

THE WOODLAND OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 2016



NIPISSING NATURALISTS CLUB



From the editor:

Those fallen leaves

Although November is the 11th month of the Julian and Gregorian Calendars, its name comes from the Latin *novem*, meaning nine, because it was once the 9th month of the ancient Roman calendar. With the time change, I think of November as the beginning of the dark season which lasts until early February when the less dark season begins. The often duller days of November with its brown and fallen leaves can be a bit of a shock after experiencing the warm, sunny and colourful October we had this year, with the leaves lasting longer on the trees than I can remember.

In this issue are featured two beautiful autumnal photos of Laurier Woods taken this year over the Thanksgiving weekend. They are juxtaposed on the next page with the beauty last November of the first snowfall. The front cover photo I took last November in Lavigne and although the trees are leafless, the beauty of the area and the season are nevertheless evident.

On October 15, about a dozen members followed local historian, Elmer Rose, as he led us from Bonfield to Mattawa, the route of the railway which opened up the area in the late 1800s. It was a very enjoyable and informative outing made even better by how well Elmer organized it. If you missed the outing, which even made the front page of the *Mattawa Recorder*, you can read about it in this issue.

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Also featured is an article by Fred Pinto based on his presentation to club members at our October meeting. I think you will find his article on healthier environments in sub-Saharan Africa very interesting and it gives one something to think about.

In keeping with the need for healthier environments and reminding me somewhat of Fred's presentation and article, I was reading in the Autumn 2016 magazine of *Living Bird*, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, about shade-grown, bird-friendly coffee farms in Colombia. The economic pressure to convert to the more lucrative sun-grown coffee farms is high, especially when so many farmers in Colombia are just eking out a living. However, growing specialty coffee may be a way out of poverty because specialty coffee, although more expensive for us to buy, is more economically stable for Colombian farmers. But to encourage farmers to resist the urge to clear forests and instead plant trees is not always easy, nor is it always easy to convince them that although returns are not immediate with shade-grown coffee, it will pay off in the long run. With trees come birds, less erosion and less need for expensive artificial fertilizers and, hence, a healthier environment.

This leads me to producer Joanne Jackson's article on *The Messenger*, the documentary on songbirds and how they are vanishing at an alarming rate. You can do your bit for birds and the farmers of Colombia by purchasing certified organic, fair trade, shade-grown coffee. Everything counts – and shade-grown coffee, traditionally grown and harvested as a forest-floor crop, tastes better.

Renee Levesque



Photos by Renee Levesque



Photo by Renee Levesque

Club members enjoy “First Spike” tour

By Steve Pitt

On October 15, a dozen members of the Nipissing Naturalists Club enjoyed a tour of local historical sites that were once small but vibrant communities, but have now “returned to Mother Nature to be silently forgotten, but not totally lost.”

We met in front of the Bonfield Township municipal office to meet our tour guide, Elmer Rose, who is quoted above. Elmer, a retired CP Railroad engineer, local historian and a director of the Mattawa Museum, had prepared for us a full, informative and interesting itinerary.

The day began with an exterior tour of the sixty-year-old Canadian Pacific Railroad caboose, a permanent display on the Bonfield Township property. The vital importance of the railroad and lumber industry to the early Bonfield economy was explained by Elmer. In 2002, Bonfield was inducted into the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame for being the location of the First Spike driven into the railway in 1881 to begin the eastern leg of the transcontinental railroad to unite British Columbia with Central Canada.

To find out more precisely where it is thought the First Spike might have been driven in, we travelled about three kilometers east of Bonfield to where Trout Pond Road intersects with Highway 17. Just south of this intersection was the original site of Rutherglen (right), a once thriving community consisting of a train station, general store, Roman Catholic Church and supporting properties. Alas,



Photo by Renee Levesque

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the station burned down in the early 20th century and all that remains of this hamlet are a row of pine trees planted to serve as a windbreak for the station. See photo above.

Next, we travelled a few kilometers further east on Highway 17 to visit a private property owned by Morris Duquette that was once the site of a railroad work camp. Morris was not at home, but his brother, Don, graciously showed us around and Elmer displayed a fascinating collection of 19th century artifacts (right) that had recently been recovered from the site by Morris. Among the items exhibited were rail spikes, a coupling used to connect the rail cars, rail joints, hinges, a hand-made donkey shoe and a spike for tethering a sled dog. We pretended one of the spikes was the actual First Spike and some of us took turns holding it up for the camera.



Photo by Fred Pinto



Photo by Renee Levesque

We then moved a few miles east to the site of “new” Rutherglen, a location now marked by Gagne’s Red and White gas station/general store on Highway 17. Once known as Talon Lake Station, in the early 20th century this location supported a general store, telegraph office, train station and stockyard. The section man’s house, moved down the road from its original location, is still standing and occupied.

