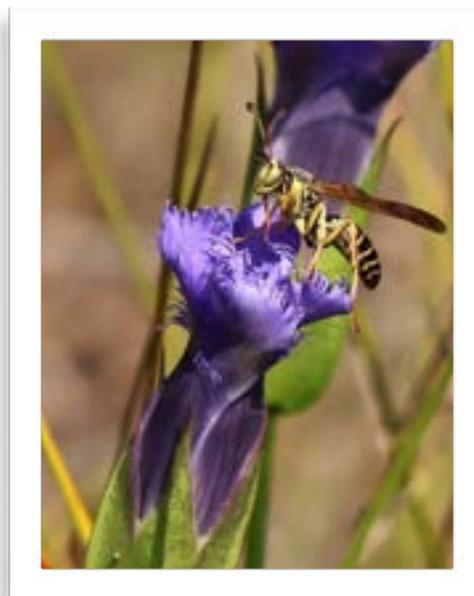




# PECFN NEWSLETTER



Goldenrod at Sandbanks  
Prov. Pk. *by John Lowry,*



Wasp on Fringed Gentian. at Sandbanks Prov. Pk.  
*by John Lowry,*

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## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN general meeting on Zoom

Tuesday September 27, 7pm

**Terry Sprague**

**The Millennium Trail – a trail for all seasons**



Terry Sprague is a naturalist who lives on Big Island. His weekly columns on nature appeared in local newspapers for 50 years. He has held positions at Glenora Fisheries Research and as an interpretive naturalist at both Sandbanks Provincial Park (8 yrs.) and Quinte Conservation (17 yrs.). He is recipient of the 2002 Pioneer Conservationist Award from Conservation Ontario, the 2004 Richards Education Award from Ontario Nature, and the 2015 Gold Quill Award from the Canadian Community Newspapers Association.

### **The Millennium Trail – a trail for all seasons**

Terry Sprague has walked the entire trail on six different occasions since 2005. In this presentation, he shares some of the history and his thoughts on this former CN railway line that runs for 48 km from Picton to Carrying Place. Both the human history and natural history are dealt with in this presentation, along with how it all came about. Meet some of the people who use the trail, and discover their fascination for this now popular cross county route.

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN general meeting on Tuesday October 25  
7pm. Bloomfield Town Hall  
Paul Jones



Paul Jones is a retiree and resident of Prince Edward County where he spends his time birdwatching and photographing nature.

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### APPLICATIONS AND ADVOCACY by PECFN

Starting in March PECFN has been 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.

#### **Adolphus Reach Resort in North Marysburgh**

*by Paula Peel*

One of the 180 applications on the County’s “Dashboard” right now is the Adolphus Reach Resort in North Marysburgh. This high-end resort is located about 5 kilometres east of Lake on the Mountain on the north side of County Road 7 on 25-acres of land adjacent to – and overlooking – Lake Ontario, which of course is why this property was selected for a major tourist-commercial enterprise.

According to the four property owners/proponents, the resort will consist of a combination of 36 tree top houses and 20 pod villas each of which will contain bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, and common spaces. The proposal also consists of a Main Common Villa (aka “Clubhouse”) that is located in an Environmental Protection (EP) Zone directly adjacent to the Lake Ontario shoreline, a vineyard with winery buildings, an art gallery, a pump house (also in the EP Zone), a water treatment plant and a waste management plant. In addition to locating the Main Common Villa and pump house in an EP Zone, the proposal includes a wooden staircase on the escarpment slope which is needed to provide safe access to the Main Common Villa. The proponents also indicate that at least some of the 20 pod villas will be located in the EP zone: “The resort establishment uses proposed include the main villa, the fire pit, and a limited number of pod villas, some of which may be located within the EP Zone.” (*underline added*).

In addition to their questionable plan to locate various components of their development in an EP zone, there are further questions. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) have records of 22 terrestrial species at risk (SAR) occurring on the property or nearby. Yet the proponents only observed a total of 4 SAR during field surveys, which is quite a discrepancy. The proponents’ Environmental Impact Study (EIS) proposes some questionable mitigation for the few SAR they do acknowledge. For example, in regards to the Northern Map Turtle, the EIS asserts that “limited shoreline development is proposed, minimizing potential impacts to the species.” But is this realistic, when the Main Common Villa, which will presumably be a hub of activity in the resort, is located in such close proximity to the water’s edge? How long would it take before residents and/or tourists staying at the resort would be drawn to explore the property? It would only be a matter of time before well-worn footpaths were bisecting the EP lands on the subject property and most likely EP lands on adjacent properties as well.

