

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

October 17, 2016

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

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Lynn Ovenden, Gordon Robertson, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Barry Cottam, Diane Lepage, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Jakob Mueller, Jeff Saarela

Directors Absent: Owen Clarkin, Rémy Poulin, Diane Kitching

Bird Committee Liaison: Mark Patry

1) Minutes of the September 19, 2016 Meeting

Moved by Lynn Ovenden/Jakob Mueller that the September 19 minutes be accepted with 1 change.

CARRIED

2) Business arising from the June meeting

- a) Key access: the lock box and lock seem to be satisfactory to all.
- b) Internet access: Jeff will learn the cost of bring a phone line to the building.
- c) New name for building: another idea is "Fletcher Volunteer Centre". No decision.

3) Communications

- a) Book launch for *Blooms* will be Oct. 18.
- b) Roger Camm (Sandy Garland's husband) passed away September 24.
- c) Member Sophie Roy (who attended the 2015 Ontario Nature Youth Summit with OFNC's support) will volunteer on a development project in Nicaragua in 2017. The BoD can't support her work financially, as the project is outside OFNC's mandate. Fenja will write to her.

4) Budget FY 2017

Ann distributed the budget (Annex 3) in advance of the meeting.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie/Diane Lepage that the 2017 budget be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5) Committee Reports

- a) Awards
As noted in the fall issue of T&L, nominations for awards are requested, by Nov.30.

b) Birds – Mark Patry

The Events Committee will require participants to prove membership at some events (to be determined). Ideas for how to show membership include: a cut-out card on the back cover of the paper T&L, an electronic card sent with the (future) electronic T&L, a member's unique membership number (which is on the T&L address label).

c) Education & Publicity – Gordon Robertson

Gord is giving nature walks to Beavers (Oct.5), Brownies (Oct 29) and a group of Homeschoolers (Oct.12). He is leading a nature education training for uOttawa teachers (Oct.20). On Sept.21, Mark Brenchley brought the OFNC display to the city's 'Healthy Trees, Healthy City' presentation at Lansdowne Park. OFNC will also staff its poster display at the Can. Museum of Nature's natureSCENE event on 9 November. Within the Facebook Group, the admins have run a series of contests (reptiles, landscapes, dragonflies) to be the site's banner photo for a week or so. Gord consulted the FWG executive regarding the committee's plan to develop seasonal interpretive panels at FWG.

Website Working Group – Lynn Ovenden

On Sept.22, Osamu trained 10 members to create pages and posts and calendar entries on a practice website.

d) Events – Jakob Mueller

The committee plans to rent a hall near the mudpuppy site for this midwinter event. They are also considering a day-long bus trip to Presqu'île PP in May.

e) FWG – Ted Farnworth

The Friday morning group did a tool inventory last week. Volunteers will continue to work on Friday mornings as long as the weather is good. The committee is planning a potluck party for late November and will give a recognition award at that time. Jay Ladell, landscaper, suggests hiring an arborist for a strategy to manage trees at FWG. Stocking the two big bird feeders at FWG (instead of taking the feeders down for the summer as was usual) is considered a success; more birds and photographers came to the feeders than in other years.

Pond Project – Diane Lepage

Drummond Co. did a good job removing sediment from the pond in September. Within a few days, several black ducks, wood ducks, a green heron and 3 snapping turtles were using the pond. Several baby snapping turtles emerged from a nest hole in the Butterfly Meadow and were carried to the pond. Next spring Drummond will spread the sediment and new soil on the slope above the new path, then close off vehicle access. Plants will be purchased and volunteers will plant them. Paul Catling suggests planting arrowhead in the pond.

f) Macoun Field Club – Diane Kitching

See Annex 1, MFC Report, 17 October 2016

g) Membership – Henry Steger

Annex 2 is the 2016 Membership Report. Despite many new registrations in September, OFNC membership declined from Sept 2015 to Sept 2016. We need to more actively promote registrations at monthly meetings and to volunteers at FWG and in SafeWings.

h) Nominations – Ann MacKenzie

Ann will ask people by email if they will continue to serve on the BofD.

i) Publications – Jeff Saarela

The call for proposals for Research Grants is posted, with a January 15 deadline. The committee received a report from a project this summer. Dwayne Lepitzki is comfortable in his new role as editor. CFN now has an online paper submission system. Francis Cook stepped down as Assoc. Editor (after 40+ years). Graham Forbes and Jon Mcracken are new Assoc. Editors. The committee will meet with Dwayne on Nov.26 when he is in Ottawa.

