

# THE HALIFAX FIELD NATURALIST



No. 130  
March to May, 2008



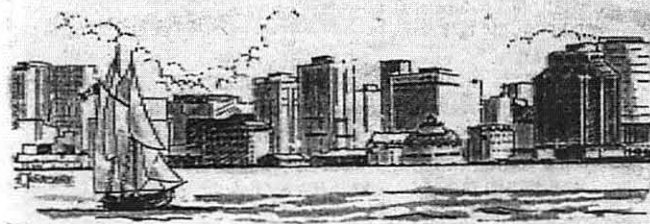
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Return address: HFN, c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 3A6



**HFN** is incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act and holds Registered Charity status with Canada Revenue Agency. Tax-creditable receipts will be issued for individual and corporate gifts. HFN is an affiliate of Nature Canada and an organisational member of Nature NS (Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists), the provincial umbrella association for naturalist groups in Nova Scotia. **Objectives** are to encourage a greater appreciation and understanding of Nova Scotia's natural history, both within the membership of HFN and in the public at large, and to represent the interests of naturalists by encouraging the conservation of Nova Scotia's natural resources. **Meetings** are held, except for July and August, on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax; they are open to the public. **Field Trips** are held at least once a month; it is appreciated if those travelling in someone else's car share the cost of the gas. **Participants** in HFN activities are responsible for their own safety. Everyone, member or not, is welcome to take part in field trips. **Memberships** are open to anyone interested in the natural history of Nova Scotia. Forms are available at any meeting of the society, or by writing to: Membership Secretary, Halifax Field Naturalists, c/o N.S. Museum of Natural History. Members receive the quarterly **HFN Newsletter** and **HFN Programme**, and new memberships received from September 1st to December 31st of any year are valid until the end of the following membership year. The regular membership year is from January 1st to December 31st.



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**GRAPHICS** All uncredited illustrations are by H. Derbyshire or from copyright-free sources. **Front cover** - Wild Pear, *Amelanchier laevis*, Bob McDonald; p.12 - duck and young, John H. Dick, *Birds and their Ways*, Robie W. Tufts, 1972; **Back cover** - Rhodora, *Rhododendron canadense*, Bob McDonald; Tide Tables - Canadian Hydrographic Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

### HFN ADDRESS

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**Email:** hfnexec@chebucto.ca  
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### NNS ADDRESS

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**Email:** doug@fundymud.com (Doug Linzey, FNSN secretary and Newsletter Editor)  
**Website:** naturens.ca

### EXECUTIVE

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>2008/2009</b>      |  |
| <b>President</b>      | Allan Robertson ..... 422-6326   |
| <b>Vice-President</b> | Peter Webster ..... 453-9244   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Janet Dalton ..... 443-7617  |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Richard Beazley ..... 429-6626   |
| <b>Past President</b> | Bob McDonald ..... 443-5051  |
| <b>Directors</b>      | Brian Bartlett, Richard Beazley, Grace Beazley, David Patriquin, Burkhard Plache, Ingrid Plache, Lillian Risley, Stephanie Robertson |

### COMMITTEES 2008/2009

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Membership</b>   | Lillian Risley ..... 422-8652           |
| <b>Programme</b>    |   |
| <b>Talks/Trips</b>  | Burkhard & Ingrid Plache ..... 475-1129 |
| <b>Design</b>       | Stephanie Robertson ..... 422-6326      |
| <b>Newsletter</b>   |   |
| <b>Editor</b>       | Stephanie Robertson ..... 422-6326      |
| <b>Design</b>       | Stephanie Robertson ..... 422-6326      |
| <b>Almanac</b>      | Patricia Chalmers ..... 422-3970        |
| <b>Taxonomy</b>     | Ursula Grigg ..... 681-1264             |
| <b>Distribution</b> | Bernice Moores ..... 422-5292           |
| <b>Labels</b>       | Doug Linzey ..... 582-7176              |
| <b>Tea Break</b>    | Regine Maass                            |
| <b>Conservation</b> | Peter Webster ..... 453-9244            |
|                     | Bob McDonald ..... 443-5051             |
| <b>NNS Rep.</b>     | Peter Webster ..... 453-9244            |
| <b>HFN Website</b>  | Linda Payzant ..... 861-1607            |

### FEES 2008/2009

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Individual</b> .....       | \$15.00 per year |
| <b>Family</b> .....           | \$20.00 per year |
| <b>Supporting</b> .....       | \$25.00 per year |
| <b>Nature NS (opt.)</b> ..... | \$ 5.00 per year |

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| <b>Blom. Naturalist Society</b> - Fundy; Russia; Astronomy; mussels      |    |
| <b>Burke Gaffney Observatory</b> - 1st & 3rd Saturdays                   |    |
| <b>Friends of McNabs Island</b> - their website has events .....         | 18 |
| <b>N.S. Bird Society</b> - 18 trips! & 1 talk - at White Point Beach     |    |
| <b>N.S. Mus. of Nat. Hist.</b> - the Arctic; reptile zoo; Monarchs; bats |    |
| <b>N.S. Wildflower Soc.</b> - Port Joli; skunk cabbage; HRM flora        |    |
| <b>N.S. Inst. Science</b> - Brown Spruce Long-horned Beetle              |    |
| <b>Royal Astronomical Society</b> - 3rd Friday of each month             |    |
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| April to June; don't forget; all times are AST                           |    |
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| <b>Jan./08</b> - Corvids; Raptors; Rats; Snow Bunting behaviour...       |    |
| <b>Feb./08</b> - Y.-breasted Chat; Redpolls; crossbills; Ch. Sparrows    |    |
| <b>Mar./08</b> - B.-backed Woodpecker; Barred Owl; early buttercups      |    |

# HFN NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## EDITORIAL



Despite the vast and foggy Atlantic's proximity, it was a beautifully clear and starry night for a splendid rusty-red eclipse of the moon in February.

Climatologist Richard Keen of the University of Colorado in Boulder, U.S., says the colour and depth of shadow in a lunar eclipse is directly attributable to light-blocking volcanic dust in the atmosphere. During eclipse, Earth blocks sunlight from reaching the Moon directly. But some light still does get through, refracted through Earth's atmosphere, and this light varies with how much dust from volcanic eruptions is floating around at high altitudes.

Because this dust hinders the passage of sunlight, more of it makes for a darker Moon during its eclipses. "All the darker dimmings of the Moon during eclipses can be attributed to specific volcanoes," says Keen. He and his collaborators have charted the brightness of eclipses back to 1960, and also for a few years around the time of the 1883 eruption of Indonesia's Krakatoa. The most recent eclipse, February 20th to 21st, was a particularly bright one, measuring a 3 (the second-brightest level) on an eclipse-rating scale that ranges from 0 (darkest) to 4 (brightest).

This is in line with eclipse data taken since 1995. The stratosphere has been especially clear since then, with very little haze-producing volcanic activity compared to the previous three decades of 1965 to 1995, Keen says.

Things to note in this issue: how to get involved in the protection of the Avon Peninsula, (*at right*); the coordinates for public input and submissions to how Nova Scotia's natural resources, including water, should be managed *p.4*; and a thoughtful tribute to Jean Sawyer, *p.4*.

Under "Conservation", *p.8*, there is a hopeful report, "The Importance of Trees to Cities", and how it relates to HRM's Urban Forest Master Plan.

- Stephanie Robertson



## OPEN HOUSE

HRM's Horticultural Department will be having an 'Open House' on Saturday, May 10th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at both their Dartmouth and Halifax locations: at their greenhouses on 62 Caledonia Road; and at their greenhouses across from the Halifax Public Gardens on 574 Sackville Street.

Come and see what displays the gardeners have put together, and also what's in bloom. They will also answer any horticultural questions you may have. HRM's new Chief Horticulturist, Haligonian Beverly MacPhail, will be at the Sackville Street location.

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## AVON PENINSULA QUARRY



Dr. David Patriquin has been working with the Avon Peninsula group to fight against the extension of the Gypsum Quarry in their area. The Environmental Assessment has taken place, and the Quarry has been registered. Members of the public had to submit comments on the proposal before March 6th.

I have offered a submission regarding the disruption of the watershed, the destruction of habitat (Gypsum karst topography, rather rare in N.S.), the effect on 'listed' species like the Yellow and Ram's Head Ladyslippers, the negative impact on the inhabitants in the area, and the projected run-off into the large and small rivers, etc.

To follow the situation and for more information, and/or to become involved and give your support, go to the Avon Peninsula Watershed Preservation Society's website at [www.apwps.ca](http://www.apwps.ca).

- Bob McDonald

## NATURE CANADA AGM



Hosted in Montreal by Bird Protection Quebec, from the 13th to the 15th of June, you'll explore the diverse ecology of one of the world's great rivers, as well as the lively atmosphere of Montreal in the summer - music, people, and quiet corners in which to relax.

Participate in symposia on the biology, geology, and ecology of the St. Lawrence River Valley, take field trips to discover its flora and fauna, and attend social events with fellow nature lovers at this 38th conference and AGM.

Go to [naturecanada.ca/about\\_agm.asp](http://naturecanada.ca/about_agm.asp), for more information and registration details.

## SHUBIE PARK



There have been changes since our HFN visit last summer to Shubie Park. On a recent outing to the trails along the Shubenacadie Canal, it was noted that the 17 Historical Panels have now been installed, and they include latitudinal and longitudinal details for those who are interested. As well, by following the panels, one can revisit the history of this area as it unfolded over time. People and places, and early maps and drawings, make it all the more interesting when on site.

Also, for readers who have computer access, a visit to the Canal Commission's website would add a new dimension to understanding this piece of Nova Scotia's history. Photos, maps, and newsletters are there for your perusal. Go to [shubie.chebucto.org/index.htm](http://shubie.chebucto.org/index.htm).

- Wendy McDonald

## NEW AND RETURNING

Susan Clarke

It is an interesting and more interesting when on site. Sally In Gallant

Also, for readers who have computer access, a visit to the Canal Commission's website would add a new dimension to understanding this piece of Nova Scotia's history. Photos, maps, and newsletters are there for your perusal. Go to [shubie.chebucto.org/index.htm](http://shubie.chebucto.org/index.htm).

- Wendy McDonald

## NEW AND RETURNING

Susan Clarke



## NEW STRATEGIES FOR N.S. NATURAL RESOURCES?

### DNR

The Department of Natural Resources has announced plans for a new natural resources strategy that will govern the future of Nova Scotia's forests, minerals, parks, and biodiversity. They have asked Voluntary Planning (VP) to lead a process to hear from citizens. By late March, dates will be announced for community workshops in May and June, with a possible additional consultation with the public in Fall 2008 to further refine the contents of a final report. Aiming for December 2008, VP will present its findings to an experts panel acting on behalf of the Minister of DNR, which will inform the second phase of the Department's strategy development process.

For input into this very important process, you can also contact DNR by mail, fax, or online, up to June 30, 2008: Rita Fraser, Coordinator, Voluntary Planning, 424-8644, 1-866-858-5850; [volplan@gov.ns.ca](mailto:volplan@gov.ns.ca).

### NSEL

Nova Scotia Environment and Labour wants input about water management in Nova Scotia. "Towards a Water Resource Management Strategy for Nova Scotia" and associated information can be found on line at [gov.ca/enla/water/WaterStrategy.asp](http://gov.ca/enla/water/WaterStrategy.asp). It outlines a number of water issues and poses questions about water 'management'. The document includes a feedback form which you can submit by mail, email, fax, online, or by taking it to your local NSEL office. Submission deadline is June 8th, 2008.

– Wendy McDonald



**JEAN RIVERS SAWYER**  
1948-2008

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Jean on February 24, 2008. Jean and her husband Barry joined the Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society a year after it was initiated, and were involved with the Halifax Field Naturalist for some twenty years. Jean also enjoyed walking in nearby Hemlock Ravine Park and the Old Coach Road Trail with her neighbour's two Wheaton terriers, Shannon and Caragh.

Another outdoor interest was her regular Wednesday hike with a group of senior women. This hike was aptly described by one of the husbands as 'wacky' – 'wacky' referring to their outings in all kinds of weather. Begun in 2000, Jean joined the following April. For many years Jean sallied forth with the Wednesday Wacky Women Walkers, many of whom are members of the two societies mentioned above.

If I had to think of a word that summed up Jean, it was 'quiet', and few people would disagree. That may be an odd word to define one's life but in this day and age it is perhaps unique. Society seemingly rewards people who

speak up, strongly express their views, or are the life and soul of the party. Jean was the counter-balance to these behaviours, and of course that's part of the mix of life.

I really got to know Jean when she joined our hiking group, for there we all discovered her talent for identifying plants. As the months went by, Jean would be more bold at pointing them out along the trail or at helping others in identifying them. Between bouts of illness, and when she was no longer able to hike, she was still invited to share celebration meals with the group.

