



Newsletter

SUMMER 2014

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Editorial

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society recently hosted the 49th annual General Meeting of the organization. Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the group. The inception of the group came about in 1965 when concerns about preservation of our interior environment began to percolate and become evident in public consciousness. The society is one of the oldest such societies in the province and the Pacific Northwest.

The society is looking for ways to commemorate the anniversary. One of the planned ways is to sponsor the study and re-evaluation of one of our seminal projects: *Is Everything Alright Out There?* A study of the Okanagan Similkameen ecosystem, including flora, fauna and natural biomes, the project will sample our region over four decades after the first study was conducted (*Is Everything Alright Up There?* 1972).

The society is also hoping to work, under the auspices of the new Parks Act, to ensure that Okanagan Similkameen parks and protected areas are maintained and improved. They are required to provide homes to wildlife and plant life, and must remain as pristine as possible.

In this issue we use photographs of flora and fauna from around the Okanagan Similkameen region to discuss biodiversity. On recent CBC airing of *Quirks and Quarks: Question Show* a listener asked the question "Why is biodiversity important?" and the short answer was that aside from the well being of the plants and animals, the importance of biodiversity is to keep the natural environment that we all live in healthy. Whether protecting from disease, famine or some other naturally occurring, or man made, catastrophe, the environment must

rely on as many different species, types and varieties of plants and/or animals as possible to provide a solution. We will not necessarily know which aspect of which living entity will tip the balance in the correct direction for recovery or which may send it toward disaster. What we need to do is to protect and nurture what we have. We must be vigilante that we do not do things that appear to have no relation to a problem but end up producing an unintended consequence in nature.

Please enjoy the little tour through these pages and take a similar tour out in the wilder areas of our region. Send letters or articles about your rambles and adventures. Explain what some of the connections that you have noticed in our natural parks and protected areas are. The education of the public and our membership about these issues will be an objective of the society for our fiftieth anniversary year. You must join us.

In fact, join the South Okanagan Parks Society as a member or even as a director (we have a couple of spots open on the board right now, especially for a recording secretary) and assist with the huge task that is protecting our pristine parks, recreation areas and designated protected areas. It is through maintaining a healthy population of all species, plant and animal, that we will encourage our environment to stay healthy and strong and in provide a liveable 'home' for us.



Marsh – The marshy areas around the oxbows along the Okanagan River, north of Vasseux Lake, provide habitat for many varieties of birds, fish, amphibians and mammals that keep our environment diverse and healthy.



Okanagan River – The waterways of our region are instrumental in the quest to ensure biodiversity, flora and fauna, in the interior valleys. This location on the Okanagan River provides shade, moisture and a wonderful growing medium for a number of trees, plants and birds and animals.

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

Summary of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society 2013 - 2014

March

Director B. Johnson on Kettle Mtn. (just east of Cascade Recreation Area) blue-and-red-listed plants found in the area. Notified Orville Dyer of B.C. government re these new finds.

The OSPS provided Nature Conservancy of Canada \$5,000 (re Elking block adjacent to 2012 land purchase.)

April

The 48TH Annual General Meeting of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society was held at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 5, 2013, at Centre Stage Theatre

May

The OSPS contributed \$5,000 to the Summerland Rotary Club towards construction of the Summerland portion of the hike/bike trail along the lakeshore.

Director S. White Letter re walking trails within Summerland – circulated to council and newspapers

The OSPS made a \$300 donation to the Summerland Action Festival to assist with the 2013 festival.

The OSPS donated \$1,680 to Friends of the South Slope (FOSS) re trail improvements in Okanagan Mountain Park.

June

OSPS continued membership/support Osoyoos Lake Quality Society

August

OSPS hosts 'lunch' at the Parks' Day Celebration of the Cascades Area Recreation Trails

October

OSPS Director C. Johnson sent a critical 'response' Re proposals for wind energy installations above Naramata.

OSPS wrote a support letter for the Proposed South Okanagan National Park . Signed I. Graham.

Ms. Hannah Pierce received OSPS approval of work/plan for Esplanade Park (Penticton)

OSPS support for the current aspects of ongoing support for the Cascades Trails project.

