BC Nature
Annual General Meeting

“Nature in Quw’utsun - the Warmland”
May 2-5, 2019, Duncan
Hosted by Cowichan Valley Naturalists’ Society
Cover photography & assorted other photographs
Cowichan Valley Naturalists’ Society
Submitted by Barry Hetschko & Wilma Harvey

Thank you Barry & Wilma!
# BC Nature 2018 Annual Report

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President’s Report
Alan E. Burger, President

This AGM brings to an end my three-year term as president of BC Nature. I did one extra year as President and Kees Visser, our current Past-president, has very kindly agreed to resume the presidency for the coming year. As past-president I will remain on the Board and I intend to remain active in BC Nature for the coming years.

Organizational renewal
The major event of the past year has been the extensive, and sometimes disruptive, review of our organization and action to improve our operations and efficiency. These moves are not yet completed but BC Nature has made major changes and improvements to our operations. In 2018, with funding from the BC Naturalists’ Foundation, we hired consultant Valerie Mayes to do a review of our organization and lead a retreat with the Board members (formerly known as the Executive). This retreat was held at the Kelowna FGM in September. Valerie’s very thorough report now forms the basis for the ongoing revisions of our operations. It is clear that BC Nature has outgrown its past mode of operation, with just one staff person and heavy reliance on volunteers to do most of the work. We need more paid staff and funding to afford them.

Since September we have established three new committees to help run BC Nature: Finance (chaired by Bev Ramey), Personnel (chaired by Helen Aqua and now Harry Crosby) and Governance (chaired by Kees Visser). The terms of reference of these committees were developed and approved by the Board and each new committee has already made marked improvements to BC Nature. The Finance committee is working with Office Manager Betty Davison to streamline our bookkeeping system and bring our accounts into accordance of what our accountants require. The Personnel Committee has revised job descriptions for the Office Manager and for our new Office Assistant. The Governance Committee has completely revised our Bylaws (to be voted on at this AGM) and worked with other committees to draft or update their terms of reference. Updating our Policy and Procedures Manual and drafting our next Five-year Strategic Plan are the next objectives.

Much needs to be done. One of the major recommendations from Valerie Mayes was to develop a fund-raising strategy and to hire a part-time fund-raiser. Right after this Duncan AGM there will be a workshop on fundraising, organized by our new Vice-president Harry Crosby and fundraising professional Heather Wardle. In the coming year getting a Fund Developer on staff will be a priority for BC Nature.

Changes in governance and personnel
With the revised Bylaws the Executive is now known as the Board of Directors and the Club Directors as Club Representatives. These terms remove some ambiguity over the term “director” and who actually runs BC Nature (check the new Bylaws for details). During the past eight months our Vice-president Virginia Rasch and Treasurer Joyce Tomboulian resigned. I’m sad to report that Joyce passed away recently. Harry Crosby and Mark Kong are our new Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. Rick Gee also joined the Board as Director-at-Large and Sheila Puls as co-regional coordinator for the Lower Mainland region. After this AGM the Board will be losing two long-term members: Jude Grass (co-regional coordinator for the Lower Mainland) and Janet Pattinson (coordinator for the Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap region). BC Nature is extremely grateful to these two stalwarts for their lengthy contributions and dedication. Many thanks too to the new people on the Board and to those continuing – it is always gratifying to see committed and talented people volunteering to help run our federation. I also extend my gratitude to Elise Kreller – she is a professional accountant and volunteered many hours over the past six months to help bring our
financial books into better shape and remove some of the financial uncertainties that existed in 2018. Many thanks too to Katy Poon, who has been volunteering to upgrade the BC Nature website. In April BC Nature hired a part-time Office Assistant; Natalia Pisarek will be working one day a week to take some of the load off Betty. And this is an opportunity to extend huge thanks to Betty for all she does for BC Nature. Her commitment to our organization goes well beyond what is expected and she continues to provide the knowledge and experience on which we all depend. Thank you Betty!

BC Nature in action

Through all these organizational changes, BC Nature has continued to do its core functions very well. Our primary role is to provide support to our clubs. In this regard, Betty has been working hard to implement a new online membership system. Most clubs are now using this system and it will save many hours of Betty’s time and help clubs manage their memberships.

Our major committees continue to do excellent work – the Conservation, Education, Camps, Communications and Resolutions committees all depend entirely on volunteer input and provide a huge service to our clubs and to our province. Their reports in this booklet give you some idea of the impressive work they have done. Our special representatives have also contributed thousands of volunteer hours on important conservation and management issues – notably Roger Emsley (Roberts Bank terminal developments), Greg Ferguson (wildlife management consultations), Joan Snyder (caribou conservation), Hilary Miller (Outdoor Recreation Council), and Virginia Rasch and now Gerry Warner (Columbia River Basin Environmental Collaborative).

Several of our clubs have been involved in a major project to improve habitat protection in the Fraser Delta a project funded by the Sitka Foundation and jointly involving Nature Canada, BC Nature and Bird Studies Canada. BC Nature has also been collaborating with lawyers Prof. Chris Tollefson and Anthony Ho from the Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation (CELL) to make submissions to the National Energy Board review of marine impacts from the proposed Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion. We will continue to work with CELL to stop this ill-conceived and climate-threatening project.

My thanks to the Cowichan Valley Naturalists for taking on this AGM. Their program and field trips look excellent and I’m sure this will be a memorable meeting.

The way forward

As I step down as president I am pleased to know that BC Nature is functioning well and has excellent motivated people running the organization. But there is a lot left to do. Our organizational revision is not yet completed. We still need to work towards having additional paid staff to assume some of the leadership roles that are currently overloading our volunteers. One major concern I have is that our organizational revision has prevented us from putting the needed time and energy into expanding our federation. The number of member clubs (50) and our overall membership (6,300 plus) have not grown much in the past couple of years. I was very pleased to have a small part in reviving our Nanaimo club (now with well over 100 members) but there are still many towns in BC where we should have strong clubs – Prince Rupert, Campbell River, Creston, Pemberton – to name a few.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Federation of BC Naturalists (now BC Nature). We will be issuing a special commemorative magazine in the fall and have more celebrations at the Fall General Meeting being hosted by the Burke Mountain Naturalists. I look forward to celebrating this important milestone with you all in the coming year.

Finally, I want to thank all the many people who have helped me throughout my term as BC Nature President – especially our Office Manager Betty Davison and our wise past-presidents Bev Ramey, John Neville, and Kees Visser. BC Nature is a very special and admired organization and I am grateful for the privilege of being your president for the past three years. I look forward to many years of continued involvement with our clubs and with the admirable people who make up BC Nature.
Conservation Committee Report
Peter Ballin and the Conservation Committee

This last year we welcomed Larry Dill and Gerry Warner to the conservation committee. Our committee seeks to act upon environmental issues relevant to BC naturalists by writing letters to governments to influence policy, letters of support to other ENGO’s, and attending meetings to provide BC Nature’s (BCN) input and gather information. We now have a BC Nature Conservation Network that you can join for occasional updates on the issues addressed by this committee. We have been pleased to receive input from the BCN membership on a number of local concerns, and would be happy to receive more!

The following list, under our priority areas, shows what we have been active with (including monitoring) since the last AGM:

- **Parks and Protected Areas**
  - Agricultural Land Reserve
  - Columbia River Treaty
  - Old-growth forest protection
  - Upper Skagit
  - South Okanagan-Similkameen
  - Wells Gray
  - Salish Sea Mining
- **Marine ecosystems**
  - Marine transport
  - Ocean plastics
  - Salmon farming
- **Estuaries and migratory routes**
  - Heart of the Fraser and the Fraser Delta
  - Roberts Bank
- **Climate change**
- **Pesticides**
  - Glyphosate application in forestry
  - Rodenticides
- **Species at Risk**
  - Bats
  - Bees
  - Mountain Caribou
  - Southern Resident Killer Whales
  - Salmon and Steelhead
- **Wetlands and fresh-waters**
  - Wetland Stewardship Partnership
- **Wildlife management**
  - Wolf kill
  - Eagle nests
  - Herring fishery
  - Wildlife Management Provincial initiative

As well as: Environmental assessment

The BC Nature magazine presents you with more details about the work of the conservation committee, and you can find letters sent and received on the BCN website. If you would like to champion a conservation issue relevant to our membership, please contact me. pjballin@mac.com.

Education Committee Report
Margaret Cuthbert, Education Chair

The Education Committee will be meeting Friday May 3, at 5:15 pm – 6:45 pm, in the Fireside Room, Ramada Inn, Duncan, immediately following the Conservation Committee meeting. We welcome all members to attend with an interest in nature education. One day we hope to have a representative from each member club participating and sharing club accomplishments and ideas.
Naturalist Mentor nominations were submitted for the Spring, Summer and Fall BCnature magazines and we continue to request member clubs to nominate their Naturalist Mentors to be acknowledged. We still need four more nominations for 2019 so please contact Marg.

We are very pleased to hear about the Kamloops Naturalists Club’s “Next Generation” project and are looking forward to learning a lot more at the May AGM.

March was declared Youth Science Month. The 2019 Regional Science Fair judging and awards ceremonies have just been completed and we are looking forward to receiving the information of student award winners for each region. BC Nature (BCN) Regional Coordinators facilitated this initiative by contacting their clubs to request the need for a representative to attend their Regional Science Fair BCN gave out the Junior and Senior awards at all the SFF regional awards ceremonies except for two that are a long distance from BCN clubs – the Yukon and Northern Vancouver Island. We greatly appreciate and acknowledge those clubs that have come forward to attend on our behalf; this was a positive step to more awareness about BCN’s contribution to student projects and awards. Some clubs also participated in the judging of student projects and even offer their own awards demonstrating the value they place on the student science fairs.

Those representatives who assisted are listed here below with their clubs:

**Cariboo Mainline Region** - Gary Hunt, Kamloops Naturalists’ Club
**Central Interior Region** - Dave Leman, Prince George Naturalists’
**East Kootenay Region** - Greg Ross, Rocky Mountain Naturalists’
**Fraser Valley Region** - Hank Roos, Abbotsford Naturalists’ Club
**Greater Vancouver Region** - Bengul Kurtar, Nature Vancouver
**Northern BC Region** - Ingebjorg Jean Hansen, Timberline Trail Nature Club
**Pacific Northwest Region** - Wendy Brooks, Northern Amphibians Naturalists’ Society
**South Fraser Region** - Kristy Harrison, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay
**Vancouver Island Region** - Ann Nightingale, Victoria Naturalists’ Society
**West Kootenay and Boundary Region** - Ann Wood, West Kootenay Naturalists

The Yukon/Stikine and Northern Vancouver Island Regions still need someone; if you can help, please contact Marg.

Our letter to the BC Naturalists Foundation (BCNF) requesting scholarship grant support over the long term resulted in an approval of $2000 annually. The Foundation Directors noted in their motion to encourage future BCNF boards to continue this scholarship funding depending on funds available in the foundation’s General Fund.

The Education Committee acknowledges and appreciates this support and continues to believe the BCNF could go further to support the scholarships in their entirety since they are the Naturalists’ financial body that receives all bequests and major donations.

Since the Education Committee and Conservation Committee usually have to fit their meetings around already organized AGM and Fall meeting agenda’s, we requested the Executive to approve a motion that both the Education and Conservation committee meetings are considered in early planning and are allotted an agreeable time, to be discussed with the committee chairs. This motion passed and it will be helpful in supporting the business of each of the committees. We regularly review and update the BCN Education website pages and the ‘Getting Outdoors Tips for Teachers Toolkit’. We are in conversation with the Communications Committee on an appropriate, small BC Nature informational, promotional item to be distributed to member clubs, to be handed out at their public events.

The Education Committee continues to request member clubs to inform us of their nature education activities and accomplishments.
Another year gone by and I probably sound like a broken record, but it’s been another busy one!

A new online database system has been implemented for use by both BC Nature and all of the clubs. Our online database was designed from the ground up and is loosely based on our old database. I say loosely, as BC Nature only required mailing addresses and email addresses for the total membership so that the mailing labels for the magazine and emails for the enews could be extrapolated from our database. The individual clubs have much more complex use of their databases, so many categories were added to make our new online database effective for the clubs to use. It is still a work in progress and we are still working out some kinks and seeing to the addition of items that were in the original plan. So far, 95% of the clubs are on board and using the database as their own with few problems and much more information gathering available to them.

The hiring of a part-time office assistant has also been completed. We should see our candidate starting in the next month and we will be introducing her to the clubs over the course of the next month. On hiring, we were also partially successful in getting our summer student to help out in the office over the summer. We were cut back to 20 hours/week instead of the 35 hours/week. We have yet to sort out how we will deal with the short-coming of hours.

We received notification of price increases on our all of our Insurance needs, effective this year, with another scheduled increase set for 2020. All clubs have been notified so that modifications to their own rates can be made for the 2020 billing. Our last insurance increase was in 2008. A friendly reminder that all insurance inquiries and requests for Certificate of Insurance are to come through your BC Nature Club Representative (As listed in the back of this Annual Report). With many requests coming through at this time of year (our renewal date is May 1) and existing Certificates of Insurance are now lapsing and new ones are required, some days I get 2-3 requests for new certificates and requests to send to members of clubs or the requesting entity direct are hard to keep track of.

It has been my pleasure working with the Clubs and Executive this year and I look forward to be of continued assistance in the upcoming year. I also wish to thank Alan Burger, our out-going President, for his help, advice and support over the last three years. It has been a pleasure working with you! I also look forward to working with Kees again and practising up on my “denglish” (Dutch-English) for the next year! 🌺

Treasurer’s Report
By Mark Kong - Treasurer

During the year ended December 31, 2018, the operating fund has a surplus of $34,727 (2017 - $31,398). At the year end date, total assets is $144,485 (2017 - $183,538) which is enough to cover the total liability of $5,275 (2017 - $4,748).

At December 31, 2018, the funds available to use in future years were as follow:

- Internally restricted funds - $31,336 (2017 - $42,017)
- Externally restricted grants - $53,586 (2017 - $83,332)
- Externally restricted donations - $19,561 (2017 - $22,043)

Currently the finance committee is trying to get a determination from CRA on whether BC nature should be charging GST on camps. An answer is not expected to be received from CRA anytime soon.
The finance committee has also prepared an operating budget for 2019, we are anticipating a small deficit mainly due to:
1. Extra spending on hiring a part time office assistant
2. Increase spending on web security
3. Excess wages for summer students top-up
For more information, please refer to the annual 2018 financial statements reviewed by RHN CPA (Page of this report).

Club Reports - Kootenay Region
Regional Coordinator - Joan Snyder

Rocky Mountain Naturalists (RMN) - Submitted by Rob Wood

Our membership has leveled out but we are looking for members of all ages. We try to have outings almost every other week during the spring and fall with many winter items scheduled as well. This year we have been bird watching, hiking, biking, canoeing/kayaking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Our summer outings were reduced last year because of the fire bans but thankfully for the most part our region was not heavily impacted.

Below is an excerpt from V. Rasch 2018 President’s Report that is a good summary of 2018.
- 1,000 dollars in total went to two COTR students from our scholarship fund
- 700 kids and adults attended Turtle Day
- 342 nest boxes are located on our bluebird routes
- 319 species or hybrids are on our official bird checklist
- 156 people are members of our Facebook page
- 75 members made up our club
- 50 Early Morning Birding trips were held
- 28 Lewis’s woodpeckers nests were recorded at the Skookumchuck IBA
- 27 field trips
- 25 active bluebird routes were monitored
- 25 years of Little Big Days
- 21 people used our new e-transfer system to pay their dues
- 17 naturalists attended club camp at Beauvais Lake Provincial Park
- 12 educational signs were put up at Elizabeth Lake
- Eight new members to our club
- Six bi-monthly meetings of the membership were held
- Four issues of The Kestrel were assembled and sent out
- Four tagged curlews returned to Skookumchuck
- Three boundary signs were installed at the Skookumchuck IBA
- Three educational articles were written and appeared in the Tri-Village Buzz on the Skookumchuck IBA
- Two Christmas bird counts were held
- One large interpretative sign about the Skookumchuck IBA was erected at the highway rest stop in Wasa
- One new set of bylaws was written

And thanks to our eagle-eyed members:
- One nighthawk nest was recorded at Skookumchuck
- One female cardinal from Cranbrook made the provincial record books
- Zero live limber pine seedlings were found on Mt. Broadwood from our plantings two years earlier.
West Kootenay Naturalists (WKN) - Submitted by Peter Wood

The 2018 summer hiking season rather petered out with not so many trips towards the end as in previous years. Dense smoke may well have been a deterrent to us. Our first regular evening meeting of (last Monday in September) also passed without a gathering, or much notice from the members. I wrote, by email to all on our members, bewailing our leadership troubles, and warned that if at the November (Pot-Luck, guest Presentation and General meeting) did not generate some volunteers to help run the club, then it would fold by year-end and we would close our bank account, with closing-out monies going to our usual accepted beneficiaries (The Selkirk College WKNTA bursary and the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area education program).

The November dinner and meeting went ahead and we enjoyed a fine and informative presentation by WKNats regulars Ed and Hazel Beynon (Their trip from Greenland to Pelly Bay on the Boothia Peninsula) and the general meeting was well-attended. AND we were sufficiently encouraged to make firm plans to carry on as a club into the New Year, at least as far a our AGM in May 2019. Several people stepped forward in November, for the tasks of Trip Convenor, Recording Secretary and Digital Tech to help with developing a current and user-friendly web presence and publicity. At the November meeting, we agreed that for now, our centre of operations for non-pot-luck evening meetings would be Castlegar. (Not circulating around Nelson and Trail as well as Castlegar, as we had been doing in the previous many years). Our pot-luck meetings will continue to be held at the Genelle Community Hall where we are lucky to be able to rent their lovely facility for our bi-annual events. Our ever-reliable and long-serving Esther Brown (Treasurer and Membership Registrar) let it be known in November that she would be resigning her duties before the May AGM and then she set about recruiting the two people who have agreed to take on her dual role. Not only that, Esther then made herself available to help train those volunteers, and researched the business of signing on new Signing Officers with our Credit Union account. A thank you to Esther Brown preceded the appointment of our new volunteers for Treasurer and Membership Registrar, new member Paula Neilson and Janis Gilbert, respectively, by motion of the members present. Thank you also to new Trip Co-ordinator/Advertiser Diane White and our new Website Developer Tarah Reesor.

We had two very nice presentations for our January and March evening presentation meetings. In January: Local naturalist, beekeeper, and retired nurse Paula Neilson presented her poems and photos of local birds and in March, Selkirk College biologist Rob Macrae presented many pictures and cartoons concerning the myths of Spring mushroom hunting. Both evenings were very well attended and our guest’s presentations much appreciated.

There have been, and promise to be, lots of week-day and weekend trips, led by member volunteers. Our outdoors program is up and running again after the slow-down at summer’s end 2018. We made WKNats annual donations to our two regular beneficiaries by motion at the November General Meeting; many members participated in the Annual Christmas Bird count, co-ordinated, compiled and submitted by local and very knowledgeable, bird enthusiast (but yet not a WKNats member ) Craig Sandvig. We also look forward to a June 8th early-morning bird walk and lunch-time BYO picnic in the lower Slocan Valley lead and hosted by long-time WKNA member Peter McIver. Our trusty Editor of the “Osprey” Margo Saunders continues on in her roles of prompting trip reports for the newsletter and bringing important local nature happenings to our attention through its pages and the Googlegroup. Joan Snyder continues on as our rep to BCN and as totally committed defender of our Southern Mountain Caribou. (viz. Joan’s presentation at the public input session in Nelson, last Tuesday eve. together with many voices from the Valhalla Wilderness Committee). And Arnold By can be faithfully relied upon to bring his PA system to our gatherings for those many of us with failing hearing.

I still am hoping for at least a Vice-President to step forward at our May-end AGM but am OK with another year as President, though the WKNA would be well served by a new person at the helm with more spare energy than me. Our current list of the WKN members, as of tonight, has 51 addresses of which eleven are couples. Our ‘dithering’ at the end of last year set us ‘back a bit’, but I think folks are coming back.
Club Reports - Lower Mainland Region
Regional Coordinators - Jude Grass and Sheila Puls

Abbotsford Mission Nature (AMN) - Submitted by Hank Roos

Whereas in last April’s report I stated our membership was stable, we are now seeing a significant number of new people attending our club meetings and also new members joining. Although an encouraging trend, should it continue, and we hope it will, we will need to relocate to a larger venue. A great problem to have!

