



PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

# PECFN NEWSLETTER

## March 2022



Photo by *Derek Dafoe, Belleville.*

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## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN general meeting on Zoom

March 29 , 7pm

### Tim Johnson the American Eel



Tim Johnson is a Senior Research Scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, based at the Glenora Fisheries Station in eastern Lake Ontario. Tim grew up in southern Ontario where he developed a passion for the outdoors and improving our understanding of aquatic ecosystems. He holds a Ph.D. in Zoology with a minor in Limnology and Oceanography from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, in addition to his BSc (Marine Biology – Guelph) and MSc (Biology – York) here in Ontario. Tim’s research focus is the structure and efficiency of aquatic food webs, including the effects of aquatic invasive species, climate change, and habitat alteration on growth and production of fishes and other aquatic organisms. Tim has co-authored over 85 peer-reviewed publications largely addressing ecological issues within the Great Lakes basin.

Tim last spoke to us in Nov. 24/20 on “Is Lake Ontario Changing”

The History and Ecology of the American Eel in Ontario:

“American eel are a top predator fish that are significant to First Nation and regional commercial fisheries. The species possess a very complex life history that makes for a fascinating natural history narrative. However, the population in Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River declined markedly in the 1980s and has not significantly rebounded. My talk will discuss the biology and life history of the American eel, factors implicated in their decline and efforts to help recover the population.”

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN general meeting on  
Zoom April 26 7pm

**Jennifer Doubt**

**Eric Snyder**

**Mosses in Prince Edward  
County**



### Bryophytes of Prince Edward County

Just in time for spring, please join us for an introduction to bryophytes (mosses and liverworts). As some of the first plants out of the gate when snow and ice melt away, bryophytes make a fun quarry for nature lovers on early season hikes...or even on errand runs in town. This presentation offers a chance learn what sets mosses and liverworts apart from each other, from other plants and from lichens, and to put names to some familiar Prince Edward County species. Find out some of the many reasons it's fun and rewarding to discover bryophytes, and take away some ideas and resources to help you get started.

**Eric Snyder**, originally from the Picton Ecodistrict (6E-15) of Ontario, was inspired to study mosses and liverworts by his bryological mentor, Jennifer Doubt, and has been collecting them for about 12 years. He is a botanist in the Species at Risk Branch of Ontario's Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks where he provides science advice on endangered and threatened plant species.

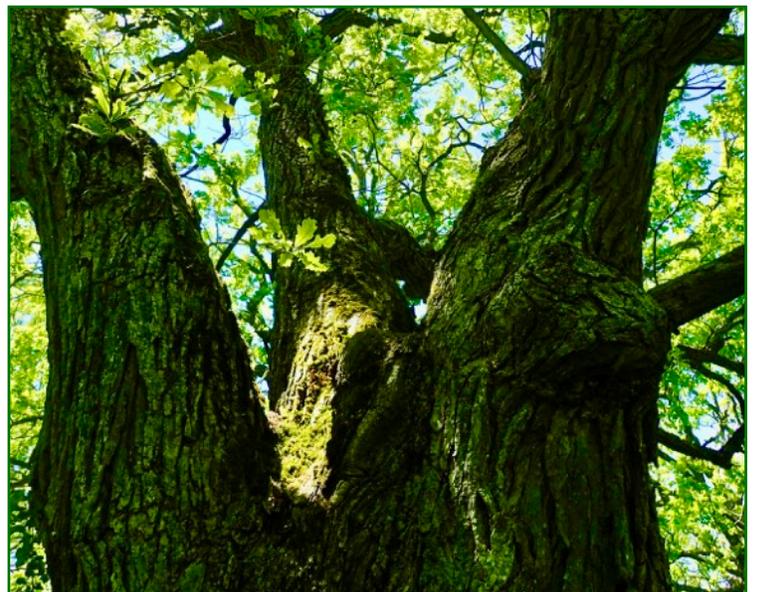
**Jennifer Doubt**, originally from Deep River, Ontario, has collected and documented mosses and liverworts for over 25 years. Along with the other fun, dedicated staff, students and volunteers that make up the Canadian Museum of Nature Botany team, she cares for a busy, growing archive of over one million preserved plants and lichens, and shares the collection far and wide for research and education.



