



Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 5, 2017

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm.

Minutes:

The November 2017 minutes had a couple of errors that were brought to the secretary's attention before the meeting; they were corrected and resent. Janet Pattinson moved that they be accepted with the corrections; 2nd Isobel Anderson.

Treasurer's report:

Ted Hillary reported the following for November 2017:

Bank balance November 7, 2017	\$3,924.68
Revenue	
Dues	115.00
Coffee	10.50
Interest	0.15
	\$125.65
Expenditures	
	Nil
Bank balance December 5, 2017	\$3,898.16
Patronage	\$0.81

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report. 2nd John Henderson.
Reminder: Memberships are \$25 single, and \$30 per couple or family.

Announcements:

1. Anne Caughlan provided some of her art cards to the club – they are available to purchase.
2. The „Everything Shuswap“book is available via silent auction at coffee break.
3. Recipient of this year's award of \$1950 was Aaron Mann – environmental student going into environmental law. Gillian Richardson presented the award for our club. Leslie Stoddart's sister was there as well.

4. Weed pull: total up to 210 bags, and 18 people helped out. If the water is low enough, the club will do a weed pull in May and should have some school classes helping out.
5. Good news: Ed McDonald has been seeing lots of good signs of beaver on the nature trail and near the Prestige Inn. We need to protect this keystone species.

Business:

1. Christmas Bird Count – Ted Hilary:
 Team leaders are assigned to different areas. Please let the leaders know your availability and they will set you up.
 Marlene McDonald has booked the seniors' drop-in centre. Doors will be open around 3:30 or so. Mike Saul is seeking entertainment – please see him if you're interested in performing.
 Discussion ensued on whether participants discuss the species they've seen, or just the highlights.
 James Bowlby mentioned that an article in a recent National Geographic discusses the origin of the Christmas Bird Count.
2. Show & Tell:
 Di Wittner talked about maintaining bird boxes. She cleaned out all the boxes from Raven to Peter Jannink Park. She also numbered the boxes and recorded everything that she found. We need to keep on top of cleaning out the boxes or they will not serve their purpose. Some need to be moved higher up as well. We could easily triple the number of boxes, but they need to be built properly. Jim Hoskins agreed to build some more boxes. Janet Aitken said that SABNES could likely fund the materials.

Reports:

Outdoor School - Dawn McDonald: the Nov meeting was well attended. Carl Cooper endorsed the idea. Over 80 parents signed their kids up for it that night. Renovations would have to be done to the school at South Canoe if it goes ahead.

Sightings:

- Mike Saul: four deer came out of the water near where they live. He thinks they swam across the water.
- Joyce Henderson – an eagle has built a nest across the tracks in a tree near the big houses - this will ensure that the tree stays up.
- Sherry Bowlby: saw an osprey near downtown Askews.

Mike Saul moved to adjourn at 7:50 pm. After the break, Mike and Pam Saul gave a presentation about their trip to New Zealand.