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www.nrsi.on.ca | info@nrsi.on.ca

WELCOME

The Passport to Nature was created for YOU to explore nature, experience new things & meet nice people! Make the most of your Passport by following five basic steps to plan your next adventure & get involved in the work of *rare*.



This Passport to Nature was brought to you by:

The Gosling Foundation

Thank you to SMS Design for original design work.

Want to learn more about *rare*?

CONTACT US

1679 Blair Road
Cambridge, ON N3H 4R8

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Toll Free: 1-866-927-3866
Fax: 519-650-5923
rare@raresites.org

-  facebook.com/raresites
-  twitter.com/raresites
-  youtube.com/user/raresites
-  raresites.wordpress.com
-  instagram.com/rare_sites

raresites.org

The **rare Charitable Research Reserve's** first seven locations comprise over 1,200 acres of conservation lands. Most of these lands are located within the Haldimand Tract. Spanning six miles on either side of the Grand River from source to mouth, the Haldimand Tract is land granted to the Six Nations of the Grand River in 1784 to recognize their support for the British in the American Revolution. With the most recent expansion to Guelph/Wellington, **rare** also stewards lands at the border of the Upper Canada Treaty No. 3 from 1792 and Treaty 19 from 1818.

For all its properties, **rare** acknowledges and is grateful to the original stewards of the land. This land has been rich in diverse Indigenous presence since time immemorial. We would like to honour and respect the sovereignty of both First Nations in our area: the Onkwehon:we Peoples of Six Nations of the Grand River and the Anishinaabe Peoples of the Mississaugas of the Credit. Nia:wen and Miigwech (thank you) to these Nations who share their lands with us. We also acknowledge the Neutral people and Indigenous Paleo-Hunters, for whom we have archeological evidence dating back 10,500 years. Today, these lands are also home to many other First Nations, Métis and Inuit people who have moved to the area from across Turtle Island.



Photo by L. Klein

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FREE events

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What is <i>rare</i> ?	6
Property Map	8

Events

June	12
July	17
August	23
September	27
October	31

Other

Sign up with <i>rare</i>	34
--------------------------	----

Register Online

raresites.org

Some events have a limit on participant numbers.

The **rare Charitable Research Reserve continues to monitor the restrictions of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We will continue to keep you informed of the availability of our events and services according to public health recommendations.*

Please note that our main office, Lamb's Inn is closed as our staff work remotely. For any questions or concerns, please contact Tamanna Kohi, Communications & Development Officer at Tamanna.Kohi@raresites.org.

WHO ARE WE?

The **rare Charitable Research Reserve** is an urban land trust and environmental institute in Waterloo Region/Wellington, with its seven locations protecting over 1,200 acres of highly sensitive lands. Since inception, **rare** has used Western tools of conservation, research and education to take care of the land on behalf of the community. As **rare** becomes engaged in reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island (North America), these pillars have gained flexibility and now equally include and value Indigenous ways of knowing and being — becoming strands of a strong braid. Together we will steward these lands with respect for generations past, present and those yet to come, intact in perpetuity with trees more than 250 years old, 24 habitat types, and 6 of 8 pre-settlement landscapes.



OUR MISSION

Through the combined efforts of the community, including local Indigenous Peoples, and **rare's** team of staff, advisors and artists, we will co-create the most inclusive practices and answers to environmental issues, stewarding the reserve's diverse network of natural landscapes for ecological integrity and future generations.



LOCATIONS

HISTORIC LAMB'S INN

1679 Blair Road
Cambridge ON, N3H 4R8

Lamb's Inn, our village hub property in Blair, is one of the oldest settlements in Upper Canada and is known for its significance as an early stage coach inn along one of the first roads in the region.



Photo by T. Kohi

ECO CENTRE/ RESOURCE HOUSE

768 Blair Road
Cambridge ON, N1R 5S3

The *rare* ECO Centre is comprised of the iconic 1840s Slit Barn and its companion farmhouse, now the Resource House. Both buildings have been renovated to offer a year-round facility for community programming and education programs.