*Rhytidiadelphus  
Ferris.*



*Thelia Centreville*



Moss on a big oak - Massassauga Point.

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### APPLICATIONS AND ADVOCACY by PECFN

Starting this month PECFN will be using this space to profile some of the “Active Planning Applications” that are currently on the County’s radar. We will be focusing on applications for major developments that are of particular concern in their potential to cause lasting harm to the County’s natural environment.

Since we were already hosting a special PECFN meeting this month that features a talk on “Waring’s Creek: Restoring the County’s only Cold Water Creek”, the Loyalist Heights development is a good place to start.

Narisu Huhe, a resident of Colborne, is proposing to build Loyalist Heights, a residential development consisting of up to 400 housing units on an investment property he owns on the south-west edge of Picton. The Waring’s Creek headwaters begin within the Picton-Hallowell Urban Centre and Mr. Huhe’s property is adjacent to the Creek.

According to the Environmental Impact Study, the development is actually bordered on both sides by creeks: Waring’s Creek, which is close to the eastern property boundary and another (unnamed) creek that is about 330m west of the property.

Waring’s Creek is a permanent watercourse that flows into West Lake, and from there into Lake Ontario. Due to the tremendous efforts of the Waring’s Creek Improvement Association and the co-operation of other environmental agencies, Waring’s Creek has been rehabilitated to its former condition of cold, clean water. The Association has done extensive planting of thousands of native tree seedlings as well as shoreline naturalization. As a result, Waring’s Creek has a unique status in the County as a provincially-designated cold water stream, a status that gives it added protection.

Mr. Huhe’s “subdivision” could hardly be in a worse location in its being located directly within the Waring’s Creek Watershed. Waring’s Creek is one of several watercourses that together comprise a 17 kilometre long watershed that stretches from Picton-Hallowell in the east to Bloomfield in the west. Waring’s Creek Watershed comprises an area of 600 acres. Farmers depend on this watershed. Picton and its tree canopy depends on it. And Waring’s Creek, the only cold-water trout creek in the County depends on it.

Due to the inherent interconnectivity of the Waring’s Creek Watershed, even a small change at one location within the Watershed could reverberate throughout the entire system, or a part of it. For example, changes in ground water levels during the construction of Loyalist Heights could reduce water levels in wetlands located within the Watershed and reduce water levels in wells in the area. Or for example, pollution from the Loyalist Heights development could make its way into Waring’s Creek and from there enter into the Watershed. A study in California of residential areas found “an alarming and probably underestimated source of water pollution”. According to the study, “Runoff results from rainfall and watering of lawns and gardens winds up in municipal storm drains. The runoff washes fertilizers, pesticides and other contaminants into storm drains, and they eventually appear in rivers, lakes and other bodies of water.” There is even cause for concern that Waring’s Creek could lose its status as a cold water stream. The water temperature of Waring’s Creek could increase from water run-off from hot impervious surfaces within the development (i.e. roofs, roads and sidewalks).

The single biggest problem with the Loyalist Heights development is its location in the Waring’s Creek Watershed. The risks to Waring’s Creek and to the Watershed are not worth taking. And what do we have to

*Continued on page 5*

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN Advocacy cont'd

gain in taking these risks, when there are so many other much more appropriate sites for residential developments to go?

In summary, we note the guidelines in regards to the Waring's Creek Watershed in the East Picton Master Servicing Plan for Water, Sanitary, Stormwater System and Road Intersections:

*It is the intent of this Plan to: 1. Ensure the continued protection and management of the Warings Creek Watershed as an important part of Picton-Hallowell's natural heritage system. 2. Preserve and enhance the ecological features, functions, and values of the Warings Creek Watershed. 3. Minimize the potential impact of future development in Picton-Hallowell on the Warings Creek Watershed.*

The best way we can think of to minimize the potential impact of future development on the Waring's Creek Watershed is to ensure that major residential developments like Loyalist Heights are only built in appropriate locations, of which this is not one.

