PECFN NEWS

September 2018

Chicory

Photo by S Smith

Chicory. *Photos by S Smith*

Dates to Remember

Sun. Sept. 23: PEPtBO Fall Warbler identification workshop

Tues. Sept. 25: PECFN Annual General meeting 7pm Bloomfield town hall. PECFN speaker: Winnifred Wake : Chimney Swifts

Wed. Sept. 26 All Candidates Meeting7pm Athol and South Marysburgh Wards Milford town hall.

Sun. Sept.30: Thank you celebration & potluck for Todd Smith & Eric Gillespie - 4-8pm Mt. Tabor, Milford

Thurs., Oct. 11, 10:00 a.m. Guided walk with Terry Sprague on Sprague/Monkman Trail, Big Island.

Fri. Oct. 12: PEPtBO Saw-whet owl banding demonstration & Dark Sky event

Tues. Oct 20: South Shore Joint Initiative: Fall Symposium

Tues. Oct. 30: PECFN speaker Erling Armson: phragmites. 7pm Bloomfield town hall

Tues. Nov. 27 PECFN speaker Paul Catling; BioBlitzes at Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Norman Wells, Yellowknife and more.

PECFN speaker Tues. Sept. 25 Winnifred Wake

Chimney Swifts: Mysterious Little Birds in Big Trouble

During the summer months, Chimney Swifts brighten the skies above many Ontario villages, towns and cities. Easily visible as they soar and chatter and snatch insects from the air, swifts become secretive around brick chimneys where nests are hidden inside. During migration, large numbers of swifts may dive into chimneys to roost communally for the night. Alas, Canada's swifts have been experiencing alarming population declines for more than half a century. This presentation will tell the story of these endearing little birds and discuss the many challenges they face.

Winifred Wake is the volunteer Chimney Swift Liaison for Nature London. Under this umbrella, since 2004 she has been carrying out citizen science initiatives on Chimney Swifts, including landowner contact, monitoring numbers of migrating swifts using communal roosts and documenting chimney occupancy by swifts during the nesting season.

Sketch by Diane Kristensen

(Nature London)

PECFN at Milford Fair

PECFN exec members Sheila Kuja, Elizabeth Cowan, Myrna Wood at the Milford Fair Sept.15

PECFN needs executive members

PECFN's Executive has recently lost two long-time members: Agneta Sands and Elizabeth Cowan. Agneta and Elizabeth have given a great deal of their time to PECFN over the last decade. and we thank them profoundly for their dedication.

As a result, your executive needs two new volunteers to help share our responsibilities. We need a member at large - someone to help out wherever help is needed - and a membership coordinator. We'll welcome whatever skills a member at large can bring, but for the membership coordinator, experience with Microsoft Excel is essential. A member at large should be willing to attend our two-hour monthly executive meetings, whereas a membership coordinator need not, depending on his or her preference.

If one of these positions appeals to you, please contact Sandra Dowds as soon as possible.

All Candidates Meeting

Athol and South Marysburgh Wards
Wednesday September 26
Milford Town Hall. 7 pm
Presented by South Shore Joint Initiative
Come and participate in the democratic process
Bring your questions for our candidates

South Marysburgh
Brian Sword
Elis Ziegler
Geoff Church
John Hirsch
Athol
Bob Rogers
Jamie Forrester
Nicola Chapman

A young Northern Flicker on an old fence
Photo by S Smith

"Who votes for NATURE on the South Shore?"

Thank you Celebration & Potluck

Please join us to …..

Thank Todd Smith, Eric Gillespie, Alan Whitely, our County Council, and many others..

Sunday September 30, 4 pm – 8 pm Mount Tabor

This is an occasion to officially thank Todd Smith, Eric Gillespie and Alan Whitely who have all worked tirelessly to keep Prince Edward County turbine free. We will celebrate all our success and enjoy good food, good drink and good music. Put on your dancing shoes!

Plans are underway for a celebratory event with music by Little Bluff and a Pot Luck supper.

Here's your opportunity to get out that picnic basket and load it up with your best melmac plates, plastic glasses and everyday cutlery. Please bring a dish suitable for sharing. Beverages will be provided (beer, wine, water, sodas, coffee, tea).

Please RSVP to cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca by September 26 and indicate the type of dish you will bring.

Appetizer/Canapés
Salad
Main Course
Dessert

Can you help? We need volunteers for set up and clean up and for parking duty.
Please respond to Janna McCarthy at jcmleewis@kos.net to indicate your availability

Guided walk with Terry Sprague
Sprague/Monkman Trail, Big Island.
Thursday, October 11, 10:00 a.m.

