A Regional Affair

Leamington and the Essex County region have much to offer - from Optics Expo to a flourishing wine industry with exciting tours, to historical attractions like Fort Malden National Historic Site, to quaint towns with great shopping. Make a weekend of it and ‘migrate’ to all that tempts you!

1 Spring Song
6th Annual Pelee Island Bird Race with celebrity birder Fred Bodsworth
May 11-12
Pelee Island
Celebration Dinner with guest speaker Dr. David Suzuki Saturday, May 12
(519) 724-2931

2 Hillman Shore & Songbird Celebration
Join an expert naturalist to celebrate song and shorebirds as they migrate through this internationally renowned area. View birds up-close during banding demonstrations.
May 12-13
Hillman Marsh Conservation Area
(519) 776-5209 ext. 308
www.erca.org

3 Norm Chesterfield Day
Come celebrate the life of our local birding legend during this annual event.
May 16
Wheatley Provincial Park
(519) 825-4659

4 Ojibway Nature Centre
The centre offers a series of field trips to observe the incredible variety of migratory bird life.
(519) 966-5852
www.ojibway.ca

What goes North, must go South!

Fall back into birding in the Essex Region when bats, butterflies, dragonflies and an array of birds offer up a rich spectacle only Mother Nature could serve!

Fall presents the visitor with a canvas very different from spring. Full forest canopies and juvenile plumages challenge the more sparsely found visitors.

Festival of Hawks
Celebrating fall migration in the Essex Region
September 21-23, 2007
Plan your trip now to the newly expanded Festival offering a loaded list of activities at both Holiday Beach Conservation Area and Point Pelee National Park!

Call Essex Region Conservation Authority
(519) 776-5209 ext. 308 or the park for more details.
www.erca.org

Ontario Field Ornithologists Annual Convention 2007
October 13 & 14
Everyone is welcome to attend the 25th Anniversary celebration of this premier birding organization. The annual banquet, with guest speaker Álvaro Jaramillo speaking on “The Birds of Chile and the Ontario Connection” are available to registered participants.
www.ofo.ca

Point Pelee National Park of Canada
407 Monarch Lane, RR1, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4
Phone: 1 866 PT PELEE or (519) 322-2365
Recorded Migration Line: (519) 322-2371
E-mail: pelee.info@pc.gc.ca
Point Pelee National Park is a world-renowned “Important Bird Area” whose spectacular migration phenomenon is witnessed by thousands of visitors each spring as nature and people connect in a celebration of song - nature’s symphony. Flock to this southern sanctuary, where ‘birds and birders belong’.

The Festival of Birds delivers public appreciation and understanding of migratory birds and their habitats and boosts local economies.

The Friends of Point Pelee
The Friends of Point Pelee is a not for profit organization dedicated to furthering the educational and interpretive programs of Point Pelee National Park. Our services and events help enhance the visitor’s experience and the natural and cultural uniqueness of the park.

Volunteers are the foundation of a thriving Friends organization. There are many opportunities throughout the year in which you can make a difference:
- Cattail Cafe/Nature Nook Gift Store
- Board of Director
- Festival of Birds
- Birder’s Breakfast and Lunch

Call us at 1 888-707-3533 or (519) 326-6173 or visit our website at www.friendsofpointpelee.com for more information.

Fundraising Dinner
“Love is in the Air...
The Ontario Breeding Birds Atlas”
by Mark Peck, Author, world traveller, photographer and Ornithologist at the Royal Ontario Museum

Friday, May 11
- Pelee Days Inn Family Resort
- 5:30 pm - Cocktails, silent auction and raffles
- 6:30 pm - Dinner
- $50 / person ($25 tax receipt will be issued)

Our third annual dinner will be a casual affair – a perfect way to top off a great day of birding!
Order your tickets online at www.friendsofpointpelee.com
Call the Friends of Point Pelee at (519) 326-6173 for more details or to purchase tickets.
Proceeds benefit the Keep the Songs Alive’s current funding project - the renovation of the Visitor Centre Theatre.

Festival Memorabilia 2007
Festival memorabilia sales help support the Friends of Point Pelee.
Buy your limited edition festival products at the Nature Nook Gift Store located in the Visitor Centre. This year’s theme is the red-headed woodpecker.

Our popular enamel lapel pins and 100% cotton t-shirts sell out quickly!

In the News
In a place ‘Where Birders Belong’, we’re working together to serve you better through every part of your trip!
A regional collaborative effort is underway to improve birding and tourism-related experiences in the Essex County region. The “Birding in the Essex Region” report was commissioned by the regional Convention and Visitors Bureau along with funding partners (including Parks Canada) and is the catalyst to move the region forward. Many recommendations have been implemented for spring 2007 and we look forward to making your future visits that much more memorable.
Executive summary available at www.visitwindsor.com

New A Birding Pass is Hatched!
You’ve Been Asking and Now We’ve Got It!
Between May 1 & 21, we’re offering a 3 consecutive-day birthing pass to Point Pelee National Park and nearby Hillman Marsh Conservation Area (Nature Centre now open Thursday to Monday, 10 am to 4 pm)! Visit both sites each of the 3 days and save more than 30%! Even if you only visit Point Pelee 3 days, you’ll save 15%.

