



Photo by Paul Jones

WELCOME

South Shore Joint Initiative
Annual General Meeting
May 8, 2025



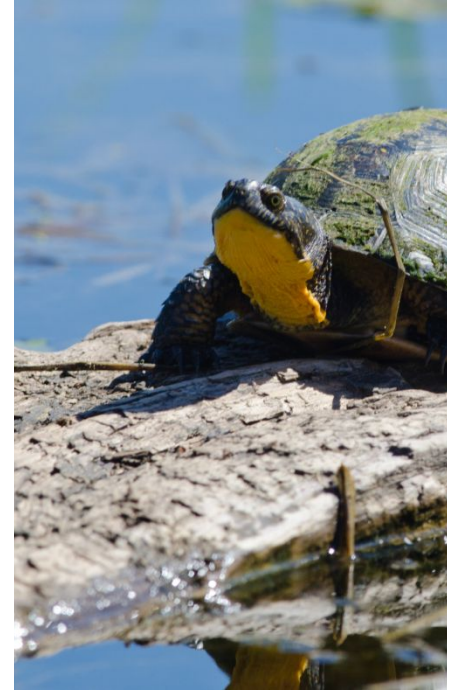
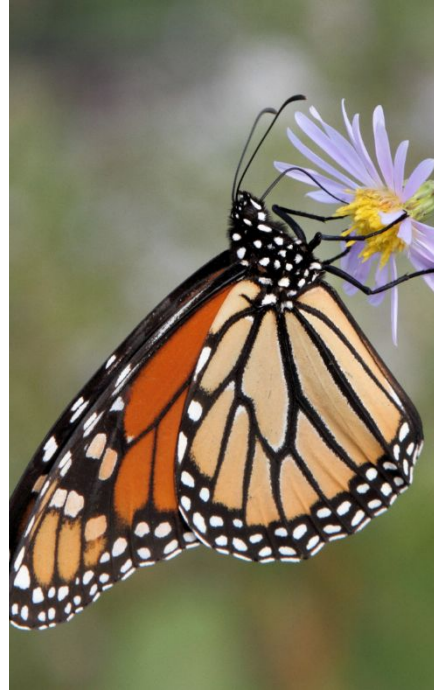
Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, the land of Prince Edward County has been the traditional territory and home of Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge that the South Shore lies on the traditional lands of the Wendake-Nionwentsïo, Haudenosaunee and Mississauga Nations and that Indigenous peoples continue to live in Prince Edward County. We are dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring this land for all future generations.

South Shore Joint Initiative

2025 Annual General Meeting AGENDA

- **Welcome and approval of agenda**
- **Approval of minutes of AGM held on June 12, 2024**
- **President's report**
- **Treasurer's report and motion to approve**
- **Appointing financial reviewer for 2025 - 2026 – Bruce Nicholson**
- **Strategic Issues reports**
- **By-law amendment – increase in the number of board members**
- **Election of Board of Directors**
- **Conservation Champion Award**
- **Sojourn – Animation by Stacey Sproule**
- **Presentation – Luke Ridgway**



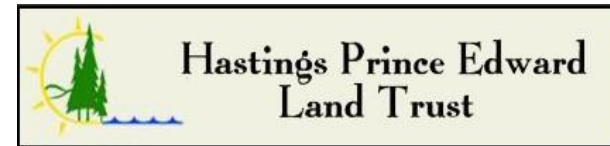
OUR VISION IS A PERMANENTLY PROTECTED PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY SOUTH SHORE WHERE TOGETHER BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE THRIVE.

**TOGETHER, OUR
MISSION IS TO
EDUCATE AND
ADVOCATE FOR
THE
PROTECTION,
PRESERVATION
AND
RESTORATION
OF SOUTH
SHORE LANDS
AND WATERS.**



Photos from left to right: Bert Jenkins,
Dawn Ayer

Our Founding Partners



About our board

- **John Hirsch, President**
- **Cheryl Anderson, Vice-President**
- **Amy Bodman**
- **Geoff Craig**
- **John Foster, Editor, *The South Shoreliner***
- **Barb Tomlin, Treasurer**
- **Gurpreet Patheja**
- **Steven Burr (proposed)**
- **Darren Goldstein (proposed)**
- **Matthew Christie (proposed)**
- **Luke Ridgway (proposed)**

