



# BIOSPHERE BEACON

Official Newsletter of the  
Long Point Biosphere Region

**FALL 2023**

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**We acknowledge that we are located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenasaunee peoples. The Long Point Biosphere Region stands in sovereignty on these treaty lands with the Mississaugas of the Credit.**

# Message from the Chair - Tom Via

chair@longpointbiosphere.com



**Greetings to all our Members, Supporters, Funders, and Long Point Biosphere Region (LPBR) biodiversity and conservation enthusiasts.**

Fall is a spectacular time to enjoy the splendours of the Long Point Biosphere, Ontario's first federally designated Priority Place. I trust you have been enjoying the transforming sights and sounds of our Amazing Place!

As a Priority Place, we are home to the highest biodiversity in Canada, a large number of species at risk, and a highly engaged conservation community that continues to confront significant environmental pressures. Our Biosphere vision of "All living things thrive here together" and mission of "We collaborate to enhance ecosystem and community well-being and unite people with nature" has never been more important than right here and right now.

Highlighting the importance of the Long Point Biosphere and Walsingham Forest Priority Place, we were thrilled and privileged to host Julie Dabrusin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) in August. Julie was quoted as saying "I was reminded today, that as Canadians, we are so lucky to be surrounded by so much natural beauty. Great things can happen when partners come together to support the environment, and this especially true in Long Point."

Needless to say, we agree! Long Point Biosphere is truly an amazing place, and I wish to recognize and thank each and every one of you who consistently demonstrate support for the preservation of the impressive, but fragile biodiversity in Norfolk County and the Long Point Biosphere.

On the Biosphere business-side of things, our fully volunteer Board, volunteer/members, and committed group of paid staff have continued their amazing work throughout the summer and fall. Our ECCC funded work notably in the area of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) continues to make significant strides.

LPBR, with the support of Nature Canada and ECCC, and in collaboration with international artists, First Nations, and local secondary students, created and installed an impressive mural in recognition of our Biosphere and Reconciliation under the Moccasin Identifier Project. This meaningful and beautiful art-piece is proudly displayed at Long Point Eco-Adventures, please stop by and enjoy this inspiring mural, and support one of our top supporters of Long Point Biosphere programming. I am also pleased to announce that a second, larger mural will be created and installed in Port Rowan in the coming weeks.

## ***Continued from the Chair - Tom Via***

We have a very busy fall calendar of events that I truly hope you consider joining us in.

Our Annual AGM and Members meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 25 at the Port Dover Community Centre. Our programming team will be presenting updates on their conservation and education works this year, anyone interested is welcome to attend.

On Friday November 3rd we are hosting our full day 11th Annual Research and Conservation Conference, which will also be held at the Port Dover Community Centre. Our conference brings together academic and student researchers, government agencies, members of NGO's, and the public for the purpose of education and information exchange related to local, national, and global issues of conservation and development.

An exciting addition to our lineup for Fall 2023 is the announcement of the production and premiere of a full-length documentary film named 'A Priority Place', based upon work in the Long Point Biosphere Region. This film was produced by award winning journalist, film producer, and conservationist Gregg McLaughlin. Our film premiere event and cocktail party will occur on Friday November 10th at the Capitol 33 Theatre in Delhi Ontario beginning at 6:30pm Information about these and all of our fall events can be found on our Long Point Biosphere website as well as this newsletter.

Your Long Point Biosphere team is very active, and I invite you to become more involved with us as we do our best to make a difference as stewards of this Amazing Place. Thank you for all that you do in supporting the Long Point Biosphere Region.

Contact me anytime.

*Tom*

# Message from the President - Brian Craig

[president@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:president@longpointbiosphere.com)



## Dear Friends and Supporters of the Long Point Biosphere Region

I hope you are all enjoying the fall weather - a great time of the year to explore our region and witness the marvels of the transition of seasons. Though some activities slow down at this time of year, our Biosphere team continues to work hard arranging special events, contributing to school programs, and pursuing other projects as described in this newsletter. I want, in particular, to thank Sarah Emons, Cynthia Brink, and Kari Gunson for their ongoing work and for their contributions to special events such as the August visit of the Parliamentary Secretary.

One initiative which will receive increasing priority in the coming months is our effort to support the pursuit of Canada's goal of ensuring the conservation of 30 percent of its land and water by 2030. This is an objective that was set in a drive to reverse the decline in biodiversity, better fight climate change, and maintain a strong, sustainable economy.

