

# Prescott-Russell celebrates United Nations' International Year of Biodiversity!

**ALFRED** – The Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council is thrilled to collaborate with the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and the United Counties of Prescott-Russell on the planning of the third BioBlitz, June 11 and 12, noon to noon.

The goal of this project is to provide the community with information on biodiversity while conducting expert-led species inventories. The BioBlitz coincides with the United Nations' 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

It will be held in an area of Larose Forest which contains some old growth characteristics. This area lies along route 200 east and includes part of the South Nation River.

A BioBlitz is a 24-hour event where "species experts", volunteers, and community members come together to identify as many species as possible. In the United Counties of Prescott-Russell, the event will take place in Larose Forest.

The resulting species inventory will be used for protecting biodiversity by providing information for responsible land use management decisions, protection of rare or at risk species, and inclusion in MNR's Natural Heritage In-

formation Centre (NHIC).

A complete report will be produced and results from the event will be posted on the websites of the Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council and Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

"The scientific information from the BioBlitz will help the community to better understand the importance of biodiversity and conservation projects in the Larose Forest," mentions Stewardship Coordinator, Suzanne Lafrance.

Biologists and naturalists from the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, South Nation Conservation, Club des mycologues de l'Outaouais, Carleton University, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council, among others, have already generously agreed to volunteer their time.

Volunteers and staff from the Stewardship Council and the United Counties of Prescott-Russell will also be present to coordinate the activities.

If you have expertise in a particular area of natural history, for example birds, plants, insects, and would like to participate, please contact Lafrance at 613-679-0936 or via e-mail at [Suzanne-lafrance@ontario.ca](mailto:Suzanne-lafrance@ontario.ca).