

# localnews

www.peterboroughexaminer.com

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## LIVING

# Web-based dose of nature

A variety of local sites can lead you to interesting places, tours and projects

This week, I'd like to continue with the second part of a series on my favourite websites. The sites presented this week are all local in scope. Unfortunately, the web addresses from the sites presented in the first article in this series were inadvertently deleted when the page was being set up for printing. You'll find them in a separate listing at the bottom of this article.



**Drew Monkman**  
OUR CHANGING SEASONS

### LOCAL SITES

**1. Camp Kawartha (www.camp-kawartha.ca/)** Camp Kawartha is the premier provider of environmental and outdoor education in the Kawarthas. The Camp itself is situated on Clear Lake. Both the summer camp and the September to June residential outdoor education programs are held here. The Camp also runs the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre (Canada's most sustainable building!) located on Pioneer Road at Trent University. I have been taking my classes to Camp Kawartha for twenty years and have always been thoroughly impressed by the program, facilities and staff. This site is a must for both educators and parents.

**2. Kawartha Heritage Conservancy (www.kawarthaheritage.org/)** The Kawartha Heritage Conservancy is a regional charitable land trust based in Peterborough. The Conservancy works with private landowners who are interested in conserving the natural and cultural heritage features of their properties. Donations of land or conservation agreements entitle the landowner to what can often be significant tax benefits. A conservation agreement outlines conditions or restrictions initiated by the landowner and is registered on the land title so that future owners continue to protect the natural or cultural values of the property.

**3. Peterborough Astronomical Association (www.peterboroughastronomy.com/)** On clear nights, Peterborough Astronomical Association members of all ages and levels of experience journey to nearby dark locations to share views of the night sky through their telescopes, binoculars or with no equipment at all. This website provides all kinds of information including an

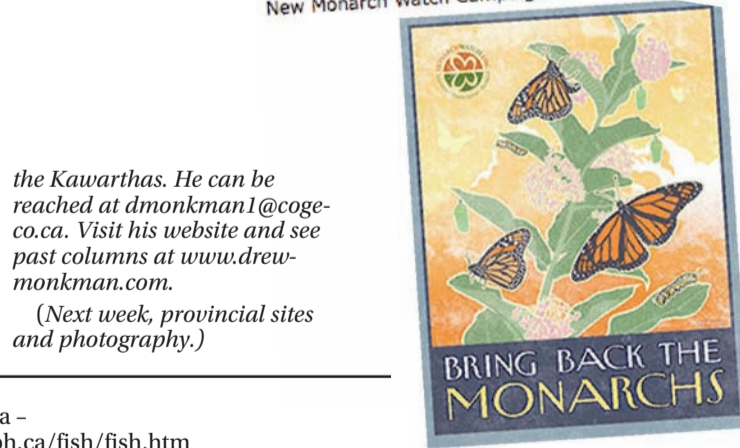
excellent member's photo gallery. Being able to recognize and name the planets and constellations of the night sky adds immeasurably to one's enjoyment of nature and to developing a sense of the changing seasons.

**4. Peterborough Field Naturalists (www.peterboroughnature.org/index.html)** The Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) holds monthly indoor meetings at the Peterborough Public Library from September through June. We are fortunate in Peterborough to have access to a seemingly endless supply of excellent speakers from Trent, Fleming, MNR, and the wider naturalist community. The PFN also offers regular field trips, both local and further afield. Some of our most popular events are the Sunday Morning Bird Walks held each spring and fall. For current news and events in Peterborough's naturalist community, feel free to download the monthly newsletter, The Orchid, from the club website.

