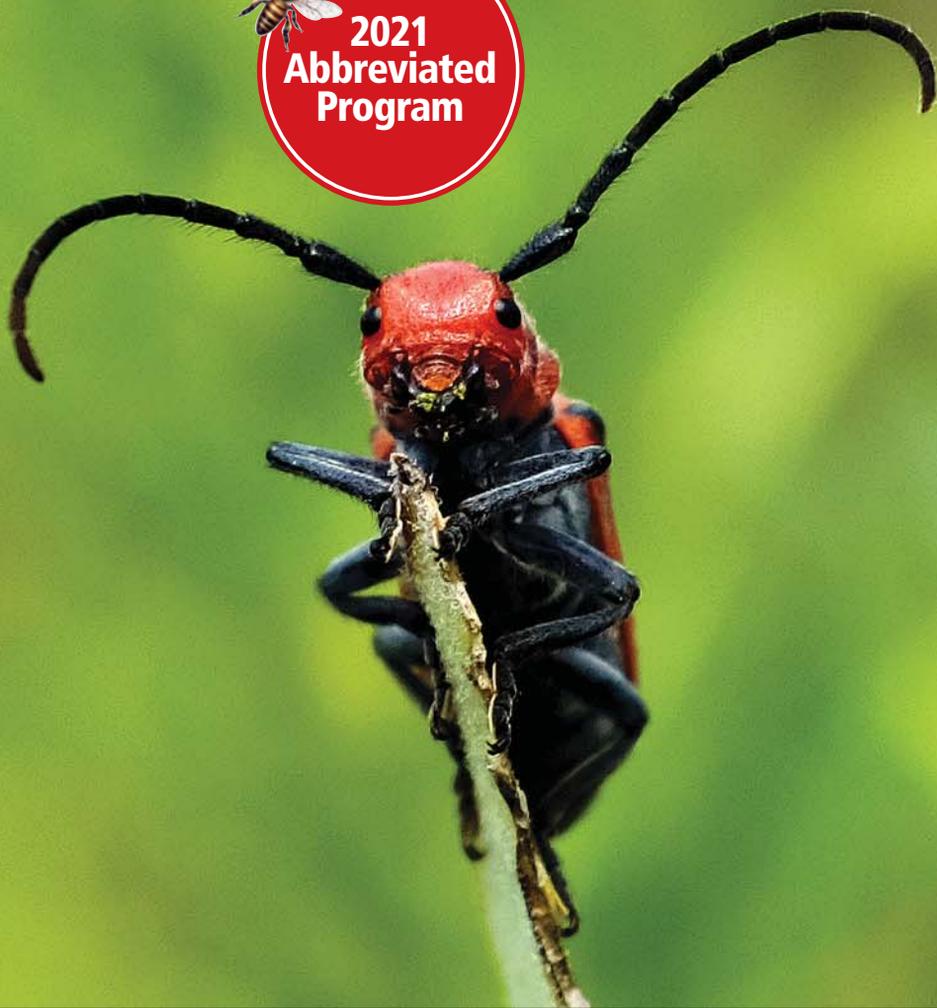




**2021
Abbreviated
Program**



THE PELEE BUZZ

Your Island Passport to Nature ~ 2021 Season



We Invite You to Participate

THE PELEE BUZZ program is a project of the **NATURE ON PELEE GROUP**, a volunteer group of islanders with an interest in promoting the amazing natural biodiversity and features of Pelee Island, situated in the heart of the Carolinian Zone of Canada. We acknowledge and appreciate support from our advertisers and participation from our conservation partners. Join us on **THE PELEE BUZZ Facebook** page, or email us at: peleebuzz@gmail.com

2021
Abbreviated
Program

 **REGISTRATION** You are invited to participate in any or all of these educational and adventuresome events, most are free. For events by partner organizations, please register at the contact given with each event. Find the specific event and order a ticket; a printed ticket is unnecessary. **Please Note:** with COVID-19 restrictions numbers are limited, it is best to pre-register, space may not be available for last minute drop-ins.

