



*The Couchiching  
Conservancy*





## WELCOME!

The Passport to Nature has been created with you in mind — those who want to explore the wild outdoors, experience new things & meet nice people. To make the most of your Passport, here are *five* basic steps to plan your next adventure & get involved in the work of The Couchiching Conservancy.

- 1 PLAN** your next adventure.  
Read this booklet for event info. 
- 2 REGISTER** asap when available.  
(Events fill up quickly) 
- 3 ATTEND!** Don't forget a water bottle and good shoes for in person events. 
- 4 SHARE** your experience with friends & use #PassportToNature online. 
- 5 SIGN UP** to get involved with The Couchiching Conservancy.

## OUR THANKS!

Our sincere thanks to the businesses that have supported the Passport to Nature and our conservation efforts. These environmentally-minded businesses are making our community better! Consider supporting them as well — **SHOP LOCAL. SUPPORT LOCAL.**

.....

Thanks to the wonderful people who have dedicated countless hours to making the Passport to Nature a success: Kathy Hunt, Jamie Ross, Jane Ball, Janet Machan, Karen Fox, Tanya Clark, Joelle Burnie, and Tom Wilson. A special thank you to Stefanie Moy-Shuster as well for the original booklet design and layout.

As always, thank you to our Board of Directors for all of their support and to the volunteers for helping to make the Passport a success!

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## THE PASSPORT TO NATURE IS ORGANIZED BY

*The Couchiching  
Conservancy* 

The Couchiching Conservancy is a non-profit, non-government land trust dedicated to protecting nature today, for current and future generations.

Our work is powered by community members, supporters, businesses, volunteers and foundations. Since 1993, we have helped protect thousands of acres of wilderness – an area double the size of the City of Orillia!

The land on which we operate is the territory of Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Wendat and Metis Peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

Want to learn more and get involved with protecting nature in our area?



Reach out to us or find us online:





[www.couchichingconserv.ca](http://www.couchichingconserv.ca)



Mailing: Box 704, Orillia,  
ON L3V 6K7

Office: 1485 Division Rd West,  
Orillia, ON L3V 0X6  
705.326.1620

*Finished with your Passport to Nature booklet?*  
Considering passing it onto a friend!

QUICK STATS	<b>PROTECTING NATURE</b> since  <b>1993</b>	<b>NATURE RESERVES &amp; EASEMENTS</b>  <b>50+</b> Protected for future generations
	<b>PROTECTING HABITAT FOR</b> <b>48</b> unique species at risk 	<b>TRAILS</b> <b>13.4km</b> of trails between  <b>11</b> Nature Reserves

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Here is a quick look at the events planned for the coming year and a half. Also included are events organized by other groups to benefit the work of the Conservancy (indicated here with an asterisk).

Fri, Apr 23	Invasive Plants + What is In Your Backyard?	Wed, Aug 18	Batty for Bats
Wed, Apr 28	Reptile Identification	Tues, Aug 31	Planting a Native Garden
Wed, May 5	Birding by Ear	Sat, Sept 11	BluMoose Alvar Ride*
May 28 –29	Carden Challenge	Sat, Sept 25	Neighbourhood Clean Up
Thurs, June 3	Book Club with Julia Zarankin*	Sun, Oct 3	Fungi Photography
Fri, June 18	Book Club with Jessica J. Lee*	Sun, Oct 17	Hike at Taylor Nature Reserve + ID + bio blitz
June 19-20	Outdoor Art Show*	Wed, Nov 10	Presentation with Carden Field Naturalists
Sat, July 3	Cycling Sundial Creek	Sun, Feb 13	Tracks in the Snow
July 17-18	Nature Journal Hike	Sat, Mar 5	Annual General Meeting

## TRAIL USER ETIQUETTE

-  **TREAD LIGHTLY**  
Visit the Reserves for nature appreciation, hiking, photography, snowshoeing and bird watching.
-  **KNOW YOUR ROUTE & STAY ON IT**  
Download a map, and stay on the marked trails. Be prepared for the conditions. Let someone know about your plans.
-  **RESPECT NATURE & OTHERS**  
Leave no trace, don't take from nature, and keep your dog on a leash so everyone (and the wildlife) can enjoy nature to the fullest. Please pack out any garbage.
-  **BE AWARE**  
Pay attention to your surroundings & changes in the weather. Watch for plants & animals, make space for others.



