



Lillooet Naturalist Society – report to BC Nature FGM 2009

- Education about the natural world, protecting and promoting biodiversity, and conservation of habitat for species at risk, remain priorities. www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org
- Membership has grown to over 60 members in 2009. Ages from 2 years to 89.
- Our Annual General Meeting was February 22nd and well attended. In 2009 we have a nominating committee and hope to have some turnover in the long serving executive.
- Educational materials such as resource books on the Fraser River, the grasslands and Hoofed Mammals of BC have been purchased and donated to the local library this year. We are strong supporters of our library and wrote a letter protesting cuts by the BC Liberals in August. We also use the local radio and newspapers to inform about natural history and events of local interest.
- Our 9th annual Christmas bird count was held on December 28th, 2008 with an education and planning meeting the evening before. Thirty people participated and we recorded 56 species on count day.
- In January a Great Grey Owl was identified in our area, which brings our local bird checklist to 238.
- Chris Galliazzo continues as the lead volunteer for the bluebird trail project. Chris also participates on the Northern Spotted Owl recovery team and provided an update to our Society at our fall meeting. Currently a large area of our bluebird house project habitat is under threat from the fires in the Kelly Creek area.
- The Hiking Guide has been a success. There are a few copies of the Guide for sale at the library and stores but it will not be a big source of income this year. Some roads have deteriorated and some work has been done to maintain trails and discover new ones. We attended a BC Government Trails Strategy meeting at Kamloops, January 20th and provided some ideas and comments, and volunteered to be a pilot community. We also supported an application by Forsite and the T'it'q'et Band do some trail work here.
- Two members went to the fall meetings at Sorrento and two members attended the AGM at Duncan.
- We received funding to continue the restoration work at the BC Hydro Powerhouse site. This work is led by Kim North and a great deal of public consultation and education is going on as well as the actual site work. Summer students were employed on the project over the summer on a Human Resources Development Canada grant and BC Nature helped us administer that – thank you. Kim has also received funding for outreach education activities and visioning sessions related to the restoration site project. Our Great Canadian Shoreline cleanup days are linked to this site. The reports on the project are available in the library. The site has been confirmed for Wildlife Area Habitat status by MOE and this is supported by our District Council. We have received positive reviews from the BCRP program as well as many community members and groups on the project.
- Kim North organized the second annual Salmon in the Canyon festival August 22nd, timed to coincide with Fin Donnelly's rafting expedition arriving at Lillooet, which was a great celebration.
- We sponsored a young woman from Shalalth to participate on the Rivershed rafting trip and we were happy to see Glenda Newsted as one of the leaders on the trip when they all rafted into Lillooet August 22nd.
- Greg Smith led a successful expedition to the Churn Creek grasslands in June 2009 and we have become members of the grasslands organizations at Kamloops and Williams Lake area.
- Fires burned for weeks over the summer and a great deal of our dry and dying forests were consumed. When Lillooet was on an evacuation order we received a very kind offer of assistance from the Kamloops naturalists.
- Bat expert Doug Burles joined us for one of our evening sessions and we enjoyed learning more about our bats.
- Ian Routley is the regional coordinator for the BC Breeding Bird Atlas and 20 people attended an educational session about this project in March. A great deal of data has been submitted to the Atlas project from our area.
- Larry Casper and Vivian Birch-Jones participate on the BCRP board of BC Hydro and supported research in our area in 2008 which included Mule Deer and Coastal tailed frogs as well as the restoration at the Powerhouse site.
- BC Nature has posted our resolution about the steady state economy on their website and has been promoting it with Nature Canada.
- We were recognized as Climate Action Community Heroes by our local newspaper in November 2008 and short-listed for a Sustainability Award with Fraser Basin Council – thanks to Bev Ramey for that FBC nomination.
- We worked with BC Wildlife Federation and local authorities to create a wetland at Cayoosh School in June 2009.
- We are protesting the expansion of Fish Farms on the coast and are also concerned about the way the provincial government is disposing of crown land without public consultation or consideration of ecological consequences.
- A BC Nature camp is planned for September at Lillooet and is fully booked ☺