

Sunday, January 19th, 2020 – Annual Bird Feeder Tour - Derek Connelly

Despite the snow storm the day before milder weather and no snow on the day created ideal driving and viewing for this year's tour. Fourteen species were seen by everyone. Some highlights were – the abundance of birds at Marilynne's many feeders, a Red-bellied woodpecker at Valerie's and at James, the Cowbird and of course the Sharp-shinned hawk created a number of oos and ahhs. In addition Derek reported a Pileated woodpecker and White Breasted Nuthatch at two feeder locations and on the drive back to Uxbridge, American crow, European starlings and Wild Turkeys were also seen by Paul and Ginny. John and Jean from Beaverton and their daughter Jessica from Toronto's east end had traveled the furthest to join us on the day. Jean was prepared for lots of walking in backyards and was pleasantly surprised at the hospitality and comfortable inside viewing. Homemade cookies, coffee or tea, and Lynda Kamstra's split pea soup finale could not be beat. Many thanks again to our hosts Marilynne, Valerie, and James and their partners for opening their homes to us.

Monday, October 14th, Mushroom Hike to Glen Major

On a fine autumn day on Thanksgiving 30 participants came out to join James Kamstra on a mushroom hike through the Glen Major Forest. Although a little past the peak of mushroom season, there were still many fascinating fungi to find. From the parasitic orange Lobster Mushroom, the pear-shaped puffball, Pink Russula, polypores, conks, to the gelatinous slime molds, there was much to see among the decomposing logs on the forest floor.

Saturday, September 14th, 2019 - Hawk Watch - Geoff Carpentier - Cranberry Marsh

12 people joined me for a great outing to Cranberry Marsh in Whitby to look for raptors. The weather was too nice and we only saw a few but included in that was a Bald Eagle. Lots of other birds and butterflies to amuse us however as we explored the shores of Lake Ontario.

Wednesday, July 17th, 2019 - Nonquon Nature Interpretive Sign Unveiling - 9:30 a.m. to Noon

22 members of the North Durham Community gathered at the Nonquon Environmental Education Centre on Wednesday for the unveiling of the nature interpretive signs created and donated to the Durham District School Board David Carroll Classroom site. North Durham Nature volunteers used donations and membership contributions to help fund the signs, and Friends of Nonquon applied and successfully received funding for the signs from the Retired Teachers of Ontario. A number of local photographers contributed photos used on the signs. Port Perry Sign Shop made the signs and gave much appreciated in-kind contributions.

The unveiling began with a recognition of the land being the traditional territory of the Mississauga of Scugog Island First Nations, and followed with an introduction of volunteers involved in the project, the history of the Kiosk (built in 2001) and a thank you to everyone who contributed to the entire process. The family of David Carroll, the first teacher at the centre, in whose memory it was named, were in attendance at the unveiling ceremony, and his granddaughter, along with the two children of the current OEE Facilitator, cut the ribbon.

The installation of the signs completed the initial vision for the Kiosk from when it was erected, and will help to educate the local community and visiting Durham teachers and students on the importance of wetlands, like Nonquon, and their inhabitants. It is the hope that through future fundraising, signs can be created for the second Kiosk erected at the Pheasant Pen Classroom site about 1.5 km from this one, on Old Simcoe. The vision for the second set of signs is to have more of a connection to the local indigenous community, with a time horizon that would allow for meaningful First Nation contributions.

The unveiling was followed by a short hike through the wetland, followed by refreshments, and an opportunity for young ones to participate in pond exploration guided by knowledgeable volunteers.

