

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

Annual OFNC Committee Reports for 2022

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee manages the process to annually recognize and thank those Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) members and other qualified persons who, by virtue of their efforts and talents, are deserving of special recognition. In late 2021, nominations were received and evaluated (see awards criteria at ofnc.ca/about-ofnc/awards), and recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. Biographies were written for the award recipients for inclusion in the Club's publications and posting on the website. The awards were announced in December 2021 on the website. An awards appreciation event was held by Zoom in February 2022. The recipients' names, type of award, and short rationale for recognition follow below.

- Ken Young—Honorary Membership, for his extensive contributions to the successful operation of the Club over many years, particularly on financial aspects.
- Deborah Doherty—Member of the Year, for her contribution to Safe Wings' bird-friendly initiatives in 2021 and her success in engaging new volunteers.
- Jeff Saarela—George McGee Service Award, in recognition of his leadership on *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* transition to fully digital and initiating the OFNC research grant program.
- Janet Mason—Conservation Member Award, for outstanding contributions to the conservation work of several community organizations in the Ottawa area.
- Tammy MacKenzie—Conservation Non-member Award, for remarkable efforts in turtle conservation in Lanark County.
- Owen Clarkin—Anne Hanes Natural History Award, for his independent field investigation to find and document Red Spruce in remnant habitat in eastern Ontario.

ELEANOR ZURBRIGG, Chair

Birds Committee

Birds Committee (12 members), Bird Records Subcommittee (11 members including recording secretary and alternate voting members), and Bird Feeders Sub-committee (Chair coordinates and fills in when

needed and five volunteers) coordinated OFNC bird-related activities and directed and encouraged interest in birds within and outside the OFNC area.

A committee member, Nina Stavlund, administered the OFNC's Facebook group, currently 2600 members, which is a place for OFNC members and non-members to discuss ideas and exchange information relating to all aspects of natural history, club outings, and club initiatives, as well as for prospective members to get a feel for what the OFNC is about.

A committee member, Derek Dunnett, provided weekly reports of OFNC area (Ottawa-Gatineau) bird sightings which, with photos by local photographers, was provided on OFNC Facebook and the OFNC website.

Committee members provided articles on a variety of subjects in *Trail & Landscape*, led OFNC field trips, improved Birds content on the website, responded to bird-related enquires from members and the public, and provided the OFNC Board with birding-related advice and guidance.

The OFNC Birds Committee and the Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais (COO) organized the 103rd Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on 19 December 2021. Temperatures ranged from -11.3 to -7.4°C , with some light snow on and off throughout the day. A total of 142 field observers plus 26 feeder watchers found 71 species and 41 842 individual birds. Highlights included the third record for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, two Green-winged Teal, a White-winged Scoter, and a Northern Harrier. Record highs were set for Wild Turkey (334), Common Raven (147), and White-throated Sparrow (44). Two other record highs were tied: Winter Wren (two) and Gray Catbird (two). As usual, American Crow was the most abundant species with a roost estimated at 23 000. Thanks to OFNC compiler Bernie Ladouceur, COO compiler Daniel Toussaint, sector leaders, and all participants.

The "OFNC Rare Bird Data Project", led by Jeff Skevington, entered documentation of historically important OFNC rare bird sightings into eBird. This project provides a permanent record of OFNC rare bird sighting on eBird for worldwide birders, science, and conservation.

Birds Committee has supported the third Ontario

Breeding Bird Atlas, 2021–2025, which will map the distribution and relative abundance of Ontario's approximately 300 species of breeding birds. As of September 30 this year, 237 atlas participants have found 181 bird species in Region 24's 86, 10 × 10 km squares. Of all Ontario regions at this time our region ranks: Total Hours No. 1, Total Participants No. 2, Total Records No. 2, Total Checklists No. 2, and Total Species No. 4. Thanks to region 24 coordinator Aaron Hywarren for his enormous effort and highly successful leadership and thanks to all Region 24 participants for their remarkable contribution.

