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Macnamara
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

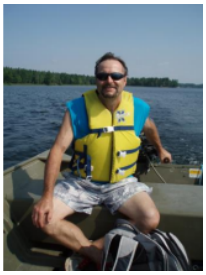
Promoting the appreciation, understanding, and preservation of nature in the Ottawa Valley

Welcome, **Karen**

A SALUTE TO WINTER

MEMBERS-ONLY MEETING
December 1, 2020
7:30 p.m.

Pardon the Introduction: Impact of Human Activity on White Lake's Aquatic Ecosystem



Our December meeting will be a virtual one using Zoom and featuring a presentation by Jean-Pierre (J-P) Thonney, retired aquatic biologist with over 30 years' experience in 16 countries.

White Lake has experienced a range of anthropogenic-based changes to its aquatic community structure since its initial creation through impoundment in the mid-1800s. In order to gain a better understanding of these implications of these effects we will be taking an underwater tour to observe changes to the lake's aquatic flora and fauna over time.

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This visual exploration will focus on recent impacts from shoreline development, invasive species introductions, and other changes associated with an ever increasing human footprint around the lake. Get more information at https://mfnc.ca/how-disturbances-change-ecosystems/

SIGHTINGS ANYONE?

Club member John Lawrence is again facilitating our meeting, which will start with club business. If you have a special sighting you'd like to share, please send the details before the meeting to him at john.lawrence@gartner.com . Include your name, the date and location of your sighting and any questions you may have; add a photo if you have one. As in our regular meetings, Michael will offer his comments. If you haven't used Zoom yet, *don't worry— it's fairly straightforward.*

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. but if you're new to Zoom, we recommend that you sign in at least 15 minutes early to test your audio/video.

Join us at: https://zoom.us/j/4908487254 then follow the Zoom instructions. Members without a Zoom account will be asked to download Zoom – it takes less than one minute. Still unsure? You'll find detailed instructions for using Zoom to join the meeting here,

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Pakenham-Arnprior Christmas Bird Count (CBC) held on Boxing Day

Meetings:
Due to ongoing measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, our in-person first-Tuesday-of-the-month meetings at the Arnprior Curling Club have been suspended until further notice. Check your email for club updates on virtual options.

Annual Memberships
January 1 to December 31:
Family $30, Individual $25

The annual Pakenham-Arnprior CBC is coming up fast! If you have basic birding skills and would like to take part in the count that is held on Boxing Day, please contact Michael Runtz at michaelwruntz@gmail.com.

House Sparrows have declined from the record high count of 2,011 in 1985 to 2019's 151, a trend that is being noticed world-wide.

There are two ways to participate: you can be a field observer and cover an area (usually with someone else) for the day, recording all of the birds you encounter; or you can keep tally of birds coming to your feeders.

The count area is a 7.5 mile radius circle, and includes Pakenham, Galetta, Cedar Hill, Waba, and most of Arnprior (Division Street forms the western boundary of the circle). Unfortunately, Kinburn is just out of the count circle, as is White Lake.

Usually there is a pot-luck compilation after the count but this year, of course, that will not be the case. In its place, a Zoom compilation is planned. **If you would like more information on the count, please feel free to contact me via email or by phone: 613-720-2503**

WERE YOU THERE?

COVID-19 recommendations have led us to limit the number of participants in our field trips (and include only club members) but

you can still imagine yourself there via the photos and details in our write-ups.

Basic Tree ID in Gilles Grove

Fall colours were dwindling and most comparison leaves were obtained from the forest floor when MFNC members Roger Bird and David Major led the club's field trip to identify basic trees in Arnprior's Gillies Grove.

Participants shared information and resources and engaged in active sleuthing to determine the differences in the leaf structure and the bark, with both groups reporting they learned "a whole bunch" about the trees in the Grove. Read more about the outing and see more photos here.

Photo by Mark Guzewski

MACNAMARA NATURE TRAIL

An incredible amount of work on the Macnamara Nature Trail was accomplished these past two months by volunteers led by our trail co-ordinators Julian and Béatrice Romeski.

Check out some of the highlights for the Lady Slipper Boardwalk, where recent floods had moved log supports tipping the boardwalk; the long/heavy sections were difficult to level. A total of 26 boards had rotted and required replacement.

Next up was the levelling of the Lookout Tower Boardwalk; thanks to the efforts of the volunteers, who also added a new section, this boardwalk now provides safe access to the tower. It now sports a new railing as well. Find more details and photos of the work on the trail here.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Macnamara Field Naturalists Club is a friendly club. Back in the pre-covid months when we held our club meetings in person at the Arnprior Curling club, we always asked our new members to stand up and introduce themselves. We miss that ritual. So, with that door closed, we'll extend our welcome by listing their names in our newsletter.

A warm welcome to the following new members who have joined since our last meeting:
David Overholt
Guy Robitaille and Beth Robitaille

ON THE SUBJECT OF MEMBERSHIPS

MFNC memberships now align with the calendar year January 1 to December 31, matching our club's new financial year, therefore 2021 membership fees are due in December 2020, announced in our July2020 bulletin**.** Renew your membership online here.

HOWEVER: If you joined our club as a first-time member in 2020, your membership has been extended through the 2021 year and you do not need to renew.

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