It would be helpful for the proponents to explain which Official Plan applies with respect to their application and in particular with respect to their assertion that “the proposed development conforms with the County of Prince Edward Official Plan.” In this regard, Part 5.2.1 in the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) entitled: “Planning Policies and Framework” specifically refers to the old Official Plan that was approved on December 23, 1998. Also, the EIS only includes Schedules B and E in the old Official Plan and no schedules from the new Plan. To all

Cont’d on next page

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

PECFN Advocacy cont'd

appearances the proponents' EIS conforms with the County's old Official Plan, or at least conforms most closely with the old Official Plan.

Meanwhile the section on "Policy and Regulatory Framework" in the proponents' Planning Justification Report only makes reference to the County's updated Official Plan that came into effect on July 8, 2021.

It may sound quite convincing when the proponents assert in their Planning Justification Report that their development conforms with the County's Official Plan. But it also sounds like they're trying to have it both ways - when they really can't. For example, the new Official Plan includes Appendix 'B' entitled Sample Terms of Reference and Submissions Standards for the Environmental Impact Study. Proponents could not possibly conform with the County's new Official Plan without paying any regard whatsoever to Appendix B. Or, for example, the new Official Plan states that: "There are many Woodlands outside of the identified areas, which shall be considered as part of the review of an application for *Major Development* (commercial or industrial)." But there's no mapping of woodlands to be found in the EIS and no mention of woodlands in the text of the EIS even though woodlands appear to be present on and/or near the subject property based on Schedule B in the new Official Plan. The only reference to woodlands in the EIS is in the context of "Significant Woodlands" (of which there are none).

It seems worth noting that at least some of the accommodations in this resort can be purchased. As reported on CountyLive in October, 2020: the proponents are: "looking at resort-style, but individual ownership under condominium management. . . You've got people actually wanting to be here, live here, vacation here, and they have pride in their homes." This leads to the question why the proponents are seeking a Zoning By-law Amendment to rezone some of these lands from Rural Residential to Tourist Commercial? To what extent (if any) is this application explicitly to permit the establishment of a tourist-commercial resort in view of the proponents' stated objective to have home owners (not tourists) taking up residence in the resort? Will any tourists at all be staying at this resort a few years from now? Is the winery, the tea house and the art gallery only part of a ruse to support this rezoning application?



*photo John Lowry*

The rezoning of the existing EP zone to a "site-specific" EP zone is most concerning. If approval is granted this could potentially open the floodgates to major tourist-commercial development in virtually any EP zone in the County located outside a Natural Core Area, as this one is.

The questions and concerns raised in this article only scratch the surface. But there is enough here to suggest putting a red flag beside this application.

*Paula Peel*

**Embrace Biodiversity as a promotional concept for the County:**

In an effort to profile the environment as a campaign issue in our municipal election, the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists are helping to hold three All Candidates Meetings. We plan to bring questions to All- Candidates meetings in the wards we could not cover as well.

We encourage you to attend the meetings. If you have a question or concern you would like to raise but can't attend a meeting, please email it to our PECFN email address: [pecfninfo@gmail.com](mailto:pecfninfo@gmail.com) by October 1st. We will do our best to represent you!

**The Prince Edward County Field Naturalists  
and Partners Invite You to the Following  
All-Candidates Meetings**

***October 4, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Bloomfield Town Hall  
Mayoral and Ward 2 Candidates***

**Co-hosted by the Bloomfield & Area Business Association  
Moderator: Steve Campbell, County Magazine**

***October 6, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Picton Town Hall  
Ward 1 Candidates***

**Co-hosted by Tree the County  
Moderator: Kathy Kennedy, Prince Edward Learning Centre**

***October 13, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Milford Town Hall  
Ward 5 and Ward 9 Candidates***

**Hosted by the South Shore Joint Initiative  
Moderators: Judy Kent and Rosemary Kent, past presidents  
of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory**



## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, I made a presentation to the Environmental Advisory Committee titled:

Embrace Biodiversity as a promotional concept for the County:

“Biodiversity: we have it; we recognize it; we celebrate it!”

Here are some excerpts from the presentation:

“PEC is a special place where northern and southern elements come together. We can find a Carolinian species not that far from where a more northern species occurs. There are Great Lakes shoreline species on dunes and dune slacks which are only found here and at Presqu’île and nowhere else along the northern shore of Lake Ontario. We have White-throated Sparrows nesting here, and Ravens, although they should be much farther to the north but they have found conditions are perfect for them. We have the Chuck-wills-widow that I first saw in Florida, as well as it’s cousin the Whip-poor-will. We are very fortunate to live where we do and it’s worth taking some time to realize that and embrace what it means.

