



Newsletter SPRING 2017

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

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

52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the **OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY**

WITH
SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTER

Mike Roberts



The Okanagan's very own weatherman and local historian.
Roberts will speak about Okanagan history.

AGENDA

- ✓ Election of Directors
- ✓ Financial Report
- ✓ Business Meeting
- ✓ Honoring Pioneers

CENTRE STAGE THEATRE
in the Summerland Secondary School on Main St.

Friday, April 28, 2017 • 7pm

ALL WELCOME Refreshments NO CHARGE Donations Welcome

EDITORIAL

It has been an interesting new year, to say the least, in our world. To attempt to bring some normalcy to life there has been a lot of television and internet viewing going on in during our cold Okanagan nights. Commenting on the HUGH occurrences, which are being reported, is best left to others but during the viewing episodes there have been a number of commercials for the new models of many makes of vehicles. There seems to be disproportionate repeat advertisements for trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles of other descriptions. The carbon footprint that these vehicles leave is one thing, including; the cost of manufacturing them, the resources that they use, the cost and pollution of the fuel and a number of other factors, including their ultimate disposal.

However, returning to the advertisements used to sell these beasts is the point of this article. Vehicles from all sorts of manufacturers, international and North American, are being touted as the way to go where no one has travelled before. In a variety of ever-repeating commercials the trucks drive and churn up grasslands, pick new paths through forests, cross streams and rivers, get 'stuck' and free themselves and perch upon the highest landforms in sight. All the while the voice-over announcers are encouraging prospective purchasers to be 'free' and go where, and do what, they feel. In fact in one sponsored spot the vehicle is actually shown doing power induced circles on a field.

Continued on next page...

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

There are many responsible truck owners who use their vehicles for tasks that require a box, four-wheel drive and other truck or SUV features. Until future carbon saving features are 'invented' and made available these vehicles are required by these people. This is especially true in rural areas like the Okanagan Similkameen, where much of the agricultural activity would be very difficult, if not impossible, without such vehicles. But destroying pristine regions of our valleys, as the manufacturers of these vehicles, and others like motorcycles and ATVs, would suggest is not responsible.

One might suggest that these advertising spots do not specifically encourage individuals to break laws or harm species habitats. However there is no disputing that they do engender a particular mindset in which the individual puts pleasure or power for his or herself above stewardship of the environment. They espouse the view that nature is there to be conquered and that the new version of the latest truck or SUV is just the tool to get this done. According to this logic travelling on one of the numerous well established roads or thoroughfares in our rural hinterlands is just not good enough. To get stuck and have to use four-wheel drive to plough out of the obstacle is where the real freedom lies. Of course flora and fauna

habitat usually pays the price for this activity.

The Okanagan Similkameen back-country is not there to be torn up and destroyed. Humans have great power at their command but with this power, four wheel or not, comes great responsibility. Disrupting and destroying nature, in whatever manner, comes with many unforeseen consequences for this generation and those of the future. As wildlife habitat is lost that wildlife either ceases to exist or adapts to suburban environments like some of the local deer. Of course once the deer are living in the cities the predators soon encroach as well. Leave some habitat in the wild and we will not need to cull deer or shoot cougars.



52nd Annual General Meeting - April 28

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society's AGM takes place in Summerland on Friday, April 28th at 7 pm in The Centre Stage Theatre, next to Summerland Secondary School, at 9507 Main Street. Special guest presenter will be Mike Roberts, a local historian who worked at CHBC for over 40 years, earning him the title of the Okanagan's very own weatherman. Roberts will speak about Okanagan history, and will be honoring the late Bill Barlee, who is one of the 2017 OSPS celebrated pioneers.

The AGM will begin with a short meeting, where the financial statements for the prior year will be presented for approval, and where the 2017 Board of Directors will be elected. The AGM is open to the public free of charge, but donations are welcome. Any questions may be directed to Director Ian Graham at ibgraham494@shaw.ca.