Jean particularly taught me about the nuances of plant 'keying', and demonstrated the necessary patience required for this method. I think that this was a skill she acquired as a library cataloguer, which requires one to follow a prescribed process of going from the global to the finite. It especially amazed me, as I like to do the global thing or else make comparisons with garden flowers. Many times I would find a plant, even a weed, which neither of us could readily identify and within a few days she would telephone with a name or two.

Jean was a great help in listing some of the plants for the information board on the renovated Old Coach Road Trail, Bedford. She also led a group of the Rockingham Heritage Society on a plant identification walk around the Hemlock Ravine Park. In the summer, Jean and Barry delighted in visiting the park and counting the numbers of trillium and lady slippers along the trails.

Jean's husband Barry shared her love of flowers and whenever possible they meticulously planned and made trips abroad – Austria, Bermuda, France, Italy, Madeira, New Zealand, the UK. After the holiday, the work *really* began, for Barry was a keen photographer of plants and natural habitats, and had stocked up on film. The photos were soon developed and sorted in order to produce slide shows. There was never only one show, for both Jean and Barry were cognizant of what their various family members and friends would like. Long before 'digital' we can all remember the amount of time required to prepare a show. I was particularly lucky, as, living in the same neighbourhood of Fernleigh Park, my show was accompanied by a meal, often reflecting the show's topic or country. Barry cooked the main course and Jean followed it with a delicious desert. Sometimes, I saw two versions of the show. Their slides, of course, were shared with both HFN and NSWF.

It was fitting that Jean's family and friends met to wish her well and participate in her memorial service full of expressions of her outdoor life. Jean had chosen readings and music which reflected her love of creation.

We, who also enjoy the outdoors, will remember Jean – her quietness, her smile, and her fortitude, as well as her skill in interpreting what she experienced and loved in our world.

– Patricia Leader





# SPECIAL REPORTS

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



We had a very good roster of presentations and activities this past year, both at our evening meetings, and also on our many field trips. Our hardworking Programme Committee, headed by Burkhard Plache, once again devoted a lot of time to provide us with wonderful and interesting illustrated talks covering a multitude of topics, and a number of excellent hikes to explore our natural history, both locally and further afield.



Our quarterly Halifax Field Naturalist publication includes write-ups of these activities, as well as local and provincial natural history news, announcements, and other tidbits, a seasonal almanac (which includes a comprehensive list of upcoming events of interest to all naturalists), and special articles. Editor Stephanie Robertson, past editor and taxonomist Ursula Grigg, Patricia Chalmers (Almanac), Bernice Moores (distribution) and Doug Linzey (mailing labels) all conspire to publish 'on time'. A special thank you is also due to those members who write up the presentations and field trip reports in the first place; without them the newsletter wouldn't be possible, or as interesting.

The annual conference of Nature Nova Scotia this year was held in conjunction with the Nature Canada annual conference on August 1st to 5th at Acadia University. Over 160 people from across Canada attended the very full programme of over 15 conference sessions and over 50 separate field trips. Late evening bat viewing, migratory shorebird viewing, and the fossils of blue beach, were just a few of the field trip highlights. Many of the most prominent naturalists in Atlantic Canada were featured speakers, including Harry Thurston and Bob Bancroft. The conference participants enjoyed the natural setting of the Acadia campus, overlooking the Annapolis valley.

A silent auction and raffle of a wonderful selection of nature related books, art, and craft items were an enjoyable feature of the conference. These fundraising efforts added greatly to its financial success. Led by Conference Chair Joan Czapalay, and Programme Chair Doug Linzey, it was a great experience for all who participated.

Because Nature Nova Scotia acted as host to the Nature Canada annual conference in August, the Nature NS AGM was held earlier, on June 3rd, at the Truro Community College. It was a small gathering of about 20 members from Naturalist groups across the province. In addition to regular business, the highlights of the AGM were reports on Leatherback Turtles and the associated jellyfish survey, and on the White Point Quarry Environmental Assessment. Many of the meeting's participants stayed on for afternoon bird-watching and wild flora field trips in the Truro area and along the banks of the Salmon River.

HFN is lucky to have such a dedicated group to serve as its Board of Directors. Our Vice President, Peter Webster, coordinated conservation-oriented activities on behalf of HFN, beginning locally with Past President Bob. 20 members from Naturalist groups across the province. In addition to regular business, the highlights of the AGM were reports on Leatherback Turtles and the associated jellyfish survey, and on the White Point Quarry Environmental Assessment. Many of the meeting's participants stayed on for afternoon bird-watching and wild flora field trips in the Truro area and along the banks of the Salmon River.

HFN is lucky to have such a dedicated group to serve as its Board of Directors. Our Vice President, Peter

again handled our website and email system with great skill.

Jim Wolford and Bob McDonald continue to be active in handling conservation issues. The Young Naturalists Club, established in the spring of 2006 with the support and backing from HFN and others, continues with a very active programme for pre-teens and teenagers. Kudos to Karen McKendry who established the YNC. It will play a key role in the shaping of our future naturalists.

Our very special thanks is extended to loyal volunteer Regine Maass, who is still providing refreshments after our talks, sometimes homemade!

– Allan Robertson, President

## MEMBERSHIP



In 2007 we have continued to maintain our membership levels, with new members replacing those whom we lost. The 2007 roll of 129 memberships was made up of 66 individual, 38 family, and 25 supporting members. In addition we had 5 dues-paying institutional members (all libraries). Fifty-five of our members also chose to join Nature Nova Scotia when joining or rejoining the HFN.

More recently, we have decided to experiment with using the e-mail addresses provided by many members in order to facilitate distribution of information and event notices that fall outside of the coverage of our newsletter and programme listing. We hope that our membership will find this additional contact useful and we welcome feedback.

Once again thanks to Doug Linzey for maintaining the membership database and newsletter labels.

### TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS BY YEAR

| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 119  | n/a  | 123  | 129  | 129  |



– Lillian Risley, Membership Secretary

## PROGRAMME



In 2007 we had nine presentations and 17 field trips. Some talks covered local interests, such as birds, bats, lichens, mussels, medicinal plants; whereas others gave us a glimpse of distant countries – the Galapagos, South Africa, and the Southern Atlantic Ocean.

Unfortunately, on our HFN field trips, we cannot travel as far. But, besides visiting places in HRM such as the harbour and Bedford Basin on the Sewer Stroll, Shubie Park, and Long Lake Provincial Park, we did venture to Windhorse Farm to the West, Taylor Head to the East, Cape Split to the North, and other places in between.

Participation at the events varied a lot, with the visit to Windhorse Farm probably the most popular field trip. This, and other attractive trips, may be offered again in the future.

The programme committee wants to thank the people who were willing to present talks or lead field trips. Invaluable were a number of dedicated advisers and organisers, who provided much needed ideas and contact information. All members are invited to bring Park, and Long Lake Provincial Park, we did venture to Windhorse Farm to the West, Taylor Head to the East, Cape Split to the North, and other places in between.

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**Halifax Field Naturalists  
Financial Statement (Balance Sheet)  
As At December 31, 2007**

|  | 2007     | 2007     | 2006     | 2006     | 2005     | 2005     |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Assets</b>                          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| Cash                                   |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| Royal                                  |          | \$1,158  |          | \$1,433  |          | \$1,820  |
| Accounts Receivable and Accrued Income |          | \$531    |          | \$395    |          | \$322    |
| Inventories and Prepaids               |          | \$734    |          | \$825    |          | \$825    |
| Investments                            |          | \$12,288 |          | \$12,090 |          | \$11,960 |
| Fixed Assets                           |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|  |          | \$14,711 |          | \$14,743 |          | \$14,927 |
| <b>Liabilities and Surplus</b>         |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| Accounts Payable                       |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| - General                              |          |          |          | \$0      |          | \$0      |
| - FNSN                                 |          | \$270    |          | \$260    |          | \$0      |
| Surplus                                |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| Restricted                             |          | \$6,288  |          | \$6,090  |          | \$5,960  |
| Unrestricted                           |          | \$8,423  |          | \$8,653  |          | \$8,967  |
|  | \$14,711 |          | \$14,743 |          | \$14,927 |          |
|  |          | \$14,711 |          | \$14,743 |          | \$14,927 |

**Halifax Field Naturalists  
Statement of Income and Surplus  
Year Ended December 31, 2007**

|                                   | 2,007<br>Actual | 2006<br>Actual | 2005<br>Actual | 2004<br>Actual |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                   |                 |                |                |                |
| Membership                        | \$2,440         | \$2,218        | \$1,690        | \$1,927        |
| Product Sales                     | -\$82           | \$16           | \$0            | \$8            |
| GIC                               | \$0             | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            |
| Interest                          | \$198           | \$162          | \$140          | \$121          |
| Donations                         | \$0             | \$70           | \$35           | \$746          |
| DF List                           | \$59            | -\$21          | \$48           | \$65           |
|                                   | \$2,616         | \$2,444        | \$1,913        | \$2,866        |
| <b>Expenses</b>                   |                 |                |                |                |
| Field Trips                       | \$0             | -\$31          | \$0            | \$0            |
| Special Projects                  | \$0             | \$0            | \$0            | \$0            |
| Socials                           | \$33            | \$91           |                | \$0            |
| Grants/Donations                  | \$25            | \$125          | \$125          | \$125          |
| Insurance                         | \$225           | \$225          | \$225          | \$200          |
| Meetings                          | \$403           | \$139          | \$400          | \$254          |
| Memberships                       | \$400           | \$555          | \$425          | \$405          |
| Miscellaneous                     | \$0             | \$0            | \$0            | \$37           |
| Newsletters                       |                 |                |                |                |
| Postage                           | \$405           | \$367          | \$388          | \$318          |
| Production                        | \$1,326         | \$1,100        | \$619          | \$442          |
| Office Supplies & Expenses        | \$30            | \$187          | \$10           | \$96           |
|                                   | \$2,846         | \$2,758        | \$2,193        | \$1,877        |
| <b>Net Income</b>                 | -\$230          | -\$314         | -\$280         | \$989          |
| <b>Surplus, beginning of year</b> |                 |                |                |                |
| Miscellaneous                     | \$0             | \$0            | \$0            | \$37           |
| Newsletters                       |                 |                |                |                |
| Postage                           | \$405           | \$367          | \$388          | \$318          |
| Production                        | \$1,326         | \$1,100        | \$619          | \$442          |
| Office Supplies & Expenses        | \$30            | \$187          | \$10           | \$96           |
|                                   | \$2,846         | \$2,758        | \$2,193        | \$1,877        |
| <b>Net Income</b>                 | -\$230          | -\$314         | -\$280         | \$989          |



## NEWSLETTER

Along with the rising cost of oil and the increase in the Canadian dollar this year, came an increase in printing costs for the Halifax Field Naturalist.

Dalhousie Print surprised us and doubled its printing price for the black and white 'innards' of the Winter 07/08 Halifax Field Naturalist when we went to pick it up. Unfortunately, upon checking with a few other commercial printing facilities, they were even more expensive than Dalhousie's new price.

At the eleventh hour, however (the day of our 2008 AGM), we did find a more reasonable printing facility for a trial run of this Spring 08 issue. So, we have a bit of financial breathing space, at least for three more months. Depending upon the quality of their production, we will either stay with this new facility or will be investigating other avenues.

Increased printing costs introduces the possibility of increasing our HFN membership costs. From 1975 to about 1989, our newsletter was printed free-of-charge, courtesy of Dalhousie University and subsequently the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History. From 1989 on, HFN had to cover this expense. And from that time until now, membership dues have increased by 43%. However, newsletter production costs have increased by approximately 410%! This does not include the cost of postage, which has also gone up. This matter is being looked into by our Board of Directors, and the topic of increasing membership dues will have to be re-visited; I expect any increase to be modest.

The last four issues of The Halifax Field Naturalist, which comprised 76 pages in total, included 13 HFN field trip reports, and ten HFN talk write-ups. A sincere thank you to all who submitted these. We also had six very interesting special articles in this past year: one revealing the high percentage of foreign plants in Seaview park, by Patricia Chalmers; a 'First Snow' in Kejimikujik Provincial Park, by Leslie Butters; one about using Macroinvertebrates to assess Water Quality by Marcel Cornect of the NSCC; a detailed Brown Spruce Long-horned Beetle Report by entomologist Christopher Majka; and a 'Signs of Spring' (or not!) piece by Pat Leader. All these articles were informative, well-written, and a couple were amusing. They were submitted entirely voluntarily, and they make our newsletter even more timely and interesting. A big thank you to these people as well.

Our local HFN News and Announcements, seasonal Tide Table, Nature Notes, and Pat Chalmers' useful and informative Almanac rounded out another year of The Halifax Field Naturalist for you, the HFN membership.

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## CONSERVATION

### HFN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES FOR 2007/2008 Nature Canada's 2007 AGM & Conference

The Nova Scotia Federation of Naturalists and Nature Nova Scotia took on the task of hosting the Nature Canada Conference held in Wolfville, N.S., in August, 2007. As the HFN representative for Nature Nova Scotia, the conference organisation was a major focus of my attention this year. It was great to work with the many hard working volunteers from natural history clubs in the Annapolis Valley, as well as other parts of the province. A number of Halifax Field Naturalists also participated in making the conference a great success.

