

Owens Sound Field Naturalists Annual Report 2013

OSFN Annual Report 2012- 2013

President's Report

When one tugs at a single thing in nature he finds it attached to the rest of the world – John Muir

I was recently walking through one of the newly acquired properties by Nature Conservancy of Canada (Crowe / Barfoot), checking out some spring wild flowers in a small meadow, when this phrase came to mind. This statement is so true of our organization as well. We have our executive that works in the background directing the organization as well as each individual member who contributes to Owen Sound Field Naturalists through their membership, attendance at meetings and outings, and many individual contributions.

Anne Cathrae is one of those people whose tireless efforts have added so much to our meetings. Anne has organized the social snacks and drinks quietly for the past 14 years and we all have benefited from her efforts during the social part of our meeting. Thank you Anne. Your coordination of this aspect of the organization is appreciated.

Many significant events and activities have occurred this past year that will affect not only the environment, but this organization also.

“Ontario Government Abandons Endangered Species – Ontario Nature, Davis Suzuki Foundation, and Earthroots decry Cabinet decision to gut law protecting imperiled wildlife” Anne Bell, Ontario Nature.

On May 31, 2013 the Ontario government announced a great number of exemptions for industry under the Endangered Species Act, 2007. Simply, the amendments to this previously exemplary bill lower the protection of endangered plants and animals by dramatically reducing oversight of activities affecting Ontario's lakes, rivers, forests and wildlife. With the urging from Ontario Nature, on your behalf, I have sent six different submissions to the local MPP, and the former and present Premier's offices asking that this not be done. Hundreds of other submissions were also sent by both individuals and organizations, however this provincial government decided to move ahead with the changes. A frustrating moment to be sure. For more information visit our web site.

Owen Sound Field Naturalists has agreed to become stewards of several properties. Crowe / Barfoot parcel, a large portion of which was donated by our own Joan and Walter Crowe, which is adjacent to the Long Swamp, has diverse topography and plant species (just ask Joan). A second is the Davis Property located at the northeast corner of Hwy 6 and Dyers Bay Road. Dave and Barb Fidler are leading the monitoring of this section. Both these properties are owned by Nature Conservancy of Canada. A third is one recently donated by Dennis and Gwen Lewington called Sauble Dunes Nature Preserve, located between Chief's Point and Sauble Falls. I have explored this section a few times. It is diverse including wetlands and sand dunes.

This provides a great opportunity for our club to become involved in monitoring properties that will be preserved for future generations. We will be providing more details of how you can be part of this 'stewardship' project.

It has been a very eventful year. A special thank you to the executive for their hard work on behalf of this organization. I would encourage you to give us suggestions, participate in meetings and field trips, and offer your assistance when you have time. We look forward to exciting events in the coming year.
Stewart Nutt

Membership Director's Report:

I would like to thank our membership for their support and invaluable contributions to the life of our club. Our membership is growing and we look forward to another engaging year in "knowing nature better".

Your membership fees support:

rental of the auditorium at the Public Library;
a stipend and mileage for guest speakers;
insurance to protect members and guests on outdoor programs; and,
distribution of the Hart's Tongue Herald newsletter.

Membership Profile

- ❖ *Family* (typically 2 persons and includes Young Nats) = 83
- ❖ *Single* = 66
- ❖ **Total active OSFN members ~ 243 individuals**

Un-renewed members from 2012~ 47 individuals

Un-renewed members from 2011~ 13 individuals

*All un-renewed members have been telephoned and emailed.

Membership Renewal for 2013-2014;

It would be wonderful if you would consider renewing your membership for the coming year (September 2013) via pay pal. This on-line method is quick and expedient and would reduce the bottleneck of people and human resources at club meetings in the fall. Thanks for considering this request!

Submitted by Beth Anne Currie, Membership Director

Hart's Tongue Herald Report:

It has been interesting putting together the three issues of Hart's Tongue Herald newsletter this past year.

There are currently over 240 newsletters distributed to the membership and affiliates. We continue to encourage people to receive digital copies of the newsletter, when possible, to help reduce our environmental footprint.

I would like to thank Rob Kearns who has been successful in finding additional advertisers. The support of these advertisers allows us to produce a quality publication at less cost to the membership. I would also like to thank Ninjwakwe Learning Press for working with me to create the new format for the cover page as well as for printing the hard copies of the newsletter. And finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the people who proof the newsletter for format and style and for accuracy. Together we produce a quality newsletter for the Owen Sound Field Naturalists.

I have been pleased to provide this support to the Board.

Norah Toth

Newsletter Editor

Hospitality:

For each indoor meeting at the library two or three members offer to provide treats to accompany the hot and cold beverages supplied by the club. Cash donations from the members provide the necessary funds to purchase additional supplies (beverages, cream, sugar, paper cups, serviettes, etc.). At least twice during the year the profit is transferred to the club Treasurer. Almost \$395 was realized from donations at the hospitality table during 2012.

Hospitality set-up begins early enough so that the refreshments are available to members before 7 p.m. Following the meetings, the Convener assists in making sure the kitchen and auditorium are tidy so that OSFN can exit the building before the library closes at 9:00 pm..