Continuing east, we stopped at the “two bridges” that mark where the Eau Claire

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Sawmill once stood. It was here we were met by Barry Walters, also a Director of the Mattawa Museum, who explained that the sawmill was owned and operated by local lumber magnate William Mackey, who blasted a sluice run with dynamite to divert water from the Amable du Fond River to power his mill. The mill is long gone, but the scenic waterfalls and mill run remain. The train station that was nearby is also gone, as so many train stations are.

Still standing, however, is the office of J.R. Booth, lumber baron, who bought Mr. Mackey's timber limits just before Mr. Mackey died in 1902. The Mackey riverside home, site of the group photo below, is also still standing and currently owned by Barry who gave us a tour of the house.



Photo by John Levesque

History has a habit of working up an appetite, so at this point we took a much appreciated lunch break at Valois' Motel and Restaurant in Mattawa, an establishment that is historic in its own right, having occupied the same spot overlooking the Ottawa River since 1934. Judging by the cars, the postcard of Valois' at right is from the mid-50s.



VALOIS' HOTEL, MATTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

Where waters meet



Text and photos by Renee Levesque

Hungry as horses after our tour from Bonfield to Eau Claire with Elmer Rose, we arrived at Valois' Restaurant where we were joined by Derek and Diane Day of the Mattawa and District Historical Society, who are also Directors of the Mattawa Museum and members of the Nipissing Naturalists Club. We were greeted by Mattawa councillor, Garry Thibert, who welcomed us to historic Mattawa, the town with the three crosses and the town that sits where the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers meet. Mattawa comes from the Algonquin word for *meeting of the waterways*.

The Mattawa River, 76 km. in length, flows east into the Ottawa River from Trout Lake in North Bay and was an important transportation route for native peoples for centuries. The first Europeans to make use of this transportation corridor were Etienne Brulè and Samuel de Champlain in the early 1600s. Other 17th century explorers to make use of the Mattawa were Nicolet, Brèbeuf, Radisson, Des Groseilliers, La Vérendrye, and later in the 18th century, Mackenzie and Thompson. Can't get much more historic than that!

Because of the river's importance in fur trading, The Northwest Company set up Mattawa House in 1784, followed by the Hudson Bay Company when it merged with the Northwest Company in the 1820s. When the fur trade diminished and the logging industry developed as a result of the establishment of the railroad in the late 1800s, the Hudson Bay post became a general store serving lumbermen and the increasing population until it closed in the early 1900s.

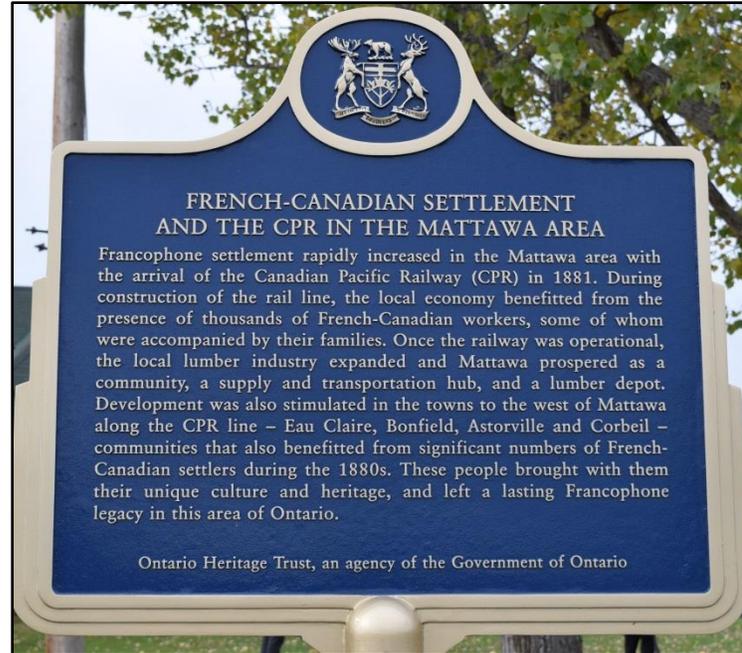
It was only natural that Mattawa would become a major centre for the logging industry because of its large stands of white pine; the Mattawa River to transport logs to sawmills; and the railroad built to Mattawa by 1881.

In 1970, 33 km. of the Mattawa River became a non-operating provincial park, the first waterway provincial park in Ontario, thereby protecting its shores from further logging and development. Then in 1988, it was designated as a Canadian Heritage River. Today it is used mainly for recreation. (See the October 2016 *The Woodland Observer* about the North Bay to

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Mattawa canoe race and a sketch by Frances Anne Hopkins of voyageurs in their canoe on the Mattawa River.)

