



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## February 2019

### KFN

A registered charitable organization and a member of Ontario Nature  
Box 831  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7L 4X6

KFN Website  
and links to other sites:  
<http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org>

Blog: <http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.blogspot.com>

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Kingstonfieldnaturalists>

flickr:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/90930627@N06>

Membership Inquiries:  
John Critchley  
613-634-5475  
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Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September to April **Social begins at 7:00 pm.**  
**Ongwanada Resource Centre, Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston**

### Thursday 17 January Chris Hargreaves will present ICELAND: OLD AND NEW

Chris and his wife Phillida have been members of the KFN since 1979. Chris is a retired High School teacher: he taught History, Geography, and the Social Sciences at QECVI. He has been Chair of the KFN Conservation Committee since 2008 and is currently representing the KFN at the Ontario Municipal Board hearings regarding the environmental protections in the City of Kingston's Official Plan.

Chris was an avid stamp collector as a boy and was intrigued by the stamps from Iceland showing geysers, giant waterfalls, and volcanos. Before he visited Iceland in the summer of 2018, he wondered how the reality of the country would compare to the images from his childhood. His presentation will include rocks, plants, volcanoes, some birds, and visits to a few of the sites shown on those old stamps.

### Thursday 21 February Mark Read, Park Naturalist, Murphys Point Provincial Park, will present: A Quick Guide to Citizen Science

Mark worked as a Park Ranger at Sherwood Forest until 1994 when he left the UK and moved to Thailand, spending 11 years working on a variety of personal and academic projects, primarily in Khao Yai National Park. After a brief stint back in the UK as a High School science teacher, he moved on to Egypt where he was Vice Principal at an International School. From 2011 to 2012 he was based in the lowland Terai region of Far-West Nepal working with the Ministry of Education as an in-school advisor. Since moving to Canada, Mark has been working at Murphys Point Provincial Park as their Senior Naturalist. In 2018, Mark won the Sandy McBeath Outstanding Seasonal Interpreter Award. This honour is awarded to one interpreter annually in the Great Lakes Region by the National Association for Interpretation.

The world of biodiversity is a complex one. For a growing number of amateur and professional naturalists being able to quickly share observations made in the field is important, not only on a personal or work level but also for the greater good of solid scientific knowledge. Mark's line of work means that he is frequently asked the best ways to do this. Join him this evening as he showcases some of the best citizen science projects out there. This will not be a 'how to' session but instead a celebration of the achievements and genuine contributions to science these projects have made.

**There will be an important presentation and vote at the 17 January meeting. Details page 4.**



Photo: Chris Hargreaves

**RAMBLES** are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms. Contact Anne Robertson for more information (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca)

**Tuesday 22 January (Fourth Tuesday) 9:30 am to noon Butternut Creek**

Meet at Tim Hortons Hwy 15 at Innovation Drive. Dress warmly.

**Tuesday 5 February 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Cataraqui Trail west of Perth Road village**

Meet Kingslake Plaza (Division Street at Hwy 401). Dress warmly and bring a snack.

**Tuesday 19 February 9:00 am to noon Bayview Bog**

Meet on north side of Taylor Kidd Blvd at a gate 5 km west of Collins Bay Road and 1.5 km east of County Road 6, near #4236. Dress warmly and bring a snack.

**Tuesday 5 March 9:00 am to noon Rogers Side Road trails**

Meet at the north end of Rogers Side Road (5.5 km east of the causeway on Hwy 2- north side).

**FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER EXCURSIONS**

**Sunday 13 January 8:30 am to noon Lemoine Point Conservation Area**

Leaders: Richard Brault and Dianne Croteau (innova at bellnet.ca or 613-280-4473)

Meet at the south entrance to Lemoine Point at 8:30 am for a walk through the woods to look for winter birds including a possible Barred Owl. Dress warmly, bring a snack. Finish by noon.

**Monday 18 February (Family Day) 9:15 am to noon Snowy Owls on Wolfe Island**

Leader: Erwin Batalla (simbat at bell.net or 613-389-0144) This is an excellent opportunity to see Snowy Owls on Wolfe Island. Bring your family and friends as this event is open to the public. We will meet at 9:15 am at the Kingston ferry terminal to car pool. We plan to return around noon.

**Saturday 2 March 8:15 am to noon Amherst Island**

Leader: TBA Meet at 8:15 am at the ferry dock for carpooling. Besides Snowy Owls and raptors, there should be some early spring migrants present. Bring a lunch and dress warmly. Return to the mainland around noon.

**15 – 18 February 2019 Great Backyard Bird Count**

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a joint partnership between Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, with Bird Studies Canada as the official Canadian partner. The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages birdwatchers of all ages across North America in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. Anyone can participate, from beginners to experts. You can count for as little as 15 minutes on a single day, or for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy - and it helps the birds!