We have recently hired Aimee Mitchell to monitor and record the bat species using Willband Creek Park to enable an informed decision and design for a bat house in the park.

We continue with four club members to work with a group of six-eight Abbotsford Christian School volunteers in the monitoring of swallow nest boxes and the removal of Himalayan blackberry.

Our awarding of a first and second prize to the students competing in the local Science Fair occurred at our recent club meeting and is a club highlight and much appreciated by the students.

The five barn owl nest boxes built last year were installed this fall on site, adjacent to farm fields.

Burke Mountain Naturalists (BMN) – Submitted by Victoria Otton

Just in case you don’t read past the first line here: BMN is hosting BC Nature’s Fall Conference October 3-5 2019 in Pitt Meadows (which is located near the eastern edge of Metro Vancouver). This will be the ideal opportunity to get to know our club! The conference coincides with celebrations of our 30th year and the 50th year of BC Nature. Come and join the party!!

For BMN members, 2018 began with a 33% increase in our annual membership fee. This was the first fee increase since 1996 (when Jean Chrétien was PM and gas was 51 cents a litre at the pump). Like everything else, our costs had sky-rocketed and executive members were uncomfortable relying on donations to fund the operation of the club. Despite the increased fee (‘Individual’ went from $25 to $33, ‘Family’ went from $30 to $40), the number of memberships rose from 161 to 175 over the year.

In 2016, we began a process of strategic planning, with the goal of making our club sustainable, both financially and in terms of sharing the work-load, attracting new people to the executive committee, and deciding on priorities for the future. Initiatives identified in the planning process included upgrading our website, social media presence and our display materials, and creating a resource kit for community and school events. One thing we learned is that having a PayPal link on our website for receiving membership fees and donations is a real boon, and greatly eases the jobs of our treasurer and membership secretary. We finally began offering our guest speakers a modest honorarium ($75), and have often been pleasantly surprised by having this returned to the club as a donation.

We attribute our strong membership numbers to the number and variety of activities we offer. At a rough count, BMN organized 240 hours of guided hikes and walks, botanizing and birding, bat monitoring, and community events in 2018. Most of these were open to non-members and were a good opportunity to ‘pitch’ the benefits of membership. Another opportunity to do this is our club meetings which attract 65-80 people each month. At each meeting, we now have one friendly member whose role is to chat with first-timers, obtain their email addresses in a Guest Registry and follow-up with emailed info and a newsletter. We relocated our monthly meetings in 2017 and are finding it works well. It has a large built-in screen, and with the high-quality LCD projector we purchased with funds from our 2017 silent auction, we finally have an Audio-Visual set-up that does justice to our presenters’ slides.
Bat conservation has become a major focus of our club under the guidance of John Saremba and the BMN Bat Team. In 2018, the team conducted 18 formal bat monitoring sessions to observe and count bats at known roosts, as well as to determine foraging activities and species identification. This represented 310 person-hours of volunteer field work. An additional 388 person-hours of volunteer time was devoted to bat stewardship, education and outreach activities. This included participating in community events with a bat display and education materials, and presentations to elementary and high school classes, and other organizations. The team created a bat costume as an educational device for younger kids: as the child puts on the wings, ears, nose and feet, they are instructed on how each of these is important to the bat. Parents love the costuming too; lots of photos of kids in the bat costume have been taken.

Two BMN members received awards from the City of Coquitlam in 2018: David Mounteney was awarded the City’s Environmental Award for his work conducting Knotweed removal at DeBoville Slough, and Kiyoshi Takahashi was awarded Coquitlam’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades of volunteer work with bird nest box programs, including Purple Martin boxes. Two other members received the City of Port Moody’s Environmental Award: Judy Taylor-Atkinson and Jim Atkinson were recognized for their contribution to the stewardship and protection of wildlife in Port Moody, including the beaver family that arrived in 2016, and the Great Blue Heron colony that has taken up residence along the Shoreline Trail. The Atkinsons’ advocacy for the beavers contributed to the development of a Beaver Management Plan for Port Moody.

We continue to develop our relationships within the community by participating on city committees, making presentations to school groups and offering our nature guides to the public. ✩

**Chilliwack Field Naturalists Club (CFN) – Submitted by Janne Perrin**

CFN held its 48th AGM March 19, 2019. Denis Knopp continues in his second year as president, Scott Denkers his 11th year as recording secretary, Janet Pollock, her ninth as treasurer. Janne Perrin is Vice President and BC Nature Club Representative. Helen Turner is our Past President. Denis Knopp along with partner, Lee Larkin act as stewards of the Camp Slough Wildlife Area (CSWA), a property we have looked after since 1994. Annabelle Rempel, our conservation Chair for the past 31 years is retiring. She always kept us aware of the local and provincial issues. Her hand written reports are posted to the conservation page of our website.

In November 2018, we hosted the Harrison Eagle and Salmon Field Camp. It was based in Harrison Hot Springs, a thriving resort community, with daily trips into the Harrison Salmon Stronghold near Sts’ailes First Nation and the Chehalis IBA. We were honoured to have Eagle Expert, David Hancock, Sts’ailes Fisheries Manager, David Moore, Chief Kelsey Charlie, SAR Specialist, Denis Knopp and IBA caretaker, Kathy Stewart leadership. Participant’s feedback gave the camp a big ‘wow’. 7000 eagles seen on the boat trip are really to be thanked for that rating. Many thanks to Helen Turner and Janne Perrin who coordinated the event with Betty Davison’s expert guidance!

Our FaceBook site has attracted several people to meetings and field trips. Recently two new people took out memberships. This is pleasing as our numbers our now in the thirties compared to high fifties, ten years ago.

We updated our website this Spring with a bright, clean look, the third since its inception in 2005.
As a result of the 2018 FGM workshop, we are working with Nature Canada’s Teagan Yaremchuk, to boost website public engagement. Although it too brings in many inquiries on the club and requests for support of various projects and campaigns.

CFN are in the process of putting together a brochure of local birds. It is our intention to share it with local schools.

We still hold a “Knowing Nature Speaker Series” eight-times a year. Since our Fall 2018 report to BCN new presentations include our members’ night with their 2018 travels, Mountaineer, Joachim Boge, a CFN member, “Awe Inspiring Hikes” and at our AGM, Istvan Orosi, “North American Warblers”. We look forward to Dave Manning’s Vulture presentation in April and member Dennis St. John’s talk on bees in May. We follow up talks with field trips. We visited Blackie’s Spit, Reifel, the Great blue Heron Nature Reserve, Browne Creek Wetland and held our annual Corbould-Hope River walk over Fall and Winter. This Spring we go to Burnaby Lake and the Hope Airport in April to look for spring migrants including soaring vultures, for a Hope Nature walk near Kawkawa Lake in May then travel to the Skagit in June for a bee-butterfly hunt.

Again in 2018 CFN hosted two Christmas bird Counts. Chilliwack on December 15th, netted 101 species with 41,531 individuals and Harrison River count had 75 species with 9,225 individuals on December 18th. Denis Knopp coordinates this fine event.

The Chilliwack Club collaborates with many local groups and local BCN clubs. Our members attend events with both AMNC and LFN and volunteer with Water Wealth and the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve. We have written letters commenting on SAR designation for the Southern Resident Killer Whales and the proposed Mount Cheam gondola. We look forward to working the the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) on a “Wishin’ I was Fishin’” program with participants working at the CSWA for a day on invasive plant control. Collaboration doesn’t get better that that!

Delta Naturalists Society (DNS) - Submitted by Anita Den Dikken

Once again, 2018 was an eventful year for our small club.

Weekly birding outings, lead by Tom Bearss, and in his absence, Terry Carr and/or Roger Meyer, continued regardless of the weather. (I am not sure if these outings took place during our two weeks or so of real winter). As well as local destinations, the club also ventures to foreign countries; e.g. a glorious day at Mount Baker in late summer, and occasional sorties to our neighbouring community of Point Roberts in Washington state.

Speaking of birds, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention our very successful bird box program. DNS currently has more than 200 Tree Swallow boxes in Delta. A lot of work goes into this program as work parties clean these boxes early each year to make them attractive for the spring migrants. DNS also installed eight barn owl boxes in 2018 with a grant received from the BC Naturalists Foundation Club Support Grant. A Club Support grant of $2000 for 2019 will be used for more Barn Owl boxes in farmers’ fields and barns. Natural predation of rodents is becoming increasingly popular with farmers. We will also build and install Kestrel boxes as these birds have a similar diet to Barn Owls. The majority of boxes installed have been occupied. There are also a few bat boxes installed in Delta, but there is no evidence of usage yet.

A small but dedicated team of Delta Nats. continues to work with the City of Delta on its Birds and Biodiversity program. This is a very comprehensive program and our volunteers are to be commended for their contributions to this initiative.
The International Ornithological Conference was held in Vancouver in August. Several members of DNS led attendees on local bird walks. And, our annual Birds in Focus visual presentation was a great success. This event features three nature/birds photographers who show and talk about their work. Members of the public as well as DNS members attend this event.

As many of you likely know, Delta is in the Pacific Flyway, and attracts thousands of migratory birds each year. Currently, we are most concerned with the likelihood of Roberts Bank Terminal 2. A recent e-news periodical from BC Nature outlines this issue in more detail. Of special concern is the species of Western Sandpipers who feast on the rich biofilm on the mudflats which would be destroyed by the proposed port. Several of our members, notably Anne Murray on behalf of Delta Nats., are making submissions to the review panel.

As usual, we have had a varied succession of speakers at our monthly meetings. In February a documentary maker, Jocelyn Demers, presented his film on The Watershed Guardians of the Fraser River. In March, Misty MacDufee of the Raincoast Conservation Society gave us a most interesting presentation on the plight of the Southern Resident Killer Whales (Orca - the largest member of the dolphin species). Last fall, Ron Long of the Vancouver club gave us a fascinating presentation on Pink Mountain; this is in northeastern BC and has an astounding variety of plant life. Lastly, as the person who arranges our speakers, my objective is to both educate and entertain those who attend our meetings.

DNS continues to have displays at various community events. One of the highlights of these displays is to delight and interest children in some of the wonders of nature.

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (FOSB) - Submitted by Marg Cuthbert

Our “Friends” community volunteers continued their ongoing commitment to stewardship in the Boundary Bay watershed with:

- participating in a riparian planting at Mud Bay Park with the City of Surrey;
- hosting a Boundary Bay Health, Conservation and Management stakeholders group meeting with support from the City of Delta and in collaboration with Bird Studies Canada;
- hosting a World Wetlands event February 1 with the City of Surrey to promote public awareness of the new proposed Nicomekl Waterfront Park. Two buses carried 110 people to various sites along the river and speakers included Dr Sean Boyd speaking on wetlands and loss of salt marsh in the Fraser delta;
- participating in a ‘Four Seasons of the Serpentine’ exhibit event with display and activity and assisting with event promotion;
- developing a Birds of Surrey brochure for the city with the support of the Delta Naturalists Terry Carr and John Gordon Photography; 5000 copies have been printed and are now being distributed;
- participating in extensive plantings in October 2018 and in March 2019 of two seepage areas in the riparian corridor and a number of unsanctioned trails in the forest and riparian corridor of the Little Campbell River at the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club with the Little Campbell Watershed Society;
- weekly bird surveys at Blackie Spit;
- completion of data entry for the subtidal eelgrass mapping of 86 hectares in Boundary Bay, further monitoring will be conducted by satellite imagery;
- facilitating a post doctoral research student on a project to study the nutrient loading in eelgrass in the eastern portion of Boundary Bay with field support and funding;
- facilitating the funding of a water quality project in the Little Campbell River estuary with ‘Smart Shores’ a new technology that maps pollution and the shoreline;
- providing two references for students applying for jobs and two scholarship application reference letters for students, who have worked with us on projects;
- speaking to the Earl Marriott Grassroots Club about environmental opportunities for students;
- speaking to two Rotary Clubs in the local area and a third scheduled for late May.
• attending a Semiahmoo Secondary volunteer fair to promote environmental opportunities to students and facilitate a native plant garden project;
• ongoing support of Elgin Secondary teachers with their native plant garden and connecting them to another secondary school project to share information;
• presented *4 Birds in Focus* programs and *4 Marine Discovery* programs in the schools
• conducting three native plant demonstration garden and forest trail work parties;
• conducting a Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Blackie Spit April 14;
• hosting a team planning meeting for the 2019 Shorekeepers marine methods training workshop and annual surveys;
• coordinating and facilitating a Little Campbell Watershed Society ‘Get to Know Your River’ public event April 27th with stewardship partners, park staff and businesses offering activities, speakers, nature photo show, environmental songs from The Wheat in the Barley and a Silent Auction;

Upcoming in May and June - featuring a Native Plant Garden Tour May 12th, a Lichen Discovery walk with Naturalist Al Grass May 14th, a Shorekeepers Methods training Workshop May 19th, a pop-up World Ocean Day Festival June 9th, a Marine Creatures and Eelgrass beach discovery walk June 8th and a World Nature Night presentation of India with award winning John Gordon Photography June 7th and the launching of the 2019 Beach Hero Marine Interpretive program in Boundary Bay in May;

The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay conservation and educational accomplishments are due to the commitment, hard work, resources and care of our volunteers and project partners. They make all the difference! ◊

**Great Blue Heron Society (GBH) - Submitted by Gillian Anderson**

**GBH** has been working on the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project, the Wild Salmon strategy and Campbell River herons. ◊

**Little Campbell Watershed Society (LCWS) - Submitted by Dave Riley**

**CW**S Partner groups continue to work for the Little Campbell River and its watershed through advocacy, enhancement projects, citizen science and education.

On the 29 acre property of the Semiahmoo Fish and game Club we have continued with monthly habitat enhancement work parties each month through the fall and began again in March. English Holly continues to be removed both in the forest and in Surrey Parks acreage adjacent to the property. On March 16th we conducted a major planting along all unsanctioned trails and seepage areas (ephemeral) on the north side of the trail. This entailed one of our volunteers going to a nursery on Vancouver Island to pick up wetland plants and seeds. Project partner A Rocha also sold us a flat of swamp lantern plugs and about 100 trees and shrubs from their native plant nursery. Eighteen volunteers came out to help. We hope to see improved growth of the shrubs and herbaceous plants now that the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club have reached an understanding with the archery club members that the entire lowland of the property is part of the riparian corridor wetland complex and should not be disturbed.

At this writing, LCWS members are working hard preparing for the ‘Get to Know Your River’ event on April 27th. Thousands of invitations have gone out to residents, ratepayers, businesses, federal, provincial and municipal government and parks, first nations and NGO’s. The purpose of the event is to engage the public in awareness and more knowledge with the hope that they will in turn participate in stewardship of the river. Activities include a fish release, hatchery tour, family activities and displays, silent auction, prizes, a nature photo slide show, environmental songs from the Wheat in the Barley and a fabulous line up of speakers.

The event will also be an opportunity to promote the ‘we have a dream’ idea for the LCR: land to be acquired and protected as a multi-jurisdictional Urban Park Corridor.
Recently ‘Smart Shores’ partnered with us to map and photograph the shoreline and pollution beginning in the Little Campbell estuary. Water quality and quantity continue to be concerns if we are to continue having five salmonid species in the river.

The ongoing rezoning applications from agriculture to industrial continue to take up valuable volunteer time and we are currently very busy dealing with an Environmental Assessment Board appeal concerning a galvanizing plant that has been placed smack in the middle of the watershed. This goliath is using immense taxpayer funded power and money against a few rural farmers and volunteers trying to protect the watershed from serious heavy metal and chemical pollution, borne from air to water.

And of course, the endless ‘dog off leash’ issue intensifying. Recently a realtor continued a long local tradition in advertising a house for sale near Semiahmoo beach—the best dog off leash area in the lower mainland (sic). With a waterfront that services a huge swath of the Lower Mainland, and regularly sees dog owners encouraging their pets to harass both migratory and resident birds we need to get this area designated a no go area for dogs, to us a no-brainer, to bureaucrats a potential pension precursor!! 

**Nature Vancouver (NV) - Submitted by Janet Snell and Bev Ramey**

100th Anniversary summary - To celebrate Nature Vancouver’s 100th Anniversary, a number of notable activities have occurred to mark the occasion. The Museum of Vancouver and Nature Vancouver (NV) continue to present the exhibition, *Wild Things: The Power of Nature in Our Lives*. “This exhibition delves into the life stories of local animals and plants—how they relate to each other and how they connect people to nature in the city.” Additional special presentations with outside speakers continues through the summer.

Building on much of the research about the history of our society, undertaken for the Museum of Vancouver’s exhibition, a small book was published in mid-December, *A 100 Years of Natural History – The Vancouver Natural History Society, 1918–2018.* by Susan Fisher and Daphne Solecki. It is also available online at this link: [https://bit.ly/2Ptqw4k](https://bit.ly/2Ptqw4k)

The chapters of the book are organized according to the five objectives of NV:

1. This spring, Daphne Solecki was celebrated for her foundational work with Nature Kids when she officially “retired” from the organization.
2. Three presentations on NV history and notable personalities were given this fall to celebrate the 100th anniversary.
3. Bill Merilees, a member since 1953, told many entertaining stories of past activities and peoples
4. Daniel Mosquin gave a talk about the founder of the VNHS, John Davidson.
5. Finally, Nigel Peck did a historical retrospective of the VNHS - NV summer camps which have been held from 1918 to 2018.

**Financial Matters** – With sudden death of long-time member and Treasurer, Jeremy McCall, in early summer and without a succession plan in place, there has been a lot of bookkeeping work sorting through and organizing financial aspects of organization into our year-end Financial Statements. Huge credit is due to our new Treasurer, Adele Liu assisted by Shari Laszlo. As well, our new president, Nigel Peck, has been kept very busy in his new role.

**Discovery and Vancouver Naturalist:** Jeremy McCall was also the long-time editor of *Discovery,* our bi-annual journal of natural history and conservation, and with his passing, leaving its’ future in question. Stephen Partington took on the role of editor to organize and publish the many articles already submitted into Volume 46.

A survey of the membership was undertaken by Cynthia Crampton to determine if there would be support available to continue the publication. Happily, a number of members have volunteered to help to produce this long-standing publication.
To maximize volunteer efforts, the quarterly newsletter, *Vancouver Naturalist*, will be discontinued as the website provides detailed information on upcoming events. The work of Deborah Fong and other NV members to help produce this newsletter over the years is much appreciated.

**Communications** - Our new website is up and running, providing a resource of information as well as a monthly calendar of events (presentations and field trips). Additionally, an enhanced Field Trip Report/Blog section is being coordinated by Kelly Sekhon. Participants in field trips are encouraged to submit trip reports and photographs to share their experience to a wider audience. The Nature Vancouver Weekly eNews has been redesigned and is distributed by email to all members by Denis Laplante to inform members of upcoming events.

**Membership** - This year, NV has 715 memberships (individual and family). The new BC Nature on-line membership system is being implemented. Daphne Nagorsen is now our Membership Secretary.

**Engagement** - NV took up Nature Canada’s offer from the FGM and is undergoing an organizational review, with the aim to increase membership and broadening our reach to younger members. Harvey Dueck has been coordinating on-going discussions and coordinating interviews with NV members and Nature Canada facilitators.

As part of this engagement exercise, Harvey Dueck, on behalf of NV, has also organized a Meet-up group to reach out to a wider audience and potential new members. A six-month trial has begun where the weekly Thursday presentations are posted as well as selected field trips. Field Trip and Thursday meeting leaders are reporting that a number of new people have RSVP’d and attended activities as a result.

**Summer Camp** - In 2018, a very successful summer camp was held in the McGillivray Pass area near Bralorne. The 2019 NV summer camps will be held this year in the spectacular Nut Range, just to the west of Tatlayoko Lake, or two hundred kilometres west of Williams Lake. The two one-week camps will offer abundant opportunities for botanizing, birding and rambling ranging from easy strolls to more vigorous all-day hikes. The camp will be located at the tree-line and are volunteer-run (with the exception of two new, highly talented cooks who we are excited to welcome to the summer camp adventures). Nigel Peck and Peg Neilon will be camp managers.

