

BC Nature, A Fifty-Year History 1969-2019

Appendix 13. Interviews with Former Presidents

1989 - 1998

Appendix 13 provides interviews with five former presidents who held office from 1989 to 1998. The interviews were conducted by Sheila Byers between 2012 to 2015, written as draft text and then updated in March 2020.

Sydney Cannings, President 1989 – 1991	p. 2
Jude Grass, President 1991 - 1993 (also 1983 - 1987)	p. 11
Daphne Solecki, President 1993 – 1994	p. 27
Frances Vyse, President 1994 – 1996	p. 33
Audrey Hoeg, President 1996 – 1998	p. 44

Sydney Cannings, President 1989 - 1991

Sydney Cannings served as President of Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS, now Nature Vancouver) from 1984 to 1986. He joined the FBCN Board of Directors as Vice-President from 1988 to 1989 and then served as President from 1989 to 1991. During this time period, Syd was the Entomology Curator at the Spencer Entomology Museum, UBC.

From the energy and enthusiasm instilled in Syd's first President's Report in the BC Naturalist Newsletter, he was obviously ready for action.

I must first tell you what an honour it is to be elected president of the FBCN, especially for one who 'grew up' in the organization. It is an exciting time to be a naturalist ... and what a privilege it is to be a naturalist in BC! ... Although time is desperately short for many of this earth's systems, society as a whole has finally (it seems) become aware of the earth's predicament. Never before has the work of naturalists been so respected by society at large. But this is not the time for (as Malcolm Martin of the North Okanagan Naturalists Club puts it in the History of BC Nature (Black 1988)) "well-meaning ineffectiveness" in our organization. We must be sure to attack the root causes, as well as the local effects of environmental problems. We must be sure that the role we define for ourselves as naturalists is appropriate for the task at hand.

CHALLENGES and CHANGES

No FBCN President wants to have the efforts of their organization described as "well-meaning ineffectiveness"; however, change is one of life's constants and the Federation was overdue for some upgrades. Perhaps it was the influence of the then outgoing President, Joe Lotzkar, a businessman and one of the founders of the Environmentally Sound Packaging Coalition (ESP) that was established to act on the growing problems associated with packaging waste. Joe saw the need for the Federation to become more professional, more self-sufficient, and more business-like to work with industries and governments towards finding solutions to these growing environmental problems. With about 35 clubs and 5,000 individuals under the 1990 FBCN umbrella and the frantic pace of environmental action, the volunteer FBCN Executive was showing signs of fatigue with the never-ending workload. As testimony, Syd's sister (Bette Cannings) had even been recruited to assist with the administrative work.

To begin with, communication of the Federation with its members and member clubs has always been a significant challenge; not surprising when considering the size of the province, the distances between clubs, and the days of snail-mail and non-computerized technology. In the 1950s and 1960s, the efforts of the Federation to gain broader and more in-depth knowledge and understanding of nature so as to better protect and preserve the environment, and better manage the natural resources, had perhaps grown too insular. Yet this same knowledge

base of individual members had become a valuable resource, in and of itself, that was now in great demand. So how does the FBCN promote the knowledge and expertise of its members? Syd's first significant challenge with the Federation was to help it 'get with the program'.

The 'program' was kick-started with a new "Statement of Purpose" for the Federation adopted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 5, 1989. Bert Brink, then Chair of the Education and Recreation Committee, had expressed concern that the organization was getting lost in a sea of environmental groups and that the public did not really know who the FBCN was or what the FBCN stood for. After much discussion by the Executive and feedback from the Clubs, a Statement of Purpose was identified along with a simple motto "to know the outdoors and to keep it worth knowing". In the Statement of Purpose, clear goals were identified to set priorities for the Federation on both short- and long-term plans. (See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand 1989 to 1996).

The ball was rolling. Everywhere, at Directors' meetings, at Conservation Day, at the AGMs and FGMs, over coffee or dinner, on field trips, everyone was talking about how to improve communication between the members and the Federation Board. How can we naturalists keep in better touch? How can we involve more of our members, especially those in the Interior? How can we raise our public profile? How can we be more effective in our advocacy for the environment? Where is our niche in the conservation movement?

Syd knew that there was no substitute for real communication that occurs as a result of face-to-face meetings and chats over coffee. He also recognized, however, the importance of communication through the BC Naturalist Newsletter.

It is our main means of communication with each member but because of its quarterly appearance, issues are often long since resolved, or opportunities for action missed, between deadline and mailing. To alleviate this, the Federation decided that next year it would publish six issues rather than the present four.

"RavenTalk" was another addition to the newsletter as a section heading where items of concern, resolutions, priorities of the Education and Conservation committees, the President's Message, and business from the Director's and Executive would be highlighted. In addition to the Statement of Purpose, Bert Brink made sure that everyone was moving forward from the same page with the same information by providing an overview of "What is the Federation of BC Naturalists" covering some history, a few statistics, general policy items, endeavours, accomplishments, and difficulties.

Lots of changes were happening in the office. The FBCN had recently transitioned from the Outdoor Recreation Council facility at 1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver to a small, rented and shared space with Sport BC at 1367 West Broadway. But from Syd's perspective, even without a window the office still needed a 'facelift'. Syd proclaimed - *it is being dragged kicking and screaming into the 90s and the*

microcomputer age with the purchase of a Macintosh, and word processing and accounting software.

In 1987, Adeline Nicol had been hired as the Executive Secretary (Executive Assistant), the first full-time paid FBCN staff member with formal working conditions and a contract. From scratch, she had organized the office into a coherent and functional system. After her untimely death in 1990, she was replaced by the equally competent Frieda Davidson as Office Manager.

Within the first year of his Presidency, Syd was prepared to make a significant change. A proposal for fee increases for clubs and direct members was announced via a letter from the President sent out to all the FBCN members in the spring of 1990. Proposed increases would up the fees from \$4 to \$10 per member for both individual and family members and from \$10 to \$15 for direct members.

For Syd, this was the most stressful and most vehemently opposed issue with which he had to contend. The 1990 fee debate rivalled that of 1968 when Elton Anderson made the interesting comparison that fees, recommended to increase from \$0.50 to \$2.00, were still about "half the cost of a bottle of rye"! Push-back from the members was well-founded. What if we lose members? What if we think the voting process is unfair and the identified fees unfair? What was the Federation doing for the rural clubs compared to the urban clubs, or for that matter, all clubs at a provincial level?

Undaunted, Syd saw much of the anguish as stemming from *the Federation's apparent failure to tell its members just what their money is being used for and why they should be excited about the future.* So that's what he did.

His specific challenge - convincing the membership, especially the rural clubs, of not only the administrative needs of the increase to better serve them but also the practical benefits members would receive. Syd laid out the Federation's costs of communication and action on behalf of its members: the office operating costs run at \$9,000 annually; the annual salary of administrative staff costs \$25,000; travel costs for Directors totalled \$10,497 (although they donated most of that back to the Federation). In short, the FBCN realistically required about \$44,500 annually to function (or \$35,850 with Directors' generosity). The FBCN payment structure provided the clubs the freedom to set fee structures that best served their purposes, while still ensuring that enough money was raised to pay their Federation dues. Although the FBCN federated structure made it somewhat awkward to raise membership fees, it did provide a democratic federation with strength in numbers; as well as, a system of direct input from the clubs and regions to the Federation Board in spite of a geographically diverse and far-flung province.

As it turns out, Syd discovered that the FBCN system was not unique in BC; other similar organizations, e.g., BC Wildlife Federation, Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, had identical federated structures. Syd was convincing in his argument that with improved communications, the existing structural relationship between the Board and clubs would serve the Federation well into the future. At the AGM in May

1990, members voted 54 to 21 in favour of a motion to increase annual club fees to \$10 (both individual and family members) and \$15 (direct members). The increased fees became due to the Federation office, effective January 1992.

PROJECTS

BC's Forestry Resources, Mineral Resources, and Wildlife Resources - Environmental Concerns

During Syd's tenure as President, the FBCN became involved in many regional planning programs on major topics in hopes of achieving better long-term management of BC's forestry resources, (e.g., clear-cutting, old growth forests), mineral resources (e.g., copper mining) and, wildlife resources (e.g., caribou, bison, grizzly bear, Marbled Murrelet). Projects included the Windy Craggy Mine in the Tatshenshini/Alsek watershed of northwestern BC, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park near Smithers, Stikine River near the BC/Alaska border, Peace River Site C near Fort St John, Khutzeymateen Valley near Prince Rupert, Wood Buffalo National Park at the Alberta/Northwest Territories border, and, the Caren Range on the Sechelt Peninsula. Syd congratulated various members who contributed greatly to these projects including Rosemary Fox, Frances and Alan Vyse, Rosamund and Jim Pojar, to name a few.

With nature pitted against the economy on so many fronts, many people including Monte Hummel, President of World Wildlife Fund of Canada, were insistent on the need for Canada to set aside 12% of its land base for wildlife wilderness areas. In 1989, only 2.6% was recognized as wilderness. But of course, regional planning was occurring not just in wilderness areas but much closer to home (urban versus rural) in grassland, wetland and estuary habitats. For example, members of the FBCN were major players in the constant battles and vigilance required to prevent the destruction of Boundary Bay ecosystem habitats, an already internationally acclaimed wildlife asset.

In 1989, as proof that Canadians wanted more attention paid to environmental issues, Lucien Bouchard, former Federal Minister of Environment, introduced the Federal Green Plan. The Green Plan was released in 1990 as a five-year strategy for federal action and national consultation on environmental issues. In spite of its many constraints and potential concerns, Dick Stace-Smith, then Conservation Committee Chair, recommended that FBCN support the plan because Ottawa intended to set a high priority for clean-up action along rivers through consultations with the province, industry and communities to determine the best approach. The Federal Fraser River Action Plan evolved in 1991 from this initiative.

All of a sudden it seemed that public consultation processes were being requested by all manner of agencies. Word had it that various "Roundtables" were being established for the express purpose of establishing strategies for orderly development, and to avoid the shrill and often unproductive public controversies over resource decisions: e.g., Parks Plan 90, the provincial initiative to assist with

the development of the BC Parks system to add parks, ecological reserves and designate candidate wilderness areas; BC Provincial Roundtable on the Environment and Economy; and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (now Metro Vancouver) for Liveable Regions Strategy. Syd wasn't kidding when he said that

The government ministries need our help – they have asked us for it repeatedly. So let's put all of our knowledge of natural British Columbia to work!"

How was this to be achieved?

Land for Wildlife Project (Land for Nature Project)

With so much government focus on the environment and so much demand on naturalists for local knowledge on flora, fauna and their habitats, the FBCN Executive was scrambling to bring their club members up to speed.

At the request of Syd, Bert Brink (as Education and Recreation Committee Chair) was asked to communicate some of the history and accomplishments of the FBCN to the clubs in RavenTalk. He identified the following: FBCN initiated Roundtables in the 1980s to discuss the directions naturalists should take in response to the rapidly changing demography and landscapes in the different regions of the province. Roundtables were a means to examine the ways the clubs and the directors of the Federation could be mutually supportive to educate, to conserve and to maintain a balanced perspective. (See Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops).

FBCN symposia and roundtables that were offered in the past had been successful catalysts for conservation and nature education of club members. Was this a solution for the present? As luck would have it, a sizeable bequest to the Federation was received in 1990 that provided the FBCN with a unique opportunity and a contract position for a promising candidate, Nora Layard. Her director experience with the BC Environmental Network and Outdoor Recreation Council, and her conservation-wise contacts, provided Nora with valuable qualifications for the task at hand. Nora's task was to involve members with key individuals outside the Federation, in conservation and education roundtables and workshop discussions. To begin, Nora organized a very successful Old Growth Forests (Interior and Coastal) Workshop (1990) and field trip for the members at the 1990 FGM in Salmon Arm that included several top-notch speakers. Her second task was to seek outside funding to continue this work into the future.

By 1991, funding was received to support a major project entitled the Land for Wildlife Project. The goals for the project were to identify important habitats that required protection; learn about government agencies' plans for completing their systems of protected areas; and, inform local decision-makers and government representatives about naturalists' concerns regarding critical habitat.

Community workshops (eventually replacing roundtables) were to serve as the vehicle to bring people together to create better understanding and to develop recommendations for actions. Information generated from the project was expected

to be useful for government/public consultation processes, and to inform naturalists and the public about the areas that required protection. Also, data was to be used by the Conservation Data Centre being developed by The Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Nature Trust of BC, BC Ministry of Environment, and by the British Columbia Endangered Spaces Project.

Under the Land for Wildlife Project, Nora continued to organize regional studies and workshops regarding critical habitat areas such as the South Okanagan Roundtable (1990) and The Vancouver Island East Coast Shoreline and Adjacent Wetlands Workshop (1991). The FBCN co-hosted a major conference on Habitat Enhancement Activities in BC (1991). The pace was quickening. Nora received two grants for the Land for Wildlife Project that allowed the FBCN to support the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society in organizing another major public conference, Endangered Species and Habitat Enhancement in BC (Symposium on the Status of British Columbia's Threatened and Endangered Species and Their Habitat 1991); and the Dunsmuir II Land Use Conference.

