



NEWSLETTER

Editor: Sandra Dowds

APRIL
2014

the President's message

It seems that Spring has finally arrived. I admit I doubted it but after touring the South Shore with the OFO on Monday the presence of Kinglets and bees and little spring blooms convinced me. What was surprising was the lack of flooding and mud after the melting of a winter's worth of more snow than we have seen in years.

Our Executive is going through a renewal also. We have reorganized tasks in order to spread the fun! We were concerned that the Ostrander Point appeal was diverting our attention from programming for the club.

We already have a sizable list of ideas for outings and speakers for investigation. However that subject you have always wanted to know more about would interest others too so please give us your ideas and we will try to find a speaker. Or perhaps you are researching some insects or plants and would like some help from others. Let us know.

With this reorganization we have room for new Executive members to help organize outings. Do you canoe the Black River? Or collect fossils? Walk the dunes? Bring your passion to share with us all. As the world is greening around me I really want to get outside and appreciate what we have in the County. Perhaps you feel the same way. Let's do it!

Myrna Wood

Terry Sprague pairs up with Sandbanks Vacation Tours on May 9th for the Save Ostrander Point Hurray It's Spring Nature Tour (sold out)

Newsletter Highlights

- Page 1 • President's Message
- Page 2 • Indoor programs April 29th Speaker Lindsay Maxim Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre
- Outings
- Page 3 • Birding Festival: Guided walks & workshops
- Page 4 • Turtle Blog
- Page 5 • WPD White Pines Project
- Page 6 • Baillie Birdathon
- Page 7/8 • Ostrander Point Appeal Fund Gala Dinner & Art Auction
- Page 9 • A2A
- Page 10 /11 • Pacing the Cage
- Page 12 • David Bree's award
- PECFN/APPEC Garage Sale
- Page 13 • Notes from Sandbanks
- Page 14 • The Enigma of Migration
- Page 15 • Update on Save Ostrander Point
- Page 16/17 • Chris Currie Letter to MOE
- Page 18/19 Exec. Minutes April 1, 2014



INDOOR PROGRAMS Spring 2014
April 29 Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre
May 27 Tyler Wheeldon Coyotes

Speaker for 7pm Bloomfield Town Hall
April 29 Lindsay Maxim
Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

Lindsay Maxim - Executive Coordinator at the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre. Lindsay has been with KTTC since 2010 in a volunteer or staff capacity. With a background in biology and a love for the outdoors she has worked in Ontario Parks, with the Ministry of Natural Resources, and has now happily found herself working with the turtles.

The talk will be: From the Road to Recovery - Turtle Conservation in Action

and will include an overview of Ontario's turtle species, their life history, and the threats that they face. I will highlight the work the KTTC does to conserve these species, including medical rehabilitation, education programs, and population mitigation and monitoring projects in the field working with threatened Blanding's turtle.



Outings

Wed, April 30 at Mountain View 2pm led by Molly Mulloy
Take hwy 62, turn left on to cty rd 2, rt. on Union rd., Meet at church

Mon May 5 1pm Gloria & Brian Durell will lead a wild flower walk at West Point near Lakeshore Lodge
Meet at Bloomfield parking lot (Main St & Cory St)

June 7 Mike Burrell (OFO) will lead an outing to show us the nesting loggerhead shrikes and other features of the Napanee Plain IBA. For more info call Sandra 613 393 5577

Mon. July 28 Little Bluff call Sandra 613 393 5577

Mon. Aug 25 Beaver Meadow “ “


Guided Bird Walks and Tours

- Point Traverse Woods 8am, May 10-19 meet at the portable toilette
- Cedar Woods and the Lighthouse 10am, May 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 meet at the Bird Observatory
- Cedar Woods and the Lighthouse 4 pm, Saturday May 10 & 17
- Guided County Birding Tour Sunday May 18, 8am Mariner's Museum sponsored by the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Workshops at Jackson's Falls Country Inn:

- Saturday Sunday April 26-27: *Boot Camp for Birders*: A 2-day workshop presented by Pamela Stagg for new and experienced birders - learn field marks, binocular use and more \$160 /person (\$150 for guests of Jackson's Falls Country Inn) deposit on registration \$50
- Saturday May 3: *Birding beyond the Basics*: A full day with Pamela Stagg to help you take your birding skills to the next level \$80 /person
- Saturday May 10, 1-3 pm: Terry Sprague on *Those Confusing Sparrows* \$25 /person
- Saturday May 17, 1-3 pm: Pamela Stagg *Tricks and Tricksters*: Shortcuts to Bird Identification \$25 /person

Banding Demonstrations
Hospitality Tent
Merchandise
Photography Contest

2014 Spring Birding Festival supported by:  Fuller Native & Rare Plants
www.fullerplants.com

Prince Edward County is an extraordinary birding location with the highest concentration and abundance of migratory birds anywhere on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario.