**Presentations, Field Trips, Outreach** - Our weekly talks are held on Thursday evenings with presentations selected by each major section (Birding, Marine Biology, Botany and General), September through April. Field trips are organized throughout the year with each section with trip leaders finding imaginative and interesting destinations. For example, this spring, field trips are being organized to Vancouver Island to see Pink Fawn Lilies and a back-packing trip to the Lower Stein Valley as well as regular bird-watching locations to observe the spring migrants and summer breeders. During Vancouver Bird Week, the Birding Section has arranged leaders to lead walks in seven parks.

NV also participates with outreach at community events, including four interactive display tables at the early spring Night Quest in Pacific Spirit Park, where an estimated 4,000 people walked the kilometre trail with night lights.
Funded Projects

Pink Mountain - Ron Long is a long time member of NV and has spearheaded the conservation efforts to preserve Pink Mountain. In February this year, he presented an update at one of our Thursday presentations. As well, a recent article by him in *Discovery* includes a summary of work to date. “2018 was a significant year for Pink Mountain. Changes in government attitude towards land use in the northeast have opened new possibilities for our conservation plan.

New contacts with local First Nations promise cooperation that will greatly improve our chances of attracting positive government attention. And the mountain itself continues to provide surprises and new discoveries.” (NV website)

Barn Owl Boxes - Peter Ward and other members of NV have been involved in a long-term project to build barn-owl boxes, one of which is located at UBC Farm and partially funded by NV, and another at McCleary Golf Course. NV appreciates receiving a BC Nature grant for owl nest boxes early in 2019. Peter, together with Ken Hall and John Toochin, are also assisting Delta Naturalists with barn owl boxes, with guidance from Sofi Hindmarsh, and funding through the BC Naturalists’ Foundation Club Support Grants in 2018 and 2019.

Tree Swallow Nest boxes are also monitored and annually cleaned in a few locations in the Vancouver – Richmond area.

Social Events - Our annual summer social event will be held at Van Dusen Gardens on Sunday, July 14th. This event will be organized by Sue Garber with assistance by many other Nature Vancouverites.

Conservation - Iona Island Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade - Several NV members are actively involved in community sessions to discuss the design and planning for the sewage treatment plant at Iona. This ten-year project presents the amazing opportunity to improve the standard of sewerage treatment, restore and enhance habitat for the Fraser River estuary (fish, birds and other species), and through carefully designed park facilities to foster greater connections between people and nature as well as improved understanding of the importance of the Fraser River.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 - Several members are providing written and/or oral submissions to the Review Panel on this proposal for a Second Terminal at Roberts Bank.

Pender Harbour Wildlife Society - Submitted by Carole Logtenberg

The PHWS is celebrating 40 years of wildlife stewardship in Pender Harbour and surrounding area!

Forty years ago, the Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society was founded by Edith Daly and local friends especially to establish the John Daly Park, a beautiful space for the protection of Salmon, in honour of her late husband John Daly. Edith passed away at age 101 on February 12, 2019. She would have turned 102 on March 10th. Edith was a very sociable and a genuinely curious person. She continued to be active as a Society member and supporter. In later years, she would often attend our meetings and picnics. Her keen interest was always appreciated. Thank you Edith for your many contributions to the PH Wildlife Society! You were a friend to us all and you will be missed.

New to the PHWS

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! We are promoting events on Facebook and reaching a more diverse audience. WE HAVE A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER! We are now using MailChimp to create a more visual and interesting newsletter.
Society Projects

Stewardship of Swallows and Bats and their Habitats on the Sunshine Coast - We are happy to announce that the PHWS has been awarded a Club Support Grant from the BC Naturalists’ Foundation and BC Nature in the amount of $2,500 in support of the project ‘Stewardship of Swallows and Bats and their Habitats on the Sunshine Coast. This project is a joint initiative with the Wildlife Society and spearheaded by the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project. The purpose of this project is to work with community members to help swallows and bats by enhancing their habitat, protect roost and nest sites from disturbances, improve scientific knowledge of swallows and bats and also to increase public participation in bat and swallow monitoring, conservation and habitat enhancement efforts by providing outreach and training.

Invasive Plant Species Project - Last May, we completed the final steps to launch our Invasive Plant Species Poster project. The goal of the project was to print a poster with 12 invasive plant species to distribute up and down the coast. The full colour poster has one photo of each of the 12 plants with their common and latin names. It also has a link to our website www.penderharbourwildlife.com where information on how to remove and properly dispose of the invasive plants can be found. We have received great feedback from the public thanking us for providing this much needed information and bringing awareness to a topic that is of concern to many of us. This project was a great collaboration with local government officials and we wish to thank the District of Sechelt – Community Investment Program for their financial contribution of $1,000 towards the project.

Annual Clean Ups of local Parks and Wetlands - Every year, members of the PHWS help to remove invasive plant species and clean up in and around the Iris Griffith Wetlands Park in Madeira Park. Last June, a truck full of weeds, grass, overgrown Blackberry bushes and a very large bag of English Ivy were hauled away.

The Welcome to Pender Harbour/Egmont brochure includes a map of the Pender Harbour area, featuring hiking trails, campgrounds and wildlife viewing areas. Most importantly, the brochure highlights our local lakes and indicates which ones are sources of drinking water for nearby residents. The front of the pamphlet offers several easy and immediate tips to protect shoreline and water quality, making everyone who follows them a better steward of our environment. The back page offers interesting facts about the region and additional information for tourists and residents from other parts of the Coast looking for recreational opportunities in Area A. We have recently reprinted this flyer for the third time. The thousand plus pamphlets taken each year from visitor info centre shelves helps create in the reader an awareness of the importance of lake water as a precious resource and encourages active participation in keeping our environment safe, clean and healthy for all.

Society Guest Speakers - Hosting monthly meetings with a wide range of speakers ensures that our Society is well known and respected. Over the past year, we have hosted authors, photographers, biologists and citizen scientists. The evening topics ranged from wildlife issues around the world, to climate change, to local research and wildlife monitoring. With interesting and current subjects, we feel our meetings are an important asset to the Pender Harbour community by bringing awareness to our local issues and engaging people to get involved in local projects and be stewards of our parks, wetlands, lakes, forests, shorelines and ocean.

Currently, we have a total of 37 memberships: 20 family, 17 single. Family memberships are $25, Singles are $20. We believe the increase in attendance at our meetings is mainly due to better coverage in our local magazine and papers. Facebook posts and sharing, as well as a more interesting newsletter for presentation reminders has also contributed.
As mentioned, the increase in attendance at our meetings has not resulted in an increase in membership. We are looking into ways to encourage more people to commit to a yearly membership.

**Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC) – Submitted by Les Leighton**

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee has been involved in several areas this past year. There is ongoing monitoring of water quality in several of the upper portions of the creek that have shown spikes in conductivity due to road salt and past salt storage issues on Burnaby Mountain.

We have been monitoring creek rehabilitation through water testing, invertebrate surveys, fish fry trapping and salmon spawner surveys. Other members of Stoney Creek have been involved in invasive plant pulls, replanting with native plants and shrubs and plant watering parties during the drier months of the year.

We have been partnering with various stakeholders in the Stoney Creek watershed such as BC Hydro, The City of Burnaby, Parks and others in recognizing the need to protect the flora, fauna and geographic features of this gem of a creek.

**Squamish Environmental Conservation Society (SECS) Report - Submitted by Rachel Shephard**

The Squamish Environmental Conservation Society (working as the Squamish Environment Society SES) continues to thrive with a small, but active core of volunteers. Key strengths and opportunities include committed program leaders, new and ongoing citizen science projects and collaborative partnerships. Key challenges include fundraising and an aging membership base.

**Monthly Activities**

**Discovery Walks** explore Squamish’s biodiversity from the estuary to the alpine, with a focus on awareness and appreciation of the natural world. Walks are generally held on the 4th Sunday of the month and all are welcome.

**Estuary Bird Counts.** The Squamish birders conduct monthly bird counts in the Squamish Estuary, one of the longest-standing counts in BC. The counts are open to all and we welcome visitors and newcomers of all abilities. Birding checklists for the Squamish area are available on our website. Complete bird count data is available by request, for research purposes.

**Annual Events and Programs**

**EagleWatch Program** - This program continues to thrive, providing information about our wintering eagles and other wildlife. Our Chum salmon run was very poor again this year, and ended suddenly in mid-November, which would normally have been the peak time. This meant that by the end of January all the eagles had left the Squamish Valley to find food elsewhere. Peak hourly eagle count at our home base on Eagle Run dike was 69, on December 15.

**Interpretive Program:** 37 returning volunteers and 8 new volunteers contributed 675 volunteer hours and contacted 4286 visitors at Eagle Run Dike. Our new digiscoping adapters were very popular with visitors, who were able to take eagle photographs with their cell phones, using the power of our spotting scopes. Our popular photo contest returned, with some outstanding entries. Of note, the eagle pair nesting at Eagle Run dike successfully fledged an eaglet and they are currently nesting again this spring.

**Our Education and Outreach Program** - Consists of 15 volunteers who contributed an impressive 2157 hours, providing in-class and on-dike opportunities for students, businesses and community groups. The team contacted over 3500 students and 100 teachers at 14 schools, from Darcy to the lower mainland. They also reached 495 people through 17 presentations to other groups. They are working with teachers from schools in Whistler, Pemberton and Darcy to help them obtain grants for travel costs to bring classes to Eagle Run. We are grateful to our Sustaining Partners, donors, and the District of Squamish for their contributions to this valuable program.
SES also coordinates the Annual Brackendale Winter Eagle Count. The one-day count is held the 1st Sunday after New Year’s and aims to monitor wintering eagle populations. In 2019, 73 volunteers counted 1,157 eagles by covering 20 separate areas by foot, snowshoe, ski and raft, from the Elaho to downtown Squamish, and from Paradise Valley to the Stawamus River. We had hail and rainbows!

The annual Christmas Bird Count is another highlight of the birding year. Our 2018 tally included a ‘good average total’ of 73 species and 7093 individuals. Highlights included Horned Lark (1), Pygmy Owl (1), Killdeer (2), Virginia Rail (1) and 45 Anna’s Hummingbirds. Wow!! Even seeing one a few years ago was amazing. SES is once again hosting an Earth Day event, in collaboration with other local environmental groups. Booths and activities will be set up next to the Squamish Farmers’ Market on April 20, providing an opportunity to network with other environmental organizations and to raise awareness of our programs and initiatives with a different demographic.

Citizen Science - We have just launched Western Toad monitoring, a new citizen science initiative, in cooperation with BC Parks. The multi-year project aims to better understand population trends and distribution of Western Toads in Alice Lake Provincial Park; track the timing of breeding, metamorphosis and toadlet migration; and mitigate impacts from park users. We have recently completed adult breeding surveys and will be monitoring larval development over the coming months. Stay tuned for updates!

Our Biodiversity Squamish citizen science project continues to gain momentum. Howe Sound biodiversity is showing encouraging recovery following decades of work to reverse the impacts of industrial pollution. However, this trend continues to be threatened by the speed, extent and types of proposed industrial, commercial and residential development and there is a real need to gather baseline data and to monitor biodiversity in the region.

Biodiversity Squamish is one of several projects that aim to record and conserve biodiversity of the Howe Sound watershed. Our project boundaries are identical to those of the Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region initiative; the Atl’ka7tsem/Howe Sound marine conservation assessment map app; and the Ministry of Environment’s Howe Sound Cumulative Effects Project, maximizing the relevance of our collected data. Biodiversity Squamish is also within the Salish Sea Biodiversity iNaturalist project, launched in April 2019, and is one of three projects that will be the core model for this new initiative. https://salishseabiodiversity.org/

Community Engagement and Outreach - We receive several requests each year to provide opportunities for students to connect with nature. On April 26, SES and the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council will be coordinating a service project for Coast Mountain Academy. Students will remove invasive species from floodplain forest, near a residential area in Squamish. SES volunteers will also be on hand to help with the weed pull and disposal of the plant material.

SES continues to sit on the Squamish Estuary Management Committee (SEMC) which is responsible for administering the Squamish Estuary Management Plan (SEMP). Established in 1999, with the finalization of SEMP, the committee provides a forum for key stakeholders to discuss the issues affecting the SEMP area. After several years of uncertainty, we are encouraged by renewed commitment from the District of Squamish to this important management tool. The committee is currently reviewing its terms of reference to achieve greater effectiveness.

We are concerned about the impacts of increased recreational use of the Squamish Estuary, especially dogs running off leash through the wetlands, illegal camping, vehicle traffic along the spit road, and recreational watercraft in the central channel. SES collaborated with the District of Squamish and Wildsafe BC, to produce a new interpretive sign that explains the importance of the Estuary as a wildlife habitat area, provides WildSafe tips, and highlights natural processes through the four seasons. The sign will be placed at the downtown trail entrance to the Estuary.

We are currently working with a consultant on a proposal to update the guiding document, ‘Squamish Es-
tuary Conservation Needs and Protection Priorities’. The original report was commissioned by SES in 2003 to support the management planning process for the newly created Skwelwil’em Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The report provided a comprehensive assessment of Squamish estuary ecosystem components, biodiversity, threats and conservation needs and made recommendations on protection priorities and management guidelines. These were drawn on heavily in the development of the Skwelwil’em Wildlife Area Management Plan.

Much has changed since the original report was written and we are once again at a key planning juncture. We believe that an update to the original report, prepared by a professional biologist, is both timely and essential to provide science-based recommendations on current estuary conservation needs and priorities.

We are also working on a brochure on sustainable foraging that we hope will provide food for thought (pun intended) and reduce impacts from the growing number of people gathering wild edibles.

We continue to gather and share information about SES activities and other environmental happenings and initiatives, through our monthly e-news, which has a steady readership. SES has commented on a crown land application to operate a commercial back-country lodge on Brohm Ridge, near Squamish (Crown Land File #2412068). The application includes 3-story lodge, an access road, and damming a nearby pond to provide water. The proposal is within a designated winter ungulate range. We have voiced our concern about potential impacts to mountain goats, other wildlife and vegetation.

SES has signed on to Nature Canada’s Protected Places Declaration, that voices support for Canada’s Biodiversity Strategy which aims to conserve at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal areas by 2020.

**White Rock and Surrey Naturalists (WRSN) Report - Submitted by Carol Monaghan**

We continue to support efforts that protect the Fraser River Estuary and Boundary Bay including natural areas and wildlife in Surrey and White Rock. It is also our aim to explore ways to involve a wider distribution of Surrey residents in our Society. Our membership stands at 67. We have now increased our membership fees by $3.00 for single and $6.00 for families which translates to $35.00 for single memberships and $50.00 for family memberships beginning in 2020.

Clean-Up on the Nicomekl (The Leona Project): We held a clean-up of the river bank on March 21, 2019 and noted that although the litter has decreased considerably since we first undertook this project under the leadership of Leona Breckenridge, we still collected more than 50 bags of garbage plus some large items. We found a small dock with expanded polystyrene on the base which is used for flotation. As soon as we notified the Superintendent of Construction and Dyking Operations for the City of Surrey, he arranged for the dock to be cut up and removed.

President Liz Walker was contacted by a man who has performed shoreline cleanups at Lasqueti Island and was very excited to see that WRSN had already put a resolution forward with BC Nature for the regulation of un-encapsulated expanded polystyrene. Liz attended a meeting he organized with a group of scientists at UBC interested in moving forward with this goal in mind and help reduce the microplastics being found in our marine environment. We feel this is an important resolution and we will continue to promote this initiative.

**Activities:** This year included increased involvement with the Campbell Valley Regional Park Nature house. President Liz Walker has played a major role with the Nature House Education team as we continue to volunteer time in developing some of the education themes, hosting and displays. We attended 3 park events; The Pollinator Tea Party (Life Cycle of the Butterfly and flower pollinator game), the Country Celebration (Leona Project) and at Surrey Bend (another Metro Vancouver Park, In the Dark) we attended the Flashlight Mysteries night. With Surrey’s Environmental Extravaganza, we hosted our own event entitled, The Artful Interpretation of Nature, at Elgin Park and some exquisite masterpieces were produced.
One of our members took on the orientation walk for SNAP at Blackie’s Spit this year. Liz attended the Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society event, always a popular event, to present the Leona Project.

We continued with the Serpentine Fen Walks on the first Saturday of the month. We also continue efforts to (politely) try to educate dog walkers on the importance of having dogs on-leash. This has proved to be very frustrating because many dog walkers prefer to ignore the signs and any conversation about keeping dogs under control.

We received a generous bequest from the estate of John H. McCrae and a committee has spent many hours in considering the distribution of the bequest. Representatives of all prospective recipients were interviewed. The recipients to date are the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Westcoast Environmental Law Research Foundation, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and EcoJustice.

We have enjoyed many excellent speakers at our monthly meetings and were pleased to welcome many visitors from the community. The FaceBook pages of WRSN and the Eva Bene Butterfly Garden are well managed and have many visitors.

Whistler Naturalists (WN) Report - Submitted by Kristina Shoup

The WN is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Our longest running programs are bird studies. Top-notch birders lead a monthly public walk along the same transect to collect valuable monitoring data; we also organize a Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Count. (Huge thanks to Karl Ricker for organizing his 20th Christmas Bird Count in 2018 before retiring from the organizer’s chair!)

Our 12th annual BioBlitz—the longest running such event in Canada—was another success. Held in Whistler and Pemberton, it recorded a total of 625 species (503 Pemberton; 227 Whistler; some species in both). An astounding 102 of these were documented for the first time (78 Pemberton; 29 Whistler). BioBlitz now accounts for almost half of the Whistler Biodiversity Project (WBP) master list of approximately 4,200 species in Whistler and approximately 1,400 in Pemberton. These inventories provide up-to-date natural areas information that can benefit development of greater environmental awareness in communities and provide scientifically-defensible baselines for planning and policy decisions.

We feel lucky to have some of the best biologists in BC involved in our BioBlitz. Before the official ‘blitz’ begins we match local and visiting scientists with schools to share their expertise in the classroom. BioBlitz 2018 also hosted seven Junior Scientists to experience a day in the life of a field biologist.

Our 16th Annual Fungus Among Us festival was also fun, again leaning heavily on the fantastic scientists willing to volunteer valuable time and knowledge. Like BioBlitz, it began in local classrooms with the rest of the event open to the public. Talks included “Fungal Fotos” by Rich Mably, “Polypores” by Jim Ginns, “Best Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms” by Thom O’Dell, and “To all the Fungi I’ve Loved Before” by Kevin Trim. Saturday saw guided walks throughout the valley and, in the afternoon, Chef Bruce Warden treated Gourmet Tasting participants to something special—who knew a chocolate pine mushroom cupcake could taste so good? The festival ended with more than 180 fungi on display—17 of these new to Whistler’s list of approximately 900 species.

At our fall AGM we added three new board members with a wide range of expertise and passion for nature. We look forward to continuing our long-running programs, making improvements to our website and social media, and re-starting a regular “Naturespeak” column in our local newspaper, Pique Newsmagazine.

WildResearch (WR) Report - Submitted by Courtney Lahue

This spring marks nine years since WildResearch was initiated, and we continue to grow and develop as an organization. WildResearch now consists of over 300 members, 11 Board of Directors, and three committees: the Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO) Committee, the Members’ Service and Outreach Committee, and the Grant Writing Committee. In 2018, our committees alone contributed over 3000 hours of
volunteering. Additionally, our organization continues to successfully run three key citizen science programs, including IIBO on Sea Island, the Canada-wide Nightjar Survey, and the Vancouver-based Urban Raptor Monitoring program.

Our flagship program, the Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO), continued to grow in popularity in 2018. Over 70 volunteers contributed 1,687 hours and captured 5706 birds from 55 species. Our recapture rate was approximately 22%.

