

# ORILLIA NATURALISTS' CLUB MINUTES

Meeting held Nov. 1, 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, OMAH.

1. The meeting began at 7:30 with Denis Paccagnella welcoming visitors and new members. There were 8-10 visitors, including a group of senior highschool students from Patrick Fogarty. They introduced themselves and told the group what topic they were researching with the school's Environmental Studies group. Topics included research into palm oil, the importance of the canopy in Orillia, how pharmaceuticals that are dumped into the municipal water waste stream affect us, and climate change and its environmental effects on biodiversity.
2. Sightings. A fox in neighbourhood yards and on highway – (presumably eating squirrels and cottontails); robins – huge flocks; young black bear (near Telford line); a flock of Hooded Mergansers; around 200 Bonaparte gulls acting like terns, plus 12 Great Blackback gulls; Piliated woodpecker eating grapes; a female grouse, and an American Avocet.
3. Denis moved the acceptance of the Minutes of Oct. 4, 2017, seconded by Adam Thompson, carried.
4. Business arising. None
5. Website – reminder to check the find of the month (Dogwood Sawfly).
6. Correspondence – A group in Nunavit are putting together a book of birds of Nunavit.
7. Committee reports.
  - a) Treasurer's Report. There was nothing new to report. Donald Macdonald made specific mention to the attending students of the fact that they were welcome to join the club at no charge (policy of membership being free to persons under 30 years of age) with the only expectation that they attend a reasonable number of meetings.
  - b) Ontario Nature. Sue Deadman reported that the Huronia Regional Meeting of the Ontario Nature Club would be held on Nov. 4, hosted by the Friends of Minesing Wetlands. Agenda included a presentation by ON's Exec. Director Caroline Schultz on the Protected Places Campaign, which has reached only about 10% of the 17% goal set for 2020. The Huronia Regional spring meeting will be April 21, 2018 with cohosts Midland Field Naturalists and Friends of Wye Marsh, to be held at the Wye Marsh.
  - c) Programme

Christmas Bird Count. Heather circulated the clipboard for signup for the Dec. 16 Christmas Bird Count event. Fern Splichal will assign groups. As usual there will be concluding reports presented at the time of the Christmas Potluck at OMAH. Participating members are welcome to contribute \$5 voluntarily to the costs of running the bird count internationally (Audubon Society)

Arni will circulate an email for participation in a fall Carthew Bay stewardship walk. Arni will again offer Facebook 101 to be held November 16 at Grants Woods from 10 am to noon. He will circulate an email for signup.
  - d) Archives. Kevin again requested pictures be sent directly to him in large file format.
  - e) Social – tonight's snacks include banana bread, cookies, etc. – the students from PF were invited to participate gratis. As the Ryckmans will be away for January and February, volunteers are needed to cover the social part of those meetings.
  - f) Publicity – no report.

g) Membership – Heather requested that those who have not yet renewed membership, please do so.

8. New Business. Denis reminded the group that there would be a pot luck supper on the day of the bird count – Dec. 16. Bring your own dishes, cutlery, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm, following which there was a social gathering.

The presentation on Climate Change and Whale Poo followed. The speaker, Dave Ireland, was introduced by Denis, and thanked by David Thompson.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists' Club.

DRAFT