NEWSLETTER
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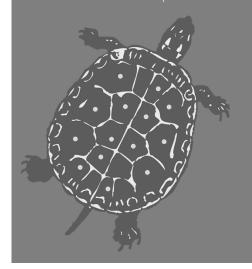




THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MACGREGOR POINT PARK "Naturally Connected"

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is finally here! Hopefully everyone is enjoying the summer season. Camping is great this time of year, especially at MacGregor Point Park

We are saddened to bid farewell to several board members. The board extends a very sincere thank you to John Cummings, Bev Carlisle, Michael Rea, Doug Martin, and Peter Harrison. Their expertise has been exceptional!

The board intends to complete projects which include the wayfinding signage to be affixed to the large posts that can be found along the trails within the Park. The board has also identified sections of

the Tower Trail that need upgrading. The fundraising for the erection of a platform at the Water Snake Pond has been completed, and it will be built later this summer or early fall.

The board is still in need of a full time treasurer. Starting next year a president and store manager will be needed.

New board members are always welcome. I invite you to come to one of our meetings and see what it is all about.

Enjoy the summer!

Sincerely, Michael La Blance President

LETTER FROM THE INCOMING EDITOR





I am honored to take over as Editor of the *Spotted Turtle Newsletter*. Thank you to the Friends of MacGregor Point Board of Directors for giving me this opportunity, and trusting the newsletter in my hands. I would also like to thank Linda Mason, past editor, and each of the editors before us who have contributed time and resources to this publication. It is with dedication from these volunteers that we have helped share the message of the Friends of MacGregor Point Park.

Some of you may know me from when I worked at the MacGregor Point Visitor Centre, first in the Huron Fringe Shop, and later as a Natural Heritage Education student. If I cannot work at MacGreogr Point, I am more than happy to share my experiences and love of the Park through the Spotted Turtle. I hope my work at MacGregor Point, and my lifelong love of the area as a cottage resident and frequent Park visitor and volunteer is evident in this newsletter through the articles, pictures and stories we will share.

I look forward to working with the Board of Directors to ensure the continuing growth and success of this newsletter. I hope my time as editor will help the Friends of MacGregor Point Park share their love of nature and the Park with the many campers, visitors and friends of MacGregor Point.

For returning members, you will notice a change in the appearance of the newsletter. I hope to provide a user-friendly and informative document that showcases MacGregor Point and the Friends of MacGregor.

I hope this newsletter will be a combined effort from all who love MacGregor Point. I am grateful for comments and suggestions, and would be happy to showcase research, articles, pictures, stories, memories of MacGregor Point, and any other contributions I receive. On behalf of the Friends of MacGregor, I hope this newsletter opens the door to nature awareness and education for all Friends members and new readers interested in becoming a friend. It is my goal to ensure all members, campers, visitors and "Friends" are *Naturally Connected*.

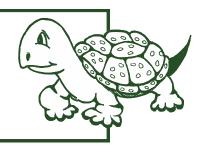
Sarah Martin

Spotted Turtle Editor

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPOTTED TURTLE

If you have a photo, story, memory, newsletter idea, event, advertisement, etc. you would like included in the Spotted Turtle Newsletter please send it to the attention of Sarah Martin at **friendsofmacgregor@gmail.com** and you may be featured in an upcoming issue!

All submissions are greatly appreciated!





YOU CAN ATTEND!

If you like butterflies, and would like to help count these species, come out to the 2015 count, *July 4, 2015*.

Contact the staff at the Visitor Centre for more information

For information on NABA visit: http://www.naba.org/









NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION (NABA) COUNT

On July 5, 2014 seven teams of dedicated volunteers trekked across MacGregor Point and Port Elgin, the 'outback', 'blind line', 'underworld' and 'middle earth' to track, identify, and count butterflies in the 16th annual MacGregor Point North American Butterfly Association (NABA) count.

Like other areas across North America, MacGregor Point is responsible for a square of land, and volunteers set out on a day-long search for butterflies to help record numbers and species that frequent the area. These results are tabulated and submitted to NABA who use this information to track species rise and decline across the Country, as well as species diversity and range.

