



oystercatcher

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2007-2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As 2007 comes to an end, so does my time serving as your president. We are very fortunate to have an enthusiastic and capable replacement in Zeke Blazeka, who will assume this position at the AGM. Zeke will bring lots of energy and humour to the job, and will lead the club well over the next two years. I encourage you to attend our annual assembly at Meaden Hall on Thursday, 24 January, 2008 for both the tasty luncheon and for some items of business, including the installation of new executive members.

Your past support is much appreciated during discussions on several issues, including BC Parks gathering views on the use of all the parks on the island, and the Island Pathways project on the approach to Ganges from the northwest. We thank you for your continued participation and concern over important matters that affect our club.

I offer thanks to the coordinators for ensuring that week after week there were interesting rambles, walks, and hikes

available to the members. It takes ongoing time and effort to summon up different leaders so regularly. And a tip of the hat to all those who led outings this year. I ask and encourage others who have not yet led previously to consider helping out in 2008 to ensure we are able to continue enjoying our trails every Tuesday.

The annual spring trip looks very promising for next

year. The Naramata area has lots of appeal and diversity to offer us all. Fred Powell deserves our full credit and thanks for offering to take on this event. We have a large number of people who have already expressed a desire to go on this trip, which indicates the popularity of the destination. Early June should provide us with good weather prospects, so we look forward to seeing many of you in the interior in 2008. And I invite volunteers who have either ideas and/or

Clustered Woodlover at Yellowpoint



time to help plan and organize a trip for next fall.

It has been a pleasure to serve as President for the last two years.

Ron Hall

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BEFORE DECEMBER 31!

It is still not too late to renew your membership for \$17. But payments received after January 1 are \$20! Remember that all renewals need to fill out a membership/waiver form. Please, complete the form you'll find on page 9, make out your cheque to Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club and drop everything off at the Cobbler's box attention Barry Spence.

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CLUB CHAT

On September 11 the Blackberry Festival with its inaugural short hikes launched a new season of outdoor activities. There was no fall trip this year, but as a consolation the club went to Saturna Island for the day (see story and pictures on page 3). Weather-wise, fall has been mild so far. Most Tuesdays we enjoyed fair weather. Turn-out has been increasing for both the Walkers and Hikers with 35 hikers going through Ruckle Park on November 13! I am not sure if that's a record, but it certainly will be close. Off-island trips, however, still draw low numbers. This is discouraging for the leaders.

In October, six members (the Kings, the Radfords, Nancy Braithwaite and myself) attended the BC Nature fall meeting in the resort town of Harrison Hot Spring, organized by the Chilliwack Field Naturalists. The excursions were of very high standard, focussing on wetland conservation and rehabilitation. But there were lake and river cruises too. We were taken on beautiful hikes and excursions with very knowledgeable leaders. The speakers' topics ranged from the questionable existence of Sasquatch to owl habitat, traditional native medicine, and housing development. This last topic addressed different look at urban planning: the speaker advocated more family / neighbour and less car oriented communities with lots of green spaces according to models that were adopted several decades ago in countries such as Denmark and the Netherlands.

The annual Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 29 this year. Gil Schultz, the area coordinator, has explained all you need to know on page 4. Last year, twenty members of our Club joined another sixty or so islanders in a joint effort to monitor our winter bird population.

On a national level, mid September the federal government decided to slash funding for the Canadian Wildlife services. I dug up more information about this move, and compiled some facts to consider if you wish to join the letter writers protesting against this decision (on page 7).

And finally, a number of executive members will have served their terms at the coming Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January and are stepping down or moving to other positions. The nominees are Zeke Blazecka (President), Kees Visser (Vice President), John Heddle (Secretary), Frauke Prystawick (Rambling Coordinator) with Terry Fuoco as back-up, and Lise Fraser (Hiking Coordinator). Paul Way is looking for replacement as Walking Coordinator. He finds himself more and more unable to attend the weekly walks and feels he cannot do a good job under these circumstances. I have advertised his position on page 8. Walkers form the majority of the Club's members, so perhaps the new coordinator will step forward soon? Barry Spence (Membership), Judy Nurse (Treasurer), and John Flannagan (Nature Coordinator) all have indicated that they will stand for another two-year term, while Brian Radford still has one year to go in his term as BC Nature Director. This means that Norah Lloyd and her mother Eleanor, Fred

Spring 2008: Trip to Naramata

Fred Powell has taken on the huge task of organizing the next spring trip. Very briefly:

Destination: Naramata Centre in the Okanagan Valley.

