



**The Peterborough Field Naturalists
Annual General Meeting
Business Report
2023**



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

To Know, Appreciate, and Conserve Nature in All its Forms

The Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) is a registered charity and active club in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. The PFN's history dates back to 1940.

Cover Photo:

Dame's Rocket, Lang-Hastings Trail, Peterborough

The beautiful Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), is a herbaceous plant of the mustard family (Brassicaceae). The plant is a biennial or short-lived perennial and reaches about 90 cm (3 feet) in height. It has narrow, toothed leaves and four-petaled flowers borne in loose clusters. It has a violet-like fragrance and are usually lilac, purple, or sometimes white in colour. Dame's Rocket readily reseeds itself with each plant capable of producing hundreds of seeds borne in narrow fruits known as siliques.

Native to Eurasia, Dame's Rocket is often cultivated as an ornamental and has naturalized in North America. It escaped from gardens and rapidly invaded the surrounding landscapes, as evidenced by this photograph of the Lang-Hastings Trail near Peterborough, and it is now considered an invasive species. Left unchecked, this beautiful, yet lethal plant wreaks havoc on the natural environment, threatening the survival of native plants and degrading habitat and water quality.

Photo Credits: Steve Paul, unless otherwise noted.

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President's Message

Greetings from your President.

Nearly a year has passed since I became President of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. I have had the privilege to work with a dedicated team on the Board of Directors who have put in countless hours to keep our Club strong. I can't thank them enough. I also wish to thank all the other volunteers that contribute to our success.

After the struggle to keep things going through Covid, we saw a return to all our core programming in 2023. We were again able to offer In-person members' meetings but in a hybrid format to be more inclusive. The Junior Naturalists are active again while outings are going strong. Thankfully, *The Orchid* kept us connected through the worst times. I hope you will take the time to read our Annual Report. A lot has been accomplished.

With the PFN only months away from being 84 years old, it was appropriate for the Board to initiate our first Strategic Plan in 2023. We were gratified with the positive response from you the members. Within the next couple of months, we will be able to share it with you. The work of implementing it will then begin and for our 85th anniversary next year, we will have a clear vision of how to involve our membership with renewed purpose while staying true to the original values that are as relevant today as they were in 1940.

Finally, by attending meetings and outings, I had the pleasure to meet and welcome many of our new members and become reacquainted with long time friends. I have frequently heard how much people enjoy spending time with other like-minded people in the PFN. I know I certainly do.



Sue Paradis, President

ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

The Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) welcomed 88 new members in 2023. As of the end of December 2023 we had a total of 446 members (268 memberships), these numbers are relatively the same as 2022.

Cathy Douglas continued working, with technical assistance from Gooderham Productions, to establish a secure digital database for the PFN membership records. Online membership was halted for a short period of time in the fall in order to put the finishing touches on the new system. In November of 2023 a broadcast went out to all members advising that the new system was up and running and that membership applications and renewals were again being accepted using the new system. The PFN website also directs members, new and old, to the new online application form. For those people that don't have access to the internet, membership applications can still be submitted by mailing in a hard copy. Our members have made full use of both online and mail-in hard copy options and the three ways to pay dues (e-transfer, credit card payment through Canada Helps or by mailing a cheque). Jim Young, Cathy Douglas and Ted Vale have worked as a team in managing the tasks associated with membership.

ACTIVITIES

PFN MEMBERS' MEETINGS

During 2023, Philip Shaw and Steve Paul organized 10 PFN Members' Meetings that were conducted in a hybrid in-person and online format with virtual connection through Zoom at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. The hybrid model made the organization of the meetings a bit more challenging for the Board and our speakers, but ensured meetings were accessible for all members. Many thanks to Anne and Paul Elliott and Judi Gallagher for all their work in organizing and attending to the "hospitality table". They are responsible for making sure the table is full of delicious treats and refreshments during the social period prior to the start of every meeting.

Our members' meetings always include monthly quizzes on a broad range of topics, as well as opportunities for



Red-headed Woodpecker

members to share what they have seen or experienced in nature. Thanks to Philip Shaw for putting together fun and informative quizzes for these meetings. Throughout the year local speakers from Trent University, Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority presented on a variety of topics.