### White's Point Quarry Environmental Review

Membership in Nature Nova Scotia is an important way for HFN to communicate and stay in touch with other naturalist groups in the province, and cooperate in common action.

Providing input into the environmental assessment process for the proposed White Point Quarry in Digby County was another focus of attention for Nature Nova Scotia members during the year. It is heartening that, after protracted community effort, this quarry project was not approved by the Nova Scotia government.

### Blue Mountain/Birch Cove Lakes Protected Wilderness Area.

Several HFN members worked diligently on the effort to preserve the Birch Cove/Blue Mountain Lakes natural area on the east side of Halifax. This area was proposed as a regional park by the Halifax Regional Municipality last year. It was a pleasure to hear that it was designated as a Protected Wilderness area by the Nova Scotia Government in November of 2007.

### Chebucto Peninsula Stewardship Charter

Government and community group discussions on community stewardship of public lands in the Chebucto Peninsula were concluded early in 2007. These discussions resulted in agreement by way of forming a 'Chebucto Peninsula Stewardship Charter'. This is a set of guiding principles for consensus based community/government collaboration. These principles were agreed upon by representatives of the Halifax Regional Municipality, The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, and a number of community groups, including the Halifax Field Naturalists. It is hoped that this 'stewardship charter' will form a basis for community/government discussions in the future.

### McNab's Island Provincial Park

I would like to thank Suzanne Borkowski for her long standing work on the McNab's Island Community Halifax Regional Municipality, The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, and a number of community groups, including the Halifax Field Naturalists. It is hoped that this 'stewardship charter' will form a basis for community/government discussions in the future.

### McNab's Island Provincial Park

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## Point Pleasant Park

HFN continues to have active representation, in the person of our President Allan Robertson, on the Point Pleasant Park Park Advisory Committee.

## Long Lake Provincial Park Plan

Although the Park Plan for Long Lake Provincial is long delayed, input on planning for this park is ongoing. I have continued to stay in touch with Department of Natural Resources park planning staff.

— Peter Webster  
Conservation Chair

## COLIN STEWART CONSERVATION AWARD

This year, the Colin Stewart Conservation Award went to the Ecology Action Centre, the oldest and largest conservation and environmental organisation in the Province, working to promote a healthier, more sustainable Nova Scotia. The EAC is 37 years old, province-wide in scope, and deals with a wide range of environmental issues and initiatives. Much of EAC's activities are in support of biodiversity conservation – saving natural spaces for natural species:

- Terrestrial, coastal and marine conservation
- Energy issues, including greenhouse gas emissions
- Local organic food production
- Transportation issues
- Green buildings and built infrastructure
- Solar and other alternate energy sources
- Reduction/elimination of cosmetic pesticide use

Much of the EAC's work in conservation of natural areas is carried out under the Nova Scotia Public Lands Coalition (NSPLC) – of which HFN is a longstanding member. The EAC is a leader group within the Coalition, for over a decade successfully pushing government to identify important natural areas and to keep them forever wild by designating them as nature reserves or protected wilderness areas.

Following are some of EAC's many conservation successes throughout the province:

- Was at the forefront in the battle to save the Jim Campbell Barrens (with Colin Stewart), and worked hard over a two year period to have government pass the Wilderness Areas Protection Act. This Act protects Nova Scotia's original 31 protected areas (representing 5% of the provincial landmass).
- Was a lead group in the NSPL Coalition, successfully championed protection of 25 nature reserves across Nova Scotia, and obtained protection for four key areas: Gully lake in Colchester/Pictou County; Eigg Mountain-James River in Antigonish/Pictou County; Shelburne River in Queens County; and The Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes area in HRM – the largest urban wilderness park in Canada (three times the Wilderness Areas Protection Act. This Act protects Nova Scotia's original 31 protected areas (representing 5% of the provincial landmass).

- Was a lead group in the NSPL Coalition, successfully championed protection of 25 nature reserves across Nova Scotia, and obtained protection for four key areas: Gully lake in Colchester/Pictou County; Eigg Mountain-James River in Antigonish/Pictou County; Shelburne River in Queens County; and The

Prosperity Act, including the goal of protecting 12% of the provincial land mass by 2015.

- Played a lead role in developing the province's legislation for All Terrain Vehicles, supervising creation of a 31-member lobbying group, Citizens for Responsible ATV Use, and negotiating principles acceptable to all players.

- Challenged the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in court for breaking the government's own laws by licensing deep water druggers.

- Challenged forestry practices in the province for decades, and was helpful in getting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for the Stora-Enso (now NewPage) pulp plant in Point Tupper. FSC certification is the gold standard for sustainable forestry practices.

The EAC is currently working to establish a tentative wilderness area in the Ship Harbour-Long Lake region, getting the government to develop stronger regulations to limit clearcutting and to produce a sound coastal management plan.

—Allan Robertson

## THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES TO CITIES – THE URBAN FOREST

What is an urban forest? Street trees, trees in parks, and trees on private and public land make up the urban forest; in the Halifax Regional Municipality, that includes urban *and* suburban areas. As a result of a 25-year Regional Plan, HRM has established a task force to develop an Urban Forest Strategy to present to Regional Council. Peter Bigelow is the project manager, and John Simmons, the HRM's Urban Forester, is leading the steering committee.

On September 19th, 2007, at St. Mary's Boat Club, Dr. David Novak of the USDA Forest Service presented "The Importance Of Trees To Cities", to HRM councillors, staff, and citizens. Sponsored by HRM and the Nova Forest Alliance, over 100 people attended the lecture as part of the HRM Urban Forest Master Plan project.

Dr. Novak's research expertise is in understanding the urban forest's structure, its health, its changes, and also its effect on air quality and greenhouse gases. His current research program includes determining the effects of urban trees on air quality and their role in national air quality regulations, as well as researching long-term changes in urban forest structure and health. He is also involved in developing remote sensing methods and tools to produce digital cover maps; these are to be integrated within urban forest models and GIS systems to improve urban forest management and human health. His lecture was very informative and touched on many aspects of our own urban forests, including natural hazards such as Hurricane Juan, insect pests, and the planting of non-native species.

HRM is in the process of completing an inventory of city trees as a part of its Master Plan. Data collection long-term changes in urban forest structure and health. He is also involved in developing remote sensing methods and tools to produce digital cover maps; these are to be integrated within urban forest models and GIS systems to improve urban forest management and human health. His lecture was very informative and touched on many aspects of our own urban forests, including natural hazards such as Hurricane Juan, insect pests, and the planting of non-native species.

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more modern technology, specifically, Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) – a technique which is a major component of the Geomatics industry. This technology enables identification of various types of 'green' cover such as grass, shrubs, and trees. When completed and approved by Regional Council, the HRM Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) will be a strategic policy document which will help manage urban forests in HRM over the next 25 years.

Trees are just as important to a city's economic health as roads, bridges, water, sewer, electricity, transit, and other services that a city needs to prosper. Trees are also important to a city's social health because they affect the look and feel of the places where we live, work, and play. An urban forest master plan will help safeguard the municipality's trees by providing comprehensive direction for the growth and maintenance of our urban forest.

The HRM Urban Forest Master Plan will:

- establish the values and benefits of long term care for trees in HRM;
- suggest changes to laws, regulations, policies, and processes for managing trees in urban and suburban HRM;
- identify areas of concern for HRM's urban forests;
- raise awareness of the importance of trees to the city and its citizens.

John Simmons spoke briefly about the need to establish priorities for urban forests, including tree

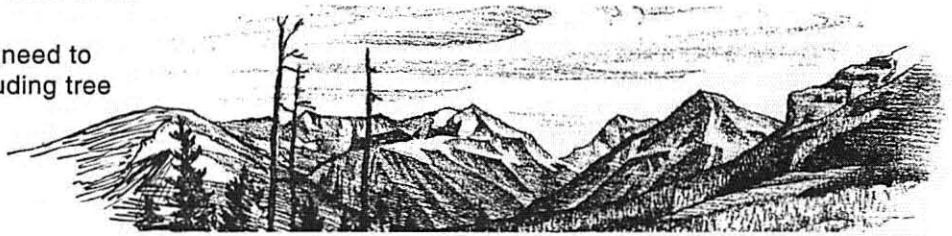
retention bylaws. This is to be a public and open process so your participation will be valued when the time comes. In addition, Simmons mentioned that there exists a listing of trees recommended for street planting. Hopefully, we will be able to obtain a list of 'approved' street trees to share with HFN members. Apparently, Norway maple is no longer on the approved list!

In addition, we were reminded that any issues regarding the street trees on your property or others in the neighbourhood must be dealt with by the city – so do not trim your tree or cut it down – let the city decide if there are steps to be taken to remediate or remove a tree. By the same token, let the city know if others in your community are not following these guidelines, or if street trees need trimming. In some instances, trees block safe sightlines for drivers; let the city know about these issues.

Individual tree planting requests are balanced with current planting initiatives. As well, it is possible to donate a tree in memory of a loved one or a special occasion or event. To request a street tree to be planted on HRM property, in front of your home or business, contact the HRM Call Centre, 490-4000.

– Bob and Wendy McDonald

(with help from [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca) and the UFMP site)



## HFN TALKS

### WATERTON LAKES PARK 3 JAN.

Gerry Lunn, currently curator of interpretation at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, provided us with a description of Alberta's Waterton Lakes National Park, supported by photographs which he took while working in that park in the early 80's.

Waterton Lakes National Park is located on the border between Alberta and Montana, and abuts Glacier National Park on the other side of the border. It is on the most westerly edge of the Great Plains and is renowned for the majesty of its mountain landscape. Because it is in an isolated location and not on the main road to any major centre, it is not as heavily used as the Banff or Jasper parks. It has an incredible diversity of climate, winds and orientation in the mountains. It also has the greatest variety of wildflowers in Alberta – 900-1000 varieties in the 525 square kilometres of the park!

The Rocky Mountains date from 1.5 billion years ago, and were laid down under an ocean. Then, for millions of years, the sedimentary layers were forced up, buckling the landscape. The western Rockies moved up over the eastern Rockies, with up to a 60-km overlap in some instances. This placed older rocks over younger ones and resulted in the present

mountains now rising up very abruptly from the prairie grasslands.

The landscape of the Park is influenced by water and high winds. The park is very windy, up to 160 km/hr in summer (Gerry showed us a picture of a co-worker leaning forward at a 60° angle being held up by the wind!). It has also been shaped by glacier activity. Glaciers, which had built up behind a hardened limestone ridge, eventually went up and over the ridge but, in the process, carved out the deep lakes. There are three major lakes in the park—the Upper, Middle and Lower Waterton Lakes. Upper Waterton Lake is the deepest in the Rockies at 150 metres. In the post-glacier period, enormous alluvial fans were also created.

In addition to the strong winds, Waterton Park has other extremes of weather. It has more chinook activity than any other Rockies area, and the temperature change during a chinook can be amazing. During one chinook, a Waterton area town had the temperature increase by 21°C in a mere four minutes. The winters bring very cold temperatures, reaching -35°C to -45°C, even without wind.

The variety of wildlife is also impressive. The larger mammals are Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep,

Mule Deer, Elk, Grizzly and Black Bears, Moose, and rodents (mostly ground squirrels – the Columbia, the '13-line', and the Golden Mountain ground squirrels).

Because the park has both prairie and mountain terrain, flowers of both types are found here as well as some flowers that are more commonly associated with the B.C. coastal region. Some special examples are: Prairie Crocus, gentians and orchids, two species of coral root, and the Bear Grass Lily, which grows to a height of one metre on the mountainsides and blooms only once every seven years.

The mountain terrain has a number of unique features. One of these is rock at the top of some of the highest mountains which contains fossilised ripple marks, indicating its original location on a sea bottom. Between the mountains there are broad, U-shaped valleys formed by the glaciers. Also there are 'arêtes', formed by tributary glaciers moving down side by side, plucking rocks from each side until a narrow, knife-like ridge is formed.

Some of the trails in these mountains are challenging – featuring steep, rugged sections, talus slopes, tunnels, and ladders. The many streams offer spectacular waterfalls, some easily accessed, but some requiring determination and stamina. The park contains the Prince of Wales lodge which was constructed in the 1920's on a ridge at the mouth of Upper Waterton Lake. When it was only partially built, the lodge was moved off its site by strong winds and the builders had to revamp their design and methods to adjust for the strong wind factor!

Waterton Park offers a wide range of touring possibilities. There are many scenic choices for car travelers, walks which vary from easy to challenging, and boat cruises on the lakes. In 1932 Waterton Park joined with Glacier Park in Montana to form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, a world first. Gerry suggested that, if one had travelled all the way to Waterton, then a drive on the 'Going to the Sun Road', which runs from the eastern side of Glacier Park through the heart of the Rockies to Lake MacDonald, was a 'must' – but, if you do go, wait until after mid-June, because of the snow.