Dates: June 2-5, 2008.

Estimated Costs: Shared Occupancy in Maple Courts (*photo below*) and Cottage Court (*photo above*): about \$350 per person. Single Occupancy in Maple Courts and Cottage Court: about \$450 per person. The price includes 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts as well as 3 bag lunches, 3 nights accommodation, and all taxes and gratuities and honoraria for speakers. Reduced rates are available for those staying at the campground. Contact Fred (537-4739).



PLEASE NOTE: The above rates are estimates. The actual costs will be made available when the final rates have been received from the centre.

At the time of writing, 50 members had registered and paid their deposit, but there is room for more. To secure your spot: 1) CONTACT FRED POWELL (537-4739), 2) PAY A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$30 PER PERSON.

NOTE: Refund is only possible if your reservation can be filled by someone else.



Samsun Narrows from Mt Sullivan
(Photo: Lynn Thompson)

Powell, and myself will leave the executive, while Ron Hall will automatically take the position of Past President at the next AGM. On a positive note, I will continue producing an Oystercatcher every three to four months. The AGM will be held on January 24, 2008, at Meaden Hall and is preceded by a luncheon.

Nieke Visser

2007 Executive

President

Ron Hall 538-0046
woodlandchalet@saltspring.com

Vice-President

Zeke Blazecka 653-4782
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Treasurer

Judy Nurse 537-2293
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Secretary

Nieke Visser 537-5443
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Past President

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Walkers Coordinator

Paul Way 653-9985
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Hikers Coordinator

Kees Visser 537-5443
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Trails Coordinators

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Nature Coordinator

John Flannagan 653-2344
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BC Nature Director

Brian Radford 653-9370
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Barry Spence 537-2332
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Members at Large

Archivist

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Arleen Sadler 653-9235
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Saturna Island Trip

The zodiac at Saturna island (Photo: Arleen Sadler)



On October 2, forty eight members boarded the school boat, while twelve more donned bright orange suits and strapped themselves in on a zodiac of the same colour. Unfortunately, they left behind another 18 members, who would have liked to come along too. The destination was the



View towards South Pender (Photo: Nieke Visser)

Saturna Island Vineyards dock, the object was to hike, walk, and ramble, and have lunch afterwards at the winery. The weather could have been better,

PATNERS CREATING PATHWAYS

The partnership between the Trail and Nature Club and Island Pathways continues to prosper. The path along Lower Ganges, from Blain to Wild wood, is looking more and more like a project that will be completed in 2008! The funding has now reached over \$65,000 with large amounts given by CRD, the BC Transmission Corporation, the Salt Spring Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Lions Club and the Legion. Donations from individuals have also been good though in truth that has not yet been the focus of the funding work. One more donation source in outstanding and we are hopeful that the final news will also be very positive.

Perhaps some of the payoff has been due to activity of members working to clear vegetation

but the rain held off for the day apart from a few drops in the afternoon. Upon arrival, the Hikers took off to climb up to Mt. Wharburton Pike and Brown Ridge, a steep ascent with rewarding views over the Gulf and San Juan Islands. The walkers made their way through the vineyard towards Taylor Point Nature Reserve and made it as far as the viewpoint over Plummer Sound and South Pender Island. And the Ramblers ambled through the sev-

Ramblers at the vineyard (Photo: Arleen Sadler)



eral sections of the vineyard. After the excursions each group was invited to some wine tasting organized by the winery, followed by an excellent lunch. Unfortunately, the wine tasting took far more time than anticipated resulting in a rushed meal for the hikers who were the last to sit down for lunch. They barely made it in time to catch the water taxi back. All in all it was a fine day and certainly suitable for an encore in the future.

Thanks to Zeke Blazecka and Kathy Darling for helping out.

