



# PECFN NEWSLETTER

## President's message

Myrna Wood

PECFN was invited to speak at the Latornell Conservation Symposium in Alliston Nov 19. The theme of the event was Weathering Change, Navigating a New Climate. Our presentation was named Lesson learned at Ostrander Point: a recent victory for habitat protection.

Cheryl and Myrna presented a history of PECFN's involvement with the Tribunal appeal of the Approval of Gilead Power's wind project. We emphasized our case that the South Shore IBA should not be destroyed when wind projects can be built elsewhere. We described the cumulative effect of built and proposed wind projects across the eastern flyway of migrating birds and bats.

There was a large and interested audience of people from Conservation Authorities and naturalist consultants who seemed very interested in our story. We were frank about our disappointment in the lack of support from environmental organizations. And equally frank about the short-sightedness of the provincial government in not protecting important wildlife areas.

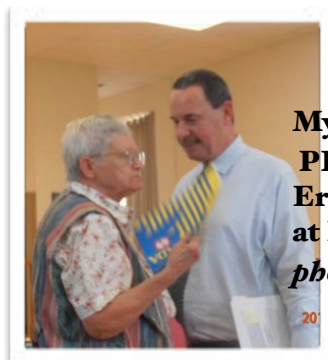
We will return to the final days of the appeal hearing Nov 26-27 to show the judges how a couple of gates will not keep harm from Blanding's turtle. We should all look forward to a final victory of this case after 3 years of work and towards a new year of enjoying the pleasures of Prince Edward County's natural spaces.



Myrna & Cheryl at Latornell Conservation Symposium Nov. 19.



PECFN witness Kari Gunson & Lawyer Eric Gillespie at ERT *photo A. Sand*



Myrna Wood & PECFN lawyer Eric Gillespie at ERT *photo A. Sand*



At the ERT: members of PECFN executive: Sheila Kuja, Amy Bodman, Gerry Jenkison, Myrna Wood, Sandra Dowds, Elizabeth Cowan, Cheryl Anderson *photo A. Sand*

**PAUL M. CATLING**

**Our PECFN speaker for Tues. Nov.24 7pm at Bloomfield town hall**

**Paul Catling will be speaking about butterflies. His book (*field guide to Butterflies of Prince Edward County and the surrounding area – with all proceeds going to PECFN's conservation efforts*) will be for sale at the Nov. 24th meeting.**



Summer Azure *photo John F Foster*



Clouded, Orange Sulphurs/ *photo S Smith*

- PhD degree from the University of Toronto in 1980.
- President of the Canadian Botanical Association, Editor of 3 scientific journals, Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa for 18 years, and head of the AAFC plant biodiversity research section for 8 years.
- contributed many book chapters and been a co-author of several books.
- received the C.J. Bishop Award and the Macoun-Hill Award of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science, the Elliot Award of the Canadian Botanical Association, the Fernald Award from the Harvard-based publishers of the plant systematics journal *Rhodora*, and the Lawson Medal, the most prestigious award of the Canadian Botanical Association.
- his research focuses on taxonomic and ecological approaches to biodiversity protection and landscape management and documentation of the flora of Canada in general.
- well known for his work in the areas of invasive alien plants, native crop germplasm, systematics of grasses and sedges, and systematics and ecology of Canadian terrestrial orchids.
- an editor and reviewer of hundreds of articles and documents each year. Paul has also made extensive contributions to protection and conservation of plants through his writing, his personal actions and service to organizations through work on influential committees such as the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, the Canadian Expert Committee on Plant Genetic Resources, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and as a co-chair with the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada which advises the federal Species at Risk Act. Paul has been the Curator of the AAFC Vascular Plant Herbarium since 1988





## Volunteers welcome for the Christmas Bird Count on Sat. December 19

Pamela Stagg



This is a year of change (retirements, grandparent duties) for the Prince Edward Christmas Bird Count team members. That means there are finally opportunities for new volunteers. With the warm weather so far, this could be a good year for sightings.