This spring the Dept of Illumination (*with SSJI*) highlighted Biodiversity in its “Wild Thing” activities, culminating in a parade to celebrate it. Biodiversity is worthy of highlighting even further to the community, to tourists and to Municipal officials and departments – both in Operations and in Planning; so, we all can celebrate it and enjoy its benefits wherever we happen to be in the County

Biodiversity is important for ameliorating climate change affects and for continued interest in the County as a nature refuge. If higher provincial authorities aren’t going to take the steps to ensure its survival – the municipality has to do whatever is necessary to safeguard it and our future. We have the power to influence what is happening in our own backyard and need to start there in order to influence the greater good – and be an example for the rest of the province, the country and the world.

Everything starts at a small scale – we can each do something about it – and **it is happening**, little by little. The garden club is promoting pollinator gardens and planting them on public lands. Tree the County is planting trees on public lands; there is a movement to turn lawns into gardens featuring native plants that are adapted to our restricted summer water conditions (which will only be exacerbated by climate change); Neighbourwoods in Bloomfield, is documenting the variety of trees present in a built community; PECFN is conducting bioblitzes to document the varied and interesting plants and animals that are present, especially on the South Shore but elsewhere within the County, too. The fact that our County has the only populations of an endangered plant in Canada, the Four-leaved Milkweed, is quite astounding. It’s the only place in the rest of the country where it still can be found. How remarkable is that!”

I went on to describe a few ways that we could highlight and celebrate biodiversity – including focusing on the only granitic outcrop in the County – our piece of the Canadian Shield – north of Victoria Rd. that we learned about from Marc Forget and which is considered a Regionally Significant ANSI. I also suggested that ANSIs should be protected by municipal legislation or a by-law so they are not destroyed through development or clear-cutting – as has already happened to a significant oak-hickory woodland clear-cut in the Green Point candidate Provincially Significant ANSI along Hwy 49. Also, at the municipal level, mowing and shrub clearing along some roadsides where White Trout Lily occurs, should be terminated and groups, such as PECFN, could take over annual management of those few places where it occurs and where biodiversity could be fostered by its protection – rather than eliminated by current practices that will result in bland characterless verges along every road. This lily is an unusual Carolinian. *Cont’d on next page*

plant that occurs further to the southwest in Ontario but is present in eastern Ontario, only in a restricted area from the Trent River to western Kingston, with many of its colonies in PEC. Protecting this plant is a simple step in moving toward embracing biodiversity and celebrating it.

As we approach the Municipal Elections in October, be sure to talk to the candidates to learn their ideas about fostering and protecting biodiversity in the County. Do they think that biodiversity is worth embracing or is development their only concern. Now more than ever this is a key issue to consider. Be sure the candidate you vote for will support the values you believe in.

Sheila Kuja

### Members' Sightings and Observations:

Sept. 8 or 9/22 Amy Bodman – Wellington. From 5:30 to 7:00 pm I could see, out the window of my kitchen that faces Lake Ontario, a constant stream of monarchs crossing my backyard. There was a north wind. They seemed to trickle in small groups of around 10 to 15 at a time across the whole length of the yard which is long. I would say there were at least four hundred that passed through our yard at that time. There were thousands of large dragonflies as well, higher up in the sky. All was lit by a beautiful golden autumn evening light.



A few days later I was walking on my family's farm on Huycks Point Rd when I saw a very still square shape in a dead tree. It was a cloudy day that threatened rain. I lifted up my binoculars and still could only make out the square shape. I lowered my binoculars and thought, "How could something that big and that shape get caught so high up in a tree?" and lifted the binoculars again. Only then did I discern the white head and tail that were perfectly camouflaged against the white sky. Eventually the bird (a Bald Eagle) started to move and then finally took off, flying languidly towards Hubbs Creek.

It reminded me of the low hanging plastic bag I once saw caught in a tree on Huycks Point Road one winter that was oddly still on a windy day so I pulled over. Sure enough, it was a Snowy owl!

Sept. 19/22 – Sheila Kuja – Wellington on the Lake. Heard a Screech Owl calling in the thickets on the other side of the fence, beyond our backyard, at 7:40 PM for about 10 minutes. The calling stopped after some bill clicking sounds. Perhaps this was the resident Screech Owl arriving to let the intruder know that this was his territory. We haven't heard any calling since that evening.

Sept 20/22 - Marj Seguin – Weller's Bay: On the nature front, we have been lucky to see some baby toads around our house lately. We also saw a green frog (we hear them in spring), or maybe a young bull frog. I didn't want to get too close and scare him/ her away!! Just so glad to see the presence of the frogs/ toads. The False Foxglove which is on the trail along the waterfront is reproducing abundantly. Delighted to see it!

**PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS**

**Members' Sightings**



Painted Lady

*John Lowry*



Twelve-spotted Skimmer (dragonfly)

*John Lowry*



Sulphur butterfly on Hawkweed

*John Lowry*

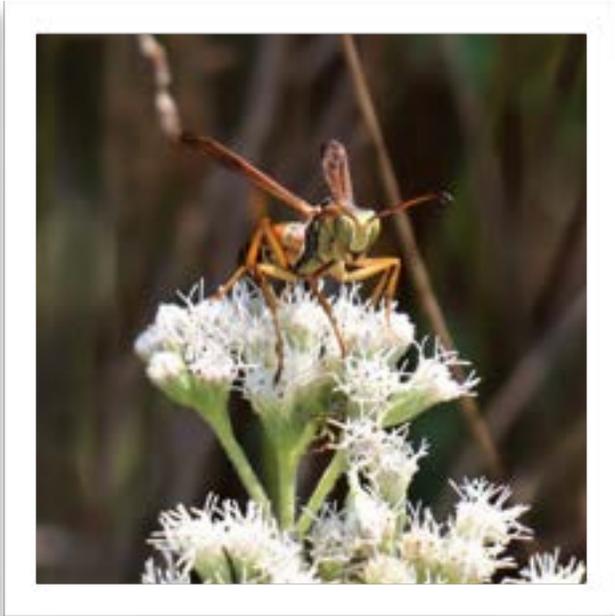


Monarch on Goldenrod

*John Lowry*

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

More Members' Sightings



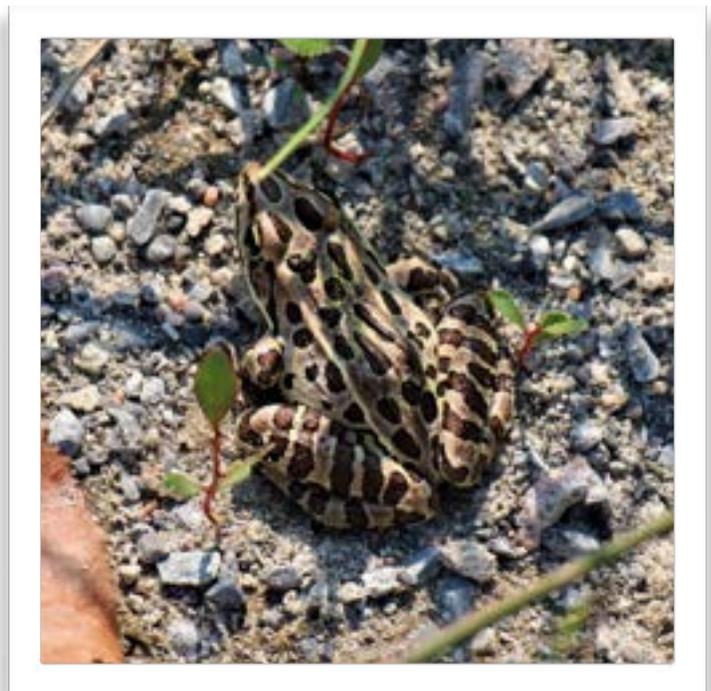
Wasp on Boneset. *John Lowry*



Ladies'-tresses Orchid. *John Lowry*



Purple False Foxglove. *John Lowry*



Leopard Frog. *John Lowry*

**Community Tree Planting**  
Wilkinson Memorial Park, N Marysburgh  
2699 County Road 8, Waupoos  
*Saturday, October 1, at 10 am*



*Volunteers Wanted...*

...for community tree planting. Help transform Wilkinson Memorial Park into a leafy oasis. Thanks to Home Hardware and Tree Canada for their grant that made this initiative possible.

*To volunteer, please email [Gerry.jenkison@icloud.com](mailto:Gerry.jenkison@icloud.com)*



The County  
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY & DISTRICT

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### BIODIVERSITY AT MACAULAY MOUNTAIN: THE BIOBLITZ AT MACAULAY MOUNTAIN C.A.

A favourite spot to visit, especially during the summer, to escape the sun and heat of the County, is the Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area which also houses Birdhouse City. The tall trees and pond provide a welcome respite from the scorching sun, but there is much more than a cool haven awaiting you within the forest at any time of year.



Macaulay pond *photo Paul Catling*

On June 17 and 18, 2022, two sunny but quite blustery days, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists (PECFN) and Quinte Conservation (QC) were the lead groups sponsoring a BioBlitz at Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area. Leaders and participants were drawn from PECFN, QC, SSJI, QFN, PEPtBO, and the community, to contribute to the significant results of this 24-hour survey to catalogue as many plant and animal species as possible.

