

Minutes of QFN Membership Meeting Nov. 21,2022

Centennial Secondary School Cafeteria 7pm.

35 people attended. Elizabeth Churcher welcomed all and made the land acknowledgement. She noted that prior to the meeting Denice Wilkins was seeking signatures in support of Nature Canada initiatives to be sent to the Cop15 meeting in December in Montreal. Lori Borthwick was urging people to attend the rally against Bill 23 to be held on Thursday November 24 at the office of Todd Smith, MPP in Rossmore. Elizabeth urged support for Denice and Lori and encouraged all to write to MPPs stating opposition to Bill 23. She has been working on a submission to the Environmental Registry.

The next meeting will be January 16 and it will be the Annual General Meeting. Elizabeth pointed out that several board positions are open and urged members to consider joining the Board to help in the operations of the group.

The speaker for the January meeting will be Kyle Blaney who will have photos and stories to entertain and inspire us with his presentation titled "Tales of a Canadian Explorer".

Three lucky members each won a book in the monthly draw.

John Lowry reported on completion of a project he had initiated. \$3000 accessed from a Home Hardware fund was used to purchase 5 red maple trees which the city planted in Bird Park on Hampton Ridge Drive. He would like a committee of 2 members not already on the board to search for funding to procure more trees. Willing volunteers should contact John Lowry.

John Lowry also reminded people to support his alcohol container collection programme. The funds raised will be donated on November 29, to benefit from the doubling of Giving Tuesday. This year's funds will be donated to The Nature Conservancy with the stipulation that the money goes to a local property such as Hastings Wildlife Junction, Brighton Wetland, McMahan Bluff.

John Blaney introduced Jonathan Balcombe, the evening's very interesting and knowledgeable speaker. Jonathan has published several best selling books including "What a Fish Knows" and "Super Fly". His talk entitled "Animal Sentience from Fishes to Flies" described feelings and intelligence and inter-relationships for both fishes and flies and was totally fascinating. Who would have thought that an ant can recognize itself in a mirror? Or that an archer fish can produce a 10- foot squirt to catch or knock down its prey from a leaf? And it can control the size of the squirt! Jonathan concluded his talk with words about the role humans have on the planet and the increase in extinctions because of our use of chemicals, destruction of habitat, consumption of meat and switching to mono-cultural agriculture. After questions from the audience, Barry Lieff thanked Jonathan for his very impressive presentation.

Treats were provided by Nancy Stevenson and Sharron Blaney. A sheet requesting volunteer donations for future meetings got only one offer so please contact Sharron Blaney if you would be willing to help.