Information and registration for all workshops online at www.peptbo.ca



The Art of Tracking Turtles

By Lynda Ruegg, KTTC Field Biologist posted on September 16, 2013 11:14 am

The art of tracking turtles...let me set the mood. I have just canoed to a sweet gale swamp thicket wetland, which was where I last saw the turtle. I am standing in my canoe, antennae in hand. I begin to point and hammer down the antennae from left to right. Listening to the sounds of the beep, I decipher where they are getting the loudest and I bring my arms together to the loudest point. I then start canoeing in that direction.

Now that seems so easy, right? Did I mention that the turtle could be a kilometer away, in the middle of a thicket, with 3 portages to get past...it is like trying to get to the nearest exit on the 401 during rush hour traffic.... you see the destination but you are moving as slowly as a turtle, and don't think you will ever get there!

Today I am going to write about George and recount some of his adventures. One of my favorite new sayings lately (with all fun intended!) is "Seriously, George!"

Meet George the Blanding's turtle, part of a radio telemetry research project by Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre.

George was born/hatched in a hole, probably a south facing hole with lots of sandy soil, away from a lot of vegetation so it was exposed to the bright sun. He possibly had anywhere from 3-19 brothers and sisters, but you see George doesn't know anything about his family. Soon after he was hatched, he walked away from his brothers and sisters and set off on a path of his own. He never knew his mother, she left before he was born and his father wanted no part in any of his life. George, the mere size of a quarter, walked out into the world and against all odds survived (<1%-15% survivorship rate). He probably grew up in a wetland with lots of cover and shallow water. By the time he hit 14-20 years old, his hormones started pumping and all heck broke loose! We all know these as the "teenage years". George was becoming interested in the ladies and was ready to start dating. He is not exclusive to one female.... so he moves around quite a bit. At this time, George is estimated to be anywhere from 25-40 years old, which is considered "being in his prime"! George enjoys travelling, keeping active, and eating. He "resides" in a sweet gale swamp thicket and is quite a "good-looking" Blanding's turtle. His carapace (shell) has an abundance of beautiful yellow spots, he has big, beady, beautiful eyes and his yellow chin shines like the sun. Not to mention, he is a good-sized Blanding's and keeps himself in wonderful shape!



The White Pines Project WPD
by Myrna Wood

The White Pines Wind Project is posted on the EBR for public comments until May 10 at <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/> enter number 012-1279. This project that surrounds Ostrander Point extends through the Important Bird Area from Sandy Bay and Little Bluff west to the Provincial Wildlife Area. Stantec's report shows that 21 of the 29 proposed turbines would be on alvar habitat. Some are within the South Bay Coastal wetland. It will create 18k of new access roads and changes to 23k of existing roads for heavy and wide vehicles, as well as 28k of interconnection lines.

Wpd states that Provincially regulated setbacks of 120m from natural features allow exceptions when the proponent does studies that identify negative effects and mitigation measures *in lieu of meeting the setback requirements*. These negative effects and mitigation measures were not included in the published report.

Recently Environment Canada released an update to the Migratory Birds Policy and Regulations on Incidental Take for which developers are responsible. It focuses on setbacks and buffer zones for bird nests. Some recommended setback distances are: up to 50m for Swallows, up to 200m for Pileated or Red-headed woodpeckers, up to 50m for most songbird nests.

Since White Pine turbine component sites are on private lands the presence, numbers and whereabouts of protected features and endangered species are unknown. The Divisional Court wanted to know how many Blanding's turtles exist on the South Shore. Who will do the counting?



PEC South Shore



PECFN executive plan fund raising strategies.
Cheryl Anderson, Sheena Kennedy, Myrna Wood,
Sandra Dowds, Sheila Kuja

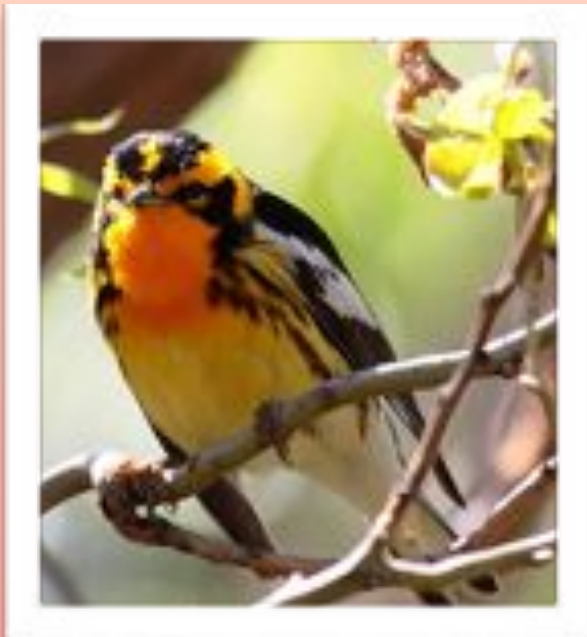
Help support PECFN by participating in the Spring Bird Count/Baillie Birdathon:

