

## 2017 Member of the Year - Annie Bélair

*This award is given in recognition of the member judged to have contributed the most to the Club in the previous year.*

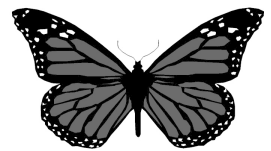
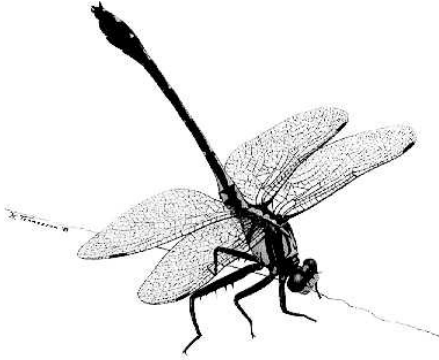
Annie Bélair has been an active member since she joined in 2004, but in 2017 her contributions were exceptional.

When Annie became Editor of *Trail & Landscape (T&L)* in 2016, one of her goals was to revamp the publication, giving it a more contemporary look for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. She began by looking at publications from other natural history clubs. Then mock-ups were produced by a professional graphic designer and reviewed by the

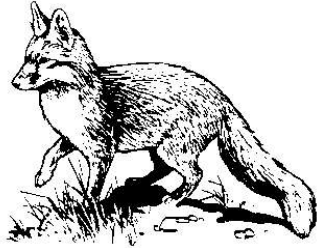
Publications Committee. With these mock-ups as inspiration, and with the committee's suggestions in mind, Annie sprang into action. The result is the publication you see today.

Initially the plan was to create the new look by changing *T&L* to the current standard magazine-size format and to move away from its black-and-white style. The transformation was gradual, beginning with colour images (made possible by a generous bequest to the OFNC) in the first two issues of 2017. The complete reveal was seen in July's special anniversary issue where margins were reduced, creating less white space, titles were changed in size and a new multi-coloured writing style was incorporated throughout. Some images now occupy an entire page while others bleed onto the facing one. And the front cover will be different with each issue, highlighting an article found within. The new version of *T&L* is quite eye-catching. Creating the makeover was no easy task.

To produce the 79-page anniversary issue, Annie spent 8-12 hours each and every weekend day and 1-2 hours each night during the week for the entire month of May and the beginning of June. She formatted the articles she received, contacted Club members to acquire images, and even wrote articles herself to fill the gaps she saw with respect to content fitting for this special issue. The final version was one extremely large document that she had to split it into sections so it could be submitted to the printer electronically. Then she had to make sure all the sections were



compiled correctly. It takes an extremely focused individual to accomplish all this within a 6-week production window.



In 2017, Annie's contribution to the Club was not solely as Editor of *T&L*. She sat on the Board of Directors and was a member of the Publications Committee, where she contributed to all the meetings. She was also involved in the redesigning of the OFNC website, and continued to help with the Macoun Club and the Awards night. Where did she find the time?

What a year it was for Annie, our Member of the Year.

