

Orillia Naturalists Club Minutes Oct. 4, 2017, 7:30 – 9:30 OMAH, 3rd Floor, Orillia

1. Dennis Paccagnella welcomed the group, and asked for visitors. There were about 6.
2. Sightings – a large flock of turkey vultures, a family of foxes, a red breasted nuthatch at Wilson Pt. (unusual); a marten; Massasauga rattler (5 Winds Trail); a small group of Sandhill Cranes (Coldwater); a great egret near the narrows; a cow moose on Lake Dalrymple; a bald eagle chasing an osprey.
3. Minutes – there were no minutes to approve as the Apr. 5 minutes were approved at the AGM, and the AGM minutes will await the next AGM for approval.
4. Website – see committee reports below.
5. Reports
 - Treasurer’s Report – Donald Macdonald reported that we have \$3,172 in the bank after outstanding cheques, but before tonight’s receipts. The ONC charitable return was prepared by Hehn-Tricky at no cost, for which we are grateful. It has been accepted as “submitted”, so nothing further required of our organization at this point. Donations totalled \$1950.
 - Ontario Nature – Sue Deadman reported that the next regional meeting will be held at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation on Nov. 4. The ED Caroline Shultz will be presenting on the Protected Places Campaign. There is a goal to protect 17% of the worlds’ lands and inland waterways by 2020, but in Ontario we are only at 9 or 10%.
 - Program – Arni Stinnissen reported on a successful walk on Oct. 1, and mentioned upcoming events published on the program already circulated to the membership, but available at the meeting as well. He made special mention of the March program which will feature Mike Burrell who will talk about Citizen Scientists – so he recommended that members download and become familiar with ebird and iNature. The Christmas bird count will be on Dec. 16.
 - Archives – Kevin Binsted had nothing on archives – but mentioned that the Orillia Youth are going to the Wye Marsh (this is our special youth supported activity).
 - Conservation – nothing to report.
 - Social – Warren Ryckman plans to purchase an electric kettle for the OMAH 3rd floor kitchen so we may have tea.
 - Website – Denis updated the group on the transfer to a new website. This is in progress, but the new website is not ready for launching yet. When it is up, notice will go out, and the committee would welcome feedback from the membership. This will be the final month for “Find of the Month”.
 - Membership – Heather Ewing reported that there were 60 paid members, 5 life members, 6 <30 members, without counting in tonight’s additions.
6. New Business
 - Michael Williams of the City of Orillia EAC (Environmental Advisory Committee) presented a report outlining the current situation regarding protecting the tree

canopy for the City of Orillia. There is an existing tree bylaw in Orillia, governing properties over 1 acre (which would not catch most of the properties in Orillia), but the citizens are largely unaware of the whole concept of protecting the canopy, not to mention the existing bylaw. Bill 68 is coming (under the Municipal Act) and provides an opportunity to revisit/revise the current bylaw, and the EAC is seeking two interested individuals who would be prepared to join another two from EAC committee, to reflect on how might we improve the City's policy, (and how to publicize/promote it). Interested persons could contact Michael through the EAC.

7. Adjourned – at 20:00 for 15 minutes.

8. Speaker – Arni introduced Justin Peter, a well travelled naturalist who addressed the group regarding his ramblings in India.

9. The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.