

Away in a Manger S.S.



People aren't very familiar with these gorgeous Tundra swans and admire the aggressive English invader Mute swan instead. S.S.

Bad situation on Amherst Island



What's inside?

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Executive Meeting/Jan. 8,
2019

Members' Night

Tuesday January 29, 7pm,
Bloomfield Town Hall



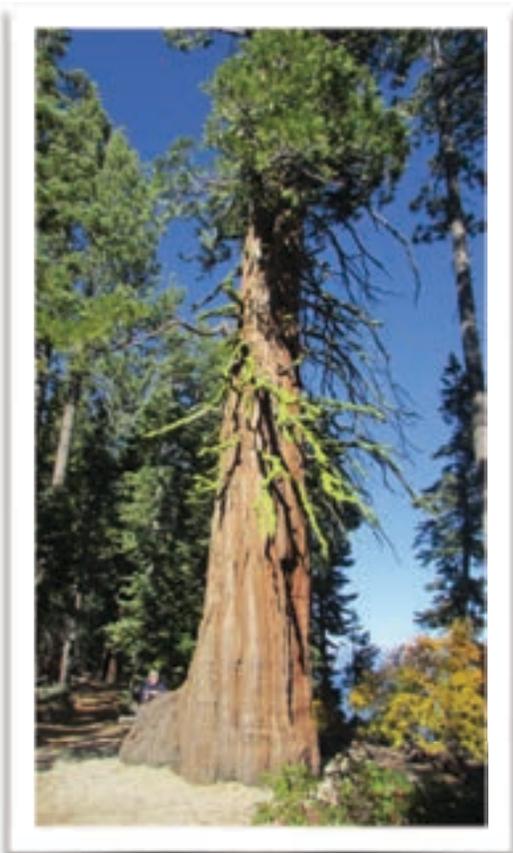
Galapagos

By David & Yvette Bree



Yukon and Alaska

By Sheila Kuja



Lake
Tahoe

By
Allen
Kuja



Updates for Night Sky events
By Ramesh Pooran

Amherst Island

Dec.10



Sheila K., Sheena K., Agneta S., Sandra D.,
Joanne D., Cheryl A., Sydney S.



Cheryl's vehicle rescued from frozen puddle by Amherst Is.
sheep farmer, Mark Ritchie. *Photo A. Sand*

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS



Joanne Dewey, group leader feeding Chickadees on Amherst Island
Photo by H. Tremblay



Snowy Owl. *Photo by H. Tremblay*



Saw Whet Owl in Owl Woods on Amherst Island
photo by S Smith

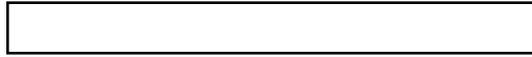


Red -tail Hawk on Amherst Island
Photo by H. Tremblay



Pileated Woodpecker on Amherst Island
Photo by H. Tremblay

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS



Terry Sprague

February 26 speaker

MAIN DUCK ISLAND - The History, The Appeal:



Learn about the history of this fascinating island, located out in Lake Ontario, 19 km from the tip of Prince Edward County. Everything from the days of rum running, the presence of a thriving commercial fishing community to the days when John Foster Dulles once owned the island, and Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip enjoyed a private picnic there. Also learn the natural history of this enchanting location as Terry recalls the days when he used to host boat tours and interpretive walks on the island for over a decade.



PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN speaker March 26

Ewa Bednarczuk

Lower Trent Conservation



Seven Natural Wonders of the Trent River Valley

A virtual tour of the fascinating yet little-known treasures of the Lower Trent watershed region including huge wetlands, old growth forests, remnant prairies and others.

Bio: Ewa Bednarczuk was born in Poland and immigrated to Canada 30 years ago. She completed her BSc in ecology and MSc in conservation biology at the University of Guelph. Currently, Ewa is an ecologist at Lower Trent Conservation where she has worked for 7 years. Ewa provides ecological and stewardship advice to landowners. She also leads guided outings and delivers a variety of environmental outreach programs.

Prior to her current position, Ewa worked on conservation projects across Ontario as well as abroad including: studying reintroduced flying squirrels at Point Pelee National Park, eradicating invasive sparrows on a remote island, and managing a population of endangered parrots on Mauritius in the Indian Ocean (home of the extinct Dodo bird).