In January, Trent University Assistant Professor Thomas Hossie delivered a presentation about his research on salamanders on Pelee Island and in February Trent University Professor Jim Schaefer presented his Caribou Conservation research.

In 2023, the Board of Directors chose to recognize Trent University PFN Grant recipients by providing students the opportunity to present their projects at PFN's March and May members' meetings. The PFN was pleased to receive presentations on a variety of subjects: Jenna Knight with the Spatial Scale of Habitat Selection of White-tailed Deer; Olivia Bettencourt presented her entomology thesis pertaining to stinkbugs in the Trent Nature Areas; Sasha Newar, a 5th year Ph.D. candidate at Trent presented her research on flying squirrel behaviour and communication; and Maela Kaminski, a fourth year Biomedical Science student, provided a presentation on her work with Tree Swallows. The spring members' meeting speakers concluded with presentations on Urban Ecology by Trent University professor Dr. Sarah Jamieson and a presentation by Meredith Carter, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority's Watershed Management Program Manager, on the 2023 Otonabee Region Watershed, and Climate Change Report Card.

The September meeting included a presentation on wildlife and natural heritage from Dr. Glen Brown, a Research Scientist at Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). Dr. Brown's presentation focused on how wildlife adapted to a cold northern climate are vulnerable to climate warming. In October the PFN hosted MNRF Wildlife



A Frosty Morning on the Lang-Hastings Trail

Landscape Ecologist Richard Feldman, who presented his work on bird surveys in a local tropical forest fragment in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

In November, Francis Quinby, a fourth-year PhD student from Trent University, provided a presentation on the drivers of Boreal Forest ecosystem dynamics, which included the research he conducted in the Kluane ecosystem in the Yukon Territory.

At the end of the year, the PFN's 2023 members' meetings concluded with a December Holiday Season Members' Slideshow Night. This provided an opportunity at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre for PFN members to share a selection of their photographs in a 15 minute presentation and time for members to meet and enjoy a variety of baked treats and snacks. Thanks to presenters Sandy Garvey, Lucie Blouin, Kathryn Sheridan and Ken McKeen for their

marvelous slide show presentations.

OUTINGS

Coordinating and leading outings is always a pleasure. Participants may be beginners, thankful for all they learn, to the extremely knowledgeable, happy to share their expertise. Regardless, getting together in nature with like-minded individuals is always enjoyable. Sue Paradisis and Steve Paul did an outstanding job in 2023 coordinating this important PFN activity.

Seventeen leaders organized 39 outings with 545 participants. Topics included tracking, birding, vernal pools, reptiles and amphibians, botany, butterflies, ferns, fungi and lichens. We celebrated First Day on January 1st, World Wetland Day on February 2nd, and both spring and fall migrations. For the first time, we also had a session in Forest Bathing. After the COVID-19 years, we were again able to visit the Carden Plain and Presqu'île, as well as offering canoeing on the Otonabee River and a camping trip to Algonquin Park.

The PFN is grateful to the following outing leaders for their time and willingness to share their knowledge. Their contributions were appreciated by many. Thank you to Rachael Baehr, Cathy Douglas, Marilyn Freeman, Laurie Healey, Patrick Kramer, Colleen Lynch, Stewart MacDonald, Beth McKinlay, Scott McKinlay, Don McLeod, Drew Monkman, Sue Paradisis, Steve Paul, Chris Risley, Lynn Smith, Jason Smyrlis, and Louis Smyrlis.



*"Returning Fowl on the Otonabee"
March Outing*

JUNIOR NATURALISTS

The PFN was excited to restart its Junior Naturalists' program in 2023. There are currently 63 children enrolled as Peterborough Junior Naturalists as part of the PFN Family Membership category. 2023 was an exciting year for them. Eight activities were offered, kick-starting the year with the Kids' Christmas Bird Count in January which was followed up with a "Sounds of Spring Frog Walk" in April, Migratory Bird Day Activities in May, Forest Art in June, "Pollinator Power" in September, an outing to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in October, "Amazing Bats" in November, and a collaborative Kids' Christmas Bird Count with the Peterborough Public Library in December.