Our banding season was altered in 2018 to align with the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN), so we now operate every day for a six-week period straight throughout spring and fall (compared to previous years where we operated three days a week for 10 weeks in the fall). We have also updated our protocols to coincide with CMMN, which we hope to become part of in 2019. Some species of special mention captured at IIBO in 2018 include Northwestern Crow, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Virginia Rail, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. IIBO visitors and interest groups skyrocketed in 2018, as we saw over 500 visitors (up from 200 people in 2017) and 15 groups, as well as several international travelers come by the station. We can largely attribute our growing public interest due to our collaboration with Bird Studies Canada (particularly David Bradley, Catherine Jardine, Kevin Devitt, James Casey, and Zoe Crysler) – a sincere thank you to their help!

WildResearch also hosted a Beginners Banding Workshop in the spring, and an Intermediate Banding Workshop in the fall to help train and educate members on the background of bird banding, handling and extracting techniques, data management, and molt analysis. These workshops were very popular and will continue to be run seasonally each year. We’d like to say a HUGE thank you to our donors from the City of Richmond, BC Nature, Canada Summer Jobs (Service Canada, and Port of Vancouver, whose contributions allow us to fund our programs and continue collecting important ornithological data. Furthermore, our programs are run by volunteers, so a special thank you to the co-managers of the station, Andrew Huang and Azim Shariff, who dedicate many hours of their lives to making things run so smoothly, and Angela Bond for managing all the shift scheduling! Lastly, a very big thank you for the kind contributions from Catherine Jardine, Ana Gonzales, Dan Froelich, Connie Bregman, Jacelyn Shu, Anna Szeitz, Amanda Edworthy, Maddie Ore, Quinn McCallum, Brandon Law, and Julian Heavyside!

In 2018 the WildResearch Nightjar Survey program expanded to include the rest of the Maritime provinces, and participants surveyed over 200 routes, collecting over 800 hours of data, in addition to the 330 hours of volunteered time from our Program Manager (Elly Knight) and Regional Coordinators (Paul Preston, Elly Knight, Shayna Hamilton, Elora Graham, Andrea Sidler, Rhiannon Pankratz, and Virginia and Alex Noble-Dalton). We are now contributing the largest baseline data set available for conservation and research on nightjar species in Canada. The data comprise the greatest geographic coverage within the national data set for Common Nighthawk habitat modelling with data collections from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Yukon, Northwest Territories, New Brunswick, PEI, and Nova Scotia. Furthermore, several students are actively using the data set to complete their undergraduate thesis projects across Canada. Other highlights for the Nightjar Survey program in 2018 include Elly Knight’s presentation of program importance at the International Ornithological Congress, an article written for the Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association newsletter, a presentation to the Red Deer River Naturalists, and having our protocols translated to French. We’d like to say a special thank you to our collaborators: Adam Smith (ECCC), Kathy St. Laurent (ECCC), Erin Bayne (University of Alberta), Mark Brigham (University of Regina), Alessandra Hood, Carrie Ann Adams (University of Alberta), and Colleen Cassidy St. Clair (University of Alberta). Lastly, a huge thank you to the endless hours of volunteered time contributed by our Program Coordinator, Elly Knight, and our stellar regional coordinators!

2018 was the second year of the Urban Hawk Monitoring program (which started as a pilot project in 2016 known as the ‘Cooper’s Hawks in the City’). The data collected focuses on monitoring Cooper’s Hawks, a key indicator species of urban raptor, to observe changes in environmental conditions. The program trains participants in how to conduct raptor surveys using government-recognized protocols. Our 2018 year contributed 45 hours of volunteer time and had the highest number of volunteers so far and the greatest coverage of the city (15 quadrants or 62.5% of the survey area).
A special thank you to our Program Managers, Jay Brogan and Angela Bond, for their hours of support and hard work!

The sense of community and friendships amongst WildResearch members has been further enhanced through events like the winter bird identification workshops led by WildResearch Directors Courtney Lahue and Jay Brogan, seasonal socials, the annual volunteer appreciation party in February, our annual IIBO work party, and our skill-enhancing workshops, including QGIS training, and Resume Writing for Biologists, in addition to our banding workshops. 2018 was a busy year for public outreach. WildResearch was invited to several events and conferences, including the 2018 International Ornithology Congress. A HUGE thank you to all our volunteers, committee members, and Board of Directors for all their hard work and achievements over the past year. Please stay tuned to learn more about our upcoming events for 2019, including our popular Pelagic Trip hosted in September! For more information on what’s ahead, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, or check out our website for regular updates www.wildresearch.ca.

Club Reports - Northern BC
Regional Coordinator - Fred McMechan

Bulkley Valley Naturalists (BVN) Report - Submitted by Anne Hetherington

The BVN have been doing winter evening presentations and summer field trips. We have been focusing more on partnerships and networking with other groups this year as new initiatives require someone to take leadership. The Nature Diary continues to sell its second edition and has brought in funds which have helped to keep membership fees from raising.

Partnerships include participating with Wildlife for Tomorrow, a group of hunting interests, by looking at broader biodiversity issues and it is an opportunity to raise profile and work as a community towards common interests.

Kestrel boxes have been distributed among members with rural property, and also through the Cattlemen’s Association. Mitchell Warne is distributing boxes across BC and monitoring nest use. BVN contributed $300 to Cindy Verbeek’s Larocha outdoor education program.

Kitimat Valley Naturalists(KVN) - Submitted by Walter Thorne

We in Kitimat are continuing the struggle with lots of industrial work within the Valley resulting in the loss of estuary habitat and the loss of thousands of trees for camps and pipeline corridors. We have concerns with LNG Canada offset plans to do saltwater marshes in some of the best mud flats for birds. We are further concerned that we will be dealing with two mega LNG projects plus a possible Propane terminal wishing to establish itself in prime wetland habitat. Recently, we have been trying to counter the Alberta oil lobby which are trying to derail the tanker ban legislation for the northcoast.

It’s not all bad, we do have a promising park now in existence at the Minette Bay part of the estuary. We continue to monitor our bat condos and boxes, as well as salamander boards. We also conduct three monthly BC Coastal Waterbird surveys and one annual breeding bird survey. We do now have an IBA down past the channel in Hecate Strait, which we are attempting to monitor.

MacKenzie Nature Observatory (MNO) – Submitted Jeanne Shaw

2018 was our 24th year of operating a banding station at the Mugaha Marsh. This year the banding station remained open from July 19th to September 23rd, and the year turned out to be a bit of a slow one, with 62 species being captured in the mist nets for a total of 2,734 birds. Just a little higher than the average.
Our fifth ever Bank Swallow was banded July 21st and at the same time a pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows were also banded making them the 9th and 10th to be banded at the station. The excitement did not stop there as three Tree Sparrows were also caught and banded. A juvenile Pacific Wren the only one of the season raised hopes that more would be caught and banded, but it was not to be. Also in July, seven White-winged Crossbills were banded. August was a very slow month with only one major highlight, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was caught and banded on the 25th.

This was the third for the station. In September the numbers picked up and mixed groups of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and brown creepers were seen and two brown creepers were caught and banded. On the 15th gale force winds kept all but two of our nets closed, of the 24 birds caught and banded that day one was a Townsend Solitaire our third for the station. From the 18th to the 21st, three Western Palm Warblers were captured and banded, bringing the total to six for the station.

Also occurring In September, we had a pair of swans that hung out for about three weeks and they were joined by three other swans for a total of five. Cougars are not commonly seen close to the banding station but this year we had a young cougar that hung out for a few weeks.

The 2018 Mackenzie Christmas Bird Count was held on the 22nd of December. The average temperature during count week was around -2 ° Celsius. Numbers were way down compared to other years. Total individuals was 171, total species was 11, total species during count week three days before and after the 22nd was 13.

We received a grant through the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest to build new boardwalks. The work was started after the banding station was closed for the season and will be completed this year before the station is open.

The Mugaha Marsh banding station is able to continue operating because of the following sponsors: Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program- Peace Region, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Bird Studies Canada/Canadian Migration Monitoring Network and the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest.

A big part of the day to day running of the station is done by all our volunteers. They extract birds from mist nets, scribe, band birds, haul water, do computer data entries, clear net lanes and so much more. They also add an element of joy and excitement at seeing and holding the birds when it comes time to release them. They are a big part of the reason the station is so successful.

Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society(NANS) - Submitted by Norma Kerby

The Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society is located in the northwest quadrant of BC, with membership from Burns Lake in the east to Prince Rupert and Kitimat in the west, and north to Dease Lake. Our dispersed membership stays in touch throughout the year through exchanges of information via emails, mail, and phone calls.

Over the past year, we continued with our Citizen-Science program, North-Western BC (NWBC), Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring Program (RAMP) which monitors amphibians and Garter Snakes at long-term monitoring sites in Ft. St James, Ft. Fraser, Burns Lake, Bulkley Valley, Smithers, Hazelton, Kispiox Valley, Skeena Valley, Terrace, Lakelse Lake, Kitimat, Kalum Valley, Rosswood, Nass Valley, Kitsault, Dease Lake, Glenora/Telegraph Creek, Prince Rupert, and Digby Island. As well, we continue with our program of collecting invertebrates for the Royal BC Museum. Due to the extreme forest fire season, followed by unusual drought conditions in the lower Skeena region, both the 2018 monitoring data and the invertebrate collections were not as complete as per previous years.

A very successful AGM was held in the Nass Valley (north of Terrace) last fall, with tours of the Tseax lavabeds and lava cones (only 250 years old). Members travelled from as far away as Fort Fraser and Dease Lake to attend.
NANS members also supported a variety of biodiversity and habitat concerns and community initiatives, including opening of a new BC Parks Interpretive Center at Lakelse Lake, support of the Summit Lake western toad issue, support of environmental initiatives by the Kitimat Valley Naturalists Society, and sampling of the warm springs at Dease Lake. We also act as community resources for how to find out information about amphibians and reptiles and their habitat.

One of our concerns for the long-term preservation of amphibian habitat in NWBC is the potential for large volumes of oil to move by rail along the Highway 16 corridor. Another concern is the potential impacts on low elevation amphibian populations with the further development of pipeline and transportation corridors, and the necessity for accumulative impacts research. The amphibian populations in this part of the Province tend to be patchy and subject to significant climatic variations and extremes from year to year. Not enough research is available to predict impacts upon these populations with the increased amounts of industrial development in the region which we are now experiencing.

Prince George Naturalists (PGN) - Submitted by Dave Leman

2018 was another year of consolidation for the PGN following five years of planning, fund raising and construction at the Hudson’s Bay Wetland. Highlights of the year were the many presentation nights held in partnership with The Exploration Place. Presentations included research on birds; the eclipse of 2018; the state of salmon fisheries in BC; native bees; the importance of citizen science (held at the Prince George Public Library); amphibian ecology; and the habitat ecology of Pacific Marten on Haida Gwaii. Members and friends enjoyed numerous field trips throughout 2018. Field trips included the Annual Swan and Eagle Count to Crooked River in January, a Curlew field trip in April, the eBird Global Big Day at Cottonwood Island Park in May, and the Mount Robson Bird Blitz in June. The Wednesday Walkers continued to explore natural areas around Prince George with 14 field trips between April and October, under the able guidance of Club member Dora Hunter. An educational fungi field trip in September attracted a remarkable number of participants. We wrapped up the year with the 2018 Christmas Bird Count. The Club also participated in community events such as Seedy Saturday and the Travelling World Community Film Festival. We are concerned about conservation-related matters affecting our region and are at present grappling with the Provincial Caribou Recovery Engagement process and our response to it.

Hudson’s Bay Wetland Project - At the 2018 AGM, members were advised that it wasn’t feasible to do any further construction west of Queensway, due to the high costs of capital construction of boardwalks or towers, the costs of ongoing maintenance of new structures, and the potential for environmental damage caused by construction. In 2018 the Club held its annual Cleanup, and continued its efforts to deadhead tansy and remove Himalayan Balsam from the Wetland drainage areas.

Throughout 2018, volunteer Ric Mylnarczyk, assisted by Nowell Senior, inspected the four observation decks, cleaned graffiti and removed garbage. Special thanks go to Ric for the maintenance checks he has conducted regularly since the summer of 2017.

Members, Volunteers and Supporters - As of December 2018 the Club reported 95 memberships to BC Nature, which provides liability insurance and general support to BC’s naturalist organizations. Our club members include individuals, families and students. All the activities and events could not have happened without the efforts of our many volunteers, the City of Prince George, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, The Exploration Place and REAPS, to name just a few. The Club is grateful for all this assistance as it continues its work to promote enjoyment of the natural world.

Special thanks are extended to Angie Joiner who has served on the Executive for five years and is now retiring after two years as President. Angie will remain as Past President until the 2020 AGM. Doug Wilson is also retiring this year. Doug has served the PGNC since 2012, first as a member of the Events Planning Committee and then as a director of the new Executive established in 2014. As a retired biologist with deep connections to the scientific world and government, he has contributed immensely to the success of the Club over the past seven years.
Quesnel Trail and Nature Club (QTNC) Report, submitted by Lorna Schley

H ow quickly another year has passed. The Quesnel Trail and Nature Club again participated in a number of hikes and field trips during the spring, summer, and fall, although the forest fires put a damper on a few outings. When the smoke finally cleared, we enjoyed hikes to West Fraser Timber Park, Ten Mile Lake, Uplands, Dragon Lake, Baker Creek Falls, and West Fraser Road. One example not seen in the past was the wash-out at Narcosli Creek on the West Fraser Road, which to date has not been repaired due to the extent of the flooding. Some snowshoe trips were enjoyed in the early months of 2019. Sally, our president, provided us with an exploration of the bog at Hallis Lake, a great opportunity to learn about plants in this habitat and to observe the toads. Driving trips to Scout Island in Williams Lake and to Dragon Mountain made it possible for those members who are less mobile to enjoy field trips.

Our social events included the spring potluck held at Sisters Creek recreation area, summer potluck at Sally’s place, and the Christmas potluck at the Schley’s. Amanda Vibert from Baker Creek Enhancement Society did a presentation on invasive plants at the spring potluck and we enjoyed photos of various trips at the Christmas gathering.

We continue to network with the Baker Creek Enhancement Society, the two Community Gardens, Q-birds, and the Air Quality Advisory Committee. Some of our members participated in the Christmas Bird Count, organized by Q-birds, the Quesnel birding group. Again, plans are in the works for monitoring the two Bluebird trails, the Dragon Lake Bluebird Trail and the West Fraser Bluebird Trail.

On a sad note, one of our founding members, Gloria Lazzarin, passed away on Feb. 25, at the age of 88. She was an enthusiastic naturalist.

Timberline Trail and Nature Club (TTNC) – Submitted by Mark Phinney

T he Timberline club continues to be engaged in field-naturalist activities around north-eastern BC. In 2019, members again participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count. In February, club members once again nailed down this year’s location of the ever-shifting winter raven roost and tallied 3,773 ravens on Feb 10. The local abundance of ravens attracted the attention of Smithsonian Channel documentary film producers and a camera man arrived in Dawson Creek later that month to record some video of local ravens. The program featuring ‘our’ ravens will air on the Love Nature channel sometime this fall. The next field event is the annual Hawk Watch scheduled for mid-April. Another field trip to check nest boxes will happen shortly thereafter, with more trips slated for May.

The club remains heavily involved in outdoor education for school children and will again organize the Project Webfoot wetland field days with Ducks Unlimited in June. Also planned for the summer – an ongoing bat monitoring survey at a member’s house, where mother and baby bats are counted in the attic!

A member of the Timberline club was a judge at the recent Northern Regional Science Fair in Fort St John, and presented two awards on behalf of BC Nature, and a third on behalf of the TTNC. The club continues to participate in the Peace Regional Public Advisory Committee (dealing with wildlife-related issues) and was recently asked to comment on a proposed powerline that would impact the Bear Mountain Community Forest and a nearby Wildlife Habitat Area. Additionally, the club is a key member of an initiative to refurbish and improve the boardwalk and trails at McQueen’s Slough (a local wetland with very high recreational use).

Lastly, some club members attended a recent ‘information session’ about the Provincial/Federal/First Nations agreements to protect local caribou herds. It is safe to say that most members of the public are not satisfied with the way this has been handled and are concerned about impacts to the local economy. Some difficult choices lie ahead if caribou are going to remain on the landscape.
Programs of previous years have continued under the leadership of many dedicated members while directors have been adapting to the retirement of Fred McMechan as president. Fred remains a key participant on the board in his new role as past president while three co-presidents have increasingly taken on Fred’s past roles. Operation of Scout Island Nature Centre continues to be a principal activity of the WLFN.

Nature Education Programs for children: The Nature Centre education program was presented to more than 200 school classes in 2018, maintaining it as a highly respected contributor to nature education in the School District. The program included the “Nature Fun” summer program and a variety of nature topics for SD 27 classes who visited the Nature Centre during the school year. The Nature Kindergarten program was held again at the Nature Centre, taught by a SD 27 teacher. Nature Centre staff and WLFN members are working with T’xelc and other First Nation band members to include a greater First Nations’ perspective in education programs.

Natural history field trips: Twelve field trips were offered in 2018 including birding walks, bat observations, plant walks, bighorn sheep viewing, forest and grassland hikes, and explorations of Churn Creek Protected Area.

Evening Programs: Several evening presentations on natural history were given by members and non-members of the WLFN at Scout Island Nature Centre. These were well attended and inspiring.

BC Nature Field Camp – Tatlayoko Lake. The WLFN organized and presented a very successful, week-long BCN natural history field camp near Tatlayoko Lake in September. Registration was full at 27 participants. Field trips were held each day and natural history presentations were given each evening.

Newsletter: Six issues of the “Muskrat Express” newsletter were produced in 2018. Each issue included lots of very interesting natural history information and club news. The “member’s moment” has been a great addition.

Christmas Bird Count: 35 members took part in the December 16 bird count (51st). The number of bird species counted (53) was slightly above average.

Bursary: The WLFN provided a bursary in the amount of $1,000 again this year for a graduating secondary student, selected by the school district. Funds for the bursary were raised by a yard and garden sale.

Spring Banquet: The Scout Island Nature Centre spring banquet continued to be a successful fund raiser and awareness creator for Scout Island Nature Centre. Dr Rob Higgins, a former WLFN member gave a fascinating presentation on insects, native and introduced.

Fire Smarting the Nature Centre: A plan has been prepared for vegetation treatments and other modifications to decrease the risk of wildfire damage at the Nature Centre. Implementation of the plan began in summer 2018 with reductions in woody and grass fuels near the Nature House and caretaker’s house.

City Proposal for Bridge: The WLFN communicated frequently with City staff regarding the City’s proposal to construct a foot bridge to Scout Island from the “RC Cotton” property. A letter requesting actions to mitigate possible negative effects of the bridge on the Nature Centre and its programs was provided to the City and is supported by The Nature Trust of BC who owns most of the Nature Centre lands.
Central Okanagan Naturalist Report (CONC) - Submitted by Fran Fisher

We have recently relocated our club records from a member’s basement to The Kelowna Museum. In perusing these records it was noted that the club began in 1963 with J.C. Hawking as President. By 1967 CONC had 88 members. Our current member standing, 56 years later, is 260 and climbing. Impressive!

Our club is very active all year long with various activities to keep us going. It was noted that this year only three outings were cancelled due to inclement weather, one snowshoe, one hike and one birding. We continue to support our environment by taking on two clean up sites, spring and fall, with great support from our members.

Three major bird counts are on our radar;
• January - Sweagle Count (Swan and Eagle) along the lakeshore
• Summer - The John’s Family Property Bird and Critter Count- the Upper Mission Area in Kelowna
• December - The Christmas Bird Count- everywhere

Rare birds of mention for us this year are American Avocet, Northern Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Gray Gnat Catcher, White Tailed Ptarmigan and yes, a small flock of Snow Geese, unusual for the Okanagan. Many of our members are using the newly finished Okanagan Rail Trail for birding, cycling and hiking. The Okanagan just continues to deliver.

On a rainy day in late September, 12 members headed out on a mushroom foray in the Prather Creek area near Kelowna. Mycology 101 was established.

Education is rampant at our monthly meetings with so many interesting topics to learn from. One of our birding members, Pam Laing, features seasonal museum web articles and seminars to school children and the public on birding, which also promotes our club.

