



DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY

P.O. Box No. 18136, 1215C 56th Street DELTA B.C. V4L 2M4

DNS MONTHLY MEETING

February 2, 2016, 7:30 pm.

Benediction Lutheran Church

Tsawwassen, B. C.

Welcome: Tom introduced the executive and later on, welcomed visitors. Total attendance this evening was approximately 70 – a “bumper crop” as one might say.

Minutes: Tom enquired if those present had read the January 5th meeting minutes. A few honest people admitted that they had not. Regardless, Jim Ronback moved that the minutes be accepted; Ursula Easterbrook seconded. The motion was carried.

Mail & MEMBERSHIP: Jim Kneesch indicated that two application forms and a few waivers had been received since the last meeting. Current memberships now total 53 individual memberships and 31 family memberships.

Treasurer : Jim Kneesch reviewed the current financial situation. With the recent expenditure of \$4650.00 for the scope, scope case and tripod, our society is currently \$870.32 in “the red”. On the positive side, we have received donations to assist with the scope purchase. Tom reminded members that donations to Delta Naturalists Society are income tax deductible.

Newsletter: Audrey circulated the February newsletter on Jan. 31. Well deserved kudos were given to her.

Publicity: Valerie. An article in Optimist regarding this evening’s presentation was very effective, as evidenced by the numbers attending. This event was also featured on the municipal reader boards as well as that of the Church

Social: Elizabeth/Liz/Joanne: Tom thanked this Meeting's goodie providers. Joanne reported that the missing list had been found. In effect, DNS is no

longer listless. Elizabeth also drew our attention to the fact that the coffee being served at our meetings is organic, fair trade, and bird friendly.

Environment Issues: Jim reported that the B.C. Supreme Court had decreed that both parties in the dispute initiated by VAPOR and Otto Langer were to pay their own legal costs. This was an important victory since environmental issues of public interest, though lost in court, should not automatically force the loser to pay the winner's legal costs. Otto Langer who had been very active with VAPOR had had a heart attack on January 1st and is now at home.

Armene Belless gave us an update on the March 5th X-Border Towers benefit to take place March 5th at Kiniski's Reef in Point Roberts.

Anne Murray gave us an update on the *Birds & Biodiversity Strategy* from the Feb. 1st Council meeting. The City of Delta has prepared an outline of what they will do to ensure that all relevant civic departments focus on the protection and enhancement of birds and biodiversity in Delta. As part of the process, Delta will consult with stakeholders including DNS, Cougar Creek Streamkeepers, Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust, Canadian Wildlife Service, Delta Farmers' Institute, and Chamber of Commerce. More detail is available from the Corp. of Delta agenda for the Feb. 1, 2016 meeting.

As well, The Mayor and Council have endorsed Delta's participation in *the 2018 Ornithological Conference*, with a view to having some events take place here in our bird-rich environment.

Ursula Easterbrook and Anita gave a brief outline of Delta's intention to come up with a Winskill Master Plan. There are plans for public consultation in order to come up with the Plan which could take this municipality forward for up to the next 20 -25 years. With new housing developments taking place, Delta needs to ensure that its recreational facilities are relevant and accessible.

BCN & Speakers: Ursula gave us an update of upcoming speakers See bottom for March speaker.

The BCN Annual General Meeting will be held in Comox May 12th – 15th. Tom encouraged members to register and indicated that these AGMs are always interesting, especially the outings. Early registration at discounted rates is due by March 15th

Display Committee: Terry/Marylile, See List of Events in Newsletter.

Activity since December 1 Meeting:

Four DNCB outings since Jan. 5 meeting to: 1) Iona RP, 2) White Rock/Blackie Spit, 3) Stanley Park and 4) this morning to Pt. Roberts, USA.
Check DNCB Blog at: www.dncb.wordpress.com for reports and photos. Outings leave Petra's at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Other Activity Reports since Dec. 1 meeting:

- 1) Fri. Jan 8, BBPA Meeting, Cammidge House, 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Tues. Jan. 19, Meeting with Metro Vancouver Film Crew (Executive)
- 3) Tues. Jan. 19, DNS Executive meeting, 7:30 p.m. Tom's home
- 4) Mon. Jan. 25, Conf Call re NatureKids NatureBlitz on Feb. 27

Future Meetings/Events:

- 1) Fri. Feb. 5, BBPA Meeting, Cammidge House, 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Sun. Feb. 21, Heritage Day at CH, BBPA host with DNS Display, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 3) Tues. Feb. 23, DNS Executive meeting, 7:30 p.m. Tom's home
- 4) Thurs. Feb. 25, Rotary Presentation on Delta Birds Strategy (Tom), Beach Grove GC, 7:30 a.m.
- 5) Sat. Feb. 27, NatureKids NatureBlitz at Reifel & Alaksen with DNS Activity Leaders and Display.

Other Issues for Discussion: The Nature of Things T.V. program is looking for sites to set up a webcam to film Great Horned Owls. Tom has encouraged members to seek out sites.

8:15 p.m Tom introduced Ian Thomas who gave us an energetic and visually delightful presentation on Birds of the Coffee Forest. Ian spent two months in Colombia on a coffee plantation conducting his studies.

Next meeting:

This will be on Tuesday, March 1, 7:30 p.m. at Benediction Lutheran Church with .Dr. Nancy Prober giving a presentation entitled: **Vitamin N: The Health Benefits of CONNECTING WITH NATURE.**