

Quinte Field Naturalists  
General Meeting of the Membership  
November 17, 2025 @ 7:00pm  
Maranatha Church  
Attendance: 48

1. **Welcome:** Elizabeth Churcher

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

3. **Housekeeping items:**

Directions to washrooms.

Next meeting: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026: Yvonne Buys presents 'Look What Flew through the County'.

Cheryl Anderson from the South Shore Joint Initiative is here today selling Step Into Nature Raffle Tickets. Tickets are \$25, funds go to protect, preserve and restore the South Shore's lands and water. Please stop by her table or purchase tickets by emailing [Cheryl.anderson@ssji.ca](mailto:Cheryl.anderson@ssji.ca)

Treats: Thanks to Elizabeth Ormston and Greg Parsons, Sign up sheet available on snack table.

4. **Financial Report:** Dan Guenther reported a healthy balance. We have received \$10K from Trees Canada for the Cascade planting and have one more grant still to come.

The club budgeted to give \$4K in donations this year and has so far contributed ~\$3K to:

\$300 Sandy Pines (in recognition of Denise's many years with the club)

\$70 Apples for volunteer planters

\$500 Ontario Nature Youth Summit

\$178 Support for plant sale

\$500 Think Turtle

\$500 Frink Centre bird feed program

\$500 Wildlife Preservation Canada (Motus maintenance)

\$500 Nature Conservancy of Canada

5. **Think Turtle Thank You:** Elizabeth shared the thank you letter received from Think Turtle which expressed their gratitude for our donation and outlined the many activities they are involved with and the ongoing need to support the turtles.

6. **Tree Committee Report:** Greg welcomed Rachael Wong, the newest member of the tree committee.

The committee would like to begin approaching businesses/industries in our area to help fund future plantings and would like to hear from anyone who has or is willing to help make these new contacts for funds.

The committee is also interested in extending plantings into Quinte West and would like to hear from any member who lives in that area or has contacts there to help pursue this.

Yellow bucket hats used to identify QFN tree planting helpers are available for \$10.

**7. Alcohol Containers Collection:** John informed us that the deadline for getting cans to him is Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Currently, collections sit around \$3,200. Giving Tuesday this year is December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at which time total collected funds will be donated to the Nature Conservancy of Canada where our donation will be matched.

**8. Phragmites in West Lake area:** Dan Butler, Invasive Species Technician with Quinte Conservation, co-ordinates the efforts of the Quinte Region Phragmites Management Area which consists of a coalition of 35 members (municipalities, Friends groups, Conservation groups). There are currently 16 Phragmites Management Areas of which Quinte is one. The current focus is to map where the issues are. This is being done with the public's assistance using an App called ArcGIS Survey 123, which allows you to report the location of phragmites sightings. From this information, a strategy will be developed. Consideration is being given to work on roadside control first, starting this coming summer.

Anyone interested in helping out/volunteering with this program should contact Dan at:

***dbutler@quinteconservation.ca***

**9. Nature Minute:** Tom Wheatley discussed the annual Christmas Bird Count, which takes place across North America. The count in Belleville will be on December 27<sup>th</sup> this year. The count area is a 25km radius from Belleville City Hall. You can count what comes to your birdfeeder or create a count group. If you are interested in more information, contact Tom at:

***wheatleytom@hotmail.com***

IF you would like to participate but your worried you can't tell one Finch from another, then you can attend a talk by Tyler Hoar from the Finch Network. He will be at Wild Birds Unlimited, 170 N Front St. Unit 4B, Belleville this Saturday (November 22<sup>nd</sup>) at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

## **10. Sightings:**

- George Thompson asks people not to throw apple cores out the window as it attracts mice which attracts owls who don't watch out well for cars.
- Ann Sutton had some wonderful pictures of Barn Owls and a Cooper Hawk
- John Blaney has seen 2 Peregrine Falcons on the top sill, east side of the Belleville Court House. Check it out.
- John Lowry has seen Hooded Mergansers at Moira Lake. Gulls and eagles hang around with them and try to steal the fish they catch.

- Greg Parsons has purple finches, red breasted nut hatches and woodpeckers at his feeder. He has a suet block with meal worms they seem to like.
- Mike Ormston and Jan Hendry remarked on the large gatherings of swans.
- Elizabeth Churcher has American Tree Sparrows at her feeder.

11. **Guest speaker:** Dan Guenther introduced Stacey Kerr, Exhibit and Program Co-Ordinator at the Quinte Museum of Natural History, where she is working to develop the upcoming feature exhibit 'Expedition Alert: Stories from the High Arctic'. The exhibit will highlight the biodiversity of this unique Polar Desert and relay stories of impressive migration, fascinating adaptations and ultimately resilience in the face of mounting climate change. Following a team of researchers in Alert, Ellesmere Island, who hail from the University of Quebec at Rimouski, the exhibit will share their findings using interactive displays, videos, and voice recordings of the researchers themselves. Data from SmartIce, which tracks changes in Arctic ice and Indigenous knowledge and understanding of the Arctic will also be part of the exhibit. She is hoping to open in February 2026.

If you haven't already been to the Quinte Museum of Natural History, stop by. They are located at 99 Dufferin Ave., Trenton. Check them out at: <https://quintemuseum.ca/>

Dan Guenther thanked Stacey for her presentation.

Closure: Elizabeth Churcher

Minutes prepared by Debi Butler