

QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS
Bridge Street United Church, Belleville, ON
November 27, 2017

1. Welcome - George Thomson, President
 - a) Welcome to all
 - b) After the meeting, coffee and treats are available for a donation of \$2.00, proceeds to QFN. (Proceeds from the purchase of bags of coffee go to PEPtBO)
 - c) The QFN newsletter is available this evening on the back table. Included are articles by John Blaney on short trails to enjoy in the local area and by Terry Sprague on local environmental issues.
 - d) Bernadette Hymus: The Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre 2018 calendar is available this evening for \$20.00. All proceeds go to the centre which is federally and provincially licensed. (For more information, check www.sandypineswildlife.org)

2. Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust (hpelt.org) – Dick Bird and Stewart Murray

A dedication and unveiling of plaque honouring the donors of a 1000-acre property near Bancroft will occur on Nov 30 at 1 p.m. The property includes a lake, riverfront and farmland. The trust has donated a canoe.

Another property, named the Churcher Woods Nature Preserve, has been donated to HPELT by the Churcher family – many thanks to Elizabeth Churcher of QFN.

The work done by HPELT to protect our heritage, lands and waterways is much appreciated.

3. Financial Report – Doug Newfield

Bank Balance is \$7866.72 as at November 1st. The bequest from the estate of Kathryn Mills has been received.

4. Outings – John Blaney
 - a) The Christmas Bird Count will take place December 27th. This can include Feeder Watch if located within 12 kms of City Hall steps. If the species cannot be identified, then do not count. John will take names of those wishing to participate.
 - b) The owling trip was postponed owing to weather and will be held in January. Members will receive an email with a date and further information.
 - c) Snowy owls have been spotted in the area. If you see them, please do not publicize their location; the owls have flown from the Arctic and need to rest, feed and recover. Also, do not feed or use bait to attract them as they will then associate food with humans and roadways; this would be detrimental to their survival rates.

5. Environmental/Marketing – Denice Wilkins
 - a) Welcome to newcomers: please provide email address and we will keep you informed of upcoming meetings and events. Also let us know how you found QFN, and check our Facebook page.
 - b) At our next program on January 22nd, Terry Sprague will present “The Fall and Rise of the Bald Eagle”.
 - c) Environmental: Say no to palm oil – bad for planet and birds, and remember that “plastic straws suck”, avoid them.
 - d) Our own Pamela Stagg, host of 99.3 County FM radio program on nature, recently was nominated “A Remarkable Woman of Quinte”.
 - e) Orangutans are in trouble (palm oil again)

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6. Sightings
 - a) 5 otters playing in water and on dock – John Wilson
 - b) Rainy day at cottage saw 26 loons and then 2 more – Penny
 - c) Red-bellied male woodpecker sighted – no sign of female at feeder then, but spotted one today. Put out new suet blocks, they love them. – Elizabeth
 - d) Saw black cat staring at porcupine at Murphy and Hunt Roads; chased them both off the road
 - e) Red-bellied woodpecker in Tweed – Barbara Goode

7. Speaker – Dr. Jeff Bowman: “Bobcat and Lynx: A Tail of Two Ontario Wild Cats”

Introduced by Denice Wilkins: Dr. Bowman, from Trent University Wildlife Research and Monitoring, and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Environmental and Life Sciences, and with family links to Belleville, is our speaker this evening.
Presentation: information on differences between these two cats, their range and types of habitats, food sources and other interesting facts.
Thanked by John Wilson: fascinating, and exciting to hear about new discoveries/information you’ve shared with us; an excellent presentation.

8. Refreshments - \$2.00 donation for bird-friendly coffee (grown to preserve habitat) with treats provided by Elizabeth Churcher and Peter Fuller – thank you.

9. Adjournment – George Thomson
I’m happy to know that young people are studying and monitoring wildlife.
See you in January!

Attendance: 113