

Comox Valley Naturalists Society

March 2017 Newsletter



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President's Message

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

By *Jim Boulter*

In September 2015, the United Nations countries adopted an aspirational and ambitious set of goals to promote, and hopefully achieve, globally sustainable development. That the initiative is ambitious can be seen by giving a few of the 17 Goals listed in the document: Ending Poverty (Goal 1), Tackling Climate Change (Goal 13), and Improving Health (Goal 4). Contained in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 169 Targets, many with objective numbers to be reached by 2030 or earlier.

These goals were an outgrowth from the earlier UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) started at the 1992 Earth Summit hosted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Rio de Janeiro. The CSD met every year up to 2012 to discuss its mandate and to monitor the progress toward the objectives defined in UN Agenda 21, Article 18.

In 2000 the UN, meeting at the Millennium Summit, adopted a parallel structure to the CSD called the Millennium Development Goals. The MDG had 8 Goals and 21 Targets, and a 15-year lifetime. In 2005, as part of the MDG, the G8 countries agreed to finance the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to permit these institutions to forgive between \$40 and \$55 billion in debt owed by the most indebted poor countries, a group of 39 countries in 2012.¹ This was designed to allow those countries to provide a greater

amount of the countries' wealth towards health, education and reducing poverty.

While more than half of the funds went towards debt relief, much of the remainder was required for disaster relief.² The original goals were refined in 2010 to focus on human capital, infrastructure and human rights. The MDG had some successes, with extreme poverty (i.e. income less than \$1.25 per day) reducing from 30.8% globally (1400 million) in 1990 to 14% (700 million) in 2005, and substantial reduction in HIV/AIDS infections: 33% decrease in new HIV cases, 52% decrease in HIV in children (2001 to 2013).³ Other successes were decreases in Maternal and Infant Mortality rates, but goals like Education and Sanitation were missed, and some countries, like Benin missed almost all their goals.

In 2012, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed a group of world leaders to advise the UN on the way forward after the CSD and MDG target date of 2015, with the current SDGs being the result.

The SDG documentation is massive and peppered with acronyms, but it does lay out a possible, albeit a complex and difficult-to-achieve, path to the future for our planet. The importance of International Partnerships is reflected in Goal 17 and the overall concept is that these 17 goals are part of a set, and not a menu (e.g. 1 from Column A, and 2 from Column B). As the world itself is interrelated, so are the Goals. Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production links to Clean Water (Goal 6), Industry and Innovation (Goal 9), Life on Land (Goal 15) and Life Below Water (Goal 14) for example. The full list of goals and their targets are available on the Internet,⁴ along with many other related documents.

An issue with achieving these goals is the mix between the levels of government responsible for the goals. Leaving aside the international aspect, we can have federal, provincial, regional and/or municipal governments having some control over portions of the same goal. As with all things that have divisions, some

things will inevitably fall through the cracks. Our salmon stocks are a good example, as are health and job creation. Other examples are Education (Goal 4), which in Canada is mostly a provincial issue, as are Sustainable Cities (Goal 11), while Gender Equality, Economic Growth and Peace and Justice (Goals 5, 8 and 16) are more federal issues. Few countries can speak with one voice politically and that voice can change overnight even in democratic countries, as we are seeing now.

Politics depends on an educated, involved citizenry, and to have any chance at turning back the tide (literally in the case of rising sea levels) requires political action. One provincial group with a global view is the BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC).⁵ This group was formed in 1989 and is funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada and through membership dues. BCCIC is nonpartisan, but is definitely not apolitical. They do not support any particular party but, as in any democratic society, policy changes have to be made in the political arena. Their main focus includes public engagement, i.e. getting the citizens informed on the issues facing the planet, networking together the various groups, and local research on which of the SDGs are perceived as the most important in specific areas. As part of their research, they have identified over 2,000 civil society organizations (CSOs), and analyzed about 1,400 for their focus and the SDG goals. It is the hope of BCCIC that many of these CSOs will join forces and work towards the SDG goals identified in their Constitutions or Vision Statements. CVNS for example is likely listed as supporting Life on Land, Life Below Water and Education. The results were collected in October 2016 in an online document called the “Invisible Mosaic.”⁶

The local Chapter of BCCIC is the Comox Valley Global Awareness Network (CVGAN)⁷ which has held two round-table meetings in the Valley. The results indicate that the goals seen as most lacking in the Valley are Poverty (1), Hunger and Sustainable Food Supplies (2), Drinking Water (6), Decent Work (8), Inequality (10), Sustainable Communities (11) and Life Below Water (14). Of special concern were ocean acidification, the need for salmon enhancement, the high usage of local food banks, idle agricultural land, and drinking water.

