



Sightlines



Newsletter of the Peachland Sportsmen's Association

September, 2002

Volume 2, Issue 3

Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	2
Firearms Stats.	2
Pres. Message con't.	3
Trepanier Creek Report	3
June Meeting News	3
Photo Gallery	4
Club Information	4

Special points of interest:

- Motion adopted to donate \$200 towards the purchase of pellet guns for the kids fishing camps facilitated by Al Springer. Al will hold instruction on shooting and firearm safety.
- A special hello goes out to Dorothy Coleman, who is a bit under the weather. We all hope you're feeling better soon.
- The Archery range is once again open every Thursday evening at 4th Street Place. Come down and practice indoors for only \$2.00. The coffee's on and there are plenty of tall tales to boot.
- Thanks to Darren Schlamp who has spent many hours redesigning the PSA website. The club also has purchased it's own domain name. So, check it out, there's a ton of info at: www.peachlandsportsmens.org

Crystal Given 6 Month Extension

In spite of having a proposed development plan which does not conform with the OCP, the LRMP, or small footprint developments, the Regional District board voted to allow another application from the developers within six months

Of course, then there is the lightly veiled threat, where the developer says that "We need to be able to attract investors and the window is only open so long", to pressure local government to ignore the views and concerns of local citi-

zens in the pursuit of the almighty dollar. For more information on the status of the development, you can visit the PSA website, which contains information and links to various reports and articles pertaining to the Crystal Development.

Rob Mulvihill Awarded PSA Bursary

Rob Mulvihill was the recipient of this years Peachland Sportsmen's Association Bursary. The \$500 Bursary is awarded to one student each year who plans to continue their post education in the Wildlife or Biology field.

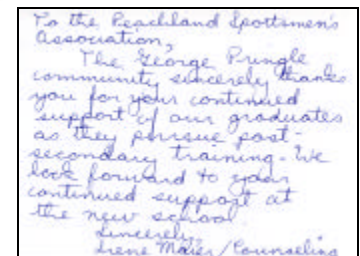
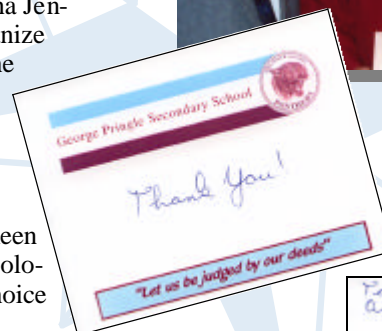
Presenting the Bursary on behalf of the PSA are Dan & Martha Jenkins. The Jenkins, who organize the Bursary each year for the PSA, said a total of nine applications were considered. The application that came out on top was Rob's.

His excellent grades and a keen desire to become an anthropologist made him the natural choice to receive the Bursary.

The PSA has been providing this Bursary for many years. While it isn't a lot of money, it does help out with the purchase of text books and supplies. Dan & Martha who have organized this for many years, would eventually like to see the club increase the value of the Bursary. Perhaps \$1,000 might not be out of line!



Congratulations Rob



Presidents Message ... by Darren Schlamp



I believe that the years 2002 and 2003 will be remembered for some of the biggest changes to land use and recreation opportunities in BC in our lifetimes. The historic model of universal provincial park access, government maintenance of forest service recreation sites, and even access to the crown land, which makes up most of this province is changing, due to the greed, incompetence, and short-term vision of the politicians in Victoria.

Citizens of BC face a number of key land use issues, as well as new concerns regarding access to recreation. Recent changes to crown land policy, and the core review mandate given to Land and Water BC (formerly BC Assets and Lands Corporation) will lead to the sale of more of our crown land to a select few, and diminished access for everyone else. Changes to environmental impact legislation greatly weaken environmental protection, and introduce a New Era of political

interference, where decisions by the cabinet and premier will override the former science-based policies. Expect to see increased commercialization of our parks, including pressure to increase damaging "eco-tourism" which involves frightening and disrupting our sheep and caribou herds by flying some of the noisiest helicopters ever made over their heads every day. The government is walking away from hundreds of recreation sites, and ceasing road maintenance to these sites, in order to save a relative pittance (enough money to fund our health care system for a few hours each year). There will be increased fish farming, with both known and unknown risks to our wild salmon populations, and limited regulation on waste disposal. Recently introduced legislation increases the ability for mining companies to walk away from pollution in mines they purchase. Enforcement of regulations will be dropped in favour of "self-enforcement and self-regulation", or basically environmental monitor-

ing by industry with limited oversight or monitoring by government. Native land claims remain unsettled, and every year brings a new activist court decision, which will ultimately make settlement of land claims even more costly. There is now less enforcement and conservation officers per capita than I can ever recall, which will lead to increased poaching and abuse of our natural resources.

Several of the above issues are under review right now, by the Recreation Stewardship Panel. This panel includes four people, who will provide direction for future policy on parks and recreational use of our natural resources and crown land. At this time, they are proposing several policy directions, which could lead to:

- increases to hunting and fishing license fees
- changes to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- targeting of license and fee revenue to specific programs (ie, fishing license revenue should go towards fishery enhancement)

Some of the recommendations of the panel appear to be quite good, and long-needed, such as determining that the protection of the environment and conservation of resources is a key responsibility of government and that it cannot be downloaded. Other recommendations, however, will require careful

(Continued on page 3)



"There is now less enforcement and conservation officers per capita than I can ever recall"



Eight Million Guns In Canada

According to a new study, there are nearly eight million firearms in Canada. The study was done at the request of the Canadian Firearms Centre as the deadline of Jan. 1, 2003 for firearms owners to register all of their firearms approaches. The study also confirms a

concentration of firearms ownership. Approximately 15 percent of Canada's firearms are held by just three percent of firearms owners. As well, this small group owns just over one-third of all handguns in the country. On average, these firearms owners are estimated to hold 15.5 firearms each.



(Continued from page 2)

review. And of course, the implementation of these recommendations will be made by the politicians in Victoria, who have already shown a near-utter disregard for public comment and consultation over the past year. We need to make certain that the panel report reflects the views of British Columbians, and that the recommendations are not ignored by those in Victoria.

These issues should concern every British Columbian, especially those who wish to maintain our shared heritage of hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. The PSA executive and the BCWF staff alone are not able to do the amount of work required to ensure that your interests are heard, and acted upon. I am calling on all members to write at least two letters this fall, which should take about as much time and money as driving to a fishing lake or your favorite hunting spot. Pick two issues - at least seven or eight were outlined above. Spend a little more time researching the issues on our web site, in our newsletter, the Outdoor Edge magazine, the BCWF web site, the government web sites, and perhaps even other resources such as West Coast Environmental Law, and the BC Sierra Club. Send copies of your letter to all applicable politicians, including regional government, your local MLA, the minister responsible, and the premier.

While an e-mail or a phone call may not be remembered, most politicians consider every letter to represent the voice of over a hundred constituents. Be polite, avoid exaggeration, and do not resort to name calling. Make a clear, consistent argument, and back it up with a well thought out rationale. Become a community agitator, and educate your friends, family, and co-workers about these issues, and encourage them to get involved too. Inform them about their interests in these issues, how it will affect them, and what they can do about it.

Make your voice heard, and ensure that your children and grandchildren get to enjoy the opportunities for which your grandparents fought. Keep everyone up to date by bringing copies of your letters to the monthly PSA meetings, as well as any replies which you may receive.

I wish everyone success hunting and fishing this fall, and hope to see you all at our upcoming monthly meetings, to work together towards our shared goals.

Darren Schlamp
President
Peachland Sportsmen's Association



Next Meeting

The September meeting will be held as usual at 4th Street Place on Wednesday Sept. 18th. At 7:30 pm. We hope to see you there.



Trepanier Creek

Dan & Martha report they have been very busy over the summer, particularly in August watering all of the trees & shrubs planted along the banks of Trepanier Creek. The Jenkins have kept up a strict watering schedule of every three days. This is a huge task, considering the number of plants, both sides of the creek.

Dan & Martha would also like to thank Bert & Evelyn Ingram for taking over this daunting task while they were away.

Martha also pointed out that the creek improvement project was included in Peachland's Community in Bloom application. Martha prepared & presented a report on the project to the community and judges of the contest.

June Meeting Highlights

Thanks again to Mina & Noel for hosting the June meeting/wine & cheese social at their property in Peachland. A great time was had by all. Ken Mills chaired the meeting, Judie Vergnano presented the minutes of the May meeting and Gord Wilson gave the financial report.

There was lots of discussion on the prospect of the club applying for a lease of crown land in the Peachland vicinity for a clubhouse and trap shooting facility. It was decided that Al Springer would chair a committee to look into this.

Gordie Schimpf gave a membership report.

Evidently, some members still haven't renewed their 2002 memberships. Gordie also asked if anyone would be interested in helping out on a phoning committee. Call Gordie at Valley Glass if you can help out.

Al reported the club's outing at Grizzly Lake was a lot of fun, although the mosquitoes were pretty bad.

A motion was approved for the Club to purchase a case each of course manuals for the firearms, CORE & boat safety courses. Ken Mills will be instructing these courses and has offered the firearm safety course to club members for \$100. More to follow on dates etc.

The wine & cheese was fantastic!



Peachland Sportsmen's Association
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Board of Directors

President:----- Darren Schlamp--- (250) 768-7690
Vice President: ----- Ken Mills ----- (250) 767-0136
2nd Vice President: - Gordie Schimpf --- (250) 768-5538
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----- Keith Brown, Al Springer
Trophy Scoring ----- Keith Brown, Jack Heynsbergen
Wilderness Watch--- Tim Van Dyke
BCWF/Allocations-- Al Springer, Dan Jenkins
Newsletter----- Gord Wilson
Special Events ----- Kathy Mulvihill
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 \$35.00 for a Family; \$30.00 for a Single ; and \$25.00 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@shaw.ca or snail mail them to Gordon Wilson, 916 Ethel Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 2W2



Get caught in our web

Check out the PSA Web Site at:

www.peachlandsportsmens.org

Photo Gallery

A great time was had by all who attended the clubs wrap-up meeting held at Mina and Noel's place last June. The meeting was conducted outside on a beautiful summers evening. Thanks to our Vice President Ken Mills, who chaired the meeting in absence of President Darren Schlamp. Also many thanks to Mina & Noel for allowing us to hold the meeting at their beautiful place and to Kathy Mulvihill who always does such a beautiful job of preparing the meat and cheese trays. I wish the pictures could have been brighter but it was getting quite dark by the time we were enjoying the wine.

