



Newsletter

FALL 2016

P.O. Box 787, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0

Phone: 250-494-8996 • Email: bremmer@mtkobau.bc.ca

Annual General Meeting Review

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society held our Fifty-first Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 1, 2016. The meeting, held at Centre Stage Theatre in Summerland, included a presentation on the Preservation of Species and Habitat – A Focus on Wolves. The two special presenters were British Columbian Environmental Specialist and Advocate from the Valhalla Society, Craig Pettitt, and Sadie Parr, the executive director of Wolf Awareness.

Craig Pettitt is a director and one of the founders of the Valhalla Society. The Valhalla Society, based in eastern B.C. was formed as a non-profit society in the 1970s. They are self-described as 'a small group of committed people making a difference for bears and other species'. Their campaigns, conducted in partnership with first nations and others, more than 1.25 million acres of B.C. for wildlife habitat and preservation. The campaigns of the Valhalla Society are carried out according to rigorous scientific principles. They are based on scientific research, conservation design approaches and community outreach.

Pettitt spoke, using data and maps, about the incursions into wildlife territory and the harms to wildlife, specifically wolves. He showed why wolves were being driven into more human settled locales and how they were being hunted. Pettitt noted that the B.C. policy of culling wolves was not based on actual evidence but rather fear and misunderstanding.

Our co-presenter for the evening was Sadie Parr, who is currently involved in a wolf feeding ecology study in B.C.'s Chilcotin



region. She has also begun a similar project in northeastern Alberta where bounties are underway. Parr is the executive director of Wolf Awareness, a non-profit organization established in 1987. This group focuses on wolf conservation through research and education. They incorporate outreach and education about methods of coexistence in every project that they are involved in, using informed advocacy to help people better understand wolf behaviour and ecology.

In addition Parr, who graduated from the University of Guelph in 1999 with a specialized honours degree in Biomedical Science, worked for several years with captive wolves at an education centre, learning about the wide range of individual wolf personalities up close and first-hand. She previously tracked wolves for Yoho National Park, helping to identify where highway overpass structures may reduce ongoing collisions among wolves and vehicles. She has also pursued further studies at the post-graduate level in conservation biology and molecular genetics through the University of Victoria.

Continued on next page...

EDITORIAL

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society directors have remained very busy during the spring and summer of 2016. Ordinarily a newsletter would probably have gone out during the later spring of the year but it was decided to limit the newsletters for the year to two because of the time demands on the eight directors. Between occupations and other commitments it has been difficult for the directors to focus exclusively on the many 'files' that the society has been linked to this year. However the OSPS continues to work for the preservation, enhancement and expansion of parks and protected areas of the Okanagan Similkameen.

The OSPS have a number of issues presently being dealt with. One that you may have read about or heard about in the local media concerns 'abandoned' and / or 'derelict' houseboats moored or anchored adjacent to Okanagan Mountain Park in Okanagan Lake. Director Joe Klien has led the investigation and has sought assistance in remedying the dangerous, unsightly, and, most importantly, restrictive situation from local and national governments. We will keep you updated on this issue.

Continued on next page...

Please use the enclosed membership form on the back page to help us carry out our mission.

...EDITORIAL continued

The society has been involved with the issue of restricting motorized off-road vehicle use in the Area two protected slopes of Oliver Mountain. While sitting on the advisory group to a government review, the society was informed that there was actual endangered and at risk species nesting and inhabiting this previously protected area. Given that we had information about at risk flora from an OSPS sponsored survey conducted on the mountain, had members participating in Land Management negotiations that had designated the area as a protected area and knew of other locales that were just as well suited to motorized recreation, this protected species data confirmed the feelings of the directors that this Area Two protected area

on Oliver Mountain should not be subject to off-road motorized vehicle traffic.

The society has submitted two reports this spring outlining our opposition to the changes in status allowing motorized traffic on Oliver Mountain. One was sent to the group making the initial decision and the second to the review process following the disclosure of the decision. Should this decision go ahead not only will flora and fauna, at risk, endangered or otherwise, on Oliver Mountain be in peril but we also worry about other protected areas agreed to in the land management negotiation process. Is this to be the beginning? Again we will keep you informed.

Directors of the OSPS have also been moni-

toring the changes in radio channels being used by forestry and mining corporations for their back road logging and exploration vehicles. Evidently it appears that changes to 'remote' channels are being instituted to keep ordinary citizens out of the back country. We feel that this change constitutes a safety concern as well as a secrecy issue. We continue to explore ways in which to safely inspect activities in our wilderness and conduct our activities to protect and preserve the lands and wildlife.

Your directors continue to work diligently for the OSPS. However we can use your help. Become a member, stand for election, make your voice heard. There is a lot of pressure on the lands of the Okanagan Similkameen and they need our protection.

