



## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

### 2015 Member of the Year: Lynn Ovenden

*The Member of the Year award recognizes a member judged to have contributed the most to the Club in the previous year.*

We are recognizing Lynn Ovenden as this year's Member of the Year for her energy, initiative and willingness to support the Club. Her contributions include:

- overseeing and actively participating in the development of the OFNC communication plan which includes a proposal for a re-design of the Club's website
- inviting students from Ottawa and Carleton Universities to write blogs for the OFNC site to report on the Club's activities
- suggesting and planning several outings for the Events Committee, all of which were very well attended
- stepping up to support the decision to refresh the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre



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With the goals of attracting and retaining members to support the Club's work and of strengthening and simplifying the Club's online presence, Lynn and the Education and Publicity Committee hired a consultant to support their initiative. After months of work focused on surveying members and distilling the data from members, their report was tabled at the May 2015 Board meeting.

Recommendations included modernizing the OFNC web site, centralizing and coordinating communication, promoting a word of mouth campaign to grow membership and broadening the Club's use of social media. Since the Board's acceptance of the recommendations, Lynn and members of the Education and Publicity Committee have dedicated hundreds of hours to consultation and committee work to move the action plan along.

Under Lynn's leadership, the Education and Publicity Committee has been posting blogs on [ofnc.wordpress.com](http://ofnc.wordpress.com), spreading the word and reporting on the Club's outings, monthly meetings, reports from participants in Ontario Nature's Youth Summit and other topics of interest to members.

Lynn supported the Events Committee on a few occasions over the course of 2015. On the May long weekend, she coordinated a series of outings which included a visit to the Gervais

property close to Westmeath on the Ottawa River, an afternoon of birding at Westmeath Provincial Park with the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists Club, an evening of mothing with Diane Lepage at the Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre and a guided walk through the old growth forest in Shaw Woods the next day. Participants were invited to camp in the area or stay in one of the local motels.

When the decision was made to refresh the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre and to replace some of the furniture in the Centre last fall, Lynn joined the working group to support clearing out the Centre, sorting what was to be kept and what was to be moved on, preparing the space for painting and then helping put it all back together.

Beyond her committee work in 2015, Lynn volunteered on some weeding days at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden and supported Ann Prescott who staffs the sales table at monthly meetings.

It is for her commitment to the Club and her energetic approach to every project she has tackled that we are recognizing Lynn Ovenden as Member of the Year for 2015.

*(Prepared by Julia Cipriani)*

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