The Conservation Committee is very active with many projects on the table. We continue to identify areas of concern and by working with the city, regional district, native populations and individual citizens are helping to preserve our natural environments. Friends of Robert Lake is the latest project in the works and we hope to involve the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO) students and faculty.

Kamloops Thompson Trails Alliance (KTAA) - Submitted by Richard Doucette

The trails Alliance focused primarily on the completion and grand opening of the Isobel Lake low mobility trail. Prior to the official opening, 10 volunteers put in 216 hours to help with some finishing touches to the trail. In addition to typical signage and trail surface upgrades, the volunteers installed a replacement dock and added railings and a ramp, as well as installed a boat loading grab rail to facilitate exit and entry into a boat from a wheelchair on the dock.

An updated trail pamphlet was also produced. The official opening, on June 1, was attended by over seventy people, including dignitaries from local government and school district and provincial government. Over seven media outlets covered the story with one in attendance and one radio interview leading up to the opening.
In 2018, the Kamloops Naturalist Club had a significant increase in membership and in the number of projects our members actively participated in.

The biggest new initiative now underway came as a result of receiving a three-year grant from the Lawson Youth Foundation totalling about $227,000. This is one of ten grants given across Canada by the Foundation. This program will allow 35 young people from the Kamloops area (ages 17-22) to participate in a three-year program of environmental leadership called the “Next Generation Naturalists.” The instruction will be provided through a collaborative effort of the Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Science and the Kamloops Naturalist Club. The program has two broad objectives: 1) to strengthen youth leadership and civic engagement, and 2) to encourage connection with nature and enable environmental action.

The program will consist of 60 hours of classroom instruction complemented with numerous field trips led by local experts. A typical month will consist of six to ten hours of activities spread over two Saturdays. The same cohort of 35 students will participate over the full three years. Additional information about the program can be found on our website: https://bit.ly/2XAGIna More information about the Lawson Foundation can be found at https://bit.ly/2XAGIna. Our ongoing projects continued to provide engagement with community.

- Our website kamloopsnaturalistclub.com features contributions from members on a variety of natural history topics and sightings.
- We have very active participation in our Facebook community (Kamloops Naturalist Club) reaching about 2000 people each week.
- We collaborate with Thompson Rivers University to provide spring and summer field trips specifically for international students. We hosted a dozen groups in 2018 and this collaboration will continue in 2019.
- On April 8, 2018, we held our third annual Lac Dubois/Dewdrop Range garbage cleanup day. This is a collaborative effort of over ten clubs, businesses, and local news media including City of Kamloops, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; BC Parks; Conservation Officer Service, Kamloops Fish and Game Club, Kamloops Trail Blazers 4x4 Club, Four Wheel Drive Association of BC, Kamloops Thompson Trails Alliance, Kamloops Outdoors Club, and Kamloops Hiking Club. About 150 volunteers collected over 3,500 kg of garbage. The date for this cleanup in 2019 will be May 12.
- We raised funding and are working on plans to build a wildlife viewing platform at Tranquille Pond. This is a collaborative project with the City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation, local native bands, and BC Transportation and Highways. We hope for construction in fall of 2019.
- We support citizen science by participating in the Christmas bird count, Herp Day, Bird Fest, the Swan and Eagle Count, Got Bats?, and efforts to promote the importance of pollinating insects.
- We have an active NatureKids chapter that holds monthly events for youth.
- We ran about 20 field trips during the year featuring local flora, fauna, and mushrooms.
- We host monthly meeting programs featuring experts speaking on wide ranging natural history topics.
- We have representation on the Kamloops Natural Areas Advisory Committee that works closely with the City on priority issues such as Kinder Morgan pipeline through Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources (Dewdrop management and beyond), City of Kamloops (interpretive signs in public areas, and advocating for need of natural areas.)
Lillooet Naturalist Society (LNS)– Submitted by Vivian Birch-Jones

It was another good year for our organization, which is in its 18th year as a Society and member of BC Nature. Our 2019 AGM was in February and we elected one new Director to our Board, Geoff Playfair. We are a member of the Lillooet Chamber of Commerce and support activities led by Splitrock Environmental, the Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society (LRISS), Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association (LORCA), Got BATS? as well as the Agriculture and Food Society (LAFS). We are a member of the ‘Coast to Cascades’ Grizzly Bear recovery initiative and the Rivershed Society of BC. We support the Xwísten community bus. This year we participated in a well-attended community session organized by the library ‘At the Table’ and hope the initiative strengthens our volunteer sector.

Letters sent out by the executive this year included: Support letters for the P’egp’ig’tha Council for a trails initiative (we hope to continue to collaborate in 2019) and also to the Council for a Nation Rebuilding Initiative application, Splitrock for Wetland and Riparian monitoring, Habitat Enhancement and Fish Monitoring and restoration in the corridor and a Mesocarnivore study, Sekw’el’was for Mapping and Ranking Ecosystem Services and to continue their work on the White Sturgeon (building on the tagging program data), to the Fraser River Conservation Society for Sturgeon research, to LRISS for monitoring for Invasive Mussels, to the Ministry for the Fire Zone crews to assist us with trail work and to biologist Randy Moody for the ongoing work on Whitebark Pine.

Geoff Playfair and Vivian Birch-Jones attended two forums hosted by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society for the Sea to Sky corridor. To celebrate BC Parks day we led a hike to 9 Mile Ridge in July (photo). We also participated in bringing a resolution to the Squamish Lillooet Regional District to support the federal government 2020 commitment to protected areas. Along the same lines Nature Canada invited the Lillooet Naturalists to join a petition in support of this initiative, which we are supporting.

The Walking with Smolts event, in which buses of school children come to the Lower Spawning Channel to tour educational booths along a natural history walk, was a success again this year and many of our naturalist group volunteered as usual. A presentation on raptors complimented the activities this year. Salmon in the Canyon was a fairly subdued affair, more just a supper, because of the smoke situation, but it was a nice event and coincided with a successful rafting trip from Lillooet to Lytton. Keely Weget-Whitney and Brandi Bee swam the Fraser between here to Lytton accompanied by the rafts and Kevin Aitken in a kayak. Many of our naturalists enjoyed that spectacular rafting expedition as well.

Christine Galliazzo and her daughter Jane attended the week long camp at McGillivray trail (out of Goldbridge) hosted by Nature Vancouver in August. They so enjoyed this outing they have signed up for another one. In May, the Langley Field Naturalists came to Lillooet and we led them in a bird outing and provided some hospitality.

Sales of the Lillooet Hiking Guide continue to help fund our Society. We successfully applied to BC Nature in 2018 for funds for work on weed infestations on the Lions and Historic West Fraser trails – that work was completed by Splitrock. This year we have formed a Joint Trails Committee led by our new Director to take a proactive community approach to trails in our area and build on some of the work that has been done to date. We have put forward concerns about a proposed Hydro line at West Pavilion in 2017, that would detract from two of our trails and, more importantly, cut through pristine habitat. Communications between BC Hydro, Xaxli’p and Xwísten continue and a public information meeting is still in the plan.

Bat College took place in the summer of 2017 with 10 biologists here for training with Dr. Cori Lausen on netting, identification and other essential skills. The course was a success and we are offering it again in 2019.

Chris Galliazzo is the coordinator for the Bluebird Nest Box trail project and led outings for maintenance and monitoring of the nest boxes. The provincial meeting this year was held in Lillooet and included an outing to the Diamond S Ranch (Blue Goose) where we have a number of nest boxes.
The annual Shoreline Clean-Up was held in September led by Kathryn Mazur and Colin Vidian-Jones. 70 kilograms of garbage, down from previous years, was collected. Our 19th Christmas bird count was held in December. We had 32 participants and counted 2,508 birds of 56 species. Counts also took place at Hat Creek and the Yalakom.

Educational sessions were held on Trees with local experts presenting, Insects in our Forests by entomologist Ward Strong, and we assisted with a forum and presentation on the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program. Pierre Friele visited and we had a fascinating day learning about local geology. When our mushroom expert cancelled Geoff Playfair volunteered to lead an outing with Maria Mascher assisting and a great local educational forum and field trip was held. In 2019 we have held our AGM and two outreach events, a Wildlife Camera report from the South Chilcotins by scientist Robin Naidoo and a slide show by Ian Routley on his trip to Antarctica. We also participated in a Climate Change adaptation forum supported by Fraser Basin Council hosted by Sekw’el’was – more work on that planned for this year. Our Society is actively supporting a new regional park proposal at Texas Creek.

We contributed the remaining funds from the BC Nature Foundation grant towards the Sturgeon tagging program and participated in a DFO meeting about possible listing of the species and implications of that. Results from our tagging program show dramatically higher numbers of White Sturgeon than DFO has recorded so we are glad we contributed to that data. The webcam on the Osprey nest at the Old Bridge was operational for part of last season. A complaint about a drone operating near the nest was promptly attended to by the Conservation Officer. Our volunteers have the webcam on the nest ready for this season and we are enjoying the return of our Ospreys and other spring arrivals.

Two of us from Lillooet attended the BC Nature Fall meetings at Kelowna in 2018. We have a Director committed for the Burke Mountain events and another for Princeton – our apologies for missing Duncan and best wishes.

Nicola Naturalist Society (NNS) - Submitted by Alan Burger

Our Merritt club continues to thrive, with 116 members (over 70 memberships). In 2018 we ran our first summer camp for club members. As reported in the FGM report, this was a great success with 21 members participating. Campers enjoyed a variety of activities, including a fascinating presentation by First Nations elder Jimmy Toodlican (who sadly passed away a few months later), birding, hiking and, of course, socializing around the campfire. This will likely become an annual event.

Our evening meetings continue to attract many people, with 80-100 people at some meetings (remarkable for a small town like Merritt). In the past year we featured: Members’ Photo Night (combined with our AGM); Martin Ince – Bats and Wind Turbines; Frank Ritcey – Wolves, Bears and Snakes; Richard Chavez – Silviculture: More than Just Planting Trees; Frances Iredale – Grizzly Bears and Whitebark Pine in the South Chilcotins; Stephanie Winton – Impacts of Roadkill on the Western Rattlesnake; Lauchlan Fraser, Dennis Lloyd and Rachel Whitehouse – Grasslands Research and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Nicola Valley; and Frances Backhouse – “Once They Were Hats” - the Biology of Beavers and Their Role in Canada’s History. We have a unique agreement with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology – in exchange for the free use of their excellent lecture theatre, our club gives an $800 bursary to a student in the NVIT Environmental Resources Technology program. Students in this program attend most of our meetings too.

Our club collaborated with Bird Studies Canada and the Thompson Nicola Regional Library to launch “Budding Birders”. This program provides a birding kit, including quality binoculars, that can be checked out with a library card – a great way to promote birding and nature appreciation.

Our December winter bird identification workshop continues to be popular, and as usual, our club ran the Merritt Christmas Bird Count. Our field outings covered a range of interesting local venues and topics and were well attended.

Our club continues as the local monitor of the southern half of the large Douglas Lake Plateau Important
Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). Our members also participated in other surveys for swans, eagles, owls, and nightjars.

Members of our club led several adventure days with the Merritt NatureKids club and also gave presentations at a local school. With funding from the BC Naturalists’ Foundation, we are hard at work preparing two brochures (one on birds and one on wild flowers and wildlife) to promote local nature knowledge to schools, the public and tourists in the Nicola Valley.

North Okanagan Naturalists (NONC) - Submitted by Pam Jenkins

Meetings have been held on the first Wednesday of the month from September to April at the Village Green Hotel. With a rate increase at the hotel our May and future meetings will be held at the Schubert Centre.

Marnie Williamson was re-elected president in November. Harold Sellars continues as our communications person. Harold sends out our weekly emails, which include instructions for Saturday morning local nature walks. He also produces our Newspacket five times a year.

Rod Drennan, who selects our speakers has put on many great speaker nights. We’ve heard Don Cecile speak about his six weeks on the cold and barren Bathurst Island and another time on birding in China. Other speakers were Marcus Atkins on his Rattlesnake research, Marg Sidney on lakeside problems in Gar-dom and other lakes. Norbert Maertens on Balance in Nature, Carrie Nadeau on the Run of the River Effect in the Lower Nicola Valley. Our May speaker will be Rick Bonar.

Our December meeting was our Christmas get together with food, games. displays and a sing-song.

Besides the Sat morning nature walks, we have a monthly, further afield outing, and also some snowshoeing in the winter. Our Christmas Bird count covers Vernon and areas near Vernon with a final count at the Bishop Bird Sanctuary. Rick Bonar, who came to the area recently, is our new coordinator. Margaret MacKenzie organised a Bluebird workshop at the Vernon Library on Saturday April 6.

Mountain Bluebirds have been seen and photographed already. We have monitor 18 Bluebird trails. The hummingbird banding program started off with a workshop organized by Gall Loughridge.

We need to relocate our bird blind on Swan Lake because of flooding and growth around the blind. Clean-ups are planned for a section of BX Creek near town and Cools pond.

We are aware of potential developments in our grasslands on the Commonage. We have not been allowed to monitor one trail for a few years because the area has been closed off while a bomb search takes place, which was probably in place before all the development.

Shuswap Naturalists Club – Written and compiled by various members, Submitted by Dianne Wittner

Projects, both large and small, continue to inspire and keep members of our club busy! With our 50th anniversary looming, it is marvelous to see no lack of ongoing enthusiasm for the protection of wild things in our region.

Save Shuswap Songbirds is a joint committee of the Shuswap Naturalist Club and Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society (SABNES). The committee’s mission is to promote public awareness in the local community about songbirds, especially their value in our lives and how we can help protect them by enhancing bird-friendly habitat.

The committee, now in its third year, has focused on activities that address some of the causes of songbird population decline. Our first project was to distribute brochures entitled ‘The Happy Cat’, created by The
Stewardship Centre for BC, to encourage responsible pet owners to keep cats indoors. In 2018, we created a logo that will be used on any publications we prepare and distribute. An informative web page was posted as a link on both Shuswap Naturalists Club and SABNES websites. It offers the rationale for our committee and a list of suggestions for helping songbirds survive and thrive. The page includes many songbird photos to help with identification. To reinforce this, we have begun a series of colourful posters each depicting a common songbird—first, the American Goldfinch—with a few facts about its habits and habitat needs. These posters have been placed at strategic locations around the community such as nature trails, garden shops and libraries. We have collaborated with SAGA (Salmon Arm Public Art Gallery) for their April 13 - June 1 exhibit, Flight, in which 12 artists of mixed media explore the declining songbird population.

During the spring and summer, interpreters at the Brighouse Nature Centre will dedicate one or more of their Wednesday nature walks to observation of songbirds.

With Shuswap Lake being a diverse recreational hub, we’ve seen an increased use of drones along the foreshore, some operators hovering above courting grebes and nesting osprey in pursuit of that unique, award-winning photo. Working cooperatively with the City of Salmon Arm, we achieved preliminary consensus on a ban of recreational drones and will erect appropriate signage this summer.

In keeping with the theme of wildlife disruption, we changed the dates banning dogs from the foreshore trail through Nature Trust marshlands to better reflect the height of nesting season. Dogs are permitted on leashes only for most of the year but are banned altogether from May 1st to June 30th. We hope to extend this period eventually though we continue to meet resistance from the public despite strong scientific evidence in our support. Ongoing monitoring from club members indicates some dog owners still fail to respect both wildlife and the regulation by allowing their dogs to chase ducks and geese and to run at large through the wetlands. Salmon Arm Bay has been recognized as one of the most significant birding areas in BC, according to Russell and Richard Cannings. The lake is also a prime destination for tourists.

To help with our mandate of protecting nature, Shuswap Naturalists joined with SABNES to produce an easy-to-read brochure for visitors and residents alike. The brochure outlines simple tips on what people can do to help protect wildlife, while enjoying the bay area. We titled the brochure “Enjoying Wildlife in Salmon Arm Bay and Nature Sanctuary”, and focused on information to enhance the tourist experience. The tone is friendly and non-accusatory, while also outlining key behaviours to avoid negatively impacting wildlife. We approached Prestige Hotels and Resorts which has a property located on the marsh in the heart of the Bay. The hotel recognizes that many of their visitors come because of the location and are attracted by the wildlife. They partnered with us, covering design and printing costs. They will maintain a stock of the brochure for their guests while club members disperse the brochure throughout the community. This is a significant step because it recognizes that tourism in our region is dependent on a healthy ecosystem.

As the last stronghold for nesting Western Grebes in BC, club members have been monitoring their population for decades. In 2018, we saw a slight dip in breeding adults - at 201 - and a subsequent reduction in fledglings - 94 - when compared to the previous two years. Migrants from the prairies stop over in the fall which increases the count temporarily and is always a wonderful sight to see. Our club is very covetous of the grebes so we continue to protect them by prohibiting boat traffic near nesting areas and by raising awareness through a variety of educational approaches.

Rain was the order of the day for our Christmas bird count, held December 16th. We saw 74 species that day and a further seven throughout the week. The highlight was a Fieldfare (Turdus pilaris), only the second time this thrush has been recorded in BC! With its identification confirmed, the Fieldfare garnered a lot of attention from bird watchers across the province.

Our battle against the invasive plant, Woody Nightshade, continues in the marshlands of the bay. Intrepid volunteers gather once or twice each year to get their hands dirty pulling this weed up by the roots. In the past four years, we’ve removed 259 garbage-sized bags of the stuff. Plans are underway for the 2019 weed-
pull, our aim being to eradicate it from the marsh within the next few years.

Vanessa Robinson, a Thompson Rivers University student, was the recipient of our club Naturalists Award which is a yearly financial bursary that supports post-secondary studies. Vanessa has been involved in rattlesnake research, bat conservation, and has a particular penchant for botany.

The arrival of Spring means a resumption of regular field trips. Club members are very active in planning and participation! From mushroom exploration to riparian meanderings, we explore the Shuswap in an effort to better understand the natural world we are trying to protect. Once again our outings for 2019 include a stimulating mix, from exploring our local Nature Trust Reserve to wandering among the ponds around Chase and the heights of Fly Hills.

Thanks to the support of BC Nature and a number of Salmon Arm partners, our club has undertaken a major revamp of nest boxes along the foreshore and in Peter Jannink Nature Park. Two years ago, it started with one person who decided to clean up and start monitoring existing boxes, of which there were only about a dozen. Many were falling apart and hadn’t been cleaned out for a long time. It wasn’t long before interest spread and the number of boxes increased, along with the population of nesting swallows. The project seemed to be infectious; in the fall of 2018, a local organization called MakerSpace generously offered to build fifty new boxes in time for the breeding season of 2019. We soon involved students from Salmon Arm’s new outdoor school, South Canoe Elementary, who helped us put the boxes together, then paint them. Rona and Warner Rentals stepped up to the plate with donations of equipment, paint, deliveries, and helpers so we could plant posts along the foreshore and in Peter Jannink Park. The majority of boxes are designed specifically for swallows and bluebirds but we’ve also added two new duck boxes, an owl box, and several bat boxes. We are collecting data to assess not only nesting success but also to correlate box height and directional aspect with occupancy. Interest and investment from other groups suggests we aren’t done yet; seems like every time we are seen working on a new installation, someone approaches us with questions, an offer to help, a desire to purchase their own box, or a suggestion for expansion into new areas. One of these conversations resulted in an investigation that led to the positive identification of avian pox, affecting House finches and Purple finches within city limits.

It just goes to show how contagious our love of the natural world can be, bringing together people from all walks of life and spreading passion for its conservation!
Comox Valley Naturalists Society (CVN) - Submitted by Sharon Niscak

CVN continues to support a wide range of projects and activities and maintain a full and busy schedule. From September to May monthly meetings include a public presentation to engage the community in knowing nature. This year most of the presentations revolved around the marine environment. In March, Ann Eriksson from Sea Change Marine Conservation Society presented an illustrated talk entitled “Salish Sea Nearshore Habitat Recovery Project.” Dr. John Neilson, presentation “The really, big marine fish of Canada: tuna, sword- fish and sharks” with a focus on the Canada’s unique eastern, northern and western oceans large fish. Canada is home to the Greenland shark in the Arctic waters, which is thought to be the longest-lived vertebrate in the world. Unfortunately, the magnificent basking shark is on the brink of extinction in our Pacific Ocean. In November, Terry Thormin presented a beautifully illustrated talk on Nature Photography in the Comox Valley. Visit https://bit.ly/2UyrrkT to see a collection of beautiful images of nature. Terry also chairs the photography group. The photography group meets once a month to share photography concentrating on discussing members image composition and learning technical image refinement.

