



Mississippi Valley
Field Naturalists

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



www.mvfn.ca

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About MVFN

MVFN is an active field naturalist club founded in 1988 to increase public interest, knowledge, understanding, appreciation, and respect for the natural world. We are a registered charitable organization (and member of the Ontario Nature Network) committed to increasing the knowledge and awareness of local species and their habitat, and of the importance of conservation.

We offer many activities, including monthly natural history talks, nature walks, field trips, canoe/kayak outings, citizen science and opportunities to explore many fascinating aspects of our natural world. Donations to MVFN and volunteer work coordinated by the organization, help to support a strong voice for the natural world in our region.

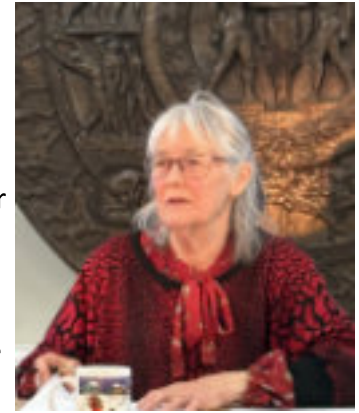
We are also dedicated to environmental education, conservation and habitat restoration and supporting young naturalist programs. The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists club is run entirely by volunteers, from the Board of Directors, to leaders of outings, refreshment and audiovisual duty at nature talks/presentations, vital communication on activities and projects, and labour for habitat and trail creation projects. We are excited to have a program where participants pay to be a part of the Young Naturalist and this in turn allows us to hire a leader for the program.



MVFN President's Report 2024

As you can see from the following pages, 2024 was a successful year for our outdoor groups, with lots of events and few cancellations. In addition to Paddling and Birding we now have nature walks, organized by the chair of our new Outings Committee Gretta Bradley.

At our 2023 AGM, held in February 2024 we presented Ken Allison with the Champion of Nature Award. This was the first presentation of this award since 2017 and very well deserved.



In April, under the watchful eye of our PR chair Louise Beckinsale, we held a very successful Spring Gathering. It was an indoor event with refreshments and with Bob MacDonald, host of Quirks and Quarks, delivering an online presentation entitled "Perspectives on a Planet".

Ron Williamson, the chair of the Nature Talks committee and familiar host of the Nature presentations for a number of years, stepped down in June of this year. A big thank you to Ron for his dedication and effort.

Bill Pratt, a key member of the tech committee that looks after the visual presentations and known to most of us for his excellent photography, is also stepping down. Bill, and the other members of this Committee did a wonderful job of sustaining club activities online during COVID 19.

We now welcome Brian Gillespie as the new Nature Talks Committee chair and Anne Range replaces Ros Reid who after several years hard work has also left the Committee. Throughout 2023, Nature Talks presentations had been hybrid, presented in person and simultaneously on zoom. Only in May of 2024 did we return to regular in house presentations, retaining the on screen presentation option for distant speakers and making recordings available after the meetings.

Unfortunately both the September and November presenters cancelled at very short notice and the September nature talks night could not be saved.

For our November meeting long time MVFN members Bruce and Karen Thompson stepped up to replace the missing speaker and present us with a memorable on screen journey through the American Midwest. This was enjoyed by all and our thanks to Karen and Bruce.

On a beautiful fall day at the beginning of October we held a successful and well attended volunteer appreciation event in the Mill of Kintail Gatehouse, home of the MVFN board meetings. Thanks to Louise for both the organising and catering .

ON the October 17th Members Night we held a special membership meeting to bring members up to date with adjustments to our bylaws in line with the new Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA) requirements. The presentation and research for this was prepared by Vice President Paul Frigon.

As we move from 2024 into the New Year I am reaching the end of my three years as president of MVFN. I can look back at things I have achieved, but most of all those things that I never managed to finish or even begin. Having said that I intend to stay on the board as past president to support the board and whoever steps up to take my place.

I would like to thank all the members of the board for their support and patience, In particular past president Brenda Boyd, First Vice President Paul Frigon, Chair of Finance John Blais and Recording Secretary Beverly Blais. Also Brent Eades who updates our website rapidly and without complaint whenever he is asked.

I look forward to working with you all again in 2025.

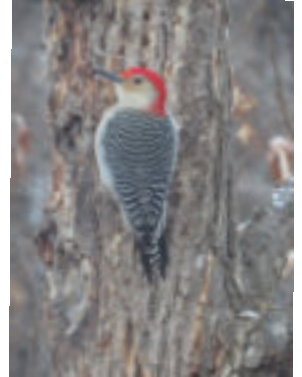
Valerie Wilkinson, President 2022-2024



Birding Committee Report 2024

MVFN's Early Morning Bird Walks were once again held each Wednesday in April. The four walks were at the Ottawa Valley Rail Trail south of Almonte, along Concession 12 to Taylor Lake, the James Naismith Way Walk and the Mississippi River Walk trail in Carleton Place. These walks were led by Michel Gauthier, Ken Allison and Rémy Poulin.

The Birding Committee also organized the following very successful birding outings: a walk at the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust's Marble Woodlands property on Saturday, May 11, 2024. The accompanying photo shows a non-bird highlight from that outing. a new half-day walk along the Bottle Lake Road in Lavant Township on May 29, 2024, led by Ken Allison. This outing was held on a Wednesday but was still attended by 10 people and 130 birds of 47 species were heard and/or seen.



MVFN members also participated in the Grassland Ontario Projects administered by the Lanark County Stewardship Council in 2024. The aim of the project is to monitor the health of grassland bird species. This year Rémy Poulin, Iain Wilkes and Ken Allison conducted surveys on two properties that are hosting Grasslands Ontario projects. Good numbers of both Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks, plus other other interesting birds, were observed.

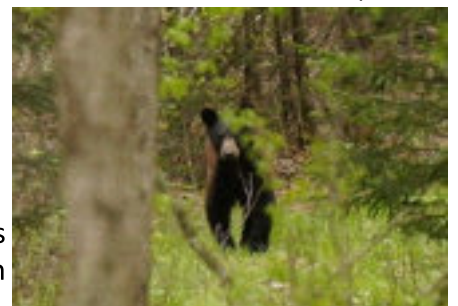
Open Houses were held each Wednesday afternoon in September at the Mike McPhail Viewing Shelter at the Almonte Lagoon to view the fall migration. Ken Allison, Michel Gauthier, and Bob Kennedy provided scopes and offered their expertise and assistance to attendees. The duck and shorebird numbers continue to fall, probably due to the permanent high-water levels at the lagoons without any draw-down during the summer which makes the habitat less attractive for most water birds. However, enough waterfowl and many other bird species were seen to provide interest and the number of people who participate in the open houses continues to be encouraging.

As in past years, MVFN members were involved in three Lanark County Christmas Bird Counts in December: Rideau Ferry, organized by Alison Bentley; Carleton Place, organized by Iain Wilkes; and Lanark Highlands, organized by Jeff Mills. The 34th Rideau Ferry CBC took place on December 14, 2024. The 74th Carleton Place CBC took place on December 27, 2024. The 22nd Lanark Highlands CBC took place on December 30, 2024. As of the date of compiling this report, no results are available for any of the counts.

