

wetlands *wonders*

*"We need the tonic
of wilderness—to
wade sometimes in
marshes where the
bittern and the
meadow-hen lurk,
and hear the booming
of the snipe; to smell
the whispering sedge
where only some
wilder and more
solitary fowl builds
her nest, and the
mink crawls with its
belly close to the
ground."*

—Henry David Thoreau

The
Silver
Creek
Wetland
Complex



SOS Save Our Silver Dinner

Friday, May 5, 2006
 Craigleith Ski Club - New Lodge
 Reception: 6:00 P.M.
 Dinner: 7:30 P.M.

Guest Speaker is David A. Ulrich, Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. The Initiative helps mayors and other local officials develop programs to advance the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River resource. David will be speaking on the importance of coastal wetlands to the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Ticket price is \$100. (Charitable Tax Receipt available for a portion)

Come out and support the conservation of the Silver Creek and enjoy an evening of hors d'oeuvres, fine dining, music by EH TRAIN, an exciting silent auction and MUCH MORE!

All proceeds will go to support the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation's Silver Creek Fund. The BMWTF is committed to ensure the permanent protection and preservation of the Silver Creek Wetland. Our local Silver Creek Complex Provincially Significant Wetland is the last remaining coastal wetland on the shore of Southern Georgian Bay between Midland and Tobermory.

For Ticket Information
 Please Call: Agatha Tawaststjerna 705-444-4756

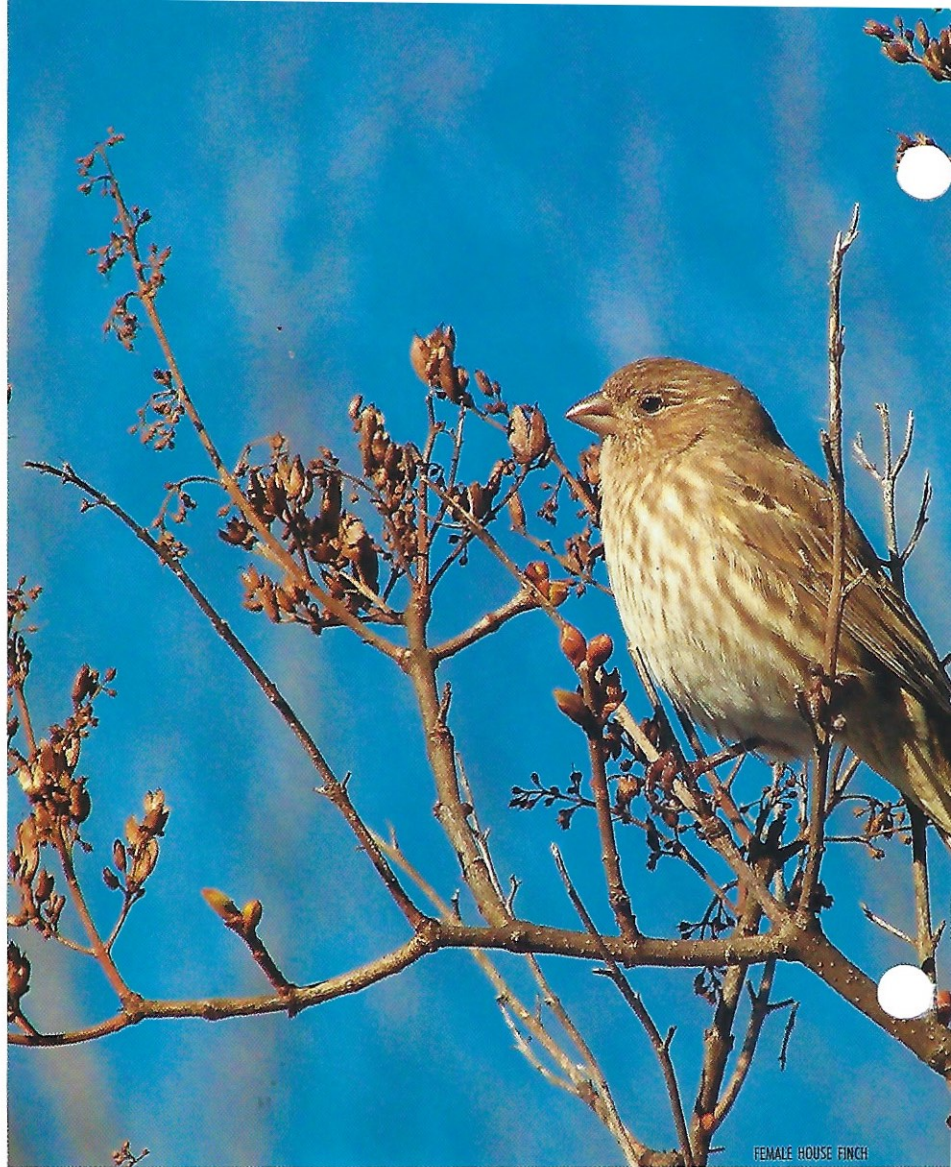
*"We do not inherit the Earth from
 our ancestors, we borrow it from
 our children."*

Haida Proverb



WINGING IT IN
SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY

house finch



The House Finch is a social bird and can usually be found in small flocks ranging from Southern Canada to Southern Mexico and east to Nebraska. It was introduced in the 1940's by cage-bird dealers who sold them as "Hollywood Finches" and now is also widespread throughout the Eastern U.S. Over most of its range, House Finch abundance is closely correlated with the size of the local human population. A gregarious bird, forming loose flocks in breeding season, they roost in close proximity to each other, sometimes touching.