A big thank-you goes out to Anda Rungis, who mentored Shelley King and Jennifer Lennie to take over the coordination of the Junior Naturalist Program early in 2023. 2023's outing/

workshop leaders included Meredith Carter & Candace Clark of Otonabee Conservation, Lisa at the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre, Paul Elliott, Jennifer Lennie and Shelley King. We also thank Chris Risley, Erica Nol, Cathy Douglas, Anda Rungis, and Phil Shaw for their invaluable support at various Junior Naturalist events.



Photo: Shelley King PFN Juniors event



Yellow Lady Slipper Orchid

The Orchid

The Orchid is the PFN’s newsletter to members that is produced nine times a year. It is produced in both hard copy and digital formats and provided to members in the format of their choice. It is also available from the PFN website (<https://peterboroughnature.org/the-orchid/>).

The Orchid contains information on PFN’s outings and events, including reports on recent events. It also contains articles on local initiatives and PFN activities, as well as numerous articles of interest by various contributors. Pamela Martin assumed the lead role of compiler for the popular Orchid Diary column, which lists local nature observations reported since the last issue (reports via orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org, monthly meetings and other sources). Pamela was supported by Marilyn Hubley. The PFN is very grateful to members Drew Monkman (Nature’s Almanac), Marilyn Freeman (book reviews), Murray Palmer (poems) and Martin Parker (From the Archives) for their regular contributions, as well as to the many nature photographers in the club who have sent in photos, and to the members who have written outing reports.

It takes a team to produce a publication like *The Orchid*. Kathryn Sheridan is responsible for the lion’s share of the work as editor and desktop publisher. She was assisted by proofreaders Rene Gareau, Lynn Smith, Ted Vale and Cathy Douglas. Interim mailing support was provided by Cathy Douglas after the passing of Mary Thomas at the end of 2022, who had this role for many years. Mailing support is now provided by Sharon Hill.

The PFN thanks all contributors to *The Orchid* over 2023, whether it was an article, a photograph, or simply an information item. We encourage any and all to consider a contribution for the upcoming year.

Submissions can be made to orchid@peterboroughnature.org.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

In 2023, the PFN continued to have a strong web presence and active following on numerous social media channels, thanks to Marilyn Hubley, the PFN digital communications lead.

The **PFN website** (<https://peterboroughnature.org/>) contains a wealth of information about the PFN, coming events and digital copies of *The Orchid*, amongst other information. We thank Chris Gooderham for his work to add content on the PFN website in support of the Strategic Plan.

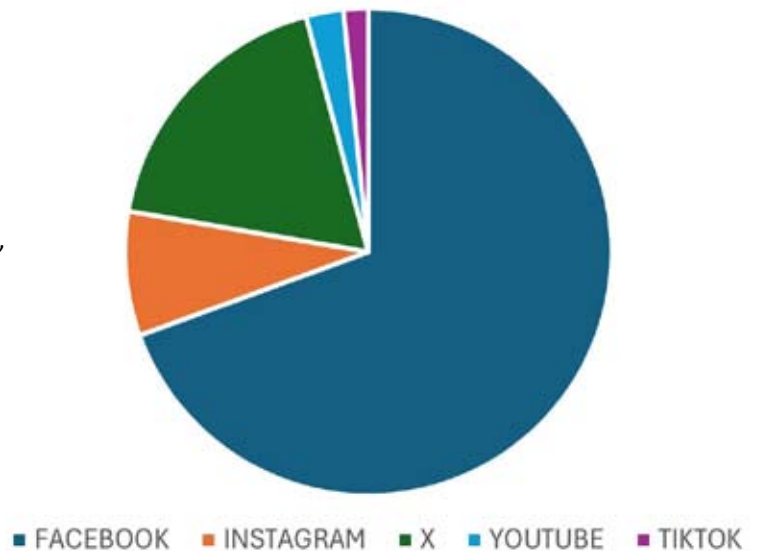
The **PFN Facebook page** has 9162 followers, up 6122, 50.20% are women, 49.80% are men. Top cities following are Peterborough, Toronto, and Lakefield. Top countries are Canada and the United States.

