

Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee

January 23, 2015 - BC Parks, Miracle Beach Office

SPPAC Members - Philip Stone, Hardolph Wasteneys, Darren Saare. Sandra Borton, Greg Johnson, Kevin McPhedran, Jan Hesselning

Regrets - Mike Taylor (outgoing member), Erik Holbek (outgoing member), Aaron Miller (BC Parks), Alison Mewett

BC Parks - Andy Smith, Don Cadden.

Recorder - John Milne

Public - Lindsay Elms, Paolo Tancon, Allen Wells (Allen has been leading work on the Forbidden Plateau Traverse trail under the CDMC Volunteer Partnership Agreement)

1. Introductions - Members and Guests - Each person present introduced themselves and recounted their backgrounds. Only the details from new members have been recorded below.

Sandra Borton - Sandra grew up in the Comox Valley. She is a graduate student in natural resource and land use studies and has been hired on to the Comox Valley Conservation Strategy as an outreach coordinator.

Greg Johnson - Greg worked at Strathcona Park Lodge for 5 years. He is a guide and has a degree in natural resource management, and works for the Nanwakolas Council, Campbell River.

Kevin McPhedran - Kevin worked as a BC Parks Ranger for 3 years in the north island area, and now works as the Parks and Recreation Coordinator for the Village of Cumberland. He also does some park planning for them. He lives in Cumberland, has a degree in geography and is a mountain biker.

Jan Hesselning - Jan is from Amsterdam and has lived in Canada for 6 years. He is a business consultant with a focus on leadership skills training. He is interested in Strathcona Park.

2. Approve Agenda - The agenda was approved as circulated with a few minor amendments.

3. Strathcona Update - Andy (Note: The update is appended below these minutes)

Andy circulated the park update to everyone before the meeting.

- The process of awarding the new back country maintenance contract was described. It's quite a complicated process. Criteria for choosing a new Park Operator includes experience, cost, and a long list of information to be provided by proponent. All proponents were invited to a group meeting where the contract was described. This process is consistent throughout the province.
- The BC Parks annual budget has been allocated for next year. Andy is not expecting an increase and hopes there is no decrease.
- ACTION - The Strathcona “potential project” list, submitted to SPPAC by Andy last year is still waiting for discussion. This topic will be put on the agenda for the next SPPAC meeting. The list should be circulated to SPPAC members again so they have time to think about it. This list is dynamic so it can be modified and added to. There has been no discussion, approvals/rejections of most projects on the list. A map identifying the approximate location of each project will also be distributed to all SPPAC members.
- Nyrstar has donated \$25,000 to BC Parks which will be used to help support the Croteau Lake Group site project (already discussed at SPPAC and approved for 2015), the Battleship Lake Disabled Access Enhancement project (see below) and potentially to help supplement the new Vermi-Composting Toilet pilot project (still waiting for project approval from BC Parks Executives). Nyrstar has also offered assistance to help repair the flood damage of the access road to the Karst Creek day-use area.
- The Strathcona Wilderness Society (SWI), in partnership with BC Parks, has received a \$27,500 Federal grant for the Battleship Lake Disabled Access Enhancement Project. The total budget for this project is \$50,000 and the balance of funds will be provided by BC Parks and Nyrstar Mine through the Park Enhancement Fund account. This project will install ramps for the new TrailRider, improve boardwalk, build a lake viewing platform or small dock, enhance the access trails and toilet at the day-use area and add a couple of picnic benches/area.
- The new proposed Croteau Lake Group site campground is going ahead. The BC Parks Park Enhancement Fund, through a donation by Nyrstar as well as BC Parks Capital funds, will be used to fund this project. A new vermi-composting toilet is also proposed for this site as well as at Main Bedwell Lake as a pilot project.

- Gerry Roberts, a long term SWI volunteer and manager of the Buttle Lake information hut, has retired. Lindsey Elms of SWI, advised that they are applying for a grant to hire a student to staff the hut.

