

Eagles make London home

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By Kathy Rumleski

That's good news considering the bald eagle is still on the endangered list in southern Ontario.

"We're probably the Ontario capital (of the two species)," said Peter Read of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists.

There are four osprey nests in London and at least two bald eagle nests in the city.

"They don't even have a nest of osprey at Point Pelee. The river is what is attracting the osprey because they like to dive in for fish," Read said.

He is cautious about giving the location of the eagle nests because they are endangered. One is in the north end of the city and the other is in the northwest.

"The Ministry of Natural Resources is protecting the nest, of course. That's why they don't want it well-known where it is."

People starting noticing activity of the eagles in one area within the past year, he said.

Reid said the good habitat in that area, which is hilly and about a mile from the river, is one of the reasons the eagles have landed there.

It took quite a few years, but the eagle population here also starting building back up when certain pesticides, particularly DDT, were no longer used.

"Once it was banned, the birds at the high end of the food chain have started to come back," Reid said.