



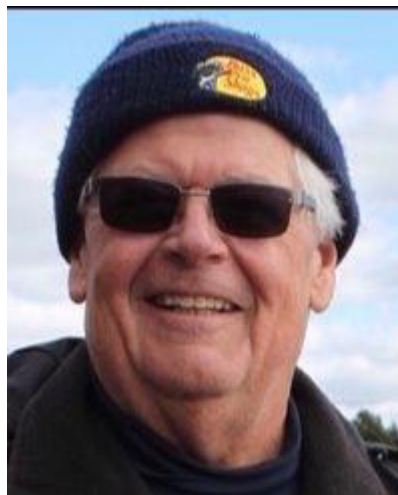
*We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional territories of the Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples and show respect today to the communities of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and the Mississaugas of the Credit whose Treaty lands include the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve.*

#### **A Message regarding COVID-19 from the Long Point Biosphere**

Nature is impervious to the pandemic and the work of the Long Point Biosphere Reserve will safely continue to advance conservation and sustainable development for all species in this beautiful and unique place. Looking forward to the day the pandemic is no longer a threat.

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## **A Message from the President**



*Rick Levick, President, Long Point Biosphere*

And as if to confirm that fact, my friend and fellow director John Everett spotted and rescued a large bullfrog on the Causeway that day. Bullfrogs are often the first of the hibernating critters to appear on the Causeway each spring, but usually not until mid-April. For me, it's a sure sign that the spring wildlife movement has begun and it's time to repair or replace any damaged fencing along the Causeway.

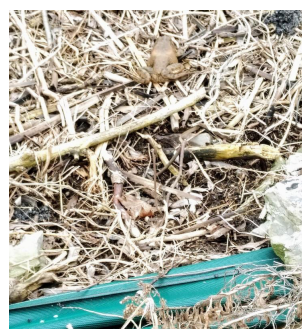
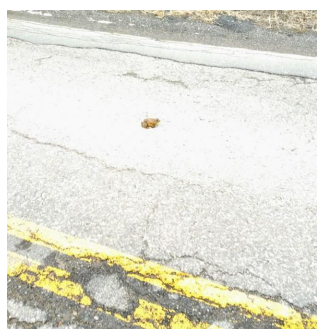
An early spring is particularly good news this year as we face the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the recommendation that we minimize contact with fellow members of our human species. Perhaps we should consider this a prime opportunity to learn about the amazing array of plant and animal species here in one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in Canada?

So let's all use this pause in our regular busy lives to self-isolate by enjoying a walk on the beach or strolling through a forest or around a wetland. There's lots to see wherever you look... emerging spring flowers, migrating birds, budding trees and shrubs and the first stirrings of frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles emerging from their overwintering habitat. You can even stay closer to home by doing a "bio-blitz" in your own backyard, recording all of the plants and animals you encounter.

And if you do go out for a walk, why not take the advice of Biosphere Director Holly Anderson, who manages the Cleaning Up Norfolk program, and take some gloves and a bag with you and pick up any litter and trash you see. Appreciating and giving back to Nature might just be the best antidote to the sense of isolation we're all facing in these worrisome times.

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

*Rick Levick*



got a helping hand (shovel) to make it to safety off the road, which was busy with Spring Break traffic.

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## Charlottesville Brewing Company Wins Long Point Biosphere's 2019 Sustainable Tourism Award



*Biosphere President Rick Levick (left) presented the award to brewery owner Melanie Doerksen. staffers Emily Hoey and Mary Benedict and Melanie's husband, Tim Wilson.* (photo courtesy of Norfolk County)

The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation (LPWBRF) has named the Charlottesville Brewing Company the winner of the 2019 Sustainable Tourism Ambassador Award.

Brewery owners Melanie Doerksen and Tim Wilson were presented with the Award by LPWBRF President Rick Levick at the Norfolk County Economic Development Symposium in Simcoe on February 13.

"Melanie, Tim and their staff certainly 'walk the talk' of sustainable tourism through their company's core values and actions," Levick told the symposium audience. He said those values include:

- Utilizing as much repurposed material as possible

- Striving to be as close to zero waste as possible
- Serving artisanal beer and food that is as sustainable as it is delicious

Levick also cited how the company puts its values into practice.

- 60 per cent of ingredients are grown on premises
- 30 per cent of spent grains are used in food products
- 70 per cent of the water used is recycled

The Charlottesville Brewing Company also received Norfolk County's Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the symposium based on an entirely separate nomination and selection process, Levick noted.

For the past six years, the LPWBRF has presented this award to local businesses whose operations have achieved sustainable tourism goals by conserving the natural resources of the region and operating in an environmentally friendly way. As ambassadors, award recipients pledge to raise public awareness of how sustainable tourism can be achieved in the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve.

Past recipients of the award include:

- Whistling Gardens in 2014
  - Bonnieheath Estate Lavender and Winery in 2015
  - Blueberry Hill Estates in 2016
  - Long Point Eco Adventures in 2017
  - Long Point Island Hugger Tours in 2018
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## 2019 - 2020 Long Point Biosphere NatureHood Program Sees More Schools, More Students!

The *NatureHood* program provides opportunities for urban Canadians, particularly children, to explore, play and develop a long lasting relationship with nature in their communities. The national *NatureHood* program works closely with local grassroots partners across the country, such as the Long Point Biosphere, to engage Canadian children and their families through a variety of nature-based activities and events, where children can learn about local wildlife and biodiversity.