OUR COVER STORY MILKWEEDS & INSECTS



Common milkweed
photo M. Nosanchuk

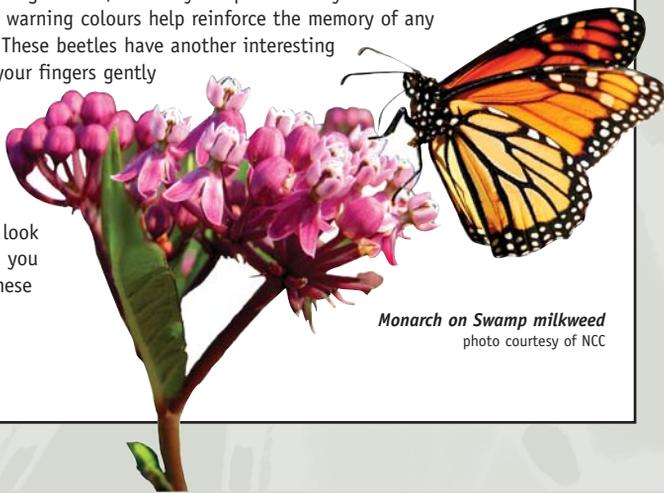


Monarch butterfly larva
photo M. Nosanchuk

The association of Monarch butterflies and milkweeds is well known; the adults lay eggs on the milkweeds and the striped larvae feed on the leaves. There are many additional interesting details. The milkweeds are toxic to browsing vertebrates such as deer or rabbits, containing cardiac glucocides. They also have a sticky white sap or latex (the origin of the plant's name) that gums up the mouth parts of unprepared feeding insects. Monarch larvae minimize the latex problem by carefully chewing around the base of a leaf, cutting off the pressure, before feeding on it, so very little latex is exuded as they feed. They are able to accumulate the toxins that are more harmful to vertebrates; a bird, for example, that tries to feed on a larva is quickly discouraged and learns not to try another one. There is also a red and black **Milkweed Longhorn Beetle** (cover photo) that is able

to feed on milkweeds by using a similar behaviour to disarm the latex pressure by carefully cutting the vein near where they are preparing to feed, and they are protected by the toxins in a similar way. Their red and black warning colours help reinforce the memory of any naïve birds that tries eating one. These beetles have another interesting behaviour; pick one up and close your fingers gently around it and listen; you will hear a high pitched squeaking sound! What is it telling you? Some also make a purring sound; that may be reserved for potential mates.

As you walk through meadows, look for milkweeds with chewed leaves; you will almost certainly find one of these two insects on the plant.



Monarch on Swamp milkweed
photo courtesy of NCC

Cover photo by Murray Nosanchuk
Milkweed Longhorn Beetle



Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve – the southern-most point on the island. photo R. Tymstra

Welcome to Pelee Island

On behalf of council and the staff of the Township of Pelee, I would like to welcome you to the most southern inhabited place in Canada.



Pelee Township consists of nine islands in the western basin of Lake Erie, Pelee is the largest of the islands (19 km by 6 km) and Ohio is at our southern border. Our location provides us with a rare Carolinian forest rich in biodiversity. We have two Provincial Nature Reserve Parks and multiple reserve lands of three conservation organizations on the island, teeming with birds

and endangered species of wild life. The island, surrounded by Lake Erie, offers great swimming, fishing and boating. Enjoy the serenity, beauty and quiet of our friendly island.

Ray Durocher, *Mayor*

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and send our gratitude to the original ancestors of Pelee Island and its surrounding waters. We recognize that these First Peoples stewarded the lands and waters and welcomed and aided new settlers from afar. We honour and respect the continuing presence of the *Caldwell First Nation* and the *Walpole Island First Nation* in this region and other indigenous communities across Turtle Island.

Pelee Island offers a large selection of over-night accommodations ranging from inns and bed-&-breakfasts, to cottages and camping.

Visit our website: www.pelee.org/tourism/accommodations/



Program layout & design by Scott Hughes Graphic Communication




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Please contact us for more info!

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2021 PELEE BUZZ

Events Locations

- 1 Heritage Centre
- 2 Fish Point Parking
- 3 PIBO Banding Station
- 4 NCC Ivey Property
- 5 Kraus Property
- 6 Stone Road Alvar
- 7 NCC FDNR Property
- 8 The Quarry
- 9 PIBO Station

PELEE ISLAND

Ontario, Canada



2021 NATURE EVENTS CALENDAR

This years abbreviated program...

Due to concerns of the health and well-being of our participants in the continuing era of COVID-19, we must limit numbers of participants for each event and ask that the precautions at the time of the event be followed by all. For some of the events, due to the difficulty of maintaining a safe distance, we must limit them to people who have been fully vaccinated. Please register for each event; more details will be provided at registration. We look forward to having a full program in 2022; stay tuned and stay well!

**2021
Abbreviated
Program**

Ferry to the Island – April 1, through December 6, 2021

Weather permitting, check ferry scheduling at:

www.ontarioferries.com/pelee-island-ferries/schedule-overview

JULY



Sunday, July 11, 8:30-10:00am

JOIN ONTARIO NATURE FOR A BIRD HIKE

Stone Road Alvar led by bird expert Larry Cornelis.

