

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

**April 18, 2016**

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

**Chair:** Fenja Brodo

**Directors Present:** Annie Bélair, Barry Cottam, Diane Kitching, Diane Lepage, Alex MacDonald, Jakob Mueller, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela, Eleanor Zurbrigg

**Directors Absent:** Carolyn Callaghan, Owen Clarkin, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Lynn Ovenden, Gordon Robertson, Henry Steger, Ken Young

**Bird Committee Liaison:** Mark Patry

**1. Minutes of the March 21, 2016 Meeting**

**Moved by** Annie Bélair/Diane Kitching that the March 21<sup>st</sup> minutes be accepted as distributed.

**CARRIED**

**2. Committee Reports**

**a) Awards – Eleanor Zurbrigg**

The citations for the 2016 awards will be posted on the website soon. Eleanor asked if we wanted to add an announcement on the homepage to link to the awards page; the BoD said it was a good idea. There was also a suggestion of sending a news release to local papers.

**b) Birds**

Birds Committee chairman Chris Traynor wrote to Fenja to suggest making a donation to the Wild Bird Care Centre, since the centre is handling all the injured birds that are collected through the Safe Wings Ottawa program.

**MOTION:** That the OFNC donate up to \$5,000 to the Wild Bird Care Centre.

Moved by Barry Cottam/Jakob Mueller

The vote will take place at the May BoD meeting; Fenja will also ask Anouk Hoedeman for advice on how much to donate.

**c) Events – Jakob Mueller**

Jakob announced that Ontario Nature will organize a field trip for the OFNC in late August to visit the Lost Bay Nature Preserve on Lake Gananoque. In 2014, the OFNC had donated \$5,000 towards the purchase of some land on the Preserve.

**d) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Diane Lepage**

- i. The annual Spring Fling, marking the start of the gardening season at the FWG, will take place on Sunday April 24, from 11:30 to 1:30.
- ii. The annual native plant sale will be on Saturday June 4.
- iii. The tentative date for the Garden Days event at the FWG is June 19.
- iv. Fenja and other FWG volunteers will be meeting soon to discuss the volunteer coordinator position.

**e) Macoun Club – Diane Kitching**

See report in [Annex 1](#).

**f) Publications – Jeff Saarela**

- i. Dr. Dwayne Lepitzki will be the new CFN editor.
- ii. The current honorarium for the CFN editor is \$10,000, and is \$4,000 for the assistant editor. The Publications Committee suggested increasing that to \$15,000 and \$5,000.

**MOTION:** That the OFNC increase the honorarium for the CFN editor to \$15,000 and for the assistant editor to \$5,000.

Moved by Jeff Saarela/Diane Kitching

Discussion: Eleanor pointed out that it would be nice to know what the criteria for honoraria are. Rémy will speak to the Finance Committee at their meeting on May 17.

The BoD will vote on the motion at the June meeting.

- iii. Also, since Dwayne lives in Alberta, he will not be able to sit on the BoD. Jeff suggested that Amanda Martin, the current assistant editor of the CFN, could take his place on the BoD as a rep for the CFN. The BoD agreed; Jeff will invite her to join.
- iv. The Publications Committee reported that copy editing/proofreading for the CFN has been a serious issue. Since long-time copy editor Liz Morton has stepped down, the copy editing does not get done on time and the whole production is delayed. Jeff said that some journals have dropped the copy editing step but the quality of the publications is affected. Commercial copy editing is expensive and would not be reasonable for a volunteer-run journal such as the CFN. The BoD suggested reaching out to the members of the club. Jeff will speak to the committee and prepare an ad for the website and for T&L.
- v. A paywall for the online CFN is being set up by journal manager Bill Halliday. This means that OFNC members will now need to log into the system to access the 4 most recent issues of the CFN. All the issues before that will be open to the public.

**g) Research Grants – Jeff Saarela**

Jeff announced that one awardee has declined the grant for personal reasons; the committee therefore divided the amount among the remaining projects that had received less than the amount they had requested.

**h) Nature Canada – Alex MacDonald**

Alex reminded everyone that Bird Day will be held at Brewer Park on May 14, and that there will be a natureblitz at the McSkimming Outdoor Education Centre on May 13-14.

He also met with someone from the National Capital Commission to discuss the vegetation management plan (removal of invasive plants) at Mud Lake. He asked the BoD if anyone had geo-referenced any sensitive or endangered species. There were no details on the replanting strategy yet, but some directors are interested in providing input.

**i) Ontario Nature – Barry Cottam**

Barry, along with Lynn Ovenden and Mark Brenchley, will start the process to select two high school students for the 2016 Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership.

**3. Tables at the FWG – Eleanor Zurbrigg**

Eleanor asked the BoD if we wanted to replace the 4 tables in the meeting area at the FWG; the surface got damaged a little bit during the renovations last fall. The BoD agreed that since the tables are still sturdy and that they will likely keep getting scratched since they are being used in a wildlife garden building, they don't need to be replaced.

**4. New Key Policy for the FWG – Eleanor Zurbrigg**

Eleanor has compiled a list of the volunteers who have a key to the FWG building and said that there are currently at least 35 keys in distribution. In order to better manage the key distribution, she will draft a key policy to be approved at the May meeting.

**5. Stone Markers at McKay Lake – Fenja Brodo**

Fenja received an email from Luc Beausoleil, NCC, explaining that 2 stone-like markers that were put up by the OFNC in 1930 at McKay Lake are in bad condition. These markers have text describing geological features of the area. The club was asked if we want to replace them. One option would be to put metal markers. Fenja will follow up.

**6. Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Diane Lepage/Barry Cottam that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Annie Bélair

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Meetings in 2016:

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

## Macoun Club Report

We resumed regular activities on April 2 with members' observations and reports of what they had seen and done during March break and the Easter weekend. Rob then took us on a tour of the MFC website, pointing out all the information about Macoun Club that has been posted there over time. That night, several members attended Awards Night. Three MFC members did four presentations and shared their knowledge enthusiastically OFNC members. Another highlight of the evening was to see Rob be awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the OFNC. On April 9, we had a field trip to Rob's house where we boiled sap to make syrup and, just before it was time to leave, we had enough syrup boiled down to the right consistency for making taffy on snow. Somehow we managed to eat it all.... On April 16, herpetologist Rob Willson introduced us to some of the rare and endangered reptiles around Georgian Bay and how they are studied and monitored.

We have a regular field trip planned for April 23, but in the meantime, MFC leaders will be taking some school students from Grades 1-3 to Stony Swamp for an afternoon outing linked to their school's science curriculum.

Diane Kitching

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