

Friends of the Osprey - Newsletter - Summer 2008

Page 1

FRIENDS OF THE OSPREY

-a charitable organization for the study and protection of the Osprey-

Executive 2008

President	Jim Chappel
Past President	Karel Beck
Vice President & Membership Director	Grant King
Secretary	Simon Connell
Treasurer	Dale Toombs
Newsletter	Tony Crocker
Web Site, Video, Population Surveys	Barb Puxley
Liaison with Ontario Nature	Dave Robertson
Liaison with SSFC Students	Phil Shaw
Directors	Jim Brown, Eva Griffin, Ed Lawson, Phil Puxley

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the following who help us achieve our goals.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Bird Studies Canada

President's Message

Once again we plan to have a number of fund raising events over the summer. It started with the Lilac Festival at Lindsay Lilac Park, May 31. We had an outdoor booth there as did most of the local environmental groups. Each group gave an on stage presentation. Ours focused on our fund raising plan to track the migratory path of the Osprey by satellite telemetry.

We will also be presenting our educational display and ticket sales on our artwork at the Lindsay Farmers Market and Buckhorn Fine Arts Festival.

As usual many of our volunteers will be completing Osprey nesting surveys and forwarding their data to Barb Puxley who has been collecting this data for many years.

Barb will also co-ordinate us with Canadian Wildlife Service regarding the banding of osprey chicks.

All in all it looks like a busy and enjoyable summer with the FRIENDS OF THE OSPREY.

Thank You ;

JIM CHAPPEL

Secretary's Report.

Hi Friends of the Osprey; I am happy to report three new members; Joy Davis of Kirkfield, Will Pridham of Cameron and Kevin Whyte of Omemee. Joy has a winter works project which has been approved. For various reasons, mainly deep snow, we were unable to get to her this year but she knows she is on the top of the list for next winter. Will Pridham is an experienced environmentalist and hopes to help us in finding funds our telemetry project. His main target is land developers. Kevin Whyte is also a lifetime environmentalist and anxious to help. We appreciate this new help.

A few projects have been completed since our last report; I accompanied Leanne Wallis to the Ennismore Girl Guides where she gave a great presentation on our behalf. Leanne is a SSFC student, one of whom worked with us on winter works this past winter. The Girl Guides presentation was part of her course and marks. The leaders had to responsibly rate her. She put many hours of preparation into this and it showed. Her knowledge, presentation and personality got her a ten out of ten. Leanne has graduated and gone on to her Job with Parks Canada at Georgian Bay. Good luck Leanne.

Dave Robertson Grant King and I put on display and presentation at the Lindsay Lilac Festival. All the local environmental groups were presented and we each gave a 15 minute talk. I was a rainy day so the crowd was small but still worthwhile.

Please note that with this newsletter you will be receiving tickets on our annual art work draw. Please sell what you can and return the rest as all tickets must be accounted for under ONTARIO LOTTERY rules. The draw will be held at our annual meeting and dinner at Omemee Curling Club Sept.

27. Check your callendar. As always we will have a great guest speaker. We will be selling tickets at the Lindsay Farmers Market and Buckhorn Fine Arts Festival. Please be prepared to say yes when asked to help. The Buckhorn Festival is Aug 15 to 17. We will attend the farmers market approximately every other week for July, August and early Sept.

Simon Connell,

Editors note. Call Simon if you want to volunteer for the above ticket sales. We will all appreciate your help. Also please get your ticket receipts back before the dinner.

Friends of the Osprey - Newsletter - Summer 2008

Page 2

JUST CALL HER "MOTHER OSPREY"

by Marjorie Luddlow Green

Barb Puxley laughs when asked how she came to be called "Mother Osprey"

"I've been a bird watcher all my life," says the farm girl from Queensville. Barb grew up enthralled with nature, she has used that fascination to offset crippling spinal disease, encroaching blindness and necessary surgeries.

Widowed when her first husband suffered a heart attack, Barb told her six adult children she did not want another man unless he liked bird watching and travel. She was working in accounting when Phil Puxley entered her life and "my kids put us together."

Phil was certainly the right man, for remarkably, with his help, Barb is close to reaching 500 on her life list for birds, despite being legally blind.

From 1989 to 1986, Barb was a member of the Pickering Field Naturalists. In 1994, while driving north of Lindsay, the couple discovered that the duck blinds along the Scugog River were falling down. Concerned for the Osprey who nested there, Barb launched an appeal to both the federal and provincial governments for permission to build two high platforms where the giant birds could nest. It took two years to get through the red tape, but in 1996, the Friends of the Osprey began the good work that 95 current members continue to this day, many of them out on the ice in January constructing platforms to accommodate the massive nests the Osprey build each spring.

Osprey, who prefer to nest at the top of an old pine tree, will settle for duck blinds or just about anything that sits reasonably high and flat. The friends help out by removing the old sticks before Canada geese can take over an empty nest. Quadrapod platforms deter the Osprey from choosing hydro poles or other inappropriate surfaces. The friends will continue to monitor the nests, banding birds with government biologists and assisting orphaned chicks when necessary. They also visit schools, appear at fairs offering information to the public and welcome new members. Check out their web site at www.geocities.com/fotosprey.

Illness prevents Barb from working with the Osprey now, but a collection of feeders brings dozens of smaller birds to her Bobcaygeon home. Dubbed "Mother Osprey" by a friend at church one Sunday years ago, Barb can still recognise each bird by its shape and colour and song. As she reaches for her binoculars, a smile spreads across her face, and she is once again filled with joy.

Reprinted From "Kawartha Life" showcase edition 08 - Volume 9 #1

Support Friends of the Osprey

1. Renew your membership or become a new member.

2. Assist with our fundraiser, call to volunteer if you can.

3. attend the annual meeting Sept. 27.

All draw tickets must be returned at or before the AGM on September 27

Friends of the Osprey Membership Form

Name: _____

Street: _____

Prov.: _____ Postal _____

Code: _____

Tel: _____ Bus: _____

Newsletter by email? yes () no () We encourage you to receive your newsletter by email. It saves us printing and postage costs, and you will see the photos in colour.

Email: _____

Membership:

\$20.00 per year

Donation _____

Tax receipts available on request.

Charitable Reg. # 108780854

Please mail to:

Friends of the Osprey

P.O. Box 25

Lindsay, ON, K9V 4R8

Check out our website @

www.geocities.com/fotosprey/welcome.html