

BC Nature Fall General Meeting, September 20-22 2018

Event descriptions

Event Name	Date and Time	Description
Keynote 1	2018 09 20 (Thursday) at 1900	<i>“Connecting with Nature, from the Perspective of Artists and Community”</i> by Nancy Holmes, Associate Professor, Creative Writing, Poetry, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus
Keynote 2	2018 09 21 (Friday) at 1900	<i>“Conservation Northwest Sagelands Heritage Program Overview”</i> by Jay Kehne, Conservation Northwest Conservation Associate
Keynote 3	2018 09 22 (Saturday) at 1900	<p>“Road ecology in the Anthropocene: lessons from Banff and beyond” by Adam T Ford, Canada Research Chair in Wildlife Restoration Ecology, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus</p> <p>Roads are one of the most ubiquitous human-made features on the earth, changing the movement patterns and abundance of wildlife. Canada's flagship national park, Banff, is bisected by Canada's most important transportation corridor. Harmonizing the needs to move goods and people safely across Canada, while maintaining ecological integrity, has been a great challenge. Banff has risen to this challenge and leads the world in reducing the harm of roads on wildlife, including a system of fencing and wildlife crossing structures. This success is a product of long-term support for science and cooperation among conservation partners. In this talk, I will summarize the lessons from Banff and outline how these insights can be applied broadly to areas of BC where driver safety and wildlife are concern.</p>

Friday morning birding	2018 09 21 at 0600	Short visits to one of the great birding spots in Kelowna. Several possible destinations are available.
Saturday morning birding	2018 09 22 at 0600	Short visits to one of the great birding spots in Kelowna. Several possible destinations are available.
Birding along Beaver Lake Road	2018 09 22	<p>Visiting one of the better birding areas in the Central Okanagan, this trip is designed for those who would rather do their birding later in the day. Beginning at the valley bottom, the road winds steadily uphill through grasslands into the woods, with the trip ending on the shores of Beaver Lake at the Beaver Lake Mountain Resort.</p> <p>Join CONC birders for a drive along this interesting road. Some pavement, some gravel.</p> <p>http://birding.bc.ca/regions/okanagan_valley/guide-kelowna.php</p>
Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park	2018 09 21 at 1300	<p>The Friends of Black Mountain/sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park have agreed to lead a three- or four-hour hike through this unopened park, one of the newest in the Central Okanagan. A mix of grasslands, forest, and mountain viewpoint, this is a lovely park just east of Kelowna.</p> <p>https://www.friendsofblackmountain.com/</p>
Okanagan Rail Trail hike		<p>Recently the railway between Coldstream (outside Vernon) and Kelowna has been closed, the ties removed, and a hiking and biking trail put in place.</p> <p>Join CONC hikers for a trip along this trail.</p> <p>https://okanaganrailtrail.ca/</p>
Okanagan Rail Trail bicycle trip		<p>Recently the railway between Coldstream (outside Vernon) and Kelowna has been closed, the ties removed, and a hiking and biking trail put in place.</p> <p>Join CONC bikers for a trip along this trail.</p> <p>https://okanaganrailtrail.ca/</p>
Myra Canyon Trestles hike		<p>A spectacular portion of the Kettle Valley railroad, in the hills above Kelowna.</p> <p>Access is via a rough gravel road.</p>

		<p>https://www.myratrestles.com/</p>
Myra Canyon Trestles bike trip		<p>A spectacular portion of the Kettle Valley railroad, in the hills above Kelowna.</p> <p>Access is via a rough gravel road.</p> <p>Bicycle rental is available on site or bring your own.</p> <p>https://www.myratrestles.com/</p>
Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park		<p>From the regional district website, “In April 2013, the new Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park was announced in a partnership involving the Central Okanagan Land Trust (COLT) and Regional District.</p> <p>“323-hectares was bequeathed to COLT from the estate of Nancy and Alfred Johns and surviving members of the Johns siblings.”</p> <p>Join CONC members for a hike in this area. Note that high-clearance vehicles are required to access this park.</p> <p>https://www.regionaldistrict.com/your-services/parks-services/parks-and-trails/30-johns-family-nature-conservancy-regional-park.aspx</p>
A tour of recent conservation projects in the Central Okanagan		<p>This trip, involving only a little walking, will look at three recent projects in the Central Okanagan.</p> <p>The Fascieux Creek project, co-ordinated by the Eco Club at École KLO Middle School involved the naturalization (opening to the air) of a section of Fascieux Creek which ran under concrete slabs and through culverts.</p> <p>Munson Pond is an older man-made pond which now is a City park, with a trail and birding platforms. (https://www.kelowna.ca/parks-recreation/parks-beaches/parks-beaches-listing/munson-pond-park)</p> <p>Mission Creek Restoration Initiative is a project to allow Mission Creek some freedom of movement.</p>

