



Members of the Board of Directors, with the presence of Surrey Mayor Councillor, Tom Gill (background: five from right), celebrate the official opening of BC Wildlife Federation's Surrey office.

New Home Means New Beginnings for BCWF in Surrey

BC Wildlife Federation New Office Grand Opening, October 14

BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) held its New Office Grand Opening on Oct. 14, 2011 and was attended by roughly 70 supporters of the Federation. The Grand Opening began at 4:00pm, with speeches and the official ribbon

cutting ceremony at 5:30pm.

"Stations" were set up throughout the office for attendees to visit and stamp their "passports". Completed passports could then be entered into a draw

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BC Wildlife AGM Sponsorships and Donations Needed

Please consider becoming an event sponsor for the upcoming BCWF AGM and Convention April 25–28, 2012 in Courtenay, BC. There are various levels of support with benefits that may include complimentary tickets to evening events, recognition in all convention materials, and complimentary advertising space in the Event Program.

Please also consider making a

donation of merchandise, gift certificates, trip packages or other items that can be offered at our Friday Night Fundraiser and dinner event.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities and donations, please contact Marketing and Development Assistant, Magdalene Chan, by phone (Toll Free 1-888-881-2293 ext 233) or by email (dev_assistant@bcwf.bc.ca)



Bye-Bye Long-Gun Registry—Finally, BCWF Pleased

Harper Government Tabled Legislation to Rid Canada of Controversial Registry

After a long battle to rid the highly controversial long-gun registry, the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) is pleased to see that the federal government has finally followed through on its commitment to eliminate the registry.

The legislation, tabled on October 25, fully addresses the need to abolish the fatally flawed and costly long-gun registry.

"The Prime Minister has consistently pledged to rid us of this expensive white elephant, which has cost Canadian taxpayers almost \$2 billion dollars; the introduction of the legislation is tangible proof of that commitment. Supporters of the registry have repeatedly stated that it works, but they have consistently failed to provide clear evidence to support that contention," said Wiebe.

Of course, this bill does not change any other provision of the Firearms Act. Firearm owners will still need to be trained, to be screened by the police, and to have a PAL – a Possession and Acquisition License, and handguns will continue to be registered.

"The government's bill scrapping the registry reflects their longstanding commitment to rational and sensible firearm legislation. The long gun registry has suffered massive cost

continued on page 4 (See Long-Gun)

BCWF Member Sees Gold at World Skeet Championships

By Dave Henshaw, Vice President, Kelowna and District Fish and Game Club

Bob LaRue, member of the Kelowna and District Fish and Game Club, won gold in his class at the 2011 World Skeet Championships in San Antonio, Texas September 30–October 7.

This achievement was preceded by remarkable results in both the BC championship, where he won every event but one, and Washington State Shoot, where he took A Class High Over All.

The Kelowna Trap and Skeet Club vice-president shot two per cent above his average to win the High Over All Championship gold in his age group, breaking 438 of 450 targets at the competition. High Over All is the combined score of all four shotgun events in skeet: 12, 20 and 28 gauge and .410 bore.

When asked what his best moment was, LaRue replied with a smile,

“When I beat the legendary US shooter Todd Bender. Yup, “The Todd Bender” got beat by a Canuck!” LaRue outshot the US legend in the 28-gauge by one target.

LaRue, 55, who has been shooting shotguns since age 14 and competing in shotgun sports for 20 years, is a well-known sporting clays competitor with five BC, four Alberta and one Western Canada championships in sporting clays and earning a top-10 placing in the US Open in 2000.

LaRue is also keen to develop young skeet shooters. He wants to do a three-day, 10-person junior camp within the year, using one-on-one instruction from trap and skeet club members.

Skeet and trap shooting is available Wednesday and Saturday at the

Kelowna and District Fish and Game Club, 4041 Casorso Rd.

More information about this and other club activities, visit Kelowna and District Fish and Game Club’s website at www.kdfgc.org.



Bob LaRue of the Kelowna and District Fish and Game Club displays his skeet-shooting medal haul.

Grand Opening... cont'd from p. 1

for door prizes. A great time was had by all! Attendees got a chance to test out their archery skills at the National Archery in Schools in BC (NASP) station, learn about the importance of wetlands at the Wetlands Education Program station, and participate in a silent auction.

“This is a fun idea!” commented an attendee who toured the office while collecting all the stamps on her passport.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious barbeque cooked by volunteers of the Nicomekl Enhancement Society (thank you Nicomekl volunteers!) and had the opportunity to relax and mingle with fellow BCWF supporters.