- Lillian Risley



## JAMAICAN ADVENTURES 7 FEB.

Joan Czapalay visited and taught in Jamaica seven times under the auspices of the World Bank Jamaica Project Fund; the local liason for the project was Mt. St. Vincent University. She was there on three assignments – in the months of July, August, and October – in the southern and eastern sections,



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Agriculture is mostly plantations of bananas, coffee, tobacco, oranges, sugar cane, and watermelon. Pimento is a very lucrative crop with two famous products – red pimento peppers and allspice (the inner seeds). She had brought many things to accompany her talk – maps, books and pictures, food, spices, and many other local products.

While in Portland in the east, a beautiful, mountainous jungle area with 120 major rivers, full of parrots and exotic orchids, she stayed in the small resort of Rio Vistas, overlooking the Rio Grande river. Its delta boasts Port Antonio, famous for its exporting 'banana boats'.

Joan talked nostalgically about the wonderful local food which she was very keen to try over the usual tourist fare. While at Rio Vistas, she was fortunate to have Sharon Miller, "the best chef in Jamaica" who prepared the local dishes to perfection.

Joan's favourite occasional alcoholic beverage was the local Red Stripe Beer, especially on a hot day. Always taking advantage of the many local roadside food stands, there were other tasty and tempting dishes such a local pea soup, even conch soup, and always – wonderfully fresh fish dishes and fresh fruit.

While in the south, she stayed at Sunset, in a coastal plain area of Treasure Beach. Her daily trip to Bethlehem Teacher's College was a 40-minute drive up through very winding, mountainous roads to Malvern!

The bulk of Jamaicans live in Kingston and Montego Bay. This famous island has long been a retreat for the rich and famous, especially the eastern end, and Joan eventually did have one visit to Kingston.

Jamaica boasts 23 endemic animal species and 3,000 major plants, 1,000 of which are endemic. There are four lizzard species (anoles) on the eastern part of the island and each have their own niche at different levels in their habitat.

Slides of note: the ubiquitous cockroach, found in all tropical countries; lovely florals of Chenille plants and Hibiscus; a very large flycatcher, the Loggerhead Kingbird; a Jamaican toad; scrub cactus giants; Frigate birds (22 of them were nesting near where she stayed at Sunset Resort); and a large rooster large with fighting spurs. There were butterfly pictures, 2 yellows, a *Heliconius heliconia*, and many other species; a Helconia plant; Ginger Lillies; and Cyclads. A Doctor Bird with its long tail; a 'Queen of the Night', the Night blooming Cereus, with blossom (once a year); a Cannonball Tree in bloom, Frangipani; Breadfruit; an Ackees tree; a Soursop seller; and of course, a 'rasta'.

While there she went fishing with a local fisherman and caught a Spanish Mackerel; she also went snorkelling, observing and hearing Parrot Fish graze large with lightning spurs. There were butterfly pictures, 2 yellows, a *Heliconius heliconia*, and many other species; a Helconia plant; Ginger Lillies; and Cyclads. A Doctor Bird with its long tail; a 'Queen of the Night', the Night blooming Cereus, with blossom (once a year); a Cannonball Tree in bloom, Frangipani; Breadfruit; an Ackees tree; a Soursop seller; and of course, a 'rasta'.

While there she went fishing with a local fisherman and caught a Spanish Mackerel; she also went



long, hot walk up into the mountains. She described the many local and feral dogs, lots with biting tendencies! Thank you, Joan, for a great talk.

– Stephanie Robertson



## MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT 6 MAR.

We had a plethora of images and presentors for this night – much better, in a way, than not having enough. The presentations went on until well after 10:00 p.m., and there were at least four, and probably more, people who were disappointed that there wasn't time to show their own images. It must have been very frustrating for them.

As you can well imagine, board members on the following day exchanged many emails (35 at last count), trying to devise a fair way of handling such a surfeit of riches, and ensuring that in the future, those who want to show images will be able to do so.

Suggestions included pre-registration; a limit of 15 images per person (max!) or 10 minutes each (max!); separating the meeting MC from the 'slide-night' MC positions, ensuring that the slide-night MC is highly technically proficient with computers and projection software; purchasing an HFN computer; considering various technical options for assembling and showing the images; and – having a second Members' slide Night.

One of the things we all want to ensure is that the usual welcoming spirit of HFN meetings extends to Members Slide Night, and that no one should feel inhibited or reluctant to share their images with all of us.

Peter Webster was first up with some older, but now digitalised slides from a past Bolivian mountain-climbing trip around the city of LaPaz – 14,000 feet above sea level in a giant volcanic crater in the Condoriri mountains, the foothills of the Andes. Oxygen levels were low, even at the airport, and Peter and his friends had a hard time lugging their bags about. Their acclimatisation ascent was the 17,600 ft. Illusion, with the base camp at 15,000 feet. The next was Huayna Potosi, at just under 20,000 feet, and then Ilimani, a 3-day venture up to the snowy top at 21,000 feet.

The airport was on the high plain, Alto Plano, and surrounded a giant volcanic crater in which sat the city of La Paz. The business district was at the bottom, and the living became poorer as the dwellings ascended the crater, with the slums at the top around the edge. The landscape was beautiful, stark, and dry. It has been farmed for over 2,000 years, mostly in potatoes, and there is lots of environmental feet, and then Ilimani, a 3-day venture up to the snowy top at 21,000 feet.

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flowering shrubs, and had both distant and close-up beautiful views which included the following shrubs in more or less seasonal order. First, a Hobble Bush, *Viburnum* sp.; then a Wild Pear, *Amelanchier levis*, (the one with the bronze foliage); Pin Cherry, *Amelanchier wigandii*; Withyrod, *Viburnum cassanoides*; a cinquefoil, *Potentilla tridentata*; a rare Arctic Alpine Mt. Sandwort, *Arenaria grænlandica* from Blue Mountain; a Leatherleaf from Belcher's Marsh; Carpets of False Honeysuckle and a rare Leatherwood shrub at Smiley's; Rhodora; Red Chokeberry, *Aronia arbutifolia*; Canada Buffalo Berry; fruiting Scarlet or Red-berried Elder; and fruiting Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*.

Peter Payzant had slides from a recent music-study trip to Japan. On the way there Peter and Linda stopped in Hawaii, where they photographed a Black-crowned Night Heron, a Common Moorhen, and a Red-crested Cardinal (introduced). Beautiful rainforest and waterfall shots rounded out the Hawaii pictures.

The first Japan shots were of a Bronze Buddha and then a mouth-watering table of typical Japanese food! Peter and Linda's natural history interests of course led them to take shots of the flora and fauna there. Some were: a beautiful iridescent green Scarab Beetle; a Common Swallowtail; a Malachite Cicada on Linda's hat; two butterflies; a mother duck with babies; a Painted Lady; a very tiny yellow-green frog; gigantic, carved, wooden dung beetles in glass in a shopping mall; a European Tree Sparrow; a dragonfly; a Satyr Butterfly; a hummingbird; and a Clear-wing moth.

They joined a local group of birders watching Gulls (Black-tailed), locally called 'sea-cats'. We saw a ubiquitous Cabbage Butterfly; a Fritillary on Plantana; a Grey Heron; a Monarch relative, *Gluser amerilli*; and, of course, Japan's famous Mount Fuji.

Lesley Butters showed very many beautiful images from the valley and winter in the Keji area: a bright red Cardinal in Wolfville with no head feathers (Janet Dalton said she has seen Blue Jays without head feathers as well - a moult?); kayaking in the Minas Basin; meadows full of wildflowers; and a Canada Goose Cranberry at Lake, then shown nesting high up on extremely large glacial erratic. Then, Cranberries and yellow fall leaves; a beaver lodge; sunset on Lake Mush-a-Mush; naturally carved ice/snow shapes; 'sand caves' shaped by changing river ice; Lupins; and shots of Muskrat in Alderney New (which was mistakenly called New Alderney in the last issue).

Chris Stoddard had winter scenes from Cape Sable Island and Clarke's Harbour, including a beautiful shot of Barrington River; Cape Forchu Lighthouse; volcanic rocks; a Round-leaved sundew; Red Portage light; Cranberries and yellow fall leaves; a beaver lodge; sunset on Lake Mush-a-Mush; naturally carved ice/snow shapes; 'sand caves' shaped by changing river ice; Lupins; and shots of Muskrat in Alderney New (which was mistakenly called New Alderney in the last issue).

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from the McNab's Island clean-up; from the York Redoubt trip; and from the young Bald Eagle release event at Sheffield Mills.

Janet Dalton presented a slide show produced by, and about, the Purdon Conservation Area in Ontario, which has protected and enlarged a local population of threatened Showy Lady's-slippers, *Cypripedium reginae*. They have managed to sustain and increase the population immensely by hand-pollination and irrigation enhancements; now there are 12,000 blooms from mid-June to mid-July! Nova Scotia has some of these.



Jack Warkentin took a trip to Cuba years ago, to an ecological preserve on Varadero Peninsula. The environment there was very dry, scrubby, and woody, with a canopy 30 to 50 feet high. A certain tree impressed him immensely, a 'Goblet Flower' cactus, *Dendrocereus nudiflorus*: 500 to 600 years old, he showed pictures of it with its strange, cactus-like leaves, and giant root base.

Closer afield, he had beautiful shots of a Service-berry on Cole Harbour Lands; a Red-berried Elder, *Sambuca pubens*; and a female Mallard with five babies.

— Stephanie Robertson



## FIELD TRIPS



### ARNELL LANDS BIOTA SURVEY

**Date:** Saturday, September 22nd, 2007

**Place:** Captain Arnell Lands, Purcell's Cove Road

**Weather:** Sunny, some clouds; -14C°; wind chill -25C°

**Interpreters:** Bob McDonald and Patricia Chalmers

**Participants:** 9

At the Purcell's Cove Road trailhead, nine eager HFN naturalists met at 11:00 a.m. to explore this Nova Scotia Nature Trust-owned property, and to continue our on-going biological inventory. Sally-Jo Gallant, the Land Stewardship Coordinator of the NSNT, accompanied us. Although a few of us had previously explored this wilderness property, several had never been in to the far end near the shores of Flat Lake. So we decided to begin by hiking there first, 'botanising' and 'birding' our way back.

Due to the rather wet early fall, there was much standing water and the trail was quite muddy (and slippery) in places. One participant had a too-close encounter at a particularly precarious spot but no permanent damage was done. In about two hours, we were eating our well-deserved lunch on a granite outcrop overlooking Flat Lake. Then it was on to business – continuing our inventory of the flora and fauna of the property. While some of us explored the lakeshore and nearby bogs, others worked on the flora of the barren lands and Jack Pine stands.

Among the new additions to the previous flora list were Chokeberry (*Aronia* sp.), Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), and Dewberry (*Rubus hispidus*). Both White and Tawny Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum* sp.) were also observed. We did spend some time identifying a few lichen species as well; fortunately Pat Chalmers had brought along her field guide, Lichens Above the Treeline, by Ralph Pope. In addition, some specimens were collected for later identification by local lichenologist, Wolfgang Maass. Coincidentally, we saw Wolfgang across Purcell's Pond on our way out; unfortunately he arrived late for the hike and took the wrong trail in. Next time we hope he will be able to join us – the Arnell Lands contain many more lichen species than are indicated on the accompanying



listing.

Bird species were few and far between although several Gray Jays were very visible and vocal at one location. However, thanks to Pat's keen hearing we were able to add a few new species to the bird list.

Collective listings of plants, lichens, and birds seen to date during this and previous field trips follow.

These are 'works in progress' and we intend to continue these biota survey field trips in order to add more species to the Arnell Lands database. Stay tuned, and join us for the next one, possibly next May or June!

