

Peter Mayfield
Former NONC President and volunteer
(1929 – 2013)



Peter Mayfield was born in Pontefract, Yorkshire, England on March 6, 1929. Peter and his wife, Hylda, came to Canada in May 1954 and on their retirement to Vernon in 1989 they joined the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club. By 1992 Peter was taking an active part with other club members in persuading the city to save the Cools Pond property from development and to create, instead, a Regional Park. In 1993 he committed the club to building the log fence around the property which required a series of work parties all organized by Peter. He was able to announce at the November club meeting that the fence was completed after some 500 volunteer hours by club members. This commitment to enhancing and protecting Cools Pond continued for many years with tree planting, summer watering, weed control and semi-annual work parties.

Peter was elected to the club Executive Committee in November 1992 and became President for two years in 1993 and again for a year in 1997. Peter was a good diplomat and gained respect in his dealings with local government. He was among the first presidents to be concerned with the environmental issues arising from the development of large tracts of land for subdivisions, and he consulted with Vernon City Council and the Regional District to address these issues.

Peter and Hylda took over the job of coordinators for the Bluebird Trail program and for more than 10 years they compiled the data from all the trails, built nest boxes and put them up, monitored their own trail in the Commonage, gave bluebird workshops and in general, promoted the Bluebird Trail program. He led an annual trip to the Commonage for early spring birding which came to be known as "Bluebirds and Buttercups", and for many years he and Hylda led the weekend birding group outings with occasional multi-day trips to other areas.

When the opportunity arose to save the vandalized meteorological facility on DND property, Peter was again out in force. He and Hylda have been strong supporters of the Allan Brooks Nature Society ever since. They supplied many perennials for the ABNC Spring Plant Sale and every year Peter organized a "Knapweed Knockout" work party.

Peter was a strong advocate of educating the public and he continually shared his birding and naturalist knowledge. He worked with schools, participating in their science programs by leading groups of children along BX creek. In the 1990's NONC undertook to lead Saturday morning "Walks in Kal Park." Again Peter volunteered for this program, leading groups of adults and families and pointing out the specialties found in the ponderosa pine grassland ecosystem. In recognition of Peter's involvement in many different volunteer endeavors in greater Vernon he was named as the Good Citizen of the Year in 2000.

Peter was always readily available ... for a birding walk, an adventure, a discussion, a work party, or as someone to find out possible answers to questions relating to birds, plants, environmental concerns and issues.