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## **NCES Annual General Meeting- President's Report September 2010**

This year was another year of fantastic growth for the NCES. To review:

### **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.

### **Board of Directors Elected September 2009:**

Sarah Newton, President  
Alice Weber, Vice President  
Carol Prince, Secretary

Jim Maitre, Treasurer  
Virginia Thompson, Director at Large  
Gregg Walker, Director at Large

**Members-** 112 people, families, or businesses

**Sub Committees-** Independent Power, Revelstoke Mountain Resort, Shelter Bay, Water Usage, and Mountain Caribou.

**Meetings-** Monthly general meetings and board meetings, as needed committee meetings, AGM.

### **Major Achievements/ Events-**

-Creation of the **Downtown Community Garden** in conjunction with the Revelstoke United Church, and funding from the CBT. We have 18 plot holders, including the public, RSS Special Education Class, Kid's United Youth Group, and the Modern Bakery. Produce was used by plot holders and donated to the Revelstoke Food Bank. May 2010 to present.

-**Sturgeon Environmental Education Project.** The NCES, with the help of local artists David Rooney and Gwen Lips, and aided by local children, created a large sturgeon **mural** for the wall at Castle Joe Books. As well, over 200 local children painted **small wooden sturgeon for a display** at Centennial Park. Funding from the CBT & local businesses. June 2010.

**-NCES Photo Contest.** Over 70 people participated with local content, judges, and prizes. A special thanks to Hayley Johnson for organizing this high profile and very successful event. The NCES raised over \$700. Photos were displayed at the Modern Bakery and are now permanently displayed at the Queen Victoria Hospital. November 2009.

**-Plastics Project.** With CBT funding through Greener Footprints the NCES met with businesses to create signage & staff in-services to educate on the impact of plastic bags. Delivered by Hailey Ross and Sue Davies. July 2010 to present.

**Invasive Species Weed Pull-** Illecillewaet Greenbelt. Mindy Skinner organized an educational event. The CSRD provided expertise to educate participants about the impact of invasive species. Over 50 people took part and as many bags of weeds were collected. July 2010, CBT funded.

**Greenbelt Habitat Restoration Event-** With BC Hydro and Francis Maltby, the NCES planted a variety of trees along a portion of the greenbelt to act as a screen. It is hoped that this visual barrier between human bike path traffic and the adjacent wetland will encourage migratory birds to use this area. June 2010.

### **Environmental Education Projects-**

The NCES received \$10,000 from the CBT for environmental education:

**-SD 19 schools:** contractor Janette Vickers visited all local elementary classes, local community groups, and select secondary schools (reaching all elementary classes this year). She taught solid waste reduction through classroom garbage audits, and she promoted sustainable transportation through Bike to Work Week. This was highly successful with many classrooms starting composting, vermi-composting, and changes to personal habits.

**-Speaker's Series:** contractors Mindy Skinner and Hailey Ross organized speakers on the topics of local food (Jon Steinman from Deconstructing Dinner), a Green Building Tour, Addicted to Plastic film/speaker, (CSRD Carmen Fennell as speaker), and Climate Change film Generations, (with David Quinn, Wildsight) . Turn out was good and local media coverage was outstanding. October 2009 to June 2010.

**-Community Events:** Skinner and Ross organized events for Earth Day, sturgeon release, Chickadee Nature Festival, Screen Smart Week, and Bike to Work Week (18 bicycles given away to people in need). Spring 2010.

**-Sustainability Tool Kit-** contractor Sue Davies brought to fruition work started by Melissa Hemphill. The end product is a locally relevant and helpful booklet on all aspects of environmental sustainability for local residents. Copies can be borrowed from the local community centre, dentist's office, bus station, and on line. The toolkit is for reading and to be passed on to others.

**-Green Business Awards-** contractor Davies researched and presented 6 awards to local businesses who showed initiative in solid waste reduction, environmental sustainability, and environmental leadership. Businesses received a certificate and an article in the Revelstoke Times Review.

**Other Non CBT Funded Events:**

- Wood River Wild IPP film with Rachel Darvil from Wildsight, May 2010.
- 2 Climate Action Events, fall 2009, spring 2010.
- Greening the Cube, 100 Mile Housing Film.

**Current Issues of that the NCES is pursuing:**

- Cosmetic Pesticide Bylaw
- Endangered Mountain Caribou
- Independent Power Projects
- Columbia River Usage
- Williamson Lake resort impacts
- Cosmetic Pesticide use
- Shelter Bay Development

**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, and 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.

**2010 Funding Sources:**

- Columbia Basin Trust \$10,000
- City of Revelstoke Grant-In-Aid \$700
- Annual membership dues \$400
- Mountain Goodness \$100 (Earth Day donation)
- Chris Johnson \$300 (sturgeon mural donation)

**In Kind Donations:** Thanks to NCES contractor efforts and a very giving community, we received thousands of dollars worth of lumber, soil, manure, paint, etc.

**Volunteer Hours:**

-A minimum 2000 volunteer hours have been donated this year to the above mentioned events and initiatives. This value added ability of the NCES is well known and admired in the community.

I am honoured to be the president of this outstanding organization. It has been truly inspiring to see the great people, passion, and energy that have come together over the last 4 years at the NCES. We have accomplished great things and have made a true impact on the community at large. I know that the new board will continue our great efforts as I resign as president to take on my role as grade 4/5 teacher at Mount Begbie Elementary.

Sincerely,

Sarah Newton, President  
North Columbia Environmental Society

Revelstoke BC, September 16 2010