ask a Researcher

By Katherine McLeod

We would like to broaden the opportunity for you to ask your burning questions - what did you always want to know about the research conducted at **rare**, the environment or conservation biology in general? Send us your questions – by e-mail, on Facebook, you can tweet us, or even drop them off personally. Each newsletter we will publish one question with the answer from one of our researchers. One interesting question was asked recently on a hike with students that focused on the importance of grassland habitat in southern Ontario and all its different inhabitants, particularly birds. A young student asked where the birds nested, as there were obviously no trees in the area. Grassland birds, such as Eastern Meadowlark, nest within the grasses on the ground. But:

How do ground nesting birds protect the nest and the chicks from predators?

In grasslands and meadows, ground-based nests can be scrapes, which are depressions created when a bird scrapes away the surface of the ground. Scrapes may be lined with vegetation, pebbles, shells, sticks, or feathers. Ground nesting birds can also use vegetation and sticks to create a nest that is saucer, plate, or cup shaped and sits on the ground. Camouflage is an important tool in nest protection. The use of grasses,



Killdeer and Eggs by N. Lightfoot.

sedges, sticks, stones, and feathers serve to help disguise the nests from predators. Some birds, such as the Bobolink, fashion a canopy out of dead grass to cover the nest for additional concealment. Others may add bits of vegetation atop the nest when they leave it unattended. Egg colour and pattern can also help camouflage the nest. Light tan, gray, and brown colours, speckles, spots or blotches allow eggs to blend into a background of soil, pebbles, and plant

litter. When the eggs hatch, the colour and patterning on the chicks will make it harder for predators to spot them. Nests are often located away from the edges of fields or other areas with trees or shrubs to prevent predators from obtaining an easy view of the nest location. Adult birds may attack potential predators or other birds near the nest site. Alternatively, adults may feign injury to lead potential predators away from the nest, such as the well-known broken-wing act of the killdeer.

What is your question?

Contact us and Ask a Researcher!

rare@raresites.org

facebook.com/raresites

[@raresites](https://twitter.com/raresites)

Why the *rare* Graduate Scholarship made such a big difference for me

By Eric Harvey

Studying and monitoring the health of our natural heritage becomes increasingly hard for early career scientists. As a teacher, I see more and more students working impossible hours for not enough money at the expense of their own academic performance, health and future. As a graduate student, what used to be anxiety and positive stress about writing the best thesis and doing the best science, has now turned into a constant struggle to find sufficient funds.

The golden age of science and ecology, sadly, seems behind us, at the time where we would need it the most. In this context, developing community-funded organizations based on stewardship and a good sense of citizenship is not only desirable, but also essential. The **rare Charitable Research Reserve**, by promoting a sense of belonging, and a thirst for a better understanding of our natural surroundings, fills a vital gap left vacant many years ago.

It is in this difficult context that the **rare** scholarship in graduate research becomes so important. \$4,000 might not seem like a lot to live on, but in reality it can make a big difference. Not only did it help me to focus on my research, it also helped me to travel to conferences I wouldn't have been able to participate in otherwise. Presenting at these international conferences, I was able to talk about southern Ontario grasslands, about **rare**, and about our current understanding of one of the most threatened ecosystems on this planet. My time as a graduate student is slowly, but surely, coming to an end, and if there is one thing I know for sure, is that I would not be as proficient in my field as I am today without **rare**'s important financial support. Your support to research does not only make a difference for graduate students, but it also, and perhaps most importantly, will lead to a better understanding of



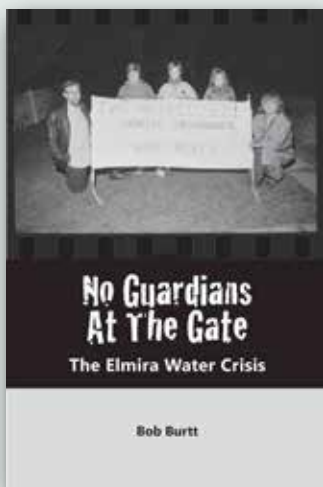
Eric Harvey by S. Perry

Ontario tallgrass prairie ecosystems, which is paramount to better conservation management practices and policies.

Thank you **rare**, for recognizing the importance of evidence-based knowledge for the improvement of conservation and management!

Thank you **rare**, for your amazing logistical and financial support!
- Eric Harvey

In November, Dr. Eric Harvey successfully defended his Ph.D thesis at the University of Guelph. Congratulations!



rare Reads: Our Pick

No Guardians At The Gate is a story about the Elmira Water Crisis in 1989 and the town's 25-year-old fight for a clean environment. It was a divisive catastrophe and the clean-up continues today.