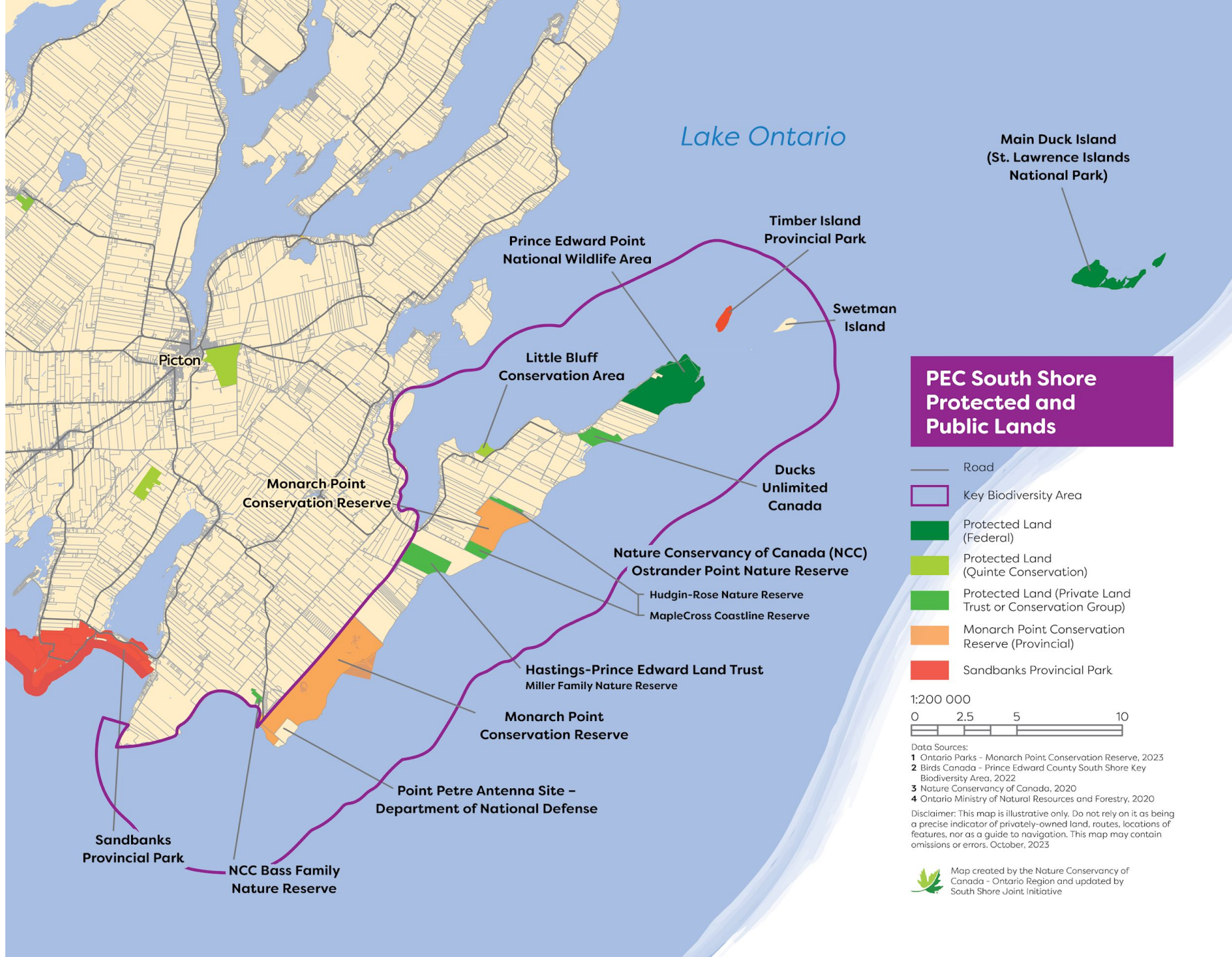
We have help from

- **Dawn Ayer, Director of Communications**
- **Katherine Rogalska, Event and Social Media Coordinator**
- **Cheryl Chapman, Wild Thing Coordinator**
- **ALL OF YOU!!!**

Taking initiative and building consensus to conserve more of the South Shore



- **2018 – incorporated in March**
- **2019 – launched SSJI.ca and a Facebook page**
- **2019/2023 – invited people to discover the IBA (South Shore Strolls)**
- **2021 – secured charity status**
- **Monarch Point Conservation Reserve proclaimed July 31, 2023**
- **Worked with Ontario Parks on the management plan for Monarch Point**
- **Took over the Naturehood program “WILD THING” educating school children about the South Shore and nature**
- **Established the South Shore Footpath committee**



