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## Origins and History of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) represents an unbroken chain of organized, non-governmental natural history investigation and education dating back to the early days of the city of Ottawa itself. The Club originated in 1863 with the formation of the Ottawa Natural History Society which became the Natural History branch of the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society in 1870, from which the OFNC formally separated in March 1879. Since that time, it has grown into Canada's oldest and largest regional natural history organization and has produced a diverse and internationally recognized publication program. Since 1880 *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and its predecessors have constituted the scientific core of the OFNC's publication program, with *Trail & Landscape* being an important Ottawa Valley publication since the late 1960s. The importance of both publications to the growth and health of the organization is reflected in the major surges in Club membership experienced when each of these publications was established. The focus of membership activities has changed over the history of the OFNC, with enlightened natural resource management, then original scientific research and local exploration directing energies in the early decades. By the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the publications program become the *raison d'être* of the Club, almost to the exclusion of local field activities. A renewed interest in field discovery and the growth of conservation awareness in the 1960s, however, rekindled local activities and re-established the balance which has sustained the organization throughout its history. Natural environment education has remained a critical theme within OFNC programs and activities. Over and above inspiring the professional careers and private interests of thousands of individuals for more than a century, the OFNC has had an important and lasting impact on the conservation of natural environment features and landscapes in Canada and North America.

Key Words: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club; Ottawa Natural History Society; The Canadian Field-Naturalist; Trail & Landscape.

Canada was a mere 12 years old in 1879 when 34 members of the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society (OLSS) gathered together on an early spring evening to discuss a growing problem within Ottawa's fledgling naturalist community. Most were full of Victorian enthusiasm for discovery and intellectual advancement and were convinced of the limitless potential of their new country. These young men – and they were all men, mostly in their 20s or 30s – were frustrated by what they saw as an ineffective, moribund OLSS Natural History Branch which did not serve their needs. These impatient “young Turks” wanted to actually *do* things, to get out into the countryside of the Ottawa Valley to explore and discover its natural wonders. And with true Victorian missionary zeal, they wanted to share these revelations amongst themselves and with the larger Canadian – even international – community. All of this in the name of personal intellectual development as well as the chance to advance the scientific and applied benefits of such knowledge. That was heady, revolutionary stuff in the staid, conservative Ottawa of March 1879 when how close one was to Rideau Hall – the literal and figurative operational base

of the Governor General and his politically and socially powerful entourage – dictated more about one's status and options than personal wealth or political position (Gwyn 1984).

The events which unfolded that cool spring evening in the OLSS rooms perched above the muddy streets of Ottawa launched careers, changed government policy, protected tens of thousands of hectares of Canadian natural landscape, produced internationally recognized and significant scientific publications, made huge contributions to our understanding and appreciation of North American natural sciences, and enriched thousands upon thousands of lives. Oh yes ... and initiated what has become the largest and oldest regional naturalist organization in Canada's history, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC).

### The Pioneers (1840s-1863)

Although the formal beginning of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club in 1879 was 125 years ago, naturalists' organizations in the Capital actually pre-date Canada itself (Brault 1946; Dore 1968; Taylor 1986). Prior to Confederation, Ottawa (and Bytown before it) was

a rude little lumber town characterized more by sawdust, beer and brawls than by intellectual achievement. The only adult education or research institution present in those early days was the Mechanics Institute, a charitable organization initiated in 1847 as something akin to a continuing education facility and library for working men. There were no such things as “night school” or public libraries, let alone publicly accessible research organizations. An informal group known as the Silurian Society interested in geological (and mining?) issues was also reported to be active in the 1850s. “Active” may be a misnomer, since they left little reference of their doings, other than to suggest that their meetings were held “in the City of Ottawa” (Anonymous 1854).

The only natural environment research being undertaken in the Ottawa Valley before the 1860s was by three highly active individuals. Edward Van Cortlandt (1805-1875) was the most socially prominent of these. He was one of the first doctors in Bytown, arriving in 1832 to attend to the military personnel stationed on Barracks Hill (now Parliament Hill). He developed an extensive private museum of curiosities and artifacts in the 1840s, liberally mixing archaeological specimens found at aboriginal sites along the Ottawa River with natural items dug up, collected, and/or shot in the vicinity of the town. He was, by all accounts, a remarkably energetic man who used his high social standing to influence local business leaders in natural resource-oriented concerns (Moffatt 1986).

Another dynamo was Elkanah Billings (1820-1876) (Figure 1), second son of one of Ottawa’s first pioneer families. Billings was passionately interested in natural history in general and geology/paleontology in particular. At various times he was a newspaper publisher (*The Bytown Citizen*, forerunner of *The Ottawa Citizen*), a lawyer and finally, Canada’s first professional paleontologist. Indeed, this latter science was his true calling and he came to be known as “the father of Canadian paleontology” (Whiteaves 1876; Clarke 1971). He presumably was involved in the aforementioned Silurian Society, but no direct evidence of that was found. *The Bytown Citizen* was full of natural history items during Billings’s tenure (1852-1856), mostly representing accounts of his own observations or text reprinted from European or American publications. These publication activities led directly to his production in Ottawa of Ontario’s first natural science journal, *The Canadian Naturalist and Geologist*, in February 1856 (Figure 2). Delightful and insightful articles in that first volume such as “On the species of woodpeckers observed in the vicinity of Ottawa” (Billings 1856) were based on his extensive travels in the Ottawa Valley. They demonstrated both excellent powers of observation and a keen appreciation of the importance of documenting the appearance and constitution of original landscape conditions. His move to Montreal later that year to join Sir William Logan at the Cana-

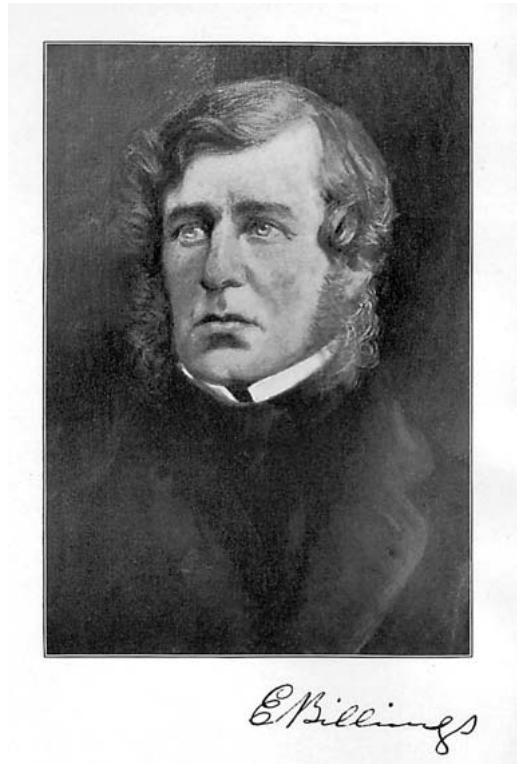


FIGURE 1. Elkanah Billings. Billings was born in 1820, became one of the earliest naturalists in Ottawa, and published the first journal on natural history in Ontario in 1856 (see Figure 2). He moved to Montreal later that year to become the first palaeontologist of the Geological Survey of Canada, and the initial curator of its museum. (reproduction of the OFNC-commissioned portrait, from *The Ottawa Naturalist*, February 1901).

dian Geological Survey, however, permanently ended his Ottawa connection (Zaslow 1975).

Elkanah Billings’ older brother, Braddish Billings Jr. (1819-1871), completes the trio of Ottawa’s pioneer resident naturalists. Braddish was a keen botanist and used his position as chief clerk on the Prescott & Ottawa Railway to gain access to a wide variety of habitats across eastern Ontario. Although he published nothing during this time and relatively little even later, in 1868 he did produce the first list of vascular plants for the city of Ottawa. It was a superb effort for its day, chronicling over 400 species that he found within close proximity to the City in 1866 (Dore 1968). Billings was seen as a distinguished figure in natural history investigations in the Ottawa Valley in the 1860s; like his younger brother Elkanah, Braddish was widely consulted by natural science researchers elsewhere in Canada (Dore 1968).

The days of exclusively private investigation of the Ottawa Valley natural environment ended in the early

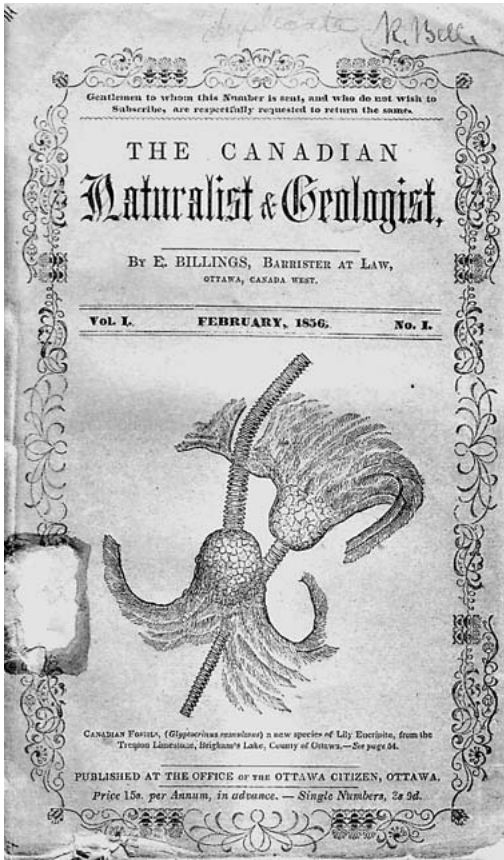


FIGURE 2. *The Canadian Naturalist and Geologist*, first published in 1856 at the office of *The Ottawa Citizen* by Elkanah Billings, and later continued in Montreal.

1860s with the transfer of the seat of government of the colony of Canada to Ottawa, heralded by the start of construction of the new Parliament Buildings in 1860 (Eggleston 1961). This represented a mega-project with huge economic benefits to local businesses. Similarly, the 1863 transfer of some 300 bright, educated, and relatively financially secure members of the civil service from the old capital represented both economic and social opportunities for the city and the Ottawa Valley. Confederation-era city business and social leaders quickly embraced the idea of broadening and deepening the intellectual resources of the community. In furtherance of this, they encouraged the development of various clubs and societies to enhance the prestige and intellectual capacity befitting the new capital (Brault 1946; Gwyn 1984).

It is useful to consider how really rough and ready Ottawa and the larger world were in 1863. The Arctic was still largely unknown to Europeans and North Americans alike but was being charted with great speed

by the continuing search for the ill-fated Third Franklin Expedition. The United States Civil War and the accompanying ferocious slavery debate raged uncomfortably close to the south, as did intense arguments in the Old World regarding the newly published (1859) “heresies” of Charles Darwin’s *On the origin of species*. Closer to home, Ottawa was a bustling, rapidly growing city of approximately 15 000 people which boasted but a single operating sewer line along Wellington Street in front of the new Parliament Buildings. The first railway train had puffed into town fewer than ten years earlier and a municipal drinking-water system was still 12 years off (Brault 1946; Eggleston 1961). Ottawa was very much straddling the line between pioneer lumber town and developing political centre.

### The Ottawa Natural History Society (1863-1869)

It is against this backdrop that a veritable “Who’s-who” of the new business and professional elite of Confederation-era Ottawa (notably including both the aforementioned Edward Van Cortlandt and Braddish Billings Jr.) assembled on 3 October 1863 to form the Ottawa Natural History Society (ONHS). These gentlemen – and the ONHS constitution made it clear that membership was open *only* to gentlemen – were very economically oriented. The original minute books maintained in the OFNC collection at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) records that they were “... desirous to develop [sic] the Natural History of the Ottawa and general resources of the surrounding country” (LAC OFNC Collection, 3 October 1863). Exploring and researching the natural sciences of the Ottawa Valley were all well and good but these gentlemen – at least initially – wanted to see a profit result from it.

An important aspect of the growth of such endeavours was the potential participation of the relatively large body of newly arrived civil servants (Brault 1946). Activity within quasi-professional associations (it’s called “networking” today) was a very important unofficial avenue for professional advancement within the small professional community of public servants in the Capital at this time (Gwyn 1984). The ONHS offered such an outlet and avenue for civil servants interested in natural resources and natural environment issues. A definite pecking order mirroring that of their professional relationships was soon evident amongst founding ONHS members who were also senior civil servants. When powerful Finance Department Deputy Minister John Langton (1808-1894) was ONHS President in the late 1860s, for example, his ambitious subordinate, Interior Department Deputy Minister Edmund Meredith (1817-1898), was conspicuously involved in the organization, but was careful not to hold higher office nor to publicly disagree with Langton (Gwyn 1984). The social/political significance of the organization, over and above the fact that 77 men paid the \$1.00 membership fee for 1863/1864, can also be meas-

ured by the prominent involvement of individuals such as Sir James A. Grant (1831-1920), the Governor General's personal physician (Travill 1988) (LAC OFNC Collection, 3 October 1863).

The ONHS members chose widely appreciated and politically-neutral Braddish Billings Jr. as their first president, although he was not very active in subsequent Society affairs (LAC OFNC Collection, 3 October 1863 – 28 October 1864). The Council (Board of Directors) soon established a schedule for regular meetings and made arrangements for the development of "The Cabinet", a series of cases displaying natural history specimens which were to be held in the rooms they rented at the Mechanics Institute building on Sparks Street. Van Cortlandt was elected museum curator for the Society and remained in that position throughout the life of the organization.

Although precise records are sketchy, records at Library and Archives Canada indicate that the Society met regularly for lectures and field trips. The last Saturday of each month was fixed for the latter (LAC OFNC Collection, 28 April 1865), during which members actively searched for natural history specimens for The Cabinet. Indeed, this seemed to be a major focus of the organization (Dore 1968). In October 1869, only months before the organization's amalgamation with the Mechanics Institute, Braddish Billings offered his herbarium to the ONHS for \$60 (LAC OFNC Collection, 1 October 1869). Although no supporting motion for such a purchase is noted, Billings's collection did end up there (it may have been deposited after his death), and was examined in the OLSS museum in the 1880s (Fletcher 1888). Unfortunately, the OLSS herbarium, including the Billings's specimens, disappeared sometime in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Dore 1968).

The ONHS seems to have been most active between 1865 and 1867 and to have achieved considerable standing in the community. In 1866 a group met with federal Minister Thomas Darcy McGee to discuss a possible ONHS – Mechanics Institute exhibit in the 1867 Paris Exhibition (LAC OFNC Collection, 26 April 1866). Their paths had crossed before, in Quebec City in 1862-1863, McGee had lectured to the Quebec Literary and Historical Society along with both E. A. Meredith and John Langton. And while the subject of his speech was not recorded, the Governor General apparently spoke to the Society shortly thereafter (LAC OFNC Collection, 25 May 1866). Within a month of Confederation an ONHS delegation led by President N. B. Webster lobbied Prime Minister John A. Macdonald to have the Geological Survey Museum moved to Ottawa from Montreal (LAC OFNC Collection, 26 July 1867) – possibly the first such initiative in the lengthy campaign to effect such a transfer (Zaslow 1975). Similarly, early concerns for habitat protection and landscape conservation were discussed amongst the Society's influential membership through presentations like Vice-President Thomas Austin's lecture "The UI-

TABLE 1. Elected positions of Ottawa Natural History Society (1863 to 1869) [from LAC OFNC Collection 3 October 1863 – 30 December 1869]

	1863/1864	1864/1865	1865/1866	1866/1867	1867/1868	1868/1869	September-December 1869
President	B. Billings Jr.	N.B. Webster	N.B. Webster	N.B. Webster	J. Langton	J. Langton	E. A. Meredith
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	N.B. Webster	George Hay	T. Austin*	J. A. Phillippis	J. A. Phillippis	E. A. Meredith	J. A. Grant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	J. Thorburn	J. Thorburn	J. Langton*	J. Langton	E. A. Meredith	J. A. Grant	J. Thorburn
Secretary	T. Austin*	T. Austin	T. Daniel*	W. White	W. White	W. White	W. White
	J. Thorburn*		J. Thorburn*				
Treasurer	J. Featherstone*	J. A. Grant*	W. White*	J. Ogilvie	J. Ogilvie	J. Ogilvie	J. Ogilvie
	F.D. Laughlin*	J. Ogilvie					
Corresponding Secretary	n/a	n/a	n/a	D. Dodd	A. Harvey	A. Harvey	W. D. LeSueur
Curator	E. Van Cortlandt	E. Van Cortlandt	E. Van Cortlandt	E. Van Cortlandt	E. Van Cortlandt	E. Van Cortlandt	E. Van Cortlandt

\* held position for a portion of the year

terior Effects of Clearing off the Forests and Draining the Country” (LAC OFNC Collection, 26 April 1866).

While The Cabinet may not have survived, the Society left a more lasting (albeit, modest) record through its publications program. It commenced in 1867 with a pamphlet on the possible economic uses of Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) by Alexander Kirkwood (1823-1901) who, with the timely promotional assistance of ONHS member and OFNC founder Henry B. Small Sr. (1832-1919), would later be the driving force behind the establishment of Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park (Killan 1993). The ONHS published 250 copies of Kirkwood's lecture (Kirkwood 1867). Approval for the production of 250 copies of a lecture by Van Cortlandt entitled “Native Compounds and Metallurgy of Iron” was given by the Council the previous year but there is no evidence that a publication actually resulted (LAC OFNC Collection, 28 December 1866). After a year of discussion and buoyed by the success of the Kirkwood pamphlet, however, an ONHS *Transactions* series was initiated. It was short lived, producing only three numbers.<sup>1</sup>

Faced with rising financial pressures (including the costs of renting rooms) and the opportunity to formally combine resources (including a provincial operating grant), the ONHS decided in the spring of 1869 to merge with the Mechanics Institute (LAC OFNC Collection, 16 April 1869). The minutes books describe surprisingly little of the ensuing discussion, but the Society did merge with the Institute to form the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society (OLSS) on 24 December 1869 (LAC OFNC Collection, 30 December 1869). The ONHS Cabinet became the basis for the OLSS museum, whose collections disappeared with the dissolution of the Society in 1906-1907. Unpublished biological data were apparently also maintained in the Museum, however, as indicated by later reference (containing several errors in fact) being made to “lists published by the Ottawa Natural History Society of 1859-63” (Small 1883).

