



# Planning a BioBlitz



Adapted with permission from "A Guide for Planning Community BioBlitz Events in Eastern Ontario"



Photo by Brennan Caverhill

## Introduction

Community and volunteer involvement is a key component of monitoring the status and health of natural environments around the world. Passionate individuals and organizations have become an integral part of science-based conservation programs through the collection and documentation of data, contributing to public education and understanding. Community-based biological inventories known as “BioBlitzes” are ideal venues to engage the public, while also gathering fundamental biological data. These events are significant not only for producing species inventories, but also for providing environmental education to the public, promoting community involvement, and encouraging citizen science.

A great deal of time and effort goes into organizing and carrying out a BioBlitz. This guide was developed as a planning tool to simplify this process, and encourage more events to happen. The protocol and resources are based on the ideas, successes, and feedback from past local BioBlitz participants as well as input from a steering committee and various stakeholders. The latter includes: volunteers, scientists, government agencies, conservation groups, and community groups.

This package is not meant to dictate the “right way” to conduct a BioBlitz. Rather, it is meant to provide guidance and suggestions to maximize the efficiency and value of these events through proper data collection and data sharing. The resources provided include: data entry forms, registration forms, information for landowners, media/communications documents and example survey techniques. Samples from past events and templates for various documents have also been included to assist with the planning process. As each BioBlitz is unique in its purpose, goals, challenges, and limitations, the advice and resources used during each event will be dependent on the organizers and participants.

## Acknowledgements

This guide was adapted with permission from the 2010 Guide for Planning Community Bioblitz Events in Eastern Ontario originally produced by a partnership of the following groups:

Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County  
Centre for Sustainable Watersheds  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
YMCA/YWCA Youth Eco Internship Program  
Otty Lake Association

### Partner Logos



Cover photo of the Invertebrate team from the 2012 Ontario BioBlitz by Brennan Caverhill



The Ontario BioBlitz Program ([www.ontariobioblitz.ca](http://www.ontariobioblitz.ca)) is a network of partners that each contribute to the annual Toronto Area event, and who share the mission to grow community-driven Bioblitz events across the Province of Ontario and beyond



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada



FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE  
DE LA FAUNE



## Appendix 8: Schedule Examples

### 2009 MVFN Bioblitz Tentative Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Participants should pre-register for events at the Bioblitz Base site. Inventory activity takes place from 3 pm Saturday to 3 pm Sunday. Registration will be open between 2 pm and 9 pm Saturday, September 19 and between 6:30 am and 2 pm Sunday, September 20.

#### Saturday, September 19

Time	Event			
2:00 pm	Bioblitz Base opens, <b>Registration begins</b>			
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Bioblitz opening ceremony			
3:15 – 4:00 pm	Bell property <b>ecological orientation</b> - west side			
4:15 – 5:00 pm	Bell property <b>ecological orientation</b> - east side			
5:00 – 6:00 pm	<b>Fungus collection for spore prints</b>	<b>Moth trap set-up</b>	<b>Spotting geological features</b>	<b>Inspect small mammal traps</b>
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Inventory on your own			
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Calling <b>seasonal creatures of the night</b>			
8:30 - 9:30 pm	<b>Moth mania</b>			
10:00 pm	<b>Registration closes 9 pm</b> , Bioblitz Base closes 10 pm			

#### Sunday, September 20

Time	Event		
6:30 am	BioBlitz Base <b>Registration begins</b>		
7:00 – 8:00 am	<b>Bird watching</b>		
8:00 – 9:00 am	<b>Catch anything?</b> check small mammal & pit traps	<b>Bird watching</b>	
9:00 – 9:55 am	Memorable <b>mosses</b>	<b>Reptiles &amp; amphibians: are you here?</b>	<b>Woodland discovery for children</b>
10:00 – 10:55 am	<b>Fantastic fungi</b>	<b>Plants with wet feet</b>	
11:00 - 11:55 am	<b>Plants liking it drier</b>	<b>Loveable lichens</b>	
12:00 – 12:55pm	<b>Insects at large</b>	<b>Fungi frenzy</b>	
1:00 – 1:55 pm	<b>Invertebrates without 6 legs</b>	<b>Flying pictures: butterflies and dragonflies</b>	
2:00 – 2:55 pm	<b>Mammals and anything missed: a walk on the wild side with detective Jim</b>	<b>Lanark rocks!</b>	
2:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>Registration closes 2 pm</b> . Last call for <b>tally sheets</b> 3:00 pm		
4:00 pm	<b>BioBlitz closing ceremony – results, quiz. Post-BioBlitz BBQ</b>		

MVFN BioBlitz 2009 is presented by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and The Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County. The event takes place at the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Bell property near Almonte at the intersection of Clayton Road and Ramsay Conc. 3B. Follow signs for parking.

For further information, or if you plan to participate, please contact Mike McPhail at 613-256-7211 or [mcp@mail.com](mailto:mcp@mail.com) or visit [www.mvfn.ca](http://www.mvfn.ca).

# Friday, June 15



**BioBlitz Headquarters**  
 Rouge Valley Conservation Centre  
 1749 Meadowvale Road  
 Toronto, Ontario  
 (416) 282-8265  
[info@rvcc.ca](mailto:info@rvcc.ca)

welcome & participant/volunteer registrations (continues 24hrs)  
 meet & greet, RVCC open house, bioblitz experts present

## OFFICIAL START of Rouge BioBlitz 2012 (24hrs)

### BEETLES & SPIDERS of Rouge Park (30min)

Bruce Gill (CFIA) & Tom Mason (TZ) will tell us about creepy crawlers.