**There are three ways you can take part.**

**Downy woodpecker**  
*photo S. Smith*



1. Volunteer for the count itself. Even if you're still working on your bird identification skills, you may be able to take part.

We can use someone to keep track of birds seen on at least one team, perhaps two.

2. Go birding during the count week (December 16th – 22nd) and let me know what you've seen. If those birds aren't seen on the official count day, they can still be included in the final tally. I can provide a map ahead of time of the areas that qualify.

3. Count the birds at your feeder on December 19th – or let me know where it is and I can send a team to do it for you, if you live in the count area. I can provide a map of the area.

**The count day is Saturday,  
December 19th.**

If you're interested, please e-mail Pamela at [pstagg05@kos.net](mailto:pstagg05@kos.net) or call at 613-476-7018.



**Goldfinches** *photo S. Smith*



*photo S. Smith*



## **Amherst Island Owl Woods**

**Tues. January 12th PECFN  
outing with Joanne Dewey**

Join Joanne Dewey on an exciting outing to Amherst Island to see over wintering owls in the 'Owl Woods'! In past years we have seen Snowy owls, Long eared, Barred, Northern Saw-whets and more. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

Meet Joanne at the Glenora Ferry 9am  
**RSVP**



**Long\_eared\_owl\_Paul O'Toole**



**Northern Saw-whet Owl\_Terry Sprague**



**Chickadee\_Amherst Is. \_Gary O'Doherty**



**Barred owl\_Paul O'Toole**

**Our next  
Fund  
Raiser  
for Save  
Ostrander  
Point**



**WinterWalkathon to support the South Shore Appeal Fund  
Saturday January 16, 2106  
2-4 pm**

**Experience the Winter Wonderland of the County's South Shore  
Ask sponsors to make a pledge  
and**

**Join us for a walk along Hill Top and Brewer's Roads  
Enjoy a cup of mulled wine or cider courtesy of Long Dog winery at the finish**

**Registration fee \$10**

**Register by email at  
[cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca](mailto:cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca)  
or by calling 613-471-1096  
to receive your sponsor pledge sheet**

**\*South Shore Appeal Fund is dedicated to paying our lawyer Eric  
Gillespie's legal account for both Ostrander Point and White Pines  
ERTS**



**Ice/ Simpson Rd. photo Bert**



**January 26 MEMBERSHIP NIGHT**

**This is the time for members to share their nature experiences with fellow nature lovers. Do you have a 10 minute slide show of your latest vacation? Don't be shy. Contact Cheryl 613 471 1096 to add your name to the list.**



**Birds seen this Autumn**



Hermit Thrush *photo S. Smith*



Kingfisher at Danforth Marsh *photo S,Smith!*

**PECFN 2015/2016 membership was due at the September meeting. Please send your \$15 single membership cheque to Box 414, Bloomfield, ON K0K 1G0**



**Winter outing to Point Petre  
with Joanne Dewey  
9am, Tues. February 9, 2016**

*photos by S. Smith*



We will carpool; stopping occasionally to look for birds and other things on our way and then have a walk at Point Petre. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch. Meet at the Mary St. parking lot in Picton 9am RSVP



Horned Larks by the roadside



Point Petre 2015

**February 23 Speaker: Mark Read**  
**'The Highs and Lows of Nepal'**

Nepal, a small Himalayan country sandwiched between India and China, has abundant wildlife. Ranging in elevation from 59 metres in the lowlands to 8848 metres at the top of the world means that pretty much every habitat-type is represented. With such a diversity of habitats comes an incredible diversity of birds, and people. Mark will reflect upon his time birding there whilst also sharing a few of the cultural experiences he encountered along the way.

