

QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS

Bridge Street United Church, Belleville

Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2016

1. Welcome: George Thomson
2. Dinner Announcement: Sharron Blaney
3. Grace: Doug Stevenson
4. Dinner
5. Thank you to the Ladies for a delicious Dinner: Bernadette Hymus
6. Environmental/Ontario Nature/Marketing: Denice Wilkins
Winter may be gone but it's a good idea to keep a snow shovel in the car to help turtles cross roads safely. "I Brake for Turtles" signs are available at a cost of \$5.00 each. Proceeds go to the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre.
7. Sightings: Guest speaker, Steve Burrows, (with a smile), shared his amazing sighting of a wandering albatross ! at the R.O.M.

8. Announcements:

John Blaney: The Great Canadian Birdathon is coming up. The QFN Birdathon Team, aptly named "The Good Terns", will be counting bird species at risk for this event in May (date to be announced) to raise money: 50% of proceeds go to PEPtBO ,Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, which is funded entirely through donations (no government funding); 25% to Bird Studies Canada; and 25% to QFN toward expenses incurred (such as insurance and speakers). So please, do a "good tern" and support our team by signing the pledge sheet, contacting John by email (sharronjohnblaney@gmail.com) or following instructions in April's newsletter, which is available here tonight or on Terry Sprague's website, Nature Stuff.

http://naturestuff.net/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=33

George Thomson: If you have any suggestions or requests for the 2016/2017 QFN program, please inform an Executive Member immediately. We are glad to entertain any ideas you may have.

9. Thank you to the Executive: George Thomson

George thanked all members of the executive for their ongoing support and time volunteered to QFN: Phil Martin, Doug Newfield, Marjorie Fisher (outgoing), John Blaney, Sharron Blaney, Denice Wilkins, Bernadette Hymus (outgoing), Elizabeth Churcher and our new Executive members: Lorie Brown, Nancy Stevenson and Karina Spence.

John Blaney extended thanks to George Thomson for serving as president of QFN.

George also noted that our efforts to conserve and protect land and species do result in some wins. The open season on wolf and coyote populations proposed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry was withdrawn after all environmental organizations (including ours) and many individuals wrote letters to the Minister and the Premier advocating against it. (George remains alert to the situation in case the ministry does try to slip it through somehow.) QFN was thanked for its efforts by Anne Bell, Ontario Nature's new senior director of conservation and education.

10. Presentation to Marjorie Fisher for Years of Service – Sharron Blaney

Sharron noted that Marjorie has given countless hours of service to QFN over the past 23 years as Executive Member for Membership and Mailing. In the early years this job entailed manually keeping track of membership lists, mailings, attendance and more; then moved, in part, to computerized methods. Marjorie also served as Nominating Officer finding (cajoling, begging) people to serve on the Executive. Marjorie was given heartfelt thanks and a gift in recognition of her significant contribution to the group.

11. Guest Speaker: Steve Burrows, author of the Birder Murder Mysteries.

Introduced by Denice Wilkins

Steve Burrows, an award-winning author and avid birdwatcher, entertained us with an informative, perfectly paced presentation about the journey that led him to this point. An engaging, witty and humorous speaker, Steve related experiences in Hong Kong, England and Canada; from birdwatching to writing to publishing.

Thanked by Cliff Maclean.

12. Adjournment: George Thomson

Addendum 1: 68 tickets sold for the Annual QFN Dinner.

Addendum 2: For further information on Steve Burrows, see <http://www.abirdermurder.com/>