As a result of trees felled by the derecho storm on 21 May 2022, two of the five OFNC bird feeders had to be moved. The Davidson Road Pine Grove Trail feeder has been moved to the opposite side of the trail. The Jack Pine trail feeder has been moved to the Stony Swamp Beaver Trail just west of what was the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre building. Thanks to Lorraine Elworthy, Chair of the Bird Feeders Sub-committee, for coordinating these efforts.

BOB CERMAK, Chair

Conservation Committee

Our activities started in January at the OFNC Annual Business Meeting (ABM), with the presentation "Elm Zigzag Sawfly in Eastern Ontario" summarizing our work in 2021 tracking the spread of this new invasive species across our region. In 2022 we continued tracking Elm Zigzag Sawfly (EZS) finding it throughout eastern Ontario as far northwest as Arnprior, and also along the St. Lawrence River to Kingston and as far west along the north shore of Lake Ontario as the eastern edge of the Greater Toronto Area. Also to our knowledge we found the first record in Vermont during a trip in October. In December, we discussed EZS and its spread with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

The plans we had for spring fieldwork were impacted by the powerful 21 May derecho, which caused widespread destruction and lengthy (week+) power outages. The strongest winds unfortunately overlapped closely with valuable habitats in the Greenbelt and east of the city, and significant damage was still being surveyed by our members at the end of 2022.

Our committee surveyed Voyageur Provincial Park for salamander and moth biodiversity in 2022; this was led by Jakob Mueller (salamanders) and Diane Lepage (moths).

Starting in April, we collaborated with the Canadensis Botanical Garden to lead public events demonstrating how and why to grow native plants via seed collection. This collaboration will continue in 2023.

Just before the 21 May derecho, we completed a year-long bioinventory at Lavigne Natural Park with a final guided tour on 14 May.

In June, we heard of a report of Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) being noticed as a wild tree growing near the appropriately-named Oak Valley south of Winchester. We conducted several surveys, and found the species growing apparently wild along an approximately 11 km stretch of the South Nation River from roughly Brinston to Cass Bridge. These populations of Swamp White Oak in and near Oak Valley appear to be previously unknown.

In July and August, we led biodiversity tours in partnership with Parks Canada geared toward families learning how to camp for the first time. The tours took place at Manotick and Newboro.

In August, we started a year-long bioinventory at Morris Island Conservation Area which combines surveys of biodiversity by experts with public education tours. This project will continue until the end of summer 2023 and is a combined effort of the OFNC, the Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club, and Ontario Power Generation.

In December, we discussed with the CFIA the spread of the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) across Lake Ontario to the edge of eastern Ontario at Grafton. This winter we will be surveying for HWA in Ottawa, and south of Ottawa from roughly Cornwall to Oshawa.

Also in December we discussed the biology of Rock Elm (*Ulmus thomasi*) with the United States Department of Agriculture, as it is becoming a species of increasing conservation interest and we have led fieldwork efforts documenting extant populations and growing seedlings for restoration.

We led or participated in a number of conservation policy events as well, notably related to the Alfred Bog Provincial Park proposal, and Bill 23.

Our group also led many other conservation-themed tours and biodiversity surveys throughout the year with individuals, community groups, and other organizations such as the Dominion Arboretum, Eco East, Ontario Woodlot Association, and Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust.

OWEN CLARKIN, Chair

Education and Publicity Committee

The Committee welcomed five new members: Kaitlyn Sjonnesen, Joan Harrison, Deb Doherty, Leo Vander Wouden, and Sheena Parsons. Joseline Beau-lieu is taking a brief leave.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's Science Fair was held online again. Fenja Brodo, Lloyd Mayeda, and myself judged the five applications (six students) for the OFNC nature prizes. Four

projects were deemed excellent and were awarded \$100 per project with certificates of recognition to each member.