## PLAN YOUR OWN OUTING TO A NATURE RESERVE

Did you know that many of the Nature Reserves The Couchiching Conservancy helps to protect have marked walking trails and footpaths? On-going care of these Reserves, including seasonal trail maintenance, are made possible by our members, volunteers and supporters. Marked trails and trail maps are available for a number of these Reserves. Nature Reserves with trails and footpaths include:

### SIMCOE COUNTY

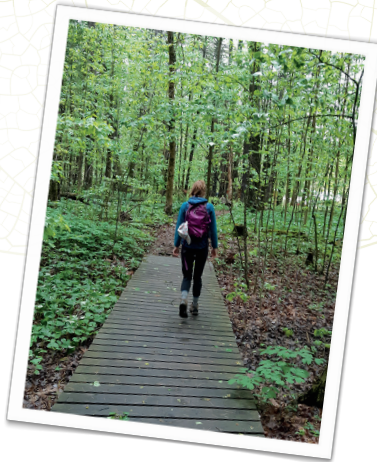
- Adams Nature Reserve
- Alexander Hope Smith Nature Reserve
- Carthew Bay Nature Reserve
- Church Woods Nature Reserve
- Grant's Woods Nature Reserve
- Jennett Woods Nature Reserve
- Scout Valley Conservation Easement
- Thomas C. Agnew Nature Reserve

### KAWARTHA LAKES

- Cameron Ranch Nature Reserve, Carden Alvar Provincial Park
- Kris Starr Sanctuary
- North Bear Nature Reserve
- Ron Reid Nature Reserve
- Windmill Ranch - Sedge Wren

Find information on these Nature Reserves and download a trail map on our website: [www.couchichingconserv.ca](http://www.couchichingconserv.ca). Click on Nature Reserve & Easement Map from the home page, or hover of What We Do and you can access it from the drop down menu. There are clickable links on this page that will tell you more about the Reserve and give you access to maps.

When you visit a Nature Reserve, please always be prepared for the weather and conditions and let someone know where you are. Any outdoor activity has inherent risks – use of our trails systems is done so at your own risk. Please ensure that if you bring your dog, that it is kept on a leash at all times.



## Passport to INVASIVE SPECIES



FRI  
APR 23<sup>RD</sup>  
7 PM

## INVASIVE PLANTS + WHAT IS IN YOUR BACKYARD?

**LEADER: DAVID HAWKE**

*This is a Zoom presentation with a maximum of 100 log-ins*

Dave Hawke is a qualified invasive species control officer. Dave will teach you how to identify the common invasive plants in this area, give a little history about their arrival, and explain the best time and method for their removal or control. If you have some acreage, you don't want to miss this webinar.



*The Frenette-Ling Family  
would like to honour the  
Couchiching Conservancy  
and all the creatures they  
protect by supporting the  
Passport to Nature*



## Passport to REPTILE IDENTIFICATION



photo: Midland Painted. T. Rowland.

WED  
APR 28<sup>TH</sup>  
7 PM

## REPTILE IDENTIFICATION

**LEADER: JEFF HATHAWAY OF SCALES NATURE PARK**  
*This is a Zoom presentation with a maximum of 100 log-ins*

Join Jeff Hathaway, the founder of Scales Nature Park, which has one of the most complete live collections of reptiles and amphibians in Canada. Jeff will share fascinating facts about how to identify turtles and snakes, what to watch out for while exploring outdoors this spring, and what we can do to help protect them.

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## Passport to BIRDS



photo: Rose-breasted Grosbeak. T. Rowland.

WED  
MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>  
7 PM

## BIRDING BY EAR

**LEADERS: IAN COOK AND  
TANYA CLARK**

*This is a Zoom presentation with  
a maximum of 100 log-ins*

Witchey-witchey-witchey...who is that bird? A big part of being able to identify birds is your ability to ID by song! Join birders Ian Cook and Tanya Clark to learn how to get started, strategies to help you memorize songs and species to focus on. This will be hosted on Zoom and recorded. There will be time for questions as well.

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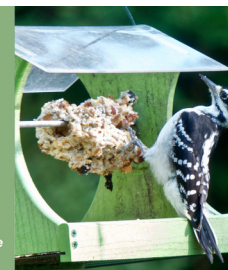
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THE 17TH ANNUAL

# CARDEN CHALLENGE

MAY 28 AT 6PM - 29 AT 6PM

AT HOME & ON THE ALVAR EDITION

ANY EXPERIENCE & KNOWLEDGE LEVEL

COUNT INDIVIDUALLY OR WITH FRIENDS

COUNT AS MANY SPECIES AS  
POSSIBLE IN 24 HOURS

RAISE MONEY TO PROTECT THE  
CARDEN ALVAR, A GLOBALLY RARE  
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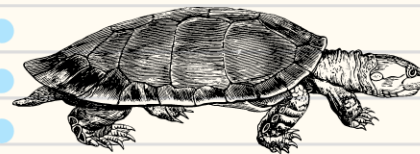
LEARN MORE AT  
[WWW.COUCHICHHINGCONSERV.CA](http://WWW.COUCHICHHINGCONSERV.CA)



## Field Notes:

Large bird hooting at me  
Angry looking raptor on a wire.  
What is it?  
A little black and white bird  
keeps asking for a  
cheeseburger....

Thankfully there is still time to  
study the species in our area!





