



Nature London

The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Inc.

2010/2011

ANNUAL REPORT

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A Brief History of Nature London

The origins of Nature London go back to 1864. In that year, William Saunders, a local druggist, and a number of his contemporaries organized the London Branch of the Entomological Society of Canada. The study and collection of insects was a popular hobby during Victorian times and the society flourished. In fact, interest was so strong that, for several decades, London functioned as the entomological capital of Canada.

In 1890, the Entomological Society broadened its interests to include other branches of natural history. Accordingly, sections devoted to botany, ornithology, geology, and microscopy were organized. These prospered for a time, and meetings, field trips, and collecting expeditions were held to study insects, plants, birds, and fossils.

William E. Saunders, son of William Saunders, was the founding president of the ornithological section and was to remain its driving force and most prominent member until his death in 1943. In 1902, the ornithological section changed its name to the McIlwraith Ornithological Club, to honour Thomas McIlwraith of Hamilton, the foremost ornithologist in Ontario at the time. The new name was first used by the club in 1903.

By 1904 interest had waned, and all four sections – botany, ornithology, geology, and microscopy – had ceased active operation. Two years later, the parent Entomological Society moved its headquarters to Guelph. For a number of years London had no organization that met formally in the cause of natural history, though members of the ornithological section continued to associate, go on field trips, and maintain bird records.

London's annual Christmas Bird Count – first organized in 1909 by two local school boys – eventually came under the auspices of the McIlwraith group. Today it stands as the longest continuously running count in Canada.

The only branch of the Entomological Society to survive the decade-long hiatus of meetings was the McIlwraith Ornithological Club. Reorganized in 1915, it has met continuously ever since. In 1965 its name was changed to the McIlwraith Field Naturalists to reflect an expanded interest in all aspects of natural history. A constitution was adopted in 1970 and the society was incorporated in 1972. In 2009, in order to update its public image, MFN changed its common name to Nature London while retaining as its business name The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Incorporated.

In its early years the revived club met in a variety of locations including members' homes, the Collegiate Institute, Normal School, YMCA, and London Life. In 1940 it began meeting in the "new" library at 305 Queens Avenue, where it remained for 56 years. In 1996 the meeting place moved east on Queens to First-St Andrews Church, and in 1998 to the Civic Garden Complex on Springbank Drive, which is the current venue.

For many years meetings focussed around films, slides and discussions of birds, with a gradually increasing interest in other species and also in conservation issues. Field trips were, and continue to be, held on a regular basis. A quarterly publication, *The Cardinal*, first appeared in 1951.

At various times over the years, the club sponsored Audubon film nights, a non-credit course in natural history at Fanshawe College, a junior naturalists' group, Trees for London (which promoted the planting of native trees and shrubs), and local and regional reptile and bird research and protection initiatives. Several times the club has hosted conferences of its national and provincial affiliates – the Canadian Nature Federation in 1974 and 1990, and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in 1962 and 1981.

A conservation committee was established in 1966 and an archives in 1967. Nature London's nature reserve, Cedarcroft, located near Delaware, was officially opened in 1983. A Birding Wing, for those particularly interested in birds, began meeting in 1988. In 2000, a group of MFN members set up the Thames Talbot Land Trust, which maintains close links with Nature London although it is now an independent organization.

A highlight of Nature London's year is the annual Conservation Awards banquet. The club conducts the London Christmas Bird Count each December. The popular *Guide to the Natural Areas of London and Vicinity*, edited by Shirley Lorimer and first published in 1995, is now in its fourth edition (2007). Nature London's Information Line (519-457-4593) and website (www.naturelondon.ca) keep members and others informed of nature sightings and club activities. Nature London representatives sit on several advisory committees that work to protect various natural areas and parks.

Initiatives spearheaded by individual Nature London members include Project Peregrine (which monitored London's downtown falcon family for years), the Skunk's Misery Butterfly Count (held annually in July), London

SwiftWatch (which promoted Chimney Swift conservation and monitoring for several years) and Nature in the City (an

annual six-lecture series presented with the cooperation of the London Public Library).

Winifred Wake

REPORTS OF DIRECTORS, APPOINTEES, COMMITTEES and OTHERS

President's Report

It is a pleasure to once again thank the many individuals who have contributed in a variety of ways to Nature London during 2010/2011. It takes many hard-working people to make any organization run efficiently, and I thank all of the Directors, Appointees, and other members who have contributed to the Club's success.

Nature London's Conservation Committee has proven to be a very active voice for conservation issues in and around London. The Club continued accepting donations for legal fees associated with the Significant Woodland Appeal. In January the London Development Institute applied to the Supreme Court of Canada for leave to appeal OPA 403 in another attempt to strike down London's improved woodland protection. The Supreme Court turned down the application in May. The amendment to London's Official Plan, OPA 403, will stand, thus making it easier to protect woodlands of 4 hectares or more.

The Board welcomed Carol Agocs and Andrew Ross as Directors-at-Large, Ros Moorhead as *Cardinal* Committee Representative, Will Lyons as Conservation Liaison, Herb Bax as Cedarcroft Manager, and a very familiar face, Pete Read as Vice-president. Andrew retired at the end of December due to work commitments.

Several volunteers were interested in helping with Cedarcroft, the Club property. Herb Bax and the newly formed Cedarcroft Committee have made significant improvements to the trails at Cedarcroft. They have also set up a schedule to check the property regularly. The Club revived an old tradition as members gathered at Cedarcroft in September for a trail walk and potluck supper.

Former Board positions that are currently Appointments include Conservation Chair (Sandy Levin) and Ontario Nature Representative (Anita Caveney).

Nature London's mandate to preserve and enjoy nature was supported by many members as we continue to work on behalf of the natural world in and around London, and to provide activities that bring people closer to nature. Very good attendance was noted at the September to April General Meetings and the October to March Birding Wing meetings, and excellent participation was recorded at a wide variety of field trips. Thanks to the many individuals who contributed to the success of the Christmas Bird Count and Skunk's Misery Butterfly Count. Pat Tripp organized the sixth season of Nature in the City, a joint project of Nature London and the London Public Library. This very successful series of six talks was presented at the Central Library in January and February.

Several Nature London members received recognition for their contributions over the years. Cathy McCrae, Pat Tripp, and Glen Winegarden received Thank You Awards for their years of service on the Board of Directors. At the Conservation Awards Banquet in November, the W.E. Saunders Award of Merit was presented to Anita Caveney for her outstanding contribution to the Club in various roles over many years. Scott Gillingwater received a Conservation Award for his work on the recovery of the Spiny Softshell Turtle and Queen Snake, as well as his dedication to reptile conservation.

Nature London continued to support the London Public Library by providing money for nature/science books and media for the W.E. Saunders Library (\$600.00) and the W.E. Saunders Children's Library (\$400.00).

Nature London and the Rotary Club of London West's joint Westminster Ponds Fundraising Campaign netted \$2259.33 which was presented to Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Planks were engraved by volunteers from each club and were installed near North Pond in the Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA.

Funds were raised for Nature London through various undertakings that included the sale of books, cards, and walking sticks, Baillie Birdathon, and the silent auction and can raffle at the banquet.

The Board would like to express appreciation to retiring Director, Don Lodge. Don served the Board for an impressive 24 years in a variety of roles that included Junior Naturalists Leader, President, and for many years, Treasurer.

