

2022 BIOBLITZ – MACAULAY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA



When: Friday June 17- Saturday June 18 – 2 PM till 2 PM

Where: Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area, at #224 Co. Rd. 8 (Union St. becomes Co. Rd. 8). See sign for Bird House City and then at next driveway beyond that, on the way out of town, there is sign and entrance to the C.A.

Goals: Experts and community scientists (i.e. you) will document as many of the living organisms as possible on the property during the Bioblitz period. Have fun learning about Biodiversity in the Conservation Area - the plants, butterflies, frogs and toads, and other animals that live there.

In this info pack:

- General Information for Participants
- Schedule of activities
- Map of Macaulay Mountain C.A.
- Reporting Form if iNaturalist is not used
- Waiver to print, sign and bring; or fill in and sign at registration

GENERAL INFORMATION and RESOURCES for PARTICIPANTS

How to Participate

1. It is possible to pre-register for the Bioblitz at pecfninfo@gmail.com – with name, date coming and number of participants attending with you
2. When you arrive, come to the registration desk at the covered picnic area near the pond to sign in. Registration will be available both days while the bioblitz is open.
3. A \$5.00 charge for adults covers the meal that day (chili/hot dog dinner on Friday or BBQ on Saturday at 2 PM) and other materials for the BioBlitz
4. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult but will have a great time and receive meals free
5. You will be asked to sign a Liability Waiver. Please note that photographs may be taken during the event, and by participating you grant event organizers the right to use photos for documentation, promotion and press releases in print or online. If this is a problem, please advise us when you are registering.
6. You will receive a map of the Conservation Area before you set out and/or you can use the Avenza app to download a map to your phone *** (see at end of General Info)
7. Submit your iNaturalist observations at the registration desk when you leave or send in your observation **Report Form** (and photos if you have any) by July 1, 2022. Those providing observations, either on iNaturalist or on a report form will receive a prize before they leave.
8. A report of the findings of the BioBlitz will be sent to you by email, once all the species are tabulated.

What to Bring

1. Clothing: best to wear long pants and close-toed footwear (to protect against ticks and poison ivy); shorts and open-toed sandals or flip flops are not recommended because of this.
2. Recent reports indicate lots of mosquitos, as is the case everywhere in PEC this spring and wet patches along the trails so rain boots or waterproof boots are a good idea as well as insect repellent.
3. Sun protection: sunscreen, a hat and water (bring a refillable container which can be refilled at Picnic Area if needed)
4. Optional: rain gear (boots and jacket – activities continue rain or shine and there can be wet areas if it has rained recently)
5. Snacks (be sure to pack out all garbage)
6. Cell phone, camera, binoculars, observation sheet, pencil (optional helpful gear - magnifying glass, notebook, field guides, zone map – but a map will be provided)

Services

1. Parking is available at the Conservation Area parking lot
2. There are many walking/biking trails throughout the C.A. Please stay on the trails as much as possible and avoid unnecessary trampling off the trail.
3. There are **portable washroom** facilities on the north side of the parking lot.
4. Please bring your own water for your visit. Pack out all garbage.

Health and Safety

1. Black-legged Ticks (which may carry Lyme disease) are present in Prince Edward County. Wear long pants and do a check after activities. More information on Ticks and Lyme disease can be found at www.ontario.ca/page/lyme-disease
2. Poison Ivy is present in the area. Prickly Ash thickets are common and have thorns. Stay on trails and be aware of these plants.
3. There will be a First Aid Kit at the Registration Desk but band-aids are often useful to carry with you.
4. Maintain appropriate distancing and follow all current COVID-19 recommendations.

Code of Conduct

1. Be respectful of wildlife and do not harm/harass animals/nests or trample vegetation unnecessarily.
2. Best not to bring pets to the BioBlitz.
3. No campfires and pack all your garbage out with you.
4. Take photos rather than collecting samples and leave interesting artifacts where you find them.
5. Please report any rare findings or species-at-risk to the organizers but do not share the locations publicly or share or post photos that can be linked to the location.