Lake Ontario

Main Duck Island
(St. Lawrence Islands
National Park)

Timber Island
Provincial Park

Prince Edward Point
National Wildlife Area

Swetman
Island

Little Bluff
Conservation Area

Picton

**PEC South Shore
Protected and
Public Lands**

- Road
- Key Biodiversity Area
- Protected Land (Federal)
- Protected Land (Quinte Conservation)
- Protected Land (Private Land Trust or Conservation Group)
- Monarch Point Conservation Reserve (Provincial)
- Sandbanks Provincial Park



- Data Sources:
- 1 Ontario Parks - Monarch Point Conservation Reserve, 2023
 - 2 Birds Canada - Prince Edward County South Shore Key Biodiversity Area, 2022
 - 3 Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2020
 - 4 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020

Disclaimer: This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of privately-owned land, routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation. This map may contain omissions or errors. October, 2023

Map created by the Nature Conservancy of Canada - Ontario Region and updated by South Shore Joint Initiative

Monarch Point
Conservation Reserve

Ducks
Unlimited
Canada

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
Ostrander Point Nature Reserve

Hudgin-Rose Nature Reserve
MapleCross Coastline Reserve

Hastings-Prince Edward Land Trust
Miller Family Nature Reserve

Monarch Point
Conservation Reserve

Point Petre Antenna Site -
Department of National Defense

Sandbanks
Provincial Park

NCC Bass Family
Nature Reserve

What's next?

- **We will continue advocacy concerning the County's Natural Core Areas and Linkages and particularly the South Shore lands and waters.**
- **We are working with Ontario Parks on the Management Plan and the Footpath route for Monarch Point**
- **We are designing our own SSJI South Shore map**
- **We are working towards a Dark Sky designation for the South Shore**
- **We plan to continue interior restoration of the Hudgin House**
- **The Fishery Project is continuing with plans for a book Launch in 2026**
- **Events: South Shore Fest on June 7, Monarch Day July 26, Jazz, Wine and Art August 16, Pints and Polka September 27**

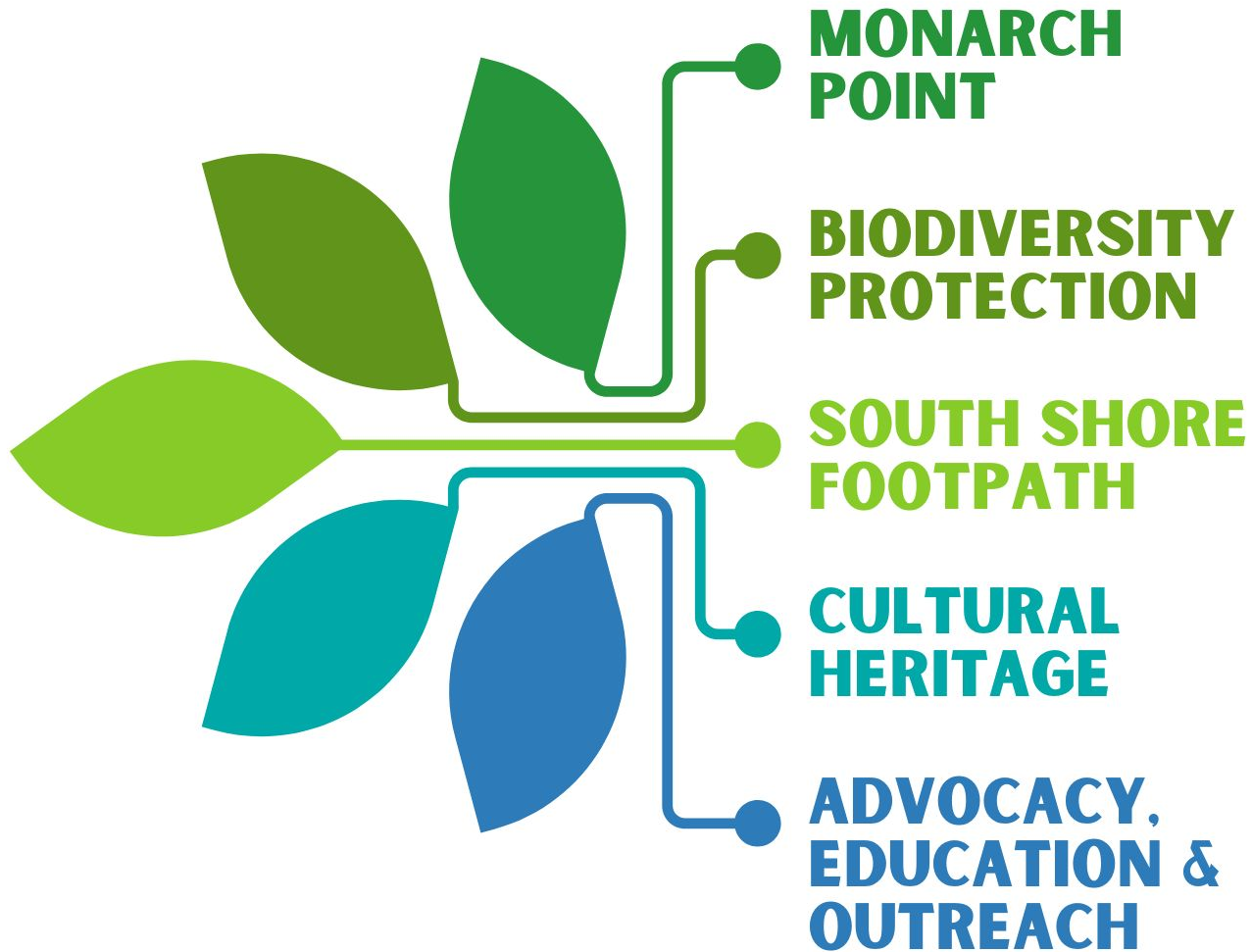
SOUTH SHORE JOINT INITIATIVE
Financial Statement for Year Ending March 31, 2025