...AGM REVIEW continued

Sadie Parr spoke about the perils that even "protected" wildlife face in Canada. She noted that she has committed herself to raising awareness about the need for improved wolf conservation across Canada, home to 1/5 of the worlds remaining wilderness. Parr spoke about her studies and demonstrated the importance of the wolf in the natural Biosystems in which they exist. She talked about conducting studies to further our knowledge about the wolf and the environments which they currently and formerly inhabit. Wolf Awareness, the non-profit for which Parr does her work, can be reached at www.WolfAwarenessInc.org

During the business portion of the Annual General Meeting there were reports on the Finances and the State of the Society. Both of these topics are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. The society also celebrated two of the early pioneers of the O.S.P.S., Juergen Hansen and David McMullen. Their names were added to the large wooden memorial bowl that signifies the great contributions that the pioneers have made to the fifty-one year old society.

David was one of the original members of the society. He was involved with raising awareness and funding for the Vaseaux Lake Sheep Protected area which became a park.

His signature can be found on the application for the non-profit society status of the organization. David and his wife Ruth reside in Summerland where they retired after David's career as a scientist at the Canadian Agricultural Research station was completed.

Juergen was a respected figure in the Okanagan conservation community. He is credited with educating the communities up and down the valley about the concept of governing by consensus building. He was an enthusiastic supporter in many projects, from parks like Okanagan Mountain and Cathedral Lakes, habitat in the winter range for the bighorn sheep at Vaseaux Lake or the establishment of the ecological reserve the at Haynes Point. An outspoken advocate for protecting natural resources, Jurgen worked on the negotiations over forestry which became the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resources Management Plan on which he worked as a member of the O.S.P.S. representative team for about ten years. More information on the lives of each of these pioneers can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



*OSPS Pioneer presentation
Ian Graham, Chair of OSPS, presents the memorial bowl to pioneer David McMullen and Marilyn Hansen, the wife of the late Juergen Hansen. The bowl recognizes the names of pioneers of the fifty one year old Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society.*

OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY

Box 787, Summerland, BC V0H 1Z0

Website: www.OkanaganSimilkameenParksSociety.ca/com/org

E-mail: info@OkanaganSimilkameenParksSociety

CRA Registration Number: 119066199RR0001



Statement of Income and Expense

As of 31 December 2015

	2015
Income	\$
Donations income (receipted+un-receipted)	1,378.30
Events / workshops income	0.00
Grant / Will Bequest income	7,228.07 *
GST / PST rebate (57%)	0.00
Mutual Fund cash dividend	403.32
OSPS membership dues	1,310.00
Sales (books, calendars, posters)	300.00
SDCU Interest / dividends earned	2,313.66
Total Income	<u>12,933.35</u>
* Includes \$5,000.00 returned by Summerland Rotary Club-funds unused	
Expense	
Administration	0.00
Advertising & promotion	220.72
Box rental/ postage / shipping	768.08
Charitable Society Costs (BC, CRA)	25.00
Cost of goods to sell (WC Calendars)	488.89
Equipment purchases	0.00
Equipment depreciation	0.00
Events / workshops expense	294.06
Gifts / Honorariums	150.40
Grants given to qualified donees	12,400.00
Insurance premiums	300.00
Credit Union interest paid / late fees / cheque fees	0.00
Meeting room rental	552.50
Memberships in other organizations	219.00
Office supplies & expenses	16.24
OSPS newsletter production / printing / postage	1,070.17
OSPS Projects & Research expense	1,584.91
Printing & copying-general	81.20
Professional services	0.00
Travel-accommodation/mileage/meals	377.00
Website domain names and hosting	0.00
Sub-total expense	<u>18,548.17</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expense:	<u>-5,614.82</u>

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Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2015

Assets	2015
Bank (Summerland & District Credit Union)	\$
Chequing account	119,963.37
Savings	5,478.36
Term deposits	59,097.05
CU members equity shares	51.00
Accounts receivable	0.00
Equipment (at depreciated value)	0.00
Inventory (books, printed materials)	0.00
Investments (mutual fund)	4,312.74
Total	188,902.52
Liabilities	
Cheques outstanding	40.00
Accounts payable	0.00
Total	40.00
Opening Balance Equity	194,904
Gain (Loss) in Net Worth	-5,615
Members Equity	189,289

Regarding: Review of accounting records for 2014

I have reviewed the records, cheque stubs, invoices, receipts and mutual fund report for the year end and the journal record. I have found they agree with the ending Credit Union Statements, taking into account project commitments and cheques outstanding. I respectfully submit to the Board of Directors that the financial records of the Society are sound and are being handled in accord with standard accounting procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Don W. Guild, Treasurer

