



# BCWF NEWS

January 2016 Issue

British Columbia's First Conservationists: 50,000 Strong

## 2016 Central Okanagan Youth Learn to Ice Fish Event

Report by Danny Coyne, Fisheries Committee Chair Oceola Fish and Game Club



Photo credit: Marina Coyne



The 2016 Youth Learn to Ice Fish event at Beaver Lake Resort was another great success! This year's event marked the fourth annual youth ice fishing event that has been hosted by the Oceola Fish & Game Club. This year's event was a collaborative effort with multiple organizers and supporters including The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, The Ministry of Lands, Forest and Natural Resources, Beaver Lake Resort and BCFishn.com.

The event was open to the entire Okanagan community. All the ice fishing equipment, bait and even a BBQ

lunch was provided to all participants at no charge. These family fishing events are part of an initiative that the organizing angling groups are utilizing to help introduce young families to the sport of fishing. The youth that attend these events will one day become the stewards of our fisheries and ambassadors to the sport of angling. There is a lot of interest in angling from young families; however some just don't know where to start. These types of occasions offer an excellent opportunity to introduce them to the sport and get them started!

A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers that helped out with this event. As always, events like this cannot happen without their tremendous support!

Another Youth Learn to Ice Fish Event will be hosted at Yellow Lake on February 6th at Yellow Lake, west of Penticton BC on Hwy 3B. The event will run from 10am-3pm and again open to the public at no cost! Participants ages 16 years and older require a valid BC Freshwater Fishing License. For more information please visit: [www.GoFishBC.com](http://www.GoFishBC.com).

Conservation Lottery tickets are on sale and selling fast. Tickets are limited so don't miss out -- purchase them online at [bcwf.bc.ca](http://bcwf.bc.ca) or call us at the office 1-888-881-2293. There are 9 Prizes donated for this conservation fundraiser.

A reminder to clubs selling conservation lottery tickets to their members that there are special club incentives below.

- 100 tickets (10 books)= \$100.00 BCWF Prize Pack
- 150 tickets (15 books)= \$175.00 BCWF Prize Pack
- 200 tickets (20 books)= \$250.00 BCWF Prize Pack

Clubs that sell the most tickets will receive a framed Limited Edition BCWF art print!



### Win a 2016 Yamaha Side-X-Side!

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Grand Prize</b><br>2016 Yamaha Wolverine R-Spec Side X Side | 2nd Prize \$3000 Cash                     |
|  | 3rd Prize Pacific Coastal Airfare for 2   |
|  | 4th Prize \$1,000 Cabela's Shopping Spree |

**Tickets \$10**

Know Your Limit, Play Within It

B.C. Gaming License # 79283

19 +

## RIP RALPH SHAW 1926-2016



Well known conservationist and outdoor writer Ralph Shaw has passed away. A staunch supporter of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, he was a member of the Board of Directors in the nineteen seventies. During this time he was instrumental in getting our then Junior Firearms Program included as an option in the Grade Seven Guidance Program.

Ralph Shaw was also one of the individuals that helped create the McQueen Lake Environmental Centre near Kamloops. Every child in the Kamloops School District will at some time during his or her school life spend some time at McQueen Lake learning about the natural order of the environment. His efforts earned him the Order of Canada.

There are many, many sportsmen and women that learned about fishing by reading his magazine articles and newspaper columns. He was a teacher by profession both in schools and in the outdoors that he loved. Rest in peace, my friend.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Cole, Past President, B.C. Wildlife Federation

In 1984, the BC Wildlife Federation awarded Ralph Shaw the Ted Barsby Trophy for Conservationist of the Year, the greatest honour the Federation can bestow on any individual for an outstanding contribution to conservation over many years.

An educator and passionate angler, he consistently championed the Federation, helping us advocate for policies and practices to protect fish, wildlife and their habitats in B.C. In 1990, he received the BCWF President's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Achievement.

Ralph Shaw demonstrated how to educate, inspire and guide discussion about the wisest uses of our precious natural resources. He understood the development pressures we face, as evident in this 2011 column excerpt where he advocates. "We must safeguard the right of public access to our beautiful places, which will become an increasingly complicated issue of allocation of the access to our sacred places of beauty and wilderness."

We honour Ralph Shaw's contributions and we will continue to carry the torch of education and conservation.



