

## **Summary of the Minutes of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club Board Meetings, April/May/June 2012**

*By Joyce Litster*

### **Items Discussed**

#### **Free Student Memberships**

The Board approved a motion to give free HNC memberships to full-time students under the age of 25. Students would receive their *Wood Duck* on line, but those who are unable to do so may request a printed copy from the Membership Director. The Free Student Membership program will be evaluated in a year.

#### **Volunteer Drivers**

A notice in the *Wood Duck* asks members who are willing and able to do so to volunteer to drive members to the Club's meetings.

#### **Cootes to Escarpment Project**

The Naturalists' Club is one of 10 stakeholders who signed the Memorandum of Understanding for this project. This indicates our commitment to the project which will establish a natural area between the Niagara Escarpment and Coote's Paradise in Hamilton/Halton. The RBG's Berry Tract and the HNC's Cartwright Sanctuary are both within this area.

#### **Brock Street Development, Dundas**

Conservation and Education Director Terry Carleton has met with the local group The Citizen's Group for Responsible Development, who oppose the proposal by a developer to build a seven-story apartment under the Dundas Peak and encroaching on an ESA in Dundas. He would need several variances in order to do so. Terry reports that the Environmental Assessment was poorly done, misidentifying a number of tree species. He will represent the Club at the June hearings with the City and will discuss plant life in the area. He has requested the presence of a geologist who can speak to the geological significance of the area involved.

#### **HCA Spencer Gorge Management Plan**

A public information session was planned by the Hamilton Conservation Authority for June 26<sup>th</sup> as part of their new management plan for the Gorge. At a previous information session, Terry emphasized the need to recognize and protect the biodiversity of the Spencer Gorge.

#### **Volunteer of the Year Award and Betty Blashill Award**

Nominations for VOY have been received and the awards will be presented at the November meeting. Board members were delighted to hear that former HNC President Jim Stollard has been awarded the Betty Blashill Award.

**Funding for Natural Areas Inventory**

Peter Scholtens, Elaine Serena and Jim Stollard met with the City concerning the funding shortfall for the current NAI and funding for future NAIs. This year's shortfall may be made up from the City's Stewardship Council, but funding for 2013 is still a problem. The City needs to set up a method of funding for the next NAI.

**2012 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

Last Year's fundraiser was a great success. Our 2012 fundraiser is planned for November 17, at St. Paul's Church in Dundas.