

## **KINGSTON FIELD NATURALISTS PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Despite the ongoing challenges resulting from Covid-19, KFN activities continued apace through 2022-23 and we had another successful year. The hard work and many volunteer hours of our Executive team and KFN members were instrumental in this success.

Financially, KFN remains in a very robust position. You will hear the details from Larry McCurdy as he presents the Treasurer's Report and seeks approval for next year's budget.

Our membership numbers improved through the Covid-19 period, and the numbers remain high, with over 750 voting members, which includes 20 juniors, 9 teens and 8 junior leaders.

In February, we moved from zoom to hybrid general meetings. We have overcome the early technical challenges with significant participation both in-person and on-line at the February and March meetings. My thanks to Ken Edwards and Erwin Batalla for their efforts to master the technology.

We continued our outreach to members and the community with education programs, and between April 2022 and March 2023 we hosted 21 rambles with an average participation of 14 members for each outing. Our 2023 Bioblitz is in the final stages of organization and will take place at Milburn Creek, Battersea on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our Conservation Committee has had a busy year as well, keeping us up to date on a variety of issues ranging from concerns about inner harbour remediation and tannery lands development to providing information and assistance on salmon and raptor monitoring; the Committee has assisted with advocacy on concerns including local, provincial, national and international issues such as conservation area proposals, Greenbelt incursions, new provincial legislation proposals and the recent CoP15 meetings addressing biodiversity targets.

KFN continues to produce an excellent monthly Newsletter and to publish the quarterly Bluebill Journal. Citizen science is key to the conservation and protection of nature and Bluebill submissions from members are always welcome.

I want to acknowledge the ongoing assistance of Lesley Rudy, now with Ontario Nature. Lesley has acted as liaison between Ontario Nature and KFN over the past year.

KFN must undertake some corporate reorganization to achieve compliance with the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. Ontario Nature is conducting a webinar in early May to assist member organizations with this transition. Our bylaws and constitution will be amended as required. The changes will be reviewed by the Executive and recommended for approval to the membership at a general meeting in the fall of 2023.

Finally, we have the first annual dinner for several years planned for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, tickets are on sale. We hope to see you there.

I close by thanking our Executive members for all their time and efforts over the last year.

**Respectfully submitted:**



John Donihee  
President KFN