**To read more about the GBBC and to find out how you can join,  
please visit: [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org)**

**BioBlitz 2019**

The 2019 BioBlitz will be held at the Ontario Power Generation Plant (Ontario Hydro Lennox Generating Station) on Bath Road, Friday 14 June to Saturday 15 June 2019. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

**We welcome new members** Fred Kay and Julia Hattori, Suzy Bazely and John Grenville, Rick Matwichwk and Tanya Chypchar, Bruce Bailey, Peter Gorski, Amy Kay, Suzanne Hamilton, Dave Mills, Evonne Potts, Karl Miguel Hahn and Carlyn Brown, Pierre R Gauthier, Brian Penney, William Gilmour, Kit and Rick Knap, Carol Barner, Mike Corlett, Diana Mansell, Kate Thomas and Dale Driver.

## **JUNIORS** **MEETINGS**

at McArthur Hall Rooms A313 and A317 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.



**Thursday 10 January ASTRONOMY at Ellis Hall SEE BELOW**  
**Thursday 24 January ANIMAL SUPER HEROES**  
**Thursday 14 February MATING DISPLAYS**  
**Thursday 28 February EDIBLE INSECTS**

## **FIELD TRIPS**

**Thursday 10 January ASTRONOMY at Ellis Hall** Meet in the foyer at 6:30 pm prompt then up to third floor and telescope. Pick up in foyer at 8:00 pm. Ellis Hall is on University Avenue, west side.

**Saturday 26 January 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Frontenac Park**  
Dress warmly and bring a snack, a drink, something warm in a small thermos and lunch. We will be hiking and looking for signs of animals in winter. Please sign up by Thursday 24 January. Car seat where required by law must be supplied. Volunteer drivers appreciated.

**Saturday 23 February 9:00 am to 2:00pm pm Bayview Bog**  
Games in the snow (we hope!). Dress warmly for playing in snow. Bring lunch with something warm in a small thermos and all in a small backpack. Please sign up by Thursday 21 February. Car seat where required by law must be supplied. Volunteer drivers appreciated.

## **TEENS**

Details of Teen meetings are sent to members about a week before the trip. Your response at that time is appreciated so transportation can be organised and other arrangements made.



**Saturday 12 January 9 am to 1:30 pm Bird identification workshop** and Bird Collection upkeep. Meet at Biosciences. Details will be emailed.

**Saturday 9 February 9:00 am to 2:30 pm Wood Duck nest box cleanout** at Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. A lot will depend on the conditions. Emailed information a week ahead.

**Next meeting Saturday 9 March**

## Club News and Updates

**Book Sale** A sale of nature themed books will take place during the social (7 - 7:30) before the January meeting. Prices will be "pay what you will". Please bring toonies and small bills!

### Cormorant Cull

KFN President Anthony Kaduk has written a letter on our behalf to the government of Ontario concerning the proposed Double-crested Cormorant cull. Copies of this letter are posted on our website and on facebook. Some printed copies will be available at our next general meeting.

**The Land Conservancy for Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington** is currently raising funds to acquire the 200 acre Millen property near Parham. The goal is to raise \$250,000 to cover acquisition costs, including survey, appraisal and legal fees, and to endow funds to cover the on-going costs of property ownership and stewardship. The KFN executive supports this purchase. At the January KFN executive meeting a motion was passed *to recommend to members that they approve a donation of \$7,000 to the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (LC-KFLA) toward the purchase of the Millen property.* A member of the LC-KFLA board will make a presentation at the January general meeting. Members will then have the opportunity to ask questions, and to vote on the proposed donation.

### CHANGES TO ONTARIO'S PLANNING LEGISLATION

In December the Ontario Government introduced Bill 66 - *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act*. Among the many proposals in the Bill are changes to the Province's **planning legislation that could negate some of the environmental protections that naturalist organizations and individuals have fought for in the past.**

Municipalities would be able to ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to pass an "Open-for-Business Planning By-law" (OFB-ZBL) to apply to major business developments that would "meet a minimum job creation threshold (e.g. 50 jobs for municipalities with a population of less than 250,000 people)."

Among the features of an OFB-ZBL are:

- an OFB-ZBL need not conform with an Official Plan
- an OFB-ZBL cannot be appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board until April last year)
- a municipality is not required to hold public meetings with respect to an OFB-ZBL
- an OFB-ZBL need not conform to significant threat policies and designated Great Lakes Policies, or have regard to any other policy set out in a drinking water source protection plan prepared under the Clean Water Act, 2006
- an OFB-ZBL need not conform to various initiatives and policies created under the Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015
- an OFB-ZBL need not conform to the Ontario Greenbelt Plan
- an OFB-ZBL need not conform with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

More information about these proposals is available:

- on the Ontario Government's Environmental Registry. People can leave comments **until January 20<sup>th</sup>** <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4293>
- on the Ontario Nature website people can sign a letter to Premier Doug Ford: <https://ontarionature.good.do/schedule10/sign/>

The planning aspects of Bill 66 received little attention when the Bill was introduced before Christmas, and will not be discussed in the Legislature until it resumes sitting in February.

**All members are encouraged to follow the passage of Bill 66 closely, and to let your opinions be known before 20 January.**