



Norfolk Field Naturalists

Annual Report 2011 - 2012

Norfolk Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 995, Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 5B3

The **Norfolk Field Naturalists** organization is dedicated to the acquisition and extension of knowledge of natural history and the appreciation, enjoyment and stewardship of natural environment, especially within the Counties of Norfolk and Haldimand. Established in 1962, NFN is celebrating its 50th year in 2012.

NFN members participate in monthly meetings from September to May. Guest speakers present programs on interesting and relevant natural history and conservation topics. Field outings are held throughout the year with trips of local interest and significance. Junior naturalists are encouraged to participate with their families. Annual membership is \$20 Individual or \$30 for a Family. For 2011 - 2012, the NFN had a total of 175 members in good standing (each family membership counts as 2 members) including 6 Supporting Members (dues + donation of at least \$100) and 19 Contributing Members (dues + donation of \$50 - \$99).

NFN has always taken leadership in public education and protection of our local natural treasures. Actions taken include participation in recovery teams for various species at risk, restoration and preservation of habitat, participation in annual bird and butterfly counts and acting in an advisory capacity to local authorities and environmental planning groups.

Club members receive the Lotus, a newsletter with articles on local natural history and club activities. The NFN has taken an active role in protecting local areas of natural significance by participating in planning exercises and helping other groups raise funds for land acquisition.

Directors are chosen / elected from the membership for a term of 1-3 years, renewed annually, and normally limited to a period of six years' consecutive service. One Honorary President and one or two Honorary Directors may be appointed by the Board in recognition of long and outstanding service to the NFN; they may be called upon by the Board to act in an advisory capacity. There is no limitation on the length of service in the honorary positions.

The NFN Directors for 2011 - 2012 were (showing positions as of 30 April 2012)

President	Bernie Solymer
Vice-President	Tara Crewe
Treasurer / Past President	Audrey Heagy
Secretary	Colleen Dale
Membership	Diane Salter
Field Events <i>(acting)</i>	<i>Audrey Heagy</i>
Speaker Program <i>(acting)</i>	<i>Bernie Solymer</i>
Publicity	Inga Hinnerichsen
Sanctuary / Natural Areas	Peter Carson
Workshops	Shirley Rothery
Director-at-large	Alan Ladd
Director-at-large	Barb Hawke
Director-at-large	Rick Dowson
Lotus Editor (appointment)	Anne Davidson

Honorary President: Al Robinson

Honorary Director: Harry Barrett

Honorary Director: Jim Harlow

President's Report 2011 - 2012

Dear NFN Members, Happy 50th Birthday!

Our Club turned a half century old this year. From our humble beginnings in 1962 to today's membership of over 150 members, the Norfolk Field Naturalists have had a significant impact in helping to promote an appreciation of nature and educate our community on the significant natural heritage of this County.

To commemorate 50 years as a Club we held a Bio-Blitz in St. Williams Conservation Reserve on June 2nd. It was a cold and damp affair, but the 19 hardy folks that did participate managed to record 205 species of plants, 4 amphibian and 5 reptile species, and 45 species of birds. Be sure to join us next year as we "blitz" the Long Point Peninsula.

Over the last year we also created the NFN Nature and Environment Documentary Series in partnership with the Norfolk County Library. The collection consists of 40 DVDs that are intended to help educate the community-at-large on nature's wonders and on global environmental issues.

We also made 2 very significant financial donations in 2012, totaling \$45,000, to the Long Point Basin Land Trust to help purchase 2 parcels of land that are significant in their natural features, including Carolinian forest, Lake Erie shoreline and the presence of several species at risk. One of these tracts has been named in honour of George and Shirley Pond, and the other is a chunk of property just west of Fisher's Glen.

Of course, our other BIG event to commemorate 50 years as a Club is still to come! Our Gala Dinner and Silent Auction takes place on October 20th at the Pt. Rowan Community Centre.

Note that 2012 also marks another anniversary - 25 years that our Club has been the steward of the Rowanwood Nature Sanctuary. Our long-standing agreement with the Ontario Heritage Foundation has provided us an opportunity to nurture this little gem southwest of Walsingham. And today, that small tract of land is further protected as it is now almost surrounded by land purchased by the NCC.

In the past year we lost 3 dear friends – Doug Timpf, long time coordinator of the Long Point Butterfly Count, Joan Harlow, a past Board member Club Secretary, and Fraser McClung, a past president and well-known Master Gardener and organic farmer. We extend their families our deepest sympathies. Also, our sympathies to one of our Board members, Diane Salter, who lost her husband, Bob, several months ago. I, myself, also lost a loved one – my father passed away from cancer on Christmas Day.

I'd like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the following people:

- To the Board of Directors for their valuable input and direction to help make this Club run like a well oiled machine.
- To the speakers, hike leaders, and everyone else that has volunteered in some way to make this Club such a success.
- A thousand thank-yous (and a round of applause) for our retiring and long-serving Lotus editor, Anne Davidson.
- Thanks to Mike McMillan, our official Baillie Birdathon birder. Also thanks to George Pond and other members that raise funds for the event and then request part of the proceeds from efforts come back to our Club
- And, last but not least, thanks to Doris & Alan Ladd and Al Hull for preparing the coffee, juice and yummy treats after every meeting.