In addition to my duties as President, and in the absence of a Past President, I compiled and edited reports from Directors and Appointees, and compiled the Annual Report for 2009/2010.

Sue Read

Vice- President's Report

Once again the major task for the Vice-president is the annual Awards Banquet, this year held on November 25, 2010.

Some 122 people were able to attend. The dinner was held at the Hellenic Centre and Helen Zirtlides and her staff had everything in hand and provided us with great food and a great venue for holding our banquet. Many people assisted in making it a great night. Door prizes and donations to the Bucket Raffle were abundant, and we raised \$716 from the raffle. An additional \$205 was raised from our silent auction, a Santa Claus made by Claire Nelson. We thank her for her generous gift. Karen Auzins prepared the banquet brochure and signage for the raffle and silent auction.

Nature London Conservation Liaison, Will Lyons, conducted the awards ceremony. Scott Gillingwater, Species at Risk Rare Reptile Research Program Manager for the Upper Thames River Conservation

Authority, received a Conservation Award for his research on reptiles and development of recovery programs. Anita Caveney received the W.E. Saunders Award of Merit.

Kevin Callan, an author and canoe enthusiast, gave a great talk about some of his favourite wilderness spots in Ontario.

Thanks goes to the many individuals who helped me put together a wonderful evening.

I continued in my role as a member of the Middlesex County Woodlands Advisory Committee, and there is a report elsewhere in this issue.

As Bird Migration Secretary for the bird records of Middlesex County, I spent a great deal of time entering sightings made by many people into our records. I also prepared seasonal reports for *The Cardinal* and *North American Birds*, a journal for the Audubon/American Birding Association.

I continue to organize and compile the London Christmas Bird Count, held this year on Dec 16, 2010, and forward the information to Bird Studies Canada and the Audubon Society.

Pete Read

Archivists' Report

Displays: Nature London's archives contributed to two displays in the London Room of the Central Public Library. "Visitors from Above: Chimney Swifts in London" ran during May and was a collaboration between London Room staff and NL's archivist. It was inspired by the London Room's collection of historic photos of London buildings and historic records of Chimney Swifts in the NL archives. "W.E. Saunders: London's Beloved Naturalist", ran during the month of August. Prepared by NL's archivist, it commemorated the 150th anniversary of the birth of W.E. Saunders.

Articles: Three articles were prepared: "Nature London's Roots Run Deep" (with photo) (W. Wake, Jan 29/11, *London Free Press*), "Remembering W.E. Saunders on the 150th Anniversary of his Birth" (with

photos) (W. Wake, Aug '11, *The Cardinal*), and, "An Enclosure for You: *W.E. Saunders – Naturalist*" (D. Wake, Aug '11, *The Cardinal*), The \$200 paid to W. Wake by the London Heritage Council for the *LFP* piece was donated to NL for future archival needs. A copy of the book *W.E. Saunders–Naturalist* was mailed with each August *Cardinal*. The soft cover reprints (1981) so distributed were among 650 copies that the archivists had retrieved from the home of M. Wake.

Complete Set of *The Cardinal*: Upon advice of the archives advisor of the Archives Association of Ontario, an effort was made to assemble a complete set of *Cardinals*. In Aug '11, 214 of the 224 issues were deposited in the NL archives. In response to requests, surplus early issues of the publication were given to two members of the club. Remaining early issues have been passed on to the editors of *The Cardinal*.

Professional Development: On April 16, 2011, W. Wake attended "Archives Basic Conservation Workshop" in St. Thomas. This three-hour session provided hands-on experience in the conservation of paper documents.

Request for Information: In November 2010, at the request of a local historian, the NL archives was searched and information provided on Griffith's Dam.

Acquisitions: A number of new materials were received during the reporting year.

New access policy: Following a problem with unauthorized access in the winter of 2011, a revised policy clarifying procedures governing access by the public to the NL archives was signed by NL President Sue Read on June 1, 2011. A copy was provided to the London Room staff and is also posted in the stacks where the NL holdings are stored.

UWO students: During March and April of 2011, three UWO students in archival studies carried out a course project using materials in the NL archives. W. Wake met with two of the students and provided guidance.

Winifred and David Wake

Birding Wing Report

Birding Wing meets on the 4th Friday evening of October, November, January, February and March. We share the September meeting with the regular Club meeting. Dave Taylor, author and wildlife photographer, presented "Predator and Prey". He shared his experiences and insights, gained over years of photographing predators of all sorts in three areas: Ontario, Yellowstone National Park, and the Serengeti National Park. In October Sue Southam shared her "Journey to 54 Degrees South". As always, she gave an excellent presentation of South Georgia Island and the many exotic birds and mammals that take refuge there. November brought, our own, Mike Nelson who showed his slides of birding in Southern Ontario. As well, he gave us tips on the art of digiscoping. Geoff Carpentier came in January to present "Ilha Formosa – Beautiful Island". Taiwan, is a small island, that offers spectacular mountain scenery and a host of endemic birds. Lady-Hawk Falconer, Nikki Youngblut brought us a Harris Hawk, Odin, in February and we were thrilled as Odin flew about the room. In March we took a "Wander Through Uganda" with our own, Pete and Sue Read, Ian Platt, Joan Taylor and Ann White as they shared their 18 day journey to the best birding spots in Uganda. They saw many spectacular birds and exciting mammals.

Many outdoor events were planned and well attended through the year. There were hikes covering Hawk Cliff, 3 of our Environmentally Sensitive Areas here in London, many walks along the Thames River, Fanshawe and Springwater Conservation Areas. Trips further afield were taken to Kettle Point, Aylmer Wildlife Management Area, Long Point, Hullet Provincial Wildlife Area and a birding weekend on the Bruce Peninsula. There was an interesting tour of the Advanced Facility for Avian Research on the University of Western Ontario campus. Reports of these outings can be found in *The Cardinal*. Thanks to Rick Martin for planning these outdoor events.

Several of our members are involved in various birding activities in Middlesex County throughout spring, summer and fall. Marsh Monitoring, Breeding Bird Surveys and Chimney Swift monitoring are being carried out. In May, the "Grippers", our official Nature London representatives, participated in the Baillie Birdathon bringing in donations for Bird Studies Canada and our own Club, Nature London. Many thanks to our father/son team of Pete and Rob

Read, and Ian and Gavin Platt and to those who did their own birdathons to support the Club.

December 18th, 2010 was Nature London's 102nd Christmas Bird Count. We had 37 teams involving more than 102 field workers and 55 feeder watchers counting on that day. There were 79 species found and 22,795 birds counted. At 5 p.m. the greatest "Potluck Supper" ever was held. Thanks, goes to Sue Read for organizing the meal and to Ann Henderson and Mary Dagleish for organizing the kitchen.

In February, 2011 some of our members participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Nature London, once again, retained their Ontario Crown for the most checklists submitted - 169, reporting 50 species and 6,552 individual birds. The species count was down and the individual bird count was the lowest in the last 5 years. London was also the GBBC Cardinal Capital of Ontario. Thanks, goes to Hugh Casbourn for co-ordinating the GBBC.

The Middlesex, Elgin and Oxford Listserv continues to grow. Individuals post interesting sightings of birds, butterflies, dragonflies, etc. Members are kept up-to-date through the listserv as well as Nature London's Information Line, which is monitored by Bob McGee, Rick Martin and Gail McNeil.

Pete Read continues to keep track of the Middlesex bird records. Many thousands of sightings were posted and reports made to *The Cardinal* and The American Birding Association. Thanks Pete for all that it takes to do this job.

