

*"In some ways, it feels like just yesterday we were watching birds and chasing frogs together, and yet it was a lifetime ago..."*

## Together, A Lifetime of Conservation



Ms. Pamela Grow



February 10, 2016

Dear Ms. Grow,

Phoebe and Gail were childhood friends in North Toronto in the 1930s and '40s. Both girls loved nature, delighted in exploring nearby woods, ravines and rivers, and created joyful memories to last a lifetime. They lost touch, but as women, mothers and grandmothers, they have been ardent conservationists and Ontario Nature members all their lives. Now 70 years later, they've recently reunited at an Ontario Nature gathering! They had a lifetime of bird sightings and nature adventures to catch up on...

Their amazing story helped inspire me to write you today as we reflect on a lifetime of conservation at Ontario Nature. It's our 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary! For 85 years, members like you and me have worked together to save species we love and protect spaces we explore. Thank you!

To celebrate, we are starting a *Conservation Conversation* with all our members to share actions you will take for nature today and also your hopes and dreams for nature tomorrow. You'll hear more about this in a moment, but first I want to ask you to take action for nature right now!

**Ms. Grow, will you renew your Ontario Nature membership today with your gift of \$35? Your gift will provide critical support to protect nature in your backyard, our boreal forest and beyond.**

In 2016, our anniversary year, a strong voice for nature is more important than ever before. With your renewed membership, you'll help tackle urgent environmental priorities in our province.

*please turn over...*



214 King Street West, Suite 612, Toronto, ON M5H 3S6  
phone: 416-444-8419 toll free: 1-800-440-2366 [ontarionature.org](http://ontarionature.org)

- You'll stand with us in court as we work to repeal regulations that critically weaken the Endangered Species Act.
- You'll help protect iconic species we love. Join us and say "no" to increasing hunting licenses for black bears and wolves. We are also actively working to enhance protection for endangered species including woodland caribou on almost 14 million hectares of boreal forest.
- You'll add your voice to our call to expand Ontario's Greenbelt.
- You'll support our work to develop a meaningful wetlands strategy. Ontario's wetlands are shrinking at an alarming rate and together we can reverse the trend of crucial habitat loss.

You can read more about these vital initiatives for nature—as well as important victories you made possible in 2015—on the enclosed **Your Membership in Action** update. You can also read more from Phoebe and Gail and their stories and memories about a lifetime of conservation. And they've joined our *Conservation Conversation* too!

Will you join our *Conservation Conversation*? Share your action for nature today, and your hopes and dreams for tomorrow. You'll find space on the reply form, which you can also use to make your gift today! Your 2016 Membership Card is also enclosed and will be activated when you send in your gift.

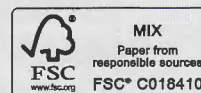
Thank you for your continued support of Ontario Nature. For 85 years, passionate and caring members have achieved stunning victories for nature in our province. By renewing your membership today, you can help ensure that the wild species we love and wild spaces we explore have the protection they need. Celebrate our lifetime of conservation with your gift today!



Yours for nature,

Caroline Schultz  
Executive Director

P.S. Your Ontario Nature membership is crucial! Please help us celebrate our 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary with your gift today. Thank you for being a part of our lifetime of conservation!





## Your Membership in Action



# 2015 Victories For Nature: Thanks To You!

**Your Ontario Nature membership provides vital support so that we can be the voice for nature in our province. Here is just some of what we accomplished, together!**

### Your Honour, We Certainly Will Appeal!

We are fighting a provincial regulation that allows industrial activities to be exempt from the Endangered Species Act (ESA), essentially allowing them to kill species at risk and destroy their habitat. This is the first time environmental groups have won the right to appeal decisions around the ESA. Thank you for standing with us—and species we love—in court! Your renewed support today will help with our appeal in 2016.

### Fighting for Our Woodland Caribou

Ontario has already lost 40–50% of our historic distribution of boreal woodland caribou. Only 2 ranges of 13 in Ontario are classified as “sufficient to sustain” the populations of these iconic and beloved creatures. Until our province stops threats to woodland caribou habitat and gets serious about recovery measures, the long-term survival of this species is in jeopardy. We continue to insist on real, enhanced protection for endangered species on almost 14 million hectares of boreal forest.