Photo by L. Harnett

SPRINGBANK FARM

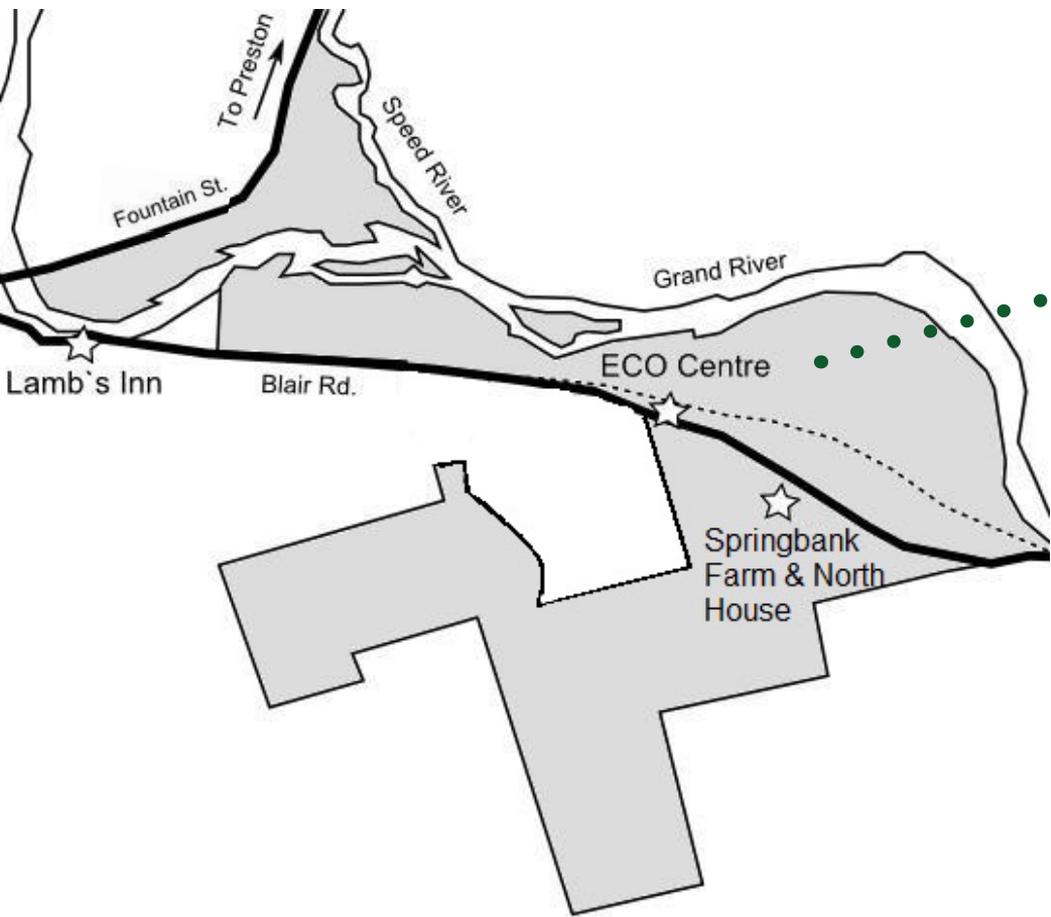
681 Blair Road
Cambridge ON, N1R 5S3

With 110 community garden plots, an educational demonstration garden and the Springbank Food Bank gardens, the view at Springbank Farm is breathtaking. The entire farm habitat is also an important hub for pollinators — as well as a place for community belonging.



