

Nature Moncton Annual Report for the AGM

to be held live and by Zoom

Tuesday December 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM.



CONTEMPLATING LUNCH OCT. 28, 2023 SUSAN RICHARDS

Thanks to Brian Stone, David Cannon, Louise Nichols and Susan Richards for photos used here.

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Nature Moncton AGM Agenda

Tuesday December 12, 2023

1. Call to order.
2. Confirm Quorum.
3. Approval of notice of AGM.
4. Approval of minutes from AGM of Jan.17, 2023.
5. Motion to change the By-Laws. Article 3.1
6. President's report.
7. Treasurer's report.
8. Finance Committee Report.
9. Motion for Approval of Financial Report.
10. Activities Committee report.
11. Membership Committee report.
12. Nominating Committee.
13. Election of officers.
14. Adjournment.

Moncton Naturalists' Club Inc.

carrying on business as Nature Moncton



Minutes of the Nature Moncton

Annual General Meeting

January 17, 2023

The 2021-2022 Nature Moncton Annual General Meeting was held at the Mapleton Lodge as well as virtually, on Tuesday January 17th 2023. President Fred Richards chaired the AGM.

Those attending live or by Zoom Executive Board Members were, Fred Richards, Susan Richards, Fred Dube, Nelson Poirier, David Cannon, Louise Nichols, Lynda Leclerc, Andrew Darcy, Brian Stone, Roger Leblanc. Unavailable was Wendy Sullivan.

1.& 2. Called to order 8:25 p.m. with a Quorum established, having 19 members in the room and having 8 member-online connections present.

3. Fred Richards asked if there were any opposed to the notice of the AGM. There were none.

4. Fred Richards asked if there were any opposed to the minutes from the AGM of February 9, 2021. There were none.

5. &6. &7. Fred Richards stated the President's Report, the Treasurer's Report, Finance Committee, Activities Committee and Membership Committee are all in the Annual Report that Fred R. sent to everyone by email. If there are any questions or concerns, would you please let one of the board members know.

8. David Cannon made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Susan Atkinson seconded. All in favour. The motion was carried.

9. & 10. Are above in # 5.

11. Change to By-Law #1 regarding membership categories (7.3) David Cannon proposed an amendment:

Notice of Motion for the January 17, 2023 Nature Moncton AGM

Whereas the Executive of Nature Moncton proposes the addition of two additional Membership categories, it is moved that article 7.3. of **Article 7: Membership** of our **By-Law #1** be revised

from: 7.3. There shall be four categories of Membership, namely:

- A. Individual Membership** - for individual applicants.
- B. Family Membership** - includes all members of a family who reside in the same household. A "family" includes common law and same sex couples and the children and parents of either partner.
- C. Student Membership** - open for individual students over the age of 18 who are attending post-secondary institutions.
- D. Life Membership** - is awarded to an individual by the Council. Members in this category shall be entitled to all rights, benefits and privileges of membership without having to pay any annual dues.

to: 7.3. There shall be six categories of Membership, namely:

- A. Individual Membership** - for individual applicants.
- B. Family Membership** - includes all members of a family who reside in the same household. A "family" includes common law and same sex couples and the children and parents of either partner.
- C. Student Membership** - open for individual students over the age of 18 who are attending post-secondary institutions.
- D. Life Membership** - is awarded to an individual by the Council. Members in this category shall be entitled to all rights, benefits and privileges of membership without having to pay any annual dues.
- E. Out-of-Province Membership** - open for individual and family applicants who reside out-of-province.
- F. Group Membership** - open for members of a specific club or similar defined group. Each such group must be approved by the Board and remain "in good standing".

12. New Business. Susan Atkinson read her motion to give the board a resolution to update By-Law 1 was June 2017 with a motion to change Article 6.1 the fiscal year to October 1st to September 30th. A vote showed all in favour. That was passed. Fred Richards said, 'We now have a mandate to go ahead with the change'.

13. Nominating Committee. Fred Richards called on Gordon Rattray for the election of Officers. Gordon R. stated the nomination process started when there was a call for nominations with a form to fill out for Consent to Stand for the different positions. The elected positions of our board, President, Secretary, Vice-President, Past President, Treasurer and three (3) Directors-at-Large. The rest of the board is filled by the Executive Committee. Gordon said, "As a result of a call for nominations I received one nomination for each position on the elected list. Those were all repeat offerings of the positions." Gordon read the nominations he is proposing

11.1.1 President: Fred Richards

11.1.2 Vice President: Fred Dube

11.1.3 Past President: Nelson Poirier

11.1.4 Secretary: Susan Richards

~~11.1.5 Treasurer~~11.1.5 Treasurer: David Cannon

11.1.6 Directors-at-Large: Andrew Darcy, Louise Nichols and Lynda Leclerc.

Gordon moved that the nomination of this slate take place. Secunder was Susan Richards. All in favour? Motion carried. The new Executive is hereby elected, declared by acclamation.