Ian Graham, President

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Programs and Support Funds for 2015

	\$
Support to Qualified Donees:	
Support to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to purchase the Kit Carr Property (360 acres) near Kilpoola Lake and for ongoing management.	5,000.00
The Summerland Trans Canada Trail Society received funds to place a Sam McGee memorial plaque and for work on the Fur Brigade Trail .	1,000.00
Supported an Archeological Survey on historic trails in the Cascade Mountains through the Hope Mountain Center for Outdoor Learning .	6,400.00
Contributed to a partnership with Friends of the South Slopes and BC Parks to contract extra-ordinary trail clearing work in Okanagan Mtn. Park and Myra Bellevue Park as a consequence of the 2003 forest fire.	1,000.00
Subtotal	13,400.00
Public Education and Outreach:	
Support for the 2015 Meadowlark Festival	1,000.00
AGM Speaker-Kelley Cook spoke about the significant restoration work she is doing on the historic trails between Hope and Princeton .	200.00
Research and monitoring of high elevation logging in the Okanagan Highlands between Kelowna and Osoyoos on both sides of the valley.	136.00
Travel cost of fuel.	14,736.00
Total	14,736.00
Funds provided to Qualified Donees Not Used for a Project:	
Unused funds returned by the Summerland Rotary Club for the Lakeside Trail Project (all of the \$5,000 provided).	5,000.00
In the end, the provincial government funded the project.	

SUMMER 2008

Editorial Comment

Good news! Two celebrations of historic interest are coming - both July 26th.

The Red Bridge at Keremeos has been restored for its 100th Birthday and sections of the Hudsons Bay Brigade Trail and the Rice Trail in the Tulameen Valley have been researched and restored. The OSPS has had a direct interest in both topics.

Mike Meheriuk, and OSPS director, has been an active member of the Red Bridge Restoration Society. The brochure developed to tell its history was funded mainly by the OSPS with assistance from the Okanagan Historical Society.

"Old Pack Trails", a booklet published in 1982 by the OSPS, was written and based on work by OSPS members Harley Hatfield and Bob Harris, and told of their original efforts to locate the trail built in the 1850s. It proved to be a great assistance to Kelley Cook, contractor for the new trail restoration work. The booklet is still available from the OSPS for \$3.50 (including postage).

OSPS needs more paid up members!

A plea for lapsed members to rejoin and for new members to come aboard. We would also welcome 2 or 3 new directors, just volunteer! We meet the first monday of each month

The 2008 AGM named 3 new Life Members in recognition of their long service to the OSPS: Harold King, Bert White and Sheila White were thanked for their contributions over many years.

This newsletter contains material relating to new OSPS territory. The topics of the gateway proposal at the coast and the new interest in coal/methane gas productions in the Flathead River area, both have impor-

tant environmental implications. We hope you find all the information interesting and helpful.

MAY 2, 2008

Working towards a consensus

Penticton Western News

I feel that i must reply to the letter from Ernie Marven, dated April 10. After all, he referred to me, relating to my signing of the Land Resources Management Plan, which I will refer to as the LRMP from here on.

Mr. Marven wrote of "the feeling in that room."

I know all too well about that since I attended all except for one meeting during the those five plus years the LRMP met, but I do not remember seeing him there. Let's be clear about this, no one who was a part of the LRMP table had any part in putting forth a national park proposal.

I know this because the group of original, national park proponents came to see my wife and I at our home. At that time I asked them if they had discussed this proposal with anyone who sat at the LRMP table. They said they had not. Since a national park would directly affect ranchers I asked them to contact Mark Quaedvlieg, who sat at the table representing cattlemen. They agreed to this request and I am sorry to say they did not make contact for whatever reason I am not sure — sometimes time has a way of running out, it does for me I know.

So, people at the LRMP table did not go out and propose a national park reserve, thus it can not be "hurtful" nor can they be "mistrusted."

I brought the information about the national park to the attention of the table — and Ron Taylor, who for five years had represented fish and game clubs, wished to be heard on the subject as did others. After this, the table

created a new sub-committee to meet with Parks Canada and get reports as to how Parks Canada was progressing. This LRMP sub-committee continues to meet and I consider that Parks Canada has made a concerted effort to give out answers. Some people may not like the answers but this was the process that we went through at the LRMP table for all those years.

One other statement is "The plan is not being managed as it should." We, the table, have nothing to do with "management" that is being undertaken by the appropriate ministries of government, as they have staff to do that work. It is being done. Slowness of this process is due, in my opinion, to efforts by some to stop the feasibility study.

The problem is always to find a solution that people can live with — a consensus will never be accomplished if any position is based on "I want." There must be a position of give and take. This does not mean one position is doing all the "giving" and the other is doing all the "taking."

