



## Ministers Visit

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the Minister of Natural Resources-Honorable Donna Cansfield was in North Bay to announce Species at Risk funding for northeastern Ontario projects. Unfortunately, our club was not successful in acquiring a grant with which we could have hired an intern to educate the public in central and northeastern Ontario. It was felt that the administrative work and costs would be too great when potential local partners had the infrastructure to administer staff. Our vice president, Fred Pinto is also president of the Canadian Institute of Forestry - CIF and Fred arranged that we partner with the CIF. The Canadian Ecology Center also joined us. This proposal was successful. Fred is overseeing this venture for us.

Other local groups that were successful in acquiring funding were the Friends of Mashkinonje and the Dokis First Nation (partners in the Nip Nat *Species at Risk* book).

Angela Martin presented Ministers Cansfield and Smith with copies of ***Species at Risk in the Lake Nipissing Watershed*** book. They were pleased to receive their copies. Photo by Past President, Ted Price.



Left to right: Angela Martin, Fred Pinto, Minister of Revenue Monique Smith, and Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield.

## Butterflies and Dragonflies

By Brent Turcotte

A group of five of us went looking for bugs on Saturday, July 12. Our first destination was the natural gas corridor near the end of Sage Road. This area has several small lakes and other wetlands adjacent to the trail. At the bottom of the hill along the lakeshore we didn't see much, but when we went up the hill our luck improved. The hill has tons of wildflowers growing to an average of three to four feet high. Strangely enough, not many butterflies were seen. It just doesn't seem to be a good year for them. Luckily, we were able to catch many damselflies. Although many bluet damselflies were left unidentified, a Sedge Sprite was identified.

A Sedge Sprite is one of our smallest damselflies that averages one inch long. They are usually difficult to see as they fly low to the vegetation. As we went higher up the hill we saw four types of butterflies – European Skippers, Monarchs, Northern Pearly Eye and Little Woods Satyr. European Skippers are one of two introduced species of butterflies and it shows. European Skippers seem to be the most common and widespread butterfly this year. Around the midpoint of the trail a large, unusual and unidentified bug was seen. None of us saw anything like it before. Martin brought it home and Kathy identified it later as an Elm Sawfly - see pic on page 3.

On the other side of the trail, the sightings got more interesting. Here we were between a lake, tall grasses, and a variety of wetlands. Many individual Swamp Spreadwings were seen here. Swamp Spreadwings belong to a family of damselflies called spreadwings that hold their wings out at a 45-degree angle to their bodies while at rest. Most other damselflies hold their wings together when resting. Swamp Spreadwings are one of our largest damselflies with an average length of two inches.

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### New Members

**Rena Lavoie  
Scott & Jenny Dukeshire  
Desiree Duda a& Dave May**

**Welcome!**