



www.centralvalleynaturalists.org

Meetings are held the second  
Wednesday of each month  
(except July and August) at 7:30 p.m.

In the Legacy Sportcentre  
#4 3270 Trethewey  
Abbotsford B.C.  
Starting December 10, 2008

Mailing address: P.O. Box 612  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8  
Email: haroos@shaw.ca

# NEWSLETTER

## November 2008

*“To know nature  
and to  
keep it worth knowing”*

### *The objectives of the Central Valley Naturalists*

- *To enjoy and interpret natural history*
- *To promote an understanding and an appreciation of natural ecosystems*
- *To promote the concept of stewardship of natural resources*
- *To participate as naturalists in public consultations related to questions of environment and development in the Fraser Valley*

## Meeting Schedule

### November 19, 2008

#### "Haida Gwaii"

Kathy Wilkinson recently visited the Queen Charlotte's and will share her experiences with us. Please bring your own mugs.

**Note:** Take Gate 2 on Haida Drive and it is the second building on the right, the AgRec Building. Go upstairs to the Gallery Room which can be accessed by elevator.

The **December** meeting and following meetings will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the **Legacy Building** on the east side of the track at Rotary Stadium. We'll give more details at the November meeting.

### December 10, 2008 6:30 pm (note time) Annual Pot Luck Christmas Dinner

*For the Potluck Dinner, please bring your own plates, cups and cutlery.*



If your last name begins with:  
**A to O** bring salad or a dessert  
**P to Z** bring an entrée

We have a special gift for you this year, storytelling with DFO Habitat **Specialist and storyteller, Matt Foy.**

After dinner we can look forward to "**A Sockeye Bedtime Story**", a true tale of the Alouette River salmon.



Also, there will be an opportunity to 'create a small take home gift ornament'.

We will again have a **silent auction.** We are looking for items of value that may be of interest to others. (Please no white elephants)

*If you have any suggestions for a topic of speaker, please contact Wendy DaDalt at 604-856-2575 or Kathy Wilkinson at 604-854-3203*



## FIELD TRIPS

### November 15 & 16 - 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FEST

The First Nation's Leq'a:mel Hall at 43101 Leq'a:mel Way, Deroche (off Lougheed Highway) is the perfect starting point

Come and explore the variety of sites with exhibits, food, live eagles and entertainment. There is something for everyone, many sites are free of charge and designed with families in mind.

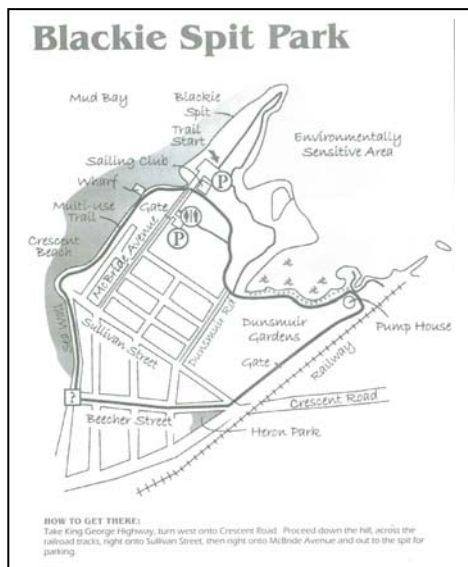
See [www.fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca](http://www.fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca) for a full schedule.

### November 29, 2008 - Saturday - 9 am (Note change of date)

#### **Birding at Blackie Spit with Steve Howard (604-751-0282)**

Blackie Spit is one of the best bird watching areas in Canada with almost 200 species of birds recorded in a calendar year.

Dress for the weather, bring lunch and birding gear.



Take Hwy 1 west to Exit 66/232nd Street, Hwy 10 turn left at 152nd Street, turn right at 32nd Avenue, turn right at King George Highway, turn left at Crescent Road, turn left to stay on Crescent Road, continue to Beecher Street, turn right at McBride Avenue. Meet in the parking lot.

