

Quinte Field Naturalists
General Meeting of the Membership
October 20, 2025 @ 7:00pm
Maranatha Church
Attendance: 55

1. **Welcome:** Elizabeth Churcher

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

3. **Housekeeping items:**

Directions to washrooms.

Next meeting: November 17, Stacey Kerr presents "Our Arctic and the Impacts of Climate Change"

Treats: Thanks to Marjorie Fisher and Patricia Sukha, Sign up sheet available on snack table.

4. **Financial Report:** Dan Guenther reported a balance of \$10,300 with grant money for tree planting still coming in. Grants total :\$90,000

5. **Frink Centre Bird Feeding:** Ted Pordham explained that in the past few years feeders have been filled by Marie Clarke and himself and that they had supplemented the feed bought by QFN using their own feed. This fall Dan Guenther, QFN treasurer and owner of Wild Birds Unlimited. donated and helped install new feeders. The children who visit the Frink centre are thrilled to see the birds that come to the feeders. Motion by Ted Pordham, seconded by Lori Bothwick that QFN membership agree to the spending of additional money to approximately \$500 to support the bird feeder station at the Frink Outdoor Education Centre and to purchase the necessary feed as often as possible from the local Wild Birds Unlimited store. Motion carried.

6. **Tree Committee Report:** Greg Parsons reported on plantings at Cascade Park and Clifford Sonny Belch Park. QFN planted 400 trees and shrubs: and City of Belleville planted another 300-400 at Cascade. City and QFN planted 1850 perennials, 400 + shrubs on the toboggan hill, plus 8 large evergreens and 12 6ft cedars at Clifford Sonny Belch Park. Irrigation in place.

Greg thanked all the volunteers and the following supporters:

Tree Canada

LCBO

Home Hardware

Connon Nurseries

Natural Themes Native Plants

Sprouts

City of Belleville

Noronco Sheet Metal

Quinte Conservation

Parkdale Public School

St Theresa Secondary School

Bayview Home Hardware donated 20 shovels

Rotary donated \$2000

Bird Friendly Cities Team applied for a grant of \$3000

Greg welcomed anyone interested to join the Tree committee. The date of 2026 plant sale is May 16. He has pots available for anyone splitting plants this fall. Yellow bucket hats used to identify QFN tree planting helpers available for \$10.

Thanks offered to Greg and his committee for all this work.

7. **Outings:** John lowry reported 6 attended the outing to Ferris Provincial Park and enjoyed lunch at Riverside Restaurant in Campbellford. Next outing to be at Frink Centre with Jai Wright leading search for fungi. John reported the amount collected for alcohol containers is currently at \$2300 and donation to Nature Conservancy will be in December.

John thanked Melissa Ouillet for her work on QFN Facebook page.

Sandbanks Buckthorn Removal: John reported that 7 QFN members took part in the 4th year of this project.

5. **Nature Minute:** Jai Wright presented photos of mushrooms. Fall is a good time to look for fungi, especially after rain.

6. **Update:** Lindsay Nash of Quinte Conservation outlined current fund-raising initiatives as well as a free hike for seniors on October 20 at North Potters Creek. Ted Pordham was the winner of a nannyberry plant.

7. **Environmental Registry:** Elizabeth Churcher urged everyone to contact the Ontario government by letter regarding the need to protect biodiversity as the government is ignoring the species conservation act while focusing on the economy and not on the environment.

8. **Sightings:** No sightings reported because there was not enough time.

9. **Guest speaker:** Debi Butler introduced Steven Burr and Gary Magwood from Belleville Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada who spoke about the importance of preserving our dark skies and the possibility of a dark sky preserve in Prince Edward County's south shore. After Gary's film "Hello Darkness" the presenters answered questions from the audience. Elizabeth Churcher thanked both presenters.

Closure: Elizabeth Churcher

Minutes prepared by Sharron Blaney