

**Executive Report for NONC Year End September 2022  
Annual General Meeting for year Oct 1, 2021 to Sept 30, 2022**

THANK YOU to each of our Executive Members for their time, input, dedication and experience in leading NONC and representing your concerns and interests.

Thank you to several committee leaders – Margaret Mackenzie for bird box trails, Gail Loughridge for hummingbird banding, Chris Siddle for Christmas Bird Count, Rod Drennan and Norbert Maertens for the Swan & Eagle Count, and Norbert for overseeing several projects at Swan Lake.

Swan Lake - The Osprey Nesting Platform was installed in January 2022 with a pair of osprey claiming nesting rights by March. One hatchling successfully fledged by July, but sadly the other fledging fell or was booted from the nest, and did not survive despite Norbert's dedicated attempts. Many visitors and photographers used the tower for great viewing of the osprey family. Thanks to Norbert for installing the mason bee housing with signage, bat house and information and osprey signage. Scope donated by Sharon Lawrence.

In April, 8 new bluebird boxes were installed along the upper trail and were monitored by Jack VanDyke. Used by tree swallows.

Update on the North Okanagan Conservation Fund Grant we received from RDNO in 2020 to map and enhance the bird habitat of Swan Lake: Upon recommendation by Carrie Nadeau, Associated Environmental, the author of Swan Lake Habitat Report that we commissioned, we are attempting to increase habitat diversity by:

- Brush piles were installed in 6 locations along the main path to the creek and along the loop trail. Purpose is to increase protected habitat for voles, mice, snakes, birds. Thanks to City of Vernon for providing and delivering the logs used in these piles.
- In partnership with Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society, we installed 100 potted plants in 5 plots in canary reed grass area along the eastern path by BX creek. Cottonwood, Osier dogwood, Bebb's willow and Pacific willow.
- Our next step is monitoring these plots over the seasons. We could hold snow shoe parties to tramp down high snow levels around the plants, to help prevent damage by voles. Spring and throughout the summer we may hold canary reed grass stomps, as it seems this is a better method of control than actually cutting the grass.

Swan Lake Committee now consists of Margaret Mackenzie, Chris Siddle, Marnie Williamson and Rob Hettler.

New Logo – was designed by member Lee Brinkman and voted upon by the membership. To be incorporated into website, pamphlets, etc.

NONC Projects:

1. Preservers of Nature Report. A NONC committee was struck to continue planning and moving forward with more recommendations.
2. We are still in process of negotiating with the City regarding Rose's Pond, to encourage the establishment of a protected natural area, to create a proper management plan, and for NONC taking on official stewardship. This is a long-term plan.

3. Cools Pond. An artistically sculpted wooden bench was commissioned and installed in the park by RDNO. Low water continues to be a concern for nesting ducks, so all of us could help monitor the activity of this small wetland. Rod and Ruth conducted a site clean-up last fall, with the help of a concerned neighbour.

4. Harold Sellers continues to provide input to RDNO on the Greater Vernon Trails and Natural Spaces Plan and remains our representative on this committee. The updated Trails and Natural Spaces Master Plan has been released and will be followed up by an Implementation Plan.

North Vernon Park – Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society was funded by RDNO to monitor, control invasive weeds, conduct a bio inventory, and provide habitat enhancement by planting cottonwoods, willows and shrubs. Part of this was protecting the garter snake dens, which parallel Delleneer Road, by stacking rocks over the den entrances and denning areas, on the direction of the herpetologist, Mike Sarell. The executive is asking members to monitor this park for garter snake activity, their return to the dens in the fall and emergence in spring. Please record any activity or reaction and send to Marnie.

Adopt a Stream/Clean-up– Thanks to Linda Busch for volunteering to coordinate this program. One cleanup on Becker Hill was completed this spring with little garbage found as the City appears to be keeping a close eye on this park. Although, NONC is steward for BX Creek from Deleenheer Rd to 58 Ave. but this was cancelled as very little garbage was evident.

Bluebird Trails –Thanks Margaret Mackenzie and the very dedicated trail monitor volunteers. See Newspacket for Margaret’s detailed report. The snake deterrent pole designed by Norbert Maertens and Claude Rioux is continuing to be tested on several trails. Monitoring will continue to determine the success of the design.

From May until July, the small, dedicated Hummingbird Banding Group maintained a biweekly monitoring station at Susan Latimer’s house in Lumby, and at Kim Turner’s on Okanagan Lake. Thank you to the four Certified banders, Gail Loughridge, Laura MacPherson, Susan Latimer, Karen Siemens and new to Vernon, Myra Quadling.

Saturday morning Nature Walks are still well attended, from 10 to 20 people. Judy Stockdale is the organizer with about 10 members as volunteer leaders. If you wish to lead a Saturday walk, or have an idea of a new area, please contact Judy.

Field Trips/ Outings of 2022 Thanks Kenn Whyte for organizing several outings this year.

NCNO - Nature Conservancy of North Okanagan Society Marnie is a director as well as the representative for NONC. Currently there are 6 registered land covenants. In the last year, NCNO has been working with an owner of two properties located in Lumby area, guiding them through the covenant registration process.

