

# Orillia Naturalists' Club Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, Mar. 7, 2018,

### OMAH

1. The President, Denis Paccagnella welcomed the members and visitors. He also congratulated members on receiving awards at the recent Couchiching Conservancy AGM. Arni Stinnissen and Sue Deadman along with all the other Passport to Nature committee members were honoured for their contribution to the success of the program, Ron Reid was honoured by having the newly acquired Black River property named after him, Joan Rosebush was honoured for significant donation at the beginning of the Black River Wildlands property acquisition drive.
2. There were 7 visitors, including a return visit from Jeff Cole of PF School, and 3 of his students, who are being trained as Citizen Scientists.
3. Sightings. Eastern Blue Bird, ground hog, and in Algonquin – Red Crossbills, around 50 White Winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins, one Black-backed Woodpecker, Marten, Beaver; Beaver on Muley Pt. Rd., 2 Bald Eagles and 8 otters at the Narrows who played out a drama involving poaching a fish; Red-bellied woodpecker; Gold Finches; single Pine Siskin; 3 Pine Grosbeaks; in Sundial Creek, a Brook Trout (none reported last year); a Robin (which may have been there for the winter, though several folk have reported an influx of robins in the last week.)
4. Minutes of Feb. 7; Denis moved acceptance of these minutes, seconded by Pat Woodford, All in Favour.
5. Website – continue to check it out and report any problems.
6. Correspondence – none.
7. Planned Executive Meeting – Tuesday, Mar. 13, at Nancy's home. If anyone has anything they want to be added to the agenda, contact an executive.
8. Committee Reports:
  - a. Treasurer's Report – Donald Macdonald reported that we will be solvent going into the next fiscal year (April 1).
  - b. Ontario Nature – Sue Deadman provided the following information; the Federal Government tabled a budget that is quite favourable for biodiversity conservation, investing \$1.3 billion over 5 years. That will include \$1 billion Nature Fund to secure private land, support provincial and territorial species protection efforts and help build Indigenous capacity to conserve land and species. Over 3300 people have signed the petition to Grow the Greenbelt. ON's 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering is being held in Prince Edward County June 1-3. Sue has found the last 2 AGM's to be quite interesting. The spring regional meeting is being held April 21 at the Wye Marsh.
  - c. Program – Arni reported that the next monthly meeting talk will be given by himself – Icebergs, Puffins and Whales. Tomorrow morning Mike Burrell will give a 2 hour workshop on eBird and iNaturalist at the Grant's Woods property. Muriel Sinclair brings her Sights and Sounds of Spring on April 3. The AGM will be in May. There will be a birding hike in May. See the website.
  - d. Archives – nil to report.
  - e. Conservation – Pat has created and sent 2 letters on our behalf during the past month.
  - f. Social – Warren Ryckman mentioned that PF had brought some delicious banana bread to augment his own lemon squares and brownies, and beverages are

available as well. He thanked Diane and Sharon for standing in for him while he and Barb were away.

- g. Membership – nil to report.
  - h. Executive – with the impending move of Arni, there is a need for a new VP and Program director – members are urged to give consideration to stepping into one or both of these very interesting and useful roles.
9. Business Meeting adjourned at 19:53.
  10. Just prior to the speaker's presentation, Marilyn Clark made a presentation to Ron Reid on behalf of the club in honour of his recent recognition by the Couchiching Conservancy.
  11. The meeting resumed at 20:15, with a slide presentation by Mike Burrell on 2 major Citizen Scientist apps – eBird and iNaturalist. He was introduced by Arni, and thanked by the three visiting PF students.

The meeting adjourned at 21:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists' Club.