### December 27 - Christmas Bird Count

Details to follow

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### September 20th - Saturday

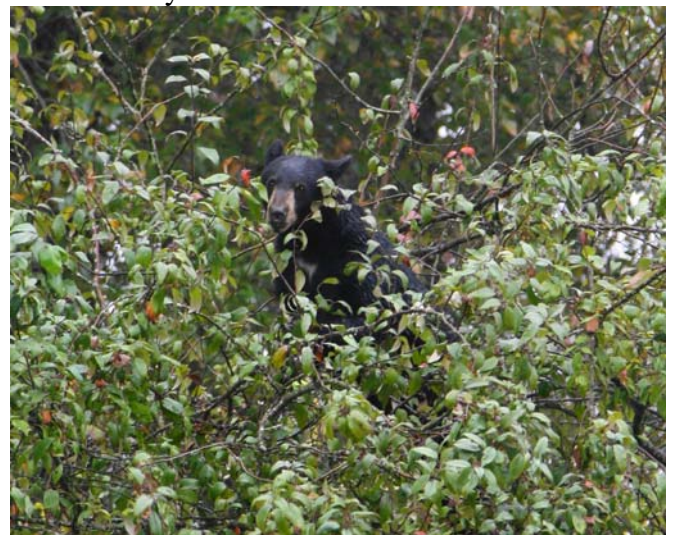
#### *DeBouville Slough and Minnekhada Regional Park*

One seal - one garter snake - two coyotes - two beavers - three green herons & four glossy black bears - ..... and oh yes - 35-36 species of birds & ten participants from two clubs!

I think Josh, our leader, got it all backwards on our walk along the De Bouville slough dyke - with *black bears up in trees and birds in the water!!.....* Anyway, our trip along the slough and through Minnekhada Park was an awesome and thrilling outdoor adventure that day!

We wandered along the slough spotting 35-36 species of birds, with lots of warblers and American Flickers and .....

But suddenly!



Up in a tree just a few feet from us across the slough - we saw a shiny black bear eating berries! Then, while treading between the mine-field of bear droppings (some piles were quite large suggesting huge bears!) we sighted another large glossy black bear down beside the slough nervously eyeing us - he then ran off. Next, another large glossy black fellow came up to saunter along the dike trail several yards ahead of us! Still later, while we strolled back to our cars beside the blueberry field trail another black bear crossed the road in front of us - disappearing into the blueberry patch making it four black bears! Someone squeaked. "Birds... gulp?" "What birds?"

Nevertheless, I was very excited to see those three wonderful green herons sitting on the slough lily pads and logs - which I had only seen before in Florida. The one garter snake & one seal - two coyotes & two large beaver, three green herons, and four large glossy black bears made it an extra special outing - one that I will not soon forget! We got a wee bit wet, but it did stop raining most of the time while on the dyke, only to start with a vengeance as we reached our cars, however it was very thrilling to see so many animals and birds in one day! Thanks Josh for a heart-thumping, exhilarating, thrilling (to some a nervous) but eventful and memorable outdoor trip!

*Anne Gosse, Langley Field Naturalists*

**October 19, 2008**

***Return of the spawning salmon and hike the Canyon Trail in Kanaka Creek Regional Park***

Over 750 people came out to see the return of the salmon Maple Ridge, mostly chum at this time, but also some coho and the rare chinook, to Kanaka Creek on October 19. Volunteers from KEEPS (Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society), like former teacher Ken Williamson (pictured here), helped visitors understand salmon biology and ecology.

Salmon are counted at this fish fence and brood stock are collected for the Bell-Irving Fish Hatchery upstream.

It was a beautiful day to hike along Kanaka's Canyon Trail and to see the fall colours and mushrooms. The sedimentary rock canyon display coal seams and gardens of maidenhair ferns. We didn't see any bears this day but Wendy found many signs of bears feeding on salmon and apples along the river the following week.



<b><u>CVN EXECUTIVE</u></b>		
President	Hank Roos	604-853-4283 haroos@shaw.ca
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	Kate Toth	604-859-4492 toth_k@telus.net
Displays	Steve Howard	604-751-0282 sawhorse4@hotmail.com
	Johanna Saaltink/Gerry Powers	604-856-8166
Newsletter	Alice Roos	604-853-4283 haroos@shaw.ca

**Membership Fees** - Single \$30, Family \$35 which are due January 1 each year.  
Membership provides the following benefits: 5 CVN newsletters per annum, automatic membership in BC Nature (FBCN), subscription to "BC nature" (4 issues per year)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Particular nature interests? (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Expertise which could benefit the CVN. (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donations gratefully accepted Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to Central Valley Naturalists, P.O. Box 612, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8, or give to Jacqui at the hospitality desk at the monthly meeting. Membership fees are due January 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

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HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10:00-5:00