



Chairs Report for 2018 AGM

Burnco Issue

We participated in all available venues in an attempt to discourage the creation of a gravel extraction operation in the McNab delta. This has been an issue for several years and taken up considerable energies. Fortunately we did have some federal funds to participate in the process. You can view our final submission on the website. Many thanks to Angela Kroning for her excellent work on the Burnco submissions.

It was announced March 20th, 2018 the BC Environmental Assessment Office had issued an environmental certificate for the Burnco Aggregate Project. BC's Minister of Environment and Minister of Energy and Mines concluded in their decision document that the project would not pose significant adverse effects. The BC certificate imposes 25 enforceable conditions on the project, plus a number of conditions imposed by the Squamish Nation who gave support to the project in February. A disappointing outcome. Now we must work to ensure the protection of the foreshore and forested area along the shore and McNab Creek itself.

Chapman Lake

This issue has drawn much of our energies over the last couple of years. We are fighting hard, with the help of West Coast Environmental Law and others to prevent the removal of the Class A status of Tetrahedron Park and/or the removal of 130 hectares which would include Edwards and Chapman Lakes from the park. We believe further lowering the levels of Chapman Lake threaten the conditions which give us good quality drinking water, by exposing greater areas of the subsurface shoreline and by the potential impacts to the surrounding forest ecosystem through lowering of the water table. Along with multiple other potential impacts which may occur. We shall see where this takes us and hope for a speedy closure to this shortsighted proposal from the SCRDR.

Block 1313

We have been participating in this issue in an attempt to preserve it for the long term. As yet no significant news to report.

Chapman Hatchery

We have worked with Dave Burnett from the hatchery to obtain greater levels of minimum stream flows. Levels of 200 l/sec are now required as the minimum release below the SCRDR intake to maintain fish values. Previously DFO has indicated levels of 300 l/sec to as much as 500 l/sec would be desirable. Unfortunately the Hatchery has recently indicated support for the Chapman Draw Down Proposal to protect the hatchery and lower stream fish values. The SCCA feels that it would be more appropriate for all concerned to identify and activate alternate water sources and storage to relieve some of the pressure being put on Chapman volumes which would then allow for greater stream flows at the lower reaches of the stream.



Newsletter

Many thanks to Ric Carton and all that contributed to our last newsletter. Another great edition!

Conservation Covenants.

Gambier Island: We have three on Gambier, they are being well looked after by the Gambier Island Conservancy and the Islands Trust Fund. Planting of native trees on damaged areas and the removal of invasives continues with good success.

Roberts Creek Co Housing: This one is still in a state of flux. The board/owners of the co-housing are not keen on working with us to protect the covenant. They feel they are the most suited to protect the area. We are considering strategies to resolve this impasse. We hold this covenant with "The Land Conservancy of BC" and are in communication with them on this topic.

Potential Covenants:

Keats Island Sandy Beach area. We are working with TLC and ITF to place a covenant on this 3.3 hectare property on the NW corner of Keats Island. We did a tour on site May 28th with ITF people and representatives from the Baptist Convention (present owners) and local cottage owners and the Keats Island Conservancy group. It is a small property but worthy due to its foreshore and nearshore upland which is very difficult to obtain for protection. Hopefully this will soon be finalized.

Gospel Rock: As yet an unknown quantity but certainly there is the potential for protection of portions of this property. Discussions are ongoing with the owners as to how that will proceed.

Davis Bay area: A private landowner has approached the SCCA to consider placing an environmental covenant on a property. I visited with the owner very recently and stated my concerns with the SCCA attempting to protect in perpetuity a piece of property that is most likely to change hands. New owners do not necessarily agree with the terms of a covenant and this can quickly lead to court challenges and great expense. My report will advise the board against such private ownership covenants.

Oceans Protections Plan review

Angela Kroning and Dianne Sanford attended an information meeting on the Oceans Protection Plan and worked with other groups around Howe Sound to prepare a response to the plan as it pertains to the LNG proposal. Ten concerns were listed and the recommendations were taken to the Howe Sound Communities Forum on March 20th.

Rockfish Signage. You will see these posted at various locations from Gibsons to Madeira Park. We hope to get a sign at all gas dock points and ramps.

shíshálh Nation. Members of the SCCA board and advisors met twice with the shíshálh Council. The first at their behest to discuss the newly released Pender Harbour Dock Plan. The second was at our request to clarify our stance on the Chapman Lake /Tetrahedron Park issue. The SCCA greatly appreciates the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest with the shíshálh leaders, as recognizing the already considerable demands upon their time.



Meetings and workshops

As generally happens, we participated in various workshops and meetings throughout the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. Either Directors and/or Advisers attend these events. A big thank you to Angela Kroning, Dianne Sanford, Marina Stjepovic, George Smith and others for their time and energies spent getting to and participating at these forums. Keeping the SCCA informed and connected is very important. Meeting with MP s such as Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, Ministers such as Dominique Leblanc, MLA Nicolas Simons, Deputy Ministers, top ministry bureaucrats and officials is an important piece of the work that the SCCA does to protect our coasts natural biodiversity.

Strategic Planning:

The Board and advisors participated in Strategic Planning at the end of 2017/beginning of 2018, with one major outcome being the identification of a need and desire for a Executive Director / Conservation Director. We will be going forward to identify outcomes and qualifications for this role, as well as our strategy to fund it. Stay tuned!

Events

This year was our second for Oceans Day Celebration in partnership with the District of Sechelt. It was very well attended by the public. A great showing of Non Profit environmental groups, each with a participatory action for the members of the public. Many thanks to Naomi, our two summer students, Natalie and Paul, the District of Sechelt Parks staff and the many other volunteers that made it a success. Looking forward to next year's event.

Board of Directors:

We were fortunate to enlist four new interim directors: Lee Ann Johnson, Bill Wareham, Suzanne Senger and Dan Bouman. Tonight hopefully we will elect them all to the board for the next two years.

Marbled Murrelet Wildlife Habitat Areas – Dan Bouman will give an update.

Program Manager Naomi Fleschhut will give a short update on SCCA happenings of note.