### Passionate Youth Council Inspires Action!

Our Youth Council played a leadership role in convincing the provincial government to restrict the use of neonicotinoids, a group of pesticides known to be harmful to pollinators, including bees and butterflies. Our creative young people also released 2 fantastic videos highlighting pollinator conservation initiatives.

### Your Support By The Numbers:

**40** – number of farm families engaged to help create new wildlife habitats in partnership with ALUS-Canada and community groups

**334,000** – number of records submitted by our citizen scientists to the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas

**3** – number of important new science-based publications: *Species at Risk in Northern Ontario Guide*, *Northern Forest Foraging Guide* and *Key Issues in Biodiversity Offset Law and Policy: A Comparison of Six Jurisdictions*



**Our conservation victories are only possible because of you. Thank you!**



# 2016 Priorities For Nature: Possible With Your Renewed Support!

Your renewed support in 2016 is crucial to protect wild species and wild spaces. Here's how we'll put your membership into action:

## ✓ Save Our Wetlands!

Wetlands provide habitat for over 20% of our species at risk. And they provide significant ecosystem benefits, including cleaner water, flood control and carbon storage, valued at over \$50 billion per year in southern Ontario alone. Despite this, more than 70% of wetlands have been lost in southern Ontario, with losses exceeding 85% in the Niagara and Toronto regions, and in southwestern and eastern Ontario. We desperately need a real, tangible strategy that will reverse the trend of an ongoing loss of our wetlands.



## ✓ More Hunting of Our Black Bears and Wolves? NO WAY!

We stand against recent government proposals to increase hunting of wolves and black bears. These iconic species—and their habitats—need our protection. With your support, we'll continue to insist on more protection, not more hunting licenses!



© Sam Denters

## ✓ More Protections For Our Greenbelt

Ontario's Greenbelt can and should be bigger and better! Your support will help us advocate for more space that conserves natural heritage, water and farmland.

## ✓ Inspiring Ontarians to Connect With Nature

For 85 years, Ontario Nature has connected our neighbours with nature. It's the heart of what we do. With your help, we can recruit hundreds more citizen scientists to join our conservation volunteering events across the province. Together, we can substantially expand the knowledge base we use to inform sound conservation planning and recovery strategies for species at risk. Your support will also help with hands-on learning opportunities to develop the next generation of young environmental leaders on our Youth Council, contributing to our annual Youth Summit for Biodiversity and special youth-led campaigns.

**Your 2016 Ontario Nature membership makes all of this possible. Thank you for being a part of our Lifetime of Conservation!**

Ontario  
Nature   
85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY





# Together, A Lifetime of Conservation

Childhood friends turned devoted conservationists reunited 70 years later thanks to a shared commitment to nature!

## Phoebe's Story

I grew up with one older brother and one younger brother. And let's be honest, brothers are pests. So I would escape to the woods where I could find some peace and quiet. I had my own favourite places, where there were no paths, and I could just sit and watch the birds.

My love for nature grew when I went to camp in Algonquin Park. I was able to get my Junior Field Naturalist Certificate and I remember feeling so proud! I learned to identify birds by sound and sight.

And even though I hadn't seen Gail since we were little girls, I had seen and heard her name before, and I knew she, too, was a birder. Seventy years later, at an Ontario Nature gathering, I recognized her right away.

**Action Today:** At 87, I'm not as active as I used to be, or wish I could be. So I believe it's even more important to support Ontario Nature and their actions for nature.

**Hope for Tomorrow:** We must protect our wild, natural environment. It's under threat! Children and young people need opportunities to be outside and connect with nature instead of looking at screens.







*It is me in our back yard on Howwoods Drive  
in York Mills Valley*

### Gail's Story

I remember our old neighbourhood as a wonderful wilderness. We walked to school, and I learned very early that I could take little shortcuts which turned out not to be shortcuts at all! I loved finding different spots and, my gosh, when you sit quietly you see a lot. My parents had this very old bird book and I knew it cover to cover. I fell in love with birds because of their freedom. I always felt they were so brave!