Cheryl Anderson

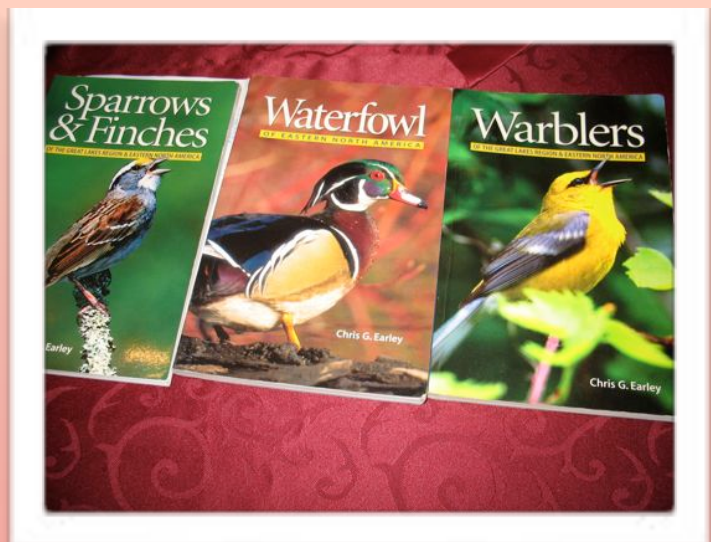
Why not register to count birds for a day in May? Ask your friends to support your bird count and raise money for our club. When we register through the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory we also help to support that organization. To register go to: <http://birdscanada.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1097743>

When filling in your information indicate that you are doing your birdathon to support PEPTBO. Because it is a Canadian Migration Monitoring Network station, PEPTBO receives 75% of the funds raised and will remit 25% to PECFN – the same amount we would receive as a naturalist club.

Typically we make \$300-\$500 a year for the club in this way. Our club insurance is a little more than \$500 a year, so it is a good way to cover that cost – and is a very fun day! I will be doing my birdathon on the long weekend in May. Please let me know if you would like to tag along.



Blackburnian warbler



Chris Earley's excellent series of bird books

Ostrander Point Appeal Fund Gala Dinner a great success

Picton: The 2nd annual Gala Dinner and Art Auction was held to support the fight to Save Ostrander Point on Saturday April 12 at the Prince Edward County Curling Club. Guests enjoyed a delicious repast created by Chef Michael Hoy and County wine donated by Prince Edward County Winegrowers and organized by Richard Karlo of Karlo Estates winery. Treat Hull acted as art auctioneer for the evening. Twenty- two pieces of original art by County artists along with 6 bottles of imported wine donated by Ian Hanna of John Hanna & Sons Wine Merchants were auctioned. Furious bidding on the art and wine helped along by Hull's enthusiastic encouragement resulted in record donations to the Ostrander Point Appeal Fund. Prince Edward County Field Naturalists are extremely grateful for the support of the community, the artists, Chef Michael Hoy and the County Winegrowers.

Below: Sheena Kennedy and Treat Hull inspect some of the art on offer.