Family/Group (up to seven occupants in a vehicle) $42.60 (retail value: $96.60)
Individual $21.80

Available for sale on-site at the park and Hillman’s Nature Centre.

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Coming this May...Byways to Flyways
This driving tour with birthing locations in the Windsor-Detroit Metropolitan region was created by the US National Fish and Wildlife Service, partners and with a grant from Wildbirds Unlimited.
Birding Hikes

Whether you’re a beginner birder, or one who’s really into this popular past-time, our hikes are a great way to familiarize yourself with the park, meet others who share your interests, and, of course, see first-hand the cascade of colour gracing our beautiful blooming forests each spring.

Advance registration is recommended as hikes fill quickly! Register...

- Call the Friends of Point Pelee at 1 888 707-3533 or (519) 326-6173
- E-mail info@friendsofpointpelee.com.

* Please note: 24 hour notice is required to receive a refund for all hike cancellations. Otherwise, payments will be considered a grateful contribution to the Friends of Point Pelee. Proceeds to the Friends of Point Pelee.

**Birders Breakfast & Lunch**

Join the Friends of Point Pelee on the south side of the Visitor Centre!

**Daily from May 1 to 21**

- Early Bird Breakfast
  - 7 am - 11 am
- BBQ Lunch
  - 11:30 am - 1 pm

The Cattail Café, located at the Marsh Boardwalk, will also be open daily from 11 am - 3 pm.

*New*

**The Birder’s Roost**

Welcome to the Roost! Located in the shuttle loop at the Visitor Centre, enjoy your meal, socialize with other birders or check out what others have seen on our giant checklist under the tent. Orchard orioles, yellow warblers and indigo buntings sweep close by so you don’t have to take a break from birding!

Peruse our Community Welcome Windows!

**Extended Services**

- 12 kms of seasonal birding footpaths are flagged in addition to regular park trails.

**Visitor Centre**  **Shuttle Service**

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**Twilight Hikes**

Stroll along the DeLaurier trail with a chance to see American Woodcock courtship displays!

- Wednesday through Sunday May 2 to 20
- Start time varies with sunset times - confirm yours when booking
- Park in the DeLaurier parking lot
- Pre-registration is required

**Bushnell’s Feather “Quest” County Bus Tours**

Discover some of the nearby ‘birding gems’ on a 4-hour tour of the Point Pelee Birding Area in search of shorebirds, eagles, and much more!

Join two Quest Nature Tours leaders on a bus provided by Bushnell Outdoor Products.

- Saturday, May 5 & 12 at 8 am and 1 pm
- Meet at “The Birder’s Roost”
- Pre-registration is required

All proceeds go to the Keep the Songs Alive fundraising campaign for a new Visitor Centre Theatre.

**Family Marsh Adventure**

Join us for a one hour guided hike which is sure to be full of family fun! Meet at the Marsh Boardwalk tower.

Saturdays 10:30 am - 11:30 am during May festivities
**Guest Speaker Series**
Join special guests in the park’s Visitor Centre Theatre covering a variety of topics. All books featured are available at the Nature Nook Gift Store. Donations to the Keep the Songs Alive fundraising campaign for a new Visitor Centre Theatre are welcome!

- **"Digging Up Point Pelee’s Past"**, Cesare D’Annibale, Parks Canada Archaeologist. May 5 & 6 at 3 pm
- **“The Birds of Hamilton”**, Bob Curry, book signing to follow. Tuesday, May 8 at 3 pm
- **“The Birds of Ecuador”**, Tom Hince & Paul Pratt. Thursday, May 10 at 3 pm
- **“Nature Photography”**, Ethan Meleg. Saturday, May 12 at 3 pm
- **“Point Pelee National Park - A Dark Sky Preserve”**, Members of the Royal Astronomical Society. Saturday, May 12 at 8:30 pm
- **“Optics 101”**, Bushnell Outdoor Products. Learn the basics of binoculars and telescopes with experts in the field. May 12 & 13 at 1 pm
- **“Birding at Point Pelee - A Story of the People”**, Henrietta O’Neill, book signing to follow. Tuesday, May 15 at 3 pm

**Daily Festival Workshops**
Join park staff in the Visitor Centre Theatre to gain insights into Point Pelee’s many unique natural features! Check the “What’s Happening” board in the Visitor Centre for the day’s topic.

- Daily, May 1-21 in the Visitor Centre Theatre
- **“Birding Tips and Tricks”** at 10 am
- **“Jewels of the Park”** at 1:30 pm. Depending on the day, you’ll either dive into the world of warblers or inhale the fragrance of spring wildflowers.

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**Did you know?**
Point Pelee’s been coined “The Warbler Capital of Canada” - 42 out of 50 warblers have been recorded here and 36 are seen here each spring.

80 percent of the birds species recorded for the province of Ontario have been recorded at least once in the Point Pelee Birding Area.

The park is one of the Top 15 Birding spots in North America, awarded by Birder’s World Magazine, October 2002.

World renowned for its bird and butterfly migrations, the park is a UNESCO designated Wetland of International Significance and protects the Carolinian life zone of the St. Lawrence Lowlands, the southern most ecological region of Canada.

Some say... “The Park was built by the birds”

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**Come Prepared!**
Some of our best birding days are associated with inclement weather, so put on your warm clothes and rain gear and witness the amazing migration phenomenon.