



NATURE VANCOUVER
Vancouver Natural History Society

100th Annual General Meeting, April 26, 2018
For the year ended December 31, 2017

Nature Vancouver was founded as the Vancouver Natural History Society in 1918 by Professor John Davidson with the following objectives:

- To promote the enjoyment of nature
- To foster public interest and education in the appreciation and study of nature
- To encourage the wise use and conservation of natural resources
- To work for the complete protection of endangered species and ecosystems
- To promote access to, and maintenance of, nature areas in the vicinity of Vancouver

Board of Directors, 2017-2018

Bill Kinkaid
Bengül Kurtar
Jeremy McCall
Daphne Nagorsen
Helen Aqua
David Cook

Colin Clasen
Harry Crosby
Jude Grass
Joan Lopez
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

VNHS was founded by John Davidson in 1918 and it's a privilege for me to be President for part of the centennial year. Nature Vancouver will be the subject of an exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver this summer and there'll be a chance to see many old photos. I love to look at old photos from those days and over the past century and imagine the experiences they had enjoying the scenery and learning about nature just like us, and I like to think that fifty or a hundred years from now our descendants will be enjoying photos of us today using whatever technology they'll have then.

Last year I reported on a few major projects in the works which have now come to fruition. We now have an active Botany Section Committee which has completed its first "season" successfully, with growing attendance at their Botany evening programmes and more botany oriented field trips.

At this 2018 AGM we will approve a new Constitution and Bylaws in accordance with the new BC Societies Act. The revision committee considered several different strategies, but had a consensus to do a full rewrite of the bylaws. This was a big job that has taken multiple meetings and hundreds of emails involving the committee and the board. However we now have an up to date set of bylaws, subject to approval at the AGM. Thank you to the committee members, particularly Harry Crosby with his legal background and knowledge but also Helen Aqua, Daphne Nagorsen, and the committee chair Jeremy McCall.

About a month ago our new website finally went live and everyone I've talked to thinks it looks great. We now have a new site on a more stable, reliable and user-friendly platform. Daphne Nagorsen has put in countless hours of work coordinating and planning the changeover, with assistance from committee members Helen Aqua, Denis Laplante and me, as well as our new Website Coordinator Harvey Dueck. Thank you to everyone who worked on the new website, include several people from outside the society: Mike Jerowsky, who did most of the technical work, and Natalia Pisarek, who worked on content and layout.

In a couple of weeks Nature Vancouver hosts the Annual General Meeting and Conference of BC Nature at UBC. Registration is going very well and we have an excellent program of field trips and speakers ready to share our knowledge with naturalist friends from across the province. A committee led by Bev Ramey has had multiple meetings and spent huge amounts of time exploring venues, dealing with caterers and various other contacts, planning programmes and communications, and a huge volume of other work to make this happen.

Once again I would like to thank our many volunteers, especially the other board members I've had the pleasure of working with in the past year and the thirteen years before that. I also want to give a special shout-out to a group of people who don't usually get the recognition they deserve: the spouses and partners of board members and committee members, who patiently let us spend our time in meetings, on phone and email, and listen (or maybe rather avoid listening) to us going on about things. So thank you to Ruth, Karen, Sue, Al, Jerome, Bill, Murat, and Cheryl (and apologies if I've missed anyone) and other "committee widows/widowers".

So here I am, moving on after fourteen years on the board and two years as President. My very first involvement with VNHS/Nature Vancouver began back in 1991; I felt very much in awe of the knowledge and experience everyone had back then,

and it's hard to believe how far I came and how much I've learned. There have been a lot of stressful times, but I've had many great experiences and made some very good friends and most of the time I've spent has been positive. I've been gradually backing off most of my commitments, and moving on in a couple of other directions, but you'll still see me at many presentations and on the trail.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Bill Kinkaid
President, Nature Vancouver

Birding Section Report, 2018

Compiled by Jude Grass, Birding Section Committee Chair

Birder's Night

Birders Night is held monthly from September to April at St. Mary Anglican Church in Kerrisdale. The May meeting is outdoors as a field trip. Attendance at Birder's Night is generally around 100 people. The meeting includes a short business meeting which highlights upcoming events, rare bird sightings and there is social break where coffee, tea, juice and cookies, etc. are available for small donation. Following the break, the guest speakers is introduced and give a 45 minute to 1 hour to talk on some aspect of birds that may include current research, or a talk on a birding trip that someone has made to various parts of the world.