Dean Beeby continues as our Twitter administrator (join at twitter.com/ottawafieldnat). Jakob Mueller hosts a YouTube page for the OFNC (look for it at youtube.com/channel/UCHryjAyoDoz7qnanrVaTJ_w). Sandy Garland maintains our Friends of the Fletcher Wildlife Gardens Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/48901132335), while Nina Stavlund administers our OFNC Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/379992938552).

Two new wildlife quests for Mud Lake and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG) were created by myself. More quests are planned for next year. Find them at ofnc.ca/quests.

A few “News Flashes” have been posted around the FWG this spring and summer to highlight recent wildlife occurrences, for example, the spring flowers, avian flu, and Ash Flower Gall Mite.

Groups of Beavers and Cubs came to the FWG on 21 and 29 September. Over 50 children showed up from both groups. They were divided into two sections and shown the Backyard Garden and Amphibian Pond. Lloyd Mayeda and Gord Robertson led the tours with assistance from Sheena Parsons. Fenja Brodo and Lloyd Mayeda led tours to Vietnamese immigrants at Mud Lake on 16 October. Fletcher Wildlife Garden tours were also given with help from FWG people to the Canadian Federation of University Women, Ottawa branch.

With the addition of three new storyboards (now at 13) members of the committee (Sheilagh Stacey, Sarah Wray, Fenja Brodo, Kaitlyn Sjonnesen, and myself) have created new stories for the various seasons. Thanks to Jean-Michel Weber, Louise Dumouchel, and Diane Lepage for checking the French translations. Find copies at <https://ofnc.ca/stories>.

There were no applicants for the Youth Summit this year that was to be online. Macoun Club members were contacted but none responded. Greater outreach is necessary for this event to be successful.

Several new initiatives have begun. One is to tag trees in the FWG to identify and provide links to our Flora and Fauna pages, which have information about each species (see <https://ofnc.ca/education/tags>). Another is to add Algonquin/Anicinàbemowin names where possible to the trees, vines, and shrubs in our database. Joan Harrison is seeking names from Kitigan Zibi elders. We are also planning to dedicate a storyboard to highlight an Indigenous garden that is being added to the FWG by Marlene Souliere. A fourth is to start an Instagram page in the new year (2023) hosted by Robyn Molnar and Hannah Dillion. Finally, Leo Vander Wouden is creating a poster that

illustrates the history of the FWG to be displayed on the bulletin board at the FWG.

GORDON ROBERTSON, Ph.D., Chair

Events Committee

The year started with a burst of excitement for spring events, as May activities in 2020 and 2021 were curtailed by COVID-19. On 21 May, a severe thunderstorm produced a derecho, which caused a historic level of damage across the region. As a result, many natural areas became inaccessible due to fallen trees and many sectors of the Ottawa Greenbelt were closed to the public for months. This disrupted some planned events and limited opportunities to hold others throughout the year.

Due to the lingering effects of COVID-19, monthly meetings continued to be held virtually on Zoom for the duration of the year.

In total, the committee coordinated 52 events, including field trips, workshops, presentations for monthly meetings, and digital events. General interest and overall biodiversity was the most common focus (15), with specific topics including birding (10), botany (nine), entomology (four), mycology (four), conservation (four), herpetology (two), geology (one), astronomy (one), aquatic macro-invertebrates (one), and bats (one).

As always, the committee extends its sincere gratitude to all individuals who led, presented, or assisted with events.

JAKOB MUELLER, Chair

Finance Committee

This report covers financial matters during our last fiscal year (FY) 2021–2022, which extended from 1 October 2021 through 30 September 2022. It also discusses the budget for the current fiscal year.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Club’s finances continues to be minimal. Compared with many other small charities, we are fortunate. We have a sizeable reserve that enables us to purchase things such as a Zoom licence to help us cope with the pandemic. The Club was using electronic methods for most financial transactions before the pandemic hit, so it has not affected our financial operations.