Mark is currently the NatureHood Coordinator at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory but that is just the latest in a long career in education that has taken him from Park Ranger at Sherwood Forest, UK, Ecotourism

Lecturer and Field Researcher in Thailand, Head of Secondary at an International School in Egypt, and Senior Interpreter/Naturalist here in Canada with Ontario Parks. For two years, he was based in the lowland Terai region of Far-West Nepal working with the Ministry of Education as an in-school advisor. As an avid birder of almost 40 years, it is rare to see him without a 'pair of bins' hanging from his neck.



**juvenile Bald Eagle/Wellington /  
*photo S. Smith***





## **Another win for the environment**

Myrna Wood

A second ERT decision in Ontario has overturned a wind energy company approval in favour of the community of Pontypool in the Fenelon Falls area on Nov 19.. Settlers Landing wind park would have put five industrial wind turbines near the village.

The Tribunal found “that the planned Settlers Landing wind project in Pontypool will cause serious and irreversible harm to plant life, animal life or the natural environment.” Specifically, the Tribunal, in its decision found that construction and decommissioning of turbines 3 and 5, and the access roads to turbines 2, 3 and 5, will cause such harm to a significant woodland identified as Woodland 11, including the habitat it represents.

Several other wind energy projects from different companies have been approved in Manvers Township, and opponents to the industrial turbines have not let up in their battle to keep them out, especially since several turbines are proposed to be built on the provincially-protected Oak Ridges Moraine. The City has backed their fight, as the council has not supported industrial wind turbines in the municipality. While the appellants have raised money for their legal costs, the City has given some financial support and also provided senior staff to testify at the hearings.

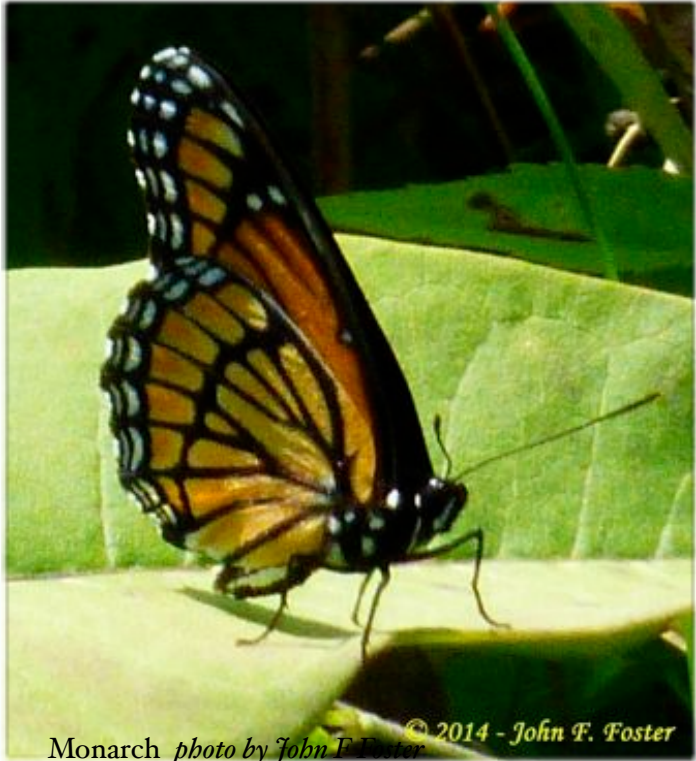
As in the case of Ostrander Point, the Tribunal, In its decision, noted it will provide “a separate opportunity for the parties and participants to address the appropriate remedy and the Tribunal’s remedial jurisdiction in this case.”