Her goal is to make you fall in love with the beautiful Lower Trent watershed and help you care for our lands and streams.

The Long Road to a New Tree Policy

by Susan Banks

Back in 2015, a motion moved by Councillor Epstein and approved by Council reads:

That staff provide options for tree policies that align with our secondary plan, settlement areas and best management practices as laid out by The Canadian Urban Forest Network.

It appears that not too much happened to change the practices of the County. Large trees continued to be cut down, some with protests by nearby property owners. Then Main street lost all its trees when new infrastructure was installed.



A group of county residents got together and began to advocate for the trees. Tree the County was formed and in March 2017 a deputation went to Council to argue the benefits of trees to the community and the role of trees in moderating climate change. Again a motion was passed by Council to develop a new tree policy.

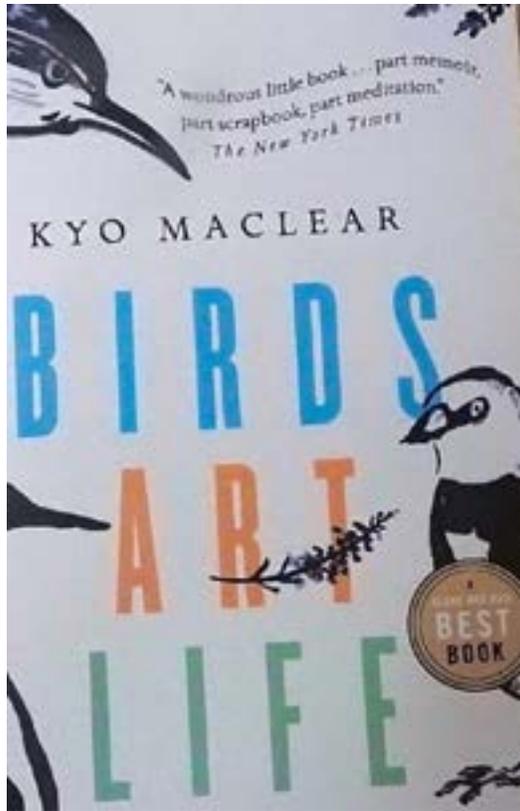
Tree the County, representatives along with representatives from the Horticultural Society and Master Gardeners met with Robert McAuley, Commissioner of Engineering, Development and Works, in May of 2017. He stated that work on a new tree policy could not begin until September. In the meantime in 2017, 144 trees were marked for cutting and only 26 to be replaced and in 2018, 134 trees were tagged for cutting and none to be replaced. When questioned about trees to be planted, Mr McAuley claimed there was no money in the budget for trees.

Since that meeting in May 2017 with Robert McAuley, Tree the County has maintained correspondence with him but there was very slow progress made until finally, Terms of Reference were agreed on for a Tree Policy Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee. This committee will have its first meeting in January 2019.

It should be pointed out that the existing tree policy effective from May 2002 has largely been ignored by staff. Had trees been replaced when cut our communities would have had a maturing tree canopy today and into the future.

Book Review by Sydney Smith

Birds Art Life by Toronto writer Kyo Maclear



This is a delightful memoir of a year in the life of a writer, Kyo Maclear which she spent accompanying a musician friend on his birdwatching forays in the city. She had become lost in the daily responsibilities of family and an ailing parent and needed something to keep her anchored to her writing. These words from the musician may whet the birder's appetite to read on:

I started going on bird walks to get out of my studio and out of my head. I used to worry about being loved as an artist. ... I wanted to be significant! ... Now I spend hours trying to spot tiny distant creatures that don't give a shit if I see them or not. I spend most of my time loving something that won't ever love me back. Talk about a lesson in insignificance.

The author sums up her experience in this quote:

What I discovered about birding was that it was not a rosy or cutesy practice. It did not offer a sentimental overview of the natural world or a flight from consciousness. In fact, it was often the polar opposite. ... And yet there was also something undeniably uplifting in catching glints of life, sharing sightings with strangers. In the coldest months, when gloom seemed natural and even predestined, it was

nice to see there were birds creatively opposing it.

This is a book you will want to keep nearby and return to for inspiration when you get bogged down in the humdrum of life and can't see where you are going or why. The author found "that the core lessons of birding take on surprising relevance when applied to aspects of art and life".

