

# Nature Moncton Annual Report

*AGM to be held live at the Rotary Lodge*

*and by Zoom*

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM.*



**PEREGRINE FALCON FLEDGLINGS JUNE 19, 2024.**

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## Nature Moncton AGM Agenda

*Tuesday December 10, 2024*

- Call to order.
- Confirm Quorum.
- Approval of notice of AGM.
- Approval of minutes from AGM of Dec 12, 2023.
- President's report.
- Treasurer's report.
- Finance Committee Report.
- Motion for Approval of Financial Report.
- Nominating Committee.
- Election of officers.
- Adjournment.

# Minutes of the Nature Moncton 2023 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 8:18 p.m., held after the monthly meeting.

Fred Richards welcomed everyone to the AGM and confirmed a quorum.

Fred R. made a motion that we approve the Agenda of the AGM which was sent out correctly two weeks before the AGM. Seconded by David Cannon. All in favour. Motion carried.

Fred R. made a motion that the Minutes of the 2022 AGM, held January 17<sup>th</sup> 2023, be accepted. Fred Dube seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Fred R. stated we will be making a change to the By-Laws, regarding the Mission Statement, at a later meeting.

David Cannon gave a short summary of the Treasurer's Report (published with the AGM documents) stating "revenues were up 400 %, as were expenses. While our bank balance dropped by \$400, at the same time we bought over \$3000 in new equipment and goodies, and enjoyed a BBQ and more outings." David introduced the Finance committee, consisting of David, Susan Atkinson and Fred Dube.

David made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Louise Nichols seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Fred R. spoke on the Activities committee report, also published and sent out in the AGM package two weeks prior to the AGM. Fred R. said we are updating the Activities committee by splitting it in two, to have one part do the indoor presentations, and one part responsible for outdoor activities such as outings and workshops.

Fred Dube reported we already have 101 signed up members as of today. The Membership committee reported in the AGM documents that 2022-2023 membership was up 43% to 136 members.

Fred R. handed the meeting over to the Nominating committee consisting of Lynda Leclerc and Gordon Rattray. Gordon said, "We are doing the nominations according to the Constitution and Article 12, and all the conditions in our constitution have been met, and all those who have submitted their nominations did so two weeks ahead of this meeting; as well there is a document they have to sign, and they have to be bona fide members with dues paid, and those conditions have been met. I wish to present to you the list of those who are officially nominated for this coming year:

For the position of President: Fred Richards

Vice President: Cathy Simon

Treasurer: David Cannon

Secretary: Susan Richards

Past President: Nelson Poirier

Three elected Directors-at-Large: Wendy Sullivan, Louise Nichols and Fred Dube."

There are other Directors who will be appointed by the Executive Committee.

As all conditions had been met according to the Constitution, Gordon declared that "This is your Nominating Committee's report and I move that it be accepted." There were no nominations from the floor as all positions were previously nominated. Seconded by Lynda Leclerc. All in favour. Motion passed.

Gordon R. handed the meeting back to Fred R. who thanked everyone for coming.

Fred R. closed the 2023 AGM at 8:28 p.m.

# Nature Moncton President's Report

November 23, 2024

Greetings. I hope you are all well and ready for the winter that is undoubtedly on its way. A lot happened this year in the Nature Moncton world and I believe that it will be another great year in 2025.

Our biggest item this year would have to be the video feed from our Peregrine Falcon nesting box. Four eggs were laid, hatched and the young successfully fledged while many of us watched from the comfort of our homes. It was a long journey to get the camera installed and delivering video. Nelson Poirier was the driving force behind this from the beginning (2011). Thank you, Nelson. The Magnetic Hill Zoo awarded us with a grant to assist us financially with this project and also hosted the feed from the camera on their server, so we can watch it on our devices. Thanks go out to Jill Marvin, the Director of the Magnetic Hill Zoo, and Cathy Simon, our Vice President, for making this happen. We will be installing a new nesting box to replace the one that has served us well for 12 years. All the work should be completed well in advance of the next breeding season. The new box is already made and ready for A-Tech roofing, the Assumption building's roofing company, to install for us. I am sure there will be pictures on the blog of the event.



