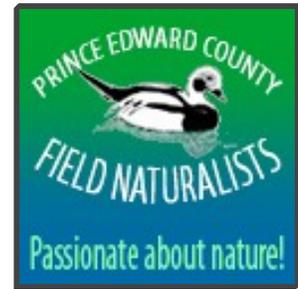


# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS



## What's Inside?

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• speaker Mike Burrell
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7pm Bloomfield town hall
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Monarch butterfly on  
Brown-eyed Susans.  
*photo by Sydney Smith*

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN's speaker for September 24  
7pm Bloomfield Town Hall  
**Mike Burrell**

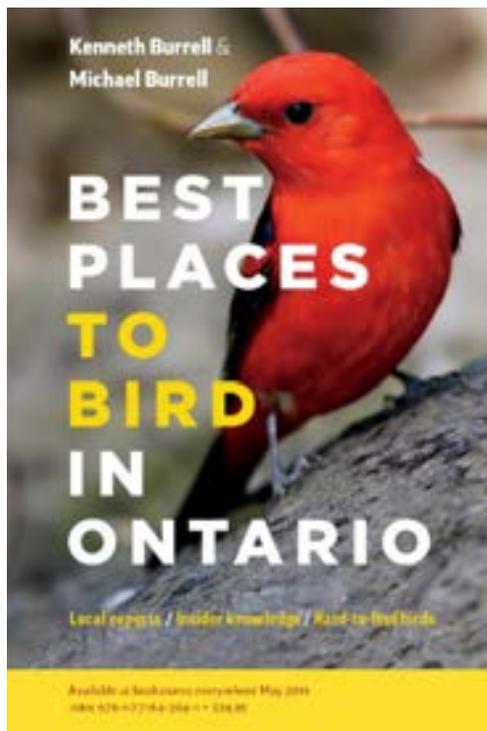
Mike, along with his brother Ken have recently authored the book "Best Places to Bird in Ontario" see <http://burrellbirding.ca/best-places-to-bird-in-ontario/> for more information about the book.



Mike grew up in the Waterloo area in southwestern Ontario and inherited his passion for natural history from his parents. He considers himself to have been very lucky to have completed an internship at Long Point Bird Observatory when he was 15; this experience opened many doors for him for jobs and for school. Since then, Mike has become involved in many aspects of birding and natural history study in the province.

He currently serves as the archivist of the Ontario Bird Records Committee, coordinates eBird in Ontario, reviews Christmas Bird Count data for the province and works as a zoologist with the Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre in Peterborough. Mike is also a member of the bird specialist subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Since kids, Mike and his brother Ken have been obsessed with birds and traveled across the province in search of them. He'll share their favourite spots, strategies and stories and how they decided which would make the cut for their new book, Best Places to Bird in Ontario.



## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN's speaker for October 29,  
7 pm Bloomfield Town Hall  
**Dr. Jeff Bowman**

Lynx and bobcats in Ontario.

Jeff will provide an overview of the natural history of these two wildcat species, and an update about recent research conducted in the province. He has led studies over the past decade to look at the ecology of lynx and bobcats and their changing distributions in Ontario.



This is a picture of Trent graduate student Samantha Morin with a juvenile bobcat.

Dr. Jeff Bowman is a Senior Research Scientist with the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and also an Adjunct Professor in the Environmental and Life sciences Graduate Program at Trent University. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of New Brunswick in 1999, and has been with MNRF since August 2001. Jeff leads Ontario's furbearer and small mammal research programs, and has expertise in population and landscape ecology, and landscape genetics. He has conducted research on many species and ecosystems, including work on fishers, martens, lynx, bobcats, wolverines, mink, wild turkeys, flying squirrels, and a variety of bat species.

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Birding this Summer *photos by Sydney Smith*



Chestnut -sided Warbler



Magnolia Warbler seen at the Point



Upland Sandpiper seen on the way to the Reserve walk



Northern Parula

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS



CROWS  
by Susan Banks

There is an old English folksong called “Twa Corbies” During the course of his travels, the songs main character passes two crows on the road. From then on, really bad luck befalls him. I have often wondered why two crows should have had such a disastrous affect on his fortunes. Crows seem to be a much maligned bird. Do you ever hear a birder proclaiming that she had just observed a crow? No, birders tend to like the little birds with a sweet song or the big predators with hooked beaks and sharp claws or the long, legged waders. But the crow is overlooked. Ravens which look a bit like crows, but much bigger, are given residence at the Tower of London and God forbid that they depart their famous location The fall of the kingdom would be entirely their responsibility. Ravens are a West Coast favourite, having been given the status of creating the world. Their image glares down at you from totems carved by the west coast First Nations.