FBCN representatives became involved with The BC Endangered Spaces Project wherein the provincial government intended to promote and plan for the rapid completion of a protected areas system for BC. FBCN was especially concerned about a protected-areas system that focused on conservation of biological diversity, rather than just human recreational needs. FBCN clubs took part in the consultation sessions hosted by the Provincial Roundtable on the Environment and Economy, and the Parks Plan 90; the latter specifically to ensure the identification of important habitat areas for Parks and Forest Service. Nora worked with the Kamloops Naturalists Club to organize a workshop on the Endangered Spaces Project: Land for Nature in the Kamloops Area (1991).

Nora's position as Project Coordinator for the Land for Wildlife Project continued with funding from two major grants: one from the recently formed Vancouver Foundation and one from the Federal Government. With the former grant, the Land for Wildlife Project essentially morphed into the Land for Nature Project (LFN). The long-term goals for the LFN Project were to involve all the naturalist clubs in making a real contribution to the identification and conservation of important, sensitive habitats on a regional basis; to enable the local clubs to help protect these habitats and their biological diversity; and, to stimulate the development of nature education facilities throughout the province. The process would inform local decision-makers and government representatives of naturalists' concerns about local critical habitats. Information acquired would be of tremendous benefit to land use planning processes, some of which were already initiated by Parks Plan 90, BC Roundtables and the Regional District Major Parks Planning process. The very successful LFN projects provided a wealth of information for sensitive habitats all over the province well into 1998. (See Appendix 9. Publications for a list of 16 LFN projects with more details on these projects in Chapter 7. Projects).

Syd was asked his opinion of the Federation's approach in using roundtable events. Syd commented, in retrospect, that these gatherings were very important and conducive to communication between and amongst all 'sides' with representation

from government, industry and scientists/naturalists, who tabled broad discussion and perspectives on any given topic. Many FBCN members involved with the LFN projects would whole-heartedly agree!!

Cordillera – A Journal of British Columbia Natural History

Syd's favourite project for 1990 was a proposal for FBCN to publish a provincial natural history journal. Syd envisioned features

on everything from birds to bees to buttercups and boulders.

He considered that a new journal for BC would provide a much-needed outlet for nature information in a naturally diverse province. As a boy, Syd recalled reading the *Blue Jay* from the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and *Trail and Landscape* from Ottawa. Why was there no such magazine in BC? Plenty of fascinating information was gathered by naturalists every year in BC, but there was no appropriate place to publish it. A journal would provide tangible, take-home information about naturalists and about nature, and the FBCN mandate to promote nature and education, with the long-term goal to stimulate other naturalists to do further studies.

The vision for the journal was for 'ordinary, everyday' naturalists to write articles that were scientifically accurate and current (peer-reviewed by the *Cordillera* Editorial team) but written in a style accessible to the interested public. Syd knew that naturalists could be a real positive force in conservation if they could record their knowledge and share it with the community at large. His hope was that the journal would both inform naturalists and stimulate them to go out and actively pursue knowledge directly, by observing nature. The geographic range of the journal content would primarily be BC-oriented but was also intended to extend beyond the borders of BC to take in other mountainous regions of western Canada, the northern tier of the US states, and Alaska. A children's section would feature special articles written for young people and, more importantly, provide them with space to write their own articles about their observations and adventures with the natural world. The first issue of *Cordillera, a Journal of British Columbia Natural History*, would be free to members with a copy going to every school and library in the province free of charge. After that, it would be funded primarily through subscriptions.

The first issue of the *Cordillera* was planned for release in 1991 but was not released until 1994 due to difficulties in obtaining sufficient funding to subsidize the printing costs. Syd served on the *Cordillera* Management Committee from 1994 to 1999, occasionally as Chair. (See Chapter 4. Communications through Newsletters, Magazines, Website and Office, p.3 for further information on *Cordillera*).

Cordillera was published for five years, but in 2000 after full consideration the publication was terminated. Although the journal articles had broad appeal, the FBCN lacked the funds and personnel to sustain such an ambitious publication.

BIODIVERSITY

Another key transitional moment during Syd's Presidency was the recognition of the importance of the new buzzword—biodiversity—amongst biologists, foresters, bureaucrats, and politicians alike. With all levels of government (and naturalists!) focusing on the identification of important and sensitive habitats through lands use projects, green plans and lands for wildlife and nature projects, Syd questioned:

how do we set priorities for acquiring lands for preservation or for special management without knowing what we are preserving or where it is?

To address these problems, The BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) was initiated in 1991 as a joint program of the Wildlife Branch of BC Environment, The Nature Trust of British Columbia, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and The Nature Conservancy (United States). After a two- to three-year trial period, the expectation was that the CDC would become an ongoing, fully funded government program (which has happened—CDC is now part of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy). Syd was fortunate to be one of the five people initially involved in that program.

ON THE SUBJECT OF CONSERVATION VERSUS ACTIVISM

To keep non-profit societies such as the Federation moving forward, it was Syd's opinion that involving key people was critical; people that were knowledgeable, respectful and strong advocates for the organization (the FBCN has had many such key advocates). He considered high profile, but contentious views in the newspaper were, in the long run, not productive and often harmful. When environmental issues of concern arise, the broader society needs activists and conservationists; they both have value and a specific role to play. For example, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Committee (formerly Western Canada Wilderness Committee) work on public policy and environmental awareness by constant vigil as watchdog, keeping these issues in the forefront of the news. They have the staff to do so. [Syd also noted the valuable work presently being done by Ecojustice, founded in 1990 as the Sierra Legal Defence Fund].

Syd felt strongly that the FBCN must remain rational and strive to find the compromise somewhere between the position offered by the government and that of the activists. Both Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan and Dr. Bert Brink, past Professors at UBC, knew how to keep the FBCN focused on presenting factual, science-based information. Largely due to its key players, FBCN has had a history and legacy of being able to achieve, through persistent yet non-violent actions, win/win solutions for government, industry, conservationists, and, activists. In his view, the Federation plays an important role juxtaposed to the activists. To continue to survive, however, the FBCN must have distinct values – values that represent the voice of nature with science-based knowledge to back it up.

In closing, Syd's perspective on why FBCN is important to the province is the unique position and capacity of the Federation and its clubs to help protect and conserve the incredible biodiversity of BC.

Syd's BACKGROUND

Syd was the Entomology Curator at the Spencer Entomology Museum, UBC from 1980 to 1991. He then worked for the BC Government in their Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC) from 1991 to 2002 on the conservation status and locations (occurrences) of species and ecological communities at risk. Thereafter, Syd spent one year as a wildlife consultant and since 2003, he has worked with Environment Canada and is currently based in Whitehorse, Yukon. He is the Canadian Wildlife Service representative on COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), an independent body of experts responsible for identifying and assessing wildlife species considered to be at risk.

In 1996, Syd and his brother Richard published *British Columbia: A Natural History* (the revised third edition of this book was released in February 2015). The book has led to other similar publications, including *The New BC Roadside Naturalist*. Syd has led many tours on a wide cross-section of wildlife to several continents, sponsored by Vancouver Community College Natural History Tours (Vancouver Community College Continuing Education Division), and Travel Programs 1990-1991 (UBC Field Studies Educational Travel).

Positions

VNHS (VanNHS, now Nature Vancouver)	FBCN
President: 1984-1986	Vice President: 1987-1989
Discovery Magazine Assistant Editor: (Entomology) 1985-1991	President: 1989-1991
Discovery Magazine Editor: 1989-1991	Past President: 1992
Director: 1986-1992	Cordillera Management Committee: 1994-1999

REFERENCES

BC Naturalist Newsletter. 1989-1991. Vol 27, No 1 through Vol 29, No 2. FBCN.

Jude Grass, President 1983 - 1987 and 1991 - 1993

Jude became a member of the Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS, now Nature Vancouver) in 1968 and became active in the FBCN (now BC Nature) in 1974. She held the FBCN President's position from 1983-1987 and again from 1991-1993. The interview covered highlights that stood out in Jude's memory from both terms but focused primarily on her last term.

BACKGROUND

For her initial and extensive five-year period as the FBCN President from 1983-1987, Jude, being a rookie, felt that her role as President was more of an administrative one. She suggested that it was Dr. Bert Brink, Dr. Dick Stace-Smith and Norman Pursell with their knowledge, expertise and executive experience, who fulfilled the greater part of the Federation's work (especially with regard to education and conservation efforts). By Jude undertaking the FBCN's administrative duties, however, she filled the necessary gap in those years when no one else was prepared to step into the position; but best of all – Jude LEARNED alot!! These same men continued to be mentors and supporters of Jude well on into her second tenure of President from 1991-1993.

Jude was pulled into the VNHS in 1968 by Neil Dawe, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada as Neil was a FBCN Regional Vice-President for Vancouver Island. Jude had taken a birding course from Neil through the Continuing Education program at UBC and her keen passion for wildlife and birding (especially owls and raptors!) was immediately evident to him. Both the 'birders' memberships and influence in the VNHS had been growing since 1960, under the leadership of Werner and Hilde Hesse (Peacock, 1993). When Jude joined the VNHS, Wayne Campbell and Mike Shepard were in charge of Birders' Night, as it was called at the time. Subsequently the two went off in different job-pursuit directions; however, not before co-authoring with Wayne Weber, the publication *Vancouver Birds* in 1971 (Peacock, 1993). The popularity of this VNHS "special interest group" of Birds and Mammals grew to the point that they began meeting separately on Birders' Nights in 1975; the first section to diverge from the regular VNHS meetings (Coope, 2012). John Toochin took over from Wayne and Mike, chairing the monthly Birders' Night meetings from 1975-1982.

The growing breadth of activities undertaken by members of the VNHS Birding Section, as it eventually became known, inspired John to suggest the publication of a monthly newsletter, *The Wandering Tattler*. The Newsletter would include up-to-date bird information, speakers, field trips, announcements and meetings (not otherwise included in the VNHS *Discovery Journal*); as well as raptor counts which Jude had already been coordinating. Jude was a founding member of *The Wandering Tattler* with the first issue printed in 1978 (Peacock, 1993) and she has been the editor for most of its 37 years (1977-1991; 2005-to 2019 (McNicholl, 2009; Neville, 2012)). Before long, Jude found herself nominated to the VNHS Board of Directors in 1977, becoming the Board liaison to the Birding Section Committee in 1977 (McNichol, 2009).

Neil Dawe's influence on Jude in the late 1960s was reciprocated in 1976 when Jude succeeded Neil as the compiler and organizer of the highly successful Ladner Christmas Bird Count. She and Al organized and compiled that count again in 1978 and Jude has continued to compile, or co-compile, the bird count data ever since (McNicholl, 2009).

Jude was President of VNHS from 1978-1980 (Peacock, 1993). Her involvement in the executive position led to more association and communication with the executive of FBCN, including Dick, Bert and Norm. One thing led to another. Already a member of FBCN, Jude became interested in the "ins and outs" of the *BC Naturalist* newsletter in the late 1970s but she officially stepped into the folds of FBCN as the Regional Vice-President for the Lower Mainland in 1980, while also joining the FBCN executive as Corresponding Secretary in the same year. She became involved in the Editorial Committee of the *BC Naturalist* newsletter and by 1982 she assumed the Editor's position. By the Fall of 1981 Jude was launched into the FBCN executive position of Vice-President (1981-1983), followed by her first tenure as President from 1983 to 1987. During her Presidential term Jude learned a great deal about negotiation, mediation and communication methods from Bert, Dick and Norm, not to mention a lot more about nature (in addition to birds!).

At the time (late 1970s), Jude was working with BC Parks at Shuswap Lake as a naturalist and senior interpreter where she produced 12 self-guided nature tour brochures for Parks. As an example, over about a four-year period she produced brochures for self-guided tours of Emory Creek, Cypress Mountain, Cultus Lake, Manning and Mount Seymour Parks.

As it turns out, Jude's husband, Al, was also an employee of BC Parks. A career Parks-branch naturalist and ranger (1968-1998), Al was a birder and a long-time member of VNHS and FBCN. He became a founding member of the Langley Field Naturalists. VNHS had offered a number of field trips to the Campbell Valley area of Langley (an area larger than Stanley Park) as it was ideal for viewing owls, and had a diversity of bird, plant and mammal species. When the owner of the property put it up for sale, those naturalists who knew the wildlife value of the river valley promoted it for protection as a regional park. It took the formalization of local naturalists as the Langley Field Naturalists (~ 1976) in combination with support from VNHS and FBCN (including Jude and Al), to support the Campbell Valley Regional Park under the jurisdiction of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD; now Metro Vancouver).

