



E-News – Summer 2011

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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

GET THE MOST FROM YOUR GARDEN – SATURDAY JULY 16, 10 AM – NOON, PHYLLIS RAWLINSON PARK

The Town of Richmond Hill and Evergreen invite you to this timely and helpful workshop. Learn tips and tricks to extend your growing season at their 'Do-it-Yourself' clinic. They will take you step-by-step through a cold frame building demonstration that will protect your plants from colder temperatures and allow you to reap the rewards of fresh and nutritious produce longer! The workshop is free but space is limited. To sign up or get more information contact Mildred Ho, mho@evergreen.ca, 416-596-1495 ext 303.

Phyllis Rawlinson Park is located on Leslie Street, just north of 19th Avenue. An Evergreen staff member will be there to meet you at the first parking lot on your right in the park.

JEFFERSON FOREST HIKE – WEDNESDAY JULY 20, 6:30 PM

Join members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) for an 8 km, moderately paced hike of approximately 3 hours. Ramble along the new main trail route through the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Jefferson Forest Tract. Meet at the Trailhead

parking lot off Old Colony Rd. just west of Bayview Ave. There is a lit sidewalk for return to the vehicles. For more information, contact the hike leader Rhys Beak at 905-237-1826.



OAK RIDGES CORRIDOR PARK HIKE – MONDAY JULY 25, 9:30 AM

Join members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association for this 6 km, slow paced hike of approximately 2 hours. Trek across the Oak Ridges Corridor Park from Sunset Beach, Lake Wilcox, via Bond Lake to Bathurst Glen. Meet at Bathurst Glen Golf Club parking lot for car shuttle to the hike starting point. The lot is on the east side of Bathurst 1.5 km south of King Rd. Bring water and snacks, and bug repellent is advised. For more information, contact the hike leader Stan Butcher at 905-737-3966.

Local News

DEMONSTRATION “GREEN HOUSE” NOW OPEN IN OAK RIDGES

An unique demonstration “Green House” has opened in the community of Oak Ridges in Richmond Hill. Although there have been numerous examples of houses built with the environment in mind, many have featured quite different concepts like straw bales that might have limited appeal. This innovative house is a main stream luxury dwelling that could be found in many new upscale developments.

The builder, Heathwood Homes, is embarking on an experiment by adding \$120,000 worth of environment saving features. They have also built a similar home farther south in Richmond Hill without most of these attributes. They have enlisted some Ryerson University graduate students to monitor both homes for three years and report on the added value achieved by the “Green Home”. Both of these houses will be unoccupied for 2 years and then sold so that the 3rd year data will reflect actual family use.

The green features have been installed for energy saving, water conservation and environmental protection. In addition to Energy Star ® appliances, super insulation and ultra high efficiency heating, the house uses solar power to heat the water. All electrical settings can be individually and remotely controlled. To conserve water, there are low flow fixtures and a grey water recovery system to provide for flushing the toilets. The landscaping is done with permeable pavement, infiltration galleries and water efficient plants. To reduce the environmental impact, they have used an engineered floor system, bamboo flooring and PET carpets made from recycled pop bottles. They also used low VOC paint and fiberglass shingles.

To see all of these features and more, you can visit the house any weekend day from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm. They have informative displays and staff on hand to answer questions. It is located at 213 Coon’s Road in Richmond Hill. The builder Hugh Heron has achieved his objective as he was quoted in the Toronto Star, “I just want them to see the possibilities and raise their awareness”. It is well worth the visit for ideas to incorporate into your current home and to consider for future purchases.

To read the full article on the “Green House” that appeared in the Toronto Star visit:
<http://www.yourhome.ca/homes/green/article/978538--testing-green-technology>

FOR OAK RIDGES AND THE BIRDS



There is still time to contribute to the Oak Ridges Friends of the Environment's (ORFE) annual fund raiser - the Baillie Birdathon. The Bradleys have combed local parks and green spaces to find as many different bird species as possible in a 24 hour period, and they are still looking for sponsors. The money raised will do two things. A portion of the proceeds comes back to ORFE to help in their efforts with the Clean Up and in informing the Oak Ridges community about the wonderful area natural spaces and how to protect them through their e-newsletter and web site. The rest of the money goes to support Bird Studies Canada's great work in bird research and conservation including funds for student birders.

Jim and Sharon would really like your support! All donations of \$10.00 or more are tax creditable and will be greatly appreciated. A full report on the "birds of Oak Ridges" will be sent to donors and included in the newsletter. To sponsor the Bradleys visit their personal Birdathon page at:

<http://www.gifttool.com/athon/MyFundraisingPage?ID=1914&AID=1491&PID=202719>
or contact them at 905-773-7415, orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca

INTERESTING VISITOR TO OAK RIDGES



Speaking of birds, this unique species visited at least a couple of yards in the Oak Ridges area in the past week. It is a Chukar. It is not native to Canada but was imported as a game bird from Eurasia. There is now a wild population out west. It is a member of the grouse family. For more information see:

<http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/694/overview/Chukar.aspx>

Nature News – International Year of Forests – Enjoy Them!

To truly appreciate and value forests, you need to see for yourself. Fortunately this is not difficult. If you have never experienced the serenity and beauty of a walk in a real woodlot, you are in for a treat. If you have, you probably wish you could do it more often. The following are a few suggestions of places to go.