Photo by A. Newell

RESERVE MAP



Homer Watson Blvd & 401

Galt



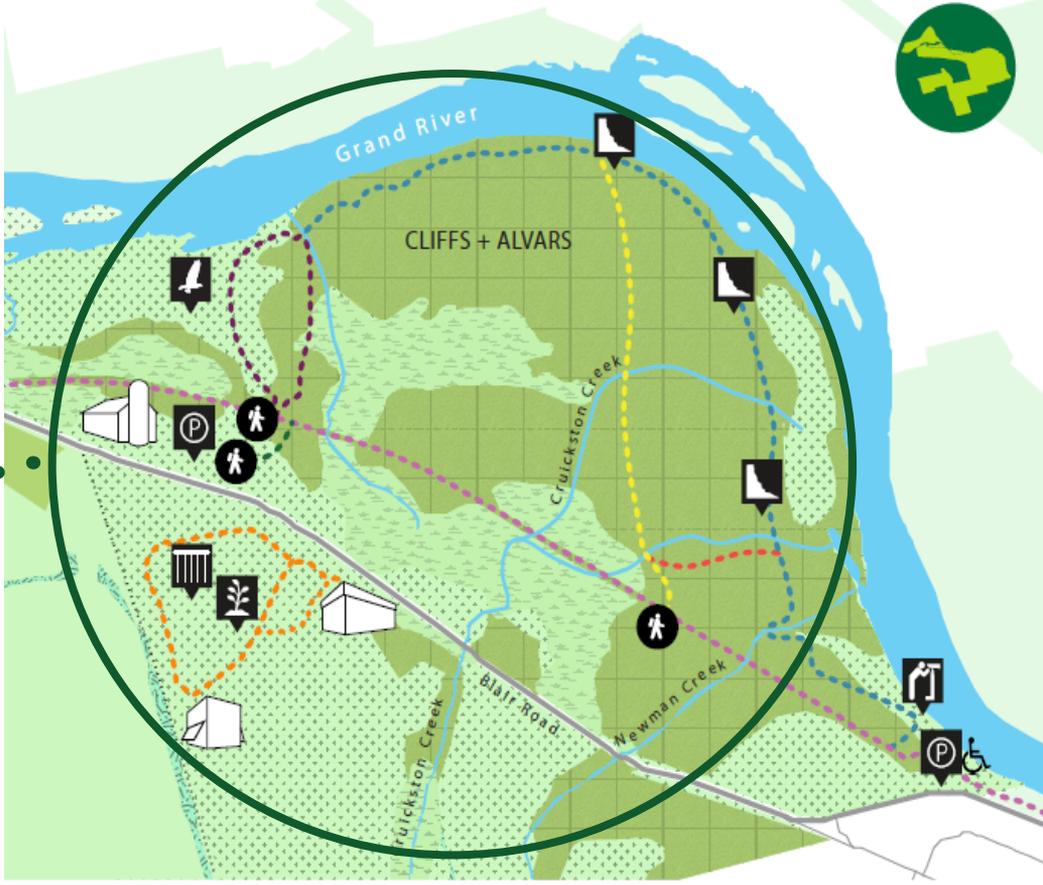
rare reserve



Grand Trunk Trail



rare Facilities



TRAILS

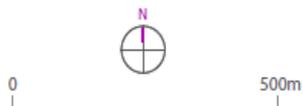
- Alvar Trail 280 m
- Butterfly Trail 960 m
- ECO Centre Trail 230 m
- Osprey Tower Trail 750 m
- River Trail 1930 m
- Woodland Trail 750 m
- Grand Trunk Trail
The Grand Trunk Trail is Wheelchair & stroller accessible
- Private Property Boundary
Do Not Cross

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Springbank Pavilion
- Springbank Farm + North House
- rare ECO Centre
- Conceptual Longhouse
- Osprey Tower
- Trailhead
- Lookout - Use Caution
- Cliffs - Use Caution
- Community Gardens

LANDSCAPES

- River + Creeks
- Wetland
- Grassland
- Woodland
- Hedgerows



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Committed to a sustainable future

As part of our continued focus on delivering growth in a sustainable way and providing climate solutions for our firm, clients and society, KPMG is working towards becoming a net-zero carbon business by 2030.