Sheena Kennedy with Treat Hull

Lorie Brown displaying art at Gala Dinner & Auction



Photos from April 12 Gala Dinner & Auction



Amy Bodman & family

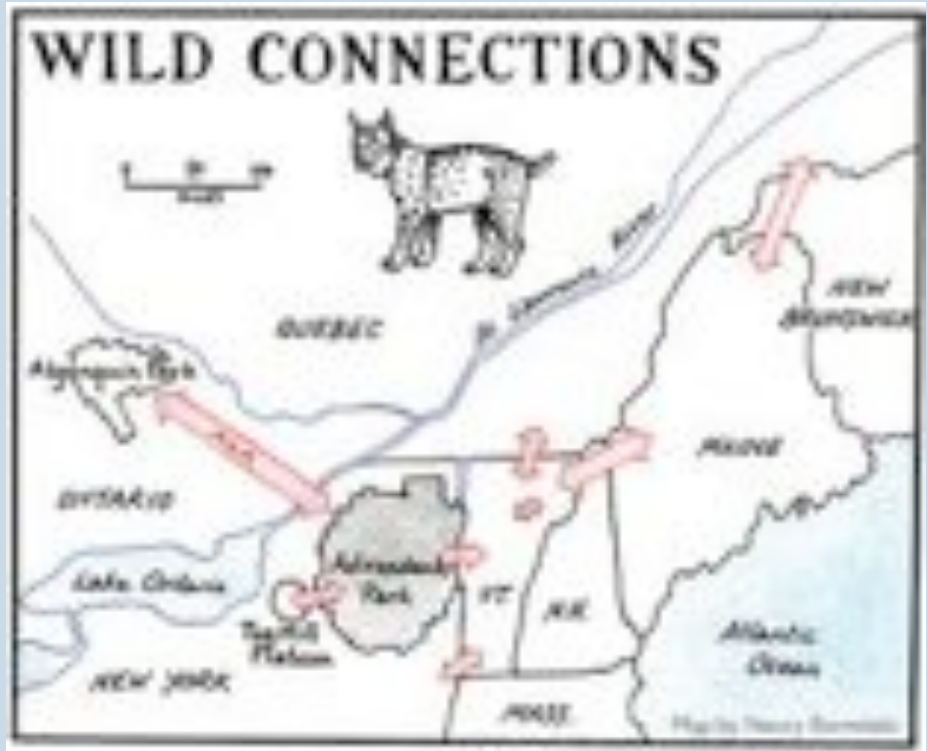


PECFN's Sheila Kuja , Sheena Kennedy



Agneta Sand, PECFN





What is A2A??

Myrna Wood

A2A began its life as a true Collaborative on March 29 2014 at its Inaugural Partner Meeting, the first chance for our increasingly large number of Partners to begin to work together for conservation of this amazing region. Who are these Partners?

They are organizations from hundreds of kilometers apart—all the way from St. Lawrence, Lewis and Jefferson Counties in New York to Prince Edward and Hastings Counties to the west, to Lanark and Renfrew to the north, and to Frontenac, Leeds and Grenville near the St. Lawrence -- in other words, most of the A2A Region!

A2A Vision: An A2A region comprising a resilient, ecologically interconnected landscape that sustains a full range of native wildlife and enhances people's quality of life for generations to come.

Through attainment of this vision, the landscape will:

- Support a rich mosaic of interconnecting wildlife habitats
- Sustain ecological integrity
- Strengthen native biological diversity
- Provide resilience to climate change impacts
- Function as a critical link in conserving native biodiversity in eastern N. America
- Inspire an increasingly strong stewardship ethic and sense of "home place" among residents of the A2A Region

PECFN joined the Collaborative in 2012. We hope to collaborate on conserving the staging areas for migrating birds and bats throughout the eastern flyway.

**Another Save
Ostrander Point
Fund Raiser**

**BRUCE
COCKBURN
PACING
THE CAGE**
THE FEATURE DOCUMENTARY



Pacing the Cage includes never before seen live performances of songs from Cockburn's 40 year plus catalogue of music. Active Arts Studio, with its great acoustics, provides a perfect setting.

Longtime manager Bernie Finkelstein and director Joel Goldberg will be on hand to share their insights with the audience.

Leaning heavily on live performances of classic songs like "Lovers in a Dangerous Time" and "Wondering Where the Lions Are," fans will be pleased by the uninterrupted concert footage in this 65-minute film.

Director Joel Goldberg keeps the cameras fairly unobtrusive, capturing some behind-the-scenes footage, performance cuts and compiling a swath of interviews to craft a rounded sketch of Cockburn.

**Saturday May 3 at 7 pm
Active Arts Studio
116 Barley Rd
Rednersville**



County Wine, Shade Grown Coffee,
Canapés and Sweets Included
Select Rednersville Road Artists on Display

All Profits to Help Save
Ostrander Point



The County's very own The Frere Brothers will perform after the Pacing the Cage screening

This remarkable evening offers music aficionados the unprecedented opportunity to hear Tenor Audio's 175 S Pre amp with 350M Mono Blocks driving Tetra's flagship 606 "listening instrument".

This system, simply put, represents the pinnacle of world class sound and anyone with an interest in recorded sound should book their spot. Equipment of this exceptional quality renders the typical hyperbole surrounding "hi fi" entirely redundant. Come, hear and believe.



