Celebrate, appreciate and protect the natural world around us

For 2019 Spring Birding Festival events go to page 10
Where is there a cat to set loose among this plethora of pigeons
Surely a tabby lurks beyond the frame
Its predator-eyes stare, its claws flex at oh! the banquet of it all
Feed the birds—a song’s refrain
Those scroungers leave droppings on statues of the great, on slides on swings at playgrounds of the small
They roost under neighbouring eaves
Coo/procreate/defecate/coo, coo/coo/coo in summer heat and on deep-freeze winter days
They’d starve then if someone didn’t throw misguided crumbs and crusts
Wouldn’t care if they did, starve that is Or would I? When they flock
I hear music in their wingbeats
When dull feathers catch sunlight
their shimmer shows the birds pretty
Then I learn they mate for life. And their proper name
Rock dove. Rock dove. Rock dove
Common pigeon no more

JC Sulzenko
Come explore the beauty and diversity of nature in Prince Edward County.

*Nature Matters!* is a project of local groups offering a whole season of outdoor public events that help you celebrate, appreciate and protect the fascinating natural places of the County.

Areas of woodland, meadow and wetland abound across the County. What’s of special significance? The County’s South Shore, designated a globally significant Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). This 90-square kilometre area of land and offshore waters witnesses the migration of millions of birds and thousands of Monarch butterflies each year.

It’s home to unique communities of plants and animals. Night skies blaze with stars.

This *Nature Matters!* guide to events is published by the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO), a registered charity with a mandate to monitor and report on bird migration along the South Shore and act as official caretaker of the South Shore IBA.

Join us and connect with the richness of the natural world here, in Prince Edward County.
Waterfalls Tour

Saturday & Sunday, April 20 & 21, 11 AM – 4 PM

This is a rare opportunity to view a stunning waterfall on private property at Jackson’s Falls. The Rotary Club of Picton has secured exclusive, once a year only, access to the waterfall through the generosity of landowners John Laws and Brenda MacKneson. A second beautiful waterfall, on the private property of Anne and Husayn Banani at Cape Vesey, is also graciously open to public view this weekend. Donations are gratefully accepted and assist with international water projects supported by the Rotary Club. Before beginning your self-guided tour, please check in with a Rotarian, make a donation and enjoy the walk.

Event Name: Rotary Club of Picton Waterfalls Tour
Event Address: Jackson’s Falls – 1749 County Rd. 17, Milford
Cape Vesey Falls – 3718 County Rd. 8, Picton
Admission: by donation to the Rotary Club Water Project Fund
Amenities: roadside parking, portable washroom, dogs on leash allowed, children welcome under careful parental supervision
Website: pictonrotary.ca
Contact: 613-476-1309, 613-813-1658, 613-242-8705
Notes: wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather and walking steep terrain, don’t forget your camera!
South Shore Joint Initiative

Spring Stroll In the IBA

Sunday, April 28, 9 AM – 1 PM

Celebrate spring and enjoy a few hours in nature with members of the South Shore Joint Initiative. We will walk along Helmer Rd. from County Rd 13 and first explore a conservation project in the making.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada’s Brodeur project is immediately west of the Ostrander Point Crown Land Block. NCC has signed an agreement to purchase this property and is currently raising funds to conserve this private property in perpetuity.

Passing through the Crown Land Block we will reach NCC’s newly acquired Hudgin-Rose property on the eastern side. This approximately 6-7 km walk will give us an opportunity to investigate parts of an exciting future conservation project, the Crown Land Block and the Hudgin-Rose property. The area hosts unique butterflies and birds and the iconic Blanding’s Turtle.

Bring water and snacks. Washroom facilities will be provided.

Event Name: Spring Stroll In the IBA
Event Address: corner of County Rd. 13 and Helmer Rd.
Admission: free
Registration: for more information and to register go to https://naturematters.eventbrite.ca
Amenities: roadside parking, portable washroom, dogs on leash allowed
Website: ssji.ca
Contact: cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca
Notes: waterproof footwear recommended
Did you know . . .

That two thirds of the shipwrecks on Lake Ontario are reported to have happened along PEC’s south shore from Point Petre to Main Duck Island. Discover more at the Mariners Park Museum, 2065 County Rd 13, South Bay. www.thecounty.ca/museums
FREE outdoor exhibits, by-donation for museum.
Bird Photography Workshop at The Point

Friday, May 10, 8 – 11 AM
Saturday, May 11, 8 – 11 AM
Wednesday, May 15, 8 – 11 AM

Prince Edward Point is one of the hidden gems of birding. There are few better places in Ontario to photograph migrating songbirds. This is a unique opportunity for the novice or experienced photographer. You will explore the birding trails of the Point Traverse Woods at Prince Edward Point with Bird Photographer Ian Dickinson.

Bring your camera and telephoto lens and capture images of Tanagers, Vireos, Flycatchers, Warblers and more. Meet Ian at the yellow sign at the entrance to Traverse Woods (just past the portable toilet). At 10 am we will re-convene at the Bird Observatory Banding Station. After comparing notes there will be a short walk through the trails around the Banding Station.

In order to minimize disturbance to the birds and other birders, there are only 6 participants for each date. You must register for this event. Please read the participants guide at www.ian-dickinson.blogspot.com.

Event Name: Bird Photography Workshop at The Point
Event Address: Traverse Woods near 6056 Long Point Rd., Prince Edward County
Admission: free
Registration: to register go to https://naturematters.eventbrite.ca
Amenities: roadside parking, picnic area, washrooms
Website: www.photobirding.net
Contact: ian_dickinson@cogeco.com
Notes: be prepared with bug spray
Did you know . . . 