Although active for only a decade, the ONHS was critical in the awakening of interest in the organized and documented investigation of natural sciences in the Ottawa Valley. It bridged the gap from hit-and-miss personal interest to organized and semi-professional investigation. It also initiated the concern for and participation in larger issues of national science policy, research priorities, and natural environment conservation which continue within the Ottawa naturalist community to the present day.

### **The Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society and OFNC formation (1870-1879)**

The combination of the ONHS and the Mechanics Institute appears to have been seamless, with the members of the ONHS effectively becoming the Natural History Branch of the newly created OLSS. Little documentation was found, however, concerning the resulting organization in general and the activities of its

Natural History Branch in particular. Nonetheless, the OLSS was a socially and culturally significant organization in Victorian Ottawa by the end of the 1870s, supporting a regular lecture series, a public reading room and a lending library of 1100 volumes (LAC OFNC Collection, OLSS brochure). Despite the larger city population, better local research resources and the existence of a potential sponsoring organization, however, there are few indications of more than individual efforts in natural science investigations in the Ottawa Valley. At the least, the momentum of the 1860s seems to have been stymied within the larger, predominantly culturally-oriented OLSS. The stage was set for a final transformation of the ineffective OLSS Natural History Branch into a new and more productive structure ... an independent naturalist group.

If the organization that morphed into the OFNC actually began in October 1863, the final stage of its transformation was achieved with the cordial separation of the Natural History Branch from the main body of the OLSS in March 1879. It appears to have been a classic example of a group of activists becoming dissatisfied with the pace and effectiveness of a well-established group and deciding that the only way to achieve more contemporary goals was to strike out on their own. The fact that most of the prime movers and shakers in the new organization were established members of the old OLSS and remained members for years thereafter, indicates that they retained faith with the original organization as a valuable forum for intellectual development and social debate. Nonetheless, they wanted to see more activity and greater opportunities being provided for natural environment investigations (Harrington 1909).

Once again, national and world affairs played an important role in the development of naturalist organizations in the Ottawa Valley. Canada was experiencing the early years of a serious economic downturn that lasted into the early 1890s (Eggleston 1961). At the same time, the promise of this new country and the political, social and economic difficulties of the Old World were encouraging huge numbers of young, relatively well-educated and mobile immigrants to enter Canada; some stayed and some moved on in this time of social and economic upheaval. The decade following the founding of the OFNC, for example, saw the highest number of both Canadian immigrants and emigrants of any time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Lingard 1967).

### **Young Turks and Rebels (1878-1879)**

The group which gathered in March 1879 to consider a new natural history organization in Ottawa reflected its times. This included a mix of Ottawa veterans enthusiastic about the future, as well as young, newly-established civil servants, and British immigrants full of imperial fervour. They seem to have been imbued with Victorian optimism about the importance and strength of ideas, a missionary zeal for discovery and the sharing of knowledge, and a strong desire to con-

tribute to their community (LAC OFNC Collection, 25 March 1879-15 December 1879). Some stayed on to become important participants in the exploration of the Ottawa Valley natural environment while others followed different paths elsewhere in Canada and beyond.

The founding meeting was called by James Fletcher (1852-1908), OLSS museum curator since 1878 and an up-and-coming entomologist and botanist (Figure 4). Fletcher had emigrated from England in 1874, moving to Ottawa in 1875 to work as a clerk in the Bank of British North America and joining the Parliamentary Library staff as an accounting clerk in 1876 (Cody et al., 1986). He was a gregarious, personable, and physically active man who quickly became deeply involved in sporting and social activities. He was, for example, a keen snowshoe racer and a founder and principal player with the Ottawa Football Club, a rugby team which later evolved into the Ottawa Rough Riders Canadian Football League team (Harrington 1909). He was also a pillar of the Anglican Church community in Ottawa and remained so throughout his life. And, while being a young man with shallow Ottawa roots, his social profile, and thus influence, improved dramatically when he married Eleanor Schreiber (daughter of Sir Collingwood Schreiber, Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway and later Chief Engineer of the Department of Railway and Canals) in 1879.

Fletcher's enthusiasm, intelligence, and boundless energy quickly became known to the small group of active field naturalists already resident in Ottawa and he was eagerly sought out (Whyte 1909). Chief amongst these field associates and life-long friends were Robert B. Whyte (1851-1918), an Ottawa-born private businessman and passionate horticulturalist (Macoun 1918) (Figure 5). The other was William (Will) H. Harrington (1852-1918), a skilled entomologist and botanist who moved from Nova Scotia in 1870 and spent his entire working career with the federal post office department (Gibson 1918). While Whyte is credited with the *idea* of an Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Fletcher is universally credited with being the fellow

who made it happen and saw to it that it became firmly established (Harrington 1909; Whyte 1909).<sup>2</sup>

The dynamic trio of young naturalists were not alone in this, and were joined by an eclectic mixture of OLSS members who also felt the need for an organization focusing exclusively on natural sciences. Many were prominent in the building of Ottawa and/or the federal civil service of the new country (Brault 1946; Gywn 1984). These included former ONHS officer and senior Post Office Department official William White (1830-1911) (Figure 3); lawyer and politician (later, Premier of British Columbia) Joseph Martin (1852-1923); former ONHS officer, teacher, and Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) librarian John Thorburn (1830-1904); author and later Deputy Minister of the Interior Henry Small Sr., and the OLSS president of the day, prominent literary patron and Secretary (Deputy-Minister) of the Post Office Department, William D. LeSueur (1840-1917) (LAC OFNC Collection, 25 March 1879).

As noted earlier, the social and political prominence of members was important to the success of such organizations in Victorian Ottawa (Gywn 1984). This early naturalist community (Table 2) was small and remarkably homogenous, dominated by white, English-speaking, Anglo-Saxon protestants who worked, lived and even were buried in close proximity. Overwhelmingly, the children of most early club leaders were enrolled in the Ottawa Collegiate Institute (MacMillan et al. 1904), and numerous Club officers – including almost two dozen former Presidents – are buried at Beechwood Cemetery. Beechwood, appropriately enough, was also a favoured 19<sup>th</sup> Century OFNC excursion site (Reddoch 1979c).

### Founding Meeting (25 March 1879)

The special meeting of OLSS Natural History Branch members was called to order in the OLSS museum at 112 ½ Sparks Street by James Fletcher (Figure 4) on 25 March 1879.<sup>3</sup> It seems that the politics of Victorian Ottawa immediately intervened, however, as William White (Figure 3) and R. J. Wicksteed moved

TABLE 2. Participants at inaugural meeting of the OFNC, 25 March 1879 (LAC OFNC Collection, 25 March 1879).

W. P. Anderson	L. A. Hamilton	Dr. Ross
E. D. Arnaud	W. H. Harrington	H. B. Small Sr.
Prof. George Baptie	G. Heron	H. B. Small Jr.
W. R. Billings	G. A. D. Jones	P. D. Symms
W. Chesterton	E. V. Johnson	John Thorburn*
L. H. Chrysler	W. D. LeSueur*	H. Watters
R. A. Davy	J. Martin	W. White*
James Fletcher	B. Monk	R. B. Whyte
J. M. Greta	S. McLaughlin*	R. J. Wicksteed*
J. MacD. Gordon	Prof. W.R. Riddell	A. P. Wright
J. A. Guignard	C. J. Ripley	
D. Horsey	P. Robertson	

\*member of ONHS (1863-1869)



FIGURE 3. Lieutenant-Colonel William White, May 1901. White was the first president of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, and also the Ottawa Horticultural Society. Earlier he was president of the Ottawa Athenaeum and Mechanical Institute. Photographer William James Topley, Ottawa, archived at the Library and Archives of Canada, Ottawa: E 81666).

that fellow ONHS veteran John Thorburn chair the meeting. Perhaps to counter this old guard move, newcomers Joseph Martin and Henry B. Small Jr. subsequently moved that Fletcher be made Secretary of the meeting. The social pecking order apparently satisfied, Fletcher then got discussion under way (LAC OFNC Collection, 25 March 1879).

After some debate of whether to stay affiliated with the OLSS or to form a separate group, the actual motion to establish an independent OFNC was moved by Joseph Martin (seconded by R. B. Whyte): "... that it is advisable to form a Field Naturalists Club for the City of Ottawa and do proceed to organize".

It was only after this motion had been passed that Fletcher reported to the gentlemen assembled that a small group (consisting of at least James Fletcher, Will Harrington, R. B. Whyte (Figure 5), Joseph Martin, and Henry Small Jr.) had actually held preliminary consultations on 11 March 1879 to prepare a proposal to the Council of the OLSS – and no doubt, to map out strategies. At that preliminary meeting they had drafted a motion (Fletcher, seconded by H. B. Small Jr.) that in light of "... an Ottawa-Field Naturalists Club having been organized in Ottawa...", this new

group "... would gladly contribute to the Museum of the OL & S Society and thereby revive its present dormant condition". In exchange, they asked that the OFNC be allowed to use the OLSS rooms for meetings. An additional clause asking that the new organization be "under the auspices" of the OLSS was an apparent face-saving offer, since the OFNC had virtually nothing further to do with OLSS programs.<sup>4</sup> The resolution was passed by the OLSS Council, though there likely was little else they could do, being presented with such a *fait accompli*. There may have been a good bit of bluff on the part of Fletcher and his associates, however, since the Club did not in fact exist on 11 March when the motion was drafted!

If this was not-too-subtle political manipulation by the newcomers, the old guard may well have reaped a bit of revenge in the election of OFNC officers which followed immediately thereafter. William White, longtime Ottawa resident, former Mechanics Institute president and ONHS member, was elected President. It is not recorded in the Minute Books if the officer positions were contested that day, as was often the case in the first years of the organization. Likely more important than being an ONHS veteran, White was a senior Post Office Department official and was socially prominent as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Governor General's Foot



FIGURE 4. James Fletcher in June 1908. He called the founding meeting of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and was the prime architect of its early success. Photographer William James Topley, Ottawa, archived at the Library and Archives of Canada, Ottawa C96620).

Guards (Shutt 1912; Anonymous 1929). His election, however, may very well have also been the wish of the newcomers since White's Rideau Hall connections made the important task of securing the agreement of the Governor General to serve as Club Patron that much easier.

The minutes of the founding meeting (LAC OFNC Collection, 25 March 1879) are very sparse in detail. As Secretary, James Fletcher would have produced a hand-written record of events. The preserved minutes are in the handwriting of R. B. Whyte, however, indicating that Fletcher's record of events was rewritten. The development of this simplified record could perhaps have allowed for the tactful omission of politically delicate matters such as contested positions and/or heated exchanges.

In any event, James Fletcher was elected First Vice-President and the Council and Officer positions were filled by other young rebels (R. B. Whyte, Henry B. Small Jr., W. H. Harrington, and Joseph Martin) or neutral figures (W. R. Riddell and J. A. Guignard) (Appendix 1). Only one Council position was filled by a White associate, William P. Anderson (1852-1927), who also later became Lieutenant-Colonel of the Governor General's Foot Guards (Small 1929). As it turned out, however, Fletcher essentially ran the affairs of the OFNC in 1879 and 1880, with White playing a very low-key role.

### Earliest Days (1879 – 1880)

The first Council meeting of the new Club was held under the chairmanship of William White on the afternoon of 3 April 1879 in the Museum of the OLSS (LAC OFNC Collection, 3 April 1879). It was followed almost immediately by another, longer session at the home of William Anderson on 5 April 1879 to prepare details for a formal members' General Meeting the following Tuesday (8 April 1879) and to accept the resignation from the Council and from the Club of J. A. Guignard. No reasons were given for the speedy and rather dramatic resignation of Guignard but despite being James Fletcher's assistant at the Experimental Farm from 1891 onward, he did not ever re-join the Club. He did, however, function as Acting Editor of *The Ottawa Naturalist* for several months in 1903 (Brunton 1986a).

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club first met publicly on 8 April 1879 under the chairmanship of James Fletcher with about 25 members in attendance in the Museum of the OLSS. Operational rules for the Club were described, a Corresponding Members (Honorary Member) designation was identified, an active excursion program was laid out, and a membership fee (50¢ per annum) was established. The fee was half that established by the ONHS 16 years earlier, presumably in an effort to keep membership in the OFNC more affordable for the general public. And also unlike the ONHS, the OFNC specifically identified mem-

bership as being open to both "ladies and gentlemen desiring to join the Club" (LAC OFNC Collection, 8 April 1879).<sup>5</sup>

There were 25 OFNC Council and public meetings held in 1879/1880, the busy first year of the newly independent Club. Most of the public meetings were in the form of somewhat informal soirées in which lectures were followed by opportunities for debate and conversation. Through this year the Council addressed numerous details of the developing organization including the arrangement of Vice-regal patronage, the establishment of an active excursion program, the selection of the first OFNC Corresponding Member (John Macoun [1831-1920]) (Brunton and Gummer 1987), and recognition of the importance of "public education" (the first glimmers of conservation action?). James Fletcher was everywhere in this, conducting excursions, conducting and documenting field research, and handling many logistical details. President White chaired 12 of the meetings that year, only a few more than Fletcher, who oversaw nine because of the president's frequent absence (LAC OFNC Collection, 1879-1880).

The establishment of various scientific working committees (botany, ornithology, geology, etc.) generated a great deal of interest and field activity within the Ottawa District<sup>6</sup>, resulting in considerable natural environment information being gathered. Membership grew to almost 100. The influence of Lieutenant-Colonel White and others secured the patronage of the Governor General and made OFNC membership socially desirable. This was aided by the membership within the first year of prominent individuals like the previously-mentioned Governor General's personal physician, Sir James Grant; the founder of the Central Experimental Farm research institution, Sir William Saunders (1836-1914) (Anstey 1988; Cody et al., 1986); and prominent scientist, engineer, and inventor Sir Sandford Fleming (1827-1915) (Regehr 1988).

The lectures delivered at the Soirées were well received, leading to requests for their publication for the benefit of members and other interested parties alike. The March 1880 Council meeting established that a transaction of the OFNC's first year be produced. Five hundred copies of that first *Transactions* were published for a cost of \$78.43, likely in June 1880 (Brunton 1986a) (Figure 8). In appreciation of his production of the lithographed plates for the publication at no cost, the Council granted Club membership for the year to J. A. Guignard – the same gentleman who had resigned from the Council as well as from Club membership, only days after the Club had been formed (LAC OFNC Collection, 28 July 1880). This was done again in 1882 for additional *gratis* lithographic services, so it appears that whatever difficulty Guignard had with being on the Council and being a voluntary Club member, he was prepared to receive and work for the publication.



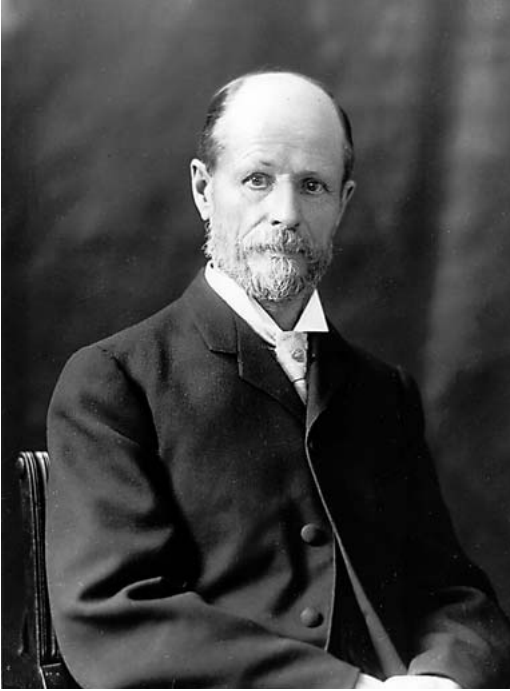


FIGURE 5. Robert B. Whyte, (June 1908), was first secretary-treasurer and later president of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Photographer William James Topley, Ottawa, archived at the Library and Archives of Canada, Ottawa: C 105521).

Publication of the *Transactions* was the first step in a renowned publication program that, to date, has produced seven annual *Transactions of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club*, almost 120 volumes of *The Ottawa Naturalist/The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and almost 40 volumes of *Trail & Landscape*. Complete sets of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and its predecessors are rare, however, particularly so in private libraries. Likely fewer than a dozen complete sets exist in Canada. The *Transactions* are especially rare publications, several of which became unavailable within a few years of publication. Only 75 copies of *Transactions* 1 were still available by early 1884, for example (LAC OFNC Collection, 12 March 1884), and only "virtually complete sets" were being sold (for \$24) by 1909 (LAC OFNC Collection, 23 February 1909).

### The Late Victorians (1880s-1890s)

The OFNC was a huge hit at the height of the Victorian era in Ottawa. Aided by improved transportation – most particularly, the expansion of railways up the Ottawa and Gatineau Valleys – and the continued growth of both the federal civil service and the city (exploding to 60 000 by 1899 – Brault 1946), huge

strides were being made in the exploration and understanding of the natural biodiversity of the Ottawa Valley. Transfer of the Geological Survey of Canada from Montreal to Ottawa in 1880 (Zaslow 1975) and with it, many of the top natural scientists in Canada, provided a major boost to the OFNC. So too did the 1882 arrival of John Macoun (Macoun 1922). Through their network of professional connections, Macoun and other scientists at "The Museum", as it was known, also provided an important link between OFNC members and national and international floral and faunal authorities. Despite becoming increasingly preoccupied with professional duties after he became Dominion Entomologist and Botanist in 1886 (Cody et al., 1986) and being troubled by serious eyesight problems for a period of time (LAC OFNC Collection, 17 March 1885), James Fletcher remained an inspirational and hands-on leader within the OFNC throughout the 1880s and 1890s.