Surrey Acting Mayor, Councillor Tom Gill, was also in attendance and formally welcomed the BCWF to Surrey. Along with BCWF President, Rodney Wiebe, and BCWF Building

Committee member, John Shepherd, Mr. Gill participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony, which officially marked the start of a new beginning in the Surrey home.

President Wiebe thanked all of those who helped the Federation move and settle into their new home including Jim Helsdon; Herb Karres and the Burnaby Fish & Game Club; Karl Ladislaus; Courtenay District Rod & Gun Club; and the building committee (John Shepherd and Ed George) for securing the Surrey home.

The ceremony ended with the cutting of a cake that had an image of the new office building.

“This was a real photograph printed on edible paper. Edible paper, what a brilliant invention!” commented President Wiebe as he took a bite of the scrumptious carrot cake.

BCWF would also like to thank the Semiahmoo Fish and Game club for



A volunteer of the Nicomekl Enhancement Society cooks burgers and hot dogs for the Grand Opening barbeque.

the Grand Opening set up, Valley Bakery for the cake, Miles McCarthy for setting up the NASP station, our affinity partners (Coast Hotels, Mark’sWorkWearhouse and Hub Insurance) for joining us, and to everyone who came to celebrate this historic moment!

Special thanks goes out to Eryne Donahue, Coast Hotels, Mark’sWorkWearhouse, Scorpion Optics, and Laura Soucy for their generous donations to the silent auction and door prizes.

Lake Windermere District Rod & Gun Club Breathes New Life to Boulder Creek Diversion Ditch

Addressing Water Issues to Improve Habitats for Fish and Wildlife

By Norman Hendricks, Lake Windermere District Rod & Gun Club Vice President and Peter Holmes, MOE Invermere

Two streams, three lakes and several wetland habitats will be enjoying improved water quantity and quality once work is complete on the Boulder Creek Diversion Project, spearheaded by the Lake Windermere District Rod & Gun Club. Taking place in the Toby Benches and Wilmer Creek area, west of Invermere, this project will be complete by September 2012. It has received \$20,000 in support from Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) Environmental Initiatives Program.

"This project is bringing together different groups with one goal: to ensure adequate water supply for the lakes in the area and maintain their ecosystems," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment.

At issue is the Boulder Creek Diversion Ditch, constructed in the early 1900s to provide irrigation and drinking water to the Wilmer area. The town has a new community water system that no longer relies on the ditch, but the water is still used for irrigation purposes and for the Enid Lake enhancement project.

The ditch is maintained by volunteers who put in many hours each year to fix leaks, with little success. Water from Boulder Creek no longer reaches Wilmer Creek; only Andreen Creek and diverted water from Neave Creek supply the ditch. As a result, the ditch may be abandoned, which could result in decreased water quality for Enid and Wilmer lakes and reduced local agricultural production. The ditch also provides water for a number of wetlands in the area, which will be harmed if flows are not maintained.

To address this situation, the project will involve installing 3.5 kilometres of irrigation pipe in the existing ditch to prevent leaks. This will provide increased flows to Wilmer Creek,

improving water quality in Enid and Wilmer lakes and providing a stable flow for irrigation users downstream.

With this increased flow in Wilmer Creek, the Wilmer Waterworks Improvement District has agreed to relinquish their water rights to the upper Neave/Wilmer Creek. This will allow for that water to be diverted to Lillian Lake to improve water quality.

"Our club has been concerned about water quality in Lillian, Enid and Wilmer lakes for some time," said Norman Hendricks, Vice-President, Lake Windermere District Rod & Gun Club. "The Wilmer Waterworks Improvement District has also been concerned about the condition of its irrigation ditch. This project will resolve both these issues."



Boulder Creek Diversion Point

The result will be an increase of flows to wetlands, fish-bearing streams and three lakes with high-value fish and wildlife habitats, ensuring the long-term maintenance of biological diversity in a 1,800 ha area.