The formation of a Crest Creek Climbing Committee is being considered again. Philip Stone, Chairperson for SPPAC, is working with BC Parks to help arrange a meeting of interested people from the local climbing community to help resolve the outstanding issues at Crest Crags. This should hopefully happen within a month. Andy provided a brief description of the issue to ensure all SPPAC members were up to date. Essentially, the Heathens have refused to sign any volunteer agreement with BC Parks which is a legal authorization requirement for those wishing to do work within BC Parks. Such an agreement also protects the volunteers through accident insurance while reducing liabilities for any injuries of volunteers. This is a provincial requirement and while BC Parks credits some good work done by the Heathens over the years, it is not willing to ignore legal requirements or accept unnecessary liabilities. An agreement on what work can and can't be done in the park is a reasonable request. The issue was discussed with the idea of resolving it through group discussion with members of the climbing community. Some debate of this issue has taken place via social media. Some differences of opinion are based on philosophy. Alpine climbing use is skyrocketing and it is believed that it would be beneficial to establish a climbing committee to discuss and address some of the issues and impacts being felt everywhere.

New member, Kevin McPhedran, has a relationship with some of the climbing community at Comox Lake Bluffs through his new job. Kevin believes that some of the people at Comox Lake, are also involved with Crest Creek. Perhaps there is some common ground/information which can be shared.

Hardolph spoke about the meeting of the Vancouver Island Mine Development Committee last week where the Nyrstar Mine Closure Plan was discussed. The Ministry of Mines has accepted Nyrstar's interim work towards establishing a new mine closure plan. Nyrstar together with their consultants will collect more technical and social/economic information over the next few years before confirming the best closure scenario to pursue. Final closure will not take place for approximately 15 years and is dependent upon economics as well as operational limitations. Most of the closure planning/data collection to date has been done by consulting firms. About 3 - 4 different firms have been involved over the last 10 years as the mine has been sold and resold. One noted concern is how the access to the Myra Creek Valley might be impacted by various closure scenarios. There was a huge volume of material presented at the meeting. Currently the two best closure scenarios are either pursuing a more traditional re-contouring, covering and re-vegetating plan, or, reducing/flattening the tailings dumps, and raising the groundwater by a 40m dam construction, to saturate the tailings, making the potential acid generating rock material inert. The latter scenario, termed "wetland" could be covered by forest or wetland vegetation. Based on current information and rating scale, Nyrstar prefers the wetland option at this time. Heavy rainfall events last fall caused some erosion of tailings which was a concern. Springs were erupting around the edges of the tailings facilities. While the wetland

option may prove better for water management, it does put off more immediate reclamation activities as this type of closure can't be acted on until end of mine. One concern noted was that public access to the valley could perhaps be blocked off for about 5 years during the construction of the dam. This is a major concern that should be explored clarified before supporting this option.

The potential for a mega quake is also an issue. Risk assessments of the different options were done. The wetland option would involve no standing water on top, but rather a saturated subsurface with a cap on top. Impacts to Myra Creek during the creation of the wetland is a concern. Would it need to be put into a pipe while the dam and wetland were created?

Don Cadden, reiterated that whatever the mine does, it must meet the objectives of the park and that BC Parks has a huge voice on the end plan. What should the park look like in the long term? Whatever is done must maximize the benefit to the park, not simply what's best and cost effective for the mine.

Andy advised that the mine wants public input, and therefore SPPAC's opinion is important as part of this public opinion. SPPAC is welcome to suggest how they would like the park to look after the mine and to provide input to the closure scenarios.

Upon closure, the mine site is to be restored, all facilities removed, including power production where feasible, and the class B Strathcona Westimin Park returned to class A status. A bond amounting to about one hundred million dollars has been created to ensure reclamation will be done.

ACTION - Andy will find out what Nyrstar is planning regarding public consultation. Also, SPPAC needs to discuss and provide their thoughts regarding what closure option they prefer - wetland or dry. Both current leading scenarios will have a vegetative cover at the end. The wetland option will not necessarily result in the creation of a wetland, unless that is the agreed outcome, but rather saturated "pag" material covered with forest.

The dams on Jim Mitchell, Tennant and Thelwood Lakes and what happens to them needs to be included in the closure plan.

Huts in and around the park. Philip received an email about an online discussion concerning huts in the backcountry. Philip briefed SPPAC on the earlier 2014 Alpine Club's proposal to take over the Ranger Cabin near Hairtrigger Lake. After their last AGM, the Alpine Club decided to explore opportunities for huts in parks. Chris Jensen is sounding out SPPAC about building a hut at Circlet Lake as mentioned in the Master Plan. It was clarified that park management is responsible for making such decisions but would welcome SPPAC discussion and input/recommendation.. Based on earlier direction in the Master Plan, more discussion would be required and impact assessments done prior to endorsing any project (an L1 Impact Assessment would be done which would, in all likelihood, lead to the requirement of an L2 Assessment). There are also

rights held by the new backcountry Park Operator and they would need to provide input as well. Should the ACC wish to pursue something, the process would be for them to first approach BC Parks to discuss and then prepare a detailed proposal for consideration. It should be noted that any exclusive right opportunity in a park, if supported, must be fairly advertised. .