Senator Fitzpatrick was familiar with the national park proposal for the South Okanagan-Similkameen and spoke enthusiastically to the table about it. Personally, I see nothing improper with him putting forward his thoughts — everyone else can and should, just know your facts.

As far as a particular business wishing to have "certainty," there is no such thing in this world. If an environmental study were to show that certain actions of that business were at some times or in some locations, very disturbing to the fauna would they still wish to go there? As citizens, would we want that? This is not a federal land grab. It is a proposal to give some certainty to some of the most endangered habitat, not only in Canada, but in the wider world. Let's talk about it.

HAROLD KING
Oliver Chair, OSPS

CELEBRATING OSPS PIONEERS

~ Juergen Hansen ~

Juergen (Anton Juergen Hansen) was born in Hamburg, Germany, the first of four children. His dad was a gynaecologist-obstetrician and his grandfather was a doctor in Denmark. I think that his grandfather had the biggest influence on his life as far as environmentalism was concerned. As a child, Juergen spent many happy summer holidays with his grandparents, where he planted trees along public roadways, learned about plants and hiked the 14 kilometre path around a nearby lake. His grandfather had talked local farmers into giving up land for this scenic, mostly wooded trail, and I think that this impressed Juergen at a young age. I was told that Juergen's grandfather asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. His answer at age 5 was: "a doctor for sick plants", and indeed that's what he became.

His schooling was interrupted by war and the bombing of their Hamburg apartment. The family moved about to escape the war as much as they could until Juergen's whole school class was drafted (January 1944 to the end of February '45) as anti-aircraft "helpers". They were supposed to shoot down the planes that were on their way to the gigantic bombing of Dresden. There was a programme about this on the CBC some years ago. (I think 2004.) The conversation was between Juergen and an English pilot who

had taken part in this raid. Juergen said: "I don't think that we were very effective." The former pilot retorted: "Man, the flak was so thick you could have walked on her." After the interview the two men sat and discussed their experiences amicably over lunch.

To become a "doctor of sick plants", Juergen needed to study agriculture. At that time, in order to get a place in the German university agricultural department, Juergen first had to work on a farm for two years, where I think that hoeing between endless sugar beet rows and milking 36 cows were hardly thrilling, but Juergen was very thankful to have enough to eat during that lean post-war period. One day, a bonus came in the form of a lightning bolt which killed a cow. The farmer wanted nothing to do with this bad-luck beast, so Juergen and a co-worker butchered the cow, divided it up, and Juergen's mother pressure-canned Juergen's half of the meat. Another bonus was an abandoned CARE truck in a nearby forest. Only the cigarettes were gone, so Juergen and a coworker squirrelled away the food for their families.

Juergen eventually graduated from the University of Göttingen, earning money by working in nurseries in Denmark and Sweden during the summers. Then he got a Fulbright Scholarship (as one of three successful can-

didates out of 800 applicants) to study and work at the University of Wisconsin where he received his Master's and Ph.D from the university in Madison, Wisconsin.

Juergen spent five happy years as a cacao pathologist and teaching agricultural classes in Spanish to students from Latin America (Master's level) at an international scientific institute in Costa Rica. Luckily, he had had nine years of Latin in school, so learning Spanish was fairly easy for him. His hobbies in Costa Rica were collecting and growing orchids, exploring the landscape, learning about pre-Columbian art, and leading a children's garden club. He married his wife Marilyn in his fourth year at the institute.

From 1963 to 1965 there were two more years back in Madison on post-doctoral research and studies. Then we moved to Summerland with one small toddler at the end of June, 1965. Juergen's first work day was listed as July 1st. How ignorant we were about Canada! What a nice surprise it was then to discover that his first work day was a holiday. Juergen worked on tree fruit viruses and grape diseases at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre in Summerland from 1965 to 1991. In 1968 our second child arrived. Juergen was a great dad! He loved playing with our

~ David McMullen ~

David McMullen was one of the founding members of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society. His name is on the original application for non-profit society status from 1966. However, he and his co-founders had been active for the year prior to the actual application. Their initial project was to provide the required land for Big Horn Sheep reserve at Vaseaux Lake.

From what Dave has recalled, the campaign went viral many years before the term was coined. Individuals and groups from all over North America, New Zealand, Australia, and around the world got in touch with the OSPS and contributed funds to assist with the purchase of the property. Fencing and

other land improvements were made. This reserve was eventually donated to the B.C. government and declared a park. Today, on fortunate occasions, one can view the sheep herd while passing through the area.

After 50 years of involvement in the society, Dave speaks very highly of the team of directors during the early days of the society. While serving as a director, with a variety of executive positions, Dave also was involved with the establishment of Okanagan Mountain Class B Park, Haynes Point Park and connecting routes between protected areas. He was on committees that worked hand in hand with government agencies and other environmentally oriented groups.