Passport to  
**A HIDDEN GEM**  
**...IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**



**SAT**  
**JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**10AM OR**  
**1PM**

## **CYCLING SUNDIAL CREEK**

**LEADERS: DORTHEA HANGAARD, KATHY HUNT, JANE BONSTEEL & BOB SULLIVAN**

*This is planned as an in person event and will adjust if need be. Registration is required.*

Grab your bike and join a guided cycling tour of an important watershed within the City of Orillia. You will learn about a hidden gem in our community – Sundial Creek. Discover why this rare cold water stream, a spawning ground for brook trout and a refuge from the urban landscape for many species, needs to be protected and restored.

This will be a leisurely 15-20 km bike ride, beginning at Couchiching Beach Park. We will explore the flow of Sundial Creek, making stops at Grant Wetland Nature Reserve and Wilson's Point Wetland. The route will take us through neighbourhood streets and along the Lightfoot and Millennial trails.

*There's a hidden gem  
... in our neighbourhood*

Find out where on our website: [www.couchichingconserv.ca](http://www.couchichingconserv.ca)

## **Russell, Christie, LLP**

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## Passport to NATURE JOURNALING



### NATURE JOURNAL HIKE

Children and their families will participate in an online workshop where they will learn about creating a homemade Nature Journal, and then view a walk in the woods with a wildlife educator to discover a variety of ways of recording what they see and hear. During the weekend of July 17 and 18, the Grant's Woods' trail will be flagged with points of interest, but families are welcome to explore any of the Couchiching Conservancy trails. Kids can submit their favourite journal page in order to win a prize in our draw by July 30.

JULY 17  
AND 18



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to be  
an Event  
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### HOW TO GET THERE



**MEETING SPOT: GRANT'S WOODS**  
1485 DIVISION RD WEST, ORILLIA, ON L3V 6H2

In the shade of this 52 acre forest outside of Orillia, Christmas Fern, Maidenhair Fern and many spring wildflowers occur.

Directions to our event location are emailed once you register for this event.



COME IN AND PLAY!



143 MISSISSAGA ST E. ORILLIA, ON L3V 1V3 JACKANDMADDYORILLIA.CA 705-323-9090



## Passport to TREES



photo: Landscape, C. Curran

DOWNLOAD  
THIS  
ACTIVITY AT  
ANY TIME!

## TREE IDENTIFICATION FOR KIDS

*This is a downloadable activity*

Our region is full of different tree species and learning how to identify them makes for a fun skill to have when out exploring! Through this activity, kids will learn about local tree species, how to identify them, and examine what trees they can find close to their home.

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in this beautiful area  
we live and work in.*



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## Passport to NATURE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



DOWNLOAD  
THIS  
ACTIVITY AT  
ANY TIME!

## NATURE DETECTIVE

*This is a downloadable activity*

Become a nature detective! Grab your binoculars, magnifying glass, or anything you need to have an adventure. This downloadable activity gets kids out searching high and low for specific natural features along the trail.

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Passport to  
**BATS**



**WED  
AUG 18<sup>TH</sup>  
7PM**

## BATTY FOR BATS

**LEADERS: TOBY ROWLAND, JOAN VINCENT, ROLAND REHHORN AND JACOB OBERFRANK**

*This is a Zoom presentation with a maximum of 100 log-ins*

How much do you know about bats? This often misunderstood family of mammals are an important part of our interconnected eco-systems. Join this webinar to learn from Toby Rowland, Citizen Science Field Coordinator, and Citizen Science volunteers Joan Vincent and Roland Rehhorn. They will share information on the different species in our region, the threats they face, and the technology we use to monitor them. There will be time for questions as well.



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## QUICK STATS

### DID YOU KNOW

The Couchiching  
Conservancy has over

**10**

**Citizen Science  
programs, including  
Bat Monitoring**

In 2020,



**172 Volunteers**

volunteered

**1,236 hours**

towards monitoring for  
Species at Risk, doing  
water quality testing  
and much more



## Passport to GARDENING



photos: Echinacea purpurea 'White Swan' and Echinacea purpurea, C. Baker.

TUES  
AUG 31<sup>ST</sup>  
7PM

## PLANTING A NATIVE GARDEN

**LEADER: KRISTIN EGO MACPHAIL OF EGO'S GARDEN CENTRE**

*This is a Zoom presentation with a maximum of 100 log-ins*

This 1-hour online workshop would benefit people who are looking at doing a fall planting of native plants in their yards and gardens. Our discussion with our expert from Ego's Garden Centre, Kristin Ego MacPhail, will include how to plant, in what soils, the ongoing care, and the long-term benefits of including native plants on your property.

Because this workshop will take place in the late summer, we'll start with spring and summer videos of the plants in the Ego's gardens so participants can see size and colour. We'll discuss the benefits of different types of native shrubs and flowers and the ways to keep them blooming by planting them in the right soil and location. Finally, we'll have an opportunity to ask some questions of our expert.