Join us in the new year for a talk on the subject by the author. See the insert events calendar for details.

The book is available at the Waterloo Region Museum, THEMUSEUM in downtown Kitchener and independent bookstores in Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph.

*This is Bob Burt's first book. He is a writer and retired environmental journalist. A father, grandfather and husband, he resides in Cambridge ON and is a long-time **rare** volunteer.*

Scholarship helps researchers tell their stories

By Jenna Quinn

"**Y**our ordinary is our extraordinary" was the advice of Jane Gilbert, Chief Communications Officer with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and keynote speaker at the fourth annual **rare** Research Forum on May 3. Stressing the importance of storytelling, Jane advised that while a typical day for a researcher may be electrofishing in the Grand River, or examining the mating practices of ambush bugs, these "everyday" activities make for fascinating stories to most community members.

Scientists and researchers may often find themselves communicating only within their own scientific, university, or even departmental group. Branching out of those areas and finding a way to converse with a wide audience is an important step in science. Sharing questions and results in a way that is interesting and approachable ensures that we can learn from one another and inspires new questions to be asked. Jane's message was clear - shed the lab coat and the science jargon and tell people a story.

Less than two weeks after the Research Forum, with Jane's words of wisdom still resounding, **rare** awarded its sixth scholarship in graduate research to Western University students Nimalka Weerasuriya and Sarah Allan. Both MSc candidates in the Department of Biology in the Fungal Ecology lab at Western University, they are dual recipients of the \$4,000 scholarship which will help them fund their research and provide the opportunity to present their work - and tell their story - at a relevant conference.

"Great news! That definitely made my week!" exclaimed Nimalka upon being informed of the scholarship committee's decision. "We are very excited to have this opportunity."

Studying the response of soil fungi, colloquially known as AMF, to disturbances such as agricultural tillage and invasive species, Sarah and Nimalka are ultimately investigating the vulnerability of ecosystems to change. Understanding how an ecosystem may respond when faced with a disturbance like invasive species allows for researchers and land owners to make the best management decisions to protect important habitats, flora, and fauna. Specifically, this study will be comparing the AMF communities in a tallgrass prairie site at **rare** with a long agricultural history to other tallgrass prairie sites without, and a similar comparison of AMF communities in forests with and without invasion of Buckthorn – an undesirable, invasive plant.

Since 2009, **rare** has awarded \$25,000 to graduate students through scholarship funding, and is dedicated to re-investing in the next generation of environmentalists and helping them to tell their stories. Ordinary or extraordinary? You decide.

The first-ever **rare** scholarship was funded by a grant from the Cloverleaf Foundation, a small family foundation based in Waterloo. A scholarship benefactor is being sought to ensure that **rare** can continue to offer this deserved opportunity to young, bright minds. Scholarship naming opportunities exist.

Please call Patti Leather at 519-650-9336 x 118 if you wish to help or get more information.



Jenna Quinn and Jane Gilbert by P. Leather



Sarah and Nimalka by Dr. G. Thorne

What Hazel loves about *rare*

By Patti Leather

In this edition of "*rare* to me," meet Hazel. Hazel is a wonderfully thoughtful 8 year-old that loves nature, and loves *rare*. She has attended the *rare* ECO camp for the last couple summers. ECO stands for *Every Child Outdoors* and is symbolic of the charity's goal to reconnect children with nature by providing inspiring programs and activities that foster an inquisitive, explorative mind! She looks forward to spending time here. Her parents tell us that *rare* is one of Hazel's favourite places.

It's so special to her that she asked her friends and family to give donations to *rare* in lieu of birthday gifts for her 8th birthday party!

Her parents, Rachelle Matlow and Steve Allen, are very proud and have been moved to give their own support.

*"We feel very lucky to live and work and raise our daughter in this community. It's incredibly special to have access to unspoiled nature, in the middle of the city! Like *rare*, we believe that all kids should get the chance to visit *rare* and partake in nature programs that can spark a passion in them."*

Rachelle and Steve recently undertook an effort to help *rare* meet a significant funding challenge. In November, a small business owner and long-time volunteer with *rare* offered to match all donations that came in by December 31st, up to \$10,000, as a challenge to other companies. The total \$20,000 is ear-marked

to make the ECO education program accessible to schools that couldn't otherwise afford to visit the property.

Together, we did it! **Thank you to all who participated – we met the match.** Just over \$24,000 was raised corporately to secure the matching funds and another \$17,500 was raised during our year end appeal from very generous supporters to help with ECO and protecting *rare* in perpetuity.