This year Nature NB's Festival of Nature was in Woodstock NB and the event was special. Nature NB has renamed their Naturalist of the Year award to the Roger LeBlanc Memorial Naturalist of the year. This year's winner was our very own Nelson Poirier and I had the honour of presenting the award to him at the AGM/dinner. Nelson is a very deserving award winner as he has done so much for Nature Moncton and many other people who appreciate nature. It seemed to me to be fitting that the award be given to a Nature Moncton member the first year that the award was renamed after a prominent Nature Moncton member who left us too soon. If you have never been to a Festival of Nature, you might want to consider going next year. They have great outings and a lot of people who enjoy nature. I have certainly enjoyed myself at them. The first weekend in June is when it will happen in 2025, and it will be in Miramichi.

Our monthly meetings have been delivered by Zoom since late 2020. We now see almost as many people attending by Zoom as there are in person. This year we purchased equipment to improve the quality of our meetings that are delivered by Zoom. It has not always gone smoothly but I think we are now moving in the right direction with the purchase in October of a meeting OWL.

This year we also purchased two pair of binoculars to be taken to outings for anyone who forgot theirs at home or who does not have a pair.

The June BBQ/members night was well received and will happen again in 2025. Save up some of your photos and bring them on a thumb drive to share after we eat the BBQed fare. Thanks to Fred and Lynn Dubé for taking over this event last June.

Nelson Poirier continues to deliver the Nature Moncton Nature News almost every day. This blog is special and we are so lucky to have it. Nelson's dedication to it is certainly one of the many reasons he was chosen as Nature NB's naturalist of the year. Thank you, Nelson.

The nature cards are still being sold and we have added a Season's Greetings series to the line up. If you would like to purchase some for yourself or as a gift please contact us.

The new Website has worked out beautifully and along with the Facebook site has really increased our digital footprint. I especially enjoyed "Meet a Member Mondays" which has been put on hold for a while, but I am hoping it will return at some point. Thank you, Cathy.

Our nesting boxes along the Riverfront trail in Moncton were a success. The Conservation Action Committee organized a clean up in April and almost all of the boxes had been used. The committee noticed a lot of litter along the trail and organized a clean up a few weeks later. We planted 1000 trees along the river again this year as well. It is great when you can be out in nature and see the results of your efforts. Thanks to the committee.

The Outings committee is now being chaired by Cynthia Doucet. The committee is still evolving. The Wednesday walks were well attended this year and we plan to continue them. Thank you, Cynthia, for taking this on.

We are always looking for suggestions for interesting Wednesday Walks that can be completed in a two-hour walk (at a leisurely pace). The location of these walks should be within a 30-minute radius of Moncton. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

The restructuring of the committees is working out well. We are always looking for committee members so let us know if you can help. Nature Moncton's programs are only as good as our committees.

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

- Thanks to all of you who send in the photos and information to Nelson for the Nature News. It doesn't work without you. Thank you also to those of you who allowed me the use of their photos for greeting cards and publications.
- David Cannon, our Treasurer, for keeping track of everything financial. Having David keep us on the right track fiscally makes the whole thing work. David does so much more to keep us going in the right direction. 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 Presentations Committee and proofreading the Nature News every day. Thank you.
- Membership Co-chairs Fred and Lynn Dubé for management of the memberships. Thank you both for stepping up and doing a great job – another record year!
- Andrew Darcy for chairing the Member Attraction committee. Thank you.
- Cathy Simon for being the driving force behind the Facebook site and leading the Conservation Action committee. Thank you.
- Brian Stone for keeping our Dropbox running and answering all the questions sent his way about it. Thank you also for all the wonderful photographs submitted to the Nature News. We have used so many on the nature cards and other projects. Thank you.
- Wendy Sullivan for keeping the publicity for events flowing to outlets other than the website. Thank you.
- Veronica Price for chairing the Communications committee. Thank you.
- Susan Atkinson for heading up our Hospitality team. 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.

# Outings Committee Report, 2023-2024

In 2024 the Activities committee was split into two committees: Outings and Presentations.