Mike Roberts

WEATHER SPECIALIST

Mike Roberts is probably best-known as the Okanagan's very own weatherman (not a meteorologist). He came to Global Okanagan from CHEK-TV in Victoria in 1973 and since then has filled his days producing hundreds of stories on the people of the Okanagan. His 10-year association with Bill Barlee in "Gold Trails and Ghost Towns" resulted in 130 shows on the mining history of British Columbia. The program was syndicated nationally. Roberts considers his relationship with Bill to be a remarkable piece of good fortune and the series to be a lasting contribution to understanding B.C.'s history.

Mike retired from Global Okanagan after 40 years

Mike Roberts will be presenting at the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the O.S.P.S. Friday, April 28 at the Center Stage Theatre in Summerland @ 7:00.

Katy Madsen

Katy was born in Palo Alto, California in 1921. Her father was an early member of the Sierra Club and he and Katy's love of wild places were developed during camping trips to local wildlands and especially to the newly formed Yosemite National Park.

Katy and her family moved to Summerland in 1964 and soon became involved in wildlife and wilderness campaigns. Before long, she and others realized that the California Bighorn Sheep population near Vaseaux Lake needed a secure winter range. She and her cohorts decided that the Okanagan-Similkameen area needed a strong voice for protecting critical habitat of many species, and that idea ended up in the creation of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society.

Katy worked on many issues over the years including the successful campaign to create the Cathedral Provincial Park and her heart-breaking unsuccessful effort to protect Brent Mountain. She was almost single-handedly responsible for the long moratorium on uranium mining in BC. In 2013 she received the Queen's Jubilee Medal in recognition of her longstanding commitment to conservation in BC. She is currently 96 years young and living in Victoria.

Katy Madsen will be honoured as one of the pioneers of the O.S.P.S. She was instrumental in the founding of the society.

Bill Barlee

"Bill Barlee, was a nugget, pure gold, remarkable in more ways than can be described."

— Randy Manuel, *illustrator and former Penticton museum director.*

One of the early pioneers of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society was Neville Langrell (Bill) Barlee. Bill was a Kootney and Okanagan resident who wrote and collected history and served as a minister in the British Columbia government during the 1990s. He raised his family in the Okanagan. Bill and his wife, Kathleen Kyle, brought up their daughters Veronica, Gwen and Diane Barlee to be public spirited community supporters.

Barlee was born in Grand Forks on October 15, 1932. His paternal grandfather spent time in the goldfields of the Yukon where he wrote for the Globe newspaper. His maternal grandfather was a store keeper and one of the early settlers of, the now defunct, Cascade City. His own boyhood family left Grand Forks for Rossland when he was still quite young and eventually moved to Kelowna in the Okanagan Mission area. It was while a resident of the Mission that Bill honed his love and appreciation of nature, often while running along a trail next to Okanagan Lake. His Okanagan Valley high school record for running the mile, lasted 20 years.

Bill spent his formative years, 1950-1970, traveling through Washington, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Utah and British Columbia developing his knowledge of old historic towns and mining regions and the environments in which they were located. Concurrently, in the early 1950s Bill became a public school teacher. He taught for seventeen years until retiring from a social studies position at Penticton Secondary School, where he also coached track and field, in 1968. Ever active, during the 1960s and 1970's Bill studied and wrote about British Columbia history under the authorship of N.L. Barlee. Barlee first entered the writing game when he published 6,000 copies of "Similkameen, Pictograph Country" in 1963. Bill left teaching to write and publish his local history magazine "Canada West" and his books including the best sellers "Gold



Bill Barlee's memory will be honoured as one of the O.S.P.S. pioneers at the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the O.S.P.S.

Creeks and Ghost Towns" and "The Guide to Gold Panning in BC". Notably some of his favorite topics were about the mining ghost towns of the Kootenies, the Similkameen and Border Country. He was also interested in the characters from the Klondike gold rush.

In 1979 Bill, and his wife Kathleen, moved to the lower mainland where Kathleen pursued and obtained both an undergraduate and a master's degree from the University of British Columbia. Upon returning to the South Okanagan in 1984 Barlee undertook the directorship of the Penticton Museum. He curated and steered the museum until 1986.

