

The Quinte Naturalist

The Quinte Field Naturalists Association is affiliated with Ontario Nature, a non-profit organization sponsoring nature education, conservation and research.

July

Nature News for Quinte Residents



Photo by Lori Borthwick

Belleville's Northeast Industrial Park Development

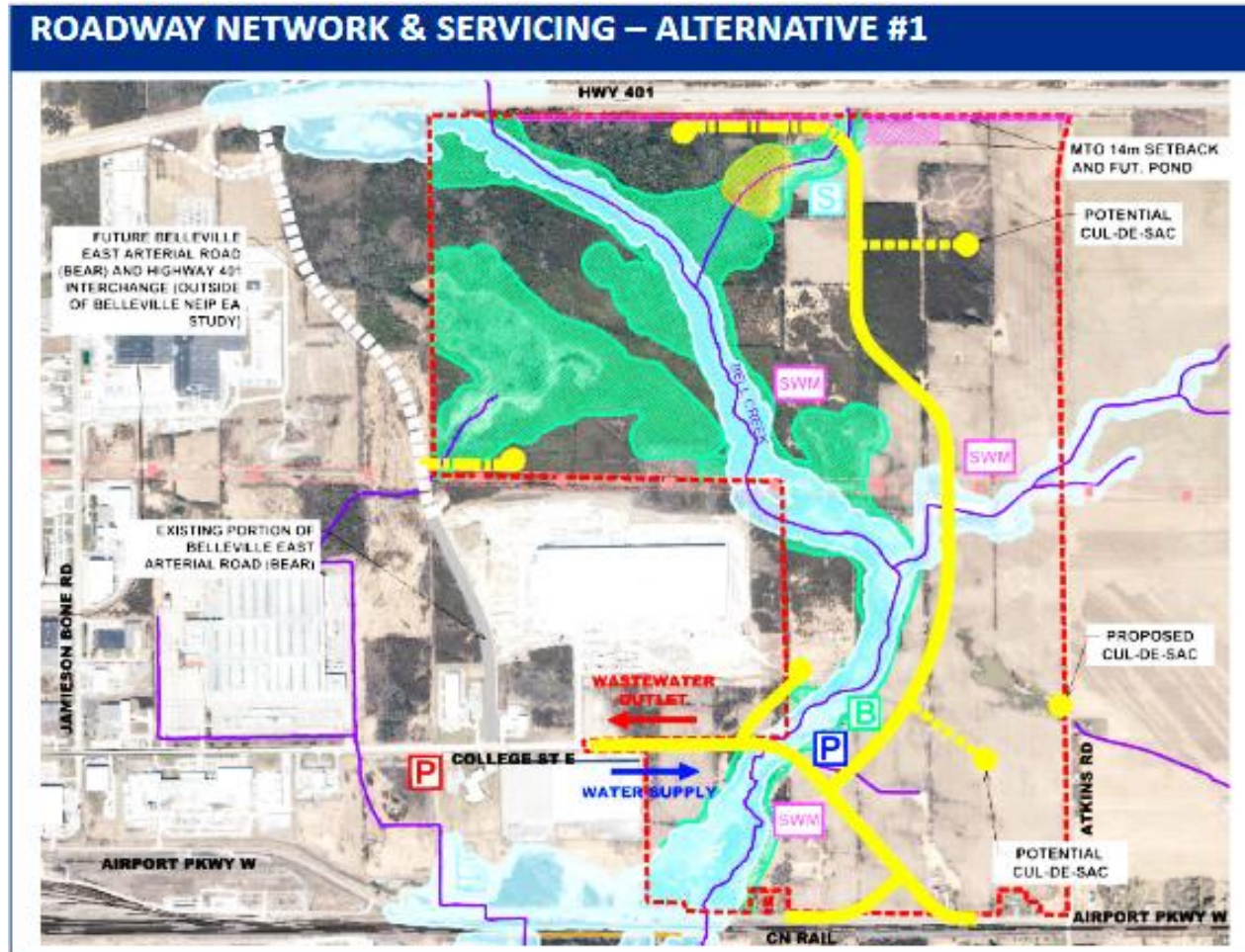
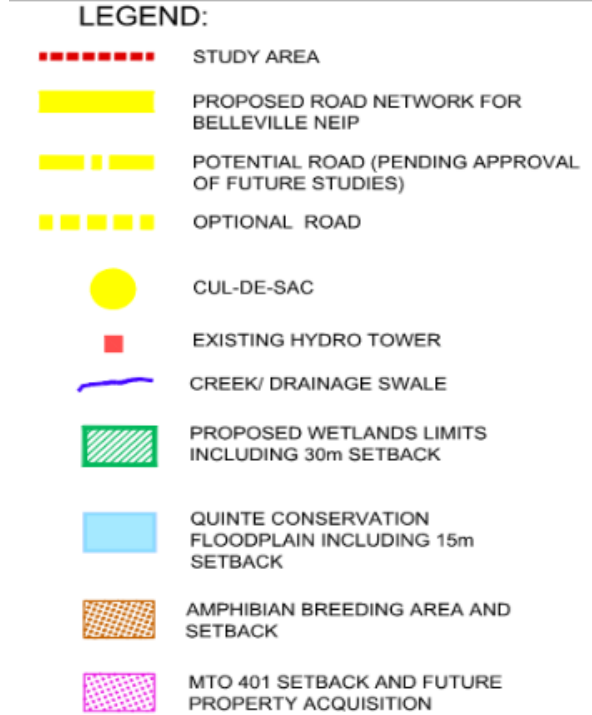
Planning is now underway to develop the city's Northeast Industrial Park (map on next page). The Bell Creek Provincially Significant Wetland where this great blue heron is