The railroad was built mostly by French Canadians who then settled in Mattawa and surrounding areas. They brought with them “their unique culture and heritage, and left a lasting Francophone legacy in this area of Ontario.” See photo at right of the Ontario Heritage Trust plaque situated outside the Mattawa Museum.



After this brief history of Mattawa, we made our way to the museum, but before having a tour of the museum, we stopped at Explorer’s Point to look at the anchor and gaze up at the three crosses on the Laurentian Mountain – and to also have our photo taken by Robert Einboden of the *Mattawa Recorder* who described us as “an enthusiastic group, participating, asking questions, listening and learning...still bright and full of fun even at the end of the day’s tour.”

The large anchor at Explorers Point (below left) was discovered when the nearby marina was dredged. It is believed to have come from one of the passenger steamboats that plied the Ottawa

River between Da Swisha (Rapides des Joachims) and Mattawa. Three different steamers, the *Kippawa*, the *Deux Rivieres* and the *Mattawan*, covered the difficult route between Da Swisha and Mattawa in the 19th century.

The three crosses on the Laurentian Mountain on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River were originally located on Explorer’s Point. They were erected there in 1686 to mark the spot where the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers meet. They remained there until 1917 when three local priests decided to place them instead on the Laurentian Mountain. (see photo below) The crosses have naturally rotted a few times over the years, but have always been rebuilt. They are now equipped with solar powered lights so they can be seen at night.





It is possible to hike to the crosses. A permit is required to cross the river by boat to the two areas where the ascent begins. The southerly ascent is less steep than the northerly ascent which is very steep, so probably best to use the southerly trail even if it does take longer to reach the top. But whatever trail is used, once the summit is reached, the view must be spectacular!

About a kilometre from the crosses, there once was a small farming community atop the mountain. It was settled in 1890 and by the late 1940s it began to dwindle. Apparently you can still see some farming equipment, long abandoned and rusted.

Derek and Diane had arranged for us to have a tour of the Mattawa Museum, built in 1984. Diane introduced us to Jayne Lenard, the personable and knowledgeable manager of the museum, who gave us an informative guided tour. Among the many interesting displays, the highlight for most of us seemed to be the Grey Owl and Anahareo display. (see photo below) Anahareo was born in Mattawa in 1906. She advocated strongly for animal rights and for wilderness preservation.

There is also a small display on the Monestime family. Firmin Monestime, originally from Haiti, was a doctor who settled in Mattawa and became, in 1964, Canada's first ever black mayor, serving as mayor until his death in 1977.

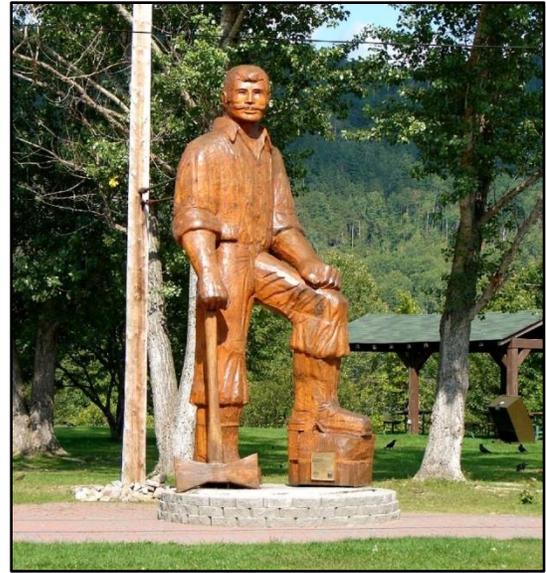
Missing these days from outside the museum is the 16-foot wooden statue of Joe Mufferaw, erected outside the museum in 2005 and carved under the direction of local artist Peter Cianfrani. It was Peter's last project before he died.



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(See statue at right from Wikipedia site.)

Joe Mufferaw is a French-Canadian folk hero of the Ottawa Valley, much like the Americans' Paul Bunyan, and based on a real Ottawa Valley lumberjack and athlete, the famed Joe Montferrand (1802-1864). Mufferaw's fame as a folk hero grew with the publication in the 1970s of Bernie Bedore's book, *Mythical Mufferaw*, and later in the 1970s with Stompin' Tom Connors' song, "Big Joe Mufferaw": '*Big Joe Mufferaw paddled into Mattawa/ all the way from Ottawa in just one day.*'



Unfortunately, the statue rotted over the years, resulting in Big Joe's left arm falling off unexpectedly. I understand extensive repair is underway by local artists.

