



# BE SAFE!

## Huron Fringe Birding Festival 2023

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The Festival strives to ensure that all Events are conducted as safely as possible. All participants should be aware of the following protocols to ensure the safety of you and your group.

### 1. Preparations for your Event

- Arrive 15 minutes before your Event(s) (30 minutes before your first event!). Events must leave on time to clear the meeting area for other groups to park and assemble safely. Additionally, the Event Coordinator will be providing safety and other instructions specific to each Event before departure.
- For car-travel events, walkie-talkies will be distributed for safety and convenience. Bring your own if you have them!
- Ensure your car has a full tank of gas or is fully charged, to avoid unnecessary delays or safety issues (stops or detours in town traffic, with a car convoy in tow, can be tricky!)
- Have water, sunscreen, bug spray, lunch, walkie talkies or other essentials as required with you. Be ready to roll.

### 2. The Event Coordinator (EC)

- If you need any type of assistance during an Event, advise the Event Coordinator (EC).
- The EC may provide some assistance where necessary, however, will also have to remain with and be attentive to the group as a whole.
- If you need to leave the event, advise the EC, as we need to ensure you are not lost or in trouble.
- The EC has a basic First Aid Kit.

### 3. Vehicle Travel Events

#### a) Vehicle Convoys:

**Road travel events require special attention to safety and the rules of the road! Drive carefully!**

- We encourage car-pooling to minimize safety concerns (and for environmental and social benefits). Carpooling reduces the number of cars stopping roadside and pulling out again onto busy roads.
- Maintain as tight a group of vehicles as can be safely done to ensure the group remains together. Don't tailgate, but don't lag behind!
- Walkie-talkies provide added safety to vehicle convoys by allowing the lead vehicle to provide safety instructions and directions en route, and to communicate as necessary. Keep your walkie-talkie turned on (Channel 11-22).
- Ontario law notes walkie-talkies are hand-held devices; drivers must not operate the walkie-talkie. Assign a passenger to speak if there should be any questions en route.
- The Event Coordinator will be in the rear vehicle and act as sweep to ensure all vehicles are present and accounted for.

#### b) Roadside Stops:

- Pull off the road as far as practical, while being aware of narrow shoulders and roadside ditches.
- Pull up reasonably close to the vehicle in front of you to minimize the distance passing traffic has to get by.
- When passengers step out of vehicles be aware of shoulder stability, ditch depth and ensure you have firm footing.
- Drivers should be aware of approaching traffic before opening their doors.
- The lead car and the Event Coordinator sweep car will activate their hazard lights at stops.



#### c) Birding on Roads:

- The Event Coordinator will be wearing a High-Visibility vest as an added safety measure for group stops on roads.
- The Event Coordinator will call out **"CAR"** to announce approaching traffic so that everyone is aware. As traffic approaches, the group must move as far off the road as possible and stand still so that drivers know your intention of remaining out of their way.
- Stay as far onto the shoulder as is practical while birding.
- Move as a group. All participants should be on the **same side** of the roadway to not distract approaching traffic.


**4. Trail Events**

- Appropriate footwear should be worn to provide support, traction and protection from the environment.
- Stay on trails to avoid hazards such as poison ivy, ticks, tangles, thorns, downed branches, etc. Be alert at all times for varying trail conditions, wet, slippery or other hazard conditions and alert others behind you about these conditions.

**5. Event Difficulty Levels**

- The Festival seeks to accommodate various levels of physical abilities across our many Events. We offer some mobility-limited Events  and some shorter all-day Events .
- For your guidance, Events are rated as Mobility Limited, Easy, Moderate, or Difficult. Be aware that trail surfaces vary from those that are relatively level, wood-chipped, boardwalk, unsurfaced earthen or stone dust trails, to more challenging, less maintained, sometimes steeper, exposed bedrock, boulder pavement, rough shorelines, and sandy beaches.

Additionally, please consider these ratings, as well as your own abilities and comfort when selecting or participating in any Event:

- **Mobility Limited** –  Intended for those who have difficulty walking.
- **Easy** – Participants should be able to walk up to 1.5 kilometres (3 hours) without any problems. Generally walking is leisurely on maintained trails.
- **Moderate** – Participants should be able to walk up to 4.5 kilometres (3+hours) without any problems. Brisk walking may be required to get from one location to another in a timely manner. Generally, walking will be on maintained trails some of which may be rough or rocky.
- **Difficult** – Participants should be able to walk distances where there is unsure footing or where terrain or obstacles need to be negotiated.

**6. Covid Health and Safety Protocols**

- Health and safety protocols will be followed as per any guidelines in effect at the time of the Festival.
- Our Festival is mask-friendly.

The Festival has additional procedures in place for use in special or specific circumstances that may affect the safety and welfare of any individual event participant, or the group as a whole.

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Thank you for observing these protocols to ensure the safety of you and your group!

**Huron Fringe Birding Festival / The Friends of MacGregor Point Park**