## Their Future is in your Hands

**The B.C. Wildlife Federation works on behalf of all British Columbians to protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations.**

**Your gift supports conservation and helps ensure a sustainable future for B.C.'s fish, wildlife, and habitat.**

**Contact us today to leave your legacy of conservation!**

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www.bcwf.bc.ca

Registered Charity # 118801315RR0001

## Last chance to get your nominations in for the BCWF Awards!



Lee Straight Fishing Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2016 BCWF Awards until February 15th, 2016. Visit the Awards section under the AGM menu of our website to download the nomination forms.

### Ted Barsby Trophy - Conservationist of the Year

- Do you know a conservationist you'd

like to see recognized at the 2016 BCWF AGM & Convention? Please nominate them for this prestigious award, named in honour of the first president of the BCWF 60 years ago.

### Roderick Haig-Brown Conservation Award - Completed Project

- This prestigious award recognizes the accomplishments of a club whose recently completed conservation project, benefiting fish, wildlife or habitat, is deemed most worthy.

### Art Downs Memorial Award

- Awarded for writing that is factual, accurate, well researched and focused on the real issues where governments, private or public companies need to be taken to task on environmental infractions.

### Bill Otway Award for Most Effective Regional President

- This award is a monument to Bill Otway, who spent 55 years at the forefront of the fight for good management of our environment. If you know a Regional

President deserving of recognition for their support of conservation policies in your community, please nominate them for this award.

### Lee Straight Fishing Award

- This award is dedicated to all federation members "who love to fish." Nominate your favourite angler for the biggest fish they caught in B.C. in 2015, along with witnessed documentation that includes the species, weight, date caught and name of lake, stream or ocean.

### Frank Shannon Junior Conservation Award

- Do you know a youth or youth organization up to Grade 12 or equivalent that have shown innovation, initiative and leadership in conservation of natural resources? Please nominate them for the Frank Shannon Junior Conservation Award for participating in activities aimed at conservation of wild organisms in natural habitats.

## 2016 Artist of the Year - Valerie Rogers



Valerie Rogers, "Busted"

The BCWF is pleased to announce that **Valerie Rogers** is the 2016 Artist of the Year. A nature and wildlife artist from Salmon Arm, B.C. Valerie Rogers spends extensive time in the mountains and woods observing animals in their homes and watching how they live. Her paintings are created with acrylic or watercolour on a variety of surfaces.

Valerie Rogers said, "I have a fascination for small details and try to accurately represent not only the feeling of nature but the form of it also. Simple tools, just a few brushes and a lot of thin paint put carefully on a well prepared surface.

These paintings help to support the conservation efforts of numerous local and national environmental groups. Our natural world and its animals are an essential part of our earth. My paintings are intended to focus on and highlight their intrinsic value in our lives."

Valerie Rogers' prints and art cards are available in our on-line store on our website at: [bcwf.bc.ca](http://bcwf.bc.ca) In the meantime, we are accepting submissions for the 2017 Artist of the Year until February 28, 2016.

## BCWF 2016 AGM and Convention

Nanaimo, B.C.



Nanaimo Harbour, Vancouver Island

**2016** marks the 60th Anniversary of the BC Wildlife Federation as we know it today. The Federation's origins can be traced back to the 1890's when some of our current Fish and Game clubs were first formed. In 1966 the provincial federation of Fish and Game clubs changed its name to the BC Wildlife Federation. Since then we've grown to 50,000 members and more than 100 individual clubs.

Join BCWF in "**Celebrating 60 years of Conservation Leadership**" at our Annual General Meeting in Nanaimo from April 21st to 23rd, 2016 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre.



**NANAIMO FISH AND GAME**  
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

### Club Fun Night

Our local hosts for convention are the Nanaimo Fish and Game Club Protective Association – don't miss their seafood BBQ at Club Fun Night on Friday! The Nanaimo Fish and Game Club will provide a wilderness experience, fun and food, just 6 kilometres away from the conference site.

### Family Programs

Our Spouse and Youth Programs keep your family enjoying a taste of what the Nanaimo region has to offer as you attend to the important business of our organization. All BCWF Members are

eligible and invited to the AGM and Convention each year. Only registered Club delegates may vote, but all Club Members are encouraged to attend and participate.



### Accommodation

The BCWF is partnering with the Coast Bastion Hotel and the Best Western Dorchester Hotel for conference rates. Other accommodations in Nanaimo include harbour-side hotels and motels, campgrounds and charming bed and breakfasts.

### AGM Registration Forms

Registration Forms for the 60th BCWF AGM & Convention are available on-line at [www.bcwf.bc.ca](http://www.bcwf.bc.ca) under the AGM/Awards menu. Register early to get the best prices, reservations and Early Bird Discounts!