Blue-Spotted Salamanders and Jefferson Salamanders can be indistinguishable without genetic testing. Sometimes ‘spotted’ under rocks, the genetically unusual Blue-Spotted Salamander can be found in Prince Edward County.
Spring Birding Festival

**Saturday, May 11 to Monday, May 20**

Daily at the Observatory 8 am to 1 pm — no entrance fee. Watch bird banding, walk the net areas and visit our hospitality tent for snacks and souvenirs. Consider bringing a lunch.

All events are free except Guided Trips. Walks last up to 2 hours. Birding the County events last up to 3 hours. Birding the County is provided courtesy of PEC Field Naturalists.

For information and to register for walks and Birding the County events go to [https://naturematters.eventbrite.ca](https://naturematters.eventbrite.ca)

Guided Trips are limited to 10 people. Trips last 2 - 4 hours. Cost $40.00 ($20.00 for PEPtBO members).

For information and to register go to [www.peptbo.ca/sbf.php](http://www.peptbo.ca/sbf.php)

Red numbered circles (❶) correspond to event locations on the Nature Matters! centrefold map, pages 28 and 29.

**Sat., May 11 — World Migratory Bird Day**

8 AM Walk Traverse Woods, Kathy Felkar & Mike Burge ❶
10 AM Walk to Lighthouse with Brian Joyce ❶
3 PM Celebrate For the Birds: book launch/awards ceremony/ readings. PEC Public Library downstairs, 208 Main St., Picton.
Info: info@peptbo.ca; Halliday 613 399 2023 (Library) ❷
4 PM Walk to Lighthouse with Cheryl Anderson ❶

**Sun., May 12**

8 AM Walk Traverse Woods with Tom Wheatley ❶
10 AM Walk to Lighthouse with Tom Wheatley ❶
12 PM Big Week in the IBA starts — Checklist and drop off box at the Observatory ❶

**Mon., May 13**

8 AM Birding the County: Sandbanks Park with Yvette Bree ❸

**Tue., May 14**

8 AM Guided Trip($) — Beaver Meadow with Juanita Hummel ❹
8 AM Birding the County: Pt. Petre with Joanne Dewey ❺
Photography contest: Bird Portraits or Birds in Action
Entry deadline is May 22, 2019

Big Week in the IBA - May 12-19
Checklist and drop off box at the Observatory
Check www.peptbo.ca for more info

Event Name:  Spring Birding Festival
Address:  The Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory is located at 6056 Long Point Rd., Prince Edward County
Admission:  free
Amenities:  roadside parking, picnic area, partial accessibility, hospitality tent (Observatory), washrooms, walks at Observatory are stroller friendly, no dogs on walks or guided trips please
Website:  www.peptbo.ca,  E-mail:  info@peptbo.ca
Notes:  Watch for poison ivy. Ticks that carry Lyme disease are in the area. Dress as you would for a hike in the woods. Be prepared for uneven terrain.
Go outside and look at your windows from a bird's point of view. By reflecting foliage or sky, they look like inviting places to fly into. The sheer number of windows is so great, their toll on birds is huge. Up to about 1 billion birds die from window strikes in North America each year. However, the good news is that we can greatly reduce the danger our home’s windows pose to birds with some simple remedies.

Dr. Christine Sheppard, American Bird Conservancy

Come for a discussion about bird-friendly glass and see for yourself an artistic prototype made by Sarah Hall after meeting Dr. Christine Sheppard and following her direction on creating bird-friendly glass.

Event Name: Bird Friendly Glass
Event Address: 29 Ferguson St., Picton
Admission: free – pre-registration required via email to: sarah.diane.hall@gmail.com / 20 participants max.
Amenities: private studio, street parking, refreshments, washroom
Website: www.sarahhallstudio.com
Contact: sarah.diane.hall@gmail.com, 613-645-2273
Notes: It’s Mothers Day, so bring your mother – and enjoy a glass of sparkling pear beverage and delectable canapés.
Join us for an easy stroll through the West Point woods as we discover spring wildflowers, birds and other signs of spring. Trilliums, trout lilies and violets will be in bloom and colourful warblers and other migrating songbirds will accompany us through the forest. Led by an experienced naturalist, the walk will end with a special afternoon tea at the historic Maple Rest house. Cost is $10/person or $40/family; all proceeds go to the Friends of Sandbanks. Pre-registration is required, email yvette.bree@ontario.ca. Registration begins April 1st, 2019. Please note that the walk is being held in a different location than in previous years, with new sights to discover.
Black River Community

Black River Spring Festival

Victoria Day Weekend, Saturday-Sunday, May 18-19

The Black River Community celebrates spring! You are invited to visit organic farms, art and photography galleries, a pottery studio and Black River Cheese. Enjoy unique annual events such as Vicki’s Seedling Sale and the 24th Annual Black River Canoe Trip. You’ll be able to purchase farm-fresh eggs, local honey, jams, jellies, relishes, various meat products, cheese, baked goods and ready-to-eat-food. The Black River Community is one of the most picturesque areas of the County. It includes a river, an escarpment, a forest, a 19th century chapel and cemetery, a one-room school house, historic dry stone walls, and 150-year-old trees. The Black River Bridge provides panoramic views of the river both upstream to the marshes and down to Prince Edward Bay. Morrison Point Road is often described as the prettiest road in the County. Meet the friendly and innovative folks in Black River and enjoy a very memorable experience. A detailed daily schedule is available at: http://prince-edward-county.com/event/black-river-spring-festival/
Did you know . . .