The Birding Committee and volunteers continue to provide nest boxes and bird feeders at the Almonte Lagoon property. Art Clarke, Ron and Leslie Williamson, David Hinks, Chris Baburek, Ken Allison, Jaan and Heather Pedjase, Don Johnston and Georgina Wigley, and Rona Bloomfield all filled feeders over the past year.

Members of the Birding Committee are Ken Allison (chair), Val Wilkinson, Cliff Bennett, Michel Gauthier, Rémy Poulin, Iain Wilkes and Mary Robinson (secretary).

Black Bear at Marble Woodlands
Ken Allison



MVFN Champion for Nature 2024 Awarded to Ken Allison

Ken Allison is a “wildlife ecologist/naturalist/educator”; extraordinaire! He earned his B.Sc. from the University of Guelph and completed a career working for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency where he was a specialist in the assessment of risks to Canada’s food supply posed by invasive plants. And in 2024 Ken was recognized with the MVFN Champion for Nature Award

He was deeply involved with the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club, and acted as President in 2008-2009. He came to MVFN in 2012 and, since 2017, has volunteered to be the lead animator for the Nature Sightings portion of our monthly Nature Talks. He has served on the MVFN board for four years and was President for two. Ken is an active member of the MVFN Birding Committee, of which he is currently the chair, and assists with or leads many of their activities. He is an active member of ONO (Ontario Field Ornithologists), acting as a trip leader during their Annual Convention weekend. He is also a very active member of ebird Canada as well as the leading bird identifier for the MMLT (Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust). In addition, Ken is, by far, the leading contributor to the MVFN Lanark County Bio-Diversity i-Naturalist project.

Ken’s willingness to lead nature walks on his own woodland property and lead tours of other natural areas has meant that he is constantly in demand. His citizen science activities are numerous, including moth, turtle and amphibian studies. He also participates in the Lanark County Stewardship Council project “Grassland Birds”. Ken is a resource person for the volunteers who manage the Butterfly Garden at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority’s Perth Wildlife Reserve. And Ken has agreed to maintain David White’s list of “Plants of Lanark County Ontario”.

During the prolonged pandemic years, when MVFN members were not allowed to meet in person either to experience nature or even to talk about it, Ken redoubled his efforts to keep us connected. Through countless zoom opportunities, he was able to continue the sharing of nature sightings using observations logged on to our iNaturalist project, photos submitted to our email account and telephone calls from members! Ken brought us Birding by Ear, a 5-part series, also virtual, that had an attendance of approximately 50 households and he offered refresher courses for more seasoned birders. He introduced us to the Birding Website, Dendroica, entertaining us and educating us at the same time!



Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund Report 2024



The MVFN Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund was established in 2007 by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists to award deserving students from high schools in our local area — who are moving on to college or university, or an equivalent post-secondary institution — pursuing careers related to the natural environment.

Through a cooperative arrangement with The Elizabeth Kelly Foundation, 2024 was the first year where successful university or college students (who may have already received an MVFN bursary) were able to apply for a further award if they continued in a second year in studies that met MVFN criteria.

Of the four local students who received \$1000 bursaries in 2023, two applied for additional bursary funds under the new EKF/MVFN arrangement. Their applications have been accepted and they will receive \$1000.00 each.

The MVFN Cliff Bennett Bursary Fund is administered by: Joachim Moenig, (Chair), Janet Johns, Renata Seiler, Robert Barnett, Rudi Mueller and Wendy Moenig. Cliff Bennett (pictured in his natural habitat) is both the program's founder and advisor to the Committee. The Committee which, as a minimum, meets in the spring and fall, works continuously throughout the year on improving and elevating the effectiveness and profile of this MVFN awards program.

Bursaries of up to \$1000 (more than \$30,000 to date) have been awarded to well over 30 individuals since the program's inception.

In 2024 the Committee was delighted to award a \$1000 bursary to Mr. Ryan Carroll of the West Carleton Secondary School, who more than satisfied the bursaries requirements.

The annual program cycle involves getting a fall reminder package (letter, poster, contact information) to the 30 or so secondary schools' teachers and administrators including home-schooling, involved in the program. In the spring, the media is notified; the schools receive a second reminder, posters and coordinates for on-line fillable application instructions and forms.

The Committee looks forward to expanding the MVFN Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary program as funds and donations permit.

Joachim Moenig BSc. MSc.

Conservation & Habitat Restoration Report 2024

The CHR committee is currently run on an “ad hoc” basis with no committee Chair and membership loosely comprising Paul Frigon, Nick de Boer and Art Clarke. A variety of projects were undertaken in 2024, some of which were not directly involved with conservation or habitat restoration. They are identified below:

1. Bluebird nesting boxes – 19 distributed in 2024 – 5 in stock for 2025
2. Nesting box maintenance – the martin house at the Almonte Lagoons was cleaned-out by Nick de Boer and colleagues; no other nest boxes were maintained; three Bluebird nest boxes were installed near the Mill of Kintail Parking Lot - thanks to Lucy, Bob and Paul.
3. Trail and Pathway Maintenance: Almonte Lagoon Pathways mowed from May to September by Art Clarke - including McPhail Viewing Shelter and Potvin Observation Tower connecting path. No other trail maintenance.
4. Potential projects to be reviewed in 2025:
 - a) Plantings at McPhail Viewing Shelter – Almonte Lagoons.
 - b) The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) program on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) is researching the Mississippi River, from Almonte to Pakenham, as a potential KBA for the Rapids Clubtail Dragonfly. There may be opportunity for MVFN to participate in further study of the Mississippi River to confirm this KBA.
5. Mississippi Lake Loon Survey 2024 results – provided by Mississippi Lake Association (MLA) and MVFN rep Nick De Boer. MVFN support by providing observers and the cost of watercraft fuel.
To be continued in 2025.
6. MVFN (Paul and Sylvia) attended Ontario Nature (ON) Eastern Region meeting, in person, in the Spring sponsored by Ottawa Field Naturalists at Fletcher Gardens. MVFN (Paul and Val) attended an Eastern Region ZOOM meeting in the Fall. MVFN supported ON Initiatives this year: co-signing a letter to the Ontario Government, with ON and other Nature Network partners, regarding Ontario wetlands strategy and evaluation; and helping to identify five ON provincial “election strategy” priority items from a list of fifteen provided.
7. Provincial grants to fund MVFN projects were explored but 50/50 funding with Province, Municipalities, County requires a financial needs test for the non-profit organisation applying for the grants: MVFN, so far, has not qualified. To be continued in 2025.
8. Ongoing interaction with Climate Network Lanark (CNL) and their Nature Based Climate Solutions (NBCS) committee. MVFN supported CNL’s presentation to council on the importance and need for Natural Heritage Systems in the County Official Plan. MVFN (Val and Paul) attended CNL’s presentation to County Council on Natural Heritage Systems.



Paul Frigon

Environmental Education Program Report...December 2024

If 2023 was described as a transition year for the Environmental Education Program, 2024 has seen us return to the old normal, with one exception, the Monarch classroom release experience. This will be described later in the report.