SDGs felt to be in good shape locally include Health (3) and Education (4). Even within the poor SDGs some areas stood out as doing well, such as our well-attended Farmer’s Market and a strong culture of cooperation between the diverse groups in the Valley.

The results indicate that in the upcoming provincial election, the SDGs that this group would like to see addressed by Comox Valley candidates that are within their area of control would be Jobs and Economic Security, wild salmon enhancement (a federal issue) and reduction of open-net fish farms, and Drinking Water. CVGAN is planning on hosting a variant of the all-candidates meeting, where the candidates are expected to listen to the voting public, and not the other way around. The date and location will be advertised when it becomes available.

Governments of all stripes will respond to external pressures, and for even a moderate success in the SDG, the voice of concerned citizens must become louder than that of the multinationals or other groups with a vested interest and an agenda that does not put the earth first. We must always remember that when it comes to human impact on the earth, there is no Plan B, and there is no Planet B. If we screw this one up, we and our descendants will suffer.

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1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavily_indebted_poor_countries
 2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Development_Goals
 3. http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2571_AIDS_by_the_numbers_en_1.pdf
 4. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>
 5. <http://bccic.ca/vision-mission-aims/>
 6. <http://bccic.ca/the-invisible-mosaic-bc-and-the-sustainable-development-goals/>
 7. <http://cvglobalawareness.com/about/>

Board of Directors for 2017: Vice President Needed

With the exception of the Vice President position, the previous board members agreed to put their names forward again for 2017, and were acclaimed at the Annual General Meeting in February (there being no other nominations). Jerrett Krentzel, our Vice President in 2016, is stepping down, but has kindly agreed to stay on for a short time until a replacement is found.

All members are urged to consider stepping forward to fill the vice presidential role. If you’re interested or want more information, please contact Jim Boulter.

Re-Indigenizing the Land

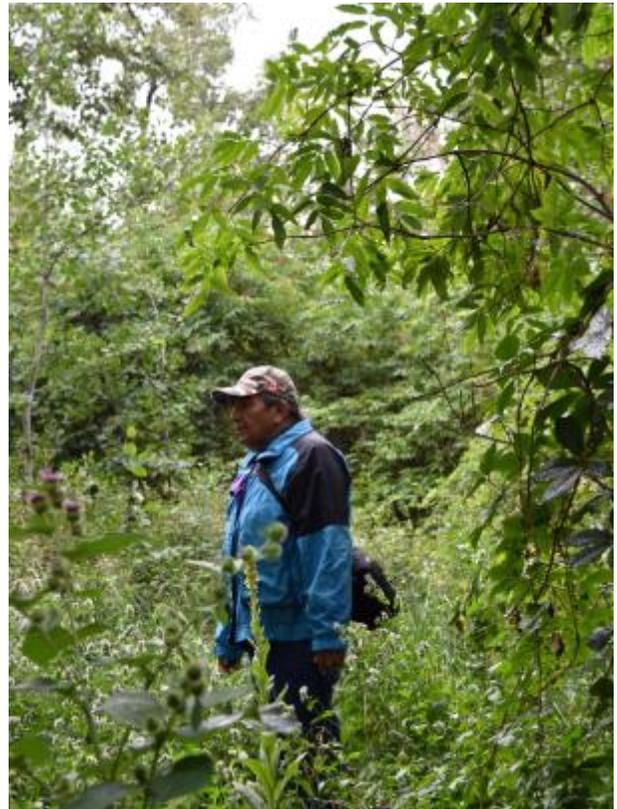
By Sharon Niscak

Most ecologists would agree that the health of an ecosystem is closely correlated with the diversity of species within that ecosystem or “natural environment.” Indigenous peoples sustained sustenance, in the settler’s mindset, from this “natural environment,” albeit strategically managed. The diversity of plants and animal foods within these physical environments that was available to Canada’s indigenous peoples is immense and has been largely dismissed as a vital part of land management. Part of the indigenization and the knowing cycle is recognizing the vital component of reciprocity.

