

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)
MINUTES OF MEETING**

20 October, 2014

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, CEF, Ottawa, 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Dan Brunton, Julia Cipriani, Owen Clarkin, Barry Cottam, Diane Kitching, Alex MacDonald, Ann MacKenzie, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Lynn Ovenden, Henry Steger, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Directors Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Barbara Chouinard, Don Hackett, Rémy Poulin, Ken Young

Guests: Linda Burr, member of Education and Publicity Committee
Bob Cermak, member of the Birds Committee

1. Minutes of the September 15, 2014 Meeting

Moved by Annie Bélair/Dan Brunton that the September 15th minutes
be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) Contribution towards purchase of land at the Lost Bay Nature Preserve:
At the last meeting, the following motion was tabled by Dan Brunton and Don Hackett, with the intention of a formal vote at the October meeting:

MOTION: That the OFNC contributes \$5000 to Ontario Nature towards
the purchase of the final segment of land to complete the Lost Bay
Nature Preserve.

It was now specified that these funds will be coming from the Czasak bequest.

CARRIED

3. Budget for 2014-2015 – Ann MacKenzie

Following the discussions at the September meeting, the Finance Committee sent the revised budget to the directors. However, before voting to approve it, the BOD needs to consider the Education and Publicity Committee's proposal presented in September, regarding hiring a communications consultant, Heather Badenoch of Village PR, to develop a communications plan for the OFNC.

Lynn sent the directors a document prepared by Heather showing her résumé, examples of her work and some references, along with the process to create a communications plan in 3 parts: establishing the OFNC's goals (which involves sending a survey to the directors then facilitating a discussion at the November BOD meeting), establishing the OFNC's communication goals, and recommending communication tools and activities to achieve these goals. This could be completed in spring 2015. The total

will be \$6780.

Lynn pointed out that the first step, establishing the OFNC's goals, does not mean revisiting the OFNC's mandate. It will focus on what the club wants to achieve in the next 3 years.

Other directors were concerned about the resources and motivation to implement the recommendations. Lynn and Linda explained that the list of recommendations would be short and precise, and are positive that the communications plan will serve a driver to mobilize volunteers to work on achieving our goals.

MOTION: That the OFNC engage the services of Village PR to develop a communications plan as described in the proposal.

Moved by Lynn Ovenden/Dan Brunton

CARRIED

Some asked if more people than the BOD should answer the survey for step 1. It was decided that if we think that someone who's not on the Board would have valuable input to provide, then to include him or her. The directors who are not on the BOD will also be included.

All directors then gave permission to Lynn to send their email addresses to Heather for the survey. Lynn also asked that if they recommend sending the survey to someone else, they must provide his or her email address as well.

BUDGET FOR 2014-2015:

MOTION: That the revised budget be approved with one addition (\$1300 for the bus rental for a trip to Presque'ile; this money will be recovered).

Moved by Ann MacKenzie/Julia Cipriani

CARRIED

(See approved budget in [Annex 1.](#))

4. OFNC Signing Authority

Ann and Fenja explained that in CIBC's files, the names of people authorized to sign on behalf of the OFNC are not up to date.

MOTION: That only the OFNC president, Fenja Brodo, and the treasurer, Ken Young, have signing authority for OFNC business at CIBC.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie/Dan Brunton

CARRIED

5. Committee Reports

a) Awards – Eleanor Zurbrigg

The call for nomination for the 2014 OFNC awards is now open. The form will be in T&L. Eleanor also asked Henry to send an email to all the members to ask for nominations; the BOD agreed to include the list of past winners with the email.

b) Birds – Bob Cermak

See report in [Annex 2.](#)

Bob highlighted how successful the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) Convention

in September was. Fenja added how great it was to see the collaboration between the different naturalist clubs.

c) Education and Publicity – Lynn Ovenden

See report in [Annex 3](#).

Regarding the clause about procedures in case of an injury; Lynn enquired and sent the reply to Ken.

d) Conservation – Owen Clarkin

i. Owen first lauded Ian Whyte's work at Mud Lake to save turtle hatchlings.

ii. The Constance Bay Biothon was launched on August 23 and will last a year.

There have been four outings already, but data is also being collected on an on-going basis. A Facebook page for the biothon has been created; anyone can share data.

e) Events – Julia Cipriani

Julia shared some info about the number of members and non-members who went on field trips over the summer.

f) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Barry Cottam

See report in [Annex 4](#).

There were 3 newly planted bitternut hickories stolen from the FWG, including the memorial tree for Laurie Consaul. The memorial tree will be replaced and a plaque will be put up. We hope that the presence of the plaque will be a deterrent to thieves.

g) Macoun Club – Diane Kitching

See report in [Annex 5](#).

The annual report was also sent to the BOD.

h) Membership – Henry Steger

The annual report was sent to the BOD.

i) Publications – Dan Brunton

See report in [Annex 6](#).

Bob Cermak pointed out that it is difficult to read articles from the CFN online, as there are two columns on each page. When you get to the bottom of the first column, you have to scroll back up and move the page in order to see the second column. Bob asked if it would be possible to have all the text in one long column that could easily be read from top to bottom on a screen. Dan said he will raise this with his committee.

j) Nature Canada – Alex MacDonald

i. Nature Canada has a new executive director: Eleanor Fast

ii. Nature Canada has been working on a project with the University of Ottawa's Community Service Learning program; a group of students is mapping the

FWG with an online citizen science tool from Cornell University called YardMap.

- iii. Nature Canada is reapplying for a Trillium Foundation grant for their Lac Deschênes-Ottawa River IBA project, since their first application for a grant was turned down.
- iv. On Oct. 22, there will be a migration parade with kindergarten children from Parliament Hill to City Hall, where the Mexican Embassy will be providing refreshments.
- v. Nature Canada is also working on a stop-motion animation film on local species at risk, using images that were coloured by children.

6. Nominations – Ann MacKenzie

Ann will be contacting all directors to ask about serving on the Board again in 2015.

7. Dave Seburn’s Proposal on Research on Turtle Nest Protection

Dave asked the OFNC to support his proposal to study if habanero pepper powder can reduce turtle nest predation; he asked if he could submit the proposal on behalf of the OFNC to the Canadian Wildlife Federation's Endangered Species Fund. The Conservation Committee endorsed this proposal.

Some directors expressed concerns about the contractual relationship between the CWF, the OFNC and Dave as a consultant, as the proposal will be submitted on behalf of the OFNC. Dan was unhappy that Dave was requesting a low per diem despite the fact that Dave has an excellent reputation as a researcher and that this is a well thought out proposal that might yield huge benefits. Alex, however, affirmed that this would be the going rate for such research at CWF and Nature Canada.

MOTION: That Dave Seburn’s proposal be endorsed by the OFNC.

Moved by Owen Clarkin/Alex MacDonald

CARRIED [2 abstentions]

8. Age of the OFNC

In her speech at the Ontario Field Ornithologists Convention in September, Fenja said that the OFNC was the oldest naturalist club in Canada. However, a member of Nature London told Bob afterwards that the London club was in fact the oldest; its origins dates back to 1864.

On the OFNC website, it states that the OFNC was founded in 1879.

Dan explained that the club started in 1863 as the Ottawa Natural History Society, but the organisation was incorporated in 1879 as the OFNC. So Dan says we should be proud to be part of the longest, continuously running natural history society in Canada. He will write an article for T&L to clarify this. .

It was also requested that the wording on the origins of the OFNC in T&L, the CFN and our website be corrected to say “founded in 1863”.

9. Revenue Canada Audits

Fenja pointed out that some environmental NGOs have been or are being audited by Revenue Canada. Because the OFNC does write to government organisations to express concerns about or opposition to proposed policies or projects, she asked if we should be worried. Directors said that partisanship and sending threats to politicians or parties would put us at risk, not writing opinion letters. We should however be very careful not to make donations to causes that are political.

10. OFNC and Volunteer Ottawa

Lynn mentioned that Volunteer Ottawa offers good courses to their members and encouraged the directors to take a look. There is also a volunteer job posting tool that could be useful. Directors asked to get more information.

ACTION: Annie to contact Volunteer Ottawa to get their newsletter and forward it to the BOD.

11. Proposal to Offer Free Memberships to the Families of Macoun Club Members

See complete proposal in [Annex 7](#).

Rob Lee sent this proposal to the BOD. By offering a free membership to the families of Macoun Club members, the parents would receive T&L and become more aware of the OFNC and its activities, and may be inclined to join after their child leaves the Macoun Club.

Henry highlighted that he would need to be informed of which families to include in the membership list and when to remove them once the child is not a member anymore.

Directors then debated if the free membership should be offered as long as the child is part of Macoun Club, or only for 2 or maybe 3 years. It was decided that the free membership would last for a maximum of 3 years as long as the child is a member of the Macoun Club.

MOTION: That the OFNC offers a free OFNC family membership to the families of children who are Macoun Club members, for up to 3 years as long as the child remains a member.

Moved by Diane Kitching/Dan Brunton

CARRIED

12. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by Henry Steger/Barry Cottam that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Annie Bélair

Meetings in 2014:

Monday, November 17

Monday, December 15

OFNC	FY 2015 Budget	2015 budget (column B) notes - from committee chair
Revenues		
Membership fees	27,000	
Donations & bequests	10,000	we will receive an additional amount from the Czasak bequest
CFN - Subscription revenue	20,000	used revenues for volume 127
CFN - Author's charges	20,000	used revenues for volume 127
Fletcher Wildlife Garden	4,500	As per David - Plant sale \$4000 & donations \$500
Soirée	850	
Presqu'île trip	1,400	
Interest revenue	15,000	
HST rebate	-	
Advertising Revenue	?	Up in the air
Sales	750	
Other	2,000	
Total Revenues	101,500	
Expenses		
Activity Expenses		
Canadian Field-Naturalist	62,000	used expenses for volume 127
FWG - FWG Fund	9,600	As per David
FWG - Special projects	5,000	5000 for Cody Trail
FWG - General Fund	4,600	Admin, maintenance, library & publications, misc.
Awards Committee	600	As per Eleanor
Soiree	1,000	
Birds Committee	5,200	bird count, Falcon Watch, Osprey Cam & non-recurring Flap 1200, seeds
Bird Checklist	2,000	The amount was approved by the BOD in May 2014 and now moved to 2015 fiscal year
Donations	?	
Education and publicity	21,000	As per Lynn - includes 10,000 for website development & special project - communications plan
Events	2,000	As per Julia - see note on Neatby at end
Macoun Club	2,000	
Presqu'île trip	1,300	
Trail & Landscape	7,000	
Activity Expenses, Total	123,300	
Operating Expenses		
Affiliation fees	400	
Bookkeeping	3,500	
HST expense	-	
Insurance	1,600	
Interest and bank charges	1,400	

Membership	1,000	as per Henry
Professional fees	7,000	may have ONCA legal expenses
Website	3,500	
General and miscellaneous	3,500	
Operating Expenses, Total	21,900	
Total Expenses	145,200	
Net Revenues (Expenses)	-43,700	
		Note on venue for monthly meeting
		Neatby is free right now, if this changes, likely OFNC would
		have to pay \$250 to \$300 per evening and this would be an
		additional cost to Excursions and Lectures of approx \$2700.

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Birds Committee (BC) Report – October 2014

1. 2014 Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) Convention. The 3-day event was held in Ottawa 26 to 28 September and was a great success. The more than 230 registrants reported 151 species seen in the Ottawa region. A total of 29 field trips were conducted by 38 leaders, most of whom were OFNC members.

2. Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP). Fall migration patrols continue with about a dozen active volunteers. Another 15 or so people have signed up and six training sessions have been held. To date during fall migration, more than 320 birds have been documented, consisting of 62 species, and more than 70 birds have been rescued alive. Staff and/or tenants at more than ten buildings have helped to document window strikes, and the University of Ottawa and National Gallery of Canada have also been very receptive to advice on bird-safe window treatments. The initiative has received some media coverage including a recent CBC News Ottawa story on October 14th. There will also be an upcoming article in the Centretown News. Work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FLAP, Nature Canada, the OFNC and the Wild Bird Care Centre continues.

3. BC FY 2015 Budget Request. The amount requested remains as reported to the Board at their September meeting (a total of \$4,000 recurring and \$3,200 non-recurring). A question was raised at that meeting about the relationship between FLAP Canada and the Ottawa chapter. That relationship has yet to be formalized and is the subject of the ongoing MoU discussions (see para 2 above). Regardless, it is the opinion of the BC that FLAP Ottawa should operate as an activity of the OFNC, overseen by and responsible to the BC. Consequently, funding for FLAP Ottawa is included in the BC budget request.

Rémy Poulin

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Education and Publicity Report

Mark Brenchley received applications for OFNC's sponsorship to attend the Sept 19-21 Ontario Nature Youth Summit. We interviewed a few applicants in July, and awarded sponsorships to Emily Pollington and Emma Kirke.

Linda met with Heather Badenoch of Village PR to learn her ideas for developing a communications plan. Village PR proposed a budget and project plan, we provided comments and suggestions, and sent it to the board for decision.

Through uOttawa's Community Learning Program, Natalie offered to supervise a student who applies to voluntarily help with blog posts about OFNC events this fall. OFNC has agreed to be a partner organization in the program. The student has prepared two blog posts.

We staffed the OFNC display at 3 events: BugDay on Sept. 6 at the Agriculture Museum; City Hall's Wildlife talk on deer within the city, at Ben Franklin Place (Centrepoint) on Sept 18; and the OFO conference at Nepean Sportsplex, Sept. 27.

We responded to 2 requests: for someone to give a birding talk and for advice on a school birdbox project.

Lynn Ovenden

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FWG REPORT – SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014

We're in the fall wrap-up phase now at the FWG. Work in the BYG has pretty much been completed; the Butterfly Meadow group ceased operations several weeks ago; the IS group still gets together when weather permits.

At its Sept. 24 meeting, the MC discussed a number of issues, including the ongoing question of a rotating rather than appointed chair, the need for collective planning for management of habitats within the overall context of FWG goals, our resources and capacity for meeting the objectives laid out in the OFNC Strategic Plan, and whether we should abandon the concept of habitats altogether in favour of managing the FWG more as a whole.

Lis Allison has done a wonderful job on the relocation of the William Cody Fern Garden to the BYG. At our meeting this coming Wednesday, the MC will discuss ways of thanking Lis for her efforts.

Sandy Garland reported to the MC on various initiatives in the Ash Woodlot. In addition to the ongoing plantings of trees and shrubs and spreading of seeds of a number of understory plants, a couple of student groups were enlisted to help remove DSV and clear the trails of debris from the removal of the ash trees this summer. Sandy also noted planting of a number of trees in the Ravine.

Brian Haddon has sent a brief survey to the MC and other interested volunteers, seeking feedback on a number of questions regarding planning of the New Woods.

I regret having to report that the Bitternut Hickory planted last month in memory of Laurie Consaul has been stolen. Diane Lepage will be arranging for another planting and a commemorative sign.

On Oct. 8, 21 participants from the North American Association of Environmental Education Conference, held in Ottawa Oct. 9-11, came out to check out the BYG and Butterfly Meadow and learn how we are dealing with DSV.

The biannual, international Weeds Across Borders Conference, held in Ottawa Oct. 14-16, wrapped up on Friday Oct. 17 with a couple of 'on the ground' events. The one at the FWG included a talk on buckthorn control over the years and a tour of the FWG that focussed on our various methods for managing invasive species, particularly DSV. Stephen Darbyshire arranged a very interesting tour of Building 136, the biocontrol containment facility. The event ended with lunch and further discussion at the IC. The tour group was small, only 7 people, but participants represented organizations in Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC as well as the USDA and an IS organization in Mexico.

The FWG is now listed as a community partner with the University of Ottawa for potential student projects. At this point, the Communications Committee is considering a survey of FWG users like the one taken in 2007. Hopefully other plans will be forthcoming.

The FWG donated at least 1000 milkweed seeds to the Monarch Teachers Network, which will distribute them to schools and communities that want to create a monarch waystation.

The latest edition of the FWG newsletter has just come out and is available on the FWG website.

Thanks to Ted Farnworth for repainting the IC bathroom.

