

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of The Mcllwraith Field Naturalists of London Incorporated
(Nature London)
Friday, February 19th, 2021
via Zoom**

1.0 Call to Order and Quorum

Gordon Neish, President, called the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order at 7.30pm. Thirty members constitute a quorum. Approximately 80 members were present.

Gordon advised the membership that we have a new logo. It is very similar to our old one except that we have moved to a more standard font and have used a sketch drawing of the cardinal. We are in the process of changing the name of the organization from The Mcllwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario to Nature London.

2.0 Presentation of a Special Recognition Award

Prior to the business section of the meeting a Special Recognition Award was presented to Herb Bax in recognition of his work as manager of Cedarcroft.

3.0 Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2020 AGM were posted in advance of the meeting on the Nature London website for members to read.

Motion: It was moved by Bernie VanDenBelt and seconded by Anita Caveney: **That the minutes of the February 21st, 2020 Annual General Meeting be approved.** Carried

4.0 President's /Annual Report.

The Annual Report was made available to the membership ahead of the meeting. Gordon encouraged everyone to read this 43 page report which highlights the activities and accomplishments for 2019-2020. He went on

to thank Bernie VanDenBelt (Past President) for putting the report together, and acknowledged all the volunteers who play a part in the smooth running of the organization. Gordon made reference to the fact that this had been an unusual year because of the Covid pandemic. From September 2019 until March 2020 we were able to have in-person meetings and outdoor hikes as usual. From March onwards we had to adapt to Zoom meetings and the cancellation of many outdoor activities.

5.0 Financial Report

The Financial Statements to August 31st, 2020 were also posted on the website prior to the meeting for the membership to review. Lesley Pergau (Treasurer) outlined some of the main points and noted that we are in a sound financial position. Our net assets as of August 31st, 2021 were \$114,900 with revenue over expenses of \$17,374 in our operations account. Membership revenue was down but due to the generosity of our members donations were up. We also received money from the estate of Maureen Ryan in the amount to \$15,792. Other donations included \$1,000 from the estate of Susan Thauer, \$1,000 for Cedarcroft and \$2,500 from an anonymous donor. Our cash position is \$68,331 some of which is from a GIC which was not reinvested. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year we are hoping to put \$20,000 into our Eco-grants programme.

Lesley advised us that work is currently underway to devise an investment strategy that will improve our return on investment without unduly impeding our flexibility in funding conservation projects as the need and opportunity arise. Once the Finance Committee comes up with a plan it will go to the Board for approval. Before a final decision is made the Board will present the plan to membership for input.

In answer to a member's question as to whether or not we would be investing in green initiatives Gordon replied that no decision has yet been made and that that would be something that we would definitely look into as an option.

Another member suggested that we look at how the Urban League invests its money for some possible guidance.

Motion: It was moved by Stan Caveney and seconded by Herb Bax: **That the 2019-2020 Financial Statements be adopted.** Carried

6.0 Audit Dispensation

It is proposed to dispense with the annual audit for the 2020-2021 fiscal year ending August 31st, 2021 due to i) cost savings — about \$3,000: ii) the relative lack of usefulness of external audits for Nature London's fiscal accountability and hence iii) ultimate responsibility for financial statements resting with the Board.

The resolutions requires an 80% majority to pass, and if passed, only applies to the current year.

The current expenditure control measures and additional oversight measures will continue to ensure robust fiscal oversight.

Motion: It was moved by Bernie VanDenBelt and seconded by Norm Corrin: **That the members of Nature London resolve that the Corporation dispense with the external annual audit for the year ending August 31st, 2021.** Carried

7.0 Election of Directors

Before continuing with the election of directors for 2021-2022 Bernie VanDenBelt (Past President) recognized the work and commitment of Paul Stevens who is stepping down at the end of August 2021. He also recognized Irma Harris who had to step down from the Board in the fall of 2020 due to other commitments.

Bernie then presented the Nominating Committee Report. He introduced 4 members who are willing to have their names stand as Directors at Large -- Garry Cruickshank, Jennifer Evans, Grant Hopcroft and Chrisoula Van Oirschot.