As usual in spring, we go into the classrooms of our 19 participating schools and plant milkweed with the students, which is then transplanted late in June in the school garden or at home. This is also our opportunity to talk about the spring Monarch migration from Mexico to Canada.

In June as well this year we held Waterfest '24 at the Crystal Palace in Perth. This event features 15 interactive demonstrations of the importance of water conservation, treatment and purification, which the St. Lawrence River Institute provided. They also instructed 30 students from Perth District Collegiate Institute, showing them how best to interpret these stations to the 140 Perth elementary students who were attending. Next year this event will return to Almonte where it began in 2022.



In summer we work with the Almonte Youth Club, helping them with their summer day camp program. This year we took them on a nature hike looking for Monarch eggs and caterpillars, as well as a workshop creating beehotels by drilling holes in chunks of log, thus providing solitary bees a place to lay their eggs.

In late August the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust holds their Festival of the Wild Child at High Lonesome near Pakenham. For the last 4 years MVFN has helped sponsor this event and the EEP has presented the Pollinator Path, a trail that demonstrates the various habitats of bees, bats, butterflies, birds, mice, squirrels, etc. that cause our plants and trees to produce fruit and flower.

Usually in early September we have brought into the 19 classrooms, a Monarch butterfly release kit, consisting of 4 caterpillars 🐛, and 2 chrysalis, each of which, when nurtured by the students to maturity, is released and sent on its southern migration to Mexico, where it will hibernate for 5 months. This year however, the Monarch was placed on the official Endangered species list. One of the contributing causes for this was captive breeding and captive rearing, ie large numbers of eggs or larvae being raised in a controlled inside facility, which increases the likelihood of disease from viruses and parasites. So it seems that our classroom release program is in jeopardy. Although we can no longer buy the larvae, we may be allowed to collect them ourselves, in small numbers, or to encourage the students to look for their own eggs and caterpillars. We will definitely be reexamining, certainly changing and possibly eliminating our most popular program.

It has to be said that this is a minor setback in the face of so many serious environmental issues requiring attention and awareness these days. We will continue to offer programs and events that engage us all in the natural world.

Respectfully submitted by the EEC

Karen Thompson, Kathleen Teahan, Catherine Arbour, Scott Hortop, Bob Smith.

MVFN and MVCA Kintail Christmas 2024

MVFN Christmas gnomes and elves again contributed to providing great activities for kids at the MVCA Kintail Country Christmas. The elves guided the kids in creating one or more Christmas nature decorations, encouraging them to go outside on a Nature scavenger hunt, and serving hot cider to the parents.

Many thanks to Head Gnome Lucy Carleton, who developed these lovely Christmas nature decorations and organized the supplies and set-up, her intrepid gnome sidekick hot glue gun extraordinaire Neil and the many MVFN Christmas elves who also volunteered: Catherine A, Wendy B, Victoria, Shawn, Chris B., Patty, Duncan, Wendy M., Joachim, Paul, Heather and Kelsey.

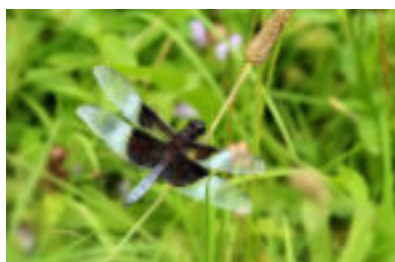
A wonderful example of cooperative teamwork and willing MVFN volunteers!



Kintail Christmas 2024 ... MVFN Craft Activities ... 14 December 2024 ... iPhone Photos
Neil Carleton



bright cold morning



Nature Talks Committee Report for 2024

In 2024 there were hybrid presentations In January and March. These were live meetings and members were able to meet at our usual spot at the Almonte United Church to enjoy social time, refreshments, and the ever-popular Nature Detective quiz, whilst the meetings were being streamed simultaneously to members on zoom. All further meetings in 2024 were live with a speaker present, or the speaker and their presentation projected on screen. The meetings were not available simultaneously on zoom but frequently a recording was available on line later.

In total six Nature Talks were held in 2024, as well as The Spring Gathering. A separate committee organises this annual event, but the NTC lines up a speaker. In 2024, thanks to Ron Williamson, the NTC was able to secure the renowned host of CBC's Quirk's and Quark's, Bob McDonald.

- The Theme for the first five Nature Talks of 2024 was “**Nature Near and Far**” and included the following presentations:

January 2024 – Dr. Catherine Scott – “Eat Prey Love: The Secret Lives of Spiders”

February 2024 – Annual Members’ Night and Annual General Meeting – Presentations included: Art Solomonian (Paddle Committee events), Bob Stearns (Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust) and Ken Allison (Nature Sightings)

March 2024 – Lynn Holden – “Canadian World Heritage Sights”

April 2024 – Spring Gathering - Bob McDonald – “Perspectives on a Planet” Almonte Civitan Hall)

May 2024 - Dr. Jeff Bowman – “Wild Turkeys of Ontario”

As is usually the case, a new theme was adopted for the 2024/25 program year beginning in September. That theme is “**Floating Through Nature**” and will continue through to May 2025.

September 2024 – cancelled due to a last minute cancellation by the speaker. It was unfortunate and backup plans are now in place in case of future cancellations.





October 2024 – Brenna Bartley – “The Golden Spike: Lessons Learned from Crawford Lake”

November 2024 – Bruce and Karen Thompson “American Midwest” (planned speaker cancelled at the last minute),

Until May 2024, the Nature Talks Committee consisted of Ron Williamson (co-chair), Ros Reid (co-chair), Cliff Bennett, Victoria Miller, Chris Baburek and Bill Pratt. Ron, Ros and Bill left the Committee in June. Our thanks to

them for the effort they have put in over the years. Beginning in September of 2024, Brian Gillespie became chair and new members Anne Range and Duncan Norquay joined the committee. Cliff Bennett, Victoria Miller and Chris Baburek remain on the committee.

The NTC would like to thank the above-noted individuals and those listed below, for their assistance at the meetings:

Bill Pratt , Denis Gallant and George Yaremchuk – our amazing IT Team, allowing us to offer hybrid meetings and post-presentation recordings for members unable to make it out to the meeting. Bruce Thompson has been supporting the IT Team and has recently joined the group.



Ken Allison for his always enlightening monthly Nature Sightings segments.

Suzanne Rebetez and the Social Committee for providing refreshments at each of our monthly meetings.

Ruth Dubois, Rob Longair and Leslie Williamson for their thoughtful presenter Introductions.

Leslie Williamson and Bill Pratt for preparing & sending individualized thank you gift cards and packages to each of our presenters.

Art Solomonian for arranging Mailchimp notices of meetings.

John Blais for providing honoraria for our presenters and NTC reimbursements as required.

In the spring the Nature Talks Committee will settle on a new theme for the 2025/26 program year and begin a search for a new group of captivating presenters.

Submitted by : Chris Baburek

Ontario Nature Youth Summit for Mother Earth 2024



Thank you for supporting the 2024 Youth Summit for Mother Earth! Your generosity brought together young Ontarians from diverse backgrounds and experiences and gave us the opportunity to generate positive environmental and social change. Together, we championed connections to Mother Earth, including the lands, airs and waters in the spirit of reconciliation with Indigenous community members and gained knowledge which will shape our lives and future generations for the better.