Wetlands act as both a sponge and a filter. They temporarily capture water, replenishing the water table during droughts and slowing down the flow of water during floods, all while removing toxins from the water.
Exultet Estates Winery

Life in the Hedgerow, Maple Forest & Creek

**Sunday, May 19 – 10:00 AM – Noon**

Join renowned local naturalist Terry Sprague for an interpretative walk of the Exultet Estates Winery property.

Explore the fields and hedgerows of this lovely vineyard as well as their maple forest and creek in search of spring migratory birds and other wildlife. Examine the wetland area and discover the flora and fauna it supports. While a nature walk with Terry is very informative, it is equally entertaining as he shares local lore and history.

After the walk, plan to stay. Wine tastings are available and a pleasant picnic area – so bring your lunch, relax and enjoy the property.

**Event Name:**  Life in the Hedgerow, Maple Forest & Creek  
**Event Address:**  1112 Royal Rd., Milford, at Dainard Rd.  
**Admission:**  free  
**Amenities:**  parking, picnic area, washroom, dogs on leash allowed, partial accessibility, stroller friendly  
**Website:**  http://www.exultet.ca  
**Contact:**  Lia at info@exultet.ca
Did you know . . .

The Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) works to provide education and practical actions to recover and prevent the loss of biodiversity in Ontario. Prince Edward County programs include an annual Bioblitz and Nature Matters! This year we celebrate The International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22.
24th Annual Black River Canoe Trip

Victoria Day — Monday, May 20, Launch time: 11 AM

Enjoy a gentle paddle in your canoe, kayak or paddleboard down one of the longest and most picturesque rivers in the County. The views along the winding Black River will keep you in awe for the entire two-hour, six-kilometre trip.

Watch for Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Mute Swans, Swamp Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, Belted Kingfishers, Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and Mallard, American Black and Wood Ducks. Painted and Blanding’s turtles may be seen sunning themselves on rocks and logs. You’ll paddle under the Black River Bridge, go past Black River Cheese and dock your canoe opposite McMahon Bluff.

Remember to bring life jackets, cameras and binoculars.

Enjoy a BBQ and refreshments after docking.

Organized by St. Philip’s Church in Milford for the Anglican Parish of Marysburgh and anyone else who would enjoy participating.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
Event Name: 24th Annual Black River Canoe Trip
Launch Address: 17 Chapman Crescent, Milford
Destination Address: 68 Morrison Point Rd., Black River
Admission: free
Amenities: parking, portable washrooms
Website: http://prince-edward-county.com/event/black-river-canoe-trip/
Contact: helloemilycowan@gmail.com
BlackRiverBB@gmail.com

Did you know . . .

Most trees cut down by beavers send out new branches from the remaining stumps, transforming them into shrubs. These new branches become an easy snack for beavers on the go and provide habitat for lots of other wildlife.

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Heroes and Legends of the South Shore

Sunday, May 26, 2:00 PM, Rain or Shine

Suzanne Pasternak has spent over 35 years recording, collecting and preserving the unique maritime heritage of South Bay and Long Point. Her research has been turned into several folk operas, musicals and a documentary.

Suzanne will perform a storytelling and music concert at the Mariners Park Museum, which will be followed by a tour of the South Bay pioneer cemetery nearby.

The tales she will tell are about the heroes, heroines, shipwrecks and daring rescues on the lake from the schooner days of the 1800s.

Event Name: Heroes and Legends of the South Shore
Event Address: Mariners Park Museum
2065 County Rd. 13
Admission: $10.00 per person, Children under 15 free, includes admission to the museum
Amenities: parking, picnic area, washroom, partial accessibility, stroller friendly
Contact: suzannepasternak@gmail.com, 613-847-9842
Notes: The whole program wraps up at 3:30 pm.
Did you know . . .

In the County, Quinte Conservation owns 5 conservation areas (800 acres) with over 28 km of public hiking trails. Spend more time in nature! Participate in Quinte Conservation’s hiking challenge, or attend a Wild About Wildlife event this summer! Find out more at QuinteConservation.ca
You're invited to join the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust (HPELT) for a special conservation event at the Hudgin-Rose property. Celebrate the official property announcement with light refreshments followed by a guided tour of the property. This event is a special thank you to those who contributed to protecting this special place forever; however, all are welcome to join us to celebrate this conservation success.

NCC acquired the property, with the help of HPELT, in 2018. As part of the Prince Edward County South Shore, it provides important staging and stopover habitat for a wide variety of migratory bird species. It supports rare alvar and wetland habitats and is home to species-at-risk including Whip-poor-will, Monarch butterflies and the always smiling Blanding’s turtle. Originally settled by the Moses Hudgin family in 1865, the Hudgin-Rose property contains a historic log home.

Event Name: Hudgin-Rose Property Announcement and Tour
Event Address: 191 Ostrander Point Rd., Milford, ON
Admission: free - please RSVP to Grechen Geronimo, Development Officer 1.800.465.0029 x2229
Amenities: roadside parking, partial accessibility
Contact: OntarioEvents@natureconservancy.ca
Website: natureconservancy.ca/events
Notes: Please dress according to the weather that day. Terrain can be wet and uneven, and stinging, poisonous and/or thorny plants occur regularly on site. Ticks and stinging insects may also occur in the area.
Thank you!

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) with the help of Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust (HPELT) is excited to announce the acquisition of the Hudgin-Rose property. This 76-acre property on the south coast of Prince Edward County is now protected in perpetuity. We sincerely thank everyone who contributed to this important conservation project!

NCC and HPELT are working together on a new conservation project in the Ostrander Point area. This 135-acre property contains a large piece of rare coastal wetland, important habitat for migratory birds and butterflies, and excellent habitat for Blanding’s Turtle. NCC must raise $1.2 million by fall 2019 to protect and steward this important habitat. But the door on this vital conservation project is closing fast.