Register: www.eventbrite.ca/e/stone-road-alvar-nature-reserve-bird-hike-tickets-160977866131



Yellow-billed Cuckoo
photo S. Onishi



Ruby-throated Hummingbird & Columbine
photo C. Cartwright



Indigo Bunting
photo M. Nosanchuk

Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO) is a non-profit charitable organisation devoted to the study and conservation of birds. It conducts intensive migration-monitoring research and breeding bird studies on Pelee Island.

PIBO



Mandate:

- Long-term migration monitoring research on Pelee Island as a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN).
- Long-term studies of Pelee's significant breeding bird communities.
- Serve as an educational centre for the public, school groups and the community, and to promote participation in local conservation projects.
- To highlight the importance of Pelee Island's unique natural heritage.

Connect with us: www.pibo.ca www.facebook.com/PeleeIslandBirdObservatory

JULY Cont'd



Saturday, July 24, 1:00pm **WALKING TOUR OF A WETLAND & MEADOW HABITAT COMPLEX**

David Kraus, an Essex District Biology and Science teacher, will take you on a tour of his impressive created ponds and habitats on what was flat farmland only a few years ago. Hear how and why different features of this site were built, look at important plants for restoration and think what you could do on your own land! Hear about and observe the wildlife the site has attracted. **Register:** www.peleebuzz.eventbrite.ca



Wetland & meadow habitat tour photo J. Ambrose

AUGUST



Sunday, August 1, 3:00-5:00pm **MULTI-EXPERIENCIAL WALK IN THE WOODS**

Walking in the woods is said to be calming for the body and mind; we are taking this a few steps further with island-inspired spoken word by award winning poet *D.A. Lockhart*, visual art by *Talysha Bujold-Abu*, musical interludes by eclectic soundscape practitioner *Trevor Malcolm* (participants are welcome to bring devices of percussion), and observations of nature by an island scientist. This collaboration between *Stone & Sky* and the *PELEE BUZZ* is not to be missed!

Register: www.eventbrite.com/e/multi-experiencial-walk-in-the-woods-tickets-161661492877



Butterfly Identification photo S. Sukumar



A big tree on Pelee. photo J. Ambrose

Bloodroot on the forest floor in Spring photo J. Ambrose





Lake Henry Wetland photo S. Hughes

AUGUST Cont'd



Saturday, August 14, 5:30 pm

STONE & SKY PRESENTS ~ LETTERS TO GRACE

10 actors and 8 musicians will perform this timely and poignant work at the *Quarry Theatre*, details at: www.facebook.com/Letterstograce

Hear Here!

Recognized by Canadian Heritage as a nationally significant cultural tradition, *Stone & Sky* is an eclectic series of curated artistic events encompassing a Greek Revival Theatre Festival, Festiva Regionalista, and multi/inter-art concerts: it culminates in a grand finale *Harvest Fair* weekend featuring a delightfully unruly troupe of social commentary clowns. Hosting over 100 resident professional artists, musical guests performing on the Island represent everything from experimental soundscapes to grand chorale.

~ *Stone & Sky is a Big Tooth in the Smile that is Pelee Island* ~

For event schedules and further details: www.stoneandsky.org

FARMERS MARKET Every Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm, May 22-Sept 25



Sunday, August 22, 2:00-5:00pm

GEOLOGY OF PEELEE ISLAND

Join islander *Ron Tiessen* for an examination of the island's interesting geology, fossils and land forms. We will tour a few island sites and see some found objects at the *Heritage Centre*.

Register: www.peleebuzz.eventbrite.ca



Glacial grooves at Mill Point photo S. Hughes



Pelee Island Heritage Centre & Museum

Established in 1988, our museum houses a superb collection of island treasures. Focusing on Pelee Island's human and natural history, exhibits include our geology, early Paleo-Indian culture, early settlers and their stewardship of the island, ship-wrecks, crossing the ice, wine history, and much more! ~ Browse our bookstore for original publications.

Open daily May to October, 10:00am-5:00pm

Located directly across from the ferry terminal.

