



# SLOCAN LAKE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

## Slocan Lake Stewardship Society Newsletter

Box 322, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

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### ABOUT THE SOCIETY

#### The purposes of the Society are:

- a) To research and cooperatively plan guidelines that will insure the care and protection of Slocan Lake, its tributaries and foreshore; and
- b) To support and initiate projects and programs for sustainable lake use; and
- c) To facilitate education regarding Slocan Lake, its tributaries and its environs.

#### Membership

SLSS had 74 paid, 2

volunteer and one corporate membership in 2009-2010; as of the end of December, 2010, we have 95 paid members, four volunteer members, one non-profit membership, and one corporate membership.

#### Meetings

After trying a number of different configurations for meetings, we have settled on monthly, open board meetings. In general, these meetings begin at 6:30 pm and take place on the first Tuesday of the month at Zion United Church in Silverton.

#### Charitable Status

We have begun the process of applying for status as a Federal Registered Charity so that SLSS may issue Charity Tax receipts for donations.

#### Volunteers Needed

The Society can always use volunteers for various projects. If you are interested in the stewardship of Slocan Lake and would like to get involved, contact:

Therese DesCamp

250-358-7904

[slocanlss@gmail.com](mailto:slocanlss@gmail.com)

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- SLSS HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 3 YEARS
- CREEL SURVEY IS IN 7 LOCATIONS
- CBT PROVIDES \$19K FOR WATER QUALITY TESTING
- SAFE BOATING PAMPHLETS DISTRIBUTED
- SLSS HAS A NEW WEBSITE
- MEETINGS ARE THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
- SLSS IS APPLYING FOR CHARITABLE STATUS

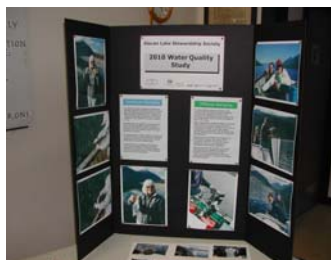


Lane Haywood collecting coliform samples

Hillary Elliot & Richard Johnson collecting deep water samples in Slocan Lake



President's Report October 2009-October 2010



SLSS Information Display



Lane Haywood collecting water for Coliform Sampling

This, our third full year of as a Registered Society, has been a year of growth and groaning!

I'd like to start this report by saying a few words about the project that occupied a great deal of your board's time and energy during the past year. The Shoreline Management Guidelines draft document, introduced in January 2010, is an effort to integrate all Slocan Lake scientific research gathered to date with current Provincial & Federal law and policy. It was intended as an initial step in the process of developing a Lake Management Plan for the lake; the Guidelines document will be one of many addressed during the community-driven lake management planning process.

The wording as well as the content of this document raised sensitive and complex issues for your Board, some of our membership, and the general public.

The science documents associated with the larger baseline study are currently being updated. When this is done, we will be preparing

an executive summary and presenting our scientific findings to local governments, with the request that they initiate a community-wide process for a lake management plan. A detailed summary of the process, issues, parameters and funding will be posted on the SLSS website or sent to members on request.

SLSS Science Research Projects

Creel and Angler Survey

Beginning January 2010, the creel survey took place weekly at 7 sites on Slocan Lake. This project involves NO outside funding, and has clocked over 1000 hours of volunteer labor.

Water Quality Testing

The first year of a three-year project, funded by CBT and RDCK, SLSS began water quality testing on August 23 with 7 near-shore sites and 4 deep-water testing sites. We are receiving Ministry of Environment support in the form of equipment for this work; we are also receiving reduced rates from Passmore Laboratories. For more information, please contact Richard Johnson

through the SLSS website.

SLSS Grants

The **Boating Safety** and **Lake Lies** presentations received a \$614 grant from the Rec. Commission.

The **Water Quality Testing** program received a \$19,000 grant from CBT and a \$500 grant from the RDCK.

The **Baseline Study** received an additional \$2000 from the Canadian Columbia River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission to be used for the updating of the science portions of the baseline documents relating to fish habitats.

SLSS Community Education and Public Information

Ongoing 2010

- \* SLSS arranged distribution of **Safe Boating pamphlets** in communities around the lake.
- \* SLSS arranged for availability of **water testing kits** in the community for emergency testing situations.
- \* SLSS maintains a **membership** in, and attends the meetings of, the **BCLSS**, the **Columbia Basin Watershed Network**, and the **Central**



## President's Report continued

### **Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee.**

\* SLSS developed a gorgeous **handout** card that lists our goals on the front—over a picture of Bigelow Bay taken by Carla Nemiroff—and lists our accomplishments and plans on the reverse side.

\* SLSS now has a **website**, where we post minutes, notices, reports and community anecdotes about Slocan Lake:

[www.slocanlakess.wordpress.com](http://www.slocanlakess.wordpress.com).

### **Episodic 2010**

#### **November**

SLSS was the **feature story** on the front page of the electronic newsletter of the Columbia Basin Watershed Network.