Crows don”t seem to have any particular status. They are black and make a variety of horrible noises. Do you know how they got black? In an old folk tale they brought fire to the people on Earth. In doing so their feathers got burnt black and their beautiful song turned to a horse croak. Crows get no acknowledgement for their creative intelligence. They can use a tool to reach something they need. Seem familiar,. Yes we and monkeys can do that, but did you know a crow was capable of manipulating tools? Have you heard the crow warning signal? Go past a crow in a tree and it will let all the other crows in the vicinity know that a two legged predator is on the move. Crows are generally not liked by other birds, whose eggs they steal. Usually, this time of year you will see the crow making a hasty retreat from a tree being chased by a much smaller character. Yesterday I saw a small bird jump on a crow’s back and poke him with his sharp beak. I’ve been poked by a sharp beak and, believe me, it hurts. I’ve often thought that I would like a pet crow. I would take it for walks on my shoulder and teach it a few simple tricks. I could train it to be a guard crow and train it to make that horrible noise when someone comes to the door. “Is grandma being strangled?” the visitor might wonder and then rush off too embarrassed to hang around.

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Planting trees is one of the top three things we as individuals can do to mitigate climate change.

PECFN was looking for a community-tree planting opportunity, but we were unable to secure space in public parks. So Justin Dart of County Arborists suggested that the County's museums might be happy to increase their tree cover. The choice was Ameliaburg, because the museum's full-time summer staff would be able to ensure a constant water supply for the young trees. Janice Hubbs, the museum's long-time curator, was delighted.

After much discussion, everyone settled on a Burr Oak and a Sunburst Locust, both suitable for a generally dry site with little topsoil on top of limestone

Gerry Jenkison  
Tree the County  
PECFN



*"Many thanks to the committee members of the PEC Field Naturalists and Tree the County. Your generosity will be remembered for years to come.*

*Many thanks to you also, Justin, and your team members at County Arborists. Glad to be the home for these two amazing trees."*

*Janice Hubbs:*



Justin Dart, and his team members at County Arborists.



## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

**\*Vanishing: More Than 1 in 4 Birds Have Disappeared in the Last 50 Years**



### **\* Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds**

- 1. Make Windows Safer, Day and Night**
- 2. Keep Cats Indoors**
- 3. Reduce Lawn, Plant Natives**
- 4. Avoid Pesticides**
- 5. Drink Bird-Friendly Coffee**
- 6. Protect Our Planet from Plastic**
- 7. Watch Birds, Share What You See (be citizen scientists)**

*\*Taken from an article by Gustave Axelsson, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Sept. 19, 2019*

*\*Find the complete article at <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/vanishing-1-in-4-birds-gone/>*

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

## PEPtBO 2019 FUNDRAISING DINNER,

SILENT AUCTION & \$5K RAFFLE DRAW

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2019 — 6 PM

THE VIEW RESTAURANT  
PICTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 734 HWY 49

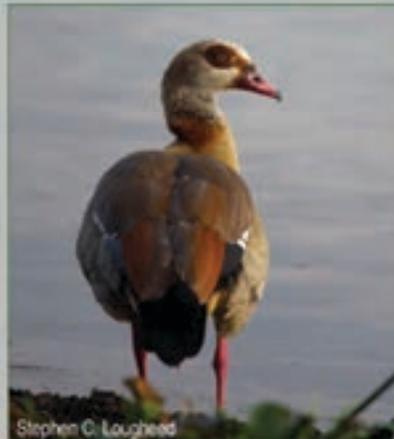


After dinner Dr. **Stephen C. Lougheed**, Professor, Biology & Environmental Studies, Baillie Family Chair in Conservation Biology, and Director of Queen's University Biological Station (<https://qubs.ca>) speaks on **teaching biodiversity through an avian lens.**

Join PEPtBO for a fine buffet dinner, deliciously crafted by Wheelhouse Catering (vegetarian and GF options available).

Music by Rita de Ghent.

\$5K Raffle to support Young Banders draw at 8:15 PM.



**Tickets — \$85.00** (\$45.00 tax receipt issued)

Online orders at [www.peptbo.ca](http://www.peptbo.ca)

Tickets also available at the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory  
For information contact 613-849-7743 [cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca](mailto:cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca)

All in support of PEPtBO's migration monitoring and reporting activities and aligned with its caretaker role in the South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA).

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Summer at Slab Creek  
photos by Sydney Smith



A Great Blue Heron parent tending its young



Four Great Blue Heron youngsters sharing a joke  
~ "Did you hear the one.....?"



A Green Heron



A Great Egret having a midday snooze.



A busy Great Blue Heron  
feeding four offspring.