While there are numerous parks in Oak Ridges, the agricultural history of the area means that most land was cleared and now the emphasis is on planting trees to replace what was lost. There is one small woodlot that is nick-named “the beautiful forest”. It is at the extreme east end of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park trail. The access is on Sandbanks Dr. through a playground named Moraine Park. There is a short loop that goes across the north end of the woodlot out on to Belcanto Cres. You go south on Belcanto a short distance then re-enter the forest to complete the loop. It is very small but powerful. From there you can access the Park trail. See the map and look in the top right hand corner at:

http://www.richmondhill.ca/documents/orc_trail_brochure.pdf.

When the formal trails go into the new Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) property in Jefferson Forest, it will be easy to access a great forest locally.

TRCA has other wonderful properties not far away that have great trails through forests where you can take a hike and have a picnic. Bruce’s Mill is on Stouffville Rd. just east of Warden Ave. See <http://www.trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations/bruces-mill-conservation-area.dot> . The Kortright Centre for Conservation is just over on Pine Valley Dr. south of Major Mackenzie. In addition to trails, you can explore lots of ideas for sustainable living. Visit: <http://www.kortright.org/home/> . There are lots more areas to enjoy and they can be readily found on the TRCA website: <http://www.trca.on.ca/>

York Region has a number of forest tracts for you to discover. A map of the sites is available at:

http://www.york.ca/NR/rdonlyres/kwi5hokxsd4hdmpwbfqz4veux5k5gmtqrczjyjpg5b7wr65bi4abbnsuiqtzjaalc4bvedyqxrvkud2iezeniykuc/forest_map_2010.pdf . There is a guide for the forests that shows the location, facilities and trails. It doesn’t seem to be available on line, but you can contact them at greening@york.ca . They also have a monthly program of guided hikes. To see this program visit: http://www.york.ca/Departments/Transportation+and+Works/Forestry/Forestry_Registrati+on+Walk.htm

Ontario Provincial Parks have a wealth of forests with trails. Most of these are up north but one, Mono Cliffs, is a reasonable hour and a bit drive from here through some beautiful country. It is classified as a “Non-Operating Park” but has a good parking lot, washrooms and picnic area. There is also a trail map that shows various routes through the property. It is on the Niagara Escarpment with some fascinating topography and views. The Bruce Trail passes through it. For information visit: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/mono.html> . To view all of the many parks and locations visit: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/index.html>. Make sure you look at both operating and non-operating parks to get the full picture.

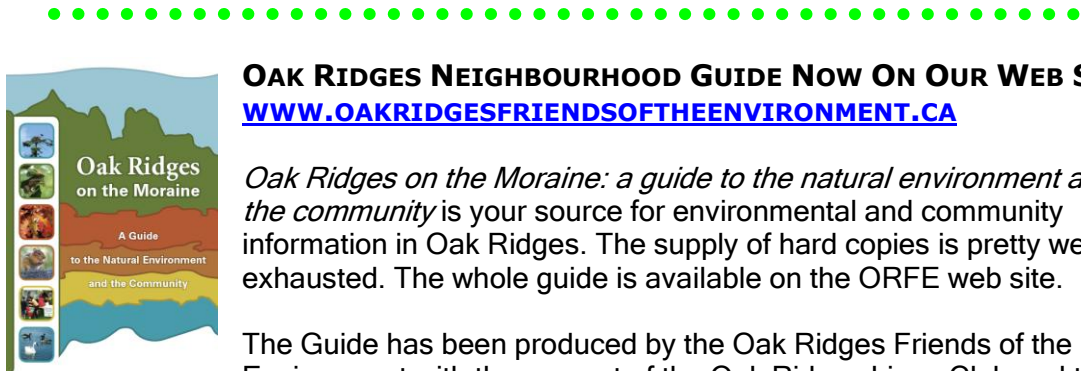
This is the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of Canada’s National Parks. It is too bad that none are close to our area but all are beautiful. The Federal Conservatives did make an election promise to make Rouge Park a national site and it is well worth a visit. To find out more about this site visit: <http://www.rougepark.com/> . For more information on Canada’s parks visit: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/index.aspx>

Hopefully this list will spur you on to take a hike. If you are wondering what the young folk will do, don't forget to check out the Biokits at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits/default.asp?lang=En&n=C0269262-1>. Also to enjoy your walk it is best to be prepared, especially with proper footwear and bug juice. Further it is a good idea to check out hiker safety tips especially for the small ones. It may look like a little forest to you, but it could be big and scary for a child who got separated from their folks. Here is a website that has good information for kids: <http://hikesafe.com/>

If you have a favourite forest or have any great forest memories, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail us at orfe@oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca

Green Tip of the Month

Summer is a great time of year except for one annoyance - bugs! Many of them are helpful, yet some are a real pain especially around our homes and living spaces. The question is what to do about them without reaching for some chemical that might be more harmful than the bug. **Greenliving™** has produced a great article on Controlling Insects Without Chemicals. Visit: http://www.greenlivingonline.com/article/deets-eco-friendly-bug-repellants?utm_source=MadMimi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Chemical-free+bug+repellent+and+easy+ways+to+green+your+yard&utm_campaign=Chemical-free+bug+repellent+and+easy+ways+to+green+your+yard&utm_term=More++_C2_BB



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

Visit our web site at: <http://www.oakridgesfriendsoftheenvironment.ca/>