Instagram followers have gone from 1001 in 2022 to 1088 and **X** (formerly Twitter) has gone from 2,413 to 2,402. Our **TikTok** page has 215 followers up from 104. The **PFN YouTube channel** has 329 subscribers up from 310. Recordings of many past PFN Zoom meetings can be viewed on PFN’s YouTube channel under the Monthly Meetings.

PFN Social Media Sites:

- Instagram: **@PtboNature**
- X: **@PtboNature**
- YouTube: **peterboroughnature**
- TikTok: **peterboroughnature**
- Facebook: **PeterboroughFieldNaturalists**

followers by social media type



PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

PFN LEGACY FUND

The PFN Legacy Fund is an Endowment Fund managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough in accordance with existing legislation. It was established in 2014 through a major bequest received by the PFN and provides an annual income. Although the Legacy Fund has had very good returns for quite a few years, 2023 saw a large reduction and it is expected to be reduced in 2024 as well. This will result in a decrease in spending on these programs in 2024. Donations and/or bequests to the PFN Legacy fund to enhance the grant program are most welcome. Please contact the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.

In 2023, the Board allocated revenue to the following special projects, augmented by funds from our surplus:



Monarch butterfly

Camp Kawartha: A partnership of the New Canadians Centre, Camp Kawartha, and the PFN sponsored two New Canadian youth to attend the Nature Camp at Camp Kawartha in the last week of August.

Youth Education: Four PFN Awards were given at the Peterborough Regional Science Fair for the two best projects in the Elementary and the Junior Categories, that increase interest in and stimulate study in nature and wildlife, environment, conservation, or pollution. In addition, a high school student was sponsored to attend the Ontario Nature Youth Summit.

PFN Research Grants: Six quality projects from Trent University undergraduate students were accepted for supplemental assistance in funding their research theses. One was funded by member donations and one from Community Project funds.

Citizen-Science Studies: The PFN paid the costs and registration fees for the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count, and the Petroglyphs and Fenelon Falls Butterfly Counts.

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2023

From April 28 - May 1, the City of Peterborough and the Peterborough Field Naturalists took part in the global City Nature Challenge for the first time. The event was meant to provide people with opportunities to learn about nature within our city boundaries. Citizens were also encouraged to catalogue species using iNaturalist, and specifically in Jackson Park to assist in the conservation of natural heritage. President Sue Paradisis took on the role of coordinating PFN's involvement in this event. PFN members led hourly nature hikes while others BioBlitzed the park reporting all their sightings on the Peterborough project of iNaturalist. Those who participated enjoyed finding and submitting observations while socializing with other naturalists. Sadly, cold, rainy weather kept the public away and while Jackson Park is normally a busy spot on the weekend, very few individuals braved the weather to attend the hikes. We hope for better weather in 2024. Thanks to the Bio-Blitz volunteers. Kim Zippel as co-planner, and BioBlitzers and hike leaders Ian Attridge, Susan Chow, Jennifer Lennie, Bill and Dorothy McCord, Scott McKinlay, Mike McMurtry, Dylan Radcliffe, Susan Sauve, Lynn Smith, Dawson Wainman, Mark Williamson and students.



City Nature Challenge, Photo: Sue Paradisis

ONTARIO NATURE

The PFN is a member organization of *Ontario Nature* and participated in numerous events and campaigns that support *Ontario Nature* and recognize the effort of the PFN.

The *Ontario Nature* representative for PFN for 2023 was Fiona McKay. In that role, Fiona attended the two regional meetings (spring and fall) of the Nature Network, both held in the Durham Region area. Those meetings included presentations, regional club updates and field trips to



local areas of interest of the host club. Highlights of those meetings were provided to members over the course of four issues of *The Orchid* newsletter.

GOVERNANCE

OVERSIGHT

Oversight for the Corporation known as the Peterborough Field Naturalists is managed by the Board of Directors (Board). In 2023, the Board included the following individuals:

- President** – Rene Gareau (January-April),
– Sue Paradisis (April-December)
- Past President** – Rene Gareau (May-December)
- Vice President** – Sue Paradisis (January-April)
– Fiona McKay (April-December)
- Treasurer** – Edward Vale
- Secretary** – Anda Rungis

Directors: Reem Ali (January-April), Tamara Brown (November-December), Daniel Cadieux (January-February), Cathy Douglas, Sandy Garvey (April-December), Shelley King (April-December), Steve Paul, Philip Shaw, Linda Sunderland (December).