— Bob McDonald

### ARNELL LANDS SPECIES

#### Plants

##### Fern Allies & Ferns

Cinnamon Fern  
Bracken  
New York Fern  
Wood Fern

*Osmunda cinnamomea*  
*Pteridium aquilinum*  
*Thelyptis noveboracensis*  
*Dryopteris spinulosa*

##### Gymnosperms (Conifers)

Balsam Fir  
White Spruce  
Red Spruce  
Black Spruce  
Hemlock  
Eastern Larch  
White Pine  
Jack Pine  
Common Juniper  
Creeping Juniper

*Abies balsamea*  
*Picea glauca*  
*Picea rubens*  
*Picea mariana*  
*Tsuga canadensis*  
*Larix laricina*  
*Pinus strobus*  
*Pinus banksiana*  
*Juniperus communis*  
*Juniperus horizontalis*

##### Dicots

Yellow Pond Lily  
Gold-thread  
Witch-hazel  
Sweet Gale  
Bayberry  
Red Oak  
Yellow Birch  
Wire Birch  
White Birch  
Mountain Sandwort  
Pitcher Plant  
Round-leaved Sundew  
Golden Heather  
Large-toothed Aspen

*Nuphar variegata*  
*Coptis trifolia*  
*Hamamelis virginiana*  
*Myrica gale*  
*Myrica pensylvanica*  
*Quercus rubra*  
*Betula alleghaniensis*  
*Betula populifolia*  
*Betula papyrifera*  
*Arenaria grœnlandica*  
*Sarracenia purpurea*  
*Drosera rotundifolia*  
*Hudsonia ericoides*  
*Populus grandidentata*



Broom-crowberry  
 Labrador Tea  
 Wintergreen/Teaberry  
 Rhodora  
 Sheep Laurel  
 Leatherleaf  
 Mayflower  
 Velvet-leaf Blueberry  
 Early Low Blueberry  
 Large Cranberry  
 Black Huckleberry  
 Dwarf Huckleberry  
 Indian Pipe  
 Pinesap  
 Starflower  
 Cherry  
 Dewberry  
 Blackberry  
 Shadbush/Indian Pear  
 Three-toothed Cinquefoil  
 Mountain-ash  
 Bunchberry  
 Inkberry  
 Mountain Holly  
 Chokeberry  
 Red Maple  
 Mountain Maple  
 Wild Sarsaparilla  
 Cow-wheat  
 Partridgeberry/Twinberry  
 Hobblebush  
 Witherod  
 Bush Honeysuckle  
 Rough Goldenrod  
 Whorled Wood Aster  
 Rough-leaved Aster  
 Indian Cucumber Root



*Corema conradii*  
*Ledum grœnlandicum*  
*Gaultheria procumbens*  
*Rhododendron canadense*  
*Kalmia angustifolia*  
*Chamædaphne calyculata*  
*Epigæa repens*  
*Vaccinium myrtilloides*  
*Vaccinium angustifolium*  
*Vaccinium macrocarpon*  
*Gaylussacia baccata*  
*Gaylussacia dumosa*  
*Monotropa uniflora*  
*Monotropa hypopithys*  
*Trientalis borealis*  
*Prunus* sp.  
*Rubus hispidus*  
*Rubus* sp.  
*Amelanchier* sp.  
*Potentilla tridentata*  
*Sorbus americana*  
*Cornus canadensis*  
*Ilex glabra*  
*Nemopanthus mucronata*  
*Aronia* sp.  
*Acer rubrum*  
*A. spicatum*  
*Aralia nudicaulis*  
*Melampyrum lineare*  
*Mitchella repens*  
*Viburnum alnifolium*  
*V. nudum*, var. *cassinoides*  
*Diervilla lonicera*  
*Solidago puberula*  
*Aster acuminatus*  
*Aster radula*  
*Medeola virginiana*

**Monocots**

Blue-bead Lily  
 Pink Lady's Slipper  
 Tawny Cotton Grass  
 White Cotton Grass  
 Wild Lily of the Valley

*Clintonia borealis*  
*Cypripedium acaule*  
*Eriophorum virginicum*  
*Eriophorum* sp.  
*Maianthemum canadense*

**Lichens (identities subject to confirmation)**

Gray reindeer lichen  
 Star-tipped reindeer lichen  
 British soldiers  
 Trumpet lichen  
 Many-forked cladonia  
 Smooth cladonia  
 Common toadskin  
 Plated rock tripe  
 Common toadskin

*Cladonia rangiferina*  
*Cladonia stellaris*  
*Cladonia cristatella*  
*Cladonia fimbriata*  
*Cladonia furcata*  
*Cladonia gracilis*  
*Lasallia papulosa*  
*Umbilicaria muehlenburgii*  
*Lasallia papulosa*

**Birds**

American Black Duck  
 Ring-necked Duck  
 Osprey  
 Northern Harrier  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 Merlin  
 Greater Yellowlegs  
 Mourning Dove  
 Belted Kingfisher  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Grey Jay  
 Blue Jay  
 American Crow

*Anas rubripes*  
*Aythya collaris*  
*Pandion haliaëtus*  
*Circus cyaneus*  
*Buteo jamaicensis*  
*Falco columbarius*  
*Tringa melanoleuca*  
*Zenaida macroura*  
*Ceryle alcyon*  
*Picoides pubescens*  
*Colaptes auratus*  
*Perisoreus canadensis*  
*Cyanocitta cristata*  
*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Common Raven  
 Black-capped Chickadee  
 American Robin  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 Black-throated Green Warbler  
 Palm Warbler  
 Black-and-White Warbler  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Song Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow  
 Dark-eyed Junco  
 American Goldfinch

*Corvus corax*  
*Poecile atricapillus*  
*Turdus migratorius*  
*Dendroica coronata*  
*D. virens*  
*D. palmarum*  
*Mniotilta varia*  
*Geothlypis trichas*  
*Melospiza melodia*  
*Zonotrichia albicollis*  
*Junco hyemalis*  
*Carduelis tristis*

26 bird species to date (3rd October, 2007)



**HFN SEWER STROLL 26 JAN.**

**Date:** Saturday, January 26th  
**Place:** Various; Halifax Harbour/Bedford Basin  
**Weather:** Sunny; some clouds; -14C°; wind chill -25C°  
**Interpreters:** Bob McDonald & Suzanne Borkowski  
**Participants:** Approximately 25

Typical winter weather for this field trip greeted about 25 intrepid observers for the annual HFN-sponsored sewer stroll. After the usual introductions and preliminaries, we began the excursion by scanning the water from the Boondocks' Restaurant parking lot. Herring, Great Black-backed, and Ring-billed Gulls; Common Eider, Red-breasted Merganser, and White-winged Scoter were sighted. In a desperate attempt to keep warm, we drove rather than walked to the end of the wharf where we added Common Loon, Long-tailed Duck, and Black Guillemot to the list.

We then took a chance that we wouldn't all freeze to death and proceeded to Hartlen's Point where some interesting species had been reported. We did see an immature Bald Eagle enroute, and then tallied Great Cormorant, two Northern Harrier, a Rough-legged Hawk (hovering over Devil's Island), Common Goldeneye, and a couple of Savannah Sparrows on the frozen kelp beds. A possible Horned Lark flew by.

During a pit stop at Tim's on Pleasant Street, one of the leaders crossed the road and scanned the water only to see the only Glaucous Gull on the tour plus a small-headed, small-billed loon. Wanting to get the rest of the group on to this bird, he ran back to Tim's and raised the alarm! Some pictures were taken and much discussion ensued but no firm conclusions were made. (Several of us were leaning towards Pacific Loon while others thought that it was a first-year, and rather small, Common Loon. The jury is still out!).

Dartmouth Cove provided great views of a pair of Surf Scoters and several more Black Guillemots. Sullivan's Pond still held a couple of American Coot and American Wigeon but no Eurasian Wigeon. Across Hawthorne St. in Findley Park, we all got good



views of a Hairy Woodpecker and the usual gang of House Sparrows. One White-throated Sparrow was seen in the dense brush.

Alderney Landing provided the next pit stop and, near the Peace Pavilion, excellent views of many Iceland and Black-headed Gulls and at least two Bonaparte's Gulls (a good winter species). And, among a group of about a dozen American Wigeon grazing on the lawn, there was a single male Eurasian!

After a belated lunch stop at yet another Tim's (on Wyse Road), we headed off to Tuft's Cove where we encountered Green-winged Teal, Greater and a few Lesser Scaup, and a single female Bufflehead among the many Common Goldeneye.

Quick stops at the mouth of the Sackville River and Mill Cove failed to add any (countable) species to the tally, although the Mute Swan was as graceful as always! By this time, the number of participants had dwindled to a hardy ten or so, so we decided to make one last stop in Wedgewood where Jean Hartley's feeder had hosted several interesting species. As we arrived, a flock of Bohemian Waxwings welcomed us, but the other birds seemed remarkably absent. It was soon clear why – as we approached Jean's backyard feeders, a Sharp-shinned Hawk took flight. It had been perched in the tree that had the most productive feeders! Soon after, activity resumed and we rounded out the list with several Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpoll, and a large flock of American Goldfinch.

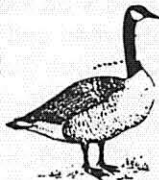
Suzanne invited the group back to her place to see if we could add Chipping Sparrow to our list but it was not to be. Instead we were able to warm up with hot cider as we watched a Downy Woodpecker and more Mourning Doves than we could count.

Although rather cold to begin, the day warmed up significantly and a tally of 49 species for a late January day was quite satisfying! One wonders what will happen to these annual sewer strolls once all our raw sewage is no longer dumped into the Harbour. Perhaps, in ten years time, birders may be longing for a return of the 'good old days'!!

– Bob McDonald

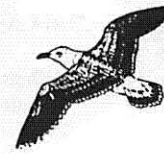
### SEWER STROLL SPECIES

Canada Goose  
American Wigeon  
Eurasian Wigeon  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Green-winged Teal  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
Common Eider  
Surf Scoter  
White-winged Scoter  
Long-tailed Duck  
Bufflehead  
Common Goldeneye  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Common Loon  
Great Cormorant



*Branta canadensis*  
*Anas americana*  
*A. penelope*  
*A. rubripes*  
*A. platyrhynchos*  
*A. crecca*  
*Aythya marila*  
*A. affinis*  
*Somateria mollissima*  
*Melanitta perspicillata*  
*M. fusca*  
*Clangula hyemalis*  
*Bucephala albeola*  
*B. clangula*  
*Mergus serrator*  
*Gavia immer*  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Rough-legged Hawk  
American Coot  
Black-headed Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Iceland Gull  
Glaucous Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Black Guillemot  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
European Starling  
Bohemian Waxwing  
Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Pine Grosbeak  
Common Redpoll  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow



*Halæetus leucocephalus*  
*Circus cyaneus*  
*Accipiter striatus*  
*Buteo lagopus*  
*Fulica americana*  
*Larus ridibundus*  
*L. philadelphia*  
*L. delawarensis*  
*L. argentatis*  
*L. glaucooides*  
*L. marinus*  
*L. marinus*  
*Cephus grylle*  
*Columba livia*  
*Zenaida macroura*  
*Picoides pubescens*  
*P. villosus*  
*Cyanocitta cristata*  
*Corvus brachyrhynchos*  
*C. corax*  
*Poecile atricapillus*  
*Sitta canadensis*  
*Sturnus vulgaris*  
*Bombycilla garrulus*  
*Passerculus sandwichensis*  
*Melospiza melodia*  
*Zonotrichia albicollis*  
*Junco hyemalis*  
*Pinicola enucleator*  
*Carduelis flammea*  
*C. tristis*  
*Passer domesticus*



### WILDLIFE CENTRE VISIT

**Date:** Saturday, February 9th  
**Place:** Wildlife Centre, Seaforth  
**Weather:** Sunny and cold  
**Interpreters:** Burkard and Ingrid Plache  
**Participants:** 20

The visit to the Hope for Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Seaforth attracted some 20 participants. It was a bright winter day, and Hope Swinimer, heart and head of the society, gave us first an introduction into the history of the Centre.

She had started rehabilitation in the early 1990's, and became a registered Charity in 1996, when she received the first license ever issued in Nova Scotia. Then, two years ago, the Society became the first to be licensed to rehabilitate White-tailed Deer. It is the only licensed facility in Nova Scotia for Bald eagles.

The facility has been growing since it was founded, moving three times because each time the facilities became too small. In July of 2001, it settled at its present location. Hope believes she finally has reached a place that will accommodate all future needs.

Besides providing a place for injured animals to recover, the Centre intends to offer more education to



the interested public. A building has been converted to an education centre. Animal-human interactions, however, have to be minimised to ensure that released animals will keep a safe distance from humans. Therefore, video cameras will be installed in cages to allow visitors to observe animals with a minimum of stress.



Animals that cannot be released back into the wild, for example due to the severity of their injuries, may remain at the Centre, and thereby help to educate the public about issues of human-animal interaction and rehabilitation of injured animals. For treating injuries, the Centre has up to now relied to a large extent on the Dartmouth Veterinarian Hospital. Now, in order to reduce travel times and the amount of transportation, there has been the addition of a surgery room. Hope emphasised that most animals arriving at the Centre suffer from problems in human-animal interaction. The Centre rarely deals with naturally-occurring issues, and sees its role mostly as one of correcting and rectifying problems caused by humans.

After the introduction we went to see the enclosures and cages for the different animals. Since most animals arrive over the summer to be released by fall or early winter, there were not too many residents, and we could move around without being too much of a disturbance to them.

First, we went to the White-tailed Deer enclosure. Here we learned that because the rehabilitated deer become familiar and comfortable with one another in a herd situation – they are always released as a group, thereby allowing them to associate with those they have come know.

Below the deer pasture is the 30m long flight cage for raptors. The cage is able subdividable in order to provide separate areas for incompatible species. On the day of our visit, three Bald Eagles were recovering from injury or exhaustion, and one Barred owl, in the smaller section of the cage, was ready to be released soon. It had arrived with injuries that looked as if they were caused by a collision with a window. Over recent years, the Centre has rehabilitated a number of different raptor species, e.g. Merlin, Osprey, Kestrel, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a variety of owls.

Originally, the center did not take raptors, since Elaine and Mike Kew from the Atlantic Raptor Rehab Center were at that time taking care of those animals. However, when they retired in 2006, they generously donated all their flight buildings to the Hope for Wildlife Society, which then added Raptor Rehabilitation to its already extensive work. With the help of many volunteers, the large flight cage was disassembled at the Kew's, and rebuilt at Hope's Centre.

