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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Almonte United Church, 106 Elgin St., Almonte, ON

1. **Welcome:** Ron Williamson called the meeting to order at 8:15
2. **President's Remarks and Committee Reports:** Linda McCormick, our current president, made her remarks and circulated, then presented "MVFN Annual Report 2018-2019".

Highlights from the year included:

- i. Construction and dedication of the Mike McPhail Bird Viewing Shelter, lead by Michel Gauthier and Howard Robinson, with a large volunteer work crew.
- ii. the MVFN Phragmites Watch, performed by a number of MVFN volunteer teams, was organized and managed by David Overholdt; *Phragmites* occurrence was uploaded to Ontario EddMapS, making it available to municipal and county planners
- iii. MVFN, in conjunction with the Mississippi Lakes Association, successfully completed the 2018 Canadian Lakes Loon Survey on Mississippi Lake, for Bird Studies Canada. A number of new volunteers were trained who can now adopt a new lake if they wish.
- iv. The EEP Committee's Monarch Butterfly project in the local schools continues; a Children's' Water Festival is planned for September 2019
- v. Canoe/Kayak water safety training is scheduled for June; Intermediate Paddling instruction is planned for July or August
- vi. Donation from Learning in Almonte, used to purchase a tablet for use by the Young Naturalists club; another large donation from the Nickel Foundation was used to support the Children's Water Festival, the Monarch Butterfly Program, the Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary (CBNB), and sponsorships to the Ontario Nature Youth Summit; one of last year's bursary recipients raised \$400 to donate to the CBNB.

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vii. Armchair Travellers pilot successful, and will continue 2019/20, run by Chris Barburek

viii. The Al Potvin Bird Observation Tower at the Almonte Lagoons is scheduled for repairs.

MVFN relies upon volunteers. More than 3600 hours were logged last year by 70.

Some of our volunteers taking a step back are **Pauline Donaldson** is recognised for her many contributions to MVFN on publicity and by launching, monitoring, and updating the website and Facebook page; **Gretta Bradley** worked hard to make the Nature Talk program the success that it has been; **Elizabeth Veninga** worked hard to maintain membership information and was always welcoming at talks and other events; **Brenda Boyd** has held positions in Membership, Youth Education, Vice-president, Past president, and now Publicity Education; **David Garcia** has held the Conservation and Habitat Restoration Chair and overseen many successful projects and activities; **Bob Smith** has led the Environmental Education Chair and has brought butterflies into classrooms, and most recently launched the Children's' Water Festival; **Michael MacPherson** has held the Chair of the CBNBursary Committee and Fund which assesses and awards annually bursaries to graduating secondary school students within the MVFN catchment area, who wish to pursue post secondary education leading to careers in the natural environment field.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Atack, Chair of Finance, reviewed the "MVFN Annual Operating Statement 2018-19", then moved to accept the statement, seconded by Brenda Boyd **CARRIED**
4. **The 2019-20 Budget:** presented by Jim Atack
5. **Appointment of Auditor:** Jim Atack is in the process of finding an Auditor, as Peter Moller who has reviewed the books for a number of years will not be continuing.
6. **Minutes of 2018-19 AGM:** moved by Linda McCormick to accept, seconded by Elizabeth Veninga **CARRIED**

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7. **Report of the Nominating Committee:** Jim Atack, Chair, stated that there are a number of empty Positions. The Board of Directors for 2019/2020 is listed below:

President	Pat Enright
Past President	Linda McCormick
First Vice President	Stan Holloway
Second Vice President	vacant
Recording Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	John Blais
Finance Committee Chair	Jim Atack
Program Committee Chair	vacant
Publicity Committee Chair	vacant
Environmental Education Program Committee (EEP)	vacant
Conservation & Habitat Restoration Committee	Nick de Boer
Nature Protection Committee	Tineke Kuiper
Membership Committee	Sylvia Miller
Director-at-large	Cliff Bennett
Director-at-large	vacant

Three calls for nominations from the floor were made. None were received.

Motion to accept the above list by Jim Atack, seconded by Cecil Dubois **CARRIED**

8. **Remarks of the new President and introduction of the 2019/20 Board members:** Pat Enright asked the board members to rise, welcomed new board members, thanked the Social Committee for their contribution, and reinforced the need for volunteers to continue such good work, such as The Kintail Christmas and the Spring Gathering

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9. **Other Business:** Ron Williamson thanked volunteers, then introduced the 2019/20 Program theme “Over, Under Through”, beginning in September, third Thursday of the month, same location; Stan Holloway announced that the Canoe/Kayak Program for the 2019/20 Year has been set and is available on the MVFN website, and inserted into the MVFN publication “Lanark County Canoe & Kayak Journeys”; Tineke Kuiper encouraged visitors to enjoy spring ephemerals at Foley Mountain Conservation Area; “Hope For Wildlife”, a charitable wildlife rehabilitation and education organization located in Seaforth, Nova Scotia will be broadcasting a TV program which includes one of last year’s MVFN Bursary recipients, and who is spending her summer volunteering with the organisation.