T&L – Annie Bélair

The designer has not yet submitted a design for the full page, colour format. The next two issues will be the normal design. Annie aims to publish the summer edition in the new format.

j) Ontario Nature Canada – Gord Robertson

Gord attended the Oct.1 regional meeting in Quinte Conservation Area. He offered to host the next meeting on April 1st or 8th at FWG. OFNC was asked to support a resolution drafted by the Quinte club, in support of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and migratory pathways. Several Directors noted that the resolution is vague.

Moved by Gord Robertson/Ann MacKenzie that OFNC support the Quinte club's resolution but suggests it should include more specific actions, perhaps a 5 km buffer all around IBAs.

CARRIED with 1 opposed and 1 abstention, due to vagueness

6) New Business

a) Diane asks that we plan something for 2017, Canada's sesquicentennial. We prefer a series of events to just 1 event. She will ask for ideas at the next monthly meeting. Some ideas:

- Publish a comparison of local wildlife in 1867 vs 2017, reprint articles from v.1 of CFN
- Presentations by well-known naturalists
- A party for members

b) Jakob confirmed availability of a carousel slide projector (yes) and updated first aid kit (yes).

7) Motion to adjourn

Moved by Ann MacKenzie/Barry Cottam that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

Meetings in 2016:
November 21
December 12

Fenja Brodo
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Lynn Ovenden
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Annex 1. MFC Report, 17 October 2016

We have had one field trip and two indoor meetings since the last Board meeting. Club leaders also led a special field trip for some first-year biology students from Carleton University.

On October 1, Rob gave a talk about the origins of bird conservation, and in particular about the work of Jack Miner. Rob included extensive readings from Miner's autobiography

On October 15th, another meeting day, Rob explored the topic of silicate minerals and their origins and uses, both ancient and modern. He had numerous samples of each mineral, enough for each member who wanted one.

Our field trip was on September 24th to Stony Swamp. Rather than visiting one area, we visited two. We started at the Lime Kiln Trail, where we looked at rocks and deep cracks in the limestone, and paid a visit to the remains of the old kiln. We also looked at the effects of the forest fire from 2012 and noted the healthy regrowth of some plants, especially sumac and Trembling Aspen. Some members searched for fossils; others felt that it was their duty to ensure chickadees did not feel any pangs of hunger.... Eventually we made our way along a trail to the Wild Bird Care Centre and nearby woods, where we saw chickadees, nuthatches, juncos, mallards, and turkeys.

On Friday, October 7th, Macoun leaders led a special field trip to the ant mound swamp in our Study Area for a group of first-year Carleton University biology students; they were accompanied by their professor and two field assistants. In the morning we divided into three groups and walked into the woods, towards the swamp, explaining the basics of tree identification and discussing other items of interest such as Bracken Fern and the remains of a snake rail cedar fence. After lunch on some high ground at the edge of the swamp the students, working in pairs, conducted Part II of the exercise, which was to mark the location of ant mounds and record whether they were active or not. The final activity was buckthorn removal at one end of the swamp, close to where this had been done last year. We pulled a lot of plants and piled them in a huge mound. We could see that the density of the plants, and their size, had been reduced as a result of last year's efforts in that particular area, but compared with the area as a whole, our efforts were infinitesimal.

Annex 2. Membership Report

The distribution of Club membership for 2016 on September 30, 2016 is shown in the table below, with the corresponding numbers shown in brackets for September 30, 2015. "Other" represent, mostly affiliate organizations that receive complimentary copies of the Club's publications. The Board implemented the policy in 2014 that the family of children in the Macoun Club be given a complimentary membership to encourage interest in the Club in the longer term. Macoun Club participation stayed stable.

Membership decreased by 41 in 2016 mainly due to a decrease of 33 in Family membership within Canada. This is the first decrease since 2013.