Club membership had more than doubled to 254 by 1899 (Figure 6). This was due to both local and wider-scale influences. On the local front, OFNC excursions became major social events and major generators of additional interest in the organization (Reddoch 1979c). These were often huge events, with trains being chartered to take upwards of 300 participants on day-long trips. Fortunately, many sites now well within the urban core of the National Capital Region were in close to original condition then and became prime locations for many formal and informal outings. Chief amongst these were Lac Leamy, Fairy Lake, and Wychwood (Aylmer) in Gatineau, and Rockcliffe Park, Beechwood Cemetery and the Billings Bridge (Rideau River) area in Ottawa. Further afield, the huge Mer Bleue peat bog and Casselman to the east, and King Mountain and Chelsea to the north offered "exotic" destinations that were visited repeatedly (Reddoch 1979c).

In striking contrast to the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century days of the ONHS and its predecessors, these efforts were well documented in OFNC publications. The annual *Transactions*, modelled on the *Transactions of the Manchester Field-Naturalists' Society* (Brunton 1986a), were produced through much of the 1880s. Each *Transactions* reproduced Club lectures delivered during the previous year. More importantly, they included annual reports of various committees highlighting the field discoveries of members. The *Transactions* thus provided the first documentation of a variety of comprehensive lists of Ottawa area flora and fauna, such as birds (White and Scott 1882), vascular plants (Fletcher 1880), and fish (Small 1883). Against these, individual members could compare and direct their own field investigations and discoveries. Fletcher's serialized, annotated revision of the 1880 list of vascular flora was produced over many years thereafter, providing a continuing enumeration of new discoveries and potential exploration sites for OFNC members (Boivin and Cody 1955).

After seven annual *Transactions* had been produced, there were increasing calls for a more frequently appearing publication. This was particularly important for the description of new species (LaRocque 1931), the first being a new fossil which had been described in *Transactions* 2 by Sir James Grant (Grant 1881). At the March 1887 Annual Meeting members agreed to initiate a monthly publication series which could move beyond the simple publication of Club lectures and reports. This was over the objections of W. P. Anderson, the current OLSS President, who had complained the previous fall of OFNC “antagonism” towards the old Society (see above); he wanted the *Transactions* to stay as they were (LAC OFNC Collection, 14 March 1887).

The first issue of *The Ottawa Naturalist* was published in April 1887 under the editorship of Will Harrington, who also had headed up the editorial committee which produced the last (1886) volume of the *Transactions* (Brunton 1986a). *The Ottawa Naturalist* was a small (21 × 14 cm), slim (16 page) publication produced on a shoe-string budget (150 copies at \$18.50 per issue) (LAC OFNC Collection, 10 March 1887). Even then, such a cost was considered a financial difficulty for the Club (Harrington 1887) but was off-set to some degree by the sale of advertising space on the back cover. These advertisements included notices to such “critical” products and services for the attention and consideration of Ottawa naturalists as G. W. McCullough’s Anthracite and Bituminous Coal, C. Ross & Co.’s “Beautiful selection of Dress Silks being offered at 75¢ per yard”, and Miss Harmon’s Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies.

Not only the advertisements may have met with amusement or disapproval in the eyes of some. In 1888 the always feisty John Macoun expressed the opinion that “too much trash was now published”, and that “the majority of papers were of little or no value ...”; that the accounts of Excursions were “all but worthless”. It is not recorded what Editor Will Harrington might have thought upon hearing this (he undoubtedly was present), but OFNC president R. B. Whyte was not amused by Macoun’s intemperance. Whyte stated that he “... wished to record his expression as directly opposite [Macoun’s] and thought the publication was of much interest to the members” (LAC OFNC Collection, 9 March 1888).

Regardless of the reservations of people such as William Anderson and John Macoun, *The Ottawa Naturalist* established a new standard for the timely presentation of technically sound, original scientific information which has continued seamlessly to the present day. Its launch, however, was also *far* from the last time controversy and disagreement would characterize discussion and debate about OFNC publications!

Both the growth in local capacity for natural environment research and the evolving vision of the Club’s

role are indicated by Council’s November 1887 rejection of a gift of biological specimens from Corresponding Member and American entomologist Henry Edwards (1830-1891) (Fletcher 1891). The Council (with both John Macoun and James Fletcher present) suggested that the potential donor should offer the plant specimens to the herbarium of the Central Experimental Farm (DAO) which had recently been started by Fletcher and is now the largest collection in Canada (Rothfels 2003); they further suggested that Edwards’s insect specimens be offered to the Geological Survey Museum (LAC OFNC Collection, 18 November 1887). There was no discussion of a donation to the OLSS collection, nor of initiating an OFNC museum or cabinet. Neither, it appears, was deemed appropriate in light of the existence of these growing, professionally based research collections.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the personality of the Club had also evolved considerably. The OFNC was now administratively well established and boasted a program of regular meetings and excursions. It enjoyed a strong reputation for community involvement, produced a steady stream of field-based scientific findings, and even demonstrated a measure of political prominence with Laurier government cabinet ministers and future provincial Lieutenant-Governors as members. The parent organization from which it had split off, on the other hand, was in serious decline and only a few years from dissolution. The young turks who had rescued the OFNC from the moribund OLSS Natural History Branch were middle aged and well established now, a number having become respected senior scientists and policy makers. *The Ottawa Naturalist* remained a monthly publication but had grown in size and enjoyed much improved printing quality. Articles often now were accompanied by illustrations, these sometimes being photographic. *The Ottawa Naturalist* was gaining a wider readership too, with articles addressing subjects considerably further afield than the Ottawa Valley, such as the review of the status of bird species in King’s County, Nova Scotia (Tufts 1898; 1899a; 1899b).

But portents of future conflicts and a growing divergence of visions could be sensed. Founder and Past-president R. B. Whyte, for example, complained about the Nova Scotia bird articles. He felt *The Ottawa Naturalist* should not be publishing material so far removed from the Ottawa area. Botanist James M. Macoun (1862-1920) and geologist Henry Ami (1858-1931) disagreed, suggesting that the Club publication fulfilled an important role here. Other new members supported Macoun and Ami and called for a greater number of rigorously scientific, more broadly based articles to be included in the publication (LAC OFNC Collection, 14 March 1899).

In other words, a new group of younger, more vigorous, field-oriented naturalists – including a number

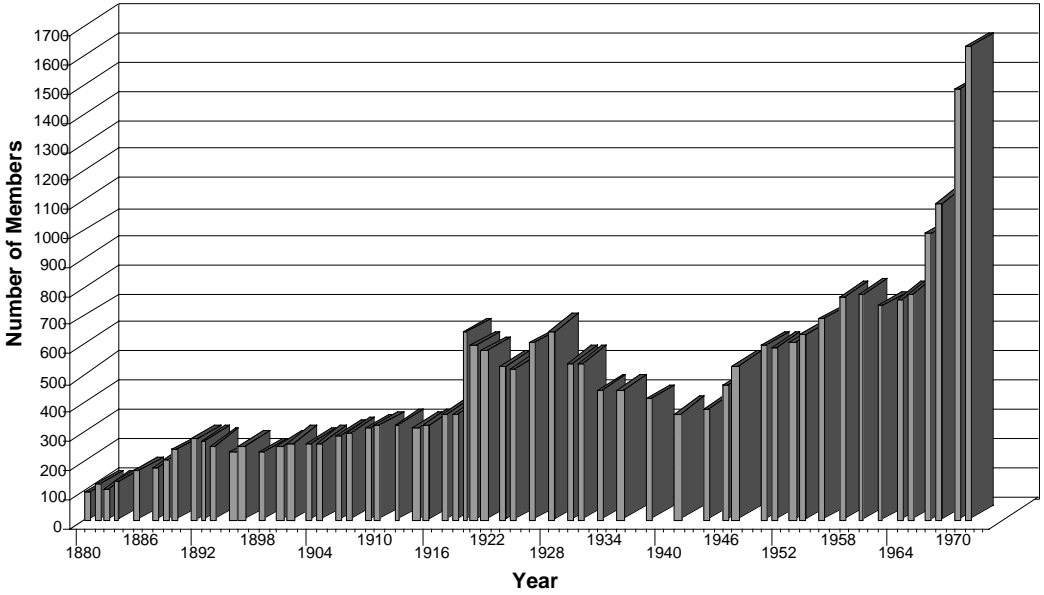


FIGURE 6. Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club membership trend, 1879/1880 to 1974. Membership lists until 1971 (published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* until the early 1950s and/or reported in published Annual Reports) included all addressees to which *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* was sent. After 1971, however, the membership totals exclude non-voting subscribers and thus are no longer directly comparable to earlier numbers. Where gaps on the membership data occurred, such as when no lists or Annual Reports were published in some years in the 1920s, an intermediate estimate was entered.

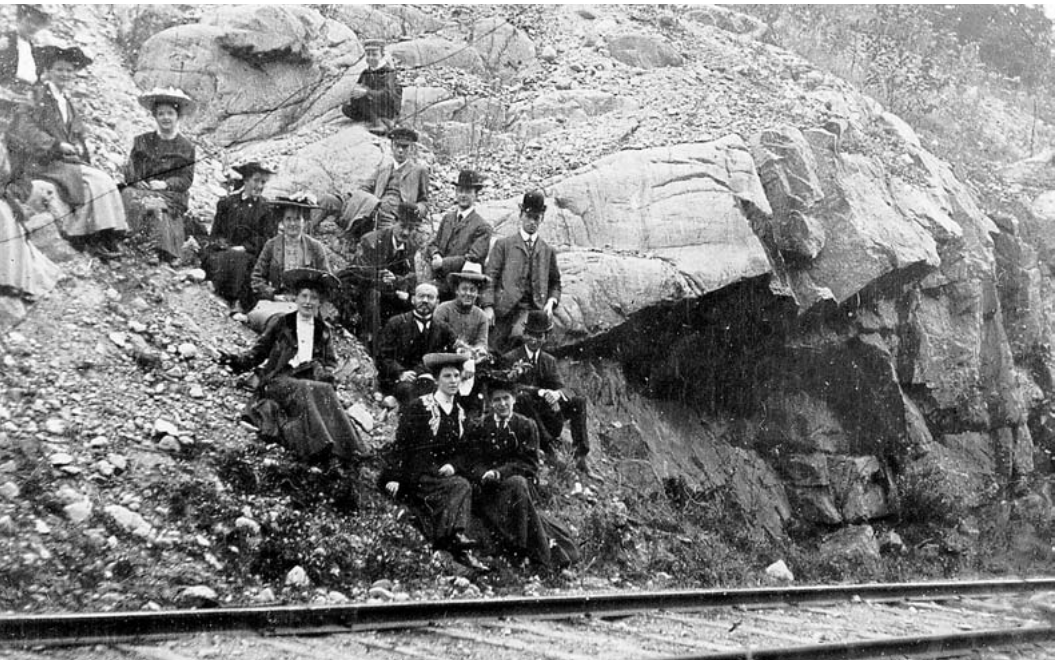


FIGURE 7. A geological field trip of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club along a railway rock cut north of Chelsea Grove in the Gatineau region of Quebec, north of Ottawa. The area's oldest and youngest deposits are in direct contact here. The trip leader was Dr. Henry Ami. From *Trail & Landscape* 13(3): 94; prepared from a lantern slide original by Dr. Ami, now in the Library and Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

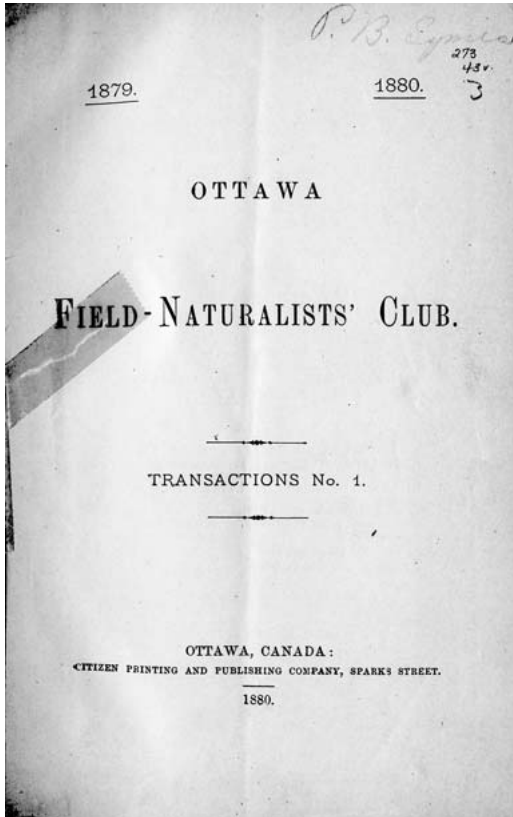


FIGURE 8. The initial issue of *The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club Transactions*, the initial annual publication series of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

of the first wave of trained professional biologists to work in the federal government – were becoming prominent in the organization, changing things, and arguing for a more national perspective. This was not entirely to the liking of at least some of the long-established Club leadership. The situation must have had ironic echos for the elders of the Club like Whyte, Harrington, Small, and Fletcher, for in the days leading up to the founding of the Club *they* were the “young turks” eager for change!

### Memorials and the Great War (1900-1915)

Despite the economic trials of much of the late Victorian era, it was a positive period of establishment, growth and achievement for the OFNC. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it had become one of the largest and most prominent such organizations in Canada. Events of the next decade and a half would sorely test that status, however.

Symbolic of the coming of age of the OFNC and the end of its establishment period was the death of

Queen Victoria in 1901. The OFNC pioneers, after all, were either originally emigrants from Great Britain or were locally-born in colonial times. The black-edge, memorial issue of *The Ottawa Naturalist* in February 1901 (Figure 9) expressed in its frontispiece tribute the heart-felt distress at the passing of an era: “In common with all the sorrowing subjects of His Imperial Majesty King Edward the Seventh the members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club desire to record their deep sense of sorrow and loss at the demise of their beloved Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria, during whose glorious reign of sixty-four years, scientific work and original research, such as our Club aims to accomplish, have received unprecedented impetus”. Quite so!

But Victoria was not the only recent loss mourned by the Club in the new days of the new century. In the Victoria Memorial edition, in fact, President Henry Ami laments the February 1899 “early demise of our friend and fellow member, the sweet poet of Ottawa, Archibald Lampman ... [whose] ardent love of Nature and all she teaches in lake, forest, in autumn, in winter, in sorrow, in comfort, led him into those numberless nooks and sequestered spots which enchant the eye, please the mind and entrance the soul” (Ami 1901).

Just to be sure that the readers not think the Club had become overwhelmed by anthropocentric concerns, Ami went on in his address to eulogize a major scientific personality ... the aforementioned Elkanah Billings who had played such an important role in the founding of scientific natural environment investigation in the Ottawa Valley in the first place. Ami further announced that the Club has commissioned a portrait of the late Mr. Billings and was donating it to the Geological Survey Museum (Figure 1).<sup>7</sup> Shortly after Ami’s address, the Council established a committee to co-ordinate with “different societies affiliated with the Royal Society of Canada” lobbying of the federal government for the construction of a National Museum (LAC OFNC Collection, 13 February 1900). Was this the genesis of the undertaking which resulted in the completion and occupation of the magnificent Victoria Memorial Museum building in 1910-1911? In any event, the Club officers were clearly aiming for a balance between the scientific investigation of the natural environment and the encouragement/enhancement of public awareness of the importance of such concerns.

A growing OFNC interest in and emphasis on encouraging public awareness and appreciation of natural sciences is shown by the active promotion of involvement by the students and staff of the Ottawa Normal School (teachers college) during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was the dawning of “environmental education” in North America and the Club seemed enthusiastically involved, particularly through the school. At least five members of the OFNC Council worked at the school in this time, including Vice-Principal S. B. Sinclair. Sinclair served in various Club

capacities during this period, including OFNC 1905-1906 President (Appendix 1).

Not everyone shared this positive view of environmental education within the Normal School and Ottawa public schools. A lengthy debate was held amongst key Club members early in 1905 on the difficulties and obstacles of this undertaking. In his characteristically direct way John Macoun declared "it to be his conviction that Nature Study would soon be consigned to the limbo of exploded educational fads" (Attwood 1905). Nonetheless, the Club remained formally involved in such school programs for years thereafter.

OFNC excursions also remained popular public events, with over 200 people attending each of the general excursions into the Gatineau Hills in May and September 1902; tickets were 30¢ for adults, 15¢ for children, including the cost of the day-long, chartered train trip (LAC OFNC Collection, 13 May 1902). Among the participants of the 6 September 1902 excursion was Normal School Vice-Principal Sinclair "who was accompanied by about 100 Normal School students" (LAC OFNC Collection, 6 September 1902). One might cynically question if all 100 would have been willing participants in their principal's venture.

By the early 1900s, however, the Club was not nearly so involved in original field-oriented research in the Ottawa Valley as it had been one to two decades before. There seemed to be a sense that "we pretty much know it all now" as research reported in the pages of *The Ottawa Naturalist* grew increasingly more national in scope. A greater sense of conservation concern was developing, however, with the first formal conservation action being initiated when the Council approved a motion by the Ornithology Committee for an OFNC petition calling upon the federal government to promote the preservation of shorebird-breeding wetland habitat in the newly established prairie provinces (LAC OFNC Collection, 7 April 1908). It was a tentative step (an article in that month's issue of *The Ottawa Naturalist* also provided a prescription for a "better" Timber Wolf poison [Anonymous 1908]). Nonetheless, it initiated a long history of conservation action and achievement for which the Club has been widely honoured and of which the Club can be justifiably proud.

