

Editor: Sandra Dowds

## President's Message

Myrna Wood



We start the new year with a new Executive. We are waiting for news of winter owls in the County or Amherst Island to view. Thankfully we have had some snow which may presage a year without the drought of 2012.

The Executive has eagerly started work on our Appeal of the approval of the Ostrander Point turbine project. We firmly believe that when all the facts about this site and the South Shore are presented to the Tribunal they will reverse the approval. If our Crown lands of this quality can be developed by industry it will be a terrible blow to the efforts of naturalists everywhere in Canada. We have the support of Ontario Nature, Nature Canada, Kingston and Quinte Field Naturalists and many other naturalist groups. With all of us pitching in we will make 2013 a year of victory!

Fortunately before the Grinch ruined Christmas we had plans for enjoyable programs completed up to May. I am looking forward to hearing what the members have been up to at our Members Night.

### Newsletter Highlights

- Page 1 • President's Message
- Page 2 • PECFN Members' Night presentations
- Page 3 • Weather Expert Lise Hoogkamp: Feb speaker
- Page 4 • Terry Sprague's March 26 Talk
- Page 5 • Myrna Wood's Birthday trip
- Page 6 • The Salamander Man
- Page 7 • Update on Ostrander Point Appeal Fund
- Page 8 • Fall outing to Alexander Island
- Pages 9,10 • PECFN Exec.Meeting Minutes



Myrna is interviewed by the CBC at Ostrander Point  
*both photos by Terry Sprague*

## Members' Night January 29 2013

### Members' Presentations:

Bert Jenkins: highlights of his Galapagos trip

Amy Bodman: the 1st chapter of her video about Zimbabwe

<http://www.thelimitsofwhatweknow.com/index.php>

( Note: Copy and paste the above link into your browser to access)

Bob Simmons: Highlights of his Indonesia Spice Island cruise



Are you a "paid up" PECFN member? Send cheque for \$15 to PECFN, Box 414, Bloomfield, ON K0K 1G0

---

February 26 speaker

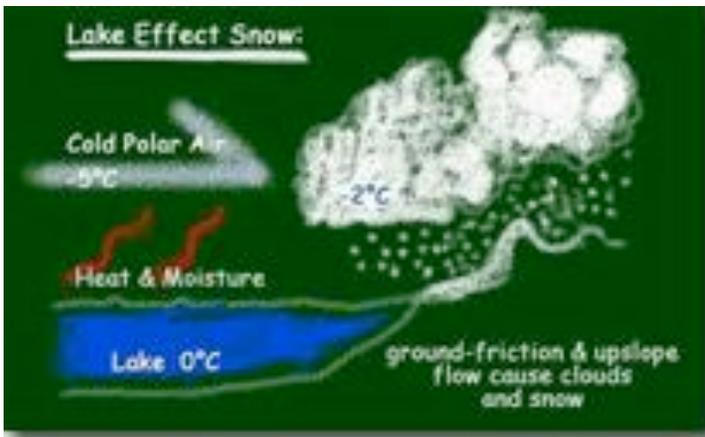
**Weather Expert Lise Hoogkamp:**

**How Lake Effect Snow and Freezing rain affect Prince Edward County.**

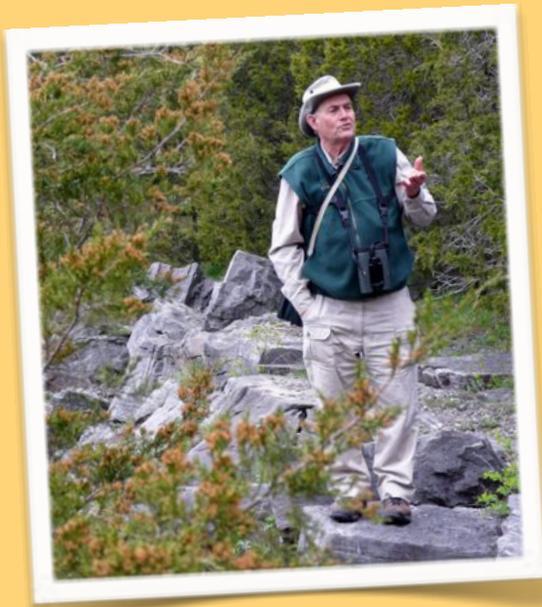
Lise Hoogkamp has been an Environment Canada meteorologist for 30 years. She received her BSc in Meteorology from McGill University (Montreal) and then attended a 6 month course in Toronto. Her first “posting” was to Gander, Newfoundland. This was a first for the Gander Weather office as well...first female forecaster. After two years on the “rock” she came to Trenton where she met and married her military husband Brian. Lise then worked in Winnipeg...back to Trenton and then to Greenwood, Nova Scotia and back once again to Trenton. She has done public, marine and aviation forecasting. She had also written forecasts for many places around the world, depending where the Canadian Forces were deployed at the time. Lise and Brian have 3 boys (all in university).