In total, 34 species were seen, and 4,509 individual butterflies were counted! This included 3,533 European Skippers, 377

Northern Crescent, and 176 Cabbage White, which always come out in large numbers. The groups also saw a combined 51 Monarch Butterflies. Some other sightings included Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Question Mark, White Admiral and Northern Pearly-Eye to name just a few.

Although numbers were down this year, we did have a wide variety of species, wonderful weather and great company. The count concludes with the group tabulating the results and sharing their experiences from the day. This count always brings out a dedicated group eager to do their share. No experience is necessary. It is a great way to learn some new species and meet new people all while helping study our butterfly population.

Sarah Martin, Friends Member/Park Volunteer

You can do your part to protect these beautiful creatures . . .

Put up a butterfly feeder, volunteer with NABA, participate in the MacGregor Point NABA count, rear a butterfly from a caterpillar or chrysalis. Put a butterfly garden in your yard, school or community that includes a variety of plants to attract a range of butterflies, and provide food to many different caterpillar species.

- > Butterflies emerge from a chrysalis, while moths emerge from a cocoon
- > EACH BUTTERFLY HAS A "HOST" PLANT IT RELIES ON FOR FOOD. FOR EXAMPLE, THE NORTHERN CRESCENT (RIGHT) RELIES ON HOST PLANTS IN THE ASTER FAMILY.
- > THERE ARE ABOUT 24,000 SPECIES OF BUTTERFLY, AND ABOUT 140,000 MOTHS
- > MANY BUTTERFLIES CAN TASTE WITH THEIR FEET TO FIND A GOOD LEAF TO LAY EGGS
- > MONARCH BUTTERFLIES INSTINCTIVELY MIGRATE TO MEXICO, A 4,000KM JOURNEY!
- > A BUTTERFLY CAN SEE THE COLOURS RED, GREEN AND YELLOW.





UPCOMING EVENTS AT MACGREGOR POINT

MacGregor's Mystery Evening

August 5th and August 30th

7:30pm, Visitor Centre, Campfire Circle

An evening of suspense, accusation and discovery. Come help the Park staff piece together the clues, questions and suspects and ultimately solve the mysterious crime.

MacGregor's Got Talent

August 16th

3:00pm, Visitor Centre, Campfire Circle

An afternoon dedicated to the many talents of our wonderful campers. Share your favourite song, joke, story, dance, or activity, or simply sit back and enjoy an evening of fun and entertainment.

Weekly Events at MacGregor Point Provincial Park Visitor Centre

Monday - Guided Hike

Tuesday - Meet the Naturalist

Wednesday - Children's Program

Thursday - Guided Hike & Outdoor Recreation

Friday - Guest Speaker as scheduled

Saturday - Special Events as scheduled

Sunday - Meet the Naturalist

* please note order of events may change dependant on programming and special events.

The Friends of MacGregor Present: Wild for the Arts

September 20th and 21st

Visitor Centre and Algonquin Campground



Wild for the Arts is a community based cultural event that celebrates nature as a source of inspiration for creativity. We offer a full schedule of events and activities amid the autumn beauty of MacGregor Point Provincial Park. Featured are nature-inspired visual art and written works.

The Wild for the Arts Festival includes live music, drop-in art, dance, theatre and family fun! A feature of the program is the Campsite Studio Tour where visitors have the opportunity to appreciate the arts in a natural setting. Visual arts include paintings, drawings, pastels, collage, photography and sculpture, stained glass, decorative art, pottery, jewelry, quilting, weaving, and wood work. Written works include poetry, fiction, and non-fiction; either commercially or author published.

During the Festival there is free day-use entry to MacGregor Point.