*Paula Peel*

### **Bird Boxes, Wood Duck Boxes and Bat Boxes**

Constructed by Dick Bird

All proceeds to the Moses Hudgin Log House  
Restoration Fund

The Bird Boxes are suitable for Eastern Bluebirds  
or Tree Swallows \$20 each or \$35 pair

The Wood Duck nesting boxes also work for  
Screech Owls \$50 each

The Bat boxes are suitable for all local species  
\$30 each

Order at [southshoreji@gmail.com](mailto:southshoreji@gmail.com)

## BOXES, BOXES, BOXES

**For sale**



Members' Sightings

Lone Birds In Winter

Marjorie Seguin

While at home and traveling around the County this winter we have been lucky to see some lone birds. For the first time ever I saw a **Barred Owl**, barely visible in this photograph but very evident, perched on a branch low over the trail where I passed on cross country skis. No snowy owls this winter but Bald Eagles have been seen, in the distance at the visible from house, and on occasion by the Glenora Ferry. The attached photograph is a **young Bald Eagle** on the Adolphustown side of the Reach. Also alone, this handsome **Redhead duck** swam around by himself during the early March thaw, in the open water near where the ferry kept a channel open traveling back and forth across Adolphus Reach.



*photos by Marc Seguin*

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### The Swans of Wellington Harbour. *Dale Smith*

During my daily forays to the Wellington Harbour, I've come to realize that most people observing the swans don't realize that there are three species present! While the Mute Swans far outnumber the other two species, there have been at least five Trumpeter Swans and one Tundra Swan spending the winter there too.

The **Mute Swans** sport a bright orange beak with a black knob.

This highly invasive, non-native swan hales from Europe and Asia. During the breeding season, they are very territorial, aggressively chasing other waterfowl away. For this reason there has been quiet talk of trying to control their ever growing population. The phrase 'swan song' refers to this swan and to the legend that it is utterly silent until the last moment of its life when it sings one beautiful song just before dying; in reality, the Mute Swan is not completely silent but makes various grunt and snort noises.



**Mute Swan**



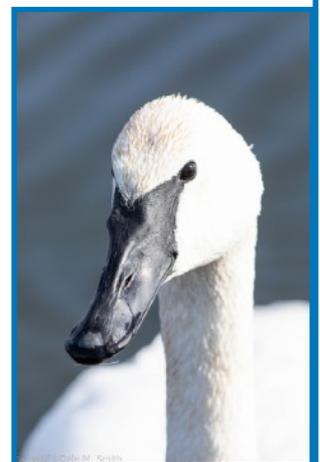
**Tundra Swan**

The least common swan at the harbour is the **Tundra Swan**. The one pictured has spent the entire winter here and has occasionally been joined by one or two others. This is a small swan with an all black bill, usually with a yellow spot at the base. The black joins the eyes in a nearly straight line across its forehead. As this is a young bird, the yellow lore is not very developed. The Tundra Swan, a native species, used to be called the Whistling Swan. In the winter it is more commonly seen further south in Ontario and along the East coast.

The third species present is the **Trumpeter Swan**. From last year, you may remember the story of Wilson, the swan with the tennis ball stuck on its beak. He is a Trumpeter Swan. Along with his sibling, father (Nanuuk, K46), and a pair of non-tagged swans, he has once again spent the winter here in Wellington and is doing well. The **Trumpeter Swan** is the largest waterfowl species native to North America. Its bill, legs, and feet are black with the black of the bill bleeding into the eyes and forming a deep V across the forehead.

This species is the reason behind the twice daily feedings. Sponsored by the Foster Forest Wildlife Orphanage, whole corn is purchased and fed during the cold winter months, when little natural food is available.

While we are helping all of the waterfowl at the harbour, it is the Trumpeter Swan that we are most concerned about. A native species that was extirpated from Ontario by hunters in the 1800s, it is slowly coming back, thanks to a captive breeding program started by the late Harry Lumsden at the Wye Marsh, using eggs from Alaska. There are now more than 2,000 of these birds in Ontario.



**Trumpeter Swan**

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### More Members' Sightings



Green-winged Teal Feb. 21/22

I can't remember if this was reported last month or not, but in case it wasn't, all winter there has been a female Green-winged Teal down at the Wellington Harbour. As our smallest dabbling duck she is easy to miss!

Dale Smith



This male Red-bellied Woodpecker has been visiting our feeders this winter. While there is a suet block nearby, he prefers the peanut feeder!