It was in 1988 that Bill contested and won a by-election for the provincial riding of Boundary/Similkameen. He had defeated the candidate for the long ensconced, and now defunct, Social Credit Party. He took his seat as a member of the opposition N.D.P. It was in 1991 when his party came to government that Barlee was placed in the post of Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. While in this position he introduced the very successful "Buy BC" program. In 1993 Bill was given the post of Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture. In this position Bill pursued his lifelong interest in preserving BC history and promoting the province. He remained with this ministry until 1996.

Of course, Bill co-hosted the popular and award winning CHBC TV series, "Gold Trails and Ghost Towns" which ran from 1986 to 1996 on five different networks nationwide. During his time as a minister of the crown Bill supported such projects as the restoration of the Summerland Steam Railroad, now a going concern, and the saving and restoration of the Hedley Mascot Mine, now run by the local First Nation. In fact, the posters that he commissioned celebrating the mine can still be purchased at the Headley and Similkameen First Nation Museums.

At the same time Bill worked on the preservation of the South Okanagan's Haines Ranch. This is a project that has not been completed to this day. He was also a proponent of the protection of the area currently under discussion for the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park. His belief, according to Kathleen, was that it required the highest level of protection available, and as we are aware, this would result from its designation as a National Park. Bill knew and loved this land and it is easy to imagine his tireless support for the current project.

Bill Barlee passed away on June 14, 2012. We are fortunate to have had him in our Parks Society. We honour him as one of our pioneers.



Vandalized sign: Unfortunately the Yes: National Park sign was vandalized three days after it was erected. It may have been simple 'yahoo' vandalism or was it an attempt to stop the rightful exercise of a point of view that was opposed to the ones held by the vandals. Either way the act was unlawful and should not have occurred in a democracy.



The South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Network has distributed a number of small private property front signs promoting the National Park. Now, with the senior governments speaking about the Park again, is the time to get involved. If you have property that could display the sign to lots of residents contact us for signs (we will be in touch with the Chair, Doreen Olson).

Telling the Story of a Hiking Trail

Inspiration has a way of catching up to you in the most unlikely of spots. For Summerland filmmaker Erick Thompson, he found it on a centuries old hiking trail that runs between Hope and Tulameen.

The Hudson's Bay Company Heritage Trail is an old trading route that was initially established by First Nations in the region, before becoming a major trading route for the HBC starting in 1849.

The 74-kilometre trail starts just outside of Hope and goes up over the Cascades Mountains and comes to an end just outside of the Community of Tulameen.

"I think the trail is a real gem," said Thompson, who hiked the trail last year with his wife. "It has the capacity to become a premier hiking trail, like the Pacific Crest Trail and the Juan De Fuca Trail."

The trail recently underwent a major revitalization by the Hope Mountain Centre, who did major work fixing up campgrounds for

hikers, restoring old cabins and installing informative plaques and signs along the entire length of the trail to explain the history and significance of the trail to hikers as they walk.

Thompson felt the story of the trail was one that needing telling.

It's an important story, Thompson said. The trail opened up the Interior of British Columbia and helped established key trade routes that helped develop the province.

Without it, Thompson added, there was a pretty good chance that Canada would have focused its effort on developing trade routes east of the Rockies.

Thompson hopes to use his documentary to make the trail more accessible to people who might not know that it even exists.

His plan is to mix historical information, interviews and interesting facts to tell the story of the trail. Included in his plans for the movie is filming a historical re-enactment of what life would have been like for hunters

and trappers who travelled the trail.

The group heads out on the trail in July of this year and Thompson will be following along to capture the event on camera.

Along with applying for grants to help cover the costs of making the documentary, which will be filmed this summer, Thompson has started a GoFundMe campaign to get the ball rolling on securing funding for the project.

Anyone who wishes to help out with the campaign and support a local filmmaker tell an important piece of B.C. history can find the information online here: www.gofundme.com/HBCTrailDocumentary.

For anyone who is really interested in the trail and wants to learn as much as possible about the history and the route itself, or maybe if you're interested in hiking the trail, you can visit the Hope Mountain Centre's website to find out more at: www.hopemountain.org.

Douglas Paton is a Summerland writer and musician.