		<p>Dikes have been moved back and the creek is beginning to reconstruct a bend in the creek.</p> <p>http://www.missioncreek.ca/</p> <p>These three projects are close together in the southern part of Kelowna. Also, nearby, if you want an extension of this trip, on your own, are the Thomson Marsh Park.</p>
Scenic Canyon Regional Park	2018 09 22	<p>From the regional district's website, "Scenic Canyon Regional Park officially opened in May 2005 in conjunction with the opening of Phase 2 of the Mission Creek Greenway.</p> <p>"Highlights in this park include hiking trails, a riparian zone with a mature cedar grove, heritage, and geological formations.</p> <p>"Cultural sites include gold mining activity in placer gold pits, early settlement of Dan Gallagher, and rock ovens used by Chinese labourers.</p> <p>"Spectacular geologic features can be seen from trail viewpoints including Layer Cake Mountain, Pinnacle Rock, canyon walls and rock Hoodoos."</p> <p>This hike will explore some of these features. The hike down to the creek is steep.</p> <p>https://www.regionaldistrict.com/your-services/parks-services/parks-and-trails/25-scenic-canyon-regional-park.aspx</p>
Friday morning speaker	2018 09 21	<p>An overview of many of the Central Okanagan locations which CONC members use for hiking, birding. And botanizing.</p> <p>Rick Gee, CONC President</p>
Friday morning speaker	2018 09 21	<p><i>"Parks Planning in the Central Okanagan"</i></p> <p>Wayne Darlington, Manager - Park Planning/Capital Projects/Visitor Services, Regional District of Central Okanagan</p>

<p>Friday morning speaker</p>	<p>2018 09 21</p>	<p><i>“Early Childhood Education and the Natural World”</i></p> <p>Terri-Lynn Russell, Early Childhood Education instructor Okanagan College</p> <p>Connecting children to Nature and Outdoor play promotes lifelong learning as well as strengthens community. This presentation will touch on why outdoors is promoted in early childhood. Topics highlighted will include: what does early childhood mean, benefits of being outdoors, the importance of adults experiencing outdoors with children, challenges and ideas to promote or experience nature and outdoors.</p>
<p>Friday morning speaker</p>	<p>2018 09 21</p>	<p><i>“NatureKids BC: what we do”</i></p> <p>Christina Chowaniec, NatureKids BC</p> <p>The presentation will focus on the story of NatureKids, what we do, how we do it, why it works and why the need has never been greater. And I will give some examples of our Explorer Day events and our stewardship & citizen science projects.</p>
<p>Friday morning speaker</p>	<p>2018 09 21</p>	<p><i>“Community Collaboration in Three Major Rehabilitation Projects in the Central Okanagan”</i></p> <p>Wayne Wilson, Executive Director, Central Okanagan Land Trust</p> <p>Community collaboration takes many forms, and over the past number of years the Central Okanagan Land Trust has been fortunate to have the support of a wide range of individuals and groups. From government funding partners and private foundations to individual donors and corporate volunteer programs, the efforts to work together has brought significant positive results.</p> <p>This talk will illustrate the collaboration that supported three major projects in the Central Okanagan - Mission Creek Restoration Initiative, Munson Pond Naturalization Project, and the Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park.</p>

		Wayne Wilson is the Executive Director of the Central Okanagan Land Trust. The bulk of his career was spent in the Museum field, and it was there he gained experience in community engagement work. He holds a BA and MA in Historical Geography from UBC.
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