M.N.R. reported a nesting pair of Peregrine Falcons, again this year, but no chicks appeared. There have been no baby falcons for several years.

"Take a Hike" continued covering 4 more areas in our "Guide to the Natural Areas of London and Vicinity" along with an area that is not in the guide.

My thanks to Dave Martin and Pete Read for keeping our Birding Wing meetings interesting and exciting. A big job and much appreciated. Also, thanks to Eric Auzins for his help setting up the equipment.

Gail McNeil

***The Cardinal* Report**

Nature London published four issues of *The Cardinal*, in November 2010, and February, April, and August 2011. The M & T Printing Group was our printer again this year. Between 440 and 470 copies were printed of each issue, slightly higher numbers per issue as have been printed in recent years. The November issue was 40 pages long, and each of the others was 48 pages long. Enclosed with the August issue, as well as the usual membership renewal and volunteer forms, was a booklet, *W.E. Saunders – Naturalist*. The booklet is a tribute to Saunders, originally published in 1949 by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON, now Ontario Nature). A softcover version was produced in 1981 when the McIlwraith Field Naturalists hosted FON's 50th anniversary conference; additional copies had been in storage and were sent out this year on the occasion of Saunders's 150th birth anniversary.

Most *Cardinals* go to club members, but there are also complimentary copies sent to organizations (mainly other naturalists' groups) and London Public Library branches, and a few copies given to individuals and organizations on a promotional basis.

Thanks go to the many Nature London members, as well as a number of non-members, who submitted articles, reports, artwork, photos, or ideas to *The Cardinal* during the year. Many people were very generous in making their work available to us, and in answering requests for articles or artwork. *The Cardinal* is completely dependent on all of these contributions, and we are deeply grateful for the large amount of time and effort given by so many.

Cardinal editorial committee members were Barbara Bain, Anita Caveney, Shirley and Jack Lorimer, Roslyn Moorhead, and Winifred and Dave Wake, as well as ourselves. Former committee member Barbara Yurkoski moved away from London at the end of the 2009 – 2010 Nature London year. At the beginning of the 2010 – 2011 year, Roslyn Moorhead not only joined the *Cardinal* committee, but the Board as the *Cardinal* representative. We thank the committee members for all of their work in writing, researching, proofreading, providing illustrations, and, especially, discussing and offering advice on all aspects of *The Cardinal*. Many thanks go as well to Ann Day, Shirley and Denzil D'Mello, and Don Perrie, for looking after the mailing of each issue of *The Cardinal* – and especially the bigger-than-usual job of mailing the August issue with its heavy enclosure.

During the reporting period, the Chimney Swift Liaison carried out the following activities:

- Prepared 3 articles related to swifts for *The Cardinal*, *The Londoner*, *Woodfield News*
 - Prepared and posted 2 educational documents on swifts on Nature London website
 - Delivered PowerPoint presentations on swifts to 3 groups (attendance 12, 12, 14)
 - Led guided walk in Woodfield pointing out chimneys used by swifts
 - Created two displays on swifts – Landon Library, Central Public Library
 - Supported/participated in Bird Studies Canada swift initiatives in London
 - Provided information/advice/input on swifts in response to requests
 - Continued undertaking to develop list of active swift chimneys (4 new sites located)
 - Helped identify suitable London sites and participated in 3 releases of hand-reared swifts (Ed McNeil, Gail McNeil and Dave Wake helped determine release sites)
 - Monitored sampling of roost chimneys during spring and fall migration
 - Submitted data collected to MNR, BSC, City of London Planning Department
 - Advocated for city policy to protect swifts and their habitat in London
 - Attended meetings and made input on redevelopment of old Psych Hospital lands
 - During reporting period, NL swift liaison put in 350 hours of volunteer time
- (BSC = Bird Studies Canada, MNR = Ministry of Natural Resources)

Winifred Wake

Cedarcroft Report

In September a successful potluck was held with about 30 people in attendance. The trails were walked and the rain held off until we had finished supper. New aluminum signs were set up to welcome visitors.

It was a busy year at Cedarcroft. The winter was hard on a few of the mid-sized white spruce and white pine trees. The extra heavy snow load broke off the tops of these coniferous trees. However, Cedarcroft was beautiful under the three to four feet of snow that we received.

In May, the Cedarcroft Working Group repaired the eastern bridge and central bridge, and new steps were placed in some of the bridge approaches. Cory Feeney, son of Michelle Feeney (a member of the Cedarcroft Working Group) discovered an Eastern Newt along with some Redback Salamanders while doing volunteer hours at Cedarcroft. A keen eye, Cory! The trails were cut during the summer and trees trimmed where necessary. It is noted that the far westerly bridge ramp has collapsed and a decision has to be made about what to do with it.

Ray Robertson donated a pin oak, juniper and trumpet vine which were planted near the cabin. Buckthorn by the cabin was removed, enlarging the clearing considerably. The main trails are all marked with white flashers and can be easily followed.

In 2012, the status of the westerly bridge will have to be addressed. The top priorities include cleaning the cabin roof and clearing the area of garlic mustard.

A thank you goes to the Cedarcroft Working Group for their willingness, congeniality and help.

Herb Bax

Chimney Swift Liaison Report

Conservation Report

The following abbreviations are used in this report:

CC = Conservation Committee

ESA = Environmentally Significant Area

CMP = Conservation Master Plan

UTRCA = Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

This year's Conservation Committee consisted of five active Nature London members:

Sandy Levin, Chair; Anita Caveney, Past President; Will Lyons, Liaison to the Board; Daphne Lowe and Len Manning.

The CC met 4 times between Sept 1st 2010 and August 31st 2011: Oct 24, Jan 6, Mar 3 and May 26.

Work Undertaken: The CC monitored numerous issues and attended public meetings at a variety of venues throughout the year. In many cases, letters stating the CC's support, opposition or recommendations were written and sent to the appropriate recipients including, but not limited to, the City of London, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, UTRCA, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, and Thames River Anglers Association.

Issues monitored or addressed included:

- (a) Proposal to extend Rondeau Park cottage leases
- (b) Komoka Provincial Park Management Plan 2010 implementation progress
- (c) Sifton Bog and Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills CMP implementation progress; annual community meetings; deer management, water quality monitoring
- (d) Meadowlily Area Secondary Plan – proposed draft land use options, servicing, community meeting
- (e) Kain's Woods ESA – concern about the proposed construction of a wooden deck overlooking the Thames River
- (f) Official Plan Amendment 403, the protection of London's significant woodlands – appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada by the London Development Institute denied; OPA 403 upheld; item removed from CC's agenda.
- (g) Paved pathways in ESAs – a moratorium is still in effect, but the threat is ever-present
- (h) Thames Valley Corridor Plan Draft Document – comments and suggestions submitted for improvement and alignment with the protection of natural features
- (i) Ontario Nature Alerts – comments submitted regarding Woodland Caribou and Wind Turbines
- (j) Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA – Sanitary sewer and proposed bridge construction Phase 2; testing of trail guidelines
- (k) Southwest London Area Plan – concern for significant wetlands and woodlands in the East Lambeth ESA where recent development pressure is increasing
- (l) The Coves – Master Plan implementation progress; Euston Park and Highland Woods issues

(m) Encroachment and off-leash dogs in ESAs – an official encroachment policy is being drafted by the City and UTRCA

(o) Ontario provincial election – attendance planned at an all-candidates meeting to ask candidates about the cutting of the Greenlands Challenge Fund and to ask if their parties were planning on reinstating it.