All Weather Walkers: The All Weather Walkers group led by Loys Maingon is perhaps the most dedicated group, at least weather wise. The groups treks on enduring wind, rain, snow, sleet, and as a bonus the walkers also enjoys gloriously sunny mornings. The group meets at trail heads or at car-pooling locations to explore the parks, beaches and mountain trails early on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Walks included areas such as Nile Creek, Ripple Rock, Ships Point, Tsolum Spirit Park and Seal Bay as well as more arduous hikes in Strathcona Park often in concert with the Strathcona Wilderness Society.

The Garry Oak nursery and pollinator nursery: The nursery continues to expand and to provide the region’s genetic stock for plantings in and around the Comox Valley. With a vision and passion, Loys and Alison Maingnon, started the nursery from local acorns, potted and nurtured the seedling trees with a vision to re-establish the climate adapted Garry Oak that had been lost to farming and human activities over the past century. The Comox Valley lies in the northern Garry Oak/Douglas Fir ecosystem. This ecosystem was very important to the Salishan people who managed and cultivated the meadows. It is encouraging to observe the integration of Garry Oaks in public spaces in the Comox Valley. Currently Garry Oak will be planted on several new developments and will be replaced on the exhibition grounds with fencing to prevent the current damage that occurs during events on the grounds.

The Botany group: Members interested in botany meet monthly to focus on the botany of the Comox Valley and also enjoys field trips to special areas in neighbouring regions. It is always a treat to visit Paradise Meadows to enjoy the rich colours of the fall flora. In November the focus of the group was on mushroom identification and seeking late fungi to observe.

The Botany and Marine Shoreline group collaborated to enjoy a beautiful late winter day on the beach close to Miracle Beach Park. Despite the lack of seaweeds, which were planned to be the focus of the day, it was an opportunity to discuss the geology of the beach. While we enjoyed lunch Betty Brooks explained and demonstrated how to press seaweeds for an herbarium. Hopefully learning this technique will result in the start of a small specimen library. In April the group visited the Ecological Reserve on Comox Lake and found that with the dry weather and perhaps the unusual February weather the spring flush bluff growth was deterred.

On April 8th the botany group donned gloves and with a hand tool removed the invasive the Lamium, Yellow Archangel from a lovely Erythronium (Fawn Lily) patch at Kin Beach Park.

Marine and Shoreline Group: One of the highlights of past year was the formation of the now very popular Marine and Shoreline group. Under the tutelage of Randall Mindell, the group has commenced citizen science activities by visiting several sites and recording species.
This is the beginning of developing an inventory of local beaches. In November the group visited Williams Beach for the second highest tide of the year. The variety of seaweeds deposited on the high tide revealed an interesting assortment, and also provided a glimpse of the associated nearshore marine life. We were also, provided with an enlightening presentation on distinguishing beach deposits, which provoked some thoughtful reflection on the geology of shorelines.

In January the group surveyed the sand flats at Miracle Beach Provincial Park by the light of the moon. One of the highlights was the density of sand dollars between the sand bars. Other species observed include the Moonsnails, Pipefish, Leather Stars, kelp and purple Sea Stars and Nudibranch.

Later in March the shoreline group investigated unconsolidated sediments and collected shell “sub-fossils” from the Mission Road Pleistocene Deposits, close to the new Comox Valley Hospital. The mollusc species in our collecting container included Butter Clam mussels, Limpet, Scallops, Tubeworms, barnacles and Echinoderm Spines. Randall explained that the diversity, shapes and sizes are “indicative of a natural concentration of shell materials driven by water currents. The Quadra Sands lay beneath these sediments. A long “history” embedded in the layers beneath our feet reminded us the forces that shaped our coastline and geographical morphology.

The ongoing insults to the shoreline continue with massive amounts of quarry rock being hauled to and dumped upon our precious beaches in the vain attempt to mitigate nature’s dynamic renewal cycles. Taking advantage of the high tide the marine group explored the tide line at Williams Beach and noted the deposits in the midden area.

Three of our members engaged in the Green Shores workshop in Fanny Bay. It was encouraging to see staff of the Comox Regional District and other relevant participants complete the seminar. It seems that to avert the total loss of our foreshore assemblages that it should be a requirement to plant and ensure survival of indigenous species, especially blue and red listed and unique species with any beach modification.

**Birding Group:** Kelly Kline was elected as chair of the Bird Group on September 6, 2018. Since that time the bird group has held numerous events.

Weekly Bird Walks are usually held on Thursday mornings. The Birders go to a variety of birding hot spots between Bowser and Campbell River and include trips to Hornby and Denman Islands. There were 23 bird walks since September the 6th, with an average of 12 birders participating. About 102 species were identified on the walks.

Some of the birding activities include the Great Backyard Bird Count in February, visits to Oyster Bay, Lazo Marsh and Fanny Bay with a sighting of Oyster Catchers feeding on oysters. The group also enjoyed a visit to Tyee Spit in Campbell River where about 22 species were observed close to shore. One of the highlights was a Tropical Kingbird which was spotted by several observers in October. BC’s first record of a Common Ringed Plover at Oyster Bay.

The Birders monthly evening meetings provide an opportunity to discuss future outings and to focus on topics of interest to birders. The members have presented a series of high-resolution photos of an eagle’s nest showing the development of the bay eagles from hatching to fledging, and a seminar of Gull species identification. The presentations also included photo journals of Bird Watching in Bolivia and Birding in Argentina and Antarctica.
Many of the Bird Group participate in the Christmas Bird Count, the Spring Bird Count and the Trumpeter Swan Count, where their bird identification skills are very beneficial. The Christmas Bird Count includes Deep Bay, Comox Valley and the BC Ferry to Powell River. Thank you to Kelly Kline for providing a birding summary.

**Swan Count:** CVN have counted swans commencing with the swan’s arrival in October to the end of March since 1991. In recent years swans have also established their wintering grounds in the Cowichan Valley. To determine the status of the Trumpeter Swan population the Comox Valley and Cowichan Valley counts are shared. Ernie Stefanik includes both the Comox Valley and Cowichan Valley reports in the weekly tallies. The tallies for April 2 were 213 adults and 38 juveniles for a total of 251 compared to 244 last year for the Comox Valley, indicating that the swans are making their way north for the summer. The detailed and tabulated weekly reports demonstrate the importance of citizen science in monitoring the once critically endangered trumpeter swan populations.

**The Courtenay River Airpark Project:** Camas and Garry Oak restoration is a continuing project. This summer the invasive grasses were covered in an attempt to prepare the area for Camas transplanting. Invasive species are removed in several areas including Little River Nature Park. Murray Little and Frank Hovenden have worked on these projects for a number of years with amazing dedication and many hours of volunteer labour.

**Photography group:** The photography group meets once a month rotating in three members homes to share photography with a focus on discussing members image composition and learning technical image refinement. Terry Thormin chairs the photography group.

**Tree of the Year:** Last year marked the commencement of the Tree of Year Award. Last year large fir in the Tsolum Valley won the award. This year Annette Boulter claimed the award with her submission of a stately “Garry Oak” tree, a remnant of the Vanier oaks. There is some discussion about also adding a heritage tree award.

**Bursary:** For the past twenty years the CVN have awarded one bursary. This year the bursary for $1000 will be awarded to a Comox Valley grade 12 graduating student who is planning a career in environmental or natural history. The award will be presented in the upcoming graduation awards ceremony.

**Mack Laing Heritage Society:** The Mack Laing Heritage Society has prepared a business plan in anticipation and hope that the issues surrounding the trust left to the Town of Comox will be satisfactorily resolved.

**Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands Regional Seminar:** Oct 27, 2018 seminar report by Jim Boulter: CVN hosted a very successful Regional Seminar on October 27 2018. 55 people, representing ten environmental and conservation groups registered to attend the Saturday seminar. In addition to our local groups, representatives from other groups from Vancouver Island, such as Salt Spring, Denman, and Hornby Islands were present. The purpose of the seminar was to have open discussions and presentations on issues of concern to all Island residents. A pre-seminar survey was done to determine what the different groups wanted to see covered, and this is likely the source of our success.

The 90 minute morning open discussion sessions were each opened by a speaker who introduced one of the four segments: Shoreline Concerns, Wetlands Preservation, Invasive Species, and Biodiversity and Development. Each item was then opened for comments, questions and examples of the club experiences involving the issue. This format was active and productive, and very popular according to the exit surveys we received. After a soup and sandwich lunch catered by members of CVN, the afternoon sessions started at 1 pm. Each session was 45 minutes long and featured an expert speaker on the topic. Grant Scott on Conservancy Hornby Island asked the question Are BC Herring in Dire Straits, answering a resounding yes with scientific data that is largely ignored by the Department of Fish and Ocean. CVN’s own Dr. Randal Mindell a Plant paleontologist introduced us to South Coast Fossil Conservation, and the need to protect BC’s fossil record. After a brief coffee break, Michael Motek of the Rocky Point Bird Observatory discussed how birds and plants support each other in his presentation entitled Native Plants: Restoration is for the Birds, and provided links to RPBO’s
on-line information page. The last presentation was Dr. Loys Maingon who gave an in-depth talk on Forgotten Wetlands: Future Water Quality, Freshwater and Marine Biodiversity. The formal items over by 4:30 and a social walk and talk period gave the participants and presenters a chance to interface directly. The Seminar closed at 6 pm, allowing down-Island members to catch their ferries or to return down-island. Three field trips were held for those who lived nearby or stayed over-night, and they were moderately well-attended in spite of the inclement weather. The 30 exit surveys returned indicated that all felt the seminar to be a useful and efficient way to cover topics of concern. Two of the visiting clubs said they would be interested in hosting a regional seminar sometime in the future.

The organizers of the seminar would like to thank the speakers and attendees for their participation, and we would especially like to salute all the CVN volunteers that made this day a success. Thank you, Jim Boulter!

Cowichan Valley Naturalists (CVNS) - Submitted by Gail Mitchell

Our membership is now more than 100 and this is probably a record number of members for us.

Our usual indoor programs (Coffeehouse and Evening Program) which both occur once a month except for summer months, have been a great success with excellent speakers on a variety of topics including: Fungi; Fossil Forests of VI; Screech Owls; Sea Otters; Broom Busting to name a few.

The Swan/Goose Raptor weekly count, through the winter, has been well attended. This Citizen Science project, headed by Derrick Marven has been going for 10 years. The last count for this season was on March 27th. A small group of us visited the Royal Museum Wildlife Photography Exhibition and the iMax presentation on the Great Bear Rainforest. Both highly recommended! Other upcoming field trips include a birding trip for Spring migration to the Parksville area, a Wildflower Walk and a Marine Walk on Thetis Island.

The Bring Back the Bluebird Project is again underway with both Western and Mountain Bluebirds sighted in the Valley. An extensive number of Bluebird Trails (series of nest boxes) are monitored, with active nests having mealworm supplement feedings daily. Hannah Hall is our Bluebird technician on this project. Genevieve Singleton continues to oversee this project with help from other members. They have been successful in obtaining enough grant money to make the future of this project look bright.

On the conservation front, we have been writing letters and attending meetings and public hearings - speaking up for issues of concern. The North Cowichan Municipal Forests management, the application of re-zoning to allow more industry development in Cowichan estuary, input into the planning of plantings at McAdam Park in Duncan and opposition to expansion of a Motorsport Circuit in North Cowichan are four important issues we are working on.

Our main focus at this time, is the hosting of the BC Nature AGM and conference, May 2nd - 5th. Much time and energy from a dozen of our members is going into the planning of this event. Registrations are going well and it looks like we will have a good number of attendees for this event. We very much look forward to it.

Nature Nanaimo (NN) - Submitted by Staffan Lindgren

More than a year has passed since we revived a Nanaimo naturalist club (formerly Nanoose Naturalists) as Nature Nanaimo, and we can look back on a very successful first year and a half of activities. We have seen well-attended monthly meetings on a wide variety of topics, ranging from owls, bats and spiders to mushrooms, spring flowers, astronomy, and tailed frogs. We have enjoyed excursions on a similarly wide range of topics, e.g., birds, animal rescue, intertidal marine life, fossils, flowers, mushrooms etc. At least once a month, we try to arrange a “Nature Ramble”, which is a brief walk followed by a pub lunch.

We have started participating in and leading projects to engage our members in conservation and nature stewardship.
We successfully applied for funding from BC Nature and the BC Naturalists’ Foundation to work towards building and helping with the setup, replacement and monitoring of western Purple Martin nest boxes to aid in the recovery efforts led by the Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment and Restoration Society. The boxes have been built and will be set up in April and May. Other projects, e.g., shoreline clean-up, butterfly management, and bat monitoring, will be added as we grow.

Activities were initially coordinated by a small steering committee, and now by an Executive committee consisting of the following members:

- Staffan Lindgren, President
- Doug Fraser, Vice-President
- Michael Stebbings, Secretary and Treasurer
- Lance Nordstrom, Director, Membership
- Sari Saunders, Director-at-Large
- Allan Hawryzki, Advisor
- Karen MacDowell, Director-at-Large
- Lindsay Dealy, Web Master
- Jim Smith, Assistant Secretary
- Paul Courtin, Assistant Treasurer
- Dan Haslam, Director-at-Large

In addition, a number of members served on the steering committee or participated in the planning process for different periods, but are no longer active due to personal or professional reasons. We would like to thank them all for their willingness to help and their input: Jonathan Ranallo, Joyce Lee, Kim Shotton, Eveline Stokkink, Jeanne Schippers, Marina Wright, Sue Hutton, Michael McCall.

As of March 2019, our membership was 144 individual members paid up. Consisting of 92 memberships; 45 family, 46 individual and 1 student members, and we hope that we can attract even more members going forward. To facilitate continued growth, our activity committee members have worked hard to assemble an interesting lineup of speakers and outings for the coming season. Each public meeting generally starts with a brief “Nature Nugget” on some (usually) local topic. We have purchased a sound system to ensure that everyone can hear the speakers clearly, and through generous donations from members, we now have our own projector after having enjoyed the generous loan of one from the Federation of Canadian Artists in Nanaimo. We enjoyed a Christmas social gathering which was a great opportunity to get to know each other at a personal level. At that gathering, we awarded our first Honorary Life Membership to Allan Hawryzki.

We are increasing our presence on social media. Our Facebook page is enjoying a lot of traffic and is a great resource for staying current with Nature Nanaimo activities, as well as news on topics of interest for naturalists. Our webmaster is working with the web committee to make improvements to our website. Additional social media platforms are Twitter; @NatureNanaimo and Instagram; www.instagram.com/naturenanaimo/. In addition, members get notification via e-mail; naturenanaimo@gmail.com to ensure that they don’t miss any of our exciting and fun activities.

In conclusion, the first year and a half of Nature Nanaimo has been extremely successful, and we look forward to continued success!

Pender Island Field Naturalists (PIFN) - Submitted by Bob Vergette

As of the end of 2018 PIFN had 31 family memberships for a total of 56 members. We have a great website pendernaturalists.ca and are active on Facebook.

PIFN again had an active year in 2018 where we sponsored or took part in a total of 25 activities. Knowledgeable members (mostly from the Board) led seven walks on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to natural locations on Pender. The objective of these walks is to encourage people to explore parts of Pender that they may not have seen. There were six formal talks on a whole host of topics such as the effects of the Nepal earthquake, the importance of bees in pollination, native plant propagation and the impact of introduced species.

There were walks associated with 2 of the talks and they were led by the speakers. PIFN led two off-island
trips, one to Sidney Spit and one to the Lower Mainland; the former to view early migrant shorebirds and the latter view fall migratory birds that stage in Boundary Bay. As has been the case for a number of years PIFN organized the Christmas Bird Count for Pender, Mayne and Saturna Islands. We have an equally vigorous program planned for 2019 and 2020.

**Listing of Program for 2018**

January 7 - Christmas Bird Count for Kids
January 14 - Film and lecture – *Five weeks in Nepal and Nepal’s Heartbeat* – Nick Versteeg
February 23 - 3rd Wednesday Walk – Julie Wilmott and Bob Vergette
March 9 - The Wonder of Bees – Paige Erickson-McGee – Habitat Acquisition Trust
March 21- 3rd Wednesday Walk – Brooks Point Park – Bob Vergette
April 18 – Spring Flower Walk on North Pender – Simone Marler
April 20 – Film and lecture *The Perfect State: Reconnecting with Nature* – Dr. Rob Butler
April 21 – Field walk with Dr. Rob Butler
April 21 – Beach Cleanup of Hamilton Beach
May 2 – Spring Flower and Bird Walk at Brooks Point Park – Stuart Scholefield
May 16 – 3rd Wednesday Walk – Greenburn Lake – Don Peden and Parks Canada
May 27 – Bird Song Walk to Roe Lake – David Reidel
May 27 – Bird Song Walk to George Hill – David Reidel
August 10 – Nuit Blanche at Roesland supporting Parks Canada
August 15 – 3rd Wednesday Walk – Exploring Sidney Spit
September 7 – The Old Man and the Vulture – David Manning
September 19 – 3rd Wednesday Walk to Oak Bluffs Park – Don Peden
October 19 – Impact of introduced species walk at the Golf Course – Dr. Gavin Hanke
October 19 – Abandoned Pets are Everyone’s Problem – Dr. Gavin Hanke
November 5 – Bird Migrants of the Lower Mainland – Bob Vergette
November 21 – 3rd Wednesday Walk to Found Road Trail – Simone Marler
December 7 Winter Bird Identification – Preparation for the Christmas Bird Count – Hope Bay
December 15 Christmas Bird Count – Coordination of count area for Pender, Mayne and Saturna

**Projects**

- Nocturnal Owl Surveys
- Nightjar Survey
- Coastal Waterbird Survey
- Christmas Bird Count for Kids

**Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club (SSTNC) - Submitted by Kathleen Maser**

Membership numbers in our club are strong, 148, as of March 18, 2019, which is up 19 from last year.

**Trails** - The windstorm of Dec. 20th proved to be devastating for much of the island. Ruckle Provincial Park had the fewest trees down but Mt Erskine was reported to have lost hundreds. Following this devastation there were major efforts by club members to clean up trails and make them safe again. i.e. leaning trees had to be brought down, as did hangers in the canopy and fallen logs on the trails were chain sawed and rolled to the side. With the number of huge root balls, the landscape was dramatically changed in some areas, trails were unrecognizable at several points.

Nonetheless our usual weekly hikes, walks and rambles, geared to the different capabilities of members, have been in full swing, since early March. Several outings were cancelled in January due to unsafe conditions and in February, due to heavy snow conditions.

The annual Broom Pull is scheduled for May, in Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park.
Our trail coordinator, Gary Quiring, is always busy communicating with BC Parks on buying pieces of land that will help to connect our current trails. To name a few: Mt Erskine Park, the Old Goat Trail and trails on

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Mt Tuam. Gary works tirelessly at trying to connect this island with trails from one end to the other. Not easy given the amount of privately held land. A trail work day in the lower meadows of Mt Tuam near the retreat centre KDOL, (xKunzang Dechen Osel Ling), was well attended and offered spectacular views. As Gary says: it is an amazing trail.

**Birding Group** – A successful Christmas bird count was orchestrated this year by Peter McAllister with help from Kathleen Maser. Early morning birding in Burgoyne Bay Park will start April 25th, for five to six weeks.

Several members do monthly bird studies counts for Bird Studies Canada.

Peter McAllister and his crew have been repairing Purple Martin boxes and replacing some in preparation for the return of the martins. At the Fernwood dock local residents are running a competition to see who can spot the first purple martin, the first scout to return.

**Speaker Series** - Organized by Sharon Sullivan, has been most inspiring.

Linda Gilkeson was the guest speaker at January’s AGM giving a talk on the global insect crisis, entitled “Where Have All the Insects Gone?”, a riveting presentation on the loss of insects and why it matters. Global insect populations have crashed over the last couple of decades.