For more information about helping protect a piece of the wild south coast visit: natureconservancy.ca/donate-elon

Please donate online or contact:
Pia Kaukoranta, Senior Development Officer
1.800.465.0029 X2222
pia.kaukoranta@natureconservancy.ca

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Hastings Prince Edward LAND TRUST

Thank you for helping us acquire and preserve our properties in Prince Edward County

For more information:
www.hpelt.org
info@hpelt.org
613-966-7196
P.O. Box 20042
Belleville, ON K8N 5V1

HPELT is a non-government, not-for-profit registered charity, operated by a volunteer board of directors.
Rock Hound Fossil Hunt

Saturday, June 8, 10 AM - 4 PM, Rain or Shine

Our Vineyard is situated on a ridge above Half Moon Bay and was once part of an ancient lakebed. Every spring the earth reveals huge limestone plates and smaller rocks encrusted with fossils. We invite you to walk the vineyard and climb the rock piles. If you can carry it, you can take it home. Your finds will be analyzed by County collector, Alf Newnham. Alf is a member of various rock and mineral clubs and has led field trips to many sites in Canada. He has an impressive collection of fossils and gems including Amethyst, Diamonds and Cordite and he is happy to share his knowledge with you. Children of all ages are welcome. If under 16 years of age, they must be accompanied by an adult.

Throughout the day, there will be a display of rocks, gems and fossils, many found along the County’s south shore. There will also be market vendors selling hand-crafted jewelry, fossil and gem specimens.

Don’t forget your tools, gloves and safety glasses and be sure to bring a pail or bag for your collections.

Bring a picnic lunch or purchase lunch from the winery Nibble Menu. Our wines are available by the glass.

Event Name: Rock Hound Fossil Hunt
Event Address: Half Moon Bay Winery
3271 County Rd. 13, Milford
Admission: by donation to Nature Matters! and PEPtBO
Amenities: parking, picnic area, washroom (composting toilet), dogs on leash allowed
Website: www.hmbwinery.ca
Contact: info@hmbwinery.ca
Notes: bring tools, safety glasses and shoes for uneven walking areas
Did you know . . .

The Great Lakes Snaggletooth is one of many snails found in the South Shore area. Snails provide a vital source of calcium to wildlife as varied as Wood Thrushes, Wild Turkeys, salamanders, even some species of fireflies.
Massassauga Point Interpretative Walk

Saturday, June 8th, 10:00 AM – Noon

Join Terry Sprague of NatureStuff Tours and explore the Massassauga Point Conservation Area. Experience a globally rare Bur Oak Savannah. Observe the Prairie Smoke, which should be blooming along with many other wildflowers. Discover the interesting human history of the conservation area. See the abandoned limestone rock quarry, the location of a once vibrant hotel, and the results of restoration efforts by the Friends of Massassauga.

Bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards in the picnic shelter.

Event Name: Massassauga Point Interpretive Walk
Event Address: Massassauga Point Conservation Area
1311 Massassauga Rd.

Admission: free parking has been arranged for this event
Amenities: parking, picnic area, portable washroom, dogs on leash allowed
Website: http://quinteconservation.ca/fom/index.php
Contact: tsprague@xplornet.com
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Solid red numbers refer to Spring Bird Festival events on pages 10-11.

Circled numbers refer to the page of individually listed events.

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Honey and Herb Day

Saturday, June 22, 9 AM – 5 PM, Rain or Shine

This summer solstice you are invited to a celebration of honeybees and herbs!

Taste honey from around the world, play honeybee games, indulge in honey and herb inspired snacks, sample our mead – a wine made from honey and herbs, observe the honeybees coming and going from their hives, tour our herb gardens, see how a solar wax-melter works, visit our farm store and see our workshop, get your photo taken in our queen bee photo booth!

Event Name: Honey and Herb Day
Event Address: 705 County Rd. 24, Milford
Admission: free
Amenities: parking, picnic area, portable washroom, dogs on leash allowed, partial accessibility, stroller friendly, snacks for sale
Website: www.honeypie.ca
Contact: honeypiehh@gmail.com
Graveyard & Gallows Walking Tour

Friday nights, July & August, 6:30 PM

The tour begins at Macaulay Heritage Park in Picton. Reverend Wm. Macaulay is credited with giving Picton its name.

Alongside a costumed guide, walk through the grounds of his pleasant estate and the neighbouring graveyard at his historic church, the former St. Mary Magdalene (now a museum).

The tour will make its way to the nearby Courthouse. Explore the exercise yards, the jail cells and gallows where two local men were hanged in 1884. Some still say they were innocent.

Runs rain or shine.

Event Name: Graveyard & Gallows Walking Tour
Event Address: 35 Church St., Picton
Admission: $10 per person – advanced tickets, $15 per person – at door
Pre-register: go to www.ticketscene.ca — search for Graveyard & Gallows
Amenities: parking, picnic area, washrooms, dogs on leash allowed, partially accessible, partially stroller friendly
Website: thecounty.ca/museums
Contact: jlyons@pecounty.on.ca
Wednesdays July 10, 24 & August 7, 21, 1 – 4 PM

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon as we celebrate the famous Lakeshore Lodge. Staff will be in period costumes as we re-create an old fashioned picnic from the 1890s. Hay rides (small fee), games, music, face painting and refreshments (small charge) will complete the “Days of Yore” atmosphere. Festivities take place on site at the Lakeshore Lodge Day Use Area.