busily tending its nest is part of the area. There are a dozen or so nests in this herony. Can it survive as development proceeds?

The consulting firm Tylin has held two public information sessions. The map below shows the suggested road network considering the environmental regulations.

Future newsletters will provide more information about this development as it progresses.

For the full published report click here: <https://constructionprojects.belleville.ca/>. Click on "Environmental Assessments." Scroll down on page 2 of the Search Results



CLUB NEWS

ANNUAL DINNER

Because of illness I was unable to attend our annual dinner on May 8 but by all reports it was a success. As usual it was a sell-out. Diners chose between a vegan and a chicken option. Well known author Lorraine Johnson spoke on “Gardens for Pollinating Insects: Friends, Not Foes.” Copies of some of her books, including her latest *A Northern Gardener’s Guide to Native Plants and Pollinators*, were available to purchase. The silent auction raised \$656. A great way to finish the season



At the dinner Elizabeth Churcher (left) presented a cheque from QFN to Sue Meech in support of Sandy Pines construction of a new aviary.

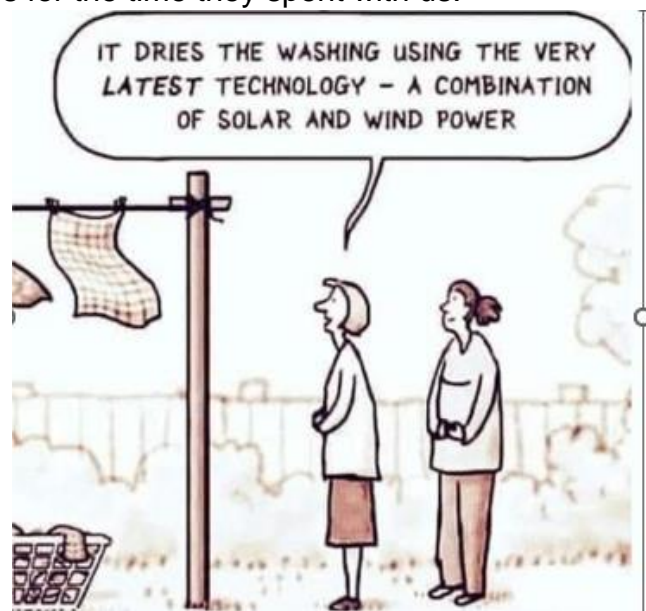
Many thanks to Nancy Stevenson who organized the dinner including printing and selling tickets. Thanks also to Lori Borthwick and her team for organizing the silent auction.

RESIGNATIONS

Unfortunately, Catherine and Bernd Baier have found it necessary to resign from the QFN board. We will miss their energy, their commitment to nature and their hard work. They spent many hours advocating for more humane treatment of beavers in Belleville, organizing outings, building turtle nest protectors, maintaining our website and assisting with other projects. Thank you to the Baiers for the time they spent with us.