### Wild Fish and Game Donations

BCWF is now accepting donations of wild fish and game for the 2016 Awards Gala and Dinner on Saturday night. Please download the Wild Game Donation Form on our website

to help the BCWF and Nanaimo Fish and Game Club organize and store your donation.

### BCWF Direct Members' Notice

BCWF Direct Members (those that are not Members of a Fish & Game Club), are entitled to send voting delegates to represent the Direct Members' Club at the 2016 BCWF AGM & Convention, in accordance with section 7.2 of the BCWF Constitution & Bylaws (see below).

The BCWF Executive Committee will review applicants from the Direct Members and select delegates up to the eligible number as set out in the voting entitlement in section 7.2 of the Bylaws. These delegates will become representatives of the Direct Members' Club and each shall be allowed one vote in the deliberations of the Annual General Meeting.

Direct Member delegates chosen will be expected to represent the diverse interests of the Direct Members and speak on their behalf at the AGM. In addition to their participation at the event, the Direct Member delegates are required to submit a written report on the AGM & Convention that will be circulated through BC Outdoors after the event.

### How to Apply

In addition to completing the standard Registration Form, Direct Members that are interested in attending the 60th BCWF AGM & Convention as a Direct Member Delegate are also required to submit a short letter outlining their reasons for wanting to attend the event. Please note on the envelope / in the email subject line "Direct Member Delegate Application". Applications must be received by or before February 15th, 2016.

Applications may be submitted by mail to:

Direct Members Club  
% B.C. Wildlife Federation  
101-9706 188th Street  
Surrey, BC V4N 3M2

Or by email to: [officeinfo@bcwf.bc.ca](mailto:officeinfo@bcwf.bc.ca)

## Getting the Balance Right



Elk photo by Brian Ivany

A new report by Parliamentary Secretary Mike Morris “Getting the Balance Right: Improving Wildlife Habitat Management in British Columbia” has been released. The report provided advice and 18 recommendations in five broad areas, as follows:

- Implement a new wildlife management program;
- Consolidate authorization planning in resource development;
- Develop a landscape-level planning model (planning across areas that are ecologically similar in a defined geographic area);
- Improve and expand results-based management; and
- Increase the involvement of wildlife practitioners.

### BC Wildlife Federation Response

British Columbia is one of North America’s most biodiverse jurisdictions. The province has an ever-increasing listing of species at risk, declines in fish and wildlife populations, and is at an all-time low in terms of funding and

capacity related to natural resource management and enforcement in B.C. The investment going back into the land is declining while the pressures on the land are increasing.

The precipitous decline in investment is well documented in Archibald et al’s, “Trends in Renewable Resource Management in British Columbia”. While legal responsibilities have increased, the budgets and staffing of government biologists have declined since 1997; oppositely budgets for other sectors of government have more than doubled. While smaller and less biodiverse, most fish and wildlife departments across North America operate on budgets in the hundreds of millions. In contrast B.C. operates on a budget closer to \$25 million. While most jurisdictions in North America have dedicated funding models for wildlife management, B.C. has no such model.

Current renewable and non-renewable resource use and extraction policies are not contributing to successful province-wide biodiversity conservation. The BC Wildlife Federation is concerned that B.C.’s lack of investment and approach to resource use and extraction has come at the expense of biodiversity.

The province’s paper: Getting the Balance Right: Improving Wildlife Habitat Management in British Columbia is a first step in addressing this imbalance, but misses the mark when it comes to improving biodiversity outcomes.

The federation respectfully submits our comments on the paper, with recommendations about how we can more effectively measure, develop and implement policy to compensate for and mitigate the cumulative effects of resource use and extraction on biodiversity in British Columbia.

### Develop a Wildlife Management Program

The BCWF agrees this is required, but that it should be a biodiversity

management program, of which wildlife management is one part. Salvage logging, mining, oil and gas, hydroelectric development, resource road densities, mining, heli-skiing, and ORV activities are a few of the myriad of activities which affect the entire ecosystem.



Grizzly photo by TJ Gooliaf

### The Value of Biodiversity

To many British Columbians diverse landscapes and biodiversity are primary reasons they live chose B.C. as their home province. The connection to water, mountains, fish and wildlife strike to the core of most British Columbians. Biodiversity to most British Columbians’ is priceless; placing it on “equal footing” with resource extraction does not reflect the public interest and ignores non-consumptive values. The net social benefits of biodiversity (including non-consumptive use) should be calculated and utilized as metrics related to decision making.