Dave and his wife Ruth reside in Summerland. Dave's career was as an entomologist at the Agricultural Research Station in Trout Creek. He was trained in the areas of biology, zoology and other sciences of the environment. He had a particular interest in natural parasites and predators and their role in the environment and, in turn, to agriculture.

Dave has enjoyed and championed BC's outdoors. He believes strongly in the preservation and maintenance of our wild areas and the life within them. The O.S.P.S. has benefited from this dedication and is honoring his contribution.

CELEBRATING OSPS PIONEERS

children and their friends, and we taught Ingrid and Tanya to become fairly fluent in German so that they could enjoy visiting Juergen's family. We had two wonderful sabbatical years in Germany and Spain during Juergen's time at the research station.

Pierre Trudeau's government offered grants to groups wishing to engage senior citizens in meaningful activity. So in 1978, Bud Stewart and Juergen formed the Okanagan Past and Present Society, which then produced the book *Gardening in the Okanagan* with chapters written by experienced gardeners from the group. This book was reprinted in several enlarged additions and then turned over to the "Friends of the Garden" at the Pacific Agri-food Research Station and reprinted with some changes as *Gardening in the Dry Interior*. In 1982, he, John Yorsten and James O'Reilly published a booklet called *Stone Fruit Virus Diseases of British Columbia* for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Juergen belonged to the International Society for Horticultural Science and was the Convenor of the Twelfth International Symposium on Fruit Tree Virus Diseases in Vancouver and editor of the symposium's presentations in 1982. He received the Peter Posnette Award for his contributions to plant virology and was selected as one of two plant virologists in the world to take part in a medical virology conference in Lucca, Italy. Juergen was active in the Summerland garden club, Penticton Garden Club, his church, The BC Round Table for the Environment and Economy, the LRMP (Land and Resource Management Plan) for six years along with Parks Society members Clive Johnson, Harold King, Joe and Jessica Klein and Don Guild. During his long LRMP stint, Juergen wrote a book called *Table Manners for Round Tables* to help participants with productive, non-confrontational decision-making. He also led "how to" decision-making workshops in various towns. Juergen was an avid lily breeder, who with other lily breeders, developed several large lily shows in Penticton and Kelowna.

Juergen's involvement with the OSPS: The society was formed in 1965 because of Katy Madison from California, who was the leading light: She kept harping on this theme: "You people need to wake up! They are starting to pillage BC's forests and resources just as they did in California." We joined the Parks Society one year later, in 1966. Juergen was president twice for several years in the 1980s and was a director much of the rest of the time. In 2004, he was honoured by the Society for 38 years of hard work. The first Parks Society plum was securing the Vaseux Lake Big Horn Sheep Range in 1967. Members of the Society came up with a good portion of the money, and a US couple provided the rest for a total of about \$40,000. Before donating, the visiting Americans wanted to see the famous Research Station garden, so they followed us up the road in their rented car. Inside their car was a young German shepherd dog. "Don't you want to take him out on a leash?" I asked before we began our walking tour. "No, he'll be all right." When we returned, yes, the dog was fine but the upholstery of the rented car was in shreds. That didn't put a damper on the couple's generosity to the Parks Society though. Later, in 1979, this piece of land became federal property known as The Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area.

The OSPS was the major power pusher for

protecting these areas: Vaseux Big Horn Sheep Range (1967), Okanagan Mountain Park (1971), Cathedral Park (1972), Conkle Lake (1973), Osoyoos Arid Biotic Reserve (1974), protection of an area around White Lake Observatory from electrical interference (Doreen Adams was leader of this committee.) protection of trails in Manning Park and Manning Park addition (Bill Johnston was active as leader of this latter group). Juergen and Marilyn Sparks spent 25 years attempting to get Brent Mountain as a Class A protected provincial park since it is the last high, undeveloped peak in the Okanagan. Brent now has some protection but still is not fully secured. Both Marilyn Sparks and Juergen have since died: Marilyn in 2015 and Juergen in 2009.

I know that Juergen had a great joy in gardening, hiking and outdoor discovery in BC. For him, the Parks Society fulfilled a creative outlet for saving precious parts of nature. Over the years, we visited his warm-hearted family in Germany many times. I asked Juergen whether he wanted to move back to his native homeland. He retorted with a firm "NO! Nationalism was beaten out of me. I love visiting, but my heart is in the wild spaces of BC." Thanks Parks Society!

From Marilyn Hansen, Juergen's wife of 48 years



Uranium claims surround

By Frank Startha

A large part of the Oliver area, including most of the village itself, has been staked for uranium mining claims.

