

## **PGNC AGM 2016 – Report From the Executive**

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### **Overview of 2015**

In 2015 the Executive organized numerous educational field trips and presentations, worked on the Hudson's Bay Wetland project, and began planning for the BC Nature 2016 Fall General Meeting hosted by the Club in Prince George in September 2016. The Club continued to develop its working relationship with the City of Prince George. Membership continues to grow.

### **Educational Field Trips and Presentations**

Annual field trips were held for the Crooked River Swan Count, the Mount Robson Bird Blitz and the Christmas Bird Count. In addition, field trips were held to view curlews and other migrating shorebirds, as well as winter and summer visits to Livingston Springs. A special trip took members and supporters to the Vanderhoof Sturgeon Conservation Centre. The Club held six presentation nights at The Exploration Place. Topics included bird life, the value of urban wetlands, astrophotography, geology, the Galapagos Islands, and wildlife photography.

In 2015 the Executive worked with various organizations to involve children, youth and adults in nature-related activities. These included participation in Seedy Saturday at The Exploration Place, the Holly Arntzen Watershed Tour sponsored by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, and two BC Wildlife Federation camps for children and youth. As always, the focus was on education and appreciation of the natural world.

### **Hudson's Bay Wetland**

The Club received new grants for its work at the Wetland. During the city-wide cleanup in April, members and friends removed extensive garbage and debris from the area between the Fraser River and Norwood Street including the remains of a demolished house. Despite this, we found less garbage than the 2014 cleanup. A second accessible observation deck and nature trail were constructed on the north side of the channel, along with new interpretive signs. As in 2014, volunteers from the PGNC, Caledonia Ramblers and Prince George Singles Activity Group built the deck.

The Club began the process of building relationships with residents of the VLA neighbourhood west of the Wetland by participating in a large community BBQ in July. This relationship will continue to build in 2016 as the Club and the Prince George VLA Enhancement Association work together on cleaning up the waterway that runs through the neighbourhood between Carrie Jane Gray Park and the Wetland.

### **Planning for the BC Nature Fall General Meeting, September 22 to 25, 2016**

The FGM Organizing Committee met monthly in 2015. Thanks to their work the Club is now well positioned to host the Fall General Meeting in September at the Coast Inn of the North. Between 100 and 200 naturalists from around the province are expected to attend.

## **Relations with the City of Prince George**

In January the City invited the Club to partner in developing interpretive signs and information kiosks along a 30 km walking route around the city. We are grateful to the four members who took the time to volunteer for this project, which produced 13 interpretive signs related to all things natural at City parks and green spaces. Many signs are visible today in City parks, or soon will be.

In May the Club presented a Wetland progress report to City Council. As a result of Clive Keen's inspired presentation, Council changed the name of the park to Hudson's Bay Wetland Nature Park, formerly called Hudson's Bay Slough Nature Park.

In December the Club signed an agreement with the City for maintenance at the Hudson's Bay Wetland. It confirms that the City will maintain the new trails while the Club is responsible for maintaining the wood structures and keeping them free of graffiti. The Club also began working with City staff on long term plans for control of invasive plants at the Wetland.

## **Memberships**

Membership grew to 81, consisting of 54 individuals and 27 families. We look forward to welcoming student members if the new student membership category is approved at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. Our goal is to have 100 memberships by the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. In 2016 we will be working to attract and retain members through field trips and educational events, and construction of two new viewing decks at the Hudson's Bay Wetland west of Queensway. The goal is to foster appreciation and awareness of nature in our region.

Overall, 2015 was a year of continued relationship building with our members and with other organizations. We look forward to continuing this work in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anne Hogan, Secretary  
Sara Sparks, BC Nature Director  
Allan Carson, Director  
Angie Joiner, Director  
Dee Nelson, Director  
Doug Wilson, Director

Heather Meier, Vice President  
Sandra Kinsey, Treasurer  
Emily Braam, Director  
Sandra Hepburn, Director  
Clive Keen, Director  
Aynsley Thielman, Director