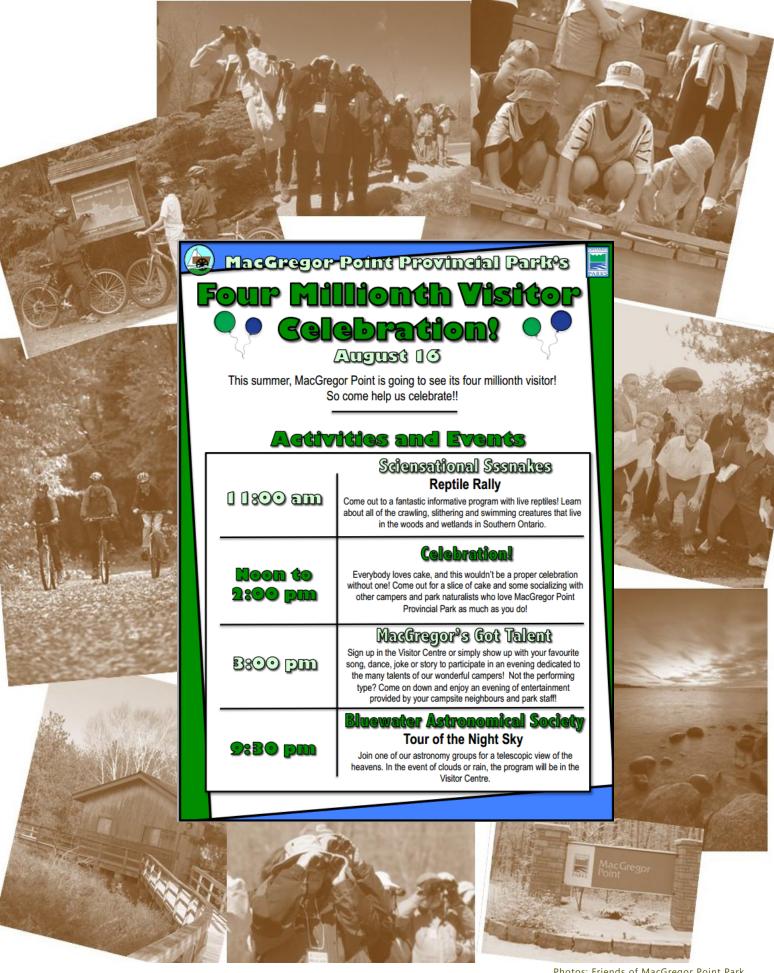
Witches in the Woods

October 18th and 19th

Witches in the Woods celebrates Hallowe'en and the forest creatures closely linked to it! Campers decorate their sites, trick or treat, and explore nature in the fall.



For more information and full program details visit www.friendsofmacgregor.org, email us at fompp@bmts.com or call the Visitor Centre at 519-389-6232



Photos: Friends of MacGregor Point Park

HURON FRINGE BIRDING FESTIVAL 2014 FESTIVAL RECAP

The 17th annual Huron Fringe Birding Festival was held this year over the two weekends following Victoria Day, May 23-26 and May 29-June 1. The Festival was again a huge success with a record-breaking 104 new participants!

All 259 participants were treated to wonderful weather both weekends, with 80 events and 43 leaders. The numbers are kept small (12 to 22 per event) for daytime events to provide a positive, more personal experience. Evening events accommodate larger groups in the Visitor Centre at the Park, overall resulting in nearly 1,300 individual contacts.

We saw a record breaking 187 species of birds during the Festival. There was a late migrating Orange-crowned Warbler seen during the first weekend and a rare Connecticut Warbler behind the Visitor Centre on the second weekend. Also, Larry Lamb, one of our botany leaders, discovered a new plant, *Ajuga chamaepitys*, also known as Ground Pine or Yellow Bugle, in the Park during the Festival. This is the first recorded sighting of this non-native species in Canada.

MacGregor Point Provincial Park was explored, as well as the surrounding side roads with other events going south as far as Kincardine, north well up the Bruce Peninsula and into Grey County. Participants learned about birds, plants, wildflowers, trees, shrubs, photography, astronomy, butterflies, dragonflies, and bees as well as geology and geomorphology, important bird areas and e-Bird.

Many of our leaders were repeat performers and we attracted a large number of new folks as well. Our banquet was again well-attended with guest speaker David Lamble talking about Birds and Some of their Mysteries. The silent auction brought in more than \$1,200. A special thank-you to the many individuals who donated a wide variety of items to this event.