**Reservations required
\$50 p.p. donation**

**For Information or to Reserve Online - www.saveostranderpoint.org
Or contact Cheryl 613-471-1096 cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca**

Bruce Cockburn Documentary, Pacing the Cage, to be screened using a unique Canadian sound system May 3, at Active Arts Studio, Rednersville

Bruce Cockburn, Pacing the Cage is a documentary that features Canadian icon/singer/songwriter/activist, **Bruce Cockburn** reflecting on his life and his career. The screening of the documentary at Active Arts Studio, 116 Barley Road in Rednersville is a fund raiser for the **Ostrander Point Appeal Fund** and features County wine, canapés, sweets and a performance by the **Frere Brothers**.

This evening is the concluding event of the Rednersville International Film Festival (information at activeartsstudio@gmail.com). Of particular note is the world class sound system brought in by Active Arts Studio owners Jeff & Tracey Keary, who comment. "This remarkable evening offers music aficionados the unprecedented opportunity to hear Tenor Audio's 175 S Pre amp with 350M Mono Blocks driving Tetra's flagship 606 "listening instrument"." "This is the only place in Canada, if not the world to hear this unique system."

In the documentary, Bruce is followed as he performs in sold out shows, records his live ***Slice O' Life*** CD, and participates in a series of benefit concerts. Documentary cameras also follow Bruce to his home for a candid conversation about his views on everything from religion to parenthood. The documentary will shed new light on Bruce's spirituality, and his thoughts on activism, politics, writing, and his amazing 40 plus years in the music industry. Also featured are never before seen live performances of songs from his 40 year plus catalogue of music.

The documentary features appearances by: Bruce's long time manager **Bernie Finkelstein**, **Colin Linden**, **Michael Ondaatje**, **Sarah Harmer**, **Lt. Gen Romeo Dallaire**, **Sylvia Tyson**, **Bono**, **Jackson Browne**, Theology Professor **Brian J. Walsh**, Best-Selling Author **William Young**, **Blackie and the Rodeo Kings** and **The Wailin' Jennys**.

Both documentary director and producer **Joel Goldberg** and **Bernie Finkelstein** will be present to participate in a question and answer session after the screening.

Tickets \$50 are available at www.saveostranderpoint.org or by contacting Cheryl Anderson at 613-471-1096 or cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca includes canapes, snacks, coffee and county wine donated by PEC Winegrowers For more information: Cheryl Anderson 613-471-1096

cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca

This is a SAVE OSTRANDER POINT APPEAL Fund Raiser

Local Naturalist Receives Award

One of PECFN's original members was recently recognized for helping people understand the natural and cultural wonders of our world. **David Bree** won Ontario Parks' Shan Walshe Award, which is given for excellence in interpretation. Many members know David, as he has led walks and given talks to PECFN on a variety of topics. David is also the Senior Natural Heritage Education Leader (Park Naturalist) at Presqu'ile Provincial Park. He began his career with Ontario Parks at Charleston Lake, but has also worked at Bon Echo, Petroglyphs, Sandbanks and Algonquin, with a short stint at Rondeau as their "birder" during spring migration. He is particularly known for his birds and dragonflies, but is knowledgeable in – and passionate about – most areas of natural history.



David Bree receives award

GARAGE SALE

8am - 4pm

drop off large items at 7am

SATURDAY MAY 24
(rain date May 25)

FUNDRAISER FOR PECFN AND APPEC

Spring cleaning?

Why not put aside those items that someone else may be able to use and support the legal funds to stop wind turbines in the County.

Donations can be dropped off at 8am on May 24 at the big barn near corner of Hwy 33 and 32, 14011 Loyalist Parkway. (beside PEC Animal Clinic) Or you may drop them off at 104 Main Street Picton from Wednesday May 21.

Notes from Sandbanks by Yvette Bree

Sandbanks can be a fun, interesting, rewarding, challenging, frustrating park to work for. Known primarily for its amazing beaches, it is also a natural treasure – one that is often overlooked by visitors in their haste to get to the beach.

Within the Ontario Parks system, parks are classified into one of six categories (Wilderness, Nature Reserve, Natural Environment, Waterway, Historical or Recreation) based on the reason that they were created and the level of importance of the natural and cultural features which they protect. Sandbanks' classification is **Natural Environment**, which means that protection is the Number One reason the park exists. Secondary to that, is the recreational aspect. Unfortunately, these objectives are often in conflict: trying to preserve ecological integrity **and** provide recreational opportunities is a real balancing act.

The park protects significant dunes and pannes (a globally rare wetland habitat) as well as forests, fields and the Outlet River and marsh. About 290 bird species have been seen in the park, along with 61 fish, 26 reptiles & amphibians, 30+ mammals and more than 700 plant species. We have recorded 62 Odonates (dragonflies & damselflies) and 50+ butterflies, but other insect orders are largely undiscovered. Some of these plants and animals are Species at Risk – something I'll discuss in a future article.