The primary task of the Finance Committee is to prepare a draft budget for consideration by the Board of Directors. The committee receives suggestions, and estimates of committee revenues and expenses, from directors and committee chairs. Our process is that the Finance Committee presents a draft budget for discussion at the September meeting of the Board of Directors. After amendment, it is adopted at the October meeting.

The budget for FY2021–2022 was approved at

the Board of Directors meeting of October 2021. The draft budget for FY2022–2023 was presented to the Board's September 2022 meeting and after revision, was approved at the October 2022 Board meeting. The budget forecasts revenues of \$169 200 and expenses of \$222 811, for a deficit of \$53 611. A copy of the budget is included as an appendix to the minutes of the October 2022 Board of Directors meeting. These minutes are posted on the OFNC website (<https://ofnc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/OFNC-BoD-Meeting-October-17-2022-Minutes.pdf>).

Concern about the amount of our expenditures has been expressed at different times by Club members at Annual Business Meetings, by Directors, and by the Finance Committee. Two different concerns have been raised—that we are spending too much and spending too little.

The Club has a large investment account, as a result of a large bequest some years ago. If we spend more than our revenues, eventually the investment account will be exhausted. Not in the near future—perhaps in 20 years or so at current rates. The Board of Directors is concerned about the size of our projected deficit for this fiscal year, and has directed the Finance Committee to advise it on possible changes to our operations.

On the other hand, some people think that we should spend more on our objectives, for example conservation or natural history education. The Board of Directors reviews proposals for spending, during the budget process and on an *ad hoc* basis during the year. Proposals are evaluated based on the Club's objectives and policies. The Board is responsive to proposals, but also prudent.

KEN YOUNG, Chair

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Committee

The FWG had a very successful year. Again this year, we saw an increase in the number of visitors to the Fletcher. Compliments about the work we do came from walkers, bird watchers, photographers, and dog walkers, many of whom were regular visitors to the Fletcher. Visitor safety became an issue when two storms left half-fallen trees on or near visitor pathways. Agriculture Canada had to be called to safely remove the trees. As a result of this, a Fletcher volunteer offered to take a chain saw safety course, so that in the future we can do more storm clean-up ourselves.

The FWG is a tenant of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and so we have to abide by their rules. At the start of the year, entrance to the Resource Centre was restricted due to COVID-19; over the summer restrictions were eased. Safety of our volunteers and our visitors was always a priority.

Again this year the annual plant sale was a pre-order, pre-pay, curbside pick-up format. Due to the hard work of the plant sale team, the number and variety of plants for sale were increased and this resulted in our most profitable sale yet. The plant nursery that is used by the plant sale group was expanded and made more secure. The team has begun the transition from fluorescent lights to LED lights for their seedling growing tables as a way of conserving energy.

A Fletcher volunteer has started a garden to grow plants that were traditionally cultivated by Indigenous peoples that lived in the Ottawa area. Plants that have medicinal use and those used in spiritual ceremonies are being grown.

The number of “story boards” located throughout the property has been increased as a way of educating visitors about the flora and fauna they can observe while walking around the Fletcher. A program has been started to identify trees throughout the property using a link to a website that gives the name of the tree and information about the tree.

The Fletcher continued to co-operate with local university researchers who were looking for sites to carry out experiments, especially those involving the study of pollinators. One experiment of note evaluated which flowering native plants were better at preparing the migrating generation of Monarch Butterflies for their long trip south.

Our volunteer group was not as large as we would have liked, but our work teams were able to maintain and even expand some parts of the property. Unlike years past, we received very few requests by outside organizations to come to the Fletcher to do a volunteer service activity. We are hopeful that more people will become volunteers in the future. We will continue our outreach to recruit and retain volunteers.

Again this year the Fletcher was the site of a “Jane’s Walk”. We gave tours to groups such as the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Bird Friendly Ottawa Group as well as several Sparks, Brownie, and Cub groups. Fletcher volunteers who served as guides were able to provide information, answer questions, and tell stories that help our visitors understand better what we are trying to do at the FWG.