Since its founding, the OFNC had elected a Librarian and maintained a natural history library. There were regular reports in Council minutes of titles of the incoming scientific literature received in exchange for *The Ottawa Naturalist* or as a professional courtesy to individual OFNC members. By 1904, however, it was becoming a problem due to the logistical challenge of housing and caring for the collection in donated space (LAC OFNC Collection, 15 March 1904). In 1906 the library consisted of "some 350 bound volumes occupying about 70 feet of shelf space" as well as many unbound volumes (LAC OFNC Collection, 26 February 1906). The collection seemed to be little

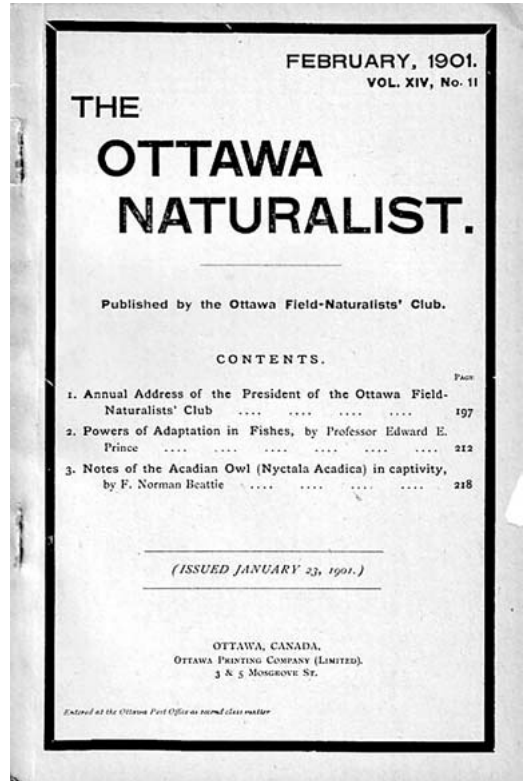


FIGURE 9. The *Queen Victoria Memorial* issue of *The Ottawa Naturalist*.

used, however, as the members with significant scientific questions typically had access to the growing institutional libraries at the Museum or "The Farm" (as the research centre at the Central Experimental Farm was – and still is – known). Arrangements were made in 1909 to move the library into the Ottawa Public Library where it would be maintained as a stand-alone collection (LAC OFNC Collection, 22 June 1909). Predictably, the Ottawa Public Library eventually tired of the cost and effort of such an arrangement. Faced with no other realistic options for its maintenance, in 1917 the OFNC donated the collection to the OPL, asking only that such material be labelled as a Club gift (LAC OFNC Collection, 8 March 1917).<sup>8</sup> Curiously, the position of OFNC Librarian lasted longer than the library, being eliminated only in a constitutional change two years later (LAC OFNC Collection, 15 January 1919).

James Fletcher retired from the Council in the spring of 1905, after having filled almost every conceivable position in the Club and working for it in so many other ways throughout its first quarter century. The event passed with remarkably little fanfare. Such a low-key exit for such a pivotal figure was likely Fletcher's own doing, however, as indicated by the very

different reaction to his sudden and unexpected death on 8 November 1908.

Although moving along well with an active publication, excursions, and environmental education program, the Club was clearly devastated by the loss of Fletcher on both an organizational and, for many key Club people, a personal level. A number of Club founders and luminaries had died earlier, such as OFNC 1892-1895 President George Dawson (1849-1901), but no one personified the enthusiasm, idealism, and commitment of the Club as did James Fletcher. A memorial number of *The Ottawa Naturalist* was produced in January 1909, reproducing the many insightful and heart-felt tributes delivered by professional and personal colleagues alike at a special memorial event held on 1 December 1908. The presentations of Club co-founders R. B. Whyte and Will Harrington were remarkably emotional presentations under such stiff, proper Edwardian circumstances. Will Harrington's tribute in particular (Harrington 1909) is quite capable of tugging heart strings for contemporary readers a century removed from that time. With the exception of an unfortunately self-promoting speech by John Macoun, all contributors that night were clearly bursting to express their appreciation for the man, for his contribution to the Club and for his contribution to his chosen country.

Individual Club members were encouraged to contribute to a Fletcher Memorial Fund for the construction of a memorial drinking fountain to be placed near Fletcher's former work site at The Farm. It was quickly oversubscribed, having accumulated over \$1800 by early 1910 when construction of the memorial began (LAC OFNC Collection, 15 March 1910). A bronze likeness of Fletcher was created by famous sculptor (and athletic community associate?) R. Tait McKenzie and affixed to the fountain. The fountain, with a descriptive plaque attached, was installed in 1911. It remains along the south side of the NCC Scenic Drive in the Central Experiment Farm immediately east of the Canada Agriculture Museum.

A memorial painting of James Fletcher was also commissioned with surplus funds from the Memorial Fund and hung in the Ottawa Public Library<sup>9</sup> early the following spring (LAC OFNC Collection, 12 March 1912). It was officially unveiled by the federal Minister of Agriculture, Sydney Fisher, who "specially dwelt on [Fletcher's] loveable qualities which had endeared him so much to all who came in contact with him" (LAC OFNC Collection, 19 March 1912).

It is likely no coincidence that a malaise seemed to settle over Club affairs in the following years. Few meetings of Council or Club excursions were conducted in the 1909-1911 period and discussions were held about reducing the workload associated with *The Ottawa Naturalist*, including publishing the journal only quarterly.<sup>10</sup> The Club operated at a deficit for the first time in 1910/1911 (LAC OFNC Collection, 21 March 1911). In late 1911 Editor James Macoun reported that the

Club could no longer afford to publish monthly (LAC OFNC Collection, 18 December 1911).

There were calls for – and a dire need of – new blood in the organization and President Alexander McNeill suggested establishment of "… a junior branch for the boys. He referred to the success of the boy scouts but objected to the military spirit associated with it" (LAC OFNC Collection, 12 March 1912). Ironic words less than two years before the outbreak of World War I. Nothing came of this for many years, however, until the founding of the Macoun Field Club (see "Post-war Boom (late 1940s-1965)", below).

*The Ottawa Naturalist* seemed similarly to be somewhat unfocused, publishing a relatively large number of paleontological papers and natural environment investigations and reports from afar but with the few local contributions increasingly confined to popular topics. A review article on the horrors of Poison-ivy allergic reactions provides an example, reminding any potentially afflicted reader that "… nothing is better than the old-fashioned lead and opium lotion …" to relieve the itching (Macnamara 1912).

The notable exception to this was the effort to develop an active environmental protection and bird conservation program, led by Gordon Hewitt (1885-1920). Hewitt was Fletcher's replacement as Dominion Entomologist (in 1909) and like him, was a dynamic, personable English immigrant (Criddle 1920). During his few years in Canada he played an important role in North American natural sciences and conservation matters, including being the lead Canadian official in the development of the 1916 Migratory Birds Convention, before dying at a tragically young age in the post-war influenza epidemic (Foster 1978). Likely being assisted by his socially prominent position as the husband of Prime Minister Borden's niece, he successfully lobbied both the Ottawa Improvement Commission (forerunner of the National Capital Commission) and the Boy Scouts of Canada to become involved in enhancement of migratory bird habitat (LAC OFNC Collection, 17 February 1914). His crushing load of professional responsibilities, however, limited the amount of time he was able to put into re-energizing the Club, even during his tenure as President in the difficult war-time period of 1918-1919.

As with so many cultural, social, and technical institutions in Canada, the OFNC was devastated by events surrounding Canadian involvement in World War I. On top of their post-Fletcher era struggles, the burden of war-time logistics, costs, and priorities came close to destroying the OFNC. The Club ran deficits through the war years and for the first time in Club history, the steady rate of membership growth virtually stopped (Figure 7). A new focus and a new source of energy were desperately needed. They came in the form of another recent arrival in Ottawa, this one being a tall, quiet, bearded architect turned ornithologist from southwestern Ontario who would turn the OFNC into a national institution.

### A National Role (1918-early 1940s)

Percy Taverner (1875-1947) didn't think much of Ottawa or Ottawa naturalists when he arrived in 1911 as the National Museum's first ornithologist (Cranmer-Byng 1996). Shortly after arriving he complained to a Detroit friend, "we have a club here, the Ottawa Naturalists, who are much on a par with the Detroit bunch. They have nice picnics every week but they are no place for you and me. The worst of it is that they have all kinds of direction with good men. Fletcher, Macoun, Gibson and the whole Geological Survey and that of the Experimental Farm, but they haven't evolved a single naturalist in their twenty-five years of existence. The only thing they have got is a publication that has a government grant and appears regularly and in which we can get publication any time. If not for that, the real students here would have let the whole organization die a natural death long ago". (LAC Taverner Collection, 29 April 1912).

Taverner's criticism was brutal and a bit unfair – but not by much. And to both his eternal credit and the benefit of Canadian natural sciences, he set about working with other like-minded rebels to shake the old outfit up and to make it – or at least, its publication – better serve the needs and opportunities of the contemporary naturalist and public communities. Fletcher, Martin, Henry B. Small, Whyte, and Harrington would have been proud.

Like Fletcher before him, Taverner maintained an extensive network of correspondents across Canada and the United States. Although allied on the OFNC Council with the likes of botanist James Macoun, long-time editor of *The Ottawa Naturalist*, entomologist Arthur Gibson (1875-1959), and herpetologist Clyde Patch (1887-1952), Taverner was inspired by his field-naturalist colleagues across the country to broaden the reach of the Club's publication. Early in 1918 he argued to the Council that "... it does not seem possible to support a worthy publication in a purely local field. Any such endeavours to be successful must enlarge its field. I therefore suggest that the pure local character of the periodical be removed by a change of name and propose *The Field Naturalist*" (LAC OFNC Collection, 26 March 1918).

Taverner, Macoun, and associates made the skeptical Council an offer they could not refuse. They promised it would mean no substantive change for local naturalists and would still accommodate more popular general public issues. Most importantly, they personally guaranteed to underwrite a huge expansion in membership in order to establish a secure, long-term financial base for the program. James Macoun, for example, immediately pledged to underwrite 100 new memberships; Taverner, Patch and anthropologist F. W. Waugh each took on 25 and archaeologist W. J. Wintenberg accepted responsibility for a further 15 (LAC OFNC Collection, 1 May 1918; 17 March 1919). How could the Council refuse such an offer?

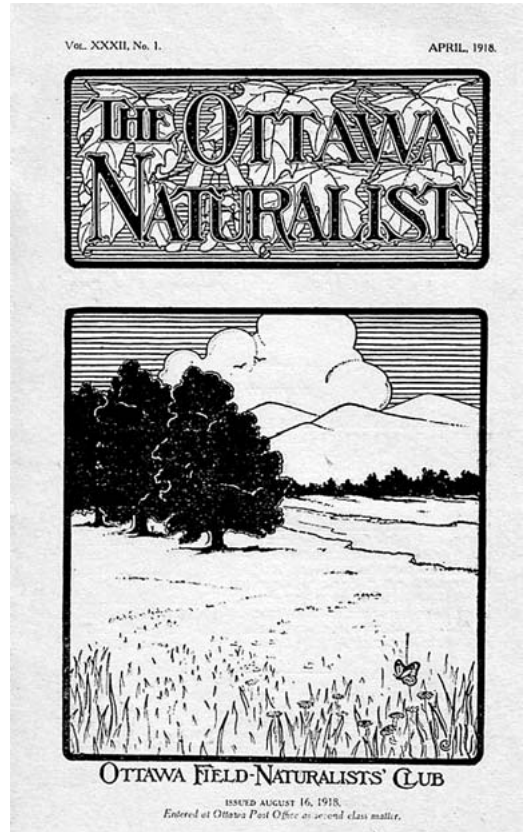


FIGURE 10. An issue of the last volume of *The Ottawa Naturalist* in 1918.

Taverner described the manoeuvre to his mentor J. H. Fleming in August 1918 as something of a coup, "... a few of us got in control and overrode the conservatives ..." (Cranmer-Byng 1986). He went on in the Fleming letter to say, "we hope to make it the scientific and nature study periodical of Canada" (LAC Taverner Collection, 10 August 1918). And indeed, by the following spring the mailing list had virtually doubled to over 540 names (LAC OFNC Collection, 17 March 1919). Taverner reported back to a skeptical Fleming in Toronto that "you are mistaken in believing that the change in name will not help *The Ottawa Naturalist*. It has helped already. The change in form can only be supported by increased subscriptions and we have to rely mostly on Canadians for this. The jealousy of anything labeled Ottawa throughout Canada is surprising" (LAC Taverner Collection, 10 April 1919).

*The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN) was officially established by a motion from James Macoun (seconded by Taverner) at the OFNC Annual Meeting in March 1919. A change had already been made in April 1918 with a larger format and better paper (Figure 10),

graced by the attractive, if pastoral, cover illustration provided by Geological Survey of Canada artist C. E. Johnson. The new journal name was first used on the April 1919 issue. This cover illustration remained on each regular issue of the CFN until volume 59 (1945) when, without further explanation, it was removed in favour of the Table of Contents (LAC OFNC Collection, 3 March 1945).

The care and maintenance of the CFN became *the* primary issue and function of the Club. The underwriting of new subscriptions by the small group of 'friends' of the journal had a dramatic effect on membership numbers, the new levels of which persisted through the 1920s (Figure 6). This laid a strong, national foundation for the publication without which it seems unlikely the publication (and the OFNC) would have survived the dark days of the 1930s.

Another major publication initiative in that period was the first OFNC Special Publication, occasioned by the death of John Macoun. Upon the urging of his son, horticulturist and OFNC 1903-1905 President William T. Macoun (1869-1933), the Council agreed to publish the elder Macoun's autobiography (LAC OFNC Collection, 9 April 1921). Curiously, not since the Ottawa Natural History Society produced its occasional *Transactions* more than 50 years earlier had such a stand-alone publication been presented by the Ottawa naturalist community.

While a Memorial Fund was established to cover the \$2500 costs of publication of the Macoun autobiography as well as a memorial portrait (again as with James Fletcher's portrait, created by Franklin Brownell), it apparently fell to William Macoun to make most arrangements (LAC OFNC Collection, 9 April 1921). This he did enthusiastically and efficiently, leading to an initial run of 2000 copies of the autobiography (Macoun 1922). Indeed, after the book was published, the 1922 OFNC Annual Report was deliberately altered to read that "the Club had co-operated with Mr. W. T. Macoun in the publication of the Autobiography of Professor John Macoun" (LAC OFNC Collection, 5 December 1922), suggesting that the Club may not have played much of a role in its development.<sup>11</sup>

The Macoun portrait was formally presented to National Museum of Canada Director William McInnis during the 1921 OFNC Annual Meeting which was held in the Victoria Memorial Museum, Macoun's last work place in Ottawa. It was accompanied by various speeches praising his extraordinary contributions to Canadian natural science (LAC OFNC Collection, 20 December 1921).

Other occasional publications appeared as Special Issues of the CFN through the 1920s. One was a treatment of the birds of Saskatchewan which included the first colour illustration to appear in the journal (Mitchell 1924) and another was a long essay on the natural resource potential of northern Canada (Kindle 1928),

copiously illustrated by high quality black-and-white and half-tone plates. The latter, by paleontologist and OFNC 1927-1928 President E. M. Kindle (1869-1940), who had recently won a \$1000 prize in a Canada-wide competition established by Sir William Price for the best article on this subject. This pattern of occasional Special Issues for larger, particularly significant or appropriate subjects has continued to the present day, recent subjects including the Taverner biography (Cranmer-Byng 1996) and a review of the orchid species of the Ottawa District (Reddoch and Reddoch 1997). Earlier long articles, like Fletcher's *Flora Ottawaensis* (Boivin and Cody 1955) or Hoyes Lloyd's review of the birds of Ottawa (Lloyd 1923; 1924), were often serialized over a number of issues.

Another special publication was called for in the 1920s. It was recommended to the Council by Geological Survey of Canada geologist J. B. Mawdsley that the Club produce "... a local scientific guide book of the region" (LAC OFNC Collection, 20 November 1929). The OFNC was indeed instrumental in seeing such a naturalist's guide produced, but that did not happen until nearly 60 years later (Brunton 1988).

Local programming became little more than occasional field outings and lectures during the late teens and 1920s, although efforts were made to get the Boy Scouts organization more involved during the early 1920s (LAC OFNC Collection, 26 March 1921). Nonetheless, Taverner's earlier unflattering portrayal of the Club's activity level was still more or less on target a decade later. This apparent lack of new energy and focus in the post-war years and early days of the Roaring Twenties was underscored by the deaths of a number of prominent OFNC pioneers and activists, men who had emphasized the need for and importance of local field activity. These included founders R. B. Whyte (1919) and Will Harrington (1918), as well as Gordon Hewitt (1920), James Macoun (1920), and John Macoun (1920).

National conservation issues, typically relating to the protection of particular animal populations, constituted the major non-publications subject of discussion of the Council in the 1920s and 1930s. On a number of occasions the Council passed motions for the Club to petition the federal government regarding such issues as improved national museum support or the protection of wildlife. This may have been awkward at times, since many of the people receiving and dealing with such pleas or critiques were Club members or professional associates of Club members. Senior government eyebrows may have been raised, for instance, when Editor Harrison Lewis (1893-1974) published a (prescient!) editorial in the CFN that was highly critical of apparent governmental support for increased commercialization of Canadian national parks (Lewis 1922). It has never been, after all, particularly judicious for active civil servants to publicly question



stated government policies or intentions. "Awkward", however, does not adequately describe the "Buffalo Crisis" of 1925.

