

## **BCLSS Newsletter**

### **Volume 2, Issue 2**

## **"Furthering Lake Stewardship Through Communication and Education"**

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### **Kelowna AGM**

Okanagan University College was the venue for the 1999 Conference and AGM on March 27. Michelle Boshard arranged a great program with 10 speakers, whose topics ranged from the experiences of well established stewardship groups to phosphorus input to lakes, fisheries, future DFO funding (more below), lake restoration and even Ogopogo. There were a series of excellent student project posters by OUC Freshwater science students. A new feature of the meeting was several commercial and or information displays.

It's difficult to describe the benefits of attending one of these meetings – one of the main advantages is that you get to talk to a lot of other people with the same interest in protecting lakes as you do! People are what make things happen and are the core of this organization. At the meeting you have access to a considerable amount of written information in the form of reports and manuals and brochures as people. If you have the opportunity to attend next year and you haven't had the chance the last couple of years, try to plan for it. Mark down the last Saturday of March 2000 in Kelowna.

The AGM was held in the evening with the election of new Board of Directors and executive. Names and addresses are listed below.

### **Prince George Conference**

One of the handicaps of being a provincial organization is the huge size of the province! Although Kelowna is sort of central, there are a large number of Lake Stewardship groups in the northern part of the province. One of the oft heard comments Michelle heard on the BCLSS road trip last year was for a conference/meeting in Prince George. So again Michelle put together a great program and a very successful conference was held in PG on the UNBC campus April 17th. A very good list of speakers and much more time for attendees to talk and discuss. We had initially planned for 25 to attend by had 50 by the time the program started. We will certainly try to make a conference in Prince George an annual event as well. Particular thanks to the speakers, some of whom came from considerable distances (Smithers and Fort St. John.).

## Board of Directors

The BCLSS elects new directors every year (half the Board in alternating years). Listed below is the current Board. Feel free to contact any of them with questions or initiatives. We are trying to get good coverage from all areas of the province. Potential northern directors needed!

### Executive

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|--|--|--|
| <p><b>President</b><br/>Michelle Boshard<br/>Box 261 PBC<br/>Kelowna, BC V1Y 7N5<br/>(250) 868 1027<br/>(250) 868 1047<br/>1 year term elected 3/27/99</p>         | <p><b>Vice President</b><br/>Rick Nordin<br/>2975 Jutland Rd<br/>Victoria, BC V8T 5J9<br/>(250) 387 9517<br/>(250) 356 8298<br/>2 year term elected 3/29/99</p>                | <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>Nelson Jatel<br/>3140 College Way<br/>Kelowna, BC V1V 1V8<br/>(250) 765 1853(W)<br/>(250) 765 1853<br/>2 year term elected 3/29/99</p>           |
| <p><b>Secretary</b><br/>Michelle Makortoff<br/>2156 Aberdeen St.<br/>Kelowna, BC V1Y 2T4<br/>(250) 862 9752<br/>2 year term elected 3/29/99</p>                    | <p><b>Communications</b><br/>Richard Koodrin<br/>Box 32<br/>South Slokan, BC V0G 2G0<br/>(250) 359 7685<br/>(250) 365 9689<br/>2 year term elected 3/29/99</p>                 | <p><b>Okanagan Region</b><br/>Ian Walker<br/>3333 College Way<br/>Kelowna, BC V1V 1V7<br/>(250) 762 5445 Loc 7559<br/>(250) 470 6004<br/>2 year term elected 3/29/99</p> |
| <p><b>Okanagan Region</b><br/>Stephen Legris<br/>1480 Richter St<br/>Kelowna, BC V1Y 2L8<br/>(250) 717 1212<br/>(250) 868 1028<br/>2 year term elected 3/27/99</p> | <p><b>Okanagan Region</b><br/>Darryl Arsenault<br/>C/O #255 1715 Dickson Ave<br/>Kelowna, BC V1Y 9G6<br/>(250) 862 4832<br/>(250) 862 2941<br/>2 year term elected 3/27/99</p> | <p><b>Okanagan Region</b><br/>Kevin Morris<br/>2433 Sexsmith Rd<br/>Kelowna, BC V1Y 2E9<br/>(250) 712 9633<br/>2 year term elected 3/27/99</p>                           |
| <p><b>Lower Mainland Region</b><br/>Jill Savege<br/>719 Alta Lake Pl.<br/>Coquitlam, BC V1Y 2E9<br/>(604) 941 0169<br/>2 year term elected 3/27/99</p>             | <p><b>Thompson-Nicola</b><br/>Bob Grace<br/>1259 Dalhousie Dr.<br/>Kamloops, BC V2C 4T1<br/>(250) 371 6289<br/>(250) 828 4000<br/>2 year term elected 3/27/99</p>              | <p><b>Thompson-Nicola</b><br/>Burke Phippen<br/>5303 Ronde Lane<br/>Kamloops, BC V2C 5H5<br/>(250) 537 1750<br/>(250) 537 1750<br/>2 year term elected 3/27/99</p>       |
| <p><b>Cariboo Region</b><br/>Raelene Young<br/>691 Walken St.<br/>Quesnel, BC V2J 2J6<br/>(250) 991 0304</p>   | <p><b>Cariboo Region</b><br/>Norm Zirnhelt<br/>150 North 1st St<br/>Williams Lake, BC V2G 1Y8<br/>(250) 398 4545</p>   | <p><b>Vancouver Island</b><br/>Geoff Hett<br/>2833 Lake End Rd.<br/>Victoria, BC V2G 2P1<br/>(250) 478 2727</p>  |

