

Ontario Nature CELEBRATES 75 YEARS of conservation achievements

1931 ■ Through the hard work and dedication of early naturalists — especially A.F. Coventry, Henry Carl Nunn, J.R. Dymond and T.F. McLlwraith — seven clubs and 28 members create the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON).



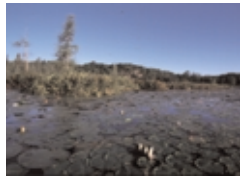
▲ **FON's first president, W.E. Saunders, is selected.**
■ A special committee urges that wildlife — game or otherwise — be considered the property of all citizens and that wildlife reserves be established.
1932 ■ *Circular*, FON's newsletter, is published to educate members and provide information about FON projects.
1933 ■ At the first FON field day in Hamilton, 128 participants identify 67 bird species.



▲ **Clark and Nora Locke build Locke House, FON's future home, on old Leslie Street.**



1934 ▲ *Sanctuaries and the Preservation of Wildlife in Ontario*, an FON report, leads to the designation of wilderness areas in Algonquin Provincial Park and a nature reserve at Point Pelee National Park.
1935 ■ FON proposes the establishment of a complete system of parks and nature reserves in Ontario.
1937 ■ FON persuades the Ontario government to restore protection for eagles and ospreys.



▲ **FON begins to document the decline in wetlands in southern Ontario.**



1938 ▲ **FON publishes a study of the Oak Ridges Moraine, calling for its reforestation.**



1939 ▲ **FON launches its first nature camp, at Camp Franklin on Franklin Island in Georgian Bay.**

1941 ■ At the "Guelph Conference," FON leaders, along with the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association, launch the Conservation Authority system in Ontario.

1944 ■ FON's *Sanctuaries* (1934) report leads to the designation of wilderness areas in Algonquin Provincial Park.



1951 ▲ **FON's first executive director, Dr. Bill Gunn, is hired.**
1954 ■ The Ontario Parks Act (now the Provincial Parks Act) is approved, largely due to the efforts of FON.
1955 ■ Along with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Conservation Council of Ontario, FON begins action to protect all birds of prey in the province.

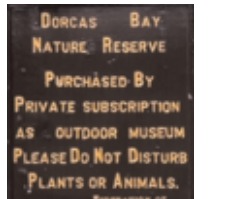


1956 ▲ **FON champions the protection of natural heritage on Lake Erie's shore, which leads to the establishment of Long Point, Turkey Point and Hawk Cliff provincial parks.**
■ FON's Nature Network grows to 32 affiliated clubs and 1,650 members.
1957 ■ The *Bulletin* (successor to *Circular*) advocates for the protection of wetlands.



1959 ▲ **FON launches Young Naturalist magazine.**
■ Membership hits 3,000.

1960 ■ An FON committee leads to the creation of the Bruce Trail Association.
■ FON counts 3,500 members.



1962 ▲ **FON launches the Battle of the Bulldozer campaign and raises \$20,000 to purchase one of its first nature reserves, Dorcas Bay, on the Bruce Peninsula.**
■ FON's volunteer-run Nature Reserves Committee leads to the creation of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.
■ *Young Naturalist* counts 7,000 subscribers.
1965 ■ FON's Ban the Wolf Bounty campaign calls for the full protection of wolves inside provincial parks.



1967 ▲ **Ontario Naturalist publishes an editorial titled "Polar Bear National Park," which eventually leads to the creation of a provincial park.**
1969 ■ *Young Naturalist's* circulation totals nearly 26,000, and it counts three members on the editorial board — all volunteer help.
■ FON's paid staff totals two — Jim Woodford and Gerald McKeating.
1970 ■ FON counts 10,000 members.
1971 ■ An FON campaign results in Ontario's Endangered Species Act.
■ FON counts 15,000 members — a 33 percent

increase in one year.
1972 ■ FON's Mail a Can to John campaign inspires Ontarians to mail in thousands of cans and bottles as a call for legislation on disposable containers.



1974 ▲ **FON's Young Naturalist magazine becomes Owl magazine.**
■ FON's *Wilderness in Ontario* report leads to the creation of a provincial wilderness parks policy.
1975 ■ FON's support is vital in the passing of the Environmental Assessment Act.
1976 ■ FON grows to 42 member groups.
1977 ■ FON forms the Foundation for Aggregate Studies.

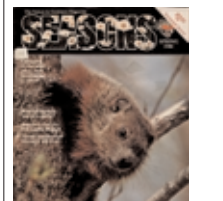


1978 ▲ **FON founds the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment.**
1979 ■ FON launches a campaign to protect Ontario's wetlands.



▲ **Locke House becomes the FON's new headquarters.**
■ FON's Action Seminar on Acid Precipitation leads

to the establishment of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain.



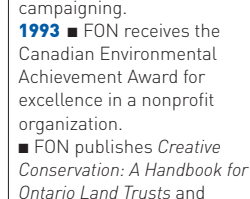
1980 ▲ **FON renames its magazine Seasons.**
1981 ■ Fieldwork on Ontario's Breeding Bird Atlas begins.
■ FON's Nature Network grows to 52 groups.
■ FON offers more than 100 trips, in which over 1,200 people participate.
■ Three paid staff now work at FON.



