

PGNC AGM 2018 - EXECUTIVE REPORT

Overview of 2017

2017 was a year of relative quiet after the excitement and effort of 2016 in which the Club undertook the very successful BC Nature Fall General Meeting as well as construction of two new observation decks at the Hudson's Bay Wetland. In 2017 the nine presentation nights scheduled on the third Thursday of the month at the Exploration Place provided Club members and the public with current topics by speakers from the Prince George community. We learned that moose, caribou, edible plants and fungi presentations draw very large audiences!

Field Trips

The Annual Swan and Eagle Count to Crooked River took place in January. With 15 field trips between February and October, the Wednesday Walkers continued to explore natural areas around Prince George. From May through September, other trip leaders guided members to view curlews, observe birds and plants at Wilkins Regional Park, and explore the future park area under development at Fishtrap Island. We also enjoyed an urban nature walk around the Hudson's Bay Wetland, observed migrating waterfowl at the Shelley Lagoons, and took part in a fish rescue at Tabor Creek with the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans. In September an enthusiastic group enjoyed a field trip to Wilkins Regional Park to learn more about local fungi from two UNBC experts. The Club finished off the year with its 50th annual Christmas Bird Count. Throughout the day, 35 participants found 49 species and 8,760 birds – slightly above average.

Hudson's Bay Wetland Project

The Club applied for a large grant to build an accessible ramp to link Hudson's Bay Wetland Nature Park with Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park. The grant request was not successful. As a result, construction of the ramp had to be postponed to a future year when funds are available. Club members continued to work on invasive plant removal at the Wetland. In July we deadheaded tansy. In September we removed Himalayan Balsam from Carrie Jane Gray Park to reduce the threat to the waterway that flows into the Wetland. Volunteers Nowell Senior and Ric Mylnarczyk took on responsibility for cleaning graffiti from the four observation decks and doing any necessary repairs. Special thanks go to Ric for the maintenance checks he has conducted regularly since the summer.

Communications and Public Information

Throughout 2017 the Club participated in community events such as Seedy Saturday and the Travelling World Community Film Festival. The Club, along with the Wilderness Committee, co-hosted Toad People at UNBC to increase understanding of species at risk. Members were also invited to host an information table at a new fitness centre on Queensway Street near the Heritage River Trail, to promote the Hudson's Bay Wetland.

Throughout the year the Club emailed a newsletter, generally twice a month, to about 300 members and friends. The newsletter was also posted on the Club's blog at pgnc.wordpress.com, which has almost 600 subscribers. The newsletter was also posted on the PGNC Facebook page and the PGNC Facebook Discussion Group, which has 47 members and is open to anyone wishing to join. CKPG and the Prince George Citizen each ran stories about local birds in winter as well as the swan and eagle count.

Members, Volunteers and Supporters

As of December 2017 the Club reported 95 memberships to BC Nature, which provides liability insurance and general support to BC's naturalist organizations. Our Club members include individuals, families and students. This brings us close to our stated goal of 100 memberships by the Club's 50th Anniversary in 2019. All the activities and events could not have happened without the efforts of our many volunteers, the City of Prince George, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, The Exploration Place, and REAPS to name just a few. In addition the Club received \$2,200 in donations from individuals and a local company in support of the Hudson's Bay Wetland. The Prince George Naturalists Club is grateful for all this assistance as it continues its work to promote enjoyment of the natural world.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Joiner, President
Anne Hogan, Secretary
Dave Leman, BC Nature Director
Breault, Director
Dora Hunter, Director
Doug Wilson, Director

Heather Meier, Vice-President
Sandra Kinsey, Treasurer
Shanelle Marshall, Immediate Past President David
Sandra Hepburn, Director
Sara Sparks, Director