As Dr. Jeannette Armstrong notes:¹

The idea of indigenous knowledge, is to understand it as economic interaction. It is to have deep knowledge about the limits and the requirements of all the different living things in the place you use. It is understanding that we as humans can partake in that place like every other living thing, but we have to know those limits. Indigenous economics is about knowledge, in how we view nature.

In contemporary agriculture, diversity is replaced by fields populated by one crop modified to fit into the parameters dictated by the food industry. This mindset has resulted in the disruption and destruction of vital components of healthy ecosystems capable of sustaining tremendous biodiversity. The essential component of contemporary agriculture and land management is that reciprocity is missing. Re-indigenizing is a collaborative force. It is belonging, and knowing that the soil, the insects, the plants and the animals feed and sustain us and that we as humans return to the land where our bones are part of that renewing cycle.



Richard Armstrong teaching indigenous restoration of landscape.

Photo: Sharon Niscak

Although land has been designated as agricultural land reserves, the importance of indigenous land food reserves is a concept not understood. This is principally because neither reciprocity nor the foods that sustained Indigenous populations are recognized as being part of the food system. Reciprocity is vital to understanding what is meant by indigenous land management. It is also necessary to begin the journey by recognizing a few of the “enhanced crops” utilized by indigenous peoples in Canada.

In Canada, several indigenous food procurement and enhancement models existed. Agricultural groups that lived in eastern Canada cultivated beans, squash, wild rice, maize and harvested maple sap. In northern Canada, berries, greens, seaweeds, animals and fish provided a nutritious diet.

And along the Western shores fishing weirs and clam beds and managed Garry oak meadows enhanced food reserves. Among these better-known managed crops were camas, silverweed and wapatao (*Sagittaria latifolia*) at lower elevations, and avalanche lilies and Indian potato (*Claytonia lanceolata*) at higher elevations.

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For an example of an initiative to re-indigenize the land, see the Okanagan First People's "Vision for the Future."²



Great camas (*Camassia leichtlinii*). Camas was a major food crop in the Salish Sea region. *Photo: Sharon Niscak*

In the larger scheme, the latitude and climatic patterns influence the types of foods available to indigenous peoples. To increase the types of available foods, several strategies were used including seasonal rounds, altitude, enhancement and trade. Re-indigenizing the land would increase current biodiversity with species adapted to the physical environment and enhance the food reserves for all species. The accelerated loss of species worldwide is a warning. The departure from "indigenizing reciprocity" is a contributing component seldom mentioned in ecological restoration.

1. Jeannette Armstrong, Indigenous Economics. IFG Teach-in: Techno-Utopianism & The Fate of the Earth. Great Hall of the Cooper Union, New York City. October 26, 2014. Transcript.

2. <http://www.okanaganfirstpeoples.ca/vision.cfm>

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Salmon: Made in BC

By Janet Gemmell

Both Morrison Creek and Arden Creek run through the Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary school grounds. The creeks provide opportunities for students to watch that most iconic of BC species, salmon, as they return to Arden and Morrison Creek every fall to spawn. The school grounds are surrounded by green space including the Roy Morrison Nature Park. A large part of the school yard has large Douglas firs, alder and cottonwood, providing a good habitat for young humans and wildlife alike. Last winter the Morrison Creek Streamkeepers joined parents, students and community members at the School Board 71 public committee meetings in regard to the possible closure of Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary.

Parents organized a "Keep Puntledge at Puntledge" campaign using social media, videos, buttons, T-shirts, and representation on the committee. They made their case for the school's strengths as an educational community; its particular programs and the importance of the natural surroundings to the learning and well being of the students. Morrison Creek Streamkeepers were concerned that the closure of the school opened the possibility of a financially starved school board considering the sale of the property and ultimately residential development. Development would likely degrade one of the most productive streams of its size on eastern Vancouver Island which is home to a unique population of the Western Brook Lamprey, the Morrison Creek Lamprey. The Morrison Creek Streamkeepers had worked with the teachers and students of the Grade 6/7 classes in planting the riparian area just a block from the school and we saw other opportunities for collaboration in the school's outdoor classroom which would be compromised if the school was closed. Fortunately for our neighbourhood, the parents, and students, the School Board Trustees voted to keep the school open.