The trouble arose when the Council directed that a letter be sent to the Department of the Interior protesting the proposed movement of Plains Bison of questionable health into the disease-free range of the last known herd of Wood Bison (LAC OFNC Collection, 28 February 1925). The protest letter was signed by OFNC President Hoyes Lloyd (1888-1978) and accompanied by a comparably critical Letter to the Editor which had recently been published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (Harper 1925). Lloyd and the CFN Editor Harrison Lewis, however, were both employees of the Department of the Interior and their public criticism of their professional superiors was clearly not appreciated. Instructed to choose between continued federal government employment and their OFNC positions, both Lloyd and Lewis had little choice but to resign their Club positions immediately – to the apparent surprise and regret of the Council (LAC OFNC Collection, 11 April 1925). Lloyd became the first and only OFNC President forced to resign in mid-term, although he served the Club in many ways for decades thereafter and was awarded an Honorary Membership in 1965 in recognition of his contributions (Munro 1979). Curiously, the taking of this laudable, if perhaps somewhat naive position of principle, was publicly unreported until 2002. It is not even hinted at in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* obituaries of either gentleman (Solman 1974; Munro 1979). Lewis, Lloyd, Harper and associates have been proven correct in their concerns regarding herd contamination, as the issue of appropriate Wood Bison population management in Wood Buffalo National Park is once again being hotly debated (Fuller 2002).

On a more positive note, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OFNC was celebrated with an anniversary dinner on 19 March 1929 (erroneously believed to be the founding date – see "Founding Meeting", above), in which two of the few surviving founders (H. B. Small Jr. and Roger Davy) were the guests of honour. Other founders (participants in the 25 March 1879 founding meeting) still alive in March 1929 were L. H. Chrysler, W. Chesterton, and P. B. Symes (who died later that year).<sup>12</sup> The Club was doing reasonably well in early 1929, however, with a substantial surplus and a stable, adequate number of members to support its programs. If local activities were not undertaken at anything like the keen levels of years and decades before, the publication program seemed solidly and comfortably established and seemed to have achieved the national scope that Taverner, James Macoun, Lewis, and their associates had worked so hard a decade earlier to achieve.

The respite from difficult times was short-lived, however, as the Great Depression of the 1930s pre-

sented another severe test of the Club's staying power and its officers' mettle. Stripped down to basic functions – publishing the CFN and little else – the Club was enduring especially tough times, ushered in by dramatically falling membership in 1930 and a substantial budget deficit. There was a \$728 swing in net revenues from the surplus of the previous year (LAC OFNC Collection, 11 April 1930). Membership would not again exceed the 1929 total of 549 until 1955 (6).

By the December 1932 Annual Meeting the OFNC was operating at a 20% deficit – and this only after drawing upon the Club's small Reserve Fund and securing a 12% reduction in charges from the CFN printer. The good news, though, was that excursion attendance was way up, with four spring field trips each averaging over 100 attendees. OFNC 1931-1933 President Charles Sternberg (1885-1981) concluded cheerfully "we feel our organization has stood up as well as others in the stormy times and we are, as a Club, now looking forward and ready to face brighter days as they dawn upon us" (LAC OFNC Collection, 6 December 1932).

It was not to be, of course. The Club officers were creative and flexible in finding ways of keeping things going despite the depletion of the Reserve Funds and low membership numbers. They agreed, for instance, to carry the 1934 membership of anyone who had been with the Club for five years but could not afford the \$2.00 membership/subscription fee (LAC OFNC Collection, 9 January 1934). Local excursions were emphasized again (e.g., 10 were held in 1935) and while these did not appear to generate much in the way of new biodiversity information, they did offer a benefit and encouragement to local members. A re-emphasis on conservation matters was also expressed, especially by those working in National Parks and in federal migratory bird conservation offices, but no particular hands-on local initiatives were identified. The Council even decided to defer joining the newly established Federation of Ontario Naturalists which was dedicated to the objective of protecting natural areas and "native wildlife" (biodiversity) in Ontario (LAC OFNC Collection, 7 May 1936).

Despite the difficult times and reduced level of local activity, the 1936 Annual Business Meeting drew over 100 members, likely due to the attendance of Archie Belaney, a.k.a. Grey Owl (Dickson 1973) "... Canada's famous Indian naturalist and conservationist who spoke briefly on the need for immediate conservation action in Canada" (LAC OFNC Collection, 1 December 1936).

What sustained the OFNC through all the ups and downs of this difficult time was the special relationship of the Club with the community of biologists and scientists employed by the federal government, especially with those at The Museum (Geological

Survey of Canada Museum, then National Museum of Canada, now Canadian Museum of Nature) and The Farm (Central Experimental Farm, now various research initiatives within Agriculture Canada). Hall (1986) notes that over 30 employees of The Farm – the most notable being James Fletcher – served as officers, editors, and/or Honorary Members of the OFNC (Appendix 1). Twelve of those individuals had been OFNC presidents. A comparable or possibly even stronger commitment could be documented from The Museum, with Department of the Interior (Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and Parks Canada) personnel making a similarly important contribution to the operation and support of the OFNC. These people saw the Club in general and the CFN in particular as an important contribution to Canadian and North American natural sciences and to the conservation of the natural environment. They saw it (as many in such positions still do) as virtually their duty to participate. In an otherwise mundane 1937 debate on the question of possible reduction in the honorarium given to the CFN editor (from the princely of \$90 established in 1928, to \$50) as yet another cost-cutting measure, Harrison Lewis stated “... we are a scientific society and any one of us would carry on the work without salary for the good of the Club”, to which Percy Taverner added “... the Editor works for the good of his science and not for wages ...”. The motion for a reduction in the editor’s honorarium passed, by the way (LAC OFNC Collection, 10 April 1937), and was not increased again until 1947 (LAC OFNC Collection, 25 January 1947).

There remained a small group of Club officers throughout the 1930s and early 1940s who argued for more emphasis on a strong local program of lectures, excursions, and public education. This group was led by irrepressible biology teacher and priest F. E. Banim (1902-1979), statistician W. H. Lanceley (1893-1958), and technical editor Pauline Snure. These Club officials, also supported by botanist and OFNC 1935-1937 President Herb Groh (1883-1971), argued for the re-establishment of monthly lectures and a return to old time soirées as means of generating renewed interest and membership in the Club. They were successful in the establishment of a Flora and Fauna Committee to co-ordinate a renewal in the investigation and documentation of local biodiversity (LAC OFNC Collection, 28 October 1936). This latter committee ultimately had few results, although J. R. Dymond, selected as leader of the fish working group, presumably conducted at least a part the research which was the basis for his later *The Fishes of the Ottawa region* (Dymond 1939) in response to this initiative.

Snure was particularly forceful in the mid-1940s in taking on long-established, senior Council members like Hoyes Lloyd and, to a lesser extent, Harrison Lewis and Percy Taverner, and pushing successfully for such things as the establishment of an Excursions and Lectures Committee to co-ordinate services for

local members (LAC OFNC Collection, 22 January 1944). The latter three – now old guard members – were the most vocal on Council in arguing for continued priority being placed on the important “national publication society” elements they had worked so hard to sustain through the difficult 1930s and into the early 1940s. Although their efforts only slowly bore fruit, Banim, Lanceley, and Snure (who served consecutively as OFNC President between 1944 and 1950)<sup>13</sup>, were able to shepherd a measure of renewal of local naturalist activities in this period.

The at-times conflicting perspectives of local naturalist club and national scientific publication society simmered along, unresolved as national and world events (the latter years of the Great Depression, the commencement of World War II) effectively limited the ability of the Club to generate substantial new membership or financial resources. Despite the wartime limitation on materials and human resources, some Club local field investigations were initiated and the CFN continued to appear, albeit with many issues in 1941 and 1942 delayed by the printer’s war work priorities. Not oblivious to patriotic opportunities themselves, in 1942 the Council responded to a request for the exchange of scientific literature from the Lenin Library in Moscow by offering a free set of The CFN from 1935 “until the close of hostilities ... as a mark of our good will” (LAC OFNC Collection, 5 October 1942). For OFNC functions and programs, the World War II period was essentially an extension of the publications and membership subsistence efforts of the 1930s. Only as the war in Europe was winding down did the first signs of renewal and new potentials – such as increased membership – begin to appear (LAC OFNC Collection, 5 December 1944).

### Post-war Boom (late 1940s-1965)

One of the first signs of the rebirth of local area activity within the OFNC came with publication of review articles on the birds and mammals of the Ottawa District in the latter years of World War II (Lloyd 1944 and Rand 1945, respectively), at least in part at the urging of local naturalist advocates like Banim, Snure and Lanceley. Although based largely on historic Museum data and/or the authors’ observations, these review papers gave local naturalists the first comprehensive treatments of popular Ottawa District flora or fauna since Fletcher’s 19<sup>th</sup> century vascular plant list (Fletcher 1888) and Lloyd’s bird list from the 1920s (Lloyd 1923; 1924).

Almost coincident with, but much more important than this, was the tremendous post-war growth in the professional civil service in response to the needs of an expanding, prosperous post-war national economy. A new wave of young, energetic, natural scientists from all across Canada was arriving in Ottawa in the late 1940s and early 1950s, many soon joining and becoming involved with the programs and workings of the OFNC. Following the dark days of the Depression

and then the war, many of these individuals were keen to contribute both to the improvement of their recovering local and national communities and to the exploration and protection of Canadian natural biodiversity. In November 1946, for example, future Honorary members and important Club contributors Clarence Frankton (1906-2000) (Brunton 2003) and Jack Gillett joined the Club, followed the next month by long-time Business Manager of the CFN and future Honorary Member Bill Cody. Indeed, almost 150 new members joined the OFNC in 1948 alone (Snure 1978). Newly arrived natural science specialists were pressed by their OFNC veteran associates to join the Club; involvement in Club programs was almost an expected part of the job in those years (C. Frankton, personal communication).

This new wave of naturalists demonstrated something not seen since the early years of the Club's history – a keen enthusiasm for field exploration and discovery, and a desire to share that new-found knowledge with the naturalist community and the general public. Accordingly, the late 1940s and early 1950s were productive years for the documentation of Ottawa area biodiversity, as indicated by the richness of the specimen records from that time in the collections of The Museum and The Farm (personal observation).

Another major initiative of this period was the formation of the Macoun Field Club (MFC), a junior naturalists club sponsored jointly by the OFNC and the National Museum of Canada (Snure 1978; Baldwin 1978). Such an organization had been talked about since before the First World War, but nothing had come of it. Due to dedicated work by a large number of Club and Museum people, however, it was successfully established in 1948. The first MFC Committee Chairman was OFNC 1954-1955 President W. K. W. (Bill) Baldwin (1910-1979) (Figure 11) who set the initial tone and procedures which have stood up ever since (Soper and Bousfield 1982; Francis Cook, personal communication). The MFC has supported and encouraged the investigation and documentation of natural biodiversity by elementary and secondary school children in the Ottawa area through a remarkably rich program of lectures, workshops and most importantly, field studies, for over 50 years (Lee 1998). The work of Bill, Herb Groh (Figure 12) and David Maddox was particularly critical to this success in the formative years of the MFC. Many OFNC club members contributed time and even, in the case of Mary Stuart, access to their property for field trips (Figure 13).

The OFNC also undertook to generate greater public awareness of natural environment matters and to develop an additional stream of funding for the Club by arranging local sponsorship of Audubon Screen Tour presentations in Ottawa. These were professionally produced and well-attended illustrated lectures by speakers of the calibre of Roger T. Peterson and George M. Sutton (personal observation). They provided an important source of general public education

on a wide range of natural environment topics in the days before specialty television channels or, indeed, television of any kind was available for most Ottawa households. It's not entirely clear who was the Club's lead on this program; Humphreys (1979a) suggests it resulted from Oliver Hewitt's circulation of an Audubon Screen Tour brochure in December 1947. The records of the minutes books, however, state that former Treasurer and future Honorary Member Ibra Connors (1894-1989) brought the issue before the Council for approval later that winter (LAC OFNC Collection, 21 February 1948). Regardless, until it was cancelled in 1959, the Audubon Screen Tours program was enjoyed by many thousands of Ottawans and generated considerable revenue for the Club (Humphreys 1979a).

A significant amount of Club revenue also resulted from the clearance of a mass of The CFN back issue orders which had built up during the 1941-1955 editorship of Harold Senn (1912-1997). Bill Cody and Clarrie Frankton spent weeks ferreting out and following up on years-old orders for The CFN back issues (C. Frankton, personal communications). The resulting revenue formed the seed funding which has grown into what now constitute very substantial OFNC reserve funds.

In the late 1940s and for the first time in OFNC history, the Club had its own field station. In 1949 A. E. (Fred) Bourguignon (1893-1968) arranged for a 10-year lease of a property at Beatty Point along the Ottawa River off what is now Grandview Road in Nepean. For a cost of \$300 (assisted by a substantial donation of building materials), various Club members (most particularly, Fred Bourguignon) worked to construct a small wooden building which would serve as a base for OFNC field studies in the area. Beatty Point Lodge, as it was called, was officially opened on 24 May 1949 and served as a field investigation centre for almost 10 years. Encroaching urban growth, expanding road networks, and the proliferation of personal automobiles eventually made a single base of operations less useful for contemporary field explorations and the building was sold in the late 1950s (Humphreys 1979b).

Some members in the early 1950s wished to delve more deeply into particularly popular natural history subject areas in the Ottawa District. From this interest arose informal study groups such as the Fern Group, the Bog Group, the Trail Group, the Bird Group, etc. (Dill 1979; 1982), and later, the Native Orchid Location Survey. Consistent with the science-based approach of OFNC field investigation throughout its history, these study group participants did more than just explore interesting natural landscapes and share identification information amongst themselves. They documented significant findings in writing and/or with specimens. The records of the Fern Group, for example, were heavily relied upon for the production of a treatment of the ferns of the Ottawa District (Cody 1956). The Native Orchid Location Survey was estab-



FIGURE 11. Bill Baldwin, botanist at the National Museum of Canada and the first chair of the Macoun Field Club, at the meeting room provided by co-sponsor National Museum of Canada in the basement of the Victoria Memorial Museum Building together with early members Cynthia Millman and Nancy Fergusson, November 1950 (Macoun Club files, courtesy of Rob Lee).



FIGURE 12. Herb Groh, then just retired weed specialist at the Canada Department of Agriculture and a Past President of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, with Macoun Field Club member Nick Wickenden, November 1950. (Macoun Club files, courtesy of Rob Lee).



FIGURE 13. One of many Macoun Field Club trips to OFNC Honorary Member and long-time Macoun volunteer Mary Stuart's property near Packenham: Intermediate and junior groups, March 1969. Photograph courtesy of Rob Lee.

lished by E. W. Greenwood in 1966 and soon grew in scope beyond the Ottawa District, gathering a considerable body of orchid location data from volunteer contributors across Canada until the mid-1970s (Reddoch and Reddoch 1997).

With local natural history activities reaching levels not seen since the early days of the century, OFNC members felt the need for more timely and topical information through a forum which would help to "tie the members together" (LAC OFNC Collection, 28 February 1949). Appropriately enough, that initiative was approved by the Council at the same meeting authorizing the construction of the Beatty Point Lodge, underscoring the new-found enthusiasm for local activity. The first issue of the *Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club Newsletter* was published in April 1949 under the editorship of Verna (Ross) McGiffin. It ran until 1967, providing timely notices of meetings and events and offering a forum for the speedy exchange of information and opinions on a wide variety of issues of interest to the local membership.

The Club reached its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1954, though due to program delays, the occasion was actually celebrated in 1955 (Dill 1979). It was much more of a party affair than the low-key Founders' Tea and Club dinner held for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary back in 1929.

The Club was profiled in the print media and a local department store provided a display window for an exhibit on the Club. The attention paid to the event generated the first formal demonstration of historical interest in the organization. Herb Groh, whose OFNC involvement dated back to the pioneer days of the Club and who had worked with both John Macoun and James Fletcher (Taschereau 1972), provided an anecdotal history of Club Presidents (Groh 1955). After all, he'd known almost all of them! Although some historical documentation of technical matters pertaining to the CFN's publication history had been produced (LaRocque 1931; Boivin and Cody 1955), this was the first public documentation of the personalities and events that had highlighted the Club's history.<sup>14</sup>

The CFN produced increasingly larger issues through this period, reflecting the greater volume and quality of original field work being conducted both locally and farther afield in the early to mid-1950s. This increased production, however, posed financial problems as publication costs increased 400% from the mid-1940s to 1953; Club income not quite doubled in the same period. Since it was felt that membership fees (\$2.00) were as high as could be sustained, costs had to be reduced. Accordingly, after decades

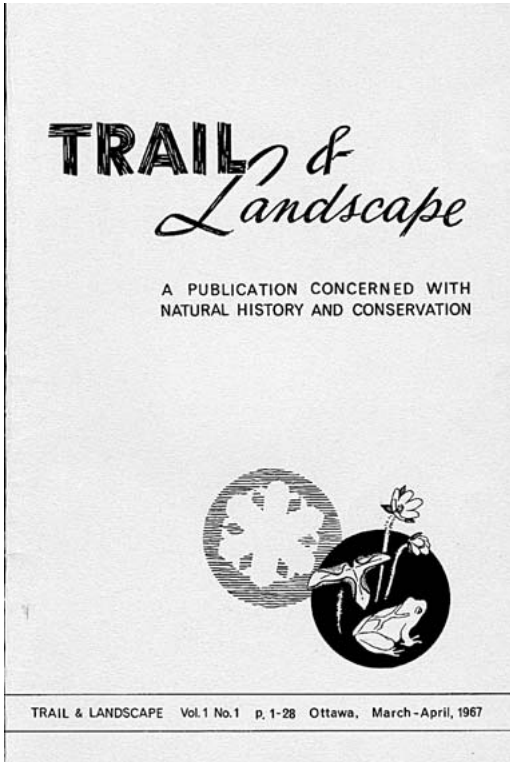


FIGURE 14. The first issue of *Trail & Landscape*, March-April 1967, a journal for regional observations and outings and Club events. The cover was designed by the first editor, Anne Hanes.

of debate on the matter, the journal was reduced to quarterly publication (from six issues per year) effective with volume 67 (1953) (LAC OFNC Collection, 20 November 1952). Publication production problems were seriously exacerbated by lengthy delays in getting into press, leading Publications Chairman and OFNC 1950-1952 President Walton Groves (1906-1970) to “express his deep regret at his inability to command the support and co-operation” of just retired editor Harold Senn (who had served 13 ¼ years) in order to pass on the editorship to incoming editor R. A. Hamilton (LAC OFNC Collection, 4 May 1956). By the end of 1956 the last issue of the 1955 volume had still not been produced. The Council decided not to pay out the editor’s honorarium for that year until the volume was completed (LAC OFNC Collection, 13 December 1956). The crisis was resolved by a flurry of publication activity under the efficient new editor, however, with seven issues being published between February and September 1957 (LAC OFNC Collection, 30 September 1957)!<sup>15</sup>

The Club continued to struggle financially despite the generally rosy economic picture in the country, as it also had, ironically, during the “Roaring Twenties”.