Dr. Michael Proctor, Grizzly Bear Ecologist talked on the Conservation of Grizzly Bears in BC. He is currently the lead researcher for the Trans-border Grizzly Bear Project in southern BC, Canada. For 20+ years he has focused on small, threatened populations requiring higher conservation attention, with interesting solutions to connect them. These include: population recovery, human-bear conflict reduction, community-based conservation, landscape genetics, population fragmentation, connectivity and management, habitat use, bottom-up-top-down population dynamics, demographics, and trend monitoring.

Morgan Black, a PhD candidate, and Hakai Scholar at the University of Victoria, presented: “Fish and invertebrates of ancient First Nations’ Clam Gardens”. Morgan is researching the Ecology and Biodiversity of Ancient First Nations’ Clam Gardens. Clam gardens provide a unique example of a long-standing human-caused habitat modification, and therefore an excellent opportunity to research the effects on the plants and animals that live there.

Sarah Cox spoke on “Breaching the Peace: The Site C Dam and a Valley’s Stand Against Big Hydro”. She is the BC Legislative Reporter for the magazine, The Narwhal. Breaching the Peace, is in the Top Ten longlisted for the 2019 George Ryga Award for Social Awareness. Her book chronicles the on-going fight by farmers and First Nations to protect the Peace River Valley from a large hydro dam. In it Sarah reveals the true costs and hidden dangers of a third dam on the Peace River with some of the richest soil in Canada.

Lo Camps, at the end of April, will be the speaker from Nature Trek Canada “Going Wild-Rafting Yukon Rivers and a Trek along a Remote Portion of Vancouver Island”. Lo Camps and his partner Annemarie Linders are both biologists who have studied caribou in subarctic Canada. They have spent 20 years in northern Labrador. In 1992 they created Nature Trek Canada. This talk will take us to the Yukon and British Columbia to see the 2018 raft expedition on the Alsek, Tatshenshini and Bonnet Plume rivers. Also included is a wilderness trek along Nootka and the Tatchu peninsula with a National Geographic crew.

**Conservation** - A very big issue for many members is the amount of clear-cut logging taking place on this island. Since the fall logging trucks continue to roll off at least 2 private properties and onto the ferries. On Beddis Rd alone there are 47 hectares that will soon be clear-cut.

These include a riparian area and steep slopes with a mature Douglas fir/cedar forest. The Islands’ Trust believes itself to be powerless to stop the logging but the lawyer retained by one of our members has reviewed the SSILTC’s Land Use Bylaw 355 and in a written letter, published in our local newspaper,
the Driftwood, the logging currently underway is in clear violation of the use bylaw. There is an active group of islanders, which includes a number of our members, writing letters to all members of the various governments. They are protesting in Forest marches, and are seeking a moratorium on all logging on the island. Their goal is to work towards constructive long term changes to current rules regarding clear-cut logging.

Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS) - Submitted by Claudia Copley

A summary of the previous year’s activities is presented below:

DONATIONS - Each year we give out approximately $10,000 in scholarships and bursaries for undergraduate and graduate students in biology to the University of Victoria, Royal Roads and Camosun, as well as $700 to the Vancouver Island Science Fair. In 2018 we committed to continuing to fund the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary at $5000 per year for their Sunday Special Events and we spent an additional $4000 for a video microscope for the facility. Five thousand dollars was given to Rocky Point Bird Observatory for their education programs, and another $5,000 to Habitat Acquisition Trust: for their work. As well, the Bluebird Project of the Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society received another $5000 from VNHS this past year. And finally, the Purple Martin Nest Box Project at West Bay Marina received $392 from BC Nature and the VNHS made up the remainder to total $520.

EVENTS/OUTREACH/EDUCATION - VNHS offers free nature programs, and in 2018, 1603 children of all ages took part, on a variety of subjects. Bill Dancer retired from coordinating these, after doing it since 2006.

We have been working with Jacques Sirois to publicize the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. We paid for a series of signs that will appear around the waterfront identifying the boundaries of the sanctuary.

The Society sent letters to 13 local municipalities requesting cat control bylaws, again without much success at the level of government, but quite a lot of favorable press.

We host the Victoria Christmas Bird Count, thanks to the hard work of Ann Nightingale, and every month in the summer we have Butterfly Counts, which currently Gordon Hart is leading.

VNHS set up displays at various gatherings around the region. Examples include the Sidney Summit with speakers Bob MacDonald, Elizabeth May, Robert Bateman and others, the Stewardship Roundtable, and the Wild Arc Open House. We again co-hosted annual Camas Day with the Friends of Beacon Hill Park and the annual Hawk Watch with CRD Parks.

Another project underway is scanning all volumes of our magazine back to 1944 and making them available online.

VNHS members represent us on the following Committees/Boards:

- Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative
- Viaduct Flats Committee
- Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Board
- Rocky Point Bird Observatory
- Habitat Acquisition Trust
- BC Nature
- NatureKids
- Naturehood (Urban Sanctuaries Project)
- Island Pollinator Initiative

VNHS Field Trips happen weekly and there are four evening lectures per month. The magazine comes out every two months and we currently have ~750 members.
The BC Naturalists’ Foundation annually supports projects of BC Nature Clubs through the Club Support Grant program. In February 2019 the Foundation provided $14,700 for Club support grants. Less than this amount was requested by Club applications so a total of approximately $13,600 was awarded to the following nine club projects:

**Cowichan’s Valley Naturalists’** - Bring back the Bluebird Project: an on-going multi-year project to re-establish bluebirds in their historic range in the Cowichan Valley. This is the third year this project has been supported.

**Delta Naturalists** - Barn Owl Nest replacement project: replacement of old and now decrepit nest boxes first placed in the 1990s and to situate some new boxes. This is the second year for this expanding project.

**Nature Nanaimo** - Purple Martin Nest box project. Of the 1700 nest boxes for purple martins that have been erected on eastern Vancouver Island over the past 25 years approximately 500 are in need of replacement due to deterioration associated with “old age”. This project is a start on replacing the boxes.

**Nicola Naturalist Society** - Nicola Valley wildlife brochures project. Two brochures are to be produced – one featuring birds and the other wildflowers on one side and other wildlife on the other side.

**Pender Harbour Wildlife Society** - Stewardship of Swallows and Bats on the Sunshine Coast. This project involves building and installing nest boxes and working with private land owners to protect nesting sites from disturbance.

**Rocky Point Bird Observatory** - Owl Migration Monitoring project: a project started in 2002 seeking to understand the migration patterns and biology of the Northern Saw-whet owl. This is the second year this project has been supported.

**Shuswap Naturalists (1)** - Cavity nester boxes project. This project aims to install nest boxes for cavity nesters along the foreshore of Shuswap Lake in Salmon Arm.

**Shuswap Naturalists (2)** - Woody Night Shade eradication project. This project aims to reduce and eradicate where possible, woody night shade, on the foreshore of Salmon Arm Bay.

**Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists** - Hummingbird banding project: this is an on-going project started in 2017 studying the migration patterns of southern interior BC hummingbirds. This is the third year of support for this project.

A tenth project was funded with returned funds from last year’s CVN pollinator garden grant which unfortunately had to be cancelled. The returned funds were forwarded to South Okanagan Naturalists for year two of their Nature in Focus project (approved last year but only partially funded), plus $500 was contributed to the BC Nature scholarships. This was in addition to the $2000 provided late last year towards the scholarships.

All of these projects involve considerable volunteer time on the part of club members. In most cases the club support grants provide only a portion of the total project budgets but the clubs are often able to use the Foundation’s support to leverage funds from additional sources. The successful clubs have all agreed to recognize the Foundation and BC Nature in publicity about their projects. The annual grant from the Foundation to BC Nature for club support is made possible through the investment earnings from the capital of the BC Naturalists’ Foundation. Over the 25 years since its formation, the Foundation has distributed more than $214,000 in grants to BC Nature and its member clubs for conservation and education projects. As the Foundation’s invested capital grows, its earnings are able to provide increasing amounts of grants to support naturalists’ projects.

The Club Support Grants Committee (comprised of members from BC Nature and the Foundation) would like to remind member clubs that we regard the Club support grants as incubation funds rather than a source of long term funding. Therefore, those Clubs which have received club support grants for on-going projects for three or more years are less likely to be successful for additional funding for the same on-going project.
The Foundation’s AGM and Directors meeting will be held Friday, May 3, 2019, during BC Nature’s AGM and Conference in Duncan. The AGM is open to all to attend. At the meeting the annual financial statements for year end 2018 will be reviewed. The Foundation operates nearly expense free. The major expense is for the annual review engagement required by Revenue Canada regulations. Donations and bequests received in 2018 were approximately $78,000. The year-end assets of the Foundation were $498,700 (compared to 2017 - $460,000) held by the Foundation, plus the additional capital held by the Vancouver Foundation of $225,000. Combined, the funds now held in the name of our Foundation total over $720,000. The BC Naturalists’ Foundation funds managed by the Vancouver Foundation provide an annual disbursement of investment earnings to the BC Naturalists’ Foundation. The assets that the Foundation directly holds are described in its year end 2018 Financial Statements which will be available for the AGM. These assets are grouped into two categories: the Endowment Fund which is the total capital of donations and bequests received over the years, and the General Fund which is the investment earnings. The General Fund represents the amount available for grants and expenses, although most of that fund is reinvested for additional future returns.

Regarding the appointment of members and election of Directors of the BC Naturalists’ Foundation, the Club Directors of BC Nature appoint the members of the Foundation and nominate its Directors. Of the current Foundation Directors, the terms of four directors expire this year. Of the four, three are standing for re-election: Tom Bearss, Bob Handfield and Stephen Partington. Pat Westheuser is retiring after many years of dedicated service to the Foundation for which the Board expresses its sincere thanks. Foundation Directors continuing on the Board as part of their three year terms are: Bev Ramey, Kees Viser, Gerald McKeating, and David Tsang. The Foundation Directors will elect its officers at its May 3rd meeting.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Foundation, please contact Bob Handfield, soncbob@shaw.ca

The Foundation welcomes new members, as appointed by BC Nature. The Foundation greatly appreciates the contributions and support from naturalists throughout BC.

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**Camp and Field Activities**

**Harry Crosby - Chair, Camp Committee**

BC Nature (BCN) had four successful camps in 2018, at Tofino, Cathedral Park, Tatlayoko Lake and Harrison Mills. Details of the revenue and expenses of these camps are set out in the 2018 financial report. BC Nature is continuing the camp program in 2019 with camps in Smithers, Tumbler Ridge and Telegraph Cove.

BCN Summer Camps serve a number of functions:
1. BC Nature developed these camps to provide its members with opportunities to experience and learn about different areas in the province.
2. The camps also contribute to the budget of BC Nature.
3. The 2019 camp in Smithers has an additional purpose, to build on the foundation of knowledge of nature of its participants with Botany courses

The camp committee is reviewing the Nature Camp program through participation in the Land Conservancy Camp Program and the activities of Botany BC in order to explore further development of camps that have an educational dimension. The Committee is exploring a variety of camps for 2020 this with Wild Research, The Land Conservancy (of BC), the Kamloops Naturalists Club and Botany BC, exploring courses in birding, botany and other topics. It is also looking at camps in Comox, Prince Rupert and Squamish.

The camp committee invites your participation.
1. The Camp Committee encourages clubs to earn revenue by sponsoring a camp
2. It encourages individuals to join the committee to guide development of the Nature Camp program.

For more information email harry_crosby@telus.net
At the FGM in Kelowna it was decided to form the Governance Committee. The Committee has met six times since November 2018; “The purpose of the Committee is to ensure that the BC Nature Board and Committees fulfill their legal, ethical and functional responsibilities effectively. The Committee’s main function is quality control”

The Committee consists of Harry Crosby, Rick Gee, Alan Burger and Kees Visser, with the Past President as the Chair.

The first task was to settle on the Terms of Reference of the Governance Committee, which we completed on December 3, 2018. The Governance Committee reports to the Board of BC Nature (BCN).

The next major task was a review of the bylaws of BCN which we accomplished mid-March 2019. The draft bylaws were approved by the Board and will be presented at the AGM on May 4, in Duncan.

All Club Directors, and members were sent a copy to the new proposed bylaw by April 4, 2019. They are also available on our website.

The Governance Committee also approved the Terms of Reference of the Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Camp Committee and the Special Representatives.

After May 4, we will be working on the Policies and Procedures, the next five-year plan and the Terms of Reference of the Conservation, Education and Communication Committees.

NatureKids BC
Cynthia Berg, President NatureKids BC

Years before the “Child in Nature” movement was officially launched with the publication of Richard Louv’s now famous book, Last Child in the Woods (2005), NatureKids BC was actively working to get children outdoors, enjoying and observing nature and at the same time, learning about stewardship and how to protect nature. We have long understood that - with urban sprawl rapidly swallowing up green spaces - promoting the interaction of children with nature has become ever more necessary. Now, eighteen years on, we are more committed than ever to our mission of getting BC children and their families outdoors to explore, play, learn about and take action for nature.

2018 has been an exciting and busy year for our board and staff teams as we worked collaboratively to accomplish year two of our strategic framework. Although club and member numbers are relatively stable, we are keenly aware of how Canadian society is evolving, with its dramatically shifting demographics, changing values, and less willingness to give, both in terms of donations and of volunteer time. Given that each of these factors impacts how we do what we do, we have spent much of 2018 addressing this shifting reality by firming up our operational practices, reviewing our programs and policies, and initiating an early start on our next strategic planning process.

Highlights for 2018 include: creating and approving a new Constitution and Bylaws in accordance with the BC Societies Act; cultivating a culture of listening to our members and leaders through surveys designed to gather feedback around their changing needs; celebrating the highest levels to date of participation in stewardship projects like the Christmas Bird Count for Kids and our Citizen Science project on pollinators (which demonstrated a growing appetite for projects where kids can really make a difference for nature); working on one of our core values of diversity and inclusion by finding ways to attract those families and children our programs are not currently reaching; connecting with new Canadians and refugees through partnering with MOSAIC; expanding our three-person staff team to include a development specialist; and opening a conversation with Nature Canada around our methods of engagement with a particular focus on
our membership model.

Our critical and essential work in communities across our beautiful province is supported by BC Nature and its affiliates in many ways which include nature mentors volunteering to lead Explore Days, sharing office space in the Heritage Building alongside wonderful BC Nature manager Betty Davison, participation in adult natural history programs, donations, sponsorships, contributions and the list goes on. We cannot thank you enough for your faithful support that makes it possible for us to continue to carry out our mission to nurture the next generation of naturalists.

Fun facts:
Exploring and Learning About Nature:
• 2060 children and adults from 24 family nature clubs had more than 3,255 outdoor adventures
• 49 Nature Passports (249 nature outings) were completed and submitted for great prizes
• 9,300 printed and digital copies of quarterly magazine *NatureWILD* were distributed
• Launched free digital access to *NatureWILD* to teachers and schools in the province to support place based learning

Community Involvement:
• 170 enthusiastic volunteers contributed 8,900 hours to connect children and families with nature. With an in-kind value of $133,500, this is equivalent to 5 additional part-time staff!
• 49 nature club leaders organized 217 monthly Explorer Days adventures in 34 Communities across BC
• 100 local nature mentors shared their passion, knowledge and expertise with NatureKids
• Our staff, board and volunteers attended the NatureKids display at many community events

Stepping Up for Nature:
Citizen Science and Hands-on Environmental Stewardship
• Over half of all NatureKids clubs participated in the Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC 4Kids) as well as the Great Backyard Bird Watch
• The Pollinator Citizen Science project saw 14 clubs actively engaged
• Amphibian road surveys were conducted in several locations through the province
• 1,600 m² of land were improved through stewardship activities, 1467 native plants, trees and shrubs were planted, and 40 bird, bee and bat boxes installed or renovated

It is a pleasure and privilege to work alongside of the BC Nature community to create positive change in our communities across British Columbia, collectively carrying forward our vision to build a healthy and sustainable future for our world by engaging every child and their family in the diversity, complexity and wonder of nature. Please visit our website at [www.naturekidsbc.ca](http://www.naturekidsbc.ca) to look at our annual report for more details on our reach and impact.

Personnel Committee
Harry Crosby - Personnel Chair

At the October 30, 2018 Board Meeting, the BC Nature Board decided to further develop its management program and established the Governance Committees, Finance Committee and Personnel committee in addition to the four operations committees: (Nature Camp, Conservation, Education and Communications Committees).

The Purpose of the Personnel Committee is develop and update job descriptions and standardized evaluation processes for all staff, board members, representatives and volunteers that are serving BC Nature. The committee also reviews staffing needs and budget requirements to meet those needs.

The committee has established its terms of reference with the Board and is now working to establish the personnel policy for BC Nature. ◆
Projects

Harnessing Nature Knowledge
Krista Kaptein - BC IBA Representative

The 2019 phase of the Harnessing Nature Knowledge Project received funding with a grant of $8000 from BC Gaming. The project is a web-based, map-based tool highlighting nature viewing sites in BC, intended for users interested in nature viewing – both local residents and visitors.

2019 is anticipated to be the final year of the project, with over 400 sites now online, in eight broad regions: Thompson/Nicola Region, Lower Mainland Region, Vancouver Island Region, Sunshine Coast Region, North and Northwest Region including Haida Gwaii, Central BC Region including Prince George, Okanagan Region, Southeast BC Region.

The BC Nature Viewing Guide website is www.bcnatureguide.ca. The site has been enhanced with a gallery of photos on the home page, and bird sounds courtesy of Neville Recording on main pages.

Viewers can access general or detailed information using the maps. On the main BC Nature Viewing Regions page, icons on a Provincial map indicate sites for which nature viewing information is compiled. On a drop-down menu, a visitor may select from Nature Viewing Regions of the Province. Each of these regions has Nature Viewing Areas which show as clusters of marker icons on a map. Each marker icon links to a detailed Nature Viewing Site page, which presents in chart form, nature information, images, seasons to visit, references, links and more.

We strongly encourage naturalists and clubs to review the online Guide www.bcnatureguide.ca and let us know of any changes they would like to make for nature sites that they are familiar with. Please contact Krista. coordinator@gmail.com.

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Program
Submitted by Krista Kaptein

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Program is one of the main province-wide stewardship projects of BC Nature. There are 83 IBAs in BC and the BC IBA Caretaker Network includes about 60 volunteer Caretakers and Co-Caretakers who are critical to the Program’s success. Caretaker projects range from education to conservation, including activities such as bird surveys, birding festivals, community outreach, and interpretive sign design and installation. The IBA program has continued with achievements, collaborations and targets in the past year as follows:

- Successful continuation of BC Gaming support with $10,000 grant awarded for 2019.
- Successful application to McLean Foundation with $5,000 support received for continued IBA outreach in 2019.
- Annual Fall IBA Newsletter produced in Nov. 2018 and posted online.
- 2018 Annual IBA Caretakers Report compiled and posted online.
- Updates to Compilations of IBA signs and posters documents uploaded to BC Nature website.
- BCN magazine articles on IBAs compiled and posted online.
- Conservation team meetings to provide technical support continue. The core team includes Anne Murray, Art Martell, George Clulow, David Bradley, James Casey and Graham Sorenson of Bird Studies Canada, and other expertise as needed.
• Liaison with Bird Studies Canada headquarters staff in Ontario continues with Andrew Couturier, BSC Senior Analyst.
• Liaison with Alberta IBA Program Assistant Kelsie Norton of Nature Alberta, re: IBA workshop, and reporting resources.
• BC IBA Caretaker Google Groups emailing list reaches about 60 Caretakers and Co-caretakers.
• Several BC IBA eNewsletters sent, reaching about 400 people now in the IBA network, every few months.
• Recruitment, communications and welcome packages for three new IBA Caretakers since spring 2018.
• 2018 Year-end thank-you packages and appreciation gifts (photo cards) sent to all Caretakers and Co-Caretakers.
• Ongoing Caretaker Support including meetings and communications; IBA signs; bird ID materials; bird count support; letters of support.
• Display materials provided to Caretakers e.g. Chehalis IBA for participation in Harrison Stronghold workshop.
• Application for funding submitted to TDFEF in January 2019, for 4 interpretive signs in 3 IBAs, in partnership with other organizations.
• Successful completion in 2018 of IBA interpretive sign project funded by TD FEF and Columbia Basin Trust.
• Successful completion of Trumpeter Swan Survey in Stuart, Tachie and Middle Rivers IBA in February 2019, funded by BCFO.
• Successful application to BCFO for funding to support an eBird Protocol Survey in Chopaka East and Kilpoola Lake Area IBA, to be completed in June 2019.
• Successful second year of IBA Local Action Fund (LAF) /Nature Canada Project: “Engaging BC First Nations Guardian Watchmen as Partners in IBA Stewardship”. Activities included boat trip with the K’omoks Guardian Watchmen to survey the IBA and practice identification and monitoring; participation of the K’omoks member in Comox Valley Nature bird counts; continuing good communications with the K’omoks Guardian Watchmen. Project continues with continuing outreach to Haida Gwaii and Central Coast First Nations Guardian Watchmen. IBA Caretakers are taking the lead on outreach.
• Successful application to Nature Canada Public Engagement Fund for team building with IBA Caretakers using Engagement Organizing principles.

