



WHAT YOU CAN DO....

1. When you go for a walk in the woods be sure to stay on the marked trails. Trails are made so that you won't get lost but also so that delicate habitats are protected from the stomping boots and shoes of visitors.

2. If you live in the Carolinian Canada region, plant native species in your garden. There are many reputable seed and plant distributors who specialize in native plants. Contact

the Society for Ecological Restoration at 905-641-2252, ext. 6494 or e-mail: info@serontario.org for a grower near you.

3. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Buy less stuff, and you'll produce less garbage. In this way, less land will be used for garbage disposal, leaving more land for wildlife. As well, reduce the amount of energy and water you use and lessen your impact on nature.

4. If you do not live in the Carolinian Canada region, suggest to your

parents that it might be a good destination for your next family car trip. Visit the majestic forests of Backus Woods near Long Point or the Ojibway Prairie near Windsor. Check Carolinian Canada's web site: www.carolinian.org for locations, or contact the FON for a list of naturalist clubs and organizations in your area.

5. Become an advocate for nature! Write a letter to your MPP or local newspaper explaining why we need to protect Carolinian Canada.

CAROLINIAN CANADA WORD SEARCH

The following words are hidden in the word search. Words may be forwards, backwards or diagonal! The letters that are **not used** spell a phrase that describes Carolinian Canada.

Word List

BACKUS WOODS
DECIDUOUS

M E P S T R O E O T L E C T K
U S P D U T I I H M A E F E S
S O R O L L R R O I I R N E P
S N I O I M A I A L P T D U I
O G C W P E T A A D U A E L N
P O K S T T N R N C S I C B Y
O H L U R S O P K L R L I R S
A N Y K E Y D Y T I A O D E O
I R P C E S C A A M M N U N F
N E E A F O A W T A U G O R T
I T A B F C N B I T A A U A S
G S R F O E F I B E C M S K H
R A E A R O L J A I N I A N E
I E C A N A D O H A O C I F L
V F L Y I N G S Q U I R R E L

EASTERN HOGNOSE
ECOSYSTEM
FLYING SQUIRREL
HABITAT
KARNER BLUE
KENTUCKY COFFEE
MAGNOLIA

MARSUPIAL
MILD CLIMATE
OJIBWAY PRAIRIE
ONTARIO
PRICKLY PEAR
SPINY SOFTSHELL
TULIP TREE

The leftover letters, in order, spell out the following phrase.

Answer: Protect the flora and fauna of Carolinian Canada

For more information about Carolinian Canada

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Web site: www.carolinian.org

Resources from the FON

- Carolinian Canada Teacher's Guide
- Plants of Carolinian Canada Seasons (summer, 1985)

Check out the Internet

- The Deciduous Forest Region of Eastern North America www.library.utoronto.ca/polyclave/caroltrees/carolmap.htm
- Environment Canada - Ecozones www.ccea.org/ecozones/mp/plants.html

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Recycled paper



sassafras tree

southern flying squirrel

CAROLINIAN CANADA

ONTARIO'S SOUTHERN PARADISE

Where in Canada can you find opossums in trees, butterflies the colour of summer sky and trees with tulip flowers? In Carolinian Canada – the southern land of extremes.

If you draw an imaginary line from Grand Bend on Lake Huron to Toronto, the area south of that line to Lake Erie is called Carolinian Canada. An amazing variety of plants and animals are found here and nowhere else in Canada!

Carolinian Canada is an area of extremes. It is the smallest vegetation zone in the country, making up less than one percent of Canada's total land area. Look at an Ontario road map to see just how small it really is. Despite its size, it contains more species of flora and fauna than any other ecosystem in Canada! Carolinian Canada is home to more than 70 species of trees, more than



2,200 species of plants and more than half of all species of birds that live in Canada. Unfortunately, one third of Canada's species at risk also live in this beautiful but fragile environment.

Although this area is also known as the "banana belt" of Canada, you won't find any bananas growing here! This region has the warmest average annual temperatures, the highest number of frost-free days and the mildest winters in all of Ontario. The comfortably warm climate is a result of the moderating influence of the Great Lakes and warm, moist air blowing north off of the Gulf of Mexico.

Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle

This reptile gets its name from its lack of a hard shell and also from the sharp "spines" along the front edges of its shell. While most turtles have hard shells, the softshell turtle has smooth, leathery carapace. If you look at this turtle sideways, it is almost as flat as a pancake. This turtle can also be recognized by its long, snout-like nose. It lives in streams, marshes and rivers near Lake Erie, where it makes a tasty snack of insects, crayfish, snails, worms and small fish. Unfortunately, shoreline housing developments and agricultural activity threaten its habitat.



FON Fascinating Fact

The male eastern spiny softshell turtle has spots on the top of its shell that look like eyes. These "eyes" trick predators into thinking that the turtle is actually a very large creature.

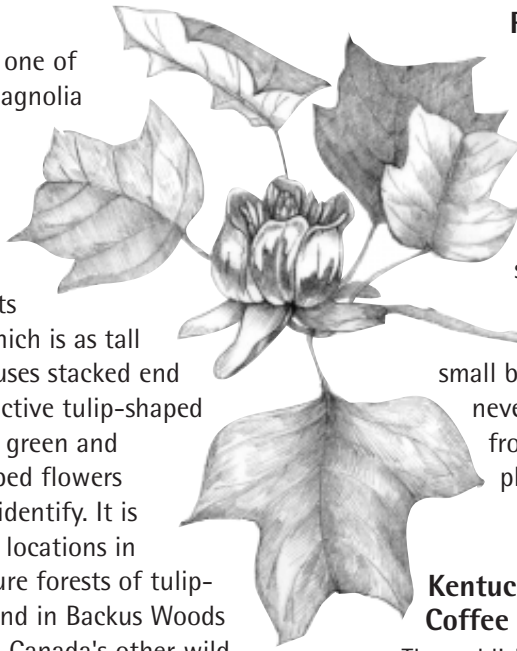


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Fax: (416) 444-9866 E-mail: info@ontarionature.org

BECAUSE OF THE MILD CLIMATE, A NUMBER OF UNIQUE SPECIES CAN BE FOUND LIVING HERE

Tulip-tree

The tulip-tree is one of only two wild magnolia species found in Canada. Eastern North America's tallest hardwood, this tree can reach heights of 23 metres, which is as tall as two school buses stacked end to end. Its distinctive tulip-shaped leaves and large green and orange cup-shaped flowers make it easy to identify. It is found in several locations in the region. Mature forests of tulip-trees can be found in Backus Woods near Long Point. Canada's other wild magnolia tree, the endangered cucumber tree, is also a resident of Carolinian Canada.

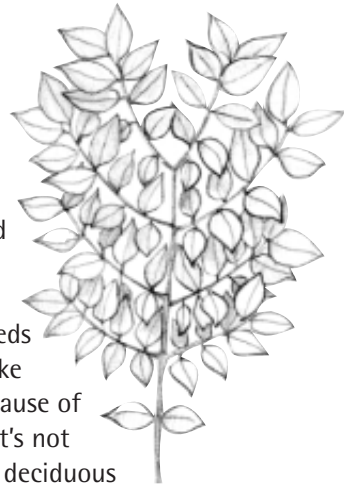


Pawpaw

The bark of this tree contains natural chemicals that were used by natives and early settlers to make medicines. It is also called "poor man's banana" as the fruit is commonly eaten in parts of the southern states. It is, in fact, one of the largest edible fruits in North America, with entire cookbooks related to this small banana-sized fruit. But remember, never eat anything without the okay from a knowledgeable adult – some plants can make you very ill.

Kentucky Coffee Tree

The reddish-brown seed pods of this tree were once used by natives as dice. Early European settlers roasted the seeds to make a coffee-like drink; however, because of their toxic nature, it's not recommended. This deciduous tree can grow to be nearly 25 metres high. It has large doubly compound leaves (each leaf contains leaflets, which in turn contain leaflets) that change colour throughout the season, starting as pink, turning white, then green, yellow and finally orange before they fall off.