We are proud to support the environmental sustainability efforts of rare Charitable Research Reserve. Your work is helping to make a world of difference for our community.

Together. For Better.

Gleadow Future LEED Gold Core + Shell certified home of KPMG in DTW, May 2022





Bird Search



Find the birds hidden in the word search below.

C M Z R J C X W X A T F Z C B
G R X E D F L A C N Z W N A C
K T M K N U T H S O L N N N W
U U H C E N F S G R S M N A X
Z R F E R I I P N E D O Z D V
R K N P W T W Q I H A U A A O
D E E D A R S X W E B R R G E
C Y R O N A Y E X U U N O O H
I V W O I M E G A L H I S O A
W U E W L E N E W B M N T S W
B L S Y O L M T R T B G M E A
K T U N R P I T A A J D K U B
D U O W A R H P D E O O F T I
Q R H O C U C V E R B V C R Z
R E S D S P D Y C G W E M L Q

CANADA GOOSE

CAROLINA WREN

CEDAR WAXWING

CHIMNEY SWIFT

DOWNY WOODPECKER

HOUSE WREN

MOURNING DOVE

PURPLE MARTIN

SORA

TURKEY VULTURE

See page 37 for the answer key.

JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Spring Clean Up	3	4 Garlic Mustard Pull	5
6	7	8	9 Garlic Mustard Pull	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Garlic Mustard Pull	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Himalayan Balsam Pull	26 Virtual Guided Trail Hike
27	28	29	30			

For more information and to register for all events, visit:
raresites.org

Spring Clean Up

June 2 - June 17



You can get the Fundraising team out cleaning up litter! You can ensure our Executive Director is picking up garbage! You can protect land and also have the Research and Land Management Team doing the clean up. Help to ensure **rare** is litter-free, support the work done to protect lands, and select the staff that are doing the work!

Help to keep land clean and decide who cleans up litter. All you have to do is donate to the **rare** staff team that you want to have picking up the litter. Every \$100 cumulatively donated towards a team is one hour they need to spend cleaning up at **rare**. That means cleaning up the trails, along the river, and other important areas. Scan the QR code with your cell phone camera to learn more, or visit raresites.org.

Garlic Mustard Pull



June 4, 9 & 17
9:30AM - 12:30PM
or
1:30PM - 4:30PM



**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**

Registration required.

Garlic Mustard is an aggressive plant introduced from Europe as a potential food source, due to the herbal, garlicky flavour of its leaves. It escaped cultivation and has taken over many of *rare's* forest understories. Fortunately, this species is relatively easy to pull from the ground, and with enough volunteers we can restore many of our native ecosystems. We will also remove other easy-to-pull invasive species such as Greater Celandine and Dame's Rocket as we come across it.

Himalayan Balsam Pull

June 25
9:30AM - 12:30PM
or
1:30PM - 4:30PM



**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**

Registration required.

Himalayan Balsam is an aggressive annual herb, native to the western Himalayas. It was introduced to North America as a garden ornamental due to its large, showy, pink flower. Each plant can have upwards of 800 seeds which explode out of pods when touched, landing up to five kilometres away. This allows for rapid spread where it outcompetes native vegetation, including perennial plants within riparian zones such as river banks and wetlands, leading to soil erosion. The flowers also produce an abundance of nectar which draws pollinators away from surrounding native plants. Volunteers will help remove Himalayan Balsam and surrounding invasive species from our sensitive floodplains, resulting in increased biodiversity on-site as well as along the Grand River.

Virtual Guided Trail Hike



**Virtual Event
YouTube Live**

Registration not required.

Join *rare's* Educator, Istafa Sufi, on a short virtual hike along the River Trail to learn about the flora and fauna found at *rare* in the summer.