(p) Council's Governance Working Group – letter written to the City expressing concern for the proposed restructuring of City departments and committees.

Conservation Award: The 2010 Conservation Award recipient was Scott Gillingwater of UTRCA for his at-risk turtle recovery program.

New Collaboration: In August, the CC met with the City and UTRCA to discuss how Nature London can become more involved in decisions that affect ESAs, and how to communicate concerns effectively and efficiently.

ESA visits: The CC visited all 7 of the City's UTRCA-managed ESAs in the spring and summer in order to become familiar with them, to document species, and to note abuse, illegal uses and the progress of ongoing projects. Summaries of each visit were shared with the City and UTRCA.

Complete information on the above issues is detailed in the CC meeting minutes. Selected details were published in the Conservation section of *The Cardinal*, flights 221, 222, 223 and 224.

Will Lyons

Field Trips

2010-2011

Location	Leader/s	Duration	No. of participants	Weather	Highlights
Cedarcroft	Sue and Pete Read	3.5 hours	30	cloudy but pleasant	nature walk, walking stick bug sighting
Circle R Bug Walk	Laura Hathaway, Stan Caveney	2 hours	14	sunny with cloudy periods 19	25 species of insects
Warbler Woods ESA	C. Quinlan	2 hours	22	mostly cloudy 16	5 bird species, 9 tree species including witch hazel in bloom
Sifton Bog ESA	R. Martin	2 hours	28	sunny, 12	10 bird species , insects
Springwater CA	Gail & Ed McNeil	2 hours	11	sunny, 18°	16 plant species, 6 bird species including a pileated woodpecker
Kettle Point, Pinery PP	I. Platt, J. Taylor	8.5 hours	10	sunny but windy 7-10	65 bird species seen
Fanshawe CA	C. McCrae	1.5 hours	18	pleasant, 8	over 11 bird species identified including Belted Kingfisher and Red Tailed Hawk
Springbank Park	R. Martin	2 hours	16	-4°	
Winter Birding along the St.Clair Westminster Ponds	Cathy McCrae	8.5 hours	2	wintery	over 50 species identified
	Donna Spellar	1.5 hours	8	sunny, still, -14	learned about Vole Colonies, saw some owl droppings
Dorchester Mill Pond	Jim Rule	1.5 hours	12	overcast, light easterly winds 4°	10 bird species seen, learned about the history of the mill
South Thames/Watson Park	Winnie & Dave Wake	1.5 hours	21	raw west wind, deep snow	12 bird species, evidence of beaver
Aylmer WMA and Sewage Lagoons	C. McCrae	2 hours	18	cool, cloudy,	28 bird species seen
Centre for Avian Research	C.Guglielmo,D.Sherry,AFAR	2 hours	28	partly sunny, mild	saw outdoor aviaries and indoor wind tunnel

Aylmer, Walsingham, Long Point area	I. Platt, J. Taylor	8 hours	10	sunny breaks -3 - +10 calm	72 bird species including white fronted geese and 4 Sandhill Cranes
Hullett WMA Woodcocks on the Thames Westminster Ponds Birding Chimneys & Chimney Swifts Strolling Stoney Creek Valey Cedarcroft	C. McCrae	7.5 hours	6	light rain, 10°	38 bird species
	M. Dawdy	2 hours	14	partly cloudy	lots of American Woodcock seen
	Winnie & Dave Wake	2 hours	18	Sun, partial cloud, calm	70 species inc Green Heron
	Winnie & Dave Wake	1.5 hours	20	sunny, warm, calm	6 swifts seen plus 1 raccoon
	Gail & Ed McNeil	1.5 hours	30	warm and sunny	33 bird species, 24 species of plants and trees
	Herb Bax	3.5 hours	13	partly sunny	garlic mustard removal, tree trimming, trails cleared; a number of plant species seen
Bruce Peninsula	C. McCrae	2 days	11	Cool, some sun	over 71 bird species
Komoka PP	A. & S. Caveney	1 hour	11	overcast then rain 16	18 bird species; 27 plant and tree species
Highland Woods	Len Manning	2 hrs	34	partly cloudy 20-26	27 bird species plus a wide variety of wildflower and tree species
Whimbrel Watch at Port stanley	Mike Dawdy	1 Hour	6	clear 75	115 Whimbrels seen plus 8 species of other birds
Skunk's Misery	A. White	11 hours	33	warm	58 butterfly species

Rick Martin

Indoor Meetings Report

Those who attended this past year's meetings were treated to a rich variety of topics and to presentations by speakers with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Here is a brief synopsis.

- Attendees at the joint General and Birding Wing meeting held on Sept 24th were treated to a visual delight of spectacular pictures illustrating Dave Taylor's talk on Predator and Prey. Dave took us to places around the world and opened our minds to the Predator Prey relationship and how all living creatures fit into one of those two categories at some time in their lives. Dave was introduced by Bob McGee and thanked by Ros Moorhead. 85 people attended.
 - On October 15th, Michelle Kanter, Executive Director, Carolinian Canada Coalition provided us with an update on what has occurred since the launch of the Big Picture concept 9 years ago and talked about the many groups that make up the Coalition and how they work together to achieve the goal of stewarding Carolinian coasts and biodiversity hotspots. Michelle was introduced by Anita Caveney and thanked by Cathy Quinlan. 72 people attended this meeting.
 - Attendees at the Annual Conservation Awards Banquet will not soon forget the enthusiasm and energy of our guest speaker, Kevin Callan, who took us on a trip down various rivers, including our own Thames River, and provided us with the reasons why preserving these rivers is important to us all. Kevin was introduced by Bernie VanDenBelt and thanked by Wayne Tingle. 122 attended the banquet.
 - Spiders are not liked by some people but Stan Caveney's talk In Praise of Spiders on January 21st gave us all a better insight into these creatures and a respect for how they make their living in this world, as well giving us clues about where to look for these most exceptional creatures. Stan was introduced by Bob McGee and thanked by Pete Read. 90 attended.
 - Dr. Christopher Bunt, founder of Biotactic Fish & Wildlife Research Inc. and Patrick Donnelly, Urban Watershed Program Manager for the City of London gave us a comprehensive evaluation and understanding
- of what has and is happening to the fish stocks in and around Springbank Dam. The underwater pictures were very informative and gave us a look at what is happening underwater from the fish's point of view. They were introduced by Roslyn Moorhead and thanked by Carol Agocs. 84 attended.
 - The March 18th meeting's topic Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Atlas put us all into the spring spirit. Joe Crowley, the Herpetology Species at Risk Specialist with the Ministry of Natural Resources, gave us all the information we needed to report our sightings. Joe's enthusiasm was contagious and we all left the meeting ready to participate. 67 attended.
 - April 15th saw 6 of our members give excellent presentations for Members' Night. Who will ever forget Will holding onto a spring peeper or tree frog and seeing them sing their song - amazing and what dedication to go out there in the cold and wet and get those shots. The Bristows blew us away with their wonderful images, Linda taking us to Hawaii and Jim on a tour of seasons here in Ontario. Both were spectacular. Judy Kwasnica took us on wonderful hikes around Banff and Lake Louise with spectacular shots of the scenery and she gave us hints on how to go and enjoy without breaking the pocket book. Cathy Quinlan also took us to mountain scenery but to Mount Baker in Washington State and shared lovely pictures of a hummingbird, various wild flowers at various altitudes, gorgeous scenery and also shared a great place to set up camp. Barbara Bain shared with us a video clip showing Bailey the box turtle and how he is really taken with her shoe. Karen Auzins wound up the evening with a Bit of This and That included a Screech Owl, snapping turtle and a coyote chasing turkeys. A very interesting night for all. 64 attended.

