

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

**October 17, 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, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela, Henry Steger, Eleanor Zurbrigg

**Council Members Absent:** Carolyn Callaghan, Jeff Skevington, Chris Traynor, Ken Young

**Guest:** Yi Zhang, Rob Alvo

**1. Minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting**

**Moved by** A. Bélair/H. Steger that the  
September 19 minutes be accepted as distributed.

**Carried**

**2. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

- a. Cash prize of \$15000 won by the FWG for the Monarch Waystation: the prize money was received and Frank has set up an account for it.
- b. Cost of download when members or subscribers access articles online: Dan reported that there is ample capacity to accommodate all suscribers.

**3. Communications**

Author Jan Rinik of Toronto sent a proposal manuscript of a “picture book” of Algonquin through the seasons to the OFNC, asking for a review.

**ACTION:** Dan to take this request to the Publications Committee.

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

Ken Young has agreed to take over the position of Treasurer for the OFNC, as Frank will be stepping down at the end of 2011.

**5. Committee Reports**

**A) Finance** B. Chouinard

**a. 2011-12 Budget**

The draft 2011-12 budget was presented at the September 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting; the revised version was circulated afterwards.  
[See Annex 1.](#)

**Motion:** That Council approves of the revised budget as presented by the finance committee.

Moved by B. Chouinard/E. Zurbrigg

**CARRIED**

**b. Finance Committee Annual Report for 2011**

Fenja congratulated the committee for their hard work during the last year, as many changes occurred.

**Moved by** B. Chouinard/J. Cipriani that the Finance Committee Annual Report for 2011 be accepted as distributed.

**CARRIED**

**B) Publications Committee** D. Brunton

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

**C) Membership** H. Steger

**a. Membership Committee Annual Report for 2011**

Henry presented the annual report he prepared but asked if the sustaining memberships should be merged with individual memberships; Council agreed. Henry will make that change and add a sentence saying the sustaining memberships were rolled into individual memberships.

**Moved by** H. Steger/D. Lepage that the Membership Committee Annual Report for 2011 be accepted with the proposed changes.

**CARRIED**

**b. Student Membership**

At the September meeting, Council discussed the possibility of offering an OFNC membership for \$20/year to full time post-secondary students. This membership would include T&L and access to the electronic version of CFN.

**Moved by** H. Steger/J. Saarela that Council initiate a student membership to full time post-secondary students for \$20/year.

**CARRIED**

Council discussed how to promote this new membership.

**ACTIONS:**

- i. Fenja to contact Mike Runtz at Carleton University.
- ii. Ann to work with Sandy to have a message posted on the OFNC website.
- iii. Ann to ask Jay Fitzsimmons about advice on how to reach students at University of Ottawa.
- iv. Jeff Saarela to send a notice to the Museum of Nature.
- v. Diane L. to get in touch with La Cité collégiale.

**c. Membership Renewal Form**

Henry updated the membership renewal form to include comments received.

**ACTION:** Yi to ask Sandy if, on the PayPal page for membership renewal, we could find a way to ask members if their address has changed since last year.

**D) Birds** R. Poulin for C. Traynor

Chris sent the annual report by email prior to the meeting; Rémy read it in Chris's absence.

**Moved by** R. Poulin/D. Kitching that the Birds Committee Annual Report for 2011 be accepted with the proposed changes.

**CARRIED**

**E) Ontario Nature** D. Lepage

The regional meeting will take place on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Mill of Kintail. Diane mentioned that she will bring up the email received by the OFNC asking to pass around a petition to request the OMNR to prohibit the hunting of snapping turtles. Council agreed that it is more of Ontario Nature's role to circulate such petitions.

**F) Conservation**

See [Annex 3](#) for Ken's report.

Ann added that the OFNC received an invitation to attend a discussion of options to protect natural areas in the city of Ottawa; she will attend, possibly with someone from the Conservation Committee.

**G) Awards** E. Zurbrigg

The call for the 2011 OFNC awards is out; people have until December 31<sup>st</sup> to send nominations to the Awards Committee.

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

See [Annex 4](#) for Diane's report.