PRESENTATION

I will be talking about Lake Effect Snow (LES) and Freezing Rain and how they affect Prince Edward County. The presentation will also include a brief look at the Winter/Spring Forecast outlook.



**Terry Sprague Talk for Mar 26, 2013**



Terry leading hike / Frontenac Arch  
*photo by Henri Garand*

**Exploring the Frontenac Arch:** The Frontenac Arch is a geological feature ridge of ancient granite, the backbone of eastern North America, that joins the Adirondack Mountains to the Canadian Shield at Algonquin Park. In this presentation, we look at some of the natural features and hiking opportunities in places like Algonquin, Depot Lakes, Rock Dunder, Charleston Lake, and Frontenac Park.  
Terry Sprague



Frontenac Park hike

(See PECFN members Agneta Sand in pink, followed by Sheila Kuja with dog, Lexi on leash and Allen Kuja)

*photo by Terry Sprague*

Last summer Terry invited club members to come to his September Frontenac Provincial Park hike. My husband, Allen, and I were graciously allowed to bring our Springer Spaniel, Lexi, along on the walk. We had meant to visit the park and this was a perfect opportunity. What a spectacular day it was: clear,



Agneta is enjoying the view of Doe Lake in Frontenac Park

*photo by Terry Sprague*



sunny and crisp. We were welcomed by the "regular" hikers as if we had come on every outing of the year and were delighted to find that Agneta was one of the group members. The lakes were crystal clear, the forests glorious in their colour and the granite knobs, as always remind me of real wilderness. Most of us heard and some of us saw the Pileated Woodpecker. The highlight for me though was the Arab Lake Gorge Trail where, while walking on the boardwalk, we encountered the most Maidenhair Ferns I have ever seen with the most robust plants that I had ever encountered. Conditions were absolutely perfect for them. Allen and I enjoyed ourselves so much that we enrolled in Terry's 2013 series of hikes - and we're really looking forward to discovering more beautiful natural areas within a short distance of our new home in the county.

Sheila Kuja

### **Myrna's Birthday Trip**

I am pleased to report that (a year and a half later) Myrna has relented and allowed us to take her on her birthday trip. On Wed Myrna and Rosemary and I went to a lovely B&B near Nobleton ( 20 Bells Lake Rd., highly recommended BTW). We had dinner at Villaggio Ristorante in Kleinburg and the next morning, after a sumptuous breakfast, toured the Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven exhibit at the McMichael Gallery. We had a good lunch at the Gallery restaurant and then tore ourselves away from the gorgeous pictures and drove home. This is a picture to prove that we finally got Myrna "off the Island". Thank you to all for making this trip possible. Cheryl Anderson



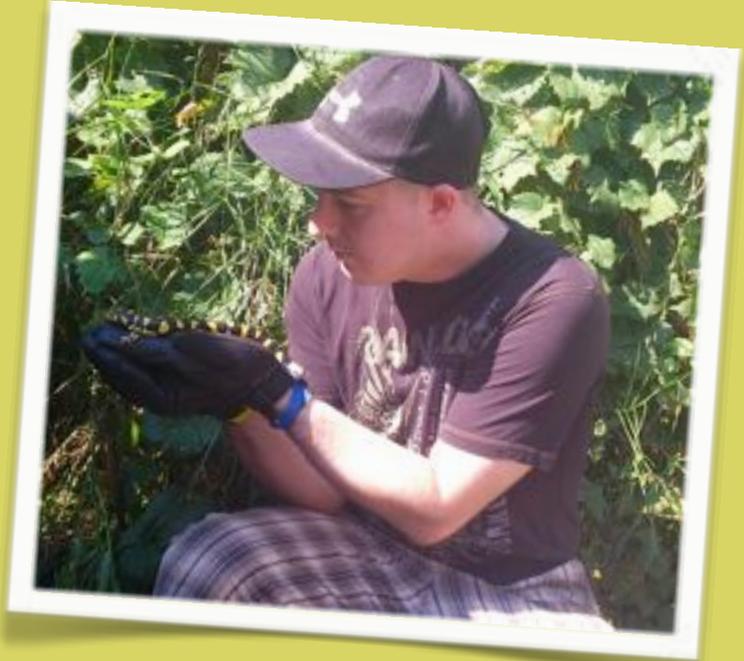
PECFN president Myrna Wood celebrates her birthday with Cheryl Anderson