It's not too late though. We can always use new help. If like Hazel, *rare* means a lot to you and you want to help ensure it's here forever and for all children, present and future generations, please consider making your gift today too. A one-time donation will contribute to the programs *rare* provides. Or, consider joining our Bedrock Club giving monthly, which allows us to plan for the future and is the best way to ensure *rare* remains protected forever.

These are the 8 things that I can't wait to do when I go back to *rare* Camp.

- #1 butterfly/frog catching
- #2 snow shoeing at March break camp
- #3 snake boards
- #4 birdwatching
- #5 hiking/story telling in the Indian woods
- #6 going to the gardens/eating in the pavilion
- #7 journaling
- #8 and last but not least, I like my Counsellor

From: Hazel Allen



Hazel, 8, enjoying ECO Camp

To send in a donation, fill in form and cut here.



Yes – I can help!

Donor Name _____

Mailing Address with City and Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ email _____

☐ **I'll join *rare*'s Bedrock Club!** I would like *rare* to receive my pre-authorized monthly donation of \$ _____, to be automatically withdrawn on the 15th of every month through: ☐ My chequing account ("Void" cheque enclosed)

☐ Credit Card

☐ **I am enclosing a one-time gift of:**

☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$20 or \$ _____

☐ Yes, I would like to receive email updates from *rare*.

Payment Information :

Please send cheques payable to

***rare* Charitable Research Reserve**
1679 Blair Road
Cambridge, ON N3H 4R8

OR

Please provide credit card information ☐ VISA ☐ M/C ☐ A/E

Name as it appears on the card _____

Card No. _____

Expires _____ Signature _____

You may also donate securely online through raresites.org/donate

☐ Name to appear on Founding Donors list, to be displayed permanently at *rare* upon completion of the capital campaign:

Thank you for helping save *rare*!





Our congratulations to John Luther Adams who was named 2015 Composer of the Year by Musical America. We are proud that his esteemed work, *Inuksuit*, was performed at *rare* in 2012 as part of the Open Ears Festival.

Inuksuit is a work for a percussion ensemble of 9-99 that is designed to be played outdoors. The New York Times has called *Inuksuit* "the ultimate environmental piece."

*A Day
on the Grand:*
Ontario Nature's 84th
Annual Gathering
Save the Date!
May 23, 2015



Join **Ontario Nature** and **rare Charitable Research Reserve** for *A Day on the Grand* at *rare*'s ECO Centre on the Grand River in Cambridge.

Explore the diverse habitats – including alvar, cliff, wetland and woodland – found on this 900+ acre reserve, meet the researchers who are studying its ecology, and become a citizen scientist.

Watch for more information and registration details in the spring issue of **ON Nature** and on Ontario Nature's website, www.ontarionature.org/agm



rare Charitable Research Reserve is a provincial partner in Ontario's Nature Network.



Truck Woes!

We have woes... truck woes! Our well-loved pick-up truck from the mid-1990s has just about had it, and so has Dan! We heavily depend on the vehicle for restoration work, such as tree planting, watering and invasive species removal, and for maintaining our community gardens. We need to regularly fetch supplies like compost, manure and seeds, and of course we want to continue to deliver hundreds of pounds of fresh, local produce to the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank.

We believe that a final breakdown of the well-worn vehicle is imminent. It even broke down on busy Blair Road this summer and had to be pulled into the parking lot by five young staffers and a tractor, in rainy weather, during rush hour. Unfortunately, we can't afford a new one and we keep accruing horrendous repair bills.

A donation of a new truck – or even a newer used truck would be such a tremendous help and cost-savings to the charity. We need a certified, ½ tonne pick-up truck with a regular cab and 4-wheel drive. Preferably, tires are in good shape and road-worthy. A towing package (hitch) and plug in block heater would be wonderful bonuses. Don't let us be stranded in the rain. We need your support to continue our fantastic conservation and gardens programs! Charitable Receipt available for value. Call Dan 519-650-9336 x 115.



Nature Notes

By Bill Wilson



Smooth Green Snake by M. Weissmann



American Rubyspot by R. Dickson

CLAY-COLOURED SPARROW is an uncommon to rare breeding bird in Ontario. A relatively recent arrival from the prairies – circa early 20th century – its occurrence ranges sporadically through a variety of early successional vegetation. When *rare*'s regeneration strategy was initiated in 2007, an influx of sparrow species was anticipated. First observed in June 2009, breeding of Clay-coloured Sparrow was suspected and confirmed in 2013, when Brett Fried banded two in juvenal plumage. This year, Jerry Guenther observed a singing male on territory over a 5-day period beginning May 31; in the same location Anne McLagan reported one on July 2. Fall monitoring reported as many as three during mid-October. Clay-coloureds at *rare* reflect its provincial status.

