



## Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm.

### Minutes:

The January 2016 minutes were accepted as circulated; moved by Monica Dahl, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Turner.

### Treasurer's report:

Ted Hillary presented the following for January 2016:

**Bank balance on January 5, 2016**                    **\$5,255.39**

#### Revenue:

Coffee	\$25.20
Dues	\$350.00
Interest	\$0.21
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$375.41</b>

#### Disbursements:

Federation of BC Nature dues	\$1017.45
Ledger	\$30.06
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,047.51</b>

**Bank balance on February 2, 2016**                    **\$4,583.29**

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Isobel Anderson.

Ted reminded us that membership dues are due.

### Announcements:

1. Jeremy Ayotte will give two tours of Mara Meadows, likely in June.
2. Sherry Bowlby reported that a flock of 40-50 finches had come to her chimney and pecked at the mortar, destroying it. The chimney will need to be replaced.

### Business:

1. New format for Christmas bird count:  
Last year's count was held in the Askews community room for the first time. Feedback from members prompted Ed McDonald to suggest that participants give Ted Hillary their count numbers on paper, and then give the highlights verbally. The next count's gathering will be held again at the Seniors' Drop in Centre. Hanne MacKay suggested that the count numbers be published in the papers.

2. Woody Nightshade pull:  
Ed McDonald suggested that Gillian Richardson write an article for the newspapers to invite the public to participate in a weedpull, possibly in May.
3. Wild Wonders sponsorships:  
Kids who can't afford to go to Wild Wonders camp might be sponsored by the Shuswap Naturalists.  
**MOTION:** that we sponsor a child or children up to \$500 in total. Moved by Mike Saul, 2nd Pam Saul.
4. The Winnipeg groundhog (named Willow) died recently. Ed McDonald talked about climate change, and recited a poem by E. E. Cummings and a prayer by Red Green.

### Reports

1. SABNES:  
Janet Aitken: meetings recently with Nature Trust, and Forest, Lands & Natural Resources, all regarding the management plan and the dogs issue. Also met with Phil McIntyre-Paul of the Trail Alliance, as well as a couple of City representatives.  
A couple of naturalist representatives are needed. Clive Bryson agreed to be one.  
A naturalist rep is also needed to sit on the SABNES board.
2. Good News  
Hanne Mackay: Recent fossils found in the Bulkely Valley include a small hedgehog and a tapir.
  2. In the North Atlantic, the right whale population is bouncing back, thanks to the efforts of an oil company. Number of fatalities has decreased by 90%.
  3. BC's Great Bear rainforest is being preserved. This is an area bigger than Ireland.
  4. Vancouver is increasing habitat boundaries in various areas, also doing inventories.
  5. Dutch police are using trained raptors to take out drones.

### Sightings:

- Great Grey Owl – Peter & Sharon Lawless
- Northern Saw-Whet Owl, White-Winged Crossbills – Hanne Mackay
- Flock of Ruby-Crested Kinglets – Tom Brighthouse. Was clarified to be a flock of Redpolls.
- Merlin – seen by Mike Saul shortly after the bird count, and now he sees it regularly.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm, moved by Mike Saul.

After the break, guest speaker Aaron Deans talked about the history of the Bishop Wild Bird Sanctuary and the Allan Brooks Nature Centre.