Join Terry for this guided walk along the Sprague/Monkman Trail, Big Island. This 2.3 km groomed trail is on property owned by renowned artist Kent Monkman. The trail follows the perimeter of several hay fields which are being cooperatively managed as breeding habitat for grassland birds. The trail also meanders though woodland habitat. On this walk, leader Terry Sprague will explain the property's background and efforts currently underway to manage the property.

Meet at 23 Sprague Road, Big Island for 10 a.m. departure. Turn right from causeway onto South Big Island Road and follow east for 2 km to Sprague Road. Please park in the driveway. We will gather after the hike around a comfy outdoor fire and listen as Terry summarizes his efforts over the past 40 years to naturalize his own two-acre lot for wildlife and his association with Kent Monkman. Bring a lunch. ***RSVP***

PECFN's next Guest Speaker: Tuesday, October 30th, Bloomfield Town Hall, 7:00

Erling Armson, on Invasive Phragmites

Erling Armson is a Conservation Specialist and Ontario Invasive Species expert and is the head of Land Securement, Invasive and Northern programs at Ducks Unlimited Canada.

In 2016 Erling helped launch a pilot project at Rondeau Provincial Park that uses an as-yet-to-be-approved-by-Health-Canada herbicide to eradicate giant stands of invasive phragmites in an attempt to find the least harmful way to remove it from our wetlands. The project, which tests the herbicide's effectiveness on phragmites and its ecological impact on the biology of the wetlands, is ongoing.

In 2015, Agriculture and Agrifood Canada called invasive phragmites Canada's worst Invasive Species. At present, it is spreading all over the County.

Come find out more about invasive phragmites and what we can do to combat it.

The driver of the Phrag N' Slayer can't always see where they're going, while another worker in the buggy of the machine sprays the tops of invasive phragmites. (Courtesy Ducks Unlimited Canada)

Millennium Trail Update

by Amy Bodman

Slab Creek Swamp and the Millennium Trail in winter. *Photo: Amy Bodman*

As many in the County know the Millennium Trail resurfacing has been completed between Wellington and Bloomfield and will soon reach through Picton. The County has partnered with the PEC Trails Committee to form an Ad-Hoc committee made up of volunteers and Staff members, of which I am a part, in order to get the job done for a reasonable price. The plan is to resurface most of the trail with 6 inches of stone dust with the main part of the trail 8 feet wide and small shoulders on either side around two feet wide that will eventually fill in with trailside growth. This surface will be smooth enough for cyclists, walkers, wheelchairs, horseback riders and of course the ATVers and snowmobilers who also use the trail.

As the PECFN representative of the PEC Trails Board, it is my job to try to enforce the PEC Trails mandate of "creating the trail in a way that is respectful of the environment". One pleasing outcome of this recent resurfacing is that the prep work of trimming the sections of the trail in preparation for resurfacing is now being done by hand by groups of volunteers, which has proved to be much less damaging to the trail's hedgerows and trees than the brushing machines the County has used to groom the Trail in the past.

In terms of the Trail and the environment, a big decision that will need to be made soon is how to deal with the wetland sections of the Trail, specifically where the trail passes through the Hubbs Creek and Slab Creek Provincially Significant wetlands. The County has agreed to install eco-passages as one option. Other options are also being discussed. Getting these sections of the Trail resurfaced in a way that will protect the wetlands and the wildlife that uses these portions of the Trail is of utmost importance.

Volunteers learning to trim the Trail before resurfacing. *Photo by Ross Cameron*

FALL EVENTS at PEPtBO

Join us at the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory to celebrate birds on their fall migration.

To October 31: Bird banding from dawn until noon daily (no charge). Bird banding does not take place if it is raining or windy.

Sunday, Sept. 23: Fall Warbler Identification Workshop - 8:30 AM at the Observatory (by donation). Learn ways to identify warblers in their fall plumage.

Saturday, Oct. 6: Guided Bird Walk - 9 AM at the Observatory (by donation)

Saturday, Oct. 13: Guided Bird Walk - 9 AM at the Observatory (by donation)

PRINCE EDWARD POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

Saw-whet Owl Banding: Open to the public 8:15–9:15 PM Thursday, Friday & Saturday during the first 3 weeks of October (Oct. 4-6, Oct. 11-13, Oct. 18-20)

Friday, Oct. 12: 8:30-9:30 PM, **Saw-whet Owl banding** demonstration (in connection with the **Dark Sky event**)

Owl banding visits allowed on designated nights only.
Owl banding does not take place if it is raining or too windy.