The O.S.P.S. Board of Directors sent letters of congratulation to members of three governing bodies involved in the establishment of a National Park in the South Okanagan Similkameen. The Board congratulated the Honourable Catherine McKenna Minister of Environment in the federal government, Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band, and the Honourable Mary Polak, the B.C. provincial Minister of Environment, on publicly agreeing to undertake negotiations leading to the establishment of the National Park. The O.S.P.S., along with the rest of the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Network, strongly urges the governments to include Mount Kobau, referred to locally as Area Two. This component will ensure much needed connectivity between all locations of the national park reserve. As such its inclusion is critical to the international stature of the park.

The red billboard pictured here was, and hopefully will be again, located on Highway 3A. Unfortunately, we have just learned that the new sign on highway #3A was vandalized and totally destroyed in the early hours of Sunday morning, March 19. The sign was installed on Thursday of the week before! The National Park Network has also, over the last year and a half, put up about 60 smaller signs. Many of them have gone missing.

The cost of the destroyed sign by Osoyoos Signs was \$2,047.50. The cost to reconstruct the fallen billboard at commercial carpentry rates would easily exceed \$3,000, putting the total replacement cost at over \$5,000, and therefore a very serious matter.

This new billboard speaks for an estimated 70% of the residents of the South Okanagan Similkameen. When it is reconstructed post your picture, of you and family members gathered around the sign, on social media. That's one way that interest in the establishment of the park can be noted.



On highway 97, just south of Gallagher Lake, is the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Network's billboard urging action on the proposed South Okanagan Similkameen National Park. The O.S.P.S. proudly shared in the cost of sponsoring this message. In the photo are Network chair, Doreen Olsen and Jim Wyse, the owner of the Burrowing Owl winery, along with Ian Graham of the O.S.P.S.



This coiled rattlesnake was photographed last fall on the KVR portion of the Trans Canada trail out of Summerland. He, or she, (I was not getting any closer to check) was out getting some of the late rays of sun. The picture stands in her to signify all of the invaluable fauna that exists in the South Okanagan Similkameen. Without all of our efforts such species will be greatly limited if not outright eradicated. Wildlife cannot live without habitat.

Survey Cited by Premier on National Park Doesn't Exist

BY RICHARD MCGUIRE
Oliver Chronicle

When Premier Christy Clark said in a television interview in July that a majority of people in the South Okanagan don't want a national park and that surveys back her up, there was much scratching of heads.

Now, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request by the Osoyoos Times for information on the survey or polls Clark referred to has come up empty.

"Although a thorough search was conducted, no records were located in response to your request," said a letter received last week from Cindy Elbahir, manager, Central Agency Team, Information Access Operations with the provincial government.

Clark made the claim in a July 12 interview with Rick Webber of Global Okanagan. When Webber corrected the premier and pointed out that polls show a majority supports a national park reserve, Clark responded: "Well, there's competing surveys."

In fact, a poll by McAllister Opinion Research, released in April 2015, showed two-to-one support for a national park among residents of Boundary-Similkameen and three quarters support in Penticton. The only other scientific poll on the subject was done by the same Vancouver-based polling firm in 2010 and showed a smaller majority supporting a national park.

The Osoyoos Times' FOI request asked the premier's office to provide tables and methodology of the survey or poll Clark was referring to in her response to Webber. The request asked only about surveys or polls released after Jan. 1, 2011. Although there was a 6,000-name petition opposing the park in 2005, the Osoyoos Times has not found any record of a scientific poll.

Asked if the premier was wrong in referring to "competing surveys," park supporter Doreen Olson replied: "I think she's probably misinformed." Clark's office was invited last week to respond to this story. A statement from

her office received Monday said: "Premier Clark's comments were referring to the extensive amount of community consultation, dialogue, media commentary, and public feedback on the South Okanagan National Park proposal that has taken place over the past few years. In particular, she was alluding to the fact much of this feedback has shown the issue to be extremely divisive within the region, with local residents split on the creation of a full national park in the area. Her comment was not intended to suggest government was relying on a single survey or poll to guide its actions on this issue."

Olson, however, was surprised by Clark's comments. "When I heard the interview, I thought for sure she was looking at very old information," said Olson, co-ordinator of the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Network. "It doesn't surprise me at all that there isn't a survey that would show more people opposed than support."