Fred Richards asked if there was anything further anyone wished to say. There was not. Fred Richards adjourned the AGM at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Richards Secretary

President's Report

November 23, 2023

Greetings. I find as I get older that time speeds up in direct proportion to the age increase. It does not seem like another year has gone by. I think we can all agree it has been a busy year for Nature Moncton.

In April, members of Nature Moncton installed 25 nesting boxes along the Riverfront trail in Moncton. Dan Hicks called me with an idea and with his help we applied for a grant from the Spring Trail Care group at Trans Canada Trails. Nature Moncton received a \$1000.00 grant and we had a good day putting them up. A group of members also participated in a tree planting event at the old landfill site along the Riverfront Trail where we planted 1000 trees on a Saturday morning. This event was hosted by Nigel McLaughlin from the Fundy Biosphere Region. I am hoping that we will have more outings like these going forward.

Our old website was looking dated and did not work well with smart phones and tablets. It was built several years ago by Katherine Atkinson (thank you Katherine) and served us well, but it was time to refresh it. Cathy Simon took on the project and we now have a new website that is great to look at and that works well with portable devices. Cathy also was the driving force behind the new Facebook page. Nature Moncton's Facebook page and Nelson's Nature News really show us in a bright light. We are so lucky to have dedicated people delivering services to us.

The Executive committee has been meeting to reform the committee structure of Nature Moncton. This is being done to improve the quality and quantity of the services we offer. The plan is to split the Activities committee in two with one group making the monthly meetings their priority and the second group planning outings and workshops. The Membership committee is going to be split as well. One group, led by Fred and Lynn Dube will be in charge of membership administration and the second group will be looking for ways to increase membership. We also have a new committee being formed that will be called the Conservation Action Committee. (I am excited about this one. Can't wait to see where it goes). Cathy Simon will be chairing this one. We are forming a committee which will be called the Hospitality Committee. This committee will be chaired by Susan Richards. The focus of this committee is to make the

live meetings better. We also will have a new committee, the Communications committee, that will review communications that go out for public viewing.

As usual the committees do the work to bring events to us. They did another great job this year. This year was quite busy. The Executive Committee has continued to meet monthly to take care of the business of running Nature Moncton. Thanks to the members of the Activities, Membership, Nominating, Peregrine Falcon Nesting Box Camera and Finance Committees for their continuing outstanding efforts. I know that some of our committee members have been doing their part for a number of years and would like to take a break. **With that in mind, I would like to ask you if you would consider joining one of these committees to fill out the roster.** It would take only a few hours a month and most of our meetings now are virtual so you do not even have to drive in the bad weather. If you are interested, please contact me at fredrichards@rogers.com or any other member of the Executive Committee. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

The Activities committee has continued to bring not only great presenters to the monthly meetings but has organized wonderful outings as well. Most of the monthly presentations were recorded and are available to view on our website at [Nature Moncton Presentations](#). The Summer evening outings, this year called the Wednesday Evening Walks, consisting of ten guided walks in various area trails, were well attended and we plan to do them again this summer. We found them very enjoyable but they were more of a meander than a walk as most of the time we seemed to go from one thing of interest to the next. Thanks to all who participated.

This year we made and distributed seventy-five nesting boxes. Twenty-five of them were installed on the Riverfront Trail in Moncton by Nature Moncton members. Thanks to everyone for putting them up and keeping them clean. I am sure the swallows and other creatures are happy with them.

The Nature Moncton Greeting Card fundraiser has been very well received and is still going, with a new series of cards released. The newest cards are Christmas themed with Seasons Greetings printed on the inside. There is still lots of room for messages and they still come with an envelope and use regular postage.