Both VNHS and FBCN deserve credit, at least in part, for the establishment and continued support of the Campbell Valley Regional Park: both Bert Brink and Dick Stace-Smith had a close working relationship with Richard Hankin of GVRD and the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board. FBCN members Natalie Minunzie and Adeline Nicol were members of the Langley Field Naturalists; and, all were very strong supporters and dedicated members of the FBCN executive, its various committees, regional clubs, and representatives on many advisory committees. Naturalists were such a tightly knit group!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Organization has always been a big part of Jude's personal drive—especially when it comes to procedures and ways of assisting the communication and operation of the member clubs. As Past President during Joe Lotzkar's Presidency (1987-1989), Jude took on the position of Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee. Jude was involved with the production of a *Directors' Manual*, initially started by Adeline Nicol in the days before the FBCN regionalization (1975). The Manual was revised and updated by Rob Kitchen, Fall 1988 as the *FBCN Policy Manual*. The *Policy Manual* covers the FBCN Constitution and By-Laws (e.g., Membership, Meetings of the Society, Officers, Finances, etc.), the tools that FBCN clubs need to conduct their meetings, plan and host an AGM or FGM, and, individual club responsibilities relative to those of FBCN Executive. Contributors to the 1988 *Policy Manual* included Joe, Jude, Bert, Dick, Norm, and Adeline.

The 1988 *Policy Manual* also includes FBCN Resolutions tabled between 1979 and 1988. Resolutions from 1989 to 1994 were compiled in a *Resolution Manual* prepared by Laurence Brown (1994). Jude pondered out-loud if the resolutions nowadays have similar topic foci as those during the 1983-1993 timeframe. She also raised an interesting idea for a student project focusing on heritage or conservation: extract historical information relating to how BC Nature has grown and what it has accomplished, e.g., what topic happened when and which resolutions were successful, or not. Such information would be very valuable to the FBCN clubs, keeping them aware of the FBCN accomplishments, including those in their own regions, as incentives for regional clubs to stay proactive.

(Note: Bev Ramey, FBCN President 2006 – 2010, updated the resolutions, 1995-2005, plus there is a further publication of resolutions 1996-2019 available on the BC Nature website.)

Jude developed a booklet on the *Guidelines for Field Trip Leaders* (around 1980) and continues to run or assist with workshops on the same topic through Nature Vancouver. Informative guideline topics included responsibilities of field trip leaders, safety, First Aid, liability waivers, bears and cougars: all pertinent educational information for clubs that is necessary to satisfy and ensure FBCN insurance coverage/compliance. Both the *Policy Manual* and *Leaders' Guidelines* have been provided to the BC Nature clubs as part of their essential tools: tools critical to the support and encouragement of the formation of new clubs throughout the province. The revised *Guidelines* are available on the BC Nature website - in the members only section - under Club Resources.

COMMUNICATING EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION

Over the years, Jude put a great deal of effort and energy into improving and maintaining communication between and amongst FBCN Board of Directors, clubs and members. At the completion of her first tenure as the FBCN President (1983-1987), she highlighted a number of accomplishments achieved by FBCN: the

establishment of the Publication Committee to provide educational material about nature to the public; the development of a new format and focus for the *BC Naturalist* newsletter to better serve the members with current updates about environmental issues and natural history information; and, the reorganization of the Education Committee so that it could carry out new projects to involve clubs, members and the public.

Jude's interest in communicating news through the written word was obviously as important as the verbal, given her lengthy commitment as Editor of both the FBCN *BC Naturalist* newsletter and Nature Vancouver's *Wandering Tattler*. When Syd stepped into the President's position in 1989 and decided that some major changes were in order (including the purchase of a computer!?) there was no doubt that Jude relished the discussion around communication and the *BC Naturalist*:

What?!?... two more issues of the newsletter per year? Yes! And why not start a new format for the Newsletter if that's what the members requested.

As of 1990, the centre eight pages of the Newsletter were organized under "RavenTalk – Your Federation in Action", within which were included highlights such as the President's Message, resolutions, Education and Conservation Committee priorities, Club Chat, items of concern, and business from the Directors and Executive. *And how about more of those "Grass Clippings" please!* Although Jude retired from the position as Editor of the *BC Naturalist* in 1998, she continues to spread the word about her favourite animals—BIRDS—in the *Wandering Tattler*.

As Past President, Jude became Chair of the FBCN Education and Recreation Committee (1993-1995). Jude's passion for the conservation of nature grew over the years and she recalls that FBCN Conservation issues were non-stop throughout both presidential terms although most of the action was undertaken by Committee members such as Kevin Bell, Ken Hall, Dick Stace-Smith, and Bert Brink in the 1980s and into the 1990s, then with Anne Murray, Bev Ramey and Rosemary Fox in the later 1990s and 2000s.

Wildlife Watch Program (and Wildlife Viewing)

Jude, with her naturalist's brochure-producing experience, had taken particular interest in wildlife viewing as a consequence of a project that had been undertaken by April Mol, a SFU Masters student in 1984. April's thesis was on wildlife management planning and she had secured support (FBCN, Fish and Wildlife Branch, and provincial Ministry of the Environment), and funds (BC Public Conservation Assistance Fund, Habitat Conservation Fund, FBCN), and sufficient wildlife viewing sites (over 300) to produce a book in 1988 entitled *Wildlife Viewing Guide for Southwestern BC* (Black 1988). April documented viewing sites with location directions, habitat description, and species present including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and salmon. April hoped that by encouraging public awareness of these sites that the public would become more interested in conservation matters.

A Provincial Committee for Wildlife Viewing began placing BC's great diversity of wildlife on the map – LITERALLY! The Committee, with representation from FBCN, Ministries of Tourism and Provincial Secretary, Parks and Environment, followed up on April's thesis study with a report *Wildlife Viewing in BC: The Tourism Potential* (1988). Although the wildlife viewing industry was small at the time, the study concluded that BC "has a major opportunity to take a leadership role in viewing tourism."

In 1991, the Ministry of Environment – "Wildlife Watch Program" produced a new brochure on *Wildlife Viewing in BC*. The brochure listed wildlife viewing areas, species expected by season, and a short list of other types of wildlife expected at each site. General habitat information, conservation through responsible and ethical viewing, tips for wildlife watching and safety, and contact details for the regional Wildlife Branch offices were the types of information included in the brochure.

As a result of the FBCN's membership on the Ministry of Environment's Wildlife Viewing Tourism Advisory Committee, the FBCN Education Committee decided to raise the profile of the Wildlife Watch Program in the form of a workshop at the 1991 FGM in Courtenay, BC. The workshop was facilitated by April and Jude. The FBCN had sponsored some of the contracts for Regional Wildlife Viewing Plans and Specific Site Plans, including the sites at Salmon Arm, the Brant Festival, and signs for Eagle Viewing at Kilby Provincial Park. The workshop provided background and updated information on the Wildlife Watch Program; as well as providing a discussion session, led by Bert Brink, on FBCN's role in education and how to make it a more effective tool within the FBCN, the Regions and perhaps more importantly, the Clubs.

Jude recalled that the Williams Lake Field Naturalists set up a committee to gather information for a wildlife viewing kiosk to be constructed at the Scout Island Nature Centre by the Ministry of Environment, as part of the Wildlife Watch Program in 1993.

FBCN compiled and produced Wildlife Viewing brochures for regions of the province in the 1990s. These were distributed to tourist information officers, clubs and others. More recently BC Nature launched the website, BC Nature Guide around 2012. This program, to "Harness Nature Knowledge", provides website description of local natural areas, together with local map and other details, compiled through BC Nature contractors working together with local naturalist clubs. (See BC Nature website under Know Nature/BC Nature Guide.)

Young Naturalists and the Stanley Park Nature House

Most die-hard naturalists are aware of the necessity of educating young people about the beauty and value of nature and the many benefits of protecting 'her'. Through the years, the FBCN had always endeavoured to include young people in their outreach programs and camps, although not always as successfully as had been hoped. One consistent endeavour, however, was started by Al Grass. Fed by his BC Parks naturalist's background, Al had been writing insightful articles in his

"Close-Up On Nature" for 'grown-up naturalists' in the *BC Naturalist* newsletter since at least 1987, introducing many natural history facts and stories about many different species in nature. In 1991, Al decided to start speaking for 'Jerry the Moose' who introduced subjects specifically for children. Al encouraged *Earth Explorers* to join "Jerry's Rangers". Al and Jude's son, Danny who would have been about seven at the time, no doubt discovered many interesting tiny creatures to delight his parents and to feed ideas that could be included in the Jerry's Rangers column.

By 1992, a "young naturalists group" had been formed in Revelstoke by Debby Robinson. Jude, in her position as Editor of *BC Naturalist*, began advertising for young naturalists to submit articles, stories, activities, games, artwork, etc., to publish in the newsletter. During Jude's second term as President (1991-1993), the FBCN had a Young Naturalist Committee and Jude was a member. The FBCN Vice-President Daphne Solecki also served on the Young Naturalist Committee. The connection between the FBCN and the VNHS on this endeavour was obviously very close: Daphne at the time was also the VNHS President and Jude was also the VNHS representative to the FBCN Board. Talk about societal interwoven fabrics! (See Chapter 8. NatureKids Formation for further information on the formation of the Young Naturalists' Club.)

Somewhere in the brainstorming and conversations, the idea of building a better Nature House in Stanley Park arose. One already existed but it was hidden away, out of sight in the Rose Garden in the middle of the Park. The Committee members with the VNHS club taking the lead, pushed towards finding a new location for the Nature House to replace the original one. Hard work paid off in 1993: "After 18 months of preparation the VNHS opened a Nature Centre in the old boat house at Lost Lagoon this spring. This was a cooperative effort of naturalists, teachers, the Aquarium, Stanley Park Zoological Society and the Parks Board, and has been well received by the general public." To this day, both Jude and Daphne have remained closely connected with this society, now called the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES).

BC Naturalists' Foundation

During her 1991-1993 BC Nature President's term, Jude sat on the Board of the BC Naturalists' Foundation (initially named the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists' Foundation). The Foundation was established in 1990 by members of the FBCN for the purpose of building a strong capital base, the future income from which would provide a steady source of funds for conservation and nature education projects. Jude served as President of the BC Naturalists' Foundation 1994 - 1997.

CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS AND ROUNDTABLES

Jude was passionate about organizing educational sessions for the benefit of club members. From her experience, these sessions (in whatever format) had been very

successful from the start and always greatly appreciated by those participating. The FBCN Education and Recreation Committee had begun offering roundtables at the general meetings and Jude was totally in favour of the idea.

The first roundtable, the Minnekhada Roundtable, was offered by the FBCN Education and Recreation Committee in 1987. The second, the Williams Lake Roundtable, was offered at the Williams Lake AGM in 1988. The Committee invited a panel of 10 representatives from the provincial Forestry, Parks, Wildlife, and, Scout Island Nature Sanctuary to answer questions posed by naturalists. The opportunity for naturalists to communicate their wishes, their needs and their knowledge to government, to other naturalists and to the public was enthusiastically received. The Roundtable was well attended and so successful that the FBCN considered incorporating a Roundtable as a regular feature of future AGMs. (See Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops).

Several conferences and symposia were organized during Jude's two terms as President. FBCN sponsored the symposium, *Bits & Pieces – The Natural Diversity of British Columbia from the Naturalists Perspective*, held at UBC in 1987 in support of the Canadian Wildlife Service celebrations for their Wildlife Centennial 1987 - the 100th Birthday of Wildlife Conservation in Canada. *Bits & Pieces* covered species diversity, the connectivity of wildlife, wildlife corridors, land use and habitat management, etc., questioning whether or not saving small bits of habitat areas was sufficient to sustain wildlife for the long term. FBCN further contributed to the Centennial celebrations with articles in the *BC Naturalist* documenting the scope of wildlife and habitat research in BC (as well as, the Yukon and Alaska).

In 1989 when Jude was serving on the Education and Recreation Committee, a workshop, "Sharing Nature in Your Community", was offered at the Campbell Valley Regional Park FGM, Langley. Jude and April Mol were the Program Coordinators. The emphasis of the workshop was to encourage outdoor nature activities. It was designed to help leaders develop program skills (how to lead a walk or give a talk), how to avoid problems, and most importantly, how to "have fun with the group!" Participants learned new techniques for working with children, adults and special-needs groups and how to make effective and interesting presentations to groups.

As part of the 1990 AGM in Kelowna, the FBCN Education Committee offered a "Sharing Nature in Your Community Level 1" workshop again. But this time, the coordinators April Mol and Jude, upped the ante by introducing a second workshop: "Project Wild: A Workshop for the Naturalist". Project Wild was a newly developed education program that used wildlife-related instructional activities, for teachers and naturalists alike, to use with children from kindergarten through high school age. The Education Committee worked in conjunction with the BC Ministry of Environment to achieve a balanced instructional resource for naturalists to use as part of their resources but also for teachers to incorporate into their own communities where such information on wildlife was not always available. The two programs were designed to complement each other.

Our Common Future – 1988 alert that children will inherit a polluted world

One particularly hot topic in the early 1990s grew out of a global study released in 1988 during Joe Lotzkar's Presidency. The global study hit such a nerve in BC as to create a chain reaction of Roundtable forums that spanned at least four terms of FBCN Presidents that followed Joe Lotzkar: Syd Cannings, Jude Grass, Daphne Solecki and Frances Vyse.

The study was released under the World Commission on Environment and Development. The report compiled by the Commission – *Our Common Future* – finally hit the news media in 1987 under a more common-denominator name: "Environment Disaster Looming, Global Study Warns". The study was led by Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Bruntland and became better known as the Bruntland Report. Canada was one of 21 participating countries involved. In Canada the Bruntland Report worked its way through government levels as *The Report of National Task Force on Environment and Economy* (1986). As Joe remarked:

their report says, today's children will inherit a polluted world stripped of its natural resources.

