

Time to Renew your Membership

Please help the Osprey in Georgian Bay
by sending in your renewal to-day.

When you watch the Osprey wheel and soar above
you you will know you are helping them.

Fill in the enclosed form and mail to;

Ian Ferguson, 40 Woodward Ave., Thornhill, ON L3T 1E5

Georgian Bay Osprey Society

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GBOS Board of Directors 2008 200

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Our objectives

- To protect and enhance the habitat of the Georgian Bay Osprey
- To study and survey their life cycle, habits, nesting and habitat
- To promote awareness, appreciation and communication



“Voice of the Osprey”

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2008



drawing by Kittie Fells

The Georgian Bay Osprey Society is sponsoring a contest this summer among school children to draw a picture of the Bay's most notorious raptor - the Osprey. There are more than 70 nesting pairs of Osprey along the Eastern shore of Georgian Bay each summer. The majority of them are on platforms on top of poles which the Osprey Society has put up.

Every summer monitors along the shore watch these nests and count the nesting pairs, the number of eggs laid, chicks hatched and fledglings fledged. Young people with their sharp eyes will have no trouble spotting these very large raptors as they soar above the waters looking for their prey. Osprey dive for fish and catch them in their vicious looking talons. They can catch fish that are no deeper than one metre below the surface so their dive must be very accurate to be able to grasp the fish while it is swimming.

Contest Rules

1. Contestants must be under 15 years old
2. Drawing must be black and white, in pencil or pen and ink.
3. Entries must be submitted by July 15.
4. Send entries to:
Sue Russell, 21 Dale Ave.,
508, Toronto, M4W 1K3

For more
information and for
photographs of the
osprey go to:
www.gbosprey.ca



Osprey talons for gripping prey

Monitoring Report

Osprey are maintaining their numbers on the Bay

The Georgian Bay Osprey Society has 71 sites which were being monitored last summer and five sites with no monitors. Of the 71 we know that 40 of them were nested – a slight increase over the total of 37 of the year before. Also there were 55 chicks hatched, one more than in 2006 and the 49 fledglings reported this past summer are 6 more than fledged the previous year. So it seems that the food supply is adequate and could even sustain another couple of nests.

The new nest we put up last year in Sans Souci has already attracted a female bird. A report from Jane-Anne Campbell on April 22nd says "...they don't seem to have built up much of a nest yet, but the female is certainly acting like she's on a nest site. No sign of the male ..." Let's hope she finds a mate. Jane-Anne saw another pair occupying the nest in Wood's Bay on the weekend of April 19th. Our birds aren't wasting any time getting up there. Just like the rest of us – we can't wait.

We have plans for two more poles and platforms for next fall, one in Point au Baril and another possibly at Copperhead or Sandy Island.



Note the nesting platform on top of the channel marker in the South Channel. This was put up by the Coast Guard to replace one that was falling down

Please note the following nests that need monitors

3-042 : Steer's Channel, Wah-Wah-Taysee, Indian Harbour N 45 degrees 0.2 W 80 degrees 00.8

3-116 : Go Home Lake, NE shore

4-029: Twelve Mile Bay, opposite Moose Deer Pt. Marina

4-033 : Twelve Mile Bay at Elephant Rock

8-802: Val Harbour Subdivision, Lake Simcoe, Ramara Township

If you or someone you know can please monitor these nests we would be very grateful. It will require a few minutes a week to take a look at the nest to determine if there are birds in it, if there are chicks, and how many of the chicks have ledged.

Call Cathy at: 905 727 0088 or 705 756 7710

Georgian Bay Osprey Society Annual General Meeting

Wye Marsh Executive Director to speak at AGM

We are very fortunate to have attracted Laurie Schutt as our speaker at the AGM this year. Laurie is the Executive Director of the Wye Marsh in Midland and among her many responsibilities she is in charge of the new Birds of Prey Program. She is a licensed falconer. Laurie will bring with her to our meeting a live owl and falcon - all the better to demonstrate the attributes and abilities of a raptor.

The Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre was built in 1967 as a centennial project adjacent to a provincial wildlife area which consisted of 3000 acres, at least half of which was wetland. In 1985 it was no longer run by the government as an interpretive centre and the local population formed the Friends of Wye Marsh and took over the 3000 acres of wildlife land as a non-profit entity. There is no annual funding for Wye Marsh but grant funding is acquired for projects and upgrades whenever possible. The rest of their approximately 1 million annual budget is earned through admission, fundraising events, donations, memberships, a store and a growing off-site program

The Wye Marsh is best known for its cooperation in the Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction program. They started with one captive breeding pair and now monitor approximately one third of an estimated population of 1000, as well as maintaining a large data base of swan sightings from all over the province. They operate a full treatment centre for rehab of sick or injured swans. Wye is one of the few places one can see 80 to 100

swans on a winters day.

The mandate of Wye Marsh is education and programs are offered to all ages with special interest workshops, day camps and casual interpretation. Research is conducted throughout the Marsh when funding can be acquired. Its mission and programs are reflected in its Mission Statement:

To spark a commitment to conserving wetlands, woodlands and wildlife by creating exciting learning opportunities in a natural setting.

The Birds of Prey Program was begun four years ago after the annual Wye Marsh Festival when interest from visitors in the two live raptors, a Bald Eagle and a Peregrine Falcon was phenomenal. This prompted the Wye to begin investigating the development of a Birds of Prey Program. The program today includes a breeding program which provides birds for the educational side as well as much needed revenue to sustain it. Currently there are 13 birds – owls, hawks, and falcons for educational purposes and flight demonstrations with more being added this spring.

After listening to Laurie you will want to visit the Wye Marsh before long. **Bring your children and grandkids to the AGM.** They will certainly enjoy watching the two raptors which Laurie will bring as her guests.

**AGM will be held on
Sat. July 26, Val Thompson's
Cottage, Cognashene.
More information to come**