

MINUTES
General Meeting of Arrowsmith Naturalists Club
Thursday, November, 28, 2024, Following 2pm AGM
St. Edmund's Church Hall, 407 Wembley Rd. Parksville, BC

1. Announcements: Liz Thorne

- a) Christmas potluck party on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 1pm. in this location (St. Edmund's) Your choice of food item to bring. Notices will be sent out; organizers will need an RSVP.
- b) The Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Sunday, January 5, 2025. Jeanne Schippers and Susan Knoerr are organizing. Lynne Brookes is coordinating the Feeder Count.

2. Updates

- a) Membership--Bonnie Mullin. 145 members. Thank you to those who renewed.
- b) Finances--Helen Davidson. Current bank balance \$13,310.40.
- c) Outings--Toni Wyckoff. Big Qualicum hatchery walk was a success. No outings in December. January 8th--Parksville Wetlands.
- d) Stewardship--Dave Hutchings. The Nature Trust dealt with a downed maple tree after recent high winds. TNT will look into the contract they have with an invasive species removal company. ANATS continue to work on the holly. Dec. 5th is the next session.

3. Special Projects--Lynne Brookes.

a) **French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve:**

- The management plan is complete.
- invasive plant removal, every Tuesday 9:30am to 11:30am.
- Archeological Impact Assessments to be done in spring.
- It is hoped that the local owner of one hectare adjoining the FCENP can be persuaded to sell. There is a large heron rookery(blue listed) on the property and a red-listed ecosystem.
- There is a large artificial pond at the FCENP. A complicated application process is underway to "pull back" the vertical shoreline to make it gradual.

b) Amphibian surveys will be done at Hamilton Marsh.

c) Qualicum First Nations Christmas Market on Saturday, November 30th from 10am to 4pm.

4. Several ANATS members attended the Qualicum First Nations art show. The theme was "hekw: remember". Everyone was very welcoming; the art was deeply touching and very well presented.

5. Sightings.

- Two Great blue herons at the Big Qualicum Hatchery. Many Glaucous-winged gulls.
- Over 140 Pine siskins in French Creek. Also hundreds at Parksville Community Park/Rath Trevor area. (an eruption of siskins?)
- White-crowned and Golden-crowned sparrows at Rath Trevor.
- The recent mushroom season has been the best in ten years in terms of volume and diversity of species.
- Trumpeter swans at Hamilton Marsh.
- 450! ravens in Errington. (perhaps picking off worms which were washed to the surface during recent rains?)
- A Spotted towhee unfortunately smacked into a car. It was taken to North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre and seemed to recover.
- Varied thrushes.
- Three river otters and fish in a ditch in Errington.
- A seal swimming upstream under the bridge over the Big Qualicum River.

6. Anything for the good? Rosemary Taylor thanked Sally Soanes for offering to join her on the speakers committee. She also thanked members for sending many topics of interest for consideration. There was no outside speaker today because it was not known how long the AGM would last. Bonnie Mullin and Liz Bredberg prepared slideshows and commentaries for us, but unfortunately technical difficulties prevented their presentations.

7. January 23, 2025 meeting will be members' photos, again in the afternoon at St. Edmund's.

8. Adjournment. 3:40pm.

Submitted by Sue Wilson, Acting General Meeting Secretary.