Stay tuned for a link to our YouTube Live!

JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Himalayan Balsam Pull	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Himalayan Balsam Pull	16	17 Annual Butterfly Count
18	19	20	21	22	23 Yellow Flag Iris Removal	24
25	26	27	28 Phragmites Control	29	30	31

For more information and to register for all events, visit:
raresites.org

Beetle Mania!



It's a great time for music in the animal kingdom as The Beetles consecutively hit number 1 on Duck's Bill-board charts! Fans are eagerly anticipating their next hit and are looking for clues for what it will be! Luckily, the band has posted a hint on their Splatsagram page, use the provided decoder to help eager fans decode this secret message.



Decoder:

Each note
represents a
different letter



Secret Message:



The Beetles next hit is _ l _ _ k _ i r _!

Illustrations by Mathew McGuire & Istafa Sufi

Himalayan Balsam Pull

July 7 & 15
9:30AM - 12:30PM
or
1:30PM - 4:30PM



**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**



Registration required.

Himalayan Balsam is an aggressive annual herb, native to the western Himalayas. It was introduced to North America as a garden ornamental due to its large, showy, pink flower. Each plant can have upwards of 800 seeds which explode out of pods when touched, landing up to five kilometres away. This allows for rapid spread where it outcompetes native vegetation, including perennial plants within riparian zones such as river banks and wetlands, leading to soil erosion. The flowers also produce an abundance of nectar which draws pollinators away from surrounding native plants. Volunteers will help remove Himalayan Balsam and surrounding invasive species from our sensitive floodplains, resulting in increased biodiversity on-site as well as along the Grand River.

Annual Butterfly Count

July 17
9:00AM - 3:00PM



**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**

Registration required.

Join *rare* for this official butterfly census where we will identify and count all of the butterfly species throughout all habitats on the reserve. Nets and identification resources and guides will be provided. We will split into smaller groups for surveying in the morning, reconvene for lunch and a discussion of highlights, and then head out again in the afternoon for a final survey. Please note that participants are asked to bring their own lunch; and don't forget your hat, water bottle and sunscreen. Long pants and appropriate hiking shoes are recommended. Participants must arrive on time, but may leave during the day and are not required to stay the full six hours.

**Cost \$3 per participant to cover cost of publishing results in the National Butterfly Association's International Census Report.*

Yellow Flag Iris Removal



Photo by L. Cymbaly

July 23
9:30AM - 12:30PM
or
1:30PM - 4:30PM



**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**

Registration required.

Yellow Iris, or Yellow Flag Iris, is a perennial aquatic plant introduced from Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa for use as an ornamental plant in ponds and water gardens. It has since spread to waterways and found its way to wetlands, floodplains, riverbanks and lake edges. It not only spreads by seed but also by underground stems (*rhizomes*) which can develop thick mats containing several hundred plants. A single piece of a broken off rhizome can grow a new plant and start a new infestation. These dense mats displace native vegetation, alter wildlife habitat, can lower water levels in wetlands, and can block the flow in irrigation and flood control ditches. Volunteers will help remove this highly invasive plant from Bauman Creek as part of an ongoing restoration of one of three cold water streams on the reserve.

Phragmites Control



July 28
9:30AM - 12:30PM
or
1:30PM - 4:30PM



**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**



Registration required.

Phragmites is a perennial grass native to Eurasia that has been damaging biodiversity, wetlands and beaches in Ontario for decades. It is an aggressive spreader that out-competes native species through competition for resources and the release of toxins. It reduces habitat and food for wildlife, lowers water levels, increases the risk of fire and can affect agriculture, road safety and recreational activities. Volunteers will assist with the removal of this species at a number of sites across the property, including the Blair Flats wetland.

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Phragmites Control	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Phragmites Control	14
15	16	17	18 Phragmites Control	19	20	21
			20 th Anniversary Celebration			
22	23	24	25	26 Phragmites Control	27	28
29	30	31				

For more information and to register for all events, visit:
rarsites.org

Say Trees!