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

## Report on the Napanee Plains Joint Initiative Meeting

*Marjorie Cluett*

I volunteered to attend the meeting of the Napanee Plain Joint Initiative (NPJI) on May 30, 2019, to observe on behalf of PECFN. This was a one-day event bringing together groups who share an interest in the natural heritage of the Napanee Plain.

Nature Conservancy Canada hosted the meeting, with Amanda Tracy and Mark Stabb chairing. The groups and organizations represented were Quinte Conservation (Tim Trustham and interns), The Lower Trent Conservation Authority (Ewa Bednarczuk), Friends of the Salmon River (Susan Moore), the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (the MBQ - Nicole Storms), The Lennox-Addington Stewardship Council (Adele Krauter), HPE Land Trust (Dick Bird), PECFN (Marjorie Seguin), a rep from Kingston Field Naturalists, and two reps from Wildlife Preservation of Canada.

Much of the day was spent in sharing updates on the activities of the various groups, including detailed presentations from Wildlife Preservation of Canada on the recovery and release programme for the Loggerhead Shrike, and the radio system in place to track their movements. There was also a presentation from NCC itself, which is in the process of working out a new ten-year plan, set to begin in 2020. Participants were encouraged to feel engaged with the process of planning for NCC and to offer input into that plan, which fell broadly into two categories – targets for biodiversity of habitat, flora and fauna, and threats to the same.

From my perspective it was most interesting to hear of the projects undertaken and the challenges being faced by the various groups.

I noted two collaborative projects being planned. One was an update on informative signage in two places in the Napanee Plain, and the other was a plan for NCC to meet with Nicole and the MBQ to see if there are areas where NCC and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte could collaborate or support each other.

Also, Mark Stabb offered to come and talk to PECFN members, and Tim Trustham offered the Cassidy Block for a Bioblitz at some point.

When asked to introduce myself and the activities of PECFN, I was struck with how many projects PECFN is involved in! I commented to the group that many PECFN members and executive are involved in more than one committee or initiative.

I was particularly interested in the goals and vision of the Mohawks as communicated by Nicole Storms, which were especially resonant given that her community was facing substantial and devastating flooding as we met. Their vision of change in the world, and the need to both adjust and adapt, was a moving one. As I said to her, while we need to do all we can to avert further warming, we are also facing a tsunami of change that we will not entirely be able to control. And to that degree, an attitude of willingness to adapt seemed particularly appropriate.

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

## Interim Report on the Draft Tree Policy

The Draft of a new and developing Tree Policy is to be presented to the Committee of The Whole on Thursday, October 10th at 1pm.(new date)

Please try to be there if you want to see a change in the way the County cares for trees. The suggested policy is under construction. So far, the policy recommends that trees be considered a community asset and a way to help communities adapt to climate change. Ideas for tree canopy improvement are outlined for municipal trees and regulations described for the preservation of trees and planting of trees on lands subject to development. The Ad-Hoc Tree Policy Committee has reviewed many tree policies in other municipalities and is continuing to work on a policy which will hopefully benefit the health and beauty of the County in the years to come.

Susan Banks



Big Bur Oak

from.....Walking with Terry by Susan Banks

We met Terry Sprague on a rare sunny day at the beginning of June at the Massassauga Point's parking lot. The Point is a conservation area jutting out into the Bay of Quinte marking the entrance to Big Bay. Terry described the landscape as Bur Oak Savannah.

An **oak savanna** is a type of savanna, or lightly forested grassland, where oaks are the dominant trees. These savannas were maintained historically through wildfires set by lightning or humans. Bur Oaks are highly tolerant of fire. We observed a very large Bur Oak at the beginning of our path, with massive limbs stretching out horizontally more than 20 feet. The Bur Oak's acorn is unusual, with a round cup fringed with fuzz, looking very much like a bur.

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

## GUIDED HIKE

*with Terry Sprague*

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

## LITTLE BLUFF CONSERVATION AREA

3625 County Road 13  
(South Bay)

Presented by Community  
Care for Seniors



Learn about the Barley Days, wildflowers and animals of the area. Enjoy an exceptional panoramic view of Prince Edward Bay. Local naturalist, Terry Sprague, will lead a 2-km interpretive hike which explores this popular conservation area. Bring water and good footwear. A walking stick may be helpful as well.

Hike starts at **10:00 a.m. sharp.**

Parking fees in the conservation area will not be required for participants in this guided walk

Hike is open to all. Dogs on leash are welcome.

To register or for more information, please contact the County Seniors Centre at 613-476-7493.

