

## ***The Perfect Christmas Gift for the Person Who Has Everything!***

We all struggle to buy a Christmas gift for a friend, a parent, and a loved one who has everything. Out of love, we want to give something meaningful. ***The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve has the solution*** - it's local, it's relevant to Norfolk, and it helps the world. What better gift to give!

This Christmas, give the gift of helping your very own Long Point Biosphere make Norfolk County the best it can be. Your gift of a donation for yourself or in honour of a loved one will:

- support sustainable agriculture here in Norfolk
- develop Norfolk's ecotourism sector
- and of course, save our special turtles in the wetlands of Long Point

Please help us help preserve Norfolk's natural beauty and habitat for all species, including humans. Here's how you can donate:

[Visit our Canada Helps website page here.](#) If giving this donation as a gift, simply choose the "In Honour of" option. We will send you an E-notice that can be sent to the recipient of your gift. A tax receipt will be issued to the donor from Canada Helps.

You may also send us your cheque payable to Long Point World Biosphere Reserve to Box 338, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0.



## *Update re Bylaws and Membership Article*

### *Our Members Spoke...We Listened*

Many of you will recall that Valerie Hickey, Chair of the Long Point Biosphere Board of Directors communicated with our members by email and at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 5, 2019, advising members that the board would be requesting membership approval to update our bylaws, and more specifically, a change to our membership article. Valerie committed to reviewing the current and proposed bylaws and to getting back to our members by December 31, 2019. We will present the updated bylaws at our 2020 AGM, for your vote. ***And, after due consideration, we are not changing our membership article. In other words, we are not creating voting and non-voting membership classes. All members are and will remain voting members at the Annual General Meetings.***



## 7th Annual Research and Conservation Conference

This year's sold-out Conference at the Simcoe Recreation Centre was a great success. The room was bursting with attendees from local high schools, colleges, universities, environmental and conservation organizations and the general public from all over southern Ontario. One of the greatest successes of the day was the networking among presenters and attendees as they looked at the presentation posters and tables, and enjoyed refreshments.

The conference began with an Indigenous welcoming from Andrea King, a member of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The room was silenced as she drummed and sang an Anishinaabe honour song for Mother Earth. Our President, Rick Levick, opened the conference with information about the Biosphere and our newest initiatives.

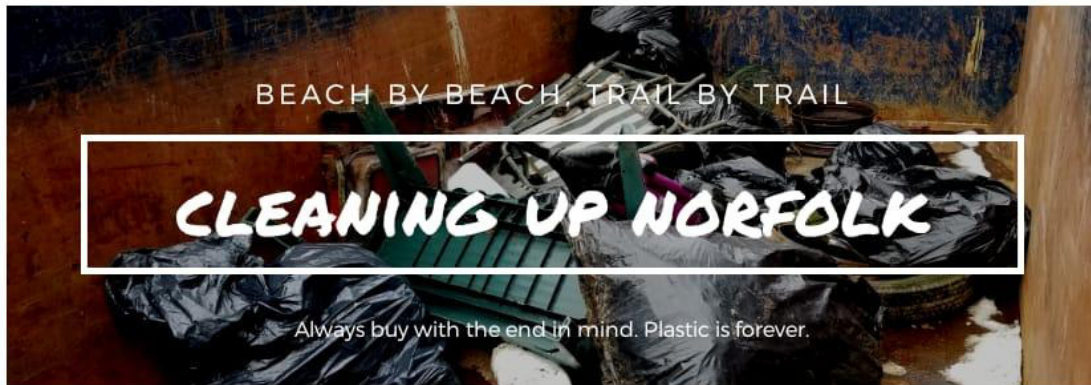
It was an information-packed day with 10 verbal and seven poster presentations. Topics ranged from *Lake Erie's Plastic Problem* by Cleaning Up Norfolk and *Implications for Milkweed Restoration* by Nature Conservancy of Canada to *Highly Impacted Streams from Farming* by University of Guelph and *Control of Invasive Phragmites* by Bird Studies Canada, and many more. With the recent high-water levels in Lake Erie having an impact on the Long Point sand spit, local species and local residents, the topic of climate change is rearing its vicious head right here in our Biosphere.

- Tariq Deen, a PhD student School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University, who described his work of studying *Changes to Extreme Climate and Weather Trends in Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve*. He explained that as the impacts of climate change intensify it becomes increasingly important that local climate change information be available to communities so that they can develop effective climate change adaptation plans and policies to protect themselves from future impacts.
- Amanda Older, a PhD Candidate in Physical Geography at University of Toronto Department of Geography & Planning, spoke about *Carbon Dynamics of Freshwater Marshes* and implications for wetland conservation and restoration in Norfolk County. Her research is examining the potential for freshwater marshes to be long-term carbon sinks, and how land use, disturbance and restoration may affect their carbon-climate dynamics.
- Jonas Hamberg, a PhD candidate at University of Waterloo, explained how thermal camera images from satellites and drones can be used to study the effectiveness of ecosystem restoration. His research has found that changes in climate temperature were strongly and significantly related to vegetation species diversity. This remote sensing method could be used to spot trouble areas in large-scale restoration projects over time to improve adaptive management in these projects.

For the past seven year, the Long Point Biosphere has organized this conference to showcase the wide diversity of ground-breaking research and conservation taking place here in Norfolk County.



## Cleaning Up Norfolk



It all started as a grassroots community group in the spring 2018, by a couple of founding members who saw an overwhelming need to address the problem of the litter collecting in Norfolk County's parks, beaches, and other natural areas. Cleaning Up Norfolk (CUN) relies on volunteerism and community engagement to usher Norfolk County into a new era of environmental stewardship.

The Long Point Biosphere recognized their goal to stop the flow of plastic pollution into the Lake Erie Watershed as being a perfect fit with the mandate of the Long Point Biosphere Foundation and invited them to join our Foundation as a worthy project. Together, and with the help of CUN's dedicated volunteers, we will strive to *Clean Up Norfolk* County through community cleanups, education, and advocacy in an effort to protect the well-being of all living things.



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