

Orillia Packet & Times
March 17/07

Focus on The Land Between

Sixty per cent of this land is crown land

Leora Berman, program co-ordinator of the Land Between Project, spoke to the Orillia Naturalists' Club at their March 5 meeting. This project is a collaboration of the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy and the Couchiching Conservancy, largely funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The Land Between is a name given to the transition area north of the built up farmland of Southern Ontario, and south of the cottage country on the Pre-Cambrian Shield – an area of high biodiversity, with many species at risk.

It is an area forgotten by many of the previous government programs, although about 60 per cent of this land is crown land.

It consists of areas of shallow soils and exposed limestone and granite, interspersed with small,

but connected wet areas.

Although the boundaries of this area are not well-defined as yet, it stretches east to Georgian Bay and west to north of Kingston. In our area the Severn River runs through it. Many of the readers of this newspaper live in "The Land Between," and enjoy it.

It is an area often roadless, relatively undeveloped, vulnerable and sensitive to disruption, but under increased pressure from the population explosions to the south.

The program plans to increase attention to these sites, with ongoing research.

Studies of many threatened species are planned: Golden-winged Warblers, Whippoorwills, Five-lined Skinks, and many types of frogs and other reptiles. Volunteers will be essential for some of this. As part of the education and outreach vision, they are hoping to have some sustainability demonstration projects.

Berman's talk was illustrated



Photo of a satellite map including The Land Between area.

with satellite maps, which demonstrated the uniqueness of the area.

Representatives of the Scouts

were on hand to demonstrate the bluebird houses they have built,

with financial help from a grant

from the Orillia Naturalists' Club.

Submitted by Nancy Ironside
for the Orillia Naturalists' Club