Birding Section Committee

The committee is elected each year. Nominations are requested at the September Birders Night and at the October Birder's Night the election is held by NV members at the meeting. The current committee is: Jude Grass: Chair; Angela Bond (Recording Secretary), Neill Vanhinsberg, Colin Clasen (Vice Chair); Adrian Grant Duff, June Ryder, and Tom Plath. Jude books the speakers and is always looking for suggestions.

The committee meets generally three to four times a year to plan Birder's Night programs and the minutes of the meetings are printed in the 16 page Wandering Tattler – the Birding Section Newsletter which is available at Birders Night. Adrian handles the Field Trip section and lines up leaders and puts the info in the Vancouver Naturalist Magazine, and on the Nature Vancouver website.

Botany Section Report, 2018

Compiled by the Botany Section Committee

The new Botany Section Committee has been working since early 2017. Current committee members are: Bengül Kurtar (board liaison), Denis Laplante (secretary), Ron Long (committee contact & AV coordinator), Teresa Gagné (treasurer), Anne Leathem & Jennifer Getsinger (members at large).

The Botany Section Committee started to work on the Terms of Reference and Organization of the Committee in early 2017 and planned 2017 fall season's evening presentations and prepared the new and old Botany Section of Nature Vancouver website.

The Botany section presented a series of evening programs with a botanical focus (plants and fungi) for Nature Vancouver members and the general public. The committee members looked to build connections and welcome new members with snacks and a featured herbal tea, plus the opportunity to bring photos of your 'mystery' plants and get some help identifying them since September 2018.

From spring 2017 to 2018 Nature Vancouver members lead many field trips to explore the surrounding natural areas. The following is summary of activities of Botany Section and Field Trips with Botanical Focus for period April 2017 to March 2018:

Talks (with number of attendees indicated in parentheses):

- **April 20, 2017:** Among Kangaroo Paws and Grass Trees: The Incredible Spring Flora of Western Australia. (51). Speaker: Gary Lewis. Moderator: Ron Long.
- **September 21, 2017:** Travels in the North: Muskeg and Tundra. (35). Speaker: Terry McIntosh. Moderator: Denis Laplante.
- **October 19, 2017:** Gardens Aflame: Garry Oak Meadows of BC's South Coast. (29). Speaker: Maleea Acker. Moderator: Anne Leathem.
- **November 16, 2017:** Flower Power: Application of Forensic Botany (40). Speaker: Rolf Mathews. Moderator: Ron Long.
- **January 18, 2018:** Whistler/Blackcomb Botanical Themes and Variations (37). Speaker: Teresa Gagne. Moderator: Bengül Kurtar.
- **February 15, 2018:** Estuary to Alpine, Squamish Area Botany (23). Speaker: Judith Holm. Moderator was Bill Kinkaid (since Anne Leathem was out of town).
- **March 15, 2018:** Snow Algae and Climate Change (52). Speaker: Lynne Quarmby. Moderator: Bill Kinkaid

Field Trips:

- **May 14, 2017:** Bengül Kurtar, Bill Kinkaid: Indian Arm Boat Trip (37)
- **May 27, 2017:** Bill Kinkaid: Coquihalla Canyon & Quintette Tunnels hike (8)
- **June 25, 2017:** Bill Kinkaid: Mount Gardner (7)
- **June 18, 2017:** Teresa Gagne & Denis Laplante: Brohm Lake (12 - 2 of them non-members)
- **July 1, 2017:** Eva Nagy, Katharine Steig: Yew Lake (16 - 2 of them non-members)
- **July 9, 2017:** David Cook: Old Growth Ecology and Plant ID
- **July 16, 2017:** Eva Nagy, Katharine Steig: Yew Lake Botany (theme: What's in Bloom?) (21)
- **July 23, 2017:** Teresa Gagne & Denis Laplante: Whistler Blackcomb Botanical themes & Variations #1 (Blackcomb Overlord Decker Loop) - (11 - 1 of them non-member)
- **July 29, 2017:** Eva Nagy, Katharine Steig: Yew Lake Botany (theme: What's in Bloom?) - (10)
- **August 17, 2017:** Teresa Gagne & Denis Laplante: Whistler Blackcomb Botanical themes & Variations #2 (Whistler High Note Trail) - (16 - 3 of them non-members) [attendance was capped at 16]
- **August 20, 2017:** Lyn Grant: Blue Gentian Lake Loop - (13 - 1 non-member)