In 2023, the PFN Board held 11 business meetings. Board Members also participated in governance training on the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act and Effective Boards offered by Ontario Nature, and numerous working sessions to discuss the preparation of a strategic plan. In addition, Nominating and ad hoc committee (Advocacy and Policy)

meetings were called, as necessary. The PFN ended the year with all 12 Board positions filled.

The **82nd Annual General Meeting** was held April 13, 2023 at the Peterborough Golf and Country Club. As part of the business meeting agenda, the Financial Statements and Nominating Committee report were approved. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Marilyn Hubley, Martin Parker, Jim Young, Brenda Ibey, Cameron Douglas and Bird Friendly Peterborough. Willow Beach Field Naturalist members Gerry McKenna and Jenny Jackman provided a presentation and overview of the activities of the Wesleyville Joint Working Group and the unique ecology of the Wesleyville area.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Advocacy Committee (Sue Paradisis, Rene Gareau, Ted Vale, Shelley King, Sandy Garvey) served as a voice for the PFN when proposals which raised concerns about the environment came up. Most of the activity in 2023 was initiated by Ontario Nature in response to provincial government policy proposals. PFN supported letters and petitions which were submitted to members of provincial parliament and government officials, outlining concerns when wildlife, wetlands and forests were threatened.



2023 Annual General Meeting

Fortunately, some of this activity paid off when lands were restored to the Greenbelt after much objection to development proposals. Advocacy continues to be essential to protect what we love.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The ad hoc Policy Committee, established in 2021, continued its review and development of PFN’s internal governance policies in 2023. The Committee (Reem Ali, Ted Vale, Fiona McKay and Rene Gareau) revised existing financial protocols and motions, culminating in a new Financial Policy and Forms, which has been approved by the PFN Board of Directors. Because of the Strategic Plan initiative, it was decided to defer work on additional policies until after the new Strategic Plan was finished in 2024. The review of the PFN Bylaw #2001-1, to align with the requirements of Ontario’s Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010, was also deferred until after completion of the Strategic Plan.



Photo: Laurie Healey

PFN ARCHIVES

The PFN Archives are maintained by Martin Parker. The Archives now contain a complete set of all the issues of *The Orchid* and the preceding Nature Notes newsletter.

Major additions in the year include the return to the PFN of a photo album on native Orchids prepared in the 1970’s honouring the work of Frank Morris, the leading founder

of the PFN. The album went missing for several decades. Member Dorothy McCord restored the album by remounting the photographs. The archives also now contain the historic records from the Dawn Chorus outings, provided to the club by the daughter of Harry Williams who conducted this annual outing.

PFN FUNDRAISING

Club Sales:

The following items were available for purchase from Cathy Douglas:

- Nature in the Kawarthas, Peterborough Field Naturalists (also sold at: Avant Garden and Green-Up stores in Peterborough). Limited supply remaining;
- Our Heritage of Birds: Peterborough County in the Kawarthas, by Doug Sadler;
- The Mammals of Peterborough County by Geoff Carpentier;
- Birds of the Cottage Country by William C. Mansell, Limited supply remaining; and
- Limited supply of PFN Logo pins, commemorating PFN’s 80th anniversary.

AGM Virtual and Silent Auction:

For the second year, the PFN hosted a virtual auction fundraiser in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Organized by Fiona McKay, this year’s auction boasted a significant growth in items donated and in participation. Over 120 items were generously provided by members, friends of PFN and organizations and businesses. Running the week before the AGM, the auction was a huge success, raising over \$1200 to support club operations, special projects and events, and grants and sponsorships. Congratulations to all the “winners”.

THANKS SO MUCH to all donors who made such an event possible.