In the mid-1950s, for example, Treasurer R. J. Moore advised the Council “to go easy, especially keep Excursions & Lectures Committee under control” (LAC OFNC Collection, 29 February 1956). Walton Groves’ assessment was even more brutal, stating that “many of the Club’s activities have been crippled by the delay in publication” and by the need to publish so many issues in such a short time (LAC OFNC Collection, 30 September 1956). Despite the return to timely publication of the CFN, at the end of the decade Groves still reported that “the financial position of the Club continues to be very grave” at (LAC OFNC Collection, 1 December 1960).

Still, the OFNC managed a Special Issue of The CFN, Alice Wilson’s *Geology of Ottawa* (Wilson 1956). It was likely only possible because Carleton University placed a pre-publication order for 1000 reprints (LAC OFNC Collection, 13 April 1956).

Before environmental conservation and the protection of natural biodiversity became major social and cultural phenomena in the Western World in the 1960s, the locally-focused elements within the OFNC had been gradually increasing the organization’s level of involvement in such directions. In the early 1950s, for example, Harrison Lewis met with the Federal District Commission (FDC) to discuss how the OFNC could (and would) provide wildlife protection and enhancement consultation during Gatineau Park development. They also explored the idea of an OFNC field station space being provided in an expropriated Gatineau Park building (LAC OFNC Collection, 7 April 1951). An OFNC Gatineau Park Committee was formed under the chairmanship of OFNC 1960-1961 President Winston Mair and made various recommendations for wildlife habitat enhancement there. The Federal District Commission also asked the Club to be involved in the establishment of a Brewery Creek bird sanctuary in Hull (Gatineau), presumably in response to the high profile that site had received from former British High Commissioner Malcolm MacDonald’s war time reminiscences in *Birds of Brewery Creek* (MacDonald 1947) (LAC OFNC Collection, 13 March 1952). Nothing came of that and neither FDC consultation was mentioned again after 1954 (LAC OFNC Collection, 15 December 1954).

### Conservation priorities (late 1960s-early 1980s)

A forerunner of the OFNC Conservation Committee, called the Preservation of Natural History Sites Committee, was established in 1960 with Bill Baldwin as its chair and with locally-active members including biology professor Donald A. Smith, CWS biologist Vic Solman, geologist D. D. Hogarth and botanist W. G. Dore (1912-1996) (LAC OFNC Collection, 15 December 1960). One of its first ventures – opposing the proposed destruction of the vast Mer Bleue peatland in eastern Ottawa (it was to be used as a regional landfill!) – was highly successful. It led not only to



FIGURE 15. Members of the Trill Group near Pinks Lake 29 May 1965, one of the last outings before disbanding as a formal group. From left to right are Winifred Anderson, Ruth Resenel, Alice Frith, Sheila Thomson, Bill Thomson, Rowley Frith, Hue McKenzie, Elva MacKenzie, Anne Hanes and unknown. Photograph by Charlotte Dill. *Trail & Landscape* 16(2): 95 [1982].

protection of that magnificent natural area, but also to a series of ecological and biodiversity investigations of the wetland (Baldwin and Mosquin 1969). Donald Smith played a pivotal role in generating the necessary awareness amongst both the naturalist community and National Capital Commission (NCC) officials of the significance of the bog (Dorais et al. 1974). The protected area – now some 3 500 ha in size – is managed by the NCC for the benefit of its ecological functions and has been declared an internationally significant wetland under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (National Capital Commission 1996).

In this period local Club members and the general public benefitted from two birding columns in Ottawa newspapers, one in *The Ottawa Citizen* by Wilfred Bell and the other in *The Ottawa Journal* by the appropriately named John Bird. The latter weekly column, “Bird’s-eye View”, was particularly beautifully written, accurate and insightful. It emphasized the growing level of birding activity in the Ottawa Valley and offered a timely (unofficial) bulletin board of OFNC and conservation events (McNicholl 1994).

Certainly the most important single occurrence for the local Club element in this period was the establishment of *Trail & Landscape* (T&L) (Figure 14). As expressed by the then CFN editor Theodore Mos-

quin, it was to be “a newsletter as well as contain[ing] articles of wide appeal in the conservation field” (LAC OFNC Collection, 5 January 1967). The existing OFNC Newsletter wasn’t offering sufficiently comprehensive local coverage, nor could it satisfactorily accommodate the documentation of local conservation-oriented natural environment investigations which were increasingly being undertaken by Club members. T&L was an immediate and astonishing hit, not only satisfying a need of active local Club members but generating a huge, unprecedented increase in membership (Figure 6). Anne Hanes (1925-1981) was appointed as the first editor and exercised these duties superbly through 13 volumes (1967 to 1979), always encouraging environmental conservation themes wherever possible (Greenwood 1980).

Two subsequent editors, Joyce Reddoch (from 1980 to 1989) and Fenja Brodo (from 1991 to 1992 and 1993 to 2001) expertly supervised and directed the development of long runs of the publication. Reddoch’s term was distinguished by the production of a number of large review articles which she solicited for both their intrinsic natural history value and their importance as reliable references for various conservation applications thereafter. A number of these, such as the reviews of Ottawa District amphibian and reptile species (Cook

1981, a revision of an earlier series in 1967 solicited by first editor Anne Hanes) and butterfly species (Layberry et al. 1982), continue to be locally referenced, as do all of the natural areas documentation published in T&L. The Club and its members have also been well served by other editors of *Trail & Landscape*, Elizabeth Morton (1990), Bill Gummer (from 1992 to 1993) and Karen McLachlan/Hamilton (from 2001 to the present).

*Trail & Landscape* quickly became *the* contemporary source for information on local natural environment issues. It has provided an ideal bridge between the recording of natural environment information for its own sake and in directing and assessing conservation priorities (Brunton 1986b). To some, the timeliness and thus effectiveness appears to have suffered, however, after a decision to reduce the publication schedule, for manpower and economic reasons, from five issues/year to four, starting with the 1988 volume. The subsequently reduced publication frequency and fewer total pages have coincided with a substantial reduction (by almost half) in the number of articles with direct conservation applications.

The huge increase in membership and higher profile of conservation and field-oriented activities in the late 1960s may have set too hectic a pace for some long-time Club stalwarts who had been more concerned with the national publication role. Hoyes Lloyd resigned from the Council at the end of 1967, stating that he felt it inappropriate as an OFNC Honorary Member to also serve as a Club director (LAC OFNC Collection, 6 June 1967). There is no such limitation on Honorary Members, however, and a number have continued to serve on Council with distinction for many years. Notable in this regard is 1979 Honorary Member Bill Cody, who has served *continuously* on Council since December 1947, shortly after becoming The CFN Business Manager earlier that year (LAC OFNC Collection, 21 May 1947). And similarly impressive is the contribution of Frank Pope, who has served on Council continuously since 1980 and has occupied the positions of Corresponding Secretary (three years), Treasurer (six years), Vice-President (one year) and President (an unprecedented six years) (Appendix 1).

*The Canadian Field-Naturalist* underwent a significant reconfiguration in January 1970, introducing a new size, format and appearance not just to improve its look but “to [make] its content as relevant as possible to the natural history needs of our time” (Mosquin 1970). And by “relevant”, Editor Ted Mosquin meant strongly conservation oriented. That first issue was graced by a photo with a Timber Wolf – the contemporary symbol of wilderness protection – crossing a snowy landscape. The issue contained both a variety of articles on Canadian endangered species and a directory of conservation organizations in Canada. Conservation applications of carefully-researched ecological and natural diversity investigations have been a hallmark of The CFN ever since.

Both as OFNC 1969-1971 President and editor of the CFN from 1967 to 1972, Mosquin was at the forefront of efforts to enhance the level of OFNC conservation action and to engage both the membership and the general public in this. OFNC 1971-1972 President Sheila Thomson and OFNC 1972-1975 President Irwin Brodo were similarly motivated conservation voices in the OFNC, the three of them working together to persuasively direct Club environmental protection initiatives. Mosquin initiated a series of at times hard-hitting and at times controversial editorials (not the last we were to see in the CFN!), challenging Club members, the larger naturalist community, and public decision-makers to be more effective in protecting natural environments in Canada. In 1972 he resigned the CFN editorship to take on the challenge of founding editor of the Canadian Nature Federation’s *Nature Canada*.

The infectious enthusiasm, environmental passion and unquestioned technical expertise of these three activists in concert with other Club leaders of the day such as OFNC 1963-1966 President George McGee (1909-1991) and OFNC 1967-1969 President Hue McKenzie, were an inspiration to a whole generation of new Ottawa-area naturalists (personal observation). For us newcomers, they transformed the understanding of the study of the natural environment from a seemingly slightly idiosyncratic, individual endeavour undertaken for personal entertainment to a meaningful – even important – and highly integrated calling. What a revelation!

The growing commitment to natural environment conservation in the late 1960s and early 1970s saw the re-energizing of OFNC Council and membership support in this area. At the urging of Ted Mosquin and Ed Greenwood and recognizing that the Preservation of Natural History Sites Committee was not broad enough in its mandate, in early 1967 the OFNC established the Natural Areas Committee to coordinate original field conservation research and to actively search out potential natural reserve sites in the Ottawa Valley (LAC OFNC Collection, 10 April 1967). By 1970, the committee was undertaking a broad program of local field investigations and had provided a basis for the identification of significant natural areas in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton’s 1974 Official Plan. So significant was the role and mandate of this group that the Natural Areas Committee was soon being promoted as the most significant of Club committees (LAC OFNC Collection, 8 December 1970). Increasing demand for input into various conservation issues both locally and beyond, resulted in the establishment of the Research and Briefs Committee (1972-1973), which in 1974 was combined with the Natural Areas Committee to form the Conservation Committee. This committee continues to play an integral role in OFNC and community affairs to the present day.



The OFNC Centennial in 1979 understandably brought forth a great deal of interest in the history of the Club in particular and of the naturalist community of Ottawa in general. *Trail & Landscape* provided the major vehicle for sharing this information amongst the local membership. Events culminated with a banquet intended to be on the exact 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but as with previous celebrations, it was erroneously held on 19 March (Reddoch 1979a), not the actual centennial date of 25 March.

The increased interest in the historical record generated by the Centennial year encouraged a new appreciation of the designation of OFNC Honorary Members. These had been given out only irregularly over the years to honour lengthy, significant service to the OFNC or Canadian natural sciences. Although honorary memberships have been awarded more regularly since 1971, the Centennial Year saw a new focus on this acknowledgment of such exceptional contributions (Brunton and Gummer 1987).

The conservation initiatives of the 1970s and early 1980s saw a resurgence of more systematic field examinations of uncommon and ecologically significant habitats in the Ottawa Valley such as fens, rivershore communities, and relict woodlands (Dugal 1978; Reddoch 1979b; White 1979). Publication of the first complete, annotated checklist of the vascular plants

of the Ottawa District also reflected this knowledge (Gillett and White 1978) and contained many of the records newly discovered by Club members.

That burst of new knowledge and energy demonstrated that suggestions in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that our knowledge of the natural environment of the Ottawa area was all but complete, were badly incorrect. Our understanding of native biodiversity and of the ecological systems supporting it requires continual inventory and evaluation to enable effective protection and maintenance of this natural heritage.

The Club's conservation activities in this era, led by activist presidents Roger Foxall and Roger Taylor between 1978 and 1982 and by such energetic members as Loney Dickson, Allan Reddoch, Joyce Reddoch, Albert Dugal, Stephen Darbyshire, and David White, covered an amazing spectrum and exhausting number of subjects. These ranged from a campaign for a conservation area system in the Region of Ottawa-Carleton (now city of Ottawa) to prevention of the importation of Raccoon-dogs into Canada, and from the prevention of 1988 Winter Olympic facility development within Banff National Parks to consultations with federal government officials on ecological requirements in Gatineau Park and National Capital Greenbelt planning.



FIGURE 16. Excursion of Ottawa Field-Naturalists to the Rideau Trail in October 1979 (photograph by C. Beddoe). Contrast with Figure 9. Long-time member Mary Stuart is second from left.

The Club hosted the annual meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in 1983, establishing a successful program format that was followed by subsequent provincial gatherings for years to come. The OFNC again successfully hosted the provincial organization's annual conference in 1993 (Pope 1993).

A more whimsical contribution is to wildlife conservation initiated in this period was the "Seed-a-thon", a fund-raising effort whereby sponsors pledge a particular amount for every species observed on a particular day by a particular birding team, to be applied towards the cost of supporting a network of OFNC public bird feeder stations. Initiated by the Birds Committee on the suggestion of long-time OFNC member Violet Humphries in 1981 (personal communication), this was one of the first of what now are commonplace fund-raising events across Canada (Brunton 1981).

There was a human cost to all this activity, however, and many of the lead Club personnel in these matters eventually were called away by the mundane but critical matters of family and careers, moving on to other things and/or were simply exhausted by it all. This was exacerbated in the later years of the 1970s and into the 1980s by new pressures on the time and resources of professional research staff within the federal public service, reducing their availability and energy for involvement in such initiatives as local conservation and research. Only three OFNC presidents since the mid 1970s (D. F. Brunton, R. John and E. Zurbrigg), for example, were professionally involved in natural environment investigation or management (Appendix 1).

One of the most satisfying conservation ventures of recent decades has to be the effort begun in the early 1980s to save the massive, Provincially Significant Alfred Bog east of Ottawa (Cuddy 1983) from destruction by agri-business interests. This battle saw the Club purchase conservation land for the first time (in 1982) so as to have legal standing in the fight to secure proper protective zoning. It was a long and difficult effort but with the effective leadership of OFNC President Frank Pope, considerable financial and material contributions from numerous individual members, and the critical involvement of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the entire wetland was saved and is now either in protective public ownership or zoned as parkland (Pope 2002).

The primary national contribution of the OFNC continued to be led by the publication of the CFN, although as noted, direct involvement in national-scale conservation issues was common enough in this period. Despite a continuing and perhaps even enhanced national/international status and production standard, however, the seemingly unanswerable question of how national or local the journal should be was raised again in a series of editorials in the late 1970s. The appropriateness and credentials of a citizen-based ("amateur") organization directing the affairs of the journal was severely criticized by Lorraine Smith, Editor 1972-

1981, who suggested that "the burden of being accountable to the scientific natural history community for a national journal ... may now be more than this local club should retain." [The days of calling the OFNC a "scientific society" were truly gone!] "Therefore... if the journal's reputation is not maintained and there is no move for a change in publisher, I challenge those who want a top-quality Canadian natural history journal, such as *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* is now, to initiate a new journal" (Smith 1981). These comments do not explain, however, how the OFNC managed to maintain and enhance such a fine journal for so many years.

After much discussion, consultation and review by an Ad Hoc Committee on OFNC Publications composed primarily of scientific specialists, the OFNC Council approved (8 December 1982) a new Publications Policy to guide the CFN and other Club publications (Bedford 1983). The Policy reiterated the Club's continuing, century-long commitment to the scientific integrity and high technical standards of the CFN, as well as the Club's intention to have the journal remain the official publication of the OFNC.

Francis Cook assumed editorship of the CFN from 1962 to 1966, and again in 1981, and has guided the journal to the present day with a steady and dependable hand, introducing important innovations such as the publication of Canadian status reports for candidate endangered species. There has been a great increase in the amount of material published in each volume during Cook's tenure (volumes averaged 756 pages over the five years ending in 2002). In the face of the many complications in the publication process, the timely publication of some issues has not occurred. Scientific and technical quality has never been sacrificed, however. The 28 volumes edited by Cook represent by far the longest and most prolific service of any CFN editor in the 124-year history of the publication, exceeding by more than a decade the tenure of the next longest-serving editors, Harold Senn and Arthur Gibson (Brunton 1986a).

### Contemporary Times and the Future (mid-1980s to date)

James Macoun, Percy Taverner and other "nationals" who worked so hard to enhance the mandate, effectiveness, and reach of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* would be relieved to see that the publication has achieved the solid reputation, steady production, and high scientific standards they hoped to see. An interesting expression of that long-term contribution and durability is demonstrated in the number of original descriptions (diagnoses of new taxa) which have occurred in the pages of the CFN. Over 730 have been published in the first 100 volumes (Brunton 1987).