We all like to have fun and there's no reason you can't come to the park and enjoy yourselves. But please remember what we are trying to protect. Stay on trails and don't remove anything from the park. Be aware of how your actions could negatively – or positively – affect the environment.



Sandbanks' Natural Environment classification is primarily due to its significant dune system. *photo Ontario Parks*



Pannes are a globally rare habitat that are home to a variety of wildlife and unique plants
photo Ontario Parks

If you'd like to be more actively involved in the park, why not volunteer? Tree planting, invasive species removal and dune stabilization are just some of the projects we'll be working on this year. More hands means we can do more to help **your** park.

And remember – we'd love to get your park sightings!

Yvette Bree
Natural Heritage Education Coordinator
(a.k.a. Park Naturalist)
Sandbanks Provincial Park
(613) 393-3319 ext. 227

THE ENIGMA OF MIGRATION
By Roy John, OFO news February 2014

A recent study of the University of East Anglia (UEA) is helping us understand why birds only appear to be migrating earlier. Individual birds actually arrive on the same date every year, but climate change has meant they can complete nesting sooner. Dr. Jenny Gill, the lead researcher, explained they have known that some species of birds are migrating earlier, but the exact reasons were unclear. Furthermore, species that do not migrate earlier are declining in numbers.

From a study of Black-tailed Godwits the UEA found the spring arrival date on the nesting grounds had advanced by two weeks. This was not a change in the behaviour of individual birds but those hatched in more recent years benefit from early nesting and they are the ones that are arriving in April instead of May. The dates are changing because the younger birds are turning up sooner. This new behaviour is linked to climate change because godwits nest earlier in warmer weather. The earlier a bird hatches the more body weight it will gain, subsequently prompting a speedy departure to their winter quarters. This means they are in condition to advance their return to the breeding grounds.

Birds that migrate over long distances cannot take as much of this advantage as they arrive so late their timing is already very tight. This explains why long-distance migrants are declining compared to other birds that can move in to the prime habitat before the long-distance birds arrive. Birds that stay in their wintering grounds, even though spring in the north may be favourable, risk arriving after spring food sources are gone.

This research from Britain fits with the results we see in Ontario for our Neotropical migrants. However as birds move north and breed earlier they may face new prey, parasites, competitors, and predators for which they are not well adapted. Overall climate change is putting many species of birds at risk and the consistent timing of bird migration is critical for the overall health of the environment.



Marbled Godwit *photo by John Vieira*

Update on Save Ostrander Point struggle against development

By Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

July 3, 2013. Environmental Review Tribunal decision revoked the Ministry of the Environment's approval of the Gilead Power wind project at Ostrander Point. Gilead Power and the Ministry of Environment appealed the ERT decision. They also tried to change the rules post-Tribunal by announcing that MNR would lease the land for the roads in the Crown Land Block to Gilead, claiming that gates would be erected to prevent public use.

February 20, 2014. The Divisional Court reversed the decision of the Tribunal and Gilead Power asked for \$120,000 in costs. In Early March Gilead notified us of their intention to start construction in April.

March 21. PECFN brought an urgent motion for a Stay of construction and leave to appeal the Divisional Court decision to the Court of Appeal.

March 25. Judge Blair of the Appeal Court held that he had "no hesitation in granting the Stay" because the issues raised on the proposed appeal are of "*broad public implication in the field of environmental law*". Further he found that the *irreparable harm* criterion had been satisfied on the basis that "once a habitat is destroyed, it is destroyed - for at least short-term purposes, in any event - and the species sought to be protected here is a vulnerable and endangered species." This is not only the first Renewable Energy approval revoked on environmental issues but is also the first Stay granted on those grounds.

April 4. Divisional Court found that Gilead's demand for \$120,000 costs was too much and lowered it to \$40,000. More importantly, the reason given is that "*clearly the case is of important public interest*".

Now that 2 judges have based decisions on the importance of the case to public interest PECFN is quite hopeful that permission to appeal will be given. It will also be the grounds for an appeal against paying costs.

April 11. PECFN submitted our legal arguments for Leave to Appeal the Divisional Court decision on the Ostrander Point wind project.

Since the announcement of our intention to appeal people are actively showing their support for PECFN to stand up to the wealthy and powerful attempts to industrialize our South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. The importance of this case to environmental law in the province should encourage other environmental and legal organizations to step forward and apply to intervene in the appeal.

PECFN has joined with five other groups to form the South Shore Coalition. The coalition is working to have the South Shore designated as a 'core area of conservation status' in the PEC Official Plan.