Watch out for this PECFN spring outing

The Salamander Man

Join Matt Ellerbeck the Salamander Man for an exciting and insightful journey into the realm of the amphibian. Matt will be leading a guided hike in the County to observe local salamander species in their natural habitats. Information on salamander habits and conservation will also be provided. Matt Ellerbeck is a Salamander Advocate & Conservationist. He focuses on outreach education to help promote the conservation & protection of salamanders. During his presentations and lectures he raises awareness of the threats that salamanders face, and informs individuals about things they can do to help combat these threats (i.e. land stewardship, habitat management, etc). Along side this Matt also frequently does local media appearances to further raise awareness, and recently created a salamander sanctuary with some landowners.

[www.savethesalamanders.com](http://www.savethesalamanders.com)



Matt Ellerbeck with tiger salamander



Yellowspot



Leadback



Blue spotted

**Update on Ostrander Point Appeal Fund;**

**The PECFN Fund Raising Committee has raised more than \$15, 000  
Many thanks to PECFN members who have donated to the Appeal Fund.**

**This is a copy of the letter we are sending out to potential donors.**

To:

Prince Edward County Field Naturalists (PECFN) have launched an appeal against the Ontario government’s approval of industrial wind turbines at Ostrander Point on the South Shore of Prince Edward County. The appeal will be based on “serious and irreversible harm to plant life, animal life or the natural environment” (one of the government’s only two permissible reasons for an appeal) and will cost approximately \$125,000.

Nature Canada, Ontario Nature, Environment Canada and many others agree that Ostrander Point is the worst possible place for wind turbines. The industrial construction and access roads will destroy essential habitat for millions of birds and bats including many species at risk. Operating turbines will threaten their lives for over 25 years.

Several additional industrial wind turbine projects are proposed for Prince Edward County. Along the South Shore wpd is seeking approval for 29 turbines. Additional turbines have been proposed for Point Petre on the South Shore peninsula. Other parts of the County are not immune – there 4 proposed projects for Hillier and one across Adolphus Reach near Hay Bay. It seems that not only will the Ostrander Point project destroy that important habitat, but it will also lead to the industrialization of the South Shore and many other parts of the County. Helping us with this appeal will help us to defend the rural way of life we all enjoy.

Please help us win the appeal against the Ontario Government’s plan to industrialize PEC’s South Shore. Donations are accepted at [www.SaveOstranderPoint.org](http://www.SaveOstranderPoint.org) or by cheque payable to **Ostrander Point Appeal Fund** and mailed to **OPAF, 59 King St Unit 2, Picton, K0K 2T0.**

Yours Sincerely,

Cheryl Anderson

for Prince Edward County Field Naturalists



Cheryl Anderson

(Note: Copy and paste the above link into your browser to donate)



IBA on South Shore of Prince Edward County

## THE FALL 2012 OUTING TO ALEXANDER ISLAND

Cheryl Anderson and Sheila Kuja



Monarch  
*photo by Terry Sprague*



from left: Sheila Kuja, Sandra Dowds,  
Elizabeth Cowan, Sheena Kennedy  
*photo by Cheryl Anderson*



Aster  
*photo by Terry Sprague*

Leaving our cars by the roadside we passed through a corridor of Buckthorn shrubs on either side of the path and were amazed at how aggressive this introduced shrub is, particularly in the county, and wondered if its black berries were attractive to birds that would help disperse the seeds. As we passed through the wet woods and thickets close to shore we discovered several eight foot tall Wild Lettuce plants where beams of light filtered through the canopy. Then we were finally at the water's edge.

The sky was a wonderful shade of blue with fluffy clouds here and there as a few Field Naturalists made their way along the beach east of North Beach Provincial Park around the perimeter of Alexander Island on Monday September 24. Scotch Bonnet Lighthouse peaked over the waves in the distance; muffled shot gun blasts were heard from Nicholson Island as we explored.