Sydney Smith

Trumpeter Swans

Photos and text by Sydney Smith



This This Trumpeter swan is a male named "Barcovan" because he was tagged there as an adult last year. Note the yellow tag under his wing. He has a mate K29 and they have 2 cygnets. Sydney hasn't seen his mate this year yet at Wellington Harbour.



Barcovan's cygnets



Barcovan and his 2 cygnets at Wellington Harbour
Trumpeter Swans most often mate for life and pairs remain together throughout the year
Young swans remain with their parents during the first winter. First-year swans are easily recognized by their darker colouration, most noticeable on the head and neck

Native Plant Sale

Tree & Shrub Seedlings, Saplings & Wildflowers

Native plants support more biodiversity than non-native ones. You can purchase tree & shrub seedlings, tree saplings and wildflowers through **Lower Trent Conservation's Native Plant Sale**. Order now for spring 2019!

Tree Seedlings

- Bare-root 1' to 3' tall tree & shrub seedlings
- Each species sold in bundles of 10 seedlings
- Evergreen & deciduous species \$10.00 & \$12.50 / bundle
- \$10 S&H fee / order

Tree Saplings

- Potted 4-5' tall saplings
- Evergreen & deciduous species
- \$10 / tree

Wildflower Kits

- Sun loving, drought tolerant plants
- Kit A & B each containing 18 potted plants (6 species x 3 pots / species)
- \$48 / kit



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

Order on-line at www.ltc.on.ca/stewardship/tssp/tsp/

or contact Ewa Bednarczuk,
Ecology & Stewardship Specialist

613-394-3915 ext. 252

ewa.bednarczuk@ltc.on.ca

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Help fund the The Ostrander Point (Brodeur) land purchase on the County's South Shore by the Nature Conservancy of Canada



Property Legend	Landscape Legend
Property of Interest (54.45 ha/134.56 ac)	Property of Interest
Ostrander Point Crown Land Block	Ostrander Point Crown Land Block
Watercourse	Hudgin-Rose NCC Property
Waterbody	
Wetland	

The Ostrander Point (Brodeur) project is a purchase of a 136 acre (56 ha) vacant parcel of land immediately west of the Ostrander Point Crown Land block. The purchase price is \$925,000 or roughly \$6800/acre – this value was determined by an independent appraisal of Fair Market Value. The property has development potential and has about ½ km of shoreline – hence the hefty price tag. The total project cost is \$1,200,000, which includes legal costs, appraisal costs, survey costs, and funds for property management planning and stewardship. NCC is the lead on this project, which is being moved ahead in partnership with the Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust. NCC is very grateful for the help of HPELT in the recent acquisition of the Hudgin-Rose project, immediately east of the Ostrander Point Crown lands. Dick Bird of HPELT did a terrific job getting the word out locally and generating local support for that purchase. NCC had to take a loan out to complete that purchase, and still needs to raise about \$8600 to pay off that loan.

Mark Stabb

Program Director, Central Ontario-East, Ontario Region | **Nature Conservancy of Canada**

O: 905-862-2642; C: 905-621-5230

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Picton Library – January 8, 2019, noon to 2:00 pm

Present: Sandra Dowds, Amy Bodman, Marjorie Cluett, Gerry Jenkison, Sheena Kennedy, Sheila Kuia, Myrna Wood

Regrets: Susan Banks

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting were approved.

3. Status Reports

Membership 59 paid-up and four honorary members.

Treasurer Bank balance: \$4,489.39.

4. Discussion of PECFN's Future Focus

(1) Climate Change Action

In the meeting's agenda, Sandra had summarized items from Kingston's impressive Climate Action web pages. Myrna will draft a letter pointing out how PECFN's activities support climate change mitigation by promoting biodiversity and the protection of habitat for wildlife, an important component of fighting climate change which is too often overlooked. Included at the end will be a list of actions individuals can take. Distribution: Council, members, and others TBD.

(2) Official Plan

Myrna wrote a letter to Council, asking that development decisions be based on the new Official Plan and its designation of Natural Core Areas. It also asks that development decisions based on the old Official Plan (e.g., Waupoos/Cressy, Soup Harbour, Alexander Island) be postponed. The letter was signed by Myrna and Sheila. Sandra will ask at members' meetings that anyone who is aware of new developments that may impinge on wetlands, etc., let us know.

