

## Shuswap Naturalist Club Minutes - Tuesday September 7, 2021

Ed McDonald welcomed 14 members to sunny Sunnybrae Park for the first meeting of the fall season at noon.

**Minutes:** from June 16, Mike Saul moved they be accepted as circulated. Sid Visser seconded.

### Treasurer's Report:

Financial Statement September 1, 2021

Bank Balance May 31, 2021		\$3112.90
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#### Receipts

Donations	200.00	
Dues	270.00	
Interest	.47	\$470.47

#### Disbursements

Gift	65.00	
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (trees/weeding)	80.00	\$146.00

Bank Balance September 1, 2021		\$3438.37
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Patronage		.89
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Sid Visser moved the Financial Statement be accepted, Isabel Anderson seconded.

### Announcements

- 1) We are sad to note the passing of Christine Hutchins. She and her husband Pat have both been long-time SNC members. Our sincere condolences to Pat.
- 2) Members are urged to attend a presentation/discussion with Graham Saul, Executive Director of Nature Canada and Harry Crosby, President of BC Nature on **Thursday October 7, at 7 pm, Room 30 Okanagan College Campus**. The team is visiting Clubs across the province to hear about local priorities as they relate to current international and national conservation and biodiversity issues. Harry Crosby writes, *"I would like to talk to you about BC Nature's developing "Protecting Nature" program focused on the British Columbia Species at Risk act, Ecological Reserves, Old Growth Forests Fraser Estuary and strategies for protecting the local nature sites we love. BC Nature has been in discussions with the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change and is developing a handbook on establishing protection for important nature sites. I would like to ensure that BC Nature is hearing and responding to the needs and interests of club members."* Di Wittner will remind us closer to the date. Meantime, we should consider questions we might bring to the discussion.
- 3) Tree Planting - Joyce Henderson is arranging for replacement for some cedar and Douglas maple trees from our first planting near the shelter in Blackburn Park that did not survive the dry summer or being relocated. New additions would include choke cherries, a saskatoon, spirea and asters. Volunteer help is requested. Date: September 17.

### Business

1) It's time for a changing of the guard. Several critical Executive positions will become vacant at the end of this year—**President, Vice-President, Treasurer**. Our current President, Ed McDonald has worked on our behalf for 21 years, and Ted Hillary has served as Treasurer for 19 years. After these extraordinary commitments, we owe both of them a huge “Thank You”....but neither of them will be available to continue in these roles. We have not had a Vice-President since 2014. Anne Caughlan has agreed to take over the Program Director's role. Thank you to Janet Pattinson for her 5 years of work in that position. Gillian Richardson will fill the Secretary's role: thanks to Michelle Weisinger for her 18 year contribution. **Will you step forward and take on one of the 3 leading roles so our Club can carry on into 2022?** There is a wealth of expertise and willing assistance available to help someone get used to the new position. Let's start the coming year with some new faces, renewed energy. Give serious thought to this request, please, so the transition can happen smoothly.

2) Weed Pull - In cooperation with SABNES and the Invasive Species Council, we intend to take another run at eradication of woody nightshade in the bay. Volunteers needed. Date: Sept 29, more details to come, including any COVID precautions.

3) Outings - the fall list has been sent out to the membership. The first outing will be Thursday, Sept 16 to Salmon Arm Bay. Reminders will be emailed a few days prior to the event.

4) Western Grebe Count - Di Wittner's report appeared in the September eNewsletter. From a total of 198 adults spotted in spring, the final count showed 306 grebes in the fall. This is lower than previous years, perhaps due to the difficult summer of smoke and heat. Also it was noted that distribution of nests has changed over the years; Di suspects some grebes now nest in Tappen Bay.

## **Reports:**

1) Nest boxes - Di Wittner reports that she still has to complete her monitoring of boxes at the Raven end of the trail, but sadly, overall numbers of swallows seem to be down considerably from last year. Reasons may include smoke, heat, a lack of insects and the disruptions of vandalism. Di also wants to compare the outcomes of boxes that were vandalized and replaced compared to boxes not vandalized in spring. One new box was stolen. New poles will be installed, and more boxes prepared for next spring. Also cameras will be mounted again in spring as a security measure.

2) SABNES - Di Wittner reported on behalf of Janet Aitken. The trail upgrades are complete and make the lakeshore hike a safe and pleasant experience. In some areas, the newly raised surface might be an impediment to migrating turtles. As noted in the last eNewsletter, Melissa, summer Interpreter (with a horticultural degree and graphic design experience) at the Nature Centre, has created 20 plaques to identify the trees all around the Nature Centre. Watch for the markers! Plans are in place to rebuild the viewing platform this fall. Tom Brighthouse noted that SABNES relies on funding from memberships, which are down this year. You can now submit your membership fee by etransfer: check it out at [SABNES](#)

3) Gardom Lake - Anne Caughlan reports that the wetland project continued this summer, with insect counts, a webcam and poles to measure water depth. The marsh was dry this year due to excessive heat in June. Also, Marg Sydney, involved in the Gardom Lake project, has been in New Brunswick to help with a Rotenone fish kill there, similar to the successful perch eradication project in Gardom Lake a few years ago. Our lake's turtle population is now thriving.

4) Animal Rescue - Di Wittner has trained more people who can respond to calls, needed after the group experienced 11 rescues in one week this summer. She also asked if anyone could identify the red film on ponds on Christmas Island. If it is red algae, it is toxic to waterfowl.

**Sightings:**

Gillian Richardson was happy to note the Pacific-slope Flycatcher pair that nested on her eavestrough last year, returned to build again in a different spot and successfully raised 4 young.

Di Wittner has welcomed black bears to her yard all summer, providing cool water pools for their pleasure and enjoying their antics. She will share videos at a future meeting.

Mike Saul showed off his newly acquired (at age 84!) tattoo of HMS Beagle, signifying anyone who has sailed around Cape Horn (Mike did at age ?).

Motion to Adjourn at 12:15 pm by Mike Saul.