

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held January 21, 2016, Queen's U., 7:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Kurt Hennige welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

Review of Minutes: Motion was made by Martin Roncetti to accept the December Minutes, seconded by Polly Aitken; carried. No corrections were made.

New Business

Amherst Island Windmills Tribunal Erwin Batalla reported that there has been no action since December. KFN had a presenter at the last session.

Windmill proposals. Using digital overhead projection, Chris Hargreaves showed a map of the proposed wind farms in the region and gave an update on various sites that are of concern.

Snowy Owl Tracking Project. Mike Burrell brought Members' attention to a project tracking the movements of a snowy owl that is outfitted with a transmitter. Information is posted on the internet at projectsnowstorm.org showing a map of the bird's travels.

Great Backyard Bird Count. Mike reminded Membership that the Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up on February 12, 2016, information can be found on the web at www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount. Mike encouraged Members to participate.

Documentary: The Messenger. Mike Burrell told Members about a documentary featured in the Kingston Canadian Film Festival on February 27 and 28, 2016 called "The Messenger", and encouraged Members to go see it.

Upcoming Field Trips. Kurt reminded Members of the field trip to Parrott's Bay and a Ramble to Little Long Lake Rd. and encouraged Members to keep checking their newsletter for upcoming events.

Nominating Committee. Kurt reminded everyone that Gaye Beckwith, Polly Aitken and Peter Good are on the Nominating Committee and encouraged Members who are interested to bring forward nominations or show personal interest in positions on the Executive.

Members' Observations

Jackie Bartnik reported that swans and eagles have been seen off Cartwright's Point.

Maureen Addis observed a yellow breasted chat at Sydenham St. near McBurney Park.

Erwin Batalla told of a flock of about 2100 redhead ducks on the water near Lake Ontario Park.

Rose-Marie Burke told of being awakened by animal's screams, and upon turning on an outside light saw that a barred owl had hold of a rabbit under the back of her pickup truck. The light startled both owl and rabbit, and though the rabbit lay prone for a few seconds it came to life and jumped up twice, banging the owl's head against the bumper, enabling the rabbit to escape. The owl staggered around for a bit and then flew away hungry. Rose-Marie also had a pair of redwing blackbirds at her feeders, and an active skunk that has made its presence known in the neighbourhood with strong odors. All sightings were in Glenburnie.

Martin Ronsetti told of a big influx of robins in Waterloo Village

Kurt Hennige saw 5 greater fronted geese at Bath

Speaker

Mike Burrell introduced the Speaker whose talk was entitled "The Once and Future Great Lakes Country". Alexandra Simmons thanked the Speaker.

Kurt thanked Anthony Caduc for having arranged the refreshments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.; there were approximately 81 people in attendance.