

Carolyn Callaghan—stop stepping down!

Carolyn Callaghan served “exceptionally” as Editor-in-Chief of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN) from 2011 (vol. 125(1)) to 2016 (vol. 130(2)). She was cautious, sensitive, and a very hard worker. In recognition of her outstanding editorial work, she received the Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club (OFNC) President’s Prize (Trail & Landscape 51(2): 55). During her tenure she was very interested in involving youth and went out of her way to help younger people with their analysis and writing. She encouraged students to contribute to CFN, accepting and publishing two articles written by high school students. She also applied practices that supported gender diversity and inclusion in the peer review process. She brought some of the complaints of authors to the OFNC Publications Committee meetings and argued successfully on their behalf. She also updated the instructions to contributors and we initiated the online version of CFN while she was editor. During the early part of her editorial work she much appreciated the help of previous editor Francis Cook. She enjoyed getting to know authors, reviewers, Associate Editors, and journal staff. Carolyn noted that: “A well-functioning peer-review publication requires a community of dedicated individuals. I deeply appreciated the dedication I saw on a daily basis editing the journal”.

Carolyn did not stop helping OFNC when she stepped down as Editor-in-Chief, but let us pause for a moment. CFN has not had a great many editors and we know a good deal about many of them. It often happens though that we do not know the wonderful people around us as well as we would like to. Just in case you did not know Carolyn as well as we did, she grew up near the Carolinian forest of the Niagara escarpment in Hamilton. Her Ph.D. in Zoology was

completed at the University of Guelph in 2002. Her thesis was entitled “The ecology of gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), habitat use, survival, and persistence in the Central Canadian Rockies”; it was in Banff that her path crossed with the current Editor-in-Chief. She has done significant work on a great variety of subject areas, including environmental law, agricultural landscape diversity, neo-nicotinoid insecticides, Arctic Caribou, climate change, and Species at Risk. She has helped numerous organizations including University of Ottawa, University of Calgary, Agriculture Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, and Environment and Climate Change Canada, and has mentored many students. She has organized world symposia on the ecology and protection of wolves.

Members of the Publications Committee recall some meetings we had at Carolyn’s home in the upper Ottawa Valley where we enjoyed adventurous hikes and great food, and met her wonderful family (all of whom have spent weeks on safari in Africa).

In 2021 Carolyn had to step down again, this time as Associate CFN Editor for large mammals. This was a great loss because she is widely respected as a world expert in mammal ecology. She truly excelled in this area and was able to provide very helpful reviews and to inspire authors to improve their work. Although Carolyn had to leave some OFNC posts, she is continuing as a member of the Publications Committee, and we hope that she will be able to continue with us for a long time. Carolyn brings a great deal of experience to the committee and to the Club, now as a Senior Conservation Biologist with the Canadian Nature Federation.

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OFNC Publications Committee