Lakeshore Lodge, built around 1870, grew from a local summer retreat into a popular and elegant first class hotel. At one time it boasted a dance hall, ice cream parlour, bowling alley, tennis courts, pool, baseball diamond, horseback riding, shuffleboard court, and 4 hole golf course. Changing vacation habits saw the closure of the lodge in 1972. Fire destroyed the main building in 1983.

Event Name: Lakeshore Lodge Days
Event Address: Sandbanks Provincial Park
Admission: free with paid park admission
Amenities: parking, picnic area, portable washroom, dogs on leash allowed, accessible, stroller friendly
Website: www.ontarioparks.com/park/sandbanks
Contact: yvette.bree@ontario.ca
Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

BioBlitz 2019 — Hudgin-Rose Property

July 20-21 2019 – Saturday Noon to Sunday Noon

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists (PECFN) with Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) and Hastings-Prince Edward Land Trust (HPELT) present BioBlitz 2019.

Community volunteers of all ages, young and young at heart, are invited to join scientists and experts to record all the living species in the Hudgin-Rose Property. This 76 acre property was recently acquired by NCC with the assistance of HPELT.

Become a citizen scientist!
It's fun, exciting and close by!

◊ join guided walks led by experts
◊ see dragonflies, butterflies and moths up close
◊ look for evidence of mammals, insects, amphibians and reptiles
◊ identify plants and birds you've always wondered about
◊ dinner on Saturday evening and wrap-up BBQ on Sunday

Registration begins at 11 am Saturday and continues throughout the event. Join us for both days, one day, a part day, an evening or just an hour or two. Be part of history; add your observations to the inaugural data collection for this site.

Event Name: BioBlitz 2019 (Hudgin-Rose Property)
Event Address: 191 Ostrander Point Rd., Milford, ON
Admission: $5.00/adult includes Saturday dinner and Sunday BBQ
Children under 16 are free and must be accompanied by an adult
Amenities: parking, portable washroom
Website: www.peptbo.ca/bioblitzpec.php or www.bit.do/PECFN
Contact: sanda.kuja@bell.net
Notes: Check website for details on scheduled walks, what to bring, what to wear, pre-registration information and directions to the site. Be prepared for some wet and uneven terrain.
Who we are?

The Prince Edward County Field Naturalists (PECFN) are a group of individuals interested in the natural world. We promote awareness, enjoyment and conservation of Prince Edward County’s natural heritage.

Activities:

- Monthly programs feature presentations on plants, animals, birds and topical subjects of local interest.
- Regular outings throughout the County and beyond to investigate areas of natural and scientific interest.
- Bi-monthly electronic newsletter.
- Participation in the annual Prince Edward County Spring Birding Festival.
- Annual BioBlitz in the PEC South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.
- Advocating for nature and commenting on environmental issues to local, provincial and federal governments.
- Special nature-related workshops and events like native plant sales, pollinator garden planting, and tree seed forecasting.
- Tree the County, an initiative of PECFN. We are part of an ad hoc committee making recommendations for the County’s new tree policy.
- Tree the County’s Neighbourwoods©, a multi-year project to establish an inventory of the trees in Bloomfield.

Annual membership:

- $15.00 individual, $30.00 family.

Monthly indoor programs are held at Bloomfield Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month (September - May, except December) starting at 7pm.

All are welcome!
www.bit.do/PECFN
Birds and Bees Fundraiser

Saturday, July 27, 10 AM – 4 PM, Rain or Shine
8 AM Early Bird Hike

Join us at Stanners Vineyard for a day of mini-workshops and activities celebrating birds and bees. Stop by for a shade tree coffee tasting, take a hike, shop the vendors, meet beekeepers and taste local honey. Experience nature activities for young and old. Plan to spend the day!

⇒ 8am/10am/1pm guided nature hikes
⇒ yoga in the vineyard
⇒ shade tree coffee tastings and cupping workshop
⇒ bird carving demonstrations
⇒ order a poem-to-go for someone special
⇒ straw bale construction talk with Colin Stanners
⇒ honey bee demonstration & tastings
⇒ bird banding demonstrations
⇒ native plant workshops
⇒ edible plants foraging walk
⇒ beeswax food wrap demonstrations
⇒ free NatureHood children’s activities
⇒ pop up market, food, fun and free general admission!
Event Name: Birds and Bees Fundraiser  
Event Address: Stanners Vineyard  
76 Station Rd., Hillier  
Admission: free, see website for hike and workshop fees registration recommended  
Amenities: parking, picnic area, accessible washroom, dogs on leash allowed, partial accessibility, stroller friendly  
Website: peptbo.ca/birds-and-bees.php  
Contact: kfelkar@xplornet.ca  
Notes: sunscreen, appropriate footwear, bug spray suggested

Did you know . . .

Since 1995, our South Shore has been designated an international Monarch Butterfly Reserve (one of 3 in Canada). In the autumn, monarchs migrate 4800 kilometers from Canada to Mexico. Visit http://journeynorth.org to follow the monarch’s journey to Canada.

Located on Prince Edward Point, the most remote and untamed peninsula of The County, with its limestone cliffs, old meadows and forests, Long Point Honey is the distillate of this place like no other.
2 Outdoor Concerts

Sunday, July 28 and Sunday, August 11, 2 PM

2018 marks Music at Port Milford’s 32nd season of bringing together an internationally-renowned artist faculty and students ages 12-18 with a passion for chamber music to create and share an inspiring summer music experience.

Throughout July and August, Port Milford students and Faculty bring the highest caliber of chamber music to Prince Edward County and Ontario.

If you are looking for an inspiring afternoon to enjoy great music in the great outdoors, come to hear Music at Port Milford students perform chamber, choral and orchestral works on the deck overlooking South Bay, Sunday July 28 and Sunday August 11, at 2:00 pm. RAIN or SHINE.