FISCAL YEAR INCOME			
Grants	SSJI	\$32,453.50	\$32,453.50
	HHRF	\$0.00	
Membership/Donations/Other ex. HST rebate	SSJI	\$8,056.96	\$10,368.87
	HHRF	\$2,311.91	
Fundraising	SSJI	\$32,406.72	\$32,406.72
	HHRF	\$0.00	
Total Fiscal Year Income	South Shore Joint Initiative	\$72,917.18	\$75,229.09
	Hudgin House Restoration Fund	\$2,311.91	

FISCAL YEAR EXPENSES			
Advertising/Promotions/Fundraising/ Expenses	SSJI	-\$4,194.56	-\$4,194.56
	HHRF	\$0.00	
Contract Expenses	SSJI	-\$28,656.96	-\$28,656.96
	HHRF	\$0.00	
Insurance and Other Property Expenses	SSJI	-\$600.34	-\$7,927.19
	HHRF	-\$7,326.85	
Office/Administration/Misc Fees/Recurring Expenses	SSJI	-\$10,513.34	-\$10,513.34
	HHRF	\$0.00	
Grant Expenses	SSJI	-\$32,453.50	-\$32,453.50
	HHRF	\$0.00	
Total Fiscal Year Expenses	South Shore Joint Initiative	-\$76,817.30	-\$84,144.15
	Hudgin House Restoration Fund	-\$7,326.85	

FISCAL YEAR BALANCES AND TOTALS			
Opening Balances April 1, 2024	SSJI	\$28,331.61	\$85,911.94
	HHRF	\$26,680.33	
	GIC Investment Certificate	\$30,900.00	
Surplus (deficiency) of Income over Expenses for the Year	SSJI	-\$3,900.12	-\$8,915.06
	HHRF	-\$5,014.94	
SSJI Closing Balances , March 31, 2025 (* outstanding GST rebate of \$3665.88)	South Shore Joint Initiative	\$24,431.49	\$76,996.88
	Hudgin House Restoration Fund	\$20,523.48	
	GIC Investment Certificate	\$32,041.91	

Our Five Strategic Initiatives





MONARCH POINT

SSJI STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

LEADER: JOHN HIRSCH

- **Developed framework for consultation with Ontario Parks, including NCC and Footpath Committee – in person day at Sandbanks**
- **Quarterly meetings with Parks project team**
- **The first phase of management plan work has been completed – statement of conservation reserve values and pressures**
- **Purpose and vision document nearing completion**
- **Public consultation on these documents sometime in 2025**
- **In the meantime, rules for use of the reserve have not changed – Sandbanks staff monitor for infractions, clean up garbage, etc.**



BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

SSJI STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

DARK SKY LEADER: STEVEN BURR

- Received 5 letters of support from 7 community partners to date.
- Ongoing search for dark sky permanent observing site.
- Sandbanks Night Sky Event, 31 August 2024. Approximately 150 campers participated.
- Library Astro Series monthly talks (Sep 24 to May 25) have attracted between 7 and 30 people
- Fall'N'Stars - 27/28 Sep 2024. Local Star Party. Including SSJI members
- Continuing events at Sandbanks for 2025
- Lights out Program: RASC & Nature Canada (Bird Friendly City)
- RASC AGM April 2025 attended several presentations about Dark Sky and the effects of Light Pollution
- South Shore Fest 2025: 7 June. Lazer Guided Sky Tour.
- Astronomy Display - Milford Fair 14 Sep 2025.
- International Astronomy Day: 27 September. Astro display at Pints and Polka.
- Quinte Field Naturalists. Presentation by RASC Belleville on Light Pollution & DSP, 20 October 2025.
- DSP presentation to County Council in the fall of 2025



SOUTH SHORE FOOTPATH

SSJI STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

LEADER: GEOFF CRAIG

- **June 2024 Public Event and launch of the project**
- **PEC Council Deputation**
- **Built strong relationships with key players: MECP/Sandbanks, CWS, NCC, DU and held first ever joint meeting on conservation**
- **“First km” of the Trail agreement with NCC on MapleCross**
- **Footpath recommendation into the MPCR Management Plan**
- **Kicked off Community Engagement Strategy and spread the word to OLTA, PEPTBO, PROBUS**
- **Completed draft Stewardship Plan**
- **New volunteers joined the cause**
- **Strategic approach by Path Building Team to exploration, building and walking! 52 walks, 282 kms, 438 hours**



CULTURAL HERITAGE

SSJI STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

HUDGIN HOUSE RESTORATION

LEADER: CHERYL ANDERSON



- Outside restoration complete
- Logs stabilized and chinked
- Windows built and installed
- Shutters built and installed on the lower windows
- Trim painted
- New Chimney following the original design
- Plans in place for stabilizing the interior of the building
- Plans in place for completion of the outdoor facilities
- Negotiating a new 15 year lease with NCC
- Farmstead area in use for outdoor education with the Wild Thing program





CULTURAL HERITAGE

SSJI STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

COMMERCIAL FISHERY LEADER:

AMY BODMAN



Commercial Fishery Project – Book and Archive:

- 25 interviews completed with commercial fishers and others
- 8 first edits of interviews
- Hundreds of commercial fishery- related photos and documents
- Presented with ACO PEC for Flashback February on Documenting the County's Marine History
- Wonderful archive that not only documents the Commercial Fishery, but also the remarkable spirits of the people involved with it
- Many thanks to our summer student Emily Scott and volunteer Jane MacDonald for their dedicated work



Top photo: Suzanne Pasternak Collection
Bottom photo: Dawn Ayer

May 2024 – April 2025

20 school visits - 455 students

17 school trips - 281 students

14 NWA tours - 130 people

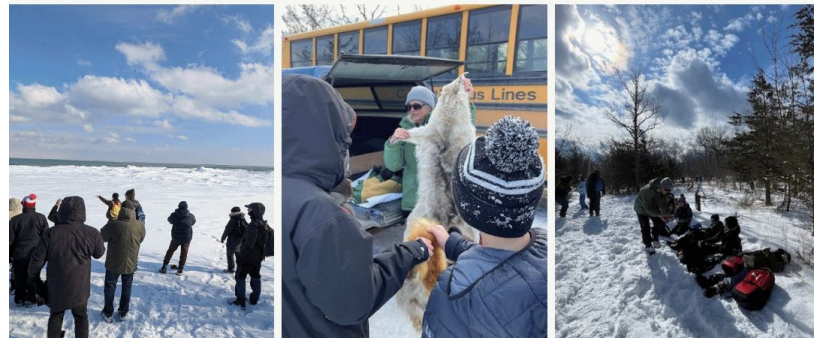
6 Youth groups - 71 youth

6 Library visits - 157 people

6 Public events - 200+ people

Wild Thing Impact - 1300+ people

**“I’ve had the best time of my life learning this!”
(characteristics of living things)
Grade 2 student**





ADVOCACY, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

SSJI STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

OUTREACH LEADER: CHERYL ANDERSON

- April: Monarch Monitoring workshop -
- May: display at EAC Environmental Expo
- June: AGM, KFN walk at Point Petre, Footpath Day
- July: Eddy Market every Saturday, Monarch Day
- August: Eddy market every Saturday, Jazz, Wine and Art
- September: SS Clean Up, Milford Fall Fair, APPEC Yard Sale, Community Care for Seniors Presentation, West Lake Community Ass'n display
- October: Probus walk at Point Petre
- November: MapleCross Stroll
- December: Busy Hands
- January: Presentation to QFN
- February: Flashback February, Family Day, Newcomers' presentation