I hope these meetings were informative and enjoyable for all people who attended. Thank you all who helped by suggesting the speakers and volunteering to either introduce and/or thank them. Also a big thank you to Eric Auzins for working with all the speakers to ensure they had the AV equipment they needed to do their presentations.

Karen Auzins

London Advisory Committee on Heritage Report

With built heritage the most prevalent item on our agendas, below is a list of issues dealt with that had some relevance to natural heritage.

1. Standing Committees of Council are being rearranged and LACH is making recommendations as to which committee we will report to since we don't want to report concerns about ESAs to a committee that oversees Parks and Recreation.
2. The issue of paved paths in ESAs has caused a huge outcry from several city groups and the ESA group. LACH expressed concerns to the Planning Committee about treating recreation park planning and ESA planning in the same way. These and many related issues are close to being settled, hopefully in 2012.
3. The Downtown Heritage Conservation District has been extended to the centerline of the river; this may add some protection for the river.
4. LACH studied and commented on the Thames Valley Corridor Study, urging greater emphasis on the natural rather than commercial value of the river. Related to this are the plans for the old Vic lands on South St, an area where the river is a major component.
5. LACH made recommendations to the Meadowlily Secondary Plan on several points. The most important was the storm water and ground water management.
6. Coves Sub watershed Plan Implementation Committee/ LACH Rep. - Issues from past years are still on the table, i.e. the development of the Ah So entrance to the Coves, trail planning for the east coves woods, and the old paint factory site near the trailer park.

Jim Cushing

Membership Report

At the end of August 2011, membership reached an all time high of 385 households. The breakdown in types of membership was:

Single	120		Contributing	36
Family	146		Sustaining	18
Student	3		Gift	15

While most members come from London and the surrounding area, some are from across Canada and the United States. For the first time, Nature London student memberships were given as birthday loot-bag gifts to 10 children.

New memberships are very important for the Club. The Nature in the City series, our internet site and brochure are all instrumental in increasing our numbers. *The Cardinal*, a very popular publication, also draws new members who then get involved in the many walks around the city and various field trips.

Ann Day

Middlesex County Woodlands Advisory Committee Report

We had two meetings between September 2010 and August 2011.

Thursday, October 28th 2010:

After a presentation from Stan Caveney to County Council about the negative effects of spraying and cutting along the verges in woodland areas, spraying and cutting efforts were reduced.

There was progress by North-South Environmental, the company undertaking a study of the high-conservation value portion of the Skunks Misery woodlots - the Vey, Moore, McMaster and Bayne Tracts. A Preliminary Report was provided to the Committee.

Issues brought forward by the Conservation Officer included policing of infractions such as motorized vehicles usage within the forest as well as a request from a Native group for lodge poles.

Thursday, March 31, 2011:

Motorized vehicles have continued to be a problem and solutions were discussed including asking for increased policing and more signage.

In a report from the Conservation Officer these items were brought to our attention - timber prices continued to be low, a Native group was to harvest poles in the planted plantations, trail map signs were close to being erected, and an Emerald Ash Borer study continues.

Of prime importance was the discussion about the logging potential of the Moore-Vey and McMaster-Bayne tracts after the report from the ecological company, North/South Environmental. It was noted that the conclusions of the Ecologist Report were not surprising in that the area contains many unique and rare species including Species at Risk under the Endangered Species Act. Some discussion was made on how to preserve these species, including some possible logging. Some areas were thought to be best left with no logging.

There continues to be much discussion as to whether to log everywhere on public forests to gain money for the public coffers, and how to properly manage the various woodlots in possession of Middlesex County, with a balance towards protecting and maintaining the various sensitive environments. The Committee discussed zoning or categorizing the forests whereby certain areas would be open to logging 'business as usual' whereas other areas would be 'hands-off'. The south half Bayne Tract was identified as an example of a 'hands-off' area.

As the existing Five Year Operational Plan will be completed by 2011, the Committee discussed methods of proceeding with the next Operational Plan and it was moved by Pete Read and seconded by Jane Bowles: "That the County proceed to undertake the next five year operational plan and incorporate an ecologist report within the plan". The motion carried.

Pete Read

Middlesex Stewardship Council Report

The Middlesex Stewardship Council, along with other county-based stewardship councils across Ontario, was created by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to assist landowners with on-the-ground environmental and agricultural stewardship projects. The Council is made up of volunteers representing different organizations including agriculture, environmental (Nature London), angling/hunting clubs and rural landowners. The focus is on rural Middlesex County.

The councils are given seed money each year from the MNR and the staff coordinator (Cale Selby) seeks matching funds for projects the council deems are important. The Council has been very successful in raising funds and coordinating many excellent on-the-ground projects in the county. Some of the projects started or funded in 2010/2011 are listed below.

- The Forests for Life Program tree nursery for Middlesex County within the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation Community is doing well. Despite project funding cuts, members of the First Nation community have stepped up to look after the nursery. Four youth from the Junior Rangers Program (summer 2011) weeded the site as well. Seeds from local native trees are collected and then planted into trays by school children, clients from Community Living London, and other volunteers. After a short time in local greenhouses, they are transferred to the Chippewa site. After a few years here, they will be large enough to use in local reforestation projects.
- The council lent financial support to the Middlesex Centre Roadside Tree Program to assist a volunteer group in the planting of 120 native trees along the roadsides in this rural municipality.
- The council's Healthy Headwaters Initiative in the Ausable Bayfield watershed (within Middlesex) has grown. Over 10 landowners were assisted with wetland creations and vegetated creek buffers near the headwaters of local drains and rivers. The wetlands are constructed in areas that were once wet prior to drainage and farming. These new wetlands fill

up with water and green up quickly and in no time are attracting waterfowl. Financial assistance from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, RBC, Habitat Stewardship Program and Canada-Ontario Agreement makes this work possible.

- The council assisted with an education station at the Carolinian Forest Festival near Springwater in the fall.
- The council assisted with a prescribed burn at a large tallgrass prairie creation at Camp Sylvan. Volunteer Jay Campbell indicated the plants bloomed in record numbers in 2011 and the scouts are getting great use of this prairie and learning a lot about native plants. The stewardship council assisted with the creation of this prairie a few years back.

The future of the Stewardship Council program is under review presently, due to provincial government policy changes and budget considerations.

Cathy Quinlan

Gould (The Elusive Badger), Andre Lachance (Yeasts in the City), Graham Thompson (The Buzz on Social Insects) and Don Gordon (Meadowlily Nature Preserve).

Building on previous years, audience support continued high. Combined, the six Tuesday evening talks drew a total attendance of 1325, average nightly attendance being 221 (range 151 to 247). The series brought approximately 15 new memberships to Nature London and resulted in the sale of 60 copies of *A Guide to the Natural Areas of London & Vicinity*.