Peter Maser, a retired journalist now living in Penticton, was also taken aback by Clark's comment in the interview with Webber. He sent letters in August to several media outlets, including the Osoyoos Times questioning Clark's claim. "For those who follow this issue, the premier's comments were a revelation," Maser wrote. "A competing survey or surveys? Majority opposition to the park? To paraphrase Oliver Twist: please, madam, may we have some more – information that is." Maser wrote to Clark at the same time asking her for information on the "competing surveys." "What is the survey (or surveys) you referred to?" he asked the premier. "When was it conducted and by whom? What was the sample size, margin of error and methodology? Was the survey conducted with public monies? If so, why have the survey results not been made public?"

Clark did not respond to Maser, but instead Environment Minister Mary Polak responded on the premier's behalf. Polak did not answer Maser's questions, but only made a general statement. "Through the feasibility assessment process for the proposed national park reserve that Parks Canada conducted in co-operation with the province in 2010, it became clear that, while there was support for



A Freedom of Information request failed to turn up a survey that BC Premier Christy Clark referred to in a television interview this summer, when she said the majority of people in the South Okanagan don't want a national park. Here, hikers make a trip up to Mount Kobau. (Richard McGuire photo)

the proposal, there were a significant number of people who were (and remain) opposed," Polak wrote.

Maser wrote back to Polak saying he was disappointed she didn't answer his direct questions. He again asked her if the polls exist. He has not received a reply.

Asked for his reaction to news that an FOI request failed to turn up a poll, Maser replied: "I'm not surprised because I do not believe that such a survey was ever taken. I think the premier was being creative, shall we say, in her comments about the existence of a public opinion survey and the existence of strong resistance to the creation of a national park."

Olson noted that support for a park grew between the two surveys conducted by McAllister Opinion Research. She added that recent comments received in response to the government's August 2015 Intentions Paper mirror the latest McAllister poll. Those comments also show strong support for the inclusion of the area surrounding Mount Kobau in a national park reserve. Neither the comments received in response to the Intentions Paper, nor the 2005 petition opposing the park, are scientifically valid because respondents are not randomly chosen, but are self-selected.

West Coast Supports Global Warming Solutions

West Coast's stated long-term goal is to democratize BC's decision-making process when it comes to law making. Nowhere is this more important than in confronting the critical challenge of climate change. Environmental Assessment (EA) is the primary tool for governments to assess the environmental implications of large-scale development. In general, however, there is no explicit requirement that climate change adaptation or mitigation be considered in an EA.

West Coast proposes that changes to BC's environmental assessment legislation should be made to allow government, project proponents and the public to assess the climate change implications arising from a project.

Worldwide, countries are promoting carbon capture and storage (CCS) as mechanisms for diverting carbon from being emitted into the atmosphere (for instance, from industrial smoke stacks and flares). Although the province has signaled an interest in developing CCS technology, it has yet to set out a plan to promote, achieve or regulate this technology. There are numerous existing underground seams throughout the province (left as legacies from conventional gas drilling) and using them for carbon capture and storage may be one solution to climate change in BC. West Coast is researching the safety, social, economic and legal aspects of CCS to determine and propose what a CCS regulatory regime in BC might look like.

Sustainable forestry through carbon tenure involves offset trading (e.g., a cap and trade systems), a framework that recognizes large protected forest areas as critical in mitigating the effects of climate change (as carbon reservoirs and sinks). West Coast is working for laws and policies to be adopted regarding forests and climate change (e.g., treatment for forest carbon credits in a cap and trade systems) that are ecologically sound, designed

to protect forest biodiversity, socially just, and respectful of Aboriginal title and rights.

LUCY PEARSON

*West Coast Environmental Law - Vol. 34:02
- Nov. 10, 2008*

Trail Planned For North of Osoyoos

A new trail along Highway 97 is in the works to ensure pedestrians and cyclists enjoy a safer and more scenic travel environment.

"By separating the hike and bike trail from the highway, outdoor enthusiasts can better enjoy the scenery and heritage that the Okanagan is known for," said Boundary-Similkameen MLA John Slater. "Having these types of hike and bike trails also promotes tourism for our region."

