

## iNaturalist Challenge in Ecological Reserves

By Kate McKeown, BC Parks iNaturalist Project

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ecological Reserves Act in British Columbia, the BC Parks iNaturalist Project and Friends of Ecological Reserves challenged themselves and the community to reach 50,000 iNaturalist observations in Ecological Reserves by the end of 2021. Although COVID-19 protocols and wildfires prevented us from meeting this goal, **we tripled the number of observations in Ecological Reserves in a single year**, bringing the total over 30,000 as of mid-November! Together we added 800 species to the Ecological Reserves iNaturalist Project (<https://inaturalist.ca/projects/bc-parks-ecological-reserves>) and found new locations of several rare species, notably Macoun's meadowfoam, bifid crestwort, and rubber boa.

The BC Parks iNaturalist team bioblitzed 17 Ecological Reserves this season with the help of ER wardens and local ecologists. Our experiences in four of these Ecological Reserves are detailed below.

### May 1: Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve

On a gorgeous spring day, we met ER warden Mandy Vaughan and local ecologists Jason Straka,



From , Checker lily (Photographed at Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve by: Lena Dietz Chiasson).

Randal Mindell, and Jack Bindernagel at the entrance to Comox Lake Bluffs. As we ascended out of the dense forest to the rocky, Arbutus-lined bluffs, our cameras clicked constantly while we captured hundreds of photos of plants including checker lilies, Oregon stonecrop, and serpentine fern. On this one Saturday, **our group gathered 1,700 iNaturalist**

**observations of 340 species** spanning the entire EcoReserve. Thank you all for volunteering your time and knowledge.

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Visit our website at:  
[www.ecoreserves.bc.ca](http://www.ecoreserves.bc.ca)

# The Log

Autumn/Winter 2021/22

*The LOG* is published two times a year by the Friends of Ecological Reserves to promote the establishment, management and maintenance of Ecological Reserves in British Columbia. *The LOG* is distributed to members, volunteer wardens, affiliates, supporters, government, friends and the enquiring public.

We encourage you to submit articles for publication. The deadline for submissions for the Spring/Summer 2022 issue of *The Log* is May 15, 2022.

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BC Parks iNaturalist Team: from left to right: John Reynolds, Brian Starzomski, Erin Springinotic, Jason Headley, Thomas Barbin, Tori Miller, Kate McKeown, Ellyne Geurts, and Lena Dietz Chiasson

## May 7: Bowser Ecological Reserve

We joined ER warden Gerry Van Der Wolf at Bowser and set off just as the rain began to fall. Pushing through waist-deep salal, we struggled our way to a pond where many expectant rough-skinned newts glided just below the surface and northern red-legged frogs' eyes bulged above the water line. Dodging devil's club, we hiked along the riverside to a low-lying area populated by western maidenhair fern, skunk cabbage, and liverworts. Finally, we scrambled under decades-old fallen Douglas fir, recording sightings of western red backed salamanders as we returned to our vehicles. Gerry, thank you so much for guiding us through the bush all day and "iNatting" alongside our team.

## May 8-9: Woodley Range Ecological Reserve

Our major bioblitz of the season brought together ecologists Jason Straka, Randal Mindell, Andrew Simon, Scott Gilmore, Kristen and James Miskelly, Finn McGhee, Daniel Tucker, Shane Johnson,

Leah Ramsay, Dave Fraser, Ryan Batten, and Erica McClaren from across Vancouver Island. Over the course of a single weekend, **our group recorded 6,900 observations of 700 species**, including **24 species at risk such as sharp-tailed snake, purple martin, bog bird's foot trefoil, and Steindachner's shieldback katydid**. This major achievement would not have been possible without the generosity of the ecologists who volunteered their time and expertise, and the kindness and support of ER wardens Gary Backlund, Katherine

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Bog bird's-foot-trefoil (photographed at Woodley Range Ecological Reserve by Gary Backlund).



Banman and her daughter, Annika who organized our large group and opened their home to us so that we could access this private Ecological Reserve. Thank you all!

### May 23: Field's Lease Ecological Reserve

ER warden Robert Calder met us on site, and we climbed the short distance to the highest point in the protected area. From there, we had a 360° view of the antelope bitterbrush, rubber rabbitbrush, and sagebrush that stretch to all corners of the modest 4.2-hectare EcoReserve. Although we only spent a few hours in this area, we were able to appreciate and capture the unique arid grassland ecosystem found nowhere else in Canada. Robert, thank you for teaching us about the history of this Ecological Reserve and the beautiful plants found within.

We would also like to thank ER wardens Diane Moran and Ron Laidman (San Juan River Estuary) who provided us with directions to their EcoReserve, BC Parks Community Outreach Specialist Rike Moon who connected us with ER wardens to make these meet ups possible, and all the other commu-



Sharp-tailed snake (photographed at Woodley Range Ecological Reserve by Finn McGhee).

nity scientists who have contributed their observations to iNaturalist this year and in years past. We are looking forward to another great year in 2022!