December

the OSPS executive formed a committee to try to organize a fact forum re wind farms.

January

OSPS history in Okanagan Historical Society's annual report (2013) written by directors B. Johnson, S. White and S. Trainer and excerpted version in ORC summer issue

Letter written to Western Wilderness re including news/report of OSPS in 2015 calendar and/or especially 2016 – our 50th anniversary.

February

Met with Bryn White of the South Okanagan Conservation Society to discuss her program

March

OSPS directors toured property in south Okanagan that they have been asked to contribute to the purchase price of

Planning for the AGM and Presentation
Spring Newsletter

BECOME A MEMBER

The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society is in need of members and directors.

If you have skills and abilities that can be of value to the society, we encourage you to volunteer to become part of our vibrant and growing organization.

Donations are appreciated anytime - tax receipt will be issued. OSPS appreciates your continued support in our attempt to save OUR parks. 2007 memberships at \$10.00 individual, \$15.00 family, \$20.00 organization. Please renew now. THANKS!



Beetle – Every creature in a biome performs a function through living its life. The insects, spiders and other ground or foliage dwelling miniature life forms break down soils, provide food for other larger fauna and produce exotic materials that add to the health of the environment. This beetle is not only valuable but beautiful as well.



Similkameen on endangered rivers list again

Each year, the Outdoor Recreation Council solicits and reviews nominations for BC's Most Endangered Rivers from its member groups. The Similkameen River is on the list due to a proposal by Fortis to build the Canyon Dam located fifteen kilometers south of Princeton with a reservoir up to 35 kilometers long. The dam would inundate about 800 hectares. "The annual endangered rivers release, now in its twenty-second year, helps to create a greater awareness of the many threats that confront our waterways", said Mark Angelo, Rivers Chair for the Outdoor Recreation Council. "And while we should be strengthening mechanisms to protect rivers, the ORC is dismayed by the weakening of habitat provisions in federal river-related legislation, such as the Federal Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act".

From South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program Newsletter
JUNE 2014



Typical habitat for Western Stickseed on Mount Oliver
From 2010 Rare Plant Survey: Oliver Mt.
Orville Dyer and Mike Miller

Western Stickweed and Desert Parsley

In the Summer of 2010 the OSPS funded a Rare Plant Survey on Oliver Mountain conducted by Orville Dyer and Mike Miller. The Parks Society has been involved all over the interior of the province with the intent to protect not just our parks and protected areas but also to ensure that the areas are connected with sustainable wildlife migration corridors, are maintained with buffer zones and are protected from unhealthy human encroachment. Surveys of areas and regions are just one of the tools employed for this purpose.

The mountainside plants, such as Western Stickweed (*Lappula occidentalis* var. *cupu-*



Nine-Leaved-Desert Parsley (*Lomatium triternatum* var. *platycarpum*) at Oliver Mt.

lata) and Nine-Leaved -Desert Parsley (*Lomatium triternatum* var. *platycarpum*), are very important as 'graze' for some wildlife but also as anchor plants that maintain the stability of the ground cover, retain moisture for other plants and provide homes for a myriad of small creatures.



There are some lovely wild plants in the interior. Many have historic medicinal, food or spiritual uses, apart from, or maybe due to, being links in a connected eco-system. We must work to protect and nurture the diversity that we are fortunate to be exposed to.



OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY

Box 787, Summerland, BC V0H 1Z0

Website: www.OkanaganSimilkameenParksSociety.ca/com/org

E-mail: info@OkanaganSimilkameenParksSociety

CRA Registration Number: 119066199RR0001

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ending 2013 December 31

Assets	2012	2013
Bank (Credit Union)	\$	\$
Chequing Account	49,353.43 *	53,880.84
Savings	10,330.17	5,405.56
Term Deposits	42,295.59	26,930.64
CU Members Equity		
Shares	45.00	47.00
Inventory (Books, Printed Materials)	100.00	50.00
Investments (Mutual Fund)	4,839.19	5,011.84
Investment Dividends	403.32	403.32
Equipment (at depreciated value)	0.00	0.00
Accounts Receivable (HST & GST/PST Rebate)	0.00	0.00
Total	107,366.70	91,729.20
Liabilities		
Cheques Outstanding	0.00	0.00
Other Debts	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00
Gain / Loss for Year	-22,856.50	-15,644.97
MEMBERS EQUITY AT THIS DATE IS:	84,510.20	76,084.23

* A Credit Union error resulted in \$5,000.00 being withdrawn from chequing for the period 2012-02-11 to 2013-03-27 when the error was corrected.