**At the Ostrander Point ERT: PECFN’s Cheryl Anderson and lawyer Eric Gillespie**  
*photo A. Sand*

## Butterfly Gardens across the County?

by Myrna Wood and Elizabeth Cowan



Monarchs need all the help they can get these days. There are huge-scale projects, like MonarchWatch (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>) and the I-35 corridor proposal in the United States (<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/migrating-monarch-butterflies-might-actually-take-to-the-highway-180955436/?no-ist>), and small-scale projects, like that buddleia in your garden. What about a PECFN project? We could partner with other community groups and individuals to create butterfly gardens all across the County. Our inspiration came from the newsletter of the Friends of the Experimental Farm in Ottawa

(<http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca/pdf/spring15.pdf>), which gives tips on how to get started. We know that County people appreciate Monarchs and other butterflies, because they keep buying our *Butterfly Guide!* This would be an opportunity for us as field naturalists to further knowledge about natural plantings as well as bring beauty and enjoyment to every ward and community. If you have ideas about plots of available land (they don't have to be big), please tell somebody on the executive. In the meantime we'll be reaching out to other groups - if you have suggestions, please let us know about those too. Let's do everything we can to help the Monarchs!

**Wed. May 18, 2016**

Award winning 2012

Canadian documentary

starring Gorden Pinsent

narrated by Megan Follows

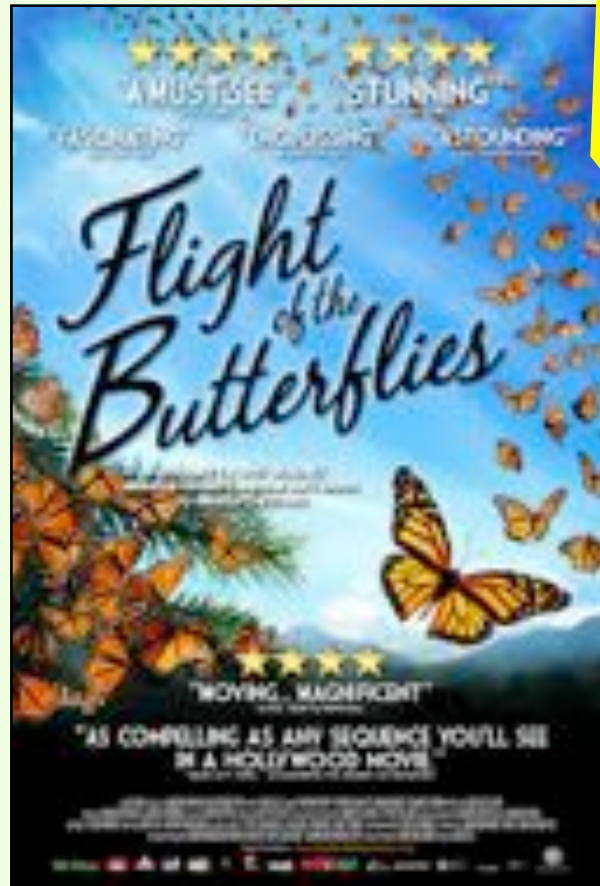
telling the story of the

decades long discovery of the

overwintering site of the

Monarch butterflies in

Mexico.



**Another exciting  
Ostrander Point  
Fund Raiser**

As an evening fundraiser during the 2016 Birding Festival, PECFN is delighted to announce our screening of *Flight of the Butterflies*. This 2012 Canadian documentary tells the story of the four-decade-long investigation by Dr Fred Urquhart and his wife/collaborator Norah into the monarch butterfly and the discovery of its overwintering site in Central Mexico. The film blends factual information with dramatic re-enactment. Gorden Pinsent stars as Dr Fred Urquhart and Patricia Phillips as Nora Urquhart; Megan Follows is Narrator.

Don Davis, an old friend of PECFN who worked with the Urquharts and was historical consultant to *Flight of the Butterflies*, and Patricia Phillips, who has close ties the County, will make presentations and take part in a Q&A during the evening. We'll also show a short film that extends the themes of migration and biodiversity.