Kees and Nieke Visser

from the proposed centerline of the path, and in doing so making the project very visible to all those driving Lower Ganges Road. There were two working bees programmed in October and because they were so successful two more were scheduled in November. We averaged a dozen workers on each day and were able to clear sufficient brambles, broom and branches that the path is now cleared for almost its entire length. Some of our volunteers provided their pickup trucks to take the vegetation away to a site donated to us. Now the centerline can be accurately staked and the lay of the land is very evident.

Progress is also being made in the project planning. The drainage survey is in progress, soon to be followed by the applications for building permits. There are imminent talks with the BC

continued on page 8

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

For the past 20 years, the Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club has sponsored an annual Christmas Bird Count. This year the count will be held on Saturday December 29th, 2007. Last year, 84 volunteer birders counted 11,526 birds spread over 94 species. That was down a little from the 13,756 birds spread among 102 species that were counted by 100 field volunteers the year before. Various factors like weather will, of course, affect the count but over the years such annual bird counts produce use-

Great Blue Heron - (Photo Lynn Thompson)



ful information on winter bird distribution and population trends.

For purposes of the local count, SSI is divided into 12 zones, each with a coordinator and several counters who go out on the day and collect the data. The zone coordinators then send their results to Gil Schultz who does the final tally for the island.

Last year, and again this year, the Christmas bird count will be coordinated with the Bird Studies Canada/ Audubon Society Christmas Bird count for North America. This event produces useful information on winter bird distributions and population trends for the continent as a whole. For those purposes, Salt Spring Island is divided into north and south circle zones; the north being combined with Galiano Island and the south with Sydney and the Saanich peninsula. This does not affect how we do our local bird count except that all of these regions need to do their count on the same day. Our SSI bird counts that fit each of these regions (zones 1-2 for the south circle and zones 3-12 for the north circle) are forwarded by Gil Schultz to a Bird Studies Canada Circle coordinator (Mike Hoebel in Galiano for the north circle and Ann Night-

ingale in Saanich for the south circle) who combines data and enters it for the national count. These data can be viewed online by going to either www.audubon.org/bird/cbc or www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cbcmain.html. When the home page comes up, click on current year results and enter bcgs in the count circle code to call up the Galiano/North Salt Spring data and bcss to call up the Saanich/Sydney/South Salt Spring data. Last year was the 106th cross-Canada bird count and involved about 12,000 volunteers who counted 3.2 million birds spread over 289 species.

The counts are a great excuse for friends to get together over the festive season for some winter birding. It also allows birders from a number of levels of expertise to participate and involves some folks who simply count birds at their own feeders and yards to others who cover several kilometers of territory and major components of their particular zone.

Anyone interested in joining in this year's Christmas Bird Count should contact Gil Schultz by telephone at 537-9469 or electronically at gschultz@saltspring.com and provide him with their address and phone number and relative level of bird watching expertise. He will try to pair them with the appropriate regional coordinator for participation in the forthcoming count.

There is a small fee of \$5.00 for participants in the Bird Studies Canada count which helps cover costs of the nationwide bird count and the publication of the Christmas Bird Count Cross-Canada Report which each participant receives. Bird Studies Canada members, feeder watchers who provide counts to regional coordinators and new counters do not have to pay the fee unless they wish to receive a copy of the final report and have their names recorded on the national web-site. However, to encourage members of the Trail and Nature Club to be involved in the count, the club has committed up to \$100 to help cover the Bird Studies Canada fees for our members who will be out there on December 29th.

CALENDAR

December 11:
Christmas lunch at the Meaden Hall; 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$18, available from Soapworks, and the Tuesday leader/coordinators.

December 29, 2007
Annual Christmas Bird Count
To participate call Gil Schultz at 537-9469. More info on page 4.

January 22, 2008
Nature outing
Third bird watching attempt in Hemer Park with lunch at the pub afterwards. Call Niekie to register: 537-5443

January 24, 2008
Annual General Meeting and luncheon at Meaden Hall. Lunch starts at 11:30 am, the business meeting starts at 1:00 pm. All members please attend.

February 19, 2008
Nature outing
To be announced.

February 28, 2008
Social Evening at the United Church Program: Sheila and Barry Spence on Italy.

June 2-5, 2008
Spring to Naramata
More details on page 2.