Re: Review of accounting records for 2013

I have reviewed the records, cheque stubs, receipts, 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 any 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.

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Programs and Support Funds for 2013

	\$
To The Nature Conservancy of Canada for the purchase of the <i>South Block of the Elkink ranch</i> (1,836 acres/743 hectares) in the Kilpoola-Chopaka area.	5,000.00
To the Summerland Rotary Club to support construction of the <i>Lakeside Trail Project</i> along the Summerland waterfront.	5,000.00
To the Park Enhancement Fund for an <i>Archeological Study</i> along the Hope Trail in E. C. Manning Provincial Park.	3,000.00
Signs for historic trails in E. C. Manning Provincial Park.	1,125.00
Trail erosion control work on the Boulder Trail in Okanagan Mountain Park jointly with Friends of the South slopes and BC Parks.	1,680.00
OSPS project to <i>Monitor the Impacts of High Elevation Logging in the Okanagan</i> (<i>Is Everything All Right Up There?</i>).	351.95
Support to the <i>Summerland Action Festival</i> Event Committee	300.00
Food for the plaque unveiling ceremony in Manning Park to commemorate the addition of the Cascade Recreation Area to the park.	200.00
Dr. Murray Roed was guest speaker at the 48th AGM presenting on the <i>Geology of the South Okanagan</i> (speaker honorarium)	200.00
Total	<u>16,856.95</u>

The Summer of 2007

Editorial Note...

On July 3, the executive of the OSPS supported Summerland Trans Canada Trail Society met with government representative from the Ministry of Tourism, the Arts and Sports to discuss the future status of the Trans Canada Trail, especially in regard to motorized use. The society has received numerous complaints about ugly encounters between non-motorized and motorized users. The government people assured the Society that they would do their best to prevent such encounters in the future. Watch for our next newsletter for more information on this issue.

Meanwhile, whether you are motorized or not, please let us know what you think about this issue.

JUERGEN HANSEN
OSPS Lifetime Member

Limit Growth To Our Water Carrying Limits

In his May 19 editorial, Think ahead, protect options, Editor Tom Wilson, acknowledged that the Okanagan

Partnership organization has research from UBC professors that indicate there won't be enough clean water to sustain Kelowna's population by 2050. Despite this, Wilson states the typical pro-growth position that we shouldn't politically limit growth and we won't because we have the ability to vastly improve sustainability without pulling up drawbridges.

If the city can't sustain water to 2050, how is it going to ensure water is sustained beyond 2050 for future generations? Unfortunately, in accommodating growth, Kelowna City Hall's strategies of reducing household and yard water use, and it's so-called smart growth high rise densification are futile short term band-aids. Indeed, whatever water saved is consumed by increasing population, leaving a net water deficit. The reality is, clean water supplies are finite, where-as growth increases exponentially. This means, the faster the growth, the greater depletion, pollution and drought.

Logically, the way to sustain water to 2050 and beyond for future generations, is to limit growth to the carrying capacity of tipping point of water. We face two main choices. Carry on with chasing endless growth and blindly speeding along using conservation Band-Aids believing all is well, until we col-

lide with nature's barrier of carrying capacity. When carrying capacity is exceeded, supreme nature, restores its equilibrium of balance by lifting its deadly drawbridges of depletion and drought to terminate the growth plague and to paralyse Kelowna.

Or, we can voluntarily slow growth, by lifting our drawbridges just enough to limit growth to ensure it doesn't exceed the barrier of nature's carrying capacity, in perpetuity. One method is to simply have moratoriums or quotas on building permits tied to vital water supplies.

In conclusion, endless uncontrolled growth is one of the main causes of water shortages, pollution and drought. Therefore, survival depends on controlling and limiting growth. So, the obvious question is, why is Kelowna City Hall and Okanagan Partnership malinger in properly putting the brakes on growth today to prevent disastrous drought being here before 2050 or after?