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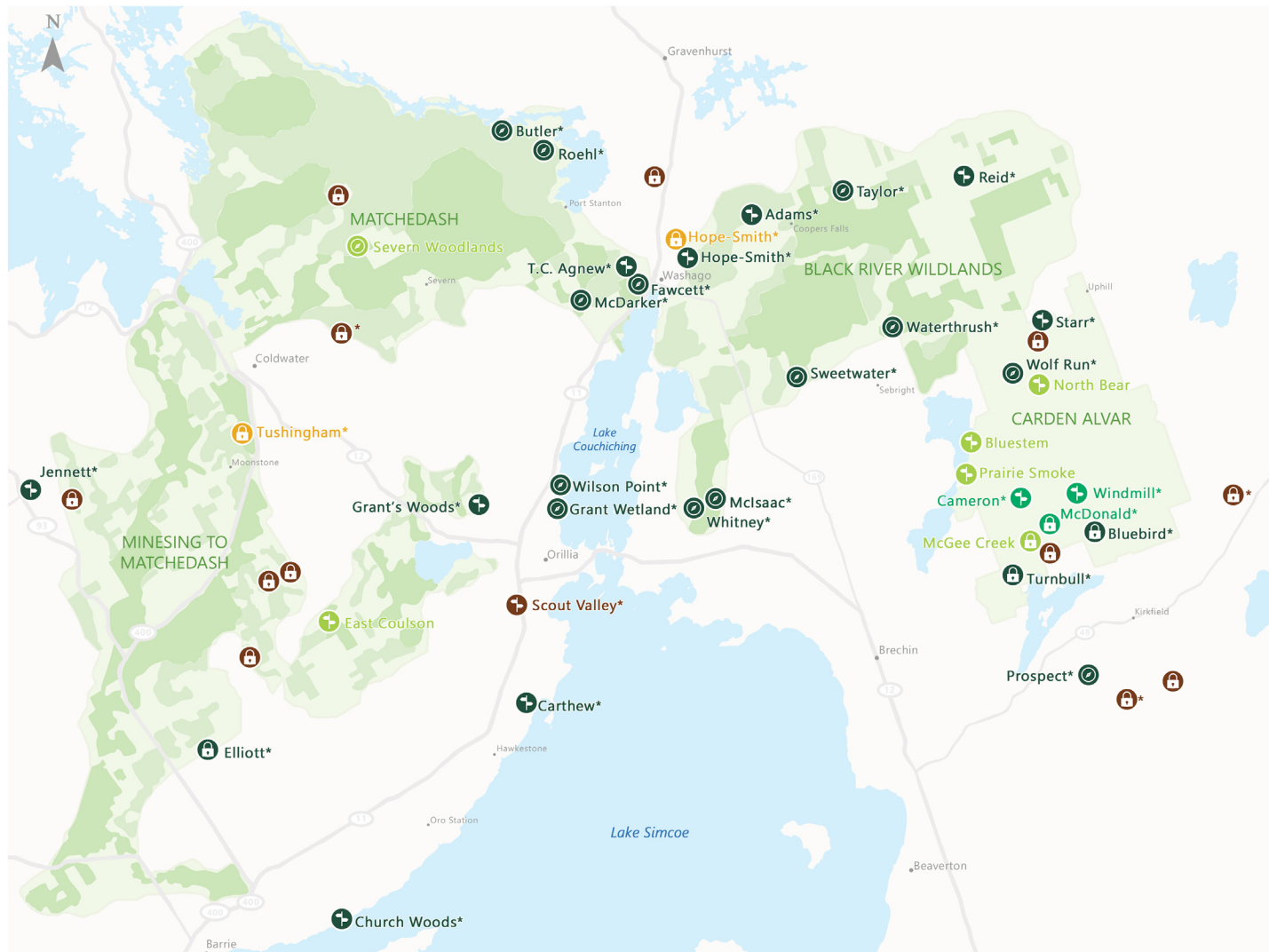


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Created by The Couchiching Conservancy, January 2021 with the financial support of The McLean Foundation and Environment and Climate Change Canada. Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983. Data Sources: Road and lake data modified from Land Information Ontario (2020); The Nature Conservancy of Canada. Priority acquisition areas and conservation corridors conceptualized by Ron Reid and the Couchiching Conservancy and digitized by Kawartha Conservation (2020). This is not a plan of survey. Locations of some nature reserve and easement symbols have been adjusted to prevent overlapping.

## Nature Reserves and Easements

### Protected by:

#### The Couchiching Conservancy

- Open to Public with Trails
- Open to Public without Trails
- Not Open to Public

\* Indicates properties with Couchiching Conservancy citizen science teams in 2020

#### Conservation Easement

Private land owners protecting land with help from the Couchiching Conservancy

- Open to Public with Trails
- Not Open to Public

#### Ontario Parks

Properties shown form the Carden Alvar Provincial Park

- Open to Public with Trails
- Not Open to Public

#### Nature Conservancy of Canada

- Open to Public with Trails
- Open to Public without Trails
- Not Open to Public

#### Ontario Heritage Trust

- Not Open to Public

### Acquisition Strategy:

- Priority Area 1
- Priority Area 2
- Conservation Corridor



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## Passport to WILSON POINT WETLAND



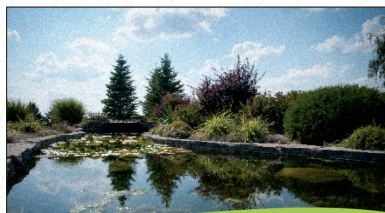
### NEIGHBOURHOOD CLEAN UP

*This is planned as an in person event, and capacity will depend on health guidelines*

This fall, let's give back to nature by cleaning up the places we all love to explore. You can join us for the group clean-up at Wilson's Point Wetland\* or choose to pick up garbage throughout your neighbourhood with individuals in your bubble. Either way, let's keep our natural spaces clean this season.