## OUTINGS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### *Committee Members*

- Cynthia Doucet (Chair)
- Fred Richards (resigned March 2024)
- Gordon Rattray
- Grant Ramsay
- Magda Kuhn

## FIELD TRIPS

### *By Date*

- October 28 -- Cape Jourimain and Tantramar Marsh
- February 24 -- Bird feeder tour
- March 26 -- Movie Night over Zoom
- April 6 -- Riverfront nesting boxes, clean out to welcome tree swallows
- April 8 -- Gathering at Nelson Poirier's in Miramichi to watch the total eclipse of the sun
- May 25 -- Warbler Walk at Haut-du-Ruisseau in Memramcook
- July 13 -- Guided Walks - Bog and Salt Marsh, David Mazerolle



**EASTERN BLUEBIRD. VICKY McNIGHT**

## *Winter*

Our first outing was a bird feeder tour, with visits to Jean Renton's, then other yards in Riverview and Weldon, until finally at Nelson Poirier's where more food, socialization, and birds were waiting.

## *Spring*

Spring cleaning work party! An invitation was issued to assist us or accompany us as we cleaned out the many tree swallow nesting boxes installed along Riverfront Park

A "Warbler Walk," guided by Gordon Rattray, was held at Haut-du-Ruisseau in Memramcook. This drew new people to our membership and provided opportunity to see and photograph many warblers. Photos were shared during the social BBQ / NM meeting in June, the final meeting before the break over the summer.

## *Summer*

Nature Moncton members had the opportunity to join a guided tour and introduction to the plants and diverse life in the bog and salt marshes of Kouchibouguac National Park. With our host David Mazerolle, the field trip also included members of Botany NB.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING WALKS

The committee planned out eleven summer Wednesdays to feature easy walking trails, and issued an open invitation for anyone to join us. Only one week was cancelled, and that not because of rain but due to heat without shade.

- June 19, Dobson Trail, Gordon Rattray, 6:30 start. Although under a heat warning (40°+), the trees' canopy provided shade
- June 26, Mapleton Park, Brian Stone
- July 3, Hillsborough trails, Gordon Rattray
- July 10, Mill Creek Trail, Riverview, Wendy Sullivan
- July 17, City of Moncton – Trees in Victoria Park, Dan Hicks
- July 24, Salisbury Highland Park, with Lois Budd and David Miller
- July 31, Ducks Unlimited Impoundment, Gordon Rattray, cancelled because of heat and lack of shade
- Aug 7, The Clancy's – Trevor and Elaine Clancy's forested property
- Aug 14, Sackville Retention Ponds, Louise Nichols
- Aug 21, Guided walk - Medicine Trail at Fort Folly First Nation
- Aug 28, Social gathering, walk to dykes in Taylor Village, Fred and Sue Richards



**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (MALE)**

**BRIAN STONE**

# PRESENTATIONS COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT

## OCTOBER 1ST, 2023 – SEPT. 30, 2024

Below is a list of meeting presentations for the year beginning October 2023 to September 2024:

### MEETING PRESENTATIONS:

- October 17, 2023: Alyre Chiasson, “Life Under Ice: Where do Fish Go in the Winter”
- November 21, 2023: Sharon Wolthers, “Wild Edibles”
- December 12, 2023: Alain Clavette, “The Nature Documentaries of Roger Leblanc”
- January 16, 2024: Todd Watts, “Raptors, Raptors, Raptors” (Zoom Presentation)
- February 20, 2024: Curt Nason, “NB Total Solar Eclipse 2024” (Zoom Presentation)
- March 19, 2024: Shaylyn Wallace, “Amphibians and Turtles of NB”
- April 16, 2024: Denis Doucet, “Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Maritimes”
- May 21, 2024: Nigel McLaughlin, “Fundy Biosphere’s ‘Forests of the Future’”
- June 18, 2024: Members BBQ, Social Night, and Sharing of Photos from Warbler Outing
- Sept 17, 2024: April Nason, “Sea Turtles of Atlantic Canada”

Thank you to Nelson Poirier and Fred Richards who organized many of these presentations. And thank you also to the presenters themselves who gave their time and expertise to Nature Moncton.