It should be noted, that if a group has a question, concern or a proposal for something in Strathcona Park, they should approach BC Parks first, prior to a SPPAC discussion. If required, BC Parks would then bring it to SPPAC for their opinion. If a SPPAC member was to be approached by an individual or group with a proposal, they should be referred to Andy.

Lindsay Elms - High Impact Spots in the Park.

Lindsay Elms has concerns about high user impacts around the Frog Ponds on the Comox Glacier Route. Many ropes have been put in as aides along this rough route. Should there be permanent climbing aides so people don't have to bring in their own? There is a liability issue with safety from deteriorating ropes. If BC Parks put up a rope, they are responsible. If someone else puts up some form of aide and BC Parks knows about it and does not remove it, then Parks will likely have some level of liability. Finding a way to sign a "Use at Own Risk" waiver, may alleviate this issue. Some discussion regarding signage to lower risk, also took place.

Parks Canada has installed fixed facilities in some areas. Does this issue also involve zoning? Wilderness Conservation Zones don't allow any man-made structures/facilities. The Glacier Route is mostly zoned Wilderness Recreation, but Kings Peak is zoned Wilderness Conservation.

The volume of use in these areas is changing the landscape. The Glacier Route is heavily used. Liability wise, would it be considered a "trail"? Does it matter? Comox Glacier and Elkhorn are two of these areas experiencing heavy use. Andy suggested that having a group "adopt" the trails under a volunteer agreement and developing a safety plan, installing some protection and agreeing to monitor/maintain it, could help address this issue. Ultimately though, BC Parks would always face some level of liability, unless nothing was allowed to be installed and use was acknowledged to be wilderness, and therefore at the visitor's own risk. If something was agreed to be installed, there may be some professionals who would volunteer to engineer this.

Sandra brought up issues of liability and its various forms. Don says they use their Risk Management Branch in Victoria on these types of issues. Heavy use can change the danger level of an area.

ACTION - SPPAC requests that BC Parks discuss this issue amongst themselves and report back at the next meeting. Ecological values are also important.

Lindsay also talked about the Bedwell Lakes Trail and the damage to the infrastructure there. This damage takes the form of broken boardwalks, bent railings, washed out bridges, etc. Slides were shown. Andy said he knows about this, but has limited resources to repair them. While not ideal, the trail is constantly being monitored for the safety level by our Park Facility Operator and BC Parks staff. Should the level become too hazardous for the general public, either facilities will be modified to address hazards or facilities and/or trail would have to be closed. Our preference would be to continually upgrade trails as resources permit.

4. SPPAC Terms of Reference

(Refer to www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/strath/strathwk.html)

Don commented on the draft Terms of Reference produced by SPPAC over the last year. Comments will be referenced using the headings and numbering found in the Terms of Reference that was circulated.

Mandate

- c. Issues could be brought forward by SPPAC members
- d. add when requested by Regional Director
- f. This section is fine as drafted, but note that Parks is not obliged to deal with adjacency issues, but may if/when appropriate.

Meeting Requirements

- a. The intent of this section is to make sure the Committee will meet and function. The extra Nyrstar mine annual meeting with SPPAC is over and above this. There can be more than four meetings if needed. There may also be additional contact between members made by email, etc.
- b. Don agreed with this section. Members can represent themselves, but not SPPAC unless authorized.

Composition

- a. This section is acceptable. SPPAC could consist of any number as this is not specified in any historic document such as Restoring the Balance. Over the years the board has comprised of approximately 11 people (including BC Parks representative) – could this be lowered to 9?
- b. There is a need to define diversity. SPPAC must try to represent the opinions of those not at table as well and be aware of other points of view. With respect to First Nations, BC Parks is required to consult with First Nations on many issues. SPPAC members may seek out points of view not represented at the table.

- c. It is not clear what this section means. It was suggested it be removed from the Terms. SPPAC to contemplate this further.
- d. The last sentence should be deleted because the Regional Section Head can attend a SPPAC meeting any time he/she may want to. The Section Head is not a committee member so can't vote, but can attend and participate.