519-724-2291 www.peleeislandmuseum.ca





A memorable island sunset photo S. Hughes

AUGUST Cont'd



Saturday, August 28, 6:30pm

THE INTRIGUING LIVES OF THE BLUE RACER & OTHER SNAKES

Join Blue Racer researcher *Ryan Wolfe* and *Ontario Nature* staff as we explore Stone Road Alvar to learn about alvar habitat while searching for these majestic creatures in their natural habitat. Ryan will discuss the important role snakes play in the ecosystem and *Ontario Nature* staff will highlight efforts being taken on conservation lands to protect them. Please register so we can provide you with updates about the event. <http://peleebuzz.eventbrite.ca>



Blue racer photo R. Wolfe

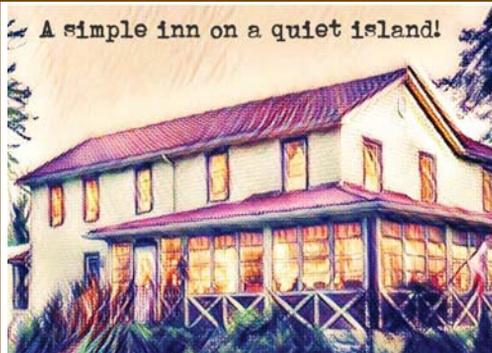
Watch the PELEE BUZZ Facebook site for updates, there are other pending events that could be scheduled later this year.



The Nature Conservancy of Canada's - FDNR native meadow & wetland project photo S. Hughes



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Stonehill B&B ~ 519-724-2193 www.bandbatstonehill.com

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Lucky Stone Beach House B&B ~ 519-919-1054

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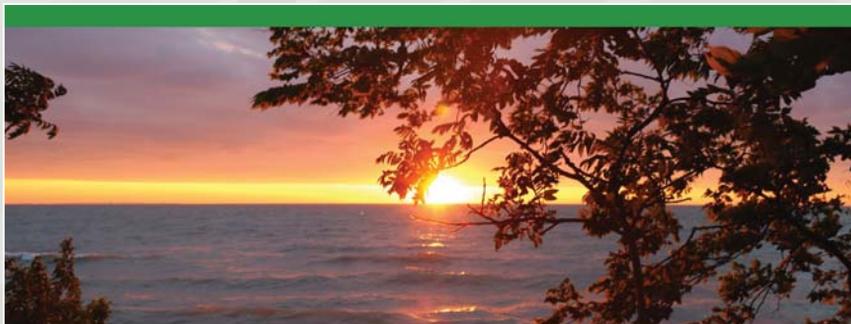
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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA'S BIGGEST WETLAND PROJECT

Since 1994 the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has conserved over 390 hectares (1,000 acres) of globally rare shoreline, alvar and forest habitat - more than 10 per cent of the island. Over 10 years ago, NCC began to transform former agricultural fields into thriving native meadows and small wetlands. These restored habitats are now teeming with wildlife, including species at risk, such as monarch and snapping turtle.

Now, working with Ducks Unlimited Canada, NCC is planning to create a massive 25-hectare (62-acre) wetland on the Florian Diamante Nature Reserve — our largest wetland on Pelee yet! As part of this project, NCC will also create new trails and signage to welcome visitors and the local community to this special place.

Wetlands are critical, not just for wildlife but for people too. They clean our water, help reduce flooding and create places of beauty and enjoyment.

We need your help to make this wetland a reality!



LEARN MORE AND DONATE

LAURA VAUGHAN

1.800.465.0029 EXT. 2317

LAURA.VAUGHAN@NATURECONSERVANCY.CA

NATURECONSERVANCY.CA/PELEEWETLAND

Charitable Registration # 119246544RR000



THE BAKERY



5 North Shore Road www.theislandbakery.ca



Sacred Waters & Lotus leaves on Lake Henry
photo R. Tymstra



Monarch on Goldenrod
photo T. Preney

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THE PELEE BUZZ

...is one of eleven 'Passport to Nature' programs across Canada. Consider participating in others ~ Here are some in Southern Ontario.

- **The Couchiching Conservancy ~ Orillia area**
www.couchichingconserv.ca
- **Long Point Basin Land Trust ~ Norfolk County**
www.longpointlandtrust.ca/events
- **Nature Matters ~ Prince Edward County**
www.peptbo.ca/nature-matters.php
- **rare Charitable Research Reserve ~ Cambridge area**
www.raresites.org
- **Thames Talbot Land Trust ~ London area**
www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/passport_to_nature
- **Wellington Water Watchers: 2Rivers Festival ~ Guelph**
www.2riversfestival.org
- **Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox, & Addington**
www.landconservancykfla.org/passport
- **Ecology Ottawa ~ Ottawa**
www.ecologyottawa.ca



a very special thanks to all our conservation partners...



The Gosling Foundation

