MFNC April 2021 Bulletin

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Macnamara FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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

Welcome, **Karen**

HOOFING IT IN ONTARIO

Has this warmer weather sparked your spirit? This month we have TWO stimulating nature presentations on our agenda.

Leading our spring lineup on April 6 is MFNR's Mike Allan, who'll be sharing firsthand information on the restoration of elk to Ontario. Join us at 7:30 p.m. when we'll begin the club meeting with local sightings.

Then, at 7 p.m. on April 27, Toronto Zoo educators will be our guides to "Keep our Great Lakes Great" as we learn about aquatic species at risk (SAR).

HOW TO JOIN THESE EVENTS VIA ZOOM
If you're new to Zoom, we recommend you sign in to https://zoom.us/j/4908487254 at least 15 minutes early to test your audio/video. We will send you a separate reminder with all these details a day or two before the meeting. Find more details under "New to Zoom" in the sidebar to the right →

APRIL 6, 2021: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The restoration of Elk (Cervus elaphus) to Ontario: update and status

Male elk have impressively large antlers

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Young Macs
Sarah Stewart

Special Committee Members
Brian Voss (Membership)
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Meetings:
Due to ongoing measures to combat the spread

Elk/Wapiti have been “hoofing it” across Ontario for some 3,000 to 8,000 years. Yet they disappeared from the province, as well as the remainder of eastern North America, during the late 1800s. In early 2015, *CBC news* reported that Wild Elk had been making a comeback in Ontario since being re-introduced in the early 2000 and that a number had been spotted east of Ottawa.

Michael (Mike) Allan, a wildlife research technician for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MFNR) and our April meeting speaker will give us the goods on one of our largest terrestrial mammals. **Read more.**

April 27, 2021: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Local aquatic species at risk
Toronto Zoo’s Great Lakes Program
(Zoom presentation)

Alien invaders ahead! Asian carps, sea lamprey, round goby and invasive mussels are invading Ontario waters and attacking aquatic ecosystems important to both animals and humans.

At 7 p.m. on April 27, Toronto Zoo educators will be our guides to "Keep our Great Lakes Great" as we learn about aquatic species at risk (SAR). The presentation will run about 60 minutes including time for questions.

Catch *Nature in Your Backyard* — live-stream with naturalist Michael Runtz

On March 18 the City of Pembroke live-streamed a one-hour presentation by Michael Runtz on the city’s YouTube channel. You can watch the presentation, **Nature in Your**

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 our virtual options.

Annual Memberships:
Family $30, Individual $25

Purchase your membership for 2021:
https://mfnc.ca/membership/

Do you have special sightings to share? Send them to john.lawrence@gartner.com in advance of the meeting. Include your name, the date and location of your sighting and any questions you may have: photos aren't required but are helpful if you have one.

New to Zoom?
Click this link: https://zoom.us/j/4908487254
then follow the Zoom instructions.
Members who don't yet have a Zoom account: to download Zoom takes less than a minute.
Zoom will work on your computer, phone or iPad.
You can also join the audio by calling either number below, and, when asked, enter the meeting number – 4908487254.
+1 647 558 0588 Canada
+1 778 907 2071 Canada
Find your local number:
https://zoom.us/u/amb5Gx5X8

Backyard, after the fact! Keep a pen and paper handy to write down Michael's suet recipe for birds!

Easy hiking on a great trail

The Macnamara Nature Trail has been getting lots of love from visitors. We recently came across a detailed posting from a young family who walked the trail in mid-October when "the trees along the route were just stunning."

"But it was also just a nice, easy trail that got us a great walk in the woods," they continued. "Not too short, not too long, the Macnamara Nature Trail was just right!

By the time we arrived back at the parking lot, we had hiked just under 6 km. It had taken us 2 hours and 20 minutes, but that was with a toddler hiking a lot of the way."

Sightings anyone?

"The woods have been quiet this winter," notes Michael Runtz. It's been a low year for seeds in the wild and, being food stressed, many birds didn't stay around, heading south instead."

Snowy Owl with vole
12 February 2021

Ann Lambert
Eagleson Road

As it landed its head came up with a vole in its beak, notes Ann. There was no sign of anything on the snow so its sharp ears must have heard it under the snow.

[See a selection of photos from other member-reported sightings here](#).

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