In celebration of keeping the school open and to maintain the enthusiasm and momentum, Dan Vie, an active participant in the Keep Puntledge at Puntledge campaign, envisioned a large mural for the front of the school that portrayed the natural surroundings of the school and its vital and celebrated inhabitants. He found the artist, the funds, and contributors and brought together several community organizations for a "Salmon Day" celebration at Ecole Puntledge Park on September 22. Tracy Kobus's colourful and inspired mural was officially acknowledged, music was played, booths offered information and interaction; First Nations

smoked salmon was served. Comox Valley Naturalists, Project Watershed, Morrison Creek Streamkeepers and DFO were present for the fun. The only ones missing were...the pink salmon in the creeks!

The previous year, in August, the Morrison Creek Streamkeepers and Current Environmental were in a bit of a sweat to finish an ambitious in-stream project to improve lamprey and salmon access through a culvert at the Comox logging road as the pink salmon were already arriving in droves downstream in Morrison Creek. The following year the stars of the Puntledge Park Salmon Day were missing in action. Salmon Day did the trick and a few pinks began appearing in the creeks a few days later. The pink returns, however, were very low. Walking up Morrison Creek in October, there were pinks, but only a few in small scattered groups. Pink salmon return as a group every two years to spawn and have distinctive low and high run years, but 2016 was a low of historic proportions everywhere in Georgia Basin. Up and down the coast the pink run was low.

Brian Riddell, president and CEO of Pacific Salmon Foundation said in a Globe and Mail article by Mark Hume:¹ “One mystery is what happened to all those pink salmon that were supposed to return to the Fraser River.” Test fisheries in the Strait of Georgia for pinks collapsed after what was at first estimated to be 40% of the run. Only 5 million out of an estimated 14 million pinks showed up in the Fraser. Unfortunately, the low pink run also coincided with the lowest recorded sockeye run in the Fraser. One possible explanation is record warm temperatures in Pacific Northwest waters.² Warm waters are associated with low feed and toxic algae blooms. Marine mammals and birds have suffered as well.³

Whatever calamity befell the 2016 pink run did not affect the chum runs. What the oceans and creeks lacked in pink salmon was in contrast to a record number of chum salmon returning to spawn. By some estimates 2016 was the strongest run in 35 years on the South Coast. Morrison and Arden Creeks had chum nose to tail along long lengths of the streams, thrashing, splashing and jostling noisily for position. In Roy Morrison Park, the banks of Arden Creek, (which usually does not get as many fish as Morrison) were strewn with hundreds of smelly carcasses. Furred and feathered creatures alike were digging into the later arriving bounty, scattering scaled bodies far into the woods. The chum went farther upstream than observed before, utilizing the lower reach of First Supply Creek, a tributary that enters Morrison under the Highway 19 overpass by Lake Trail Road. The thrashing of the chum cleans gravel in the streams and their carcasses contribute nutrients to the forest, stream,

river and estuary. Chum can “rototill” gravel beds to well over half a metre deep! Whether their redd building will disrupt the pink salmon eggs and impact a low run year even further remains to be seen in two years when the few 2016 pinks return in 2018.



Pink salmon in Morrison Creek, September 2016.

Photo: Jim Palmer

In among the chum were many returning coho. The coho, in spite of their bright red colours, are often harder to see, being warier than the brutish chum. This year their numbers made them relatively easy to spot. Coho go further upstream than the pinks or chum. They wriggled their way up a small channel right next to Lake Trail Road that bypasses a large beaver dam to use the upper reaches of First Supply Creek. I spotted a bright red coho leaping from a pool to clear a low log on its way to the upper reaches of main-stem Morrison Creek. Upper Morrison Creek has beautiful spawning areas, and cool steady spring-fed flows year round that provide excellent habitat for coho fry. This is vital because coho fry remain in the creek for a year or in some cases two before becoming smolts and swimming to sea. Chum and pinks leave freshwater in the spring shortly after hatching.

Salmon are made right here in BC. They are made right here in the Comox Valley. The “factories” they are made in require no construction; rather they are best left without any construction nearby. We hope that the oceanic factory, that sun-drenched marine feed lot that grows them, keeps sending them back. There is some work to get them on your plate, whether commercial fishing or recreational fishing; and jobs and revenue associated with them. Whether you like to cast for a fresh pink from shore, smoke your own chum, try to hook a sporting coho from your boat, or just pop open a

tin of salmon from the grocery, salmon are high-class nutrition. Not just for people but for creatures we like to catch a glimpse of, or just know they are out there even if we don't always want to run into them. And even if you don't eat them, the salmon journey is inspiring and entertaining.