In closing, I want to remind you that we have lots of opportunities for our members to help make a difference – be it as a Board Member, an outing organizer, participating in a bird or butterfly count, licking stamps, baking a treat for after a meeting, or manning our booth at an event.

Yours in Nature,

Bernie Solymár,
President, NFN



Norfolk Field Naturalists

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2012 **2012** **2011**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	41,349	49,670
Investments (GIC's)	13,951	28,833
Other Receivable (HST rebate)	562	282

TOTAL ASSETS	55,862	78,786
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Other Payable	0	0
Deferred Income (Badger 3k, Great Tree Hunt 7.5k, Bequest 2k)	12,550	12,550
Total Liabilities	12,550	12,550

Equity

Accumulated Surplus at Beginning	66,236	58,979
Surplus (Deficit) this Period	(22,924)	7,257
Accumulated Surplus at End	43,312	66,236

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	55,862	78,786
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Norfolk Field Naturalists

INCOME STATEMENT YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2012 **2012** **2011**

REVENUE

Membership Dues	2,960	2,600
Donations / Fundraising / Projects (See below for details)	9,472	10,294
Investment Income (Interest)	381	804
GROSS REVENUE	12,813	13,998

DISBURSEMENTS

50th Anniversary	317	-
Christmas Bird Count	100	200
Donations	-	1,337
Hall Rental	180	260
Insurance	540	518
Memberships (incl. Lotus)	1,189	1,193
Events & Workshops	250	695
Office Expense (incl. Postage and Web)	1,425	530
Program Speaker	600	895
Publications	979	979
Securement & Protection	30,000	-
HST Expense	122	133
Bank Charges	36	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	35,738	6,741

NET INCOME - Surplus / (Deficit)	(22,924)	7,257
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Notes re Donations / Fundraising / Projects

Birdathon Income Total	7,074	7,052
Membership Donations	1,295	1,225
Other Donations	982	100
Workshops	-	1,385
Silent Auction	-	532
Other	121	-
Total for Donations / Fundraising / Projects:	9,472	10,294

Norfolk Field Naturalists

ASSET FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Restricted Funds incl. Cash and Investments) as of April 30, 2012

(A)	Deferred Income Total of \$12,550.00 in Deferred Income (Badger Project, Great Tree Hunt Project and bequest)	Cash: 12,550
(B)	Endowment - for Rowanwood Nature Reserve: Externally restricted funds - By agreement/commitment with the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Norfolk Field Naturalist Club is the custodian and manager for this 97-acre reserve. The income from this GIC is used for the ongoing costs such as taxes, insurance and upkeep. Invested in a 5-year step-up GIC, cashable Feb 2013 (1.8% for 2nd year)	GIC: 13,951
(C)	Securement and Protection: Funds committed to acquisition or protection of new nature reserves. These funds are retained over several years until enough resources are available for a targeted purchase/project. Internally restricted funds.	Cash: 12,927
(D)	Youth Program Funds: Funds for educational programs and materials for youth programs.	Cash: 581.35

Thank You NFN Donors

NFN is a registered charity and donors receive a tax receipt for donations that exceed \$10.00. Donations may be specified for a particular purpose. When not specified, donations are used to support NFN's operating costs, special publications, or other projects, at the discretion of the Board. All expenses over \$1000 require prior approval of the membership.

We thank these members for their generosity in the fiscal year 2011 - 2012

Richard and Krystyna Tanner	Scott Guthrie	Jon McCracken
John & Joyce Glass	Rob & Mary Lou Knechtel	Elizabeth & Douglas Murton
Mary Gartshore & Peter Carson	Alf Senior	George & Shirley Pond
Michael and Marilyn McMillan	Erica Dunn & David Hussell	Margie Grant
Donna Boyle	Betty Chanyi	Marvin Grove
Carol Snively-Skoblenick	Harry Barrett	Gregor Beck
Ruth & Arthur Loughton	Dennis Price	Stephanie Sinden
Brigitte Patel	Donna Cowan	Felicity Fowke
Lynne and Michael Bradstreet	Lori and Robert Martin	Sheila & Bill Whiteley
Susan Stevens	Jane Zukovs	Al and Pat Robinson
Alan McKeown	Emilie and Robert White	Mary Edmonds
Margaret McArthur		

Charitable Registration # 119058691

Thank You NFN Birdathoners

The Birdathoners representing NFN in May 2012 raised funds which NFN will receive in January 2013, at which time the exact amount being received by NFN will be known. For their enthusiasm and hard work, we thank:

Allan Aubin	Betty Chanyi	George E. Pond
Margaret (Peggy) McArthur	Mike McMillan	Anne Wynia

Visit the NFN Website at: www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org