We did not have time to visit the train station, but I returned a week later to see it. The Mattawa station was one of only two train stations built in this style. The other was in Sturgeon Falls and it burned down in 1902 when the Mattawa station was being built. Unfortunately, the Mattawa station, which closed sometime in the 1980s, is in very bad shape with only a small corner of it being used as an office for those working for the Ottawa Valley Railway. Seems a shame that it has not been declared an historic site with an aim to preserving it, considering there is no other train station like it in Canada and considering Mattawa was built on the backs of those who brought the railway to Mattawa. It is a reminder of Mattawa's culture and heritage. Once a piece of history is destroyed, it is lost forever. The photo below is of the train station today and, at right, the train station as it once was as depicted in a painting by M. Robidas.





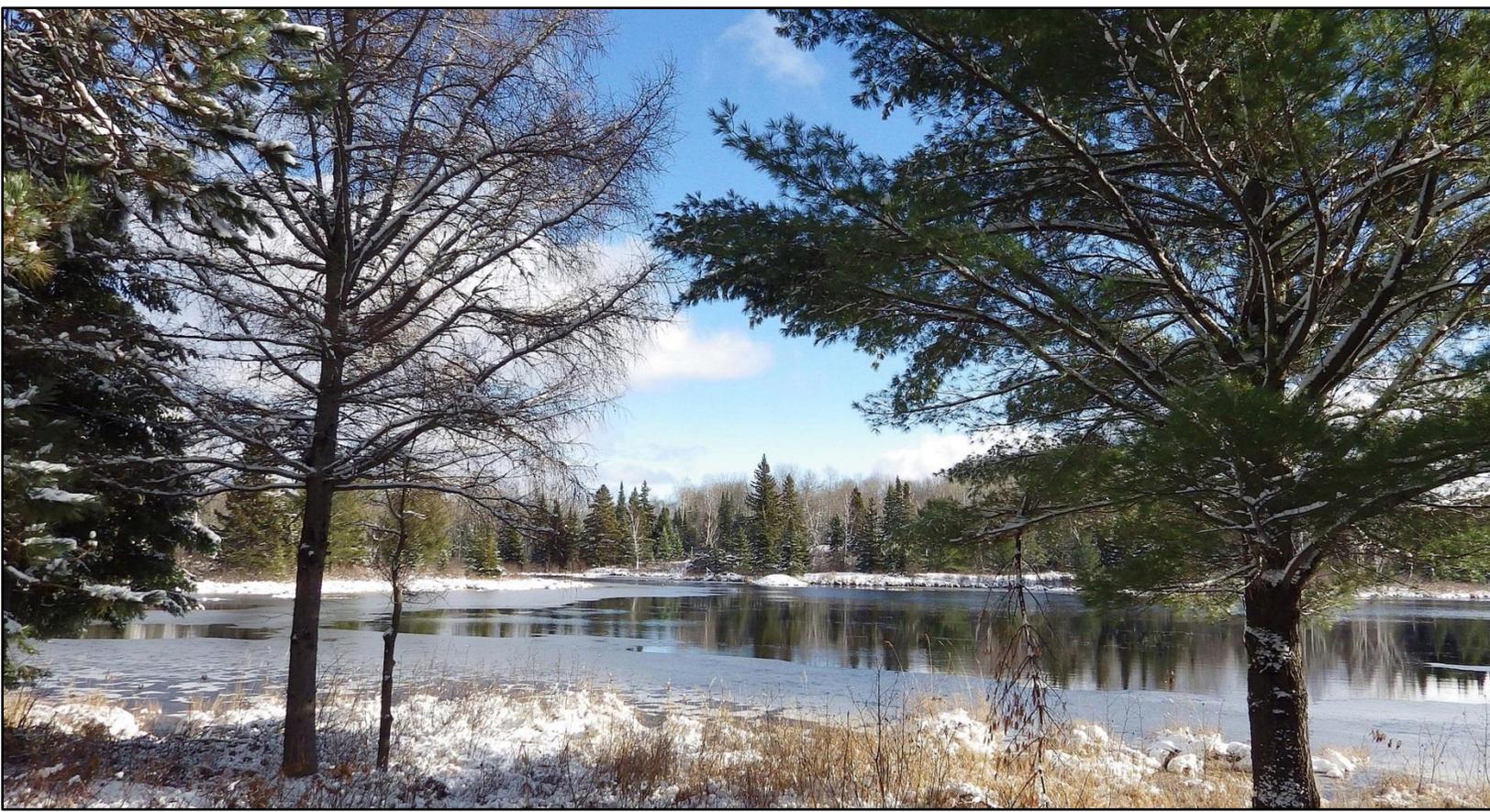
Autumnal splendour in Laurier Woods

Photos by Kerri Edwards, granddaughter of Dick Tafel





What follows autumn colours in all their splendour is the first snowfall in all its splendour. Last year our first big snowfall occurred on November 21. Here are photos taken the next morning, November 22 - the deer by Katherine Byers and on La Vase Trail by Renee Levesque.