The level of field-oriented investigation of the Ottawa Valley natural environment that was so productive in the 1970s and early 1980s, however, has been dras-

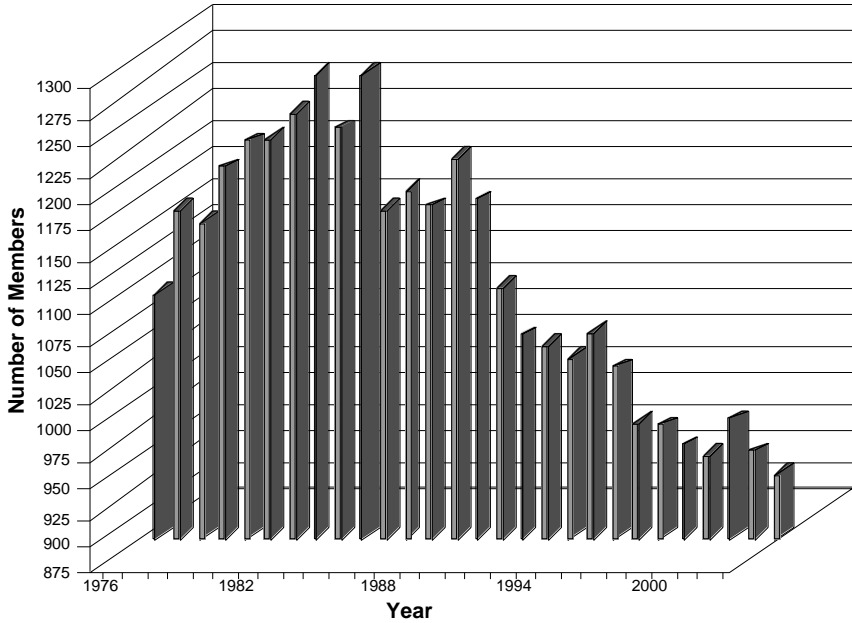


FIGURE 17. Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club membership trend 1975-2003. Numbers of institutional subscribers to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* were not calculated within membership totals nor reported separately in Annual Reports after 1971. A 1975 reorganization offered individual members (reported to total 1371 that year) the opportunity to be only non-voting subscribers to the *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, dramatically reducing the OFNC membership total reported for 1976 (Erskine 1977) [Individual and institutional subscribers were reported separately in the Annual and Editor's Reports for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* in each volume]. Absolute membership numbers prior to 1976, therefore, are not directly comparable to these of subsequent years (from OFNC Annual Reports, 1975-2002).

tically reduced. The appearance of substantially fewer area inventories and record documentation articles in *Trail & Landscape* reflects that trend. This may be part of an unfortunately strong North American perception in recent decades that continuing, original field investigations are of less importance than in previous times. T&L remains, however, an important and highly relevant source of environmental news and natural environment documentation.

Programs intended to actively involve the participation of local members have remained an important part of the OFNC. Dozens of field outings, lectures and special events are undertaken each year involving a diversity of well-informed leaders and speakers. For decades the Club's Excursions and Lectures Committee has crafted an interesting and instructive program that contributes greatly to the enhancement of members' skills and to their enjoyment in the field. While field investigations focus on both familiar and exotic localities throughout the Ottawa District and the Ottawa Valley, the Club does not confine itself to this area. The spring "migration" of a bus load of OFNC members to Point Pelee National Park, for example, has become a popular biennial birding event since the 1980s.

This is important stuff. The majority of Club members are locally based and most of us are involved, first and foremost, because we enjoy exploring and learning about our natural world. Providing support for scientifically important undertakings such as the publication of the CFN and the protection and preservation of important natural landscapes, is a valuable additional membership benefit. Membership in the OFNC remains an easy and enjoyable way for individual citizens to support greater understanding of, and protection for, important natural landscapes and features in the Ottawa Valley and beyond.

A noticeable change in the role of the local Club in regards to its community has occurred in recent years. The OFNC is much more integrated into environmental decision-making at a municipal and provincial level than it has been at any time in its past. It has become, in an sense, an ecological consultant to that community. While such a role requires seemingly endless attendance at meetings and reduced time for core field work, it has provided many excellent opportunities for Club representatives to bring accurate ecological information into the discussion of an issue at an early and effective stage of the decision-making process. A

cynic might say that the Club has become somewhat bureaucratized; an optimist would suggest that the Club now more frequently has a seat at decision-making tables across the National Capital Region. It is important to note, for example, that it was through this period that the final protection of the important Alfred Bog natural area was achieved.

Another very positive achievement of the last decade was the establishment of the Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Conservation Action Fund in 1994, founded with a generous bequest from the estate of that outstanding and eloquent field naturalist, Louise de Kiriline Lawrence (1984-1992) (Ainley 1994). It is sustained by further donations and by the profit from the sale of particular OFNC products such as the "Natural Areas" book (Brunton 1988). The fund provides for "strategic and timely expenditures towards the conservation of natural areas" in the Ottawa Valley (Anonymous 1994).

A continuing interest for many Club members is the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG), established in 1987 in degraded woodland and regenerating agricultural land on National Arboretum property near the Rideau Canal. With the active cooperation and assistance of Central Experimental Farm (Agriculture Canada) personnel who are responsible for land management here, the Fletcher Wildlife Garden volunteers have transformed the site with native plantings, the creation of a pond and through public interpretation. The objective is not only to produce on-going, evolving habitat restoration but to demonstrate suitable wildlife-friendly landscaping and gardening practices for National Capital residents and visitors alike – to be "a model for urban gardeners" (Conservation Committee 1987).

These are all positive features. A disturbing trend in Club affairs, however, has been declining membership over the last two decades (Figure 17). Perhaps not coincidentally, Club membership peaked ca. 1982 to 1985, at the end of the period of greatest conservation-oriented activity. The local membership decline is seemingly in tandem with the decline of original field-based investigations. Nonetheless, the number of OFNC members remains substantial – the Club is still probably the largest regional natural history organization in Canada – but the downward membership trend needs reversing (Figure 17).

The reasons for this decline in participation are unclear. It seems unlikely to be attributable to the ready availability of up-to-date, comprehensive natural environment data on the World Wide Web since the membership decline began well before such technology was widely available. It may, in part, be a function of some wider, societal disinterest in hands-on involvement with citizen-based, research-oriented groups. Whatever the reason(s), the decline has been substantial and if it continues, will undermine the financial security and effectiveness of the OFNC.

Since the 1990s the digital world has had as dramatic an impact on the OFNC as it has on so many facets of contemporary Canadian life. We are only just coming to terms with its potential benefits and challenges. The OFNC's impressive web page (<http://www.ofnc.ca>) has allowed for rapid internal communications amongst Club officials, committee members and conservation partners, and for the posting of information and timely news items. Digital communication is only the latest expression of the Club's commitment to education of our membership and of the general public in regard to important natural environment features, needs and opportunities. The importance of the Club's educational programs has been a major theme throughout OFNC history and is expressed in the mission statement of the organization (see frontispiece of this issue). There is every indication that it will remain so into the future.

It is not yet clear how the Club will move forward from this foundation of established programs and resources in order to stay informed, relevant – and solvent – into the future. That's not a new challenge but is one that must be answered by *each* generation in response to the circumstances and opportunities of their day.

Some things are clear. For one, the Club needs to re-establish a higher level of field-oriented investigation amongst its membership. This will not only maintain and develop the skills and interests of present members but also inspire and generate new members. Accurate and timely field investigation and documentation are essential foundations for the maintenance of the high level of technical credibility that the Club has earned over the years. Continuing to do our homework, getting the facts straight, and presenting such information in a defensible, objective manner are the keys to maintaining and enhancing the OFNC's impressive record of conservation achievement.

As with any organization, regardless of how venerable, the OFNC must also continue to re-examine what it provides for the individual member. This is perhaps even more critical in an era with an unprecedented number of electronic diversions competing for the attention of both members and partners alike. Will the traditional superb program of excursions, lectures, and publications be enough to inspire and encourage a growing, involved membership? Do the new technologies of *our* time offer the same manner of new opportunities that technologies like the railway train, electric lighting, the automobile, and the airplane offered earlier OFNC members? They surely do.

What I hope is a clear message from this review of the long, remarkably productive journey of Ottawa naturalists is that the OFNC is not a static, hard-and-fast "thing". It is a community, an association of like minds that aims to explore and celebrate the magnificent natural world of the Ottawa Valley and of Canada. And as with any community, we in the OFNC have



FIGURE 18. Record service to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*: Left: Francis R. Cook, Editor 1962-1966; Associate Editor (Herpetology) 1972-1981; Editor 1981-present; right: William J. Cody, Business Manager 1948-present. 25 August 2004. Photo courtesy Ron Bedford.

and have had the benefit of the skills, insight, and inspirational leadership of numerous individuals and groups over the years.

In weak times and strong, the common thread that has bound Ottawa naturalists since 1879 – indeed, since 1863 – is an overwhelming desire to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the natural features and values that make this place so special. At the end of the day it comes down to the fact that James Fletcher, Frank Pope, Percy Taverner, Sheila Thomson, Edward Van Cortlandt, Herb Groh, Gordon Hewitt, and the rest of us are not that different ... we're all just Ottawa field naturalists.

### Acknowledgments

The daunting challenge of reviewing a manuscript of this nature was undertaken in a timely and helpful manner by a team of naturalists well familiar with the OFNC and OFNC personalities. These reviewers were Ron Bedford, Bill Cody, Francis Cook, Karen McIntosh, Elizabeth Morton, Frank Pope and Joyce Reddoch. They added much to the effort and I gratefully acknowledge their input. I remain, however, fully responsible for any errors or omissions which may have escaped their sharp eyes. Frank Pope and Francis Cook provided additional factual input throughout the development of the manuscript. This review has also benefitted from the innumerable discussions (and

debates!) I have enjoyed with Francis Cook over the last 25 years on numerous subjects related to the history of the OFNC and to the study of Canadian natural sciences. Ron Bedford, Frank Pope, Joyce Reddoch, and Rob Lee (present chair of the Macoun Field Club) were instrumental in obtaining many of the illustrations employed in this article. Rob Lee and Joyce Cook scanned several of these. I am happy too, to acknowledge two other important players in this effort. First is the late Herb Groh whose clipping file on OFNC personalities and whose interest in the Club's past inspired my own curiosity. The other gratefully acknowledged is the staff at the Library and Archives Canada (formerly the National Archives of Canada) who so efficiently and pleasantly facilitated my research with the OFNC collection and related files held within the walls of that national treasure.

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#### END NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> **Number 1** (un-numbered), Braddish Billings' Ottawa vascular plant list (Billings 1868) was published between March and November 1868; **Number 2** (numbered), 500 copies of Sir J. A. Grant's examination of the surficial geology of the Ottawa Valley (Grant 1868) were published December 1868; **Number 3** (numbered), Thomas Wily's discussions of swallows (Wily 1869) was published December 1869 (LAC OFNC Collection, 10 December 1869; Dore 1968).
- <sup>2</sup> Much later, Henry Ami reminiscing about events leading up to the formation of the Club described "... how the Ottawa Club originated from the Epping Forest and Field Club, and later Ottawa Naturalists Club ..." (LAC OFNC Collection, 2 February 1924). Ami may, however, have been referring to names applied to informal groupings of field associates, such as the Fletcher, Harrington et al. group which conducted field work together in the Billings Bridge area in the late 1870s (Harrington 1909). There is no further mention of these groups in OFNC records by any of the individuals who, unlike Ami, were actively involved in the formation of the Club.
- <sup>3</sup> Later, R. B. Whyte erroneously reported this as occurring on 19 March 1879 (Whyte 1880). He may have been referring to an earlier preliminary meeting or to the date of the OLSS Council meeting where Fletcher and Henry Small Jr. obtained an expression of the co-operation and assistance from the parent organization, rather than the formal organizational gathering. Being documented only one year after the fact and by a Club founder and the originator of the idea of the OFNC, this error would quite understandably be accepted as fact and was repeated for over 100 years as the formal starting date of the OFNC (e.g. Groh 1955; Taylor 1979).
- <sup>4</sup> Relations between The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and The Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society appear to have been strained on at least several occasions in the following years. In his 30 November 1886 Inaugural Address, for example, OLSS President W. P. Anderson complained

- that the OFNC (of which he was a founding member and had been the Treasurer for the previous three years!) was "antagonistic to the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society" (LAC OFNC Collection, 3 December 1886). The OFNC and OLSS councils individually discussed the problem, the OLSS Council subsequently stating that they would consider "... any proposition which the field Club may wish to make looking for a change in the relations between the Club and the Society but that a joint meeting of the two Councils cannot conveniently be arranged ..." (LAC OFNC Collection, 14 January 1887). Although no such joint meeting or other formal Club action resulted, the OFNC Council continued to meet in the OLSS museum until March 1890. That was despite another minor dust-up in 1889 concerning the OFNC's offer to cover some of the public lecture programming required of the OLSS in order to maintain its Ontario government grant (LAC OFNC Collection, 6 November 1889).
- <sup>5</sup> The involvement of women in the OFNC was very much promoted in these early years – in a patronizing if sincere way. The launch of *The Ottawa Naturalist* was accompanied by a special plea for the involvement of women ... "especially will be ladies welcomed to our ranks, and every effort will be put forward to make the excursions and soirees pleasant as well as instructive" (Harrington 1887). At the March 1888 Annual Meeting "... a discussion ensued as to the eligibility of ladies as officers, and the desirability of having some on the Council. Professor Macoun gave notice that he would at the next General meeting of the Club move that the executive Committee consist of six members, three of whom shall be ladies" (LAC OFNC Collection, 20 March 1888). This was accomplished by a Constitutional amendment in March 1890. Margaret A. Mills became the first female OFNC Officer when "Miss Mills" was elected Second Vice-President in 1892 (LAC OFNC Collection, 15 March 1892). She was not present at the meeting, however, and was apparently not agreeable to her election, as she resigned effective the next Council meeting 9 days later (LAC OFNC Collection, 24 March 1892), but stayed on as a Club member for several more years.
  - <sup>6</sup> "This [Ottawa] District was then [1880] understood to mean a radius of about twelve miles from the City of Ottawa ... latterly, however, with the general consent of the botanists of the club, this radius has been extended to about 30 miles ..." (Fletcher 1888). The Ottawa District boundary was metricated in 1981 to a 50 km radius circle centred on the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings (Anonymous 1981), including landscape within both south-eastern Ontario and southwestern Quebec.
  - <sup>7</sup> The portrait hung for many years in the Geological Survey Museum (later, National Museum of Canada). It now can be seen on display in the Logan Gallery of the Geological Survey of Canada headquarters on Booth Street in Ottawa.
  - <sup>8</sup> The saga of the OFNC library does not end there, however. In 1948 the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) reported to the Club that they had discovered "... the old library of the Club, now deposited in a storeroom adjacent to the main library" and that several hundred dollars worth of Canadian Field-Naturalist (CFN) back numbers were recovered (LAC OFNC Collection, 29 October 1948). The Council agreed to thank the OPL for storing the collection (since 1917!) by donating a set of The CFN back to 1935. Although the OPL apparently offered to continue to store



the 24 shelves worth of material at no cost to the Club, Council determined that all of the natural history and geology books should be sold (LAC OFNC Collection, 22 November 1948). No one was aware, apparently, that the Club had given the library to the OPL back in 1917 and thus was obviously in no legitimate position to sell the material. Nonetheless, the library was sold to "Mr. [Bernard] Amtmann, a dealer in second hand books ..." who assured the Council that OFNC members "would be given first choice before the [collection] catalogues were sent out ... through his extensive mailing list" (LAC OFNC Collection, 19 January 1950). The Club's initial share of sales before Amtmann moved to Montreal with the collection was \$169 (LAC OFNC Collection, 20 November 1950); the following year Amtmann offered the Club \$200 for the remaining volumes of the library which he had sold off "on a poundage basis" and for which he claimed to have incurred a considerable loss. The offer was accepted (LAC OFNC Collection, 16 November 1951) ... a sad ending to what must have been a magnificent collection with an intriguing provenance.

<sup>9</sup> The portrait by Franklin Brownell was commissioned in late 1911 (LAC OFNC Collection, 18 December 1911) and hung in "a suitable and prominent place" in the Ottawa Public Library in the spring of 1912 (LAC OFNC Collection, 12 March 1912). In the 1920s it was transferred to the National Museum of Canada "for safekeeping" (LAC OFNC Collection, 14 December 1926) where it hung for many years in the herbarium, its actual ownership and the "temporary" nature of its placement at The Museum eventually forgotten. When this history was discovered and brought to the attention of National Museum of Natural Sciences Assistant Director (and former OFNC Vice-President) C. G. Gruchy and Agriculture Canada staff in 1985 (personal communication), arrangements were made by The Museum for cleaning and minor restorations to be undertaken. The portrait, still technically owned by the Club and on loan to The Museum, was officially donated to The Farm on 2 June 1986 by OFNC 1986-1988 President W. G. Gummer (1915-1999) as part of the celebrations of 100 years of agricultural research in Canada (Hall 1986). The Museum and the Club had now fully honoured their commitment to the memory of James Fletcher. The portrait presently hangs, appropriately enough, in the William Saunders Building, named after the Central Experimental Farm Director who hired Fletcher as Canada's first Dominion Entomologist and Botanist.

<sup>10</sup> *The Ottawa Naturalist* was published quarterly for a brief period (1889/1890) as a cost-saving measure but reverted to monthly publication (at the urging of Will Harrington) because of reader preference for more frequent produc-

tion. This was initiated despite the Club's request for a provincial publication assistance grant being denied. An avowed Tory, John Macoun proclaimed that "politics had intervened with the success of the application and that we would have to learn to vote properly before we could hope to succeed ..." (LAC OFNC Collection, 18 March 1890). The none too subtle shot at the long serving Liberal government of Oliver Mowat was quite likely an accurate observation of the politics of that day (Gywn 1984). *The Ottawa Naturalist* did eventually receive a provincial government publication grant (of \$300.00), beginning in 1897. But presumably to Macoun's chagrin, this occurred with the Liberals still in power! Provincial financial assistance was received thereafter until 1924 (LAC OFNC Collection, 3 November 1924), as was generous federal publication support funding for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* in the 1980s and 1990s.