It's an indisputable fact that there is uranium to be found in the hills northwest of the town, and probably lower down in the Valley as well. But just how much is there, whether it would be economically feasible to mine it, and even if the mining would be allowed by the provincial government remains to be seen.

Legally, it seems possible that much of the area could be mined. Private property can be staked. The provincial Mineral Act allows "rights of entry" to all but a few types of land . . . those types including residential, orchard, and other developed land.

Most of the Oliver claims, including the two which contain parts of the village, were staked out in late 1976 and early 1977. The claims were subsequently purchased by British Newfoundland Exploration (Brinex) Ltd.

But the latest two claims were registered just a couple of weeks ago, on October 18, and take in an area on both sides of the highway north of Oliver, stretching up to the vicinity of Wilcox Corner (see map). The two claims were made by a "Jay Page", who the same day also registered six claims in the Summerland area which include a major downtown portion of that community.

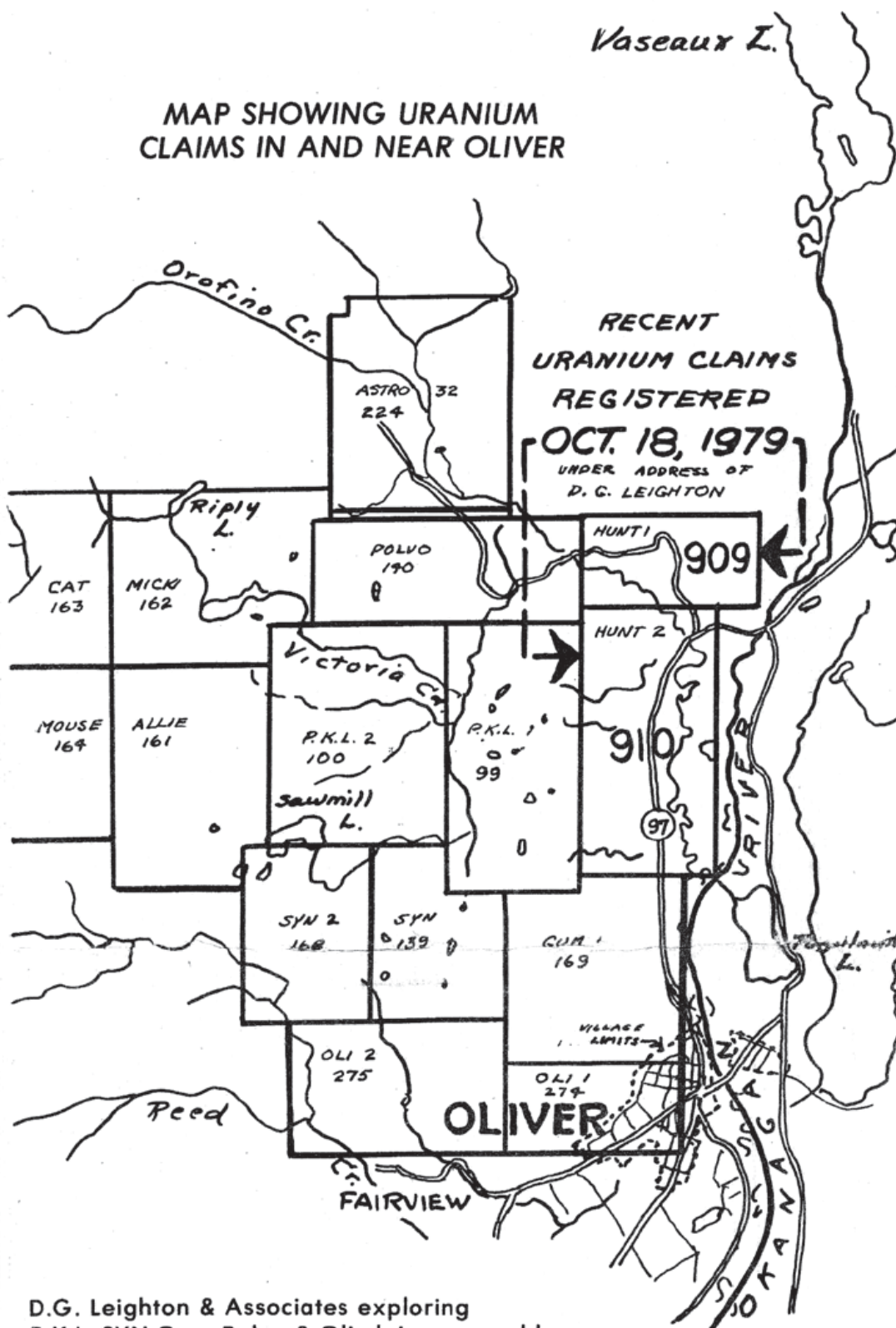
Page gave his address as 3155 West 12th Avenue in Vancouver, which turns out to be a white house with a high green trim in a strictly residential neighbourhood, listed in the Vancouver telephone book with the name of D.G. Leighton.

