

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held December 17, 2015, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

1. Opening Remarks

Kurt welcomed everybody to the Christmas meeting, which is his favourite meeting of the year. He likes to see our photographer's work and enjoy everybody's Christmas baking.

2. Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for October 15, 2015

Recording Secretary, Janis Grant, referred members to the minutes of the November meeting, which are posted on the KFN website. There were no corrections.

Motion

Moved by Anne Robertson, seconded by Jacqueline Bartnik that the minutes be accepted.

Carried

New Business

3. Amherst Island ERT (Environmental Review Tribunal) Update. Erwin Batalla is KFN's representative at the tribunal. He has attended all three sessions so far and gave an outline of the proceedings. KFN has standing before the Tribunal. Our expert witness, Bill Evans, a professor of Ornithology at Cornell University, testified on the first day on the potential negative effect of the wind turbine development on Amherst Island's Bobolink population. He predicted that the Bobolinks, on the island, will be reduced to eventual extinction by habitat destruction and turbine collisions. The Tribunal has been adjourned until the end of January.
4. Kingston Christmas Bird Counts. Mark Read will lead the Kingston Christmas Bird Count this year. The formal count will take place on Sunday, Dec. 20. Teams are in place. Kurt reminded members that any birds seen 3 days before or after December 20 should be reported to Mark by e-mail or telephone to be included in CBC week.
5. New CBC Circle for Frontenac. Carolyn Bonta will lead this CBC on December 19, which will cover Frontenac Park, North Frontenac and the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. She will be assisted by members of Friends of Frontenac Park and asked for other volunteers.

In conjunction with the Frontenac CBC, Carolyn has invited children to a kid's CBC at the Elbow Lake facility. ELEEC is offering two bird watching workshops for younger nature enthusiasts, Both the morning(9:30am to

noon) and afternoon (1pm to 3:30pm) sessions will begin with a hands-on introduction to winter birds, after which survey "teams" will head outside to conduct a bird count.

6. Member's Observations

Jackie Bartnik reported that a Red-tailed Hawk is regularly observed at Highway 15 near Innovation Blvd. on the Cataraqui River side.

Janis Grant heard a Robin singing at her home "as if it were spring".

Kurt Hennige observed 1 Rusty Blackbird and 22 Red Wing Blackbirds in a swamp this past week.

Rose-Marie Burke has had frogs singing near her home and has observed insects, which should be dormant at this time of year, including a moth.

Peter Good reported a flurry of Purple Finches near his home.

Gaye Beckwith told an amusing story of a skunk he observed whose head was stuck in a plastic bottle. After many difficulties, Gaye managed to free the skunk without getting sprayed.

7. Featured Event – Member's Photos

The following member's gave interesting presentations of their photography:

- a) Lynn Bell showed pictures of insects he has taken near his home with his macro lens.
- b) Mel Ball's theme was "eating". He showed pictures of insects and other animals, including a human consuming food, like a chipmunk.
- c) Verne Quinsey showed recent photos of landscapes and natural subjects
- d) Bruce Millen showed pictures taken during a photography tour of western Newfoundland
- e) Janis Grant showed pictures of birds and insects taken in the Kingston area during 2015
- f) Tom Cundill was in search of explanations for Yeti and Sasquatch. He showed pictures of bears, he believes could fit their descriptions.
- g) Rose-Marie Burk showed photos she has taken while monitoring properties, of loons and osprey and astronomical phenomena including a recent alignment of planets and aurora north of Kingston.
- h) Shirley French gave an interesting presentation on wildlife in Keziranga National Park in northeast India
- i) Arlene Aish showed photographs taken in Haida Gwaii.
- j) Barbara Canton's photos were taken on a trip she took to Kenya and Tanzania.
- k) Diane Kelly showed pictures of the many varieties of butterflies that visit her garden.

Kurt thanked Erwin Batalla and Gaye Beckwith for organizing the presentation and assisting the photographers. The meeting adjourned at 9:05. There were approximately 60 people in attendance.

