

QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS
Bridge Street United Church, Belleville, ON
October 23, 2017

1. Welcome: George Thomson, President

- a) Welcome to all and especially newcomers. Please provide your name and email address to the Guest List if you wish to receive notifications of future events. We ask that members sign in on the Membership List, thanks.
- b) The QFN questionnaire is not available this evening but will be sent by email, attached to the minutes. If you have already completed one, please just delete.
- c) “The Birdhouse” in Wooler, under the new ownership of Bobbi Wright, will carry much of the same products and more. Open this week in Wooler, then closed for one week and re-opening November 4th in new location, 240 Presqu’ile Parkway, Brighton, ON. Please pick up a coupon for \$2.00 off “The Right Stuff” birdseed.
- d) Bernadette Hymus: The Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre 2018 calendar is available this evening for \$20.00. All proceeds go to the centre; having no government funding, it relies on donations and grants. For more information, check www.sandypineswildlife.org

2. Financial Report – Doug Newfield

Bank Balance is \$6861.79, on budget for the year.

3. Outings – John Blaney

- a) Thanks to Ted Pordham for the Sheffield outing last month.
- b) John, Tom and George helped with Family Day events at the H.R. Frink Centre on Thrasher Road.
- c) QFN supplies seed for bird feeders at the Frink Centre; Doug Newfield will keep them filled.
- d) John went scouting for owls (found pair of barred owls and others) in preparation for the Owling outing Sunday, November 19. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Lowes parking lot. We will drive to several locations. Actual sighting of owls cannot be guaranteed as they are hard to spot, but we will likely be able to hear some of them calling in response to our recordings.
- e) Thanks to Kathy Felkar in for the article she submitted to the October Newsletter. Members are welcome to submit articles of interest, approximately 800 words in length; some may appear in the newsletter.

4. Environmental/Marketing – Denice Wilkins

- a) Denice gave a little “rant” on a new campaign, “Straws Suck”. Straws are not recyclable and may release toxins. In the U.S. 180 billion of them are discarded annually. Please refrain from using straws – they are usually unnecessary. It’s not always easy being green – but taking this step *is*.
- b) Welcome to newcomers: please provide email address and we will keep you informed of upcoming meetings and events.
- c) We have brochures available to spread the word about QFN. If you are able to distribute these to public venues, please take some; we appreciate your efforts.
- d) At our November 27 meeting, Dr. Jeff Bowen, Senior Research Scientist with MNRF Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section, will present Bobtail and Lynx – “A Tail of Two Ontario Wildcats”.

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5. Sightings

- a) Kathy – It has been a slow season at PEPtBO. Owing to the mild temperatures, birds are not heading south so numbers are down. We've seen only one white-crowned sparrow, surprisingly a flying squirrel was caught in a net, five types of owls have been banded, ground traps are empty, only one week left for owls.
- b) Cannot confirm, but neighbour claims sighting of cougar west of Frankford
- c) At Point Anne, hanging from large knothole, couldn't identify what looked like long prickly strands. May be wild cucumber or an insect gall? Will try to get a picture.
- d) Juvenile red-headed woodpecker spotted near Tweed (saw two last year)
- e) Every year there is a peregrine falcon at the new Courthouse on Bridge Street. You may see it around 4 p.m., up near ventilation opening on south side.
- f) Redwing blackbirds at feeders

6. Speaker – David Bree, "Moths in your Backyard"

Introduced by Denice Wilkins. David Bree, Head Naturalist at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, is a naturalist extraordinaire who is passionate about nature.

Thanked by Cathy Lake for his excellent and informative presentation. We appreciate the slides and the reminder to naturalize our backyards.

Please note event: *Christmas at Presqu'ile, November 4-5, 8, and 11-12*

- 7. Refreshments - \$2.00 donation for bird-friendly coffee (grown to preserve habitat) with treats provided by Barbara Goode and Lorie Brown – thank you.
 - 8. Adjournment – George Thomson:
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Attendance: 83