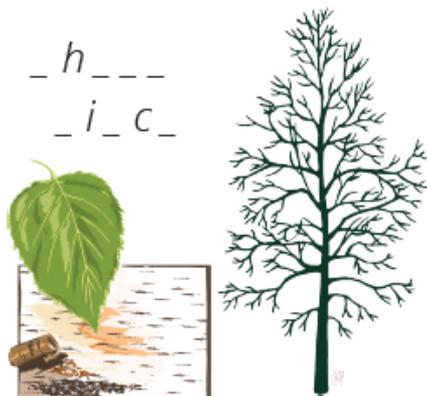
Use the Word Bank and the snapshots below to spell the name of each tree found at **rare!**

Word Bank
White Spruce
Staghorn Sumac
Red Maple
White Birch

___ M ___

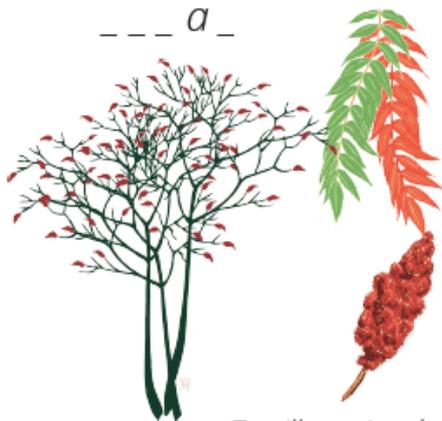


__ h __
__ i __ c __



__ t __ g ___

___ a ___



__ h ___ _ _ u _ e



Tree illustrations by: suzannematheson.com

See page 37 for the answer key.

Phragmites Control

August
5, 13, 18 & 26
9:30AM - 12:30PM
or
1:30PM - 4:30PM



Photo by J. Quinn



**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**

Registration required.

Phragmites is a perennial grass native to Eurasia that has been damaging biodiversity, wetlands and beaches in Ontario for decades. It is an aggressive spreader that out-competes native species through competition for resources and the release of toxins. It reduces habitat and food for wildlife, lowers water levels, increases the risk of fire and can affect agriculture, road safety and recreational activities. Volunteers will assist with the removal of this species at a number of sites across the property, including the Blair Flats wetland.

20th Anniversary Celebration



20 YEARS of **rare**



August 18



**Virtual Event
Zoom**



Registration required.

The **rare Charitable Research Reserve** is celebrating 20 years of conservation, research and education. Join **rare** for a virtual celebration with live music, presentations and reflections of past two decades as we look forward to the future.

Stay tuned for more information on how to celebrate with **rare** on raresites.org!

This event is proudly sponsored by:



SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Phragmites Control	11
12	13	14	15 Invasive Shrub Removal Day	16	17	18
19 Walk & Run for <i>rare</i>	20	21	22	23 Invasive Shrub Removal Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

For more information and to register for all events, visit:
raresites.org

Phragmites Control

September 10
9:30AM - 12:30PM
or
1:30PM - 4:30PM



Photo by K. Martin

**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**

Registration required.

Phragmites is a perennial grass native to Eurasia that has been damaging biodiversity, wetlands and beaches in Ontario for decades. It is an aggressive spreader that out-competes native species through competition for resources and the release of toxins. It reduces habitat and food for wildlife, lowers water levels, increases the risk of fire and can affect agriculture, road safety and recreational activities. Volunteers will assist with the removal of this species at a number of sites across the property, including the Blair Flats wetland.

Invasive Shrub Removal Day

September 15 & 23
9:30AM - 12:30PM
or
1:30PM - 4:30PM



**Meet at Lamb's Inn
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge**

Registration required.