Selection criteria

- b. The wording "without pre-determined bias" is to be left out, modified or discussed further as it may be redundant.

Procedures

- a. Is there a definition of consensus? There are several different types of consensus. Usually it is considered a consensus if all can agree 100%. In practice SPPAC has usually reached agreement on what is to be presented to the Regional Director. There were suggestions about adding "will attempt to" or "strive to" reach consensus.

ACTION - SPPAC members will discuss what a "consensus" will look like either through email discussion and/or at the next meeting.

- b. While a meeting may proceed, if there is no quorum, it will not be official. Those who attend can decide to have a discussion, but the discussion has no status. No recommendations can be made. Members have a responsibility to attend meetings. If there is no quorum and the group meets anyway, and a position or recommendation is made, then it could be forwarded to those not present for agreement and it would then become official. Those who can't make a meeting might also take part by conference call or Skype.

- e. Don suggested removing "will" and replacing with "may".

- f. It was decided to change "one month" to "2 weeks" for an addition to the agenda from someone outside the committee. Information needs to be circulated and considered before the meeting in a timely way. BC Parks needs an opportunity to address issues first before an issue is presented at a SPPAC meeting. The chairperson should refer issues to BC Parks first, as it may be able to be addressed directly.

- g. Don suggested adding "once approved" to the end to reflect proper process.

- h. This is an enabling clause.

Roles and Responsibilities

- b. Change "online" to "email".

Recommendations

In the second paragraph, change "opinions" to "positions" to be consistent with the previous term used.

In the third paragraph, keep "will." Don writes a rationale for any decision he makes automatically. He will consider any SPPAC recommendation, but may or may not agree with it, and will provide reasons.

Conflict of interest

After "declare it" add the following suggested wording from BC Parks; "for discussion and confirmation and if valid leave the meeting while the issue is being discussed."

A potential conflict of interest can be referred to Don Cadden for guidance.

Action - Andy will clean up this section and send it out to SPPAC members.

5. Next Meeting and Closing Comments

SPPAC gave thanks to Erik Holbek for his contributions to the committee over the last few years. Kevin will take a Parks gift (Photobook of SPPAC members and key park photos) to him on behalf of BC Parks.

Paolo Tancon is interested in being on SPPAC. He will send a letter of application to Andy, and should be joining the committee. (Update – Paolo applied and was confirmed by Regional Director).

The next SPPAC Meeting will be on Friday, April 24th at Miracle Beach.

Public comments

John Milne asked about the CWR work plan and whether or not the Friends could have a copy. Andy said he has received it, but hasn't had time to study it yet. It will be coming to SPPAC and FOSP after BC Parks has had a chance to review it first. Don said it is a public document and forms part of CWR's Park Use Permit.

The Strathcona Park Update follows below.

Strathcona Update for SPPAC

January 23, 2015 (BC Parks, Black Creek Office)

Strathcona Staffing

Park Facility Operator - Jerry McArthur, Windy Park Operations, has completed his 10 year contract and chose not to bid on the new backcountry contract. Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Inc. was the successful bidder and will take over the backcountry responsibilities in Spring 2015. Jerry will provide some consulting support for Strategic, if and when required. Shaun Korman will be the new contact for Strategic.

Seasonal staff – There are no seasonal staff working at this time. No changes in terms or number of staff are expected for 2015 and expect to have one Senior Ranger (hopefully Jeff Hoy will return) as well as one shared Ranger (Adam Vojnic should be returning).

1) New Backcountry Maintenance Contract

The new BC Parks “PRISM” program (Parks Recreation Integrated Services Management) is currently being implemented with the awarding of new Park Maintenance contracts throughout the province. Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Inc. was the successful bidder for the Strathcona Backcountry contract and will take over from Windy Park Operations this Spring 2015. The new contract will be for 10 years.

2) Nyrstar

□ Nyrstar Mine Closure Plan – Another Mine Development Review Committee meeting will be held on January 21st in Campbell River. While Andy Smith is unable to attend due to a conflicting high priority meeting in Vancouver, another BC Parks representative should be in attendance. Hardolph Wasteneys, our SPPAC mine representative will also be able to attend and can provide an update to SPPAC. The January 21st meeting will present an update on what work has been done since the last Review Committee meeting in May 2014.

