

QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS

Bridge Street United Church, Belleville

February 22, 2016

1. Welcome: George Thomson, Pres.

George welcomed new members and guests and thanked them for coming.

Thanks to June for managing the Treasure Table: all items donated to raise money for QFN.

2. Financial Report: Doug Newfield, Treasurer

Current Bank Balance of \$6,157.00, highest ever.

Please note Annual Dinner tickets are available at \$28 per person

Dinner at 6 pm, Monday, April 25, 2016 at St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton

3. Outings: John Blaney

No Owling outing in February, as hoped, because owls have been hard to find. (Owls have also been among the dead birds found at the foot of buildings in Toronto.)

An outing will take place in March; watch email messages for date and location.

Belleville DOCFEST, March 4, 5 & 6: QFN is sponsoring "The Messenger", details on page 4 of February QFN Newsletter.

4. Environmental/Ontario Nature/Marketing: Penny Vance (standing in for Denice Wilkins)

First-time attendees this evening: 9 or 10 (heard about QFN from Quinte Conservation or friends)

Next meeting, Monday, March 28: avian biologist Allie Anderson will present "The American Kestrel – North America's Smallest Falcon".

Please note: The Robert Argue Environmental Scholarship available for youth through Quinte Waste Solutions, www.quinterecycling.org/about-us/scholarships/

Application available at:

<http://quinterecycling.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/THE-ROBERT-ARGUE-ENVIRONMENTAL-SCHOLARSHIP-2016.pdf>

Reminder of DOCFEST and the Annual Dinner.

5. Sightings: attendees

Donna saw pileated and downy woodpeckers; tempted by feeders she designed and constructed herself, each for specific species.

Marjorie saw a red-winged blackbird on February 9th, a very early sighting

George Thomson has seen male cowbirds and 96 wild turkeys that have taken over the property and "knock" on the basement windows!

Elizabeth Churcher's property became an "avian airport" during the storm last Tuesday; she saw many species including cardinals and five purple finches.

John Blaney has discovered the cause of the decline in mourning doves at his home, from 29 to 19; a Cooper's Hawk appears to be the villain.

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6. Correspondence: Elizabeth Churcher

Elizabeth wrote a letter on behalf of QFN supporting the Ministry's "Pollinator Health Action Plan" and Ontario Nature's pollinator campaign. She addressed the need for setting standards, implementing the plan with monitoring, and providing incentives those who grow crops and plants to feed pollinators. She encourages others to submit comments before the deadline of March 7th, 2016. Citizen Scientist engagement is needed for the implementation and monitoring of the plan.

See Environmental Registry #012-6393 <https://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTI3MzAw&statusId=MTkyMjQ5>

Comments also may be submitted by email to PollinatorHealth@Ontario.ca

Reference: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/pollinator/discuss-paper.pdf>

Elizabeth also wrote letters to the provincial government supporting expansion of the Greenbelt and care of the Bluebelt, and encourages others to do so, as well. Ontario Nature has asked that people send letters to your MPP (Todd Smith), the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. Reference:

http://www.greenbelt.ca/grow_our_greenbelt_2016

<http://www.ontarionature.org/connect/blog/for-our-water-its-time-to-protect-ontarios-bluebelt/>

http://www.ontarionature.org/act/advocates_for_nature.php

Please note that John and Janet Foster are giving a presentation, Stories from the Wild (including new material from Prince Edward County) on Tuesday, March 1st, 7-9 p.m., Tweed Agricultural White Building. Contact elizchurcher@hotmail.com or 613-478-3205

7. Speaker: Kyle Blaney, introduced by Sharron Blaney

Kyle, traveller and nature enthusiast, top e-birder of 2015, photographer, and SHAD instructor, (among other accomplishments) entertained us with a presentation, "Go North and West Young Man" accompanied by his stunning nature photography.

Thank you: Cathy Lake

8. Refreshments: thanks to Claudette Boulanger and Nancy Stevenson

Donations of \$2.00 encouraged for bird-friendly coffee.

9. Adjournment: George Thomson, President

Reminder to pick up Treasure Table items.