

Parry Sound Nature Club

2022 Calendar

Date & Details	Event Description
January	January: At a Crossroads: When Wildlife Meets Railways Railways are a common feature across the landscape, however, their impact on wildlife is still poorly understood. We know that roads are responsible for the declines of many wildlife populations, particularly for reptiles and amphibians. Could railways be putting pressure on these vulnerable species as well? Kyle Vincent's research focuses on weaving Indigenous Knowledge and Western science to investigate how railways impact wildlife along the eastern coast of Georgian Bay. He is investigating which wildlife use the railway and die as a result, where hotspots of mortality exist along the railway, and which environmental factors contribute to those hotspots.
February 16 7pm	Explore Wabakimi Provincial Park Wabakimi is the second largest park in the Ontario Parks system at just under 900,000 hectares, larger even than the province of Prince Edward Island. This huge sweep of Canadian Shield encompasses over 2,000 kilometers of canoe routes and contains upwards of 10,000 lakes. Join Evan McCaul, Assistant Park Superintendent, to learn more about the interesting natural and cultural features of this landscape.
March 16 7pm	Bundle Up! Turtles in the Winter Have you ever wondered how Ontario's turtles spend the winter? The Georgian Bay Biosphere, located along the eastern shores of Georgian Bay, is home to six native species of turtle in Ontario. The wetlands across this unique landscape offer a refuge from harsh winter conditions, allowing turtles to successfully overwinter for up to half of the year. Join Hope Freeman in this presentation as she dives into some of the challenges turtles face over the winter season and how different wetlands may provide better protection.
April 20 7pm	From Fireplace to Pancakes: ASHMuskoka What is ecological osteoporosis? Many of Ontario's forests, including much of the Georgian Bay shoreline, still suffer decades of acid rain in the form of widespread calcium decline. The Friends of the Muskoka Watershed launched a community project to collect calcium-rich woodstove ash from 100s of residents because distribution in the forest can benefit and restore soil and forest health. Side benefits of ash additions are likely significant increases in carbon capture and increased sap flow in sugar maple.
May	Learning with Oshkinigig

	<p>Experience the story of Oshkinigig: from hand-harvesting materials and construction, historic and current cultural significance, and future opportunities she brings. Participants will experience local Anishinaabek knowledge, culture and practices. Learning with Oshkinigig is as unique as Georgian Bay!</p>
June	<p>Embracing the Weeds: The Joys of Gardening for Insects with Native Plants</p> <p>Baz Conlin is a lifelong naturalist based in Peterborough County. For the last 5 years, he has been gardening with native plants in an effort to support and sustain a wide variety of insects. Many of these plants were once considered undesirable, even noxious, but we know better now! But how should we incorporate these plants into our landscape? Where do we get plants? And what native plants attract the most beneficial insects? Baz will be sharing his mistakes and successes in his journey to answer these questions!</p>
September	<p>Lynx & Bobcats in Ontario</p> <p>Dr. Jeff Bowman is a Senior Research Scientist with the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, and also an Adjunct Professor in the Environmental and Life sciences Graduate Program at Trent University. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of New Brunswick in 1999, and has been with NDMNRF since August 2001. Jeff leads Ontario's furbearer and small mammal research programs, and has expertise in population and landscape ecology, and landscape genetics.</p>
October	<p>Personality, Individuality, and the Social Behaviour of Bats</p> <p>Caleb Ryan is a PhD student at the University of Waterloo studying the social biology of bats. Caleb's research takes an interdisciplinary approach to studying animal behaviour by bridging gaps between psychology, sociology, and ecology. In his work, Caleb seeks to understand how individual animals are different from one another and how these differences impact the way they live their lives.</p>
November	<p>The Road Salt Problem: A Policy Conundrum</p> <p>Presented by Norman Yan and Neil Hutchinson, from the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed. Each year In Muskoka, we add about a tonne of salt to our roads for every permanent resident. There are consequences as a result of road salt pollution. Drs. Yan and Hutchinson will review the water quality threats posed by road salt, and demonstrate that levels of chloride are already high enough in some lakes to be damaging entire aquatic communities.</p>
December	<p>Christmas Bird Count</p>