Event Name: Music at Port Milford
Event Address: 89 Colliers Rd.
               Milford, Ontario
Admission: donations greatly appreciated
Amenities: parking, picnic area, portable washroom, partial accessibility
Website: www.musicatportmilford.org
Contact: director@musicatportmilford.org
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Artistic Directors New Orford String Quartet

SEPTEMBER 13-22
St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, PICTON

16th SEASON!

pecmusicfestival.com

Canada Ontario

2 weekends!
6 INSPIRED CONCERTS
Featuring
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Les Violons Du Roy
True North Brass
New Orford String Quartet
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goldenwingbirding.ca

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Have a Safe Trip
Ed & Donna Wilcox
Join us at the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory to celebrate birds on their fall migration. All events are free — please register for the workshop, walks and Saw-whet Owl Banding to guarantee your spot.

**August 19 – October 31:** Bird banding from dawn until noon daily. Consider bringing a lunch or snacks. Bird banding does not take place if it is raining or too windy.

**Fall Warbler Identification Workshop with Peter Fuller**
**Saturday, September 21:** 8:30-10:30 AM at the Observatory. Learn tips to identify warblers in their fall plumage, see birds up close at the banding lab, and practise your skills on a walk to the lighthouse.

**Guided Bird Walk — Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 AM at the Observatory**
**Guided Bird Walk — Saturday, Oct. 12, 9 AM at the Observatory**

**Saw-whet Owl Banding — Thu, Fri & Sat, October 3-5, 8:15-9:15 PM**
**Saw-whet Owl Banding — Thu, Fri & Sat, October 17-19, 8:15-9:15 PM**

Note: Owl banding does not take place if it is raining or too windy – check the website before coming. Wear warm clothes and bring a flashlight.

**Event Name:** Migration Matters – Fall 2019  
**Event Address:** 6056 Long Point Rd., Prince Edward County  
**Admission:** free  
**Registration:** for more information and to register for the workshop, walks and owl banding go to https://naturematters.eventbrite.ca  
**Amenities:** roadside parking, washrooms, partial accessibility, stroller friendly, no dogs at registered events  
**Website:** www.peptbo.ca  
**Contact:** info@peptbo.ca  
**Notes:** Watch for poison ivy. Ticks that carry Lyme disease are in the area. Dress as you would for a hike in the woods.
Did you know . . .

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory bands more than 8000 birds in a year including over 500 Northern Saw-whet Owls. We have records for 300+ bird species around the Point. Join us for the fall migration, Aug. 19–Oct 31. For more information go to peptbo.ca

Migration Matters events Sept 21 – Oct 19
Lighthall Marsh Stroll

Sunday, September 1, 9 AM – 1 PM

In the early 1980s Ducks Unlimited constructed an earthen berm enclosing a large area which has become Lighthall Marsh.

The marsh is a very active habitat for water fowl, beavers, otters, frogs and turtles. The earthen berm hosts many species of interesting plants.

We will walk from Army Reserve Road and Lighthall Road down Lighthall to the berm and across it to Charwell Point Road and back to Army Reserve Road.

The distance is about 4 km. We will take time to investigate the denizens of the marsh with telescopes and binoculars (provided). Sturdy walking shoes suggested.

Bring a snack and water. There will be no washroom facilities.

Event Name: Lighthall Marsh Stroll
Event Address: corner of Army Reserve Rd. and Lighthall Rd.
Admission: free
Registration: for more information and to register go to https://naturematters.eventbrite.ca
Amenities: roadside parking
Website: ssji.ca
Contact: cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca
Notes: appropriate footwear recommended
ATHOL
County Ward since 1998, Athol was originally settled in 1788. Visit Athol for history and nature.

Home of Sandbanks Provincial Park and Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area

www.visitPEC.ca
Brass in the Park at Macaulay Heritage Park

**Saturday, September 7, 2019, 2:00 PM**
(rain location – St. Mary Magdalene Church)

Join us for a free concert by the True North Brass, a brass quintet with members from the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the National Ballet Orchestra.

They will be performing music by some well-known composers including Bach, Tchaikovsky, and Gershwin as well as some original brass repertoire that will be fun for an outdoor concert in the park!

This concert is the launch of our annual Chamber Music Festival, September 13 – 22, with the New Orford String Quartet and special guests. Please join us in the park and at St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church for the Festival.

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**Event Name:** Brass in the Park at Macaulay Heritage Park  
**Event Address:** Macaulay Heritage Park, 35 Church St., Picton  
**Rain location:** St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church  
335 Main St., Picton  
**Admission:** free  
**Amenities:** Lot and street parking, outdoor washrooms at the adjacent church building (accessible)  
**Website:** pecmusicfestival.com  
**Contact:** dunn.maureen@gmail.com  
**Notes:** bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on
3rd Annual Black River Paint Out

Sunday, Sept. 8 – 11 AM – 3 PM

Join artists from groups such as the Baxter Life Drawing Class, East Central Ontario Art Association, and pARTnership collective and spend the day painting flower fields, trees and river views. A complimentary lunch is provided for the artists. Visiting artists, whether part of a group or as individuals, are welcome to participate (pre-registration required). The public is invited to drop by to chat with the artists and watch their progress.

The Black River Bed and Breakfast 3½-acre property has rare butternut trees, white and red pine, fir and cedars. Situated on the Black River, it looks across to the majestic McMahon Bluff and Prince Edward Bay. The river attracts a variety of ducks, swans, herons, kingfishers, osprey and eagles while an array of song birds visit the feeders and gardens.

The Black River Community includes Black River Cheese, two galleries, and several farm shops offering local honey, eggs, meat products, jams and other preserves.