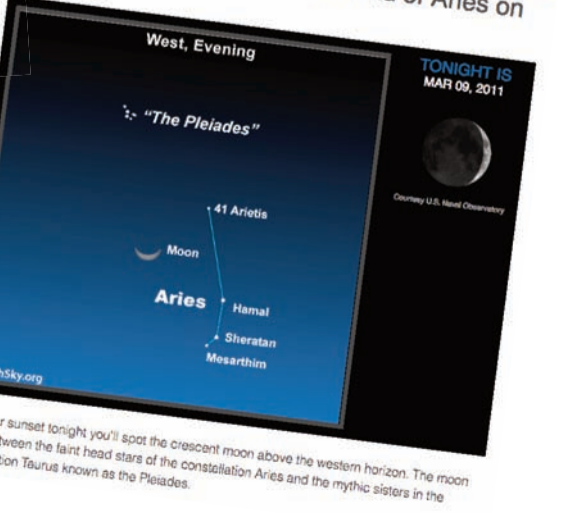
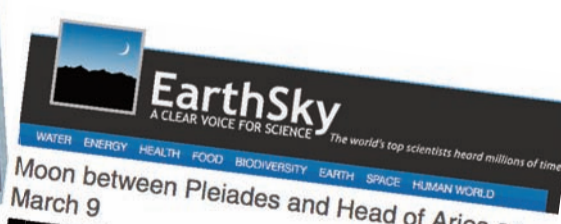
**5. Peterborough Green-Up (www.greenup.on.ca/index.php)** Peterborough Green-Up is a community-based, non-profit environmental organization. If you click on the resources tab on the website, you'll find a wealth of information on everything from how to plant a tree to designing a wildlife garden. Of particular interest, too, is the Landscape section where you can learn about the Urban Forest initiative and what's happening at the Ecology Park.

**6. Ptbosightings (tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/ptbosightings/)** The purpose of this email distribution list is to act as a forum for the reporting of natural history sightings in Peterborough County. You will receive an email each time one of the group members posts a plant or animal (mostly birds) sighting of interest. To join, go to the Yahoo website given above and click on "Join this Group." You will have to set up a free account with Yahoo.ca.

**7. Our Changing Seasons (www.drewmonkman.com/)** My website provides a record of important natural events and sightings occurring in the Kawartha Lakes district of Ontario. You'll find a Sightings Board of plant and animal observations of interest, most of which have been submitted by readers of this column. There is also an electronic version of nearly all of the columns I have written since 2004. Finally, I have included information on my book "Natures Year in the Kawarthas" which is once again in print. *Drew Monkman is a Peterborough teacher and author of Nature's Year in*



*the Kawarthas. He can be reached at dmonkman1@cogeco.ca. Visit his website and see past columns at www.drewmonkman.com.*  
(Next week, provincial sites and photography.)



### Web Addresses from Part 1

The website addresses from Part 1 of this series went missing in the production process. Here they are.

1. Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) - www.eol.org
2. Science Daily - www.sciencedaily.com
3. eNature - www.enature.com/home/indexNew.asp
4. Animal Diversity Web - animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html
5. Boreal Forest - www.borealforest.org/edresc.htm
6. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center - www.pwrc.usgs.gov/research/
7. Step Outside - r4r.ca/en/step-outside/nature-guides
8. This Week At Hilton Pond - www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeekMain.html
9. Coffrin Center for Biodiversity - www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/phenology/index.htm
10. Guide to New York State Mammals - www.nyfalls.com/wildlife/Wildlife-mammals.html
11. Nature Watch - www.naturewatch.ca/
12. Adopt-A-Pond - www.torontozoo.com/AdoptAPond/

13. Fishes of Canada - www.aquatic.uoguelph.ca/fish/fish.htm
14. Cornell Lab of Ornithology - www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478
15. The Birds of North America Online - bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/
16. Life Histories of North American Birds - www.birdsby-bent.com/index.html
17. eBird Canada - ebird.org/content/canada
18. BugGuide - bugguide.net/node/view/15740
19. Odonata Central - www.odonatacentral.org
20. Monarch Watch - www.monarchwatch.org/index.html
21. Ontario Wildflowers - ontariowildflowers.com/index.php
22. Ontario Trees and Shrubs - ontariotrees.com/index.php
23. Andy's Northern Ontario Wildflowers - www.ontariowildflower.com
24. MushroomExpert.com - www.mushroomexpert.com
25. Earth Sky - earthsky.org/tonight

Just after sunset tonight you'll spot the crescent moon above the western horizon. The moon floats between the faint head stars of the constellation Aries and the mythic sisters in the constellation Taurus known as the Pleiades.