#### Dale Smith provided a list of the other waterfowl seen in the Wellington Harbour on March 2/22:

Canada Goose - ~500  
Mute Swan - 188  
Trumpeter Swan 5 (K46 Nanuuk and 4 utub's)  
Tundra Swan - 1, sometimes 2  
Mallard - 105  
Redhead - 75  
Greater Scaup - 55  
Bufflehead - 2  
Common Goldeneye - 17  
Hooded Merganser - 2  
Red-breasted Merganser - 1 female (all winter)

The number of the most common ones varied throughout the winter. Besides the Mallards, Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup had the highest totals.

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### More Members' Sightings

David Bree

- **Purple Finch** have showed up in big numbers starting the end of February with up to 12 at our feeder at once. On March 5th there was a strangely coloured male with a yellow collar - see picture. Suspect it is a young male just getting his red feathers in and the throat ones are the last to come in but that is a guess.

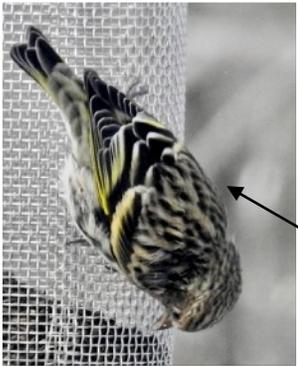
For the first time in 11 years at this house we have a **Pileated Woodpecker** coming to the suet feeder. He started coming in late November and has been here every day since. We can tell he has arrived by the "thunk-thunk" noises that can be heard/felt throughout the house when he attacks the suet. picture

- Woodpeckers are numerous, no doubt due to the presence of Emerald Ash Borer in the trees around the house (all dying). Had an unusual winter **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - juvenile (picture) for a week in late January - it always looked cold so hope it left for warmer climes.

-**Siskins** are apparently arriving in the area but we have had only one for one day - Feb 19, Picture shows the streaky Siskin.

Sharp-shinned Hawk on our deck on March 5th but no picture, and no other birds when it was around!

- Starting around the first of March, Cardinals and Robins have started singing to join the Chickadees that have been singing on and off for over a month! Also ravens doing display flights - spring is in the air.



## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### More Members' Sightings

- Unfortunately, an observation submitted by **Henri Garand** did not appear in the January newsletter. We apologize for our oversight: "In keeping with my reputation for grisly sightings, here's one that Fay spotted. During a rainy and windy night in December a deer must have broken through thin ice and drowned in Muscote Bay (possibly being chased by coyotes). Two eagles and several crows pecked at the carcass all the next morning and afternoon. (but we didn't manage to get a photo)". .... Henri Garand.
- On Jan. 28/22, **Amy Bodman and Sheila Kuja** had a excellent opportunity to see the Rusty Blackbirds that have been visiting Paul Jones' front yard near Long Point. We thought it was also interesting that we saw three or four individual American Tree Sparrows coming to the road on the South Shore because we usually notice them in flocks, rather than as individuals. We also watched a Coyote walking and then loping along the road toward the Banding Station at Prince Edward Point. He kept looking back at us, and then decided he'd better leave the road and go cross-country.
- On Jan. 30/22, Myrna Wood had a red-bellied woodpecker visit the crab apple tree outside her apartment window on Downes Ave. in Picton. "What a wonderful surprise! The head was such a bright red!"
- On Feb. 26/22 **Paul and Brenda in Ottawa reported** – "We had a huge blizzard yesterday with blowing snow that lasted most of the day. This morning it was sunny and cold but our first cardinal was singing. We visited a friend at Bishop's Mills, north of Prescott and It was pleasant in the country. We saw one flock of 10 Blue Jays and then one Robin.

With the first really warm sunny day this year (12-14 degrees) on Sunday March 6 – Robins were everywhere around Wellington on the Lake with lots of birdsong.

- After the warm weather (+12 temperatures) the week before and then 12 cm of snow overnight on Mar. 11-12, we had 100+ Red-wing Blackbirds in our yard in Wellington on the Lake, on March 13<sup>th</sup> – at the feeders, eating the suet and covering the ground looking for sunflower seeds – really desperate birds who had arrived with the warm weather but had no source of food with all that snow. **Sheila & Allen Kuja.**

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### More Members' Sightings

Helene Tremblay

Found 2 bald eagles leaving a nest on Sunday. Lots of ducks on Cressy Lakeshore and Wellington Harbour.