Kathy de Groot is the winner of the 2015 Second Weekend pass in our survey ballot draw. Congratulations Kathy! Kathy and Tony de Groot have a wonderful blog which you can visit using the link below.

http://www.tonydegroot.com/RecAdv/RecAdvp20.html

Thank you to the volunteer committee for organizing the Festival and to the many other volunteers who helped during the Festival with set-up and assisting with events.

We also wish to thank our corporate and community sponsors which include:

CORPORATE - Bruce Power, Eagle Optics, Ontario Power Generation

COMMUNITY - Colonial Motel, Elk & Finch, Friends of MacGregor Point Park, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Handy Andy Services, Harrigan's Catering, Hills Insurance, John King Law Office, MacGregor Point Provincial Park, Maplewood Motel, Midlmay Tent Rentals, Natures Millworks, Southampton Rotary Club, Synergistic Solutions, Woodpecker Fine Dining and Lounge.

BJ (Bette Jean) Martin HFBF Registrar

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for May 22 to May 25, and May 28 to May 31, 2015 for next year's Huron Fringe Birding Festival.

Registration starts on February 1st, 2015. Program details are available online by January 15th, 2015 on the Friend's website: www.friendsofmacgregor.org

Visit our blog for more information on the festival: https://huronfringefest.wordpress.com/





"Friends" members enjoying the newly decorated Visitor Centre and picnic table after the July 2014 Friends of MacGregor Annual General Meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Friends of MacGregor Annual General Meeting. The 2015 meeting date will be posted online, and advertised in an upcoming newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW?

This picnic table is made from fallen Ash Trees in Ontario Parks (Wheatley Provincial Park) damaged by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle.

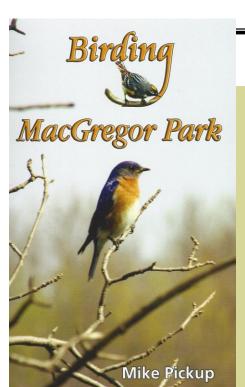
VISITOR CENTRE & HURON FRINGE SHOP





The Visitor Centre and Huron Fringe Shop is open from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm everyday for the rest of the summer . . .

- Meet one of MacGregor Point's critters
- Shop for a field guide or nature gift
- Learn something new from the Visitor Centre Staff
- Learn about the Park and area features
- Discover something in the many displays and educational tools and resources



BOOK OF THE ISSUE

Birding MacGregor Park by Mike Pickup!

Welcome to the very first "Book of the Issue" article! You can now look forward to a new book showcase every issue featuring one of the many superb books or guides sold at the Huron Fringe Gift Shop here at the Visitor Centre. For our very first article, it seemed only fitting that we spotlight Mike Pickup's newest book Birding MacGregor Park. A compact guide filled with everything you could want or need to know about birding here at our beautiful Provincial Park. The guide features colour photos, maps, and in depth descriptions of the best birding locations at MacGregor Point. As with Mike Pickup's other superb guides such as Birding Saugeen Shores and Birding Bruce Peninsula, Birding MacGregor Park has complete lists of

the birds that you might be able to see on any of MacGregor Point's many trails, as each trail has its own chapter. Another useful feature of this new guide is a bird list at the back complete with markings that denote birds that have been observed breeding in the Park, which are only migrant, and which are seen in winter. Mike Pickup is a passionate birder of MacGregor Point and brings decades of expertise to all his books. We are lucky for his many contributions to the Park!

Birding MacGregor Park can be purchased from the Huron Fringe Gift shop for \$15, or \$12.75 with your Friends Membership card.

Bookworm Kathleen
2014 Visitor Centre Staff

THANK YOU MIKE PICKUP!

Thank you Mike for donating proceeds from the sale of this book to the Friends of MacGregor.

HELP US PROMOTE THE FRIENDS OF MACGREGOR

We are trying to make the Friends of MacGregor, and the work of the Friends better known amongst campers, Park visitors, naturalists, nature enthusiasts, surrounding communities, and all throughout Ontario who have a vested interest in MacGregor Point Provincial Park, Ontario Parks, and nature.

