



FRIENDS OF THE OSPREY **SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2009**

President's Message:

The Osprey have returned home from their 'vacation' and your association will be involved in many new exciting projects this year.

Our first telemetry project to monitor the migration of the Osprey will start this year. Birds Studies Canada will place a monitoring device on the back of one of our local Osprey, and starting in September, we will be monitoring the migration and the return in the spring of 2010. This will be another 'first' for the Kawarthas, as we are the first association in Ontario to monitor the Osprey migration. The school children in the area will be able to follow the program via the website at their schools.

Equally important is our new partnership with the Osprey News who publish the Lindsay Post. They have offered advertising space in exchange for a subscription promotion for the Lindsay Post. Again, the monitoring of the Osprey migration will be published in the Post. We encourage your support in this project.

We had a very successful winter works program of building and maintaining Osprey nests. This was co-ordinated by Simon Connell with the help of members and many students from Sir Sanford Fleming.

Again, many local artist have donated some art work which we will be offering as prizes in our annual draw. This is one of our main fundraising efforts and we ask your I had gotten involved with the club a year beforehand, as a member of the Earth Workers (an environmental outreach group at Fleming) and came out in the winter

support in buying some draw tickets. Enclosed with this newsletter is a book of tickets which we ask that you either buy or sell to your family and friends. Also enclosed is a pre-stamped envelope for your convenience in returning a cheque for \$10.00 per book. Please do not send cash by mail and thank you for your support.

Finally, some reminders:

- ☞ OSPREY RESCUE - 1-705-738-6271
- ☞ Visit our booth at the Farmers Market,
 - ☞ Lindsay Fair
 - ☞ Buckhorn Art Festival
- ☞ Annual Dinner Meeting -Oct 3, 2009

Grant R. King
Acting President

Leanne Wallis:

*Natural Areas Inventory Field Technician,
Credit Valley Conservation*

Two winters ago I found myself in front of a bunch of four year old girls, flapping my outstretched arms. I was speaking to a group of Sparks, essentially junior Brownies, and demonstrating the wingspan of an Osprey (almost 6 feet across!). Speaking to this group was one of my first public-speaking engagements, and turned out to be a win-win situation for myself and (I hope) Friends of the Osprey. As a student at Fleming College in the Park Operations and Outdoor Recreation program, I was required to give a 45 minute nature presentation to a community group and Simon Connell was looking for someone to give a talk on the club's behalf.

months to help fix and install osprey platforms. This is the main community outreach activity that the Earth Workers does. Uniting that youthful enthusiasm with

the wizened expertise (and tools!) of Friends of the Osprey, has proven to be a fruitful union with visible results.

During my two years at Fleming, I worked for Parks Canada in the summer doing ecological monitoring. Building on my experience at Fleming and with FOTO, I gave a few interpretive hikes which went over well.

After graduation I accepted a job with Credit Valley Conservation Authority, based out of Mississauga, where I again focus on ecological monitoring. However, in this case, my program receives significant funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and in return for these funds, agrees to carry out a certain amount of public outreach.

Last winter Simon again approached me about giving a talk on the club's behalf. This time the talk was at an Earth Summit event being held at Lindsay's LCVI on May 1, 2009. Each public school in the district sent student representatives to the day-long event of environmental presentations. I prepared a 5 minute video slideshow on Awesome Osprey featuring the club's work. We are truly lucky to have such great photographers in the club and I'd especially like to thank Tony Crocker and Jinder Virdee for sharing their photos. I've learned that working with young children goes over best if there is a lot of interaction so Simon and I really encouraged the kids to share their stories of osprey, and to talk about their environmental interests and how they could help each other achieve them. I wanted to The Friends of the Osprey will locate a suitable male bird and with the help of representatives of Bird Studies Canada capture the bird temporarily, and attach the PTT to its back. This will in no way affect the bird in any of his activities. Male birds tend to return to the same nest year after year so we will then be able to locate the

empower them and have them see that they have skills (website creation, writing, fundraising, promoting, teamwork) and try to foster connections between the participants if possible, and at the very minimum, get them thinking from a position of power. We did get a lot of positive feedback and surprisingly, had a lot of adults enter the room and watch our presentation.

No doubt the Friends Of The Osprey will dig up something else for me to do this winter, especially now that I'm a member.

Telemetry:

The Friends of the Osprey in conjunction with Bird Studies Canada plan to use Telemetry to track and record the migration habits of a male osprey over the winter months this year. This will be dependent on the successful installation of a tracking device on a male Osprey.

