



ESSEX COUNTY PURPLE MARTIN ASSOCIATION

August 2008 Newsletter

Hello fellow Purple Martin enthusiasts! We thought you would appreciate an update about the club and upcoming events.

As you now know, Gilles Breton and his wife Judy decided after many years of service to the club that they could no longer continue as President and Treasurer. The members would like to extend our thanks to them for all their hard work in forming and maintaining the club over the years. Gilles and Judy will continue on as club members and as well, if requested, will be available for any assistance.

Ten members of the club were chosen to represent our new Board who will respectfully be responsible for the affairs of our association. Our board members are:

Paul Hamel-*Chairperson*

John Balga- *Treasurer*

Linda Barrette-*New Member Mentor*

Dennis Shady

Leah Swaddling.

Mary Wilson-*Secretary*

Lyle Papps- *Inventory Keeper*

Trudy Friesen-*Media Contact*

Lucille and Arnold Van Essen

So far we have held three meetings using this particular format. During our January 2009 meeting, there will be a major discussion regarding the progress/benefits of this type of board.

Our club has 66 members and we are totally dependant on our dues to pay for any costs that the club incurs. Members' dues are normally collected at our meeting in January, but this year the continuation of the club was doubtful. Therefore it was decided that after the new formation of the Board, not to collect any dues until the second meeting which was held in April. An announcement has been made at each meeting, that outstanding yearly dues are to be paid. It would be greatly appreciated if we could resolve this situation before the start of 2009. Membership dues for the year are \$20.00. New Membership dues are \$25.00. John Balga has made up new membership cards and you are entitled to receive one if you are a paid-up member.

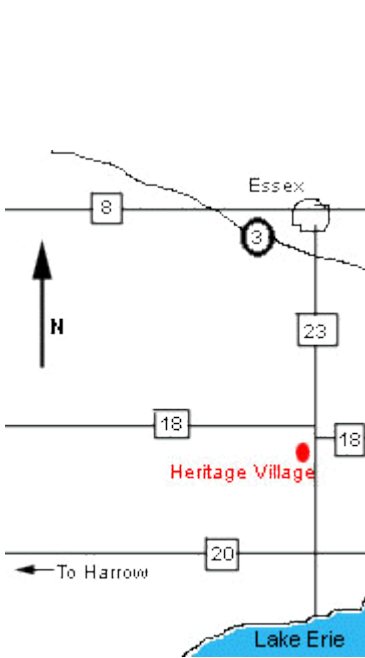
This is the time of year that our colonies dwindle in numbers as the Martins prepare for their long journey south. We can take a great deal of satisfaction knowing that we have once again contributed to the continuing success of the species. If not for people like you, who are willing to take the time to care for these colonies, the Martin population would certainly decline. An interesting fact about Purple Martins and their housing is that they have nested in nest boxes for the past 100 years in the eastern part of North America. Native Americans used to hang empty gourds for the Martins to nest long before the arrival of the Europeans. Now the fun begins.... all the housing that we provided must be taken down and cleaned in order to be ready for next year's arrivals.

Our next meeting on September 20th at 9:00 a.m. will NOW BE held at the Heritage Village on the Arner Town Line. The price for the breakfast will be \$10.00/per person (which includes tax and tip). The room is in the Automotive Museum right beside the 50's Diner. **Important Note: A club member will be available at the door to collect your payment for breakfast.** We will need an exact number of people who are planning to attend so when we contact you in September by phone or email, please confirm if you will be attending. A number of items will be discussed at this meeting: John Balga will be talking about the Banding Program and how it may be handled in the future; Dennis Shady will be giving tips on cleaning your housing; and we will be taking a final count of the number of birds fledged this year. Since this is the final meeting of 2008, we would like to review the way the club is functioning. If you have some ideas, we are always glad to hear from you.

The Board

Directions to Heritage Village
Harrow, Ontario, Canada
phone: (519) 776-6909

Location: 8 km. South of Essex, Ontario on County Rd. 23 (6155 Arner Townline)



Directions to Heritage Village
Harrow, Ontario, Canada
phone: (519) 776-6909

Location: 8 km. South of Essex, Ontario on County Rd. 23 (6155 Arner Townline)

