



Sightlines



May, 2001

Peachland Sportsmen's Association

Volume 1, Issue 4

New Executive Elected at PSA... AGM

An overwhelming turnout to the PSA's 20th Annual General Meeting held on April 11th, voted in a new executive to serve the Association over the next year. The positions filled are:

Directors:

President Darren Schlamp
 1st Vice President Gordie Schimpf
 2nd Vice President Glen Lundin
 Secretary Judie Vergnano
 Treasurer Gordon Wilson

Committee Chairs:

Fisheries & Wildlife Jerry Kneller
 Forestry & Native Affairs... Dan Jenkins
 School Bursary ..Martha & Dan Jenkins
 Special EventsKathy Mulvehill
 NewsletterGordon Wilson
 Web Page Darren Schlamp
 MembershipGordie Schimpf
 Archery Larry Sundstrom
 TrophiesKeith Brown
 Trophies Jack Heysbergen
 BCWF Al Springer, Dan Jenkins
 Allocations..... Al Springer, Dan Jenkins
 CORE Al Springer
 CORE Keith Brown, Jim Kosarczuk
 LRMP Dan Jenkins
 Environment Darren Schlamp
 Banquet Ray Pike

Past President Ray Pike was thanked for all of the great work and time he invested in the PSA over the past two years. The club president not only has to stay abreast of the issues which affect us as sportsmen and women, but also must be a good spokesperson on our clubs behalf, providing sound leadership and direction. Thank You Ray for a job WELL DONE!

Also stepping down from the Vice Presidents chair is Jack Heysbergen. While no longer a Director, Jack's plate is still pretty full co-chairing the Trophy Competition and Game Banquet. Thanks Jack for all of the time you invest in our clubs activities.

Kudos also goes out to Martha & Dan Jenkins for organizing and decorating the meeting room for the April AGM. What a great job! Balloons & ribbons abounded, setting the stage for the elections that followed a terrific pot luck supper. Thanks to everyone who brought a plate to share. I have to say, I think this had to be the best pot luck ever. The food was simply fantastic!

Your Executive needs you now more than ever. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead. Call a member of our Executive Team and volunteer your support for a committee or work project. Let's Get Busy!

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Special points of interest:

- *Next General Meeting will be held on May 17, 2001 at 7:30 pm. At 4th Street Place.*
- *Fisheries Technician, Brian Jantz will attend the May meeting as our Guest Speaker*
- *Did you know...the PSA was incorporated under the Society Act on February 5th, in the year 1981.*
- *Census Day in Canada is Tuesday, May 15th. Don't forget to "count yourself in"*

Presidents Message...by Darren Schlamp

Mark your calendars for June 15, 16, and 17, 2001. The family fishing weekend takes place on those days, and it represents an excellent opportunity to introduce others to the sport of fishing. If you have any neighbours, family, or friends who are not involved in outdoor activities, it would be worthwhile to get some spare gear ready, and take them or their children up fishing for a day. The best way to help others understand sportsmen's issues is to have them spend a day with a rod in their hand. There are more kids in our neighbourhoods now than ever before who have never caught a fish, been camping, or had any real exposure to the great outdoors which we are privileged to enjoy. Without the involvement of dedicated fishermen, most of these kids will grow up without an appreciation of fishing, and the older they get, the less likely it is that they ever will start fishing.

While I have doubts about the original motives behind this initiative, I cannot see any downside to taking someone fishing for the first time. At times I wonder whether government in this province (or country for that matter) has any real plans, or if they merely stumble along mismanaging crisis after crisis without any purpose or sense of direction. On one hand, they bring in the family fishing weekend, which has the potential to help create a generation of future sportsmen, as long as we help out by working to instill the values of the conservation movement. Yet on the other hand, the government is busy restricting access to entire regions of the province, based on the supposed needs of a single species.

After the grizzly bear hunt moratorium, it appears that our challenges have multiplied. The new frontier is access to crown land, with the first battle lines drawn in the North Cascades. Control of land access is a long-term goal of preservationists - those who want to somehow try to turn the clock back 10,000 years or so, and who view humans as some sort of plague on the environment, rather than an integral part of it. While some claim preservation is a subset of conservation, preservation only for preservation's sake is an opposite. Conservation involves the management of natural resources for the benefit of humans without jeopardizing the long term viability of the resource. Preservation as practiced in this province is far different - it involves the attempt to keep things static, unchanged, as if never sullied by human hands. This is patently ridiculous. Change is the only constant in the world - there is no way to stop it.

The fight to maintain access to our traditional activities such as wilderness recreation, hunting and fishing will not end in my lifetime. But on the weekend of June 15-17, try to forget about the other difficulties we face. Work on the

challenge of teaching someone everything from how to hold a rod, to casting and presentation of the fly (or lure). With any luck, they will take up the sport, and ultimately carry on the fight in the next generation.



