



## *E-News – Jan.-Feb., 2012*

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*Note: If you are planning to change your e-mail address, please do not forget to let us know so that we can continue to keep you up to date! If you would like to print this newsletter it is available on our web site as a PDF*

<http://www.oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca/>

## *Upcoming Events*



### **WINTER HIKES WITH THE OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

Join members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) to hike some of our beautiful local green spaces. You do not have to be a member - all are welcome. Note winter hiking may require snow shoes (yes we shall get more snow) or icers (attachable spikes). If you are not sure of trail conditions, contact the hike leader the day before the event. For more information about preparing for the hike see:

<http://www.oakridgestrail.org/hikeprep.htm>

#### **JEFFERSON FOREST, SAT. JAN. 14, 9:30 AM AND SAT. FEB. 18, 9:30 AM**

This is an 8 K, 3 hour ramble at a moderate pace along the unopened ORTA trail route through the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Jefferson Forest Tract. Snowshoes may be a must. Contact the hike leader for availability. Meet at the Sunset Beach parking lot, northwest corner of Bethesda SdRd and Bayview Ave. For more information, contact hike leader Rhys Beak at 905-237-1826 or cell phone on day of hike only 289-221-7154.

**OAK RIDGES CORRIDOR, SUN. JAN. 15, 9:30 AM AND SUN. JAN 29, 9:30 AM**

This hike is 8 k at a slow to moderate pace taking 3+ hours, but there is a drop out point. Hike or snowshoe depending on the weather (bring snowshoes or icers). Meet at the Old Colony parking lot just west of Bayview Ave. For more information, contact hike leaders Mina or Mahnoosh at 905-770-9954 or 647-968-4533

**OAK RIDGES, LAKE WILCOX, MON. FEB. 6, 9:30 AM**

This will be a 5k hike at a slow pace for about 2 hours. Depending on ice conditions, a significant part of the trek will be across Lake Wilcox. (Alternatively it will go along community trails). Icers, boots or snowshoes will be required depending on conditions. Bring a hot drink. Well mannered dogs on leash welcome. Meet at the main Sunset Beach parking lot off Bethesda SdRd. just west of Bayview Ave. For more information, contact Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966, cell phone day of hike only 416-434-3471.



**GREAT BACK YARD BIRD COUNT, FEBRUARY 17 – 20, 2012**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. This is a great example of citizen science at its best as over 90,000 check lists were submitted in 2011 that included 594 bird species. While it is called the Great "Backyard" Bird Count, it can be done anywhere such as your local park or green space so if few birds visit your yard you can go and find them elsewhere.



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For more information including a special page for kids, visit: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

**ORGANIC LAWN CARE WORKSHOP –THURSDAY MARCH 1, 7:00 -8:30 PM, ELGIN WEST COMMUNITY CENTRE**

There are alternatives to pesticides that can be used in caring for your lawn and garden. With preventative maintenance and natural landscaping, lawns and gardens can be more resistant to pests. This workshop includes a presentation, displays and draw prizes. It is free but registration is required. For more information and/or to register, call the Outdoor Education Program Coordinator at 905-787-1441 ext 223.

**SAVE THE DATE – OAK RIDGES COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY – APRIL 28**

Plan now to join your friends and neighbours to help clean up the winter litter from our parks and green spaces. If you have not joined us before, see the 2011 report to get the flavour of the event. Visit: <http://www.oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca/CommCleanUp.htm>

If you would like to help plan and organize the day, please contact ORFE at [orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca](mailto:orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca) .

***Nature News – Wildlife in Winter & Dance for their Habitat***

Even though this winter has been quite mild to date, we have still had to bundle up when outdoors and head for the warmth of our homes when the weather turns nasty. Obviously this is not the case for wildlife so you might wonder what they do to survive the cold months. Of course some birds and butterflies like the Monarch escape to the south to miss the ice and snow entirely. Most critters, however, stay here and must

adapt. Different species have different tactics including sleeping away the cold months, growing winter coats, changing their diet, and even changing colour. This Canadian Wildlife Federation article provides a great overview of how the birds, bees and mammals cope. Read it at:

<http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/online-articles/news/wildlife/surviving-the-storm.html>



These winter survival tactics only work if the hibernating animals are not disturbed. Sometimes the critters choose the wrong place to sleep - like in a building, or their nests are impacted by construction. If you have a concern about wildlife in your home, notice construction around nest areas or see an animal that should be hibernating but is out in the winter, check with the Toronto Wildlife Centre to find out what can be done. Read their tips here:

<http://www.torontowildlifecentre.com/hibernation>

In celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 the Canadian Wildlife Federation is collecting amazing wildlife videos from youth, families and schools across Canada in its Dance for Wildlife Video Challenge. If you like to dance and are looking for a fun project this winter, check out their catchy "What's that habitat song". You can use their tune or design your own wildlife beat to submit your entry. If you have a dance coming up, why not make it a wildlife theme and get creative. It could also be used as a fund raiser for wildlife. Check out the song and contest rules at: <http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/action/awareness/dance-for-wildlife/>. The deadline to submit the videos is March 1, 2012.

If you do participate, be sure to send us the information for future E-news issues!

## Green Tip of the Month

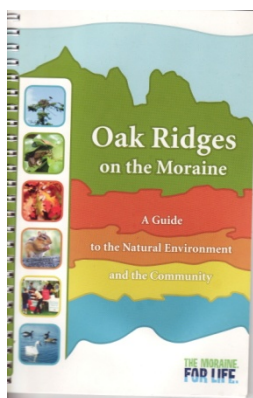
If your New Year's resolutions include healthier eating, you are probably considering eating more fish. This is a good idea except that fish stocks are declining worldwide and many species are in danger of extinction. The seriousness of this issue was brought home to Canada with the collapse of the once plentiful east coast cod stock in the early 1990's that has still not recovered today.

In order to make sure that you are not contributing to the problem but are supporting a sustainable fishery, you can check the Marine Stewardship Council website where they have a Sustainable Seafood product finder. It is searchable by brand or retailer, fish species and product type like canned, frozen etc. Here is the link:

[http://www.msc.org/where-to-buy/product-finder/product\\_search?layout=thumbs&country=CA](http://www.msc.org/where-to-buy/product-finder/product_search?layout=thumbs&country=CA)

They also have lots of good information about fish including recipes and a kid's page too at:

<http://www.fishandkids.org/>



**OAK RIDGES NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE NOW ON OUR WEB SITE!**

[WWW.OAKRIDGESFRIENDSOFTHEENVIRONMENT.CA](http://WWW.OAKRIDGESFRIENDSOFTHEENVIRONMENT.CA)

*Oak Ridges on the Moraine: a guide to the natural environment and the community* is your source for environmental and community information in Oak Ridges. The supply of hard copies is pretty well exhausted. The whole guide is available on the ORFE web site.

The Guide has been produced by the Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment with the support of the Oak Ridges Lions Club and the financial assistance of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.



The Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment also appreciates the ongoing support of the Town of Richmond Hill.

*The Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment E-News welcomes comments and suggestions. Please send to [orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca](mailto:orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca). To unsubscribe to this newsletter please send a message to the same address with "Unsubscribe E-News" in the subject line. We shall be sure to respect your wishes. If you are receiving this "second hand" and would like to subscribe please contact us and we would be happy to add you to the list.*

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