Our home had a big, beautiful tree in the backyard and I remember once when I was very sick in bed, I had this perfect view of our tree. And it was completely full of warblers, I couldn't believe my eyes! When I saw a Blackburnian warbler I thought I was hallucinating, it was so colourful and gorgeous.

I'm delighted that Phoebe's love for nature grew like mine. As soon as I saw her, we embraced immediately and started sharing memories—and new stories too.

**Action:** I'm devoted to my native garden. I've planted wildflowers and ferns and created a lovely little habitat for local wildlife. And I'm proud of it too!

**Hope for Tomorrow:** It breaks my heart to see our appalling loss of habitat. Our constant expansion without regard for wildlife is an absolute tragedy. I have a wonderful dream where everyone values the preservation of nature and we are inspired to protect it.

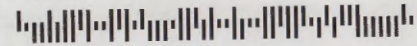


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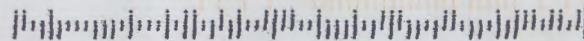
ONTARIO NATURE  
612-214 KING ST W  
TORONTO ON M5H 9Z9



**Your 2016 membership  
card enclosed!**



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## YOUR 2016 ONTARIO NATURE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Yes, Caroline!** I will celebrate our lifetime of conservation and renew my Ontario Nature membership today!

Here is my renewal gift of:

\$35     **\$50**     \$75     I prefer to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*you'll receive our quarterly ON Nature magazine with a gift of \$50 or more!*

**Thank you!**

I have enclosed my cheque, payable to **Ontario Nature OR**

I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my:  VISA  MasterCard  AMEX

Cardholder's Name

Expiry

Card Number

Signature

### Join our Conservation Conversation!

Share the actions you will take for nature today... And also your hopes and dreams for nature tomorrow! How will you celebrate a lifetime of conservation with Ontario Nature?

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*Please take a moment to look on the back of this form for other ways you can get involved and to update your personal information as required.*

Ms. Pamela Grow

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**Ontario  
Nature**   
66<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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phone: 416-444-8419 toll free: 1-800-440-2366 ontariounature.org  
Charitable Registration # 10737 8952 RR0001



Dont miss your enclosed 2016 membership card!



## Your Annual Membership Card

Your enclosed card is activated with your renewed 2016 membership and is active until February 2017. Thank you for taking action for nature in Ontario by renewing your 2016 membership!

## Keeping You Informed

Stay connected through email about conservation issues, ways you can take action and all the latest updates. If you would like to receive emails from us, including our Loon Call e-newsletter and special action alerts, please check the box below and provide your email address here:

- By checking here, you consent to us contacting you from time to time. Ontario Nature respects your privacy and does not share email addresses or any other information about our members.

You can also visit us online at [ontarionature.org](http://ontarionature.org), like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/OntarioNature](https://facebook.com/OntarioNature), and follow us on Twitter @ontarionature and Instagram.com/Ontario\_Nature.

## Your Vital Support

Please let us know if you would like more information about any of these special programs. Rest assured that anything you share is confidential and you are under no obligation.

- Please contact me about the monthly giving program, Friends of Nature.  
 Please contact me about our leadership giving program, Champions for Nature.  
 I would like to know more about how I can protect wild species and wild spaces in my Will.

## Volunteering

Join our volunteer team! Visit [ontarionature.org/volunteer](http://ontarionature.org/volunteer) or call Portia at 1-800-440-2366 ext. 233 for current opportunities. If you are outside the GTA or Thunder Bay, we will connect you with a regional conservation group in your area.

## The Bruce Beckons!

Join us at Evergreen Resort, South Bruce Peninsula June 3-5, 2016 for our annual gathering and celebrate our 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To learn more and to register visit [ontarionature.org/annualgathering](http://ontarionature.org/annualgathering) or call Lauren at 1-800-440-2366 ext. 271.

## We Love Hearing From You!

You can contact Portia at 1-800-440-2366 ext. 233 or [portiam@ontarionature.org](mailto:portiam@ontarionature.org) for any of your member care questions. We love opportunities to connect with our members!

## Thank you!

### Information Update:

My phone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

By providing your email address, you consent to us contacting you from time to time. Ontario Nature respects your privacy and does not share email addresses.

