



Since 1995

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010

President's Message

This is going to be an exciting year for the Friends of the Osprey. We have a new website <http://www.friendsoftheosprey.org> that promotes our cause and encourages others to get involved. We have new board members who bring their enthusiasm and energy. Our winter projects are already underway, and we plan to repair and de-goose as many nests as we can during the winter months, as well as erecting a new platform. And we hope the new land platform put up last year at Gilson's Point will have occupants this spring as there were young birds coming to it regularly this past summer.

The most exciting project we have this year is the satellite telemetry project that we are conducting with Birds Studies Canada. A local adult osprey will be fitted with a PTT (Platform transmitter terminal) and this device will allow us to track it to its winter destination. Osprey winter as far south as Brazil and we hope to learn exactly where their second home is. Our local paper, the Lindsay Post, which is part of the nationwide Osprey News, will be supporting this project and we will be providing them with regular updates for articles. Generous funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Shell Canada and the Georgian Bay Osprey Society have come in to support this endeavour.

This year we plan to map local osprey nest locations. Mapping is a useful item to share with the public and sponsors, and will help us in our nest survey work. Ospreys are at the top of the marine food chain and are extremely sensitive to environmental issues such as pesticides and pollution. Their health is an indicator of the health of our lakes and waterways.

My hope is that the Friends of the Osprey grow with more supporters and more involvement from the membership. These birds are fragile creatures and are constantly threatened. If organizations like ours do not monitor and provide habitat for these birds their numbers may again drop. Each year more and more species disappear forever. This organization is responsible for one part of the world's environmental stewardship by helping out the Osprey.

Have a great year and contact us through the website if you wish to get more involved.

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 & Membership

Director: Dave Robertson

Past-President: Jim Chappel

Treasurer and Membership

Director: Grant King

Secretary: Simon Connell

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:

Eva Griffin

Ed Lawson

Phil Puxley

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.

Club Address:

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Secretary's Report

In September, 2009 we ran an information booth at the Lindsay Central Exhibition. We along with Kawartha Field Naturalists and the local Trails Association were stationed in the 'Green Tent'. We were very well received by the public as conservationists and osprey protectors. Many members volunteered their time to help with this important outreach activity (set up, staffing, and take down) and we had some good conversations, gained a few new members and sold raffle tickets for our 2009 draw.

Now the bad news; sometime after the fair closed Sunday evening someone broke into our tent and vandalized it, breaking into the enclosure of our mounted osprey and tearing the head off of it. The crime was reported. Thankfully, the Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough donated a replacement to us. They don't know the details of the demise of this bird but it was in their freezer and now it is ours. I delivered it to the freezer of our taxidermist, Larry Jones, in Dunsford in December and we look forward to unveiling our new mascot once work is completed.

At our 2009 annual general meeting, we welcomed two new directors to our group: Terry McInnes-Edick and Leanne Wallis.

Terry has already proven to be a valuable asset to our group by submitting grant request applications to corporate donors and networking with local businesses to solicit items for the 2010 raffle. Last fall she attended a fundraising for non-profits training course and learned new skills that we hope will improve our fundraising abilities in the future.

Leanne is our first Fleming College student to stay with us after graduation. She volunteered with our winter works program for two years through our partnership with Fleming College's Earth Workers group. Both Leanne and Phil Shaw (our Fleming liaison) are former leaders of the Earth Workers. Leanne is also the interim newsletter coordinator.

Thank you all for your contributions!

Simon

2009 Annual Meeting

On a rainy October 3, 28 members and guests attended the Friends of the Osprey annual meeting. There was a delicious meal with many different pie choices for dessert and ample time to mingle and catch up. Eva Griffin sold 50-50 tickets at the door which raised \$58. The silent auction organised by Phil and Barb Puxley raised \$190.50. In addition, we sold 6 renewal memberships and had 4 new members join.

Two new directors were elected: Terry McInnes-Edick is the new fundraising coordinator and director and Leanne Wallis is the new newsletter editor (interim) and director.

After dinner, guests were treated to a talk by Ruth Lamantia of the Climate Project. Having trained with Nobel Laureate Al Gore, Ruth, who is a resident of Fenelon Falls, now talks to community groups to raise awareness about climate change. Her great presentation was informative and offered startling statistics and photos.

Thanks to all attendees.

Leanne

Winter Works Update

This winter we intend to build one new platform off Hargrove Rd, near Kirkfield. We have been trying to complete this project for two years but ice conditions and land owner contact have been a challenge. We are hopeful with the right weather that we can get it done.