Multiple SMOOTH GREEN SNAKES have been observed over the summer and early fall months including a sighting by Lucas Short, natural heritage assistant, on July 7 on the Osprey Tower Trail. Mike Weissmann spotted four Smooth Green Snakes over two weeks in mid-summer on a trail near the Cliffs. In addition, two DEKAY'S BROWNSNAKES were seen in late July on the ECO Centre Trail by land steward intern, Rhiannon Moore, and Erin Sonser. Dan Radoslav, Gardens

Coordinator, spotted a large MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE on the driveway behind the Springbank farmhouse.

A number of butterfly species considered uncommon in the Waterloo Region was observed this season, including an ACADIAN HAIRSTREAK caught by an ECO-Camper just east of the Slit Barn on July 10. Julie Reid, who spends time observing and photographing butterflies on the property, observed a single CROSSLINE SKIPPER butterfly on July 18 and two late-flying SILVER SPOTTED SKIPPERS on October 2.

On July 16, Bill Wilson heard calls of UPLAND SANDPIPER from the south sector – only the second report of this uncommon, field-nesting bird. In a nearby field, Jason Bracey observed WILSON'S SNIPE on October 11, his first sighting of this bird at *rare*.

Bird monitors at *rare* assisted researchers to gather weekly field data of BOBOLINK and EASTERN MEADOWLARK. In mid-July, a maximum of 61 was counted including fledged young. A hatch-year Eastern Meadowlark accompanying an adult near a suspected nest site confirmed the first breeding record for this species at *rare*.

Called "odes" by naturalists, dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata) caught the eye of Ross Dickson who photographed a rare AMERICAN RUBYSPOOT on August 31 and a common skimmer, EASTERN PONDHAWK, on July 28.

In mid-October, *rare* staff spotted two WOOD FROGS in the Hogsback forest while several monitors describe 2014 as a very productive year for LEOPARD FROGS.

Birds banded this fall included 17 species of warbler, four Species at Risk – BANK and BARN SWALLOWS, BOBOLINK, GRASSHOPPER SPARROW – and two new to the Springbank site (Brett Fried), MOURNING DOVE and BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.

Early morning on October 25, Jerry Guenther counted 32 SANDHILL CRANES rising up from the fields along the south boundary of *rare*.

Collectively, during fall 2014, banders and monitors observed 12 species of birds of prey or raptors. The *rare* property provides a stopover for resting and/or feeding during their migration south.

Have some *rare* finds of your own?

Contact *rare* Nature Notes by emailing rare@raresites.org with "Nature Notes" in the subject line.



As the Strategy Unfolds We Want to Hear from YOU!

As you probably know from all of **rare's** communications for more than a decade and from your previous involvement, **rare** is gradually becoming a premier environmental institute with international academic expertise in conservation biology, which at the same time is true to its grassroots heritage and operated as a financially sustainable not-for-profit charitable organization. This big vision takes time and it takes constant input.

Over the last number of months, we have been focused on gathering contributions from stakeholders, evaluating our previous work and updating our plans and strategy. As a reader of the **rare review**, your feedback is important to us!

Available online now at
<http://www.raresites.org/survey/>
is a short survey.

Please participate by providing us with your valuable input. It only takes 10 minutes of your time to ensure we hear your voice. Please do so before February 28 2015.

With thanks for your time and thoughtful response, we promise to keep you informed of our progress.

Be part of the future of *rare*.

Thank you to our participants, donors, sponsors, and volunteers!

On September 28th, close to 250 walkers and runners took to the trails at rare to rally support and awareness for our Every Child Outdoors (ECO) environmental programming.

Together, with our generous sponsors and donors, just over \$35 000 was raised to be able to help children have the tools and the desire to be great environmental citizens of tomorrow - and have fun in nature!

Hope to see you next year.



Jumping into the real world - gaining work experience at *rare*

By Rhiannon Moore

As fall draws to an end and winter begins, it is time for interns like myself at *rare* to wrap up another exciting season of fieldwork. In late spring, three motivated young grads, myself, Erin, and Michelle began working at *rare* Charitable Research Reserve as land steward, monitoring, and gardening intern. I am amazed by the amount I have personally learned within my five months at *rare* and the diversity of projects I had a chance to participate in.