There are three pillars to sustainable natural resource management: funding, science and social support. Without funding, science and social support dwindles. First Nations and stakeholder social support for biodiversity conservation is at an all-time low; this is a reflection of a lack of investment in biodiversity.

## Funding

The BCWF would like to see a biodiversity conservation program which is funded through all hunting/angling/trapping license and surcharges, and compensation funding derived from resource extraction and use rent. All tenure holders should be paying to ensure the resource is being used sustainably. This includes non-consumptive activities such as heli-skiing, and eco-tourism. A potential source of funding would be assessing "out of province" ORV owners a fee similar to the \$20.00 per day now charged for out-of-province anglers.

Mount Polley Mine. Illegal water usage is rampant across BC; endangered systems such as the Kettle are forever "in the red" with a long-term outlook "in the red" due to a lack of enforcement.

The Forests and Range Practices Act is great on paper but lacks required enforcement and public transparency. The current regime is insufficient. Infractions should be based on a cost recovery plus compensation approach; British Columbians should not be treated as an insurance company. A Natural Resource Practices board, similar to the Forest Practices Board, should be created at arm's length from government.

contributed to a loss of biodiversity. Cumulative effects from resource use/ extraction have failed to compensate for or mitigate the losses to biodiversity.

Monitoring dwindling wildlife populations and biodiversity is not an acceptable approach to conservation. Without goals and objectives, biodiversity monitoring becomes a convenient process which lacks accountability and inevitably results in a gradual, but long-term decline. Many caribou, moose, steelhead, salmon, and sheep populations are at historical lows; only a few caribou populations have a tangible, results based recovery plan. Objectives for biodiversity at



Mountain Sheep photo by Brian Ivany



Mountain Lion photo by Danny Smith

## Science

Fish, wildlife and habitat research, inventory, enhancement and management should be put at arm's length from government. Research and management should be focused on objective based legislated metrics which ensure resource use and extraction is sustainable.

## Enforcement and Oversight

Enforcement and oversight should be funded through resource extraction and be at arm's length from government. Professional reliance and government's lean approach to resource extraction has not been able to deal effectively with environmental disasters such as the recent breach of tailings storage at

## Social Support

First Nation, stakeholders and industry should be included in decision making through a roundtable approach. Engaging the public through regular surveys on a 5 or 10 year rotation should become a part of doing business.

## Landscape Level Planning

The BCWF supports and will continue to advocate for management at the watershed/landscape level. Fire suppression, government mandated silviculture practices focussing exclusively on fibre production, high road densities due to resource extraction, pipelines, over-allocation of water, invasive weeds, and hydro-electric resource extraction have all

the landscape level, including species specific targets, should be identified and legislated to ensure decision makers are accountable.

## Moving Forward

Getting the Balance Right: Improving Wildlife Habitat Management in British Columbia, discusses only one factor, (forestry), associated with the multiple development issues affecting biodiversity in the province. A failure to adequately fund biodiversity conservation is the single biggest challenge B.C. faces. Without funding caribou, steelhead, sheep, moose populations and their habitat will continue to dwindle.

Biodiversity needs to be funded and it needs measurable objectives in B.C.

## BCWF News Roundup

News from around the BCWF



Heron photo by Mark Hoffman

### Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion

The province of B.C. has formally opposed the Kinder Morgan submission to the National Energy Board (NEB) to expand the Trans Mountain pipeline. The \$6.8 billion project would involve Kinder Morgan increasing its pipeline capacity by twinning the existing 1,150-kilometre pipeline from the Alberta oilsands to its terminal in Burnaby. Supertanker traffic would increase from five per month to 34 per month if the project was to be approved. Minister Polak says the proponent met none of the five conditions the province requires for support of all pipeline projects.

BCWF submitted our final Written Argument-in-Chief to the National Energy Board regarding the proposed Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project to the NEB on January 12, 2016 and are scheduled to present our oral argument to the NEB panel on January 26th. The NEB will offer a live video and audio streaming feed of all oral summary argument presentations via its website.