The struggle to save Ostrander Point has gained a broader dimension since two other wind turbine projects, White Pines and Amherst Island, have been submitted to the government Registry (EBR) for public comment. The White Pines proposal includes 29 turbines spread across private lands *within the IBA surrounding Ostrander Point*. Windlectric Inc. proposes 36 turbines spread across the Amherst Island's natural areas. Residents of Amherst Island have applied to the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto for a judicial review of MOE's accepting the company's application as complete. They challenge the company's claims that their plan has mitigated any harmful effects to wildlife and people prior to construction.

The cumulative effect of proposed turbine projects surrounding eastern Lake Ontario creating a barrier across the eastern flyway of migrating birds and bats is a concern for all naturalists. If approved these projects would displace wildlife from shorelines which are the most important staging habitats for many species. We who believe that renewable energy will not be 'green' if it destroys significant wildlife habitats seem to be making progress. BP has cancelled a project on Cape Vincent across from Wolfe Island. On the Lake Erie Pelee flyway two proposed projects in Ohio have been cancelled due to the threat of a lawsuit by Black Swamp Bird Observatory and the American Bird Conservancy.

Continuing information on this case can be accessed at www.saveostranderpoint.org

OPAF donor, Christopher Currie has written the letter below in response to the posting of the WPD White Pines project on the Environmental Registry. Through the Environmental Bill of Rights, members of the public are invited, during a 60 day period, to comment on approved wind energy projects. Christopher has agreed that we may include his letter in our newsletter as an example of some of the specific problems with the White Pines Water Assessment and Water Bodies Report. Members may want to comment on these same or other problems to Ms. Afante at the Ministry of the Environment.

Below is the link to the environmental Registry where comments may be posted before May 10, 2014.
[http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTIxODIx&statusId=MTgyNTcx)

[noticeId=MTIxODIx&statusId=MTgyNTcx](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTIxODIx&statusId=MTgyNTcx)

Hello Ms Afante,

Thank you for acknowledging my email of February 19th. I do have a few further comments, now that documents in preparation since 2010 are released to the public for a 60 day comment period on the EBR. Although it has been pointless to raise concerns to wpd, I raise them now with the ministry in the hope that the reports filed by wpd will be validated independently for fact and accuracy. I have raised the existence of unevaluated wetlands within the 120m study areas previously with wpd, but they have been uninterested in receiving information from local people most familiar with the area. Wpd's Water Assessment and Water Body Report contains several methodological flaws and errors of fact which deliberately favour the proponent's position that their project does not impact the hydrology of this extremely rare alvar habitat. I think the following points have not been addressed:

1) The definitions used in the report are more suited to typical farmland or riparian environments and do not account for the unique geology of an alvar - a limestone shelf, sloping gradually towards Lake Ontario, covered with a thin layer of clay marl, ranging in depth from 3 feet to less than 6 inches throughout the South Shore area. With little capacity to percolate and store water, it is quickly shed towards the lake and larger water bodies, thus seasonal water bodies are more common than permanent ones. While the report seeks to identify permanent water bodies, it is precisely this seasonal flux and non-channelised hydrology, which makes this a unique amphibian habitat. Seasonal wetlands must be evaluated when they are active, but have not been.

2) In order to verify the existence of watercourses, a mix of online sources and field studies / ground truth evaluations were conducted. Based on the results of field evaluations, water courses would be added or removed from the study area. The field evaluations were conducted on the following dates:

September 21 through September 24, 2010, October 13, 2010, June 22 and 23, 2011, and October 18, 2011

According to Environment Canada data on the area, these are the times of year with the lowest total precipitation. Given the seasonal nature of wetlands and water bodies in an alvar, few would even be identifiable at the times the studies were undertaken. This flaw

has led wpd to falsely conclude that the project could safely remove MNR mapped water courses from the project area and 120m radius around turbine bases.

The stated purpose of the ground truth studies is to:

- Ground truth the results of the records review to identify any required corrections;
- Determine whether any additional water bodies exist, other than those identified in the records review; and
- Identify the boundaries of any water body located within 120 m of the Project Location.

I repeatedly asked wpd for the GPS coordinates for the boundaries they had for the sample water body I identified and which they had determined was not in the study area, but I believe extends into the 120m radius of turbine t20, as one of many possible examples. This is in a water shed closest to lak-j in the study but is not identified in any documentation presented by wpd. As far as I am aware, there was no attempt to evaluate the information I supplied, so I did not bother to identify other possible errors, though there are several I believe.

