



# Bert Miller Nature Club

[www.bertmillernatureclub.org](http://www.bertmillernatureclub.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/900951>

## Who is the Club named after?

***The Bert Miller Nature Club*** is named in honor of Albert Weatherstone Miller (1882-1973). Below is a picture of his family and the home he was born in. It was located at Miller's Creek on the Niagara River.

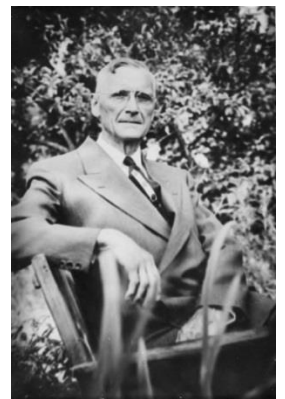


Bert became a naturalist. A naturalist is a person who studies plants, animals, insects, and other living things. He was also an amateur botanist. A botanist is a scientist who knows about trees, plants and shrubs. He studied and collected the plants of the Niagara Peninsula.



Bert belonged to the Niagara Falls Nature Club. He started the Fort Erie Horticultural Society. He helped start the Peninsula Field Naturalists.

In his memory, there is an arboretum planted at the Ball's Falls Conservation Area in Vineland. An arboretum is a land on which many different trees or shrubs are grown for study or display.



There is a stone marker along the Niagara River Parkway which says:

### **BERT MILLER**

Loyalist homestead of Albert Weatherstone (Bert) Miller, 1882-1973, noted Ontario Amateur Naturalist who devoted much of his life to the collection and preservation of the rarer plants, shrubs and trees of the Niagara Peninsula.

"All my efforts and whatever expense was involved have been rewarded by someone else enjoying what I have found."

Erected by the Niagara Parks Commission



**Bert's advice:** "Try to learn something new each day and take time to smile at a child."

### **When was the Bert Miller Club formed?**

The Bert Miller Nature Club was formed in 1995 in Ridgeway after Earl Plato put a notice in the Fort Erie newspaper inviting anyone interested in forming a nature club to come to the Crystal Ridge Library in Ridgeway. He became the first president. He was also Bert Miller's friend and a history buff.



### **Why was the Club formed?**

A group wanted to preserve land in the Point Abino Peninsula. This land is called *Marcy's Woods*. It is near Crystal Beach along the shore of Lake Erie. The whole story of Marcy's Woods can be read in the book "Niagara *Birds*" by John E. Black and Kayo J. Roy. It can be found in the Brock University Digital Repository on line or at the local library.

### **What is the Club's logo?**

The logo is a Pileated woodpecker in front of a Tulip tree leaf. Both are species found in the Fort Erie area.



**Bert Miller**  
Nature Club



## ***Bert Miller Nature Club's Goals***

- To protect, preserve and restore the habitat where people, plants and animals need to live and stay healthy in
- To help people understand how important and valuable the environment is.
- To co-operate with others having the same kinds of interests
- To recognize and honour individuals and groups that contribute to Niagara's natural heritage

### **Where does the Club meet?**

The Club now meets at the Fort Erie Conservation Club hall in Stevensville Conservation Area.



### **How has the Club achieved some of its goals?**

- Having meetings with interesting *speakers*.
- Exploring nature.
- Giving the *Bert Miller Nature Club Award* to a deserving person or group.
- Having nature displays at *local festivals*.
- Helping to improve *natural beach areas* and *Shagbark Nature Park*
- Counting the different kinds of plants and animals in the natural areas of Fort Erie.
- Keeping track of the Fowlers toads along Lake Erie.
- Doing a study of old growth forests in Niagara.
- Having a Junior Naturalist group for children to learn more about nature.

### **Some Partners and Projects**

- *Fort Erie Public Library* to have a program called "Nature in Niagara"
- *Bird Studies Canada* to count birds called Chimney Swifts in Fort Erie
- *Buffalo Ornithological Society* to count local birds
- *Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry* to make a map of the Fort Erie shoreline
- *Town of Fort Erie* to keep Shagbark Nature Park in Ridgeway beautiful
- *Environment Canada* to make a guide called "*Snakes, Turtles and Frogs of Fort Erie*"
- *Town of Fort Erie*, *Friends of Fort Erie's Creeks* and the *Department of Fisheries & Oceans* to *study the grass pickerel population* in Beaver Creek
- *Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority* and *Niagara College* to clean up and plant native species at Shagbark Nature Park in Ridgeway.



## A Few Pictures



Chimney Swift Monitoring



Looking for butterflies at the Butterfly Festival



Festivals and Displays



Nature Walk at Marcy's Woods- See the snake.



Junior Naturalists planting at Shagbark Nature Park



Beach Grass Planting