Thanks to your support, 64 youth (age 14-20) and two youth mentors from 42 communities across Ontario participated in the Summit. Youth were sponsored by a total of 41 nature groups, organizations, corporations, and individuals. This financial aid was crucial in reducing multiple barriers for youth to participate from under-resourced communities.

The Youth Summit for Mother Earth was held from September 13-15, 2024 at Tawingo Outdoor Centre in Huntsville. We collaborated with peers and mentors to plan and deliver the Summit, garnering valuable leadership and event-planning skills. The result was a unique cross-cultural event with opportunities for your Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders to participate in educational workshops and connect on a weekend of outdoor fun and education. We had the pleasure of learning from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, specialists and each other in a wide variety of ceremonies, sessions and sharing circles.

For more information and thank you letters from the two recipients:

Rory St. Dennis, Almonte and
Rowan Tunks, Carleton Place

Check out MVFN website where the information has been posted.



Outings Committee Report for 2024

The Outings Committee was newly formed in July 2024. The purpose of this committee is to organize field/nature walks.

In early July, Art Goldsmith took a group of about 20 members on a 3km afternoon hike beginning at the **High Lonesome Nature Reserve** Welcome Center. Members hiked along four trails beginning with White Pine Way and Wolf Trail and ending with a portion of Beaver Pond. During the early stages of the walk, they looked for snakes (especially Ribbon Snakes) along the trail, then salamanders and frogs at Spooky Marsh. Toward the end of the walk frogs, tadpoles and salamanders became the focus for Beaver Pond. Art and other members of the group also identified many other species of wildlife such as mushroom and plant species.



Under the guidance of local expert and professional geologist, Ben Cleland, our members explored the **Precambrian rocks and the Grenville Orogeny of Lanark County**. Ben led the group through the dynamic tectonics of the Precambrian world. Stopping at rock cuts along Wolf Grove Road, Tatlock and Sugar Bush Road, Ben pointed to notable geological formations that offered a window into the region's geological history. Rocks more than one billion years old were evidence of the mountain and ocean building events that created the Grenville Orogeny that forged Southeastern Ontario's landscape. The day culminated standing in a farmer's field near Pakenham on the remains of a 1.4 million year old mountain.

Blueberry Mountain is a perennial favourite of our membership. Led by Rachel Collishaw, a local to the mountain, this

purpose of this event was to allow MVFN members with various levels of experience and expertise to Spend time with like-minded people exploring this premier MMLT (Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust) property. Some shared their knowledge of trees by examining leaves and bark to identify the diverse species. Others used Apps to examine plants, bugs, mushrooms, etc. and collaborated with others to make a positive identification. The highlight was a well-earned rest at the top of Blueberry Mountain, taking in the breathtaking vista just beginning to show the early blush of autumn colours.



The beauty of the night sky is often out of reach for most of us who live in light polluted towns. We are fortunate to have the **Fred Lossing Observatory** at the Mill of Kintail and the expertise of Rick Scholes, physicist and manager of the facility, to help our members use the telescopes housed there, and to



observe the moon. Then as the sky darkened, Rick trained the large refractor telescope on Saturn allowing us to see its ring, giving us our first WOW moment. Rick had recruited Taras Rabarskyi, another Royal Astronomical Society member to operate the large Dobson telescope. This allowed us to look deep into space at objects that are either very faint or not visible to the naked eye. As the telescope swept across the sky our closest neighbour galaxy, Andromeda, the Ring and Wild Duck Nebula, star clusters such as Pleiades and Messier Object 3 came into view. It is our hope that we can make this an annual

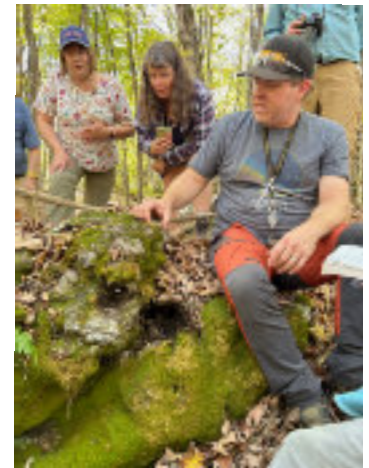
event.

By the end of September people had made friends through various MVFN activities. There was a request that there be a hike where people who had developed friendships over the course of the summer could meet for a last hike at another of our favourite nature locations, the Mill of Kintail. John Grierson, who has been at many of these outdoor events, offered to lead the group along the trails of this Mississippi Mills Conservation Authority property. It was a beautiful day and John provided information about the history of the mill. After lunch on the deck at the museum site overlooking the river, the group headed off for a further ramble in the colourful Fall woods.

The Outings Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank everyone who made these outings possible:

Art Goldsmith, Ben Cleland, Rachel Collishaw, Rick Scholes, Taras Rabarskyi, John Grierson

Outings Committee Members: Gretta Bradley, Rosalind Reid (retired) and Nancy Young



Paddling Committee Report for 2024



The MVFN had another busy and successful paddle season. 64 participants took part in eight day trips. Most of the trips were on routes that are listed in the Guide, but we also explored Palmerston Lake in the area of the newly acquired Madawaska Land Trust property around Marl Lake, and a new area of White Lake off Lacourse Lane.

As usual we enjoyed the hospitality of non-paddlers, as Rob Vanderkam helped us gain access to the Upper Clyde in May, Angela hosted us on the lawn of her B&B, Gold Creek Getaway, for our lunch break in June, and Jan Mansfield's family gave us access to their dock at the family cabin on White Lake in August.

We were also given a surprise gift of a spare canoe by Sandy Bickerstaff. It is in storage and available for use by any member registered on a trip who needs to borrow it.



The annual Fall Camp was held at Voyageur Provincial Park. Because of the rising popularity of camping, occupancy in the Ontario Provincial Parks has increased to a point where getting a group of individual campsites to hold the camp is almost impossible. We have had to abandon one of our favourite locations at Achray in Algonquin Provincial Park and use group campsites. We decided to try out Voyageur this year. The park is located on the Ottawa River and offers some potentially good paddling among the islands and wetlands created by the flooding above the Carillon Dam. We never got a chance to check it out, as the winds and rain prevented us from getting out on the river all weekend. The park offered two short hiking trails that were both explored. A group also drove up to Rigaud, Que. to explore some of the trails there. But the wind was the star of the weekend. It kept us off



the water, and after breakfast on Sunday we started talking about packing up early. A sudden gust hit the shelter, ripping out the guy lines and toppling the structure. Our decision was made. We packed up the shelter and started breaking camp. We had, nonetheless, had a good weekend. The fire crew kept the fire going between rains, and we had a Relaxing time enjoying each other's company.

A huge THANKS to John Grierson for all the work designing and setting up the shelter.

In order to stabilize the shelter in future, we want to add more poles and guy lines. If you are like most campers, you probably have some of those metal expandable poles in the garage. If you no longer need them,

please consider donating them to the cause. It doesn't matter if they are rusty. Contact Art at the email address below.