The organizing committee consisted of Pat Tripp (chair), Jenna Allain, Leslie Rockwell and Winifred Wake. Thanks are extended to Hugh Casbourn, Len Manning, Tammy Gunn, Ann Henderson, Roslyn Moorhead and Bob McGee, who provided invaluable assistance in carrying out numerous jobs, including promotion, greeting, ushering, sales, and staffing displays. Apologies to anyone who has been missed – your contributions are still greatly appreciated. Thanks also to library staff members Patricia Sauve (contact person) and Tom Wearing and John Scott (audiovisual support).

Pat Tripp

Nature in the City Report

The sixth edition of the annual Nature in the City series (January 18 to February 22, 2011) was once again a resounding success. The partnership between Nature London and the London Public Library saw a committee from Nature London line up the program and speakers, and prepare and distribute publicity materials. The library printed the flyers and provided the venue, the Wolf Hall, and the audiovisual technician. Especially helpful in getting the word out on the committee's non-existent budget were the *Londoner*, *London Citylife* and *Interrobang* (Fanshawe College student newspaper).

The speakers and their presentations were all top-notch, confirming yet again Nature in the City's reputation for delivering very high quality product. Sincere thanks are extended to the following for so generously volunteering their time and talents to ensure a wonderful and varied program: Karen Auzins (Talking Turkey), Ian Jean (Invasive Plants), Ron

Ontario Nature (FON) Report

Nature London members continue to attend all meetings of the Carolinian West Region of the Ontario Nature Network. A few of the 16 organizations in the region hardly ever, or never, attend and this is a pity. The meetings provide an opportunity for naturalists to share ideas and report on successes and failures of programs they have undertaken, as well as seek advice from the umbrella organization. Ontario Nature representatives give an update on their conservation science programs, Nature Network, and educational programs. The regional group may draft resolutions about issues of concern, and move and approve them before they are sent to Ontario Nature, which checks the wording carefully. Ontario Nature presents the resolutions to its membership for a vote at the AGM and, if approved, the resolutions are submitted to the Provincial Government. Through these Network meetings, Nature London is able to keep abreast of

regional and provincial matters relating to nature heritage.

This year, regional meetings were hosted by the Otter Valley Naturalists at Port Burwell on October 30, 2010 (Anita and Stan Caveney attended for Nature London), and by the West Elgin Field Naturalists at Eagle on March 26, 2011 (Anita Caveney and Pat Tripp attended for Nature London). Full reports on these meetings were published in the February and August, 2011 issues of *The Cardinal*.

Anita and Stan Caveney and Pat Tripp attended Ontario Nature's 80th Anniversary AGM, presentations, workshops, and the Gala Banquet at the Ganaraska Forest Centre, and participated in field trips on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Nature London responded to Ontario Nature Alerts about

- Endangered Species Act exemptions for mining, forestry and hydroelectric industries (letter sent to the MNR)
- Proposed Wind Farm at Ostrander Point (comment posted on Environmental Bill of Rights Registry)
- Protection of Woodland Caribou (letter sent to the MNR)

No resolutions were moved by the Carolinian West Region for consideration at the 2011 AGM.

Anita Caveney

Publicity Committee Report

Local publications, radio and television outlets, and internet sites are the main venues used for the circulation of Nature London publicity. *The Londoner*, *The London Free Press* and new local publication, *The London Community News* have been particularly helpful in circulating Nature London information to the public on a daily and weekly basis. Also, Rogers Cable Television has interviewed Nature London representatives for programs such as "Over 55". E-mail is most often used to communicate Nature London information in a timely fashion to most of these media outlets. Publicity flyers are distributed,

usually on a bi-annual basis, for posting at local businesses and at the libraries of the London and Middlesex library systems. The committee also circulates the majority of the bi-annual Nature London brochures, in consultation with Hugh Casbourn, the brochure creator. The Publicity Committee also assisted in the advertisement of the 2011 "Nature in the City" series. The Publicity Committee, with the Nature London Board and NL representatives, assists in the circulation of the Nature London display to relevant events such as the "Think Global, Act Local" eco-fair at White Oaks Mall.

Leslie Rockwell

Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT)

The 2010/11 year was one of both continued growth and transition for the Thames Talbot Land Trust.

In the summer of 2010, TTLT lost a treasured friend and ardent supporter with the passing of Eric Eberhardt. In 2005, Eric and Marsha Eberhardt entered into a conservation easement agreement with TTLT to protect in perpetuity the natural and agricultural features of their Sebringville area farm. One of Eric's final wishes was to see the heronry that adjoins the farm protected. In the fall of 2010, TTLT undertook a campaign to secure a substantial portion of the Black Creek Heronry through the purchase of a five acre wetland. Through the generous support of many Perth County residents and organizations, the campaign reached a successful conclusion when the Trust took possession of the property on March 31, 2011. The heronry, which in 2010 had over twenty active nests, has been in existence for at least thirty years and is one of only two heronries in Perth County.

On a sunny September 26th, over 250 people attended the *Slow Taste of Town & Country* event held at the Ilderton Fair Grounds. The gathering featured a variety of producers and vendors showcasing flavourful local foods and beverages. As the event's featured charitable organization, TTLT welcomed the opportunity to introduce many new people to its work.

November 1st marked the day TTLT secured its ninth property, the spectacular Tanager Tract. The Tract is a 100 acre (40 ha) parcel situated within a 1000 acre (400 ha) forest complex known as West Lorne Woods. The site is one of Elgin County's best examples of Carolinian forest and home to many species at risk. With the cancellation of provincial funding for land securement, numerous organizations and individuals, including Nature London, stepped forward to fill the void during the fundraising campaign to secure this remarkable forest. A biological inventory of the site is being undertaken that will assist in designing a trail system for the property.

The 2010/11 year also included the filming of a number of videos in collaboration with students in the Communications program at Fanshawe College. The stories of a number of TTLT land donors and volunteers have been recorded and posted to YouTube as part of our tenth anniversary celebrations.

April of 2011 marked a time of transition for TTLT with the departure of Don Gordon who is pursuing new opportunities in British Columbia. As then Executive Director of Carolinian Canada, Don was a source of invaluable assistance during the Trust's formative years from 1998 to 2000. Don returned to TTLT as a consultant in 2006 and became its first Executive Director in 2008. Always quick with a quip, Don's superb organizational and fundraising skills put TTLT on a firm foundation.

That same month, TTLT welcomed Suzanne McDonald Aziz as its new Executive Director. Suzanne is a graduate of UWO and has lived in London for more than 35 years. She brings to the job a wealth of experience with many Boards including the United Way of London and Middlesex and the Ontario Heritage Trust. Suzanne is also a part time faculty member in Continuing Education at the UWO. We know TTLT will be well served by the many skills and experiences she brings to the organization.

The spring of 2011 was also a time of renewed activity at TTLT's properties as work days were conducted to complete a variety of property maintenance tasks.

Over 75 people attended TTLT's AGM on April 7, 2011. President Stan Caveney highlighted the Trust's many activities during the preceding year, and Treasurer Wayne Crowder provided an overview of TTLT's financial position. Carolyn McDonald and

Linda McDougall were elected to the Board, and the many contributions of Jane Bowles and Shirley Dortmans, departing Board members, were acknowledged. Quintin Lang succeeded Stan Caveney as the Trust's new President. Following the business meeting, attendees enjoyed a presentation on the Conservation Action Plan for Elgin County featuring Mark Carabetta and Amber Cowie of Ontario Nature and Jarmo Jalava of the Carolinian Canada Coalition.