Does this sound familiar!? Was this what Jude reflected upon as one of those conservation issues that was at the forefront in the 1980s and 1990s (and battled by FBCN naturalists) and is still in the headlines today? Perhaps the massive climate crises rallies held worldwide in 2019, and headlines dominated with concerns regarding global climate change and emergency, are proof in the pudding.

Back in the late 1980s Joe Lotzkar derived two key directives from the Bruntland Report that were areas of concern for the FBCN: 1/ a sustainable resource base; and, 2/ public involvement in the planning process leading to economic development. His specific concern was the revelation through the media that highlighted the devastation and waste in the Queen Charlotte Islands (now Haida Gwaii) by the dominant BC logging companies using the classical "CUT-OUT and GET OUT" policy. Joe attended the conference called Dunsmuir I (the first of three) that focused on developing a sustainable Land Use Strategy. The Environment Minister Bruce Strachan and Regional Development Minister Elwood Vetch announced on December 20, 1988 the appointment of a provincial Environment and Economy Task Force. Dr. Bert Brink represented both the FBCN and the environment on the Task Force. (See Chapter 7. Projects).

The Environment and Economy Task Force's *raison d'être* was to provide recommendations to the provincial government on three key strategies to provide a framework needed to ensure that environmental protection is built into development initiatives at the earliest possible stage.

The Environment and Economy Task Force - 1988
Key Strategies

- 1/ establish a permanent Roundtable of public and private-sector decision makers to advise government on ways to integrate environmental management and economic development
- 2/ develop a provincial conservation strategy to ensure long term environmental protection and effective resource use
- 3/ promote understanding of the links between the environment and the economy through environmental education.

The FBCN quickly got to work when it recognized the significance of this Task Force and the potential for naturalists across the province to influence provincial policy. FBCN's motto "to know nature" (education) and "to keep it worth knowing" (conservation) was right on the mark for the many future nature projects that evolved out of the Task Force. In fact, the very first task relegated to Nora Layard was to organize the FBCN workshop on "Old Growth Forests of the Interior and the Coast of British Columbia" for the 1990 FGM at Salmon Arm: specifically, to involve FBCN members and key individuals outside the Federation in conservation and nature education workshops and Roundtable discussions. The Education and Recreation Committee embraced the need for more Nature Centres, discovery centres, demonstration forests, estuary and wetland appreciation, etc., to promote environmental awareness and conservation – to bring business and industry and environment into harmony.

During Jude's second term, the provincial Roundtable on the Environment and Economy with the prospectus of "A Better Way – Creating a Sustainable Development Strategy for BC" was already seeking public input. Similarly, the Parks Plan 90 involving BC Parks and the Forest Service had already hosted sessions in 105 communities and cities in BC to obtain public input. In 1991, Jude and Bert attended the Dunsmuir II Conference on Land Use Strategy to manage BC's resources. Many other projects and roundtables stemmed out of the provincial Environment and Economy Task Force, such as the Endangered Spaces Project (protected areas system of BC), Endangered Species, Habitat Enhancement, and the many club-related projects through Land for Nature that took on lives of their own. (See Chapter 7. Projects and Appendix 9. Publications, the latter with its annotated list of publications of the Land for Nature project).

Jude remembers well the significance of "A Public Symposium on BC's Threatened and Endangered Species" that was held in Vancouver in 1991. The symposium was organized by the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society, with support from FBCN, to discuss proposed changes to the Wildlife Act. A broad range of topics were covered and agencies endeavoured to understand the current status of environmental threats, cultural ethics, threatened and endangered species, illegal trade of animal parts, legislative change and litigation of the current situation in BC.

Jude in her role as President continued to support educational workshops, especially those in tune with the sustainable development theme prevalent at the time. For the Fall AGM in Kimberley, a workshop "Land Use in the Kootenays: A Perspective on the Future" was offered. The workshop was developed and facilitated by Jude and April Mol.

PROJECTS AND RESOLUTIONS

A number of projects that Jude was involved with during her terms as President, or, that were of particular interest to her over the years are briefly identified below. The FBCN submitted resolutions to appropriate government agencies on many of these projects and topics to state a position and to seek action. Jude sat on the Resolutions Committee for many years. (See Resolutions on BC Nature's website under Protect Nature).

Waste Management: Jude, as Past President during Joe Lotzkar's term of President, recalls learning a great deal about plastics, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), packaging products, pesticides, DDT, along with the province's millions of tonnes per year of solid waste and the impacts these are having on wildlife such as herons and falcons. The FBCN was involved with various new 'high tech' solutions. She bemused the 'out of site, out of mind' mentality of moving Vancouver's overflowing landfill waste at the Delta dumpsite to Cache Creek (1989) and the fact that Metro Vancouver is still trying to figure out solutions to our rampant use of material goods.

Wolf Kills: FBCN was one of the organizations represented in the Wolf Working Group brought into existence by the Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Environment following considerable public outcry over government wolf-kill programs in the early 1980s. Jude took interest in this conservation topic as she saw it persist through both of her tenures as FBCN President.

As might be expected, FBCN clubs in the province and naturalists (pro- versus anti-wolf kills) differed greatly in opinion. One specific topic of concern to all, however, was the proposed intent to use the predacide Compound 1080 to poison the wolves that killed ranchers' cattle. Two options existed to control the wolves: poison (Compound 1080) to kill them; or, shoot them from helicopters. One concern that Jude recalled amidst the multitude of verbal battles was the potential transferral of Compound 1080 from one predator species to another, such as when another animal would feed upon a poisoned wolf. The FBCN submitted a resolution to oppose wolf kills as part of a management plan for wildlife in parks (1989). Use of the poison 1080 was banned in the late 1990s, but some wolf kills continue in BC (2019).

Land for Nature Project: Jude praised the many achievements and benefits of this program in furthering the preservation of sensitive areas throughout the province. The program started small with Nora Layard as the FBCN coordinator, but she was able to take it bigger with the assistance of Rod Silver of the Ministry of

Environment. One of the very first and important proceedings to come out of the LFN Project, *Identifying and Protecting Sensitive Shoreline and Adjacent Wetland Habitat on the East Coast of Vancouver Island*, reported on the discussions and recommendations of a workshop hosted by the Victoria Natural History Society in 1991. (See Chapter 7. Projects for a full description of Land for Nature, and Appendix 9. Publications for an annotated list of the Land for Nature publications.)

Marble Murrelets in Old Growth Forest of the Caren Range, Sunshine Coast: This research struck to the heart of Jude. If it wasn't for the efforts of Paul Jones of the Pacific Seabird Group Committee this small, vulnerable bird species might have slipped into oblivion. Over several years, Paul investigated the murrelet colony and its activities in the old-growth forest of the Caren Range of the Sechelt Peninsula on the Sunshine Coast. Backed by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the provincial Ministry of Forests, the efforts focused on an active search to locate the Marbled Murrelet nesting sites and to determine its feeding and breeding habits. As a result, in 1993 the FBCN tabled a resolution to protect the Caren Range as a valuable old growth forest area park (potentially under the Parks '90 program). The World Wildlife Fund had acknowledged the Caren Range as an Endangered Space because of the Marbled Murrelet; the USA had identified it as an endangered species. In Canada, the Caren Range and Marbled Murrelet habitat was under imminent threat of logging in 1994 and beyond. Wonderfully the area was made a park in 1999, named Spipiyus Provincial Park (or Caren Range).

Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park: Mitlenatch Island was situated in the Strait of Georgia, south of Quadra Island and northeast of Courtney. Several resolutions were submitted between 1992 and 1994 to restrict trail development to the meadow area and to ban harvesting of all intertidal life at Mitlenatch Nature Park as a means of protecting the important bird colonies on the Island. Jude coordinated promotion for this nature park; Dick Stace-Smith, Rob Butler and Bill Merilees were all involved with the project.

Purple loosestrife – the unwanted immigrant: The flag about *Lythrum salicaria* as a pending, potential disaster in BC and Vancouver Island was first raised in 1991 by Betty Lunam of the Comox-Strathcona Natural History Society after reading an "On the Loose" article by Nature Canada (1988). Purple loosestrife is a Eurasian herbaceous, perennial weed with no biological check in its adoptive land. There was a lack of commitment on the part of BC Agencies to respond to initiatives and proposed studies to manage and control loosestrife (other than through promoting public awareness). The FBCN awarded Betty funds to attend a national workshop on purple loosestrife in Ottawa in 1992. Betty reported back to FBCN on the critical need for an integrated national management approach. In efforts to obtain approval of biological control by insects and to have the "Beautiful Killer" added to the Federal and Provincial Noxious Weed Acts, FBCN resolutions were submitted to the Honourable Bill Barlee, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (first initiated to their governing districts by the Como-Strathcona Natural History Society and Langley Field Naturalists).

BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF; hunters and fishermen): Jude was involved in the efforts to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat around Boundary Bay through better management practices. Jude met once per year from 1991-1993 with the BCWF and found these meetings valuable learning experiences. For example, what were the primary interests and significant issues of the BCWF? Jude discovered that members of the BCWF knew a lot more about nature than she anticipated. Trophy hunting, however, was not open for discussion; or rather, they agreed to disagree on this topic. There was a consensus to agree to save the environment and protect wildlife habitat. Jude's take-home message from this relationship was that people could work together in spite of their differences and join force to approach government for better protection of wildlife. As Jude remarked:

the BCWF were strange bedfellows but they were willing to work with others.

Several resolutions were tabled between 1990 and 1992 concerning Boundary Bay and Mud Bay; in particular, the shooting of Brant Geese and other wildfowl.

CHALLENGES

Jude's greatest challenges during her two terms as FBCN President were communication and management: managing the regions (seven regions from 1983-1987; five from 1991-1993) and their respective clubs; keeping them informed and up-to-date on conservation and education concerns and activities; servicing them; and, keeping the regional clubs unified. (See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand, 1989 to 1996).

Today technological advances such as email and SKYPE have made a tremendous difference in maintaining contact with the clubs. These methods, however, are not as sufficient or as essential as in-person communication. Even with her previous experience as the FBCN Regional Vice-President for the Lower Mainland (1980-1983), Jude sees things from a slightly different perspective nowadays as the Lower Mainland Regional Club Coordinator (2004 to 2019). The communication challenges remain, albeit in a different technological time period. The Lower Mainland Region has 22 clubs to manage and BC Nature is still growing. How do you get 22 clubs together at one location?

Forming more new clubs and getting more young people involved are part of the challenges. Nature Vancouver and the clubs up the Fraser Valley are relatively easy to bring together for a meeting. The logistics and costs of coordinating a meeting with the five clubs up the coast (Bowen Island, Pender Harbour, Squamish, Sunshine Coast, Whistler) in Vancouver is more difficult. In addition, there are nature-oriented clubs (not naturalists *per se*: they don't do field trips) in the Lower Mainland (e.g., Texada Stickleback Group, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay, Surrey Environmental Partners, Stoney Creek Environmental Partners) that are involved in other environmental and recreational activities. Trying to coordinate a meeting with such geographically disparate groups is virtually impossible, physically taxing and

time-consuming for the Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator; but no less so than trying to meet with each individual club.

Jude has proposed subdividing the Lower Mainland Region into sub-regions, e.g., Fraser Valley (including Vancouver and Bowen Island) and Sunshine Coast (Sea to Sky to Whistler). The clubs could meet regionally once per year with the sub-region coordinators managing the clubs on a year-round basis. In the Okanagan and the North, clubs are now involved with conference calls twice a year.

What is she trying to accomplish? As the Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator, Jude tried to better communicate with clubs on a personal level. She has tried to keep in touch with what they are doing (what are their issues, do they have a NatureKids Club, what field trips are they offering) and give them assistance if, and when, they need it. She gets newsletters from some of these clubs but wants to continue the personal contact. Jude thinks that Hope has the potential and interest to form a club. WildResearch is a fairly new club formed and its Board includes several enthusiastic SFU graduate students, keen on covering nature issues. WildResearch focuses on research and has a small bird banding station at Iona Island.

FOCUS FOR BC NATURE INTO THE FUTURE

Jude identified the following as important focus for the future for BC Nature:

- Attract more young people
- Encourage more people to step forward to work on the Board of Directors
- Better marketing of the *BCnature* Magazine to further educate members and non-members alike, in knowing the essence of BC Nature and recognizing that they (and their club) belong to a provincial organization
- Promote technology as a means of facilitating communication between and amongst regions and clubs; it has made a tremendous improvement in the last 20 years. Many clubs now use weekly eNews circulation to members, and BC Nature a monthly eNews circulation. More could be done
- Entice more students to join BC Nature through a local club by engaging them in topical educational and conservation issues through the assistance of grant funding
- Encourage and refresh communication between clubs and BC Nature (ongoing need). Club Representatives must convey news from their clubs to BC Nature. It is a two-way communication; that is, Club Representatives also need to convey BC Nature news to their club.

Jude had one further suggestion. She thought it would be interesting to portray the BC Nature member club history in a graph to show the membership growth transition from day one to the present. Who were the founding clubs and when were they established? How many members did they have? How many clubs exist now and how many members do they have? BC Nature presently has more than 6000 members in 53 clubs (2020), but there have been a lot of ups and downs in membership. A graph could visually portray these changes.