This was the first PECFN bioblitz not sited on the South Shore but to celebrate QCs 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this Conservation Area, close to Picton, was chosen as a good place to explore and document its biodiversity.

The C.A. encompasses some 440 acres, so is much larger than the “park” that we all recognize when we go for a walk at Macaulay Mountain. It extends to Clarke Rd. and along Clarke to Kingsley Rd. (except for the residence at the corner). We learned that the “mountain” used to be used for downhill skiing – and if you climbed it or descended it on the red trail near the pond, you realized why!

This was the second time we used iNaturalist as a way of documenting the species found, and again this was as successful as we had found at MapleCross Coastline Reserve. This area was also designated as a research site in iNaturalist by Quinte Conservation and any photographs taken there, or entered as occurring there, would automatically be deposited with all the other records for that site in iNaturalist.

Highlights – Of the 52 species of birds seen, Winter Wren, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Cooper’s Hawk and Ruby-throated Hummingbird were interesting species to record. Who would have ever thought that Blunt-nosed Minnows, Northern Bullhead and even a few Large-mouth lived in the small pond seen from the parking lot? The aquatic team, led by Les Stanfield on Friday, was a ‘going concern’ with lots of participant activity, seining, dipnetting and identifying aquatic invertebrates.



Seining at the pond. *photo Marilyn Lauer*

Several lucky participants were able to find the endangered Four-leaved Milkweed in peak flower and John Lowry found two plants of the beautiful Wood Lily in bloom not too far away. These are incredible plants to see anytime, but especially when you can record them on a bioblitz. Chinquapin Oak and other southern species, as well as some others characteristic of alvars like Senega Snakeroot, Early Saxifrage (in fruit) and Fragrant Sumac were found on the summit of the escarpment. With all the different habitats present, ranging from the dry open areas on the limestone plain above, to the wet forests along the stream, the steep escarpment and marshy rim of the pond and stream, plus the open meadows around the buildings and Birdhouse City, the list of plants is extensive but not fully tabulated yet.

Despite the blustery winds, 26 species of butterfly were seen, with the impressive Giant, Eastern Tiger and Black Swallowtails all observed. Of the ten species of Skippers noted, The Delaware and Crossline are rare in the County and Peck’s Skipper is uncommon and local. Despite the windy conditions, 19 species of Dragonflies and Damselflies were also recorded. The rare Azure Bluet was one of the six species of damselflies seen. The Common Whitetail was the most abundant dragonfly with up to 100 individuals observed each day, especially over and around the pond. Two Chalk-fronted Corporals were seen at the pond. They are considered rare and local in the County.

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## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

The yellow, mostly unstriped terrestrial snails in the study area are the White-lip Garden Snail. They were abundant (over 300 seen by some participants) in the pond area and some were found 15' above ground in the branches of Basswood and Silver Maple and 15' from the main trunk. One of the most dramatic species of fungus observed was the Shining Varnish Bracket fungus which was admired and photographed by many. A Northern Water Snake and an Eastern Milk Snake were interesting reptiles observed.



Amanda Tracey, John Foster

Leaders: Amanda Tracey from Nature Conservancy Canada led a botanical walk, with her two interns, as well as John Foster, a PECFN member who travelled from Oshawa. Tim Trustham from QC was leader for a botanical hike on the top of the plateau. As mentioned, Les Stanfield headed up the aquatic team; Robert Ormston led a popular butterfly walk with David Bree; Tom Mason was “jack of all trades”, helping Les and Robert with their studies and documenting many other insects, amphibians, reptiles and mammals in his forays throughout the conservation area. Jessica Daze, a bird bander from the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, took a small group to the other side of Kingsley Rd. on Friday evening to look for birds while Paul Jones led an early morning bird walk for a group of dedicated birders plotting a course through as many different habitats as possible on the

red and yellow trails. Ewa Bednarczuk and Peter Christie were both leaders later on Saturday morning, investigating the pond and woodland life, discovering red-backed salamanders under rocks and looking for, but not finding, yellow-spotted salamanders near the stream. Paul Catling, Brenda Kostiuik, Cheryl Anderson, Dale Smith and others, spent time collecting data independently, so we thank them for their assistance with the survey, as well as all the participants who took part in the event.



Identifying aquatic life  
*photo Mary Kay Morris*

The wind on Friday night didn't bode well for a moth survey (one moth was attracted to the billowing sheet) but fortunately Dave Beadle was coming the following weekend, which was calm and much more conducive to attracting moths. He was able to identify 123 different species on Saturday, June 25. Although not within the 24 hour bioblitz, this information will be added to the report since it probably represents species that were present (but were not observed due to adverse weather conditions) the week before.