Gil Schultz Piggyback plant (Tolmiea menziesii)- Sasquatch Provincial Park

SALT SPRING GEOLOGY - PART 4

FAULTS, FOLDS AND POTENTIAL EARTHQUAKES ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Salt Spring Geological Faults



In this issue I like to tackle a geological subject, that might become an issue for us on Salt Spring Island in the future. This subject is a bit more complicated than usual, so first I will explain some of the concepts I am going to use in this essay.

A fault is a fracture in the earth's crust caused by compression or tension. These compressions and tensions may sometimes result in folds (i.e. anticlines or up-folds and/or synclines or down-folds), depending on the competency of the rock (whether a rock formation is brittle or elastic) and the magnitude of the force. Earthquakes are usually related to movements in the earth crust along faults; these movements can be either vertical, horizontal or a combination of both. The fault and fold systems found on Salt Spring Island and Vancouver Island are complex and not yet fully understood.

First I will describe what is presently happening on the Pacific side of the North American Continent. The Pacific Ocean floor is converging towards and being subducted beneath the western edge of the continent in a zone called the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

This zone stretches approximately from the Queen Charlotte Islands to northern California. At the latitude of Vancouver Island it is situated about 150 km west of Vancouver Island, but both ends of the subduction zone converge much closer to shore. There the Cascadia Subduction Zone is truncated by strike-slip faults, of which the San Andreas fault under San Francisco is perhaps the most notorious. A strike-slip fault is a fault along which horizontal movements occur, and in California mainly northward along the Pacific side. Obviously this northwards slip movement is also present along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. This has been going on for a long time, hence the "drifting" of Wrangellia towards North America, which I described previously. The earthquakes we sometimes have on Salt Spring have been so far related to this Subduction Zone system and not to the faults we are observing here on and around the island.

On the southern Gulf Islands as well as southern Vancouver Island we see northwest/southeast trending faults and folds (in solid red on the map). These were the result of the last collision of the Pacific Terrane against Vancouver Island in the early Tertiary Oligocene, 45 million years ago (described in a previous issue). One obvious fault on Salt Spring is the Fulford Fault that follows the valley from Fulford Harbour to Burgoyne Bay, across Sansum Narrows to Maple Bay, and on towards Duncan and beyond. To the southeast this fault continues to Stuart Island (most western of the San Juan Islands). Another obvious fault, parallel to Fulford Valley, is tracing from Ganges Harbour to Booth Bay. This fault is called the Pender Fault, originating from Port Browning on Pender Island and continuing to Ladysmith.

One further look at the Salt Spring Island map also shows the parallel coastlines of Cape Keppel/ Musgrave in the south and along Trincomali Channel in the north (both also parallel to the Fulford and Pender Faults). Indeed, the Tzouhalem Fault (along

Cape Keppel/ Musgrave) is the most southern fault on Salt Spring Island and continues on to the south flank of Mt. Tzuhalem. Trincomali Channel follows the Galiano Fault.

Faults, being fractures in the earth's crust, represent weak zones and are therefore prone to erosion, and hence we have valleys or sea straits above the faults. Later glaciations, creeks and sea straits followed these "valleys" as well. In between the fault "valleys" we can see rock outcrops with all kinds of folds, whose axes are also trending northwest-southeast. However, none of these faults are active at present, and to date no earthquakes have been linked to any of these faults.

So far, all earthquakes in the Gulf Islands are connected to the Cascadia Subduction Zone and its northerly slip-strike moving component (about 1 to 5 cm/year which is very fast in geological terms). The subduction and slip causes energy to accumulate under the western part of Vancouver Island. To relieve this strain every 13 to 16 months a small amount of energy is released, causing small earthquakes on a regular basis. Inevitably a major relief will take place sometime in the future, causing a mega earthquake off shore, which in all likelihood will cause damage. The last mega quake is thought to have occurred in 1700. Since these big quakes happen every few hundred to 1000 years (averaging 500 years), the next one is predicted to happen

between now and 2700.