OVER THE YEARS

Jude began her career with an 18-year position with BC Tel. Subsequently, she followed her passion for nature by spending four years with BC Parks as a naturalist and senior interpreter. From there, Jude committed 20 years (1984-2004) to the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks (now Metro Vancouver) with their interpretation team for about half of that time before moving into the Parks Planning and Research Department. In the latter position, she provided support to park planners, GPS mapping specialists and resource inventory specialists (Becker, 2002). Her positions with GVRD provided Jude ample opportunity to maintain and promote good communication (...about conserving nature...) between naturalists and the government agencies that should be serving them (McNicholl 2009). Jude was very active with Scouts Canada from the early 1980s into 2000s as the Deputy Area Commissioner for Volunteer Development and Training in Burnaby (Becker 2002).

Over the years, Jude's volunteer service and dedication to birds, and nature in general, has been remarkable and her relationship with VNHS and FBCN is reminiscent of a colourful, textured yet tightly woven fabric meant to last a lifetime. Jude served as the Lower Mainland Regional Club Coordinator from 2004 to 2019 and continues to serve on Nature Vancouver's Board and on its Birding Section.

In several areas of her career, Jude has been the first woman to serve in a position. Her contributions to Citizen Science, to many nature societies, to BC Nature, and in support of countless participants to enjoy nature, Jude is truly fostering a *healthy by nature society* (Neville, 2012). Jude is a woman of terrific dynamism and organization, not to mention an extraordinary naturalist (Hanna, 2003).

She has been the recipient of many awards:

- 1989 – FBCN Elton Anderson Award for 'outstanding service to FBCN in field of conservation'
- 1996 – VNHS Kay Beamish Award for Nature Education (shared with Al Grass)
- 1998 – FBCN Outstanding Service Award
- 2000s – Scouts Canada Silver Acorn Award for "encouraging youth to get outdoors in nature"
- 2000 – Honorary Life Members of the Langley Field Naturalists (both Jude and Al)
- 2000 – City of Burnaby environmental Education Awards (both Jude and Al)
- 2003 – The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (both Jude and Al)
- 2009 – VNHS Kaye and Charles Ney Award for Exemplary Service
- 2012 – YWCA Metro Vancouver Women of Distinction Awards

Positions

VNHS (VanNHS, now Nature Vancouver)

Member: 1968 to present – Life Member
Monthly Raptor Counts: 1975-1980; 1998 to present
Wandering Tattler Editor: 1977-1991,
2005 to 2019
Director: 1977-1985, 2005 to present
President: 1978-1980
VNHS representative to BOD of FBCN: 1982-1993
Chair of Bird and Mammal Section: 1982
Chair of Birding Section Committee: 1982-1991
1985, 2004-2019
Conservation Committee: 1993-2002
Director and Board liaison to Birding Section: 2001,
2004 to present
Chair of Education Committee: 1994-1995
VNHS Secretary: 2000-2005
Vancouver Bird Records Committee: 2005 to present
General Program Speakers Coordinator: 2005-2019
Education Workshops Coordinator: 1980s

Burke Mountain Naturalists

President: 1990s

Other Societies and Positions

Canadian Nature Federation (now Nature Canada): 1990s
Ladner Coordinator for Christmas Bird Counts: 1976 to present
BC Waterfowl Society
Birds on the Bay
Wild Bird Trust of BC
Bird Studies Canada: BC Breeding Bird Atlas Project
Board of Directors, Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies: 2004 to 2015
Stanley Park Ecology Society member
Board of Directors, BC Field Ornithologists: 2006

FBCN (now BC Nature)

Member: 1974 to present
First involvement with BC Naturalists Newsletter: 1970s
Corresponding Secretary: 1980-1981
Lower Mainland Regional Vice-President: 1980-1982
Vice-President: 1981-1983

Editor of *BC Naturalists* Newsletter: 1982-1983
President: 1983-1987
Past President: 1987-1989
Editor of *BC Naturalists* Newsletter: 1985-1998
Resolutions Committee: 1990s
President: 1991-1993
Past President: 1993
Chair of Education and Recreation Committee: 1993-1995
President of BC Naturalists' Foundation 1994-1997

Lower Mainland Regional Club Coordinator: 2004-2019
Chair of Education & Publications Committee 1980s & 1990s

Langley Field Naturalists

President: 2009-2012 and presently on Board

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Daphne Solecki, President 1993 - 1994

Daphne joined the Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS, now Nature Vancouver) in 1985. She served as Membership Secretary and joined the Board as a Director in 1987. She served as VNHS President from 1990 -1992.

During her term as VNHS President she initiated a project to create a Nature House in the old boathouse beside Lost Lagoon and served as chair of the steering committee that saw the project to fruition in 1992. The steering committee included naturalists, teachers, and representatives of the Vancouver Aquarium, Stanley Park Zoological Society and the Vancouver Parks Board. The new Nature House was well received by the general public. Management of the Nature House was turned over to the Stanley Park Zoological Society (now Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES)); thereafter, Daphne remained an advisor to the SPES Board of Directors for over 10 years.

During this same period and in partnership with GVRD Parks (now Metro Vancouver Parks), Daphne oversaw two rehabilitation projects: one to reclaim the marsh adjacent to the Iona Island Regional Park (advised by Patrick Mooney); and, the other to restore Camosun Bog in Pacific Spirit Regional Park (advised by Dr. Val Shaefer, then VNHS Vice-President). The latter ecosystem located on the UBC Endowment Lands had been partially destroyed from dumping earth-fill in 1970 during the UBC expansion and VNHS had to fight for years to prevent further damage (Peacock, 1993). Both projects were largely funded by Environment Canada.

THE RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

In 1992, concurrent with her term as VNHS President and at the invitation of Dr. Bert Brink, Daphne became a VNHS Director to the Federation of BC Naturalists (FBCN, now BC Nature) and took on the position of First Vice-President, with Frances Vyse as Second Vice-President and Jude Grass as President.

At this time, considerable discussions evolved around the possibility of restructuring the Federation both in the form of roles and responsibilities of the Directors, Executive and Member Clubs; as well as those of the various committees. The huge size, complex geography and inclement weather of BC, all posed great challenges to the effectiveness of the FBCN, both internally and externally. A Restructuring Committee was struck consisting of Past-President Syd Cannings (Chair), Daphne and Frances. They were tasked with improving the structural organization of the Federation. Constructive suggestions, ideas and proposals were solicited and received from club members at workshops held at the Maple Ridge AGM and Kimberley FGM (1992). (See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand 1989 to 1996).

During her one-year tenure as the FBCN President, Daphne continued to pursue the recommendations from the VNHS Restructuring Committee. In her report to the members at the Kamloops FGM in 1993, her comments were as follows:

Because I feel that administration, restructuring, and communications are on the top of my list at the moment, I would like to report on and discuss our organizational development goals as summarized in our funding proposals for 1993-1994. These are:

- 1/ Continue the restructuring process begun in 1992, whereby the FBCN becomes more effective and accountable to its members;*
- 2/ Reinforce the existing regional structure and increase the number of new clubs and inter-regional activities;*
- 3/ Explore all possible means by which to increase the participation of outlying clubs in the work of the FBCN's standing committees.*

In contemplating the restructuring task and listening to comments from members near and far, Daphne gave considerable thought to the question most frequently asked during that process – “What is or what should be the relationship of clubs and the Federation, how do they relate, and how do they serve each other?”

I should like to share a thought that came to me when I attended the (1994) Thompson-Okanagan regional meeting – that the clubs are the heart. They are an expression of all we love in the place where we live, a reflection of our personal landscape, the passion we have brought to protecting it. The Federation is the head – we know that as separate entities we cannot be as effective as we can be when we band together, so we make the reasoned decision to join our efforts through belonging to the Federation. With heart and head together, we can be harmonious and strong.”

Daphne considers that her greatest challenge and greatest achievement for the FBCN was working with Syd and Frances to develop and establish a new structural model for the Federation. Most of the groundwork and communication with the club members occurred during Daphne's period as Vice-President (1992/1993). This enabled her to initiate the reorganization from the old pan-provincial-type model to the new regional model during her year of Presidency.

Previously, FBCN Directors meetings were attended by one Director from each club, which created unwieldy meeting attendances of 30+ Directors. The demands on time and travel costs often precluded members in the work force from attending Directors' meetings.

The new model invited clubs to meet regionally, with each region electing a coordinator to represent their region at the newly constituted Executive Committee. Quarterly, regional meetings provided greater opportunity for club Directors and individuals to regularly attend and to express their opinions and ideas about their own local area, issues and concerns. Regional meetings began with the discussion of necessary FBCN business; then, regional issues became the focus for the balance of the meeting. Decisions taken at these meetings were then forwarded to the

Executive Committee. Although changes never come easily with anything, this remodelled structure and relationship of BC Nature with its many regional clubs remains functional and interactive today.

Another important direction that was adopted at that time was to seek Presidents from different regions of the province. Up to this point and because the FBCN office was located in Vancouver, Presidents had come primarily from the Vancouver area. With the advent of email communication, the barriers to having a President living far from Vancouver and ensuring broadly-based leadership were overcome; subsequently, Presidents have been elected from other regions.

Looking back on this time, Daphne considers that becoming involved in administrative roles with VNHS and subsequently FBCN was her third career. Her first career was raising four children, and her second, teaching troubled adolescents. Previous management skills and her ability to enable individuals to run with an idea and see it through to fruition, provided Daphne with important tools for administrative work. Her previous experience, however, did not prepare her for the resistance so often associated with volunteer organizations encountering the idea of change. It could be referred to as growing pains that federations, societies and associations alike must endure in order to reach a better level of function and operation; not unlike those reported by Black (1988) during the transition from the BC Council to the Federation of BC Naturalists. Changes in life are constant, as are the continual need for changes within a society to keep up with the times and to stay relevant to its membership.

After stepping down as President in May 1994, Daphne served as the Chair of the Conservation Committee (1994-1996). A diversity of conservation issues was pursued during this period: Wildlife Strategy (biodiversity, management, protection); Private Land Use Stewardship and Stewardship Pledge Program; CORE (Commission on Resources and Environment) Land Use Plan for Vancouver Island, Cariboo-Chilcotin, East and West Kootenay; BC Endangered Species; Kemano II; Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP); Naturescape; Nature Legacy; and, Native Plant Society. Subsequently, Daphne became the FBCN Regional Coordinator for the Lower Mainland in May 1996. Daphne laughed in retrospect when considering most individuals would do that sequence in reverse, before ending up in the President's chair! (See Chapter 7. Projects).

YOUNG NATURALISTS' CLUB OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Meanwhile, in 1993, Dr. Rob Butler of the FBCN had proposed the creation of a young naturalist program based on the youth program of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the United Kingdom. Daphne immediately became interested in the program and while in England in 1995, went to the RSPB headquarters at Sandy, Bedfordshire, to gather information, materials and encouragement from the Young Ornithologists' Club, now known as the RSPB Wildlife Explorers. Because Daphne was still Chair of the Conservation Committee at the time, she realized that she had to turn her full attention away from the youth program and focus on the Conservation Committee.

For whatever reason, however, the FBCN youth initiative never got off the ground. But passion being what it is, Daphne stepped down from the Conservation Chair position shortly thereafter to refocus on the youth program; this time with the idea of developing it through VNHS on behalf of all FBCN clubs. With the full support of her colleagues on the VNHS Board of Directors, she was head-long into a local family program called "Step into Nature" by 1997. Not unexpectedly, the "Young Naturalists' Club of British Columbia" was launched in 2000 with Daphne as the Chair of a small but effective working group. (See Chapter 8. NatureKids Formation).

In 2006 the YNC 'graduated' from being a program of the VNHS and became an independent, registered charitable organization. Currently (2014) there are 31 regional family-based YNCs and 30 school-based YNCs. The close connection with BC Nature continues as BC Nature offers free office space to NatureKids BC, and involvement with the BC Nature AGMs and FGMs.

Daphne provides a thought-provoking perspective of her experience as an executive of the FBCN:

Naturalists love being out in nature but they hate to be activists.

In the 1970s, there was an enormous growth and interest in the environment. Environmentalists were not necessarily knowledgeable about nature but they knew that if they took public action to help protect nature they could likely achieve a positive result. In the past, the Federated clubs and naturalists in general were reluctant to stand up and become active in promoting conservation. Daphne considered this to be a weakness of naturalists, but under the pressure of the present political and environmental climate, perspectives changed and naturalists gradually become more activist-motivated.

Just as naturalists who were not activists but participated in the Land For Nature projects (because they felt they had to take action to save or share something that they liked and enjoyed), so should naturalists nowadays be prepared to speak up and take action when it becomes essential to protect what we have. Sometimes it is not possible to bridge the gap between different perspectives without taking action. This viewpoint influenced the direction taken when planning the program of the Young Naturalists' Club of BC, wherein the young members are encouraged both to study nature in all its aspects and be prepared to speak and act on nature's behalf.