I was able to assist in the planning and implementation of restoration projects, craft public outreach documents, maintain trails and interact with community members at events and fundraisers. Erin's position entailed hands-on butterfly, salamander, forest health, and soil monitoring. Michelle's responsibilities were to maintain the gardens at Springbank Farm for community members, school groups, and the Food Bank to use. I really enjoyed how we assisted one another if extra help was needed in restoration, gardening, or monitoring projects, providing each of us with an even greater diversity of experience.

As recent graduates, it's rare (no pun intended) to find such rewarding employment experiences that apply the specific skills and knowledge gained from our post-secondary education. Erin, Michelle and I all leave *rare* grateful for our experience that will help us succeed as environmental professionals. The three of us would like to thank the staff at *rare* for sharing their knowledge, and the volunteers and community members that made all of our projects in the field such a great success.

Rhiannon was part of a tenacious crew that included Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada employees and students from both Southwood and Elmira District Secondary Schools who undertook restoration work in an area of the property known as the Hogsback. With funding from the Region of Waterloo Community Environmental Fund, Evergreen Canon Take Roots and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program, wetland and forest buffers were improved. In total this fall, 1490 native plants were planted, Buckthorn was removed in a 670 meter swath and 160 volunteers participated.



Top: Toyota Hogsback Restoration - Buckthorn Removal
Bottom: Southwood High School Tree Planting
Photography by R. Moore

DID YOU KNOW?

Bobcats are elusive and solitary wild cats about twice the size of a house cat. In Ontario, their range spans from areas of southern Ontario to north of Lake Superior. Bobcats typically hunt at dawn and dusk, and are known to use tree trunks as scratching posts to clean and sharpen their claws. Bobcat scratching posts, tracks, and fur samples have all been found at *rare*, indicating that bobcats are present on the property.

Artist Kayla Martin is a high school student from Eastwood Collegiate Institute who is currently completing her co-op term at *rare*. Her interests include science, visual arts, and the outdoors.

Photography by G. Kamminga (Originally thought to be a bobcat scratching post - or is it a deer rub?
What do YOU think?)



An unseen loss: the global amphibian decline

By Jenna Quinn



Blue-Spotted Salamander by J. Quinn

Frog calls are one of the most recognizable sounds in nature, making it hard to imagine that they could one day disappear. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, nearly half of the global population of amphibians - frogs, toads, salamanders, and caecilians - is in decline, with estimates suggesting nearly one-third of the world's species are threatened by extinction. The reasons for this global decline are complex, involving many factors and often adverse local conditions and risks.

Unsurprisingly, human impact tops the list. Habitat loss due to agriculture and roads, is a major threat, shrinking the areas where amphibians live and fragmenting habitat, thereby separating remaining populations from one another. Global climate change has been shown to put many amphibians at risk. Temperature is a key factor in determining timing of breeding for many species, resulting in species waking from hibernation earlier and being more susceptible to sudden cold snaps and extreme weather events. Invasive predators and pollution have been documented to drastically impact some populations of amphibians, and diseases have had major implications, including the chytrid fungus that has caused amphibian deaths around the world.

At least one cause of the decline, overexploitation of

amphibians as pets and food source, seems avoidable if people were better informed about the problem. Amphibians have an important role in ecosystems around the world. They are a food source for many animal species and help control insect populations by eating mosquito larva and other pest species. Other ecosystem services they provide includes the support of ecosystem structure and functions like decomposition and nutrient cycling. Additionally, since many amphibians are particularly vulnerable to pollutants and environmental stresses in both water and on land, they make excellent indicator species that can warn us something is awry.

At *rare*, we continue to monitor salamander species and protect habitat to keep the property as an important refuge for amphibians. Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) have declared 2014 the Year of the Salamander - working hard year round to build awareness about salamanders around the world and the threats they are facing. We invite everyone to participate in citizen science projects like FrogWatch, Toronto Zoo's Adopt-a-Pond, and Ontario Nature's Herp Atlas, or join one of our amphibian themed hikes on the property. All these are fun ways to engage in science, and to contribute essential information about amphibians in our area.

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Keith Martin, Chartered Accountant, HM Advisors

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Douglas McMullen, retired; Community volunteer

David Mitten, Executive Director, Siding and Window Dealers Association of Canada

Simon Poladian, Owner, Eagle Towing Equipment

Joy Roberts, retired; Consultant; Community volunteer

Paul Ross, Partner, KPMG

Irene Schmidt-Adeney, Writer, Ayr News

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