

PGNC AGM 2014 – President's Report

Overview of 2013

In 2013, the Club matured as an organization, gaining a full set of directors who met monthly, and becoming incorporated as a society. A number of presentations and field trips were arranged, some of which – for example the superb trips to observe mountain caribou and long-billed curlews – demonstrated the high value and rich potential of a naturalist club in this region. Many preliminaries were completed for the Hudson's Bay Wetland Project, and funding began to flow, allowing work on the ground to begin in 2014. Discussions on creating with partners a nature centre for Prince George led to the development of NORA – the Nature and Outdoor Recreation Alliance – which will enhance communications between the various local groups interested in nature and the outdoors.

During the year, the club was grateful to The Exploration Place for hosting its meetings, following the repurposing of the 18th Avenue ("Parks") location previously used. Monthly executive meetings were relocated to the Spruce City Wildlife building on River Road.

Public awareness of the Club increased, through an active website and Facebook page, public presentations, local media coverage, and through entries in *BC Nature* magazine. Membership levels remained healthy, though the extent of interest in the Club and its activities is perhaps not yet fully reflected in the number of paid memberships.

Future Directions

Given the increasing maturity of the club, transition to a more predictable schedule of activities is appropriate, and the Executive will be giving thought to establishing a standard monthly date for presentations, and a detailed schedule of field trips arranged well in advance. Note, however, that field trips in particular require the active involvement of the membership to propose and lead or co-lead events: all members are strongly encouraged to step forward and give the executive ideas for activities related to any aspect of nature appreciation, particularly in areas that have not been covered in recent years.

Directors & Officers

The club is fortunate to have gained a fine group of directors, most of whom are standing for re-election at this AGM, and their number will no doubt be strengthened by additional nominees. This will allow transfer of the role of President, with another individual to bring fresh ideas to the role. After three years, it is a good time to step down, permitting me to put my personal efforts into the Wetland project.

In closing, I particularly wish to express my thanks to the Club Secretary, Anne Hogan, and Treasurer, Sandra Kinsey, for their role in putting the club on such a solid footing.

Respectfully submitted

Clive Keen, Outgoing President