Submitted by Louise Nichols, Chair of the Presentations Committee

### NATURE MONCTON MEETING AT THE ROTARY LODGE





# Nature Moncton Membership Report

Fiscal Year October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024

2023-2024 Early-paid:	\$ 365.00
2023-2024 Revenues received:	\$2,475.00
2024-2025 Early-paid:	<u>(\$395.00)</u>
= Total 2023-2024 Membership income:	<u>\$2,445.00</u>

## Details:

79 Single memberships

36 Family Memberships (comprising 78 Individuals)

Plus 7 (non-paying) Life Members (2 Family & 3 Individuals)

= **Total 164 Members.**

**This is a 21% increase over 2022-2023, and a 72% increase over the past two years!**

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 35 new members growing us to 164 members. We are proud that Nature Moncton is the largest Nature Club in New Brunswick.

Lynn and I would like to thank particularly Fred and Sue Richards, the Peregrine Falcon family, and all the other volunteers, for their hard work to recruit new members. 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, particularly younger families and students. Lynn and I look forward to some exciting initiatives from our Member Attraction Committee!

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 2024 - 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred and Lynn Dubé, Membership Coordinators



NORTHERN CARDINAL (FEMALE) NORBERT DUPUIS



BUFFLEHEAD DUCKS BRIAN STONE

# Nature Moncton 2023-2024 Treasurer's Report

Please find attached our '*Statement of Operations October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024*' and our '*Statement of Financial Position as at September 30, 2024*'. These documents were prepared by David Cannon, Treasurer, and reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee of Fred Dubé, Vice-President, and Susan Atkinson, Member-at-large. The Treasurer also profoundly thanks Lynn Dubé, as noted soon...

Nature Moncton has definitely taken a quantum leap in the past two years. From annual revenues in the \$3,000 range, as we had my first six years as Treasurer, it exploded to over \$11,000 last year (thanks to our hosting the Petitcodiac River Appreciation Day), and over \$7,000 this year, much due to our new Peregrine Falcon Nesting Box webcam. But these big projects are a reflection of our real growth – our membership! My first six years saw membership numbers of perhaps 100, then last year they grew by an amazing 41 members to 136. This year we not only held on to those new members, we grew them by another 28 to 164! That's a 72% membership increase in just two years.

More members and more revenues do lead to more activities. One of them was the very rare opportunity to view a total eclipse of the sun, hosted at Nelson's camp in Miramichi. We won't be able to repeat that outing soon! But the 2024 'show stopper' was our Peregrine Falcon Nest Box webcam, which recorded the birth through fledging of four young falcons this past spring. While both educating and entertaining, the webcam does not come cheap... I am budgeting \$3,900 in expenditures for its initial three-year run.

Our Financial Reports are full of numbers, as you can see, should you care to. The Treasurer asserts they are accurate; thanks to Lynn Dubé for her tireless efforts to ensure all the Membership revenues and numbers are correct, a complex matter with New, Returning, pre-paid, early-paid, double-paid, late-paid, and both paying and non-paying Honourary and Student members.

My thanks also go out to Susan Richards for her monthly Nature Card Income reports, to Fred Richards for providing me with other needed information, and to Susan Atkinson for her encouragement in having the Treasurer build and transition to an Excel spreadsheet from the previous paper documents.

Of significance in the Statements are that our bank account increased by \$263 over the year and remains very healthy, and our assets increased \$500 overall, due to our Nest Box Webcam purchase less the depreciation on our other physical assets (which now total over \$2,500).

We made a nominal profit of \$37.24 for the year because we enjoy spending money on our members! Consider that for \$25, each of our over 80 new members the past two years was entitled to up to another free year in membership, to a \$50 nesting box, to join us at our (\$400) annual BBQ, to our monthly meetings, a variety of activities and outings, our Facebook, website and Nature Moncton Nature News daily blog etc.

If it helps fulfill your 'inner you', you could also have counted birds, set up and cleaned nesting boxes, planted trees, and collected garbage along the river with us.

Our Executive, our Board of Directors, and our eleven other committees, all work together in striving to make the Club more rewarding to you. If you have any ideas to offer, we would love to hear from you. Please

consider joining one of our committees. Ask President Fred Richards, or anyone else – they can either help you or direct you to someone who can.

Even so, if all you wish to do is, as our Mission Statement declares, ‘enjoy, study, appreciate, share and protect nature’ then I thank you for supporting Nature Moncton.

Respectfully,

David Cannon, Treasurer.



**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. NOV 21, 2024. DAVID CANNON**



**NORTHERN CARDINAL (MALE). NOV. 15, 2024.  
NORBERT DUPUIS**