**Want to become a community scientist and help improve our understanding of the biodiversity in BC's protected areas?**

1) Turn on location services on your smartphone or GPS on your

camera. If you cannot do that, note the location where you are taking the photo.

2) Photograph any wild organism (e.g., plants, animals, fungi) or evidence of wildlife (e.g., tracks, scat). Taking multiple photos of the different parts of the organism from different angles will help with identification.

3) Open iNaturalist.ca or the iNaturalist app, upload your photos and location data

For more information on iNaturalist in BC and community science, visit: [www.bcinat.com](http://www.bcinat.com)



Steindachner's shieldback katydid (photographed at Woodley Range Ecological Reserve by Kate McKeown).



Bifid crestwort (liverwort) (photographed at Woodley Range Ecological Reserve by Jason Headley).



# Zoom Out – Zoom In: A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of BC Parks Ecological Reserves

By Garry Fletcher

Early in 2021, the Board of the Friends of Ecological Reserves were discussing ways in which to mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of Ecological Reserves in British Columbia. A grade 12 student from Duncan, Jamie Frith, volunteered to do a video to help us mark the anniversary.

Jamie is an experienced drone operator, so I set about to determine the possibility of filming in some of the Ecological Reserves. It struck me that when we visit ecological reserves for research or education purposes, we rarely get a chance to observe the reserves from a point of view showing the context of the Ecological Reserve within the surrounding area, and from a close-up microscopic viewpoint. We came up with the idea of the title Zoom Out – Zoom In in order to capture different ways of looking at Ecological Reserves.

Initial inquiries with BC Parks put me in contact with Rike Moon, the volunteer coordinator for BC Parks. She was very supportive and suggested that the best way to go about it would be to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Friends of Ecological Reserves and BC Parks since the process for permit applications for individual reserves would take too much time.

My initial proposal involved 19 Ecological Reserves including some on the lower mainland and in the interior of British Columbia. It soon became apparent that provincial COVID restrictions prevented us from going out of our health district and initially we were even limited to the southern part of Vancouver Island. I decided that we needed at least six reserves to represent a variety of ecosystems in the Ecolog-



Jamie Firth and Genevieve Singleton at the Mt. Tzuahalem Ecological Reserve.

ical Reserve System.

We scheduled visits to the reserves and wanted to include at least one reserve with Douglas fir old growth forests. Our initial plans for a visit to Nitnat Ecological Reserves could not be carried out because the wardens reported great difficulty in getting access to that reserve.

In mid-summer the restrictions for travelling for BC Parks projects on Vancouver Island were lifted and I obtained an amendment to the MOU so that we could go

further up island to video the Nimpkish River Ecological Reserve which was the result of early work by Dr. Hans Roemer and Dr. Vladimir Krajina.

We were fortunate to obtain the help of several wardens of Ecological Reserves as we thought it was important to have local experts reflecting on the values of the reserves in the video. Where reserves such as Nimpkish lacked a warden, we were able to use the video to encourage others to get

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involved as wardens.

By the end of August we had visited the six Ecological Reserves and Jamie had obtained drone footage as well as macro video. Access to the Oak Bay Islands ER was facilitated by Martin Stewart of Ecosphere Tours and to Race Rocks ER by Greg Dickinson of Lester Pearson College.

Throughout the summer Jamie had begun the task of putting in hundreds of hours editing and creating the content for the video, and was able to finish it as well as deal with his new obligations in College.

We were also fortunate to obtain a grant from BC Parks to cover some of our travelling and equipment expenses. The results of the project are now embedded on the Friends of Ecological Reserves website at:

<https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/2021/11/13/zoom-out-zoom-in-a-celebration-of-the-50th-anniversary-of-bc-parks-ecological-reserves/>

The six ERs visited were: Nimpkish River ER # 118, San Juan Ridge ER # 83, Oak Bay Islands ER # 94, Mount Tzuhalem ER # 112, San Juan River ER # 141 and Race Rocks ER # 97.



Jamie Frith filming close ups, from a window (below left at Race Rocks ER) and with drone release at Mt. Tzuhalem ER (Wardens Dave Polster and Genevieve Singleton).





# Sturdy Champion for Ecological Reserves

By Jenny L. Feick, PhD

At 10:20 a.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, Liberal MLA Jordan Sturdy, the Honourable Member for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky, made a Statement in the Legislature on Ecological Reserves. He referenced material from a letter sent on March 12, 2021, to Premier Horgan and other elected officials by the Elders Council for Parks in B.C. on behalf of the Elders, FER and BC Nature. (see pages 7 & 8) His Statement from Hansard reads as follows:

## ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

**J. Sturdy:** “On April 2, it was B.C. Ecological Reserves Day. “What is that?” I hear you say. Well, in fairness, that’s a pretty good question to all here but a few. In May of this year, it’s been 50 years that B.C. has been working to preserve the province’s representative and special natural ecosystem, plant and animal species, features and phenomenon. This is quite a task in a province as diverse as British Columbia.