In addition to these southeast-northwest faults, there are some younger (i.e. since the Pliocene, about 30 million years ago) faults recognizable on Salt Spring Island. They all trend approximately northeast-southwest (in dashed blue on the map), and are connected with the subduction zone in the West. Recent research by the Geological Survey found some earthquake activity along similar parallel faults in the San Juan Islands, so it is conceivable that these northeast-southwest faults may become active in our area as well.

Another potential danger resulting from an off-shore earthquake is a tsunami. Such a tsunami will mainly affect western Vancouver Island, the Juan de Fuca Strait/Victoria, and low lying areas in Howe Sound and the Fraser delta, such as Richmond and Delta. Salt Spring Island would not so much be affected since we are on the lee side of the tsunami impact; at most we may get a low energy tsunami bouncing back from the mainland.

This simplified story on the very complex structure of the Gulf Islands is obviously insufficient, but perhaps it helps to understand what we observe on Salt Spring Island and might put us a bit at ease (or not) from the dangers of earthquakes and tsunamis.

Kees Visser, P. Geol.

Trail Blazer Jim Barber



Jim sharing with a friend

Jim, as far as I recall was club President from 1992 to 1994. During his term in office the club held the first of two spring trips to Lester Pearson College of the Pacific, this trip being organized by Jim. The activities were centered on East Sooke Regional Park. His tenure also included the fall trip to Mt. Baker which was

organized by Hans

Schroeder. In retrospect both of these trips were eminently successful and are memorable. A further prominent accomplishment during Jim's reign was the completion of the Jack Foster Trail, our president having fought vigorously on several fronts to secure trail access to the beach at Salt Spring Island's northern tip. Another focus for the club at

that time was the establishment and preservation of public access to the north end of Ruckle Park and the east end of Mt. Maxwell Park as well as to several of our trails and beaches.

Of course most of us did not have e-mail in those days so we were unable to vent electronically and Jim had to preside over a group with strong opinions which had to be expressed vocally. Executive members did this with gusto and usually at some length. Jim himself was a stickler for detail so that one way or another the morning meetings often extended through lunch hour and well into the afternoon. Adding to the stress level was the fact that Jim was an avid pipe smoker but could not soothe himself with a pipeful at the meetings that were usually held in a porta building at Portlock Park. The small space could not accommodate a serious pipe smoker without dire consequences to the rest of us so Jim had to wait until we would finally adjourn. As a former pipe smoker myself, I marveled at his ability to endure although I believe he became more testy as the meeting went on 'and on'.

Although not hiking or walking of late, Jim used to participate way down to the parking area on his own. About 20 minutes later I looked down our back trail to see 6 turkey vultures making ominous circles in the sky. It was with some relief that I saw Jim a day or two later and noted that he had not in fact become buzzard bait. Instead he has persevered so that he has become our Trail Blazer of the day. All the best to you, James.

Brian Radford

Funding cuts to CWS

In September 2008, the CBC reported that the federal government had decided to freeze all discretionary spending at Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service

Sandhill Crane at Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary near Tsawwassen



(CWS). This move affects the CWS as well as the federal government's team of wildlife scientists, most of whom have been transferred to a new research division within Environment Canada.

The CWS has served as Canada's national wildlife agency since 1947 with a mandate that includes monitoring migratory birds, managing almost 1200 hectares of "important wildlife habitat" on a national level, and controlling international trade in endangered species. According to a senior official within Environment Canada there have been some cuts, but the CBC story was not fully accurate:

- * The funding available to the migratory bird program has been reduced for this year (by approximately 42%).
- * The funding to the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) has been cut significantly (70%) as they review whether or not the work of EMAN fits better under education and citizen engagement vs. scientific monitoring.
- * There have been no cuts to the National Wildlife Area program
- * There have been no salary cuts within the CWS
- * This is part of government wide reductions at the federal level.

Nature Canada is urging members of all nature networks to write letters to local their MP's, with a cc to Minister John Baird and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Bev Ranney of BC Nature has responded immediately. This letter can be viewed on their website (www.bcnature.ca)

Below are some issues to consider, if you as an individual wish to add your voice of protest against this decision:

- That monitoring and protecting migratory birds is a federal responsibility because of the Migratory Bird Convention Act.
- The National Wildlife Area and Migratory Bird Sanctuary system are critical with regards to conservation efforts of wildlife and their habitats as outlined in the Canadian Wildlife Act.
- That protecting species and habitats are important in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change and in monitoring the effects of cleaning up air and water.
- That forests as wildlife habitats clean the air of CO2 and protect watersheds.
- That conservation and monitoring of wildlife should not be subject to shifting priorities within Department

SSTNC GROUP EMAIL

What is SSTNC?