In our neighbourhood people have pavement and houses but room has been left for the salmon. Fortunately we have the chance in the Morrison Creek Watershed to secure not just room but a small entire house for salmon, lamprey, birds, beaver, bears and other wildlife. The area surrounding the springs, wetlands and tributaries that form the headwaters of the Morrison Creek watershed has been logged in the past, and is private managed forest land, but has not yet been built upon, ditched or drained. The energy and input of vocal and organized concerned citizens, Project Watershed and streamkeepers groups ensured the inland island highway only grazed the watershed but did not fill it or substantially split it. In the midst of an urban and rural landscape runs a naturally functioning watershed supporting diverse wildlife. Let's keep it that way and keep defending it.

1. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/millions-of-bc-salmon-mysteriously-disappear-in-troubling-year/article27089342/>

2. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/09/warm-water-pacific-coast-algae-nino/>

3. https://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/news/features/food_chain/index.cfm



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Conservation Activities

By Murray Little

Wetlands Restoration Project

Frank Hovenden and I attended a planning meeting organized by the Coastal Invasive Species Committee. Rachelle McElroy, the Executive Director, has been based in the valley for a year, with offices at the Conservation Centre at Tin Town.

The meeting was to gather together those "land managers" who carry out some control activities, and to discuss mutual priorities for the coming year. As CVN tackles invasives, we were included in the 17 people there. It was a great opportunity to meet others, to hear what they are doing, and to compare notes.

Our applications for funding are in, so our fingers are crossed. We have confirmed funding from the Regional District and B.C. Nature so far. We hope to maintain the level of operation that we had last year, and to keep reducing the numbers of the important invasives.

Comox Valley Conservation Partners

Changes Coming

The group formerly known as CVCS or CVCSCP (Comox Valley Conservation Strategy Community Partnership) is undergoing some changes. Project Manager David Stapley is retiring, and Tim Ennis will be taking over, and our Education and Outreach Coordinator has left us too. This is then a good time to re-think the team responsibilities, and this will be done over the next few weeks. The first change was the name, now a more explicit and manageable title.

Eco-Asset Workshop

The nature around us in the place we live has a value to us, and to our environment. CVCP is organizing a workshop to discuss what services these are, and how we should be valuing them in our community. This will be in two parts, both held at the Florence Filberg Centre, March 14 and 15.

The first part, which will welcome interested members of the public, will be on the Tuesday evening, 7 to 9 p.m. A panel of speakers will discuss the topic, "Ecosystem Services, Climate Change, and Thinking like a Watershed", and will answer questions from the floor. This is free, and all are welcome. The town of Gibsons already has values for its natural assets, and their CEO will be on the panel to present the methods and advantages of doing this.

The second part will take place on the Wednesday, and will be geared towards municipal decision makers and staff, and principals and staff of developers, and engineers. There will be a charge of \$25.00 to cover lunch.

You can register for either session online at <https://cvlandtrust.ticket.ca/events/2475-eco-asset-symposium-march-15th-session>.

Or register in person at the CV Conservation Centre: 2356A Rosewall Cres., Courtenay, B.C. V9N 8R9 Mon-Fri from 08:30-12:30. Phone: 250-703-2871.

Tree Bylaw

Since the Courtenay city council appointed a Select Committee to try to agree on a compromise between the positions of CVCP and the Developers' Association, the committee has met twice, and its report will be submitted to council in the near future.

The major difference was about ability to reduce the number of trees left standing on larger "greenfield" sites. CVCP agreed with staff's recommendation that decisions about reductions should be made by city staff, while the developers want the freedom to make that decision themselves. There was no compromise on this, and it will likely come before council in April.

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Member Profile

Helen and Robbie Robinson

By Krista Kaptein

This article resumes an occasional series in which we recognize the contributions of prominent CVNS members.

Helen and Robbie Robinson have been active members of the Comox Valley Naturalists Society since joining in 1989, after living in the Valley since 1964. After many years of outdoor pursuits together such as camping and fishing, Helen in particular became inspired to learn more about natural history on a spring field trip with CVNS to the Tsolum River Trails near the CVEX grounds, with Betty Brooks and Norma Morton who knew every leaf and flower.