Peterborough Field Naturalists AGM Silent Auction

 <p>Attracting Butterflies & Hummingbirds ...</p>	 <p>Barred Owl Hooter <small>Quaker Bay brand</small></p>	 <p>Bird Species Travel Cube Jigsaw Puzzle</p>	 <p>Birder's Handbook: ... Natural History of NA Bird</p>
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PFN STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT

The COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2022) presented many challenges to PFN programs and member participation. During this time there was high demand for connection with nature, however, the PFN struggled to recruit volunteers and deliver activities to a growing membership. A strategic plan was identified as a tool which could help the PFN take stock and proactively identify clear goals and objectives to guide decision making.

In February 2023 the Board of Directors of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) applied to the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund (CSR) for funding to prepare a strategic plan. The Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough announced on August 22, 2023 the PFN was successful in receiving a CSR grant in the amount of \$15,700.00 to undertake the project.

A project team (Sue Paradisis, Anda Rungis, Fiona McKay, Ted Vale, Rene Gareau, and Shelley King) was formed to oversee project management, including retaining the professional services of Arising Collective. In the fall of 2023, PFN member Alan Sippel joined the project team and all PFN Directors participated in a reflection and visioning exercise to initiate the planning process.



Engagement with PFN members took place in November and December 2023 via interviews, focus group sessions, and a community survey. This engagement provided the opportunity for input to the strategic plan. The engagement findings are posted on the PFN website along with information summarizing the history of the PFN.

Work to draft a 5-year strategic plan for the PFN will continue in 2024. The project is expected to be completed by May 2024.

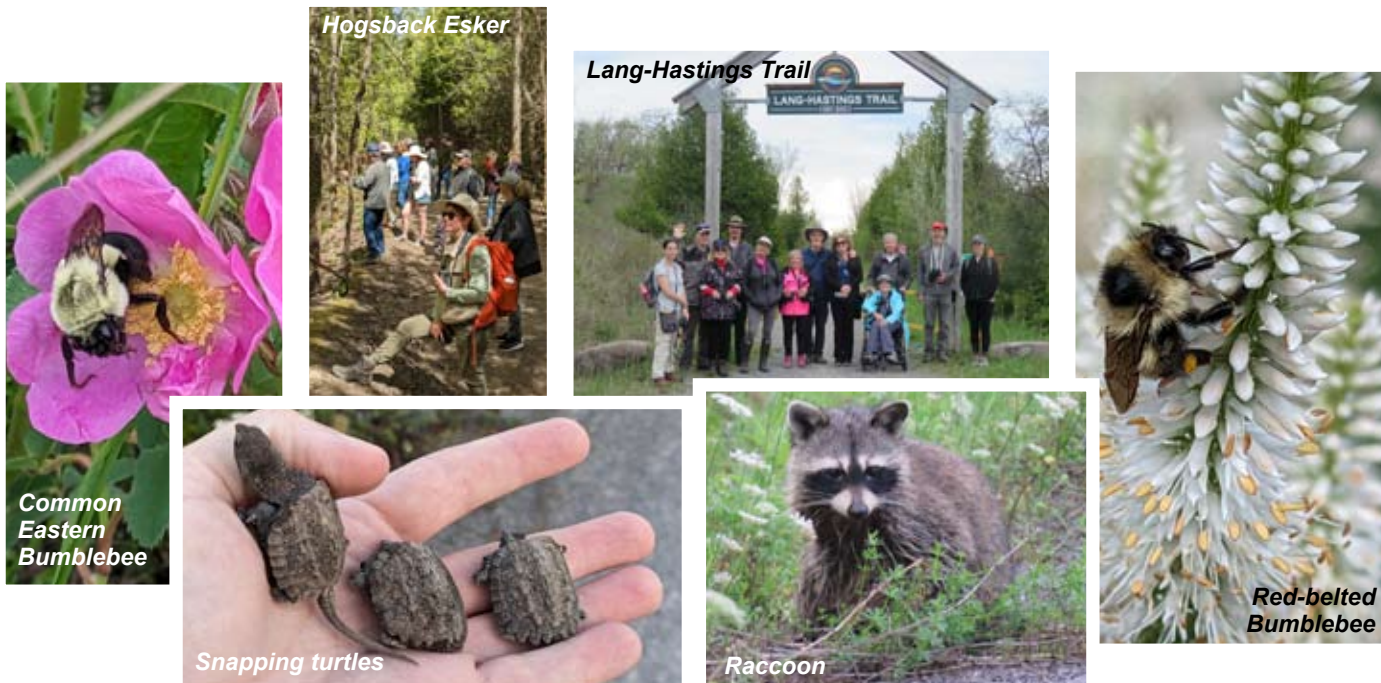
Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund

Canada



Community
Foundation
of Greater Peterborough

The Community Services Recovery Fund (CSR) is a one-time \$400 million investment from the Government of Canada to help community service organizations, including charities, non-profits, and Indigenous governing bodies adapt, modernize and be better equipped to improve the efficacy, accessibility, and sustainability of the community services they provide through the pandemic recovery and beyond.



FINANCIAL REPORTS

PFN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2023			
	2023	2022	Variance
<u>Revenue</u>			
Membership Fees	\$ 7,696.50	\$ 8,361.00	-8.0%
Donations	\$ 4,024.10	\$ 6,466.00	-37.0%
Silent Auction Revenue	\$ 1,589.50	\$ 1,084.00	46.0%
Sales	\$ 207.32	\$ 335.00	-38.1%
Bank and Investment Income	\$ 730.32	\$ 1,999.00	-63.5%
Legacy Fund Grant	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 2,400.00	-45.0%
Strategic Plan Grant	\$ 6,875.49	\$ -	100.0%
Total Income	\$ 22,423.22	\$ 20,645.00	8.6%
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Membership Programs	\$ 636.64	\$ 400.00	59.2%
AGM Expenditures	\$ 1,676.97	\$ 85.00	1,877.6%
Orchid Printing and Mailing	\$ 3,325.51	\$ 2,875.00	15.7%
Club and Community Projects	\$ 948.91	\$ 4,210.00	-77.5%
Legacy Fund Projects	\$ 2,855.61	\$ 2,738.00	4.3%
Communication/Publicity/Promotion	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 1,757.00	16.7%
Junior Field Naturalists	\$ 142.15	\$ -	100.0%
Administration	\$ 5,318.64	\$ 2,474.00	115.0%
HST Expense	\$ 386.38	\$ 325.00	19.1%
Strategic Plan Expenses	\$ 6,875.49	\$ -	100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 24,216.20	\$ 14,864.00	62.9%
Result of Operations	\$ (1,792.98)	\$ 5,781.00	-131.0%

Notes to the Financial Statements

The deferral method is used to recognize membership revenues. Memberships received after August 31st are treated as memberships for the following years and the revenue is deferred accordingly.

A contingency fund of \$5000 was established in 2017 to be available for unanticipated emergencies. This is an internally-restricted asset under the control of the board of Directors.

The PFN investments are held in an investment fund administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. The fund is valued in the Financial Statements as of the end of the previous fiscal year.

The Peterborough Field Naturalists is the sole beneficiary of the PFN Legacy Fund which is held by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. The fund generates an annual grant of 3.5% to the PFN.

Approved by the Board of Directors, March 8, 2024



Edward Vale, Treasurer

PFN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

Statement of Financial Position Dec. 31, 2023			
	2023	2022	Variance
<u>Assets</u>			
Bank Balance	\$ 19,635.15	\$ 9,107.00	115.6%
Cash on Hand	\$ 40.00	\$ 430.00	-90.7%
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 591.94	\$ 647.00	-14.8%
Investments	\$ 15,444.96	\$ 17,472.00	-11.6%
Total Assets	\$ 35,672.05	\$ 27,656.00	29.0%
<u>Liabilities and Equity</u>			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ 999.00	-100.0%
Deferred Revenue			
• Prepaid Memberships	\$ 3,689.98	\$ 2,520.00	46.0%
• Strategic Plan Grant	\$ 8,824.51	\$ -	100.0%
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ -	\$ (812.00)	100.0%
Total Liabilities	\$ 12,514.49	\$ 2,707.00	362.5%
Equity			
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	0.0%
Opening Equity - Other	\$ 10,081.46	\$ 10,081.00	0.0%
Retained Earnings	\$ 9,869.08	\$ 4,087.00	141.5%
Net Income	\$ (1,792.98)	\$ 5,781.00	131.0%
Total Equity	\$ 23,157.56	\$ 24,949.00	-7.2%
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 35,672.05	\$ 27,656.00	29.0%

Notes to the Financial Statements

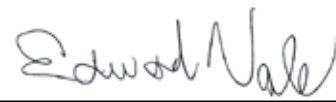
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Approved by the Board of Directors, March 8, 2024



Edward Vale, Treasurer

INFORMAL FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, the following motion was passed:

“That the requirement for an external audit or review of the PFN Financial Statements for 2023 under the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act be waived and that the Board of Directors carry out an informal review of the PFN’s financial records by a committee which includes one or more persons not members of the Board of Directors.”

In keeping with the motion, a committee was struck with Chair Sue Paradisis, PFN Board of Directors President, Lynn Smith - a PFN member, Lynn Taylor - an impartial non-member and Sandy Garvey - a Board member. All four participants are experienced bookkeepers.

The review went well beyond a simple sampling of transactions as we examined all deposits from Canada Helps, e-transfers and personal cheques and matched them to the PFN membership spreadsheet. All deposits, invoice payments, membership records were reviewed and entries were validated from QuickBooks Accounting system against the detail on the bank statement and bank reconciliation for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023.

The committee feels that the Treasurer has once again maintained a thorough and diligent record of the financial transactions for the fiscal year 2023 that was reviewed. He has utilized QuickBooks, a well-regarded and robust electronic bookkeeping platform and by incorporating the suggested methods recommended from the previous review, has continued to maintain a meticulous paper trail.

The membership data base that was maintained by Jim Young, was cross-referenced to the members’ personal fees that were paid and recorded by the Treasurer in QuickBooks Accounting System as well.

In general, the committee is satisfied with the records and that the books are in good order. A few minor items were identified, none material or a reflection on any issues with the conscientious record-keeping.

Going forward again, we will be pleased to act as a resource for the Treasurer at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

***Susan Paradisis, Chair
February 20, 2024***

TREASURER’S REPORT 2023 FISCAL YEAR

Last fiscal year we had a deficit of \$1,792.28. A number of factors played into this. The main one was a deficit in our investment fund with the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. There was a decline in membership and donation revenues, and in the Legacy Fund grant from the Community Foundation. Conversely, thanks to the hard work of Fiona McKay there was an increase in silent auction revenues.

As reported elsewhere, we received a grant of \$15,700 from the Community Foundation in order to develop a Strategic Plan. These funds will be dispersed over two fiscal years, 2023 and 2024. The amount spent in 2023 (\$6,875.49) is shown in the Statement of income and Expenditures; the remainder to be spent in 2024 (\$8,824.51) shows as deferred revenue in the Statement of Financial Position.

Notable variances on the expenditure side were an increase in Orchid costs (16%) and AGM costs, as we returned to a live format in 2023.

As directed at last year’s AGM, the board established a committee to carry out a review of the PFN’s accounts in lieu of an audit. This Committee will report separately. The Board is asking again that the requirement for an audit or formal review be waived. This will be presented as a separate motion following the Review Committee’s report.

I would personally like to thank the Committee for carrying out the review and for their many helpful suggestions to improve our bookkeeping processes.

Edward Vale, Treasurer

In closing the Board of Directors of the **Peterborough Field Naturalists** expresses their sincere appreciation to all members who have supported and participated in the activities of the PFN. Thank you!



PFN 2023 Board of Directors: Front Row: Anda Rungis (Secretary), Ted Vale (Treasurer), Fiona McKay (Vice-President), Sandy Garvey. Middle Row: Tamara Brown, Shelley King, Sue Paradisis (President), Cathy Douglas. Back Row: Steve Paul, Philip Shaw, Linda Sunderland. Absent: Rene Gareau.

February 2024

Report compiled by Linda Sunderland and Fiona McKay, with submissions from Cathy Douglas, Sandy Garvey, Laurie Healey, Marilyn Hubley, Shelley King, Fiona McKay, Sue Paradisis, Steve Paul, Martin Parker, Anda Rungis, Philip Shaw, and Ted Vale.

NOTES