There is a growing concern of our volunteers and visitors about the future of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden as construction of the new Ottawa hospital starts up. Also, our relationship with our neighbour, the *Canadensis* botanical garden, continues to evolve.

TED FARNWORTH, FWG Representative

Macoun Field Club

The Macoun Field Club, which is for kids aged eight to 18, is in its 74th year. Traditionally, the Club

has provided a weekly program of indoor meetings alternating with outdoor field trips. During this third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee judged that indoor public health restrictions were still too onerous for us to resume meetings. Outdoor activities, however, were not only permissible, but were publicly encouraged.

In this year, Committee members led 30 field trips, half of them to the Macoun Club Nature Study Area in Ottawa's western Greenbelt, and half into wilder places in Lanark County. We took part in one field trip held jointly with the OFNC, at Brewer Park Pond. At the end of the school year, one indoor meeting was attempted, but it was not a success, owing to the unnatural spacing of a necessarily restricted number of children, properly masked, 2 m apart in every direction. An account of each activity was posted on the Macoun Club's home page on the OFNC website.

We went into the autumn of 2021 with Ontario's limit on the size of outdoor gatherings standing at 100 people. During December, the Omicron variant of the virus arrived in Ottawa and cases surged; within a month authorities admitted that they had lost control. The limit for outside gatherings was reduced to 25 persons; ours did not exceed 20. In January, members' families began to experience household-based infections with SARS-CoV-2 and withdrew from upcoming field trips; this spared us all from the self-isolation required of close contacts. Thanks to widespread vaccination, cases were mild. The province restored the limit to 100 people in mid-February.

By the summer of 2022, with not a word of promotion, without even the usual call-up of existing membership, we had taken 44 children out into the safety of the natural world, more than double the Club's membership in the last pre-pandemic year.

ROBERT E. LEE, Chair

Membership Committee

Club participation includes:

1. Membership:
 - a. Those who pay Club fees
 - b. Honorary members
 - c. Members who participate in the Macoun Club
2. *Trail & Landscape* (T&L) Subscribers
3. An aggregate called Other which represents individuals and organizations that receive complimentary copies of T&L. The groups are reported separately.

The distribution of Club membership on 30 September 2021 and on 30 September 2022 is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. OFNC membership by type.

	2022	2021
Individual	434	415
Family	349	340
Student	14	19
Honorary	24	24
Life	38	38
Macoun Club	21	23
USA	11	11
Other International	1	1
Total	892	871

The increase in membership for 2022 was 21. As Henry Steger, past Chair of the Committee, notes, "This increase is consistent with the volatility in membership that the Club experiences from year to year".

Members within 50 km of Ottawa comprised 757 of the total membership of 892.

The number of T&L Subscribers and Other on 30 September 2021 and on 30 September 2022 is shown in Table 2. The numbers do not vary greatly on a year-to-year basis.

TABLE 2. Non-member counts.

	2022	2021
T&L Subscriber	4	2
Other	25	25
Total	29	27

KERRI KEITH, Chair

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee manages publication of CFN, T&L, and Special Publications. The committee also advises the Club with respect to issues relating to research, including managing the research grants program. We published four issues of T&L (55[4] and 56[1–3]) and four issues of CFN: 135(2) (published 3 October 2021), 135(3) (21 January 2022), 135(4) (28 April 2022), and 136(1) (29 July 2022).

The CFN book review editor Barrie Cottam stepped down from the Committee, and we welcomed new book review editor, Jessica Sims, to the Committee. Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee continued to conduct its meetings virtually.

This was the eighth year of the OFNC Research Grants program. Research grants support field-based research activities that reflect and promote the Club's objectives within eastern Ontario and/or western Quebec, focussed particularly upon the Club's study area. The application deadline for the upcoming year's program was 15 January 2022. A subcommittee compris-

ing Jeff Saarela (chair), Carolyn Callaghan, and Paul Catling reviewed all proposals and submitted funding recommendations to the Board of Directors. We published the recipients of 2022 Research Grants in T&L 56(3): 135–136.