□ Jim Mitchell Lake Dam modification project – Work on the dam did continue into November, but was then closed down due to weather. Extraction and screening of the gravel and rock material from the old existing borrow pit on the Jim Mitchell Lake access road, continued into late November. While most of the material has been stockpiled, there are no plans for moving it to the dam site until the project starts up again next Spring/Summer.

□ John Knapp is still the interim Mine Manager who has replaced Robert Behrendt since his departure in October.

□ Nicole Pesonen is now the official Environmental Manager for Nyrstar, Myra Falls Operations, replacing Ivor McWilliams. Nicole started in January 2015.

□ Nyrstar Donation – John Knapp, Mine Manager, has presented BC Parks with a donation of \$25,000. The funds were unsolicited and a welcome surprise. The funds will be used to support the following 3 projects; 1) construction of the Croteau Lake Group Site, which Nyrstar has already contributed towards in the past; 2) the new Vermicomposting toilet pilot project (a new toilet at both Bedwell Lake & Croteau Lake); and 3) the Forbidden Plateau, Battleship Lake “Enabling Accessibility” project (a BC Parks/SWI joint project).

3) Capital Projects

□ No funding has been secured yet for 2015 but \$65,000 has been requested. The total expenditure in 2014 was \$60,000 and used to complete trail enhancements along the Battleship Lake to Kwai Lake trail.

□ Assessment for trail enhancements along the Helen Mackenzie Lake trail (between the lake junction and travelling west to where trail starts up headwall towards ranger cabin) was completed. Only the worst sections of this trail will be focussed on, as it is not practical to invest a significant amount of funds in a costly complete upgrade. Assessment report is due in February 2015. If Capital funds are secured, the trail enhancement work could begin in 2015 or 2016. There are no estimated costs for this project at this time.

4) Croteau Lake Group Site

Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Inc, are still developing the final design which they were contracted for in October. Due to unforeseen delays, an extension has been agreed and the final plan should be completed by end of February. An initial concept plan has been agreed on, to guide further planning. The site will have approximately 12 raised tent pads split in some ratio between upper and lower site, a seasonal covered shelter (wall tent style), food cache and dishwashing & greywater system. Also as part of this development, a new vermi-composting toilet design is being contemplated as part of a Strathcona wide pilot project. The new type of toilet will use worms to reduce waste resulting in less fly-outs. The initial funding for this project has come from a Nyrstar donation of \$50,000.

5) Vermi-Composting Toilet Pilot Project

A proposal has been submitted to BC Parks Executive Committee for their support in initiating this project. The proposed new type of toilet would segregate urine from feces and utilize worms to speed decomposition of the human waste (the faster decomposition time makes this feasible in the short season and alpine conditions). The waste and worms would be contained in a removable two tote system, working on a two cycle rotation. The result could reduce multiple fly-outs each season, to only once every 8 to 10 years. If the project is supported, a toilet would be constructed at both Main Bedwell Lake (replace existing decaying toilet) and at the new Croteau Lake group site. Together, these two sites would confirm the success of the toilet under both alpine conditions and in a high use area. Funding for the project would come from a combination of operational budgeted funds, Park Enhancement Fund and a donation from Nyrstar Mine. A decision is expected by late January or early February. Planning would start immediately with construction scheduled for summer 2015.

6) CWR Park Use Permit

The required Bedwell River Trail Concept Plan was submitted to BC Parks in mid-December for review over this winter and ground-truthing in spring 2015. No work can be implemented until BC Parks approves proposed plan.

7) Backcountry

Bedwell Lakes Trail - A new, more comprehensive map sign for the Main Bedwell Lake information shelter was fabricated and delivered in November. It is ready for installation in Spring 2015.

The toilet at Main Bedwell Lake needs to be replaced and as noted above, it is hoped that this will become the site of a new vermi-composting toilet in 2015.

Arnica Lake – An assessment of required facility repair was completed in 2014 and materials have been purchased for work in 2015.

Gold Lake Access – As far as we know, the bridge at or near Grilse Creek has not yet been removed but is still scheduled to be decommissioned. Once done, the road will only be accessible by ATV, bike or hiking. It is approximately 5-6 km from bridge site to trailhead.

Della Falls Trail - Bridge railing repairs, brushing and windfall removal are all planned for the 2015 season. The Port Alberni Search and Rescue team who was unable to volunteer this season due to other priorities, has indicated their desire to assist again in 2015 should their schedule and resources permit.