*\*Depending on the social gathering restrictions due to the pandemic, there may be a limit to the number of people who can attend.*

Garbage bags will be provided at the group clean up, but please bring your own gloves.



*We can help you spend more time outdoors!*

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### HOW TO GET THERE



**MEETING SPOT: DRINKWATER DRIVE, JUST OFF OF WILSON POINT ROAD IN ORILLIA**

Directions to our event location are emailed once you register for this event.

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Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract



## Passport to EAST COULSON SWAMP



photos: K. Fox

## FUNGI PHOTOGRAPHY

**LEADERS: JAMIE ROSS AND KAREN FOX**

**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF  
PARTICIPANTS: 10**

*This is planned as an in person event, and we will adjust if need be.*

It is not only the Woody trees that have amazing fall colours... Fungi display a brilliant array of fall colours as well. Join us in East Coulson Swamp with your camera to capture the Fungi fruiting bodies in all of their glory. Come prepared for getting down at ground level while staying warm and dry.

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## HOW TO GET THERE



### MEETING SPOT: EAST COULSON SWAMP

**510 BASS LAKE SIDE RD E, HAWKESTONE, ON**

Margaret Atwood donated this special 87 acre property set within the forested hills of the Oro Moraine to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Directions to our event location are emailed once you register for this event.



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Passport to  
**DR. RON TAYLOR  
NATURE RESERVE**



*photo: American Bullfrog, T. Rowland.*

**SUN  
OCT 17<sup>TH</sup>  
10AM**

## HIKE OF THE TAYLOR NATURE RESERVE

**LEADER: DAVID HAWKE**

**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 10**

*This is planned as an in person event, and we will adjust if need be.*

Enjoy a guided tour of one of our recent Nature Reserves. We will walk the trail that explores the Shield highlands and inland lake of the property and learn about its special features. We have to park on a single laned drive, so go all the way in until you come to the back of the previous vehicle. Dress for the weather.



351 West Street S  
Orillia, ON  
**705.327.1300**

### LOCATION



Location and directions to be shared with those who register.

In July 2020, we celebrated another conservation success with the protection of the Taylor Nature Reserve, a 175 acre parcel, donated by Dr. Ron Taylor and Charlene Taylor.



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## Passport to CLIMATE REALITY



WED  
NOV 10<sup>TH</sup>  
7PM

## THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT

**PRESENTATION BY: KATE GRIERSON**

*This is planned as an in person event, and we will adjust if need be.*

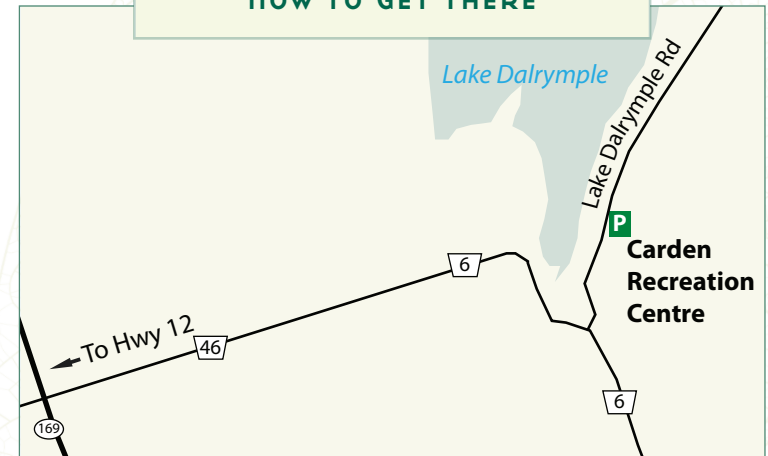
Community by community, we are demanding action on climate change. Join us for a presentation on the impacts, solutions, and what you can do to help drive action. Learn more at [www.ClimateRealityProject.org](http://www.ClimateRealityProject.org)

Kate is an environmental activity and leader, and has been trained in Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Corps. She is an avid photographer, meditation practitioner, sailor and grandmother to six. She is also on the Executive Committee of "For Our Grandchildren", which is doing climate and social justice related work in the Peterborough area.

This event is in partnership with the Carden Field Naturalists Club. Tea, coffee and snacks available by donation.



## HOW TO GET THERE



*This is a tentative in person event. If need be, we will move to a Zoom presentation.*

**MEETING SPOT: CARDEN RECREATION CENTRE  
258 LAKE DALRYMPLE RD, SEBRIGHT, ON L0K 1W0**

**Directions:** From Orillia, take Atherley Road which becomes TransCanada Hwy 12 South. At Simcoe County Road 46, turn left. Turn left onto Lake Dalrymple Road. The Recreation Centre is #258.