HELP

Your board needs help with many QFN projects. In addition to the tasks mentioned above we need someone to inform local media of QFN meetings and accomplishments. Several QFN members have volunteered to lead outings but we need someone to coordinate their efforts. If you are interested in getting more involved please contact any board member either at a meeting or privately. Contact information is on the last page.



ONTARIO NATURE

Like about 150 other conservation organizations in Ontario Quinte Field Naturalists is a member of Ontario Nature. Within ON we belong to the Ontario East group. Three or four times a year representatives of members of the Ontario East group meet to share information, talk about common problems and discuss the future. Our liaison to this group has been members of the executive who are just wearing too many hats. If you think this role might interest you contact Lori Borthwick or any other member of the board. Zoom meetings may be possible. The executive are listed on the last page.

APRIL OUTING

Story and Photos from John Lowry

Cooler temperatures greeted a group of Quinte Field Naturalist members when they gathered on April 20th at the O'Hara Mill Homestead and Conservation Area.

The seven members were John Blaney, Lori Borthwick, Heather Davis, Marc Forget, Bernadette Hymus, John Lowry, and Melissa Ouellet.

The members were visiting this scenic Quinte Conservation property in search of early signs of Spring wildflowers. Trekking along the Lois Wishart Way trail, members were able to find many examples of newly emerged Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Large White Trillium, Early Meadow-rue, Yellow Trout Lily and Early Blue Cohosh. Most of the flowers were just beginning to bloom, probably due to the cooler temperatures.

The group was regaled with explanations of the local geology and natural history by Marc, who also allowed the group to check out a beautifully restored log cabin, one of many historic structures at this site.



Early Blue Cohosh



In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks. John Muir

PLANT SALE

The Quinte Field Naturalists' second annual plant sale held in May was a resounding success with over \$6,400 raised, well in excess of the funds raised in last year's impressive sale.

When the final tally was in the sale raised \$6,418.00, and all of these monies will go towards the planting of trees, shrubs and perennials locally. The sum of \$800 had already been earmarked to help purchase trees in Tweed's waterfront park. The remainder of the money will be invested in a planting in Belleville's Clifford "Sonny" Belch Park this coming October. The planting event is scheduled for October 25th and 26th.



It's great to see so many QFN members turn out to help with this project. Kudos to Greg Parsons for his work organizing the plant sale and the planting events using the funds raised here.

The sale was a tremendous success both due to the generosity of numerous donors, event organizer Greg Parsons claimed, as well as the efforts of the 15 volunteers who showed up to ensure the event ran smoothly. This was twice the number of volunteers from last year's event.

The sale had twice as many donations as the 2023 sale, he said, and we would especially like to thank our major donors who included Connon Nurseries, Rona+, The Home Depot, Metro (Belleville), Natural Themes Native Plant Nursery, Carson's Garden + Market, and Lockyer's Country Gardens. Many individual donors also contributed generously with their plants.

Greg was appreciative of St. Joseph's Catholic church allowing the sale to be held in their parking lot and for agreeing to allow the site to be used in next year's sale. Additionally there was the hard work of both the Tree Planting Committee members and the volunteers in making it a success, he commented.

An additional benefit of the sale was the chance to promote the QFN and its activities. Website manager Jason King reported that there were seven hits on the QFN website the morning of the sale as people were directed to the site. There were also reports of many people showing a willingness to participate in future plantings and become members of the QFN.

Another nice feature of the sale this year was the presence of a bake sale organized by the parishioners of St. Joseph's Catholic Church which ran simultaneously. Reportedly the bake sale organizers were very pleased with the success of their sale and hope to join us again next year.

CARING FOR THE QFN'S SHIRLEY LANGER GARDEN

Note and picture from John Lowry

A quick thank you to the volunteers who came out on July 9th (despite the warm temperatures) to help take out a significant amount of Dog Strangling Vine at the QFN planting site on the Shirley Langer Trail.

We managed to take a huge bite out of the DSV there which will help the trailhead site as it continues to grow and thrive.

Special thanks to Greg for organizing this event and for being so conscientious in following up and taking such good care of the planting site.