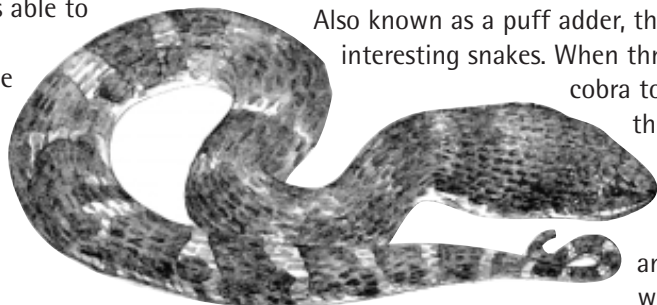


Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus



A cactus in Ontario? No, we haven't lost our marbles. The eastern prickly pear cactus, also known as Indian fig, is a cactus that is able to survive Ontario's cold winters. It reproduces by a pod breaking off the parent plant and taking root nearby. This endangered plant grows only in the extreme southern parts of the province, around Pelee Island, and it's protected by Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

Eastern Hognose Snake



Also known as a puff adder, the eastern hognose is one of Ontario's most interesting snakes. When threatened, this reptile raises its head like a cobra to make itself look larger and more powerful than its predator. It has also been known to hiss and even strike when disturbed. If its theatrics are not enough to frighten away a predator, the snake simply rolls over and plays dead in hopes that the intruder will lose interest and go away.

Southern Flying Squirrel

The world's only flying mammal is the bat, so why is this small mammal called a flying squirrel? The southern flying squirrel gets its name from the gliding technique that it uses to parachute between trees. This nocturnal mammal will spread its forelimbs and hind legs as it jumps from one branch to another. The loose skin between its legs acts like a parachute and allows the squirrel to glide long distances between trees – the southern gliding squirrel would be a better, or at least a more accurate, name! A small number of these mammals can be found along the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The large, mature hardwood forests found in Carolinian Canada provide the ideal habitat for these furry gliders, supplying them with lots of shelter and tasty nuts to eat. Unfortunately, these forests are disappearing at an alarming rate.

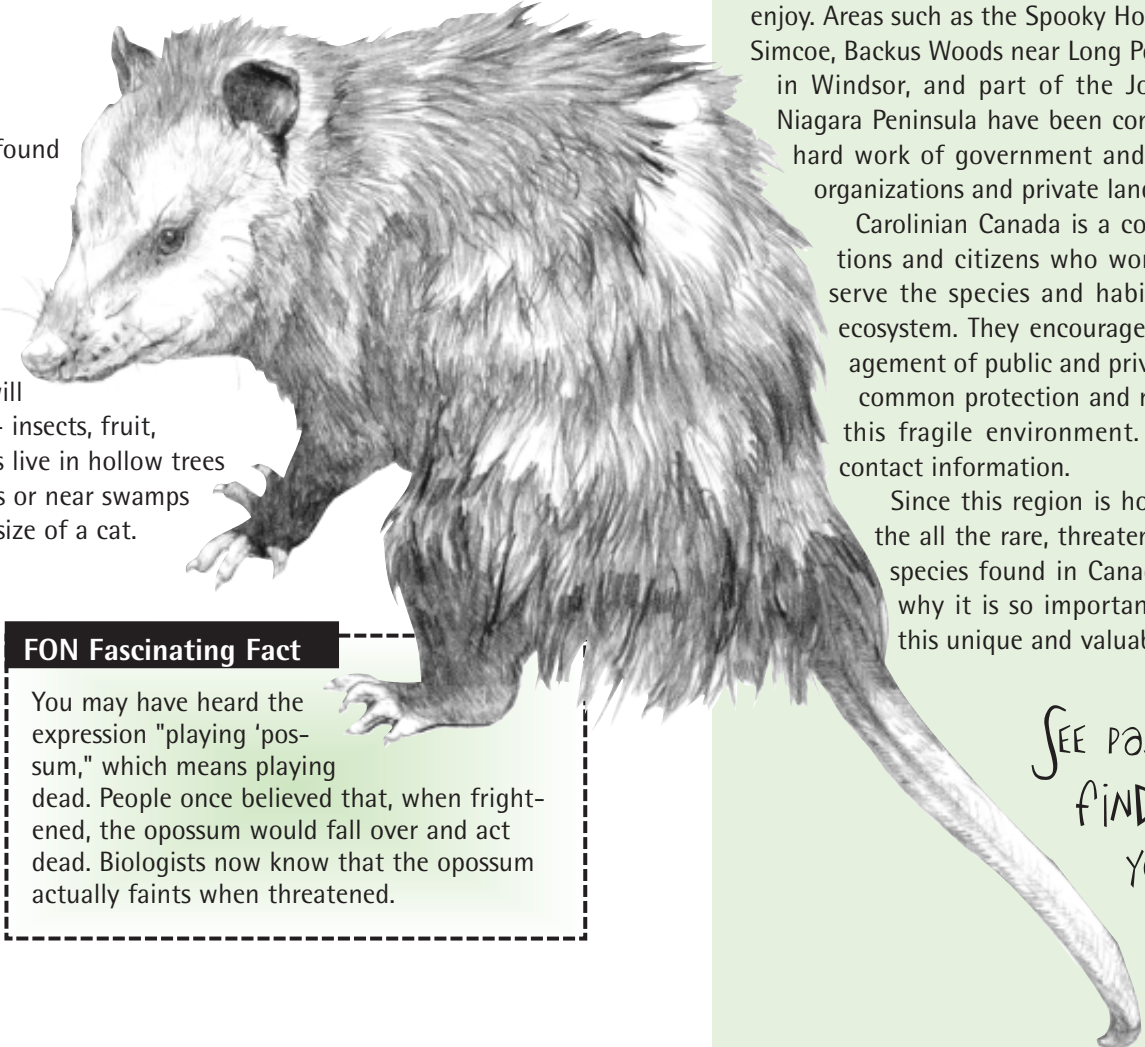
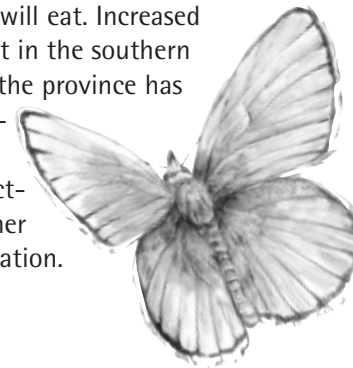
Virginia Opossum

