



Kingston Field Naturalists

November - December 2022

KFN

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

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

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

Membership Inquiries:
Kathy Webb
kw2 at queensu.ca

Meetings are normally held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September to April. Social starts at 7:00 pm.

Our November meeting will be Thursday 17 November Gerard Courtin will present

From Forester to Forensic Scientist: A botanist's journey to the Dark Side

Budding mystery writers take note!

Gerard Courtin is a botanist with expertise in Arctic and alpine ecology. He taught at Laurentian University and helped Sudbury restore its landscape which had been damaged by fire, logging and mining. Since retiring in 2001, Courtin embarked on a career in Forensic Science, using his knowledge of plants and soils, especially in Ontario, to study trace evidence in cases of suspicious death. He is recognized as an expert witness in matters dealing with botany and ecology by the Supreme Court of Ontario.

This will be a **ZOOM meeting**. You will receive a Zoom link a few days before the meeting. The Zoom link will be opened at 7 pm. The formal meeting begins at 7:30 pm. **The topic for this month's breakout room, beginning at 7:00, will be Bill 23.**

- Join our monthly meetings by telephone. Contact Janet Elliott (613-547-2674) before the meeting to obtain the Meeting ID and Passcode.



Eastern Bluebird
Photo: P. Waycik

Thursday 15 December will be Members' Night

This is your chance to show off your favourite flora and fauna photos (up to 10) or a short video (up to 5 minutes).

Send your digital presentation to Erwin Batalla ([simbat at bell.net](mailto:simbat@bell.net)) by **Monday 12 December**. You may comment on your presentation during the meeting OR send comments to be read by Erwin.

This will be a ZOOM or hybrid meeting. The KFN executive is looking for a suitable location for our general meetings and will endeavor to find a place that will accommodate a Zoom link. More information in our next newsletter.

The Ontario Government's **BILL 23: More Homes Built Faster Act** passed second reading while everyone was caught up in the education workers strike. **Environmental Defence** has described the bill as "A Trojan Horse for Environmentally Catastrophic Rural Sprawl". See their call for action here

<https://act.environmentaldefence.ca/page/116359/action/1?ea.tracking.id=action>

The deadline for public comments is 17 November.

Ontario Nature is also preparing an Action Alert on Bill 23. See page 5 for an update from Lesley Rudy, the KFN Ontario Nature Representative.

The Owl Woods will be closed from 21 November through to 11 December.

Thank you everyone for your patience and respect to the owners of the property who have allowed us for many years to enjoy this treasure.

Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

Please check the website for any updates.

This is hunting season! When hiking and birding, wear bright clothes, make noise.

In South Frontenac crossbow hunting is allowed from 1 October to 31 December. Gun hunting for deer is allowed in November and December. Check the MNRF site

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary>

Be prepared for ticks!

RAMBLES take place every first and third Tuesday. Rambles are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms. Dress very warmly for slow moving in winter conditions. For detailed directions please register by the Sunday before the trip with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

Tuesday 15 November 9:30 am to noon Invista shoreline from south end of Sunnyacres. Walk to Carruthers Point and lagoon. Bring a snack.

Tuesday 6 December 9:00 am to 12:30 pm K&P Trail south of Harrowsmith from Hwy 38. Bring a snack.

Tuesday 3 January 9:30 am to 11:30 am Parrott's Bay east side trail 6 from Bayview Park, Bath Road.

Tuesday 17 January 9:30 am to 11:30 am K&P Trail east from Sydenham Road.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 26 November 7:00 am to 4:00 pm Snow Geese and Fromage

(rain date 27 November) Leader Gary Hillaby Our targeted waterfowl is the Snow Goose on this annual field trip. We will be starting our search in the Kemptville area this year and working our way east to Lancaster and the Glengarry Cheese Company. We will meet and "carpool up" at the carpool parking lot at Highway 15 and 401 at 7:00 am. To register contact Gary (fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or 613-547-8121).

Saturday 3 December 8:00 am to ~ noon Bath waterfront and OPG wetland

Leader Kurt Hennige Meet Kurt at 8:00 am at the Amherst Island ferry parking lot for car pooling. We will be stopping along several hotspots along Lake Ontario waterfront and will meet Mike Farrell at 10 am at the OPG gate. We will check out the OPG wetland till noon. Please be prepared for cold conditions along the water and several short walks. Bring your scope. Ten spaces are available. Please register with Kurt Hennige (khennige at xplornet.com or 612-876-1804) by 1 December.

Christmas Bird Counts 2022

Christmas is coming and so are the area's Christmas Bird Counts. All KFN members are encouraged to participate in our region's bird counts. Contact the local count organizer for details. If you are unable to get out for your local count you can contact your local CBC organizer to discuss a backyard count. Remember the words of that famous field trip philosopher "many eyes,,,, see more birds". Get involved in this year's Christmas Bird Count tradition.