ROBERT CICHOCKI, KELOWNA – OSPS MEMBER
Okanagan – June 23, 2007



The coyote and deer, recently proclaimed as pests by an Okanagan orchardists' association, are a part of region's



biodiversity that is so important to sustaining the health of the local ecosystem.

The Summer of 2007

BC's PHO Releases Drinking Water Quality Report

In his first formal report since BC's Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA) was amended in 2003, Public Health Officer Dr. Perry Kendall outlines the provinces, health authorities' and water suppliers' resulting activities and accomplishments. Progress on the Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia provides a comprehensive yet user-friendly update on public health protection, source water protection, water system assessments, water treatment and distribution, drinking water quality, small systems, and full-cost accounting.

The report also offers a list of 18 recommendations for continued improvement, one of which says that "rates for drinking water should reflect the true, long-term costs of water treatment, distribution, and water system operation, maintenance, monitoring.

Revenue generated from charges for water should be reinvested in programs that promote awareness of water quality and quantity, protect water quality, improve public health, and encourage sustainable water use to promote healthy communities.

Other recommendations state that:

- The province should improve monitoring of the impacts of resource activities on drinking water sources to ensure adverse impacts on water quality can be identified.
- The province should introduce legislation requiring the licensing of groundwater extraction, and restrict access to groundwater where aquifers are being overused.
- The Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and Lands should work to gain a better understanding of how different land-use practices can influence drinking water sources.
- All provincial ministries and agencies should regularly review their activities in the context of the government's commitment to an integrated approach to drinking water protection.
- All provincial policy decisions related to land use or water management which could have an impact on the province's drinking water program should be taken to the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Water to ensure that policy direction is consistent with the Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia.

• The provincial government should consider options to improve access to funding support for public water supply systems that are currently ineligible for federal/provincial infrastructure assistance.

• All water suppliers should undertake thorough assessments of their systems and develop assessment response plans. Health authorities need to ensure that all water suppliers have established time frames to complete the assessments.

• Strategies should be developed to prevent the creation of new small water systems where other supplies could be expanded or existing supplies amalgamated.

• Public water systems should engage their customers in fiscal planning for maintaining and upgrading their systems over the short and long terms. In addition, small water supply systems should be offered assistance to develop revenue streams to fund assessments, response plans and system upgrades.

WATERWISE – DISTRICT OF SUMMERLAND JUNE 2007
by Interior Health



The flora in this photo was in bloom in early June. While inspecting the blooms the hikers noted two species of butterfly and at least three flying insects, all of them pollinators, busy around this plant and others in the vicinity. Our forests and meadows, not to mention human's vineyards, orchards and gardens, rely on these insects to perpetuate the vegetation.

The snake camouflaged in the trail side foliage rattled its warning as the photographer came near. Rattlesnakes are an important link in the food chain that exists in the Okanagan / Similkameen ecosystems. As both predator and prey they can act as the 'Canary' in the environmental 'coal mine'.



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



National park idea's time has come

No longer a debate: Okanagan reserve has widespread support with exception of province

**MYERS BENNETT,
TOM DYAS,
JONATHAN KRUGER
AND JIM WYSE**

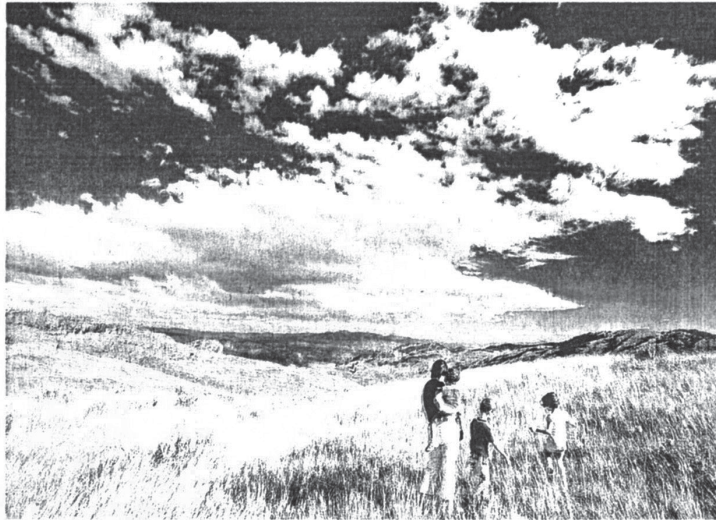
SPECIAL TO THE VANCOUVER SUN

The foundation of the B.C. Liberal Party electoral platform was "jobs and the economy." Progress toward these goals is being made, but the numbers are not yet adding up as the big-ticket resource projects take time to develop.