TODAY

Daphne had the pleasure of having the first edition of the FBCN *Cordillera, a Journal of British Columbia Natural History*, published during her presidency, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Frances Vyse, her team of co-editors, and the Cordillera Management Committee. From 1993 - 2009, Daphne was involved with several popular books and field guides published by Nature Vancouver. She was also given the honour of having a new FBCN award created in her name—the Daphne Solecki Award—in recognition by her peers of the work that she has done as founder of

NatureKids BC (originally Young Naturalists' Club of BC). The award recognizes individuals who have contributed to nature education for children in British Columbia.

Daphne is satisfied with her accomplishments as president of BC Nature. The fact that the structural reorganization is still holding strong after some 22 years of practice is a testament to the FBCN being more effective and accountable to its members. The essential reorganization has remained, although some legal adjustments and renaming of the Board of Directors and Council of Representatives have been made over the years. Now, Daphne is quite content to enjoy her time with NatureKids. She served as its Honorary President until February 2019 and continues to contribute as the Content Editor of NatureKids' *NatureWILD* Magazine.

The following was extracted from Coope (2012):

Daphne is an initiator, one who perceives a need in the community which, by dint of persuasion, managerial ability and sheer hard work, she succeeds in actualizing to the great benefit of her fellow citizens. As well as setting up the Young Naturalists' Club, now on its way to becoming a Canadian institution..... Not surprisingly, she has received numerous awards for her work.....:

- 1996 – VNHS Davidson Award for Conservation
- 2001 – FBCN Elton Anderson Award
- 2002 – Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal Award
- 2007 – BC Arbor Vitae Environmental Award
- 2008 – VNHS Kay Beamish Award for Nature Education
- 2008 – VNHS Kaye and Charles Ney Award for Exemplary Service
- 2012 – BC Community Achievement Award.

Positions

VNHS (VanNHS, now Nature Vancouver)	FBCN (now BC Nature)
Member: 1985	
Membership Secretary:	
Director: 1987- 2008	Vice-President: 1992-1993
President: 1990-1992	Young Naturalist Committee: 1992-1995
VNHS Nature House Steering Committee: 1992-2002	Restructuring Committee: 1992-1994
YNC of BC Volunteer Coordinator: 2000-2008	President: May 1993- May 1994
President, YNC of BC Board of Directors: 2006-2011	Past-President: 1994-1996
Honorary President of YNC of BC: 2012	Conservation Chair: 1994-1996
	Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator: 1996-1998
	Strategic Planning Committee: 1998- 2003

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Frances Vyse, President 1994 - 1996

Frances is a geographer by training and while living in Victoria, she was involved with a number of nature-oriented groups such as ENQUAL (Environmental Quality), unaware at the time of the Victoria Natural History Society. Frances moved to Williams Lake in 1974 where she became a member of the FBCN after joining the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Society in 1975. Her keen interest in exploring the outdoors, along with the Tuesday morning Club walks with experts in their field, soon led her down a long and interesting career in natural history.

To this day, the FBCN Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Williams Lake in 1978 stands out in Frances' mind as an influential turning-point for her long-term involvement in the FBCN, primarily because of the opportunity to meet and befriend many members of the Executive and other clubs that were of such a similar mindset.

She remembers, with fondness, driving with Bert Brink and his wife Ruth in their car across Becher's Prairie, west of Williams Lake, to the next stop on the AGM field trip at the Junction Range. Bert talked with excitement about the grasslands that they were passing through; but on several occasions, he would come to a screeching halt. Ruth would jump out of the car and run to pick up a bunch of carelessly discarded beer bottles from the ditches. Frances was awe-struck. It immediately took her back a few years when she lived in Victoria and used to go with her own son to help sort bottles and cans at the recycling depot. Bert had talked about the need to recycle bottles and how FBCN had taken action to make bottle refund legislation a reality (achieved 1970). As supporting evidence of one of the benefits of recycling, Bert explained to Frances that Ruth used the money from cashed-in bottles that they had accumulated through their travels around the province to purchase antiques. Now that's some positive action taken as a result of a guiding principle!

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT A VISION CAN ACCOMPLISH

In some regards, Frances got on the 'right' trail because she was in the right place at the right time; or, perhaps because she was a *Jenny on the spot*. Almost immediately after moving to Williams Lake, Frances got her feet very wet with a project that involved the opening and running of the Nature House at Scout Island Nature Centre.

The Town of Williams Lake primarily occupies land north and south of Williams Lake Creek. To the southeast of the Town, and in the lake itself, is Scout Island. Scout Island is comprised of three islands at the outflow into the Creek on the west end of Williams Lake. An industrial site and two busy highways separate the Nature Centre from the Town core. The island features a variety of natural habitats including lakeshore, marsh, islands, treed areas and grasslands.

In 1968, the town council had decided to fill in the marsh as they felt it was of no value. Concerned citizens wanted to protect the marsh as a sensitive wildlife habitat (migratory birds, spiders, snakes, marmots, bluebunch wheatgrass, etc.). In the meantime, however, the Town had already built a causeway along the lake edge of the marsh to Scout Island to access their campground on the island, and they wanted to expand the camping area into the marsh. The causeway – as causeways are now known to do – blocked the natural movement of water through the marsh and was changing the ecosystem.

The Regional District and the Town of Williams Lake made a request to the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to conduct a study of the ecological significance of the west end of Williams Lake, with a special emphasis on the marsh. The CWS assigned one of their wildlife biologists, RD (Bob) Harris, to do a study. Bob's 1972 report identified the significance of, and the need to protect, the marsh and surrounding areas. He recommended enhancement of the marsh and encouraged development of the area into a valuable nature education place for the community.

After the Harris Report was received, the Regional District and the Town approached the newly formed National Second Century Fund of BC (now The Nature Trust of BC) to purchase the property. The property was purchased from the Town and then a lease was signed between the National Second Century Fund of BC and the Town in 1973. The lease outlined the conditions under which the land would be protected as an ecological area and in turn be developed into a nature education facility. The money that the Town received from the National Second Century Fund of BC was to be used specifically for the development of the area.

Was the Town, however, prepared to manage the property as a nature centre? Ducks Unlimited came to the short-term rescue and installed two culverts in the causeway to re-establish movement and flow of water through the marsh. They also built a log building with a rooftop viewing area, but the organization had no intentions of running the facility. After much soul-searching the Williams Lake Field Naturalists decided that they would offer to manage the area, centred on a Nature House in the new log building. The Naturalists made a presentation to the Town Council and their offer was accepted. Bert Hoffmeister, Chairman of The National Second Century Fund of BC, informed the Town that the Williams Lake Naturalists Club would sublease and manage the Nature Centre property. A Scout Island Nature Centre Committee was set up within the Naturalists Club.

Frances took on the role of volunteer administrator for the new Nature Centre. Many lessons were learned from the Williams Lake Field Naturalists' project and Frances is still very proud of both her, and the Club's, accomplishments. She recalls how the members of the Club worked together and matured as a team under the leadership of their President, Fred McMechan, while all the time knowing that the Federation stood steadfastly behind them to provide a helping voice or hand when necessary. While a member of the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Club, Frances served as the FBCN Regional Vice-President for the Cariboo Region from 1975-1980; as well as representing the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Club as their Director to the FBCN from 1981-1985.

The Vyse family moved to Kamloops in 1985 where both she and her husband joined the Kamloops Naturalists Club. Speaking of family affairs, her husband Alan held down the Director's position with the Kamloops Club for several years along with several other roles to assist the Club. It was not long before they were both involved in local activities and projects.

One activity that Frances had been very familiar with in Williams Lake also grated on the minds of the Kamloops Naturalist Club, to such an extent that it prompted them to submit a resolution to the FBCN AGM in 1981: be it resolved that "the FBCN urge the provincial Minister of Environment to enact legislation that would govern licensing and use of ATVs as a priority issue". In 1976, area had been designated for ATV use in the Lac du Bois grasslands, north of a parcel of private land, with no formally designated ATV access to it. ATVs were playing havoc on the private land and damaging grassland and forested ecosystems.

The challenge of ATV use and environmental damage was not news to Frances. She had been involved with similar endeavours with motor bikers in Williams Lake, prior to moving to Kamloops. Through the FBCN, she advocated that the provincial government introduce ATV Legislation to govern licensing and use. After 15 years of lobbying by FBCN and several other concerned provincial organisations, the Ministry of Environment transferred the responsibility for ATV Legislation to the Solicitor General: a draft amendment was introduced to the Motor Vehicle Act (1992) to enact the necessary legislation that would require the licensing of all-terrain vehicles and the prominent display of a license number. Finally, there was some progress; however, the ATV users were still not sticking to the designated area. So the lobbying continued.

The ATV Legislation did not become law until 2014: all Off-Road Vehicles are now required to have a visible license plate or registration decal. Almost 40 years to get this legislation in place! For Frances - that's called 'staying power' to make sure the job gets done. Now imagine the amount of damage already done to the Kamloops grassland and forested ecosystems during the same time frame. How many other ecosystems throughout the province of BC are caught in similar predicaments?

In 1986 the Ministry of Forests initiated a Local Resource Use Planning Committee to oversee activities in the larger Lac du Bois – Dewdrop area and Frances was asked to be the Club representative. Through regular meetings of a wide variety of stakeholders, a draft plan was created that pulled together as much knowledge as possible about the area on the northern boundary of the City of Kamloops. Cattle management was of particular concern to many participants, especially in sensitive ecosystem areas. Seasonal movement of cattle was already controlled by use of pasture fencing and was regularly refined to ensure that the special natural values of the grasslands were protected as much as possible.

Evolving out of the ATV challenge, the Kamloops Naturalists Club and FBCN's Land for Nature project co-hosted a very successful workshop in 1991 titled "Endangered Spaces Project: Land for Nature in the Kamloops Area." Frances co-coordinated the workshop, with the help of Nora Layard, Project Coordinator of the larger FBCN

Land for Nature Project. 'Spaces' were identified as landscape, grassland, forest, or riparian areas in and around Kamloops. The purpose of the workshop was to identify natural areas that were ecologically sensitive and then determine ways to protect them from the thousands of recreational users. Initially, 110 endangered spaces had been listed by the Club but workshop participants identified an additional 27; bringing the total to 137 spaces in need of protection. A follow-up report was created and a community public meeting on Endangered Spaces was held in Kamloops in 1992. (See Chapter 7. Projects).

Because the Lac du Bois grasslands are so close to the city it has always been an area of interest, especially for the more environmentally friendly residents of Kamloops. In 1981, Karen McLaren and Kenna Cartwright, both members of the Kamloops Naturalists Club, co-authored the book entitled *Treasures of Lac du Bois* (edited by Alistair McLean). Dr. Bert Brink wrote a précis of the book:

Lac du Bois range is adjacent to urban Kamloops. It embraces some of the most varied grassland, forest and animal life in our Province. Man's use of the range is recorded, much of it by personal comment and anecdotes from old timers. Geology, climate, soil, vegetation and wildlife are presented in easy terms..... (1981).

With this early publication, The Kamloops Naturalists Club was obviously well-ahead of many other clubs in its awareness of the local, ecologically sensitive landscapes.

Through attendance at many of the FBCN AGMs and FGMs, Frances' circle of friends and influence began to grow. And change was on the horizon – both at the FBCN and in the provincial government. As it happens (does anyone see it coming?), Frances was soon nominated for the position of FBCN Vice-President. She served as Vice-President from 1992-1994, first along side of Vice-President Daphne Solecki when Jude Grass was President and again along side of Sandra Kinsey when Daphne became President (1993). Frances followed Daphne, stepping into the position of FBCN President from 1994-1996. As she surmised in the early days of her Presidency, the Vice-President position provided her with invaluable experience that taught her the intricacies of the operation of the FBCN but as she noted:

was not sure that anything prepares a person for the job of President – except the experience gained on the job.

Frances saw her job as President being analogous to a 'Director of the Fleet' while knowing full well that a lot of other hands were needed to keep the HMCS FBCN afloat. On several occasions in her communication to the Club members, Frances noted the struggle to find people to fill the needed Executive positions. Yet, there was plenty of work to be done. Having worked with Daphne Solecki and Syd Cannings on the FBCN Restructuring Committee, it was now her turn to act on the many recommendations from feedback solicited from Club members. Her primary goal in the President's role was to

build on the changes that Daphne has initiated to create an organization that is responsive to the needs of its member Clubs while also serving in our provincial conservation and education roles.

(See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand, 1989 - 1996).

Firstly, Frances and the reconstituted Executive Committee took steps to bring the Federation to the Clubs by moving towards Regional Directors' Meetings, rather than the Club Directors and Regional Coordinators from all over the province travelling great distances to meet at one location in Vancouver. By instigating this transition, the FBCN strived to help Clubs feel included in FBCN activities and decision-making, to give Clubs a more direct way of getting help for local issues and to assist in facilitating communication and networking amongst Clubs. Regional Directors' Meetings would be held on the same weekend in each Region. Each Region would receive the same FBCN Agenda for each meeting, as well as planning a portion of the meeting time to discuss regional and local issues. Regional Coordinators would then report back to the Executive Committee with minutes, reports, local concerns, etc., from the meeting. The Regional Meetings would be open to all Club members but only Club Directors could vote on FBCN issues.