[www.neb-one.gc.ca/prtcptn/hrng/hrngnfrmtntsssn-eng.html](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/prtcptn/hrng/hrngnfrmtntsssn-eng.html)

### Ministry of Environment Conservation Officer Service



### CONVICTED

\$6000 in Fines, 2 Year Hunting Prohibition, Rifle Forfeited

2016-01-11 - Two males from Canal Flats were convicted of several BC Wildlife Act offences in Invermere Provincial Court. The conviction follows a COS investigation into the illegal killing of a cow elk near Canal Flats on March 16th, 2015. The elk was shot well after dark, using headlights from a vehicle. The elk was shot 30 metres from the road and within 80 metres of nearby houses. Justin GERTNER and Corey KOPP of Canal Flats were convicted of the following offences:

1. Hunt wildlife not within the open season.
2. Hunt without reasonable consideration for the lives, safety or property of other persons.
3. Discharge a firearm on or across the travelled portion of a highway.

Upon conviction, each male was ordered to pay a total of \$3000 in fines and were given 2 year hunting prohibitions. A rifle seized by CO's was ordered forfeited.

Report poaching and other environmental violations 24/7 to the COS hotline - 1-877-952-7277 FREE (RAPP).

### Peace Moberly Tract - Moose Hunting Restrictions

There is a regulation change in Region 7B Peace/Liard that proposes a moose hunting restriction for licensed hunters in the Peace Moberly Tract without any accompanying plan to mitigate the problem of low moose numbers. The PMT area is south of the Peace River covering over 264,000 acres, over 1,250 square kilometres.

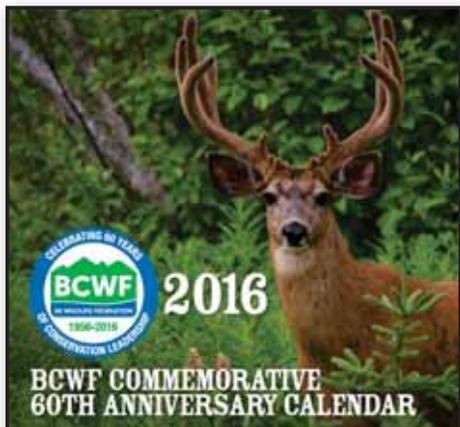
The BCWF Wildlife Committee has written a letter to the government in opposition to this regulation proposal and provided recommendations around a moose recovery plan.

Find the full Wildlife Committee letter under the RPP menu of the BCWF website

[bcwf.net/images/stories/ResidentPriorityProgram/PMTRegProposalComment.pdf](http://bcwf.net/images/stories/ResidentPriorityProgram/PMTRegProposalComment.pdf)



Moose photo by Garnet Fraser



### 2016 BCWF Calendar

All new members who sign up for a direct membership in the BCWF in January and February will receive a beautiful 2016 BCWF Calendar with their membership. If you want to purchase additional copies, they are available for sale in our online store. Please encourage others to join online at [bcwf.bc.ca](http://bcwf.bc.ca) under the Membership menu or by calling 1-888-881-BCWF (2293)



**TERRIER BLADES**  
THEY GOT BITE

### BCWF 60th Commemorative Knife

Terrier Blades worked with the BCWF's Rick Mayor to create a new knife model to celebrate the federation's 60th anniversary and also to honour Mayor, who passed away in 2013. We are offering BCWF members two editions of the BCWF Hunters



Knife. The Outdoors Edition's handle is made of Dymond wood, which is suited for exposure to the elements. The Limited Edition features a richly coloured Arbutus handle. Handmade with the highest quality materials, they represent the old hunter's idea of a knife that lasts a lifetime and can be passed down to future generations.



Rick Mayor with BCWF prototype knife

Order your own BCWF 60th Anniversary Commemorative Knife online at: [bcwf.bc.ca](http://bcwf.bc.ca) Under the AGM/Awards menu



### Protecting wild sheep from deadly domestic sheep pathogens

When wild sheep come into contact with domestic sheep wild sheep die. For nearly a century wild sheep in B.C., and all across North America, have experienced massive die-offs due to interactions between domestic and wild sheep. Domestic sheep, goats and even lamas carry pathogens which they are immune to, but are deadly to wild sheep.

### Wild and domestic sheep need to be separated.

The BC Wildlife Federation, guide-outfitters of the Thompson, Wild Sheep Society of BC and Clinton and District Outdoor Sportsmen Association will be hosting a town hall in Clinton February 7th to educate the public on the risks to wild sheep. Subject matter experts are being brought in to share the history, science and experiences in regards to wild-domestic sheep separation.



### Tell Us Your Stories!

If you have a story to tell that may be of general interest to other BCWF members, send a brief email to the address below.  
[marketing@bcwf.bc.ca](mailto:marketing@bcwf.bc.ca)

BCWFNews is published monthly by the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) for its 50,000 Members.

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