In the coming year, funding will continue to be sought to support more IBA projects and conservation initiatives. The LAF project will continue with outreach work in K’omoks, Central Coast and Haida Gwaii. Site summary updates will continue in collaboration with Caretakers. The Engagement Organizing project will continue with webinars and workshops for IBA Caretakers. The Coordinator will continue to support Caretaker initiatives at their request. There will be a display on IBAs on May 2-4, 2019 as part of the BC Nature AGM in Duncan.

Anne Murray continues as volunteer IBA Program Liaison for BC Nature; and members of the BC IBA Conservation Team, Caretakers, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Canada, and other partners and supporters, continue to contribute a significant amount of in-kind time and expertise to the Program.
Resolution 2019-01: Wells Gray Mountain Caribou
Submitted by Nancy Flood & Gary Hunt, Kamloops Naturalist Club

WHEREAS Southern Mountain Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) (SMC) have been listed as Threatened under the Species at Risk Act since 2003 and a federal recovery strategy was posted in 2014;1,4
WHEREAS SMC numbers have declined drastically over the last 20 years, from about 2500 in 18 herds in 1994 to about 156 animals existing in 13 herds in 2014;2,3,4,28 and all these herds continue to decline in size;
WHEREAS the Wells Gray Caribou herd, specifically, has declined from an estimated 336 animals in 1995, to 242 in 2006, to about 111 currently and is projected to continue declining;5,6,16
WHEREAS the evidence is clear that although predation is currently a major cause of population declines in SMC, this problem has originated with, and continues to be exacerbated by, human disturbance, particularly as it results in habitat loss;3,7,9,10,11,15
WHEREAS culling predators, use of maternity pens, and translocations may assist in the short term preservation of some SMC populations, research shows that these measures are expensive, must include about 60% of females to be effective, and will need to be continued for at least five or six decades post logging for populations that are not self-sustaining; and that maintenance of sufficient habitat for the population is critical for the maintenance and hoped-for growth of caribou populations;3,5,11,12,25
WHEREAS low population density by itself exacerbates the effect of all these other issues for SMC (i.e., they experience Allee effects), such that per capita growth rates decrease with declining population density;13,14
WHEREAS in April 2017, BC Nature, along with other groups made legal application to the federal government under Canada’s Species at Risk Act (SARA) for an Emergency Protection Order to ban Canfor’s proposed logging in caribou habitat in Wells Gray Park; they argued that this logging was occurring in habitat designated as critical habitat for SMC;16
WHEREAS in June 2018, the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada declared that there was “imminent threat” to 10 SMC populations (Local Population Units, or LPUs)—those under 100 animals in size, which would not be considered “self-sustaining.” Even though the report acknowledged that “No estimate of minimum viable population (MVP) size exists for SMC,” research on the Boreal Caribou (which have a different migratory pattern) was used to define “Self-sustaining” for SMC: as: (1) “the LPU on average demonstrates stable or positive population growth over the short term (≤20 years), and is large enough to withstand random events and persist over the long term (≥50 years), without the need for ongoing active management intervention; and (2) there is an increase to at least 100 caribou within LPUs that currently consist of fewer than 100 caribou, and there is no reduction in the number of caribou within LPUs that currently consist of over 100 caribou;”17 (italics ours).
WHEREAS despite this declaration of imminent threat, no Emergency Protection Order (which would have stopped further logging etc.) was issued, 3 of the 10 populations described above are now extirpated 3,18 and, according to many sources, 83 + 314 = 397 logging permits have been issued within the ranges of the endangered herds since June 2018;19,20,21,26,27 Although scientific evidence surrounding the reasons for the decline of SMC is abundant, campaigns of denial have clouded the issue in the public’s eyes and delayed an appropriate response;24
WHEREAS the best hope for the recovery of SMC may lie with herds such as the two herds that overlap with Wells Gray Park: they face lower risk of the deleterious effects of genetic drift, inbreeding and stochastic events than smaller herds22,23; and their possibility for long-term viability is greatly increased compared to that of any other remaining herds by the fact that much of their range is currently protected;

BE IT RESOLVED that BC Nature call on the governments of British Columbia and Canada to:
Apply the precautionary principle and take all necessary steps to halt harvesting in the range of both the Wells Gray Park South and the Wells Gray Park North herds of SMC; this includes harvesting in the matrix areas as outlined by the 2014 Environment Canada Recovery Strategy for SMC.

References
1. COSEWIC. 2014. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Caribou (Rangifer tarandus), Northern Mountain population, Central Mountain population and Southern Mountain population in Canada. Committee on the Status of
# Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
## BC Nature Executive and BC Nature Club Directors 2017

### BC Nature Executive Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Kootenay Regional Coordinator</td>
<td>Joan Ballin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:snowdance@shaw.ca">snowdance@shaw.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator</td>
<td>Jude Grass</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judegrass@shaw.ca">judegrass@shaw.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator</td>
<td>Sheila Puls</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sheila@puls.ca">sheila@puls.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern BC Regional Coordinator</td>
<td>Fred McMechan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fred_mcmchan@telus.net">fred_mcmchan@telus.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator</td>
<td>John Neville</td>
<td><a href="mailto:songbird@saltspring.com">songbird@saltspring.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Okanagan Regional Coordinator</td>
<td>Janet Pattinson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scouse5@icloud.com">scouse5@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Chair</td>
<td>Margaret Cuthbert</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blueheron@birdsonthebay.ca">blueheron@birdsonthebay.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Director</td>
<td>Helen Aqua</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helen.aqua@gmail.com">helen.aqua@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Chair</td>
<td>Margaret Cuthbert</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blueheron@birdsonthebay.ca">blueheron@birdsonthebay.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBA Coordinator</td>
<td>Krista Kaptein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kaptein@shaw.ca">kaptein@shaw.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NatureKids President</td>
<td>Cynthia Berg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@naturekidsbc.ca">president@naturekidsbc.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NatureKids - Executive Director</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC Naturalists Foundation - President</td>
<td>Bob Handfield</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bobnmaggie@shaw.ca">bobnmaggie@shaw.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lower Mainland Region Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature Club</th>
<th>Director</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club</td>
<td>Hank Roos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alouette Field Naturalists</td>
<td>Duanne Vandenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC Great Blue Heron Society</td>
<td>Gillian Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowen Island Nature Club</td>
<td>Will Husby *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke Mountain Naturalists</td>
<td>Victoria Otten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilliwack Field Naturalists’ Society</td>
<td>Janne Perrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Naturalists Society</td>
<td>Anita den Dikken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society</td>
<td>Marg Cuthbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langley Field Naturalists</td>
<td>Kathy Masse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Campbell Watershed Society</td>
<td>David Riley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pender Harbour &amp; District Wildlife Society</td>
<td>Carol Logtenberg *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamish Environmental Conservation Society</td>
<td>Rachel Shephard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoney Creek Environmental Committee</td>
<td>Wendy Snyder *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Coast Natural History Society</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey Environmental Partners (SEP)</td>
<td>Deb Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Vancouver</td>
<td>Bev Ramey, Janet Snell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whistler Naturalists Society</td>
<td>Kris Shoup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society</td>
<td>Carol Monaghan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WildResearch | Courteney Lahue
---|---
Yorkson Watershed Stewardship Committee | Kathy Masse

**Kootenay Region Directors**

Fernie Nature Club | Kim Lentz
Rocky Mountain Naturalists | Rob Woods
West Kootenay Naturalists’ Association | Joan Snyder

**Northern BC Region Directors**

Bulkley Valley Naturalists | Sybille Haeussler
Kitimat Valley Naturalists | Walter Thorne
Mackenzie Nature Observatory | Jeanne Shaw
Northern Amphibian Naturalists Society | Terry Walker *
Prince George Naturalists | Dave Leman
Quesnel Naturalists | Lorna Schley
Timberline Trail & Nature Club | Meredith Thornton
Williams Lake Field Naturalists | Fred McMechan

**Thompson-Shuswap-Okanagan Region Directors**

Central Okanagan Naturalist Club | Fran Fisher
Kamloops Naturalist Club | Gary Hunt
Kamloops Thompson Trail Alliance | Vern Sundstrom *
Lillooet Naturalists | Vivian Birch Jones
Nicola Naturalists | Alan Burger
North Okanagan Naturalists Club | Pamela Jenkins
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists | Dwayne Flexhaug
Shuswap Naturalists Club | Dianne Wittner *
South Okanagan Naturalists’ Club | Alex Bodden
Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists | Donna Hills

**Vancouver Island Region Directors**

Arrowsmith Naturalists | Al Kirkley
Comox Valley Naturalists Society | Sharon Niscak
Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society | Jane McAllister
Nature Nanaimo | Michael Stebbings *
Pender Island Field Naturalists | Bob Vergette
Rithet’s Bog Conservation Society | Sharon Forrester
Rocky Point Bird Observatory | Andrew Harcombe
Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club | Kathleen Maser
Victoria Natural History Society | Darren Copley

* denotes new director (within the last 12 months)

Welcome to the New BC Nature Club Directors!
THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2018
(Unaudited)
INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER’S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2018, and the statement of operations and changes in fund balance, statement of changes in net assets and the statement of cash flows for the year, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion
Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists as at December 31, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

REID HURST NAGY INC.
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

RICHMOND, B.C.
APRIL 3, 2019
## THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**December 31, 2018**  
*(Unaudited)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>50,214</td>
<td>60,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (Note 3)</td>
<td>86,493</td>
<td>105,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>1,918</td>
<td>5,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST receivable</td>
<td>1,995</td>
<td>4,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>3,865</td>
<td>6,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>144,485</strong></td>
<td><strong>183,538</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accruals</td>
<td>5,275</td>
<td>4,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>34,727</td>
<td>31,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNALLY RESTRICTED (Notes 5 &amp; 6)</td>
<td>31,336</td>
<td>42,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED GRANTS (Notes 5 &amp; 7)</td>
<td>53,586</td>
<td>83,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED DONATIONS (Note 7)</td>
<td>19,561</td>
<td>22,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balances</strong></td>
<td><strong>139,210</strong></td>
<td><strong>178,790</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMITMENTS</strong> (Note 4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$         $
## Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended December 31, 2017
(Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Internally Restricted</th>
<th>Externally Restricted Grants</th>
<th>Externally Restricted Donations</th>
<th>Total 2018</th>
<th>Total 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note 8</td>
<td>Note 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR</td>
<td>31,398</td>
<td>42,017</td>
<td>83,332</td>
<td>22,043</td>
<td>178,790</td>
<td>120,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</td>
<td>8,429</td>
<td>(14,901)</td>
<td>(30,102)</td>
<td>(3,006)</td>
<td>(39,580)</td>
<td>58,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund transfers</td>
<td>(5,100)</td>
<td>4,220</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE, ENDING OF YEAR</td>
<td>34,727</td>
<td>31,336</td>
<td>53,586</td>
<td>19,561</td>
<td>139,210</td>
<td>178,790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
For the year ended December 31, 2018
(Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING FUND</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising (BC Nature)</td>
<td>9,440</td>
<td>9,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual and Fall general</td>
<td>6,369</td>
<td>10,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meetings revenues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp revenue</td>
<td>55,490</td>
<td>70,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club membership dues</td>
<td>64,357</td>
<td>56,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive and Director</td>
<td>23,101</td>
<td>9,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>donations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance premium</td>
<td>10,472</td>
<td>10,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recovery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1,822</td>
<td>1,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal expense recovery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member donations and</td>
<td>13,826</td>
<td>15,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fundraising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other dues and</td>
<td>1,660</td>
<td>1,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subscriptions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project administration</td>
<td>8,260</td>
<td>2,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental revenue</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>194,797</td>
<td>209,095</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENSES**             |        |        |
| Accounting               | 5,427  | 5,017  |
| Annual and Fall general  | 1,706  | 1,137  |
| meetings                 |        |        |
| Awards                   | 266    | 386    |
| Bank charges             | 1,097  | 749    |
| BC Nature production and | 23,297 | 23,577 |
| mailing                  |        |        |
| Camp expenses            | 43,887 | 63,680 |
| Dues                     | 356    | 157    |
| Insurance premiums       | 10,094 | 10,486 |
| Internet expenses        | 7,392  | 2,565  |
| Office                   | 3,682  | 4,154  |
| Office improvement       | 2,133  | 2,634  |
| Salary and benefits      | 54,339 | 51,303 |
| Supplies and miscellaneous| 3,396  | 580    |
| Telephone and communications| 1,365 | 1,645  |
| Travel and accommodation | 27,931 | 14,577 |
| **Total**                | 186,368| 182,647|

| **EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES** |        |        |
| Balance, beginning of year          | 8,429  | 26,448 |
| Interfund transfers                  | 31,398 | 18,471 |
| (5,100)                               |        | (13,521)|
| **Fund balance, end of the year**    | 34,727 | 31,398 |
## THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
For the year ended December 31, 2018  
(Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures from

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted activities</td>
<td>8,429</td>
<td>26,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internally restricted funds &amp; programs</td>
<td>(14,901)</td>
<td>1,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externally restricted grants</td>
<td>(30,102)</td>
<td>18,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externally restricted donations</td>
<td>(3,006)</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                 | (39,580) | 58,207 |

### CHANGES IN NON-CASH WORKING CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>3,339</td>
<td>1,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST receivable</td>
<td>2,838</td>
<td>749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>3,098</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accruals</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>(5,609)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                 | (29,778) | 55,081 |

### CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Redemption (purchase) of investments</td>
<td>19,154</td>
<td>(64,261)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10,624)</td>
<td>(9,180)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CASH, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60,838</td>
<td>70,018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CASH, END OF THE YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50,214</td>
<td>60,838</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Purpose of the Organization

The FBCN was incorporated under the Societies Act of British Columbia on June 3, 1969.

The objectives of the FBCN are:

a) To provide naturalists and natural history clubs of British Columbia with a unified voice on conservation and environmental issues,

b) To foster an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations,

c) To encourage the formation and cooperation of natural history clubs throughout British Columbia, and

d) To provide a means of communication between naturalists in British Columbia.

2 Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The significant policies are:

(a) Basis of Presentation

These financial statements reflect the activities of the Federation only. They do not include the transactions of the member clubs, affiliates or the BC Naturalists’ Foundation.

(b) Fund Accounting

The Operating Fund is unrestricted and reports revenue and expenses related to Federation of British Columbia Naturalists’ ("FBCN") member services and administrative activities.

The Internally Restricted Funds report revenue and expenses allocated for specific initiatives by the Board of Directors of FBCN.

The Externally Restricted Funds report resources which are externally restricted for specific projects.

(c) Revenue Recognition

FBCN follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions. Contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which they are received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

(d) Investments

Investments are initially recorded at fair market value at the date of acquisition and are subsequently adjusted to fair market value at the reporting date with the adjustments recognized as investment income in the Fund in which the investments are held.

(e) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are expensed on acquisition. Tangible capital assets consist primarily of office equipment.
THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2018
(Unaudited)

(f) Financial Instruments

FBCN’s financial instruments consist of cash, investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying value because of their short term or immediate maturity.

(g) Contributed Services

FBCN does not keep records of the service hours provided by volunteers to carry out its service delivery activities. Because of the difficulty in determining the fair value, these contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

(h) Income Tax Status

For income tax purposes, the Federation is a non-profit organization exempt from income taxes under Section 149(1)(f) of the Canadian Income Tax Act.

3

INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>INSTRUMENT</th>
<th>MATURES</th>
<th>INTEREST RATE</th>
<th>FAIR VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vancity Savings Credit Union</td>
<td>Term Deposit</td>
<td>January 17, 2019</td>
<td>1.05 %</td>
<td>20,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancity Savings Credit Union</td>
<td>Term Deposit</td>
<td>February 23, 2019</td>
<td>2.00 %</td>
<td>20,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancity Savings Credit Union</td>
<td>Term Deposit</td>
<td>February 23, 2019</td>
<td>2.00 %</td>
<td>20,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancity Savings Credit Union</td>
<td>Term Deposit</td>
<td>April 19, 2019</td>
<td>2.25 %</td>
<td>25,396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

86,493

4

COMMITMENTS

In 2015 FBCN renewed the agreement with the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia. Under the agreement, the Elders Council provides FBCN with office space in Mount Seymour Provincial Park Heritage Centre. In return, FBCN will provide the Elders Council with administrative support services of 6 days per month.

5

RESTATEMENT OF COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS

On the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017, the "Abbotsford-Mission Willband" fund balance and the "Summer Students" fund balance were reported in the Internally Restricted Fund instead of the Externally Restricted Grants Fund. The comparative financial statements have been retroactively restated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As Previously Stated $</th>
<th>Adjustment $</th>
<th>As Restated $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internally Restricted Fund</td>
<td>66,724</td>
<td>(24,707)</td>
<td>42,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externally Restricted Grants</td>
<td>58,625</td>
<td>24,707</td>
<td>83,332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was no impact on current year’s figures.
## INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>2017 Note</th>
<th>Transfers in (out)</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC Naturalists' Club Support</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>(524)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Conservation Fund</td>
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<td>Contingency Fund</td>
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<td>15,107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Bert Brink in memoriam fund</td>
<td>3,616</td>
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<td>(300)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Bert Brink Scholarship</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Fund</td>
<td>677</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(34)</td>
<td>643</td>
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<tr>
<td>Important Bird Areas Fund</td>
<td>11,121</td>
<td>(356)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(3,832)</td>
<td>6,933</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kootenay Fund</td>
<td>213</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(213)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New Club Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,114</td>
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<td>1,114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Fair</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>2,100</td>
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<td>(4,200)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website Upgrade &amp; HKN</td>
<td>7,436</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>42,017</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,220</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,114</strong></td>
<td><strong>(16,015)</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,336</strong></td>
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## 7 Externally Restricted Grants and Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Note 8</th>
<th>Transfers in (out)</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenses 2018</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbotsford-Mission Willband (Note 5)</td>
<td>21,889</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,796</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC Gaming - Magazine</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
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<td>BC Gaming - Harnessing Nature</td>
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<td>BC Gaming - IBA</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecological Reserve Wardens</td>
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<td>IBA</td>
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<td>356</td>
<td>18,595</td>
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<td>Nature Canada - Silka</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<td>Summer Student (Note 5)</td>
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<td>21,037</td>
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<td>Wildlife Viewing Programs</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,122</td>
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<tr>
<td>WITS</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,807)</td>
<td>1,793</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>83,332</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>81,428</td>
<td>(111,530)</td>
<td>53,586</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Donations**        |             |                   |          |               |   |
| BC Naturalist Foundation Fund | 17,082 | 524               | 14,500   | (17,444)      | 14,662 |
| BC Nature Retreat    | -           | -                 | 8,000    | (7,447)       | 553  |
| Bert Brink           | -           | -                 | 600      | -             | 600  |
| Rene Saverye Scholarship Fund | 4,851 | -                 | -        | (1,500)       | 3,361 |
| Other restricted donations | 100   | -                 | 8,881    | (9,596)       | 385  |
| **Total**            | 22,043      | 524               | 32,981   | (35,987)      | 19,561 |