Forbidden Plateau Traverse Trail – The Comox District Mountaineering Club, led by Allen Wells, has adopted this trail as part of their Volunteer Stewardship Agreement. After assessing conditions and reporting on what work was needed and where more signs would be useful, BC Parks Rangers assisted other volunteers to make many trail improvements. More enhancement work is expected to continue in 2015.

8) Park Enhancement Funds (PEF)

While not confirmed, BC Parks hopes to continue with the PEF Community Support program in 2015. In 2014, the Island Region was allocated additional funds to assist Volunteer Groups with local park related projects and initiatives up to \$3500 each. If the program is confirmed again, groups will be advised to submit new proposals for consideration by the Regional Management Team. Final selections are usually made in June. In 2014, the following Strathcona projects/programs were supported: Strathcona Wilderness Society (SWI) - Program Support = \$1,000; Royal BC Museum - Study of High Elevation Invertebrates in Vancouver Island Provincial Parks = \$5,000.

9) TrailRider Program

The 2014 inaugural year of this program met with great success even though it was only intended to be a “soft start-up” focussing more on equipment acquisition and program development. This partnership program formed under the Strathcona Wilderness Institute completed 5 trips over the summer. The importance of this program was confirmed through the eyes and voices of those who not only rode the TrailRider into the areas of Forbidden Plateau for the first time in their lives, but also those who volunteered to help “Sherpa” the new visitors. In 2015, the program will now be advertised and promoted so that those interested will know that Strathcona Park is accessible to every”body”. To enhance the program and Strathcona’s accessibility even more, the Battleship Lake Accessibility Project is proposed for the summer of 2015.

10) Battleship Lake Accessibility Project

The successful submission to the Federal Government's "Enabling Accessibility in Communities" grant (joint effort by BC Parks and Strathcona Wilderness Institute), will help fund \$50,000 worth of trail and day use enhancements to and at Battleship Lake. The project will include the installation of small, one wheel ramps on boardwalk steps to accommodate the new TrailRider, and also enhance the day use area at the lake with the provision of some new boardwalk, viewing deck, picnic tables and toilet improvements. This project will greatly improve TrailRider access to Battleship Lake and make that area an enjoyable alternative destination for all visitors. The grant will provide approximately \$29,000, which will be supplemented by another \$9,500 from BC Parks Capital Program, \$10,000 from Strathcona's Park Enhancement Fund and \$1,500 of In-Kind support from SWI.

11) Friends of Strathcona Park - New "NO Fire" Sign Initiative

Continuing on the success of last year's development of these new "No Fire" signs by Friends of Strathcona Park, we hope the FOSP will continue to lead this initiative with potentially more signs. To supplement and support this initiative, BC Parks would like to acquire and install miniature cabinets at backcountry camps in order to house and display "NO Fires Allowed" artwork produced by school groups.

12) Heathens and Crest Creek Climbing Area

While it appeared that BC Parks and the Heathens were working towards the development of an official Memorandum of Understanding, which then enabled BC Parks to support a number of improvement requests by the Heathens as a sign of good faith for the new improved working relations, it was recently learned in mid-December that there is now no interest in the development and signing of any type of agreement. As this is a necessity for working within the park and not an unreasonable request to establish what can and cannot be done within the park, BC Parks had to advise the Heathens that all work must stop within the park. BC Parks will continue to try and find a resolution to this issue by arranging a meeting of interested stakeholders, including Heathens representatives, as soon as possible.

13) Strathcona Potential Projects List

No update (waiting for SPPAC member response). A list and a corresponding location map was developed and presented to SPPAC identifying potential projects and initiatives within Strathcona Park, worth considering for future implementation. The non-prioritized list was developed only to identify projects and intended to be used to add to or delete as more input and discussion takes place. The projects do not have any committed funds associated with them, although current Park Enhancement Funds in Strathcona's account could be a potential funding source should various projects be supported. Some of these projects or initiatives could also be pursued in partnership with local support groups if they are interested.

14) Gerry Roberts, SWI Retirement

Gerry Roberts is retiring from the Strathcona Wilderness Institute after 17 years of dedicated service. Gerry's presence managing the information hut at Buttle Lake will be missed and even more difficult to replace. Gerry was recognized provincially by BC Parks in 2010 as the Volunteer of the Year. With Gerry's retirement, discussions will need to take place with SWI to confirm if they wish to continue providing the information service at Buttle Lake and if so, work together to develop a plan to move forward.