The \$1 million project is located on the east side of Highway 97, 10 kilometers north of Osoyoos. The new trail will connect to Road #22 on the north side and 204th Road on the south side.

The project involves construction of a three-metre-wide, two-kilometre-long gravel surface trail parallel to the newly constructed Highway 97 and includes five culvert crossings under the trail for amphibians and small animals.

Construction is expected to begin in spring 2011 and be completed by summer 2011.

Since 2001, the province has invested \$1.6 billion in transportation and community infrastructure in the Thompson-Okanagan region.

BOUNDARY-SIMILKAMEEN MLA
JOHN SLATER ALONG WITH RAMPAU
Penticton Western News, November 17, 2010

**FOREST PRACTICES BOARD
NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 2008**

Report Examines Management of Fire Hazards from Logging

In a study of recently logged areas, the Forest Practices Board found that fire hazard was reduced satisfactorily in most cases, but no licensees fully met the legal requirement to assess fire hazard as required by the Wildfire Act, according to a report released today. The study examined 111 randomly selected cut blocks, harvested from 2005 – 2007, in the Okanagan Shuswap and Central Cariboo forest districts.

The wildlife Act requires licensees to assess fuel hazard and the risk of a fire starting as well as spreading, and to abate the fire hazard if necessary. In many cases, licensees assessed the fuel hazard, but in no case did they assess the risk of a fire starting or spreading. Despite the lack of compliance, fire hazards were often abated by routine practices such as piling and burning slash and debris at the roadside.

While results were generally good, we are concerned that some licensees are not recognizing high risk situations, such as when trees are processed at the stump, increasing the fire hazard due to large amounts of slash left on the site, said Board Chair Bruce Fraser. The report makes three recommendations for improvement to fire hazard assessment and abatement practices. The Association of BC Forest Professionals has agreed to work with government and industry to address the recommendations.

Summerland Staked for Uranium Claims

NOVEMBER 1, 1979 DAVE GAMBLE *Summerland Review Managing Editor*

A large part of Summerland including the entire downtown area has been staked for uranium mining claims. The disclosure was made Friday, October 19 at the Uranium Mining Inquiry's Technical Hearings in Vancouver by Dr. R.R. Culbert of D.G. Leighton and Associates.

At a news conference on Monday October 29 in Summerland, representatives of two environmental groups announced that the claims had been registered on October 18, extending the local uranium exploration claims from Garnett Valley Dam, south to the Summerland Railway Museum, and west almost to the reservoir.

Walt Taylor representing the South Okanagan Environment Coalition and Katy Madsen of the Sierra Club's Okanagan Group stated that "every water tributary into Summerland has now been covered by claims as well as the land around every shop in town, the RCMP office, hospital, arena, the old Century house area, the golf course, schools, and highway 97 through town."

"POST GLACIAL DEPOSIT"

The daily transcript of the Uranium Inquiry's Technical Hearings on October 19 recorded the following testimony from Dr. Culbert describing the deposit:

"I'm going to start off with an example of one of (30 in the province) these deposits which is being released here. It's an important example because it occurs on the surface in an agricultural and residential area."

"This has been under study for the last few weeks by ourselves and by the Department of Health. Could I have the first slide please?"

"This is an aerial photograph of the town of Summerland. The small squares that you see here are houses and other buildings. The actual town centre is down in about here, the Shopping Centre. The part marked in red, that area is the post-glacial uranium deposit which contains about half a million pounds of uranium oxide. Furthermore, this uranium is contained in the soils, the topsoils of the fields."

"It occurs in a place called Prairie Creek Flats, sometimes I believe referred to as Dale Meadows. Prairie Creek, which is causing the

deposit is marked by an arrow on this map... we have not gone and tried to auger the gardens and orchards that lie in Summerland itself. From the date we have, it appears quite certain that the ore body continues on in the topsoils into the residential area...

"This is a look at part of that ore body which is actually one of the richest parts. The soils in the fields in front here, the top half metre runs for the most part, about four hundred parts per million uranium."

"Right beyond is the boundary, a ditch actually that we use as our limit for cutting off. Having looked at the ore deposit, beyond as you can see is Summerland and a school (Giant's head), here."

WHO FILED THE CLAIMS?