Event Name: 3rd Annual Black River Paint Out  
Event Address: Black River Bed and Breakfast  
68 Morrison Point Rd., Black River  
Admission: free, open to the public, visiting artists must pre-register at BlackRiverBB@gmail.com or 613-476-7346  
Amenities: parking on property and road, accessible, no public washrooms, no dogs, stroller friendly, drinking water  
Website: BlackRiverBB.com  
Contact: Conrad Biernacki
Milford Fair

74th Milford Fair “The biggest little fair in the County”

Saturday, September 14, 10 AM – 4 PM

Come out to the fair! Enjoy the parade, food, music and the atmosphere of fun at a good old fashioned agricultural fair. There is so much to do — games for children and adults, draws, bingo, petting zoo, exhibits and local entertainment — and it is all included. The shed is filled with crafts, flowers, art, photography, food and more. There is something for everyone at the Milford Fair!

Event Name: 74th Milford Fair “The biggest little fair in the County”
Event Address: Mount Taber, 2179 County Rd. 17, Milford
Admission: Children - free, teens - $1, Adults - $5
Amenities: parking, canteen, portable washroom, dogs on leash allowed, stroller friendly
Website: www.southmarysburghmirror.com
Did you know . . .

At least twelve species of native orchids have been recorded in the County. One of the showiest and rarest on the South Shore is the lovely Yellow Lady-slipper.
Chart the Dark Sky: What’s Up at Night!

Friday, October 4 (Rain or cloud date: Sat., Oct. 5)
Friday, October 18 (Rain or cloud date: Sat. Oct. 19)
7:30 PM SHARP – 9:00 PM
This is a very weather dependent event.

Meet County night sky enthusiasts Ramesh Pooran and James Rose in front of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) at the National Wildlife Area. They will focus your attention and their telescopes on stars and planets, the Milky Way, and the occasional satellite. You will see Jupiter and Saturn as well as the crescent moon (October 4), and star clusters, nebulae and galaxies.

Please back into parking spaces. Please cover your flashlight with red plastic (regular flashlights interfere with/do not preserve your night vision). Bring binoculars and a folding chair. Dress warmly, temperatures are cooler near the water. You will take home a chart of the night sky. This event is suitable those 5 years old and up.

Stay for Owl Banding at the Observatory 8:30–9:30 am. See Migration Matters – Fall 2019 on page 40. You must register separately.

Event Name: Chart the Dark Sky: What’s Up at Night!
Event Address: 6056 Long Point Rd., Prince Edward County
Admission: free
Registration: for more information and to register for this event and/or owl banding go to https://naturematters.eventbrite.ca
Amenities: roadside parking, washrooms, stroller friendly
Website: www.peptbo.ca
Contact: rameshpoooran350@gmail.com
Notes: uneven ground, bring a lawn chair, please cover your flashlight with red plastic, check for ticks when you return home.
South Shore Suite...POEMS

With poems rooted in nature at Prince Edward County’s South Shore

by JC Sulzenko

from Point Petre Publishing

www.pointpetrepublishing.ca

Available at: Books and Company (Picton) Half Moon Bay Winery (CR13) and from www.jcsulzenko.com $18

JC also writes original poems on commission for a special occasion or person (birthdays, anniversaries, events, in memoriam.)

POETRY, TO GO Enquiries: info@jcsulzenko.com

With over 100 different birdhouses, Birdhouse City attracts visitors from around the world!

BIRDHOUSE CITY

Maintained by Friends of Birdhouse City and Quinte Conservation

Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area
224 County Road 8, on the eastern outskirts of Picton
www.quinteconservation.ca

Features: birding, flora, hiking trails, comfort stations, picnic tables, photo spots, parking

Friends of Birdhouse City
doewallace@eastlink.ca
Scarecrow Festival

Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13, 11 AM - 5 PM

Small Pond Arts presents Prince Edward County’s annual Scarecrow Festival. Join us Thanksgiving weekend and make your very own scarecrow to take home! All supplies are provided for a donation of $25, supporting the Firelight Lantern Festival. www.firelightfest.org

The Scarecrow Festival has become one of the County’s most beloved events of the season. Come one, come all, for a weekend of family fun, creativity and community. Rain or shine!

Event Name: Scarecrow Festival
Event Address: Small Pond Arts
            337 Clarke Rd., Picton
Admission: free to attend, $25 to make a scarecrow
Amenities: outhouse, canteen, parking, picnic area, dogs on leash allowed, accessibility/stroller friendly
Website: www.smallpondarts.ca
Contact: info@smallpondarts.ca
For nature events outside Prince Edward County

PEPtBO is aligned with the following organizations promoting nature, green exercise and protection of the environment.

Nature on Pelee Group  
http://peleebuzz.eventbrite.ca  
Pelee Island (Lake Erie), Ontario  
March 22 to mid-December

The Couchiching Conservancy  
www.couchichingconserv.ca  
Lake Couchiching region (Orillia, Washago, Carden), Ontario  
May 2019 to March 2020

Long Point Basin Land Trust  
www.longpointlandtrust.ca  
Norfolk County, Ontario  
May to October 2019

Wellington Water Watchers  
https://www.2riversfestival.org/  
Guelph, Ontario  
May and June 2019

rare Charitable Research Reserve  
www.raresites.org  
Waterloo Region/Wellington, Ontario  
April to November, 2019

Thames Talbot Land Trust  
www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/passport_to_nature  
London Ontario and adjoining counties  
April 2019 to February 2020

Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington  
www.LandConservancyKFLA.org  
Frontenac and L & A counties south of Highway 7  
April 2019 to February 2020
2019 Dates for Your Calendar