Poetry Contest deadline: Oct. 31. Submit original poems about birds for PEPtBO chapbook. Info: www.peptbo.ca

PEPtBO invites school classes to the Observatory to learn about our migration research and the South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.

Jeremy Bensette
My Ontario Big Year: Breaking Birding Boundaries

PRINCE EDWARD POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

2018 Fund Raising Dinner and Silent Auction

Saturday October 27, 2018 6–10 PM
Waring House Banquet Hall, Picton ON

The Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory invites you to an exquisite buffet dinner, featuring a presentation by **Jeremy Bensette**, diehard birder, naturalist, conservationist, wildlife photographer, and tour guide.

Music provided by **Rita di Ghent** and **Sam "the shark" Sharkawy**.

Tickets only $80.00*

Order tickets online at www.peptbo.ca

For information contact Cheryl Anderson
(613) 849-7743
cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca

* partial tax receipt provided
* taxes and gratuity included
* reserve early space limited

SOUTH SHORE FALL SYMPOSIUM

SOUTH SHORE JOINT INITIATIVE presents:

Cultural Heritage and History of the South Shore of Prince Edward County

- Introduction **Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte**
- Why we value history and heritage **Liz Driver**
- Geography of our South Shore **Orland French**
- History of the European settlement of South Marysburgh **Sacha Warunkiw**
- Taking us into the 19th century - Lighthouses of PEC **Marc Seguin**
- Heroes and Legends of the South Shore **Suzanne Pasternak**
- **Come and share your stories and family legends**

Information: cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca 613-849-7743

Photos: John Hirsch, Gabrielle Holowacz

OCTOBER 20 **9 AM TO 5 PM**

Milford Town Hall

Bring your lunch: water, coffee and soup available

The Official Plan includes new material recommended by the Province effecting natural resources. This includes Natural Core Areas and Linkages between them, including the South Shore.

PECFN executive members have worked on the Natural Heritage Resources Section of the County's Official Plan for 2 to 3 years.

Clouded Sulphers/Orange Sulphers

Photo by S Smith

Report on County Official Plan by Myrna Wood

The new Official Plan will be discussed by the new Council members and a new Mayor.
We have been able to read the draft Official Plan; the Natural Heritage Resources Section. It will be discussed on Oct 16 at Shire Hall for stakeholders in Agricultural/ Rural Lands and Natural Resources.
The Official Plan includes new material recommended by the Province effecting natural resources. This includes Natural Core Areas and Linkages between them, including the South Shore. New development on a property that includes or is adjacent to a natural heritage feature shall generally be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) that will ensure that the natural heritage feature and its ecological functions are protected.

The question arises how will all these new provisions be enforced? How will the new rules be monitored by Council members and by us? In the past, County staff have been responsible for the operation of planning decisions - which then come to light afterwards. The OMB exists no longer and therefore Council decisions will carry much more weight.

If we are not in agreement with decisions that are made we will be able to appeal them to the LPAT – Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. The LPAT will only consider whether Council has followed the provisions of the Official Plan.

All of this is reminiscent of what we have experienced with turbine projects, Tribunals, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment over the past few years. Being aware of how
environmental consultants and Impact Studies and Tribunal rules were used makes some of us wary of how County Staff may use the Official Plan, no matter what fine language it uses.

It will be important for us to know the new Official Plan and find a way of monitoring Council and staff decisions made in the future.

Myrna Wood

June 26th Potluck Dinner and End of Year "Meeting"

Members had a memorable evening and a chance for relaxed conversation enjoying many delectable dishes at the potluck dinner. A good time was had by all! We hope you can come next year since all members are invited and it's a great way to meet and learn something about those you sit beside during meetings throughout the year.

We honoured Amy as Member of the Year for her work on the Millenium Trail and a long list of other endeavours; Agneta and Sandra for their many years of Service to the club; Sheena for her Conservation contributions including the Wellington Butterfly Garden and Awesome Trees projects; Molly for her Education work over the years, especially her spring wildflower walks and trying to educate politicians. Non-members, Peter Fuller and Paula and Bill Peel were also recognized: Peter for his plant and bird studies within the South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and help with our BioBlitzes, and Paula and Bill for their determination to protect the S.S.I.B.A from turbine "invasion" at the White Pines ERT and many years before that.

Looking forward to seeing you at the dinner next year to celebrate with your club! …. Sheila Kuja

Sandra Dowds and Agneta Sand receiving the Durell Service Award

Molly Mulloy receiving the Bree Education Award from Yvette Bree.