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

**J) Excursions and Lectures** No report

**K) Executive** No report

**L) Fletcher Wildlife Garden** No report

**6. Other Business**

- a. Ann explained that when she saw that the Museum of Nature's membership renewal form did not mention the discount offered to

OFNC members, she wrote to her contact at the Museum of Nature to express her concerns.

- b. Ann encouraged Focus Scientific to put an ad in T&L as they will sponsor the OFNC meetings at the Museum.
- c. Council decided to close the Big Tent social media website that they tried out over the spring and summer. Yi added that having a forum on the OFNC website could be a possibility.

**ACTIONS:**

- i. Rémy to close the OFNC's Big Tent website.
- ii. Yi to send a link to an online forum she is familiar with to Council for consideration.
- d. Ann received an email from Lori Bilecki who is considering the purchase and relocation of the Nature Lover's Bookshop from Lanark Village to Chelsea. She asked if the OFNC could provide an indication about the possible level of interest and support from members

**ACTION:** Ann to reply to Lori and wish her well.

- e. Council asked if paying via PayPal will be an option for the Pelee Trip.

**ACTION:** Yi and Fenja to discuss.

- f. One hundred copies of the Checklist of Ontario Odonata were donated to the OFNC by the author, Colin D. Jones, via Peter Hall; these will be available for free at monthly meetings and at other OFNC displays.

**ACTION:** Diane and Ann to draft a thank you note to Colin

**7. Motion to adjourn:**

**Moved by** B. Chouinard/H. Steger that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:** November 21, 2011, Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

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Meetings in 2011:

November 21

December 12

## OFNC Budget for 2011-12

| Item                      | Actual        | Actual        | Actual        | Actual        | Actual        | Actual        | Actual        | Budget        | Proposed budget |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                           | 2003-04       | 2004-05       | 2005-06       | 2006-07       | 2007-08       | 2008-09       | 2009-10       | 2010-11       | 2011-12         |
| <b>REVENUE</b>            |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |                 |
| Membership                | 23,282        | 22,725        | 22,801        | 24,418        | 24,554        | 23,547        | 24,150        | <b>28,000</b> | <b>28,000</b>   |
| T&L Subscription          | 280           | 220           | 146           | 99            |               |               |               |               |                 |
| GST Rebate                | 4,657         | 3,223         | 2,547         | 3,937         | 4,038         | 2,666         | 1,832         | <b>2,500</b>  | <b>2,500</b>    |
| Sales (Net)               | 373           | 622           | 623           | 1,223         | 3,432         | 437           | 626           |               |                 |
| Other                     |               |               |               |               | 200           | 1,437         | 187           |               |                 |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>      | <b>28,592</b> | <b>26,790</b> | <b>26,117</b> | <b>29,677</b> | <b>32,224</b> | <b>28,087</b> | <b>26,795</b> | <b>30,500</b> | <b>30,500</b>   |
|                           |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |                 |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b> |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |                 |
| Affiliation Fees          | 670           | 652           | 625           | 225           | 1,060         | 627           | 225           | <b>625</b>    | <b>625</b>      |
| Website                   | 1,294         | 1,846         | 841           | 2,406         | 2,252         | 5,967         | 2,751         | <b>2,500</b>  | <b>2,500</b>    |
| Professional Fees         | 1,000         | 2,500         | 2,000         | 2,000         | 2,000         | 2,000         | 2,500         | <b>2,500</b>  | <b>2,500</b>    |
| Insurance                 | 725           | 725           | 725           | 725           | 694           | 770           | 785           | <b>800</b>    | <b>800</b>      |
| Membership Cttee          | 1,168         | 1,363         | 836           | 1,185         | 1,060         | 1,033         | 866           | <b>1,400</b>  | <b>1,400</b>    |
| Bookkeeping               | 6,000         | 6,000         | 6,275         | 6,300         | 6,300         | 6,300         | 6,300         | <b>6,300</b>  | <b>6,300</b>    |
| Administration            | 3,000         | 3,000         | 3,000         | 2,000         | 2,000         | 2,000         | 2,000         | <b>2,000</b>  | <b>2,000</b>    |
| Communication             | 1,640         | 1,733         | 1,782         | 2,115         | 1,874         | 2,729         | 2,768         | <b>2,500</b>  | <b>2,500</b>    |
| Office, Postage and Other | 1,036         | 4,872         | 1,269         | 3,452         | 4,059         | 3,467         | 4,203         | <b>2,000</b>  | <b>2,000</b>    |
| HST                       | 5,417         | 4,448         | 6,330         | 4,748         | 4,343         | 3,357         | 5,337         | <b>4,000</b>  | <b>4,000</b>    |
| <b>Sub Total</b>          | <b>21,950</b> | <b>27,139</b> | <b>23,683</b> | <b>25,156</b> | <b>25,642</b> | <b>28,250</b> | <b>27,735</b> | <b>24,625</b> | <b>24,625</b>   |

