

Quinte Field Naturalists

General Meeting of the Membership

November 20, 2023 @ 7pm

Centennial Secondary School Cafeteria

Attendance: 60 -65

Minutes prepared by Sharron Blaney

- Elizabeth Churcher welcomed all, especially Marjorie Fisher, former membership chair who had recently lost her husband Dirk. Cheryl Anderson of South Shore Joint Initiative (SSJI) had 3 calendars left for sale.
- Land acknowledgement- Elizabeth.
- Housekeeping items:
Directions to washrooms.
Next meeting January 15, 2024. Speaker is Corina Brdr. Ontario Nature. Topic is 30x30 Biodiversity Targets.
Snacks available later provided by Paul Steel, Bernadette Hymus and Elizabeth Churcher.
- Treasurer's Report: Dan Guenther reported a balance of about \$16000 after reimbursement from Tree Canada.
- Marketing Convener: Denise Wilkins made another plea for someone to replace her as marketing convener as she is unable to continue for various reasons. This job could be split between or among 2 or 3 individuals. Anyone with computer or artistic skills or an interest in advertising should contact any member of the Executive.
- Christmas Bird Count: Tom Wheatley explained that this is the 123rd year for the CBC, the 20th year for Belleville CBC. He is looking for feeder watchers. The area to be covered has Belleville City Hall as its centre with boundaries being Foxboro to the north, Trenton airbase to the West, Mountainview to the south and Shannonville Rd to the east. Date is Dec.27,2023.
- Draw: John Lowry reported on the collection of beer cans/wine /pop bottles. He is hoping to reach \$3400 worth which he will donate to the Nature Conservancy on giving Tuesday November 28, when the amount will be doubled; he will direct funds to local projects such as Hastings Wildlife Junction or the South Shore of Prince Edward County. In lieu of a draw for prizes, a 50/50 cash draw has been initiated and the first winner received \$27.
- Sightings: Turkey vultures in Picton, hooded mergansers on Moira River, bluebirds, common and red-breasted mergansers on Moira Lake, fox sparrow on Dunnett Blvd.

Late sightings of insects included spruce spanworm moth and singing grasshoppers. Denice Wilkins reported the attempted rescue of a porcupine which unfortunately did not survive in spite of efforts from Bernd and Catherine Baier who assisted Denice and cared for the porcupine overnight and took it to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre.

- Quest Speaker: Dan Guenther introduced Professor David McLaglan from Queens University's Fire Earth Water Air Biogeochemistry lab. His talk entitled "Wild Fires, Pollution and Impact" explained how complex and widespread the issue is. He explained the history of wildfires in Canada. Topics covered included: fire suppression, climate change, good fire, intensity of recent fires, fire weather index and health concerns. A frightening statistic: in 2023 a record 17.97 million hectares burned in Canada! John Blaney thanked Professor McLaglan.
- Elizabeth closed the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.