ADVOCACY, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

SSJI STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

ADVOCACY LEADER: JOHN HIRSCH

- **SSJI reviews and provides recommendations to County Council on:**
 - **major development projects – e.g. Cold Creek, Wesley Acres Campfire Circle, Picton Terminals**
 - **Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw revisions**
- **Review and comment on provincial initiatives – Bill 23, 85, 5**
- **Participation at OLTA – Geoff Craig in 2024**
- **Participation in KBA development**

By-Law Amendment

To increase the possible number of members on the South Shore Joint initiative Board of Directors to fifteen.

Nominating Committee report:

For the Annual meeting Thursday May 8, 2025, At 7:00 PM

While the term of office of the members of the board is two years, our by-laws stipulate that ½ of the members of the board come up for election each year at the annual meeting. This year we are welcoming four new members to our board. It means that our percentage of board members up for election is slightly skewed; however, this will be rectified in the coming years.

For the 2025 - 2026 fiscal year the positions filled by John Hirsch, Geoff Craig, Barbara Tomlin, Steve Burr, Darren Goldstein, Luke Ridgway & Matthew Christie are up for election.

Position	Person	2024	2025
Past President	John Hirsch		2 years
President	Cheryl Anderson	2 years	
Vice president	Gurpreet Patheja	2 years	
Secretary	Darren Goldstein		2 years
Treasurer	Barbara Tomlin		2 years
Director	Steve Burr		2 years
Director	Amy Bodman	2 years	
Director	Geoff Craig		2 years
Director	John Foster	2 years	
Director	Luke Ridgway		2 years
Director	Matthew Christie		2 years

Thank You John Lowry

John joined the board as leader of the Protecting Biodiversity specific initiative. He collected information and documents and organized them into fact sheets about geography, soil science, climate, hydrology and protected areas of the South Shore. John created the Biodiversity of Prince Edward County's South Shore on iNaturalist.

A wildflower enthusiast John has led out spring Wildflower Walk for the last three years and designed and provided all the photos for the Wildflower brochure. He has also been instrumental in beginning the Monarch Roost project. John initiated the South Shore Clean Up and enthusiastically dug in to carry big bags of collected waste in his truck. We will miss John on the board; but are happy he will continue to be involved in SSJI activities.



Photo Dawn Ayer

2025 CONSERVATION CHAMPION

DICK BIRD



- Since the beginning of SSJI Dick Bird has been a supporter, fundraiser and friend
- He has made hundreds of Bluebird Nesting Boxes and donated them to SSJI to sell for fundraising
- He has donated 2 hand made cedar canvas canoes to raise funds for the Hudgin House Restoration
- He has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Commercial Fishery project
- His latest project is teaching kids how to put together bird boxes with the pieces he supplies
- Dick's favourite saying is "Let me know what I can do to help"
- **THANK YOU, DICK** for all your help and enthusiasm.



Photo by Daniel LaFrance

QUESTIONS?





SOJOURN
An Animation
by Stacey Sproule

GUEST SPEAKER LUKE RIDGWAY

**Accelerating Conservation in Ontario:
Exploring New Tools and Opportunities**



Luke is currently the Conservation Manager at The Ontario Conservation Accelerator (OCA).

He has professional experience in public, private, and non-profit sectors. With an educational background in GIS, remote sensing, and restoration ecology, Luke has held positions related to environmental regulation and policy, private consulting with indigenous communities, and most recently, served as The Nature Conservancy of Canada's Large Landscape Program Coordinator before joining the OCA.

He also served on the board of directors of the Wild Bird Trust of BC and owns a canoe rental business in Peterborough, where he remains active in the sustainable outdoor tourism space. As an avid camper, Luke spends as much time as he can in the field both to study and appreciate the natural environment and help others connect with the outdoors.