This event has been sponsored by:

## MEMBERS OF THE PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

This Council created the Heartwood Fund - a 'forever' fund, a protected endowment whose income is dedicated to supporting the core of the organization.



This Council consists of Past Presidents of The Couchiching Conservancy's Board of Directors.

*photo: Ruby-throated Hummingbird. G. Jaski.*



## Passport to EAST COULSON SWAMP



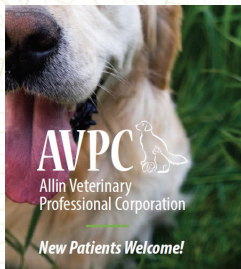
SUN  
FEB 13<sup>TH</sup>  
2022  
10AM

## TRACKS IN THE SNOW

**LEADER: BRITTANY HOPE OF THE NATURE  
CONSERVANCY OF CANADA**  
**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 15**

*This is planned as an in person event, and we will adjust if need be.*

Come on a snow shoe hike with Brittany Hope of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. We will search for signs of winter activity of the animals that reside on the property. Dress for the weather.

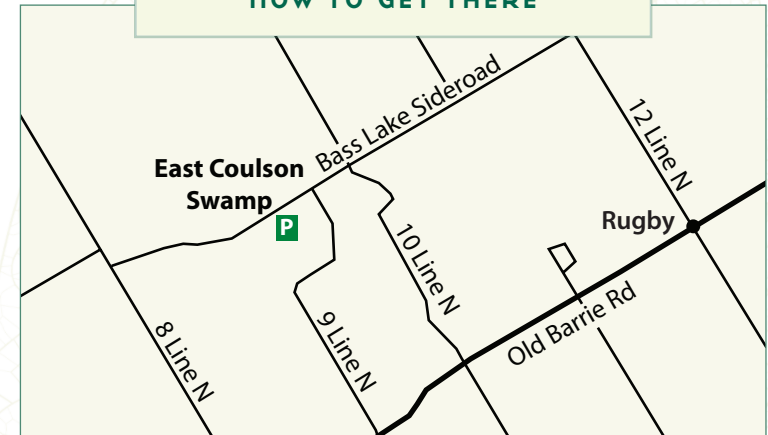


**Ark Animal Hospital**  
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**Pine Grove Veterinary Hospital**  
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(705) 325-2279  
[pinegroveterinaryhospital.ca](http://pinegroveterinaryhospital.ca)

[AllinVeterinaryProfessionalCorporation.ca](http://AllinVeterinaryProfessionalCorporation.ca)

## HOW TO GET THERE



**MEETING SPOT: EAST COULSON SWAMP**  
**510 BASS LAKE SIDE RD E, HAWKESTONE, ON**

This Nature Conservancy of Canada Nature Reserve is surrounded by upland forest as well as headwaters for the Coldwater River.

Directions to our event location are emailed once you register for this event.



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705 325 4461 [www.mcleananddickey.com](http://www.mcleananddickey.com)



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**THE LOCAL LAND TRUST  
MOVEMENT**



**SAT  
MAR 5<sup>TH</sup>  
2022**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Please register for the meeting through our website.*

Join us for our 2022 Annual General Meeting!

The annual general meeting is the buzz of The Conservancy calendar. With between 250–300 local environmentalists from volunteers, to donors, to founders and board members it is your chance to get to know us better! Members can vote and if you are new to the conservancy, you can see how we run, ask questions about our work, nature reserves and impact. Absolutely all are welcome.

Please check our website for updates and registration. We send reading materials prior to the meeting through our e-newsletter.

Whether it is online or in person this year, we would love to see you there, standing up for nature!



## PASSPORT TO NATURE CANADA

Passports to Nature in Canada is your invitation to experience the marvels of our natural world in communities across Canada. Each passport describes guided events that are open to all and often free. Where in nature will you travel this year?

.....

*A special thank you to The Gosling Foundation for inspiring environmental organizations and supporting engagement.*

## OTHER PASSPORTS TO NATURE

**Peelee Buzz**  
Peelee Island, Ontario  
<http://peleebuzz.eventbrite.ca>

**Long Point Basin Land Trust**  
Norfolk County, Ontario  
<http://longpointlandtrust.ca/>

**Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington**  
Kingston and Frontenac, and Lennox & Addington Counties, Ontario  
[www.landconservancykfla.org/passport](http://www.landconservancykfla.org/passport)

**Ecology Ottawa**  
Ottawa, Ontario  
<https://ecologyottawa.ca/>

**Rare Charitable Research Reserve**  
Cambridge area, Ontario  
<https://raresites.org/>

**The Prince Edward Point Observatory**  
Prince Edward County, Ontario  
<https://peptbo.ca/nature-matters.php>

**Thames Talbot Land Trust**  
London and surrounding counties, Ontario  
[https://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/passport\\_to\\_nature](https://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/passport_to_nature)