In the picture -- (l-r) Ted Pordham, Greg Parsons, Olga Johnson, Danielle and Grant Emon and Jose Mendoza (not in the picture because he was taking the picture was John Lowry)

21st BELLEVILLE CBC – 27th DECEMBER 2023

Editor's Note: I apologize to Tom for not publishing this report sooner. Having acted as a compiler a few times I know there is more work involved than it appears. Thank you, Tom, and my apologies.

Overcast, with a high of +6C, 8-10mm rain during daylight hours and a total of 15.8 mm of rain in 24 hours (CFB Trenton).

With no snow on the ground and mild temperatures in the days leading up to the CBC, many Count Day participants found less birds coming to feeders, but were kept busy scoping abundant Waterfowl in the ice-free waters of the Bay of Quinte and the Moira River.



Male (left) and female (below) buffleheads bob and dive in the Bay of Quinte during migration. Photos by Kyle Blaney.



With special thanks to the 27 participants, plus 5 feeder watchers, who endured the cold and rain, we had a Record equaling Count Day Species number of 63 (2014). The 21-year Average is 53, the 10-year average is 58. Total individuals counted was 10,881 (Average 7361).

Six Count Week Species were added: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Tundra Swan, Trumpeter Swan, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Northern Shrike, and both Greater Scaup & Lesser Scaup (counted as one new Scaup species, because Scaup Sps was

recorded on Count Day), making a grand total of 69 Species, 2 short of the record high of 71 set in 2021.

Five species not native to Ontario accounted for 26.6% of the total numbers; Mute Swan 170, Rock Pigeon 884, House Sparrow 72, House Finch 61 and European Starling 1705.

Three new species were added to the Cumulative 21-year total; Two on Count Day (Fox Sparrow #106 and Eastern Towhee #107) and one during Count Week (Lesser Black-backed Gull #108).

A male Barrow's Goldeneye, photographed on the last day of Count Week just outside the Count Circle in the eastern end of the Bay of Quinte, would have made a great addition to the Belleville CBC, but this rather Rhadamanthine Compiler was not having it.



Common goldeneye (left photo by Andrea Kingsley) occur in flocks. Barrow's goldeneye (right photo by Kyle Blaney) are eagerly sought rarities.

Missed: Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Barred Owl, Snow Bunting and Pine Siskin.

New highs: Mute Swan 170 (75), Redhead 4 (2), Bufflehead 34 (9), Red-breasted Merganser 509 (8), Ring-billed Gull 356 (260), Winter Wren 2 (1),

New Lows: Red-tailed Hawk 12 (Average 35), Hairy Woodpecker 4 (Average 17).

Belleville CBC Spreadsheet is available upon request. Area leaders may notice that their numbers differ from those on the Spreadsheet, this is due to additional checklists being submitted by feeder watchers.

Thanks again to everyone involved, a great effort!

Tom Wheatley
Belleville CBC Compiler

HELPING TURTLES IN BELLEVILLE

A Note from Kelly Wallace of Think Turtle

TURTLE POND If any of the Quinte Field Naturalists are walking past or visiting the turtle pond this turtle season (April - October), please take a few photos of the turtles (if any), the basking dock, and the pond to help us keep an eye on the overall well-being of the turtles, their habitat and if there are any concerns that need seeing to, e.g., garbage cans blown into the water, damage to basking dock, etc. If taking photos please take close-ups with zoom and wide shots so there is no disputing that the photos were taken at the turtle pond.

The more photos we have at different times on different days, the better it is to monitor. Photos can be texted to Think Turtle at 647-606-9537 or emailed to thinkturtle@yahoo.com.

MCNABB TOWERS SITE: If interested contact Kelly Wallace 647-606-9537. Help is needed to monitor the McNabb Towers site on Front Str. Belleville. April to early June:



Northern map turtles and painted turtles basking on the platform in the turtle pond on the Bayshore Trail. Photo by John Blaney.

SPRING HATCHLINGS – helping them to get to the water safely Mid May to Mid July:

NESTING TURTLES - Escorting female turtles that get into the parking lot to the nearby alternative nesting sites and helping them get back to the water safely.

June is the peak month for nesting.

End Aug to Mid Oct: **FALL HATCHLINGS** – helping them to get to the water safely
Photos are welcome and appreciated.

We also ask that you be cautious and respectful of turtles when driving, walking, or using our trails. Let's all do our part to protect these incredible and threatened animals!

An invitation from the South Shore Joint Initiative

Are you in awe of Monarchs? So are we!

