



The Hummingbird

MVFN's E-bulletin for February 2010



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Upcoming Events

- **February 18: MVFN lecture: A September to Remember: Bioblitz Secrets of the Bell Woodland Preserve.** If you missed this September spectacular, here is an opportunity to participate from the comfort of a warm chair at MVFN's February lecture presented by **Tineke Kuiper**. 7:30 pm, Thursday, Feb 18, Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin St., Almonte. For further details please contact Cathy Keddy.
- **February 20: Winter Owls and Rough Legged Hawks. An MVFN field trip to Amherst Island.** Leaving Almonte, 8:00 A.M. Returning, 4:00 P.M. **Car Pooling:** Almonte PetroCan at 8:00 A.M.; Carleton Place Tim Hortons (the one on highway) at 8:15 A.M. Arriving Amherst Island Ferry for 9:30 A.M. sailing. **Cost:** \$8.00 per vehicle for ferry crossing. **Bring:** lunch, binoculars. **Wear:** winter boots and dress warmly for off-lake winds. **Please register with Cliff Bennett beforehand.** In case of poor weather, this event will be cancelled. If in doubt, please call Cliff before 7:30 A.M. For more information, contact Cliff at 613-256-5013 or Bennett@magma.ca.
- **The Great 2010 MVFN Carbon Reduction Challenge.** The challenge will run June 1-Nov 30, but get ready now to ration your own gasoline during this challenge. See details sent via email network or to be posted on our website soon.



During our January lecture *Shifting Perceptions of Nature: The Two-Way Mirror of Landscapes, Proscapes and Inscapes*, Professor Emeritus Brian Osborne (shown at left prior to the lecture) likened natural **landscapes** to a 'palimpsest' or a manuscript overwritten several times on top of earlier words which are not completely erased. **Inscapes**, our perception of these landscapes, reflects our individual and collective identity and memory. Osborne revealed particular inscapes by 'deconstructing' Canadian landscapes as interpreted in works of art by Turner or the Group of Seven, or described in the writings of Margaret Atwood and others. While inscapes are the landscapes in our minds, **proscapes** are what we think the landscape might become - our natural heritage as an image molded by nostalgia, myth, fantasy, and identity. *Photo by Howard Robinson.*

Dear members, our current membership year is drawing to a close and it will soon be time to renew your MVFN membership. 2010-2011 renewal forms will be mailed out toward the end of March, along with a copy of *The Whip-poor-will*. If you would like further information about MVFN's programs, committees or volunteer opportunities, please contact me or any of our board members. Thank you for your ongoing involvement with the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists. Sincerely, Joyce Clinton.