Jennifer Doubt and her summer student, Adam Storey, who made the trip down from the Museum of Nature in Ottawa to document the bryophytes on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, recorded 64 mosses and 8 liverworts definitely not all the species present but a good start to a more complete list.

We await the results from Troy McMullin, also from the Museum of Nature, who was involved in fieldwork elsewhere during the bioblitz but will be visiting sometime in September to survey the area for lichens and his findings will be incorporated into the final report.

Although the tally isn't totally complete yet there are an impressive number of species, including rare and unusual ones, indicating that this is indeed a special place with a high level of biodiversity.

We all enjoyed meals together on Friday evening and at the BBQ on Saturday afternoon once the event was over. A good time was had by all and we hope everyone came away with a greater appreciation of this spectacular park so close to Picton. It's a spot well worth celebrating, either for a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary or for the abundance of life that it supports.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a successful event. *Sheila Kuja*

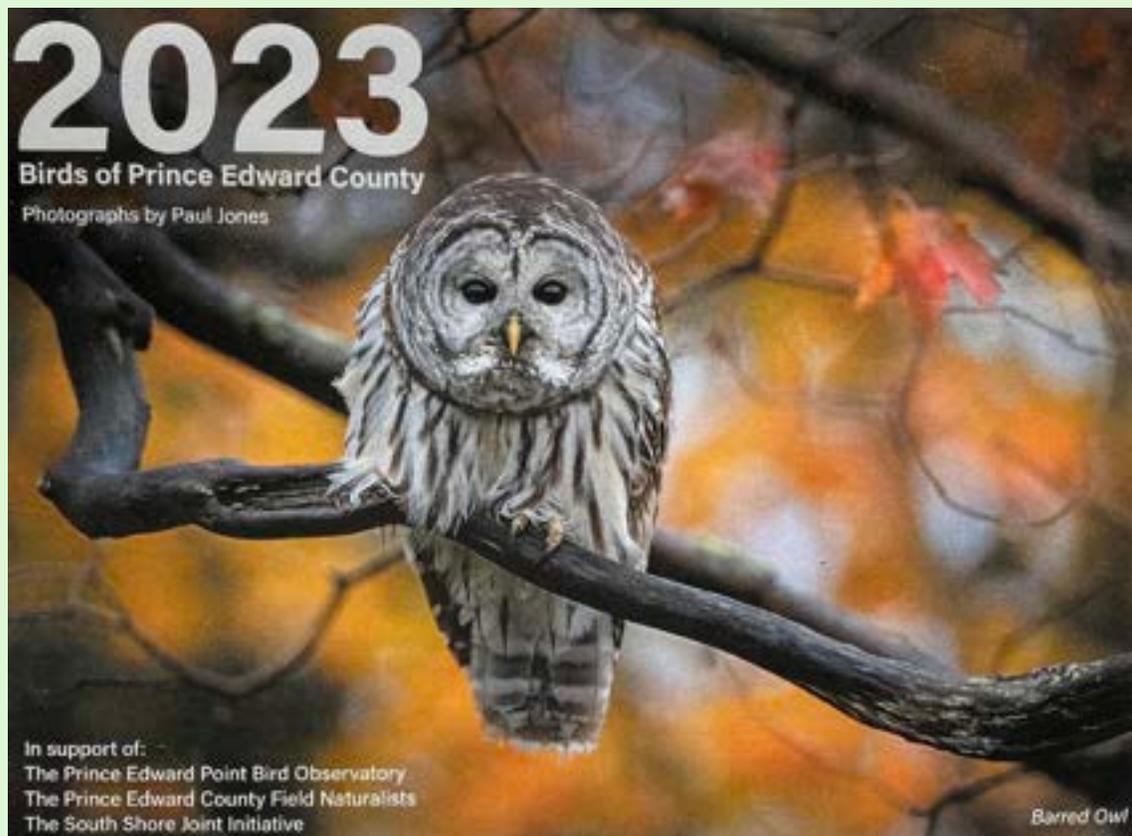
## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### Get your **2023 Birds of Prince Edward County Calendar** Now!

PECFN Member **Paul Jones** has created a beautiful calendar featuring his stunning photographs of the PEC birds he loves as an exclusive fundraiser for 3 organizations he supports: PECFN, PEPTBO and SSJI. 25 copies of this beautiful calendar went to each organization. After the Milford Fair, PECFN has only a few left!