- **September 8, 2017:** Lyn Grant (originally Kitty Castle): Hollyburn Mountain, Cypress Provincial Park (6 - 1 of them non-member) - together with Friends of Cypress PP.
- **September 17, 2017:** Teresa Gagne & Denis Laplante: Whistler Blackcomb Botanical themes & Variations #3 (Blackcomb Circuit Hike) - cancelled due to weather. It was rescheduled to the following weekend, but was done as an unofficial hike without a sign-up sheet.
- **October 1, 2017:** Kelly Sekhon: Nature Walk on Bowen Island (6)
- **November 12, 2017:** Kelly Sekhon: Nature Walk along Brunette River (4)
- **February 11, 2018:** Winter Blues (11 - 2 of them non-members).

Camp Committee Report, 2018

Compiled by Nigel Peck, Camp Committee Chair

2017 saw a return to NV summer camps after the unfortunate cancellation of the 2016 camps. The return to Driftwood Lodge at Smithers was highly anticipated but, with the unprecedented forest fire season, seemed increasingly uncertain. With the July 16th evacuation of the entire town of Williams Lake and most of the Highway 97 corridor, things were looking quite grim.

Fortunately after a week of monitoring, the decision was made to hold the camps with the biggest inconvenience of participants being the detour via the Yellowhead Highway to Tete Jaune Cache and then the crossover to the west along Highway 16 to Prince George and on to Smithers.

It turned out the decision to hold the camps at Driftwood was one of inspiration! While most of the rest of the province suffered under smoky skies and air advisories, NV Driftwood campers enjoyed crisp, clear blue skies with just a touch of clouds and showers in the first week. The second week brought on high temperatures and a continuation of the wonderful clear skies.

Both camps were great successes under the care of camp managers, Peg Neilon in the first week, and Art Winckers in the second week. There was an unprecedented amount of local naturalists leading daily field trips and giving evening presentations on almost all the days. It was very much appreciated. NV campers were treated to hikes and insights about the area that we never would have had without that local participation. Thank you Smithers!

The camps also saw the introduction of two new cooks, Ola and Christine, who met the very high standards of our previous cooks. Ola with a tree planting background and Christine with gourmet culinary experience joined to form an effective and high spirited team. We are very happy to announce they will be both joining us at this year's camp at McGillivray Pass so we look forward to even more awesome meals with the two wonderful, seasoned cooks.

Preparations are well underway for the two camps at McGillivray Pass with both camps full. We are excited to return to alpine camps and to the site of our 2004 location. For those still contemplating joining us, there sometimes are last minute cancellations so get your application in and perhaps you can join us in a wonderful coming season of NV camps.

Conservation Section Report, 2018

Compiled by Harry Crosby, Conservation Section Chair

The Conservation Section started with one member last year and has expanded to include 3 members and a number of people who are available to assist. We will be continuing to expand.

Members attended a number of workshops:

- 1) Park Fest
- 2) A 6 week sustainability course at SFU
- 3) A 3 day workshop with the Society for Ecological Restoration
- 4) A one day workshop with the BC Wildlife Federation

The section has identified a number of activities that might engage current and new members:

- 1) Conservation
- 2) Lobbying
- 3) Education
- 4) Research

The Section is currently focusing on two types of projects:

- 1) Conservation of wetlands and management of stream runoff issues
- 2) Climate change - engaging Cities and Municipalities to reduce the use of hydrocarbons

We are exploring relationships with the following partners at present:

- 1) The David Suzuki Foundation - development of a project manual for municipalities to plan the management of wetland and stream run off issues
- 2) Forces of Nature - development of projects to reduce the use of hydrocarbons, starting with the City of New Westminster.