(3) Wetlands

Gerry will draft an article for the Wellington Times on the importance of wetlands quoting from DU material supplied by Sheila and from other trusted sources.

5. Outdoor Programs

Ewa Bednarazic Outing, Ewa will lead an outing in spring; Amy to coordinate a date with her. Amy

Tree planting at the Ameliasburgh Heritage Museum

Discussion deferred until early 2019. Gerry

Trip to Main Duck Island

Discussion deferred until 2019. Amy

BioBlitz at Rose property

This year's BioBlitz will likely be in July or early August; Dave Beadle wants to find species from later in the season rather than surveying for the third time in June. Nature Conservancy Canada and Hastings/PE Land Trust are interested in being involved, too, and probably PEPTBO.

PECFN Walks

PECFN spring walks may have broader scope than birds, e.g., Natural History walks. We need to organize a Rose property walk to become familiar with it (see BioBlitz), perhaps in conjunction with PEPTBO.

6. Indoor Programs

Jan 29 – Members' Night, Sheila, Yukon and Alaska trip; Allen, Lake Tahoe.

Feb 26 – Terry Sprague: Main Duck Island, confirmed.

Mar 26 – Ewa Bednarczuk, confirmed. Topic: "Seven Natural Wonders of the Trent River Valley."

Apr 30 – Troy McMullin: Lichens, + Field Trip on May 1 (possibly to Sandbanks PP), confirmed.

May 28 – Patrick Howe: Neighbourwoods in Bloomfield, confirmed.

June 25 – Pot Luck Dinner

Possible Future Speakers: Amy will contact Tim Johnson, Glenora Fisheries; Jeff Bowman, fur-bearing animals researcher at Trent and MNR; Erling Armson, wetlands and/or seasonal wetlands; Brad McNiven, Quinte Conservation, possibly about the organization's roles and responsibilities.

6. Reports

White Pines Meeting at Milford Town Hall, Wednesday, January 9 at 2 pm.

Sue's Woodland Wildflowers Book for Children

All copies at Books & Co sold; Sue will order five more. Sue

PEPTBO

1. Borys has offered PECFN a full-page ad for a half-page one price and will also redesign the ad.

Deadline for content from Amy (and possibly from Tree the County) is mid-February. Amy invited

Tree the County and their project Neighbourwoods to submit content for the ad.

2. Full-day fundraiser for PEPTBO at Stanners' vineyard, Saturday July 27. Theme: Birds and Bees.

Variety of nature walks as well as booths, e.g., PECFN, Tree the County, etc.

3. Amy and Sheila will plan weekday bird walks (maximum of three) for the Spring Birding Festival, coordinating with PEPTBO to avoid overlapping territories. One will be to the Hudgin-Rose property.

Ontario Nature

Sue's report deferred. Sandra brought up Caroline Shultz's letter of concern about the provincial government's "open for business" Bill, 66, which undermines current land-use and source-water protections. Ontario Nature has provided a link to its Action Alert campaign.

All

Millennium Trail

If TD grant remains in place, Amy, Sheila and Marjorie will write text for the four wetlands signs.

Concerns about recent municipal brushing on two sections of the Trail are to be addressed by the MT Steering Committee at a meeting to include Mayor Ferguson and Robert McAuley.

Tree the County and Neighbourwoods

First meeting of the Ad Hoc Tree Policy Advisory Committee is set for January 22.

Gerry has written a draft Tree the County newsletter for distribution to Councillors when final.

Chimney Swifts

Amy, Marjorie and Sheila will contact Liz Driver of the Heritage Committee to discuss the possibility of partnering with Heritage to try to get significant Heritage chimneys re-opened for Chimney Swifts. This would be part of a larger Chimney Swift educational campaign.

• Native Plant Garden

Discussion deferred until spring 2019. Sheena

Irth Hotel, Lost Lake, etc.

Public meeting was cancelled by the developer.

Gift Cards for Fundraising

Marjorie will choose images for packs of five cards for fundraising. Selling price tdb. Gerry will send her a botanical image for consideration.

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 5, noon to 2 pm, Picton Library