

Chilliwack Field Naturalists Club Annual Report 2015-2016

By Fernando Selles, President

MEMBERSHIP

34 registered members; 19 single, 11 family, and 2 corporate (drop of 8 members from 2013-14)

FIELD TRIPS

March 14, 2015	Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve
March 22, 2015	Thacker Mountain
April 11, 2015	Bert Brink Nature Reserve
May 9, 2015	Hicks Lake
May 31, 2015	Browne Creek Wetlands
June 12, 2015	Skagit Provincial Park, with LFN
June 16, 2015	Annual Picnic, Camp River Wildlife Area
June 21, 2015	Riverview Forest
July 22, 2015	Manning Provincial Park Alpine Meadows
August 19, 2015	Jack Jackaman Annual Picnic and berry pick
September 20, 2015	Wilband Regional Park
September 27, 2015	Vedder Mountain
October 25, 2015	Reifel Bird Sanctuary
November 21, 2015	Fraser Valley Eagle Festival
January 9, 2016	Hope River Annual Walk
January 24, 2016	Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park
February 6, 2016	Camp River Wildlife Area
January 14, 2016	Harrison Lake Walk

PRESENTATIONS

March 11, 2015	Christine Rock	Wild Research
April 21, 2015	Valerie Whetter 1 st Speaker Series	BC's Natural History Dyck Cannings

May 19, 2016	David and Diane Reesor	Botswana Wildlife Photography
September 15, 2015	Heather Redmond	Native Medicinal Plants
October 20, 2015	Wendy Palen	Environmental Impact of Tar Sands Oil Extraction and Hydro Power Projects
February 16, 2016	Katie Marshall	Cryobiology

LETTERS

GRANT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Letter in support of research grant application submitter by Hemmera South Coast Action Team.
- Letter of support for research grant application submitted by Auroral Ecological and Golder Association.
- Letter in support of funding application for eradication of Yellow Flag Iris from Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park by Katherine Tassaroff

LETTERS OF CONCERN

- Letter of concern to the Provincial Minister of the Environment, MLAs and other authorities regarding the lack of leadership and absence of rational and consistent criteria to evaluate the need and environmental impact of Independent Power Projects in the Northern Cascade Range. October 22, 2015 (Lee Larkin).
- Letter to the Mayor and Council of the City of Chilliwack regarding the risks to the Sardis-Vedder Aquifer associated with the route of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project and calling on the Mayor of Chilliwack, as chairperson of the FVRD Board and the Councillors sitting at the Board, to direct the FVRD to include in their argument-in-chief (due January 12) as intervener in the NEB hearings the change in routing of the TMPEP off the area of the Sardis-Vedder Aquifer and decommission of the old pipeline crossing the surface of the aquifer, given the risks posed by toxic diluted bitumen to our water source. January 8, 2016 (Fernando)
- Letter to the District of Kent, letter expressing the concerns of CFN about an application for Exclusion of farmland next to the town of Agassiz from the Agricultural Land Reserve. Copy of the letter sent to 58661 B.C. Ltd, Agassiz Harrison Observer, the originator of the application. Request for publication of the letter was sent also to the Chilliwack Times, The Chilliwack Progress, and The Valley Voice News. March 6, 2016 (Fernando).

OTHER LETTERS

- Commenter Letter to the National Energy Board (NEB) to fulfill our role as Commenters in the NEB's Hearings regarding the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project proposed by Kinder Morgan. July 2015.

EVENTS

- Janne and Janet Presented a talk "Attracting Birds to your Garden" at Little Mountain Greenhouse and Garden Centre. January 31
- Fernando spoke on behalf of CFN at the Fraser River Rally on World Water Day, about environmental risks associated with the proposed Aevitas hazardous waste disposal facility. Event organized by the Chilliwack chapter of the Council of Canadians. March 22, 2015.
- First Valerie Wetter Speaker Series. April 21, 2015.
- Annual CFN picnic at Camp River Wildlife Area. Visitors from BC Nature Trust Jasper Lament, CEO, and Jocelyn and Sammy who help us take care of the site Joined us for the Picnic. June 16, 2015.
- Janne presented a talk on frogs to the FVRD summer fun camp in Hope. July 30, 2015.
- Change of meeting venue to Neighbourhood Learning Centre, 46361 Chilliwack. September, 2015.
- Janet and Heather represented CFN at the Yarrow Nature Festival by "woomaning" the CFN Booth. October 17, 2015.
- Heather Larstone retires as editor of the Heron Herald after 19 years. Thank you for a job very well done and for the years of dedication. You leave some big shoes for someone to fill. November 2015.
- Janne took the duties as editor of the Heron Herald. November, 2015.
- Meeting cancelled due to inclement weather. November 17, 2015.
- Fernando represented CFN as invited Discussion Panelist after the screening of "This Changes Everything" organized by the Chilliwack chapter of the Council of Canadians. November 19, 2015.
- 2015 Harrison Field Camp; excellent organization and leadership by Janne and Hellen. November 26-29, 2015.
- Paulina and Fernando attend a A Walk of the Independent Power Project proposed for Tamihi Creek by the Water Wealth Project and participate in discussions afterwards. November, 2015.
- Janne presented a talk on birds and led a group of EFV NatureKids at the GBHNR during the CBC4Kids. December 5, 2015.

- Harrison Christmas Bird Count. December 14, 2015.
- On behalf of CFN Fernando and Paulina attend an information meeting about a proposed landfill for disposal near the Chehalis River organized by FVRD. December 14, 2015.
- Fernando attend a Stop Site C Dam information meeting at Yarrow. December, 2015.
- Chilliwach Christmas Bird Count. December 14, 2015.
- Janne resigns as Field Trip Coordinator. January, 2015.