4) With rare exceptions, the photographic record (Appendix B) shows no water present in the vast majority of water courses and bodies. This is only factually true at certain times of year, but is not absolutely true. 5) The absence of riparian vegetation is also noted in several places in the report as evidence there are no water bodies. This is true only because such vegetation requires a continuous riparian environment, which does not exist for water bodies with extreme seasonality, such as those throughout the project site and on alvar generally.

In summary, this study of water bodies is flawed in its basic methodology that seeks to eliminate the largest number of possible water bodies by measuring their existence at times of year when, due to their very nature, they will be dry, overgrown with plants or vastly reduced in size, flow and coverage. This is the way wpd's study must be conducted if the goal is to indicate there will be no impact to water bodies from their project. This ignores the very nature of the landscape and unique hydrogeology of the project location.

I hope that the ministry will consider this constructive feedback in assessing whether a competent study has been done.

Christopher Currie, MES, MCPM, PMP

Minutes Apr 1, 2014
Executive Meeting, Picton Library

Present: Sandra Dowds, Myrna Wood, Sheena Kennedy, Sheila Kuja, Cheryl Anderson, Agneta Sand.

Absent: Elizabeth Cowan.

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Minutes of Feb 3 approved.

3. Status Reports:

A. Membership. No report

B. Treasurer's report – Sheena reported:

Total donations: \$150,000.

OPAF bank statement: \$4987; + funds rec'd for events.

PECFN bank Statement: \$395; Birdathon amount will be over \$300.

C. Fund raising Committee. Plans in progress:

Film night **May 3** – Borys is organizing.

Gala dinner **April 12**, Curling Club – Set up will be Saturday morning 10 am. Gala opens at 6:00, dinner at 7:00, Auction at 8:00. We discussed pricing, decided to announce the 'fair market value' for each piece of art, and to have a silent auction table.

Terry tour **May 9** sold out. We will provide a gourmet lunch at Little Bluff.

Another elite Terry tour in the fall – another bus has been offered.

Garden tour **June**. Sketching workshop in Sandra's garden when peonies bloom. Sandra and Cheryl will follow up with artists.

Tshirts with swifts – not ordered yet.

Karen will confirm **June 8** for local musicians' concert at United Church. 2-5 pm

CCSAGE garage sale will be confirmed for Sat. **May 24** at Waring House. We will encourage membership to offer items at Royal LePage office, 104 Main St., Picton prior to date and/or attend the sale.

Cheryl reported that the Fosters are sending a film on Wolfe Island.

D. PEPtBO

Myrna will assemble a PECFN display, Cheryl will deliver. We will ask members to volunteer for shifts at our table on weekend mornings – May 10-11 and 17-18 (9-11, 11-1) – total 8.

E. Ostrander Point and Tribunal –

Submission for Leave to Appeal deadline Friday April 11. Myrna reported on public interest as justification for Leave.

Coordinating Committee Appec meeting Sunday April 6 2pm Waring House, Eric Gillespie will speak on Court of Appeal. We will send out an invitation to membership.

County Council- We decided to postpone a report to Council until we have more information. Todd Smith will be at CCsage meeting Friday 1pm if Executive wants to attend.

F. Newsletter Apr 28 deadline

Yvette needs to be asked for a piece; Myrna will send a report on A2A conference.

G. Ontario Nature – Elizabeth plans to attend the East Region meeting April 12 in Ottawa. Myrna may attend.

4. OUTINGS

We will ask Molly and the Durells to notify us for wildflower outings.

5. INDOOR PROGRAMS

April 29 Kawartha turtle Trauma Centre – Confirmed. \$50 cheque.

May 27 AGM Tyler Wheeldon Coyotes in PEC confirmed. Cheryl will contact

June 24

6. New Business

Executive election: We discussed the AGM election of Executive and approaching people to volunteer. We will reorganize the duties of the President and members at large in order to free up Myrna's responsibilities.

Sandra will take on Programming – arranging outings and finding speakers.

Sheila will be Meetings leader.

Elizabeth will become Recording secretary.

Public Relations - Invitation to visit the South Shore this spring

Myrna suggested inviting leaders of mainstream ENGOs to come to see the South Shore during spring migration and interview people about the Ostrander Point appeal. The goal will be for them to explain to their supporters why this site, and IBAs in general, should be able to exclude renewable energy projects. She will ask some of the Fund raising committee to investigate.

Next meeting: May 5 1-3 pm confirmed.

NB Myrna suggests that in future we have an Executive meeting and a separate fund raising committee meeting. One of the reasons we are falling down on programming is that our meetings are taken up with fundraising plans. The regular Executive meeting would be the first Monday of the month; the fund raising committee could meet as needed. If people agree perhaps this idea can be implemented in June.