I would like to take a few lines to say thank-you to the following:

- Nelson Poirier continues to deliver the Nature News daily. I am at a loss for words to describe how lucky we are to have this. Thank you, Nelson.
- Thanks also to all of you who send in the photos and information to Nelson for the Nature News. It doesn't work without you.
- David Cannon, our Treasurer, for keeping track of everything financial. It has been a record-breaking year for both income and expenses. Having David keep us on the right track fiscally makes the whole thing work. Thank you, David.
- Susan Richards, our Secretary, for her prompt delivery of minutes, managing the club email and keeping the President on track. Susan, I couldn't do it without you. Thank you.
- Louise Nichols for all the work she does, and it is considerable, especially as chair of the Activities Committee and proofreading the Nature News every day. Thank You.
- Fred and Lynn Dube for management of the memberships. Thank you both for stepping up and doing a great job.
- Andrew Darcy for chairing the Membership committee. Thank you.
- Cathy Simon for being the driving force behind the new Facebook site and leading the new Facebook committee. Cathy also built our new website. Thank you.
- Evar Simon is now hosting the website and recording and editing the PRAD event. Thank you.
- Brian Stone for keeping our website and Dropbox running and answering all the questions sent his way about it [and also for all the wonderful photographs submitted to the Nature News. We have used so many on the greeting cards.](#) Thank you.

- Wendy Sullivan for keeping the publicity for events flowing to outlets other than the website. Thank you.
- [Gordon Rattray for chairing the Nominating committee and so much more. Thank you.](#)
- Cathie Smith for the continuing work on Joys and Sorrows communications. Thank you.

I would like to give a special thank you to the members of the PFNB (Peregrine Falcon Nesting Box) camera committee: David Cannon, Cathy Simon, Nelson Poirier and Susan Richards. This group has gone above and beyond every time they have been asked. This committee has done so much more than what was the original objective. This project is now ready for the next steps. Stay tuned. Thank you all so much.

In closing I would like to say that I welcome any and all comments, ideas or critiques of Nature Moncton and will review them with the Board in the spirit of continuous improvement.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Richards.

President Nature Moncton.



NATURE MONCTON NEST BOX. DEC. 28, 2022. BRIAN STONE

Nature Moncton Membership Report

Fiscal Year October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

2022-2023 Pre-paid: \$540.00

2022-2023 Paid: \$2435.00

2023-2024 Early-paid: \$365.00

2022-2023 Total Membership income: \$2610.00

Details:

77 Single memberships

27 Family Memberships (comprising 59 Individuals)

***Totals* 136 Total Members (a 43% increase over 2022-2023)!**

***Includes* 6 (non-paying) Life Members (2 Family & 2 Individuals)**

***Our increase Highlighted* by 43 New Members**

As membership revenues are one of our biggest sources of income, we thank everyone for their paid memberships. This has been an exceptional year for our membership base, with a total of 43 new members.

Lynn and I would like to thank particularly Fred and Sue Richards, and all the other volunteers, for their hard work to recruit new members. There was a concerted effort this year to attract new members, including at our Petitcodiac River Appreciation Day, by participating at the Sportmens' Show, at other events such as at Harvey Hall and during our outdoor activities and walks.

Nature Moncton will be working hard over the next year to retain all our members with ever better presentations, activities and benefits. As well, we will continue our efforts to recruit new members. Lynn and I are working with Cathy Simon to improve and simplify our on-line Application, and we are doing the same with our paper Application.

Payments through e-transfers were a proven success and the easiest way to handle our

membership funds, but we still welcome cheques and cash. Our thanks to David Cannon for his financial expertise and support over the past year.

Most of all, we thank you, our members, for your continued support of Nature Moncton. We look forward to having another successful year in 2023 - 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred and Lynn Dube, Membership Coordinators



GREEN'S POINT LIGHTHOUSE.

NOV. 22, 2023. BRIAN STONE

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1ST, 2022 – SEPT. 30, 2023

This year was marked by the sad and sudden passing of Roger Leblanc, one of our most active committee members. Roger was always willing to lend a hand with the organization of all our events as well as put himself front and centre as a knowledgeable guide for many birding outings and workshops. Just last spring, his sea duck outing and owl workshop/outing both held in April will be remembered by many as both were highly successful events. Roger will be greatly missed.

I would like to thank all members of the Activities Committee – Roger Leblanc, Nelson Poirier, Gordon Rattray and Fred Richards – for all their work and enthusiasm in the past year. I'd also like to welcome and thank Cynthia Doucet who joined the committee in September. The report below lists all meetings and activities for the year running from October 1st 2022 to the end of September 2023.