Photos by Allen Kuja

David Beadle showing moths to BioBlitz participants. *Photo Brenda Kostiuk.*

Fifth Annual BioBlitz at the Charwell Point Area of Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area June 9-10

Our June 9-10/18 BioBlitz was another great success. We were so fortunate to have excellent weather once again. Whip-poor-wills were calling close by base camp on Saturday night and Kari was so excited to have a chance to see one sitting on a branch (if only she'd had her glasses with her!). Everyone was amazed to see the diversity of moths that had been caught the night before, so we thank David Beadle for "keeping" them on their egg cartons so they could be viewed and released before lunch on Sunday. Another highlight was the fish study undertaken by Les and his hardworking group – lots of fun netting and counting the minnows – several species being unusual and even species at risk. Much valuable data was collected. Ewa awed us with her repertoire of frog calls and everyone had a great time on her afternoon walk. A family from Cobourg joined us for events on Saturday afternoon and stayed for dinner. We had a visitor from Montreal (and her friend from China) as well, so our reputation is expanding far and wide. We thank our leaders David Bree, Ewa Bednarczuk, David Beadle, Matt Christie, Peter Fuller, Dale Kristensen, Les Stanfield, Kathy Thomas and everyone else (you know who you are!) who helped make this such a worthwhile and enjoyable event. Much appreciation to you all for volunteering your time and expertise. **……. Sheila Kuja**

Checking out frogs and bugs with Paul Catling at Bio Blitz in June *Photo Brenda Kostiuk.*

Meadow of Hairy Beard's-tongue south east of Base Camp, east of Charwell Point Rd. - *Photo Sue Banks*

Some of our Neighbourwoods© volunteers at the training weekend in Bloomfield

Neighbourwoods© in Bloomfield, the Tree Inventory Project, 2018

If you were in Bloomfield this summer, you may have seen groups of volunteers carrying clipboards and tape measures. Using the Neighbourwoods© protocol designed in U of T's forestry department, we're collecting a wealth of information about Bloomfield's tree canopy, one of the village's greatest assets.

By mid-August, we'd collected data on over 700 trees and given almost 1200 hours to the project. That includes a weekend of learning of how to identify, measure, and assess trees. Thanks to a thorough training program, we're able to record 30 pieces of information for each tree. By the end of September, we'll have measured somewhere between 800 and 1,000 trees, an accomplishment we're proud of.

Over the next few summers, we hope to inventory all of Bloomfield's trees. We'll be continuing the project next summer and will welcome new volunteers. *Gerry Jenkison*

TREE THE COUNTY

Tree the County has had a busy summer with the Bloomfield neighbourhood tree inventory. Teams of volunteers, lead by Gerry Jenkison and Patrick Howe, have collected data on almost 500 trees. The data will be forwarded to the Neighbourwoods Program at Toronto University. Hopefully, from this effort, we will get a better picture of the tree canopy in Bloomfield.
Before the summer, the County Council decided to form a Tree Policy Advisory Committee. The call went out for interested residents to sit on this committee. We have four members of Tree the County on the Committee and hope to start meeting soon.

Susan Banks

Neighbourwoods©volunteer, Helen Findlay with an enormous Weeping Willow in Bloomfield.

A poem for a naturalist……

Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,
which is mostly standing still and
learning to be
astonished.

Mary Oliver

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Picton Library

September 4, 2018, noon-2:00 p.m.

Present: Sue Banks, Amy Bodman, Elizabeth Cowan, Sandra Dowds, Gerry Jenkison, Sheena Kennedy, Myrna Wood

Regrets: Agneta Sand, Sheila Kuja

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of three peices of correspondence under the Treasurer's Report and discussion of the upcoming municipal election under the Official Plan Review.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of July 3 were approved as presented.

3. Annual General Meeting

The Executive has to be approved by the membership at the AGM on **Sept.25**. Sandra had thought of resigning as President but was urged to stay on and to everyone's satisfaction said she would. Elizabeth is leaving the Executive as of the AGM, so Gerry has offered to become Recording Secretary. Agneta has stepped down too, and while Sheena has been acting as Membership Secretary she would prefer to have someone new take it on. Various possibilities were discussed, and it was decided that Gerry would draft an appeal to the

membership for new blood: this will go out in the next newsletter. Myrna will run the nomination and election process at the AGM.

4. Status Reports

(A) Membership

We have four honorary members and 79 paid-up members.

(B) Treasurer

We have $4,969.96 in the bank, and outstanding cheques in the amount of $698.10, for a working balance of $4,271.86.

Sheena has received letters from Nature Canada announcing their AGM, from the Millennium Trail Committee thanking PECFN for the native plant garden on which Sheena has done so much work, and from the Nature Conservancy thanking PECFN for our response to the Brighton Wetlands appeal. It was agreed that the letter about the garden should be posted or read out or both at the AGM.