Leighton owns a mining exploration consulting firm which is currently testifying before the provincial government's Bates Commission into uranium mining. The Summerland deposit, similar in many respects to the situation here in Oliver, was unveiled to the Bates Commission by Dr. R.R. Culbert of D.G. Leighton and Associates October 19, just one day after the claims were filed.

The Summerland deposit was described as one of 30 deposits of "young uranium" found in the province, believed to stretch throughout the Okanagan through to Atlin in the north. However, the Summerland location was the only one made public.

It seems probable that Oliver is one of the other 30 locations. That will probably

MAP SHOWING URANIUM CLAIMS IN AND NEAR OLIVER



D.G. Leighton & Associates exploring P.K.L.-SYN-Gum-Polvo & Oli claims owned by British Newfoundland Exploration Ltd.

Astro-Cat-Mouse-Micky and Allie claims owned by Pacific Petroleum Limitd.

Prepared by Katy Madsen,
Okanagan Group
SIERRA CLUB OF
WESTERN CANADA

Oliver area

become known for sure this week, because all documents relating to the deposits were demanded by the Bates Commission. Deadline for the information, being demanded of both Leighton and Associates and the provincial Ministry of Health, was set at noon Tuesday, November 6.

Major participants in the Commission have said that the "cloud of secrecy" surrounding the new deposits was not only worrying people, but affecting property values, especially in Summerland. And it's not only the new deposits but some of the old ones as well that are taking people by surprise.

"It's absolutely news to me", commented Oliver mayor Leo McKinnon when contacted by the Chronicle Monday. "I hadn't heard a darned thing about it. It's incredible that someone could come in, stake the town for a uranium claim, and have no one know about it."

"You'd think they'd have to post it somehow. I don't really have an idea of what to think of the situation. I'd like to talk to someone who knows what the situation is."

The mining companies haven't been going out of the way to let people know what they're up to . . . most of the information that's come to light so far has come through the tenacious digging of Katy Madsen, chairman of the Sierra Club in the Okanagan. "It's just like a detective story", she told the Chronicle.

Just how much uranium is there, and whether it would ever be feasible to mine it, remains to be seen. Madsen said the Okanagan lies in a part of the world that's

basically rich in uranium . . . much like parts of Australia. "It's not the highest in the world . . . but it's pretty high."

The geological consideration of the matter are complex, but basically a process of hot molten rocks coming up from the interior of the earth, combined with leaching by alkaline waters, have resulted in "pockets" or concentrations of uranium.

That results in especially "hot spots" where the mineral accumulates. A study carried out for Brinex by Leighton and Associates in 1977 deals with an area about three kilometres northwest of Oliver, accessible by the Sawmill Lake Road.

Among the conclusions in that report was that "the geological environment here appears to be very similar to that at the Midnite Mine in Washington State, a major uranium producer". The land is presently being used as grazing area by cattle ranchers.

That situation is a little different from the one being encountered down in the "flats", apparently like the last two claims filed north of Oliver. Those two claims are virtually identical to the Summerland situation . . . and last week the provincial Ministry of Health went out of their way to re-assure a worried Summerland council that there wasn't any health hazard involved.

Deputy health minister Dr. John Smith and nuclear physicist Dr. Wayne Green met with council there to allay fears, and to assure them that the uranium around Summerland was "new uranium", there for less than 10,000 years, and not radioactive.

The uranium found in the

hills is more of a hazard because it has been there billions of years and is decaying.

Snow and water deposited in the hills pick up the uranium which is naturally there, according to Dr. Green, and as a result of the natural movement of the water it is transported into the valley and eventually into the lake.

The movement is slowed somewhat as the material approaches the lower levels of the valleys where it in turn interacts with topsoil and is chemically reduced. From this stage, the uranium is removed from the water and through a chemical reaction attaches itself to organic materials, such as plants and ground crops.

They aren't deposits in the normal sense . . . "because the concentration is so low".

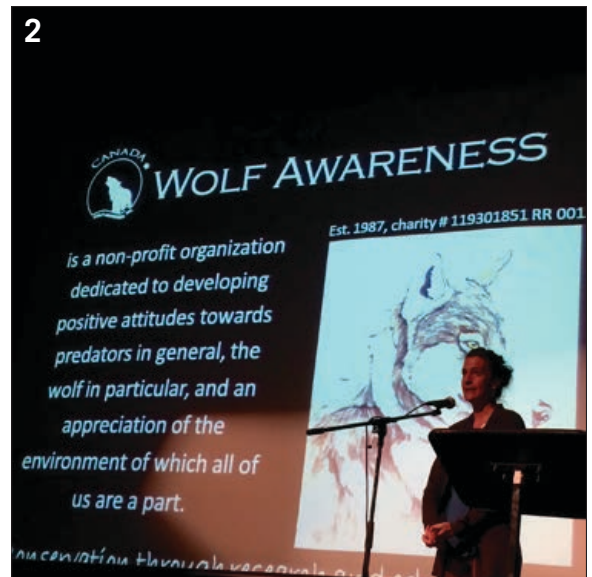
Among the concerns voiced by Katy Madsen was the potential danger of opening up the "mother lodes" higher up in the hills and the leaching problems that could result as radioactive substances worked their way down into the inhabited Valley from tailings and so forth.

