

OFO Convention 2018

 Point Pelee

**Banquet and AGM Program**

**September 29, 2018**

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| 4:00 - 6:00  | Registration, vendor displays, cash bar  |
| 6:00  | Banquet begins |
| 7:00 | Prize Draw |
| 7:30 - 9:30 | Presentations and AGM with Master of Ceremonies - Ron Tozer |
|  | * Roundup of the Day's Birds - Ron Tozer
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|  | * Annual General Meeting - Lynne Freeman

(details in registration package) |
|  | * OFO Certificates of Appreciation – Lynne Freeman & Bob Cermak
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|  | * Distinguished Ornithologist Award to Alan Wormington - Bill Lamond
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|  | * Keynote Speaker - Tom Hince “Point Pelee: the park that birds built”
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|  | * Closing Remarks - Ron Tozer
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| ***Please take a few moments to 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 2018 Annual Convention!***

**President’s Message**

During the Niagara Gull Event weekend the Board reviews 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. OFO’s 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
* Non-political support for the conservation of birds and their habitat

**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 partnership opportunities

This year we continued our momentum by growing the OFO Facebook community, adding field trips and workshops and reissuing the Ontario Checklist. The young birders program is flourishing and young birders from across the province have attended our events. Many new birders attend OFO’s field trips and 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 all our other volunteers enough.

The Board welcomes feedback, ideas and suggestions from OFO members and the birding community. **If you don’t already, please consider volunteering your time and expertise to share the joy of birding with others. We have many areas where you can help. Please contact any member of the board to find out more about volunteering!**

Good birding,

***Lynne Freeman***

*OFO President*