SSTNC is a mailing list group for members of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club. SSTNC is a closed group. That means only members can read the messages or send messages to the group. The group is not listed in the directory at google.com (or at google.ca), and the archive of posts to the group is available only to group members. Membership in SSTNC is restricted to current members of the Trail and Nature Club who have provided the club with an email address.

What can I expect to receive from SSTNC?

You can expect to receive news and announcements of events sponsored by the Trail and Nature Club, as well as forwarded announcements from the Federation of BC Naturalists or other conservation/nature/trail focused organizations, and news of interest to club members. You'll also receive the club's official newsletter, the Oystercatcher. Can I reply to messages I read on SSTNC?

Yes, you can. Your reply will be automatically addressed to the sender of the message to which you are responding.

Can I send messages to SSTNC?

Yes, you can. Please be selective in what you choose to send. Consider that this is a news list, not a chat room, a debating forum, or a place to post jokes. As some of our members have dial-up internet connections, it's best to avoid sending photographs or other large attachments. Do I need a Google account to send or receive messages using SSTNC?

No. You will receive and send messages with your regular email account. If you have more than one email account, you can send only from the email address that is registered with the club.

Is the monthly activity schedule sent out via SSTNC? Not currently. Monthly activity schedules are published on the club's website at www.saltspringtnc.ca/ and in the Driftwood on the last Wednesday of the month (some exceptions).

Can I opt out?

Of course, but we hope you won't. Unsubscribe instructions are included in the footer at the end of every message you receive from the group address. If you do choose to leave the email group, we hope that you'll send one of the executive a note explaining why you're taking that action.

Barry Spence

of Environment Canada and should not be suffering from redirection of funds as a result thereof, in particular considering huge surpluses the government is presently boasting about.

Here are the email addresses you may wish to write to:

Stephen Harper: pm@pm.gc.ca
John Baird: BairdJ@parl.gc.ca
Gary Lunn: Lunn.G@parl.gc.ca

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club features Tuesday outings September through June at three levels of ability. The monthly schedule of outings and events is published in the Driftwood on the last Wednesday of the month. Or visit our website at www.saltstpringtnc.ca. On the fourth Thursday in October, November and February through May, the Club meets at 7:30 pm at the lower hall of the United Church. The Club is affiliated with BC Nature and Nature Canada.

Ramblers enjoy walking without pressure with frequent "time-outs" to take pictures, to examine plants, flowers, rocks, fossils, and from time to time sample local restaurants. Members of any level of fitness are welcome. Ramblers start at 10:00 am and usually end by 1:30 pm.



Walkers move at a relaxed pace taking time to smell the roses. They usually try to avoid long steep climbs and will stop to catch their breath along the way. Outings generally cover 8 km or less and end by 2:00 pm.



Hikers like long, adventurous and occasionally quite strenuous hikes, and like to gain a bit of altitude. They need strong boots and a good but not excessive level of fitness. Hikes usually start at about 10:00 am and end between 2:30 to 3:30 pm.



Nature excursions are normally organized every third Tuesday of the month except December led by an expert naturalist.

Membership Annual dues are \$17 per person. New members must sign a waiver. Send completed membership and waiver forms to the Membership Secretary, PO Box 203, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V9.

Taxi fare: Members are encouraged to carpool during outings and reimburse the driver as follows:



On-island trips: North of Duke

Road: \$2 per passenger; South of Duke Road: \$3 per passenger; Ruckle Park and non-paved roads: \$4 per passenger.

Off Island trips: \$0.30 per km per vehicle plus ferry costs.

Spring/Fall trips: No club policy.

Moving? Change of email address? Please let your Membership Director know a.s.a.p. Email: sspence@telus.net Tel: 537-2332.

Your comments or contributions are welcome. Please email them to Nieke Visser: cnvisser@shaw.ca or drop them off in the cobbler's box.