Autumn Olive, Buckthorn, Barberry, White Mulberry, and Invasive Honeysuckles are woody invasive trees and shrubs that can be found throughout the reserve, even encroaching on old growth forest. These species cause harm to the environment and the economy by outcompeting native trees and shrubs, reducing biodiversity, and degrading the quality of wildlife habitat. Buckthorn, for example, can host oat crown rust which reduces crop yields, and its berries are a laxative to wildlife. The removal of invasive shrubs is one of the more labour-intensive removal days and requires the use of a shovels as well as weed wrenches.

THE ANNUAL



WALK & RUN

for



The Walk & Run for **rare** is back in 2021! This will be our second virtual edition of the event. This means anyone can get involved from anywhere, and you can do it your way!

Funds raised will support **rare's** *Turn the Map Green* campaign. For as little as \$2/square metre, parts of **rare** can be symbolically adopted, protecting the reserve and all the species that call **rare** home for future generations.



Visit walkforrare.ca for more information and to register.

This event is proudly sponsored by:



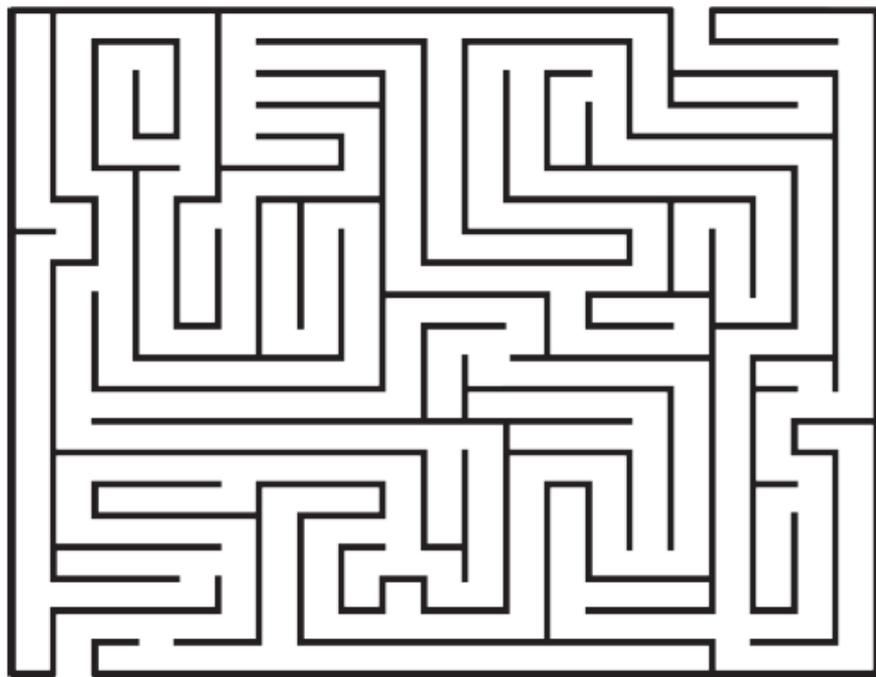
OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31			Online Auction Fundraiser			

For more information and to register for all events, visit:
raresites.org

Bat Maze

Help the bat finds its way back home!



Bat illustrations by Matthew McGuire

IMAGINE

Tubing through the heart of rare



Blair to Galt Daily \$35 with a BONUS!
TubingTheGrand.com

Online Auction Fundraiser



October 27
-
November 4



Virtual Event
rareonlineauction.ca



Registration not required.

The *rare* Online Auction offers local items to support *rare's Every Child Outdoors* (ECO) program. ECO delivers curriculum-based outdoor environmental education programs for K-12 and offers specialized Mirrored Research programs that allow students to “mirror” the research and monitoring activities conducted on the reserve.

Stay tuned for the Auction to go live in October!



Photo by M. White

YES!
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research &
education

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- I'd like to receive monthly *rare* e-news
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To make a donation online, visit raresites.org.