JEFFERY M. SAARELA, Chair

Safe Wings Ottawa Committee

This was a year of change for the organization.

In July our founder, Anouk Hoedeman, moved to the Netherlands with her husband. Her departure necessitated a rethink of the organization's structure and led to some changes in not only how we operate but also on what services we would continue to provide. As a result we divided the organization into key areas, in line with our core principles of "research, rescue, and prevention", and looked at ways to streamline our focus. As part of that shift, we reduced the hours that our volunteers answered the emergency line and re-directed, during the day, all incoming calls about injured birds to the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre (OVWBCC). We continue to respond to calls from 6 am to 8 am and from 4 pm to 10 pm.

It was also a year of challenges.

The emergence of the HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza) in the spring was unexpected. As we had done when COVID-19 became prevalent in 2019, we reworked our protocols for all volunteers as they related to patrolling, rescuing, and reporting to ensure that they would remain safe. We also worked closely with the OVWBCC to ensure that our messages to the public were consistent especially as they were unable to take in waterfowl without risking the other birds in their care to the effects of the virus.

Despite it all, we continued with our work in rescue, outreach and advocacy.

Rescue

- Our volunteers documented more than 2000 window collisions (exact number not yet available).
- They provided care to 783 live birds representing 125 species (not including domestics). Of these, 456 (82%) were window collision victims.
- Added eight new species to our list of collision victims, bringing our cumulative total to 148, including 15 Species-at-Risk.

Besides losing one centrally located rehabilitation location, the other significant impact to our rescue team was the limitations that were imposed as a result of avian influenza. Not being able to help rescue or rehabilitate waterfowl was hard on everyone, but none more so than our phone volunteers who were left explaining to the public why we couldn't help. To fill

this gap, Safe Wings Ottawa partnered with Holly's Haven Wildlife Rescue and, in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and the Ministry of Natural Resources, put together a plan to help rescue and rehabilitate orphaned ducklings (waterfowl that were deemed low risk as it related to HPAI). Safe Wings Ottawa would take in the ducklings, isolate them and track their progress. After about four weeks, they would be transferred to Holly's Haven where they were placed in large, protected outdoor pens until they were old enough to fly away on their own. Once Holly's Haven was at capacity, ducklings would be transferred to Sandy Pines in Napanee.

Over the span of seven weeks this past spring, we received 68 orphaned ducklings (57 Mallards and 11 Wood Ducks). Nine of those were released with a foster mom, 19 were transferred to Holly's Haven, and 34 were transferred to Sandy Pines.

We continued fostering relationships with other rehabilitation facilities in the area, including Holly's Haven, Sandy Pines and The Owl Foundation, and the OVWBCC. Our open dialogue with OVWBCC, not only on window collisions, but in best practices as well, has resulted in improved outcomes and the willingness to help each other when needed. Safe Wings Ottawa is looking forward to strengthening these relationships in the upcoming year.

Outreach

Collaboration with the University of Ottawa continued. As a follow-up to their May 2021 report which included mitigation strategies for both the short-term and long-term retrofitting of key buildings identified to be the most lethal, February 2022 saw the launch of the Bird-Safe Campus program at the University of Ottawa. This group is busy patrolling buildings and raising awareness of this environmental issue on campus. They are currently working with the Office of Sustainability on the location of another collision-prevention mural similar to the one that was done on the corridor between Morriset and Jock Turcott.

Safe Wings Ottawa was also approached by a group of Grade 8 students looking for an organization that they could partner with as part of their community project. These students have learned about rescue, rehabilitation, and reporting and are looking forward to volunteering this spring during migration season. The goal is a year-end presentation that will focus on what we do and how the public can help.