Adjacent to the raptor cage, there was an adolescent Bobcat. It had arrived at three weeks of age, and could not be released until now because it had not reached adulthood. Its immaturity was evident in its playful behaviour in the presence of humans; as soon as the hormonal change associated with the onset of maturity occurs, however, its behaviour will



change, and it will be ready to be released.

Out next stop was the main nursery building. At its back were a number of cages for small animals such as Raccoons, Porcupines, and Snowshoe Hares, most of which had been released months ago. Here, Hope stressed to importance of education. Many people, when discovering, for example, a mother Raccoon having young ones in an attic, will chase away the mother and drop the young at the Centre. The preferred solution is to discourage continued residence by simply running a radio or keeping a light turned on, which will prompt the mother to relocate with her brood, preventing inconveniences to all concerned parties (the homeowner, the Raccoons, and the rehabilitation Centre).

In one of the smaller cages was another Barred owl, recovering from a broken jaw that had been surgically set. We also met a female Red Fox which, after recovery, was too small and delicate to be released into the wild. She is, however, a valued helper in raising fox pups brought to the Centre. She easily adopts them, and helps them to become socially competent.

Another issue is the transfer of pathogens from animals to humans, and Hope emphasised the need to be very cautious when interacting with wild animals.

The nursery itself, located in the upstairs of the building, is the place where animals can recover in a protected setting before being moved to the outdoors. Current residents included a Raven, a Crow, and a Merlin. There is also a Northern Flying Squirrel, which suffered severe burns, and will never be able to live on its own again. It has to make the nursery its home. The nursery is currently under expansion, with a second room being prepared for waterfowl.

For a final treat, we accompanied Hope to her home, where she introduced us to her pet Pine Marten, Gretel. The animal originated from an aborted attempt to breed Pine Martens in New Brunswick (where they are comparatively common) and then release them in Cape Breton (where they are endangered). However, due to concern over genetic differences between the populations, it was decided not to introduce the New Brunswick Pine Martens to Cape Breton, but to destroy the bred animals for fur instead. Two very young animals were offered to the Rehabilitation Centre, and while one animal soon died, the other has been thriving, to the delight of Hope and her visitors.

The tour of the Centre left us with many animal impressions and a better understanding of issues surrounding animal rehabilitation. For the remainder of the year, the Centre has three major events scheduled. Its two main fundraising events are a Coffee House, to take place at Cole Harbour Place on April 13th, and a Fundraising Dinner on May 10th. Another opportunity to visit the Centre will be the Annual Open House on August 24th.

– Burkhard Plache

# FLAT LAKE HIKE



**Date:** Sunday, March 9th  
**Place:** Oceanview Drive off Purcell's Cove Road  
**Weather:** Cool; windy on the heights and flats  
**Interpreters:** Burkard and Ingrid Plache  
**Participants:** 11

Eleven eager hikers met trip leaders Burkard and Ingrid at the usual rendez-vous – the parking lot at the Frog Pond. After the requisite 5-10 minute waiting period, we car pooled to the trailhead located on the right near the top of Oceanview Drive.

We first proceeded to the western end of Colpitt Lake; on the way we came across a ruined World War II fortification that Burkard explained was a mock-up, originally fitted out with wooden cannons! After leaving Colpitt Lake behind, we climbed a high, long granite ridge with great views of distant Halifax/ Dartmouth features and the surrounding landscape. At several locations we saw informal survey markers in the form of spikes driven into the rock. We traversed the ridge and descended to the eastern end of Flat Lake. There we had our mid-hike snacks among carpets of reddish-brown Leatherleaf interspersed with Rhodora.

Our return trek by a different route took us to the northern edge of Colpitt Lake. We then walked west along the north shore until we picked up our outgoing trail and, finally, after 3.5 hours, returned to the trailhead. Our route had taken us across magnificent granite barrens, through wooded wetlands, up and over ridges and down again – and again! My pedometer showed 11,640 steps, equivalent to about 8 km, given my pace-length over this rough terrain.

Although late winter is not the best time for botanising, it was easy to see that the dominant species on these granite barrens and ridges is Jack Pine. Looking down, we saw extensive patches of reddish-brown Broom Crowberry and last year's brown stalks of Golden Heather. I suspect that we could find Mountain Sandwort here also during the warmer months.

Lichen species were represented by the familiar concentric Ring Lichen and two common reindeer lichen species. Also encountered in various habitats were Mountain Holly, Black Huckleberry, Witherod, Bayberry and Sheep Laurel. Closer to the ground were Wintergreen (everywhere!), Canada Mayflower (Wendy even found one in bud!), and Goldthread. In a couple of locations we noticed extensive stands of young White Birch which is a pioneer species, possibly indicating a recent fire.

The most exciting discovery on our return hike was finding a half dozen Inkberry bushes, looking very spring-like in their evergreen foliage. Although there was not time to key out many of the lichen species we encountered, we did see abundant Rock Tripe, many of the various species of the Cladonia genus (British Soldiers, Pixie Cups, reindeer lichens) and several species which prefer trees as their substrate (see the list below). A particularly noteworthy sighting for me

was coming across Ball Lichen that had been dislodged from its rocky substrate by a previous hiker; this was my first squamulose lichen species.

Worth noting also perhaps is the fact that no birds were seen or heard during the hike.

Many thanks to Burkard and Ingrid for introducing us to this wonderful natural area – if only it were protected from development! Hopefully, we can return when shrubs and wildflowers are in flower, and when we can spend more time keying out some more of the many interesting lichen species which we encountered.

– Bob McDonald

## FLAT LAKE SPECIES

### Conifers

Jack Pine  
 White Pine  
 Balsam Fir  
 Black Spruce  
 Red Spruce

### Hardwoods

White Birch  
 Red Maple

### Shrubs

False Holly  
 Rhodora  
 Black Huckleberry  
 Bayberry  
 Sheep Laurel  
 Leatherleaf  
 Witherod  
 Wintergreen  
 Broom Crowberry  
 Canada Mayflower  
 Inkberry

### Wildflowers

Goldthread

### Lichens

Ball lichen  
 Alpine bloodspot  
 Concentric ring lichen  
 Crumpled rag lichen  
 Rock tripe  
 British soldiers  
 Pixie cup lichens  
 Reindeer lichens  
 Beard lichen  
 Tube lichen  
 Shield lichen



*Pinus banksiana*  
*P. strobus*  
*Abies balsamea*  
*Picea mariana*  
*P. rubens*

*Betula papyrifera*  
*Acer rubrum*

*Nemopanthus mucronata*  
*Rhododendron canadense*  
*Gaylussacia baccata*  
*Myrica pensylvanica*  
*Kalmia angustifolia*  
*Chamaedaphne calyculata*  
*Viburnum cassanoides*  
*Gaultheria procumbens*  
*Corema Conradii*  
*Epigea repens*  
*Ilex glabra*



*Coptis trifolia*



*Cladonia strepsilis*  
*Ophioparma ventosa*  
*Arctoparmelia centrifuga*  
*Platismadia tuckermanii*  
*Umbilicaria* sp.  
*Cladonia* sp.  
*Cladonia* sp.  
*C. stellaris* & *C. rangiferina*  
*Usnea* sp.  
*Hypogymnia* sp.  
*Parmelia* sp. Mar.





# ALMANAC



This almanac is for the dates of events which are not found in our HFN programme: for field trips or lectures which members might like to attend, or natural happenings to watch for, such as eclipses, comets, average migration dates, expected blooming seasons, etc. Please suggest other suitable items.

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

– Margaret Atwood in Bluebeard's Egg (1986)

## NATURAL EVENTS

- 9 Mar. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 AST: turn clocks ahead one hour. This is four weeks earlier than usual!
- 20 Mar. Vernal Equinox at 02:48: Spring begins in the Northern hemisphere.
- 21 Mar. Full Moon. Moonrise at 19:41.
- 23 Mar. Daily average temperature rises above 0°C.
- 16 Apr. The daily minimum temperature at Shearwater is above 0°C.
- 20 Apr. Full Moon. Moonrise at 20:49 ADT.
- 22 Apr. Earth Day.
- 10 May Spring Migration Count Day.
- 19 May Full Moon. Moonrise at 20:50 ADT.
- 28 May The date of last spring frost in Halifax (i.e. Env. Canada says there is only a 1:10 chance that a spring frost will occur after this date); look forward to 155 frost-free days.
- 8 Jun. World Oceans Day.
- 10 Jun. -20 Jun. The earliest mornings of the year: Sunrise at 5:29 ADT.
- 18 Jun. Full Moon. Moonrise at 21:33 ADT.
- 20 Jun. Summer Solstice at 20:59 ADT. Summer begins in the Northern hemisphere. The longest day of the year, with 15 hours and 34 minutes of daylight at Halifax.
- 22 Jun. -30 Jun. The latest evenings of the year: Sunset at 21:04 ADT.

– Sources: Atmospheric Environment Service, Climate Normals 1951-80 Halifax (Shearwater A) N.S.; Blomidon Naturalists Society's 2007 Calendar; Burke-Gaffney Observatory, Saint Mary's University

## SUNRISE AND SUNSET ON SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER SATURDAYS



|         |      |       |         |      |       |
|---------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|
| 1 Mar.  | 6:51 | 18:03 | 5 Apr.  | 6:48 | 19:48 |
| 8 Mar.  | 6:39 | 18:12 | 12 Apr. | 6:35 | 19:56 |
| 15 Mar. | 7:26 | 19:21 | 19 Apr. | 6:23 | 20:05 |
| 22 Mar. | 7:13 | 19:30 | 26 Apr. | 6:12 | 20:14 |
| 29 Mar. | 7:00 | 19:39 |         |      |       |
| 3 May   | 6:02 | 20:22 | 7 Jun.  | 5:30 | 20:58 |
| 10 May  | 5:52 | 20:31 | 14 Jun. | 5:29 | 21:01 |
| 17 May  | 5:44 | 20:39 | 21 Jun. | 5:30 | 21:03 |
| 24 May  | 5:38 | 20:46 | 28 Jun. | 5:32 | 21:04 |
| 31 May  | 5:33 | 20:52 |         |      |       |

– courtesy of David Lane, Burke-Gaffney Observatory, Saint Mary's University

## ORGANISATIONAL EVENTS

**Blomidon Naturalists Society:** Indoor meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of the month, in the auditorium of The K. C. Irving Environmental Science Centre on University Avenue, Wolfville, at 7:30 p.m. Field trips usually depart from the Wolfville Waterfront, Front Street, Wolfville. For more information, go to [blomidonnaturalists.ca](http://blomidonnaturalists.ca).

- 22 Mar. "Along the Fundy Shore", with leader Wayne Neily 765-2455, [neilyornis@hotmail.com](mailto:neilyornis@hotmail.com).
- 11 May "The Russian Space Program", with leader Dr. Svetlana Barkanova, [svetlana.barkanova@acadiu.ca](mailto:svetlana.barkanova@acadiu.ca).
- 21 Apr. "Nature and Astronomy in Ireland", with speaker Patrick Kelly.
- 27 Apr. "Early Spring Birds", with leader Jim Wolford. 542-9204; [jimwolford@eastlink.ca](mailto:jimwolford@eastlink.ca).
- 19 May TBA
- 16 Jun. "Discover the Bay of Fundy's Rare Mussel Reefs", with speaker Gordon Fader.

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- 19 May TBA

**Friends of McNabs Island:** for more information, go to [mcnabsisland.ca](http://mcnabsisland.ca).

**Nova Scotia Bird Society:** Indoor meetings take place on the 4th Thurs. of the month, Sept. to May, at the NSMNH, 7:30 p.m. For more information, Suzanne Borkowski, 445-2922, or go to [nsbs.chebucto.org](http://nsbs.chebucto.org).

- 12 Apr. "Martinique Beach", with leader Ian McLaren, 429-7024; [lamclar@dal.ca](mailto:lamclar@dal.ca).
- 24 Apr. "Birding Down Under", with speaker Ken McKenna.
- 27 Apr. "Wolfville Area", with leader Jim Wolford, 542-9204; [Jimwolford@eastlink.ca](mailto:Jimwolford@eastlink.ca).
- 3 May "Cape Sable Island", with leader Murray Newell 745-3340; [dowitcher@eastlink.ca](mailto:dowitcher@eastlink.ca).
- 10 May "Spring Migration Counts". Contact Hans Toom, 868-1862; [htoom@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:htoom@hfx.eastlink.ca) to participate.
- 16 May -19 May. "Bon Portage Island, Shelburne County", with leader Claire Diggins, 825-6152; [claire\\_diggins@hotmail.com](mailto:claire_diggins@hotmail.com). **Pre-registration is necessary!**
- 17 May "Dartmouth Lakes", with leader Mike King, 434-6099, 430-2748; [mikenjenn1@hotmail.com](mailto:mikenjenn1@hotmail.com).
- 18 May "Beginning Birders Field Trip", with leader Suzanne Borkowski, 445-2922; [suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca). **Pre-registration is necessary!**
- 19 May "Historic Hants County", with leader Suzanne Borkowski, 445-2922; [sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca).
- 24 May "Port L'Hebert", with leaders Dorothy Poole, 354-4844; [dpoolex@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:dpoolex@ns.sympatico.ca), & Clyde Stoddart, 745-2105.
- 24 May -25 May, "Out-of-Area Meeting/Atlas Workshop", White Point Beach, with speaker Becky Stewart. **For bookings, 1-800-613-2172.**
- 25 May "Conquerall Mills, Lunenburg County", with leader James Hirtle, 693-2104; [jrhbirder@hotmail.com](mailto:jrhbirder@hotmail.com).
- 28 May "The Fred Dobson Warbler Walk", with leader Joan Waldron, 477-4273; [waldrojo@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:waldrojo@ns.sympatico.ca).
- 31 May "Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct", with leader Peter Davies, 354-5389; [p.davies@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:p.davies@ns.sympatico.ca), and Gary Hartlen, 354-7250; [garych@eastlink.ca](mailto:garych@eastlink.ca).
- 31 May "McNab's Island", with leader Cheryl Davis, 435-5886; [nuthatch@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:nuthatch@ns.sympatico.ca). **Pre-registration is necessary!**
- 7 Jun. **Rain date 8 Jun.** "Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary", with leader Kathleen Spicer, 392-2815; [kbspicer@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:kbspicer@ns.sympatico.ca).
- 7 Jun. "Canso and Area", with leaders Steve Bushell, 366-2527, and Tom Kavanaugh, 366-3476; [terri.crane@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:terri.crane@ns.sympatico.ca).
- 14 Jun. **Rain date 15 Jun.** "Herbert River Trail", with leader Patrick Kelly, 798-3329; [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca).
- 21 Jun. "Shubenacadie", with leader Rob Woods, 261-2122; [rtrwoods@yahoo.com](mailto:rtrwoods@yahoo.com).
- 22 Jun. "Dawn Chorus on the Shearwater Flyer Trail", with leader Cindy Staicer, 494-3533, 478-3635; [cindy.staicer@dal.ca](mailto:cindy.staicer@dal.ca).



**Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History:** For more info, 424-6099, 424-7353, or go to [museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh](http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh).

- 13 Apr. "Washed Away", an Arctic Mission NFB Films Series.
- 16 Apr. "Polar Perspectives: ...Speaker Series & Youth Forums", daytime programme & evening public presentation.
- 7 May "Protecting Keji's Species at Risk", with presenter Duncan Smith, Kejimikujik National Park of Canada.
- 14 May "Walk on the Wild Side", with presenter Len Wagg, author and photographer.
- 24 May "Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Show & Tell".
- 28 May "Beware of Marine Invaders", with presenter Dr. Jean-Marc Nicolas, Bedford Institute of Oceanography.
- 31 May -15 Jun. "Little Ray's Reptile Zoo" ...pythons, alligators, tortoises ...
- 3 Jun. -28 Sept. "Green Legacy: Canada's Native Plants and Plantscapes".
- 3 Jun. -28 Sept. "Monarchs", produced by Canadian Museum of Nature.
- 6-7 Jun. "First Annual Nova Scotia BioBlitz at Long Lake Provincial Park", contact [steven.smith@smu.ca](mailto:steven.smith@smu.ca).
- 15 Jun. "Happy 86th Birthday - a Party for Gus, the Museum's Gopher Tortoise".
- 21 Jun. **Rain date Jun. 28** "Bat Walk at Smiley's Provincial Park", with Museum zoologist Andrew Hebda. **Pre-registration required, 424-3563!**



**Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society:** Meets 4th Monday of the month, Sept. to May, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. For more information, Heather Drope, 423-7032, or go to [nswildflora.ca](http://nswildflora.ca).

- 24 Mar. "Preserving Port Joli", with speaker Danielle Wharton.
- 30 Mar. or Apr. 6 "Skunk Cabbage in Bloom". **Pre-register with Charlie Cron, 477-8272.**
- 28 Apr. "Indigenous & Alien Flora in HRM Parks", with speaker Richard La Paix, following a brief AGM.

**Nova Scotian Institute of Science:** Meets 1st Mon. of the month, Sept. to Apr., usually at the NSMNH, 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to [chebucto.ns.ca/Science/NSIS/Index.html](http://chebucto.ns.ca/Science/NSIS/Index.html).

- 7 Apr. "The Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle Problem", with speaker Jon Sweeney, Canadian Forestry Service.

**Pre-registration required, 424-3563!**

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# HALIFAX TIDE TABLE



## April-avril

## May-mai

## June-juin

## June-juin

| Day | Time | Feet | Metres | jour | heure | pieds | mètres | Day | Time | Feet | Metres | jour | heure | pieds | mètres | Day | Time | Feet | Metres | jour | heure | pieds | mètres | Day | Time | Feet | Metres | jour | heure | pieds | mètres |
|-----|------|------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1   | 0336 | 4.9  | 1.5    | 16   | 0503  | 5.2   | 1.6    | 1   | 0355 | 5.2  | 1.6    | 16   | 0526  | 4.9   | 1.5    | 1   | 0521 | 5.2  | 1.6    | 16   | 0039  | 5.2   | 1.6    | 16  | 0039 | 5.2  | 1.6    | 16   | 0039  | 5.2   | 1.6    |
|     | 1014 | 1.6  | 0.5    |      | 1134  | 1.3   | 0.4    |     | 1018 | 1.3  | 0.4    |      | 1153  | 1.6   | 0.5    |     | 1127 | 1.3  | 0.4    |      | 0635  | 1.3   | 0.4    |     | 0635 | 1.3  | 0.4    |      | 0635  | 1.3   | 0.4    |
| TU  | 1646 | 4.9  | 1.5    | WE   | 1737  | 5.6   | 1.7    | TH  | 1639 | 5.6  | 1.7    | FR   | 1739  | 5.6   | 1.7    | SU  | 1730 | 6.2  | 1.9    | MO   | 1253  | 6.2   | 1.9    | MO  | 1253 | 6.2  | 1.9    | MO   | 1253  | 6.2   | 1.9    |
| MA  | 2239 | 2.3  | 0.7    | ME   |       |       |        | JE  | 2301 | 1.6  | 0.5    | VE   |       |       |        | DI  |      |      |        | LU   | 1826  |       |        | LU  | 1826 |      |        | LU   | 1826  |       |        |
| 2   | 0440 | 5.2  | 1.6    | 17   | 0008  | 1.3   | 0.4    | 2   | 0455 | 5.2  | 1.6    | 17   | 0028  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 2   | 0024 | 0.3  | 0.1    | 17   | 0118  | 0.3   | 0.1    | 17  | 0118 | 0.3  | 0.1    | 17   | 0118  | 0.3   | 0.1    |
|     | 1105 | 1.3  | 0.4    |      | 0552  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 1107 | 1.3  | 0.4    |      | 0612  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 0617 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 0719  | 5.6   | 1.7    |     | 0719 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 0719  | 5.6   | 1.7    |
| WE  | 1730 | 5.2  | 1.6    | TH   | 1224  | 1.3   | 0.4    | FR  | 1722 | 5.9  | 1.8    | SA   | 1239  | 1.6   | 0.5    | MO  | 1226 | 1.3  | 0.4    | TU   | 1331  | 1.3   | 0.4    | TU  | 1331 | 1.3  | 0.4    | TU   | 1331  | 1.3   | 0.4    |
| ME  | 2331 | 2.0  | 0.6    | JE   | 1816  | 5.6   | 1.7    | VE  | 2354 | 1.0  | 0.3    | SA   | 1818  | 5.6   | 1.7    | LU  | 1823 | 6.6  | 2.0    | MA   | 1907  | 6.6   | 2.0    | MA  | 1907 | 6.6  | 2.0    | MA   | 1907  | 6.6   | 2.0    |
| 3   | 0532 | 5.6  | 1.7    | 18   | 0054  | 1.3   | 0.4    | 3   | 0549 | 5.6  | 1.7    | 18   | 0108  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 3   | 0120 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 18   | 0154  | 0.0   | 0.0    | 18  | 0154 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 18   | 0154  | 0.0   | 0.0    |
|     | 1152 | 1.0  | 0.3    |      | 0636  | 5.6   | 1.7    |     | 1157 | 1.0  | 0.3    |      | 0655  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 0712 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 0759  | 5.6   | 1.7    |     | 0759 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 0759  | 5.6   | 1.7    |
| TH  | 1808 | 5.6  | 1.7    | FR   | 1308  | 1.3   | 0.4    | SA  | 1805 | 6.2  | 1.9    | SU   | 1320  | 1.6   | 0.5    | TU  | 1326 | 1.0  | 0.3    | WE   | 1404  | 1.0   | 0.3    | WE  | 1404 | 1.0  | 0.3    | WE   | 1404  | 1.0   | 0.3    |
| JE  |      |      |        | VE   | 1852  | 5.9   | 1.8    | SA  |      |      |        | DI   | 1854  | 5.6   | 1.7    | MA  | 1918 | 6.6  | 2.0    | ME   | 1947  | 6.6   | 2.0    | ME  | 1947 | 6.6  | 2.0    | ME   | 1947  | 6.6   | 2.0    |
| 4   | 0021 | 1.3  | 0.4    | 19   | 0135  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 4   | 0046 | 0.3  | 0.1    | 19   | 0144  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 4   | 0215 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 19   | 0229  | 0.0   | 0.0    | 19  | 0229 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 19   | 0229  | 0.0   | 0.0    |
|     | 0619 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 0717  | 5.6   | 1.7    |     | 0639 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 0737  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 0807 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0838  | 5.9   | 1.8    |     | 0838 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0838  | 5.9   | 1.8    |
| FR  | 1237 | 0.7  | 0.2    | SA   | 1347  | 1.3   | 0.4    | SU  | 1248 | 1.0  | 0.3    | MO   | 1356  | 2.0   | 0.6    | WE  | 1426 | 1.0  | 0.3    | TH   | 1436  | 1.0   | 0.3    | TH  | 1436 | 1.0  | 0.3    | TH   | 1436  | 1.0   | 0.3    |
| VE  | 1846 | 5.9  | 1.8    | SA   | 1927  | 5.9   | 1.8    | DI  | 1851 | 6.6  | 2.0    | LU   | 1931  | 5.6   | 1.7    | ME  | 2013 | 6.6  | 2.0    | JE   | 2027  | 6.6   | 2.0    | JE  | 2027 | 6.6  | 2.0    | JE   | 2027  | 6.6   | 2.0    |
| 5   | 0110 | 0.7  | 0.2    | 20   | 0211  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 5   | 0138 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 20   | 0218  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 5   | 0310 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 20   | 0305  | 0.0   | 0.0    | 20  | 0305 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 20   | 0305  | 0.0   | 0.0    |
|     | 0704 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0757  | 5.6   | 1.7    |     | 0730 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 0818  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 0903 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0915  | 5.9   | 1.8    |     | 0915 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0915  | 5.9   | 1.8    |
| SA  | 1320 | 0.7  | 0.2    | SU   | 1421  | 1.6   | 0.5    | MO  | 1340 | 0.7  | 0.2    | TU   | 1427  | 2.0   | 0.6    | TH  | 1527 | 1.3  | 0.4    | FR   | 1509  | 1.3   | 0.4    | FR  | 1509 | 1.3  | 0.4    | FR   | 1509  | 1.3   | 0.4    |
| SA  | 1925 | 6.2  | 1.9    | DI   | 2002  | 5.9   | 1.8    | LU  | 1938 | 6.6  | 2.0    | MA   | 2008  | 5.6   | 1.7    | JE  | 2107 | 6.6  | 2.0    | VE   | 2106  | 6.6   | 2.0    | VE  | 2106 | 6.6  | 2.0    | VE   | 2106  | 6.6   | 2.0    |
| 6   | 0158 | 0.3  | 0.1    | 21   | 0244  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 6   | 0230 | -0.3 | -0.1   | 21   | 0250  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 6   | 0405 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 21   | 0342  | 0.0   | 0.0    | 21  | 0342 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 21   | 0342  | 0.0   | 0.0    |
|     | 0750 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0837  | 5.6   | 1.7    |     | 0820 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0857  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 0957 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0951  | 5.9   | 1.8    |     | 0951 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0951  | 5.9   | 1.8    |
| SU  | 1404 | 0.3  | 0.1    | MO   | 1450  | 1.6   | 0.5    | TU  | 1435 | 1.0  | 0.3    | WE   | 1457  | 2.3   | 0.7    | FR  | 1631 | 1.3  | 0.4    | SA   | 1548  | 1.3   | 0.4    | SA  | 1548 | 1.3  | 0.4    | SA   | 1548  | 1.3   | 0.4    |
| DI  | 2007 | 6.6  | 2.0    | LU   | 2036  | 5.9   | 1.8    | MA  | 2028 | 6.6  | 2.0    | ME   | 2045  | 5.6   | 1.7    | VE  | 2201 | 6.2  | 1.9    | SA   | 2144  | 6.2   | 1.9    | SA  | 2144 | 6.2  | 1.9    | SA   | 2144  | 6.2   | 1.9    |
| 7   | 0247 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 22   | 0315  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 7   | 0323 | -0.3 | -0.1   | 22   | 0324  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 7   | 0501 | 0.3  | 0.1    | 22   | 0420  | 0.3   | 0.1    | 22  | 0420 | 0.3  | 0.1    | 22   | 0420  | 0.3   | 0.1    |
|     | 0837 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0916  | 5.6   | 1.7    |     | 0912 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0934  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 1050 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 1028  | 5.9   | 1.8    |     | 1028 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 1028  | 5.9   | 1.8    |
| MO  | 1452 | 0.7  | 0.2    | TU   | 1516  | 2.0   | 0.6    | WE  | 1534 | 1.0  | 0.3    | TH   | 1528  | 2.3   | 0.7    | SA  | 1735 | 1.6  | 0.5    | SU   | 1632  | 1.6   | 0.5    | SU  | 1632 | 1.6  | 0.5    | SU   | 1632  | 1.6   | 0.5    |
| LU  | 2051 | 6.6  | 2.0    | MA   | 2112  | 5.6   | 1.7    | ME  | 2120 | 6.6  | 2.0    | JE   | 2124  | 5.6   | 1.7    | SA  | 2254 | 5.9  | 1.8    | DI   | 2222  | 5.9   | 1.8    | DI  | 2222 | 5.9  | 1.8    | DI   | 2222  | 5.9   | 1.8    |
| 8   | 0338 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 23   | 0347  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 8   | 0420 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 23   | 0400  | 1.3   | 0.4    | 8   | 0558 | 0.7  | 0.2    | 23   | 0500  | 0.7   | 0.2    | 23  | 0500 | 0.7  | 0.2    | 23   | 0500  | 0.7   | 0.2    |
|     | 0925 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 0953  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 1005 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 1010  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 1141 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 1105  | 5.9   | 1.8    |     | 1105 | 5.9  | 1.8    |      | 1105  | 5.9   | 1.8    |
| TU  | 1544 | 0.7  | 0.2    | WE   | 1545  | 2.3   | 0.7    | TH  | 1639 | 1.3  | 0.4    | FR   | 1606  | 2.3   | 0.7    | SU  | 1839 | 1.6  | 0.5    | MO   | 1722  | 1.6   | 0.5    | MO  | 1722 | 1.6  | 0.5    | MO   | 1722  | 1.6   | 0.5    |
| MA  | 2138 | 6.6  | 2.0    | ME   | 2148  | 5.6   | 1.7    | JE  | 2212 | 6.2  | 1.9    | VE   | 2203  | 5.6   | 1.7    | DI  | 2347 | 5.6  | 1.7    | LU   | 2301  | 5.6   | 1.7    | LU  | 2301 | 5.6  | 1.7    | LU   | 2301  | 5.6   | 1.7    |
| 9   | 0432 | 0.0  | 0.0    | 24   | 0422  | 1.3   | 0.4    | 9   | 0519 | 0.3  | 0.1    | 24   | 0441  | 1.3   | 0.4    | 9   | 0653 | 1.0  | 0.3    | 24   | 0543  | 1.0   | 0.3    | 24  | 0543 | 1.0  | 0.3    | 24   | 0543  | 1.0   | 0.3    |
|     | 1015 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 1030  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 1059 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 1048  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 1233 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 1144  | 5.6   | 1.7    |     | 1144 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 1144  | 5.6   | 1.7    |
| WE  | 1644 | 1.0  | 0.3    | TH   | 1622  | 2.3   | 0.7    | FR  | 1748 | 1.6  | 0.5    | SA   | 1653  | 2.6   | 0.8    | MO  | 1939 | 1.6  | 0.5    | TU   | 1817  | 1.6   | 0.5    | TU  | 1817 | 1.6  | 0.5    | TU   | 1817  | 1.6   | 0.5    |
| ME  | 2226 | 6.2  | 1.9    | JE   | 2226  | 5.6   | 1.7    | VE  | 2305 | 5.9  | 1.8    | SA   | 2242  | 5.6   | 1.7    | LU  |      |      |        | MA   | 2343  |       |        | MA  | 2343 |      |        | MA   | 2343  |       |        |
| 10  | 0532 | 0.3  | 0.1    | 25   | 0503  | 1.6   | 0.5    | 10  | 0620 | 0.7  | 0.2    | 25   | 0526  | 1.6   | 0.5    | 10  | 0041 | 5.2  | 1.6    | 25   | 0628  | 5.2   | 1.6    | 25  | 0628 | 5.2  | 1.6    | 25   | 0628  | 5.2   | 1.6    |
|     | 1106 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 1108  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 1155 | 5.6  | 1.7    |      | 1128  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 0747 | 1.3  | 0.4    |      | 1225  | 1.3   | 0.4    |     | 1225 | 1.3  | 0.4    |      | 1225  | 1.3   | 0.4    |
| TH  | 1754 | 1.6  | 0.5    | FR   | 1712  | 2.6   | 0.8    | SA  | 1857 | 1.6  | 0.5    | SU   | 1748  | 2.6   | 0.8    | TU  | 1326 | 5.6  | 1.7    | WE   | 1913  | 5.6   | 1.7    | WE  | 1913 | 5.6  | 1.7    | WE   | 1913  | 5.6   | 1.7    |
| JE  | 2316 | 5.9  | 1.8    | VE   | 2305  | 5.2   | 1.6    | SA  |      |      |        | DI   | 2322  | 5.2   | 1.6    | MA  | 2036 | 1.6  | 0.5    | ME   |       |       |        | ME  |      |      |        | ME   |       |       |        |
| 11  | 0636 | 0.7  | 0.2    | 26   | 0552  | 2.0   | 0.6    | 11  | 0001 | 5.6  | 1.7    | 26   | 0614  | 1.6   | 0.5    | 11  | 0141 | 4.9  | 1.5    | 26   | 0032  | 4.9   | 1.5    | 26  | 0032 | 4.9  | 1.5    | 26   | 0032  | 4.9   | 1.5    |
|     | 1200 | 5.2  | 1.6    |      | 1149  | 4.9   | 1.5    |     | 0721 | 1.0  | 0.3    |      | 1212  | 5.2   | 1.6    |     | 0840 | 1.6  | 0.5    |      | 0716  | 1.6   | 0.5    |     | 0716 | 1.6  | 0.5    |      | 0716  | 1.6   | 0.5    |
| FR  | 1905 | 1.6  | 0.5    | SA   | 1814  | 2.6   | 0.8    | SU  | 1255 | 5.2  | 1.6    | MO   | 1846  | 2.6   | 0.8    | WE  | 1422 | 5.6  | 1.7    | TH   | 1309  | 5.6   | 1.7    | TH  | 1309 | 5.6  | 1.7    | TH   | 1309  | 5.6   | 1.7    |
| VE  |      |      |        | SA   | 2347  | 5.2   | 1.6    | DI  | 2001 | 2.0  | 0.6    | LU   |       |       |        | ME  | 2131 | 1.6  | 0.5    | JE   | 2009  | 1.6   | 0.5    | JE  | 2009 | 1.6  | 0.5    | JE   | 2009  | 1.6   | 0.5    |
| 12  | 0011 | 5.6  | 1.7    | 27   | 0646  | 2.0   | 0.6    | 12  | 0102 | 5.2  | 1.6    | 27   | 0007  | 5.2   | 1.6    | 12  | 0246 | 4.6  | 1.4    | 27   | 0129  | 4.6   | 1.4    | 27  | 0129 | 4.6  | 1.4    | 27   | 0129  | 4.6   | 1.4    |
|     | 0740 | 1.0  | 0.3    |      | 1237  | 4.9   | 1.5    |     | 0820 | 1.0  | 0.3    |      | 0704  | 1.6   | 0.5    |     | 0933 | 1.6  | 0.5    |      | 0808  | 1.6   | 0.5    |     | 0808 | 1.6  | 0.5    |      | 0808  | 1.6   | 0.5    |
| SA  | 1303 | 4.9  | 1.5    | SU   | 1917  | 3.0   | 0.9    | MO  | 1403 | 5.2  | 1.6    | TU   | 1300  | 5.2   | 1.6    | TH  | 1519 | 5.2  | 1.6    | FR   | 1401  | 5.2   | 1.6    | FR  | 1401 | 5.2  | 1.6    | FR   | 1401  | 5.2   | 1.6    |
| SA  | 201  |      |        |      |       |       |        |     |      |      |        |      |       |       |        |     |      |      |        |      |       |       |        |     |      |      |        |      |       |       |        |



## Nature Notes

### January

**Lesley Butters** – a Rat being chased by a hovering Crow on South Park Street on the evening of our Jan. 3rd, 2008 meeting; the Crow eventually flew off without its prey. Earlier, near the N.W. Arm, she heard, then saw, 11 Canada Geese. She saw interesting ice formations at 'the Waeg'; the frost was forming a 'zipper shape' between the cracks in the planking.

**Karen McKendry** – a flock of more than 40 Bohemian Waxwings feeding on a red-berried bush in Jollimore the last week of February. They were followed by about a dozen Robins; these had a darker red breast than usual, and are thought to be from further north than our breeding populations. **Janet Dalton** – waxwings in her Spryfield neighbourhood.

**Gerry Lunn** – on some Hants County back roads between Brooklyn and Summerville on Jan. 1st, four Red-tailed Hawks, a Barred Owl, several Bald Eagles, and a Rough-legged Hawk. There was also a flock of seven Horned Larks. **Jim Medill** – a Bald Eagle flying above the harbour near the new Community College just before Christmas.

**Judy and Elliott Hayes** – a flock of six Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Common Redpoll, and six Evening Grosbeaks visited their feeders in Bedford on Jan. 2nd. **Bob McDonald** – during the Bedford-Sackville Bird Count on the 28th of December, on Larry Uteck Boulevard, a flock of twelve birds flying up to the roof of an eight-storey building, then down to the ground again. They were Snow Buntings, a prairie/tundra species usually found in winter here in grassy fields or coastally – but here, uncharacteristically, acting like urban starlings!

**Stephanie Robertson** – a hawk mobbed by three Crows on Windsor St. **Allan Robertson** – in early Jan. it was so cold a feral cat, which had been fed outdoors since Aug./07, finally decided to come inside.

– Patricia Chalmers

### February

**Leslie Butters** – an eagle at the N.W. Arm. **Joan Czapalay and Pat McKay** – a Yellow-brested Chat and large maple buds in Dartmouth. **Allan Robertson** saw the young Bald Eagle release at Sheffield Mills. **Gillian Webster** – a Mink running on the ice at Conrad's Beach, dipping into the waterflow repeatedly with a crab in its mouth, fairly close at only four feet away. A few weeks before – another at the N.W. Arm; both were remarkably unafraid.

**John and Dorothy Morris** – Common Crows in their backyard; one was sitting in the snow, took a few steps, buried head in snow, went forward. It did the same over and over again; another did the same once. Why? What were they doing? Then, their five regulars (they feed them) were observed sitting close together on a branch. **Elliott Hayes** – White-Wing Crossbills at feeder, scrapping with some Redpolls; Rockingham. **Regina Maass** – American Widgeon by the N.W. Arm. **Jim Wolford** – at Sheffield Mills, the 9:00-10:00 a.m. morning feeding was still being carried out if anyone wanted to go. He also reported courting Ravens, both in the air and on the ground. **Suzanne Borkowski** – two Chipping Sparrows; also, Song Sparrows starting to sing. **Pat Chalmers** – had sent out an email re House Sparrows and finches at specific houses for anyone who wanted to go.

– Stephanie Robertson

### March

**Lesley Butters** – Mar. 3rd, while enjoying a late-day kick sledding excursion on Long Lake, saw a Black-backed Woodpecker finding food on an old spruce trunk; and few hours earlier, watched two Bald Eagles, an adult and an immature, soaring above Withrod Lake (Withrod is adjacent to Long Lake). The ice on these lakes measured 2-3 feet thick! Later, by March 9th, the ice had melted completely.

**Stephanie Robertson** – an American Robin going for berries on a Burning Bush, *Euonymus* sp., in her garden. **Pat Leader** – Robin sightings in her Bedford yard, and in the valley, in mid-February. **Linda and Peter Payzant** – a Barred Owl had started calling on or near their Waverley property. **Akhtar Abbasi** – found a buttercup plant growing under leaves he had kicked aside! **Suellen Bradfield** – enjoyed the spectacle of 3,000 Sandhill Cranes flying in and landing near Bisbee, Arizona.

### NEXT DEADLINE

21st of May for the June Issue

Send contributions to the 'Newsletter', c/o NS Museum of Natural History  
Email submissions to [sdhaythorn@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:sdhaythorn@ns.sympatico.ca)