Enclosed is my one-time gift of: \$20 \$40 \$60 other:\$_____

I'll help *rare* plan ahead by joining the *Bedrock Club* with a monthly donation of \$ _____ to be automatically withdrawn on the 15th of every month (void cheque attached).

Please send cheques payable to: **rare Charitable Research Reserve**
OR 1679 Blair Road
Cambridge, ON N3H 4R8

Please charge my credit card: VISA M/C A/E

Card No. _____

Expiry _____ Signature _____

P2N2021

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Norwich Plastics is a proud supporter of the **rare** Charitable Research Reserve and its primary role in sustaining and maintaining these ecological landscapes for future generations to come!

Want to help RARE? Visit <https://www.turnthemapgreen.ca/>



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- www.logicallandscaping.ca
- 226-666-2615



OTHER PASSPORTS TO NATURE

Pelee Buzz
peleebuzz.eventbrite.ca
Prince Edward County, ON
March 2021 - December 2021

Prince Edward Point Bird
Observatory
peptbo.ca/nature-matters.php
Prince Edward County, ON
April 2021 - October 2021

Land Conservancy for Kingston,
Frontenac, Lennox and
Addington
LandConservancyKFLA.org
April 2019 - February 2020

Thames Talbot Land Trust
thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/
passport_to_nature
London, ON Ontario & adjoining
counties
April 2019 - February 2020

The Couchiching
Conservancy
couchichingconserv.ca
Orillia, ON & Lake Couchiching
region
April 2021 - March 2022

Wellington Water Watchers
2Rivers Festival
2riversfestival.org
Guelph, ON
May & June 2019

Long Point Basin Land Trust
longpointlandtrust.ca
Norfolk County, ON
May 2019 - October 2019

Nature Trust of New
Brunswick
naturetrust.nb.ca/wp/

The Land Conservancy of
British Columbia
conservancy.bc.ca/2019/02/
passport-to-nature/

CORPORATIONS FOR CONSERVATION

Battlefield Construction
Rentals

BNY Mellon

Cachet Homes

Enbridge Gas

Fiix

Huron Creek Developments

King Tree Services

KPMG

Langdon Hall

Linamar Corporation

Logical Landscaping

MacPherson Builders

Neighbourhood Group
of Companies

Marcangelo Foods

NRSI – Natural Resource
Solutions Inc.

Pearle Hospitality/
Cambridge Mill

THANK YOU to all our corporate sponsors for supporting
conservation, education and research.

Bird Search

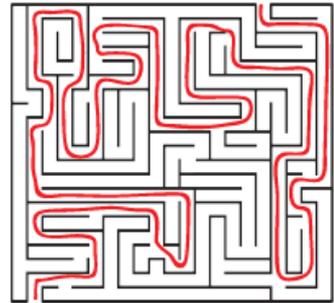
Answers

Bat Maze



Bat illustrations by Matthew McGuire

C G K U Z R R D C I W B K D D R
 R M T U R K E Y V W L L T U E R E
 Z X M H F N E R W E E S O O H S
 R E K C E P P O O W W M O D
 J D N E R W A N I L O R A C S
 C F N I T R A M E L P R U P
 X L T F I W S Y E M I H C D
 W A H S P Q X E G E T T P V Y
 X C S G N I W X A L W R A D E C
 A N O R E H E U L H B T A E R G
 T Z S L S D H A B U H N B J O V E
 F W N M O U R R N I N G D O V E
 Z N N N Z A R O S T M F F C M
 C A N N A D A G O O S E U B I Z G
 B C W X V O E H A W A B I Z G



Say Trees!

Red Maple



White Birch



Staghorn Sumac



White Spruce



Tree illustrations by: suzannematheson.com

Beetle Mania!



Decoder:

Each note represents a different letter



Secret Message:



The Beetles next hit is **Blackbird!**

Illustrations by Mathew McGuire & Istafa Sufi



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in business, adaptability is our thing



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Mathew

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