

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
TREASURER'S REPORT 2019-20

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club continues to be on a solid financial footing. The fiscal year 2019-20 showed a surplus of revenue over expenses of \$22,035 in the General Fund. This is more related to specific circumstances rather than indicative of a trend. In the previous year (2018-19) there had been a slight loss of about \$3,000 and the year before a larger loss of about \$42,000. Looking over the past 10 years there has been year-over-year variability in the surplus or loss but no defining trend. Receipt of the Czasak bequest raised revenues significantly in 2014 and 2015. The start of programs and activities resulting from that bequest lead to apparent losses in the following years. We seem to now have settled back into more balanced revenues and expenses.

Looking more closely at 2019-20, Total Revenue was higher by about 25k than the previous year if you remove the Pelee trip revenue from 2019. Donations were higher overall including a large single donation (4k) to Safe Wings for rehabilitation equipment. Revenue from authors for publishing in the CFN were considerable higher (18k) because we had an extra issue of CFN published and we started to send out invoices after the issue was published online rather than after it was published in print.

Expenses were slightly lower this year because some activities were curtailed as a result of pandemic restrictions. Our usual donation of \$5,000 to the OCDSB for buses for students for outdoor education was deferred until the activity can safely resume. During the year the club gave \$5,000 to Ontario Nature to help with the purchase of more land in the Frontenac Arch. The Vanleek Hill District Nature Society was given \$1000 to conduct an emission study related to a proposed cement plant. The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists were given \$800 for Burnt Lands Alvar web development.

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden could not hold their annual native plant sale which is their major fundraiser. Some plants were sold directly raising \$1,255 compared with \$6,736 the previous year from plant sales. They did receive a grant of \$5,276 from the City of Ottawa for "Design your own Pollinator Garden" workshops which were held in the fall of 2020 by Elizabeth Gammell.

Looking ahead we are detecting some softening in membership and subscription renewals but it is hard to say how significant this will be financially. It may be a temporary problem resulting from decreased activities. Universities, who are our main subscribers and who pay many author's charges, are also being squeezed by the pandemic. Interest income will decrease as low interest rates continue. Fortunately we have a good cushion to enable us to keep our programs going regardless of these kind of changes.