

# Champions of Nature Donor Report

Summer  
2009

## Big news for the Boreal

The Ontario Government followed through on Premier McGuinty's promise to protect the vast intact northern boreal forest region by introducing The Far North Act, 2009 in early June. The new legislation is a big step toward formalizing the Premier's promise to protect at least half of an undisturbed region bigger than California. At Ontario Nature, we were delighted to see the legislation in the House.

But there is still some work to be

done in upcoming public hearings to ensure:

- that the bill properly addresses the need to involve First Nations in planning;
- that we coordinate community plans within a higher level regional planning framework; and,
- that the legislation provides the resources for truly proactive planning and not just planning in response to development proposals.

If you have a chance to come out to any of the public hearings, please do so and speak out for strong conservation planning for our greatest wild region. Check [www.borealopportunity.ca](http://www.borealopportunity.ca) for details on the hearing schedule or subscribe to the e-newsletter.



## Nature in the City

Ontario Nature and Ontario Power Generation are teaming up to put city dwellers back in touch with the wonders of nature.

Through the City Conservation Challenge we will be presenting a series of free, family events this summer and fall that will help kids and adults alike learn more about the natural world right in their own urban backyard. Activities will range from guided nature walks to wildflower plantings, invasive species removal, building bird boxes and feeders and assessing the health of a local pond or wetland.

The challenge kicked off in May with a Bird Festival in Toronto's Tommy Thompson Park. Next up is the Dragonfly Festival in Orillia on August 29th. There will also be events in Toronto, Mississauga, London, Kingston, and King Township, so stay tuned to our website or visit [www.opgbiodiversity.ca](http://www.opgbiodiversity.ca) to find out more.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- August 23rd at Springbank Park in London: Family Nature Discovery Day
- August 29th at J.B. Tudhope Park in Orillia: Dragonfly and Damselfly Festival
- More events to come in September and October! Check the website for details

Ontario  
Nature 

# The write approach

Ontario Nature's youth writing contest has once again attracted thousands of creative words and

dozens of creative ideas in answer to the challenging question: "Every day we make choices that could help or harm our environment. What are you doing that has a positive impact on our environment?" The Youth Challenge award winners were recognized at this spring's AGM and their entries can now be read on our website at

[www.ontarionature.org/events/youthchallenge.html](http://www.ontarionature.org/events/youthchallenge.html).

Congratulations to first place winner Ellen from Waterloo for her essay entitled *What's Happening?*, to second place winner Riley from Sault Ste. Marie for her essay entitled *My Positive Impact*, and to third place winner Lizzie from Toronto for her essay entitled *Eco-Friendly Me*.

A big thank you to all the entrants for their thoughtful and thought-provoking entries.



Writing Contest winner Ellen with Ontario Nature Board member Jason Tsang

## Nature Reserves set for growth

Thanks to a generous helping hand from more than two dozen donors, we are very close to finalizing a major addition to Ontario Nature's Lost Bay Reserve near Gananoque. The addition of the 145 acre (58 hectare) Jannen Property will add important forest and wetland areas to the existing reserve while more than doubling its size. In fact, the property will bring with it a chunk of the Lost Bay Wetland, a 200 acre provincially significant wetland. In all, this addition will really add to the important role of the Lost Bay Reserve in representing the unique flora and fauna of Eastern Ontario's Frontenac Axis.

Meanwhile, the generosity of John Grandy and Meg Salter has also put us in a position to expand

our iconic Petrel Point Nature Reserve on the Bruce Peninsula. Their 23-acre property is located immediately southeast of the Petrel Point reserve and directly adjoins the reserve for a stretch of about 60 metres. This addition would expand the existing reserve by about 40%. However, we will need to raise funds to cover site stewardship to make the addition a reality.

Ontario Nature's system of nature reserves is a crucial way of protecting wild species and ecosystems, particularly in the more developed Southern and Central regions of the province. These reserves represent a tremendous legacy of generous landowners, tireless fundraisers

and careful stewards, often from the surrounding community. By supporting Ontario Nature, you are supporting one of the finest nature reserve systems in Ontario and are also helping us to expand this legacy.

Thank you all for your support!



Lost Bay by Mark Carabetta