Advocacy

This year the advocacy committee grew by several members, which allowed us to expand our efforts. We provided comments on many proposed developments, pushing for them to be bird-friendly, and were rewarded by seeing many new projects planning to

use bird-friendly glass in at least some areas. With the passing of the province's Bill 23, we will have to change our approach for new buildings as the city no longer has to approve exterior design. We additionally saw bird-safe retrofitting installed at several buildings, and new construction with bird-friendly elements, notably Stage 2 stations of the Light Rapid Transit.

Changes to the federal Migratory Bird Regulations this summer have made it clear that failing to address window collisions contravenes the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*, and may prove to be a tool for convincing building owners to take action. The advocacy committee is working with other collision prevention groups to push for the inclusion of bird-friendly design guidelines in Ontario's building code, and more progress at a national level.

We continue to use our social media to push homeowners to address collisions at their houses; some of our most popular posts show how collision prevention methods look when installed. We have additionally drawn attention to the loss of Ottawa's bird-safe design guidelines with the passing of Bill 23, and suggested ways for our supporters to voice their opposition.

Finally, Safe Wings Ottawa, along with a number of other groups, has representation on the Ottawa Bird Friendly City group. Developed by Nature Canada, the Bird Friendly City designation is given to cities that have met a set of specific standards, standards which ensure that our urban environments are a safe haven for birds.

As a result of our activities and outreach we were able to strengthen our relationship with other rehab facilities. While Holly's Haven, Sandy Pine, and The Owl Foundation have all reached out for help with calls in our area, the most notable change has been with the OVWBCC.

JANETTE NIWA, Safe Wings Board Member

Treasurer's Report 2021–2022

This year we are fortunate to again have our revenues exceed our expenses by about \$8000. The financial statements show that we are in a good financial position going into the next year. This situation enables us to maintain our operations and fulfil our objectives without undue concern.

There are some unusual aspects to this year's financial picture that must be noted because of their implications for upcoming years. Revenues were higher as a result of a \$9470 bequest from the Estate of Betty Marwood. Safe Wings also received a one-off donation of \$5000 for computer system upgrades

raising their donation total from about \$10000 to about \$15000.

On the expense side the Board approved an increase to the payments to those providing services to the club's two publications, CFN and T&L. This will raise our costs by about \$15 000 per year. Because the new schedule only started in May, it had very little impact on the 2021–2022 fiscal year that ended 30 September 2022. The full impact will be felt in the 2022–2023 year.

During the year we only made one donation and it was \$1000 to the Nature Conservancy to support the purchase of property at Wolf Grove. Now that school activities are back to normal, we have re-instated our agreement with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to provide \$5000 per year for busing to the Outdoor Education Centre. Consequently, next year our donation expenses will definitely be higher.

Inflation has started to impact our operations. Services such as bookkeeping, payment processing, and accounting services have all increased. We have rented a storage facility to accommodate material that was being kept in members' basements, especially publications and Safe Wings displays. Ontario is now charging us to keep our records up-to-date and there are other instances of having to pay for previously free goods. Again, the full impact of these cumulative changes will be felt in the upcoming years.

The finances of the FWG are managed in a separate fund. Like the general fund, they have also seen higher than normal revenues this past year and increased expenses. Another charitable organization, The Civic Hospital Area Parks, had to dissolve because of the relocation of the Civic Hospital. Fortunately, they transferred their remaining assets of \$4500 to the Fletcher because it is another charity with similar goals. In addition, there were several donations to the FWG in memory of Alex Johnson. Total donations were over \$9000 compared to less than \$4000 the previous year. The plant sale continues to grow and hopefully that will continue. However, the expenses related to the sale have jumped as we switched to LED lights and had to buy pots that previously were donated.

Overall, we do not anticipate being able to maintain the same relative levels of revenues and expenses into the future.

ANN MACKENZIE, Treasurer

Approved financial statements available online at:
<https://www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/view/3335/3083>