	Canadian		U.S.A		Other		Total	
Individual	358	(359)	8	(9)	0	(0)	364	(368)
Family	286	(309)	0	(1)	1	(1)	287	(310)
Student	19	(20)	1	(0)	0	(0)	20	(27)
T and L	2	(1)	0	(0)	0	(0)	2	(1)
Honorary	25	(24)	0	(0)	0	(0)	25	(24)
Life	41	(44)	3	(3)	1	(1)	45	(48)
Other	24	(30)	0	(0)	1	(1)	25	(31)
Macoun Club	16	(17)					16	(17)
TOTAL	771	(811)	12	(13)	3	(3)	786	(827)

Henry Steger
Membership Committee
September 30, 2016

Annex 3. OFNC FY 2017 Final Budget – Ver 1

Final Version 1 - 10 Oct 2016	FY 2017 Budget	2017 Budget (column B) notes	FY 2016 Actuals to June	FY 2016 Budget	FY2015 Actual	FY 2014 Actual
Revenues						
Membership fees	27,000	Committee Chair input - same as last year	26,745	27,000	28,243	27,873
Donations and Bequests - General Fund	5,000		80,788	10,000	977,905	267,055
Donations and Grants - Internally Restricted Funds	2,000		5,564	1,600	3,808	1,912
CFN - Subscription revenue	18,000		17,605	20,000	22,255	23,357
CFN - Author's charges	20,000		20,440	20,000	41,487	27,645
FWG Fund - Fundraising	4,000		4,875	4,500	4,866	4,916
Awards Night	0	Assumes no charge for attending event		0	0	
Pelee & Similar Trips	0	Presqu'ile Trip costs to be covered by participants	21,658	15,000	0	14,937
Interest revenue	35,000	From Ann	33,660	21,500	26,910	19,069
HST rebate	0	Difficult to estimate	6,845			
Other	2,000	Includes Sales and Advertising	1,032	2,950	4,429	2,783
Total Revenues	113,000		219,212	122,550	1,109,903	389,547
Expenses						
Activity Expenses						
Canadian Field-Naturalist	68,000	Honoraria increase	37,530	62,000	76,857	78,758
CFN re-design	10,000	One time cost				
FWG - FWG Fund	4,300		7,385	5,700	5,181	5,536
FWG - IC Renovation	500	For lock related expenses	9,439	15,000		
FWG - Pond Rejuvenation	50,000	Assumes all payments due in FY 2017				
FWG - General Fund	2,400		11,191	3,000	4,360	1,680
Awards Committee	500	Chair - haven't spend the whole budget in recent years	140	600	523	65
Awards Night	1,250	Assumes purchasing food platters & hiring servers	1,015	700	518	1,032
Birds Committee	4,150	CBC, FalconWatch, OspreyCam, Safe Wings	100	2,230	5,554	2,168

Bird Checklist	1,500	For seasonal checklist (assume slightly more than field one)	1,097	2,000		
Ottawa Bird Strategy	3,220	CFO grant (FY 2016). Assume to be all spent in FY 2017.				
Bird Window Collision Awareness Campaign	5,000	City grant (FY 2016). Assume to be all spent in FY 2017.				
Seedathon Purchase	1,500	Partly offset by seedathon donations	1,140	1,500	1,295	1,184
Donations	6,000	School board buses and Bug Day	16,100		214,500	5,000
Education and publicity	5,500	See Budget 2017 Notes (includes Village PR)	6,264	17,500	11,441	2,612
Website development	4,000		3,000			
Events	1,500	Speaker gifts/expenses, hall rental for Mudpuppy night, misc	478	2,375	136	1,547
Macoun Club	800	Little Bear, Nature Journal, Newsletters, Misc	99	500	137	241
Macoun Camfield fund	800	Hats or Tote Bags with logo, Field Guides	342	800	1,831	
Pelee & similar trips	100	Presqu'ile Trip contingency	19,620	12,000		12,483
Research Grants	15,000		12,946	12,000	11,369	
Trail & Landscape	17,200	Includes honoraria, new production software	9,966	10,000	8,059	7,318
T&L re-design	5,000	One time cost				
Activity Expenses, Total	208,220		137,852	147,905	341,761	119,624
Operating Expenses						
Affiliation fees	400		401	400	422	400
Bookkeeping	3,500		2,150	3,500	2,424	3,225
HST expense			10,304			
Insurance	1,800		1,749	1,700	1,728	1,631
Interest and bank charges	2,000	Implementing credit card processing	932	1,400	1,379	1,246
Membership	1,200	Slight increase to account for possible postage increase	1,168	1,100	1,201	892
Professional fees	5,000		3,704	7,000	2,723	4,130
Website	2,120	Honorarium, hosting fee, domain name	500	2,500	2,000	2,078
General and miscellaneous	3,500		2,091	3,500	4,684	4,666
Operating Expenses, Total	19,520		22,999	21,100	16,561	18,268
Total Expenses	227,740		160,850	169,005	358,322	137,892
Net Revenues (Expenses)	- 114,740		58,361	-46,455	751,581	251,655