In 1991 Helen took a distance education course in Wildflowers from Athabasca University with Dr. Lochan Bakshi. Since this formative course, Helen and Robbie have led many nature walks and hosted many botany meetings and workshops, featuring some of Helen's favourite botany topics such as lichens. Robbie is generally the navigator on field trips while Helen focuses on the plants, and is considered one of the top botanists in our club. She has compiled numerous plants lists for nature sites in the Comox Valley, which became part of our online Comox Valley Nature Viewing Guide, a project started in 2010 and regularly updated. Helen and Robbie were among the key members involved during the Spring 2016 BC Nature AGM hosted by CVNS, leading several field trips.

Helen and Robbie have always attended most BCN Spring and Fall General Meetings and from 2008 to 2010 Helen represented the CVNS as Director to BCN, a liaison between BCN and our club. Helen also served from 2008 to 2012 as Volunteer Warden for the Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve. Following in the steps of Chris Pielou, the previous ER Warden, Helen worked with BC Parks to monitor the ER, gave presentations and led field trips to the ER, then passed along the role of Warden to Mandy Vaughan in 2012.

Helen and Robbie have long taken an interest in the stewardship of Kin Beach Provincial Park near their home in Comox. As a Class C Park which provides local recreational amenities, this park is managed by a local community board. The board became a Society last year in order to make use of federal funds for beach restoration. The park is habitat for many unusual beach plants, so Helen has spearheaded broom bashes there for 8 years now, and joined the board last year.

Short Notes

Nature Kids Update

By Jocie Brooks

Due to extreme weather, several of our planned winter Explorer Days were canceled.

We did have a lovely sunny day for our last outing, which was birding at Lazo Marsh on January 29. I created a small checklist for each child, and we had good looks at more than a dozen birds. Highlights were brilliant (and vocal) red-winged blackbirds and some elegant trumpeter swans.

Sadly, Nature Kids co-leader Rene Jorgensen is moving to China, where her husband has taken a job as a pilot. We are pleased that Hayley Dato, another Nature Kids parent, has kindly volunteered to take on the co-leading position!

Our next Explorer Day will be a beach walk at Royston's Gartley beach on March 4, and on March 26 environmental educator Luisa Richardson will lead a walk for us at Woodhus Slough.



Helen (centre) and Robbie (right) at a CVNS Earth Day display. *Photo: Krista Kaptein*

Helen's most recent achievement was the creation of a comprehensive plant checklist for the Comox Valley. Ten years in the making, this professional 22-page publication includes herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees of the Comox Valley, and with the computer and photography skills of Terry Thormin was printed for the 50th Anniversary of CVNS, which coincided with the 2016 Spring AGM in the Comox Valley. This project inspired other naturalists at the conference as much as it has inspired our own club. More than 140 copies of the publication have been sold already and the proceeds go toward interpretive signage at Kin Beach Provincial Park.

Long-time CVNS members are no doubt aware of many more highlights about the Robinsons! We encourage newer members to also get to know Helen and Robbie, two of the most respected and well-liked members of the CVNS.



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Phyllis Ryan

Phyllis Ryan, a long-time member of CVNS, passed away on January 25, 2017 at age 94. Her love of wildflowers and native plants made her an active participant in the Botany group, often hosting the group's meetings at her home.

Phyllis and her late husband Terry lived in the Comox Valley since the early 1950s. She was trained and worked as an occupational therapist and was very involved in various community organizations, including Woolgatherers, the weaving and spinning guild.

For a full obituary, see

<http://www.yatesmemorial.ca/notices/Phyllis-RYAN>.



Tsolum fawn lily

Photo: Sharon Niscak

Upcoming CVNS Activities

General Instructions for Field Trip

Participants:

- All walks are club events and reserved for members only, unless otherwise stated. Typically, one walk each month is open to the public.
- Usually, meet at the Old Church Theatre, 755 Harmston Avenue in Courtenay and consider car-pooling, or meet leaders at the trail head, unless otherwise announced. Arrive at the meeting area 10 minutes prior to the appointed time.
- Wear clothing and footwear suitable for the conditions.
- Bring water and a snack.
- No dogs please.

Schedule

This information reflects planning as of our publishing date and is subject to change. Watch for the latest information and additional details in the President's weekly announcements and on the website.

Saturday, March 18: (Public Walk) Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve. Unique Mediterranean ecosystem. Meet at the Old Church Theatre at 9:30 am. Leaders: Loys and Alison Maingon.

Saturday, March 25: Bear Creek Park. Salmon hatchery on the Oyster River. Meet at the Old Church Theatre at 9:30 am, or at the Bear Creek Park parking lot off Macaulay Rd. by the yellow gate at 10:00 am. Leaders: Charlie and Mandy Vaughan.