April 19-May 31 - Bird Banding Station open to public (PEPtBO)
Sat. & Sun. April 20 & 21 - Jackson’s Falls (Rotary Club) p. 4
Sun. Apr. 28 - Spring Stroll (South Shore Joint Initiative) p. 6
Fri. May 10 - Bird Photography Workshop (Ian Dickinson) p. 8
May 11-20 - Spring Birding Festival (Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory) p. 10-11
Sat. May 11 - Bird Photography Workshop (Ian Dickinson) p. 8
Sun. May 12 - Bird Friendly Glass (Sarah Hall), p. 12
Sun. May 12 - Mother’s Day Spring Celebrations at Sandbanks (Sandbanks Provincial Park & Friends of Sandbanks) p. 13
Mon. to Wed. May 13-15 - Birding the County (PEC Field Naturalists), p. 8
Wed. May 15 - Bird Photography Workshop (Ian Dickinson) p. 8
Sat. & Sun. May 18-19 - Black River Spring Festival (Black River Community) p. 14
Sun. May 19 - Life in the Hedgerow, Maple Forest & Creek (Exultet Winery) p. 16
Mon. May 20 - 24th Annual Black River Canoe Trip (St. Philip’s Anglican Church) p. 18-19
Sun. May 26 - Heroes and Legends of the South Shore (Suzanne Pasternak) p. 20
Tues. May 28 - Hudgin-Rose Property Announcement & Tour (NCC Canada) p. 22
Sat. June 8 - Rock Hound Fossil Hunt (Half Moon Bay Winery) p. 24
Sat. June 8 - Massassauga Point Walk (Nature Stuff) p. 26
Sat. June 22 - Honey & Herb Day (Honey Pie Hives and Herbals) p. 31
Fri. evenings in July & August - Graveyards & Gallows Walking Tour (Macaulay Heritage Park Museum) p. 32
Wed. July 10 - Lakeshore Lodge Days (Sandbanks PP, Friends of Sandbanks) p. 33
Sat. & Sun. July 20 & 21 - BioBlitz 2018 (PEC Field Naturalists) p. 34
Wed. July 24 - Lakeshore Lodge Days (Sandbanks PP, Friends of Sandbanks) p. 33
Sat. July 27 - Birds and Bees Fundraiser (PEPtBO) p. 36-37
Sun. July 28 - 2 Outdoor Concerts (Music at Port Milford) p. 38
Wed. Aug 7 - Lakeshore Lodge Days (Sandbanks PP, Friends of Sandbanks) p. 33
Sun. Aug. 11 - 2 Outdoor Concerts (Music at Port Milford) p. 38
Aug. 19-Oct. 31 - Migration Matters—Banding Station open (PEPtBO) p. 40
Wed. Aug. 21 - Lakeshore Lodge Days (Sandbanks PP, Friends of Sandbanks) p. 33
Sun. Sept.1 - Lighthall Marsh Stroll (South Shore Joint Initiative) p.42
Sat. Sept 7 - Brass in the Park (PEC Chamber Music Festival) p. 44
Sun. Sept 8 - 3rd Annual Black River Paint Out (Black River B&B) p. 45
Sat. Sept. 14 - 74th Milford Fair (Milford Fair) 46
Sat. Sept. 21 - Migration Matters—Fall Warbler Workshop (PEPtBO) p. 40
Thurs. to Sat. Oct. 3-5 - Migration Matters—Saw-whet Owl Banding (PEPtBO) p. 40
Fri. Oct. 4 (Sat. Oct 5 rain date) - Chart the Dark Sky (PEPtBO) p. 48
Sat. Oct. 5 & 12 - Migration Matters—Guided Bird Walk (PEPtBO) p. 40
Sat. & Sun. Oct. 12 & 13 - Scarecrow Festival (Small Pond Arts) p. 50
Fri. Oct. 18 (Sat. Oct. 19 rain date) - Chart the Dark Sky (PEPtBO) p. 40

Picton Recreation Committee
Welcomes you to join free Thursday Evening Paddles
https://www.facebook.com/Picton-Recreation-Committee-687186307982940/
or Mac Ross – 613-393-5908, jenmacross@yahoo.ca
6:30 PM every Thursday, May 2 – Sept. 26

For the Birds
A Prince Edward County Celebration

YOU ARE INVITED to launch PEPtBO’s FOR THE BIRDS
Reception/Awards/Readings
3:00 PM, Saturday, May 11
PEC Public Library,
208 Main St., Picton

Info: info@peptbo.ca
or Halliday at the Library (613 399-2023)

Get your copy @ $12 there and after May 11 from PEPtBO,
Books & Company and Half Moon Bay Winery
Net proceeds benefit PEPtBO
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PEPtBO is a volunteer-run, registered charity that welcomes your support!

To donate please go to
www.peptbo.ca/ways-to-give.php
PEPtBO thanks The Gosling Foundation and The County of Prince Edward for their valuable support.

Contact Information

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory
PO Box 6043
Picton, ON K0K 2T0

www.peptbo.ca

The Observatory is located at 6056 Long Point Rd., Prince Edward County

Consider becoming a member of PEPtBO
Go to http://peptbo.ca/membership-c15.php to sign up

For questions regarding advertising in Nature Matters! e-mail Borys Holowacz at naturematters@peptbo.ca

For an opportunity to include your event e-mail Cheryl Chapman at cheryl.chapman8@gmail.com
Nature benefits when cats are kept safe from roaming

Sign up for our Keep Cats Safe e-Book for a chance to win a Bird Feeder from Brome Bird Care!

Download our free e-Book at catsandbirds.ca/pep