Currently less than 15% of our country is formally protected as national/provincial/territorial parks, Indigenous protected areas, national wildlife areas, and migratory bird sanctuaries. Less than one percent is conserved as what are termed by the Government of Canada as Other Effective area- based Conservation Measures (OECM). It is by identifying more OECM areas that we think we in the Long Point Biosphere can contribute constructively and uniquely to the national goal while helping to make life better in our region.

OECM designation does not involve any additional constraints or obligations on the land or landowner; it simply recognizes healthy management practices that are already in place and supports them with logistical and financial support. This past year, for example, the Hamilton Field Naturalists (HFN) Spooky Hollow Nature Sanctuary qualified as an OECM to great benefit to both the HFN and our region.

By recognizing the work and existing commitments of non-government organizations and individuals who are already managing land and inland waters in ways that achieve the conservation of biodiversity, we hope to help keep environmentally friendly practices in place and give due credit to our partners for their efforts. There are many other lands in Norfolk County under private ownership - including game clubs and private retreats - that would easily qualify for support as protected by OECM as they make a significant contribution to conserving biodiversity. The Long Point Biosphere team can assist parties interested in designating their properties as an OECM protected land. For more information, feel free to contact me personally or [conservation@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:conservation@longpointbiosphere.com)

Thanks again for your support

*Brian*



# LAST CHANCE

## FOR TICKETS TO FILM PREMIERE AND CELEBRATION OF OUR PRIORITY PLACE – NOVEMBER 10TH



Five years ago, our region was picked as the 1st Priority Place in Ontario for support from Environment and Climate Change Canada under the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation. A new, full-length documentary film, “A Priority Place,” showcases the resulting conservation and public education work in the Long Point Biosphere Region. It is being shown for the first time to honour our supporters and celebrate our collective achievements.

You're Invited ! But now is the last chance to buy **tickets** - \$50 per person - for the Film Premiere and Reception – Friday November 10th – 2023 6:30 PM– Capitol 33, Delhi. Check our website for more info.

Funds raised will support the Long Point Biosphere Student Education and Outreach Programs.



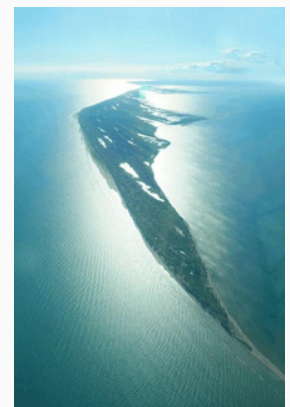
# PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday October 25, 2023 – 6:30 – 8:30 PM**  
**Port Dover Community Centre**  
**801 St. George Street, Port Dover**

Doors open at 6:00 PM for registration.

You do not need to be a member to attend the AGM; however, you must be a member in good standing to be able to vote. Those wishing to renew their membership may do so at the AGM in cash or by cheque.

For more Info: [admin@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:admin@longpointbiosphere.com).





# 11TH ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

## STUDENTS, SUSTAINABILITY, CONSERVATION CAREERS TO FEATURE AT BIOSPHERE'S 2023 CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 3RD – [REGISTER NOW](#)



This year's Long Point Biosphere Research and Conservation Conference, the 11th annual such gathering, will include a new dimension aimed at encouraging local students to consider post-secondary education and careers in sustainability, environmental research, and the preservation of biodiversity.

"Once again, we're looking forward to informative presentations on research important to Norfolk County and our region," says conference organizer Cynthia Brink, noting the strong response to the call for papers. "But

this year we're also introducing a parallel program of exhibits on related careers and education opportunities at colleges and universities."

Bus transportation for Norfolk area high school students wanting to attend the event will be arranged thanks, in part, to generous financial support from the S. M. Blair Family Foundation. The S.M Blair Family Foundation encourages education, training, and research careers. Its donation of over \$5K to the Biosphere will also facilitate student participation in full-day outdoor activities throughout the year.

The Conference will take place Friday, November 3rd, 2023 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Port Dover Community Centre. Sponsorship opportunities and Tickets are still available (\$45 for adults/\$30 for students, lunch included). Check the Long Point Biosphere website for registration or contact [conference@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:conference@longpointbiosphere.com).



# PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY VISITS LONG POINT

## CELEBRATES NEARLY \$5M INVESTMENT IN OUR REGION



On August 22, 2023, Julie Dabrusin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), visited Norfolk County meeting with representatives of the Long Point Biosphere Region, Birds Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service. She toured Long Point to see the impact of the Government of Canada's investment of some \$4.8 million in preserving biodiversity in our very special place.