A shout-out has to go to Dr. Vladimir Krajina, born in Austro-Hungary in 1905, a professor of botany, a Czech resistance fighter who after being sentenced to death, not just by the Nazis but also by the Communists, escaped to Canada and made his way to the faculty of forestry at UBC.

It was during the seemingly boundless 1950s that he saw the tremendous value of our natural ecological gene pool, and he advocated that we maintain a small percentage of the land base as “a nature museum site,” distinct from parks and, as much as possible, with human activities limited to research.

It was this forward-thinking in the 1950s that convinced the government of W.A.C. Bennett to



ask this Legislature to approve the *Ecological Reserve Act*, which it did, *nemine contradicente*, on May 4, 1971. It was a first for Canada, with the establishment of 29 reserves. Today there are 148.

While the province went as far as issuing a brief press release on the anniversary, the B.C. Parks Elders Council and Friends of Ecological Reserves believe much more needs to be done. Firstly, it’s important that we work to complete the system that maintains our precious ecological gene pool resource. Second is the need for a system plan that provides better organizational structure to monitor and maintain and use these reserves appropriately. Finally, the volunteer warden positions are critical. As of April, more than half of these positions were vacant across the province.

I’m sure you’ll all join me in appreciating the value of the *Ecological Reserve Act* and the opportunities it maintains for this province. Let’s commit to acting on and reporting out on each of these recommendations.”

Jordan Sturdy was first elected as MLA for the West Vancouver-Sea to Sky electoral district in 2013 and was re-elected in both the 2017 and 2020 elections. He currently serves as the Official Opposition critic for Fisheries, Aquaculture and BC Ferries and critic for Transportation and Infrastructure. His previous experience in the environmental realm includes briefly serving as Minister of Environment prior to the 2017 provincial election. Before that, he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment, and a member of the Cabinet Committee for Environment and Land Use. In addition, Jordan formerly chaired the Climate Leadership Team, working with members from non-governmental organizations, academia, industry, communities and First Nations to redefine B.C.’s low-carbon future. Plus, he used to chair the Provincial Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy. In his own riding, Jordan initiated the development of the Howe Sound Cumulative Effects Assess-

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# Letter from the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia

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Elders Council for Parks  
In British Columbia

Premier John Horgan  
122-2806 Jacklin Road  
Victoria, BC  
V9B 5A4

March 12, 2021

Dear Premier

This year, as part of the 50th Anniversary of the *Ecological Reserve Act* and the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia's initiative to recognize prominent British Columbians for their contribution to protected areas, the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia, along with the Friends of Ecological Reserves and BC Nature, will be asking, our patron, the Lieutenant Governor to recognize the University of British Columbia's Plant Ecology professor, Dr Vladimir J. Krajina, as a pioneer for his efforts in developing the concept of ecological reserves to support Canada's implementation of the International Biological Program and for facilitating the British Columbia government's leadership in becoming the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass legislation to establish and manage ecological reserves.

In addition to our request to the Lieutenant Governor, we write to ask that your government issue a Proclamation to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the *Ecological Reserve Act*, which passed unanimously after second reading in the BC Legislature on April 2, 1971 and, as a meaningful commemoration of the 50th Anniversary, we ask that your government commit to:

- Designate additional Ecological Reserves, starting with the current seven proposals (Pink Mountain, three old-growth sites on the Sunshine Coast and three Eocene fossil sites in the B.C. Interior)
- Complete the systems plan for Ecological Reserves and use it and an advisory council involving scientists and Indigenous peoples to guide future designations
- Recruit volunteer wardens for each Ecological Reserve currently without a warden and explore opportunities for First Nations stewardship and co-management
- Allocate \$125,000 to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to support the wardens for stewardship expenses including boundary signs, GPS equipment, travel and communication.
- With the assistance of the wardens, complete management planning direction for all Ecological Reserves, including updates to documents prepared before 2000.
- Allocate \$100,000 to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to improve stewardship of existing Ecological Reserves by involving First Nations, other levels of government, the private sector and civil society.

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We would be pleased to meet with you or a designated representative, to discuss further.

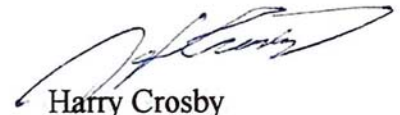
Yours truly,



Colin Campbell  
President  
Elders Council for Parks in  
British Columbia



Rick Page  
Chair  
Friends of Ecological Reserves



Harry Crosby  
President  
BC Nature



Elders Council for Parks  
In British Columbia



Friends of  
Ecological Reserves



cc. Her Honour Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia  
cc. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
cc. Parliamentary Secretary, Kelly Greene  
cc. Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

### ***Continued from page 6***

ment Framework, a process to ensure that the cumulative impacts of the full range of residential, commercial, and industrial development activities around Howe Sound are understood, monitored and mitigated.

