



Quinte Field Naturalists

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

September 18th, 2025

Dear Mayor Elmslie, Deputy Mayor McDonald, Councillors Yeo, Warren, Perry, Joyce, Doble, Ashmore and Richardson,

Quinte Field Naturalists (QFN) is an organization dedicated to nature education, research and conservation. With these goals in mind, the 181 members in QFN are urging you to preserve the Carden Alvar.

Quinte Field Naturalists' members have been made aware of a proposed solar energy project within the heart of Carden Alvar. It is our understanding that Innergex Renewable Energy Inc. has proposed to secure up to 2,500 acres of land suitable for a solar farm on the Carden Alvar, capable of producing 300,000 megawatts of power. Alvars are globally rare habitats. The Carden Alvar supports many species at risk and rare species, and is designated an Important Bird Area. Quinte Field Naturalists support the transition to renewable energy; however, the selected site is not suitable given the rare biodiversity that would be severely impacted. It is imperative that all municipalities, including the Municipality of Kawartha Lakes, work together towards the important goal of effectively conserving and ecologically managing 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas by 2030. Biodiversity is our greatest natural defense against climate change.

Wildlife Preservation Canada (WPC) has been working to protect the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike on the Carden and Napanee Alvars for approximately 22 years. Throughout this time, members of Quinte Field Naturalists have committed many volunteer hours to assist in the concentrated efforts to preserve this endangered species in our province. In Ontario, the Loggerhead Shrike serves as a predator of insects and small vertebrates, helping to control pest populations in grasslands and alvar habitats. As an endangered status species, its declining numbers suggest a broader problem with grassland biodiversity and habitat health in the province. Conservation of the shrike helps protect the entire grassland bird community and maintain the health of these vulnerable habitats.

Quinte Field Naturalists urge you to reconsider and seek an ecologically friendly location for the solar energy project so that you can be instrumental in supporting the maintenance of the health of the Municipality of Kawartha Lake's natural surroundings through alvar preservation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Churcher

Dr. Elizabeth Churcher
QFN Corresponding Secretary