

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

**September 19, 2011**

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

**Chair:** Ann MacKenzie

**Council Members Present:** Annie Bélair, Fenja Brodo, Dan Brunton, Barbara Chouinard, Julia Cipriani, David Hobden, Diane Kitching, Diane Lepage, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Frank Pope, Jeff Saarela, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

**Council Members Absent:** Carolyn Callaghan, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Skevington, Chris Traynor

**1. Minutes of the June 20, 2011 meeting**

Carolyn Callaghan's name must be added to the list of Council members absent at the June meeting.

**Moved by** A. Bélair/D. Kitching that the  
June 20 minutes be accepted after correction is made.

**Carried**

**2. Communications**

Ann wrote to Peter Kent, Minister of Environment and Dalton McGinty, Premier of Ontario to express the OFNC's opposition to the OMNR's proposal to authorize the taking of some species of raptors from the wild for use in falconry activities. See report under Conservation for more details.

**3. Treasurer's Report** F. Pope

Frank reminded everyone to hand in their expense claims before the fiscal year end, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**4. Committee Reports**

**A) Awards** No report

**B) Birds** No report

**C) Conservation** K. Young

See [Annex 1](#) for Ken's report.

As a reply to Ann's letter regarding the falconry proposal, the federal Minister of Environment said that raptors are not protected under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*. Dan suggested that the Conservation Committee should

take up the task of contacting Nature Canada and Ontario Nature and ask that they initiate a discussion with Environment Canada to have raptors listed as protected birds under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*. Ken advised that the Committee would consider if taking further action was appropriate.

**D) Education and Publicity** F. Brodo

Fenja reported that volunteers manned the OFNC display at the EcoFair that took place in Ottawa on September 17 and felt that a lot of interest was generated.

The 2012 trip to Pelee Island is now announced on the website. The cost has not been determined yet.

**E) Excursions and Lectures** No report

**F) Executive** No report

**G) Finance** B. Chouinard

The draft budget for 2011-12 was circulated before the meeting. Comments were received and the draft was updated. Dan pointed out that it is still impossible to estimate how much the CFN will cost in the next fiscal year but that by next summer, the committee should be able to provide a better estimate for the following budget.

Barbara also said that the Finance Committee will review the operating expenses in the budget to see what can be reduced, reallocated or eliminated. The objective is to present a balanced budget next September.

**H) Fletcher Wildlife Garden** D. Hobden

See [Annex 2](#) for David's report.

**ACTION:** Frank to set up an account for the \$15000 cash prize the FWG won since the money must be spent on the Monarch Waystation.

**I) Macoun Field Club** D. Kitching

The first meeting of the 2011-12 school year was held on September 10; there were 6 new young members for a total of 27.

A new bookmark for publicity was designed and printed during the summer using money from the donations received in memory of Martha Camfield. Annie Bélair was congratulated for creating this.

**ACTION:** The President to work with the Macoun Club to write the annual report to the Camfield family.

**J) Membership** H. Steger

Henry circulated a draft renewal form before the meeting, received comments and sent a revised version.

Council is considering a membership to full time students for \$20; there will be further discussion and a vote at the October meeting.

**K) Publications Committee** D. Brunton

- a. See [Annex 3](#) for Dan's report.
- b. Publication Committee is recommending an increase in individual subscription fees for the CFN to \$65 per volume (hard copy subscriptions would still require the additional \$30 surcharge) and to increase mailing charges for printed copies from \$8.00 to \$10.00. Frank reported that this (and point d, below) was discussed briefly at the last Finance Committee meeting. Council discussed this in the context of the control and pricing of site licenses; concern was raised regarding the control of distribution of electronic copies and whether this would undermine the higher charge being required for the site license which allows larger subscribers (e.g. government departments) multiple access the online version of the CFN. Inadequate control could undermine this source of potential revenue.
- c. Another issue about the online version of the CFN was raised: Ken asked what the agreement is with the website provider regarding the cost of download when members or subscribers access articles online; Dan indicated that a calculation has been made but he was not aware of the details but would report back.  
**ACTION:** Dan to ask Jay Fitzsimmons to investigate.
- d. Dan also pointed out that out of the subscribers who did not renew their OFNC subscription last year because of the added fee for hard copies of the CFN, 20 had been subscribers for at least 40 years. The Publications Committee recommends sending these subscribers free hard copies of the CFN as an acknowledgment of their loyalty. Council discussion pointed out that we would need to be consistent in our treatment of long-term members. Some did renew and pay for hard copy and others have been long-term members but are not interested in receiving a hard copy of the CFN. It was felt that any initiative to reward long-term members would need to be fair to all of them. The consensus was that this issue would require more thought and discussion before a decision could be made.

**L) Ontario Nature** No report

**5. New Business**

David Hobden mentioned that there were mailboxes at the FWG and if other members of Council would find this an easier way to get their mail then they should let him know.

**6. Motion to adjourn:**

**Moved by** H. Steger/J. Cipriani that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:** October 17, 2011, Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

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Meetings in 2011:

October 17

November 21

December 12

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Monthly Report to Council  
September 19, 2011**

The Conservation Committee had a quiet summer.

Two letters were drafted for the President. One concerned the proposal by the Ontario government to allow raptors caught in the wild to be used for falconry. A letter was drafted opposing this and sent to the MNR by the OFNC, and the issue was posted on the OFNC's Facebook page. A second letter congratulated the NCC for asking the City of Ottawa to respect environmental issues when it chooses which land to add the urban area in response to the adverse OMB ruling on the Official Plan.

Ken Young,  
Chair, Conservation Committee

**FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Report to Council**  
**September 19, 2011**

Summer went well at FWG. There was a part-time employee for two months.

The Friday volunteers worked on the backyard garden while others worked on invasive species control and planted trees and shrubs to replace buckthorn removed earlier. A new Tuesday morning group, led by Barry Cottam, also worked on invasives. We also held four Sunday morning work groups to do more work on dog strangling vine. A small Wednesday evening group expanded the Butterfly Meadow and added plants to allow FWG to become an official Monarch Waystation. Last year we had received money for entering the Waystation project into an Evergreen Foundation competition, sponsored by Fido. We received \$2500 for our trouble and the actual competition was held this year. We placed second for which we are promised another \$15000.

Part of the Old Field will be mowed this Fall.

We are currently working on improving the Nursery area so we can keep more young plants over the winter and intend to replace the shed which has been damaged, with a slightly larger one. The nearby tree was removed by Agriculture Canada.

David Hobden  
Fletcher Wildlife Garden Committee Representative

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE  
Monthly Report to Council  
September 19, 2011**

The most important bit of news to report for this evening's meeting is, of course, that ALL of the issues of CFN to the end of volume 124, have been published and circulated. For the first time in quite a while, the current CFN volume is in its appropriate calendar year. The huge task of producing some two years or more worth of issues in one year has been accomplished. And so we heave a great sigh of relief and move on.

Additional wrinkles and glitches remain to be worked out in the first few 'electronic' issues of CFN, of course, but all of the PDFs for 125(1) have been finished and it is set to be posted. Jay expects this to be accomplished by week's end. Work is underway on 125(2), of course, and Carolyn reports significant progress there.

T&L continues to roll along effectively and virtually trouble-free... a reminder to us all of what a uniquely diverse (if at times complicated) publications program the OFNC has.

We look forward to a productive and entirely positive winter publication season.

Dan Brunton  
Chair, Publications Committee