

2023 Member of the Year: Bob Bergquist

In recognition of the member judged to have contributed the most to the Club in the previous year.



Bob Bergquist is a retired business professor at Nipissing University. He is responsible for the fact that donations to OFNC are recorded electronically, and receipts are sent out electronically. Accurate donation records and receipts are critical to maintaining charitable status. The conversion to electronic donation receipts is a notable contribution saving countless hours of volunteer labour. It was no slight undertaking.

When Bob started helping the treasurer in 2017, OFNC issued hand-written receipts to donors. Bob developed a computer system for donation records and assigning receipt numbers. A mail merge program generated about 300 receipts and thank-you letters each year, for the treasurer to print, sign, fold and put in an envelope to mail.

In 2023, Bob looked for a way to issue charitable receipts electronically. His first step was to find compatible software that could be modified to our existing record keeping and accounting software. It had to be reasonably priced and relatively easy to use. After an initial review, he focused on the program called Software4Nonprofits.

Unfortunately, it is never enough to just subscribe to a software program and then input data. It took many hours to determine what it would and would not do. Bob got a trial subscription in March, watched tutorials, engaged with their tech support people and generally twisted inside out. He wrote macros to allow data to move from our bi-weekly deposit records over to the donation receipt software. He tested the whole process with fake receipts to some Board members.



Another challenge was getting the software to run on both his computer and the treasurer's computer so data can be transferred, reports created and the proper checks and balances maintained.



On May 25, 2023, Bob sent out the first batch of electronic receipts. Since then, members get their receipts while they can still remember donating. The receipt states if the donation was for the General Fund, the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Safe Wings or Seedathon or if it was to more than one of them. Those who set up a monthly payment to the Club get a year end list showing the date and amount of their contributions over the calendar year. With the new process, OFNC's charitable receipts are more timely and better documented.

Bob also volunteered his computer skills a few years ago, writing macros to translate payment reports from PayPal into the OFNC Deposit Record with account codes. This automated a task that had previously been done manually.

Bob has tirelessly gone above and beyond in enabling electronic receipts and in searching for workable solutions to OFNCs administrative issues. He has quietly operated behind the scenes but his impact is sizeable. It is for these reasons that we recognize Bob Bergquist as Member of the Year for 2023.