Today, blue birds arrived at our nest boxes. Hope they stay.



Bufflehead duck.



**PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS**

**Members' Sightings from Away**

**I. Quebec: Sydney Smith**



Finches - Purple & Gold.....*S.Smith*



One of Sydney's 4 Visitors.....*S.Smith*



Robin snacking on Sumac berries.....*S.Smith*



Pine Siskins.....*S.Smith*



Backyard Buddies.....*S.Smith*

**2. Manitoba: Peter Fuller**

Gray Partridges.... *Peter Fuller*



## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### Soundscapes

Marjorie Seguin



We live at the edge of a large marsh, a favoured area for many birds, some rare and some not so rare. As winter drags on, with drifts and deadened cattails visible across the winter landscape, other than the wind blowing, or the occasional chickadee or nuthatch calling, all is silence. But a hint of spring comes, no matter the weather, when the male redwing blackbirds return in March. Each year I listen for their return.

Early on in our twenty-years of living here I read, in *Birds of Prince Edward County* (Terry Sprague, 1969), that the males typically return around March 7. Once March arrives, I pay close attention. It had been all quiet until Monday. Marc thought he heard something that day (March 7). Then yesterday (March 8) we heard what first sounded like a mal-tuned male call, perhaps a young blackbird who hadn't learned the order of the notes or the correct emphasis. And then within a few minutes we saw several redwings appear in the marsh, and their customary call (*book-er-jee!*) began to ring out.



Photos by Derek Dafoe,  
Belleville

The invisible world of invisible inner clocks is an amazing thing, where more than fifty years after Terry wrote his book, more often than not we hear the redwings return on almost exactly March 7<sup>th</sup>. In another two weeks the females will return, and the cycle of nesting and raising young for another year will begin.



SAVE THE DATE!

# SPRING BIRDING FESTIVAL

MAY 14-23, 2022



BREATHE, LEARN, DELIGHT

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory is happy to announce an in-person Spring Birding Festival for 2022. The Festival will be held from Saturday May 14 to Monday May 23.

Traditional activities will include :

- early morning guided hikes at Traverse Woods,
- banding demonstrations
- a Hospitality Tent.
- Masks will be mandatory in the tent and at the banding demos.
- On Wednesday May 18 we will host an evening webinar.
- special children's activities on weekend days. This year we are encouraging everyone to do a Great Canadian Birdathon as part of their May birding activities. The funds raised from the Birdathon form an important part of the financial support for the Bird Observatory.
- **For more information and to register for hikes go to:**
- [https://mailchi.mp/peptbo/the-spring-birding-festival-is-on-also-good-news-for-coffee-lovers?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/peptbo/the-spring-birding-festival-is-on-also-good-news-for-coffee-lovers?e=[UNIQID])

# PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS



## TRANSITION YOUR FRONT YARD TO INCLUDE MORE NATIVE PLANTINGS

### • Native Plant Sale, Saturday June 4, 10 am to 2 pm

One way to encourage biodiversity in your garden is to replace some of your grass with native plants. This upcoming event will support this important and interesting initiative.

Lise Bois is organizing a native plant sale on Saturday, June 4, from 10 am to 2 pm, in front of The Armoury. The offerings will centre on “micro prairie” plants that are favourable to our local climate and will include about 20 different species. The booklet “Plant Me Too” will also be available.

PECFN, Tree the County, PEC Horticultural Society, and the Master Gardeners are partnering for this sale. Profits will help fund a community-tree planting in the fall.



Jim Barkman

### **Jim Barkman - Apr. 2 1947 – Jan. 21 2022.**

This past January, PECFN lost a member, good friend and great supporter of our club and the South Shore. Jim and his wife, Jackie Soormsa, were dedicated supporters at the Ostrander ERT in Demorestville because they felt strongly that industrial wind turbines should not be built on our South Shore.

