

PGNC AGM 2019 - EXECUTIVE REPORT

Overview of 2018

2018 was another year of consolidation for the Prince George Naturalists Club following five years of planning, fundraising and construction at the Hudson's Bay Wetland. Highlights of the year were the many presentation nights held in partnership with The Exploration Place. Presentations included research on birds; the eclipse of 2018; the state of salmon fisheries in BC; native bees; the importance of citizen science (held at the Prince George Public Library); amphibian ecology; and the habitat ecology of Pacific Marten on Haida Gwaii.

Members and friends enjoyed numerous field trips throughout 2018. Field trips included the Annual Swan and Eagle Count to Crooked River in January, a Curlew field trip in April, the eBird Global Big Day at Cottonwood Island Park in May, and the Mount Robson Bird Blitz in June. The Wednesday Walkers continued to explore natural areas around Prince George with 14 field trips between April and October, under the able guidance of Club member Dora Hunter. An educational fungi field trip in September attracted a remarkable number of participants. We wrapped up the year with the 2018 Christmas Bird Count. The Club also participated in community events such as Seedy Saturday and the Travelling World Community Film Festival.

Hudson's Bay Wetland Project

At the 2018 AGM, members were advised that it wasn't feasible to do any further construction west of Queensway, due to the high costs of capital construction of boardwalks or towers, the costs of ongoing maintenance of new structures, and the potential for environmental damage caused by construction. In 2018 the Club held its annual Cleanup, and continued its efforts to deadhead tansy and remove Himalayan Balsam from the Wetland drainage areas.

Throughout 2018, volunteer Ric Mylnarczyk, assisted by Nowell Senior, inspected the four observation decks, cleaned graffiti and removed garbage. Special thanks go to Ric for the maintenance checks he has conducted regularly since the summer of 2017.

Members, Volunteers and Supporters

As of December 2018 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. 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. The Club is grateful for all this assistance as it continues its work to promote enjoyment of the natural world.

Special thanks are extended to Angie Joiner who has served on the Executive for five years and is now retiring after two years as President. Angie will remain as Past President until the 2020 AGM. Doug Wilson is also retiring this year. Doug has served the PGNC since 2012, first as a member of the Events Planning Committee and then as a director of the new Executive established in 2014. As a retired biologist with deep connections to the scientific world and government, he has contributed immensely to the success of the Club over the past seven years.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Joiner (President), Heather Meier (Vice-President), Anne Hogan (Secretary), Sandra Kinsey (Treasurer), Dave Leman (BC Nature Director), David Breault, Sandra Hepburn, Blaire Smith, Doug Wilson.