[www.communitycareforseniors.org](http://www.communitycareforseniors.org)

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

## Minutes of the Executive Meeting

### Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Picton Library – September 3, 2019, noon to 2:00 pm

Present: Sandra Dowds, Susan Banks, Amy Bodman, Marjorie Cluett, Gerry Jenkison, Sheena Kennedy, Myrna Wood

Regrets: Sheila Kuja

#### 1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with amendments from Amy.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 6, 2019, meeting were approved; Sheena moved, Marjorie seconded.

#### 3. Status Reports

Membership 85 paid-up and four honorary members.

Treasurer Current bank balance: \$2,660.08. Sheena presented year-end Statement of Revenue and Expenditures (attached).

#### 4. Outdoor Programs

Tim Gray property visit: North of Belleville, to see his tree collection, some grown from seed, some Carolinian. Deferred to 2020. Amy to arrange AB

Milford Fair: Sept 14, two tables, PECFN and Tree the County. 9 am setup: Myrna, Amy, Sue; afternoon: Sandra, Sheena, Gerry. To sell: butterfly books, Sue's wildflower books, Gerry's Monarch prints, Sheena's "green" bags. ALL

#### 5. Indoor Programs

Sept 24 – AGM: Mike Burrell, talking about his book "Best Places to Bird in Ontario." Amy will introduce him; Sandra will thank him. Amy will ask him for the elements of his poster; Gerry will post them on Facebook; Marjorie will organize other publicity.

Package including financial report is sent out 21 days before AGM, that is, September 3. Sandra's email will include encouragement for members to join the Executive.

Sandra will ask Ramesh Pooran and Bert Jenkins to act as Trustees again.

In her introductory remarks, Sheila will encourage members to stand for the Executive. Ramesh will read out names of people standing for the exec. ALL

Oct 29 – Jeff Bowman, fur-bearing animals researcher at Trent and MNR, on Canada lynx and bobcat.

Nov 26 – Tim Johnson, Glenora Fisheries, on the Great Lakes, and possibly eels or invasive species.

Jan 28, 2020 – Members' Night

Feb 25 – Pamela Stagg: confirmed, probable topic is Water, but she'll confirm.

Mar 31 – Les Stanfield: confirmed, Headwaters.

Possible speakers for 2020: Eric Schneider (MECP on liverworts and mosses); Peter Fuller on the South Shore IBA; Contact of Ewa B on Geology; Speaker from Tyendinaga on Ecology (Amy will write to the Band); Kari Gunson on Road Ecology in conjunction with possible iNaturalist workshop; more on wetlands with Erling Aramson; Hydrology of PEC with someone from QC. AB

Speakers' Gift: Gerry will continue to provide speaker gifts at meetings and will buy a case of Stanners wine because of their support of PEPTBO and PECFN. GJ

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

## 6. Reports

ESA and “OMB Returns”: Myrna presented her summary of the Ford Govt’s proposed changes to the PEC

Official Plan Natural Heritage sections. Also, the OMB is back, but with less opportunity for public input.

APPEC’s Fundraising: APPEC is accepting sealed bids for a new Atkinson Traveller Canoe, minimum \$2500. Canoe crafted by Dick Bird; value approx. \$6000 CDN, on display at Milford Fair, September 14.

PEPtBO: Amy reported that (1) Bird Banding has begun, (2) PEPtBO is selling \$50 tickets to raise money for their youth birding program, (3) Ramesh’s Dark Sky event is October 5, and (4) Nature Canada is collecting engagement data from nature organizations willing to participate. PEPtBO will take part; PECFN will discuss possible participation at a future Exec meeting. AB

Ontario Nature: Fall 2019 Ontario East regional meeting is on Saturday September 28 at the Parks building, 19 Reynolds Road, Leeds and the Thousand Islands. MC

Millennium Trail: Signs are progressing; Trail Committee is waiting for the hydrological engineer’s report. AB

### Tree the County

Ad Hoc Advisory Committee: The committee will now present its interim report to the Committee of the Whole on September 26; delay was caused by procedural issues.

Neighbourwoods: Work continues as long as the trees have leaves, possibly early October. SB GJ

Chimney Swifts/Swift Watch: Sheila will be looking for more roosting sites. S Kuja

Native Plant Garden: This summer’s drought has been hard on the Native Plant Garden; Sheena will purchase more wood chips at the end of the growing season. ShK

2019 BioBlitz Report: Deferred. S Kuja

Other County Environmental Groups and Projects: Amy will attend Elizabeth Etue’s meeting on September 12; purpose – find out who all the groups involved in the environment are, and what they’re doing.

Projects of concern include Stronach meat processing plant, Greer’s gravel pit, and brewery/resort on Lake Consecon wetlands. AB

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 1, noon to 2 pm, Picton Library