Jim was such an imposing figure, being so tall, but he always had a big smile and happy greeting for everyone. He and Jackie were certified to serve liquor at private events and volunteered to be bartenders for several of PECFN’s fundraising dinners to raise money to reimburse our lawyer, Eric Gillespie, who represented us at the Ostrander ERT hearings. Jim and Jackie were both experts at serving drinks but also super helpful in cleaning the glassware throughout the evening – all the time with smiles on their faces – and willing to help in whatever way they could.

A celebration of Jim’s life will be held on **Saturday April 2 at 2 PM from St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, King St. Picton**, with Rev. Lynne Donovan officiating. All those who knew him are invited to attend. A private family graveside was already held at Glenwood Cemetery, Picton.

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### Have you encountered invasive plant species in Prince Edward County?

County staff want to hear from you! On the County website 'Have Your Say' residents are asked to report invasive species they have sighted by using the mapping tool on this site. This information will be collected, aggregated, reviewed, and used to inform future discussions about the issue between Staff, the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Natural Cover working Group, and possibly Council.

Data could also be used to inform County projects and the need for invasive species control as part of these projects.

The data may also be provided to other partner organizations such as other municipalities, the Conservation Authority, and the province in support of any projects or management strategies they may be undertaking.

**PECFN members could also send photos to iNaturalist using their phones.**



Phragmites (common reed) at Wellers Bay



Garlic Mustard. at Point Traverse



Dog-strangling Vine (Swallow-wort)  
2 pictures taken along Millennium Trail  
and at Point Traverse



Buckthorn along Millennium Trail

*Photos by Terry Sprague*

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### **Prince Edward County is home to the newest branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.**

**The launch of ACO PEC is a significant step forward in encouraging a community resolve to ensure the future of the past in The County.** “ACO PEC” held its inaugural meeting February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 featuring a virtual presentation by ACO President, Diane Chin.

The County has become a major tourism destination with an estimated one million annual visitors. Development pressures for new housing sites, resort properties, and other commercial projects are creating an economic boom in an area that once knew hard times. But these developments sometimes come at a cost threatening heritage landscapes and historic buildings that are all part of the area’s unique character. Without thoughtful development, these signature features may be lost forever.

There have been some recent enlightened developments like the restoration of Picton’s iconic Royal Hotel, the nearby Armoury, The CAPE mansion, and the Drake Devonshire Hotel in Wellington. But there have also been some tragic losses such as the demolition of two heritage homes at the Sandbanks Provincial Park in September 2021. It was this senseless demolition that created momentum to form a local ACO branch.

To join ACO Prince Edward County, visit: [https://www.acontario.ca/branch.php?b\\_id=45](https://www.acontario.ca/branch.php?b_id=45)  
For more information, contact:

Liz Driver, Interim President  
Email: [liz.driver@sympatico.ca](mailto:liz.driver@sympatico.ca)  
Tel: 647 – 526 - 4877

Debra Marshall, Interim Vice - President  
Email: [dsmangus@gmail.com](mailto:dsmangus@gmail.com)



## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Destination Marketing Organization DMO Stakeholder Session March 17

Report by Helen Fearman

Three members of PECFN participated in a Stakeholder workshop session for the County's new DMO, a new tourism industry-led Destination Marketing Organization that will oversee marketing, promotion, and visitor services in Prince Edward County.

This was the first of eight such sessions scheduled by municipal staff for the purpose of providing tourism industry input to the criteria for selecting the inaugural board of this organization. This first session was attended by representatives of Nature/Parks/Water focused organizations, namely Quinte Conservation, PECTrails, PECFN, PEPtBO, SSJI and Sandbanks Provincial Park.



Subsequent sessions will each have participants from one of the various tourism industry sectors such as Accommodation, Food and Culinary, Beverage, Retail, Attractions, Arts and Entertainment, Agritourism and Experiences. Notably absent from the list of major stakeholder groups is "Residents". However, a public information and feedback session for residents and indirect stakeholders will be held on April 4. It was also pointed out that getting the support of the community would be difficult because at this point the community is not happy about the amount of tourism.

This new DMO will have a large role in determining the face of tourism in PEC in the years to come and consequently a significant impact on the future of Prince Edward County itself. Nature organizations such as PECFN will have to ensure that our voices are heard. It is somewhat unfortunate that by the time the public information and feedback session is held on April 4, the industry will have pretty well determined what the DMO will look like and what its guiding principles will be.