Frances anticipated that there would be some teething problems with the transition. The long-term expectation, however, was that Clubs and members would feel more in touch with what their Federation was doing on their behalf and, as the regions grew stronger the well-organized Clubs would be able to work together to solve their own problems. The savings in travel costs and Directors' time alone were well worth the restructuring effort. Ironing out the kinks in the Regional Meeting system took time. It was well into 1996 when Audrey Hoeg became President that a more smoothly functioning Regional Meeting system was developed, with policies in place, and with proper support from the FBCN Office and the Executive Committee.

CORDILLERA, A JOURNAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURAL HISTORY

The Restructuring Committee recommendations highlighted communication as an area needing work. Frances focused on another aspect of the short fall in communication:

the FBCN doesn't blow its horn enough, doesn't inform the public at large about the Federation, or endeavour to make itself more visible.

To help remedy and improve communication, Frances proposed FBCN go ahead with the publication of *Cordillera, A Journal of British Columbia Natural History*, as an excellent showpiece for the Federation. The idea for the journal was seeded by Syd Cannings in 1990. Rick Howie of the Kamloops Naturalists Club worked for several years collecting articles until in late 1992, the journal production was put on hold until sufficient funding could be secured to cover printing costs.

Frances became involved with the production of the first edition of the journal in 1992. In 1993, she was asked by the Executive Committee to revitalize the project and became the Managing Editor with an Editorial Committee in Kamloops. Frances took naturally to the challenge of this position. Her genuine interests in nature and writing were nicely complemented by working with naturalists as potential contributors to the journal who were literally seething with knowledge and experience. Writing was already a large part of Frances' life in her position as a contract Park Planner for BC Parks and creator of interpretive signage, as well as the editor of the *Outdoors* column for the Kamloops Daily News. Frances even contributed her own article to *Cordillera*, *Water Smartweed and the Bluets*, *A Psychedelic Display of Nature*.

Although one issue of the journal was fully prepared and ready to go, printing costs were still an issue. The first edition of *Cordillera* finally 'hatched' in March 1994 with the intent to produce two issues per year. *Cordillera* was a well-received journal rich in information about British Columbia's lavish natural history with articles authored by individuals (scientists and amateurs, alike) from all over the province. Naturalists tend to be generous people but it would seem that there is a definite limit when talking about money. Sadly, the enthusiasm for the journal dwindled and without sufficient subscription numbers or funds to cover costs, the last issue of *Cordillera* was published in 1999.

Perhaps worth noting, however, is that there may have been external factors involved in the demise of the journal. *Cordillera* was facing stiff competition for articles and authors from the expanded *BC Naturalist* Magazine and the new *British Columbia* Magazine. Regardless, *Cordillera* had great potential that unknowingly was destined for a short life.

PROJECTS

During the period of BC's history between 1992 and 1998 when Frances was in the FBCN Vice-President, President and Past President positions, she found it an exciting time to be a naturalist. There was a lot happening on the conservation front with inter-organization cooperation and collaboration that included both government agencies and non-government organizations. As an example, FBCN's flagship project – Land for Nature (LFN) – was already in high gear in Kamloops. The Kamloops Naturalists Club was one of the earlier FBCN clubs to contribute to the LFN information bases about wildlife species and habitat requirements in BC. Frances was already coordinating the Kamloops LFN project, developing lists for important environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) in their region. The Club continued to develop profiles of these ESAs and to prepare base maps showing current protected areas, proposed parks and wilderness areas and ESAs identified by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

Conversations on conservation-versus-industry topics were not new but rather had begun in 1988 with a conference known as Dunsmuir I, named for the Dunsmuir Lodge conference centre north of Victoria where the meetings were held. Dunsmuir

I was one of many projects that stemmed out of the provincial Environment and Economy Task Force (the international Bruntland Commission Report). (See Chapter 7. Projects). Dunsmuir I, II and III, attended by a group of some 38 organizations, was a grass-roots province-wide movement interested in the development of a provincial Land Use Strategy to manage BC's resources in a sustainable manner (i.e., reducing clear-cut size, retaining natural values, protecting water bodies, etc.) while minimizing conflict with industry by resolving the many land use battles. The FBCN was a member of the organizing committee for the Dunsmuir conferences and the 1992 conference. In 1996, Frances received funding from the FBCN Foundation (now BC Naturalists' Foundation) to attend the Dunsmuir III conference along with three other FBCN representatives: Audrey Hoeg, Tony Embleton and Greg Ross. Frances also served on the Dunsmuir III Steering Committee.

Frances made a passionate plea for the recognition of the special natural values throughout the province, and the need for protecting them into the future. Dunsmuir III set the stage for the creation of the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE; also known as The Stephen Owen Commission) that developed land use plans in three of the most contentious areas of the province – Vancouver Island, the Cariboo and the Kootenays.

In 1993, Frances gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the BC Cattlemen's Association that promoted the understanding and co-operation between naturalists and the ranching community. The Kamloops Naturalists Club, with assistance from the new FBCN LFN Project Manager, Bob Purdy, worked with the City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation Commission on environmentally sensitive areas within the City limits.

Somehow, Frances found herself smack in the middle of major discussions to develop and establish land use strategies for the province. She clearly remembers the many conflicts throughout the province that arose in the 1980s and 1990s over land use and protection of resources. If the Kamloops LFN projects were at all contentious, they were user-friendly compared to what was going on elsewhere in the province. Those conflicts often resulted in vicious conversations between naturalists, other concerned conservation-oriented groups, and industry. Frances recollects that many of the conversations were filled with

viscerally horrible accusations coming from forest companies, especially on the coast.

Closer to home, the Kamloops Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) negotiations were somewhat more polite. A consensus on boundaries for areas designated for logging combined with areas designated for protected areas was finally reached in a far more civil manner thanks to the many skills of Dr. Tom Dickinson of Thompson Rivers University, President of Kamloops Naturalists Club at that time.

Frances spoke of credit where credit is due when it came to the “The Mod Squad”. The Mod Squad was an inter-organization team of representatives of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, British Columbia Wildlife Federation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Earthlife Canada Foundation, East Kootenay Environmental Society and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. The Mod Squad, on behalf of 200,000 members of conservation and outdoor recreation organizations throughout BC made a presentation to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks in 1994 to endorse the establishment of a system of protected areas throughout BC, stating that a minimum of 12% was required to protect “viable, representative examples of natural diversity in the province”. The Mod Squad supported the new land-use classification—Regionally Significant Lands (RSL)—and recommended that a system of protected areas should be based on regional representation of both conservation and recreation values with conservation receiving priority.

The Mod Squad went on to offer solutions for various problems that included Fisheries, Wildlife and Habitat Protection; Ecosystem Stewardship; The Role of Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in the Protected Areas Strategy; Marine Protected Areas; Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE); Vancouver Island Land Use Plan; and, Kamloops Region Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). It is staggering, if not depressing, to see similar topics still being debated, discussed, and some delayed 20 years later. Nonetheless, the groundwork was set for a while at least, and a conservation ethic was more commonplace.

Another project of interest to Frances was that of Naturescape British Columbia. This project grew out of the Stewardship '94 Conference in Vancouver that was co-sponsored by FBCN when Daphne Solecki was the Conservation Chair. A partnership agreement was signed by BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Habitat Conservation Fund and Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) to support a three-year Stewardship Pledge Program. The goal of the Stewardship Pledge Program was to protect biodiversity values through voluntary private land stewardship.

One of the associated pilot programs was the Backyard Habitat Stewardship Project established in 1995 to address the needs of wildlife in the urban landscape. The Backyard Habitat Stewardship Project morphed into Naturescape and the FBCN representatives on the Naturescape Development Committee were Sylvia Pincott (Central Valley Naturalists Club, now Abbotsford-Mission Naturalists) and Paulette Anderson (Central Okanagan Naturalists Club). Naturescape was a program that took the name of the Federation and its goals of conservation into everyone's homes. It provided the more active gardening members of FBCN an opportunity to spread the message about the joys of developing backyard habitat for wildlife. Training Kits were developed that provided helpful information on establishing a naturescape garden that might include orchard mason bees, butterflies and moths, amphibians and birds.

Frances has continued to be active in the FBCN and Kamloops Naturalists' Club. As recently as 2003, she coordinated the Dry Forest Ecosystems Symposium that was held at the FBCN AGM in Kamloops. The symposium was hosted by the FBCN, the

Kamloops Naturalists' Club and the Biology Department of the University College of the Cariboo (now Thompson Rivers University) and sponsored by the FBCN and Forrex (Forest Research Extension Partnership). The symposium addressed the processes that influence dry forest ecosystems of the BC southern interior, issues faced by managers of these forest ecosystems, and management options available to address the issues. Coincidentally, the Symposium was succeeded by several major fires north of Kamloops, near Chase, near Cache Creek and near Boston Bar that occurred in the summer of 2003: what several symposium speakers had referred to as the one-in-150-year events. (See Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops).

THE NATURALIST GEOGRAPHER

Frances feels privileged to have been a part of the FBCN and all of the great work that had been done by the many Presidents before her. She greatly enjoyed the camaraderie of the members – the FBCN was like a big family. Her geography background and interests were always refreshed and enhanced just by travelling around the province to attend the many AGMs and FGMs. What could be more exciting than to learn about nature, natural history of species and protecting our natural resources so that everyone could enjoy them?!

AWARDS

In 1986, Frances was presented with a FBCN Club Service Award as one of the driving forces behind the Scout Island Nature House project while a member of the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Club. In 1996, Frances received the Elton Anderson Award. Frances has *served the Federation with energy, dedication, and devotion in order to further its aims*. The Awards Committee commended her leadership of the FBCN as President, her efforts to protect the Lac du Bois Grasslands and to establish ATV Legislation, and her contributions as Managing Editor of *Cordillera*.

After her term as FBCN President, Frances became a Director of the BC Naturalists Foundation in 1996. She was Foundation Chair from 1997-2003, returning to the Foundation Board as a Director in 2009 to 2014. In her 1997 FBCN Foundation Report regarding 1996 initiatives supported by the Foundation, Frances iterated the phrase - *Defend the beachheads of success and move forward*.

In private conversations, the Foundation Directors had been told that the present government had three items on their agenda: health, education and personal safety and that urban sustainability planning was about a year away. The Directors were also informed:

that the FBCN continues to have the respect of government, to keep up the work we are doing throughout the province and be prepared to have to keep working for years to come.

It seemed that the work of the FBCN would never end.

As the Past President, Frances continued to work on sustaining Parks and Protected Areas, well into 1997 and 1998. Frances steadfastly pursued government officials to at least license ATV vehicles such that even with the continuous reduction in government enforcement, stewards of the land could still report and photograph ATV activity that causes so much undue damage to sensitive environments. That pursuit was finally realized in 2014 after some 37 years of effort!! As the final touches were being made to this article, Frances received word through a monthly newsletter from an interior bank, of the licensing requirements for ATVs (March 2015).

Frances was a member of the Forest Practices Board from 1996-98, the independent body that receives complaints from the public, does audits of compliance and enforcement of the Forest Practices Code, reports the findings of these and other special reports and investigations to the public. While not specifically representing naturalists on the Board, she took every opportunity to encourage foresters to appreciate the natural values of the forests that they were managing, to have a lighter touch on our forest lands, and to initiate efforts to minimise disturbance in forestry operations.

In retrospect, Frances appreciates that her work at the Scout Island Nature Centre gave her a special insight into the importance and challenges of protecting special natural areas in the province. She joined the Board of The Nature Trust of BC in 1998 and served until 2008. She was involved in decisions regarding property purchases, land transfers, and, especially, management decisions of some very exciting and precious areas: the South Okanagan grasslands, Cowichan River estuary, Englishman River estuary, the Hoodoos property in the east Kootenays, and Roderick Haig-Brown Park, to name only a few.

Closer to home, Frances is a member of the Board of her local Valleyview Community Association. The community includes the large area of silt cliffs on the south side of the South Thompson valley east of Kamloops, an area that has been declared a hazard zone in City plans. Frances has applied her knowledge and experience in managing natural areas to assist the community and the City in planning and protecting this amazing area of Kamloops.

Positions

Williams Lake Field Naturalists, Kamloops Field Naturalists and FBCN

Williams Lake Field Naturalists

1975-1980 FBCN Regional Vice-President for Cariboo Region
1981-1985 FBCN Director for the Williams Lake Field Naturalists
1975-1985 Coordinator of many projects for Williams Lake including Scout Island Nature Centre

Kamloops Field Naturalists

1985 to present Member and coordinator of many projects

FBCN (now BC Nature)

1992-1994 FBCN Vice-President
1994-1996 FBCN President
1996-1999 Dunsmuir III Steering Committee
1994-1999 Managing Editor, *Cordillera, A Journal of British Columbia Natural History*

BC Naturalists Foundation

1996-1997 BC Naturalists Foundation Director
1997-2003 BC Naturalists Foundation Chair
2009-2015 BC Naturalists Foundation Director

Other Board Positions

1996-1998 Forest Practices Board
1998-2008 Nature Trust of BC Board

REFERENCES

BC Naturalist Newsletter. 1994-1996. Vol, 32, No 4 through Vol 34, No 3. FBCN.