For the June potluck dinner, the Hospitality Convener oversees the setting up of the dining and buffet tables and ensures that a variety of hot and cold beverages are available for the meal. Before leaving the facility at the conclusion of the meeting, the Convener checks to see that the kitchen and meeting room is as clean as when we arrived.

Thank you to all of the members who assist by bringing treats and helping with the clean-up.

Submitted by Anne Cathrae

2012 Young Naturalist Program - 18 Years Old!

The 2012 Young Nat's program registered 31 children, ages 6-12 years in age and offered a fun outdoor experience on the last Sunday of the month (except December, July and August). Our regular meeting place was the Grey Sauble Conservation Administration Centre or sometimes, a selected Conservation Area.

In January, we snow shod at Bognor Marsh and finished off the days' event with a campfire, cooking bannock and sipping on hot chocolate. February, we had a special guest – Cindy Cartwright taught us about Owls and then prowled the Arboretum in the dark calling for owls. March, we visited Bob Gray at Kemble Mountain – he and Mary Beth were fabulous hosts and toured us through their maple bush and sugar shack. April, we made Toad Houses with Kate at Mudtown Gallery. May, we travelled to Cabot Head, viewed the bird nets and watched staff band birds, followed by a visit to the Cabot Head lighthouse (we just missed a bear sighting). Our last meeting for the group, we canoed the Beaver River. We said goodbye for the summer to reconvene and sign up for more Young Nats adventures in September.

The winner of the Camp Kawartha – Nature Camp, sponsored by the Owen Sound Field Naturalist was Amy Blackwell.

September marked the beginning of a new program with 26 registered. We have been busy: cleaning out bluebird boxes, hiking on the Bruce Trail, Laycock Side Trail Caving, making grape wreaths from wild grape vines, learning about feeding the birds and types of feeders (provided by Stew Nutt) and making yummy suet for winter feeding. (Thank you to Barb & Dave Fiddler and Doug at Bayshore Feeds for providing a squirrel feeder & peanuts – won by Sam Rossel).

A special thank you to Elaine VanDenKieboom of the OSFN for all her assistance in planning and attending the Young Nats events and Ian Thomas for providing Young Nat updates for the OSFN Herald!

Submitted by Krista McKee, Grey Sauble Conservation, June 11, 2013

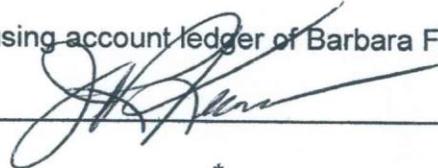
OWEN SOUND FIELD NATURALISTS FINANCIAL REPORT 2012

OSFN Conservation Account:

Balance at the beginning of year		\$ 792.48
 Receipts:		
Donations	\$ 9,462.00	
Plant Committee	15,000.00	
Bank interest	<u>14.75</u>	
		\$ 24,476.75
Disbursements:		
NCC Greiling Estate		
\$ 2,000.00		
Bank charges	<u>52.30</u>	
		<u>2,052.30</u>
		<u>22,424.45</u>
Balance at End of Year		<u>\$ 23,216.93</u>
 BMO Savings Account		 \$ 13,216.93
Meridian GIC Due November 10, 2013		<u>10,000.00</u>
		<u>\$ 23,216.93</u>

Prepared by Robert Kearns, Director, using account ledger of Barbara Fidler, Treasurer

Submitted, February 2013 Signed _____



*

I, Karen Saliwonchuk, have reviewed the financial accounts of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists for the calendar year 2012, and found them to be in good order.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

OWEN SOUND FIELD NATURALISTS FINANCIAL REPORT 2012

OSFN Operating Account

Opening Balance (Jan 1st 2012)

\$ 5,116.89

Revenue:

General Membership	\$	5,616.99
Junior Field Nats.		370.00
Hart's Tongue advertising		480.00
Donations		142.50
Meeting hospitality		430.88
Fair Trade Coffee (Net of Purchases)		561.62
Christmas cards (Net of Purchases)		204.60
Bird Studies Canada		106.25
Escarpment Telecom		<u>45.79</u>
Total Revenue (2012)	\$	7,958.63

Expenses:

Meetings:

Library rental	\$	608.50 ✓	
Speakers' fees		800.00 ✓	
Speakers' travel		<u>225.00 ✓</u>	
		1,633.50	1,633.50

Program:

Brochures	63.48 ✓	
Publicity	<u>272.81 ✓</u>	
	336.29	336.29

Hart's Tongue Herald

Printing	109.56 ✓	
Postage	<u>48.72 ✓</u>	
	158.28	158.28

Administration:

ON membership	150.00 ✓	
ON insurance	869.40 ✓	
Post Box rental	217.42	
Name Tags	62.91	
Website	89.66	
Copying	113.45	
Bank service charge	<u>21.21</u>	
	1,524.05	1,524.05

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Miscellaneous:

Awards	100.00 ✓	
Library subscriptions	135.51 ✓	
Retirement Gift	75.00	
Young Naturalist Camp	1,073.50 ✓	
Memorial – Lorraine Brown	275.29	
Ontario Nature Meeting	246.57 ✓	
Conservation Fund	<u>25.00</u>	
	1,930.87	<u>1,930.87</u>
Expenses (2012)		\$ 5,582.99
Net Income for (2012)		2,375.64
Bank Balance (Dec. 31, 2012)		<u>\$ 7,492.53</u>