Identification Resources (free)

Merlin (for bird identification) <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> (also one for bird song ID)

Seek (from iNaturalist) https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app

Download the apps on your phone before the BioBlitz and practise using them, even in your backyard. Make sure your geolocator is turned on so that any photos you take at the C.A. can be uploaded to the Macaulay Mtn. project site on iNaturalist. If you're having problems, don't worry, someone will help

you at the registration desk before you set off or will show you what to do on your first walk. You don't have to use iNaturalist but it's fun and you may soon use it on all your walks.

Directions

From Picton: Take **Main Street** to the east end of downtown Picton. At the 'Y' intersection, turn onto **Bridge St.** At the bottom of the hill turn right onto **Union Street.** Follow Union Street out of Picton (**becomes County Rd 8**). #224 will be on your right. Once you see the Bird House City sign, look for the next driveway and sign for Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area. Follow the driveway to the parking lot. Registration will be at the covered picnic tables close to the pond.

From Co. Rd. 8 south, once you pass Clarke Rd. on your way to Picton, look for the driveway to your left with the Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area sign, follow the driveway to the parking area. If you see the sign for Bird House City, you've passed the driveway to the C.A. and will need to turn around.

***A smartphone enabled trail map is also available via the free app [Avenza Maps](#). Once the map is downloaded, you can track your location on the trails without the use of mobile data. Instructions for use are as follows:

- Install Avenza Maps onto your smartphone (available on iOS and Android).
- Tap the + button on the bottom right of the "My Maps" page, then select "download or import a map".
- Alternatively, you can search for the Conservation Area in the keyword bar of the app's "Store" page.
- Tap the "Free" button on the map's page, then confirm the download.
- Use the map offline at the area, ensuring that location services are turned on.



#224 Co. Rd. 8

•**PEC 2022 BIOBLITZ TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES** (as of May 28)

Friday June 17

1 PM – Registration and Sign-in begin at picnic area near pond; practicing using your phone with iNaturalist before the event begins; Registration continues here during the two days.

2 PM – BioBlitz begins: walks with experts and independent surveys (with smartphones using iNaturalist app or recording observations on forms)

2:00 PM - **Butterflies** (Robert Ormston)

3:00 PM – **The land above** – life on the plateau – Tim Trustham

4:00 PM – **Trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants** – Amanda Tracey

4:00 PM – **Aquatic Survey** of Pond Life – Les Stanfield

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM – **Dinner** at the covered picnic area near the pond

7:00 PM – **Evening Birds** – walk leaves from registration area or on plateau

9:00 PM – Listening and Learning at the **Pond**

9:30 PM – Registration area closes for the day

9:30 PM – **Moth Survey** begins and continues until 10:30 PM or later

Saturday June 18

7:00 AM – **Morning Bird Walk** – leaves from Picnic Area (Paul Jones)