The Paddle Committee is comprised of John Grierson, John Willis, Pete McEwen and Art Solomonian. We were supported this year by Rachel Collishaw and Anne Rimes, Andrea McCrady and Arn Snyder as trip leaders, and a large team who did duty at the Fall Camp.

We have already begun working on the 2025 season. Our biggest challenge will be managing the growing popularity of the program. We are limited to 25 participants on the day trips, and even that level restricts the choices of routes because of parking or congestion on the route. We have a number of options to explore. Late last year we imposed registration restrictions so that priority was given to members who had not been on the previous trip. Other options include paddling the same route on both days of the weekend, and simply adding more trips. Either of those will require more leaders. We encourage all paddlers to contact Art at paddling@mvfn.ca to get more information on leading a trip.

A list of routes for the season will be posted at the Spring Gathering. Notices are emailed to all members roughly two weeks in advance, and registration takes place online using Google Forms. As noted above, we have an extra canoe for members to borrow if needed, and a few people are looking for partners from time to time. New to the sport? We are a very friendly group and happy to teach you. The pace is slow to enjoy Nature. We look forward to seeing you on the water.

Art Solomonian, Chair, Paddling Committee

paddling@mvfn.ca



Spring Gathering Report 2024

The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (MVFN) were treated to a captivating talk featuring special guest speaker Bob McDonald and his “Perspectives on a Planet”. MVFN’s Annual Spring Gathering featured a short video, a dessert and coffee social, information stations, a silent auction and culminated with Bob’s fascinating presentation.



The evening was emceed by Mississippi Mills’ gardening guru, Ed Lawrence. It began with a video presentation, “O’Canada”, by photographer extraordinaire, Bill Pratt. We saw gorgeous scenes from across our beautiful country, set to the stirring music of Frank Mills’ version of “Oh Canada”. Following that, the sold-out crowd enjoyed dessert and tea/coffee prepared by the Almonte Civitan Club, while mingling and viewing the various displays.

Bob McDonald joined us on the large screen via Zoom and the main event began with Bob’s introduction by entomology expert Rob Longair. He noted that Bob McDonald’s voice is familiar to anyone who has listened to CBC or to radio stations around the world which broadcast Quirks & Quarks. Many have grown up with his children’s programs Wonderstruck or Heads Up! Bob’s accolades include the Michael Smith Award for Science Promotion from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Sandford Fleming Medal from the Royal Canadian Institute, and the McNeill medal for Public Awareness of Science from the Royal Society of Canada. He has a list of honorary degrees/doctorates from across the country, he is an honorary lifetime member of Sigma Xi, the science honour society, and he is an Officer of the Order of Canada. Plus he has an asteroid named after him.

Bob’s message is that here on earth we are living in an oasis of light in a very hostile universe. He noted that earth is moving through space in a number of different and extraordinary ways; we are moving east as the earth rotates at a rate of 800 kilometres (km) per hour, we’re travelling around the sun at 30 km per second and around the galaxy at 300 km per second. When we go to different worlds we will experience moving in an entirely different way due to differing gravitational fields. Bob illustrated this with a video of him experiencing what its like to walk on the moon and on Mars.

Bob talked of Buzz Aldrin describing the moon to him as “magnificent desolation”, and an interesting place, but not nice. Bob noted that a photo taken during the Apollo 8 mission in 1968 showed the moon as dark, dry and desolate compared to the blue oasis of earth. He found it no surprise that the contrast between the two provided us with a wake-up call. The Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada and Earth Day were created not long after that. Since then, robots have been sent to every planet in the solar system, with Mars being the only one we can visit. We now know the other planets and their moons are also interesting, but dangerous and inhospitable places.

To date over 5,000 planets have been found orbiting around other stars, some containing water. As we look into space we see the ingredients of life but haven’t yet found life. The odds are good that there are planets with life given that the Milky Way has 200-300 billion stars and there are estimated to be 100 billion other galaxies in our expanding universe. However another planet that supports life will be very far away and hard to reach with current technologies. Bob provided us with analogies to show how small the earth is, how relatively little water it contains and how thin the layer of our atmosphere is. He noted that our planet is unique and it is quite remarkable that we are here. He stressed that “this is it”, so we must preserve and care for the earth and its air and water. Bob’s final message was to get young people out in nature to appreciate this beautiful and precious planet we live on.

In addition to those noted above, we would also like to thank Louise Beckinsale, Brenda Boyd, Sandy Duncan and Sylvia Miller for organizing another exceptional Spring Gathering, and to Ron Williamson, who initially approached Bob McDonald to be our special guest presenter.

Written by Chris Baburek, photo of Bob McDonald submit ed by Bob McDonald for our use

Young Naturalist Program – 2024

Board of Directors Summary – 2024 Young Naturalists Sessions

Hope you are all having a great holiday season. I wanted to send out a quick update on how the program is going, what we got up to during the 2024 sessions, and what I am planning for the upcoming 2025 sessions.

Overview of membership numbers:

Winter/Spring 2024: We had 18 participants in the early session, and 19 participants in the later session, for a total of 37 participants.

Fall 2024: We have 16 participants in the early session, and 15 participants in the later session, for a total of 31 participants.

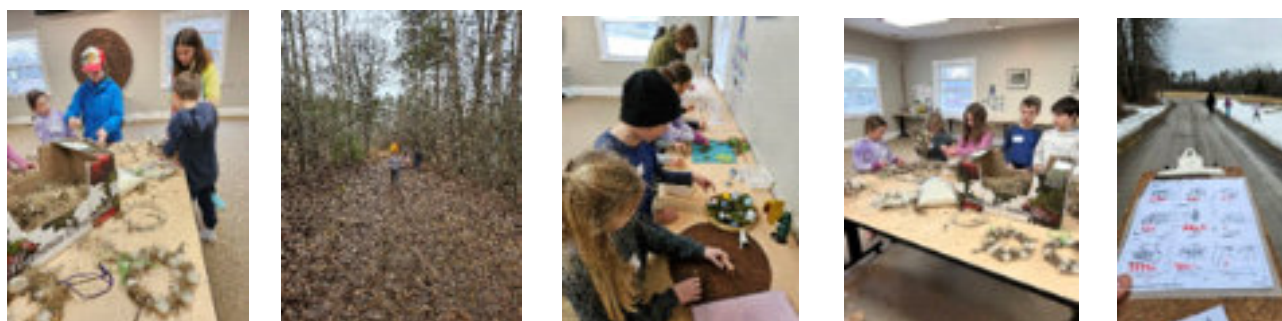
February 2024

For this session we explored the topic of **the Winter Water Cycle**. We started the program off by filling mason jars full of snow to guesstimate the volume of water that would be produced. We then discussed the basics of the water cycle (evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection) as well as how the colder temperatures during the winter months affect the cycle. We headed outside to explore some of the concepts that we discussed. Once back inside we created a mini water cycle in a sealed plastic bag for participants to bring home. Before dismissal we had them check their mason jars to see if their guesses were correct.