We have five repair jobs on our list this winter: two near Omemee, one off Charlore Park Drive, one at Goose Bay on Sturgeon Lake and the last site at Birch Point Marina on Sturgeon Lake.

With enough volunteers we will "de-goose" four or five other platforms to prepare them for the Osprey coming back. De-goosing involves removing last years osprey nests to discourage Canadian Geese from claiming them.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who make our work possible. We probably couldn't get most of these jobs done without the great help from the students at Fleming College. For many seasons, we have partnered with the college's Earth Workers group and their enthusiasm and willingness to lend a hand contributes substantially to the number of projects we can complete each year.

We hope YOU can help us this winter. Most work is done on Saturday's and lasts a few hours. On longer days we break for a social lunch and participants say they enjoy the time outdoors and sense of accomplishment. Contact Jim Chappel or Simon Connell at our general email address to find out how to become involved.

Jim C.

Membership & Finance Update (as of Nov 15, 09)

We have 133 registered members including 79 who have renewed their memberships in the last 11 months. There has been a slight change in the procedure for renewing memberships. Each month as memberships become due for annual renewal, the Membership Director will remind the member by written notice. A request for an addition donation will be included in the reminder notice.

Our balance is \$12,600. Our satellite telemetry project will cost in the area of \$19,000 so efforts are underway to raise substantial funds in the next few months. We acknowledge donations so far received. Further donations may be sent to the club's address payable to Friends of the Osprey. Tax receipts are issued for memberships and donations.

Grant

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Friends of the Osprey launched a new website in the summer of 2009 at www.friendsoftheosprey.org. Since it's launch, we have had 377 visitors, which averages out to about 27 a week.

There is a lot of information on the site, and we hope to add further to it as time goes on. The executive is working on a map of our coverage area, as well as where some of our nests are. Look out for that soon. When our telemetry project is launched, we will also have a link to the route of our tagged osprey! We have our past newsletters on the site and will continue with that in the interest of saving paper. If your membership is due or to enrol a new member, you can download a pdf copy of the membership form on our website.

Please visit the site and let us know what you think.

Mary

Our New Mascot

Friends of the Osprey is getting a new stuffed osprey to use in our outreach campaigns. For years we have used a young stuffed osprey at our school talks and when raising group awareness at events such as the Lindsay Fair. Unfortunately, at last years Lindsay Fair, someone broke into the tent where our stuffed osprey was being stored overnight. This individual broke into the protective case and damaged the osprey. This sad event meant our group required a new Osprey. The Ministry of Natural Resources has provided us with a replacement.

Dave Robertson, Mary Sullivan, Jim Chappell and myself viewed our new thawed out osprey on the taxidermists table. According to our taxidermist, Larry Jones, it is a good specimen, an adult but not large. This works well with us as we have to encase it and transport it. This time it will be mounted both true to nature but with an artistic back drop. You will love it.

With taxes this will cost \$400.00 which the executive has approved. The enclosure and art work have been donated and the donors will be identified at a later date. We will have a beautiful work of art that will be the group's mascot. For year's our former osprey brought people to our information tables and caught the attention of youngsters at our talks. Our mascot has an important role.

As this is a significant, unplanned-for cost, we would like to ask if any member would be willing to step forward and cover the taxidermist cost, or make a donation towards the total cost. Well we feel a bit uncomfortable asking, as you know we are a small group of volunteers with a small operating budget. If you feel in your heart that you can help, we ask that you contact Grant King, Treasurer, who can be reached via our general email address listed herein. Thank you. *Simon*

Fundraising Update

In December I attended a very informative workshop on fundraising, and feel armed with more ideas to secure corporate sponsorship for our projects. In addition, two corporate sponsorship funding applications have been submitted, and we are looking forward to a springtime response.

Friends of the Osprey has also received generous contributions towards our Telemetry Project from Shell Canada, The Georgian Bay Osprey Society and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

To date, I have approached some local businesses and am awaiting response for contributions of "prizes" for our annual lottery. *Terry*

2009 Draw Winners

Each year Friends of the Osprey holds a draw to raise funds for its nest building, surveying, education and general operating costs. This year, tickets were sold at community venues including the Lindsay Farmer's Market, and the Lindsay Central Exhibition.

Our lucky winners were:

- 1st Prize of the Osprey print: Lisa McKinley, Orillia**
- 2nd Prize of the Goose print: Cal Wansborough, Lindsay**
- 3rd Prize of the Loon print: Grant King, Omeme**
- 4th Prize of the Heron print: Susan Condie, Toronto**

Thank you to all you entered. Stay tuned for even bigger prizes in 2010.