We invite you to join the International Monarch Monitoring Blitz on **Sunday, July 28 at 10 am in Monarch Point Conservation Reserve**. We're thrilled to welcome Monarch experts and enthusiasts to **Hudgin Log House at 191 Ostrander Point Road**. **RSVP here. https://www.ssj.ca/monarch_monitoring_2024?**

From July 26 to August 4, North Americans will come together to help protect and conserve the beloved Monarch. Data collected by volunteers will contribute to a better understanding of the iconic butterfly's breeding productivity, range and timing.

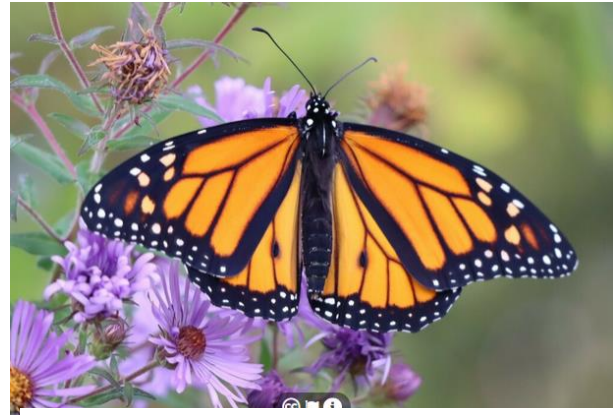


Photo by John Lowry

Learn from a nature expert how to use iNaturalist. The expert will provide a brief overview of the method for adding

your Monarch sightings to the SSJI iNaturalist project "Biodiversity of Prince Edward County's South Shore". Additionally, be inspired by a Wild Thing Monarch display.

You will also have the opportunity to meet South Shore Joint Initiative's talented outdoor educator, Cheryl Chapman, and witness her enthusiastic educational style. Cheryl will have an information/touch table set up, as well as activities for both kids and adults.

To further enhance our skills, we will embark on a short walk along Ostrander Point Road, keeping an eye out for Monarchs and practice uploading sightings to the iNaturalist app.

Building on the success of our first Monarch Day in 2021, we're excited to welcome you and yours to kick off the International Monarch Monitoring Blitz here in the County! We truly believe this event will be both educational and enjoyable, and we sincerely hope you can join us. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

We look forward to seeing you **Sunday, July 28th** at the **International Monarch Monitoring Blitz!** https://www.ssj.ca/monarch_monitoring_2024?

Bumble Bee Photo Contest



Contest runs from
June 1 –
September 30

The Friends of the Salmon River, Friends of the Napanee River, and the Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council are launching a photo contest to encourage all – kids and adults – to get out there and have fun taking photos in our watersheds!



Prizes will be awarded for the most interesting photos. Winners can take home flowering plants that support our pollinators. Books about bees (and dragonflies, etc.) will be fun for kids.

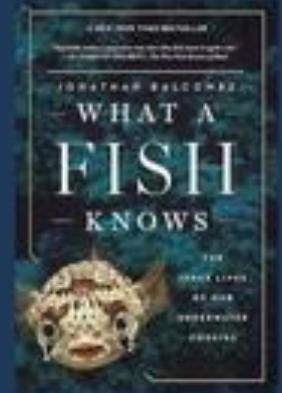
For more details and to enter visit:

<http://www.friendsofsalmonriver.ca/bumblebee-photo-contest>

Meet Jonathan Balcombe What a Fish Knows



Intrigued by the inner lives of creatures, globetrotting biologist Dr. Jonathan Balcombe cracks animal sentience codes. His bestselling books, like "What a Fish Knows," reveal the amazing intelligence and emotions of our animal neighbors. Through lectures worldwide, Dr. Balcombe sheds light on the hidden world of animal thoughts and feelings.



Live July 25th, 1 pm EST

Join us on our YouTube and Facebook Page

QFN BOARD

George Thomson – Past President - 613-478-3205

Dan Guenther – Treasurer – 416-559-6257

Elizabeth Churcher – Corresponding Secretary - 613-478-3205

Nancy Stevenson – Membership, Social - 613-779-9407

Sharron Blaney – Recording Secretary – 613 - 962-9337

John Blaney – Newsletter – 613-962-9337

Lori Borthwick – Member at Large – 613-391-9335

John Lowry – Member at Large – 613-962-5232