The Long Point Biosphere collaborates with local partners in the delivery of the *NatureHood* program, engaging local elementary schools in activities at the Big Creek National Wildlife Area and the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Backus Woods. Students are encouraged to participate in citizen science activities that include wildlife observations and ecological monitoring of amphibians and reptiles. Our goal is to increase the number of students taking part each year and we are pleased to announce that during the 2019-2020 school year we attained that goal with 11 elementary classes participating. Included were students from two French immersion schools, one home-schooled group, one First Nations school and seven English language schools.

Our thanks to Nature Canada and the Government of Canada for their funding assistance of the Long Point Biosphere *NatureHood* program.





*Cleaning Up Norfolk's* goal is to protect the well-being of all living things by stopping the flow of plastic pollution into the Great Lakes through cleanups, education and collaboration in Norfolk County.

On January 1st of this year, we were pleased to welcome *Cleaning Up Norfolk* as a vital project of the Long Point Biosphere.

While group events are on hold as long as physical distancing is required, individuals, couples and families are still cleaning up Norfolk's trails and roadsides and sharing their good works on [Facebook](#). Why not do good for the earth and get a little stretching in while you're at it? If you're interested in helping out with at a future Cleaning Up Norfolk event, please email us at [admin@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:admin@longpointbiosphere.com).

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## Windsor Green Speaker Series Invite Long Point Biosphere to Discuss Eco Passages for Ojibway Prairie Complex



This past fall, the Long Point Biosphere was invited to speak at Windsor's Green Speaker Series. Hosted by the Windsor Essex Environment Committee, various local and regional experts spoke on the issues involving species at risk and wildlife mortality, due to traffic within the Ojibway Prairie Complex. President, Rick Levick, enlightened the audience about the success of the *Long Point Causeway Improvement Project*, a project that has greatly reduced road mortality along the causeway road.

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## A Huge Thank You to Holiday Donors

The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve would like to thank all of you who made donations over the holidays. Your individual contributions exceeded \$700 which will be used to forward our mission to conserve biodiversity within our vital ecosystem. Heartfelt appreciation to you all.

In addition, we are happy to announce that over \$3,000 was raised through your donations at the Burning Kiln and Long Point Eco-Adventures Home for the Holidays Winter Market. Below is Chloe McConnell, Director of Marketing for Long Point Eco-Adventures, Val Hickey, Chair Long Point Biosphere, Ashley Verrall of Burning Kiln Winery and Holly Anderson, Director of Long Point Biosphere during the presentation of the funds.



Christmas. Below is Val and Holly receiving the cheque from Kayla Haskett of Execulink.



Our deepest appreciation also goes out to **The Bradstreet Family Foundation** for their generous grant of \$3,000 toward Long Point Biospheres projects and programs!

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## Port Dover Waterfront Preservation Association Invites Long Point Biosphere to Speak About the Long Point Causeway Improvement Project





Communities near and far are looking at ways to mitigate road mortality of species at risk. The Long Point Causeway Improvement Project has been a proven success and demonstrates what can be achieved when the community has a vision and passionate volunteers. The project is one that others strive to emulate. For more information about the Long Point Causeway Improvement Project, visit the website at [longpointcauseway.com](http://longpointcauseway.com).

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## The Long Point Biosphere is Recruiting Board Members and Volunteers

### Board of Directors

We are currently looking for talented people with skills and/or experience in the following areas of expertise to join our board of directors:

- Program Management
- Fund Development
- Science & Climate change
- Marketing/Communications
- Event Planning
- Governance/Legal

This is a great opportunity to take a leadership role, give back to your community, and collaborate with a variety of community groups and other talented board members from diverse walks of life.

### ABOUT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

each month either via conference call or in person. We are looking for people willing to commit to a 3-year minimum term. Key expectations of the Long Point Biosphere Board include:

- Know our bylaws
- Set strategic priorities
- Chair one committee; participate on one committee
- Oversee projects or programs
- Understand and oversee financials
- Collaborate with each other and the community

[CLICK HERE to fill out the application.](#)

## Volunteers

We also need volunteers willing to participate on a committee or to help out as needed. The following are examples of how you can help:

- Join a standing or ad hoc committee
- Cleaning Up Norfolk events
- Turtle nest cover program
- Wildlife on roads citizen science data collection
- Amazing Places bus tours and local events
- 2020 Research and Conservation Conference
- Climate change adaptation
- Fundraising
- Marketing and communications

Send us an email at [admin@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:admin@longpointbiosphere.com) if you are interested and let us know which of the areas you are most interested in assisting.



The Annual General Meeting of the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve

and the safety of our members. We will update you as we track the Coronavirus pandemic.

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## MAKE A DIFFERENCE Donate Today!

- **To help** conserve precious ecosystems
- **To provide support** for valuable research
- **To support** ecologically sustainable places
- **To facilitate** community outreach and education

Your dollars are used toward projects such as

- Ontario's *Priority Place* including *Maya the Turtle's Story Map* and comprehensive database with our partners' conservation and research efforts
- *Cleaning Up Norfolk*
- Climate Change adaptation
- Maintaining fencing and culverts (eco passages) on the Long Point Causeway
- Sustainable Tourism such as Bus Tours of our *Amazing Places* and the *Sustainable Tourism Ambassador Award*
- Species at risk monitoring
- Phragmites mitigation
- Annual Ontario Nature Youth Summit
- Education and Awareness Projects including annual NatureHood program for elementary schools in Norfolk County
- Turtle Nest Covers
- Tree Planting
- Annual Research and Conservation Conference
- Environmental Workshops
- and much more

[Click here to donate online now!](#)

Or send us a cheque made payable to Long Point Biosphere, P.O. Box 338,  
Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

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