On May 7, 2011, friends of the late Eric Eberhardt gathered at the Blue Heron Café (aka Knox Presbyterian Church in Stratford) to honour his life and work. The event featured fine music from many local musicians with proceeds going to TTLT.

Finally, TTLT's annual Mother's Day hike at Joany's Woods again proved popular with nearly thirty people in attendance. It was also gratifying to see that a number of families came to hike the property independent of the TTLT tour; the site is evidently well loved and used by many. Hikes of both the Ivey and Inch trails were conducted on a beautiful spring day.

In closing, TTLT wishes to thank Nature London for its continued support of its work. Many Nature London members are also TTLT members, and we are privileged to work with you to further the Nature London mandate "To Preserve and Enjoy Nature". Learn more about TTLT at www.ttl.ca.

Bernie VanDenBelt

Urban League of London Report

Since its establishment in 1969, the Urban League of London, a non-profit registered charity, acts as an umbrella organization for community groups in London. It is composed of representatives from 24 neighbourhood associations and 3 city-wide organizations as well as 8 individual members. The Urban League has served as a support network for its member associations for 41 years, offering information and resources so that they can effectively implement their own local initiatives. The Urban League gives the Green Umbrella Award annually to individuals who demonstrate community

citizenship in London. The 2011 Award Winner is Dorothy Stolarski. From humble beginning of only seven homes working together in the face of a potential large scale development in their front yards, Ms. Stolarski has been able to establish the Friends of Meadowlily Woods. She created more than just an opposition group, she has engaged people from across the city. Her leadership has helped change the way City Hall solicits public input into new development and brought city-wide attention to the built and natural heritage in her neighbourhood.

The Green Brick Award is given annually to recognize developments that take community concerns into account at both the planning and development stages of a project. The 2011 Green Brick Award was shared by Stoney Creek Community Center, Y.M.C.A. and Library, and the 1873 Red Antiquities Building. The Stoney Creek Community Center, Y.M.C.A. and Library is a multi-use recreation center, library and meeting facility, an example of the commitment to environmental leadership throughout the planning and construction of this facility by the three partners in this project: the City, the Library and the Y.M.C.A. The 1873 Red Antiquities Building at 129 Wellington Rd. is unique as one of the oldest surviving wooden-framed and clad commercial-residential structures remaining in South-western Ontario. Pathways Skill Development and Heritage London Foundation have joined together to purchase the building and restore it to adaptive reuse.

The Urban League meets on the last Thursday of the months September to November and January to May. In June the Annual General Meeting is held. Meetings are held in Grosvenor Lodge, 110 Western Road at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. For more information on the Urban League of London go to www.ul.london.on.ca .

Gail McNeil

Our website was hosted by Ken Dimson through his company Cambrian Software. Thanks to Ken for donating the computer time and space and for paying the domain fee. No extensive changes were made to the design of the website, although the Dimsons added a section listing submitted recipes for dishes brought to the Christmas Bird Count potluck suppers.

The website continues to be divided into the following sections: Home Page, Indoor Meetings, Outdoor Events, Birding Wing, Membership, The Cardinal, and Links. The website was also used to promote Nature in the City organized and promoted by Pat Tripp with the assistance of the London Public Library. The website was used to distribute various reports in the form of .pdf files.

Hugh Casbourn

AWARDS 2010/2011

W.E. Saunders Award of Merit

Anita Caveney

Conservation Award

Scott Gillingwater

Thank-you Award (Suncatcher)

Cathy McCrae

Pat Tripp

Glen Winegarden

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010/2011

President	Sue Read
Past President	vacant
Vice-President	Pete Read
Treasurer	Don Lodge
Recording Secretary	Bob McGee
Birding Wing Chair	Gail McNeil
Cardinal Representative	Roslyn Moorhead
Cedarcroft Manager	Herb Bax
Conservation Liaison	Will Lyons
Director at Large	Carol Agocs
Director at Large	Blaine Prentice
Director at Large (Sept. to Dec.)	Andrew Ross
Field Trips Co-ordinator	Rick Martin

APPOINTMENTS 2010/2011

Archivists	Dave Wake, Winifred Wake
Birding Wing Program Co-ordinator	Dave Martin
Brochure Producer	Hugh Casbourn
Butterfly Count Co-ordinator	Ann White
<i>The Cardinal</i> Advertising Co-ordinator	Catherine Burr
Chimney Swift Liaison	Winifred Wake
Christmas Bird Count	Pete Read
Conservation Chair	Sandy Levin
Cookie/Coffee Co-ordinator	Susan Legeza
Editors, <i>The Cardinal</i>	Betsy Baldwin, Hugh Casbourn
Heritage Co-ordinator	Jim Cushing
Indoor Meetings Co-ordinator	Karen Auzins
Membership Secretary	Ann Day
Middlesex County Woodlands Advisory Committee	Pete Read
Middlesex Stewardship Council	Cathy Quinlan
Migration Secretary	Pete Read
Nature Line Co-ordinators	Bob McGee, Gail McNeil, Rick Martin
Ontario Nature Representative	Anita Caveney
Publicity Administrator	Leslie Rockwell
Sales Co-ordinator	Ann Henderson
Thames Talbot Land Trust	Bernie VanDenBelt
Urban League of London	Gail McNeil
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Sharon Jorgensen
Web Host	Ken Dimson
Webmaster	Hugh Casbourn

OTHER PROJECT CO-ORDINATORS

'Nature in the City' series	Pat Tripp
SwiftWatch	Bird Studies Canada

*This annual report has been compiled by
Sue Read, President, 2010/2011.*



Nature London
The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, Ontario, Inc.
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London, Ontario
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www.naturelondon.ca
E-mail: info@naturelondon.ca

Nature London is a not-for-profit Ontario corporation registered federally as a charitable organization.

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF
LONDON ONTARIO INCORPORATED
O/A NATURE LONDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AUGUST 31, 2011**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Incorporated:

I have audited the statement of financial position of **McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Incorporated o/a Nature London** as at August 31, 2011 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals and for such internal control as management determines necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualification

In common with many charitable organizations, the organization derives revenue from donation the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to membership and donation revenues, excess of revenues over expenses, assets and fund balances.

Qualified Opinion

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualification paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at August 31, 2011 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

London, Ontario
December 22, 2011

Michael A. King
MICHAEL A. KING, C. A.
Licensed Public Accountant

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON ONTARIO
INCORPORATED
O/A NATURE LONDON**

Statement of Financial Position

As at August 31

	2011	2010
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 18,809	\$ 28,479
Accounts receivable	922	760
GST/HST recoverable	2,986	2,890
Prepaid expenses	907	1,883
	23,624	34,012
Capital assets, at cost (note 1)		
Real estate - Cedarcroft property	23,125	23,125
Investments (note 2)	53,972	37,902
	\$ 100,721	\$ 95,039
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,548	\$ 2,930
Deferred revenue - membership fees	580	1,270
	5,128	4,200
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted - General fund	72,468	65,214
Invested in capital assets	23,125	23,125
Externally restricted - Cedarcroft	-	2,500
	95,593	90,839
	\$ 100,721	\$ 95,039

Approved on Behalf of the Board:

Don Lodge Director

Sue Read Director

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON ONTARIO
INCORPORATED
O/A NATURE LONDON**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended August 31