If you are interested in purchasing any, they cost \$20. Please let us know by emailing us at [pecfninfo@gmail.com](mailto:pecfninfo@gmail.com) and we will work out payment and delivery.

We thank Paul deeply for his generosity to our organizations and look forward to his PECFN talk **The Winter Birds of Prince Edward County** which he will give to PECFN at our October 25 Members meeting.



## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### Article on Environmental Advocacy

by Paula Peel

What is advocacy and why is it important? What do we hope to achieve through our advocacy, as individuals and as a group?

The answer to the first question is easy. Advocacy is the means by which we achieve a certain desired outcome. We're lucky to live in a place where environmental advocacy is so prevalent: advocacy for the conservation of hedgerows, for natural ground cover, for species at risk, for wetland protection and advocacy to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change – and this is just the short list. For good reason, advocacy is indelibly associated with action and activism. According to Wikipedia “advocacy is an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social institutions.”

Advocacy by PECFN has two components: (1) promoting public interest in the appreciation and study of nature and (2) advancing the conservation of the County's natural resources, habitat, and environment. With this as our baseline we can focus our advocacy efforts in many directions – and we do! During the past year for example, PECFN has provided many opportunities to members of the public to learn more about climate change, Wild Turkeys, American Eels, Mosses and Liverworts and more. Our BioBlitzes are another form of environmental advocacy. The All-Candidate Meetings taking place this month and next are yet another opportunity to advocate for the environment and PECFN will be co-hosting two of those meetings. Some of PECFN's environmental advocacy happens behind the scenes, for example, discussions with local authorities about how to protect a wetland that's being filled in or how to preserve our local population of chimney swifts when chimneys they need for nesting are being capped or permanently removed.

Since the passing of the new Official Plan PECFN has also advocated for the protection of Natural Core Areas. According to the Plan these areas are “broad protection areas within the County which contain an abundance of important natural features and functions. . .” Natural Core Areas alone comprise over 26,000 ha of land in the County. County planners estimate that Natural Core Areas, in conjunction with lands designated Environmental Protection (EP), constitute over 35% of the land mass of Prince Edward County.

Since Natural Core Areas are defined in the Plan as “broad protection zones” one may wonder why any advocacy is needed. Unfortunately, the devil is in the details as we found out this past year with the massive clear-cutting of a 20-acre oak-hickory forest in a Natural Core Area.

Given their preeminence in the County's natural heritage system it seems to make sense to focus our advocacy on Natural Core Areas and their Linkages - especially when so many of the natural features in these areas are unique and irreplaceable and some of these are not found anywhere else in the County – or even in the rest of the province. On the other hand, focusing all our advocacy efforts on Natural Core Areas also seems problematic in some ways. For example, when all is said and done what makes a particular natural feature in a Natural Core Area any more deserving of protection than the exact same feature that isn't located in a Natural Core Area? There are no easy answers to this.

It's also worth keeping in mind that even though Natural Core Areas are depicted in the Official Plan as distinct areas and as seemingly unconnected with anything in the surrounding environment, in reality this is anything but the case. Natural Core Areas are impacted by the air that surrounds them, by changes in local and regional hydrology and by changes in land uses in surrounding areas. The streams and watercourses found in a Natural Core Area might have flowed many kilometres before it

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## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

enters a Natural Core Area and any degradation in water quality or flow rates upstream will impact the Natural Core Area. Similarly, drastic changes in land uses in the surrounding area, for example the reallocation of large swaths of undeveloped lands into large-scale tourist resorts and subdivisions, will impact the biodiversity in Natural Core Areas.

The point is that efforts to protect Natural Core Areas will come to nothing if the other 65% of the County's land mass is extensively developed and the majority of existing woodlands, vegetation, wetlands and shorelands are lost, or are in an irreversible state of degradation. As environmentalists have understood for a long time, everything is connected. Natural Core Areas are no exception.

It's understandable that we want to focus our advocacy on these special areas that as noted in the Official Plan "contain an abundance of important natural features and functions". But I would argue that focusing our advocacy on only Natural Core Areas is misguided if we're not advocating at the same time for all the natural features and areas in the County.

*Paula Peel*

*PECFN*

### **South Shore Joint Initiative All Candidates Meeting**

[Join us](#) to meet the candidates for Council for Athol and South Marysburgh on October 13 at Milford Town Hall from 7 pm to 9 pm.

All the candidates for our two South Shore wards will be available to explain their platforms and answer your questions. Each candidate will have the opportunity to explain their reasons for running to be your Councillor. In addition, South Shore Joint Initiative has prepared three questions pertinent to our concerns. Written and oral questions will be taken from the audience.

