



April 29th, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A day devoted to migratory birds in Northumberland

Everyone is invited to join biologists and conservation partners for a free talk and bird walks on Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day in Northumberland County.

This year's theme: **Restore Habitat, Restore Birds**, highlights the protection of birds and their habitat. The day begins with a bird and habitat tour of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Hazel Bird property and ends with a bird hike at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna. Dedicated staff and volunteers are eager to share their expertise and enthusiasm for migratory birds.

A presentation, "**Introducing the raptors of Northumberland**" will be offered at mid-day by Mark Stabb, a biologist and program director with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Stabb will provide tips on identifying the birds of prey normally encountered in the Rice Lake Plains and Northumberland County. This presentation will also highlight conservation of raptor habitat on the Oak Ridges Moraine and in the Greenbelt.

"I am a fan of hawk-watching in southern Ontario," states Mark Stabb, "And I would like to help people increase their confidence in raptor identification using field marks, flight behavior, calls, habitat and even nests!"

International Migratory Bird Day in Northumberland County offers the following schedule:

8:00am guided hike at the Hazel Bird Nature Reserve located in the Hamilton Township.

11:00am raptor presentation at Alderville Black Oak Savanna located in Alderville First Nation.

1:00pm guided hike at Alderville Black Oak Savanna located in Alderville First Nation.

Participants are welcome to come for all or part of the day.

Hazel Bird Nature Reserve (4639 Robson Road, Hamilton Township): From Harwood Road (County Road 15), turn south onto Robson Road. Turn east at emergency number 4639, onto farm lane. This is the entrance to the property, which starts at the farm gate and sign

Alderville Black Oak Savanna: located at 8467 County Road 18, South of Rice Lake, and 1.5kms west of Hwy 45.

There is no charge for admission, but please register by calling the Alderville Black Oak Savanna 905-352-1008 or email jmcleod@alderville.ca. More information is available by calling 905 352 1008 or visit www.ricelakeplains.ca. This workshop is part of a series of Oak Ridges Moraine education programs supported by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative. The Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative is a multi-partner conservation and stewardship project of 10 partners within Canada's easternmost prairie.