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## **September 2009 Annual General Meeting President's Report– Year in Review**

**2009 was another productive year. We grew in membership numbers and in the scope of activity. Please read on.**

**The North Columbia Environmental Society's Constitutional goals are to:**

- promote the conservation, preservation, & restoration of the natural environment in the North Columbia region.
- increase community awareness and participation to ensure that environmental health is recognized as essential for community well-being.
- establish a unified voice for environmental issues.
- find and share information about environmental issues of concern to North Columbia residents.
- look for the common causes of environmental and social concerns and involve others in addressing them.
- assist in developing strategies for ecological, social, and economic stability.
- represent the environmental interests of the community and the surrounding ecosystem.

**Society Make up and Structure:**

- 95 members
- Board of Directors, 2009:  
President- Sarah Newton  
Vice-president- Alice Weber  
Treasurer- Debbie Koerber  
Secretary- Gregg Walker  
Director at Large- Virginia Thompson, Jim Maitre, Melissa Hemphill

- Monthly general meetings and board meetings, as needed committee meetings, annual AGM
- Christmas and summer social functions, annual spring canoe trip, new this year- Garden Guru Tour and workshops.

**Public Speaker's Series:**

- November, Rivers at Risk: MLA Norm Macdonald, Films Power Play & 49 Megawatts.
- December, Polar Regions and Climate Change Bernice Notenboom presentation.
- February, What a Way to Go Film on Human Impacts on our environment.
- March, Food Security film and Patrick Steiner from Stellar Seeds, discussed industrial agriculture and impacts.
- March, Climate Change, Dr. Mel Reasoner and Michelle Laurier two speakers to the public and city council.

- April, Water Conservation, Neal Klassen, city of Kelowna, spoke to city council and the public.
- May, Cancer and Pesticide forum with Dr. Warren Bell, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and Jerilynn Keily, Canadian Cancer Society, to city council and public.

### **Guests to NCES General Meetings:**

- June, MLA Norm Macdonald and John Horgan, NDP Energy Critic, Independent Power Projects (BOD)
- September, Revelstoke Mountain Resort President Paul Skelton
- November, BC Ministry of Environment Cory Legebokow
- January, Revelstoke City Planner John Guenther
- February, Revelstoke Forest Worker's Society Angus Woodman and Mike Copperthwaite

### **Events:**

- January, board of director's retreat, strategic planning
- February, Olympics Spirit of 2010 information booth
- April, Screen Smart Week- Nature Scavenger Hunt and Scrabble Run
- May, Chickadee Nature Festival participation, Columbia Basin interactive model
- June, Martha Creek rehabilitation willow tree planting session
- June, Public information booth at local farmer's market
- October, Revelstoke Health and Wellness Information booth
- Home Show November 2009
- Earth Hour April 2009

### **Continued and Current Actions:**

- Environment survey to residents, to be presented to city council, and stakeholders.
- Water Conservation, presented to Environmental Advisory Committee and soon to city council.
- Climate change and conservation education in local schools.
- Provided reusable mugs for a local café that are lent out to reduce paper waste used
- Continued Eco-fact sheet promotion and distribution
- 12 Green Business Awards and articles in the Times Review
- Independent Power Project Petition asking for local input into decision process
- Letter writing campaign to provincial politicians regarding rivers at risk
- Environmental Awareness video and book library for member use.

### **Correspondence:**

- Numerous letters to the provincial government on Independent Power Projects & Bill 30.
- Letters to the federal government on amendments to the Navigable Water Protection Act.
- City of Revelstoke regarding transit buses, recycling, to Revelstoke Mountain Resort, master trail plan.
- District & Region; Columbia River drawdown zone, mountain caribou, local boat ramp repairs, West Nile Disease pesticide program.
- Private Companies regarding logging, RMR,
- BC Hydro regarding high water, trails, public use of drawdown zone.

## **NCES Presentations to other local groups:**

-On cosmetic pesticides: to SD 19, Youth Soccer, Friends of Revelstoke & Glacier National Parks, Revelstoke Rod and Gun Club.

## **Municipal & District involvement (NCES members sit on the following committees)**

-City of Revelstoke: Solid Waste, Liquid Waste, OCP Steering, Community Development Action Plan Steering, Advisory Planning Commission, Environmental Advisory, Transportation  
-Columbia Shuswap Regional District: Solid Waste Advisory Committee.  
-Provincial and Regional: Columbia River Drawdown Zone Advisory Committee, Mountain Caribou Project, Wildfire Protection, South Revelstoke Ratepayers Association

## **NCES Internal Committees:**

-Shelter Bay Development	-Revelstoke Mountain Resort
-Rivers at Risk	-Website
-Trails	

## **2009 Funding Sources (see actions section below for details):**

-Canadian Centre for Sustainability \$3000  
-Columbia Basin Trust \$20,000  
-City of Revelstoke Grant-In-Aid \$5,500  
-Annual membership dues \$300

**Purchases:** Society membership in Mountain Equipment Cooperative, LCD projector, banner

## **Articles in The Revelstoke Times Review and REVED Quarterly:**

-Topics: Independent power projects, caribou, food security, vegetarianism, env. conundrums.  
-Green Business Awards: Mountain Goodness Natural Foods- local and organic foods, Flowt Skis and Bikes- alternative transportation, waste reduction, Modern Bakeshop- waste reduction, Wild Flight Farm- local/organic foods, Comfort Zone Delivery- waste reduction, local food, D's Eco-friendly Cleaning- toxins and chemicals, Talisman Fibre and Trading- fair trade products, VerdaTech Energy Consultants- energy efficiency, Chocolate Summit- fair trade/ local/ organic foods, Refinery Day Spa- toxins, Mountain Menus- local waste reduction.

**FUNDED PROJECTS** (projects had volunteer contributions as well as funded positions):

**\*CBT/City of Revelstoke Environmental Education Project-** -5 members hired.

-Environment **Survey** (water conservation and cosmetic pesticides) for the city of Revelstoke to gauge level of public awareness and interest. Results to be used in NCES and city planning.

-**Water conservation report**, focused on water metering, to be used for city planning.

-**School based environmental education**; the David Suzuki Nature Challenge delivered to grades K to 12 in Revelstoke, as well as Earth Day activities.

-Public Education **speaker's series, articles**, and green business awards (see above for details).

**\*Centre for Sustainability, Environmental Partners in Organizational Development**

-The NCES board of directors hosted speakers from nearby environmental organizations (John Bergenske Wildsight, and Matt Lowe and John Alton, West Kootenay Eco-Society), to discuss capacity building, board challenges, community partnerships, conflict resolution, etc.

-Board of Director's Retreat: strategic planning, capacity building, common visioning.

### **Professional Development by Board and Committee Members:**

-Climate Change Symposium in Nelson, BC Citizen's for Public Power Forum in Vancouver, Tax filing for non-profit societies workshop in Kamloops, Wild Voices for Kids in Revelstoke.

Sincerely,

Sarah Newton, President  
North Columbia Environmental Society

Revelstoke BC, September 30, 2009