We are thrilled that Judy Kent and Rosemary Kent have agreed to moderate the meeting. Judy Kent has extensive facilitating and moderating experience both here in Canada and internationally. As a retired teacher her sister Rosemary, is the perfect person to keep the meeting on time and in order.

[Plan now to join us](#) in this democratic process.

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### NEIGHBOURWOODS RESUMES

This summer, Tree the County resumed work on the Bloomfield village tree inventory project, Neighbourwoods, after a two-year break caused by COVID restrictions.

Neighbourwoods is a community engagement project that investigates the tree cover in a specific area. New volunteers learn more about trees than they ever thought possible and enjoy several hours a week outside, with like-minded people, enjoying nature.

Information they collect is uploaded into a Neighbourwoods database. It can report on village-wide information, such as the most common trees and overall health of the canopy, and at the property level. Homeowners can ask for a fulsome report on the trees in their gardens. Knowing what the most common species are throughout the village are can help us diversify the canopy by planting less common trees.

To restart Neighbourwoods, we needed to refresh our knowledge about assessing individual trees and the equipment involved. So, on June 11, a group of us met at the old Pinecrest School site in Bloomfield. Jennifer Gagné led the session. Jen has a master's in Forest Conservation, is an ISA-certified arborist and — fortunately for us — lives in the County. She's also an active member of Tree the County.



Allen & Sheila Kuja

Soon after our refresher, Neighbourwoods volunteers resumed their tree survey. So far this year, they've assessed and recorded data on about 300 of Bloomfield's trees. Heartfelt thanks go to Jen Gagné, Peta Hall, Lorie Brown, Sandra Dowds, Susan Warrack, Jim Colby, Helen Fearman, and Liz Gerrits for their valuable work.

We'll need at least one more summer to complete the project, so stay tuned!

Neighbourwoods© was developed by Dr. W.A. Kenney and Dr. D. Puric-Mladenovic to assist communities and professionals in collecting the tree information they need to strategically plan and manage their urban forest. Since its inception in 1995, Neighbourwoods has been used and applied in many communities across Ontario and beyond.

Gerry Jenkison

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

### The County is mapping invasive species and is asking for your help!

The County is collecting data on where invasive species can be found in Prince Edward County and needs the public's help to better understand the distribution of these species within our community. Residents are being asked to report invasive species they encounter using the mapping tool on the County's Have Your Say website.

Data collected here will help the County and its partners track the spread of invasive species in our communities, including Emerald Ash Borer, the LDD moth, Wild Parsnip, Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Dog Strangling Vine, Invasive Phragmites, Garlic Mustard and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

This data will also help the County better understand the extent of the problem and will assist with addressing the issue. This data may also assist the County's partners like Quinte Conservation Authority, other municipalities, or the province, with developing larger regional mitigation efforts.

If you would like to help with this important initiative, you will first need to register on the Have Your Say website (if you aren't registered already). Registering is simple: (1) go to the County's "Have Your Say" website <https://haveyoursay.thecounty.ca/> (2) provide your first and last name and an email address and create (and save) a password that you can use to easily sign-in the next time you want to visit Have Your Say.

After you have registered (or have logged on using your password) you will be automatically redirected to "Active Projects". Click the box that looks like this:

### **Invasive Species Mapping**

Have you encountered  
invasive species in Prince  
Edward County? County staff  
want to hear from you...

[View Project](#)



## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY FIELD NATURALISTS

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO)

Submitted by Susan Warrack



bunch of Vireos



Black Throated Blue Warbler  
*photo Dale Smith*



Phil and Shanna

**Fall Banding** is well under way, and continues until October 31<sup>st</sup> 7 days a week from dawn until noon, or later. Station Manager and Bander in Charge, Phillip Mercier, and Assistant Bander Jess Daze are doing an amazing job. Not only are they banding birds, but they are taking the time to train volunteers and give banding demos and bird info to visitors during the morning when they have the time. This season they have a guest bander Shannon Challenger all the way for Barbados! It is well worth the drive!



Bander in Charge, Phillip Mercier

**Saw-whet Owl Banding** has begun! There are demos open to the public during September and October. These are public and members-only viewing events for up to 20 people each, as well as private opportunities for small groups of up to 6. Participants will be able to observe the banding procedures and will have an informative presentation from professional banding staff.



Saw-whet owl

Arrive around 7:30 pm for the first net run and expect to be there for a couple of hours awaiting owls to be caught. It can be chilly so dress as you would for a walk in the woods, and bring a chair if you can. They hope for owls, but no guarantee of course. Sometimes they just don't come...

*For more info, please go to the PEPtBO Facebook page.*



Blue Headed Vireo  
*photo Dale Smith*