But for now the entire matter rests in the hands of the Bates Commission.

The inquiry into uranium mining is reported still in the early stages of its "mutual education" process. Technical hearings on "environmental impact", public and worker health protection", "social impact", and "ethical questions" will begin December 4.

Community hearings will not begin before April, 1980 . . . and among those hearings a sitting in Penticton will be included.

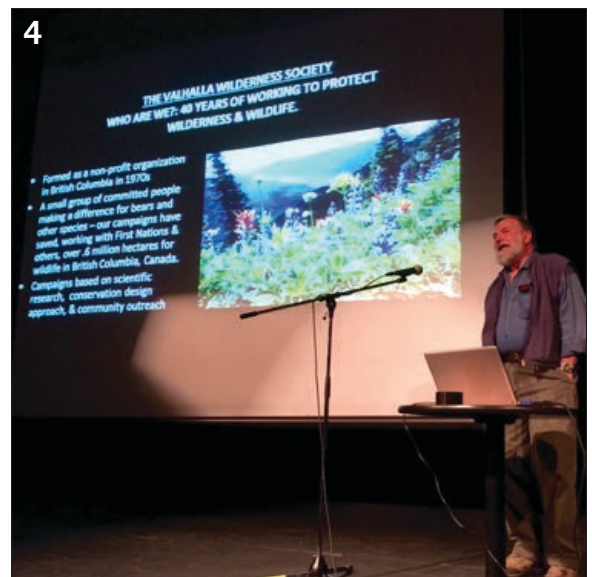
2



3



4



Wolf Awareness (2)
Wolf Awareness Executive Director Sadie Parr speaks at the OSPS AGM. She spoke about the need to protect wolf populations to ensure the health of the Biosystems in which they live.

Wolf (3)
Sadie Parr speaks to the OSPS AGM. She used electronic technology to report on 'on the ground' field studies.

(4) Craig Pettitt of the Valhalla Wilderness Society spoke to the OSPS AGM on the need to use real data to learn the truth about the wolf and its habitat. He spoke against the B.C. Wolf cull program.

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2015 -2016 Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society: The Year In Review

APRIL 2015

Hosted 50th Annual General Meeting of O.S.P.S.

honoured Steven Cannings as OSPS Pioneer

Richard Cannings provided an educational presentation on B.C. habitats

MAY 2015

JUNE 2015

Sponsored Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Living \$6400 to cover the archaeological bill for the camps and Olivine trail in the Cascades

Applied for (did not receive) Canada150 Community Infrastructure Program for the Manning Park heritage trail upgrade.

Sponsored FOSS (Friends of South Slopes) for the 10 km trail reconstruction in Okanagan Mountain Park.

AUGUST 2015

Director Graham took part in a meeting regarding Off Road Motorized Vehicle use on Oliver Mountain involving user groups

SEPTEMBER 2015

OSPS gave \$300 to the South Okanagan Similkameen Park Network for newspaper advertising to support the creation of a national park.

OCTOBER 2015

Directors Johnson and Guild 'scouted' areas of interest in the backcountry

Wildlife including wolves coming closer to valley and towns

Resource roads in need of radios—under new frequencies

Evidence of encroachment into protected areas, loggers, wood cutters, hunters

NOVEMBER 2015

Director Guild took part in a positive meeting on the National Park issue

DECEMBER 2015

investigating purchase of radios for members travelling resource roads

investigating motion detect cameras of enforcement of Parks and protected areas

JANUARY 2016

researched BC Hydro capacitor proposed on Bathville Road.

responded to the Trails and Recreation facilities application on behalf of the Southern Okanagan Dirt Bike Club

began investigation of updating the Society's constitution (document is dated 1994 and we also have a 1998 revision)

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

sent in a response about the referral review for Naramata Creek Goal 2 trails (with particular note of Smethurst Motorcycle Trails)

sent in a position paper on the Off Road Motorized Vehicle use on Oliver Mountain

investigated 'Houseboat issue' at Okanagan Mountain Park.

OSPS received a Heritage B.C. award for work on the Hudson's Bay Trail (signage)