Alexander Island received its name when it was an island. However, sometime in the past 200 years a dune isthmus was gradually created across the westerly part of Pleasant Bay linking the island to the land at the end of County Rd 27 (North Beach Road). The dunes have become vegetated in many areas. We stopped to examine the Marram grass stabilizing the moving sand and noted how it had died out where the cottonwoods had become established as trees and the sand was no longer active. These dunes are also a favourite play place for people with ATVs – and so there is a lot of damage and erosion, as well. With the low water level it is easy to walk all around the island on exposed rock shelves. We observed hundreds of cottonwood seedlings and a few silverweed plants growing between the crevices in the rock. We wondered if any of the seedlings would actually become established as trees. We counted 66 Ring Billed Gulls enjoying the sunshine with one lone Herring Gull in their midst. A group of 5-6 Mallards flew over. A dead loon on the beach was providing a snack for a couple of Turkey Vultures. There were also one or two old carp carcasses. The high winds were playing havoc with the intentions of migrating Monarchs. On the island itself, a Northern Flicker posed briefly on the dead branches of a shrub. We explored piles of excavated shale and marvelled at how plants will grow in almost anything.

Pleasant Bay is an inland lake at this time of year. Later in the season the slim band of sand that prevents it from flowing into Lake Ontario will most definitely blow through and it will become a bay again. There was an elaborate duck blind close to the Lake Ontario end of the bay. We were able to catch glimpses of two small waterfowl lurking in the reeds. Not surprisingly, though, we could see no other ducks or geese using the bay.

On the way back we walked through the centre meadow area of Alexander dominated by goldenrods, asters and grasses. This is obviously where cattle were grazed in the past. As far as we could tell, while there was a very well worn track probably made by ATV's, there was no recent development activity on the island. We followed the path through the dunes and found some delicious wild grapes – in a patch of poison ivy!

Minutes Jan 7, 2013  
Executive Meeting, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists  
Picton Library

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

Absent: Karen Smith.

1. Agenda was approved.
2. Minutes of Nov 5 were moved by Cheryl and approved.

3. Status Reports

Executive members President Myrna Wood, Vice President Sandra Dowds, Treasurer Sheena Kennedy, Membership Secretary Agneta Sand, new member at large Sheila Kuja, Pamela Stagg, ex officio. We will look for others volunteers. John and Karen have resigned from the Executive.

A. Membership report. John has records of 39 members in Dec. Karen brought her files.

B. Treasurer Report. John reported the bank statement as \$706. The OPAF statement is \$5400. ON membership paid, NC membership of \$75 owed by April. He arranged a date to transfer his files to Sheena and she will arrange a date with Sandra and Myrna to change cheque signers at the bank with these minutes.

C. PEPTBO. New banders are being hired. The observatory received a grant of \$10,000 for education and outreach. One of the new banders will work on that program which could be useful to our future activities.

The Pt Petre applications were submitted.

D. Wind Turbines-Tribunal. Our Notice of appeal was submitted to the Tribunal on Jan 4. It has been accepted and tentative dates set for the Preliminary hearing the beginning of Feb and the Hearing during the first week of March. We will suggest venues for the hearing to be held in Picton. We will report and answer questions at the Jan 29 meeting. We have formed several committees to do the preparation for the hearing:

Appeal committees:

Public relations and media. Chair Pamela Stagg

Fund Raising. Chair Cheryl Anderson. Sandra, Sheila Stene, and members of the Land Trust have volunteered.

Legal work. Myrna Wood. Sheila Kuja volunteer.

Pecfn Communications. Chair Sandra Dowds.

E. Newsletter deadline Jan 22.

F. ON AGM June 7-9 ON staff have been working with Terry and Cheryl to organize workshops and walks for the AGM. The Tribunal decision will be pending at the beginning of July, 1 month after the AGM.

#### 4. OUTINGS

Sandra will contact Joanne Dewey about owls on Amherst.

She will answer the man offering a program on salamanders about next season.

#### 5. INDOOR PROGRAMS

Jan. 29 Members Night

Feb 26 Lise Hoogkamp, Trenton weather station. Sandra will contact her for information for the newsletter.

Mar 26 Terry Sprague

Apr 30 A2A. (Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association) Confirmed.

May 28 AGM.

June 25

Program ideas:

Leora Berman, the Land Between. Cheryl will follow up.

Joanne Dewey fishing or bird banding or Sandbanks or anything Sandra will follow up.

Mike Burrell eBird and citizen science programs Sept or Oct? Pamela and Terry.

New Business

Sheena reported her analysis of the work that has been done on the Millennium Trail. We discussed the proposal for an interpretive publication and how many seasons would be needed to accumulate the information. She will write a draft to send to the organizers to circulate among us.

Next meeting: Monday Feb 4, Picton