| Item                     | Actual         | Actual        | Actual         | Actual         | Actual         | Actual         | Actual         | Budget         | Proposed budget |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                          | 2003-04        | 2004-05       | 2005-06        | 2006-07        | 2007-08        | 2008-09        | 2009-10        | 2010-11        | 2011-12         |
| Birds                    | 540            | 618           | 385            | 849            | 1,826          | 1,681          | 1,510          | <b>1,500</b>   | <b>1,500</b>    |
| Educ. & Publicity        | 775            | 1,149         | 2,627          | 2,726          | 1,153          | 1,109          | 912            | <b>500</b>     | <b>500</b>      |
| Excursions & Lectures    | -508           | -1,805        | 832            | -1,187         | -708           | 429            | -3,897         | <b>200</b>     | <b>200</b>      |
| Fletcher WLG (Note 1)    | -1,734         | 3,667         | 2,321          | 410            | 3,419          | -2,925         | 3,638          | <b>1,050</b>   | <b>1,050</b>    |
| Macoun Club              | 606            | 466           | 1,139          | 546            | 416            | 599            | 145            | <b>300</b>     | <b>300</b>      |
| Trail and Landscape      | 9,578          | 8,887         | 10,014         | 10,457         | 10,815         | 9,810          | 7,099          | <b>7,000</b>   | <b>7,000</b>    |
| CFN (Note 2)             | 9,948          | -13,662       | 20,775         | 20,936         | 13,863         | 8,946          | 6,519          | <b>10,000</b>  | <b>10,000</b>   |
| Sub Total                | <b>19,625</b>  | <b>-62</b>    | <b>38,371</b>  | <b>34,677</b>  | <b>31,281</b>  | <b>20,026</b>  | <b>15,780</b>  | <b>20,800</b>  | <b>20,800</b>   |
|                          |                |               |                |                |                |                |                |                |                 |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>    | <b>41,575</b>  | <b>27,077</b> | <b>62,054</b>  | <b>59,833</b>  | <b>56,923</b>  | <b>48,276</b>  | <b>43,515</b>  | <b>45,425</b>  | <b>45,425</b>   |
|                          |                |               |                |                |                |                |                |                |                 |
| <b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b> | <b>-12,983</b> | <b>-287</b>   | <b>-35,937</b> | <b>-30,156</b> | <b>-24,699</b> | <b>-20,189</b> | <b>-16,720</b> | <b>-14,925</b> | <b>-14,925</b>  |
|                          |                |               |                |                |                |                |                |                |                 |
| Interest Earned          | 11,565         | 11,953        | 13,559         | 13,131         | 22,148         | 19,050         | 15,478         | <b>10,000</b>  | <b>10,000</b>   |
| Life member allocation   |                |               |                |                |                |                | 13,264         | <b>2,300</b>   | <b>2,300</b>    |
| Donations received       |                |               |                |                | 43,444         | 17,686         | 10,431         |                |                 |
| Donations given          |                |               |                |                | -              | -23,500        | -2,000         |                |                 |
| Net Surplus (Deficit)    | -1,418         | 11,666        | -22,378        | -17,025        | -60,107        | -6,953         | 20,453         | <b>-2,625</b>  | <b>-2,625</b>   |

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE  
Monthly Report to Council  
October 17, 2011**

There has not been a Publication Ctee meeting since August but a variety of publications initiative have moved forward since our last report.