"I was reminded today, that as Canadians, we are so lucky to be surrounded by so much natural beauty," Ms. Dabrusin said. "Great things can happen when partners come together to support the environment, and this is especially true in Long Point."

The Parliamentary Secretary heard presentations on road ecology, took part in birding, learned of our support of the Moccasin Identifier project, saw the special Biosphere mural at Long Point Eco-Adventures, and, with obvious glee, helped in the release of turtle hatchlings into the Long Point Bay marshes.

"It was a great opportunity to not only brief the Parliamentary Secretary on the current state of the Biosphere, but to also explore opportunities for expanding our robust partnership with ECCC and through the Priority Place initiative," said Long Point Biosphere Chair Tom Via. "A big thank you goes out to Birds Canada and Long Point Biosphere team members Sarah Emons, Cynthia Brink, Kari Gunson, and Andrew Couturier for their outstanding efforts in showcasing conservation work in our region."

For more information on Ms. Dabrusin's visit and government support for the Biosphere and our partners in the region [click here](#).



# ROAD ECOLOGY

## GEORGIAN BAY'S GANAWENIM MESHKIKI FUNDS ROAD ECOLOGY IN LONG POINT BIOSPHERE



Long Point Biosphere Road Ecology Manager  
Kari Gunson and assistant Lauren Nightingale

Ganawenim Meshkiki, the Georgian Bay-based First Nation organization dedicated to funding community-level environmental initiatives, has committed \$50K to support road ecology work in the Long Point Biosphere Region. This constitutes a significant boost to our capacity to undertake new projects and to protect turtles, snakes, and species at risk in our area.

"This support is testimony to the respect and skills of Kari Gunson, our new Road Ecology Manager," said Biosphere President Brian Craig. "We are very fortunate to have her join our team this past year."

Kari, Principal of Eco-Kare International, a landscape ecologist, and an author, has worked on road ecology projects with both large and small animals in North America and Mexico. She is recognized as the primary road ecologist for planning, designing, and monitoring road-wildlife mitigation on a provincial and municipal level across Ontario.

Ganawenim Meshkiki, pronounced "ge-NEH-weh-nim maish-kih-keh" is the Trustee of funds received under the terms of permits issued for the Henvey Inlet Wind energy initiative. "Ganawenim" is Anishnaabe for "defend,



# PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

## OVER 50 AREA SCHOOLS JOIN PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Long Point Biosphere Foundation, in collaboration with Birds Canada, has opened the door for students from fifty-three (53) area elementary schools to participate in Project Feederwatch, an international collaboration to inventory bird populations.

The Biosphere's financial donation will help Birds Canada and its partner Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology cover the cost of materials and other support for students who take part in the project, counting and reporting birds near their homes. FeederWatch asks that students and other participants regularly record the birds they observe from a specific vantage point and at a specific count site over the winter (from November 1 to April 29). Bird counts are then recorded and reported online to [Project Feederwatch](https://projectfeederwatch.org/). Everyone is welcome to join.

"You don't need to be an expert birder," says Birds Canada. "And you don't need to make a huge time commitment – Even if you count birds only once during the season, that is a helpful snapshot of the birds in your location."

Count sites should have food and water that attract and support the birds in a sustained way. So, it's great when students can be equipped with bird feeders whether they are donated, or students learn to build their own.

If you think you can help in this regard, please let us know at

[education@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:education@longpointbiosphere.com)





