

ORILLIA NATURALISTS' CLUB AGM 2018

May 2, 2018, 6 pm to 9 pm

OMAH

Members gathered on the 2nd floor of the Orillia Museum of Art and History at 6 pm to enjoy the annual pot luck supper. The attendance was larger than usual, so the gourmet feast was amazing! Nobody went hungry – the membership fee paid for itself that night alone!

The business meeting began at 7:08.

1. The President, Denis Paccagnella, called the meeting to order. He welcomed the membership and any new members (of which there were none on this occasion).
2. Sightings. A young, male Baltimore Oriole; Broad-winged Hawk; Northern Waterthrush, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Black-and-white Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Barred Owl; White-crowned Sparrows; Sandhill Cranes; Yellowlegs; Moose on Monk Road; great white egret harassed by a northern harrier; Great Egret; male House Wrens; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Purple Martins.
3. Minutes of the AGM, 2017. Motion to accept the minutes of the 2017 AGM. Moved, Denis Paccagnella, seconded, Donald Macdonald, Carried.
4. Business arising: none.
5. Carden Challenge announcement. Adam Thomson mentioned that the annual Carden Challenge would be held beginning at 6 pm May 25, going to 6 pm May 26, followed by a supper at Dalrymple. The money raised goes to support the stewardship of the Carden Plains. Anyone wishing to sign up could contact him.
6. Executive Nominations. The Past President, Barb Ryckman, called for nominations from the floor. There being none, the slate of officers for 2018 stands as:
President – Denis Paccagnella
Past President – Barb Ryckman
Vice President and Program Director – Marilyn Clark (replacing the retiring Arni Stinnissen)
Secretary – Carol Strickland
Treasurer – Donald Macdonald
Membership – Heather Ewing
Publicity & Webmaster – Nancy Ironside
Conservation Officer – Pat Woodford
Ontario Nature Representative – Sue Deadman
Social Director – Warren Ryckman
Archivist – Kevin Binsted.

Denis thanked Arni for his years of devoted service to the club as Vice President, and Program Director.

7. Committee Reports:
 1. Treasurer's Report. Donald Macdonald gave a detailed report which is available to the members, but which is not recorded in the minutes available to the public. Basically the club will remain solvent until the next influx of membership funds and charitable receipts. He thanked the accounting firm of Hehn-Trickey for their ongoing support.
 2. Ontario Nature. Sue Deadman made her report to the club (see appended). She also mentioned that the Preserve Natural Areas campaign sought local nature clubs/conservancies for help in identifying suitable designation locations within their

- area, and Sue circulated a potential area of Crown Land in North Severn. She will advocate on behalf of that area if folks support it.
3. Program. Arni thanked the club for their participation and support in the program over the years. As for upcoming events – check the website and the brochure, but May 10 there will be a workshop on Molecular Phylogenetics at Grants' Woods – if more from our club don't sign up, it will be opened to other people. Let Arni know if interested. May 26, Arni leads a spring birding trip to Cowan Trail at 7 am. June 1-3 is the Ontario Nature AGM in Prince Edward County. June 5 is the annual Chimney Swift watch – bring a folding chair and blanket to the library parking lot in Orillia around 8:30 pm. June 9 – there will be a trip to the Nonquon lagoons – join the N. Durham Nature Club – it will start at 3 pm – members may go down earlier. Barb will send out an email about meeting details. The Passport to Nature schedule is on line on the Couchiching Conservancy Facebook page, and also on their Website. Members are reminded that these fill up fast, so sign up if you really want to go.
 4. Archives – Kevin requested pictures – he will provide his email address.
 5. Conservation – Pat Woodward reported on several letters she has written recently on behalf of the club regarding:
 - proposed shooting center on Carden Plain
 - 17% land trust (supporting fulfilling the promise)
 - expansion of the Greenbelt
 - development threat to wetlands in N. Gwillimbury
 6. Social – nil to report.
 7. Publicity & Website – just remember to check the website.
 8. Membership – there are 126 members now, 4 under 30, 6 life members. See appended report.
 9. Life Membership conferred on Dr. Ray Kiff. Denis presented a life membership to Dr. Ray Kiff, who has been a President, involved with the Orillia Naturalists' Club for many years, and who took on the Blue Bird box project in Oro-Medonte. See Denis' remarks appended. Ray gave a brief speech of acceptance.
 10. New Business. Ron Reid gave an expansion of the situation with regard to the possible establishment of a shooting range on the Carden Plain. Currently there is an agreement to purchase, under certain conditions, the property which borders a corner of Cameron Ranch to Wylie Road. He mentioned that it was a particularly sensitive corridor on the plain, that there would be major road upgrades required, and huge amounts of landfill needed to bring the project to fruition. Besides the expense, there are zoning issues, site plans, Environmental Assessments to be considered. The various conservancy/nature groups are concerned, as well as local citizens, and all seem to be united in opposition. He offered to keep any members abreast of developments by email if they wish to let him know their email addresses. Ron's email address is: ronreid@couchconservancy.ca.
 11. The annual slide show followed. All were entertained.
 12. The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists' Club.

RAY KIFF

(Prepared by Denis Paccagnella)

In addition to being Orillia's first specialist Ophthalmologist and the Hospital's Chief of Staff, he found time to be involved in Nature and the Club.

As many of you know, he took care of his Oro Medonte Bluebird boxes and was involved in the Bluebird Society working with Leanore Wyanko and reporting important data to the Society.

Ray also committed to observing 2 squares for the breeding bird atlas for years in early 2000's. The squares were located one to the east of Orillia near Lagoon City/Dalrymple area, and the other in a remote area of Manitoulin Island, where the family had a hunting camp.

As for the club, Ray has held the positions of President, Vice President and we think Treasurer, and of course Past President.

It was Ray who first approached me to be involved in the membership position, so you can blame him for what you have here today 😊.

As we know, we lost Janet last November, but Ray has 4 great children to keep him busy, and we are glad to have Sheila Rose here tonight.

I am honoured to bestow a lifetime membership to Mr./ Dr. Ray Kiff.

ORILLIA NATURALISTS' CLUB
MEMBERSHIP REPORT, 2018
AGM 2018
May 2, 2018

Membership for the 2017/2018 season is 126.
Of those members, there are 4 who are under 30 years of age.
As well, there are 6 life members, including Ray Kiff whose has just joined this group.

Respectfully submitted

Heather Ewing, Membership Coordinator