Here are the dates of the area's Christmas Bird Counts and some of the organizers looking for help:

Wednesday December 14 **Westport** contact Wendy Briggs-Jude bwlaird at rideau.net

Wednesday December 14 **Delta**

Saturday December 17 **Frontenac** contact Carolyn Bonta or Michael Johnson bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca

Saturday December 17 **Prince Edward Point** contact Dale Smith doc0013 at cloud.com

Sunday December 18 **Kingston** contact Kathy Webb kw2 at queensu.ca

Wednesday December 21 **Gananoque** contact Kurt Hennige khennige at xplornet.com

Tuesday December 27 **Napanee** contact Kurt Hennige khennige at xplornet.com

Monday January 2 **Amherst** contact Bonnie Livingstone bonnielivingstone at gmail.com

No date yet for **Moscow** contact Jeff Brady bradyjeff1963 at gmail.com

No date yet for **Thousand Islands** contact Josh Van Wieren joshvanwieren at canada.ca

Saturday 7 January 7:00 am to ~ 3:00 pm Amherst Island Excursion

Leader Gary Hillaby If you are carpooling, we will meet at the Tim Horton's at Bath Road and Gardiners Road. We are planning to be on the 7:30 ferry. The Amherst Island Ferry costs ten dollars for a round trip. We will be looking for winter birds, birds of prey and of course the majestic Snowy Owl. Contact Gary (fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or 613-547-8121) to register.

JUNIORS

Indoor meetings

6:30 to 8:00 pm at Centennial Public School,
Norman Rogers Drive



Thursday 24 November Tricky Tree Keys
Thursday 8 December Seasonal Crafts
Thursday 26 January Winter Ecology

Field Trips

Please sign up with Anne by the Thursday before the trip ([n8ture.ane at sympatico.ca](mailto:n8ture.ane@sympatico.ca) or 613-389-6742). If you need to cancel, please email before 8:00 am on the day of the trip.

Saturday 26 November 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre trails. Focus on Habitats. Bring lunch and a snack. Dress warmly.

Saturday 28 January 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Depot Creek Nature Reserve
Focus on trees. Bring lunch and a snack. Dress very warmly.

TEENS

Please register with Anne ([n8ture.ane at sympatico.ca](mailto:n8ture.ane@sympatico.ca) or 613-389-6742) by the Thursday before the trip to receive detailed directions.



Saturday 12 November 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Taxonomy Hunt
at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre. Cameras useful. Dress warmly and bring lunch with something hot in a pack.

Saturday 10 December 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Christmas Bird Count (CBC) We will be part of the Frontenac count team. Details in an email.

Saturday 14 January 9:00 am to 1:00 pm KFN Bird Collections workshop. Indoor meeting.

Club News and Updates

Welcome to new members: Gary Richards, Jill Finney & family.

A big **THANK YOU to Ken Edwards**, long time KFN member and long time KFN executive member. Ken is currently the Chair of Bird Records and has also taken on the task of finding speakers and venues for our general meetings. He is a former President and was previously the Bird Records Chair. Ken is an avid birder. He is our host for Zoom meetings. Thank you, Ken, for all you do and have done for our club!

If you have any **suggestions for speakers** for our general meetings, please contact Ken Edwards (rkfe at queensu.ca)

Kingston Field Naturalists on iNaturalist

iNaturalist.ca is a great place to post your nature observation photos and browse what others have posted. The Kingston Field Naturalists has established several projects to collect observations made in our study area -- a 50 km radius circle centered on the peak of Murney Tower. These projects were established to collect observations of specific taxa (birds, butterflies, moths, Odonata) and observations made at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. To view all the projects, visit <https://inaturalist.ca/projects/kingston-field-naturalists-projects>.

You are encouraged to join the projects that interest you to receive updates about new observations and information posted about the projects. You don't have to do anything special to add your observations as they are added automatically as long as they meet the criteria for the project.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Friends of the Salmon River** are holding their AGM on 16 November at 6:30 pm in Roblin. Their program features a flyover of the Salmon River from Kennebec Lake to the Bay of Quinte at Shannonville. For details see <https://www.friendsofsalmonriver.ca/>

Ontario Nature hosts webinars on a variety of topics. See their upcoming webinars and other events: <https://ontarionature.org/events/> A YouTube channel with recordings of past webinars is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ONNature>

News from Chris Hargreaves, KFN Conservation Committee Chair on

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT'S BILL 23 "More Homes Built Faster Act"

The following is part of a detailed Analysis of Bill 23 by Phil Pothen, Ontario Environment Program Manager, Environmental Defence on the sections of Bill 23 that will reduce the power of Conservation Authorities to control development and protect the environment.