MEETING PRESENTATIONS:

- October 18, 2022: Neil Vinson, “Building a Pollinator Garden”
- November 15, 2022: Kendra Driscoll from New Brunswick Museum
“Getting to Know Common Lichens”
- December 13, 2022: Gordon Rattray, “Special Plants of NB”
- January 18, 2023: Members’ Night
- February 21, 2023: Kelly-Sue O’Connor, “Birder Brain: Birding and Mental/Physical Health” (via Zoom)
- March 21, 2023: Kelsey Wilson, Executive Director of PWA
“Petitcodiac Watershed Update”
- April 18, 2023: Kiirsti Owen, “How Colonial History Has Changed Breeding Patterns of the Acadian Nelson’s Sparrow”
- May 16, 2023: Jim Goltz & Andrea Fleming, “Online Photo Identification Guide To the Plants of NB”
- June 20, 2023: Members BBQ, Social Night, and Sharing of Photos from Warbler Outing
- Sept 19, 2023: Pierre Janin & Samuel Legresley, “Growing Native Species in your Backyard”

FIELD TRIPS/WORKSHOPS:

- Oct 8, 2022: Mapleton Acadian Forest Outing

Guide: Gart Bishop

Nov 19, 2022: Northumberland Coast Outing: Port Elgin to Cape Jourimain
Guide: Roger Leblanc

Dec 17, 2022: Moncton Christmas Bird Count
Compiler: Roger Leblanc

Jan 28, 2023: Wharf Tour Outing
Guide: Roger Leblanc

Feb 11, 2023: Bird Feeder Tour

April 15, 2023: Sea Duck Outing
Guide: Roger Leblanc

April 19, 2023: Owl Workshop (via Zoom) followed by Owl Outing
Presenter & Guide: Roger Leblanc

May 20, 2023: Warbler Outing in Hillsborough
Guide: Gordon Rattray

July 12, 2023: Trip to Gagetown Island and Nevers Island
(Thanks to Frank Merrill, Ducks Unlimited for boat transportation – and to Nelson Poirier for organizing the excursion)

In addition to the above outings, Nature Moncton once again offered a series of weekly evening walks from the end of June to the end of August. Our “**Wednesday Night Walks**” were well-attended and enjoyed by all. Special thanks go to Fred Richards for organizing them and to all Nature Moncton members who volunteered to guide the walks.

Submitted by Louise Nichols, Chair of the Activities Committee



WILSON'S WARBLER (MALE).
LOUISE NICHOLS.
MAY 15, 2015

Facebook Committee Report

The Nature Moncton Facebook page was created on March 6, 2023 by the Facebook committee which includes Cathy Simon, Susan Richards, and Andrew Darcy. The purpose of the Facebook page is to do the following:

1. Promote Nature Moncton's events, activities, initiatives, etc.
2. Promote opportunities from other like-minded organizations
3. Share nature based educational content

Initially, the Committee's goal was to post content 3-4 times/week, respond to messages and comments daily, and attract 100 followers. All of these goals were achieved within the first 6 weeks.

Since then, the Committee has attracted over 250 followers and has started two new content series including conversation starters called "Let's get chatting" and offering green living tips called "Sustainable living."

Website Committee

Several years ago, the Nature Moncton website was created by Katherine Atkinson and has been maintained by Brian Stone. In early June, Cathy and Evar Simon installed a new template to give the website a facelift. Over the course of the summer, Cathy worked to customize the template to meet the needs of Nature Moncton and the new site was launched on September 19, 2023.

The new website has a modern look which allows for the viewing of beautiful photos, easy navigation between pages, the use of online forms, and is mobile friendly. Cathy provided Brian with site editing training and together they comprise the Website Committee.

Special thanks to Katherine Atkinson for starting naturemoncton.com all those years ago and to all Nature Moncton members and friends who willingly allow the use of their photos on the site.



CANADA JAY. FEB. 11, 2022. BRIAN STONE.

Nature Moncton 2022-2023 Treasurer's Report

Please find attached our '*Statement of Operations October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023*' and our '*Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2023*'. These documents were prepared by David Cannon, Treasurer, and reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee of Fred Dube, Vice-President, and Susan Atkinson, Member-at-large.

Nature Moncton never had a busier year – and I submit it never had a more successful year - than the year we just finished! That sure stands out in our financial numbers; **our revenues were up over 400%** - from \$2,806 to an astounding \$11,337! As a club, we never put ourselves 'out there' like we did this past year, hosting the very successful Petitcodiac River Appreciation Day in November, participating at Harvey Hall in February, the Moncton Boat and Sportsmen Show in March, and Seedy Saturday in April. At each of these events, and at our outings and Wednesday walks, we talked to potential new members, and they responded – an increase of 43% in membership!

Earning so much revenue gave us the opportunity to spend it! We are not trying to build an impressive bank account – we want to ensure that you, the membership, enjoy the benefits of being a member. Without rehashing the President's Report, the Activities Report and the Membership Report, I can say **we spent money on both fun ideas** such as our members' barbeque, **and for better member experiences** such as all the new technology for our ZOOM and video equipment.

