



# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

## President's Message

Myrna Wood



Kingston Field Naturalists and Quinte Field Naturalists have nominated PECFN for Ontario Nature's 2012 W.E. Saunders Natural History Conservation Award.

The award says, "Appealing against the Ostrander Point approval is a David versus Goliath task! The difficulty is immense, but the significance is enormous. If wind turbines cannot be stopped at Ostrander Point in the heart of an IBA, they are unlikely to be stopped on environmental grounds anywhere in Ontario."

It is heartening to have such support from our sister naturalist organizations. Also the birds have started arriving which reminds us daily what this effort is all about.

A silver lining of the Tribunal is an increasing awareness of the bounty of the County's natural heritage – our wetlands, and alvars, and woodlands. We hear people expressing concern about barrier beaches and marshes. Perhaps such awareness will lead to new members joining us to enjoy our events and learn more.



Editor: Sandra Dowds

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Bobolink photo Bill\_Schmoker



## Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association

Tomorrow's speaker on April 30 is **Emily Conger** from the Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association.

This group works to preserve the natural connections within our region. It reflects our activities preserving this place in the migration corridor of species who travel far every year. If citizens' initiatives keep working together to protect what remains of natural habitats the next generations of warblers and humans will be assured.





May 28 PECFN Speaker

Emily Kerr, Trent University, is doing a study of 2 federally designated species at risk, the **short nose sturgeon** and the **woodland caribou**



Credit: USFWS

**Tuesday June 25 Salamander walk and Picnic at Ostrander Point with Matt Ellerbeck, Salamander advocate & conservationist.**



**PICTON SWIFT WATCH 2013.....**

*I am eagerly looking for the arrival of the swifts in Picton any day. Please let us know your idea for a walk or activity in the County now that spring is here.*  
Myrna Wood

*Urgent Announcement!!!  
There is a swift flying back and forth in front of my home over Benson Park searching for insects!*  
Myrna Wood



Email ([centuryhouse@sympatico.ca](mailto:centuryhouse@sympatico.ca)) or call Sandra (613 393 5577) if you are interested in helping us count swifts this summer.

## Spring Birding Festival celebrates migrating birds at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, May 11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

What better place to see spring birds than at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory – more birds migrate through Prince Edward County than anywhere else on the north shore of Lake Ontario. For many visitors, the highlight of the season is seeing wood warblers, the brilliantly-coloured birds often described as the butterflies of the bird world. The Observatory has them in abundance.

The Spring Birding Festival makes it easy to see the many migrants of Prince Edward County. Knowledgeable volunteers will lead bird hikes through Traverse Woods (Prince Edward Point) daily from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:00 a.m. On Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, there will also be birding hikes from the Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse at 4:00 p.m. On Sunday, May 19 at 8 am meet at the Mariners' Museum for a guided driving tour of some of the birding hotspots in the County. This event is sponsored on by the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists. The fee for each event is \$5 and pre-registration is not required.

The Spring Birding Festival is a wonderful way for families to participate in the world's fastest-growing pastime. Children are always fascinated by the banding demonstrations (daily at the banding lab, 10:00 a.m. – noon). There will be children's activities, bird-friendly coffee, soup and light refreshments at the hospitality tent daily from 9:30 – 12:30 a.m., as well as a selection of merchandise to purchase.

Bird photographers can enter their work in the photography competition. The deadline for entries is May 25<sup>th</sup> and work will be displayed at AV Frame and Photo on Main Street in Picton.

Two workshops will help birders improve their identification skills. On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Terry Sprague will present *Warblers I Have Known and Loved*, 11 am – 1 pm. On Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, Pamela Stagg will lead a workshop called *Look Way Up – Raptor Identification*, 2 – 4 pm. The workshops will be presented at Jackson's Falls Schoolhouse B&B. The fee for each program is \$25 and pre-registration is recommended.

On Wednesday, May 15 at 7:30, there will be free presentation at Bloomfield Town Hall called *Techno-birding*. Presented by Pamela Stagg, the program will show how our understanding of birds is increasing dramatically through the use of technologies such as bird banding networks, radar and radio-tracking – even radio-isotope analysis of feathers to show where a bird has travelled.

For more information about the Spring Birding Festival, please visit [www.peptbo.ca](http://www.peptbo.ca).



Terry Sprague leads walks at 8am



demonstrations at the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory

#### SPRING BIRD COUNT

May is just around the corner. This is a gentle reminder that if you have not already done so, please register now for the PEptBO Spring Bird Count. It is impossible to underestimate how important this count is to PEptBO. Typically we bring in about \$10,000 yearly to help run the bird observatory. We are counting on your participation to help us again this year. If you have registered online please let Mike Burge know so we can track your progress – and don't forget to indicate that you want a percentage of your sponsorships to go to PEptBO. Thanks so much everyone – happy birding! Cheryl

**Cheryl Anderson**  
**28 Low St.,**  
**Picton, ON K0K 2T0**  
**613-471-1096**  
[www.SaveOstranderPoint.org](http://www.SaveOstranderPoint.org)



Minutes Apr 15, 2013  
Executive Meeting, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists  
Cheryl's house

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

1. Agenda was approved.

2. Minutes of Feb 25 were approved.

3. Status Reports

A. Membership report. No change.

B. Treasurer Report

OPAF fund. Sheena reported that the fund held \$40,445. She has ordered cheques.  
PECFN Bank balance is \$1287 (after paying the insurance and receiving Birdathon funds) plus \$2000 for witness costs.

We discussed witnesses costs. Myrna will write the witnesses asking for amounts of costs.

She will also arrange a discussion with Eric about costs such as transcripts and what funding will cover.

C. PEPtBO Sat May 11 Birding Festival opens.

D. Wind Turbines-Tribunal

Appeal committees - Publicity and fundraising Committee

Dinner – Sat. Apr 20. Tickets are approximately 2/3 sold. We finalized plans.

Clematis program – Peter Keeping May 27 2pm Bloomfield Town hall.

Fund appeals – Sheena and Sandra will meet with a man experienced in fundraising.

Regent CCSAGE Public meeting – Thursday Apr 25 6 pm.

We will have a table display for donations. Cheryl will speak on Ostrander Point.

Legal Report –Appeal tentative schedule:

Wed Apr 24 – 26 (Voltura and McGuiness) MOE witnesses

Mon Apr 29 – Wed May 1 Gilead witnesses (Kerlinger booked May 1 pm and Strickland for May 2 am.

Thursday May 2 Toronto ?

(Friday May 3 PECFN reply?)

Wed May 8 PECFN reply

E. Newsletter – Deadline Apr 23.

4. OUTINGS

5. INDOOR PROGRAMS

Apr 30 A2A. (Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association)

May 28 Emily Kerr, Trent University, doing a study of two federally designated species at risk, the shortnose sturgeon and woodland caribou.

Cheryl has contacted both speakers and arranged to give them dinner.

June 25 Salamander walk and picnic. Sandra reported that the speaker will come to Ostrander Point.

Other program ideas:

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

New Business

Swifts

Next meeting: Mon. May 6 Picton library