



**DELTA NATURALISTS  
SOCIETY**

PO Box No. 18044, 1215C 56<sup>th</sup> St, Delta, B.C. V4L 2M4

**DNS MONTHLY MEETING**

February 7, 2017

**Welcome:**

As Tom Bearss was away, Elizabeth Perrin chaired the meeting. She explained that as well, both Chris Mcvittie and Jim Kneesch were away. Anita den Dikken was the only Director present. Elizabeth went on to welcome the guests and noted two newcomers; One was a woman from Saskatchewan who was there with her relatives who are members; the other was a woman from Ladner. Elizabeth also advised those present that Ursula is still in the hospital, and that there were two cards at this meeting available for signing.

**Minutes:** Joyce Manary motioned that the Minutes from the January 2017 meeting be approved; Jennifer Melville-Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Mail:** No report as Jim Kneesch, the keeper of the mailbox, is away. (what kind of excuse is that, anyway?)

**Treasurer & Membership:** As Jim was away, Elizabeth informed the members of the current balance. As of January 31, 2017, the bank balance was \$4754.15.

**Newsletter:** Elizabeth explained that despite a broken right wrist, Audrey had managed to edit a good February newsletter.

**Publicity:** As Valerie's mother had recently passed away, Valerie was not able to be present this evening. Clearly, the publicity had been effective as a local "newbie" had shown up.

**Social:** Elizabeth thanked this evening's goodie providers. They were Sheila Yip, Viviane Barber, and Joanne Williamson, and possibly one or two others.

**Environment Issues:** Jim Ronback informed us that both Richmond and Metro Vancouver had requested the federal government (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency) to conduct a federal review panel environmental assessment of the Massey Tunnel replacement project - i.e. the Bridge - on the basis of its cumulative impacts on the Fraser River.

The cumulative impacts would be caused by removing the tunnel and allowing 34 kilometres of dredging to a depth of 15.5 metres.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna declined to subject this project to the review requested. She stated that the B. C. Environmental Assessment Office conducted an environmental assessment under provincial legislation and had referred the project to provincial ministers for decision. She further stated that if approved, BC would be required to obtain federal authorizations from Fisheries & Oceans Canada under the Fisheries Act, and Transport Canada under the Navigation and Protection Act.

Anita den Dikken informed those present that Dogwood Initiative is planning to gather signatures on a petition from residents of BC opposed to the Kinder Morgan twinning of their pipeline, with the hope of achieving a provincial referendum on whether or not B. C. should have "accepted" the federal decision to OK the project. Dogwood Initiative is a BC organization devoted to maintaining the integrity of the environment for the benefit of British Columbians.

### **BCN & Speakers:**

As Ursula is ill, Anita will be acting in the B. C. Nature Representative position on an interim basis. She has registered to attend the B. C. Nature AGM in Lillooet from May 4th to 7th this year. There is an array of interesting programs to choose from; members are encouraged to attend.

**Display Committee:** Terry Carr and Marylile Martin.

Heritage Day-Feb. 26, at Cammidge House. Marylile indicated that Delta Nats. would have a display. Our presence at this event is very low key.

Watershed Park - April 26th - fish release. Volunteers are requested to "man" the display. Elizabeth mentioned that this event is a lot of fun.

**Archives Committee:** Geof. There is no activity currently.

### **Activity since December 6 Meeting:**

Five DNCB outings since Jan 3 meeting to: 1) Iona Regional Park, 2) White Rock Pier & Blackie Spit, 3) Stanley Park, 4) Beach Grove Park and Pt. Roberts, and 5) Reifel. The Reifel outing scheduled for February 7th was cancelled due to inclement weather and poor road conditions.

Check out Outing Reports, and photos, on our DNCB Blog at: [www.dncb.wordpress.com](http://www.dncb.wordpress.com). Outings leave Petra's at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. See website for Future DNCB Destination List.

### **Other Activity Reports** since Dec. 6 meeting:

- 1) Fri. Jan. 6, BBPA Meeting, Cammidge House, 10:00 am.

- 2) Mon. Jan. 14, Delta Birds Workshop, S Delta Rec Centre, Nicki & Terry.
- 3) Tues. Jan. 24, DNS Executive Meeting, Tom's home.
- 4) Mon. Feb. 6, Meeting with Environment Class at Burnsview Secondary School, Noon to 2:00 pm (Tom).
- 5) Elizabeth explained that this class will be planting trees to replace other invasive vegetation which will be removed in adjacent Chalmers Park.

#### **Future Meetings/Events:**

- 1) Fri. Feb. 10, BBPA Meeting, Cammidge House, 10:00 am.
- 2) Mon. Feb. 20, DNS Exec Meeting, 7:30 pm. Tom's home.
- 3) Sun. Feb. 26, Heritage Day at Cammidge House, Noon to 4:00 pm.  
*(Elizabeth enquired if there would be antique cars on display as in previous years. The answer was tentatively "yes". As well, Doug Massey is scheduled to speak)*
- 4) Fri. Mar. 10, Bird Box Clean/Repair at BBRP, 9:30 am to Noon *(Elizabeth drew attention to the fact that Peter Ward is the mastermind for this project)*
- 5) Sun. Apr. 23, Delta Fish Release, Watershed Park, 11:30 am to 3:00 pm

#### **Other Issues for Discussion:**

- 1) BC Naturalists' Foundation Grant Application (\$1000) for removal and replacement of invasive bushes at Burnsview Secondary School. DNS applied for this grant on behalf of the Burnsview students and will be providing support/advice on best trees and other vegetation to plant (Anne Murray), and possibly nest boxes (Peter Ward). *Refer back to Other Activity reports since Dec. 6th.*
- 2) Birds in Focus events: Presentations on April 15 at TAC and Workshop at CH on April 23. (Elizabeth) *(So far, one speaker has been confirmed for the presentation; further details to follow; the April 23rd workshop will be conducted by Jim Kneesch and Jack McDonald)*
- 3) Anita mentioned that Earthwise Society is looking for people to volunteer their front or backyards for organic gardening by Earthwise this year. Earthwise would do the planting, maintenance, and harvesting. This is required because Century has destroyed the current produce garden to facilitate their Boundary Bay development project. In return, the property owners would receive a portion of the crops or some other arrangement could be made. For more information, please contact Anita at dendikkena@gmail.com or at 604-948-0139 or Earthwise (Patricia Fleming or Isabelle at 604-946-9828).

**Sightings & 50/50:** The winner of the 50-50 turned her winnings over to the DNS. No unusual sightings; the resident Anna's Hummingbirds have been spotted on several feeders belonging to DNS members.

8:15 p.m. Peter Ward presented a fascinating overview of his and his wife's travel in Oman. Part of the presentation featured archaeology and genetics study of a society of Omanese who had apparently relocated to Zimbabwe many, many years ago. These people were more Jewish than Muslim in their beliefs and customs. And, there were pictures of a variety of birds, many of them inhabiting coastal areas.

**Next meeting** on Tuesday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. at Benediction Lutheran Church with Anne Murray presenting on her Adventures in Australia.