

# Bartholomew, Kay (1920 – 2018)

## Long-time Club Secretary & Life Member



Kay Bartholomew joined the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club in 1953 and before long she was elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer in October, 1954. Contributing to the success and strength of any social organization is the make-up of its members with their varying backgrounds and diverse talents as well as their own personal interests.

Important as her executive duties were NONC was to benefit to an even greater extent from her keenness in developing social functions within the club thereby providing a balance to the scientific activities. This was always one of Kay's strong points and one for which she had a particular flare. One long-departed female member once described how vivacious and energetic Kay was in those early years and how she never failed to arrange suitable events, summer camps, games, social evenings and even tennis parties to meet a need. Legend has it that she even had the ability to conjure up good weather for the annual Field Day whatever the official forecast had

predicted. At all of these events she was a regular attendee and as often as not the centre of attention as well, substantiating Kay's own words declaring that she always regarded NONC as her family.

At the same time as performing executive functions Kay was also a long-term member of the committee covering Swan Lake as well as acting as a representative for NONC on the City of Vernon's citizen advisory committee on water usage and economy.

Since her election as Secretary there has been no other incumbent in that position. Kay provided many new executives with her years of experience and "corporate" history of the Club. Many changes have taken place and through all these times Kay sailed on attending to her duties with unwavering commitment.

In 1989, Kay was presented with the Club Service Award by the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (as BC Nature was then known) in recognition of her long service to her club and to the cause of Nature in general.

NONC itself was pleased to bestow on her a Life Membership, an honour shared with only a few other long-standing Club members. Altogether Kay's has been a remarkable career and one that few naturalists anywhere could hope to emulate.

Kay died on March 2, 2018 in her 98<sup>th</sup> year. Along with a generous bequest of \$25,000 to NONC, Kay left many boxes of files, important papers and the minute books covering her 65 year "career" as Club Secretary and custodian of everything important.