

President's Report

One year has almost passed since we revived the Nanaimo naturalist club as *Nature Nanaimo*, and we can look back on a very successful first year of activities. We have seen well-attended meetings on a wide variety of topics, ranging from owls, bats and spiders to mushrooms and spring flowers. We have enjoyed excursions on a similarly wide range of topics, e.g., birds, animal rescue, intertidal marine animals and fossils. We plan to work towards starting several projects, including building and helping with the setup, replacement and monitoring of Purple Martin nest boxes to aid in the recovery efforts led by the Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment and Restoration Society (<http://www.georgiabasin.ca/puma.htm>), and possibly a stream restoration project. Other projects will be added as we grow.

Activities were initially coordinated by a small steering committee, and now by an Executive committee consisting of the following members:

Staffan Lindgren, President
Doug Fraser, Vice-President
Michael Stebbings, Secretary and Treasurer
Lance Nordstrom, Director, Membership
Sari Saunders, Director-at-Large
Karen MacDowell, Director-at-Large
Allan Hawryzki, Advisor
Lindsay Dealy, Web Master
Michael McCall, Newsletter Editor

In addition, a number of members served on the steering committee or participated in the planning process for different periods, but are no longer active due to personal or professional reasons. We would like to thank them all for their willingness to help and their input:

Jonathan Ranallo
Joyce Lee
Kim Shotton
Eveline Stokkink
Jeanne Schippers
Marina Wright
Jim Smith
Sue Hutton

While this appears to be a substantial group, the Executive requires a core of 8-12 members (depending on the level of activity), including four specific positions, namely President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. It is critical that members step up to participate to ensure the longtime viability of Nature Nanaimo as any one person can only hold a specific position for four years (two terms). The best way to engage is to join as Director-at-Large in order to "learn the ropes". We therefore hope that you consider standing for office at some point. It is not an onerous undertaking if we have a strong team working together.

Our membership has increased to 117 individual members, and we hope that we can attract even more members in the 2018-2019 season. To facilitate continued growth, our activity committee members have worked hard to assemble an interesting lineup of speakers and outings for the coming season. Each public meeting will start with a brief “Nature Nugget” on some (usually) local topic. We have purchased a sound system to ensure that everyone can hear the speakers clearly. We have tentative plans for a couple of social gatherings where we can get to know each other at a personal level. Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/naturenanaimo/>) is enjoying a lot of traffic and is a great resource for staying current with Nature Nanaimo activities. For those of you who do not want to join Facebook, our webmaster is working hard to get our website (www.naturenanaimo.ca) up and running. Additional social media platforms will also be added in the coming year, e.g., we are just getting started on Twitter (@NatureNanaimo). If you are a member, you will of course get notification via e-mail (naturenanaimo@gmail.com) to ensure that you don’t miss any of our exciting and fun activities.

In conclusion, the first year of Nature Nanaimo has been extremely successful, and we look forward to a second year that is even better!

Staffan Lindgren, President
Nature Nanaimo