**The Land Conservancy of BC**  
Province of British Columbia  
[www.conservancy.bc.ca/passport](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/passport)

**Wellington Water Watchers:  
2Rivers Festival**  
Guelph, Ontario  
<https://www.2riversfestival.org/>

**Nature Trust of New Brunswick**  
Province of New Brunswick  
<https://www.naturetrust.nb.ca/>



## JOIN THE VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB!

*These events are presented in partnership between The Couchiching Conservancy and Manticore Books.*

Admission to the online event is free with the purchase of the book through Manticore Books. Log-in information will be included with the book. (Those who have previously purchased the book through Manticore Books may obtain access to the event with a \$5 donation to CC and proof of purchase.)

Manticore Books will donate \$5 of each \$25 book purchase to The Couchiching Conservancy.

Visit [manticorebooks.ca](http://manticorebooks.ca) to purchase online and register.

## FIELD NOTES FROM AN UNINTENTIONAL BIRDER

*by Julia Zarankin*

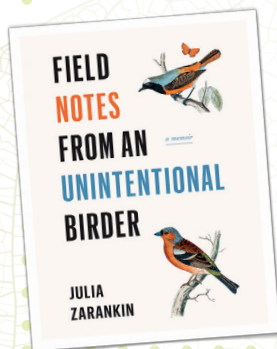
When Julia Zarankin saw her first red-winged blackbird at the age of thirty-five, she didn't expect that it would change her life. Recently divorced and auditioning hobbies during a stressful career transition, she stumbled on birdwatching, initially out of curiosity for the strange breed of humans who wear multi-pocketed vests, carry spotting scopes and discuss the finer points of optics with disturbing fervour. What she never could have predicted was that she would become one of them. Not only would she

come to identify proudly as a birder, but birding would ultimately lead her to find love, uncover a new language and lay down her roots.

Julia Zarankin is a writer and self-proclaimed birdsplainer with a particular fondness for sewage lagoons. Her writing has appeared in The Walrus, Orion Magazine, Threepenny Review, Antioch Review, Birding Magazine, Maisonneuve, The New Quarterly, Ontario Nature and The Globe and Mail. She lives in Toronto, ON.



JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>  
7PM



## TWO TREES MAKE A FOREST: IN SEARCH OF MY FAMILY'S PAST AMONG TAIWAN'S MOUNTAINS AND COASTS

*by Jessica J. Lee*

Winner of the 2020 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize and shortlisted for CBC Canada Reads 2021, *Two Trees Make a Forest* is a national bestseller and was listed in the top books of 2020 by both CBC and The Globe & Mail.

A chance discovery of letters written by her immigrant grandfather leads Jessica J. Lee to her ancestral homeland, Taiwan. There, she seeks his story while growing closer to the land he knew.

Jessica hikes mountains home to Formosan Flamecrests, birds found nowhere else on earth, and swims in a lake of drowned cedars. She bikes flatlands where Spoonbills alight by fish farms and learns about a tree whose fruit can float in the ocean for years, awaiting landfall. Joyously attentive to the natural world, Lee also turns a critical gaze upon colonialist explorers who mapped the land and named plants, relying on and often effacing the labor and knowledge of local communities.



JUNE  
18<sup>TH</sup>  
2PM EST

## OUTDOOR ART SHOW – KERSLAKE POTTERY

Come experience our socially distanced outdoor Art Show.

Walk the teapot trail and discover the five other areas throughout the property. Bring your mask and explore the workshop, kiln shed and gallery. Kerslake Pottery will be donating 40% of all sales this year to the Couchiching Conservancy to support the valuable work that they do. Hope to see you out! Rain or shine.

Heather & Roger - Kerslake Pottery  
3270 Line 10 North, Oro-Medonte L0L 1T0  
Phone: 705 325 3881 Cell: 705 330 9322



JUNE  
19-20  
10AM -  
4:30PM



## BLUMOOSE ALVAR RIDE

Starting and finishing in Couchiching Beach Park, Orillia, riders can choose from the 85km or the 140km routes, which travel along the beautiful, quiet, tarmac and dirt roads of this area. Both rides will encompass the extraordinary Carden Alvar Provincial Park. The Carden Alvar is a rare and unique ecosystem, its grassland, wetlands and woodlands hosting over 230 bird species, 140 butterfly/dragonfly species and 450 plants. The Carden Alvar gained Provincial Park status in 2014 to protect and preserve its spectacular environment.

SAT  
SEPT 11



photo: Chris Monette

Sign In: 8:00am, Depart 9:00am (both distances) Couchiching Beach Park Pavilion (look for the blue balloons).

Finish: Couchiching Beach Park Pavilion.

The goal of The BluMoose cycling events is to raise

charitable funds in memory of Danya Leemhuis who died in an accident on March 9, 2018. Learn more at [www.theblumoose.com](http://www.theblumoose.com)



## THANK YOU!

All the businesses featured in this booklet support The Couchiching Conservancy. Please support them in return during these challenging times.