JUDIE WINS SILVER

Celebrating the outstanding achievements of British Columbia and Yukon's 106 community newspapers, the Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards were presented by the BCYCNA in Vancouver.

The Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards (formerly the Better Newspaper Competition) celebrate all aspects of newspaper production. Finalists in publishing, reporting, editing, graphic design and photography were selected from community newspapers throughout the region.

The BC Community Newspaper Association together with its community partners presented the Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards, April 21st at the Empire Landmark Hotel in Vancouver. The Alcan Gala Dinner featured co-hosts, comedian Roman Danylo and CBC Radio's Kathryn Gretzinger.

Judie (Steeves) Vergnano...mild mannered reporter and columnist for the Kelowna Capital News and Secretary of the Peachland Sportsmen's Association was the recipient of a coveted SILVER award for journalism. Judie's popular "Trail Mix" column covers issues which relate to the outdoors and environment. The judges commented: "Judie Steeves writes with knowledge, clarity and passion on local and regional issues. In her piece on the shortage of fisheries field staff she figuratively grabs the government decision-makers by the lapels and gives them a good shake. The Gellatly nut farm column shows her range of subject matter and tone. Based on these two columns, Ms. Steeves is serving the paper's readers well."

CONGRATLATIONS Judie...Well Done!

Congratulations!

Fisheries Technician to Give Presentation

Fisheries technician Brian Jantz, who is responsible for the ministry's small lakes program in the Okanagan, will be our guest speaker at the May 17th general meeting.

Brian has lived in the Okanagan most of his life, and has been in Summerland since 1981, working with the Penticton office of the ministry for the past 20 years. He works with 300 manageable lakes in the area, and his primary responsibilities include inventory and assessment of fisheries of small lakes, stocking programs, enhancement projects and liaison

with clubs and volunteer groups. He also maintains data systems for the Penticton Fisheries section.

Although he's single-minded in the cold months, preferring to lounge on tropical beaches (what a foreign idea), the rest of the year he prefers the Okanagan where he can hunt and fish, garden and play hockey and slowpitch.

His presentation will include some slides, so come on out and tease that taste for summer fishing. Be sure to arrive early for good seating.

BCWF Convention Highlights

The BCWF Convention, which was held in Kelowna from April 18th to 22nd has ended. It was an extremely busy convention which dealt with many, many issues. The result culminated in quite a list of resolutions being passed and the BCWF redefining the objectives of the federation. As members of the BCWF these objectives are important for all of us to understand and appreciate their importance as we move forward in this new century.

The objectives of the B. C. Wildlife Federation are:

1. To ensure sound, long term management of BC's fish, wildlife, park and outdoor recreational resources in the best interests of all British Columbians, and to coordinate all the voluntary agencies, societies, clubs and individuals interested in that objective.
2. To develop and support a comprehensive educational program to make all British Columbians aware of the value of fish, wildlife, park and outdoor recreational resources, and to arouse in the public conscience a recognition of, and a respect for, the place of fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation in the wise use of the nations natural resources.
3. To submit views and recommendations to all governmental and private agencies as the Federation may deem necessary to safeguard the interests of fish, wildlife, park and outdoor recreational resource value in all resource developments.
4. To obtain and maintain reasonable public access to all forests and other recreational areas of the province.
5. To make British Columbia aware of the dangers of land, water and air pollution; to act wherever possible to prevent pollution; and to cooperate in every way possible with all groups with similar objectives.
6. To promote the true appreciation of sportsmanship and sports safety in the light of fish and wildlife regulations, and all the fair and accepted rules of hunting and fishing, and to foster cooperation and goodwill between sportsmen and outdoor recreationists in British Columbia and the rest of the world.

Also, A new, briefer version of the Code of Ethics for Hunters was adopted. I will reprint this in the next issue of Sightlines, however a complete report of the convention highlights is on the web at: <http://www.geocities.com/kletos/bcwf80.html>

Candidate Promises End To Ban On Grizzly Hunting

Liberal Fisheries Critic John van Dongen said Friday that if elected, The party would move quickly to end the ban on grizzly bear hunting.

Van Dongen circulated a letter at the annual B.C. Wildlife Convention From Gordon Campbell. The leader of the Liberal Party stated unequivocally that the moratorium would be reversed by a Liberal government.

"It's going to happen very quickly, hopefully within 90 days," said van Dongen. "We're gearing up to make a lot of decisions quickly and this would be one of them." In his letter to federation president Ivar Larson, Campbell said the NDP grizzly ban "was a slap in the face to ministry experts and clearly violated the principle of sound scientific analysis for purely political reasons."

He said a Liberal government would call for a "peer review" of the scientific evidence, but that there is no need to have the moratorium in place while that review is conducted.

"We do not believe that a peer review will take an extended period of time, certainly far less than the three years envisioned by the NDP," said Campbell in his letter.

He added, however, that the moratorium would be continued in areas that were designated by ministry officials.

Ministry of Forests biologist Bruce McLellan told the federation meeting figures suggest that there could be as many as 17,000 grizzlies in British Columbia.

"Grizzlies are not in any way threatened or endangered in this province," Larson said.



Peachland Sportsmen's Association
PO Box 1277 Peachland,
BC V0H 1X0

Board of Directors

President: ----- Darren Schlamp --- (250) 768-7690
Vice President:----- Gordie Schimpf --- (250) 768-5538
2nd Vice President-- Glen Ludin ----- (250) 767-2135
Secretary: ----- Judie Vergnano---- (250) 769-0415
Treasurer: ----- Gordon Wilson---- (250) 768-3391

Committees

Membership: ----- Gordie Schimpf
Archery:----- Larry Sundstrom
Ticket Raffle ----- Gordie Schimpf, Gordon Wilson
Game Banquet ----- Ray Pike, Jack Heynsbergen
Fisheries/Wildlife --- Jerry Kneller
Forestry ----- Dan Jenkins
Web Page ----- Darren Schlamp
LRMP ----- Al Springer
Native Affairs ----- Dan Jenkins
Core----- Jim Kosarczuk
Trophy Scoring ----- Keith Brown, Jack Heynsbergen
Wilderness Watch--- Tim Van Dyke
BCWF/Allocations-- Al Springer, Dan Jenkins
Newsletter ----- Gord Wilson
Special Events ----- Kathy Mulvehill
School Bursary ----- Martha & Dan Jenkins

The Peachland Sportsmen's Association membership is actively engaged in conservation projects throughout the Okanagan. If you would like more information on our club activities, membership or conservation projects, please contact Any one of the Executive listed above.

The Peachland Sportsmen's Association meet on the third Wednesday in every month except for July and August. Our meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at 4th Street Place, 4475 4th Street, Peachland and everyone is welcome.

Membership costs are \$30.00 for a Family; \$25.00 for a Single ; and \$20.00 for a Senior membership. All include a membership in the BC Wildlife Federation.

The Peachland Sportsmen's Association is a registered Society. Our mandate is to promote and encourage responsible sport hunting and fishing. To enhance and protect the environment and all fish & wildlife habitat.

Article Submissions

We would love you to submit an article, news item or classified ad by sending them in to the Editor. You may E-Mail your submission to gordonwilson@home.com or snail mail them to Gordon Wilson, 916 Ethel Street,

Summerland Rifle Range Upgraded

Ray Pike reports, work on the Summerland Rifle Range is progressing well. New regulations governing the operation of rifle and pistol ranges facilitated the need to upgrade the range to comply with the new regulations. Our club committed approximately \$1,500.00 in materials and a contingent amount of volunteer labour.

Ray Pike, Glen Ludin and Al Springer have spearheaded the effort on behalf of the PSA and wish to thank those members who have volunteered their spare time to help out.

To date the PSA has sent a load of timbers and a load of logs to the range. The logs were supplied by Gormans free of charge. PSA will pay for the trucking. Last week Ted Landale, Glen Ludin and Ray Pike spent the day laying blocks and putting up signs around the range site. The next workday will be spent putting logs on the berm, completing the signs and cleaning up.

Please contact Ray Pike if you can volunteer some of your time to help out with this project.

Provincial Election...At Long Last

We're in the home stretch to Election Day, Finally! Campaigns are running at a feverish pitch with television, radio and internet advertisements constantly bombarding your sensibilities.

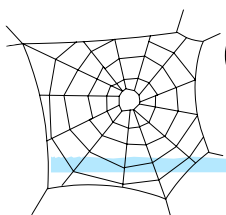
There are many issues on the table which affect us as outdoors people. Issues such as the moratorium on Grizzly Bear hunting and the current plan to restrict or prohibit access to public crown lands, which the government is now considering for the purpose of the Grizzly Bear Enhancement Plan.

The plan area encompasses 9,800 square kilometers. The western boundary of the North Cascades GBPU is defined by the Fraser River except in the lower Fraser Valley where it extends approximately to Chilliwack. The eastern boundary is approximately from the confluence of the Nicomen and Thompson rivers to Mimenuh Mountain, from Mimenuh Mountain to Kingsvale and the Kettle Valley Railway bed between Kingsvale and Princeton and finally from the Similkameen River to the Canada/U.S. border.

It is the intent of this plan, even prior to public input and approval, to restrict public access to this area commencing immediately i.e. the spring of 2001.

We urge all of our PSA members to attend the town hall meetings. Ask pointed questions to all of the candidates which express your concerns for these issues and others which will affect our use and enjoyment of the outdoors and the management of our wildlife resources. Don't Be Complacent, be an informed voter. On May 16th your vote will be counted!

On May 16th...Please Vote



Get caught in our web....Check out the PSA Web Site at:

www.psa-net.xoasis.com