‘Healthier environments mean healthier, more prosperous and secure communities and individuals’

Text and photos by Fred Pinto, Chair, Forests without Borders

About half of the world’s forests have been removed, most of them permanently. Some forests have been converted to agricultural and urban land, while other forests on all continents have been degraded because of the opportunistic removal of vegetation.

About 80% of all trees cut in sub-Saharan Africa are used for fuel and an even greater percentage destroyed by fire. When people need money, they earn some by making charcoal for fuel and selling it. To make charcoal, they dig a pit, place the wood in the pit, start a fire, and cover the burning wood with soil so that the fire smolders (see photo of pit at right). The wood is converted to charcoal which is then dug up and sold by the roadside. This method of making charcoal results in many fire pits smoldering untended in the forest for days. Often these fires escape and burn the forest. The photo above shows escaped fire from a charcoal pit.



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There are currently few restrictions on making charcoal and few alternative fuel sources. Although there are some alternatives, people are accustomed to using charcoal for cooking.

Deforestation and forest degradation for various reasons are unfortunately still common in many parts of the world. The good news is that some countries, notably China and India, have reversed these trends with large tree planting programmes linked to social programmes, such as rural health, education and poverty reduction programmes.

Forests without Borders, a registered Canadian charity located in Mattawa, helps people restore forests. Many may think that this is simply helping people plant trees. If that were the case, deforestation and forest degradation would have been solved long ago. If we are to help restore and maintain forests, we need to understand human behaviour and the social systems at play.

Consider a couple of common strategies that people believe will help restore forests and the usual responses to these strategies:

1) Provide money to grow and plant trees.

Local people look to aid organizations to continually supply money or trees.

However, once the funds from aid organizations stop, the restoration efforts also end. Another common outcome is the lack of care of the planted trees because there is little buy-in from the local people. The photo at right is the site of a former tree nursery established as a result of an aid



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project. The nursery supplied free trees to local people, but the seedling production ended when the donor funds ended.

2) Restrict the use of existing forests.

This usually promotes angry reactions from local people who lose the benefits they once obtained from the forests that are now protected. In some cases, people will set fires in these new conservation zones or support the illegal use of the area. For example, local reaction to increased protection of the Monarch butterfly winter habitat in Mexico has resulted in illegal logging. See: <http://blog.oup.com/2016/06/illegal-logging-in-monarch-butterfly-reserve/>.

To be successful, Forests without Borders considers the governance and land tenure of the country they work in. They work with local people to develop a business that local people can operate. This is often easier said than done, for how do you sell trees to people who have many important demands on their limited income?

Forests without Borders has tried different options to ensure that the micro tree nurseries it helps establish become financially viable and interlinked to other activities. For example, students in Nepal are given a couple of tree seedlings that



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they must care for and report on to get marks for their school work. This is one strategy that is used to link education, highly prized by parents, to the care of trees. Support from parents is then obtained to seek local markets for the trees grown at the school nursery. The photo above is of a Forests without Borders school tree nursery in Nepal.

Forests without Borders is run by volunteers who do not get paid for the work they do and do not get reimbursed for their travel. Projects are developed by people who are known in the forestry community in Canada and who are connected to the recipient country. These project leaders pay their own travel to set up and evaluate projects. Several of the project leaders are young, altruistic Canadians who are engaged in developing solutions to very complex problems.

Funds for Forests without Borders are primarily received through individual donations and events held across Canada. These events, such as silent auctions, golf tournaments, tree plantings and film festivals, bring people together to have fun while helping raise funds and creating an awareness of the importance of forests. The charity does not receive any funding from governments and very little from corporate sponsors. The charity also obtains funds through the sale of items. If you are planning to celebrate a life event, such as a marriage, anniversary or birth, or any other special occasion, you may want to consider purchasing tree seedlings to commemorate those events. The tree seedlings are bought from Canadian colleges whose students study nursery practices. The containers are handmade by volunteers. All the funds above the cost of the seedlings and the container materials are used to help Forests without Borders.

For more information visit: <http://www.fwb-fsf.org/fwb-lifeventseedlings>. You can also help by making a donation through the charity's website at <http://www.fwb-fsf.org/blank-4>.

Editor's Note: Fred's article is based on his presentation to Nipissing Naturalists Club on October 11. The heading on this article and the Forests without Borders tree logo are from the Forests without Borders website.



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Documentary about plight of songbirds top choice at North Bay Film Festival

By Joanne Jackson, Producer, The Messenger, SongbirdSOS Productions Inc.