But what is Telemetry? It is a process of tracking the movement of birds or animals in their day to day activities. A small transmitter PTT (Platform transmitter terminals) weighing 14 grams is placed on the bird or animal and a signal is sent to a satellite in space. The company being used for this project is North Star. North Star uses the Argos Satellite system. The Argos System is a polar orbiting, LEO constellation of French-owned receivers. Mounted on five US weather satellites are receivers that pick up the signal from the PTT's and track the location of the bird.

bird when the battery expires on the PTT. There is speculation that Osprey winter somewhere in the Amazon but this is not a sure fact; they may winter anywhere in between. By tracking the movement, we will have a better understanding of the migration pattern of this one bird and be able to answer some important questions.

With a successful installation of the PTT and if the bird does not come to any harm during its migration, we will be able to keep a record of its progress on a day to day basis both to and from its wintering habitat. Does it travel the same route to and from its wintering spot or does it return by a different route. These are some of the questions we will be able to answer through this study. Bird Studies Canada will monitor the progress and send the Friends of the Osprey regularly updates of the progress plotting its journey to the winter migration and back to Canada. The Ohio Department of Fish & Wildlife have been conducting similar studies since the early 90's but it is believed that this is the first of its kind to occur in Ontario and possibly Canada.

The Friends of the Osprey would like to get local school children involved to give them a better understanding of this unique and beautiful raptor. The future of this species is sometime tenuous. They were on the endangered species list because of the use of pesticides etc. but they were removed a couple of years ago. Recently declining number put them back on the watch list again. Future generations must take an interest to help Osprey. We of the Friends of the Osprey hope this study will generate enthusiasm and interest in the future of these birds.

Jim Brown

Winter Works:

As many will know our annual project 'winter works' is the process whereby we build or rebuild and repair our man made Osprey nesting platforms.

The basic structure is 4 cedar poles, they are called quadrupeds and are quite common in the Kawarthas. You have seen them - four We had a new experience this year; we built a beautiful platform on land at Gilson's Point - north shore of Lake Scugog. With the help of a rented post hole auger and one hundred feet of airplane cable we have a

poles leaning into an apex with an Osprey nest on top. The most visible ones are on County Rd. 24 between Dunsford and Bobcaygeon.

This past winter was on of our most difficult. We can only work when the ice is safe and when the SSFC students are free to help on Saturdays. This year we lost too many Saturdays because of bad weather. However, we did what we could. We got the poles out of the forest through very deep snow and rebuilt one of our Omemee platforms. It was a very cold day and to make matters worse, there was four inches of water on top of the ice in places, plus a very cold wind. We persevered!

We also rebuilt our Southview Estates platform near Cameron. This platform is very successful and produces young Osprey every year.

This situation is unique in that what we thought was a normal island is actually a sawdust island, formed many decades ago as the sawdust from a sawmill was washed downstream and accumulated to extent that it grows normal vegetation. Our problem is that the sawdust base, long since decomposed, is so deep that we have trouble getting to a firm base.

However, we are prepared to reinforce it every year. We put so many poles in there this winter, we know it can't fall down.

Our biggest fear is that we would entice Osprey to a platform and then have it collapse and drown the young. Thus we must be vigilante in the constant repair of man made platforms.

land based platform. We had previously only worked on platforms through ice. A pair of juvenile Osprey have claimed it and are playing house. No doubt they will lay eggs there next year.

To the two people still on our list for projects, we apologize. We will try again next winter.

Simon Connell

We are currently asking people interested in our projects to volunteer as Associate Directors. At some point be elected as Full Directors. You would be a part of all meetings and functions which you would like to attend.

For details call: Simon - 793-2361
Grant - 799-7302 Jim - 786-0222

Bereavement:

Nel Huys a former member and editor of the news letter for Friends of the Osprey past away in British Columbia on March 15, 2009.

Dave Robertson, Barb & Phil Puxley, Simon & Gloria Connell, Karel Beck and Pat Lange attended her memorial service in Ridgetown, ON on May 6th.

Karel and his violin provided the music. Simon was one of three eulogists.

Nel was only 45 years old - cancer again. Sure miss you Nel!

Executives:

President: Jim Chappel

Past President: Karel Beck

Vice-President & Membership Director:

Grant King - 705-799-7302

Treasurer: Dale Toombs

Secretary: Simon Connell - 705-793-2361

Newsletter & Director: Tony Crocker

Directors: Jim Brown - 705-786-0222

Ed Lawson, Eva Griffin,

Phil Puxley - 705-738-6271

Web site. Video, Population Surveys:

Barb Puxley - 705-738-6271

Director & Liaison with SFCS Students:

Phil Shaw

Director & Liaison with Ont. Nature:

Dave Robertson