



On the Watch
June Hitchcox

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Monarch Butterflies, Turtles & Crows

It must be Fall - I have not seen any migrating Monarch Butterflies for a couple of weeks! When they see the shores of Lake Ontario, they follow the sun and head west to the Niagara Peninsula to enter the USA, where they keep flying south until they find warm weather where they spend the winter.

I received an interesting email from Brian about his *saving endangered Turtles* and a question about Crows. Turtles lay eggs in a hole which they dig, then cover. The soil/gravel along sides of roads is easy digging. Often they cross the road to see the earth on the other side and are run over. Perhaps Brian will be interested in how we saved a lot of Turtles. Bob and I always kept a long, thin, strong stick in our car. When we saw a Turtle on the road, we would touch the turtle with that stick, and then the Turtle would grab the stick by her mouth and hold on, making it easy for us to drag her quickly to a safer place.

Now for Brian's question: "What is it with Crows on the highway?" In response, I have 60 or so books on Nature. Crows are very intelligent. They eat in open areas where they can see any danger that might be coming. They're omnivores - they eat everything: seeds, insects, fruit, earthworms, garbage, and dead animals - the last being a good reason to be on or beside the road to look for carrion. One of my research books has a third reason - when a Crow is beside the road, they squat over an ant hill to entice angry ants to swarm through their plumage, releasing formic acid which repels feather and skin parasites and discourages bacteria and fungus. (*Oh yummy ... a cleansing ant bath!*)

Perhaps you who are reading this have had different observations or questions on the subjects above. I would be pleased to receive your e-mails. Working together for Nature would be helpful for all of us and for wildlife.

Apsley Cottage Real Estate Update

What a beautiful September and October we have had with many of the days feeling more like July than September and October.

There continues to be very little inventory available for sale. Currently there are eleven listings on Chandos Lake and three on Jack Lake. This is a very low number of properties offered for sale on these lakes.

So far in 2017 there have been sixteen sales on Chandos Lake and ten sales on Jack Lake. Last year at this time there had been twenty-five sales on Chandos Lake and seven sales on Jack Lake. As a result, when you combine both lakes we are now six sales behind last year. There are Buyers and we still have a good market in 2017.

There has been less Buyer activity this season after the Ontario Liberals announced their changes aimed at cooling the residential real estate market in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe. Many Buyers have decided to take a wait and see approach in order to determine how these changes may impact the equity that they have in their homes. Reports in the press of increased city listing inventory, housing prices falling and recently an increase in interest rates by the Bank of Canada for the first time in seven years have spooked a number of potential Buyers.

The past few weeks have seen increased Buyer activity and there will continue to be Buyers looking for a cottage property into the Fall and beyond.

As a local full time realtor, I will provide a free, no obligation opinion of value to any property owner that is considering selling.

As a year round resident and an Executive member of the Chandos Lake Property Owners Association, I am happy to chat about anything going on locally. I care about your concerns and your interests. Feel free to visit the office or just give me a call to chat.

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Guardian

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Saturday, November 11, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
at the **Coe Hill Legion**

Join others in a 20 minute chant of the sacred sound HU to experience greater peace of mind.
FREE. Light refreshments.