What would you say if there was a widely-supported proposal ready to go that would potentially create over 700 jobs, \$50 million in GDP, \$35 million in labour income, and \$4 million in tax revenues annually? What if it would increase tourism, support business growth, encourage investment, bring new facilities to the Okanagan region, and increase passengers through our airports? What about a proposal that would protect one of Canada's most unique landscapes and many of its endangered species, while accommodating existing land uses?

This incredible opportunity is ready and waiting — a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. It would cost the province next to nothing as all the costs to establish and manage it would be the responsibility of the Government of Canada, which is eager to move forward. The opportunity is more than a park — in 2002, Canada agreed to provide, in addition to the park, resources to enrich communities and enhance job development locally.

While the initial proposal for the national park created a number of concerns and divisiveness in the region, the federal government listened to those concerns and the latest



The Chopaka Grasslands and its wildlife, like the burrowing owl, right, is part of the proposed South Okanagan Similkameen National Park. The park proposal, which would be funded by the federal government, enjoys strong support in the Okanagan, yet the B.C. government continues to block progress toward formal protection.

proposal dramatically reduces the original footprint, excludes any valuable hunting, and ensures that the helicopter flight training school can continue to operate in the park concept area.

Furthermore, ranchers will also be accommodated. As recently as January, Parks Canada's Director of Protected Areas Establishment, stated publicly, "Parks Canada is committed to working with ranching families to support continued livestock grazing within existing tenures" — addressing concerns that were raised over 10 years ago.

When the province withdrew its support in 2011, it stated the need to see evidence of more support from "regional districts

and municipalities, tourism, business, First Nations and stakeholders." Many have worked hard over the past two years to secure this evidence and now we've completed the task. Five local Regional District governments, the South Okanagan and Kelowna Chambers of Commerce, regional and local tourism associations, the Okanagan Basin Water Board, and the BC Wine Institute have all passed formal resolutions asking the province to re-engage in discussions with Canada. The Okanagan Nation Alliance and their Bands have passed a unanimous resolution and are publicly asking the province and Canada to begin national park reserve negotiations.

The national park is more than a local initiative. It is an important component of the 10-year Thompson-Okanagan Regional Tourism Strategy. It has regional, provincial and national significance. No other alternative, such as a World Heritage Site or provincial park status, can come close to the funding, economic benefits, environmental protection, and international stature of a national park. Every public opinion poll in the last 10 years has shown strong support locally and regionally for a national park.

When she was Mayor of Oliver, Linda Larson (who is now our local MLA) unequivocally supported the national park. Just days before the 2013

provincial election, Larson stated her position in the local paper — the park is good for the economy and she wants concerns about the park resolved.

But now, she is opposing the expressed interests of her constituency's two tourism associations, Chamber of Commerce, two regional governments, wineries, and First Nations bands, who are asking the province to re-engage in discussions. When we have spoken to the other South Okanagan MLAs, we have found absolutely no opposition.

Years ago, there were many things to debate about the national park. But now, the 'national park debate' has ceased to be a debate at all. There is no credible argument

against the park. Getting the provincial government back to the table has massive and undeniable support. Locals are eager to make this the most important national park in B.C. — one that is good for 'Jobs and the Economy.' We respectfully ask Premier Clark and the province to re-engage in the national park process with the Government of Canada. We and all of the supporting organizations cited above, stand ready and eager to help.

Myers Bennett is President, South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce; Tom Dyas is Director, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce; Jonathan Kruger is Chief Pentticton Band, Okanagan Nation Alliance and Jim Wyse is Representative, B.C. Wine Institute.