In the near future we will be putting out a call for assistance with the development of project strategies

Evening Programs Report, 2018

Compiled by Jude Grass, Evening Programs Coordinator

The general evening programs are held on the third Thursday of the Month at the Unitarian Church at 49th and Oak. When there are five Thursdays in the month we schedule an addition general talk. The talks cover a wide variety of nature-oriented topics and the speakers are booked by Jude Grass. Turnout for these programs are generally in the area of 80 plus participants.

Geology Section Report, 2018

**Compiled by David Cook, Geology Section Coordinator
For period April 2017 to March 2018**

Geology Section activities for the period have been focused on two areas as follows:

1. Interpretive geology field trips. Four field trips for the year with a total of 65 participants.
2. Completion and posting of three self-guiding geological field trips.

To date there have been no Geology Section evening programs. However there are plans to have at least one talk annually in future years for a month that has a fifth Thursday.

The following summarizes activities for the period. Numbers of participants are indicated in parenthesis.

Geology field trips for the period were as follows and numbered four with a total of 65 participants:

April 27th 2017: A stroll through 30 million years of Stanley Park's geological history (14).

May 27th 2017: Geology of Vancouver as seen from Jericho Beach to Kitsilano Beach (7).

June 23rd 2017: Geology of Caulfeild Park and the coastline of Burrard Inlet (20).

August 6th 2017: Geology of Cypress Provincial Park (24).

Self-guiding field trips posted on Nature Vancouver website:

1. [Interpretive Geology of Cypress Provincial Park](#): A self-guided geology tour up the Collins Ski Run to Mt. Strachan.
2. [Self-guiding geology tour in Seymour Provincial Park](#) from the downhill ski area to the peak of Mt Seymour.
3. [Self-guiding geology tour of Stanley Park](#).

Marine Biology Section Report, 2018

Compiled by Joan Lopez, Marine Biology Section Chair

The Marine Biology Section continued the tradition of hosting speakers for an evening presentation on the second Thursday of the month, September to November and January to April. As in previous seasons, the speakers and topics were varied, but unified in presenting a conservation point of view. In September, Dr. Elin Kelsey, author and instructor at Royal Roads University in Victoria, spoke about Ocean Optimism. The media tends to report on negative ocean events. Elin's focus is highlighting the good news stories, to inspire further action. In October, Dr. Colin MacLeod, of UBC, educated the audience on Integrating Parasite Ecology and Marine Biology, explaining how some parasites and host species has co-evolved, meaning not all parasites are detrimental to their hosts. November brought us Dr. Valeria Vergara of the Marine Mammal Research Unit at the Vancouver Aquarium speaking on her research topic, Acoustic Communication in Belugas: A Sound-centred Species in Today's Noisy World. Dr. Vergara has conducted research in Canada's Arctic, Hudson Bay and the St. Lawrence Estuary. The second Thursday in December is the Christmas Social, so the Marine Biology Section takes a break, returning in January. Our own Sheila Byers, also on the executive of the Marine Life Sanctuaries Society, provided a wonderful presentation titled Unique and Ancient Sponge Glass Reefs of Howe Sound. Sheila discussed various types of sponges before explaining the significance of the local sponge reefs and the need to protect them. Jenn Burt, A PhD candidate at Simon Fraser University presented in February on Exploring Ecological and Social Transformations Linked to Sea Otter Recovery in British Columbia. Jenn elaborated on the ecosystem associated to sea otters; in particular kelp reefs, and discussed the effect on the coastal peoples of the sea otter's reintroduction to BC after more than a century of extirpation. For the March evening presentation, Dave Scott of the Raincoast Conservation Foundation's estuary juvenile salmon study team spoke on The Fraser River Watershed & BC's Salmon. Dave highlighted some of

the problems facing salmon in the Fraser River, but also spoke of some potential solutions to assist this iconic fish. The season concluded by heading out to the high seas with Dr. Rashid Sumaila, a UBC Fisheries Economist and 2017 recipient of the Volvo Environmental Prize. Dr. Sumaila spoke on the need for a ban on high seas fishing to allow a refuge for fish to grow.