Saturday, April 1: Woodlot walk. Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Strathcona Parkway (just off Inland Highway) at 9:30 am. Leader: Fred Newhouse.

Sunday, April 9: Ripple Rock. Meet at Country Market north of Courtenay on Hwy. 19A at 9:00 am. Leaders: Loys and Alison Maingon.

Saturday, April 15: (Public Walk) Cumberland Marsh. Meet at 9:30 am at "Jumbo's Cabin" where there is a small parking area off Comox Lake Road. Watch for the No. 1 Japanese Town site sign on Comox Lake Road out of Cumberland. Leader: Loys Maingon.

Sunday, April 23: (Public Walk) Fawn lilies at Exhibition Grounds. Meet in Exhibition Grounds parking lot at 9:30 am. Leaders: Loys and Alison Maingon.

Sunday, April 30: Camas and Garry oaks at Airport. Meet at end of runway at the corner of Kye Bay Road at 9:30 am. Leader: Loys Maingon.

Saturday, May 6: Morrison Creek. Meet at the Old Church Theatre at 9:30 am. Car pooling is required because of limited parking at trail head. Good boots required. No facilities. Leaders: Jan Gemmell and Jim Palmer.

Saturday, May 13: (Public Walk) Union Bay Coal Hills. Meet at the boat launch in Union Bay at 9:30 am. Leader: Loys Maingon.

Saturday, May 20: Hollyhock Flats, Comox Road. Park beside the old mill site on Comox Road. Meet at 1:00 pm. Wear good hiking footwear to negotiate the potholes in banks. Leader: Loys Maingon.

Sunday, May 28: South side of Puntledge River. Meet at the Old Church Theatre at 9:30 am. Leader: Loys Maingon.

Reminder for Field Trip Leaders

All field trip participants who are non-members must sign the waiver recognizing that there are risks inherent in all outdoor activities.

About the Society

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Board of Directors

President: Jim Boulter
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Past President: Loys Maingon
Vice-President: vacant
Secretary: Gabriel Baubaiges
Treasurer: Isabella Erni (treasurerCVNS@gmail.com)
FBCN Director: Sharon Niscak

Group Leaders and Other Volunteers

Membership Secretary: Maris Ratel
Birding: Dave Robinson
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Botany: Karin Franzen, Alison Maingon, Joel Kositsky
(botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca)
Nature Kids: Jocie Brooks, Haley Dato
Photography: Terry Thormin
Conservation: Norma Morton
Wetland Restoration: Murray Little
Garry Oak Restoration: Loys Maingon
Swan Count: Ernie Stefanik, Krista Kaptein
Comox Valley Conservation Partners liaison: Murray Little
Trip Planning: Joyce Bainbridge
Bursary: J. Harrison, M. Stewart, K. Wilkinson
Website: Jim Boulter, Isabella Erni, Krista Kaptein
Facebook: Jillian Jones
Newsletter Advertising: Kathie Woodley
Newsletter Editors: Sharon Niscak, David Orford

Constitution

Available in PDF form on this web page:
<http://comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/about-us/>

Membership

One adult: \$30; Family: \$40;
Junior (12-17): \$10; Student (18-22): \$15

Pay on website using PayPal, or mail cheque (payable to Comox Valley Nature) to:
CVNS Membership Secretary
314 Aitken Street
Comox BC
V9M 1N4

Receipts are provided at meetings, or include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Membership fee is due January 1. If not paid by March 30, names are removed from the CVNS and BC Nature lists. New memberships started after September include the following full calendar year.

Change of address, phone number or e-mail: Please advise the Membership Secretary.

Meetings

Monthly general meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Florence Filberg Centre, 411 Anderton Avenue, Courtenay.

June meeting: Potluck at a member's house.

No general meeting in July, August, or December.

Bird meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Filberg Soroptimist Lounge, Courtenay. For information, send e-mail to birders@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca.

Botany meetings: Second Monday of the month at a member's home, 12:00 p.m. An e-mail is sent prior to the meeting to confirm location and topic.

Botany walks (weather permitting) follow the meeting and are also scheduled at other times. To be included on the botany list, send e-mail to botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published 3 times per year (March, June, and November). It is e-mailed to members, and is also available at the monthly meetings. If you wish to receive printed copies by Canada Post (within Canada), the fee is \$5.00 per year. Please send contributions to newsletter@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca.