



Since 1995

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010

President's Message

This has been a great year so far. We finally accomplished our telemetry project and have two female Osprey with radio transmitters to track their flight activity during the fall migration. It was an exciting day working with members of Bird Studies Canada. We had to capture the birds, band them and then attach the transmitters. Hopefully we will learn a great deal about their migration habits over the fall, winter and when they return in the spring. The yearly raffle is underway again and we are running booths at the Lindsay farmer's market selling memberships and tickets. This year we have great prizes from Lunge Haven Cottages, Fenelon Falls Boat Cruises, Bushnell and others. We are engaging in talks with young people at the Earth Summit and Haliburton Children's Water Festival, and hopefully will get them interested in Osprey both now and throughout their lives.

The fall general meeting is going to be put over to the spring of next year as we should have more to report to the membership.

I would like to personally thank all of the executive and members who have worked so hard with projects and necessary work that is carried out over the year. Please note that Dave Robertson and Simon Connell have switched positions with Dave being the new Secretary and Simon the Vice President. Simon worked tirelessly on the telemetry project and kept everything working smoothly as secretary. At times I know he was overwhelmed but never complained. Thank you Simon from myself and all the members.

The other wonderful thing is that we have a new webpage put together by Mary Sullivan, www.friendsoftheosprey.org. We hope you'll check it out.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe summer and I look forward to updating you on the status of our two radio-tracked Osprey.

Jim B.

FRIENDS OF THE OSPREY SWITCHES TO AN E-NEWSLETTER

In an effort to reduce costs and help the environment, Friends of the Osprey has moved its newsletter to an electronic format. Members will be emailed newsletters once they become available, and they will also be posted on our new website www.friendsoftheosprey.org

To ensure you receive your copy of the e-newsletter, please send your email to friendsoftheosprey@gmail.com For the time being, we will mail newsletters out to members who have not provided an email, or who would prefer a paper copy.

As a small, non-profit organisation, we hope this small change will make a big difference in not only the quality of the newsletter received, but also in the cost to get it to you.

Friends of the Osprey
Executives

President: Jim Brown

Vice-President: Simon Connell

Past-President: Jim Chappel

Treasurer and Membership

Director: Grant King

Secretary: Dave Robertson

Website Coordinator and Director:

Mary Sullivan

Fundraising Coordinator and

Director: Terry McInnes-Edick

SSFC Liaison: Phil Shaw

Newsletter Editor (interim) and

Director: Leanne Wallis

Directors at Large:

Eva Griffin

Ed Lawson

Phil Puxley

Greg Chappel

Debbie Walker

Newsletters are sent free to members and are available for viewing on our website. Membership dues are \$20 annually and help fund group projects. Articles may not be reproduced without permission of the Club president and the article's author.

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Finally...the Transmitters are attached!

It was a beautiful sunny morning in late May as we headed out to meet with the team from Bird Studies Canada. Our mission was to witness BSC capture two Osprey in the Kawartha Lakes Region and outfit them with identification bands and satellite transmitters. This project has been in the works for 5+ years now... a lot of pavement pounding to secure donations, sell lottery tickets, funding applications, silent auctions and collaboration with Bird Studies Canada.

The purpose of the telemetry devices is to see and learn more about where the Kawartha Lakes Osprey go during the winter months. "They could go to Cuba, they could go to the Caribbean, it's really anybody's guess," Jody Allaire, a biologist and science educator with Bird Studies Canada said.

The Osprey at this time of year are awaiting the arrival of their chicks and both moms tagged were diligently nesting on their eggs. The biologists had brought a cap for the nests, made from a conglomeration of chicken wire and fishing line, and as they coasted up to each nest.... the Mom Ospreys flew up into the air allowing them to cap it.... then the biologists moved off a distance to allow each Mom to return to her nest at which point her talons got caught in the "lid". Never fear though, the biologists were over to her in less than a minute and as they released her from her entanglement with one hand, they captured her with the other. The biologists then checked her over to ensure her health, estimated her age and gave her an ID banding bracelet before attaching the transmitter.

A short time later we headed back to our home base to share a well deserved dinner and re-live the day's journey.

Terry



Junior Friends of the Osprey

Coming soon! Friends of the Osprey will be offering junior memberships to children. Look for upcoming contests and see us at events. We will be at the Children's Water Festival in Minden Hills, September 27 & 28, 2010. We look forward to supporting young birders that have an interest in preserving and protecting the osprey of Kawartha Lakes Region for years to come.

Lorrie

Winter Works Update

We, the Friends of the Osprey were lucky this year in that we had some cold weather early, because the end of the winter was quite warm – the warmest on record in many places!

By mid January, all the equipment was checked and running and platform support poles were ready. The Earth Workers group from Fleming College who have been our main stay in ideas, enthusiasm, and energy were ready to join with us again.

On a clear cold beautiful Saturday, our convoy travelled to Emily Creek at Cty. Rd 24 to clean [de-goose] and repair two platforms. Then we drove back to the south end of Pigeon Lake to repair a third platform that had developed a decided lean to the south. A most welcome hot chili lunch with bread and salad was prepared by Gloria Connell and garnered much praise from all, especially the students.

The next outing was to the Ken Reid-McLaren creek area to de-goose nests. A work permit from Ken Reid Conservation Authority made the access easier to the nest sites near the shore around the park.

The idea of a better way to install the platforms came into being at a nest site at Omemee on the next outing. Simon Connell's brother has a portable sawmill and donated some rough 2x4 and 1x4 cedar lumber to us. Rather than lift the heavy hardwood skids up the platform, we were able to cut the cedar to length on site and individually attach them in place. The idea proved to be much easier, lighter and much safer, EUREKA!! Also, the cedar is quite weather resistant so it should last longer.

The final outing for the winter nest work occurred in late February when we and the Fleming Earth Workers went to Mitchell Lake near Kirkfield to construct a new nest. The old one had fallen down 3-4 years ago but our efforts to get access, weather, good ice and volunteers together at the same time had always caused it to be postponed. This year it all came together. Except that when we arrived, the winter water level had dropped and we were confronted with a large area of light 4-6" ice hanging on top of old tree stumps. We decided that since we were there we would try anyway. It made for an interesting work site. When someone walked on a thin ice spot, they went through the ice, through a foot or two of air, not water, then about knee deep into the mucky bottom. We did get a good nest constructed, but it looked strange that after working on ice on a lake most of the crew came off with muddy gobs from head to toe.

All in all, we had a successful winter program, renewed friendships, made new friends and assisted the magnificent Osprey. Our sincere thanks to the Earth Workers Club of Fleming College. We truly could not do all this work without them. Thank you!

Jim C.

Membership & Finance Update (as of June 20, 2010)

We have 139 registered members. At the beginning of 2010, we initiated a slight change in the procedure for renewing memberships to the Friends of the Osprey. Each month as memberships become due for annual renewal, the Membership Director will remind the member by written notice. A request for an additional donation will be included in the reminder notice. Tax receipts are issued for all memberships and donations.

Current balance of funds amounts to \$13,500. and includes generous donations in the last year from Shell Canada (\$5,000), and Georgian Bay Osprey Association (\$1,000). These donations along with other member donations will be used to finance the Telemetry Project which will monitor the migration of two Osprey down south in the fall of 2010. The total project will cost in the area of \$17,000 so efforts to raise addition funds in the next 6 months will be very critical to completing this project.

Our association is now registered with the popular internet payment system **Paypal**. This means that any payment that you wish to make to the Friends of the Osprey can be conveniently made from your computer. Merely go to the 'link' on our website and follow the simple instructions. This of course will save you in both cheque and mailing costs, and any tax donation receipts will be processed in a timely manner.

Grant

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Lorrie

First Spring Sighting Winners

This year, FOTO held a contest challenging local citizens to find the first returning Osprey.

1st Prize: William Hancock, Lindsay. March 4

2nd Prize: Don Allen, Omemee. March 15

3rd Prize: Lorrie Taylor, Omemee. March 17

All winners received a one year membership to Friends of the Osprey and the 1st prize winner also recieved a 1 year subscription to the Lindsay Post and a 1 year subscription to the Birds Studies Canada Feeder Watch Program. Thanks to all who entered!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Please visit www.friendsoftheosprey.org and encourage your friends to as well. The website has lots of photos of our telemetry day with Bird Studies Canada and an article about it by Terry McInnes-Edick that was published in the Lindsay Post. FOTO are very excited about their hard work in attaching transmitters to the Osprey and we want to share it with as many people as possible.

Also on the website are details of our FOTO Photo contest as well as our raffle. There is a poster for the raffle that you can download and print to put up in your place of business, and a Paypal button so you can buy your tickets online. Later in the season, we will track the signals from the transmitters on our two Osprey so we can see where they go when they leave the Kawartha Lakes in the fall.

Mary