We are asking every reader to help us do this by spreading the word about the Park and the work of the Friends by promoting us in your community, online, and at any event you attend.

We have flyers and newsletters of the work and message of the Friends we can make available to you. Please feel free to pass on the friends website, and encourage those you know to become a member of the Friends of MacGregor Point Park.

http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org/

[NEW MEMBERS CAN FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 12]

CONNECT WITH THE FRIENDS



http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org/



NEWSLETTER | friendsofmacgregor@gmail.com FRIENDS | fompp@bmts.com



FRIENDS OF MACGREGOR 1593 BRUCE ROAD 33, RR#1 PORT ELGIN, ONTARIO NOH 2C5



VISITOR CENTRE | (519) 389-6232





"@ FOMPP"

"The Friends of MacGregor Point Park" Throughout the summer, MacGregor Point Provincial Park is sometimes lucky enough to get some really interesting storms. The Visitor Centre is a perfect location to watch storms roll over the lake, and so the Visitor Centre staff wanted to share a bit of the science behind this incredible natural phenomenon.

A storm needs instability in order to develop. Much of the process of weather-making depends on the simple fact that warm air rises and cool air sinks. When the atmosphere is stable the pocket of air cools at a normal rate. This means that any pocket of rising warm air quickly becomes cooler than the surrounding air and stops rising. But if the temperature decrease with height is greater than normal, rising warm air pockets do not cool down enough to make them cooler than the surrounding air. They continue rising to great heights, forming large convective clouds. This is an unstable atmosphere. Clouds are formed when the air in the atmosphere is so saturated with water vapour that it cannot hold any more of it.

Thunderstorms need three things:

- Moisture to form clouds and rain.
- Unstable Air relatively warm air that can rise rapidly.
- Lift fronts, sea breezes and mountains are capable of lifting air to help form thunderstorms.



If you should happen to hear thunder or see lightning, please take shelter in a building or vehicle. If you are not in range of shelter, seek dense woods or low-lying ground.

Thunderstorms are beautiful to watch from porches and decks, but dangerous to be caught in. Remember, a safe camping experience is a happy camping experience.





ALBINO RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. IMAGE SENT TO BRUCE BIRDING CLUB MEMBERS.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS

Michael La Blance	President	malablance@bmts.com
Jim Coles	Projects Committee	jcoles@gbtel.ca
Lana Baldwin	Corresponding Secretary	klbaldwin@bmts.com
Bruce Mc Kechnie		bmckech@bmts.com
Linda Mason	Memberships	masonfam@bmts.com
Kerry Jarvis	Marketing Committee	kerryjarvis@kerryjarvis.com
Andrea La Blance	Store Manager	malablance@bmts.com
MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE BOARD		
Matt Cunliffe	Park Liaison	matthew.cunliffe@ontario.ca
Norah Toth	Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary	ntoth@rogers.com
Sarah Martin	Newsletter	friendsofmacgregor@gmail.com

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS? EMAIL A CURRENT MEMBER, OR fompp@bmts.com FOR MORE INFORATMION.

WHAT AM I?



Flower Identification when on the trail . . . Try the *NEWCOMB's*

WILDFLOWER GUIDE (Lawrence Newcomb)



The *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* is a great resource tool at home or in the field in the identification of wildflowers. The guide features an easy to use table that classifies the plant by flower type, leaf type, and plant type. Combine the numbers, and this ultimately produces a corresponding page number and flower in the guide. In my experience, it is almost never wrong. Try it today!



INFORMATION RELEASE MARCH 18, 2014

Media Release reprinted with permission from Silv-Econ Ltd. All content and pictures property of Silv-Econ Ltd.









From left: healthy ash tree; prism trap; EAB galleries; ash trees dying of EAB attack.

SILV-ECON LTD. LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE TO EDUCATE LANDOWNERS ABOUT THE THREAT TO CANADIAN ASH TREES FROM THE EMERALD ASH BORER BEETLE.