Each incoming Director was then asked to introduce themselves to the membership.

Bernie declared the slate of candidates for the 2021-2022 Nature London Board of Directors elected by acclamation . The Board Members are as follows:

Bernie VanDenBelt	Past President
Gordon Neish	President
<i>Vacant</i>	Vice President
Lesley Pergau	Treasurer
Elizabeth Bell	Secretary
Nick Bell	Director at Large
John Berry	Director at Large
Mike Channon	Director at Large
Garry Cruickshank	Director at Large
Jennifer Evans	Director at Large
Grant Hopcroft	Director at Large
Stacey Jaczko	Director at Large
Dan Tigchelaar	Director at Large
Chrisoula Van Oirschot	Director at Large

8.0 Appointees for 2021-2022

Before going through the list of appointees for 2021-2022 Bernie thanked those volunteers who have stepped down from their positions, those who have agreed to stay on and those who are coming in as new appointees. Everyone is an important part of the organization. There are still some positions open so anyone who is interested should either contact Bernie or Norm Corrin who is our Volunteer Coordinator.

Below are the appointees for 2021-2022

Object #1: To acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history

Archivists - Winifred and David Wake
Brochure Editor - Ray Robertson
E-Newsletter Co-ordinators - Ric and Sandy Symmes
Cardinal Editorial Committee* - Muriel Andreae, John Berry, Garima Borwanka, Mike Channon, Carrie Long
Image Database: John Berry
Guide to the Natural Areas of London and Region editor - Mike Channon
Facebook Coordinator - Mady Hymowitz

Nature Line Coordinators - Rick Martin, Cathy Quinlan
Webmaster - Chris Baldock

*Additional volunteers would be welcome

Object #2: To conserve wildlife and protect its natural habitat

Cedarcroft Manager - Barb Kaiser
Conservation Action Committee Chair - Sandy Levin
Friends of the Cove liaison - Bill Maddeford
Ontario Nature Representative - Anita Caveney
Thames Talbot Land Trust Liaison - David Wake
Urban League Representative - Susan Price
London Environmental Network Representative - Susan Price
Bird Friendly City Representative - Stacey Jaczko

Object #3: To stimulate public interest in and understanding of nature and its protection and presentation

Field Trip Coordinators* - Christine McGonigle, Evelyn Rogers
Indoor Meeting Coordinators* - Rick Martin, Ruth Dickau
Nature in the City Coordinator - Pat Tripp
Saunders Library Liaison - Pat Tripp

* Additional volunteers required

Object #4: To develop and sponsor special interest groups in the various fields of natural history

Butterfly Count Coordinator - George Preiksaitis
Birding Wing Programme Coordinators - Garth Casbourn, Kathy McCoy, Paul Roeding
Bird Records Secretary - Pete Read
Chimney Swift Liaison - Winifred Wake
Christmas Bird Count Coordinator - Pete Read

Club Administration

AV for Regular Meetings - Rick Martin, Ric Symmes

AV for Birding Wing - Gordon Neish
Awards Banquet Coordinators* - Deb Gorman-Smith
Giving Programme Coordinator - Susan Relecom
Cookie, Coffee and Tea Coordinators - Linda and Jim Bristow
Manual Secretary - Cathy Quinlan
Membership Database Support - Hugh Casbourn
Membership Secretary - Gail McNeil
Sales Coordinator - Ann Henderson
Book Donation Coordinator - Betsy Baldwin
Volunteer Coordinator - Norm Corrin
Web Host - Sylvia White

*Additional volunteers required

Special Committees

Awards Committee* - Muriel Andreae,, Anita Caveney

Eco-Grants Committee - Jennifer Evans, Sandy Levin, Lesley Pergau
Henry Przysienzy, Susan Relecom, Jennifer Seachrist, Bernie VanDenBelt

Finance Committee - Sandy Levin, Leslie Pergau, Henry Przysienzy, Bernie
VanDenBelt

* Additional volunteers required

9.0 Other Business

No other business items were raised

10.0 Adjournment

Motion: It was moved by Bernie VanDenBelt and seconded by Lesley Pergau: **That the meeting be adjourned at 8.20pm.** Carried