Although this unique mammal is usually found in the southeastern United States, it has adapted to life in Carolinian Canada. The opossum is North America's only marsupial, which means it gives birth to live young who continue to develop in the mother's pouch after birth – just like kangaroos. This marsupial-of-the-north will eat just about anything that it can find – insects, fruit, birds, eggs and small mammals. Opossums live in hollow trees or logs and can be found in wooded areas or near swamps and streams. The Virginia opossum is the size of a cat.



Karner Blue Butterfly

The survival of this delicate, pale blue butterfly depends on the preservation of its specialized habitat. Wild lupine, a wildflower that grows in the dry soils of open pine and oak savannahs (grasslands with trees), is the only food that the caterpillars of this species will eat. Increased development in the southern portions of the province has nearly eliminated wild lupine, affecting the Karner blue's population.



FON Fascinating Fact

You may have heard the expression "playing 'possum," which means playing dead. People once believed that, when frightened, the opossum would fall over and act dead. Biologists now know that the opossum actually faints when threatened.

A THREATENED ECOSYSTEM

Destruction of natural habitat is the main threat to Canadian species.

The warm climate and rich soils of the Carolinian region have attracted farmers and developers who must clear the forests, grasslands, wetlands and other natural areas to use the land for profit. Only three percent of Carolinian Canada's original forest cover remains and only 10 percent of the wetlands. Prairie ecosystems of the Carolinian Canada area are among the most threatened ecosystems in Canada. Without suitable habitat, many plants and animals of this region face extinction.

What is being done?

Since large forested areas are very rare in Carolinian Canada, it is important to protect those that remain. These areas provide the "interior" habitat that many species need to live and reproduce. Woods should be protected and expanded to create the largest areas of continuous forest possible.

Many people are concerned about the future of the Carolinian Canada region and are working very hard to ensure that it is protected for future generations to enjoy. Areas such as the Spooky Hollow Sanctuary near Simcoe, Backus Woods near Long Point, Ojibway Prairie in Windsor, and part of the Jordan Valley in the Niagara Peninsula have been conserved through the hard work of government and non-governmental organizations and private landowners.

Carolinian Canada is a coalition of organizations and citizens who work together to conserve the species and habitats of this special ecosystem. They encourage conservation management of public and private lands by setting common protection and restoration goals for this fragile environment. See page four for contact information.

Since this region is home to one-third of all the rare, threatened and endangered species found in Canada, it is easy to see why it is so important that we conserve this unique and valuable area.

SEE PAGE FOUR TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN DO!