Several field trips were also organized by the Marine Biology Committee. A beach walk was held near Lumberman's Arch in Stanley Park in April during a good low tide. Many marine species, but most notably a variety of seaweeds, were observed. This beach walk is particularly productive due to the variety of habitats in a small area. In July, another very low tide allowed the group to venture out to the furthest exposed areas at Centennial Beach, Boundary Bay Regional Park. This area features mostly sand habitat with extensive eelgrass beds. The highlight was certainly the abundance of sand dollars that rewarded the hardy participants that walked the distance to the water's edge. In September, a visit to the Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Centre was organized. This is a real privilege as access is limited at the Rehab Centre, which mostly takes care of harbour seals, but may have other marine mammals or sea turtles at the facility at times.

The MBS committee participated at the Vancouver Aquarium's Divers Weekend again this January. This is an excellent outreach opportunity. Many individuals were drawn to the display, and learned more about Nature Vancouver.

Membership Report, 2018

Compiled by Helen Aqua, Membership Secretary

Looking back to our beginnings, 100 years ago, becoming a member of the Vancouver Natural History Society was quite simple. A short form was filled out using a fountain pen (I assume), to be given to the society registrar along with a one dollar payment (coin, bill or cheque, again, I assume).

The only information needed was the person's salutation: Mr. Mrs. or Miss, their given name or just their given name initials, plus their last name. Also required: their street address and the telephone exchange prefix followed by the four digit phone number. That was all.

Application for membership names were then recorded in 9" x 14" notebook, by hand, of course, and the names were reviewed by the BOD before membership was "bestowed". The right hand side of the page was used for a few years to record membership renewals.

Applications for Membership

<i>date</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>address</i>	<i>phone</i>	<i>status</i>
May 11, 1918	Miss Cora H. McFarland	Suite 27, 12-10th Ave E.	F2822R	✓
" 11	Miss Emma Penty	1200 Nicola St.		✓
" 16	Mrs. M. C. McRechin	1139 Barclay St	S4351	✓
" 16	Mrs. M. C. McRechin	1139 Barclay St		✓
" 19	Miss L. McNeill	12th St. East, N. Vancouver, B.C.	N.V. 147	✓
" 22	Miss Annie S. Mackenzie	244-18th Ave. West, City	F-1985R	✓

This poor copy – produced for me by staff at the Vancouver Archives, is fascinating!

Titled "Application for Membership" it begins with the first entry dated **May 11, 1918**.

The first name listed is Miss Cora H. McFarland, Suite 27, 12 -10th Ave E & the phone number was F2822R. F would be for the Fairfax exchange, and I believe the R meant the number was shared. (The address was changed later to 2943 Quebec Street and the phone # to F1277)

Fast forward to 2017. This past year I recorded everything to do with membership on a computer. No one is referred to as Mr., Mrs. or Miss. The amount of information recorded about a member includes their full name, their full address (street, city, postal code, province) telephone numbers (cell & home), email addresses, their fee code, their membership number, when they paid, how they paid, if they also included a donation, how they want to receive publications (mail or online), the date they first joined, the date of the next renewal, if there have been any gap years in membership, and for renewals I note if there is any change in personal information from the previous renewal.

All member categories result in a membership card being issued and all members with an email address have that address added to the weekly email program (MailChimp). BC Nature also receives basic contact information so our members receive the BC Nature emails and the BC Nature publications.

This past year has seen a slight decline in membership due to our members moving elsewhere (mostly Vancouver Island & they have joined other clubs, I'm happy to say); sadly some members have aged into assisted living and are no longer able to be active with us.

The member engagement session held in late January was a very good start in thinking about how we can gain new members. If this initiative continues, I am sure we will begin to see an increase in new members and more engagement with existing members.

In the coming year, there are plans for an online fill-in membership form on the new website, and membership payments and donations will be able to be made with a credit card too.

A hundred years of progress have passed – another hundred begins!

Website Report, 2018

Compiled by Daphne Nagorsen, Website Coordinator

Our new website is up and running!