Documentaries, like *The Messenger*, are precious labour-of-love film projects. Most spring from a deep passion and commitment for the subject matter and a desire to tell a story that needs to be told. I have worked in the television and film industry for twenty-five years, and *The Messenger* is the third independent documentary I've produced. Documentaries take time, patience, skill and are very challenging to finance and produce. We started working on *The Messenger* in 2010, so I often say that every well-done documentary is a miracle in itself.

I grew up in the town of New Liskeard. Although I went to the big city to work many years ago, I love going north whenever I can. I have two sisters who live in North Bay, so I was really pleased when I found out *The Messenger* was selected to play at the North Bay Film Festival in October. Director Su Rynard had to head to another screening that weekend, so I took on the very pleasant assignment of accompanying the film to North Bay. Since I was going north with the film, we scheduled the movie to play in Sudbury and New Liskeard within the same week and our mini-Northern Ontario road tour was born!

Being on the road with the film is exciting, encouraging and sometimes exhausting. There is a lot of prep work involved and we often end up working long hours, but it is really rewarding to interact with local audiences. On September 30, I started the scenic drive north from my home in Ajax, Ontario. My first destination was Sudbury, and the drive up Highway 69 with the changing fall colours was spectacular. *The Messenger* opened that evening at Sudbury's newly renovated Imagine Downtown Movie Lounge. Earlier that same week, I was interviewed by CBC Morning North radio host Markus Schwabe. You can listen to that interview at this link: <http://www.cbc.ca/.../documentary-about-the-decline-of-songbi...>

After Sudbury's opening night, I was on my way eastbound on Hwy 17 to the festival in North Bay for the screening on the morning of Sunday, October 2. Despite the rain that morning, we had an eager audience of over 160 in the impressive theatre at the Capital Centre. Moderator Adam Contant from KISS FM Radio introduced me and the film and after the screening, Paul Smylie from Nipissing University and board member of Nipissing Naturalists Club, and Dick



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Tafel, Chair of Bird Wing and member of Nipissing Naturalists Club, joined us on stage for an engaging Q & A (photo below). A number of educators came to see *The Messenger* on that rainy Sunday morning, so thanks to them, Nipissing Naturalists and everyone else for being there to ask such thoughtful questions during the Q and A discussion. The next morning, I was back on the road for the last destination of my trip – my home town of New Liskeard.

When festival coordinator Holly Cunningham notified me that *The Messenger* was the favourite documentary choice by the audience at the North Bay Film Festival, I was a bit stunned. What a lovely surprise and wonderful way to enhance *The Messenger's* Northern Ontario road trip!

If you missed seeing *The Messenger* at the North Bay Film Festival, there are other ways to view it. You can book a screening or order an educational copy. Visit www.theMessengerDoc.com and click on **See the Film**, top right, and you will see various options in the drop-down menu. Click on whichever one applies and if you click on **Home Video**, you can order DVDs or Blu-rays for your school, your home, or someone special.

The full impact of *The Messenger's* film release in movie cinemas and at film festivals is not known yet, but we do know that the pressures facing songbird populations and the potential impact of bird declines on the environment are being recognized by more and more people. Individuals who have screened the film in its full cinematic glory have told us that seeing the birds and the issues in the film in that way was 'transformative' for them. We hope our film will make a real difference in society's conservation attitudes. We want to connect audiences who care with ways they can help, and that is why we set up a **Take Action** section on our website. <http://songbirdsos.com/take-action/>.

Editor's note: Photos are courtesy of the North Bay Film Festival and can also be seen on the Songbirds SOS website at: <http://songbirdsos.com/press-room/newsletter-archive/>.



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Local birders provide valuable scientific data

By Kristen Grittani

I am currently completing my Capstone Project for the Masters of Forest Conservation (MFC) programme at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Dr. Jay Malcolm, Professor of Wildlife Conservation, Faculty of Forestry.

For my project, I was provided with the extensive personal bird observations of two experienced North Bay birders, Dick Tafel and Judge Maitland Goldwin Gould. The family of Mr. Gould generously provided handwritten bird observations from 1941 to 1967 and Mr. Tafel provided me with his personal observations from 1995 to 2015.

I have a background in bird conservation and stewardship and having the opportunity to use data collected by passionate recreational birders is very exciting. This sort of data is extremely valuable to conservation because it provides researchers with observations over a long term and a spatial scale that is incomparable. Volunteer-based programs like the North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas are quite commonly used in conservation research. This would not be possible without the work of dedicated birders who take the time to record their observations.

My first major task is to digitize the records. This will enable me to analyze the data for my own project and will also provide future student researchers with a ready-to-use format for further research.

