



## **Lillooet Naturalist Society – AGM report to members Feb 2009**

- We formed the Society in July 2002. Education about the natural world, protecting and promoting biodiversity, and conservation of habitat for species at risk, remain priorities.
- Membership has grown to over 50 members in 2008 (~ 25 individuals and 25 families). Ages from 4 years to 89.
- Educational materials such as resource books on the Fraser River and the recent Hoofed Mammals of BC have been purchased by the Society and donated to the local library. We use the local radio and newspapers to promote natural history and events of interest.
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- 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.
- The Hiking Guide has been a success, both in increasing appreciation of our natural surroundings and economically for our Society. 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 in this upcoming year. We are considering another edition and we have dedicated funds for the project from revenues earned on sales. 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 20<sup>th</sup> and provided some ideas and comments, and volunteered to be a pilot community.
- Two members attended the BC Nature AGM in Penticton and two new members went to the fall meetings at Sorrento.
- We received funding to begin the actual 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 a great deal of site work. Four students were employed on the project over the summer on a Human Resources Development Canada grant and BC Nature helped us administer that. 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 received a very positive review from the BCRP program on the project and have been approved for funding for this upcoming season.
- Kim North organized a very well attended education session on Independent Power Projects (identified at our AGM as an item of great concern) in April 2008.
- Kim North is on the Rivershed Society of BC's board. Fin Donnelly from the Rivershed Society rafted down the Fraser River and stopped at Lillooet in the summer. Kim and the powerhouse crew organized a wonderful festival that day with a great deal of education and entertainment. We sponsored two participants on this rafting trip - the Sustainable Living Leadership program and we enjoyed hearing about the trip at a presentation that followed.
- We were pleased to present Kim North with a BC Nature Volunteer Recognition Award at our spring meeting.
- Ian Routley is the regional coordinator for the BC Breeding Bird Atlas
- A Western Screech owl was found injured and taken for rehabilitation at OWL but, sadly, died in January. Shortly thereafter another Western Screech owl was identified by two keen birders just across the Fraser River from our restoration site, so optimistically she or he will find one of our new nest boxes.
- Also in January a Great Grey Owl was identified in our area, which brings our local bird checklist to 238.
- During the year a lichen educational walk was led by Ken Wright and we held a geology outing led by Pierre Friele as well as a butterfly expedition to Shulaps with David Threatful. These were all requested by our members at our AGM and were well attended.
- 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 Grizzly Bear (both St'at'imc Tribal projects) and the Powerhouse site. This year research on Coastal tailed frogs is also planned for our area.
- 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.
- We were nominated and short-listed for a Sustainability Award with Fraser Basin Council in February 2009.
- Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas bird count was held on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with an education and planning meeting the evening before. Thirty people participated and we recorded 56 species on count day, a record high for us.
- A BC Nature camp is planned for September at Lillooet and 21 people have registered already – 3 spots open ☺.
- MJ and Ken Oakes are doing a wonderful job with our website [www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org](http://www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org)