To the members of the website committee Denis Laplante, Helen Aqua and Bill Kinkaid, to our new Website Coordinator Harvey Dueck, to Mike Jerowsky and Natalia Pisarek who respectively set up the new website and uploaded the content, to John Dale who started this project in motion, and to everyone who worked on the content and this project: Thank you! This project could not have happened without you.

Report on BC Nature to Nature Vancouver AGM 2018

Compiled by Bev Ramey & Bill Kinkaid, Nature Vancouver Club Directors to BC Nature

BC Nature Club Directors provided monthly reports to the NV Board on activities of BC Nature, including conservation letters and activities, field camps, and the deadlines to submit resolutions, scholarship applications, bird nest box applications, requests for club support grants and award nominations. Nature Vancouver members will likely have read about the many conservation initiatives of BC Nature in its quarterly magazine and its monthly e-news.

After discussions over the past two years, BC Nature increased its Club membership dues by \$2.00 per membership beginning in January 2018 (from \$14 to \$16). The BC Nature membership dues had not been increased over the past decade.

Nature Vancouver volunteers have contributed a lot of hours over the past year in preparations to host the BC Nature Conference and AGM, May 10 – 13, 2018. The Conference Hosting Committee with ten active participants has met regularly (now up to its 13th meeting) to plan the many aspects of this conference, including venue speakers, field trips, accommodation, and refreshments.

BC Nature will hold its AGM on May 12th, at the UBC Forest Sciences Centre. This is a great opportunity for any Nature Vancouver member to attend its AGM. There is no fee to attend the AGM.

The BC Nature May 2017 AGM was held in Lillooet and the FGM 2017 was held in September in Vernon.

Hilary Miller, an active member of the WildResearch club based in the Lower Mainland, has agreed to become the BC Nature co-representative for the Lower Mainland Region (together with Jude Grass). Hilary will also be BC Nature's representative on the Outdoor Recreation Council.

Report on Nature Vancouver's 100th Anniversary Events, 2018

Compiled by Bev Ramey

Nature Vancouver members will enjoy a variety of activities in 2018 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our non-profit society, founded as the Vancouver Natural History Society in 1918.

During 2017, members were encouraged to make suggestions on activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary. A group of about ten people then reviewed and finalized the suggestions, which were described in the winter Vancouver Naturalist. Upcoming events are also being posted on the website and in weekly email circulation.

Several outings are being offered to places visited historically. Some have already taken place in the first quarter of 2018, with good attendance and positive comments from members. Two evenings speakers in the fall will focus on history. A historical timeline is in preparation. Facebook and Instagram postings of historical photos have been made over the past several months. A special historical issue of Discovery is planned.

Two major events for 2018 have required a lot of volunteer work over the past year: hosting the BC Nature Conference, May 10 – 13th, with theme: *Promoting Health in Nature: Past, Present and Future*; and the exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver, *Wild Things, the Power of Nature in our Lives*, which opens June 27th. Nature Vancouver's lead volunteer, Elena Klein, describes this exhibition in a separate report.

Report on the Nature Vancouver exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver, 2018

Compiled by Elena Klein

Wild Things: The Power of Nature in Our Lives

Beginning in 2016, Elena Klein, Bev Ramey and others have been involved in a co-production with the Museum of Vancouver to open on June 27, 2018. This exhibition will be part of Nature Vancouver's centenary celebrations. Over the last year the title has been finalized, content for each room: Encounter and Engagement, has been designed and sourced. Susan Fisher has researched

and created a historic timeline, excerpts of it will be included. Paul Geddes has written text on Professor John Davidson. The SFU film school has shot video, UBC Forest Science staff and students have created content. Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh representatives have provided input on content. The City of Vancouver has provided support for this exhibition to use mainly reused material. Sound scape material has been provided by many members and non-members. Nature Kids has provided useful advice and material. In all, 19 Nature Vancouver volunteers have taken part of the shaping of this exhibition, with a further minimum of eight providing face to face interpretive events from July to November, 2018. At least eight outside societies or agencies will also provide interpretive events.

A former Nature Vancouver scholarship recipient, Lee Beavington, has been working, on contract, to assist with this exhibition. The museum's curator for this event is Viviane Gosselin.