**Trail & Landscape**

*Trail & Landscape* 45(4) was published successfully and on-time. It included the Five Year Index for 2007 - 2011, the latest in the series of valuable periodic T&L indices.

**Electronic Publication of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist***

The response to the initial electronic issue has been encouraging, with a number of positive and congratulatory comments being received by Editor in Chief Carolyn Callaghan and myself. Issue 125(2) is expected to be ready for release approximately in late November.

We are preparing a comparison between the cost of publishing the first electronic issue and the most recent all hard-copy versions. This is in progress (Frank Pope) and we will hopefully be able to provide more details on emerging financial benefits of that at our next Council meeting.

**OFNC/ CFN Web site Download Capacity**

Jay Fitzsimmons and Sandy Garland checked with our provider in regards to whether or not we had sufficient downloading capacity to withstand the volume generated by electronic CFN subscriptions. We are assured that we have ample capacity (5 GB per web site), that there is an on-line monitoring system in place and that we would be automatically informed if that limit were exceeded. Sandy and Jay will monitor usage.

**CFN Circulation**

In mid September we became aware that hard copies issues of *The CFN* 124(3) going into the United States had not been received (the official mailing date was 25 July), even after copies of 124(4) mailed in late August had been delivered.

Although initially feared to have been lost, the missing copies began arriving in late September. While it is expected this was a one-off glitch, we are investigating the issue to find out where the problem occurred (with the mailer (BMR)? Canada Post? The US postal service?) as this represents a critical proportion of the subscriber base (some 250 of the 325 subscriptions).

One encouraging aspect of this issue was that Journal Manager Jay Fitzsimmons received a substantial number of notifications from concerned subscribers requesting their missing copy. Maintaining a continuous run of the journal was obviously appreciated by and important to these subscribers.

### **CFN Institutional Subscription Cost**

The Publication Ctee's suggested increase in the base cost for individual institutional subscriptions to \$65.00 and for the International Postage charge to \$10.00 has been implemented for volume 126 renewals. It is conservatively expected that should represent an income increase of ca \$2,000.00.

### **Publications Ctee Meeting**

The next Ctee meeting is expected in early November to review the state of publications, confirm member participation with the Ctee in 2012, investigate the possibility of providing assistance to Third World biological researchers and to review other pertinent publications matters.

Dan Brunton,  
Chair, Publications Committee



**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Monthly Report to Council  
October 17, 2011**

At its meeting on October 4, 2011, the Conservation Committee considered a request from Council, made at the Council meeting on September 19. From the Council minutes:

“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.”

The Conservation Committee does not think that this should be done, for the following reasons:

1. A division of authority has developed between the provinces and the federal government with respect to protection of migratory birds, with the provinces taking on the protection of raptors. In Ontario, raptors are protected by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act ([http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_97f41\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_97f41_e.htm)).
2. Issues involving the MBCA are federal, not local in nature. While the Conservation Committee does not think that the OFNC should restrict its activities to local issues, it thinks that interventions on provincial, national or international issues should be made when the purpose of the intervention is clear, the issues is of more than usual significance, and there is some possibility of success.

To expand upon the second point, the Conservation Committee did think that the use of wild raptors in falconry should be opposed. There was a specific proposal by the provincial government to permit this, there was an opportunity to register opposition, the issue is important because of the long-standing problem of illegal trade in wild raptors, and there was some possibility of success if enough opposing comments were made.

On the other hand, there is no clear motive for asking for changes to the MBCA. The recent history of the MBCA is actually positive, with two successful prosecutions of major businesses (Irving and Syncrude). There is little likelihood that if the federal government did re-open the MBCA, it would improve it.

Ken Young,  
Chair, Conservation Committee

**MACOUN CLUB COMMITTEE  
Monthly Report to Council  
October 17, 2011**

We have had two indoor meetings and one field trip since the last Council meeting. Alaine Camfield told us about the studies she undertook of alpine songbirds, in particular Horned Larks. On October 15 we held elections for officers for each group, and Roy John then told us about his trip last summer to James Bay to study shorebirds, particularly the status of Red Knots. He also provided information on other fauna and flora of the area, camp accommodation, etc., all of which was very interesting. Our field trip was to the Study Area.

Diane Kitching,  
Macoun Club rep