FER President Rick Page contacted Jordan Sturdy to thank him for his Statement in the Legislature. Rick also made Jordan aware of the letter BC Nature sent to the BC government in January 2021 with their resolution on Ecological Reserves, as well as other material that the Friends have on their website related to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Ecological Reserves Act*, including the new film "Zoom Out, Zoom In, Fifty years of BC Parks Ecological Reserves".

FER members are encouraged to express their appreciation to MLA Sturdy ([@leg.bc.ca](mailto:jordan.sturdy.MLA)) and to underscore the importance of protecting existing ecological reserves and establishing new Ecological Reserves. Sturdy's riding contains candidate ERs in old-growth forests along the Sunshine Coast:

(<https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/portfolio-item/156-proposed-elphinstone-park-ecological-reserve-areas/>). These include the headwaters of Roberts Creek and Clack Creek, which face continued threats from logging, and Dakota Bowl, which receives some protection thanks to the efforts of Squamish First Nation and the Elphinstone Logging Focus).

FER sends a big thanks to the Elders Council as the letter they sent earlier this year appears to have inspired a provincial politician to be an advocate for Ecological Reserves. As the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year draws to a close, we need to appreciate and continue to care

for and about the 148 existing Ecological Reserves, as well as support efforts to complete the Ecological Reserve system envisioned and promoted by renowned botanist Dr Vladimir Krajina and enabled by the unanimous passage of the *Ecological Reserves Act* on April 2, 1971.



Old hemlock on Dakota Bowl with active black bear den entrance in root structure. 2015 Den # 6. (Photo taken by W. McCrory, McCrory Wildlife Services Ltd. excerpted from the Dakota Bowl Bear Den Report, February 2021)



# Cougar Canyon Ecological Reserves

A Warden's Report by Harold Sellers

Cougar Canyon ER, near Vernon, preserves representative Interior Douglas fir ecosystems, together with a chain of small lakes and associated wetlands. The ER is bounded for the most part by Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park. The exception is the south west end where undeveloped private property lies outside the ER.

On all sides, access to the ER is challenging because of the geography. As a canyon, there are steep cliffs and scree slopes. In much of the reserve the forest is also quite dense. There is no designated public access to the Ecological Reserve.

This visit was to the northern boundary of the reserve to check for any human activities. The route followed was through the popular Cougar Canyon Climbing Area, which is in the park and north of the reserve. Here people enjoy cliff climbing and bouldering.

A lightly-used trail leaves the climbing area and reaches the ER boundary. With many twists and turns, the trail is easy to lose. This hike takes over an hour from the nearest location to park a vehicle.

Arriving at the reserve boundary, no signs of recent human activity were found. This part of the



boundary is beside a very old logging road (some limited logging took place in the early 1960s outside of the ER), but the trail was not found to go beyond this. The logging road eventually gets lost in thick vegetation and deadfalls in either direction.

Records state that there was once a trail from this area to the first small lake in the canyon, known as lake or pond #1. That trail has long since grown over. My future plans are to explore and find a new route to the lakes.

Two small land-locked ponds that were passed outside the ER were noted to be very low in water, due to the very dry year we have experienced. Vegetation is abundant everywhere, often dense and doing well. Moss and lichens form thick blankets on the ground and boulders fallen from the cliffs.

There was no evidence of ancient or recent fires. Only three items discarded by humans were seen and all have been there for a long time and are now rusting away.

A few birds were observed, most notably American Three-toed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Pacific Wren and Brown Creeper.

In the planning is a visit to the south end of the canyon, which must be accessed by permission, through private land. Hopefully this can be done this fall.



Powdered sunshine lichen (*Vulpicida pinastri*) (photo by Kate McKeown).



Evidence of sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus ruber*) (photo by Kate McKeown).



# A Review of Milestones – January to December 2020

By Rick Page, Co-Chair, FER Board

Normally the Friends of Ecological Reserves would publish a “President’s Report” every year after the Annual General Meeting in the Spring/Summer LOG. However, because 2021 is a special year (50th Anniversary of the Ecological Reserves Act) and we chose to publish a 50th Anniversary edition of the LOG in the spring, we thought it might be a good idea to catch you up on the highlights of the year 2020.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting was delayed by COVID until January 29, 2019 via Zoom. Despite COVID, we managed to be relatively active. I’d particularly like to acknowledge Jenny Feick for her huge contributions to FER in 2020.

## Strategic Goal 1. Support of ER Wardens

As in the 2019 report, half the ERs continued to have no ER volunteer wardens and many have no management plans. FER is ever grateful for the ER wardens/eco guardians and especially to those who send in to FER their reports and issues which FER files as part of the record for these ERs.