### TREES & Invasive Species (1hr)

Deb Metsger (ROM) discusses dog-strangling vine, Russian Olive, and the Giant Hog Weed - invaders with a punch.

### HERPS! Reptiles & Amphibians (30min)

Amy Lathrop (ROM) shows us the slimy & scaly.

### BATS & Other Mammals (1.5hrs)

Maria Papoulias (RP), Signe Brinklov (UoG), Maria Franke (TZ), and Iga Stasiak (TZ) introduce us to the night flyers & more - "mammals, mammals everywhere, underground, above ground, in the air!"

### Late Night INSECTS (1hr)

Brad Hubley (ROM) examines some night-time bugs at a light trap!

### CAMPFIRE ADVENTURE (4hrs)

Dave Ireland (ROM) & friends provide late-night check-ins, coyote howls, and ghost stories. Kick back and chat about the Rouge, and bring your own s'mores!

# timeline

1:00am  
 2:00am  
 3:00am  
 4:00am  
 5:00am  
 6:00am  
 7:00am  
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 9:00am  
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 11:00am  
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 8:00pm  
 9:00pm  
 10:00pm  
 11:00pm  
 12:00pm

# Saturday, June 16

### BIRDS of Rouge Park (1hr)

Bob Kortright (TFM) and Bill Rapley (TZ) bring an early morning bird ID clinic to life - registration required (max 35)

### WORMS (30min)

Tara Sackett (U of T forestry) captures wily worms without digging!

### Beautiful BUTTERFLIES (30min)

Join Carol Sellers of the Toronto Entomologists' Association on a butterfly walk!

### MUSHROOMS of the Rouge (1hr)

Jean-Marc Moncalvo & Simona Margaritescu (ROM) bring us through an ID clinic, and demo mushroom processing!

### CRUSTACEANS and other INVERTEBRATES (30min)

From microscopic to longer than your nose - wild & wondrous invertebrates!

### FISH & AQUATIC INSECTS (30min)

Dave Lawrie (TRCA) & Brad Hubley (ROM) go fishin' for water-breathers!

### DRAGONS & DAMSELS (30min)

Bev Edwards depicts the dragons & damselfly of the insect world!

## OFFICIAL END of Rouge BioBlitz 2012

## BBQ

**3:30-6:00pm**  
 Administrative Complex  
 Atrium, Toronto Zoo  
 361A Old Finch Ave  
 Toronto, ON



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## ~ Schedule ~

Here is a tentative timetable for the 24-hour Brockville 2009 Bioblitz:

### Friday, June 5th

<b>2:30pm</b>	Registration desk at base site opens
<b>3:00pm</b>	Bioblitz send-off
<b>6:00pm</b>	Supper (bring your own or pick up from Tincap restaurant 3 km away)
<b>7:00pm</b>	Evening activities (i.e., small mammal trap setting, evening birds, amphibians, moth baiting, bats, moths, owl calling)
<b>10:00pm</b>	Base site closes

### Saturday, June 6th

<b>5:00am</b>	Birding
<b>8:00am</b>	Morning Activities (i.e., mammal trap check, trees, shrubs, flowering plants, ferns and spore-bearing plants, grasses and sedges)
<b>11:00am to 3:00pm</b>	Visitors welcome (Wildlife Festival \$5/car), environmental education activities, guided hikes/talks from specialists
<b>11:30am to 12:30pm</b>	BBQ Lunch at Base site(donations accepted from volunteers, fee for visitors)
<b>12:00pm</b>	Informal remarks from taxon teams
<b>2:30pm</b>	Tally sheets due; check out and hand in survey
<b>3:00pm</b>	Bioblitz ends; closing ceremonies and preliminary results

## OTTY LAKE BIOBLITZ- TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

2:30-3:30 pm	Welcome to Otty Lake! Basecamp & Registration Opens	
3:30-4:30 pm	Orientation Walk lead by Mike Yee (RVCA)	
4:30- 6:00 pm	"Plants that Like Wet Feet" Walk with Susan Samilla & Edith Lepine	
6:00 - 7:30 pm	Inventory on Your Own	
7:30 – 9:30 pm	"Sounds & Creatures of the Night" Walk with Heather Lunn & Simon Lunn	Moth Lure Set-up?
9: 30 pm	Basecamp & Registration Close	

**Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

6:30- 8:00 am	Registration Opens	Birding & Inventorying on your own
8:00- 9:30 am	Birding Walk with Sam Kingdon	
9:30- 10:45 am	"What Kind of Trees Grow Here" Walk with Fred Lepine & Jim Agar	"Plants that Like it Drier" Walk with Susan Samilla & Edith Lepine
10:45- 12:00	Reptiles & Amphibian Walk with Dave Seburn	Damselflies & Dragonflies Walk with Jim Ronson
		Insects at Large with Jim Ronson, Jay Fitzimmons & Friends
12: 00- 1:00 pm		
1:00- 2:00 pm	"What can we find?" Walk with Mike Yee	Aquatic Plants, Aquatic Invertebrates & Water Quality with Adrienne Lewis, Sarah McLeod (RVCA) & Stephanie Popiel
2:00- 3: 00 pm	Anything We've Missed?	
3: 00 pm	Closing, Species Tally, Celebration	

Small Mammal Trapping (James Page, Kemptville MNR):

Saturday	
<i>Set-up</i>	<i>Checks</i>

Sunday	
<i>Set-up</i>	<i>Checks</i>