Sparrow sized at 5 - 5 3/4", the male has orange-red coloration on the crown, breast and rump with brown streaked flanks. The Female has plain, unstriped head and heavy streaking on a light underside. The males' reddish color becomes even brighter during the breeding season.

The House Finch is a common visitor to most backyard feeding stations. Their sociable behavior make them a feeder favorite! They gather together at most feeding stations enjoying your food and each others' company.

The diet of the House Finch consists primarily of plant food, although they will eat a few insects and feed them to their young in Spring. The House Finch's natural diet is weed seeds and occasionally fruit. They will regularly extract seed from berries. At feeding stations just about any feeder and type of food attracts the House Finch including suet, all types of birdseed, most fruits, bakery crumbs and nectar at hummingbird feeders.

The best way to attract House Finches to your backyard is to offer black oil sunflower seed and a source of water.

House Finches will readily nest in almost any man-made structure, including, barns, garages, under awnings and in hanging flower baskets. A Finch House provides the perfect cavity for this sociable bird.



The BMWTF is fundraising to meet its \$100,000 commitment to the Town plus additional funds to cover the Town's total cost which is estimated to be between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000.

"We feel strongly that the all levels of government, non-governmental organizations as well as concerned citizens should contribute to the acquisition, preservation and protection of this provincially significant coastal wetland for future generations."



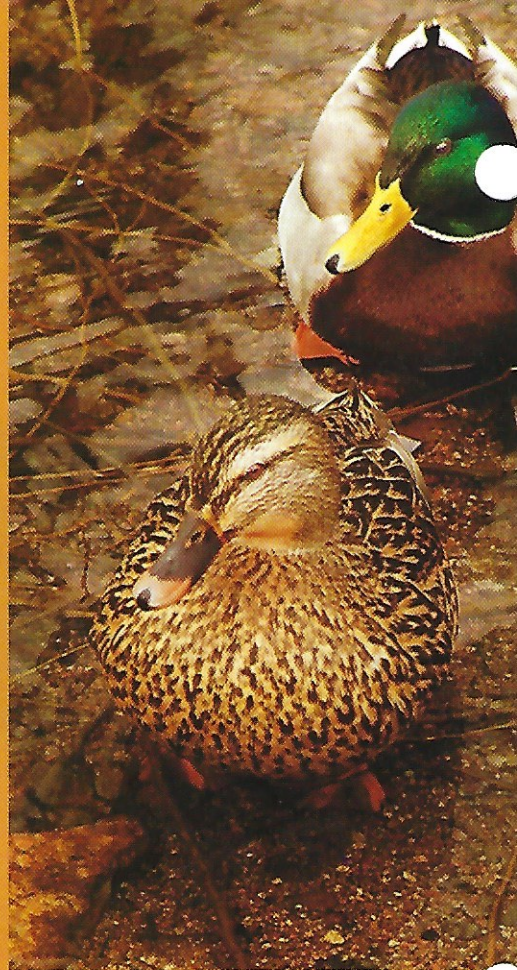
The Silver Creek watershed has an area of approximately 2,700 hectares. The headwaters are located on the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Silver Creek rises in the Lake of the Clouds and flows into Georgian Bay. The Silver Creek Wetland Complex covers approximately 166 hectares and is located mostly north of Highway #26 in western end of the Town of Collingwood. The Wetland extends to the shore of the Bay and spans the Creek's mouth.

The Town Line Creek (spring fed) rises north of the Lake of the Clouds by the Blue Mountain Ski Hills south chair, near the Scenic Caves. This creek flows down the ski hill, through the Monterra Golf Course and along the Grey-Simcoe county line and then easterly to West Black Bass Bay.

Silver Creek has an abundance of gravel beds and deep pools that are habitat for many species of fish, including Brook Trout, Chinook Salmon and Rainbow Trout. The Silver Creek Wetland Complex provides a variety of important biological, social and hydro geological functions i.e. flood control, water purification and sediment containment. A 1991 inventory of bird life made by expert ornithologists indicated 124 species, including provincially significant Caspian Terns, Great White Egrets and Black Crowned Night Herons. The shoreline estuary creates favourable staging and feeding grounds for numerous waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds. Two biological inventories confirm that numerous species of plants, including "Great Lakes Endemics" grow in the Wetland.

Over the past 20 years, the Town of Collingwood, with the support of the BMWTF, the Nature League and concerned citizens, has been extremely dedicated in its mandate to preserve and protect the Wetlands. In July of this year, the Town took a courageous step, passing By-law 2005.45 which initiates the expropriation of the three western parcels of land comprising a large part of the Wetland. This was not an easy decision for the Town, but for its residents and all future generations, it is undoubtedly the right thing to do. The BMWTF has pledged to raise \$100,000 to defray part of the Town's costs.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Silver Creek Wetland Complex is the last remaining coastal Wetland on the shores of Southern Georgian Bay from Midland to Tobermory. In the words of the president of the Georgian Triangle Anglers' Association, "Silver Creek is the best trout stream in Southern Ontario".



The Blue Mountain
Watershed Trust Foundation
(BMWTF) took up
the cause in 1994.