(C) Programs

Outdoor programs

Sheila has provided a sketch of what needs to be done for the Milford Fair on **Sept.15**. In addition, Sheena will provide the cash box, and Elizabeth will get a float of $50.00 in small bills. **ALL SALES MUST BE ITEMIZED.** Myrna will bring the *Butterfly Guides*, Amy Suzanne Pasternak's DVD on the County fishery, and Sue copies of her beautiful book for children (price to be determined; see under Fundraising Books below). Sandra will bring the donation jar.

The tree planting project has run into a bit of a snag with Justin Dart's recommendation that we not rely on whips but rather on smaller seedlings. These would need protection from mowing and also considerable care and watering, which neither PECFN nor the museum volunteers are likely to be able to provide.

Amy will speak to Terry about leading an outing anywhere he likes this fall, and also about the problem of getting to Main Duck Island next year: might he know of any boat owners who could take us?

Indoor programs

Sept.25: Winifred Wake on swifts (confirmed). Amy is hoping to write an article on swifts for the *Wellington Times* that will alert people to how wonderful they are, and how threatened, without generating pushback from chimney owners who picture filthy panic-stricken birds bursting out into the their living rooms and promptly get their chimneys capped.

Oct.30: Erling Armson on phragmites (confirmed)

Nov.27: Paul Catling on bioblitzes in the Arctic (confirmed)

Jan.29, 2018: Members' Night

Feb.26: Terry Sprague on Main Dick Island (confirmed)

March 26: to be determined

April 30: Troy McMullin on lichens, plus field trip, **May 1**

May 28: to be determined

June 25: to be determined

Amy will contact Justin White of MNR about a talk on the subject of his choice in the spring. Other possible speakers include Nick Lapointe (eels), Eva Bednarczuk and Pamela Stagg.

(D) White Pines and Amherst Island tribunals

Myrna reported that APPEC is holding off on its celebratory party until they can pin down Tod Smith, who has done so much to protect the County from industrial wind turbines. The issue of decommissioning the turbines that *wpd* hastened to put up, and repairing the damage they did to the roads, seems to be in abeyance.

Sue will circulate information about the Rise for Climate Rally and March on **Sept.8** in Belleville.

(E) Fundraising books

Sue has had 40 copies of her book printed by Apple at a cost of $12.60 each. She could not find a cheaper rate, and Apple has done a lovely job. Myrna suggested that Sue send a copy to Firefly Books in Richmond Hill, as they might be interested in publishing it and any sequels she writes. There might be grants we could apply for that would cover the cost of publication. The selling price will be determined (either $15.00 or $20.00) after Sue consults with Dave at Books & Co.

(F) PEPtBO

Banding is under way. Ramesh Pooran is again leading a night-sky event, on **Oct.12**, and the annual fall dinner is scheduled for **Oct.27**. The guest speaker at the dinner will be Jeremy Bensette, a record-breaking birder. (Fans of birds and murder might want to investigate the Women Around Noon event on **Oct.13**: Steve Burrows will be speaking about his birder mystery series.)

(G) Ontario Nature

The fall Eastern Region meeting is in Napanee on **Sept.29**. Elizabeth will attend and can give up to three other people a lift. She hasn't yet received the activities update form, so will e-mail Lisa Richardson to enquire.

(H) Millennium Trail

The bids received for resurfacing the Trail were so high that the County has decided to allow Barry Davidson to resume his oversight using volunteers as "caretakers". Signage will be improved, but the problem of width is out of the Trail Committee's hands.

(I) Tree the County

Since the Neighbourwoods tree inventory in Bloomfield began on July 14, 1,300 volunteers hours have been logged and 700 trees inventoried. Expenses have been kept well within the $1,700.00 grant. Gerry will be drafting an article on Neighbourwoods, and she would also like to organize a meeting where the people of

Neighbourwoods, and she would also like to organize a meeting where the people of Bloomfield would be updated on the project and thanked for their cooperation.

Sue hopes to convene a meeting of the Tree Policy Advisory Committee as soon as both County staffers are back from vacation, to discuss the Committee's approach. Concern was voiced about the new trees on Picton Main Street: is there some form of underground watering system, because they certainly aren't getting much water from above.

(K) Official Plan Review

Myrna ran through a list of candidates for Mayor and Council this fall. Some are very promising, but not all of them have said where they stand on issues of concern to environmentalists. We should be prepared to ask questions at all-candidates meetings or when someone comes to the door.

3. Next meeting

Tues., Oct. 2, noon-2:00 p.m., in the Picton Library's upstairs room.