March 2024

For this session we explored the topic of the **Animal Homes**. We learned about the basics of animal homes - what they are and why animals need them. This included talking about the different kinds of homes animals make and the associated adaptations that make their construction possible. On our hike outside we aimed to spot some animal homes in the wild! When we headed back inside we made spring wreaths to take home. These wreaths were made using natural materials that animals can 'borrow' to use when constructing their spring homes.



April 2024

This month we learned the basics of **Birding By Ear**. We started off by learning what exactly it is, why it can be useful, as well as what additional information it can tell us. We then went through 12 of the most common birds for this area, what each of their calls sound like and the mnemonic device to help remember it. We used the Merlin Bird ID app to help with this. We headed outside to see if we could hear any bird calls. When we got back inside, we created a couple of simple bird calls as well as a station where participants could make paper plate birds.



May 2024

Our topic this month was **Seeds**. We started off by learning what a seed is, what purpose it serves, the different types of seeds, how they are spread and what conditions

they need to grow. Outside we broke into small groups to see if we could find any seed pods hanging around and to then come back together for a show and tell. The take home craft was a grow your own caterpillar.

June 2024

The topic this month was learning about **Damselflies and Dragonflies**.

We started off by learning the difference between these two insects and as well going over their life cycle. Then we headed

outside for the main event: Stream Study! We spent most of the time down at the water, completing dipping exercises and identifying the species that we were finding.



September 2024

Our topic this month was learning about **Square Metre Nature Observations**.

We worked on honing observational skills within a small patch of nature and tracking

the species we saw (with the help of the Seek app). We then discussed our findings as a group and talked about how the observations relate to habitats and biodiversity.

October 2024

This month we learning about **Fossils of Ontario**. We began by learning about the process of fossil formation, as well as the most common fossils you are likely to find in our province. Our resident geologist, Ben, led a hike through the geologic time periods, before we tried our hands at creating our own fossils using air dry clay.



November 2024

Our topic this month was **Exploring the Night Sky - Introduction to Astronomy.**

We talked about the kinds of things that we can observe in the night sky and what tools we can use to explore them. While I know the topic of astronomy is massive, our general focus for this initial

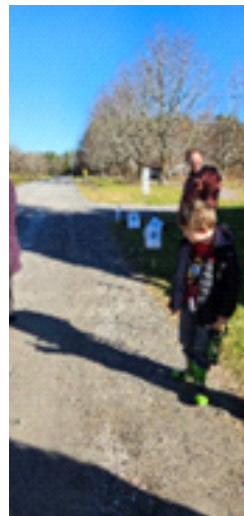
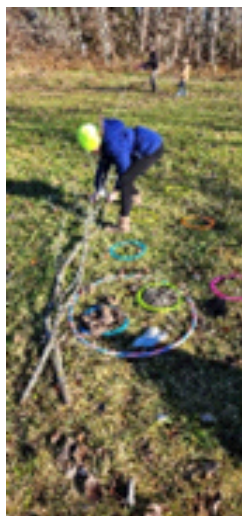
lesson was on the basics and then learning about constellations. There were two outdoor stations. For one, the kids creating a likeness of the solar system using natural materials. The other was walking through a scale model of the solar system, starting at one end with the sun, and working down the trail until we hit the Kuiper Belt (and Pluto). The indoor craft station was a constellation craft using star stickers where participants created their own constellation. They were also offered the opportunity to create a stargazing friendly flashlight/headlamp, by adding red cellophane to it.

December 2024

Our topic this month was learning about **Winter Shelter Building**. We first learnt about natural vs built shelters and why we need shelters at all! We ran an experiment to determine the best insulating materials that can be found in nature by placing thermometers in various different materials (pine needles, grass, sticks, leaves and feathers) to see which kept their heat the most. We then tried our hands at building our own winter shelters using ropes and tarps as a base. The end of the program involved creating an artistic representation of a squirrel nest.



Looking forward to the 2025 year, I have solidified the bookings for the Winter/Spring session. Registration will be opening towards the end of January!



MVFN 2024 Annual Membership Report

The MVNF membership year begins 1 April and ends 31 March. Three months remain in the 24/25 Membership Year. However, the Membership List for 24/25 was most recently updated 31 December 2024. By that date there were 240 current memberships, including three complimentary family memberships for Ontario Youth Summit sponsored candidates, 2 corporate, and 35 New memberships for 24/25. [Not all complimentary MVFN Young Naturalists families have been included in this 2025 Annual Report, but any will lapse on 1 April 2025]

Membership Year	Memberships	Members
2024/25 (Up to Dec. 31 2024)	240 (207 paying, including 35 new 24/5 memberships: 31 complimentary; 2 perpetual)	~313 (231 members + ~82 complimentary members)
(Up to 31 Dec 2023)	217 (Including two student YS 22+3 complimentary family US'23,35 new in 23/24)	345
2022/23	46 lapsed (including 7 complimentary YN families)	

Two candidates were selected for sponsorship by MVFN to attend the Ontario Nature Youth Summit of September 13-15, 2024. Each have been granted complimentary MVFN membership for the duration of their high school attendance.

The donor of a canoe to MVFN in 2024 has been granted a Membership.

As of 31 December 2024, 230 memberships will lapse on 1 April 2025, including 24/25 complimentary Young Naturalists family memberships, and some Youth Summit student memberships.

Call for MVFN membership renewal is scheduled for February 24, 2025.

NEW 25/26 Memberships will be accepted after 1 January 2025

MVFN Membership fees remained at \$35 per family (two adults and their children under 18 years); \$25 per individual; \$20 for seniors (65+); students \$10.

The auto-fill Membership Form with integrated PayPal function for collecting membership dues and donations (launched May 2018 on <https://mvfn.ca/membership>), remains the favoured choice for Membership Application and Renewal, and for donations to MVFN and to the Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary. Although E-transfer is a payment option (etransfer@mvfn.ca) for transactions directed to MVFN, it is very important to indicate the purpose of the payment in the e-transfer message box. **A completed MVFN Membership application form is still required for successful registration of membership.**

Automated membership confirmations, and print-on-demand Membership cards and donation receipts remain under consideration for future implementation.

The MVFN Membership spread sheet is used on occasion to assist Committee Chairs in program planning and in identifying volunteers interested in participating in MVFN administration and activities. Membership cards continue to be issued to MVFN members and these indicate Membership expiration date. Letters of welcome and copies of Club brochures are sent to new members. Name tags of current MVFN members are available at MVFN functions

The 2024/25 Membership Committee consists of Sylvia Miller (Chair), with technical support from George Yaremchuk, and assistance from Louise Beckinsale, Patty Waters, and Brenda Boyd.