#### **November, September, February**

SLSS had its information/education booth at the **New Denver Winter Gear Swap**, the **Hills Garlic Festival**, and the **North Valley Mountain Film Fest** providing boating guides, information about the lake, memberships, and copies of our new rack card.

#### **May**

SLSS sponsored the second **Lake Lies and Fishy Tales** during the May

Days celebration, with Ray Stothers, host of *Storytelling with Ray* on Kootenay Co-op Radio, leading off the festivities.

#### **April**

SLSS, in cooperation with the Slocan Lake Boating Association, hosted a **Watercraft Community Information Session**.

Chris Marrie, Boating Safety Officer from Transport Canada Marine, discussed Federal and Provincial regulations and authority, safe operation of motorized and non-motorized craft, and enforcement issues.

#### **January**

SLSS presented the **Foreshore Fish and Wildlife Study**, and the **Shoreline Management Guidelines draft** to an open community meeting.

### **Issues Arising from Community Inquiries and Projects**

#### **Rock Snot (Didymo)**

Members have made contact with experts from several government agencies and educational institutions and are monitoring sightings; there was one positive identification of Didymo

bloom in Wilson Creek in April by biologist David de Rosa.

#### **Algae Bloom**

SLSS conducted testing on two separate sites of algae bloom in Bigelow Bay, in response to community concern.

#### **Wilson Creek Development**

In response to a concern raised by a member, SLSS conducted correspondence with RDCK and MoE about possible issues with a development on Wilson Creek.

#### **Green IPP**

Contact made with small sized IPP vendor who is doing some very creative work with communities.

#### **Invasive Species**

Members attended workshops on invasive land and aquatic species, and continue to monitor the presence of such species in our area.

#### **Valhalla Mile Tear Down**

Board member spent a day working with Selkirk College staff and students, along with park rangers and others, infilling and reclaiming an old house site at the Valhalla Mile.

*Hillary Elliott, Richard Johnson & Sean-Patrick Spriggs, collecting water samples*

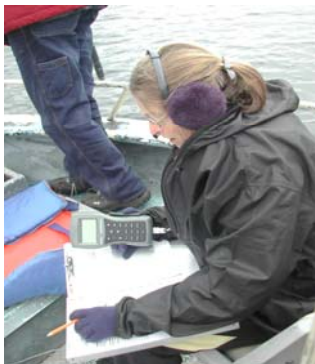




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*Barb Yeomans recording research data*



## President's Report continued

### Park Rangers

Ongoing contact with government officials regarding Rangers for the Valhalla Wilderness Provincial Park.

### Interim Protocol on Confidentiality and Communications

Adopted May 2010 by the SLSS Board of Directors (BoD):

1. All email communications to the SLSS membership shall be made using the official SLSS email address.
2. All communications to SLSS membership need approval by the president, vice president or BoD.
3. Board Members working on a SLSS project that requires publicity will have that publicity vetted by two other board members.
4. The SLSS email list is

not to be used by the Board or SLSS members except when authorized by the BoD.

5. Release of any SLSS research document or report must have the approval of the BoD.

6. Any SLSS communications with government or other agencies must be approved by the BoD.

### Coming Up

These are the projects that we foresee for the coming year!

- Completion of the updating of all scientific findings associated with the Baseline Project, and presentation of reports and Executive Summary to local governments and the community.
- Ongoing near shore and deep water studies
- Ongoing Secchi dip testing on the lake

- Ongoing distribution of Safe Boating guides
- Community education session on invasive aquatic plants, including rock snout
- Community education session on appropriate IPP development
- Lake Lies and Fishy Tales May Days event
- Further development of website
- Development of annual or bi-annual newsletter
- Identification of funding for Species at Risk Studies for Slocan Lake

### Working Groups

Over the course of the next year, we aim to establish working groups in these areas: Fundraising and Membership Development; Website (management and further development); Science; and Outreach and Education.

### SLOCAN LAKE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Was held:** November 7, 2010 at 3:00 pm—5:00 pm in the Knox Hall, New Denver B.C.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE included:** Therese Descamp, Barbara Yeomans, Lane Haywood, Margaret Hartley, Clarence denBok, Glenn Jordan, Hank Hastings, Burgin Jacobs, Evelyn Goodell, Dale Caton, Nonie Jackson, Peter Roulston, Jane Murphy, Fran Wallis, Patti Sebben, Kip Drobish, Marcy Mahr, Gloria Lisgo, Kay Costly-White, Anne Champagne, Andrea Wright, Lawrence Schiavon, Connie Meyers, Dale Meyers, Marion Lesnik, Luce Paquin, Mike Lesnik, Lorna Visser.

**The President and Treasurer's Reports** were read and approved.

**Ratification of Board's Actions** were approved.

**The Directors for 2010-2011 will be:**

<b>President:</b> Therese Descamp	<b>Vice-President:</b> Barb Yeomans
<b>Treasurer:</b> Lane Haywood	<b>Secretary:</b> Margaret Hartley
<b>Members at Large:</b> Clarence denBok and Richard Johnson	

**Guest Speaker was:** Jennifer Vogel, Assistant Coordinator of Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee