

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB  
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 16, 2011**

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

**Chair:** Ann MacKenzie

**Council Members Present:** Annie Bélair, Fenja Brodo, Dan Brunton, Carolyn Callaghan, Barbara Chouinard, Julia Cipriani, David Hobden, Diane Kitching, Frank Pope, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela, Henry Steger, Eleanor Zurbrigg

**Council Members Absent:** Sandy Garland, Diane Lepage, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Jeff Skevington, Chris Traynor, Ken Young

**Guest:** Yi Zhang.

**1. Minutes of the April 18, 2011 meeting**

**Moved by** A. Bélair/J. Cipriani that the  
April 18 minutes be accepted as distributed

**Carried**

**2. Unfinished Business**

- a. The January, February and March 2011 Council minutes were posted on the OFNC website at <http://ofnc.ca/council/minutes.php>.
- b. Council discussed the decision taken at the April meeting not to send members who haven't renewed their 2011 membership copies of CFN volume 124. Brunton argued that since these people were once sufficiently interested in the CFN and the OFNC to be members, contacting each of them and offering all issues of 124 represented a good opportunity to explain changes to our publications program that might encourage reconsideration of some cancellations. The consensus of Council was that this would not be a worthwhile initiative but that anyone who was a member in 2010 and requested the 2010 issues should be sent copies.
- c. Henry sent an email to all OFNC members who provided an email address to invite them to include their name, phone number, email address, field of expertise and interests in the Club Directory; over 100 members have accepted and provided information. However, in order to reach OFNC members who did not provide an email address, Council agreed to publish an announcement in T&L and in the CFN saying that if they want to be included in the Club Directory, to contact Henry.

**ACTION:** Henry to write the notice on the Club Directory for T&L and the CFN and send to Karen and Carolyn for publication.

**3. Treasurer's Report** No report

**4. Committee Reports**

**A) Awards** No report

**B) Birds** No report

**C) Conservation** K. Young  
See [Annex 1](#) for Ken's report.

**D) Education and Publicity** No report

**E) Excursions and Lectures** No report

**F) Executive** No report

**G) Finance** B. Chouinard

The Finance Committee has been discussing the need to reconfigure the financial management system to take into account the change in auditor, Finance Committee chair, Pay Pal, the OJS system and the need to reduce Frank Pope's workload. Engaging a professional bookkeeper who can produce financial statements and streamline our system is under consideration. We are likely going to keep detailed membership lists and detailed subscribers lists separate from the accounting system. Yi Zhang has volunteered to assist with financial management.

**ACTION:** Finance Committee to discuss and present their decision to Council at the June meeting.

**H) Fletcher Wildlife Garden** No report

**I) Macoun Field Club** D. Kitching  
See [Annex 2](#) for Diane's report.

**J) Membership** R. Poulin

Rémy gave a demonstration of how the OFNC could use the online social network "BigTent". Council will try it out over the summer and decide if it would be a good communication tool for all of the OFNC's members. It would be helpful if we are ready to open Big Tent up to members in the fall.

**ACTION:** All Council members to sign up with BigTent for this pilot project.

**K) Publications Committee** D. Brunton

a. Former Publications Committee Chair Ron Bedford passed on

some publications archives to Dan. Dan explained that the OFNC now needs to approach the City of Ottawa Archives to have them stored in a safe place.

- b. Past T&L issues are being scanned to eventually be posted on the OFNC website.
- c. Frank estimates that CFN issues 124(2 and 3) will be mailed by the end of May and that issue 124(4) will be mailed out in mid June; Carolyn announced that volume 125(1) is nearly ready to be published. Council asked about the progress of the OJS set up by Jay Fitzsimmons.  
**ACTION:** Dan to confirm with Jay if all the email addresses have been entered in the OJS and ask if the OJS can do electronic indexing and if members will be notified by email when a new issue is available.
- d. Jeff Saarela pointed out that the OFNC will have to decide on the official date of publication of each issue of the CFN as the electronic and hard copies will not be published at the exact same time.

#### **L) Ontario Nature** F. Pope

Frank reported on the eastern Ontario regional meeting that took place on May 7 at the Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area. He said that he and Diane Lepage had attended. Representatives from every club in the region were there. Diane described the latest developments with the CFN and handed out 4 copies of CFN Vol 23 No 4. The group seemed to be impressed by this issue.

#### **5. New Business**

Ann said that she would be talking to Debra Beattie from the Museum of Nature about sponsors who would pay for the rental for the room for our monthly meeting. It is possible that in return the OFNC would include their advertisements in the Club's Trail and Landscape.

#### **6. Motion to adjourn:**

**Moved by** F. Brodo/D. Kitching that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:** June 20, 2011, Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

-----

Meetings in 2011:

June 20 (Pot luck)

September 19  
October 17  
November 21  
December 12

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Report to Council**  
**May 16, 2011**

**NCC Greenbelt Master Plan Review**

The NCC announced the next round of public consultations, concerning “strategic statements and preliminary land use concepts that will guide the future of the Greenbelt until 2060”. The dates are:

- May 24, 2011, at the National Arts Centre
- May 26, 2011, at Nepean Sportsplex
- June 1, 2011, at the Chimo Hotel, 1199 Joseph Cyr St.

The details are at

[http://canadacapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc\\_web\\_content\\_page.asp?cid=16300-20446-113585-113594-137274&lang=1](http://canadacapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16300-20446-113585-113594-137274&lang=1)

Greenbelt Coalition members were given an overview of the proposals at a meeting with the NCC on May 7. The general reaction was disappointment with the limited nature of the three alternatives provided. None involve more than marginal changes to the Greenbelt. Even the potential improvements are based on the hope that private companies and the City will voluntarily add property to the Greenbelt, in some undefined way.

The proposals hardly constitute a vision for the next fifty years. The goal should be to add significant natural spaces to the Greenbelt system, such as the Carp Hills/South March Highlands. The Terry Fox Drive extension, which went right through a Conservation Forest, shows that the City of Ottawa will not protect city-owned natural areas, let alone those in private hands. If it is to be done, it must be by the NCC and the current review of the Master Plan is the time to establish that strategy.

The fact that after 18 months of silence the NCC is allowing just two weeks from the consultation announcement being made, to the end of the consultation period suggests that they don’t want to hear much.

The Greenbelt Coalition is preparing a statement about the proposals, which should be posted May 16.

In the meantime, as mentioned in my last report, the NCC and the City are going to conduct a “Joint Study to Assess Cumulative Effects of Transportation Infrastructure on the National Capital Greenbelt”. From the little information that is available about this, it appears likely that additional roads and/or widening of existing roads through the Greenbelt will result from the Master Plan Review, regardless of anything else. Stoney Swamp is one of the threatened areas, with either a widening of Richmond Road or a new road across the south end in the cards. See

<http://www.emckanata.ca/20110414/news/City+of+Ottawa+and+NCC+joint+transportation+infrastructure+study+set+to+begin>.

### **Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy**

The Rideau Roundtable organization is organizing a working group to address this; nothing further to report.

### **Carp Hills-South March Highlands BioBlitz**

This event is going ahead as planned, on May 28. It is listed on the OFNC website's Bulletin Board. It is being assisted by the OFNC, Ottawa Stewardship Fund, the City of Ottawa, the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, and the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists. Anyone who would like to participate should contact Linda McCormick at [lindamccormick@xplornet.com](mailto:lindamccormick@xplornet.com), or phone (613) 839-6608.

In conjunction with this event, the Education & Publicity Committee will be presenting a display at the Carp Farmers' Market.

Ken Young,  
Chair, Conservation Committee

**Macoun Field Club  
Report to Council  
April-May 2011**

We have continued with our usual pattern of alternate meetings and field trips. We had trips to the Study Area on April 2nd, April 16th, and May 7<sup>th</sup>. We hoped we would be able to go to Pakenham on May 7<sup>th</sup>, but unfortunately the black flies were already biting and so we decided on the Study Area instead. From past experience, we know that there is a very healthy and hungry black fly population at Pakenham, and that head nets are not popular gear with the younger members! Nonetheless, the Study Area was rewarding with spring wildflowers (including trilliums, thanks to the deer enclosure), snakes, porcupines, bees and walking ferns. Indoor meeting topics were moths of the Ottawa area and how to photograph them (Diane Lepage); maple syrup (with tastings); and Sperm Whales studies in the Caribbean. We will have two indoor meetings and one field trip between now and June 18<sup>th</sup>, when we will have our end-of-year party.

Diane Kitching,  
Macoun Field Club Rep