



Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club  
Club des naturalistes d'Ottawa

2025

## GEORGE MCGEE SERVICE AWARD: DIANE LEPAGE

*The George McGee Service Award recognizes Club members (excluding the board's executive members) for significant contributions to the smooth running of the Club and related activities over several years. The award commemorates George McGee who was a very active leader and educator for the Club for three decades. He was Club president from 1964 to 1966.*

The OFNC is very pleased to recognize Diane Lepage with the George McGee Service Award, for long service to the Club.

Diane needs little introduction. Having joined the OFNC in 1980 she is well-known to many fellow members through her involvement in numerous Club activities. She has contributed to many natural history projects, led OFNC walks, written articles and provided photographs for *Trail & Landscape*, participated in various committees, was the OFNC representative to Ontario Nature, and served as Club President for four years.

Perhaps Diane is best known for her decades-long passion for, and work on, moths. She has regularly led mothing outings, both for the OFNC and other organizations, introducing people to these fascinating insects. She has also given talks on moths illustrated by her extraordinary photographs (for example, to the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust), written informative articles on the subject and, in 2012, received the Anne Hanes Natural History Award for her work on the moths of Larose Forest, work that is ongoing. Diane also participates as a sector leader in the annual Ottawa area Butterfly Count.

Diane is interested in all aspects of natural history and to that end has been a longtime volunteer with the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG). For some years she was manager of the Butterfly Meadow, significantly increasing the value of the site for butterflies and other insects. Diane also proposed, and oversaw, the rehabilitation of the FWG's Amphibian Pond, and continues working with others on cattail and invasive plant species removal in the pond.

Diane has served on the Events Committee, lending expertise to planning outings and events. She helped find a new venue for the OFNC's Annual Awards Night, as well as a new location for monthly Club meetings, a task that required extensive time commitments.

For some time, Diane served as the OFNC's representative to Ontario Nature's Ontario East Regional Meetings where she shared OFNC issues and perspectives. As OFNC President she was an enthusiastic proponent of the Club, elevating its profile and attracting new members.

For her tireless work for the Club and for promoting the cause of natural history in the Ottawa region, Diane is more than deserving of this award.

*Prepared by Christine Hanrahan*

