

OFO Convention 2017

Long Point

**Banquet and AGM Program**

**September 23, 2017**

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| 4:00 - 6:00 | Registration, vendor displays, cash bar |
| 6:00 | Banquet begins |
| 7:15 | Prize Draw |
| 7:30 - 9:30 | Presentations and AGM with Master of Ceremonies Ron Tozer |
|  | * Roundup of the Day's Birds - Ron Tozer |
|  | * Annual General Meeting - Lynne Freeman   (details in registration package) |
|  | * OFO Certificates of Appreciation – Kevin Seymour |
|  | * Distinguished Ornithologist Award to Dan Strickland presented by Ron Tozer |
|  | * Keynote Speaker Steven Price, President of Bird Studies Canada: Bird Conservation Priorities for Canada, after 100 years of the Migratory Bird Convention Act |
|  | * Closing Remarks - Ron Tozer |

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| ***Please take a few moments and complete the survey on the last page. Leave it on your table or in the box on the registration table.*** |

***Thank you to all our volunteers for their hard work in bringing you the OFO 2017 Annual Convention!***

**President’s Message**

For the past three years during the Niagara Gull Event weekend the Board spends a day discussing OFO’s objectives and priorities for the coming year. Happily, for such a passionate and outspoken group of birders we all agree on OFO’s mission and core values.

**OFO’s Mission and Values**

Our mission hasn’t changed since OFO was founded. Our mission is to promote and increase the appreciation and knowledge of Ontario's avifauna and its conservation.

OFO’s values are:

* Inclusion of all people with an interest in birds and birding, regardless of their expertise
* Science-based information and education
* Working together with other groups and organizations
* Support for the protection of birds and enhancement of their habitats

**Priorities**

While keeping our core services going we are expanding our focus to include these priorities:

* Improve services for OFO members.
* Expand our activities.
* Promote birding through outreach to new groups such as young birders, families and novice birders.
* Explore partnerships opportunities.

This year we’ve improved our OFO Facebook community, added more field trips and workshops including the sold-out Moosonee Trip and Nest Finding Workshop. We published the Ontario Checklist and plan to reissue the checklist more often. We inaugurated a summer camp for young birders and many new birders have attended our events. Lastly, we are developing fruitful partnerships with other birding and nature groups.

We accomplish all of this through volunteers. We cannot thank our trip leaders, editors, writers and others enough.

The Board welcomes feedback, ideas and suggestions from OFO members! Better yet, if you don’t already, please consider volunteering your time and expertise to share the joy of birding with others.

Good birding,

***Lynne Freeman***

*OFO President*