

Quinte Field Naturalists
Annual General Meeting of the Membership
February 24, 2025 @7:00pm
Maranatha Church

Attendance 41

1. **Welcome:** Elizabeth Churcher welcomed everyone.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

3. **Housekeeping items:** Directions to washrooms.

Next meeting March 24, 2025 with Speaker Pamela Stagg presenting "Ancient DNA".

Dinner meeting: May 14, 2025 at Emmanuel United Church, Foxboro, featuring Steve Burrows, presenting "Travels and Travails: Researching and Writing the Birder Mystery Series, silent auction, dinner with vegan or meat choice, \$40.00

Snacks provided by Danielle Emon and Elizabeth Ormston; one more volunteer needed to bring snacks for March meeting.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Dan Guenther presented the treasurer's report and the budget for 2025 (distributed prior to meeting by email and included in the minutes from the January 2025 meeting of the membership). Approval of 2024 Financial Report moved by Lori Borthwick, seconded by John Blaney, motion carried. Approval of 2025 Budget moved by Mary Miller, seconded by John Lowry; motion carried.

5. **Motion to approve tree committee report:** Elizabeth thanked the members of the tree committee. Motion to approve report by Lori Borthwick, seconded by a member from the floor. Motion carried.

6. **Election of Officers:** Elizabeth Churcher presented the list of officers pointing out the positions of President and Vice- President as vacant. There were no nominations from the floor for these positions. A Communications Convener is also needed to work with Jason King (website), Eli Drummond (Facebook) and Danielle Emon (distributor of information). Two Directors at large were nominated: Debi Butler was nominated by Dan Guenther, seconded by John Lowry. Herman Lopez was nominated by Lori Borthwick,

seconded by Bernadette Hymus. The slate of officers was approved by the membership.

Past President: George Thomson

Corresponding Secretary: Elizabeth Churcher

Treasurer: Dan Guenther

Membership and Social Convener: Nancy Stevenson

Outings Convener: John Lowry

Ontario Nature and Advocacy: Lori Borthwick

Newsletter: John Blaney

Recording Secretary: Sharron Blaney

Members at large: Robert Ormston, Herman Lopez, Debi Butler

7. Sightings: Lori Borthwick reported a bald eagle seen in downtown Belleville. Another bald eagle was spotted at Presqu'île carrying a duck. Jonathan Balcombe saw a barred owl at the Frink centre near the bird feeders. Lori Borthwick and John Lowry saw another barred owl beside Hwy 62. Terry Boyd had watched an opossum in his yard on Hope Crescent. Elizabeth Churcher commented on numerous sightings of snow buntings.

8. Introduction of Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Churcher introduced Lindsay Nash from Quinte Conservation who spoke about "Care of Shoreline Life". Lindsay explained how we can protect and improve our watershed whether we live on the water or not with simple changes such as avoiding fertilizers, planting native plants and mowing less. Quinte Conservation offers advice, free site visits and customized planting plans for those who want to improve their shoreline. Quinte Conservation is also selling shrubs and trees. Lindsay encouraged members to get involved with citizen science projects, rain gauge monitoring, Trail Steward Programme or by joining a Trail Tending Tuesday event to help QC staff maintain trails. George Thomson thanked Lindsay for her many suggestions of how to protect our waterways.

9. Closure: Elizabeth thanked everyone and urged members to remember Seedy Saturday on February 9 at Centennial Secondary School and QFN Boston Pizza fundraiser on March 31.