Continued from page 3

Transmission Commission about donating the gravel that they are using for access to the new towers mission and that must be removed at the end of their work. And BC Hydro is talking about moving all of the power poles adjacent to the pathway. Events are happening that were far from being anticipated.

Where will it all end? Keep your eyes open in the spring

Zeke Blazecka

Dinosaurs block building desalination plant

The fossilised bones, estimated to be 115 million years old and belonging to dinosaurs and ancient marine reptiles, were found on a windswept beach at Powlett River, southeast of Melbourne. This discovery threw a wrench in plans of the constructing of one of the largest water desalination plants in the world. For many years Australia has experienced serious droughts. By desalinating sea water,



the region, including the city of Melbourne, had hoped to produce 150 billion litres of drinking water by 2011. Scientists and politicians alike now urge to look for an alternate site for the plant.

Source : AAP

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We thought we covered all the vacancies in the fall issue. Unfortunately, we are looking for more positions to fill at our next AGM:

Walkers Coordinator:

Duties: Prepare monthly schedule for the Walkers and send to the Hikers coordinator for preparation of the Driftwood announcement.

Prerequisite: being a Walker; some computer skills an asset.

Remuneration: getting to know the Walkers very well and having fun.

If you are interested in one of the above positions, please contact Fred Powell (537-4739 or fnpowel@uniserve.com), or Nieke Visser (537-5443 or cnvisser@shaw.ca).

NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Appleby
Susan Castle
Derek Castle
Dorothy Copeland
Solange Desormeaux
Carolyn Evars
Curt Firestone
Gwen McDonald
Lucia Gabber
Beth Gessinger
Jack Gunn
Helen Gunn
Teresa Hitch
Mary Hof
Rineke Jonker
Sue Lehmann
Tina

Nixon
Margaret Oldroyd
Bob Potter
Karen Potter
Gwynneth Roberts
Jim Standen
Jim Stubbs
Laurie Stubbs
Sharon Sullivan
Melanie Thompson
Carole Watson

PAST TRAIL BLAZERS

Lynn Thompson
Bill Harrington
Paul and Beth Ranney
Owen Benwell and
George Hignell

John Myers
Ian Fraser
Bob and Betty Ball
Dick and Chris Pattinson
Betty Kirk
Brian Radford
Charles Kahn
Simon Rook

HONORARY MEMBERS

Bob Ball
Loes Holland
Tony Pederson
Jean King
Joan Lott
Eleanor Lloyd
Jean Holmes



Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club
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Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V9

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION and WAIVER OF LIABILITY

This document affects your legal rights. Please read it carefully.

NAME(S): (Please Print) _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ email address: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of this agreement is a condition of participation in Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club activities. By signing this agreement you will waive certain legal rights, including the right to make a claim for damages with respect to these activities and you will absolve the Club and its representatives from liability. Participants who are not members of the Club and/or the federation of BC Naturalists (FBCN) will be eligible for liability coverage under the FBCN insurance scheme for a maximum of three (3) field trips.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS

Assumption of Risk

I am aware that certain activities of the Club, including field trips and nature trips involve risks and may result in personal injury, death, property damage, expense or related loss, including loss of income. These risks include negligence on the part of the Club, its directors, officers, members, employees and volunteers who organize or lead activities, described herein as the "the Club and its representatives".

I freely accept and fully assume all such risks and the possibility of personal injury, death, property damage, expense and related loss, including loss of income, resulting from participation in such activities.

Release of Liability and Waiver of Claims

In consideration of the club accepting my application to participate in the activities described, I/We agree as follows:

1. To waive any and all claims that I/We, or my/our heirs, may have in the future against the Club and its representatives with respect to these activities.
2. To release the Club and its representatives from any and all liability for any personal injury, death, property damage, expense and related loss, including loss of income, which I/We may suffer as a result of my/our participation in this activity, due to any cause whatsoever, including negligence, breach of contract or breach of any statutory duty of care.

I/We have read this agreement and I/we understand it. I/we are aware that by signing this document, I/we are waiving certain rights, which I/we may have with respect to the Club.

SIGNATURE (S): 1. _____ DATE: _____

2. _____ DATE: _____