Financial Reports 2024

MVFN 2024 COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Sheet 1

Income Category		2023	2024	Diff
11R - Membership Committee				
	11R - Membership Committee:Membership Sales	6,180.00	6,200.00	20.00
	TOTAL 11R - Membership Committee	6,180.00	6,200.00	20.00
12R - Nature Talks Committee				
	12R - Nature Talks Committee:Sales, Books	0.00	5.00	5.00
	12R - Nature Talks Committee:Visitor Admission	5.00	90.00	85.00
	TOTAL 12R - Nature Talks Committee	5.00	95.00	90.00
13R - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings				
	13R - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings:Member Payment	2,605.00	800.00	(1,805.00)
	TOTAL 13R - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings	2,605.00	800.00	(1,805.00)
16R - Environmental Education				
	16R - Environmental Education:Donations,	600.00	0.00	(600.00)
	TOTAL 16R - Environmental Education	600.00	0.00	(600.00)
17R - Young Naturalists				
	17R - Young Naturalists:Donations, Young Naturalists	190.00	290.00	100.00
	17R - Young Naturalists:Fees, Young Naturalists	6,140.00	6,183.70	43.70
	TOTAL 17R - Young Naturalists	6,330.00	6,473.70	143.70
18R - Conservation & Habitat				
	18R - Conservation & Habitat:Donations, Conservation &	355.00	230.00	(125.00)
	18R - Conservation & Habitat:Sales, Bird Houses - Cons.	675.00	325.00	(350.00)
	TOTAL 18R - Conservation & Habitat	1,030.00	555.00	(475.00)
19R - Other Programs				
	19R - Other Programs:Kintail Christmas Donations	0.00	93.15	93.15
	TOTAL 19R - Other Programs	0.00	93.15	93.15
20R - Spring Gathering				
	20R - Spring Gathering:Silent Auction Receipts	380.00	0.00	(380.00)
	20R - Spring Gathering:Ticket Sales	3,900.00	5,215.00	1,315.00
	20R - Spring Gathering: Raffle Ticket Proceeds	0.00	880.00	880.00
	24R- Spring Gathering: Centrepieces	0.00	50.00	50.00
	TOTAL 20R - Spring Gathering	4,280.00	5,215.00	935.00
22R - Miscellaneous				
	22R - Miscellaneous:Miscellaneous	410.00	0.00	(410.00)
	TOTAL 22R - Miscellaneous	410.00	0.00	(410.00)
23R - General Donations				
	23R - General Donations:General Donations	3,052.00	2,989.00	(63.00)
	TOTAL 23R - General Donations	3,052.00	2,989.00	(63.00)
24R- Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund				
	24R- Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund:Booksales	15.00	0.00	(15.00)
	24R- Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund:Cliff and Sandra Wedding	2,976.00	0.00	(2,976.00)
	24R- Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund:Donations, Bursary Fund	865.00	430.00	(435.00)
	24R- Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund:OCCU Interest	649.00	663.00	14.00
	TOTAL 24R- Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund	4,505.00	2,023.00	(2,482.00)
	TOTAL INCOME	28,997.00	24,443.85	(4,553.15)

MVFN 2024 COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Sheet 2

Expense Category		2023	2024	Diff
11E - Membership Expenses				
	11E - Membership Expenses:Postage	103.96	207.92	(103.96)
	11E - Membership Expenses:Supplies	427.89	103.84	324.05
	TOTAL 11E - Membership Expenses	531.85	311.76	220.09
12E -Nature Talks Committee				
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Cards & Gifts	401.77	154.36	247.41
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Hall Rent	680.00	0.00	680.00
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Honorarium	500.00	450.00	50.00
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Major Equipment	820.61	691.80	128.81
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Online Conference	0.00	288.00	(288.00)
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Postage	0.00	66.78	(66.78)
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Prizes	295.00	60.00	235.00
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Software	0.00	89.26	(89.26)
	12E -Nature Talks Committee:Speaker Dinner	181.86	46.10	135.76
	TOTAL 12E -Nature Talks Committee	2,879.24	1,846.30	1,032.94
12EA - Birding Committee				
	12EA - Birding Committee:Bird Seed for Feeders	44.74	0.00	44.74
	TOTAL 12EA - Birding Committee	44.74	0.00	44.74
13E - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings				
	13E - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings:Emergency	395.49	350.00	45.49
	13E - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings:Member Fee Rebate	205.00	(45.00)	250.00
	13E - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings:Other Expenses	801.51	0.00	801.51
	13E - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings:Special Occasion	0.00	607.82	(607.82)
	13E - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings:Use of Facilities Fees	826.90	401.62	425.28
	TOTAL 13E - Canoeing & Kayaking Outings	2,228.90	1,314.44	914.46
15E - Nature Protection				
	15E - Nature Protection:Website - burntlandsalvar.com	27.11	34.94	(7.83)
	TOTAL 15E - Nature Protection	27.11	34.94	(7.83)
16E - Environmental Education				
	16E - Environmental Education:Festival of the Wild Child	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
	16E - Environmental Education:Monarch Program	0.00	1,510.80	(1,510.80)
	16E - Environmental Education:Water Festival	1,080.00	1,000.00	80.00
	16E - Environmental Education:Youth Summit	270.98	0.00	270.98
	TOTAL 16E - Environmental Education	1,350.98	3,010.80	(1,659.82)
17E - Young Naturalists				
	17E - Young Naturalists:Equipment	0.00	321.92	(321.92)
	17E - Young Naturalists:Miscellaneous	56.50	0.00	56.50
	17E - Young Naturalists:Stipend	4,110.00	3,840.00	270.00
	17E - Young Naturalists:Supplies	584.64	537.28	47.36
	TOTAL 17E - Young Naturalists	4,751.14	4,699.20	51.94

MVFN 2024 COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Sheet 3

Expense Category		2023	2024	Diff
18E - Conservation and Habitat				
	18E - Conservation and Habitat:Lagoon Shelter Maintenance	96.01	0.00	96.01
	18E - Conservation and Habitat:Loon Survey	400.00	400.00	0.00
	18E - Conservation and Habitat:Other	29.98	90.39	(60.41)
	TOTAL 18E - Conservation and Habitat	525.99	490.39	35.60
19E - Other Programs				
	19E - Other Programs:Christmas Bird Count	43.83	0.00	43.83
	19E - Other Programs:First Aid Course	0.00	84.65	(84.65)
	19E - Other Programs:Mill of Kintail Christmas	0.00	224.55	(224.55)
	19E - Other Programs:Ontario Nature Conference	162.50	0.00	162.50
	TOTAL 19E - Other Programs	206.33	309.20	(102.87)
20E - Spring Gathering				
	20E - Spring Gathering:Guest Speaker	600.00	500.00	100.00
	20E - Spring Gathering:Hall Deposit	200.00	500.00	(300.00)
	20E - Spring Gathering:Meals	2,339.68	3,364.01	(1,024.33)
	20E - Spring Gathering:Misc	0.00	15.00	(15.00)
	20E - Spring Gathering:Prizes	90.00	0.00	90.00
	20E - Spring Gathering:Speaker Gift	0.00	50.84	(50.84)
	20E - Spring Gathering:Supplies	148.17	134.67	13.50
	TOTAL 20E - Spring Gathering	3,377.85	4,564.52	(1,186.67)
21E - Administration				
	21E - Administration:Bank Charges	0.00	0.46	(0.46)
	21E - Administration:Facility Rent	15.00	0.00	15.00
	21E - Administration:Insurance	1,316.52	1,509.84	(193.32)
	21E - Administration:Memberships - Other Orgs	341.00	248.00	93.00
	21E - Administration:Paypal Fees	250.57	262.56	(11.99)
	21E - Administration:Postage & Box Rental	309.62	304.87	4.75
	21E - Administration:Printing Costs	0.00	171.39	(171.39)
	21E - Administration:Supplies	0.00	728.77	(728.77)
	21E - Administration:Website	599.94	292.66	307.28
	TOTAL 21E - Administration	2,832.65	3,518.55	(685.90)
22E - Miscellaneous				
	22E - Miscellaneous:Member Awards	0.00	250.00	(250.00)
	22E - Miscellaneous:Volunteer Appreciation Party	199.21	312.39	(113.18)
	TOTAL 22E - Miscellaneous	199.21	562.39	(363.18)
24E - Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund				
	24E - Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund:Advertising	245.21	245.21	0.00
	24E - Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund:Bursaries	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
	TOTAL 24E - Cliff Bennett Nature Bursary Fund	4,245.21	245.21	4,000.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	23,201.20	20,907.70	2,293.50
	OVERALL TOTAL	5,795.80	3,536.15	(2,259.65)