*The Villager*

*Wagg's*

*Pioneer Handcraft*

*Walker Industries*

*Al Langman Construction*

*Lakehead University*

*Sustainable Orillia*

*John Mayo BMO – Nesbitt Burns*

*Orillia Power*

## WINE CLUB WITH PELEE ISLAND WINERY!

How would you like to enjoy the fruit of the vine while helping to support conservation in your area? The Conservancy is pleased to make available fine vintages from Pelee Island Winery. There's a wine to suit all tastes including chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, merlot, and pinot noir to name a few. All are VQA, helping to support the Ontario agricultural community.

For a few years now we have run a wine club of folks who like to receive the order forms on a regular basis. Orders are placed twice a year, once in spring and once in late autumn.

You can mix and match your order, and prices are the same as wine purchased through the LCBO. Orders are to be picked up at the Grant's Woods Conservation Centre; no home delivery available but we do have a volunteer here to help you load your vehicle.

Visit our website for more information or reach out to Courtney Baker at [courtney@couchconservancy.ca](mailto:courtney@couchconservancy.ca)



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## You Can Help Protect Nature

The Couchiching Conservancy is a non-profit, non-government land trust that needs your help to protect the wild places in our region

Become a Member, make a Donation, become a Monthly Giver!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I'd like to receive the  
Conservancy e-newsletter

*I would like to donate to support local conservation efforts:*

☐ Become a member: \$40 Individual \$60 Family

☐ Make a one-time donation: \$20 \$40 \$60 other: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sign up for Monthly Giving: \$10 \$15 \$20 (per month)

☐ Cheque enclosed. Please charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MC

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut this sheet out and mail it to the Couchiching Conservancy's office:  
Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 0X6. Would you like to donate online or over  
the phone? Visit our website or call Tanya Clark at 705-326-1620.

## CORRIDORS CAMPAIGN

The creation of wildlife corridors has become more urgent in the face of a rapidly changing climate. Corridors of protected wilderness matter. These are the bridges for species to move. Corridors reduce fragmentation, which has a big impact on species survival. A UN report that concludes a million species are threatened with extinction, and the fact that many Canadian provinces could become 'climate refuges' for animals heading north to escape rising temperatures. We are working towards creating the starting point of the wildest spaces left in Ontario.

The reality has been reflected in The Couchiching Conservancy's approach to updating its natural heritage acquisition strategy. Working with partners over a span of two years, we have developed the document Conservation Priorities for The Couchiching Conservancy. It identifies several high-priority zones within the Conservancy's coverage area. Through this process, it became clear the importance of the Black River Wildlands region and Carden Alvar.

Mapping was done of Species at Risk occurrences, connection to existing protected areas (with land trusts, Conservation Authorities, parks, etc), waterways, forest cover and more. Consideration was also given for highest threats, protections in place, fragmentation and more.

With increasing development pressure in our area, we are hoping to raise \$1.4M for the Corridors Campaign. As of March 2021 we still need to raise \$500K – so every donation is important and moves us closer to our land conservation objectives.

Your donation to the Corridors Campaign powers the Conservancy in efforts to move forward various protection projects throughout this region.



## PROTECT NATURE ON THE GROUND BY VOLUNTEERING!

If you love the outdoors, are passionate about land conservation, and are looking to connect with like-minded individuals, join us! As a volunteer, you play an important role in driving conservation efforts in the region.



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Ambassadors
- Bat monitoring
- Frog monitoring
- Plant monitoring
- Water quality monitoring
- Land steward
- Property maintenance
- and more!

Volunteers are the heart of The Couchiching Conservancy. They enable us to steward and manage over 30 Nature Reserves, drive projects and campaigns, and help build a community of supporters working to protect nature in the region.

To learn more or apply to volunteer, please visit our website at:  
**[www.couchichingconserv.ca](http://www.couchichingconserv.ca)**  
or email Joelle at [engage@couchconservancy.ca](mailto:engage@couchconservancy.ca)

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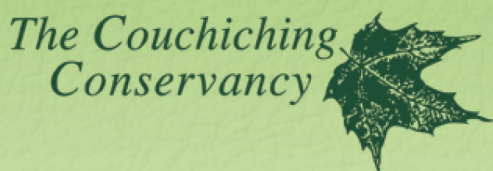
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Orillia, ON L3V 7R2

# NEI

INVESTMENTS

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## *Protecting Nature for Future Generations*

Founded in 1993, The Couchiching is a non-profit, non-government land trust powered by people like you. Together we are dedicated to protecting nature for future generations.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- Become a member
- Volunteer your time
- Join as a monthly giver
- Pass on this booklet to a friend

Visit our website or get in touch with us to learn more.

#### **Mailing address:**

The Couchiching Conservancy  
Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

Office address: 1485 Division Rd West, Orillia, ON L3V 0X6  
705.326.1620

Charitable Reg. No: 13972 5030 RR 0001

[www.couchichingconserv.ca](http://www.couchichingconserv.ca)