

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

Attendance: 53

Please note that these minutes record the happenings and dates from March 24. Following that date the Canadian Election impacted the planned date and speaker for the April 28 meeting. That meeting has been rescheduled for May 5 and the speaker will be Karrin Broadhurst speaking on “Creating sustainable urban landscapes that nurture nature”.

1. **Welcome:** Elizabeth Churcher

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

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

Next meeting: April 28 @ 7 pm with speaker Collin Cassin presenting Water Soldier in the Bay of Quinte.

Dinner meeting May 14 @ Emmanuel United Church, Foxboro, featuring Steve Burrows, presenting “Travels and Travails: Researching and Writing the Birder Murder Mystery Series”. Silent Auction, dinner with vegan or meat option \$40.00.

Boston pizza fundraiser: March 31, 2025; QFN receives a percentage of all sales made between 5 and 8pm.

Snacks provide by Terry Boyd and Patricia Hamilton. Additional person needed to bring snacks to next meeting.

New procedure re name tags: With increase in number of members making collection and distribution of name tags at each meeting difficult, members are requested to take name tags home and bring them to each meeting. If a member requests a replacement, a donation of \$1 would be appropriate.

4. **Financial report:** Dan Guenther reported a balance of more than \$11,000 which means QFN is on track and the Boston Pizza fund raiser will increase balance.

5. **Outings:** John Lowry announced that he is planning 2 outings; info to be sent by e-mail.

6. **Tree committee Report:** Greg Parsons reported the plantings at Clifford Sonny Belch Park had overwintered well; however, 3 small pines were stolen.

Plant sale May 17, 8am-12 noon. Greg is looking for donations of all sorts of plants: native, perennials, seedlings, house plants. Garden tools, garden art and bird feeders are also welcome. Greg has request forms which members can use to contact businesses who might donate. Posters for the sale also available. Cash donations from businesses are also welcome. Greg needs volunteers for day of sale on two shifts: 5:30am to 8 am and 8-noon. A van or a truck with a cap would be helpful to transport plants on day of sale.

7. **Loyalist College Student Documentary about QFN:** This was the premiere showing for QFN members and it is a very well done 7 ½ minute explanation of QFN and its activities featuring on-scene footage of the planting at Clifford Sonny Belch Park. John Lowry introduced some of the crew that made the documentary. Bushra Zubair was one of them and she is currently doing a placement with QFN.

8. **Waring Creek Improvement Association:** Dr. Cliff Rice presented a summary of 32 years working to protect the Waring Creek to make it suitable for brook trout. Land development threatens the area and a cumulative impact study must be done. Donations may be made to Waring Creek Improvement Association or via Small Change Fund which can give a receipt for donations of \$20 or more.

9. **Light Awareness:** Debi Butler spoke about the importance of turning lights out at night especially when birds are migrating. Small actions can make a difference: switch lights off; use motion sensor lights which come on only when motion is detected, use feather -friendly treatments on windows, close drapes at night.

10. **Introduction of Guest speaker:** Elizabeth Churcher introduced Pamela Stagg who presented a fascinating talk about "Ancient DNA". The study of ancient DNA has revolutionized paleontology. Questions about land bridges and ancient climate change can now be reconsidered. After questions from the audience, Herman Lopez thanked Pamela for her interesting presentation.

11. **Closure:** Elizabeth reminded all of the Boston Pizza fund raiser on March 31 at 5-8pm.