

MFNC February 2019 Bulletin

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Promoting the appreciation, understanding, and preservation of nature in the Ottawa Valley

Welcome, <<First Name>>

WARM UP WITH THE MFNC

Is the cold getting to you? While many hardy Macnamarans continue to brave the outdoors, some of us — those not escaping to a warmer climate, that is — fall back to the comfort of our home base to observe most outside activity, like the birds frequenting close-at-hand feeders.



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Feed the birds

Like your home feeders, those on the Macnamara Trail are getting lots of avian traffic, so much so that we need help in keeping them filled; they're empty by mid-week. Two ways you can help:

1. donate birdseed and/or suet
2. commit to filling up the feeders every Thursday so they'll be full for the weekend when the trail is busiest.

Please contact Yvonne Wissing at ywiss@icloud.com as soon as possible for details

Executive changes

As reported in our January bulletin, we had a great turnout for our Annual Meeting and welcomed Yvonne Wissing and Ritchie Lawrence to our executive. Yvonne has responsibility for the Macnamara Trail and Ritchie Lawrence is our new treasurer. On behalf of the club, the executive extends a huge thank you to Cathy Stewart, our previous treasurer, for her years of dedicated service to and in support of the club.

Pre-settlement white cedar graces the Macnamara Trail

"I want to report a very old tree," said Kevin Keough, announcing an unusual sighting among all the expected bird and mammal observations reported by members at

our Club's January meeting. Her interest piqued, Janet Mason, our vice-president, arranged a visit to the tree by Owen Clarkin, a well-known tree enthusiast with a deep knowledge of tree ecology. Heading out by way of the new Nopiming Loop Trail onto the "Island Chain", they discovered two historic treasures. [Read more about their exciting find here.](#)



Agnieszka and Kevin Keough admire the historic white cedar

MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019

Fire up your brain cells with The Great Naturalists' Quiz night

— imagine Michael chortling as he devises his 2019 version!

Combine laughter, learning and camaraderie and you have an annual Macnamara highlight—The Great Naturalists' Quiz Night—and an awesome way to learn about local natural history. It's great fun whether you know the answers or not! [More information here.](#)

An inside adventure



Were you at the meeting when Bill Montevecchi shared his knowledge about the Great Auks and the demise of their largest known colony on the "marvellous, terrible place" known as Funk Island? The Memorial University of

Newfoundland professor has some great related content on the [new Funk Island website](#). The website consists of a series of nine videos filmed on the Newfoundland and Labrador ecological seabird reserve, each exploring different aspects of life on the island and Bill's scientific research.

Thanks to our speaker organizer, John McEwen, for passing along this information.

The triumph... and downfall of the Canada Jay

Department of Biology

Annual George Carmody Lecture
Free - Everyone Welcome!

The Triumph... and Downfall of the Canada Jay
Dan Strickland
Algonquin Provincial Park

Wednesday January 30, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Tea & Coffee 6:30 PM | Reception to Follow
Senate Room, 608 Robertson Hall
Carleton University

An Algonquin study—the longest of its kind in the world—has shown a 50-per-cent decline in the Gray Jay population since 1977. That was the case 10 months ago, when scientist Alex Sutton spoke to our club. But he also had some good news then about a bird whose numbers have been slowly sinking. What if anything has changed?

Algonquin Park's Dan Strickland is speaking on

"The triumph and downfall of the Canada Jay" at 7 p.m. this Wednesday as part of a free lecture at Carleton University. See details on the poster.

Meetings:

First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Amprior Curling Club
15 Galvin Street

Annual Memberships:

Family \$30, Individual \$25

Guests welcome:

\$5 per meeting
Students Free!

Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club



likes

Following in the footsteps of naturalist and photographer Charles Macnamara, the Macnamara Club has explored, documented and enjoyed the rich natural history of the Lower Ottawa Valley since the club's founding in 1984. Members meet the first Tuesday of every month except July and August at the Amprior Curling Club, 15 Galvin Street, in Amprior. Expert speakers share their knowledge and take members in easy steps into their special worlds. Field trips throughout the year investigate everything from geology, to birds in migration, to rare orchids.

[connect with me!](#)

Latest Posts

- Great opportunity to take in "The Triumph and Downfall... of the Canada Jay" by Dan Strickland at Carleton U this Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. *1/28/19 9:55AM*
- Rice fields transformed into pop-up wetlands for shorebirds
https://blog.nature.org/science/2018/01/29/bumper-crop-birds-pop-up-wetlands-are-a-success-in-california/?utm_source=Cool+Green+Science&utm_campaign=4e2e89d54d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_16_02_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1cb1ca7250-4e2e89d54d-206750069 *1/26/19 8:48AM*
- Fascinating. An example of how the moon gets craters. *1/23/19 10:58AM*
- https://blog.nature.org/science/2019/01/15/could-spider-silk-become-a-natural-replacement-for-plastic/?utm_source=Cool+Green+Science&utm_campaign=4e2e89d54d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_16_02_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1cb1ca7250-4e2e89d54d-206750069 *1/23/19 8:49AM*

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FIELD TRIPS

Get the details and any special instructions for each of these field trips on the website at mfnc.ca. Advance registration is required for each event at events@mfnc.ca

Carp Barrens Winter Species Count

Saturday, Feb. 2, 1-3:30p.m., Dunrobin/Carp

Led by Friends of the Carp Hills

MFNC will join the Friends of the Carp Hills (FCH) in a species count of the animals that make the Carp Barrens their home in the winter. **Field naturalists with good animal track or bird identification skills are needed.** The number of participants will be limited to 15.



Snowshoe and Social *Kid-Friendly Event*

Sunday, February 17, 1:00 - 4:00 Fitzroy Provincial Park

Host: Karen Krueger

Meet: 227 Kedey Street, Fitzroy Harbour. Park on the street or at the end of the street.

Join us for this nature walk on trails through Fitzroy Park where Karen will show us some of her favourite spots. We should find lots of tracks and signs of animals as they go about their winter activities. We will look for Bald Eagles and other birds, visit a waterfall and a beaver pond. Bring snowshoes and binoculars if you have them. The trails are often hard-packed so sturdy boots might be fine. Trail conditions will be updated on the website before the outing.

After the outing we are invited back to Karen's for snacks and hot drinks. Karen has cats and a dog, all friendly, but keep this in mind if you have allergies.



Tentative date for 2019 Owl Prowl with Michael Runtz

Details for the 2019 Owl Prowl will be posted once they are finalized, but the tentative date is March 31.

WERE YOU THERE?

Did you miss one of our outings? You'll find summaries and photos of all field trips including this one on the website.

Late fall birding around Arnprior

On November 18, 18 participants car-pooled into five vehicles for a birding trip in the Arnprior area. Led by Sophie Roy, the group counted [16 species of birds](#).



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