**Minutes of the Executive Meeting  
Prince Edward County Field Naturalists  
Picton Library  
October 6, 2015, noon-2:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Amy Bodman, Elizabeth Cowan, Gerry Jenkison, Sheena Kennedy, Sheila Kuja, Agneta Sand, Myrna Wood

**Regrets:** Sue Banks, Sandra Dowds

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**2. Status Reports**

**(A) Membership**

31 members paid their dues at the September meeting.

**(B) Treasurer**

The following balances were reported:

PECFN: \$4,147.08

OPAF: \$12,570.44

**(C) Programs**

**Outdoor programs**

Sheila will continue her walks on the next two Fridays and on Saturday, Oct.31. It was stressed that she shouldn't continue once deer-hunting season begins; duck-hunting season is bad enough.

It was suggested that another excursion be made to Peter's Woods in the spring, perhaps in conjunction with the Willow Beach Field Naturalists. Another idea was a trip to the Tyendinaga caves. Myrna will investigate.

**Indoor programs**

**Oct.27:** Michael Runtz – Beavers. He will be signing his book. Myrna will ask Pamela if she would introduce and Sandra if she would thank. Cheryl has wine for an honorarium.

**Nov.24:** Chris Lewis – Lichens. There may be some confusion over the date he's supposed to speak. Sheila will check.

**Jan.26, 2016:** Membership night

**Feb.23:** Amy will try again to contact Kendal Dewey to see if he would speak about the fishery and perhaps cormorants. If not, Chris Reed (Grasslands National Park) or Mark Read (grassland birds) might be available.

**March 29:** Sue Banks – Wildflowers in the County, including their medicinal uses

**April 26:** George Reid: Aboriginal history in the County. Amy will remind him.

**May 31:** AGM: Gerry suggested using the film *Flight of the Butterflies* as a theme. She knows Pat Phillips, who appeared in the movie and could talk about the making of it. Myrna

suggested asking Don Davis, who was an advisor on the film, for a version we could show. Gerry will see if the film is available in a non-3D format, and whether we could show some or all of it at the meeting.

**(D) Fundraising Committee**

Both Riverwalk and the pig roast were very successful.

Since Paul Catling will be speaking to Women@Noon and also possibly to CCSAGE, it was decided that 50 copies of his *Butterfly Guide* should be ordered, to ensure that there are lots to sell at these events and later on for Christmas.

**(E) Ostrander Point and Tribunal:**

The hearing dates are Oct.27-28 and 30, in the Demorestville Town Hall. Amy will oversee lunches and Myrna will speak to Kathy Felkar about coffee. It is hoped that Cheryl can do the reports to members.

**(F) Official Plan Review**

The draft looks very positive, but PECFN must attend the public meetings on the Plan - Myrna will try to ascertain the dates.

**(G) BioBlitz**

No report

**(H) NatureHood**

No report

**(I) Ontario Nature**

Amy drove Myrna and Elizabeth to the Queen's University Environmental Education Centre at Elbow Lake, north of Kingston, on Saturday, Oct.3. There were interesting presentations by the Kingston FN (Amherst Island wind project) and the Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council (alvars). Amy and Myrna described the American Bird Conservancy's petition on turbines and the *Migratory Bird Act*, and will forward it to ON and the member groups. Lisa Richardson of ON touched on such issues as liability insurance (webinar coming up in late November), the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Youth Summit for Biodiversity, vernal pools mapping, the disputed purpose of nature reserves, and MNRF's "Wetland Conservation in Ontario" discussion paper. The next regional meeting will be held on April 2, 2016, possibly in Ottawa. The AGM will be held on June 3-5, 2016, at the Evergreen Resort on the Bruce Peninsula.

**(J) Millennium Trail**

To allow cyclists to ride the Trail, it has been proposed that stone dust be used as surfacing. This would be highly damaging in the wetlands sections. Amy has contacted Quinte Conservation as provincially significant wetlands (PSWs) are their responsibility. Gerry will help Amy on the Trail Committee.