Thanks to all those ER wardens who spent time in their ERs and worked with Parks staff. FER hopes you see benefit in recording your observations and your visits and sharing them with FER so they can be part of the ER’s legacy and your legacy too.

## Strategic Goal 2. Promote Research in ERs

ERs are established to protect natural environments and serve as monitoring benchmarks and research sites.

As we heard at the last AGM, BC



Swamp Beacon (*Mitrula elegans*) (Photo by Jason Headley taken in Woodley Range ER).

Parks iNat project is cataloguing thousands of species in BC Parks and ERs. We are not aware of any other research.

## Strategic Goal 3. Support a Robust Network of ERs.

FER prepared a resolution on Ecological Reserves for the Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS) to take to the BC Nature AGM on June 23, 2020 and held virtually on Zoom. (See **Autumn/Winter 2020/21 LOG**) BC Nature membership passed the resolution. The resolution was modified slightly in September to incorporate information from the gap analysis and emphasize the ecological reserve system and the upcoming 50th anniversary of the *Ecological Reserves Act* in 2021. The updated version of the resolution was approved by the VNHS Board on December 1 and the BC Nature Board on December

10. Work began on a cover letter with the aim to send the letter and resolution early in the New Year to Ministers Heyman and Conroy, Minister of State Cullen and Parliamentary Secretary Kelly Greene, with a cc to Premier Horgan.

Mike Fenger and Jenny Feick (assisted by Liz Williams) made a written submission to the Old Growth Strategic Review highlighting the need to protect old-growth by designating three new ERs on the Sunshine Coast (Dakota Bowl, headwaters of Roberts Creek and Clack Creek) (See **Autumn/Winter 2020/21 LOG**).

Jenny Feick prepared the first Ecological Reserves Management Issues Gap Analysis Report on May 28. This was based on information from the BC Parks and FER

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Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) (Photo by Rick Searle taken off Race Rocks ER).

websites compiled by her, Marilyn Lambert, Garry Fletcher, Mike Fenger, Stephen Ruttan, and Rick Page in the spring of 2020. Many thanks to Ian Hatter for his assistance with entering, cleaning and analyzing the spreadsheet data and producing tables to illustrate key points in the report. The report was updated in mid-June following a meeting with BC Parks staff on June 3, 2020 and posted on the FER website. The spreadsheets were prepared to provide information pertinent to the ERs in each of BC Parks administrative regions. This information was provided to James Quayle, Manager of Conservation, who disseminated it to regional area conservation specialists.

Jenny Feick did a jurisdictional review of what is going on with Ecological Reserves in other provinces and territories. Manitoba Parks has excellent examples of proposing and establishing new ERs, collaborating with Indigenous

peoples, and a streamlined research permit process.

A number of board members met with Brian Bawtinheimer (Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operation and Rural Development) and Brett Hudson (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy) on May 26, 2020 via Skype and presented the list of seven proposed ERs that FER has been advocating since 2014 and asked to explore processes or opportunities to add these seven sites to the ER system.

We were told that the current land use planning process provides no mandate to look for opportunities for protected areas outside of a regional process. The Province has already achieved its goals for protected area establishment but BC Parks allocated funds to purchase private land from willing sellers to add to the protected areas system. The only way a protected area can be added on Crown land is if the proposed site is championed

by an MLA or brought forward as an Indigenous Protected Area. Brett Hudson informed FER that there is no intention at present to create a system plan for Ecological Reserves in B.C. BC Parks has no plans to address gaps in management planning direction documents for any of the ERs lacking management guidance.

As mentioned previously, on June 3, a number of FER Board members met with BC Parks staff James Quayle, Betsy Hoskins, and Rike Moon via Skype. James presented information on BC Parks Conservation initiatives – BC Parks License Plate Program, Park Enhancement Fund, Living Labs, and BC Parks iNaturalist Project. FER identified issues based on the gap analysis report and letters from ER wardens, and prepared background material in advance. However, we needed more time to meaningfully deal with the issues so BC Parks proposed meeting again

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before Christmas. The provincial election delayed that meeting until 2021.

#### Strategic Goal 4. Promote and Extend Knowledge of ERs

Mike Fenger submitted an op ed to the *Victoria Times Colonist* on the change needed in shipping lanes but they did not print it. To view Mike's piece entitled "Location of current shipping lanes threaten South Vancouver Island" see: <https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/2021/02/15/location-of-current-shipping-lanes-threaten-south-vancouver-island/>.

The LOG newsletter continues to be FER's primary reporting and communications tool with ER wardens and BC Parks staff.

