

**Quinte Field Naturalists
Minutes - General Meeting of the Membership
March 20, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Centennial Secondary School Cafeteria**

1. Introduction and Welcome – **Elizabeth Churcher**
2. Land Acknowledgement
“The land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations and Anishinaabe peoples. We would like to acknowledge that the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe have been present in this territory since time immemorial and continue to live and use the land as their ancestors did before them.”
3. Housekeeping Items: Elizabeth Churcher
Washrooms – out the door, left, up the stairs, turn right, washrooms on the right
Next Meeting: Monday, April 17th @ 7 p.m. here at Centennial: Topic: Nature Conservancy
Dinner Meeting – May18, 2023 at Emmanuel United Church, Foxboro. Buffet dinner followed by a presentation by author Merlilyn Simonds, whose book “Woman,Watching” tells the story of Louise de Kiriline Lawrence. Limited tickets, contact Nancy Stevenson.
Snacks available at the end of the meeting with thanks to Marjorie Fisher & Lindi Pierce.
4. Financial Report – 2023 Budget Approval – Moved by Mike Shaw, seconded by George Thomson that the budget which had been circulated to all members by email be approved. Motion carried.
5. Conveners – Elizabeth reminded all that we still need a Social Convener and a Marketing Convener.
6. Advocacy Messages – Elizabeth reported that a delegation to Tweed Council re: Tweed Lagoon will take place on March 28th at 6:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to support the request for easier access to the lagoons was encouraged to attend. Lori Borthwick was circulating a petition to be sent to Todd Smith re Bill 23. Members were urged to sign this petition.
7. Plant Sale – Greg Parsons reported that QFN plant sale will take place on May 20, 2023 in the parking lot of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church from 8 – 12 noon. Connon’s Garden Centre has offered some plants. Greg hoped members would help in whatever way possible by providing seedlings, perennials, tables, assistance one week prior and day of sale.

8. Draw Winners – 3 lucky people won prizes.
9. Sightings – Snow Buntings on Amherst Island, Boreal Chickadee at Algonquin Provincial Park, Turkey Vulture, Northern Mockingbird identified by Merlin at West Lake.
10. Introduction of Guest Speaker – "**Cutting Edge Mitigation Solutions for Ontario Beavers and Turtles**" **Featuring:** Kari Gunson, Consultant, Eco-Kare International - Catherine Baier introduced Kari and outlined her wide experience as an ecologist working to provide mitigation solutions for protection of a variety of animals. Kari talked about turtles and beavers and the importance of the wetlands they share. She showed photos and drawings of methods used to help the animals. Landowners and townships need to be educated; if structures are made, they must be maintained and adapted. Kari answered questions from the audience.
11. Thank you to Guest Speaker – Bernd Baier thanked Kari and also Belleville Councillor, Chris Malette, who attended as head of The Green Task Force.

Closure – **Elizabeth Churcher**