

**Orillia Naturalists' Club MINUTES**  
**Monthly meeting, April 4, 2018, 7:30 – 9:45**  
**OMAH, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

1. The President, Denis Paccagnella, welcomed the assembled crew, commenting that it was a large turnout for such a bad night weatherwise! There were 18 visitors who let us know they were there, including the Patrick Fogarty students and teacher.
  2. Sightings: Uthoff Trail – Northern Harrier; on Burnside line, 3 kestrels; Osprey on Muley Point Rd.; Chorus Frogs near there; Kingfisher (Carthew Bay); Vultures; Pileated Woodpecker (in town).
  3. Minutes – the Minutes of the March 7 meeting were not precirculated – and so will be presented at the next meeting along with today's meeting's minutes, for approval then.
  4. Website – remember to check the website, which is functioning quite well.  
Announcement of upcoming event – St. Paul's eco-justice committee is sponsoring a special speaker on Climate Change, for April 15 at 1:30. The title of the presentation is: "Information and Inspiration for the Challenge of our Time." All are welcome.
  5. Executive Meeting – Denis reported that the executive have decided to support 2 youth from Patrick Fogarty to the Ontario Nature Youth Conference, as well as to support the Orillia Youth Centre again this year.
  6. Committee Reports
    - a. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer gave the report orally.
    - b. Ontario Nature – Sue Deadman did not get to the meeting, but sent along the information that the Ontario Nature Regional meeting will be April 21 at 10 am at the Wye Marsh; carpooling behind Zehr's will take place – or arrange to carpool among yourselves.
    - c. Program – Muriel reported on the first of the spring walks, which took place on April 3 despite snow and wind; it was very successful – spotting 5 Great Blue Herons, a Bufflehead, a Common Golden Eye, a pair of Mallards, two beavers and possibly an otter. These were all at the creek that flows below the two bridges on Woodland Drive. The walks continue weekly on Tuesdays for 2 more weeks, then on Thursday of the final week.
    - d. AGM – potluck will be May 2 – anyone with slides can put them on a stick (10 minutes max) and present them at the meeting.
    - e. Chimney Swift watch – Leonore Wianko and Kay Price will lead the group who wish to watch the chimney swifts from the Orillia Public Library parking lot.
    - f. Arnie will lead a bird watch to Cowan Trail on May 26 at 7 am.
    - g. Spring birding trip to Nonquon lagoons – Port Perry – will be June 9 from 8 am to 2 pm.
    - h. Phylogenetics workshop – to be held at Grant's Woods - speaker is Troy McMullen, May 10, 10 am. Seating limited – so register if you are interested.
    - i. Archives – remember to send photos of interest to Kevin Binsted.
    - j. Conservationist Committee – Pat Woodford will write letters on behalf of the membership in support of environmental causes.
    - k. Membership – we have 2 new members tonight.
- For all the program details, check the website or Facebook.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm, and re-convened at 8:15 after the social break, at which members were able to have coffee, tea, and baked delicacies including a return of the famous PF cafeteria banana bread!

After the break, Denis introduced the guest speaker, Arni Stinnissen, whose topic was Icebergs, Puffins and Whales. He was thanked by Wendy Hutchings, who has visited Newfoundland possibly 12 times.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists' Club.