

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE MCILWRAITH FIELD NATURALISTS OF LONDON, ONTARIO  
INCORPORATED  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009  
CIVIC GARDEN COMPLEX, LONDON, ONTARIO**

**1.0 Motions:**

**1.1 Moved by Don Lodge, seconded by Ann White that the audited Financial Report for the fiscal year beginning September 2007 and ending August 2008 be accepted. Carried.**

**1.2 Moved by Don Lodge, seconded by Shirley Lorimer that Michael A. King be approved as Auditor for the McIlwraith Field Naturalists for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2009. Carried.**

**1.3 Moved by Anita Caveney, seconded by Jack Lorimer that the 2009/2010 Board of Directors be approved as presented. Carried.**

**2.0 Call to Order:**

Sue Read, President, called the 2008/2009 Annual General Meeting to order at 9:00 p.m. 41 members were in attendance.

**3.0 Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting:**

The Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting were reviewed. Leslie Rockwell motioned to have the minutes accepted, seconded by Anita Caveney. Carried.

**4.0 Treasurer's Report:**

Don Lodge, Treasurer, presented and reported upon the 2007/2008 audited Financial Statements. MFN assets totaled \$96,514. Investments totaled \$56,000 and the MFN General Fund held \$13,211. The 2007/2008 MFN revenue was \$60,261. The largest sources of revenue for the fiscal year were donations and bequests. Donations made to the MFN specifically to defray legal costs incurred by Sandy Levin from the appearances of his lawyer and planner before the Ontario Municipal Board to challenge an appeal made to the OMB to revoke the City of London by-law (OPA 403) totaled \$19,530. Other donations totaled \$6,192 for a combined donation revenue of \$25,722. Bequests to the MFN totaled \$11,000. Membership fees represented the third largest source of revenue at \$9,810. The 2007/2008 MFN expenses totaled \$50,104. This included the Inch Bequest disbursement of \$10,000 to the UTRCA Communities for Nature program and \$19,359 as billed legal fees for the OMB hearings as noted above. The MFN recorded a net profit of \$10,157 for the fiscal year. The Treasurer responded to questions from the Membership. The MFN paid \$892 in affiliation fees for 2007/2008. Friends of the Coves is a new affiliate organization for the MFN. Affiliation fees for the Ausable Bird Observatory is a single lifetime amount of \$300. The total of donations made by the MFN to various conservation initiatives was \$2,100. UTRCA received \$100 from the MFN for the planting of a tree in memory of Patricia Cole. *Motion 1.1 was made and, following discussion, carried.*

## **5.0 Appointment of Auditors:**

Don Lodge recommended to the Membership that Michael A. King be approved as Auditor for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2009. *Motion 1.2 was made and carried.*

## **6.0 Election of the Board of Directors**

### **6.1 Election of the 2009/2010 Board of Directors**

Anita Caveney, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the roster of nominations for the 2009/2010 MFN Board of Directors. Anita reported that Leslie Rockwell, Recording Secretary, and Pete Read, Birding Wing Liaison, are stepping down from the Board as of September 2009. The following nominees were put forward:

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| * Rick Martin        | * Cathy McCrae    |
| * Don Lodge          | * Gail McNeil     |
| * Robert (Bob) McGee | * Pat Tripp       |
| * Sue Read           | * Glen Winegarden |
| * Anita Caveney      |                   |
| * Blaine Prentice    |                   |

The following were presented as the Board positions for 2009/2010:

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| * President               | * Birding Wing Chairperson      |
| * Past President          | * Ontario Nature Representative |
| * Treasurer               | * Cedarcroft Manager            |
| * Recording Secretary     | * Two Directors at Large        |
| * Field Trips Coordinator |                                 |

Following review of the nominations, *Motion 1.3 was made and carried.*

Bob McGee will be assuming the position of Recording Secretary and Gail McNeil will be the Birding Wing Chairperson. The Director positions of Vice-President and Conservation Coordinator remain vacant and volunteers are still being sought to fill these Board vacancies.

The Indoor Meetings Coordinator has been designated as an appointed position with the MFN and Karen Auzins has volunteered to step into this role.

## **7.0 Reports from Board Members:**

The Directors' and Appointees' Reports were made available to the Membership in the Annual Report, both as a hard copy at the AGM and as a PDF file on the MFN website.

## **8.0 Announcements:**

Several announcements were made at the AGM regarding items of interest and upcoming events:

**8.1** Sue Read informed the Membership of the Saturday, March 21 Huron College student

fashion show fund-raising event. The MFN has been selected as the beneficiary of the event as a result of the involvement of the SwiftWatch Chimney Swift monitoring program with Huron College.

**8.2** The third edition of the Thames Valley Trail Association's *Guide to Hiking the Thames Valley Trail* is now available for purchase at local venues, including Novack's and Featherfields.

**8.3** Cathy Quinlan will be the speaker at the Tuesday, February 24, "Nature in the City" program at the Central Library, 7:30 p.m. The topic will be Fanshawe Conservation Area.

**8.4** The following MFN upcoming events were announced: a) February 27 Birding Wing Meeting: Jean Iron will speak about Akimiski Island, b) March 15 stroll around Vauxhall Park, c) March 20 General Meeting: Tom Chatterton and Herman Giethoorn will speak about Wallaceburg Sycamore Woods and Turin Paw-Paw Woods.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

Sue Read moved that the AGM be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

## **Minutes submitted by Leslie Rockwell, MFN Recording Secretary**

### **Addendum/Notes on the MFN presentation that took place immediately prior to the AGM:**

- 70 people attended the presentation prior to the AGM. The presentation commenced at 7:30 p.m.
- Several announcements were made: a) Name tags are available for those who are MFN members. Pete and Sue Read are coordinating the tags and will bring them to each general meeting and collect them at the end of the evening. Members are welcome to request a tag, if they have not already received one, b) A variety of items are available for sale at the back of the room, c) A few 100<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count pins remain available and may be purchased through Pete Read, d) Ann Henderson, Marie Moverley, and Susan Legeza, Refreshments Coordinator, were thanked for providing the treats and beverages for the evening, d) Barbara Bain is continuing to take orders for MFN golf shirts, and e) Karen Auzins will be the Indoor Meetings Coordinator for 2009/2010 and is soliciting ideas for future speakers and topics. Karen asked that suggestions be forwarded to her in writing.
- Dr. Jeremy McNeil, Entomologist and the Helen Battle Professor of Chemical Ecology in the Biology Department at the University of Western Ontario, presented on the topic of "The Decline in Pollinators". Dr. McNeil spoke in detail about Colony Collapse Disorder and its causes, potential remedies, and future repercussions. Anita Caveney introduced Dr. McNeil and he was thanked by Pete Read.