Facilitating a Mass Sell-Off of Conservation Lands

When land is owned by Conservation Authorities, Ontarians trust that it will remain permanently off-limits for destruction. Outside of extraordinary circumstances, in which case there is direct approval from the Minister or a provincial agency, board or commission, Conservation Authorities are not permitted to sell off conservation lands for development. Bill 23 would remove the requirement for government permission, and allow the sale of conservation lands – including endangered or threatened species habitat, wetlands, and areas of natural and scientific interest. Where a sale is for "provincial or municipal infrastructure and municipal purposes", the authority is not even required to consult on these dispositions.

Open Season for Sprawl on Wetlands

Many of Ontario's rarest and most at-risk wildlife and habitats are concentrated in the same "crisis ecoregions" which the vast majority of the province's people live, and where pressure for suburban residential, commercial and residential sprawl is most intense.

This Bill would remove the power of Conservation Authorities to regulate or prohibit sprawl developers and land speculators from destroying wetlands, river or stream valleys, within their jurisdiction, in almost every case. It does this through Section 7 of the Bill, which would amend s. 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act to exempt any project that has received land use planning approval under the Planning Act from Conservation Authority regulations regulating water-taking, interference with rivers, creeks, streams, watercourses, and wetlands, or controlling flooding, erosion, conservation of land.

Sections 8. (3)(a), 8(6)(a), 9 (1) (a), 9 (2) (a) & (b), 10 (4) (a), 10 (7)(a), 11(2)(1), 12 (2)(i) of the Act would remove the power of Conservation Authorities to protect the ecological function and potentially the long-term stability and viability of wetlands. It would do this by removing the power to regulate and refuse permits based on "pollution or the conservation of land", and removing the obligation of the Minister to consider those matters in appeals.

Gagging Conservation Authorities

Bill 23 doesn't just prohibit Conservation Authorities from protecting conservation lands, wetlands, river or stream valleys themselves. Amendments to s. 21.1.1 and s. 21.1.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act actually goes so far as to "gag" them – prohibiting them from providing Municipalities with the information they need in order to start protecting conservation lands themselves when they consider land use planning approvals.

If the Bill passes, Conservation Authorities will not be allowed to "provide under subsection (1), within its area of jurisdiction, a municipal program or service related to reviewing and commenting on a proposal, application or other matter made under a prescribed Act."

The result will be a massive gap in Ontario's system for protecting public safety and ecosystems, and ultimately, the unleashing of bulldozers and backhoes on cumulatively vast areas of wetland, forest and other sensitive areas currently off-limits for development.

The full analysis of Bill 23 by Environmental Defense by Phil Pothén can be found here:

<https://environmentaldefence.ca/2022/10/31/ontarios-housing-bill-is-actually-a-trojan-horse-for-environmentally-catastrophic-rural-sprawl/>

More concerning Bill 23 from Lesley Rudy

Lesley Rudy is Nature Network Organizer for Ontario Nature, and KFN's contact with Ontario Nature.

From: Lesley Rudy, Ontario Nature

Subject: Fight for Nature

Good morning, Nature Network friends and colleagues,

I am following up with you on Bill 23 and the very disturbing law and policy changes being proposed by the Government of Ontario. These changes will undermine environmental protection across the province and will severely constrain our collective ability to engage in municipal planning decisions.

This Bill 23 [backgrounder](#) summarizes our chief concerns. Please expect an action alert from us this week, and possibly a joint statement for broad group endorsement. Meanwhile, please don't hesitate to [express your concerns about the bill](#) to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy, responsible for

reviewing and approving or modifying the bill before third and final reading (deadline for comment is November 17).

To access the multiple postings on the Environmental Registry of Ontario, related to Bill 23, please see [this summary](#) put together by The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA).

As if Bill 23 wasn't bad enough, the provincial government is now proposing to open lands in the Greenbelt for development. See this [joint statement](#) from the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance Steering Committee opposing the proposal.

We would appreciate your help in raising awareness about these law and policy proposals. As explained in the backgrounder, they spell disaster for the farmland and natural areas that sustain us and will stymie societal efforts to address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss through enlightened environmental planning and decision-making.

If you'd like to take immediate action, a quick call to your MPP would be very helpful. Bill 23 has already passed second reading, so there's no time to lose.

Lesley and the Ontario Nature team

You can find the Ontario Nature Action Alert here:

<https://ontarionature.org/take-action/advocate-for-nature/>

The Last day for public comment on Bill 23 is 17 November.