More information is available on Have Your Say at:

<https://haveyoursay.thecounty.ca/destination-marketing-organization?tool=qanda>

On the whole, PECFN and the other participants felt that the criteria we were asked to select had an overly high emphasis on profit and not enough emphasis on mitigating or preventing the potential harm which tourism would cause --- to the natural environment, to the County's physical infrastructure, and to the quality of life of the County's residents. It was also suggested that a certain portion of the MAT (Munic. Accommodation Tax) should be used for providing offsets for the harm done. These offsets could be in the form of building new trails and conservation areas and for making sustainability an integral part of tourism as a whole. Sustainability and environmental concerns should be an overriding principle that guides all tourism in the County and should be built into the PEC brand.

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### The Fight to Protect Nellie Lunn Park in Nearby Hastings County

By John Lowry

Tucked away in the centre of Wollaston Township, Hastings County is an ecological gem – Nellie Lunn Park.

The park comprises 100 acres (40 hectares) of undeveloped wilderness and features a mixture of forest and wetlands on the rocky Canadian Shield. In fact, 80 per cent of the property consists of wetlands that are considered environmentally protected. A trail system reaches 2 – 3 km into the property and one of its branches leads to a lookout on scenic little Urbach Lake, which is stocked by the MNR for sport fishing. The property is accessed via a road allowance that runs south from The Ridge Road, not far from Coe Hill. This piece of wilderness was preserved as the result of the generosity of Second World War veteran Boleslaw Klincewicz who bequeathed the land to the township in 1981 for the purpose of a public park, named in honour of the love of his life, Nellie Lunn.

In the years since, this beautiful park has become a popular destination for those wishing to venture into a wilderness setting to hike, mountain bike or, during the winter, to go snowshoeing.

Unfortunately however the park's very existence is at risk. In February 2021, the Wollaston township council decided to close the park to public access while they debated the future of



the natural area. In July 2021 they proposed to sell the wilderness park ostensibly as a means of raising funds to add to the reserves to construct a large new fire hall. The implications of this are far reaching particularly when it is understood that the park constitutes 96 per cent of the township's recreational land assets.

In response, many local residents have banded together to convince the council that this would be wrong. They have formed a local non-profit organization called the 'Friends of Nellie Lunn Park' in their efforts to preserve this important wilderness area. They have been successful in delaying a decision on this matter while they gather the necessary support to ensure the Park is preserved for posterity in its natural state. A well-researched business plan has been developed by the group to demonstrate the various options that could be explored to maintain this precious natural asset.

Those interested in showing their support for this worthy cause can visit the 'Friends of Nellie Lunn Park' website (url – <https://www.fonlp.ca>) or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofnellielunnpark> .

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### A Plea for Legislating Bird Friendly Construction – Ontario Nature’s comment regarding ERO #19-4974

#### *What can we do to help stop bird collisions?*

<https://flap.org>

On March 11, Ontario Nature (ON) sent a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding proposed changes for the next edition of Ontario’s Building Code (ERO #019-4974). PECFN joined 42 other nature groups endorsing ON’s request that the next edition of the code include provisions that would reduce bird collisions with buildings, based on the Canadian Standards Association A460:19 Bird-friendly building design standard. The standard includes the appropriate use of visual markers, specifications for window glazing and glass railings, and building-integrated structures and was developed through a project funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in 2019. However, in the current proposed version of the next edition of the building code (the ERO posting closed on March 13), the standard is voluntary.



Grey -checked Thrush *photo submitted by Terry Sprague from EREN (Ecological Research as Education Network)*

PECFN agrees that “by mandating bird-friendly building construction measures, Ontario could significantly reduce the vast number of birds that die needlessly each year. In so doing, it could make meaningful progress on its stated goal of protecting species and supporting conservation efforts to preserve Ontario’s rich biodiversity (Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan).” This is an area where legislation could really make a difference.

It is estimated that 25 million birds die by colliding with windows in Canada each year. Much of the advocacy towards reducing bird collisions with buildings has been led by the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada. To learn more about FLAP Canada and the excellent work they do, as well as what we ourselves can do to help stop bird collisions and what to do if you find an injured bird, please go to: <https://flap.org> .