



VFFN Newsletter – Summer 2023

created by Johanna Nott & Jason Lahaie

Reminder

Starting in September, all meetings will be held at the Museum located on Vermilion Avenue. Hope to see you there!

Merlin

In the past six years, Merlin (a Bird ID app for your phone) has gone from being able to identify a few hundred North American bird species to more than ten thousand—not quite every species on Earth, but getting pretty close! In May 2023 alone, more than 3 million people from every part of the globe used Merlin to learn about and appreciate the birds around them.

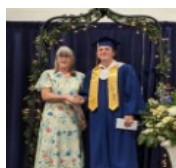
Welcome to New Members

2 families and 6 single memberships. [Renewal Form](#)

Night Sky 🌙

August 1 - Sturgeon Moon 2nd of 4 supermoons for '23
August 30 - Blue Moon
September 15 - Corn Moon
July 17 to August 24 - Perseids Meteor Shower (Peaks on August 13 at 1:00am PDT)
Summer Triangle, not a constellation, is an asterism made up of 3 bright stars: Aquila, Cygnus and Lyra. Will be visible overhead in October.

VFFN Bursary



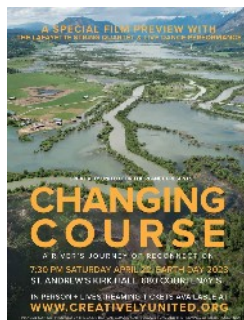
Bursary for a PSS student going into Biological Sciences was given to Reid MacMurchy and will be awarded in his second year of studies.

Cormack Marsh

Earth day April 22, a group of people convened at Cormack Marsh for a massive cleanup of Knapweed, refuse, and some burning. Lisa Scott of OASISS came in June to assess the invasive plant situation.



Creatively United for the Planet



Creatively United for the Planet (Jon O’Riordan and Frances Lipman) have produced this beautiful film and it had its public release on April 22, 2023. It focuses on the Columbia River System and describes, often through the eyes of Indigenous people, the past present and possible future of this huge system. As you know new negotiations between the US and Canada are under way and the film is designed to highlight the importance of future sound ecological management of this amazing water system. For more information see creativelyunited.org

Great Horned Owl Cam Highlights

After taking over an abandoned Osprey nest in January, a pair of Great Horned Owls successfully raised a single owlet that fledged in April. Presenting the most exciting moments—from a near-miss Red-tailed Hawk attack to an incredible array of prey items, which even included a different species of owl! [Check out the video here.](#)



Lights Out in the City that Never Sleeps

New York City just took a big step toward making the city safer for the millions of birds that fly through or near the city at night during migration. On April 1, a new law went into effect that directs city-owned and occupied buildings to reduce nighttime illumination during peak migration periods. The [FLAP program in Toronto](#) was the first to raise awareness of the problem lights pose for birds in an urban centre, starting in 1993.

Maple Cross Update

from Alex Thomson

The summer has been hectic and busy but great! We are moving along full steam ahead. The crew has only just started but we have already tackled removing invasive weeds, property inventory of species, and collected the wildlife camera data. We will be sifting through all of the data at the end of the crew season in August and can give you a more detailed account then.