



### **Lillooet Naturalist Society – report for BC Nature – Sept. 2007**

- We formed the Society in July 2002 and became a full member of BC Nature (FBCN) as part of the Thompson Okanagan region in 2004. Education about the natural world, preserving and promoting biodiversity, and conservation of habitat for species at risk, remain priorities. Membership has grown to over 40 members in 2007. We circulate information about conservation issues to members and provide information on request about various conservation initiatives and resources.
- We welcomed Scott Bodaly to our board at our AGM in February, 2007
- Chris Galliazzo continues as the lead volunteer for the bluebird trail project and she organized expeditions and field work over the season
- The Hiking Guide has been a success, both in increasing appreciation of our natural surroundings and economically for our Society. Seed funding for this project was rec'd from FBCN, MEC, the Credit Union, FORREX and BC Hydro. Otherwise it was a volunteer community effort. We have sold about 1,400 copies and are considering another edition in future. We now have dedicated funds for the project and the next printing. We are working with the Ministry of Forests and other groups to keep our interests on their agendas. Some roads have deteriorated and some work has been done to maintain trails and discover new ones.



- We have also continued some steady local lobbying about restricting ORV use
- Two members attended the BC Nature AGM in Vernon and plan to attend the fall meetings at Harrison
- Our Society supported one of our members to attend a conference on ecological restoration (tuition).
- We received another year's funding to study and plan for 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 some actual site work. Our Great Canadian Shoreline cleanup days are linked to this site. The report from 2006 has been circulated and is available in the library. The area has been listed for Wildlife Area Habitat status by MOE and this is supported by our District Council and could be very good news for our restoration plans.



- Kim North is on the Rivershed Society of BC's board. We have an active partnership with that organization as we share the common concern of the health of the Fraser River. Fin Donnelly from the Rivershed Society rafted down the Fraser River and stopped at Lillooet August 17<sup>th</sup> (photo – Fin waving). We hosted a lunch for them on the shores of the Fraser River. Our Society also helped to sponsor one local FN young woman to participate on this rafting trip - the Sustainable Living Leadership program - and we look forward to hearing about that when we host the Rivershed meetings here in late September
- Larry Casper and Vivian Birch-Jones continue to participate on the BCRP board with BC Hydro and supported research in our area in 2007 that looks at Mule Deer and Grizzly Bear (both St'at'imc Tribal projects) and the Powerhouse site (LNS) as well as the study on Sockeye Salmon by UBC researchers. Our Society hosts educational sessions on research that is being conducted locally and opens these sessions to the public.
- The research funded by BCRP about the sockeye, of grave concern locally, has been scheduled for an educational presentation September 22<sup>nd</sup> for the public, our naturalists and the Rivershed Society.
- A resolution regarding habitat protection for the red-listed Northern Spotted Owl was taken to the Nature Canada meetings in Red Deer in 2006. This year we learned that the liberal government is investing in captive breeding for this species but the logging of habitat continues apace.....
- Educational materials such as resource books on butterflies and wildlife trees, Naturescape and Anne Murray's beautiful book on Boundary Bay, have been purchased by the Society and donated to the library.
- The St'at'imc Runner is a new First Nations' newspaper and they have provided excellent coverage on conservation issues and we look forward to partnering with them more in future. We continue to use the local radio to promote natural history and species and events of interest
- Sarah Weaver Kipp visited Lillooet representing Nature Canada January 21<sup>st</sup> and facilitated a workshop on the nature network which was interesting – no summary report was prepared for at the AGM at Nova Scotia.
- We hosted the BC Field Ornithologist's meetings at Lillooet in May 2007, which was a great pleasure and success. It also improved our bird checklist ☺
- The BCFO adopted a position statement on the steady state economy while in Lillooet and our Society adopted a similar position shortly thereafter.
- Two members attended the Nature Canada meetings at Nova Scotia in August and we presented the steady state economy paper, which outlines the conflict between economic growth and biodiversity, and asked the executive and membership to consider this position statement and bring it forward.
- Ken Oakes has upgraded our website <lillooetnaturalistsociety.org>
- Our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas bird count is scheduled for Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007