Jenny Feick wrote a series of articles on Ecological Reserves for *The Victoria Naturalist*: "British Columbia's Ecological Reserves, Forgotten Gems" appeared on pages 14-17 in the September/October issue. "New Ecological Reserves Needed in British Columbia" was published on pages 9-12 in the November/December issue. In both cases, the front cover featured a picture from an Ecological Reserve.

On December 1, Jenny submitted another article for the January/February issue to highlight the 50th anniversary of the *Ecological Reserves Act* in 2021. Jenny wrote another article on the plight of Ecological Reserves for the *Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Island Chapter* newsletter. She also wrote to West Coast Environmental Law and Ecojustice to inform them of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the *Ecological Reserve Acts* and inviting their support in helping to commemorate this B.C. legislative milestone.

In May, Garry Fletcher posted on You Tube the historical documentary "Keeping the Options Open". It is also on the FER



Big trees in Nimpkish Ecological Reserve.

website. Two other NFB films called "The Forests and Vladimir Krajina" and "Triangle Island" are being digitized.

Jenny Feick and Mike Fenger began work on a communications piece to articulate FER's policy regarding Indigenous People and ERs.

#### Strategic Goal 5. Sustain Volunteer Organization

The FER BoD: Jenny Feick, Mike Fenger (Past President), Garry Fletcher, Marilyn Lambert, Rick Page, Mary Rannie, Stephen Ruttan. Bristol Foster and Liz Williams declared their intent to step down from the Board at the next AGM in 2021. Louise Beinhauer (Newsletter Editor) and Michael Brimsmead (Treasurer) supported the Board.

The FER BoD continued to lack the capacity it needed to accomplish its goals. Throughout the year, several key people had to care for ailing relatives and/or were away for extended periods of time. In the absence of anyone willing to be the President, the Board voted to share the responsibility of leadership. Shared responsibility sometimes resulted in things not getting done

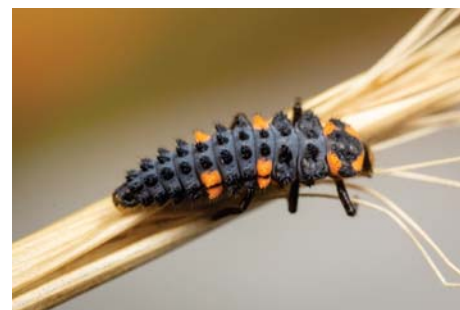
and missed opportunities. With two directors resigning, the Board put out a Call for New Board members in the Autumn/Winter 2020/21 LOG as well as on the FER website.

#### Socially Distanced Outdoor Get Together

We only had one field trip to the San Juan Estuary ER, on Vancouver Island before COVID restrictions.

In the late fall of 2020, the Board considered various ideas on how to meaningfully commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *Ecological Reserves Act*.

Brian Starzomski and Kate McKeown confirmed in the fall of 2020 that they would be the guest speakers for the 2020 AGM in January 2021.



Black spotted lady beetle (Tribe Coccinellini) (photos by Jason Headley as part of the iNat Team Big Summer 2021)



# The Board of B.C.'s Friends of Ecological Reserves Wants You! Call for Interim Directors

By Jenny Feick, PhD

- Are you interested in nature and enjoy learning about natural areas?
- Are you intrigued by the diversity of ecosystems and life forms in British Columbia, including rare plants and animals?
- Would you like to help foster the stewardship of British Columbia's ecological reserves, and enhance the system of B.C.'s ecological reserves?
- Would you like to support the use of ecological reserves as living laboratories to document biodiversity, monitor environmental and climate change, and help inform provincial government decisions on significant ecological, biological and geological features?
- Do you want to help inform provincial government decisions on the management of existing ER's and the creation of new ecological reserves?
- Are you interested in enhancing the role of ecological reserves in safeguarding ecological resources and sites significant to Indigenous peoples?
- Do you have three to ten hours to volunteer each month?
- Can you attend a two-hour virtual meeting once a month using Zoom teleconferencing?

If so, please consider joining the Board of Directors for the Friends of Ecological Reserves (FER). FER currently seeks dynamic, committed, bright, team-oriented candidates for their Board of Directors from **anywhere** in B.C. One of the FER Board members had to resign for personal reasons soon after the last AGM and we need to replace that individual with an interim Director asap before the next AGM in the spring of 2022. The Board could also fill an additional three vacancies on an interim basis.

Ecological reserves provide permanent sanctuaries throughout B.C. that protect representative and



FER Board members and guests on a Field Trip to Salt Spring Island, Spring 2019.

special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. Ecological reserves primarily serve scientific research and educational purposes. Ecological reserves:

- preserve representative examples of B.C.'s ecosystems;
- protect rare and endangered plants and animals in their natural habitat;
- preserve unique, rare or outstanding botanical, zoological or geological phenomena;
- perpetuate vital genetic resources; and
- provide venues for scientific research and education in a natural environment.

