



Kingston Field Naturalists

December '22 – January '23

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.

Thursday 15 December will be Members' Night

What have you seen this past year?? This is your chance to show off your favourite natural history photos (up to 10) or a short video (up to 5 minutes). Send your digital presentation to Erwin Batalla (simbat at 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 meeting. You can enjoy your seasonal favourite goodies, including drinks, without worrying about having to drive home afterwards!

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



Northern Cardinal
(*Cardinalis cardinalis*)
Photo P. Waycik

Our first meeting of 2023 will be Thursday 19 January Jennifer Doubt from the Canadian Museum of Nature will present

Meet the mosses and liverworts (a warm welcome to Bryology!)

Jennifer Doubt, originally from Deep River, Ontario, has collected and documented mosses and liverworts for over 25 years. Along with the other fun, dedicated staff, students and volunteers that make up the Canadian Museum of Nature Botany team, she cares for a busy, growing archive of over one million preserved plants and lichens, and shares the collection far and wide for research and education.

She will introduce us to those plants that we all see everywhere but struggle to identify.

This will be a **hybrid meeting**. The location of the in-person meeting will be announced in the next newsletter. The activities and speaker will be available by Zoom.

The Owl Woods will be closed for just a few more days: until and including Sunday 11 December. Thank you everyone for your patience and your respect for 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 if the temperature is above freezing!

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 3 January 9:30 am to 11:30 am Parrott's Bay east side trail 6 from Bayview Park, Bath Road. Join us after the ramble for an indoor get-together, maybe at a Timmy's.

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

FIELD TRIPS

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

Wednesday 14 December **Delta**

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

Saturday 17 December **Rideau Ferry** contact Alison Bentley alisonbentley at gmail.com **see below**

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

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

Monday 19 December **Thousand Islands** contact Josh Van Wieren joshvanwieren at canada.ca

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

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

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

Tuesday 3 January **Moscow** contact Jeff Brady bradyjeff1963 at gmail.com

Here is a website to find other counts farther afield: <https://naturecounts.ca/apps/cbc/mapviewer.jsp>

The **Rideau Ferry Christmas Bird Count** will be conducted on Saturday 17 December. It covers Smiths Falls, Perth and areas to the south. The organizers are concerned that they may not have enough birders to cover the count area and **have asked the KFN for volunteers**. Contact Alison Bentley (alisonbentley at gmail.com) if you are able to help out.

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

Leader Gary Hillaby If you are carpooling, we will meet at 7:00 am at the Tim Hortons 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.

Saturday 13 May to Friday 19 May 2023 Southwestern Ontario Field Trip

Leader: John Licharson We will be heading back to Western Ontario, May 13-19, 2023, to bird Point Pelee National Park, Rondeau (and other) Provincial Park(s), Hillman Marsh, Blenheim and Tilbury Lagoons and the Lake Saint Clair area as well as any other spots to which a twitch may become desirable. The group will be limited to eight participants. **One spot left!** Contact John Licharson (jlicharson at tlcacanada.com or 613-386-7720).

JUNIORS

Indoor meetings

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

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 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 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: Gerard Phillips, Nicole La Prairie, Carol Finlay, Joseph and Eve Buckley, Rakesh Baro & family, David Mason & family, Stephen Roche & family, Susan Nagy & family, Joan Horton.

A big thank you to all the Christmas Bird Count compilers who organize local birders to count birds during this busy season. Christmas Bird Counts are North America's longest-running citizen science project. The information collected by CBC volunteers is one of the world's largest sets of wildlife survey data. The results allow the assessment of the population trends and distribution of birds in North America.

KFN CRESTS would make great stocking stuffers!! Crests featuring the KFN logo are available for purchase. These crests are about 8 cm in diameter and have an iron-on backing which makes them easy to apply to a hat, backpack or jacket. Crests can be purchased from ramble or trip leaders for \$2 or through the website (<https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/membership/>) for \$3 (to cover costs of mailing and PayPal). Be sure to include your shipping address with your online order.

At our December meeting we will be catching up on some **minutes of previous meetings**. Check the website for drafts of these minutes.

Kingston Field Naturalists on iNaturalist

iNaturalist is a world-wide citizen science data collection project.

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.

iNat currently has more than 5 million users. So far in 2022 members have collected 32,168,331 observations of 259,936 species!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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>

The November newsletter of **A2A: The Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative** can be found here: [November in the A2A](#)

News from Chris Hargreaves, KFN Conservation Committee Chair on

BILL 23 AND KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL

At Kingston City Council meeting on 6 December, three motions were passed concerning Bill 23. One of the motions was to endorse the joint letter from 10 Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities, (that was submitted to the Ontario government in November) stating concerns regarding Bill 23. All three motions passed unanimously.

City staff prepared a detailed Information Report on Bill 23 for Council. It included some information I had not read or heard about before, in particular:

Public Meetings - Plans of Subdivision At present, applications for draft plan of subdivision are required to proceed to a statutory public meeting prior to Council's decision. Bill 23 removes the public meeting requirement from the Planning Act. Staff will be reviewing this change and report to Council if it is determined that any changes to the existing approval process of plans of subdivision are appropriate

2031 Municipal Housing Targets The largest and fastest-growing municipalities in southern Ontario have been assigned municipal housing targets by the Province to help meet the provincial goal of 1,500,000 new homes by 2031. The Province is seeking Municipal Housing Pledges from the 29 assigned municipalities to identify the tools and strategies that each municipality intends to use to achieve their housing targets. Kingston is one of the assigned municipalities and has a target set at 8,000 new homes. City staff will review tools and strategies available to deliver this target in conjunction with departmental work plans. Staff will report to Council on options for a Municipal Housing Pledge in 2023. The City's current 'housing supply' is 'committed units' (zoning approved, only need to pull a building permit: 5,038), 'pending units' (subject to planning applications currently under review: 5,111), and units that are currently under appeal: 1,897). Total 12,046 units.

It should be noted that the municipality currently has no tools available to require private landowners to develop their lands within a specified timeframe. The Province has established a new Ontario Regulation under s. 34(16) of the Planning Act, which would prescribe conditions that can be attached to zoning approvals. This would enable municipalities to not only encourage the construction of new housing within a certain timeframe but also would allow the municipality to appropriately plan for servicing infrastructure by providing more certainty on the timing of housing construction.

The full report can be read at

[City of Kingston - City Council Agenda - Meeting 01-2023 - Report COU-23-020](https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/39782742/City-Council_Meeting-01-2023_Report-23-020_Bill-23-More-Homes-Built-Faster-Act-2022.pdf/97e163c2-a369-12ff-eb45-389a9f95cdcd?t=1670010686422) or
https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/39782742/City-Council_Meeting-01-2023_Report-23-020_Bill-23-More-Homes-Built-Faster-Act-2022.pdf/97e163c2-a369-12ff-eb45-389a9f95cdcd?t=1670010686422

What can we do?

Public protests are being planned in several communities.

Quinte Field Naturalists are planning a funeral procession, complete with pall bearers, a casket and music, for Quinte Wetlands. This procession will start in Belleville Market Square on Saturday 10 December at 4 pm. Contact Lori (lborthwick at sympatico.ca) for more information.