Audrey Hoeg, President 1996 - 1998

Audrey Hoeg brought extensive experience with her when she accepted the FBCN President's position. She had almost 30 years of practice chairing meetings, organizing agendas, obtaining speakers, working with both the Thompson-Okanagan and Vancouver Island Regions, meeting with and working with, various government people. She had attended the FBCN Annual General Meetings (AGM) every year, as well as the Fall General Meetings (FGM). As an FBCN Regional Coordinator, she attended Directors meetings and then also Executive meetings. These experiences provided her with a broad foundation of how the FBCN operated, with the added benefit of meeting many like-minded naturalists from all over the province; but let's start at the beginning.

Audrey joined the North Okanagan Naturalists Club (NONC) in Vernon in 1967. Shortly after joining the club, she was asked to become an FBCN 'Delegate'. As such she attended the June 3, 1969 milestone meeting in Kamloops, with Elton Anderson as Chair, where the BC Nature Council was formally incorporated under the Societies Act as the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (FBCN). For several years after that notable event, the FBCN AGM meetings continued to be held in Kamloops (1973, 1974, 1975, 1976). It was Elton Anderson's idea to have the meetings in a more central location in the province so that a broader representation of members could attend. Audrey usually attended these meetings as a Delegate from NONC.

While a member of NONC, Audrey served as Chair of the Conservation Committee, later as Vice-President, and eventually became the President of the Club. In 1975 when the Environment and Land Use Committee of the BC Government decided to set up Regional offices for Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, etc., the FBCN decided to adopt a similar Regional approach to its operations. The seven regions were Omineca-Peace, Skeena, Caribou, Kootenay, Thompson-Okanagan, Lower Mainland, and Vancouver Island. The FBCN leaders of these Regions were called Regional Vice-Presidents; the term Regional Coordinator came later. Audrey was asked to be the Regional Vice-President for the Thompson-Okanagan from approximately 1975-1979 and as such she set up a Regional Council comprised of members of all seven clubs in that region.

The Regional Council held regular meetings and organized the first Regional FGM that was a great success (after having been on a brief hiatus in the late 1970s). These clubs continued to host the FGMs well into the 1980s (e.g., Naramata, Grand Forks, Vernon, Oliver, Kamloops). Audrey recalls that her "partners-in-crime" when the FBCN transitioned to the Regional organization, included Frances Vyse, serving as the Regional Coordinator for the Cariboo Region, Bill Merilees for the Kootenay Region, Madelon Schouten for the Lower Mainland, and Neil Dawe for the Vancouver Island Region.

Audrey moved from Vernon to Duncan on Vancouver Island in 1986 where she joined the Cowichan Valley Naturalists Club. Once again, she served as Chair of the Conservation Committee, then Vice-President before moving on up to the

President's position. From 1993-1996, she became the Regional Coordinator for Vancouver Island and chaired regular meetings for the Regional Council that were held in Nanaimo. She stepped down from the Regional Coordinator position when she was asked to stand for President of the FBCN in 1996.

CHALLENGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As is so often the case with difficult challenges they can, through steadfast perseverance, lead to important accomplishments. Right from the get-go, Audrey had her share of administrative challenges, what with vacancies in several key positions including Recording Secretary, Chair of the Conservation Committee, Chair of the Education Committee, and Camp Coordinator. Those vacancies posed obstacles, but the Federation's finances were what raised the greatest concern and attention. Money does not grow on trees, there is only so much of it to go around, and whether it involves an individual, family, business or society, it can at times be a struggle to stay afloat.

In that regard, and undoubtedly, the greatest and most time-consuming challenge for Audrey centered on the Land for Nature (LFN) Program. The LFN Program had established its roots in 1991 with one Coordinator and one project. By 1996 when Audrey came to office, the LFN Program was in full swing with one Director, six Coordinators and one Project Assistant for several dozen projects. The LFN initiative was designed to work with clubs and community groups to establish programs and projects to identify and protect critical habitat that was increasingly threatened by urban growth and development.

Over this five-year period, significant progress and results were achieved. All LFN activities, including the contracted positions, were financed through grants that were funded by various government agencies, both Provincial and Federal, and in some cases, private foundations. Although the management of these projects was for the most part successful, by the mid 1990s, its scale had grown very large and its budget was larger than the FBCN budget. Some projects were mismanaged and financially some grants were overspent before even being received. The situation forced the ending of all province-wide projects under the LFN Program umbrella in 1997 and the local projects were eventually completed over the next few years, some by volunteers.

In this regard, the main accomplishment for Audrey during her tenure was keeping the FBCN afloat through the significant financial losses incurred from the LFN projects. In 1997, the LFN Management Advisory Committee (MAC) was established to administer the LFN funds and new software was purchased to facilitate the accounting and auditing of the many projects. FBCN's reputation, however, had suffered and Audrey had to placate and re-establish trustful working relationships with not only club members but also with individual funding agencies around the province. At the end of the day, most grant conditions were fulfilled for the projects.

A second challenge for Audrey in 1996 arose with the realization that there were insufficient funds to carry the FBCN through to the end of the year. Various actions were taken to cut back on operational expenses. Publication of the *BC Naturalist* that cost \$20,000/year to publish and mail, was reduced from six issues to four issues for 1997. Several fund-raising measures were put in place, such as a Mohawk credit card that provided a 3% return to FBCN; raffles; and formation of a Ways and Means Committee that could raise money to support Directors expenses and administration, etc. These efforts, however, did not solve the problem and the dreaded issue of raising membership fees surfaced once again. It had just been a short while back, in 1992, when the membership fees had been increased by \$4 per adult member, raising the membership fee to \$10 per adult member during the presidency of Syd Cannings.

Audrey found herself with few options but to increase the FBCN fees by another \$2 per member. Although this increase seemed small and did not even cover the cost of a cup of coffee, Audrey faced a terrible dilemma. Several clubs, the Vancouver Natural History Society, the Victoria Natural History Society and the Nanaimo Field Naturalists threatened to drop out of the FBCN because of the proposed \$2 fee increase. If these clubs had dropped out of the FBCN, its membership of 5000 would have dropped by about 1800 members – approximately 1000 from Vancouver and 800 from Victoria. Audrey was greatly concerned that such a large loss of members would cause the FBCN to fold.

The argument of Vancouver's club was that it would cost them \$2000, which was true, but each member only had to pay \$2 more as did every member in the whole province. Audrey recognized, however, that the \$2 may have been more of a hardship for the smaller clubs in small towns where it represented a higher percentage of their total income.

Audrey attended meetings of all three clubs and worked hard to convince the members that the increase in fees was necessary and that it was important to keep the FBCN strong so as to benefit all the clubs in the province. Fortunately, in 1997 the majority of FBCN members voted for the proposed increase in membership fee from \$10 to \$12, settling the dispute and providing the finances necessary to run the FBCN Office and ensuring continued communication with the Directors and Clubs. As unpleasant as these experiences may be, and as demoralizing as they can be to the hardworking people who are dedicated and committed to the FBCN, fund-raising for most non-profit organizations is a necessary, long-term priority.

Another challenge for Audrey, and perhaps a sign of the times in the mid-1990s, was identified at a BC Forum on Parks in 1997. Co-sponsored by CPAWS-BC Chapter and the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Forum registered >200 participants including some 50 naturalists and conservation groups, as well as various levels of government. At the centre of the matter was funding! BC Parks was diminishing its funding support for park services and visitor enjoyment. BC Parks had a 50% increase in area and 6% cut in budget; GVRD Parks had a 25% increase in area, 23% increase in public use, and no increases in tax-based funding in the preceding three years.

Community-based partnering initiatives were underway in many parts of BC to assist with addressing the concerns about adequate interpretation and education, ecological integrity, and conservation and recreational challenges. As one of the registrants, Parks approached the FBCN to participate in a "Memorandum of Understanding" that unfortunately sounded as though Parks was going to use the Naturalist Clubs around the province to do most of the work in the Parks for free to compensate for the diminishing funds available for Parks' staff. When Audrey approached the FBCN Clubs, their response was clear. The Clubs all had members who were willing to do some volunteer work for Parks, but they expected the Parks Branch to pay for Naturalist Interpreters, for Park Rangers, and for maintenance staff, etc. When brought to a vote, the Clubs voted down the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, but not before Audrey had a personal visit at home by Parks staff who were intent on encouraging the FBCN Clubs to become involved!

CHANGES

At the beginning of her term in 1996, Audrey mentioned that

One of our first tasks will be to develop the regional meeting system so that it is functioning smoothly, with policies in place and with the proper support from the Office and the Executive Committee. As each region becomes strong and well organized the clubs will be able to work together to solve their own problems. In addition, the regions should be generating ideas and suggestions for actions to be taken by the Federation.

(See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand, 1989 to 1996).

In January of 1997, a proposal was put forth to the FBCN clubs and members to amend the FBCN Constitution and Bylaws on items governing the Board of Directors, responsibilities of the Board, Officers of the Society, vacancies, financial benefits and fiduciary responsibilities of Directors, and responsibilities of the Executive Committee of the Board. As Vice-President Nils Hoeg had noted, some extensive re-structuring of the Federation had been implemented over the previous two-year period and this had instigated the need for changes in the way the Federation conducted its business. Previously, the Executive Committee made recommendations to the Board for decisions to be made; the proposed amendments essentially reversed the process thereby increasing efficiency, etc. For example, the status of Regional Coordinators had changed over the years from initially only giving reports at the FGMs, to participating in Directors' meetings, and then to actually being included in the Executive Committee.

To this end, one amendment allowed elected or designated Regional Coordinators (who were not FBCN Directors) to have the same rights and privileges as the elected or designated FBCN Directors. Having been a Regional Coordinator for several clubs, Audrey appreciated that the amendments gave the Regional Coordinators more influence. This was important as it was the Coordinators who

were running their regions and had a good handle on what the main issues were therein.

Amendments to Bylaws by Special Resolutions in 1998 resolved several perceived inequities in the FBCN voting system (including proxy voting), membership dues, and quorums that had been raised previously by the Vancouver Natural History Society and Victoria Natural History Society.

Using the *BC Naturalist* Newsletter as another information vehicle, Audrey worked hard to inform the Federated Clubs and members of the many Federation activities undertaken by the Executive and the progress that was being made on their behalf (e.g., "The Federation is Working for You"). During her last year in office, she began including a Wish List for 1998; goals for which the Federated Clubs could strive.

One such goal was a Strategic Plan that had concrete action steps to guide the Federation forward. Thanks to the capable, hard-working team of Anne Murray, Daphne Solecki, Frances Vyse and John Brady, a draft paper was provided before Audrey's term ended.

During her term and with her dedicated team, Audrey felt that the FBCN had made a number of important contributions to reviews and development of many government strategies (e.g., BC Parks Memorandum of Understanding; BC Parks Legacy workshops; Land Resource Management Plans (LRMP) projects; development of Private Land Stewardship and Land Trusts, etc.); preparation of plans to develop the Important Bird Area Projects in conjunction with the Canadian Nature Federation; and, the BC Naturescape Ambassador Project, to name a few. The latter program interested Audrey, as it involved a networking process that was designed to ensure that naturalists, educators, and people with a variety of talents and interests received the benefit of training in exchange for a 'commitment' to pass the Naturescape message on to the community. (See Chapter 7. Projects).

There were two people during Audrey's Presidency whom she could not thank enough for all of the hard work that they did for the Federation, and that made her life easier: Leslie-Ann Drummond, the "Oh So Magnificent" Office Manager, and Ross McCutcheon, the FBCN lawyer.

PERSPECTIVE

Audrey sees the FBCN as being very important to the many clubs in the province. It provides a unifying force, a source of information on things such as grants, a wonderful newsletter that is loaded with information and best of all, the AGMs and FGMs at a variety of locations around the province that provide the opportunity for naturalists to get together to discuss issues and make new friends.

A hard-earned experience that Audrey gained from funding received from grants, was learning the details (what was covered, what was not) and how to best manage

them effectively and efficiently so that the programs for which they were obtained, received the most benefit.

What Audrey enjoyed most about her involvement with the FBCN was the chance to meet so many really wonderful people and the chance to visit other parts of the province and to be shown special places with local guides who are willing to share their delight.

How appropriate that Audrey Hoeg was awarded the Elton Anderson Award for outstanding service to the FBCN in 1998; 31 years after joining the NONC and 29 years after first meeting and working with Elton as a NONC Delegate. Prior to her work with the FBCN, Audrey obtained a degree in math and physics, and worked with radioisotopes in the Cancer research clinic in Vernon.

Positions

NONC, CVNC and FBCN

NONC (North Okanagan Naturalists Club)

1967-1986: Chair of Conservation Committee

Vice-President

President

1969-1976: NONC Delegate to FBCN

1975-1979: FBCN Regional Vice-President for Thompson-Okanagan Region
(now called Regional Coordinator)

CVNC (Cowichan Valley Naturalists Club)

1986 to 1998: Chair of the Conservation Committee

Vice-President

President

1993-1996: FBCN Regional Coordinator for Vancouver Island

FBCN (now BC Nature)

1996-1998 FBCN President

BC Naturalists' Foundation

1999-2002 Treasurer

REFERENCES

BC Naturalist Newsletter. 1996-1998. Vol 34, No 4 through Vol 36, No 2. FBCN.