1982 ▲ **FON acquires, relocates and restores Goodwin House — thought to be the oldest freestanding house in North York — next to Locke House as part of its office space.**
1983 ■ FON's parks campaign leads to the creation of 155 new parks, including five new wilderness parks, encompassing more than two million hectares.
1987 ■ FON publishes the first *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario*, thanks to the work of more than 1,600 volunteers who contributed 180,000 hours of their time over a five-year period.
■ FON's natural heritage protection campaign results in the establishment of Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park.
1988 ■ FON's joint proposal (submitted with the Natural Heritage League) results in the passage of "Untaxing Nature," a policy that will give landowners a fairer tax structure if they opt to preserve private lands, and which will encourage agencies and non-governmental organizations to acquire land.



▲ **FON adopts the loon as its logo symbolizing the state of the environment.**
1989 ■ FON is instrumental in putting pressure on the government to cancel the duck hunt in Point Pelee National Park.
1991 ■ FON serves on an advisory committee for Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights.
■ More than 2,000 members participate in FON's natural history trips.
■ FON joins the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment in a campaign to eliminate aggregate mining from the escarpment.
1992 ■ Ontario's Wetlands Policy becomes law after two decades of FON campaigning.
1993 ■ FON receives the Canadian Environmental Achievement Award for excellence in a nonprofit organization.
■ FON publishes *Creative Conservation: A Handbook for Ontario Land Trusters and Putting Nature First: Conservation Principles to Guide the Settlement of Aboriginal Land Claims.*
1994 ■ FON and its allies successfully campaign to expand Wabakimi Provincial Park (northwest of Lake Nipigon) from 155,000 to 892,000 hectares in order to encompass vital woodland caribou habitat.
1995 ■ *Seasons* wins the Editors' Choice Award for Best Magazine of the Year with a circulation under 50,000.



▲ **FON joins World Wildlife Fund-Canada to call for a moratorium on the spring bear hunt in an effort to protect the black bear population.**
1996 ■ FON launches Working for Wilderness — a volunteer conservation program to protect nature in Ontario.
■ FON's Nature Network expands to 83 clubs and 15,000 members.



▲ **FON participates in the largest conservation purchase in Ontario's history with the acquisition of 16,000 hectares of Manitoulin Island's alvar coast. As part of this purchase, Quarry Bay becomes FON's 18th nature reserve.**
2000 ■ FON's nature reserve system doubles in size in one year with the expansion of Altberg Nature Reserve near Peterborough

and the acquisition of Baptist Harbour on the Bruce Peninsula.
■ FON expands its campaign to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine and submits a joint application with other groups for a review of the laws and policies applicable to development on the moraine.
■ More than 2,500 people respond to the Oak Ridges Moraine campaign by joining FON, making a donation or becoming an Advocate for Nature.
■ The Nature Network increases to 105 member groups.
2001 ■ FON launches the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project, for which approximately 2,000 volunteers collect scientific data.
■ FON's work results in the passage of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, protecting almost 195,000 hectares of land on the moraine from urban development.
■ FON represents more than 20,000 members and supporters and over 110 community-based naturalist clubs and environmental groups.

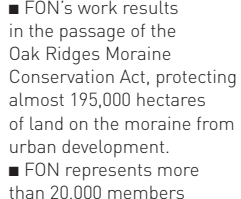


▲ **More than 1,500 people show up at Queen's Park to participate in the Portage for Wilderness, in a call to encourage the government to create new parks and protected areas in northern Ontario.**
1999 ■ The Partnership for Public Lands campaign succeeds in protecting 2.4 million hectares in 378 new parks and conservation reserves in northern and central Ontario.
■ FON launches a campaign to protect and restore southern Ontario's woodlands.

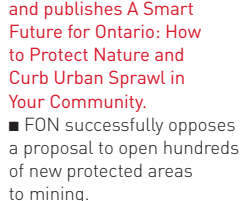


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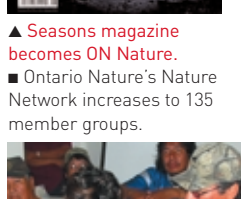


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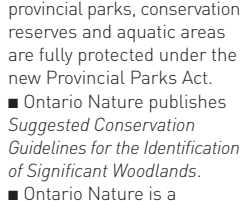


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Mulock, donate 107 hectares of mature woodlands in King Township to Ontario Nature.
■ FON joins with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, World Wildlife Fund-Canada and Earthroots in a campaign to save the Algonquin wolves.
2004 ■ Ontario Nature launches the Southern Ontario Greenway Strategy.
■ FON renames itself Ontario Nature to refresh its image.



▲ **Seasons magazine becomes ON Nature.**
■ Ontario Nature's Nature Network increases to 135 member groups.



▲ **Ontario Nature signs a landmark agreement to work with the Pikangikum First Nations on boreal forest initiatives.**
2005 ■ Members submit more than 2,500 postcards to Premier Dalton McGuinty, urging the government to guarantee that Ontario's provincial parks, conservation reserves and aquatic areas are fully protected under the new Provincial Parks Act.
■ Ontario Nature publishes *Suggested Conservation Guidelines for the Identification of Significant Woodlands.*
■ Ontario Nature is a major player in the development of the Greenbelt Act and Plan, which aim to conserve green space and contain urban sprawl in the Golden Horseshoe.
■ Ontario's Nature Network increases to 140 member groups.
2006 ■ **Ontario Nature proudly celebrates its 75th anniversary.**