I will then be looking for certain trends from these records that could be linked to changes in climate and/or habitat. Previous research suggests that many species of birds in North America are changing their phenology in response to climate change, expanding historical habitat ranges northward and arriving in northern breeding ranges earlier in the season. In response to land-use changes, species composition has changed, with fewer native species and more non-native or invasive species.

I hope to extract any similar trends specific to North Bay and the surrounding area. I also plan to show how the observations of the individual recreational birder can compare to trends observed from larger-scale programmes, thereby underscoring the importance of the data. I look forward to sharing my results.

Editor's Note: Capstone Project is a major paper required for Kristen to complete her Master's Degree.

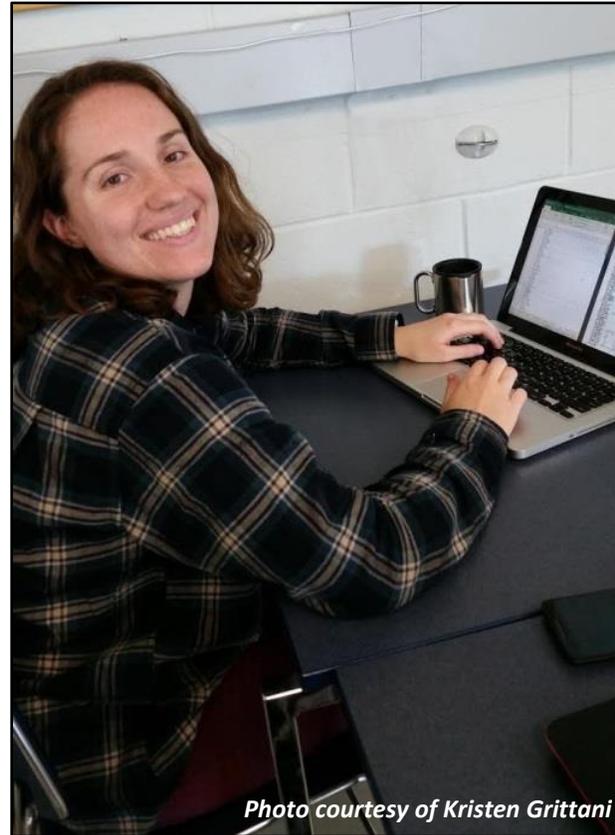


Photo courtesy of Kristen Grittani



Christmas Bird Counts

Bohemian Waxwing, photo by Renee Levesque

The **North Bay** Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on **Saturday, December 17**, and the **Burk's Falls** Christmas Bird Count on **Friday, December 16**.

If you are interested in taking part in the North Bay CBC, either as a field counter or a backyard feeder counter, contact Lori Anderson, compiler, at lori.anderson58@hotmail.com. Lori is looking for a team leader to assume Craig and Elaine Hurst's route and, depending on availability of leaders, is possibly looking to divide one large area into two.



White-Crowned Sparrow keeping warm at Christmas, photo by Lori Anderson

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If you are interested in taking part in the Burk's Falls CBC, contact Martin Parker, compiler, at mparker19@cogeco.ca. Burk's Falls CBC's northern edge is just south of Sundridge, so not too far away for those from North Bay and surrounding areas. It then extends south to Burk's Falls and west to Magnetawan.

This year marks North Bay's 39th year and Burk's Falls 40th year of participation in North America's longest-running Citizen Science project which started in 1900. It is one of the world's largest wildlife surveys and the data collected is used daily by conservation biologists and naturalists to assess population trends and distribution of birds.

Christmas Bird Counts are conducted on a single day between December 14 and January 5. Counts are carried out within a 24-km diameter circle that stays the same from year to year.



Guided walks in Laurier Woods

On **Saturday, November 5, from 10:00 a.m. to noon**, Larry Dyke, Geologist, will lead another **geology walk**, focusing on the minerals that make up the rocks of the Canadian Shield in the North Bay area. Participants will examine outcrops to show how these rocks formed 20 km below the surface of the Earth.

On **Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to noon**, Jordan MacMillan will lead a walk on **how foresters protect biodiversity**. Because foresters can determine the effects of landscape and site changes due to natural disturbances on native trees, they can ensure that forestry operations more closely emulate those disturbances. The photo below shows an Eastern Hemlock stand, with trees marked for removal and retention.