# NATURE CANADA

## RENEWS FUNDING FOR LONG POINT NATUREHOOD PROGRAMS

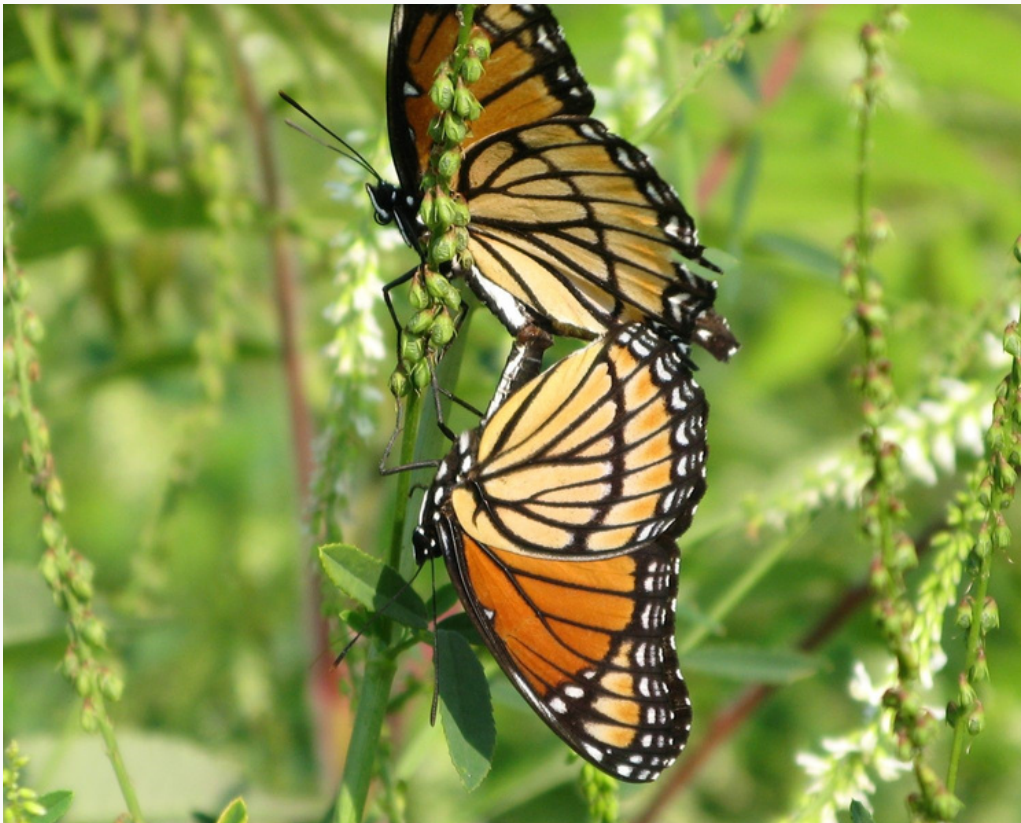
The Long Point Biosphere Foundation was delighted to sign an agreement with Nature Canada this summer (August 2023) to sustain the Naturehood program in our area for another year.

Naturehood is actually a suite of programs that connect young people from all walks of life to the natural heritage of Norfolk County. The programs give young people and their families an opportunity to learn about the importance of natural wildlife areas in the Long Point Biosphere.

“Many of us know about the major natural sites like Backus Woods, the Big Creek Wildlife area, and Long Point in our region,” says program manager Cynthia Brink. “They are very important, but Naturehood also introduces young people to the vital role played by small ponds, woodlots, and lesser-known elements of our natural surroundings.”

The programs also include field trips to the Long Point Bird Observatory where students witness bird banding at one of the most exciting and renowned places for bird studies on the continent.

Nature Canada’s contribution of \$18K to our region’s Naturehood programs calls for matching funds and in-kind support, and we always welcome help in meeting this challenge. For more info contact [communications@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:communications@longpointbiosphere.com)





# THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this edition of the Biosphere Beacon and for your ongoing support of the Long Point Biosphere.

Your dedication to our mission is truly appreciated and it helps us to continue our important work in protecting and preserving this unique and valuable ecosystem.

As you know, the Long Point Biosphere Region is one of the most biologically diverse and important habitats in North America.

## JOIN US/DONATE

Your support can make a difference in protecting this valuable area and preserving it for future generations. By donating to the Long Point Biosphere, you can help fund conservation efforts and research to better understand and protect this unique environment. Your contribution, can have a significant impact in ensuring the longevity of this vital ecosystem.

Your membership in the Long Point Biosphere is also important in supporting conservation efforts and ensuring the preservation of the unique ecosystem. By renewing or joining via the link above, you can continue to enjoy access to educational programs, events, and resources while helping protect the environment.

And if you have not seen it yet, check out the stories in our **Summer 2023 Newsletter** [here](#).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Annual General Meeting - Port Dover Community Centre



October 25, 2023 (6:30-8:30pm)

11th Annual Long Point Biosphere Region Research and Conservation Conference - Port Dover Community Centre



November 3, 2023

"A Priority Place" Film Premiere and Celebration - Capitol 33, Delhi



November 10, 2023

For [Tickets](#) and more information check [www.longpointbiosphere.com](http://www.longpointbiosphere.com)

Or contact: [info@longpointbiosphere.com](mailto:info@longpointbiosphere.com)

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