CONSERVATION *lottery*

\$10
PER TICKET

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| <p>1st PRIZE</p> <p>2011 Yamaha Grizzly 550 ATV Autographed by the Beasley Brothers from "Canada in the Rough" - Co-sponsored by Penticton Yamaha - Featured in an episode of "Canada in the Rough"</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Over \$13,000 in Value</p> | <p>2nd PRIZE</p> <p>14ft Sylvan Seabreeze Boat with Karavan Trailer and Minn Kota Motor -Co-sponsored by Boathouse Marine & Leisure</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$3,000 Value</p> | | |
| <p>3rd PRIZE \$1,000 Gift Certificate Husky Oil</p> | <p>4th PRIZE \$1,000 Gift Certificate Future Shop</p> | <p>5th PRIZE Ladies Sapphire & Diamond Ring \$800 value</p> | <p>6th PRIZE \$500 Gift Certificate Italian Sporting Goods</p> |

To purchase tickets, please call your local club contact or BCWF at

TF: 1-888-881-2293 P: 604-882-9988 ext. 221 www.bcdf.bc.ca

Tickets can also be ordered at www.bcdf.bc.ca.
A minimum order of FIVE tickets must be purchased for telephone and online orders if tickets are required to be mailed. Otherwise tickets can be picked up at the BCWF office (101-9706 188th St, Surrey, BC V4N 3M2).

Ticket Sales Cut Off: April 1, 2012. See rules of play on BCWF website.

Chances are 1 in 10,000 (total tickets for sale) to win a grand prize.
BC Gaming Event Licence #39147

Problem Gambling Help Line 1-888-795-6111
www.beresponsiblegambling
Know your limit, play within it.
19+ to play!

BC Wildlife Federation Supports Flathead Watershed Area Conservation Act

The BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) commends Minister Steve Thomson and the government of British Columbia on their proposed legislation to protect the Flathead Valley by creating the Flathead Watershed Area Conservation Act earlier this month.

Minister Thomson and the BC Government, in their proposed legislation, have made the decision based on protecting the watershed values and its rich diversity of fish and wildlife. Enacting the proposed legislation strikes the right balance between protection of the watershed's natural capital and the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefits of all British Columbians. The legislation also compliments conservation

initiatives in Alberta and Montana.

The BC Wildlife Federation believes a system of parks, protected areas and conservation lands is required to maintain the rich diversity of fish and wildlife and their habitats throughout the province. This legislation strengthens the protection of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the East Kootenays. The region is a leader in the conservation of habitats through the collaborative efforts of provincial and local governments, First Nations, non-government organizations and landowners.

The level of protection proposed by the Flathead Watershed Area Conservation act will assure continued wise land use practices that have resulted in some of the highest population densities of many species of wildlife province-wide, grizzly bears in particular. There is no evidence bringing National Parks status to the Flathead will result in a legacy there superior to what British Columbians currently enjoy.

Long-Gun... cont'd from p. 1
overruns, repeated breeches of security, and chronic and sometimes hilarious errors. It has failed to fulfill its mandate of reducing gun crime and enhancing public safety," said Rod Wiebe.

The long-gun registry, created under Bill C-68 by a previous Liberal government, has always been misdirected. It focused on law-abiding citizens, ignoring violent criminals and offenders who have been prohibited by court from owning firearms who actually do threaten the public safety. As a result, the BCWF has joined with provincial and territorial wildlife federations, national and provincial wildlife and outdoor organizations, responsible firearms owners, hunters, farmers, trappers, recreational sport shooters, and many rank and file law enforcement officers who have consistently urged the government to scrap the system.



Darlene Clark, BCWF Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Coordinator, and a few BOW volunteers went out to the West Coast Women's Show Oct. 21-23, which was held at Tradex in Abbotsford, to promote the program to women interested in the outdoors.

BOW is a three-day weekend held annually at various locations in the province. Women have the opportunity to choose from a variety of introductory workshops ranging from archery, ATV-ing to flying tying and trap shooting.

Back row left to right: Lorraine Cronin, Tracinda Plenert, Darlene Clark
Front row left to right: Nadine Mennear, Marilyn Smillie.

Call to All Wildlife Artists!

Submissions are being accepted for the 2013 BCWF Artist of the Year. The deadline is **January 31, 2012**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at our toll free number in BC 1-888-881-2293 ext 233 or via email development@bcwf.bc.ca.

VOTE
NOW!



Please help BCWF Wetland's Education Program (WEP) attain the 50K to expand the WEP program by voting today. Let's show Canada how BCWF members are leaders in conservation!

Voting starts on November 4, 2011 and continues to April 30, 2012.

Go to www.bcwf.bc.ca or <http://fuellingchange.com/> for more information and to get 10 free votes.

Got a Story Idea for BCWFNEWS?

If you have a story to tell that may be of general interest to other BCWF members, send a brief email to **BCWFNEWS** Editor Magdalene Chan at dev_assistant@bcwf.ca.

We are particularly interested in individual and club achievements, community service initiatives and innovative conservation practices .

BCWFNews is published monthly by BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) for its 38,000 members.

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