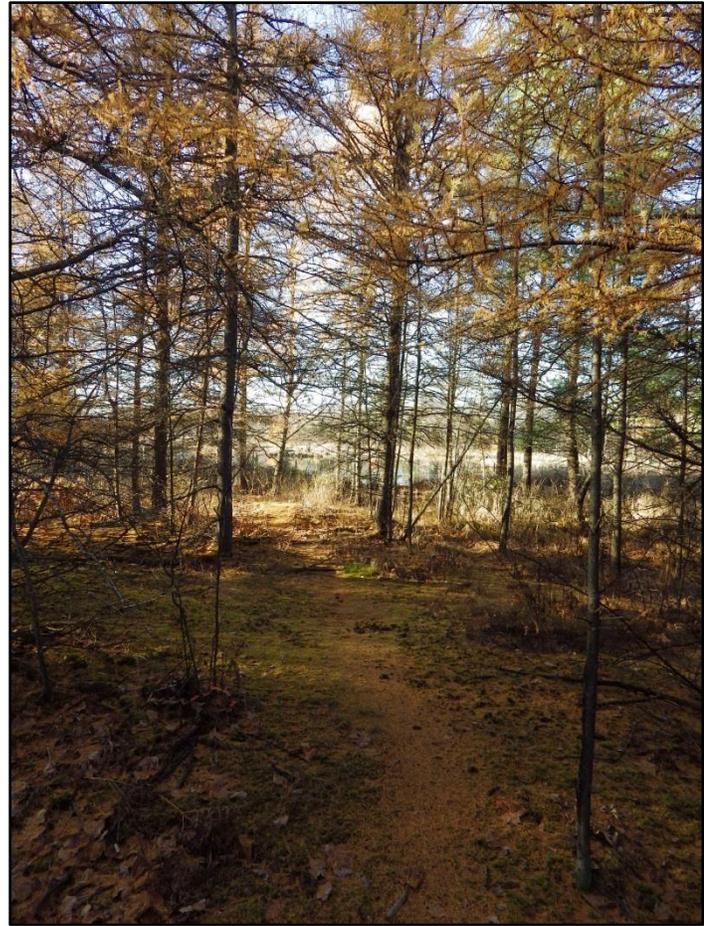


Photo by Renee Levesque



Photo by Fred Pinto

Highway ecology highlighted at next meeting

Nipissing Naturalists Club meets the **second Tuesday of every month in the auditorium at Cassellholme, starting at 7:00 p.m.**

The next meeting is **Tuesday, November 8**, when Andrew Healy, Planner, Ministry of Transportation, North Bay, will talk about **Highway Ecology**.

Just what is highway ecology? Human transportation networks have a huge impact on other living things and the functioning of ecosystems. These impacts range from the direct effect, the killing of animals, to the indirect effects caused by clearing of natural ecosystems, diverting water flow and blocking migration. To understand, mitigate and prevent some of these impacts, a new discipline of highway ecology has been developed. (The photo below, courtesy of Andrew Healy, is of the Burwash wildlife bridge across Highway 69.)

Plan to attend this session to learn how the Ministry of Transportation is trying to reduce the accidental killing of wildlife and ensuring animal movement corridors are maintained in Northern Ontario.



December's meeting is on **Tuesday, December 13**, when Rebecca Geauvreau, Biologist, FRi Ecological Services, will talk about **bats that live in our area**. She will discuss how club members monitored these bats and will share her preliminary findings.

Also at this meeting, you will get to **vote** on what you consider to be the **best photographs** submitted by members to our annual photography contest.

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Gary Sturge, Treasurer

Renee Levesque, Bird Wing Scribe.

The Bird Wing newsletter is published each month, except December, and sent to members by email and posted on Nipissing Naturalists Club website, <http://www.nipnats.com/club-activities/bird-wing/>. Also posted on the website are the monthly Bird Bash results and Year-end reports by Dick Tafel; the Christmas Bird Count Reports by Lori Anderson; and photos of birds by members.

The Woodland Observer is published electronically each month from September to June and sent to members by email and posted on Nipissing Naturalists Club website, <http://www.nipnats.com/> under the link, "Newsletter".

Editor: Renee Levesque: rlevesque1948@gmail.com

Contributors this issue: Lori Anderson, Katherine Byers, Kerri Edwards, Kristen Grittani, Andrew Healy, Joanne Jackson, John Levesque, Renee Levesque, Fred Pinto, and Steve Pitt.

Special thanks to: Derek and Diane Day, Elmer Rose and Barry Walters, directors, Mattawa Museum; Jayne Lenard, manager, Mattawa Museum; Garry Thibert, Mattawa Councillor; Morris and Don Duquette; Forests without Borders for use of logo; and Wikipedia for use of photo.

Membership Fees

Annual Nipissing Naturalists Club membership fees are: single \$20.00; family \$30.00.

There is an **additional annual \$5.00 membership fee for Bird Wing** which meets the **fourth Tuesday of every month in the auditorium of the North Bay Public Library from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** This fee is paid directly to Bird Wing.



The Nipissing Naturalist Club is affiliated with Ontario Nature: <http://www.ontarionature.org/>.