8:00 AM – Registration opens for the day

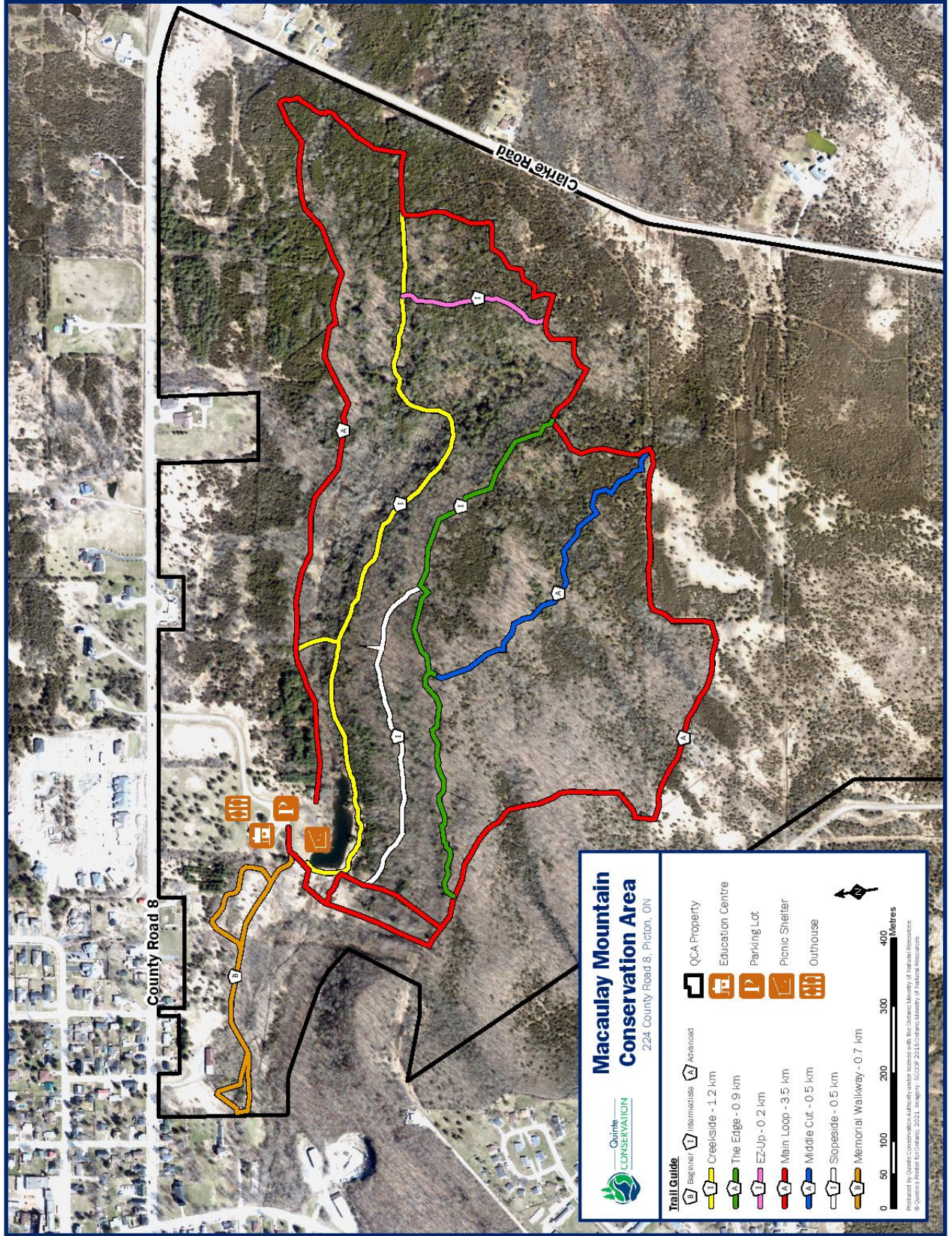
10:00 AM – **Searching** the pond and stream for plant and animal life (Ewa Bednarczuk)

11:00 AM – Amphibian, Reptile, Insects walk – on the plateau

Amphibian walk with Peter Christie?

12:00 PM – Butterflies, Dragonflies and other insects

2:00 PM – BioBlitz ends followed by **BBQ lunch and reporting** of what was observed



Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area

224 County Road 8, Picton, ON



Trail Guide

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Creekside - 1.2 km
- The Edge - 0.9 km
- EZ-Up - 0.2 km
- Main Loop - 3.5 km
- Middle Cut - 0.5 km
- Slopeside - 0.5 km
- Memorial Walkway - 0.7 km
- QCA Property
- Education Centre
- Parking Lot
- Picnic Shelter
- Outhouse



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Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
Consent and Waiver for Outdoor Activities

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

..... **Please print**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Names of children with you _____

City/Town _____ Telephone _____

E mail _____

WAIVER

I will not hold the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists or the land owners responsible for injury or damage to or loss of possessions resulting from participation in an outdoor activity.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF POISON IVY, TICKS and WILD PARSNIP

Signature _____ (Parent or Guardian if participant is child under 18 years)