Our record revenues were led by the PRAD event (\$5,777 - four years of effort), Membership dues (\$2,435, up 45%), the sales of nature cards (\$1,230, up 81%) and installing bird boxes along the Trans-Canada trail for the City of Moncton (\$1,000).

Our expenses also achieved an all-time high – we managed to spend \$442 more than we received in revenue. Our expenses were led by the PRAD event (\$3,701) and three membership-oriented activities: the website and new technology (\$2,418), our monthly meetings at the Mapleton Lodge (\$1,984) and related member activities and purchases (\$1,023).

Over the past year, we increased the physical assets of the club by \$2,488, built a stunning Facebook page (thanks to Cathy Simon and her team), increased membership by 43%, planted trees, put up 25 bird boxes along the Moncton riverfront, and generally had more and varied activities through the year. With \$4,110 in our bank account we remain very solvent.

Our ability to communicate and share has never been better! While the face of Nature Moncton remains the heavily-viewed Nature Moncton Information Line, the daily blog produced and edited by Nelson Poirier, NM is refurbishing its website, has launched a Facebook page, and is hosting a full slate of monthly presentations – *both* in-person and live on-line.

Our Executive have proven to be an innovative and enthusiastic team that is constantly striving to make the Club better. They are creating even more opportunities for members to help contribute to our success through a number of new committees and initiatives. I look forward to serving for another year with these wonderful people, and **I highly recommend that you consider joining us.**

Respectfully,
David Cannon, Treasurer.



IRISHTOWN NATURE PARK. NEW PAVILION AND SCOPE. APRIL 28, 2019. DAVID CANNON

NATURE MONCTON

Statement of Financial Position as at September 30, 2023

Cash in Bank September 30, 2022	\$5,316.29
<i>Plus Adjustments</i>	
less PRAD funds (<i>earned/ added Nov. 5, 2022</i>)	-\$1,349.06
plus pre-paid meeting room	\$667.00
less pre-paid memberships	-\$540.00
plus Butterfly Guides (3)	\$45.00
plus 60th Anniversary Pins	n/a
plus other cash (<i>Coffee fund</i>)	\$1.55
<i>Equals</i>	
Balance September 30, 2022	\$4,140.78
Cash in Bank September 30, 2023	\$4,109.50
<i>Plus Adjustments</i>	
plus pre-paid meeting room	\$944.55
less early-paid memberships	-\$365.00
plus pre-paid NBEN membership	\$45.00
plus ZOOM	
Hardware (<i>webcam etc.</i>)	\$1,160.00
plus Projector screen (<i>80%</i>)	\$352.00
plus binoculars (<i>two pair</i>)	\$382.45
plus 60th Anniversary Pins	n/a
<i>Equals</i>	
Balance September 30, 2023	\$6,628.50
Increase (Decrease) during Fiscal 2022-2023 Year	\$2,487.72

NATURE MONCTON

Statement of Operations October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023

Revenues:

Memberships (<i>before refund</i>)	\$2,470.00
Nature Cards sales	\$1,230.00
Peticodiac River Appreciation Day event	\$5,777.25
City of Moncton & Canada Trails project	\$1,000.25
Donations	\$100.00
Workshops/ Christmas Bird Count	\$0.00
Mapleton Lodge refund (<i>COVID dates not used</i>)	\$667.00
Bank charges reversed	\$48.04
Other (<i>nature walks, butterfly guides, anniversary pins, 'license' plate sales</i>)	\$45.00
Total Revenues	\$11,337.54

Expenses:

Mapleton Lodge Meeting Room	\$1,983.75
Activities Expenses and Purchases	\$1,022.85
Peticodiac River Appreciation Day event	\$3,701.12
City of Moncton & Canada Trails project	\$600.25
Website/ Technology	\$2,417.93
Workshops/ Christmas Bird Count	\$60.00
Nesting Box materials	\$901.22
Nature Cards materials	\$200.10
NatureNB Dues/ Member Insurance	\$290.00
Other Dues (PWA, NBEN (<i>2 years</i>))	\$140.00
Canada Post Mailbox rental	\$209.30
Member Mailing and Office Supplies	\$136.08
Bank fees and error (<i>bank error reversed</i>)	\$82.04

Membership Refund (<i>duplicate payment</i>)	\$35.00
Total Expenses	\$11,779.64
Revenues less Expenses:	-\$442.10



LONG-TAILED DUCK (ADULT MALE). NOV. 15, 2023. BRIAN STONE