Request from BC Field Ornithologists – asked if NONC could provide guides for their birding field trips at their AGM in Vernon in May 2023. We are compiling a list of trips and guides, so contact Marnie if you wish to help.

Student Free Subscriptions to NONC e-news – a way for NONC to expand our relationships.

Christmas Bird Count – Chris Siddle has to step down as co-ordinator for this year. Please talk to one of the executive if you can help. Date this year is Sun Dec 18. Hopefully we will hold an after count gathering at the Museum. Keep posted via enews.

Swan and Eagle Count – please contact Rod Drennan, set for mid Jan 2022 rdrennan@shaw.ca

Executive sent Letters to:

1. City of Vernon – Kin Race Track Land in support of creating natural areas and wetlands along BX Creek and maintaining the wetlands in north end of the park.
2. Tolko Industries in opposition to logging on Bluenose Mtn, particularly near the existing hiking trails and within the Duteau Creek watershed.
3. City of Vernon – Anderson Ranch Development behind Rona, regarding the destruction of the existing wetland and potential flooding issues
4. City of Vernon – Port Okanagan Development on Lakeshore Rd and Okanagan Avenue – in opposition to development of residential area due to destruction of wetlands, destruction of amphibian habitat, height of proposed 10 story buildings, and limiting public access to lake.

Bailey Road Gondola proposal off Hwy 97, RDNO– we continue to monitor.

If you desire to be more involved in NONC activities, you do not need to be an executive member, but can volunteer on a committee or present new ideas. Please talk to one of us. We have a lot of things we can do, but need bodies on the ground to make them reality.

## **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS for 2022-2023**

### DIRECTORS

Nominations are:

for re-election to another term, Rod Drennan, Harold Sellers, Judy Stockdale, and Kenn Whyte,

and,

for election to a first term, Robert Hettler and Justin Oblak.

Note: Directors Pam Jenkins and Marnie Williamson are entering the second year of a 2-year term and do not require re-election this year.

### OFFICERS

President - no nominee

Vice-president - no nominee

Secretary - Rod Drennan

Treasurer - Marnie Williamson

**NORTH OKANAGAN NATURALISTS' CLUB SOCIETY**  
**Annual Report Summary for the year ending September 30, 2022**  
**Statement of Operations**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Books, pamphlets and misc.	\$ 23	\$ 30
Donations	9,739	4,500
Interest	419	700
Membership dues	4,065	4,000
Swan Lake Habitat Survey Grant	10,317	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 24,563</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 9,230</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Award to Entomological Society	\$ 500	\$ 500
Dues and insurance	1,769	1,990
Educational and subgroup costs	276	600
Office and miscellaneous	497	100
Room rental	974	2,200
Social events		100
Swan Lake Observation Tower	0	
Swan Lake General Expense	150	
Swan Lake Habitat Survey	10,315	2,500
Website to 2024	76	100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 14,557</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 8,090</u></b>
<b>Income (Deficit) over Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 10,006</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,140</u></b>

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**Statement of Financial Position September 30, 2022**

<b>Assets</b>		
Operating accounts	\$ 14,303	\$
Less: 2022/23 prepaid dues	135	
Less: Crane Road Grant	500	
Less: SL Habitat Survey Grant	<u>0</u>	13,668
Investments (Term Deposits):		
James Grant Fund	20,966	
Legacy Fund	18,330	
NONC Fund	<u>32,247</u>	71,543
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b><u><u>\$ 85,211</u></u></b>

Marnie Williamson  
Treasurer

**NORTH OKANAGAN NATURALISTS' SOCIETY**  
**Budget for the year ending September 30, 2023**

	Budget Year ending Sept 30/22	Actual Year ending Sept 30/22	Proposed Budget Sept 30/23
<b>Income</b>			
Books, pamphlets and misc.			
Birding guide book	10	10	10
Bird checklist	10	3	10
Plant checklist	10	0	10
Kal Park		10	
Donations	4,500	9,739	4,000
Interest income	700	419	500
Membership dues	4,000	4,065	3,500
Swan Lake Habitat Survey Grant		10,317	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,230</b>	<b>24,563</b>	<b>8,030</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Award to Entomological Society	500	500	500
BC Nature and other dues	1,800	1,769	1,800
Education expenses:			
Bluebird box protection	200	276	400
Meeting and speaker costs	200	0	500
Educational and subgroups	200	0	100
Garter snake protection		0	
Office and miscellaneous	100	311	100
Post box rental	190	186	190
Room rental and refreshments	2,200	974	2,200
Social events	100	0	100
Swan Lake Expenses		150	
Swan Lake Habitat Survey/Restoration	2,500	10,315	2,500
Swan Lake Observation Tower		0	0
Website to March 2024	100	76	100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,090</b>	<b>14,557</b>	<b>8,490</b>
<b>Net Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>10,006</b>	<b>-460</b>

2022-10-24

Marnie Williamson, Treasurer