MVFN 2024 COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Sheet 4

MVFN 2024 YEAR END BANK RECONCILIATION

January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Reconciled with Accounting System (Intuit Quicken 2012)

QUICKEN OPENING BALANCE FY2024						46,096.22
Quicken Total Income						24,443.85
Quicken Total Expenses						-20,907.70
INCOME/DEFICIT BEFORE TRANSFER						3,536.15
Transfer to Ottawa Community Fund						-5,000.00
NET INCOME/DEFICIT AFTER TRANSFER						(1,463.85)
QUICKEN CLOSING BALANCE FY2024						44,632.37
Uncashed Cheques at FY2024 Year End						798.39
Delayed Bank Deposits at FY2024 Year End						(254.34)
BANK CLOSING BALANCE FY2024						45,176.42

MVFN 2024 NATURE BURSARY FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

Bursary Funds Held in Bank of Montreal Bank Account

Fiscal Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022	2023	2024
Opening Balance	2,814.00	(201.00)	(931.40)	4,175.00	3,177.00	3,436.79
Revenue	985.00	1,857.00	10,514.50	1,002.00	4,505.00	1,093.00
Spring Gathering						2,080.48
Transfer to OCCU						(5,000.00)
Expenditures	4,000.00	2,587.40	5,408.10	(2,000.00)	(4,245.21)	(245.21)
Closing Balance	(201.00)	(931.40)	4,175.00	3,177.00	3,436.79	1,365.06

Bursary Funds Held at Ottawa Community Foundation

Statement Date	31-Dec-20	30-Nov-21	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-23	30-Sep-24	1-Oct-24
Contributed Capital	13,560.66	13,560.66	13,560.66	13,560.66	13,560.66	
Increase/Decrease in Capital	1,649.62	1,862.30	3,517.45	1,845.37	2,283.19	
Total Invested	15,210.28	15,422.96	17,078.11	15,406.03	15,843.85	
Investment Activity	1,048.77	1,858.92	(798.76)	746.58	1,756.58	
Service Fee	(219.09)	(167.23)	(231.32)	(117.36)	(178.52)	
Disbursements	(617.00)	(616.00)	(642.00)	(649.00)	(663.00)	
Balance	15,422.96	16,498.65	15,406.03	15,386.25	16,758.91	16,758.91
Transferred from BMO						5,000.00
New OCF Balance After Transfer						21,758.91

Total Value of Bursary Fund (Bank of Montreal plus Ottawa Community Fund)

23,123.97

Financial Review 2024

Report on Financial Statements of the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (MVFN)

February 6, 2025

I have reviewed the financial statements for the period January 1 to December 31, 2024. My review included:

- An overview of the accounting system
- A review of the bank statements and tracing the transactions therein to the bank account in the accounting records of MVFN and verifying the reconciliation of the closing bank balance to the closing bank balance in the books of MVFN;
- Tracing the bank account entries to the revenue and expense accounts;
- Tracing the revenue and expense account totals to the financial statements of MVFN;

It is my opinion, as a professional accountant, that the financial statements of MVFN, accurately reflect the operations of MVFN for the period January 1 to December 31, 2024.



John Moore

| 2024 Board of Directors

President: Val Wilkinson president@mvfn.ca

First Vice-President: Paul Frigon firstvicepresident@mvfn.ca

Second Vice-President: vacant

Past President: Brenda Boyd pastpresident@mvfn.ca

Treasurer: vacant treasurer@mvfn.ca

**Chair of Nature Talks: Ron Williamson/Rosalind Reid,
Brian Gillespie** programs@mvfn.ca

Chair of Finance: John Blais finance@mvfn.ca

Chair of Publicity: Louise Beckinsale publicity@mvfn.ca

Chair of Environmental Education: Bob Smith
environmentaleducation@mvfn.ca

Chair of Conservation and Habitat: vacant

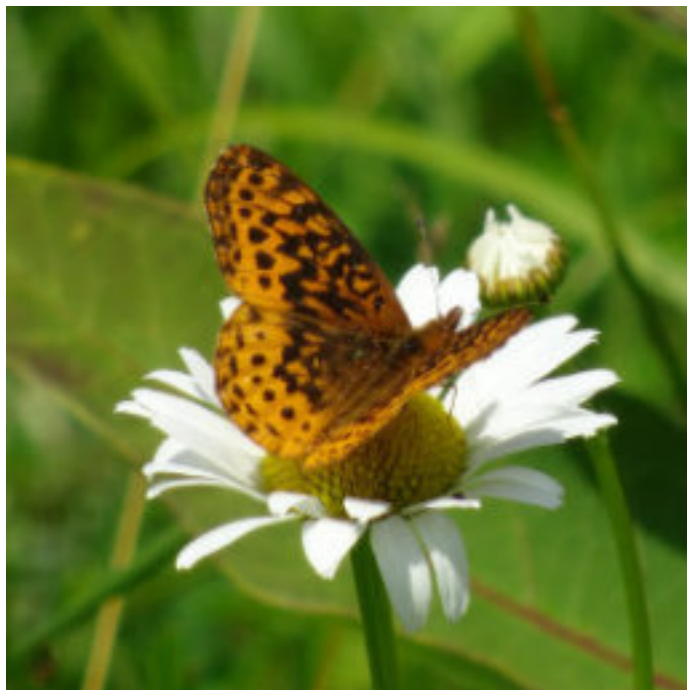
Chair of Membership: Sylvia Miller membership@mvfn.ca

Director at Large: Cliff Bennett directoratlarge@mvfn.ca

Secretary: Sandy Duncan secretary@mvfn.ca



Thank you to all
Members who
supplied
photographs for
this report.



Contact Us



General inquiries:

info@mvfn.ca

Young Naturalists Registration:

mvfnyoungnaturalists@mvfn.ca

Membership: membership@mvfn.ca

Website: webmaster@mvfn.ca



www.mvfn.ca



Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists

P.O. Box 1617,

Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0

In Person:

**3rd Thursday of January, February,
March, April, May, September,
October and November**

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Almonte United Church

106 Elgin St, Almonte, ON