

**Orillia Naturalists' Club AGM Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 7 pm to 8:35 pm**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> floor, OMAH**

1. Denis Paccagnella welcomed the members to the 2019 AGM. He read out the attribution statement regarding the lands on which we meet. There was one recognized guest. Prior to the formal meeting, there was a potluck dinner. There were at least 50 members in attendance.
2. Sightings – Blanding's turtle near Ramona; 2 large black bears near Line 7 & Hwy 12 in Ramara; porcupine; "lots of stuff"; yellow legs, barred owl; purple finch.
3. Approval of the minutes for the AGM held May 2, 2018, as posted and amended at this meeting; Motion to accept the minutes – Denis Paccagnella; seconded – Pat Woodford. Carried. The minutes of the last monthly meeting held in April; Moved acceptance of minutes – Nancy Ironside; seconded, Carol Strickland, Carried.
4. Business arising from the minutes: none.
5. Nomination for Executive. Barb Ryckman called for nominations from the floor for the Executive (and Committee Chair) positions; there were none. Therefore the current slate of directors, officers and committee chairs have agreed to stay on: the Executive and Directors are: President – Denis Paccagnella; Vice President – Marilyn Clark; Treasurer – Donald Macdonald; Past President – Barb Ryckman; Secretary, Carol Strickland. The Committee Chairs are: Ontario Nature – Sue Deadman; Programme Committee – Marilyn Clark; Archives – Kevin Binstead; Conservation – Pat Woodford; Social Convenor – Warren Ryckman; Publicity and Web – Nancy Ironside; Membership – Heather Ewing; Communications Manager (new position) – Tanya Clark.
6. Committee Reports –
  - a. Treasurer's Report. Donald Macdonald reported that the Club will remain solvent until at least the next membership roll around in August. Also, he thanked Hehn-Trickey for again providing CRA reporting in the summer, gratis. He mentioned that we expect to host the Huronia Naturalist clubs in September – which will mean a slight blip in expense – but we have adequate resources to manage this. Donald had a summary of revenues and expenses for club members to inspect if they wish.
  - b. Ontario Nature. Sue Deadman reported that the Ontario Nature regional meeting will be in Haliburton this weekend – the focus will be on what to do re the Ontario Government's moves that threaten the environment. She referenced the upcoming plans to revise the Endangered Species Act – and we are called to action – to write letters to our MPP – or talk with them personally. Finally, if there are any wild boar sightings (apparently some have escaped captivity and are capable of being prolific), we are asked to report them to the MNR.
  - c. Program. Marilyn Clark reported that there is one more outing planned this season – to the Cowan tract on May 25 at 6:30 – check the website. Her committee is looking for ideas for program – topics for the meetings, as well as for outings. The committee will be meeting May 9 at her house. Send any ideas to her before then – or come to the meeting. On May 28 Leonore Wyanko will be managing the chimney swift watch – possibly at the library – but stay tuned in case there is a change in venue. There are several garlic mustard pulling expeditions being offered in May and June – members are invited to come out and join in. Barb mentioned that there will be a Carthew Bay stewardship walk sometime between May 13 and 15.

- d. Archives – Kevin mentioned that he has 1700 pictures in his archives – he encourages people to continue to send in their pics to him.
  - e. Conservation. Pat Woodford has written several letters to Mr. Ford and Ms. Dunlop regarding the ESA, Bill 66, and the elimination of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario position. Letter writing campaigns have been successful in stopping a development in Georgina. The Lake Simcoe Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition wants someone local to represent their fight to the local Council meeting – they will supply the presentation – it is about the importance of monitoring and reducing the annual phosphorus loading to the lake to 44 tonnes by the year 2045. Donald requested a letter to the politicians regarding the elimination of the Forest Ontario 50,000 trees program.
  - f. Social. Warren is not here tonight as he is recovering from illness. Denis thanked him on behalf of the club for his tireless work.
  - g. Publicity/Web – nothing to report.
  - h. Membership. Heather reported that there are 120 members (individual), which includes families, life members, and under 30's.
- Denis thanked all the Chairs for their excellent work.

7. Couchiching Conservancy Report. Mark Bisset, ED of the Couchiching Conservancy, brought the group up to date with the CC news. First, regarding Cedarhurst, the proposed gun range in the Carden area – it seems that the new owners do not wish to sell, and indeed do wish to push through plans to set up in the heart of the Carden alvar. CC has hired a planner and intends to fight the developers, and expects there will be fundraising for this project, as well as a letter campaign which will only be launched after the owners make their application. Otherwise, the CC is in the process of acquiring 2 new properties totaling 370 acres.

8. New Business – none.

9. A slide show, projected on the OMAH's new projector system, donated to OMAH by a member of the Orillia Naturalists' Club, followed.

Vicky Sherwood presented on swans at Washago.

Mary Mick showed the work of a Pileated woodpecker on what turned out to be a rotten maple, indeed.

Fern Splichal showed us some pictures from her recent trip to Cornwall on a hiking trip.

Sue Deadman – featured some great bird pictures from her trip to Honduras.

Tanya Clark showed some slides from her New Brunswick trip.

Kevin Binstead had a collection of slides from Algonquin, Point Pelee, Petrie Island, Orillia and Myrtle Beach.

Rob Henderson showed us some slides from Africa, local, and Florida.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35. Denis encouraged folk to come out to the next meeting which will be a joint meeting of the Huronia naturalists' clubs, in September. We are hosting. The venue will be announced later. He also encouraged members to come out to the outings that remain.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists' Club.