



Hello Participants!

The Kingston Field Naturalists invite you to join us for our 24th BioBlitz at Camden East Alvar 10 to 11 June 2022

This will be the Kingston Field Naturalists 24th BioBlitz in the Kingston area! We have a goal to record 1,000 species in this 24 hour period. We hope that everyone, including our volunteers, will find it a fun and educational event. We are planning a return to our traditional type of BioBlitz.

The idea for the BioBlitz comes from the Canadian Biodiversity Institute. Our BioBlitz is an inventory of as many living things as can be identified within a 24 hour period within a defined area. Specialists and experts from diverse disciplines will explore the area under investigation.

The BioBlitz takes place from **3:00 pm on Friday 10 June to 3:00 pm on Saturday 11 June 2022.**

The event will run, rain or shine.

The Site:

We are delighted that the Nature Conservancy of Canada is allowing us to hold our BioBlitz on their new property, Camden East Alvar. An alvar is a biological environment based on a limestone plain with thin or no soil. Often flooded in spring and affected by drought in midsummer, alvars support a distinctive group of prairie-like plants. This 121 ha (300 acre) property has ephemeral wetlands, a small creek, wooded areas and rocky areas with crevices in the limestone bedrock. There are a number of diverse habitats to explore!

Camden East Alvar abuts the Radio Controlled Modellers Club property. We are delighted that they will allow us to use their lane for access, and their property for parking and camping. A devastating fire in March burned their clubhouse to the ground; we will be soliciting donations for them. A donation jar will be available at registration.

Access from Kingston: Allow about half an hour from Kingston to the site at 1035 Fred Brown Road.


Directions to Camden East Alvar

Approximate GPS location of RC Modellers laneway:
N 44.3287 W 76.7877

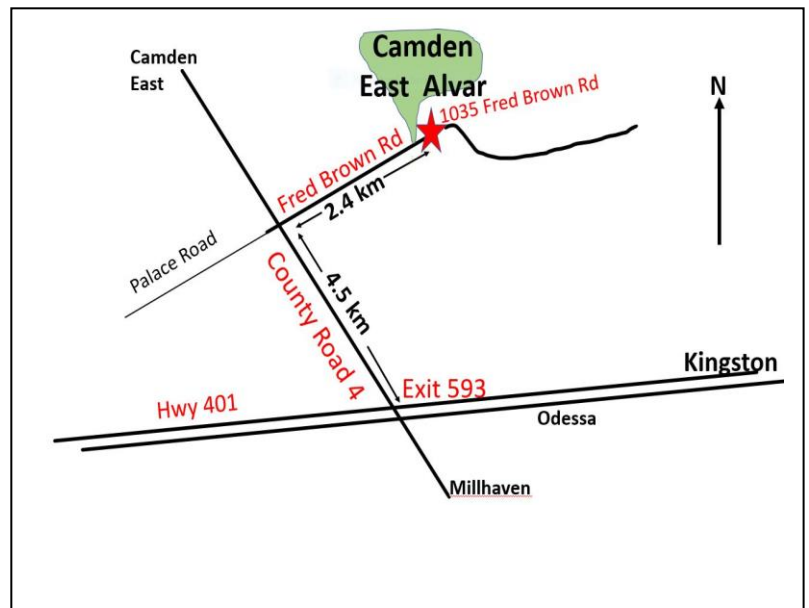
From Kingston, go west on Hwy 401 to exit 593 for County Road 4 (Camden East Road/Millhaven).

Go NORTH on County Road 4 towards Camden East for 4.5 km.

Turn right (EAST) onto Fred Brown Road. (The road to the left at this intersection is Palace Road.)

Proceed EAST for 2.4 km to  1035 Fred Brown Rd. This is the Radio Controlled Modellers Club property where we will be parking and camping.

Camden East Alvar is the property to the west of the Radio Controlled Modellers Club.



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Camping: There will be primitive camping at the RC Modellers site. Please bring your own water. No fires. Donations towards privy appreciated

Registration: Participants should register at the BioBlitz base site **between 2:30 pm and 9:00 pm on Friday 10 June** or **between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm on Saturday 11 June**.

Species observed: For all observations, a minimum of the species name, observer, date, location observed (ideally GPS coordinates) and trail should be recorded. Applicable notes should be added. Upon registration, a tally sheet and a map of the property will be provided. A tally will also be kept at the BioBlitz base site notice board so you may look at species already recorded and note those that may yet be found. **Please let us know** if you intend to go off trail. Please also tell us if you would like to be paired with another expert for your recording.

For this year's BioBlitz there will be two options for submitting your species observations:

- 1. Written records: A written record with your name must be handed in for species to be included in the final tally.** Please return your final tally sheets and field notes to the base site before departure. Tally sheets will be copied and returned if you wish. A reward will be offered for checking out and returning tally sheets. Any species of note should be photographed and the site of observation GPS'd if possible.
- 2. Digital submissions through eBird (for birds only) or iNaturalist:** In addition to your written reporting you may submit observations digitally through **eBird.ca** (please share your checklists with the username Kingston FN), and/or with **iNaturalist.ca**. Both are free and easy to use but you will need to set up your own personal accounts. With iNaturalist, please join our main project at <https://bit.ly/KFNProject>. Questions and concerns about either of these projects can be directed to Mark Read (markdread@gmail.com).

What to bring:

- Please bring your own meals and snacks, including supper on Friday. There will be a BBQ lunch on Saturday at noon. Donations appreciated. Coffee will be available at the base site 8:00 am on Saturday. Please bring your own mug.
- Please also bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, and a flashlight for night activities.
- Good walking boots are advised. Wear long pants to protect against Poison Ivy, deerfly and ticks. Long boots, gaiters, and/or 30% DEET also help protect against ticks. Watch too for black bears.
- Please bring your own clipboard, checklist and field guides, binoculars and magnifiers.
- Cameras and GPS units will be useful (but not required) to record rare species and species needing identification.
- A whistle for emergencies is always a good idea.
- **There is cell phone coverage at the site.**
- Some potable water will be available at the base site; please bring your own water bottle and travel mug.
- A portable toilet will be available at the base site.
- The nearest store is McCormicks at the crossroads in Camden East.

Please . . . Plan on taking your garbage home with you.

NO DOGS at this event. Please be sensitive to the fact that this is private property. Try to keep the impact to a minimum and attempt to leave things as they were found. No collecting or wildlife handling is allowed unless preauthorized (which all group leaders will be). Photographs should be used wherever possible. We are requesting that all qualified observers prepare **NHIC species occurrence forms** for rare and declining species observed during this event. Forms will be available on request.

If you have expertise, please come and educate us! Please also let us know if there is anything you might need that we might supply. We look forward to this event and hope you do as well. Please share this information with anyone you know who might be interested.

You may contact us at:

Anne: n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca or (h) 613-389-6742, (c) 613-985-8967, or **Erwin:** simbat@bell.net or (h) 613-389-0144

Yours truly, Anne Robertson, Coordinator

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