

Bruce Peninsula Environment Group Annual Report 2006

Chairman's Report

The year has flown by with a high level of activity and expanding membership thanks to the work of many volunteers, excellent committees and strong executive. We were fortunate to have a number of fine speakers on a wide range of topics including water ecology, local food production, local ecotourism, medicinal herbs and dome construction. We have been very active in a variety of projects, committee work, field trips, support for other groups as well as advocacy initiatives.

Our membership is now approximately 150 due to the hard work and system of membership chair Robert Wilkinson.

Our Media Committee under Donna Dilschneider has done fine work in promoting our meetings and activities, and the website under Rick's progressive management continues to shine while bringing us increasing contacts, members and other unexpected results. Check it out as well as our new blog – www.bpeg.ca .

The Dark Sky Committee is back under the able leadership of Graham Thomas and continues to get results in the return to a star filled night sky.

The Waste and Recycling Committee under Mike Jorna has been busy promoting better recycling and waste diversion. It is not an accident that we now have recycling at the Lion's Head harbour and that virtually all the local candidates have promised better recycling facilities and more concern about waste handling as well as ad-hoc committees.

Glen's Energy Committee has provided us with interesting speakers and ran a third hugely successful energy tour in September leaving us again with a waiting list for another future tour. The income from the tour yielded us with funds to make a \$1000 donation to Bruce Trail's acquisition of a valuable shoreline property at Rush Cove, and also to the proposal for a solar hot water shower facility at the Lion's Head harbour .

Our Ecoprojects Committee under Tony Barton worked with several volunteers and Jennifer Barret Parker's Roots and Shoots kids to design, cut , assemble and erect several wood duck boxes on what we now call the Lombard Project and is continuing to plan for the next stage of this project coming up in the spring.

The Forestry Committee under Rick Roman continues to provide educational

materials and promote good forest practice for local woodlot owners.

The Roots and Shoots Committee under Jennier Barrett Parker has brought Environmental interest right down to the early years with several youth centred activities.

Judy Appleton has again lead the twice yearly road clean-up crew and we continue to advocate for better facilities at Ferndale. Thanks to Tom and Sue – Ellen Boyle for welcome coffee and muffins.

BPEG was fortunate to participate in two field trips this year – a fascinating guided visit to the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory at Cabot Head and our biennial mushroom hunt lead by Lorraine Brown.

While our interests are always primarily local, we have many links to the larger scale. Our support for other groups includes representatives to The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association and The Bruce County Woodlot Association. We continue to support local students and the Bruce Peninsula School as well as the Outdoor Education Centre. We also support Ontarbio organic co-op, Great Lakes United, The Conservation Council of Ontario and Ontario Environmental Network.

We are working on what we think is an interesting line-up of speakers for the upcoming season including our own Darci Lombard in December to tell us about her scientific marine research in the Antarctic, and in January, Audrey Armstrong to tell us about Monarch butterfly migration and conservation. Other topics include the work of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and presentations on energy, food and water.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the past year a success. Any group like ours is only as strong as its volunteer base. A special thank you to Sara Wilkinson for all her great work in coordinating the logistics of the Energy Tour and again to Joan McIlraith for her continuous flow of energy in making bags, making and arranging gifts for speakers, entertaining speakers, counting grocery store tapes, working with Sara on the nominating committee and trying to keep me on track .

We always welcome comments and ideas from you our members and will promise to discuss any and all proposals at the monthly executive meeting. The Environmental Movement is growing and you can help us stay at the forefront of new, or sometimes old, ideas. We welcome new members to all our committees.

The past two years have been most rewarding and I look forward to continuing to serve on a very strong executive on behalf of a very interesting group of BPEG members. Thank you all!

Respectfully submitted by
Don McIlraith, chair.



Treasurer's Report – November, 2006

B.P.E.G. has two accounts with the Royal Bank, the "Lynda Hoita Foundation" Account, commonly known as the "Environment Account", and a General Account.

The "Environment Account" was opened on November 29, 1993, following a donation from Lynda Hoita. In January of 1995 part of the account (\$600) was invested in 6 shares of ONTAR-BIO, from which B.P.E.G. receives yearly Dividends. This year the Dividends amounted to \$237.00. From this account, an Environmental Award in the amount of \$100 is granted to one or two BPDS students each year. In 2006, there was only one recipient, Adrian Sheppard.

The General Account is used for all other regular transactions.

The attached Financial Statement combines both B.P.E.G. accounts.