<sup>11</sup> The Macoun Autobiography was reprinted as an OFNC Special Publication in the Club's centennial year (Macoun 1979), with a new introduction by Richard Glover and with both editorial notes and a biographical sketch by historian William A. Waiser.

<sup>12</sup> P. B. Symes presented his "nearly complete set" of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and its predecessors to the Club in 1923. It formed the basis for "the Club's set of original issues" (Patch 1923) which is maintained for the purposes of the current CFN editor. The set is now complete (Francis Cook, personal communication).

<sup>13</sup> When Pauline Snure was elected in 1948, she was the first woman president of the OFNC, despite the conspicuous affirmative action efforts on behalf of women members by James Fletcher and associates in the 1880s and again in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>14</sup> It was presumably this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary that inspired Herb Groh to develop a biographical clipping file on OFNC Presidents and other officers. The file was presented to the Club in the early 1980s by Pierre Taschereau on behalf of Groh's widow and is now preserved in the LAC OFNC Collection.

<sup>15</sup> The present editor has suggested (personal communication) that this treatment might be overly critical of Senn's editorial tardiness in comparison to the at-times substantial delay of issues of the CFN during his (Cook's) tenure. While recent delays sometimes approached (though never matched) those of the 1950s, the critical difference between the two was the impact on the Club in their respective eras. The substantial publication delay in the early 1950s all but shut down Club productivity. While not to suggest that contemporary publications delays are without impact, they are clearly less threatening than those of 50 years ago.

**APPENDIX 1: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club officers (1879-2004)**

(derived from (LAC OFNC Collection Minute Books (1879-1970) and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* listings and contemporary OFNC Council Minutes)

	President	Vice-President(s) <sup>1</sup>	Treasurer	Secretary(ies) <sup>2</sup>
1879/1880	W. White	J. Fletcher W. P. Riddell* W. D. LeSueur*	R. B. Whyte <sup>2</sup>	R. B. Whyte <sup>2</sup>
1880/1881	J. Fletcher W. R. Riddell*	R. B. Whyte W. D. LeSueur	W. H. Harrington <sup>2</sup>	W. H. Harrington <sup>2</sup>
1881/1882	J. Fletcher	R. B. Whyte H. B. Small Jr.	W. H. Harrington <sup>2</sup>	W. H. Harrington <sup>2</sup>
1882/1883	J. Fletcher	R. B. Whyte J. F. Whiteaves	W. P. Anderson	W. H. Harrington
1883/1884	H. B. Small Jr.	R. B. Whyte F. R. Latchford	W. P. Anderson	W. H. Harrington
1884/1885	H. B. Small Jr.	R. B. Whyte J. Fletcher	W. P. Anderson	W. H. Harrington
1885/1886	W. H. Harrington	John Macoun S. Woods	T. S. MacLaughlin	W. P. Anderson
1886/1887	John Macoun	R. B. Whyte S. Woods	T. S. MacLaughlin	W. H. Harrington
1887/1888	R. B. Whyte	John Macoun S. Woods*	J. Fletcher	W. H. Harrington
1888/1889	R. B. Whyte	C. F. Marsan R. W. Ells	J. Fletcher	T. S. MacLaughlin
1889/1890	R. W. Ells	H. M. Ami J. Ballantyne	J. Fletcher	T. S. MacLaughlin
1890/1891	R. W. Ells	R. B. Whyte J. Ballantyne	J. Fletcher	T. S. MacLaughlin
1891/1892	R. W. Ells	H. M. Ami T. S. MacLaughlin	G. Harmer	W. H. Harrington
1892/1893	G. W. Dawson	W. H. Harrington* M. A. Mills* F. Shutt	A. G. Kingston	H. M. Ami
1893/1894	G. W. Dawson	R. W. Ells F. Shutt	A. G. Kingston	H. M. Ami
1894/1895	G. W. Dawson	J. Fletcher F. Shutt	J. Fletcher* D. B. Dowling	H. M. Ami
1895/1896	F. Shutt	H. M. Ami A. G. Kingston	D. B. Dowling	A. Halkett
1896/1897	F. Shutt	H. M. Ami W. H. Harrington	H. M. Ami W. H. Harrington	A. Halkett
1897/1898	E. E. Prince	H. M. Ami W. H. Harrington	J. Craig*	A. Halkett
1898/1899	E. E. Prince	H. M. Ami John Macoun	J. Fletcher	W. J. Wilson
1899/1900	H. M. Ami	A. G. Kingston John Macoun	J. Fletcher	W. J. Wilson
1900/1901	H. M. Ami	W. S. O'Dell R. Bell	J. Fletcher	W. J. Wilson
1901/1902	R. Bell	D. A. Campbell W. T. Macoun	J. Fletcher	W. J. Wilson*
1902/1903	R. Bell	A. E. Attwood W. T. Macoun	A. Gibson	W. J. Wilson
1903/1904	W. T. Macoun	A. E. Attwood* A. Halkett	A. Gibson	W. J. Wilson*
1904/1905	W. T. Macoun	W. J. Wilson S. B. Sinclair	A. Gibson	T. E. Clarke
1905/1906	S. B. Sinclair	W. J. Wilson F. Shutt	A. Gibson	T. E. Clarke
1906/1907	W. J. Wilson	F. Shutt	A. Gibson	T. E. Clarke

	President	Vice-President(s) <sup>1</sup>	Treasurer	Secretary(ies) <sup>2</sup>
1907/1908	W. J. Wilson	A. E. Attwood A. E. Attwood	A. Gibson	T. E. Clarke
1908/1909	A. E. Attwood	A. Halkett E. F. G. Eifrig	A. Gibson	T. E. Clarke
1909/1910	A. E. Attwood	A. Halkett E. F. G. Eifrig	A. Gibson	T. E. Clarke
1910/1911	A. Halkett* A. G. Kingston*	A. G. Kingston L. H. Newman	H. Groh	J. J. Carter
1911/1912	A. McNeill	A. Gibson L. H. Newman	W. T. Macoun	D. E. Blackader
1912/1913	L. H. Newman	A. Gibson J. W. Gibson	W. T. Macoun	D. E. Blackader
1913/1914	L. H. Newman	A. Gibson H. I. Smith	W. T. Macoun	E. D. Eddy
1914/1915	A. Gibson	C. G. Hewitt H. I. Smith		J. F. Watson E. D. Eddy
1915/1916	A. Gibson	C. G. Hewitt H. I. Smith	G. LaLacheur	A. Halkett* G. O. McMillan
1916/1917	H. I. Smith	C. G. Hewitt E. D. Eddy	G. LaLacheur	L. D. Burling
1917/1918	H. I. Smith	M. Y. Williams C. G. Hewitt	J. R. Dymond	L. D. Burling
1918/1919	C. G. Hewitt	L. D. Burling M. Y. Williams	J. R. Dymond*	C. L. Patch
1919 <sup>3</sup>	M. Y. Williams	L. D. Burling P. A. Taverner	F. W. Waugh	C. L. Patch
1920	M. Y. Williams	L. D. Burling R. M. Anderson	E. B. Crampe*	C. L. Patch
1921	R. M. Anderson	G. A. Miller H. Lloyd	C. B. Hutchings	C. L. Patch
1922	R. M. Anderson	H. Lloyd G. A. Miller	C. B. Hutchings	C. L. Patch
1923	H. Lloyd	G. A. Miller N. Criddle	C. B. Hutchings	C. L. Patch
1924	H. Lloyd	G. A. Miller N. Criddle	B. A. Fauvel	J. F. Wright
1925	H. Lloyd* G. A. Miller*	G. A. Miller* N. Criddle	B. A. Fauvel	J. F. Wright
1926	N. Criddle	E. M. Kindle* C. L. Patch	B. A. Fauvel	J. F. Wright
1927	N. Criddle	E. M. Kindle C. L. Patch	B. A. Fauvel	J. F. Wright
1928	E. M. Kindle	C. L. Patch H. F. Lewis	B. A. Fauvel	J. F. Wright
1929	E. F. G. White	H. F. Lewis C. M. Sternberg*	W. Lloyd	B. A. Fauvel
1930	H. F. Lewis	C. L. Patch* M. E. Wilson	W. Lloyd	B. A. Fauvel
1931	H. F. Lewis	C. M. Sternberg M. E. Wilson	W. Lloyd	G. S. Postethwaite
1932	C. M. Sternberg	C. M. Sternberg M. E. Wilson	W. Lloyd	G. S. Lewis
1933	C. M. Sternberg	H. Groh M. E. Wilson	W. Lloyd	G. S. Lewis
1934	M. E. Wilson	H. Groh P. A. Taverner	W. Lloyd	G. S. Lewis
1935	M. E. Wilson	H. Groh P. A. Taverner	W. Lloyd	P. Whitehurst
1936	H. Groh	P. A. Taverner R. DeLury	W. Lloyd	P. Whitehurst

	President	Vice-President(s) <sup>1</sup>	Treasurer	Secretary(ies) <sup>2</sup>
1937	H. Groh	P. A. Taverner R. DeLury	W. Lloyd	P. Whitehurst* C. W. Lounsbury*
1938	P. A. Taverner	R. DeLury* H. G. Crawford*	W. Lloyd	C. W. Lounsbury
1939	A. E. Porsild	A. E. Porsild H. G. Crawford	W. Lloyd	C. W. Lounsbury
1940	A. E. Porsild	D. Leechman H. G. Crawford	W. Lloyd	C. W. Lounsbury
1941	H. G. Crawford	D. Leechman F. E. Banim	W. Lloyd	C. W. Lounsbury
1942	H. G. Crawford	D. Leechman F. E. Banim	C. H. D. Clarke	J. W. Groves
1943	D. Leechman	F. E. Banim W. H. Lanceley	I. Conners	J. W. Groves
1944	D. Leechman	F. E. Banim W. H. Lanceley	I. Conners	J. W. Groves
1945	F. E. Banim	W. H. Lanceley A. L. Rand	I. Conners	J. W. Groves
1946	F. E. Banim	W. H. Lanceley A. L. Rand	I. Conners	O. H. Hewitt
1947	W. H. Lanceley	A. L. Rand P. Snure	C. Frankton	O. H. Hewitt
1948	W. H. Lanceley	P. Snure J. W. Groves	C. Frankton	H. J. Scoggan
1949	P. Snure	J. W. Groves R. Frith	C. Frankton	H. J. Scoggan
1950	P. Snure	J. W. Groves R. Frith	C. Frankton	H. J. Scoggan
1951	J. W. Groves	R. Frith W. K. W. Baldwin	R. J. Moore	H. J. Scoggan
1952	J. W. Groves	R. Frith W. K. W. Baldwin	R. J. Moore	H. J. Scoggan
1953	R. Frith	W. K. W. Baldwin H. Senn	R. J. Moore	H. J. Scoggan
1954	R. Frith	W. K. W. Baldwin A. E. Bourguignon	R. J. Moore	H. J. Scoggan
1955	W. K. W. Baldwin	L.S. Russell E. L. Bousfield	R. J. Moore	H. J. Scoggan
1956	W. K. W. Baldwin	L. S. Russell E. L. Bousfield	R. J. Moore	H. J. Scoggan
1957	L. S. Russell	E. L. Bousfield J. S. Bleakney	R. J. Moore	H. J. Scoggan
1958	L. S. Russell	E. L. Bousfield J. S. Bleakney	R. J. Moore	A. M. Banfield
1959	E. L. Bousfield	W. W. Mair D. R. Beckett	J. M. Gillett	A. M. Banfield
1960	E. L. Bousfield	W. W. Mair D. R. Beckett	J. M. Gillett	A. M. Banfield
1961	W. W. Mair* D. R. Beckett*	D. R. Beckett* V. Solman*	J. M. Gillett	A. M. Banfield
1962	D. R. Beckett	E. Bousfield W. W. Mair	A. Banning	A. M. Banfield
1963	D. R. Beckett	D. A. Smith W. W. Mair	A. Banning	D. A. Smith
1964	G. McGee	G. McGee W. W. Mair	A. Banning	A. W. Rathwell
1965	G. McGee	G. R. Hanes W. W. Mair	A. Banning	A. W. Rathwell
1966	G. McGee	F. R. Cook F. R. Cook	R. D. Wainwright	A. W. Rathwell
1967	H. Mackenzie	H. Mackenzie J. C. Woolley T. Mosquin	L. G. Howden	A. W. Rathwell

	President	Vice-President(s) <sup>1</sup>	Treasurer	Secretary(ies) <sup>2</sup>
1968	H. Mackenzie	T. Mosquin* J. Tener* G. McGee*	L. G. Howden	A. W. Rathwell
1969	H. Mackenzie	T. Mosquin W. A. Holland	F. M. Brigham	A. W. Rathwell
1970	T. Mosquin	W. A. Holland S. Thomson	F. M. Brigham	A. W. Rathwell
1971	T. Mosquin	S. Thomson I. M. Brodo	F. M. Brigham	A. W. Rathwell
1972	S. Thomson	I. M. Brodo E. C. D. Todd	P. Kevin	A. W. Rathwell
1973	I. M. Brodo	E. C. D. Todd	C. Gruchy	A. J. Erskine (RS) A. H. Reddoch (CS)
1974	I. M. Brodo	E. C. D. Todd	C. Gruchy	A. J. Erskine (RS) J. D. Lafontaine (CS)
1975	E. C. D. Todd	R. A. Foxall	P. J. Sims	A. J. Erskine (RS) C. Gruchy (CS)
1976	E. C. D. Todd	R. A. Foxall	P. J. Sims	P. J. Narraway (CS) A. J. Erskine (RS)
1977	R. A. Foxall	R. Taylor	B. Henson	D. Laubitz (RS) S. Armstrong (CS)
1978	R. A. Foxall	R. Taylor	B. Henson	D. Laubitz (RS) S. Armstrong (CS)
1979	R. Taylor	C. Gilliatt	B. Henson	D. Laubitz (RS) V. Hume (CS)
1980	R. Taylor	H. L. Dickson	B. Henson	D. F. Brunton (RS) E. F. Pope (CS)
1981	R. Taylor	H. L. Dickson* D. F. Brunton*	B. Henson	E. F. Pope (RS) W. Gummer (CS)
1982	D. F. Brunton	C. G. Gruchy P. M. Catling	P. D. M. Ward	E. F. Pope (RS) W. Gummer (CS)
1983	D. F. Brunton	C. G. Gruchy* E. F. Pope* P. M. Catling	P. D. M. Ward	E. F. Pope (RS) W. Gummer (CS)
1984	E. F. Pope	W. Gummer W. P. Arthurs	P. D. M. Ward	G. Hamre (RS)* A. Martell (CS)* B. Martin (RS & CS)*
1985	E. F. Pope	W. Gummer W. P. Arthurs*	P. D. M. Ward	A. Martell (CS)* B. A. Campbell (CS)*
1986	W. Gummer	B. A. Campbell J. Harrison	P. D. M. Ward	B. J. Martin (CS) E. Bottomley (RS)
1987	W. Gummer	D. F. Brunton J. Harrison	F. Valentine	B. A. Campbell (CS) M. Coleman (RS)
1988	J. Harrison	D. F. Brunton* K. Strang* J. Harrison	F. Valentine*	D. F. Brunton (RS)* R. John (RS)* B. A. Campbell (CS)
1989	J. Harrison	R. John K. Strang	J. Gehr	D. Duchesne (RS) M. Aksim (CS)
1990	J. Harrison	R. John D. Cuddy	M. Scromeda	E. Fox (RS) E. Evans (CS)
1991	R. John*	E. Fox* S. Blight*	G. Marston	E. Evans (CS) D. Furlong (RS)* C. Firth (RS)* N. Stow (RS)* E. Fox (RS)*
1992	E. F. Pope	vacant	G. Marston	E. Evans (CS) C. Clark (RS)
1993	E. F. Pope	M. Murphy	G. Marston	S. Gawn (RS) E. Evans (CS)
1994	E. F. Pope	M. Murphy D. Moore	G. Marston	S. Gawn (RS) E. Evans (CS)
1995	E. F. Pope	M. Murphy D. Moore	G. Marston	D. Smythe (RS) E. Evans (CS)

	President	Vice-President(s) <sup>1</sup>	Treasurer	Secretary(ies) <sup>2</sup>
1996	D. Moore	M. Murphy	G. Marston	D. Smythe (RS) E. Evans (CS)
1997	D. Moore	M. Murphy T. Reeve*	S. Shaw*	D. Smythe (RS) L. Cairnie (CS)
1998	D. Moore	E. Zurbrigg D. Smythe	S. Shaw	G. McNulty (RS) vacant (CS) <sup>4</sup>
1999	D. Moore	E. Zurbrigg D. Smythe	E. F. Pope*	G. McNulty (RS) vacant (CS) <sup>4</sup>
2000	E. Zurbrigg	R. John	E. F. Pope	J. Martens
2001	E. Zurbrigg	R. John	E. F. Pope	K. Allison
2002	E. Zurbrigg	R. John	E. F. Pope	K. Allison
2003	G. McNulty	M. R. Murphy G. Marston	E. F. Pope	S. L. Bourque
2004	M. R. Murphy	G. Marston	E. F. Pope	S. L. Bourque

\* served only a portion of this term; RS – Recording Secretary CS – Corresponding Secretary

<sup>1</sup> First and Second Vice-President positions existed in most but not all terms.

<sup>2</sup> Secretary and Treasurer positions were combined until 1882;

<sup>3</sup> The OFNC “year” was rearranged in 1919 to coincide with the calendar year rather than the fiscal year, resulting in a 1918-1919 year ending in March 1919, a 9 month “year” for the remainder of 1919, and normal calendar years thereafter.

<sup>4</sup> Corresponding Secretary position left vacant for two years then eliminated; Recording Secretary position continues.