

# South Marysburgh's Natural Heritage Enriched with Official Designation of Monarch Point

Four thousand acres of land along Prince Edward County's south shore, a sizeable portion of it in South Marysburgh, received official designation and protection on Monday, July 31.

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, David Piccini, stood on the shoreline at Point Petre and declared the area is now protected from development which "will ensure future generations can enjoy the natural beauty of the province".

Monarch Point is the first new conservation area created by the province in over 10 years.

## Why it Matters

The reserve is named in recognition of Monarch butterflies. Large numbers of them use this part of the south shore as a vital jump off and landing area in their migration south and north each year. Weighing less than a paper clip, said Minister Piccini, they can fly as much as 80 km a day. Preserving the stretch of shoreline for Monarchs as well as the various plant and animal species—including the Blanding Turtles—and wetlands is of international sig-

nificance and puts South Marysburgh and the County on the map as an important global biodiversity area.

MPP for Bay of Quinte which includes the County, Todd Smith, welcomed Minister Piccini, crediting him with a years-long commitment to preserving the Lake Ontario shoreline. As MPP for the neighbouring riding of Northumberland-Peterborough South, Piccini, Smith said, has worked equally hard to con-

serve shoreline in the Brighton area.

"The creation of the Monarch Point Conservation Reserve ensures the preservation of Prince Edward County's south shore. It is the product of great collaboration between our government, the local community, and partners to designate this land as protected now and for future generations," Smith said.

One of the critical part-

ners, he said, is the municipality of Prince Edward County, adding that without their advocacy, the reserve would not have become a reality.

PEC Mayor Steve Ferguson underscored that when local parties work together it can make a difference and projects of this scale can be achieved.

"We are thrilled that Ontario's first new conservation reserve in 10 years is right here in our backyard," the mayor

*(Continued on page 13)*



*The County's south shore at Point Petre was the scenic backdrop for the Province of Ontario's announcement officially designating the 4,000 acres of land in the area as the Monarch Point Conservation Reserve. At the podium is MPP for Bay of Quinte Todd Smith, and to the right is Environment, Conservation and Parks Minister David Piccini who made the announcement; PEC Mayor Steve Ferguson; Mark Stabb, Program Director, Central Ontario-East, Nature Conservancy of Canada; and John Hirsch, President of the South Shore Joint Initiative and South Marysburgh Councillor. —Mirror Photo*

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