	Invested in Capital Assets	Externally Restricted Total	Unrestricted 2011 General
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 23,125	\$ 2,500	\$ 65,214
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for year	-	-	4,754
Interfund Transfer (note 3) Cedarcroft reserve	-	(2,500)	2,500
	\$ 23,125	\$ -	\$ 72,468
			\$ 95,593

	Invested in Capital Assets	Externally Restricted Total	Unrestricted 2010 General
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 23,125	\$ 2,500	\$ 72,670
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for year	-	-	(7,456)
	\$ 23,125	\$ 2,500	\$ 65,214
			\$ 90,839

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON ONTARIO
INCORPORATED
O/A NATURE LONDON**

General Fund

Statement of Operations

Year ended August 31

	2011	2010
Revenues:		
OMB Hearing - OPA 403 (Significant Woodlands)	\$ 30,147	\$ 2,680
General membership fees	10,650	8,951
Charitable donations - Other	6,060	14,906
Banquet sales	5,156	4,275
Sales of card, calendars, reports, etc.	2,332	1,724
Interest on term deposits	1,527	1,518
Long Point Birdathon	453	800
Cardinal advertising	100	400
OMB Hearing - Block 1, Plan 33M-405 OMB 8	-	10,685
	56,425	45,939
Operating Expenses:		
Cardinal expenses	5,579	5,029
Banquet expenses	4,262	3,919
Audit fees	3,418	3,075
Office expense and printing	3,072	4,521
Insurance	670	629
Cost of cards, publications, etc.	291	230
W.E. Saunders award	116	-
	17,408	17,403
Other expenses:		
Project expenses (page 7)	30,255	20,759
Indoor meetings (page 7)	1,461	1,375
Donations (page 6)	1,000	12,650
Affiliation fees (page 6)	625	605
Cedarcroft property expenses (page 7)	922	503
Conservation	-	100
	34,263	35,992
Total expenses	51,671	53,395
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ 4,754	\$ (7,456)

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON ONTARIO
INCORPORATED
O/A NATURE LONDON**

General Fund

Schedule of Expenses

Year ended August 31

	2011	2010
Affiliation fees:		
Ontario Nature	\$ 225	\$ 225
Thames Talbot Land Trust	100	100
Friends of the Coves	75	75
Nature Canada	75	75
Urban League	50	50
Carolinian Canada	50	50
Ontario Tallgrass Prairie and Savanna	50	30
	\$ 625	\$ 605
Donations:		
W.E. Saunders Library	\$ 600	\$ 600
W.E. Saunders Children's Library	400	400
Thames Talbot Land Trust	-	10,000
Walpole Island Land Trust	-	1,000
Rotary Club of London west foundation	-	400
Tallgrass Ontario	-	250
	\$ 1,000	\$ 12,650

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON ONTARIO
INCORPORATED
O/A NATURE LONDON**

General Fund

Schedule of Expenses (continued)

Year ended August 31

	2011	2010
Cedarcroft Property Expenses:		
Maintenance	\$ 712	\$ 337
Insurance	108	102
Building maintenance	86	55
Property tax	16	9
	\$ 922	\$ 503
Indoor Meetings:		
Speaker	\$ 750	\$ 675
Room rental	546	524
Office expenses	165	176
	\$ 1,461	\$ 1,375
Project expenses:		
OMB Hearings - OPA 403 (Significant Woodlands)	\$ 30,255	\$ 9,614
OMB Hearings - Block 1, Plan 33M-405 OMB 8	-	11,145
	\$ 30,255	\$ 20,759

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON ONTARIO
INCORPORATED
O/A NATURE LONDON**

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended August 31

	2011	2010
Cash from operating activities:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 4,754	\$ (7,456)
Net changes in non-cash working capital:		
Restricted cash	(16,070)	(1,392)
Accounts receivable	(161)	86
GST/HST recoverable	(97)	(989)
Prepaid expenses	976	(516)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,618	(770)
Deferred revenue - membership fees	(690)	1,060
Cash flows from operating activities	(9,670)	(9,977)
Increase (decrease) in cash position during the year	(9,670)	(9,977)
Cash position, beginning of year	28,479	38,456
Cash position, end of year	\$ 18,809	\$ 28,479

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON ONTARIO
INCORPORATED
O/A NATURE LONDON**

Notes to the Financial Statements

August 31, 2011

Purpose of the Organization

The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Incorporated was created to acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history, to conserve wildlife and to protect natural habitat, to stimulate public interest in and understanding of nature and its protection and preservation, and, to develop and sponsor special interest groups in the various fields of natural history.

McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Incorporated is incorporated under the Ontario Corporations Act as a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from taxes on its income under the provisions of the Income Tax Act. This organization is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

These financial statements of McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Incorporated have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and, in the opinion of management, are within reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the accounting policies summarized below:

Fund Accounting:

McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Incorporated follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The General Fund:

The General Fund accounts for the organization's program delivery and administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources.

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Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

August 31, 2011

Contributed Services:

Volunteers contribute time to assist the corporation in carrying out its services. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Revenue recognition:

Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Investment income is recognized as revenue of the General Fund on the accrual basis as earned.

Use of Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. The most significant estimate in these financial statements is accruals for services rendered but not yet invoiced.

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Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

August 31, 2011

1. Capital Assets:

Purchased real estate is recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair market value at the date of contribution. The organization does not derive income from its capital assets, specifically land, accordingly amortization is not recorded in the amounts.

2. Investments:

As of August 31, 2011, the following guaranteed investment certificates were held for general purposes.

	2011	2010
Term Deposits:		
2.25%, maturing January 17, 2012	\$ 11,275	\$ 11,027
3.65%, maturing May 22, 2012	5,568	5,372
2.375%, maturing May 22, 2014	5,551	5,361
2.40%, maturing April 1, 2013	5,000	-
2.85%, maturing April 1, 2015	5,000	-
3.25%, maturing April 1, 2016	5,000	-
3.65%, maturing May 22, 2012	2,784	2,686
2.375%, maturing May 22, 2014	2,776	2,681
1.90%, maturing May 22, 2012	2,721	2,670
1.90%, maturing May 22, 2012	2,721	2,670
1.525%, maturing May 22, 2012	2,644	2,613
1.525%, maturing May 22, 2012	2,645	2,613
Shares in Libro Financial	287	209
	\$ 53,972	\$ 37,902

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

August 31, 2011

3. Interfund Transfers:

During the year, the board of directors approved the transfer of the Cedarcroft Reserve to the McIlwraith General Reserve.

4. Financial instruments:

The fair values of the organization's financial current assets and liabilities, including cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable are approximately equal to their carrying value due to their short-term maturity dates.

Financial instruments classified as held-to-maturity are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the organization's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. These assets are initially recorded at fair value and subsequently carried at fair value which equals cost. In these financial statements, Guaranteed Investment Certificates have been classified as held-to-maturity.

Unless otherwise noted, the organization's financial instruments do not expose the organization to significant interest, current or credit risk.

5. Capital Disclosure:

The organization's capital consists of its net assets. The organization primary objective when managing capital is to safeguard its ability to continue as a going concern so it can continue its objectives.

In order to manage the capital, the organization regularly monitors its income and expenditures and considers its cash flow projections. The organization is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

6. Changes in Accounting Policy:

Effective September 1, 2011, the organization will adopt the new recommendations of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants under Part III of the Handbook - Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

August 31, 2011

**MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON ONTARIO
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Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

August 31, 2011

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