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|---|---|---|
| (250) 992 6070<br>2 year term elected 3/27/99   | (250) 398 4296<br>2 year term elected 3/27/99 | (250) 478 2727<br>2 year term elected 3/27/99 |
| <b>Vancouver Island</b><br>Eric Bonham<br>5216 Stag Rd<br>Victoria, BC V9E 1G7<br>(250) 474 5252<br>2 year term elected 3/27/98 |   |   |

## **You are Invited to Participate in The Great Canadian Secchi Dip-In: June 26 to July 11**

The Secchi disc is one of the basic tools of evaluating water quality on lakes. Water clarity is one of the things about lakes that most people are concerned, and any change in water clarity is a reason for concern. The Secchi disc is a 20cm disc with alternating black and white quadrants that is the standard tool for measuring water clarity. Some years ago, Bob Carlson, a professor at Kent State University in Ohio, suggested that it would be valuable for water clarity to be taken about the same time of the year in lakes across the US. This would provide a point of comparison for lake stewards – to see what the range and average for lakes in general was or how a lake compared to others in the same region.

This will be the Dip-In's sixth year, and it has been doing some growing lately. Last year more than 2,600 forms were returned. Since 1994 more than 4,888 volunteers have contributed information. In 1998 volunteer programs in Canada were added to our official list of participants. Volunteers in Australia participated via our web site. The Secchi Dip In is now truly an international volunteer monitoring event.

The Secchi Dip In is sponsored by the U.S. EPA's Office of Water and the North American Lake Management Society. However, it is the support of volunteers and the coordinators such as you that keeps us going and growing. The Dip In's success depends entirely on your cooperation and enthusiasm.

The goal of the BCLSS was to have a significant contribution from BC to the Dip In. Our president, Michelle Boshard, became the Canadian coordinator for the Dip In and our goal is to have 100 lakes measured for Secchi disc transparency between June 26th and July 11th.

The transparency data are important, but it is also important that we bring attention to volunteer monitoring. Volunteer programs are struggling to gain recognition as a vital part of the monitoring community. We hope that you use the dip In to focus attention on your volunteer monitoring efforts. The Dip In is more than data collection; it is a vehicle to advertise your own program.

Description of the Dip In and a 1999 questionnaire can be found via the Web at <http://humboldt.kent.enu/~dipin>.

If you don't want to fill in the form, you can simply send the measurements to Michelle (or

Rick Nordin) and BCLSS will ensure it is compiled into the bigger data base.

Reasons to participate in 1999 Give your volunteers a sense of involvement in an international monitoring effort. The Dip In may serve as an incentive for them to continue monitoring in your program as well.

Establish a new volunteer monitoring program. Although we encourage using veteran dippers, you can use the event to start a volunteer monitoring effort.

Use the Dip In to advertise your own program. Have an 'event', such as lakes Appreciation Week, during the Dip In. We will be happy to advertise it or design a page showing the event. If you have participated in the Dip In before, your program is now being advertised on our web site. If you have your own web site, we will be happy to provide a link to it.

Educate your volunteers and the public about lakes. Use your volunteer's participation in the Dip In to draw the attention of the news media in your area. Why not tell everyone about your program and the concerns about water in your area?

We provide everyone in your program with a summary of the last year's Dip In. If you have participated in the past or are interested in participating this year, we will send a summary of the 1998 Dip In results, together with the 1999 Dip In questionnaire, to all of your volunteers, whether or not they participated in the past.

Isn't that enough reasons to participate? You can help us put together a picture of lake transparency across North America and the world, and we can help you communicate and educate in your area.

We hope you will participate in 1999! See the latest on the Dip In at <http://humboldt.kent.edu/~dipin>.

If you don't have a Secchi Disc, contact us and we can loan you one or sell you one of our BCLSS handcrafted Secchi's for \$10 – postage included. BCLSS members can have one for free by asking! Phone Rick Nordin at 387-9717 or email at [Rick.Nordin@gems2.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Nordin@gems2.gov.bc.ca).

### **Got Questions or News??**

The BCLSS is a place where our members can exchange information, ideas and experiences. We need to hear what's going on in the lake in your corner of the world, and encourage you to send us your information!!

The BCLSS also wants to help you group with questions you may have about your lake. If you are considering forming a group, the BCLSS can make that task a little easier by providing you with information on what lake stewardship is, what to consider in forming a group, and how to get things going. We also have technical expertise and equipment if your group would like to set up a lake monitoring program.

Membership in the BC Lake Stewardship Society is affordable: \$40 for groups, \$20 for individuals and \$10 for students. All members get discounts on BCLSS products and services.

Providing members with the support and answers they need is one of the objectives of the BCLSS, so if you would like assistance, we'd like to hear from you!!

Call Toll Free: 1 877 BC LAKES

Visit our Website: <http://scrn.org/bclss>

### **Sponsors!**

At the Kelowna and Prince George we were very pleased to have a number of organizations who sell products or services who bout both spaces at the meetings. Many of our attendees took the opportunity to see what was offered. We are grateful to Agra Earth and Environmental (technical consulting), Hoskins Scientific (sampling equipment), Silver Lake Forest Education Society, CARO Environmental Services, LaCas Environmental Consultants, EBA Engineering Consultants, and The Living by Water Project (environmental education), for their support.

**This newsletter was sponsored by Limnotek Research and Development, which provides a variety of technical services for lakes and other aquatic related fields. You can see them at <http://www.limnotek.com/> or email them at [cperrin@limnotek.com](mailto:cperrin@limnotek.com).**