2006 was a very successful year for the Bruce Peninsula Environment Group. Our membership continued to grow, and the Renewable Energy Tour was again a sold out event, which raised over \$2000.00.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

November 1, 2005 thru October 31, 2006

	<u>INCOME</u>
November 1, 2004 – Balance Forward	
General Account	\$2412
	.41
Environment Account	
	<u>802.7</u>

	<u>0</u>
	Total
	\$3215
	.11_
Additional share from OntarBio	
	100.0
Bank Credits	0
	0.21
Dividend from OntarBio	
	237.0
Donations	0
	58.80
Renewable Energy Tour	
	2850.
Grocery Tapes	00
	144.3
Memberships	7
	1860.
Raffles	00
	<u>211.3</u>
	<u>0</u>
	Total
	Income
	e
	\$ 867
	6.79

EXPENSES

Membership Dues

Bruce County Woodlot Association

\$ 2
5.00

Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association

Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory	10.00
Canadian Environment Law Association	25.00
CONE	20.00
Great Lakes United Foundation	80.00
Ontario Environment Network	35.00
Roots & Shoots	40.00
	<u>50.00</u>
	Sub-total
	\$ 285.00

Donations

Book Donation to B.P.D.S.	
\$ 24.68	
Bruce Trail Association	
1000.00	
Christ Church Anglican	
300.00	
Environmental Award	
100.00	
In memoriam Donations	
100.00	
Inspired By Nature Campaign	
<u>200.00</u>	
	Sub-total
	\$ 1724.68

Miscellaneous Expenses

Bank Charges	
\$ 26.00	
Material for cotton bags	

31.09		
Meeting expenses (coffee, filters, etc.)		
90.34		
Postage, Fax, Copies, Misc. Office Supplies		
206.52		
P.O. Box Rental		
90.95		
Renewable Energy Tour		
428.44		
Speakers gifts, expenses		
222.30		
Travelling Expenses (gas)		
36.50		
Website		
<u>207.52</u>		
total	\$ 1339.66	Sub-
Expenses		Total
3349.34		\$
Balance Forward		
\$ 5327.45		

B.P.E.G. MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Annual General Meeting 2006

Membership at November 1, 2006 = 110, Youth, 3 Group)	147 (comprising 50 Family 32 Single, 2
Membership at beginning of November, 2005	127
Membership at beginning of November, 2004	101
Membership at beginning of November, 2003	83
Members who did not renew in past 12 months	15
New members in past 12 months	35

Annual income from current mix of single, family and group members is

\$1,825.00

Comments:

Good growth in membership of BPEG continues for a third consecutive year with a net increase of 20 individual members over the previous year. This includes one additional Group Membership... "Summer House Park".

Respectfully submitted,

R. Wilkinson – Membership Coordinator November 1, 2006

MEDIA COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Committee Members

Stuart Burgess

Donna Dilschneider (Chair)

Katharine Ferguson

Loretta Plomley

Rick Roman (Webmaster)

Jennifer Barratt-Parker (Roots & Shoots)

First of all, let me pay special tribute to Moira Dyck, who retired as media chair this past year after many years of untiring service. Moira founded the media committee and became its chair in 2001, when she pressed a number of volunteers into service, and she certainly has earned a rest. I have tried to carry on from where she left off and, thanks to committee members, we continue to have good coverage and promotion of our meetings and special events, as well as feature articles and photos in the Bruce Peninsula Press. We also create the posters that go up around the area to promote meetings and speakers.

Speakers and topics in past year:

Laurie Adams

Bob Emerson

Scott Parker

Matt Roe

Evan Ferrari

Ron Baker

Tom Heintzman

Clint Tonge

Barbara Bobo

Collin Macleod

Lorraine Brown

E-terra lodge

State of agriculture in Bruce County

Life & changes in the water of the Bruce

Recycling our waste

Environmental atlas of North Bruce

Tour of Cabot Head Bird Conservatory

Purchasing green power

Environmental clothing

Medicinal uses of wild plants

Monolithic dome house construction

Mushroom hunt

Thanks to Jennifer Barratt-Parker for her work in running and promoting Roots & Shoots and to Rick Roman for his continuing efforts in master-minding and improving our website, bpeg.ca. His latest creation is the addition of a blog, where you are all invited to post your comments on issues of the day.

Submitted by Donna Dilschneider

Ecoprojects

In October of 2005, BPEG received a request for help with wetland habitat projects being undertaken by Darci Lombard on two properties owned by her to the north of Miller Lake . BPEG was pleased to accept the invitation .

The 2006 goal was to construct a number of wood duck boxes and to place these around a lake on one of the properties, a task which had to be completed while the ice was still safe ! A dozen BPEG woodworkers volunteered to duplicate 10 copies of one part of a design used by the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association . Then, at a joint session on February 09, we gathered at Bob's fine, heated workshop for a (successful) pre-assembly of the boxes, for Jennifer's Roots and Shoots group to complete the job on the Sunday. This session was also successful and enjoyed by instructors and novices alike.

Sunday, February 26, a beautiful, sunny, -9C afternoon saw a collection of 20 BPEG and Roots and Shoots members meeting at Miller Lake . Loaded with sleds, skis, tools and duck boxes, we trekked the 800m through a snowy bush wonderland to the lake. With Wetland Habitat's Doug van Hemessen to direct the operation we heaved, stretched and drilled 10 potential wood duck homes to dead trees around the lake: all in an invigorating 2 hours. Darci, who was busy in Antarctica at the time (!) reports that none of the boxes has been used this year, at least by the intended tenants, but wood ducks have been seen in the area and once they find the boxes we are confident they will come.

Another property in the area, until recently farmland, is the target for the second project. Two ponds and a wetland area will be dug this Fall. If all goes well, BPEG will be planting native trees, bushes and nesting boxes of various kinds around the area.

Submitted by Tony Barton

Dark Sky Committee

The Dark Sky Committee is continuing its work in making the municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula a premier Dark Sky community. Efforts are concentrated on education and working with the municipality and other stakeholders in reaching these goals.

The committee has met 4 times through the course of the year. A primary aim of the committee this year has been to plot a strategy for the next few years. Since its inception in 2001, a number of substantial objectives have already been met including successfully lobbying council to install dark sky compliant lights along highway 6, then proclaiming our entire municipality a dark sky community. Now we find the need to clarify our mission and to set a series of new realistic short term goals.

Activities of the committee this year include writing a series of articles to be published quarterly in the Peninsula Press, the first of which was published this summer. We are also involved with others in having the Lion's Head marina 'relit' in a dark sky compliant manner. This involves replacing the Dock St. light then having up to a dozen more lights replaced in order of importance.

This year hundreds of our Dark Sky brochures were distributed throughout the municipality at various stores, businesses and tourist destinations. We have approximately 1500 of the original 5000 print run remaining. These will be delivered before year end in a mass mail out to reach as many full time residents as possible. Work is already underway to revise and reprint a new updated Dark Sky Brochure.

Other work of the committee includes:

- Meeting with suppliers and retailers of dark sky compliant light fixtures in order to make recommendations to installers and interested homeowners.
- continuing research in the field of dark sky compliance
- Networking and information exchange with other dark sky jurisdictions.
- Supporting and promoting other events and/or speakers related to the Dark Sky subject
(i.e. the astronomy segment of the hiking festival)

Submitted by Graham Thomas

Energy Committee Report

Once again, the main project of the Energy Committee this year was the Renewable Energy Tour on September 9. We had 114 attendees – another sellout. We had to work harder on marketing the tour this year than in the past, but were still successful in achieving good attendance. Many thanks to Sara Wilkinson, who coordinated ticket sales, and lunch. And many thanks to the volunteers who worked on the lunch, registration, and tour venues. While the main purpose of the tour is education, it is also a fundraiser for the Club.

Ticket Sales	\$2850
Expenses	\$578.44

Total income: \$2271.56

We also wrote several letters to express our viewpoint on the Province's proposed energy supply, and asked for a proper and objective environmental assessment for the proposed deep geologic repository for nuclear waste at the Bruce plant.

BPEG has authorized the committee to approach the new Municipal Council in the new year to support an energy retrofit of the Lion's Head marina, and to contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase and installation of a solar water heating

system. The contribution will be made only if Council agrees to install and pay for the balance of the system, and other energy saving devices at the marina building, and to publicize its presence through signs and publicity.

Submitted by Glen Estill

Roots and Shoots Report

In the spring of 2005 BPEG members enthusiastically supported a proposal to undertake a program of educational activities aimed at our junior members. BPEG affiliated with the Jane Goodall Institute's environmental and humanitarian program for youth called Roots and Shoots. The program's mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for animals, the environment and the human community. The Bruce Peninsula Roots and Shoots is one of over 3 000 Roots and Shoots groups around the world.

Bruce Peninsula Roots and Shoots activities are aimed at members aged 4-12, but all ages are welcome. In fact, these activities are offered as 'family programs that invite all members to participate. Activities take place approximately every month or 6 weeks, at various locations on the upper Bruce Peninsula. There are no membership fees, nor is there an ongoing commitment required to attend the activities. We encourage participating families to support BPEG, which, in turn, supports Roots and Shoots.

Many thanks to BPEG for sponsoring our membership in Roots and Shoots, Jane Goodall Institute Canada.

Thanks are due to Tina Chladny, Susanne Smith and Rick Roman for their assistance in coordinating the overall program, and to those who have hosted or led the group's activities, including Parks Canada (Scott Parker, Ethan Meleg), the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, Bruce Peninsula Family Centre, Tony , Bob and Pauline, Darci Lombard, Harvest Moon, and Audrey Armstrong. Special appreciation is extended to John and Donna Baker for their ongoing interest in sharing their garden with the children.

Activities

So far Bruce Peninsula Roots and Shoots members have undertaken 11 projects to make a difference on the Bruce Peninsula. These 11 projects have involved over 15 separate outings over the course of the year, and with from 3 – 20 young environmentalists per outing we have a total attendance of over 100.

May 05 Tree planting at the Bruce Peninsula Family Centre
Community Clean Up at the Lion's Head Beach

June 05	Bird Banding at the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory
June- October 05	Planting community garden at the Bakers'
November 06 Park	Fish and forest research in the Bruce Peninsula National
January 06	Christmas bird count with Ethan Meleg
February 06	Building wood duck boxes for the Lombard project
March 06	Installing wood duck boxes
June – October 06	Planting community garden – year 2
July 06	Monarch butterflies at risk
September 06	Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up

A complete binder is being compiled.