Barry Cottam

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MFC Report, 20 October 2014

Our first activity for 2014-2015 was the welcome back and welcome to new members meeting on September 13 at FWG. There was a large turnout, but not enough of an age spread to warrant running two groups. The first meeting was followed by a field trip on September 20, where we introduced members to our study area in Stony Swamp. On September 27th, we had an indoor meeting, and Rob gave a presentation on the Passenger Pigeon. On October 4th, we went to Pakenham. We were lucky with the weather: occasional drizzle; the rain held off until we were on our way out of the woods. People looked at late flowering plants, chickadees, several salamanders, and interesting fungi. Gerry Lee arrived just as we were leaving and gave members all kinds of information about wild turkeys. Our October 18th we had a two-for-one meeting: election of the president, vice-president and secretary, followed by a nature photo show-and tell.

We will continue with the usual practice of alternating meetings and field trips.

Diane Kitching

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Publications Committee Report to Council - October 2014

Our most recent meeting was 8 October 2014.

Publications are proceeding as planned, with no major complications in the schedule despite a delay at the printer's for the hard copy of the most recent issue of the CFN.

CFN 128(3) was recently posted on the web and the hard copy version will be printed and circulated in the coming days; production for issue 128(4) is on pace and on schedule, with ample submissions for the completion of the volume and for early issues of 129; indexing for 128 is well in hand and no delays are expected this year.

A new and significantly expanded Guide to Contributors is being prepared for the CFN.

An additional Associate Editor for the CFN was proposed by the Editor and approved by the Ctee; he is mammalogist Ian Adams; we are still looking for additional Associate Editor assistance in ornithology, entomology and ichthyology.

David Seburn, CFN cartographic associate editor, has joined the committee.

We are involved in an active search for a new Journal Manager as Jay Fitzsimmons is unable to continue with his responsibilities from his out-of-town location; the hope is to divide the core tasks of subscription management and journal production to restructure the workload into significantly more manageable units; any suggestions of possible candidates would be appreciated.

Active leads are being pursued for additional CFN Copy Editing help; there is an immediate need for this in order to maintain the present publication schedule and reduce the extra load which the present deficiency places on the Editor's limited time.

Discussions concerning a new Ctee Chairman focused on sharing the Council duties amongst Ctee members, as is done by other OFNC Ctees, to lessen the meeting time requirements of the position; considerable progress has been made in that regard and we expect to have a replacement identified shortly.

Dan Brunton

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A proposal for the OFNC to offer free memberships to the families of Macoun Club members

One of the hopes for the Macoun Club is that its members will grow up to join and support the OFNC, but to our dismay most of the young people we track move away from the region and do not become OFNC members.

The parents of members seem to be more anchored to Ottawa and might be more inclined to eventually join the OFNC if they were clearly tied into it while their children were members. About 75% of the children say their families share their interests, but despite our encouragement, few current families join -- we watch the quarterly lists of new members closely. Unless they attend the Awards Night and Social with their children, they may go for years oblivious to the OFNC, and lose whatever connection they have had when the children leave the junior club.

For the sake of bringing people into the OFNC, we propose that the families of Macoun Club members be offered free OFNC membership as long as their children attend. Any families who are currently OFNC members would have to be offered free renewals.

Families would receive Trail & Landscape, and at least see pictures of familiar Macoun members in the report on the Awards Night. Regular or even occasional articles on the activities of the Macoun Club would further draw them in, and the calendar of events could induce them to take part from time to time.

Each year, around the time the OFNC sends out renewal notices, the Macoun Club Committee would provide the Membership Committee with a list of Macoun members in good standing, with their home addresses.

The costs to the OFNC would be first, the loss of membership fees from the few families who would have paid up anyway, and second, the postage on T&L mailings. In 2013-14, we had 18 families who could have qualified. The financial benefit would not be apparent until we see who takes up paid membership after their child leaves the Macoun Club. There is no obvious direct benefit to the Macoun Club.

There could be indirect benefits by way of parents becoming helpfully involved in OFNC committees or other activities.

Current families who joined the OFNC (from New Members' lists 2011-14):

Morgan McAteer's family (spring 2013)

Patrick Dunlop's family (summer 2013)

The last thing to be done would be an invitation to join on a paying basis, after the child has left the Macoun Club.

Rob Lee

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