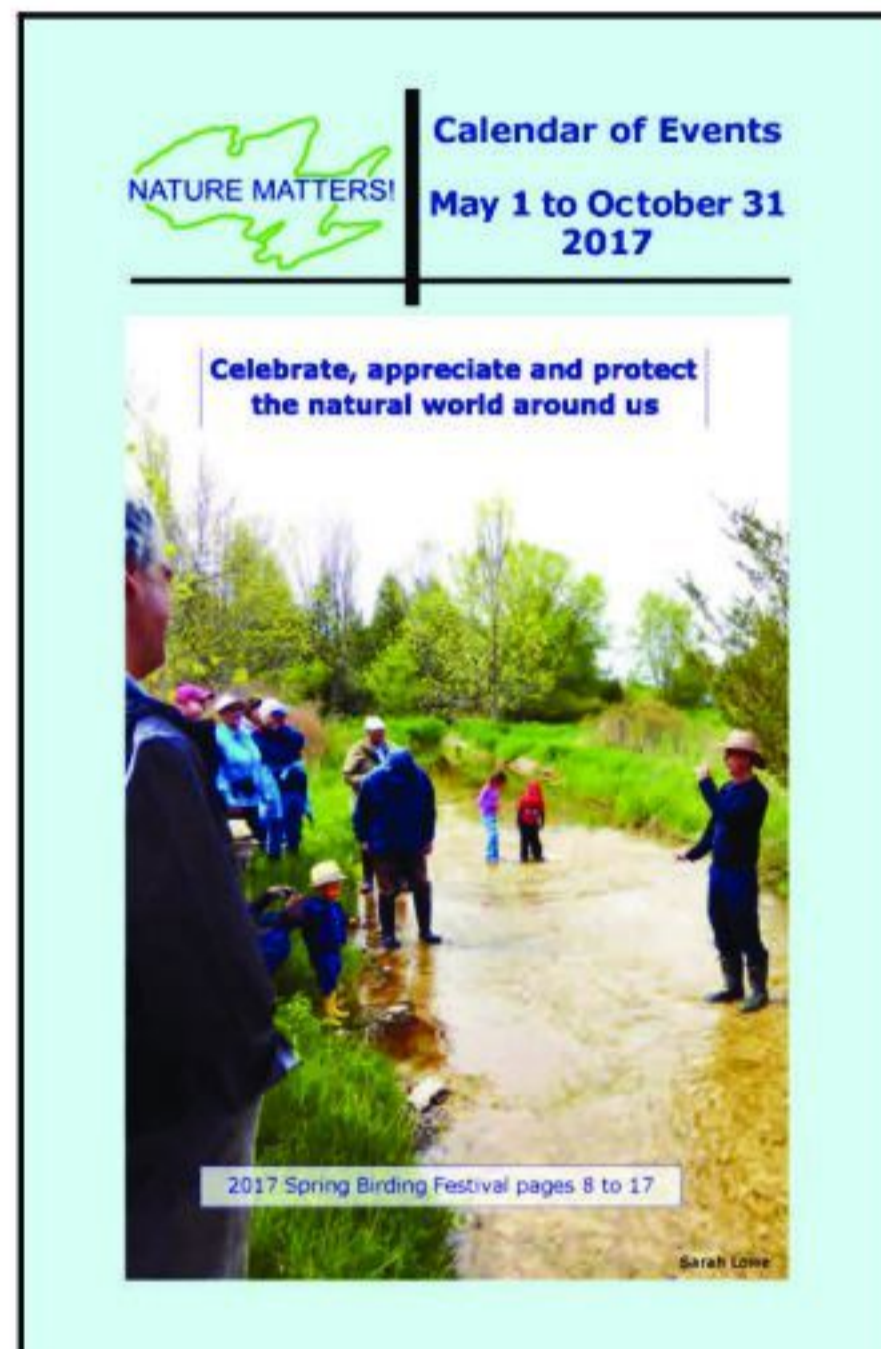


Nature Matters! in South Marysburgh

By JC Sulzenko



In a bold move, members of the Board of Directors of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) decided it was high time to showcase events and activities about the natural world in and around the County from May to October. To this end, they developed the **Nature Matters!** project which will launch at the Observatory at the end of Long Point Road right after the April long weekend.

A print and online 48-page booklet in full colour, **Nature Matters!** pulls together for the first time programs and activities offered by local outdoor, naturalist and environmental groups for the enjoyment of County residents and visitors alike.

Conceived and designed by PEPtBO Board member Borys Holowacz, who led the production team, **Nature Matters!** contains a detailed calendar and descriptions of events and programs in South Marysburgh and around the County from May 6 until October 31. Copies of **Nature Matters!** will be available across the area by the end of April. A PDF of the booklet is downloadable now from the PEPtBO website at www.peptbo.ca

"This part of the County, South Marysburgh, offers unique opportunities to celebrate, appreciate and protect nature and our natural heritage," Peter Fuller, President of PEPtBO, explained. "The programs described in **Nature Matters!** provide everyone and every age group with chances and choices to connect with the beauty and diversity of nature along the County's South Shore."

The project turns the spotlight on South Marysburgh, where many events take place. Highlights include PEPtBO's Spring Birding Festival (with programs for children, hikes, and a bus tour) and its fall Migration Matters Festival; Prince Edward County Field Naturalists (PECFN) outings and their BioBLITZ excursions to discover flora and butterflies on the South Shore; St. Philip's Anglican Church's Annual Black River Canoe Trip; anniversary and dog-friendly celebrations at the Mariners' Park Museum; a guided walk to the Point

Traverse Lighthouse; a taste of bee-keeping at Long Point Honey Co., and of heirloom tomatoes at Vicki's Veggies; and exploring the dark sky at Point Traverse in October.

This project is a first for PEPtBO and underlines the registered charity's roles in monitoring migrating birds at the Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, and as the official caretaker for the Prince Edward County South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA.)

Forty kilometers of Lake Ontario shoreline in South Marysburgh and ninety square kilometers of land and water habitats now carry the environmental distinction of being designated as globally significant. PEPtBO acts as steward of the IBA and remains devoted to protecting the ecological integrity of the area and to advocating for its unique environment.

Presented with the support of the Gosling Foundation, NatureHood Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada, and embraced by County advertisers, **Nature Matters!** extends an invitation to all comers to enjoy the natural wonders found along the South Shore and in the County.

Detailed descriptions and contact/registration information on individual programs are now available online in **Nature Matters!** at www.peptbo.ca

For further information on PEPtBO, please contact Cheryl Anderson at 613.849.7743 or cherylander-son23@sympatico.ca.

For further information on the **Nature Matters!** brochure, please contact Borys Holowacz at b.holowacz@sympatico.ca.

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