Madsen and Taylor advised that several "free miners" apparently filed the claims in the Provincial Government Agents office in Penticton. Their news release stated "Although several different names are attached to the claims, these individuals all give the same address in Vancouver, 3155 West 12th Ave. That address belongs to a white house with light green trim in a strictly residential neighbourhood near Kitsilano and it is listed in the Vancouver telephone book with the name of D.G. Leighton. Apparently, it is the private home of the exploration consultant employing Dr. Culbert."

According to the environmental groups "legally it seem possible that much of the whole area could be mined. Even private property can be staked. The Provincial Mineral Act allows "rights of entry" to such land with only a few types (residential, orchard and other developed land) excluded."

Taylor and Madsen claimed the exploration consultants refused to reveal to the Royal Commission specific data concerning these uranium deposits in Summerland. "They would not make public the locations of their findings. Their information had been given earlier to the Ministry of Health. Dr. Culbert said that "if they feel it's in the best interest to have it released they will. This time we're not going to start off listing names and locations."

The Sierra Club's Okanagan Group and the Uranium Education Committee of the South

Okanagan Environmental Coalition said they agreed with D.G. Leighton and Associates that "no unnecessary anxiety should be aroused." The groups stated "that for that very reason no secrets can be tolerated; no information relevant to the question of mining uranium in Summerland watersheds and lands should be hidden from the people whose health, social and economic well-being may be at risk."

The groups stated that "the best way to protect and reassure Summerland residents would be for the provincial government to put an immediate moratorium on further exploration in the watersheds affecting Summerland, as requested by a unanimous vote of the Summerland Council on October 22."

The Uranium Mining Inquiry 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 Question" will begin on December 4.

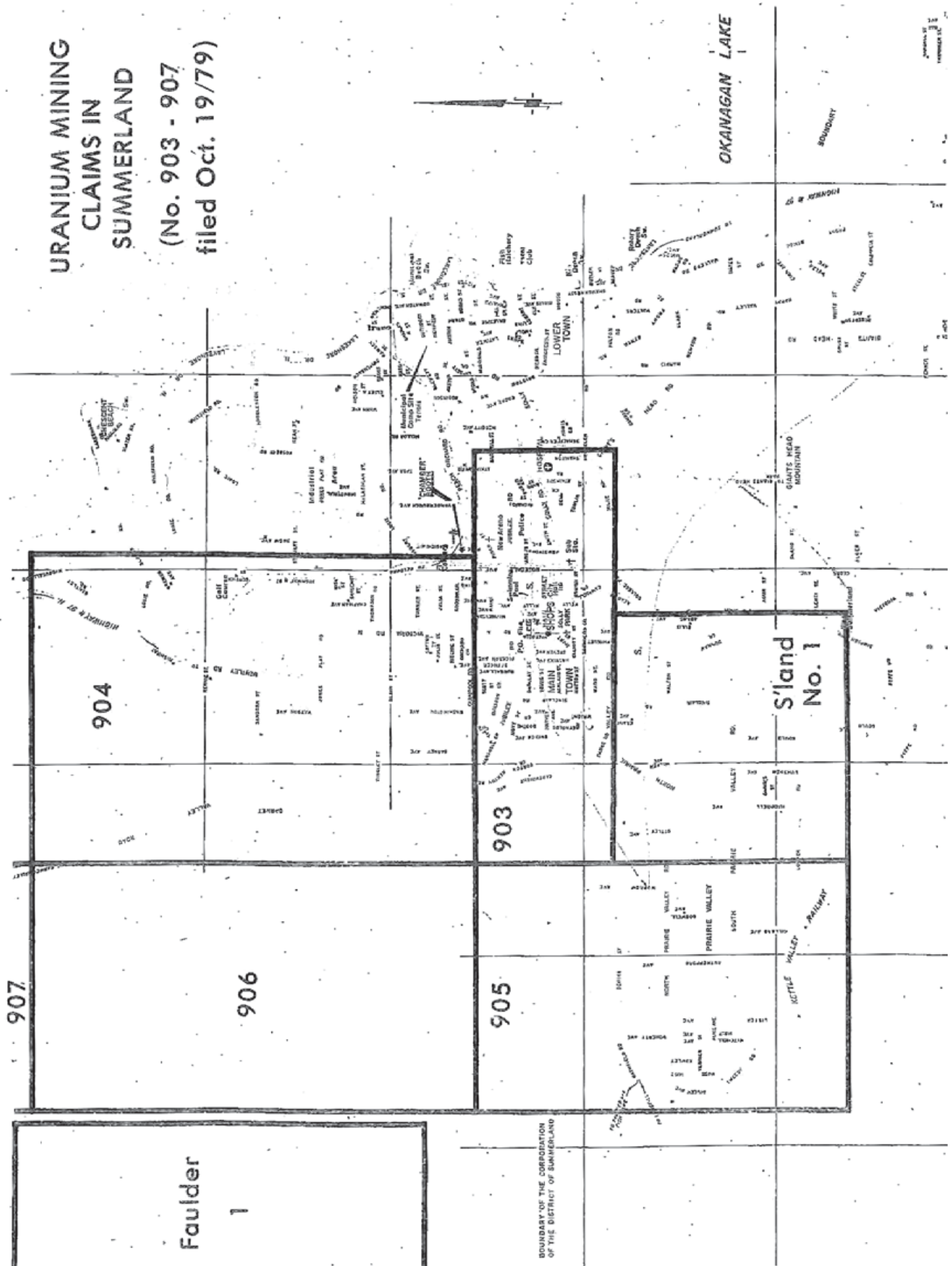
Community hearings will not begin before April 1980. One will be held in Penticton for individuals and public interest groups.