Silv-Econ Ltd., announced today the launch of a new educational website [www.invasiveinsects.ca] created to provide information and resources for consumers, municipalities, land managers and woodlot owners to help minimize the destruction of ash trees by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle. The site helps to identify the EAB, healthy and EAB infested ash trees, and provides options for addressing the impact.

ABOUT SILV-ECON LIMITED

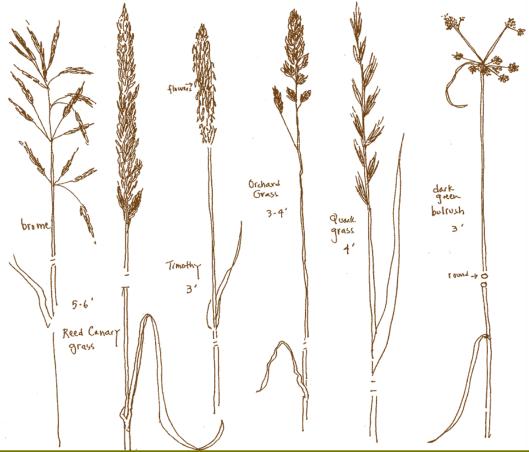
Silv-Econ Limited, founded in 1987, is recognized as a leading authority on woodlot management, forests insects, forest certification and urban forestry in southern Ontario. Silv-Econ is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Smartwood (SW-FM/COC-001769) as a Group Manager of forest properties. The company is a leading authority on forest certification in southern Ontario. The company's extensive clientele includes the Regional Municipalities, Counties and Towns across southern Ontario and hundreds of private woodlot owners.

For more information contact:

Kathleen Ryan, Forest Entomologist, Silv-Econ Ltd. 547-345-2169, kathleen.ryan@silvecon.com, www.silvecon.com

"Drawn to Nature"

Drawn to Nature, through the Journals of Clare Walker Leslie, 2005



WHAT AM I? ANSWERS: 1 YELLOW MARSH MARIGOLD 2 WILD COLOMBINE 3 PURPLE CONEFLOWER 4 BLACK EYED SUSAN 5 DUTCHMAN'S BRITCHES

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE FRIENDS OF MACGREGOR

The Friends of MacGregor Point mission is to be "Naturally Connected", while believing in the support of the values of Ontario Parks, and those of MacGregor Point Provincial Park, the preservation of natural, historical and cultural aspects of the MacGregor Point environment, and the basic principles of environmental conservation.

The projects and programs provided by the Friends help ensure that the natural legacy of MacGregor Point Provincial Park will remain for future generations. Projects are undertaken with funding from membership fees, donations from individuals and various fundraising projects. The Friends of MacGregor are proud of the projects undertaken with the help of many supporting partners.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE . . .

- The seasonal Spotted Turtle Newsletter
- Notice of special and "Member Only" events

NAMF:

- A 15% discount at the Huron Fringe Shop (nature gift shop located in the Visitor Centre)
- Free access to WIFI at the Visitor Centre

Please complete the form below and MAIL to: FRIENDS OF MACGREGOR 1593 BRUCE ROAD 33, RR#1, PORT ELGIN, ON, N0H 2C5 You can also renew your membership ONLINE by visiting: http://friendsofmacgregor.org/page/join-the-friends

ADDRESS:		
CITY:		
PROVINCE:		
POSTAL CODE:		
PHONE NUMBER:	()	
PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS * * In order to keep membership costs down and to be environmentally friendly, our newsletter is distributed to members via email. Alternate arrangements for members who do not have internet access can be made by contacting the Spotted Turtle Editor, or Membership Chairperson		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE CO	NTACTED TO VOLUNTEER AT FRIENDS EVENTS? YES	
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	INDIVIDUAL (\$20) FAMILY (\$30)	
DONATION	\$ OFFICIAL TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR ALL DONATIONS	
TOTAL	\$	
PAYMENT:	CHEQUE VISA MASTERCARD	
CARD NUMBER:	пппппппппппппп	
EXPIRY:		
SIGNATURE:		