**(K) Newsletter - deadline Nov.15**

### **3. New Business**

(i) Butterfly gardens: The people/groups who responded positively will be asked to suggest sites and whether they have any funding. PECFN will apply for a community grant for the gardens.

(ii) Radio station ads for OPAF: Anonymous donors have made money available to County FM so that anti-wind turbine ads can be run. After considerable discussion, the following motion was moved by Amy, seconded by Agneta:

THAT we decline to make use of the donation.

IN FAVOUR: Five (5)

ABSTENTIONS: One (1)

CARRIED

Amy will write a note to the station informing them of our decision.

(iii) Charitable receipts issued through the County: Sheena suggested that we should meet with County officials for information, and Myrna will request such a meeting.

### **4. Next meeting**

Tuesday, Nov.3, noon to 2:00, in the upstairs public room at the Picton Library, unless special meetings are required after the hearings.



**Minutes of the Executive Meeting  
Prince Edward County Field Naturalists  
Picton Library  
Nov. 3, 2015, noon-2:00 p.m.**

Present: Gerry Jenkison, Amy Bodman, Sandra Dowds, Sheila Kuja, Agneta Sand, Myrna Wood,  
Susan Banks, Sheena Kennedy,  
Regrets: Elizabeth Cowan

1 Status Reports

Sheila Kuja reported on events at White Pines' Tribunal. Eric had asked for a postponement. It was noted that Ostrander Point ERT may have another day in November.

(A) Membership: no report

(B) Treasurer:

The Following Balances were reported:

PECFN: \$4895.08

OPAF: \$ 2812:00

When our account reaches \$5000 we will send a cheque to Eric.

We transfer funds from PECFN to OPAF.

MOVED:Sheena

SECONDED Gerry

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

(C) Programs

Outdoor Programs

Sandra suggested that we arrange to visit the Moorehead Family's property at Rednersville Road. No response from Tyendenaga Caves. They maybe closed for the season.

Visit to Amhurst Island in February.

Trip to Peter's Woods

Mountain view with Molly.

Indoor Programs

Nov. 24th: Chris Lewis to speak

Myrna proposed we give Chris a cheque for expenses.

Feb. 23rd: Kendal Dewey is to speak. This must be confirmed.

Mar. 29th: Sue Banks on Wild Flowers.

April 26th: George Reed

May 23rd: AGM Terry.

(D) Fundraising Committee

May 18th Showing of Flight of the Butterflies. Pat Philips, Don Davies and Paul Catling will be asked to present. The theme of the evening should be biodiversity in the County.

It was suggested that a series of short films be included in the program.

Sign a contract to accept the date of May 18th offered by the Regent and let the Regent do the ticket sales.

MOVED: Gerry

SECONDED: Amy

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

It was suggested that Diana Berisford Kroeger come to show her film on trees and this maybe an opportunity for a fundraiser.

An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to make decisions about the plant sale.

Sheena proposed a fundraising dinner to cover the costs of witnesses at the Ostrander ERT.

(E) Official Plan Review is today, November 3rd 3pm to 8pm. Myrna stated that we need to go to public meetings to get information.

(F) Bioblitz Report: Sheila has material to put together for the report. John Foster has sent photos. Sheila noted that there will be printing costs.

(G) Naturehood: Mark Read is doing the activities for the students. There have been 6 outdoor activities and several indoor visits. There will be a report from Cheryl Anderson.

(H) Millennium Trail: The County has approved the bike trail path and has permits from Quinte Conservation. Amy has made an appeal to protect 5km of wetland and to make an eco-trail. Tim Trustham, biologist with Quinte conservation and Ernie Margetson, engineer and architect will be walking the trail with Amy on Tuesday, November 10th.

(I) Newsletter: Will be ready by November 16th.

(J) Monarch Gardens: A \$500 grant has been applied for and 3 sites are being considered. There will be a presentation to Athol Recreation Committee on November 10th

(K) next meeting Dec 1 Picton Library 12pm-2pm