INFORMATION HARD TO GET

Taylor and Madsen stated that "although some vital technical information affecting the future of Summerland has been filed with the Royal Commission of Enquiry by exploration companies, such information is virtually unavailable to concerned organizations of private citizens." "There must be independent studies of data made by the province, a greater degree of public input and accountability, and widening of inquiry to include studies of social and economic disruptions when an entire community is threatened in this way" they stated.

The news release called attention to a "new and poorly tested leaching procedure" for extraction of uranium deposits from surface for near-surface soils which was included in the Dales Meadow presentation. The groups stated that "scientific criticism of these views has not yet been given a hearing." They concluded "the uranium question will not be resolved in the public interest until people have access to all pertinent information and assume their responsible, well-informed role in a democratic decision-making process."

URANIUM MINING
CLAIMS IN
SUMMERLAND
(No. 903 - 907
filed Oct. 19/79)



MEMBERSHIP FORM Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society • Box 787, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Postal Code: _____

Individual (\$10.00) _____ Family (\$15) _____ Organization (\$20) _____

Donation: _____ (Income Tax Deductible) ☐ I wish to receive the OSPS newsletter by email



Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society

Our valleys: worth protecting and worth enjoying!

OUR MISSION

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society (OSPS) has following mission:

- to acquire and preserve parklands for the health, recreation, education and natural enjoyment of the public
- to seek preservation of habitat for wildlife
- to protect natural biotic areas for scientific study
- to evoke public awareness of the quality of life, and appreciation of the beauty and wonders of the natural environment

Our mission is due to the present time being a crucial time. In the face of fast increasing population, conservation of lands is vital both for this and future generations; otherwise, wilderness may be lost to us and become but a memory of the Canada that was.

OUR VALUE

We believe in the paramount importance of involving the private citizen in the preservation of wild lands.

MILESTONE

Formed in 1966, the OSPS has successfully got established parks, reserved areas and helped to preserve historical trails. Well-known milestones are the following.

Parks established	Trails preserved & areas reserved
Vaseux Bighorn National Wildlife Area	Hudson's Bay Fur Brigade trail
Cathedral Lakes Park	The Kettle Valley Railroad
Conkle Lake Park	Haynes Lease
Okanagan Mountain Park	Ecological Resources

Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society Box 787, Summerland, BC, V0H 1Z0
okanagansimilkameenparkssociety.ca

The OSPS is registered as a charitable organization in Canada, and issues receipts for income tax purposes.



NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Our old email address (angler etc.) is no longer available for use by the OSPS.

Our new address is
bremmer@mtkobau.bc.ca

Please note the new address.