

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

**February 15, 2016**

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

**Chair:** Fenja Brodo

**Directors Present:** Annie Bélair, Barry Cottam, Ted Farnworth, Diane Kitching, Diane Lepage, Jakob Mueller, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin, Gordon Robertson, Jeff Saarela, Ken Young

**Directors Absent:** Carolyn Callaghan, Owen Clarkin, Louis L'Arrivée, Alex MacDonald, Ann MacKenzie, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Henry Steger, Eleanor Zurbrigg

**1. Minutes of the January 18, 2016 Meeting**

**Moved by** Annie Bélair/Lynn Ovenden that the January 18<sup>th</sup> minutes be accepted as distributed.  
**CARRIED**

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Ken said that the letter to terminate the contract with the bookkeeper was sent, and that a replacement was selected.

**3. Communications**

- i. The club received a letter from Mayor Jim Watson, thanking us for writing to express our satisfaction with the modifications to the curb at Mud Lake to help hatchling snapping turtles.
- ii. The club also received a letter from the Friends of the Farm, thanking us for our donation of 5000\$ to help with the publication of their book *Blooms: A History of the Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm*.

**4. Treasurer's Report – Ken Young**

The financial statements for fiscal year 2014-2015 have been received; Ken emailed them to the BoD for approval. They will later be approved by the general membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 21.

**MOTION:** That the Board approves the Financial Statements  
for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015

Moved by Ken Young/Rémy Poulin

**CARRIED**

**5. Discussion on Federal or Provincial Incorporation of the OFNC – Ken Young**

Ken reported that Ann has been working on the question of federal or provincial incorporation for the club with the lawyer. The latest recommendation has been not to change our current incorporation until the regulations for the Ontario *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* have been announced, which may not be for a couple of years yet. When that happens, the Club can

compare the requirements under federal and provincial legislation and determine which is preferable. In the meantime, the club should however keep working on updating its by-laws.

## 6. Terms of Reference

The Macoun Club's Terms of Reference were sent by email for approval.

**MOTION:** That the Board approves the Macoun Club's Terms of Reference.

Moved by Diane Kitching/Diane Lepage

**CARRIED**

## 7. Dates of the BoD Meetings in 2016

The dates of the BoD meetings have been set to: March 21 (Annual General Meeting followed by BoD meeting), April 18, May 16, June 20, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 12.

**ACTION:** Annie to write to Sandy Garland to reserve the FWG centre for the meetings.

## 8. 2016 OFNC Committee Rosters

Annie sent the list of all committee members prior to the meeting; see [Annex 1](#). This list will be published in T&L.

**MOTION:** That the Board approves the 2016 Committee rosters.

Moved by Annie Bélair/Diane Kitching

**CARRIED**

## 9. Committee Reports

### a) Birds – Rémy Poulin

- i. The Department of National Defence (DND) has sent the renewal agreement for the club to sign. This replaces the existing agreement with DND that has expired, and gives the OFNC access to, and use of land at the Connaught Range and Primary Training Centre. The insurance aspects have been cleared by Ivan Whitehall with our insurance agent. Minor changes to addresses and such will be made by Chris for the final agreement.

**MOTION:** That the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club authorize Christopher Traynor, the chairperson of the Birds Committee, to execute a contract with the Government of Canada for access to, and use of land at the Connaught Range and Primary Training Centre for a five-year term commencing February 1, 2016, or as negotiated with the Government of Canada.

Moved by Ken Young/Barry Cottam

**CARRIED**

There were some concerns expressed by the BoD about wording in the agreement; it was asked that the resulting agreement reflects how the OFNC uses the property. Chris has already been made aware of the concerns.

- ii. The Safe Wings Ottawa group has submitted the requests for the grants that were approved at the January BoD meeting.

### b) Awards

Eleanor sent the citations for the 2015 OFNC Awards for approval by email by Feb. 19. Fenja added that she will award the President's Prize to both Ken Young and Linda Burr this year.

**c) Education and Publicity** – Gordon Robertson and Lynn Ovenden

- i. The inventory of items stored in the backroom of the FWG has been thoroughly cleaned up.
- ii. Erasable and magnetic white boards have been purchased for the FWG meeting space.
- iii. Type and extent of internet service at the FWG are still being discussed.
- iv. Lynn has received a proposal from Kevin Wallace of the outdoor education centres. She thought there were some issues, so she asked the bequest committee and Ken for feedback.

**d) Events** – Jakob Mueller

- i. The committee has learned that there is already a lapel microphone available in the meeting room at the Neatby building; they will try it.
- ii. The BoD confirmed that there is no protocol regarding the length of the monthly meetings.
- iii. Jakob pointed out that having to hand in the excursion schedule for April to June by March 1<sup>st</sup> to be published in T&L is very difficult. The schedule will most certainly be incomplete and require changes. He suggested that a monthly newsletter with a list of events would be a better tool for all members of the club. This newsletter would need to be available in both paper and electronic versions. There are some logistic issues to sort out but the BoD encouraged Jakob to speak to his committee and to Henry about making this happen.

He then added how great it would be if the events committee was able to update the event listings on the website and send electronic newsletters themselves, as opposed to having to go through the webmaster for updates and Henry for mail-outs. Lynn indicated that this is one of the reasons for modernizing the OFNC's website: each committee will be able to modify their own content on the site and generate announcements.

**e) Fletcher Wildlife Garden** – Ted Farnworth

- i. The Committee will be deciding if a volunteer coordinator is needed for the FWG.
- ii. The pond's sediments and soil report has been sent to Environment Canada.

**f) Macoun Club** – Diane Kitching

See report in [Annex 2](#).

**g) Publications** – Jeff Saarela

- i. Jeff was sad to announce that Carolyn Callaghan is stepping down as editor-in-chief of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. Fenja will write her a thank you letter. He asked the BoD if it is necessary to find a local person to replace Carolyn; the directors said no.

- ii. The research grant applications are under evaluation; Jeff will have a report for the BoD March meeting.

**h) Ontario Nature – Barry Cottam**

All are encouraged to send nominations for Ontario Nature’s 2015 conservation awards.

**10. New Business**

Jeff said that the OFNC should do something for Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017 and everyone agreed. Fenja pointed out that the T&L was created as a centennial project for the club, so its current revamping project is perfectly timed; an article should be written about this. There was a short exchange of ideas; the Events Committee will discuss further.

**11. Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Barry Cottam/Jakob Mueller that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Annie Bélair

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Meetings in 2016:

- March 21: Annual General Meeting followed by BoD meeting
- April 18
- May 16
- June 20
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- December 12

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Fenja Brodo  
President  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club

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Date

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Annie Bélair  
Recording Secretary  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club

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Date

**2016 OFNC Committees**

Awards Committee

Eleanor Zurbrigg (Chair)  
Irwin Brodo  
Julia Cipriani  
Christine Hanrahan  
Karen McLachlan Hamilton

Birds Committee

Chris Traynor (Chair)  
Tony Beck  
Bob Cermak  
Lorraine Elworthy  
Anouk Hoedeman  
Bernie Ladouceur  
Bev McBride  
Mark Patry  
Rémy Poulin  
Jon Ruddy  
Jennifer Spallin  
Nina Stavlund  
Greg Zbitnew

Birds Records (subcommittee)

Michael Tate (Chair)  
Rémy Poulin (Recording Secretary)  
Bruce di Labio  
Rod Dubois  
Marcel Gahbauer  
Mark Gawn  
Jon Ruddy  
Jeff Skevington  
Bernie Ladouceur (alternate)  
Christina Lewis (alternate)  
Chris Traynor (alternate)

Conservation

Owen Clarkin (Chair)  
Ken Buchan  
Erwin Dreessen  
Sandy Garland  
Christine Hanrahan  
Fred Schueler  
David Seburn  
Ian Whyte

Education and Publicity

Gordon Robertson (Chair)  
Mark Brenchley  
Fenja Brodo  
Linda Burr  
Wendy Cotie  
Sandy Garland  
Lynn Ovenden  
Lucy Patterson

Events

Jakob Mueller (Chair)  
Holly Bickerton  
Julia Cipriani  
Owen Clarkin  
Hume Douglas  
Sue Milks

Finance Committee

Rémy Poulin (Chair)  
Ann MacKenzie  
Ken Young  
Ivan Whitehall

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Judy Dodds - Friends of the Farm rep.  
Ted Farnworth  
Sandy Garland  
David Hobden  
Diane Lepage  
Gordon Robertson  
Henry Steger  
Eleanor Zurbrigg

Macoun Club Committee

Rob Lee (Chair)  
Annie Bélair  
Barbara Gaertner  
Diane Kitching (rep. on Board of Directors)  
Allison Patrick

Membership Committee

Henry Steger (Chair)  
John Cooper

Publications Committee

Jeff Saarela (Chair)  
Dan Brunton  
Carolyn Callaghan  
Paul Catling  
Tony Gaston  
Bill Halliday  
Amanda Martin  
Karen McLachlan Hamilton  
Frank Pope  
David Seburn

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## MFC Report

After our field trip on January 16, when we skated on the big pond in Stony Swamp, we had a series of indoor meetings in an attempt to not have a field trip in what is usually the coldest part of the winter. On January 23, Bill Halliday told us about his research on the snakes of the Ottawa area, and in particular the snakes of Stony Swamp. Snakes are a perennial topic of interest to Macouners, especially so when the ones being discussed are found in our study area. It was a very lively meeting with lots of comments and questions from the members.

On January 30, we discussed climate change/global warming and on February 6, Kathryn Peiman visited us again, this time to explain how research can show whether genes or environment are primarily responsible for the appearance and behavior of some species of stickleback.

Having had three indoor meetings in a row, when the weather was actually quite mild, our next activity was a scheduled field trip this past Saturday (Feb. 13) when it was extremely cold. Nevertheless, a few brave souls ventured out for a short trip to Pakenham. We saw lots of animal tracks, but no birds except for a few chickadees on the feeders at Gerry's cabin.

Diane Kitching

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