

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

June 17, 2013

Exceptionally at the William Saunders Building, CEF, Ottawa, 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Council Members Present: Annie Bélair, Dan Brunton, Carolyn Callaghan, Barbara Chouinard, Barry Cottam, Don Hackett, David Hobden, Diane Kitching, Diane Lepage, Ann MacKenzie, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Council Members Absent: Owen Clarkin, Ian Davidson, Jeff Skevington,

1. Portrait of James Fletcher

As this Council meeting was held at the Saunders Building, Dan took Council members to see the portrait of James Fletcher, who was one of the founding members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

2. Minutes of the May 13, 2013 meeting

Moved by A. Bélair/D. Kitching that the
May 13th minutes be accepted as distributed.

Carried

3. Treasurer's Report K. Young

a. Financial Position

Our financial position has improved since the last report to Council. This is a result of increased donations and bequests, the proceeds from the Fletcher Wildlife Garden's plant and other sales and increased CFN revenues. Together, these more than made up for increases in expenses.

However, the general decline in revenues compared with last year remains. Our main operating revenue sources are membership fees, CFN subscriptions and CFN author charges. These remain at low levels.

Our non-operating revenues are primarily donations and bequests, and interest income from our investments. Donations are now comparable to FY2012, and interest income, which is posted on our year-end statement, will likely be healthy.

b. Canada Revenue Agency

We received a form from CRA that basically asks why we are not remitting deductions for income tax, CPP and EI for our employees. Ken replied saying that we have no employees and do not expect to have any.

c. Committee Budgets

Over the summer, the Finance Committee will be preparing a budget for FY 2013-2014.

ACTION: Committee chairs to send their budget requirements to Barbara as soon as possible.

4. Finance Committee Report B. Chouinard

The Finance Committee proposed to resume giving an honorarium of \$2000 to the CFN journal manager. They checked the OFNC by-laws and confirmed that the proposal is admissible.

MOTION: That the honorarium of \$2000 given to the CFN journal manager be resumed.

Moved by B. Chouinard/D. Brunton

CARRIED

5. Possible New Volunteer Positions F. Brodo and A. MacKenzie

After learning of Barry's resignation as chair of the FWG Committee, Fenja and Ann had a discussion about the FWG's and the OFNC's needs. They suggested that there could be an "Interpretation Centre Manager" on the FWG Committee and a "Volunteer Coordinator" for the whole club. They invited Council members to reflect on these ideas.

6. Education and Publicity L. Ovenden

- a. At the May Council meeting, Lynn had tabled the following motion: "That Council approves the expense of approximately \$700 to buy 150 lens wipes with the OFNC logo."

She said there were no changes to the motion. Eleanor seconded it and Council voted: **CARRIED**.

- b. The committee recommends consistent use of the club logo (owl and club name) on OFNC materials including T&L, CFN, other publications and the website banner. Sample files with the owl and club name, suitable for various purposes, in English and French will be prepared for Council's consideration.
- c. The Committee plans to make the Alfred Bog pamphlet available on the OFNC website, both in English and French, using an available translation.
- d. A bilingual Larose Forest booklet with species lists is in preparation. Lynn reported that the Prescott-Russell United Counties will be contributing a map. Once published, the booklet will be sold for a small price, still to be determined. However, since the goal is to have the booklet ready for an event at the Larose Forest in September, and since Council will not be able to vote on the expense as they will not meet in July and August, it was suggested that the Executive Committee be allowed to approve the expense.

MOTION: The Council approves, in principle, the cost of the publication of a bilingual Larose Forest booklet (estimated at around \$1000) and allows the Executive Committee to allocate the amount when the time comes this summer.

Moved by L. Ovenden/D. Brunton

CARRIED

- e. An OFNC display was presented to lunchtime passersby at an Environment Fair in Environment Canada's Place Vincent Massey building.
- f. Dave Moore agreed to give a nature talk about birds to the seniors' group social at the Unitarian Universalist church in September.
- g. Application materials for OFNC's sponsorship of a local youth to the Youth Summit have been distributed to OFNC members and posted to the website. One application received to date.

7. Publications Committee D. Brunton

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

8. Birds Committee R. Poulin

- a. The eBird widget was put back on the OFNC website with the owl sighting filter.
- b. Falcon Watch: Rémy reported that 1 chick has hatched at the Heron Road location and the volunteer watch will start this week. As for the downtown location, the group doesn't have enough information yet to plan for next steps.

9. Nature Canada R. Poulin

The BirdLife World Congress is taking place this week. They are expecting over 500 delegates. Twenty-six members of the OFNC offered their help as volunteers during the congress, and 9 others agreed to lead the bird walks. In an email, Ian asked Fenja to pass on to Council his "absolute deepest thanks for everything that the Club has done for this Congress so far – much more than he could have ever hoped for."

10. Ontario Nature D. Lepage

Diane asked if anyone would be interested in participating in a bioblitz in Deep River on June 27 and 28, to let her know.

11. Other Committee Reports

See [Annex 2](#) for the FWG report and [Annex 3](#) for the Macoun Club report, sent prior to the meeting.

12. Nominating Committee

Ann pointed out that the nominating committee is looking for members, so she invited any interested Council member contact her.

13. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by D. Lepage/H. Steger that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

Meetings in 2013:

September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16

Publication Committee - Report to Council

The committee meeting was held 29 May 2013; highlights of the meeting and associated discussions include:

Trail & Landscape

- issues proceeding as expected;
- back issues are being assembled by Jeff Saarela (copies provided by Karen Hamilton and/or Dan Brunton) and delivering these to Biodiversity Heritage Library for digitizing;
- details of the arrangements will be brought to the Ctee and Council for approval.

Canadian Field-Naturalist

- Publication Ctee endorses the list of honoraria proposed by the Finance Ctee, including the reinstatement of the Journal Manager's honorarium;
- first issue of 127 to the printer in mid June, with release and circulation ca. July 1st;
- considerable material in hand for the next two issues;
- two additional Associate editors recommended by Editor Callaghan: Jeff Skevington and Garth Mowat (entomology, mammalogy); approved by the Ctee;
- the editor will encourage Assoc Eds to stimulate submissions in their fields, especially entomology;
- reviewed the curious issue of plagiarism in recent book reviews and will put an advisory notice in Advice to Contributors;
- identified the need for discussion of the scope of book reviews - are there too many 'exotic' topics? The discussion was deferred to a later meeting when the Book Review Editor can participate;
- considerable effort being exerted by Jay F. to catch up on delayed invoicing to assist in producing a more realistic representation of journal financial conditions;
- Jay is amending authors' charge form to include the option for subscribing to the CFN in the list of change times;
- Paul C. expressed long-term concern about the storage capacity for back issues of CFN at Agriculture Canada but believes the short-term situation is stable.

OFNC Special Publication

- a proposal for a special publication on the biodiversity of the Larose Forest was reviewed; the Ctee is in agreement and agrees with the proposal that Linda Burr serve as editor of the undertaking;
- the proposal aims for a 28 September production date to coincide with Larose Forest day; this is thought to be a tight deadline;
- concept is for a 40 page publication employing mostly material extracted from T&L;
- cost scenarios vary from \$260 (100 copies) to \$1000 (500 copies);
- Ctee members offered to provide technical assistance if that would be value;
- Dan Brunton will be the Ctee contact on the project;
- Karen Hamilton will discuss the possible value of a Special Issue of T&L with members of the publication group.

Dan Brunton

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Committee - Report to Council

The committee met as usual on May 22nd, with Diane Lepage acting as chair, and decided to leave the chair position open, at least, until the next meeting. All immediate projects are being run by a volunteer and I agreed to write this report.

We held a successful weeding bee on May 19th to remove garlic mustard. Our annual plant sale was held on June 1st and brought in about \$4300. We still have some plants for sale. The Price-Waterhouse Coopers volunteer group visited again this year. They worked hard in the Backyard Garden and Butterfly Meadow on a rainy day. We have also had tours or walks for outside organizations, including the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Ottawa Horticultural Society.

At the last meeting with AAFC, they were told of "DSV circles". These are small areas (> 1 m diameter) originally infested with DSV, but in which the DSV has vanished, even though they are still surrounded by dense DSV. One has been known for 5 years. It was about 1 m diameter when first noticed and is now more than 5 m. The circles are clearly visible but we don't know their cause. Several others have recently been found. Initially an AAFC mycologist was involved. He has now recruited outsiders to help study the areas. We can only hope something will be found that is pathogenic for DSV.

David Hobden

Macoun Field Club Report

This report is a summary of our activities since May 13th.

There were no activities on the Victoria Day weekend. On May 25th, Roy John got us thinking about colours in nature: how colours are produced, perceived and used. This was an excellent presentation, and it kept everyone engaged and thinking hard, as well as appreciating Roy's photography.

On June 1 we had a field trip to the Study Area (and beyond). We picked some garlic mustard from a couple of persistent patches, saw quite a lot of Jack-in the-Pulpit, a very few trilliums which had flowered, some mushrooms, various frogs, a salamander, a Giant Millipede, a young garter snake, and a Red-winged Blackbird nest with eggs. The eye-opener for everyone was when we briefly left the Study Area for the west side of the Scissons Road Allowance where there are houses backing on to woodland. The area was infested with Garlic Mustard, and with the exception of the occasional buttercup and dandelion, nothing else grew. This sight made us all appreciate why it was important to pull it up from our Study Area.

On June 8th, Rob kept us entertained with a talk about the study area, including the renewed interest that the NCC seems prepared to take in Stony Swamp.

On June 9th (a Sunday) we went for a tour of the Pinhey Sand Dunes, learning about the area's history, its vegetation, the restoration process, and the particular plants and animals (especially insects) that are found there. One of our members was particularly adept at spotting and catching tiger beetles, and then holding them for a while. One of the beetles was so much at ease that when it was offered a stunned deer fly, it promptly took it and ate it!

June 15th found us at Pakenham, giving us an opportunity to cook hot dogs and marshmallows, cool off in a creek, and enjoy very different scenery from that of the Greenbelt.

Our last planned event is our annual party next Saturday (June 22). We will watch our favourite movie (The Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes), challenge ourselves with a nature quiz, receive the 2012-2013 Little Bear, and enjoy good food!

Diane Kitching