The Friends of Ecological Reserves (FER) is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit charitable organization. FER works closely with BC Parks staff to support ER wardens and to encourage BC Parks to allocate funding to the management, conservation and stewardship of ecological reserves. FER promotes the ecologi-

cal reserves system in B.C. and the need to add new reserves to address gaps. It raises public awareness about ecological reserves within B.C. and procures funds to:

- foster research and monitoring in ecological reserves;
- support volunteer wardens and the warden function within ecological reserves;
- prepare and circulate a regular newsletter to inform FER members on current issues in ecological reserves; and
- educate the public regarding the important features of ecological reserves, including conservation of ecological, biological and geological features.

## Roles and Responsibilities of the Board

FER is a registered Canadian charity, and a not-for-profit organization under the B.C. *Societies Act*. The Board is accountable for ensuring that the FER is managed in accordance

*Continued on page 14*

with applicable federal and provincial laws and its membership's wishes. These responsibilities include:

- Establishing and maintaining a framework of delegation and internal control.
- Monitoring financial management and performance.
- Establishing and pursuing a strategic direction in keeping with the FER's Mission, Vision and Values as articulated in its Strategic Plan.
- Evaluating and improving the performance of the Board.
- Promoting and supporting the FER, its members, and the volunteer ER wardens.

### Responsibilities of Individual Board Members

As individuals and collectively, Board Members are responsible for:

- Creating a positive, fun, open, respectful, collaborative and action-oriented organizational culture.
- Adhering to the bylaws, policies, and procedures of the organization.
- Reading and familiarizing themselves with the five goals in the FER Strategic Plan (<https://ecoreserves.bc.ca/about-friends/strategic-plan/>), actions FER takes to advance these goals, as well as the obstacles faced and progress made in meeting these goals.
- Attending a majority of all Board meetings in person or via teleconferencing to provide insights and share knowledge to support the ER system and further the management, conservation and stewardship of ecological reserves in B.C. This includes:
  - Reading the minutes and agenda, and completing action items assigned prior to the meeting, and being prepared to speak on his/her agenda items at the meeting or to email an update.
  - Doing the background work



FER Board members and guests on a Field Trip to Mt. Tzu-halem ER, Spring 2015.

he/she commits to do and reporting to the Board at the next meeting on progress made and obstacles faced.

- Participating in or leading at least one of the FER's projects or initiatives (e.g., writing an article for the FER newsletter, *The LOG*)
- Participating in, organizing, or hosting at least one of FER's events (field trips, social get-togethers) during each two-year term.
- Acting selflessly in seeking solutions that are in the best interests of the FER and ecological reserves in B.C.
- Participating in discussions to set FER Board policy, make decisions, and identify actions.
- Pursuing opportunities to improve the camaraderie and performance of the FER.

### Special Qualifications

FER seeks candidates to join the Board who have **one** (or more) of the following areas of interest/expertise:

- Awareness of the ecological reserves of B.C. and experience in visiting at least one
- Knowledge of the natural history of British Columbia
- Interest in and knowledge of biological and geological features, species at risk, fossils
- Interest in and experience in environmental stewardship and ecological restoration
- Knowledge of and experience in ecological inventory, monitoring and research methods
- Interest in and experience with

collaboration and negotiation

- Experience in effective written and verbal communications and social media
- Interest in and experience in fundraising
- Experience in working with government land management agencies, including parks and protected areas management
- Interest in and knowledge of Indigenous law/policy, traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous culture, cultural resources and traditional use, and First Nations engagement
- Interest in and experience in land use planning and protected areas systems planning
- Awareness of biodiversity conservation and ecological land classification principles
- Understanding of and expertise in environmental policy analysis

### Term for Interim Director:

Several months (until the next AGM in the spring of 2022). If elected at the next AGM, the term is for two years with the option to renew.

**Compensation:** Although Directors serve as volunteers and receive no financial remuneration, benefits include camaraderie, learning experiences, opportunities to visit ecological reserves, and pride in contributing to the greater good.

**Time Commitment:** Usually 3-6 hours per month.

### Candidate Selection Process

Candidates interested in serving as an Interim Director should submit their names and qualifications immediately to: Friends of Ecological Reserves of B.C. via email: [ecoreserves@hotmail.com](mailto:ecoreserves@hotmail.com). The FER Board of Directors will review all applications and contact those interested in an Interim Director position. Qualified candidates will be invited to attend all Board meetings up to the next AGM in the spring of 2022. These individuals will then be invited to let their names stand for the official election of Directors by the Society's membership, which will take place in the spring of 2022. There will be another call for Directors prior to the next AGM.



# FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES MEMBERSHIP FORM

Box 8477 Stn Central, Victoria, BC V8W 3S1

☐ Renewal for 2019 ☐ Renewal for 2020 ☐ New membership

## Membership Category

☐ Individual: \$20 ☐ Student/Senior: \$15 ☐ Family: \$25 ☐ Institution: \$25 ☐ Sustaining: \$60

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Instead of receiving the LOG by post, please send me my copy of the LOG electronically** (please provide your email address)

I/we enclose Payment for:

\_\_\_\_ year(s) membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) Constitution & Bylaws @ \$1 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax receipts issued for donations of \$20 or more  
(Charitable BIN#118914597RR)

## I am interested in volunteering for:

- ☐ Assisting with Field Trip organization  
☐ Contributing articles/photos to *The LOG*  
☐ Fund-Raising ☐ Telephoning ☐ Other

## Please apply my donation to:

- ☐ Land acquisition projects  
☐ Scholarships for post-graduate research  
☐ Where most needed

## ORDER FORM FOR PLACEMATS AND MAPS

**Placemats – \$2.50 each**

**Maps – \$5.00 each**

Interior Grasslands • Douglas Fir • Garry Oak • Alpine Flowers

\* Non-profit Group Volume Discount (10 or more) \$2.00 each

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL

Shipping, Handling and Postage for Orders \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** (Cheque or Money Order) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_





# Zoom Meetings Connect the ER Wardens of B.C.

By Garry Fletcher

BC parks hosted two Wardens' meetings in the interior of the province. On Oct 23.... The volunteers of the South Coast area were joined in a zoom meeting to highlight events in their reserve.

The difference with this type of meeting compared to the west coast Wardens' meeting in the spring was that this one was for all BC parks volunteers participation, not just ER Wardens.

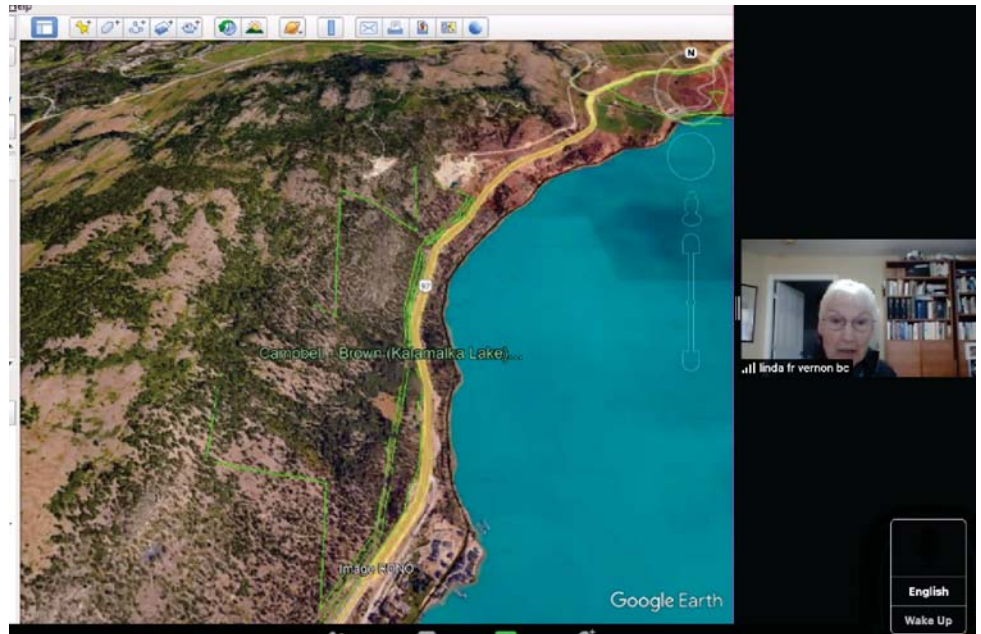
Information relevant to ERs was:

1. There was a good presentation by Bev Ramey about the Fraser River Islands ER. She recognized the work of the FER website in presenting her warden reports, and Rike Moon from BC Parks projected Bev's report on the screen from our website. As she scrolled through the pictures, Bev commented on them. Later Bill and Bev were given a Volunteer recognition award for 18 years work.

2. John Field, the warden for Ambrose Lake ER gave a good presentation with photos from the reserve. They also put up the map from our website. I was able to ask him if there is still a population of Phragmites reed grass growing there as reported in the 1977 flora report. He didn't know. I was later asked by a member of parks staff for my reference on Phragmites, so I sent them:

<https://metchosinmarine.ca/a-new-lease-on-life/>. I will be writing to him to ask for a copy of his presentation to be added to FER website.

3. Jon Blais of the Fraser Valley Conservancy gave a presentation of the Trailcam photos and videos they have taken. He mentioned that some were from ERs and he has sent those to us for publication on the FER website. See the trailcam videos on the Ross Lake, Liumchen



Screen Capture from the presentation on Campbell Brown (Kalamalka Lake) ER

and Chilliwack Ecological Reserve web pages.

4. Keegan Hoffman was at the meeting. He got involved with ERs, first by helping out the late Laurie Rockwell, the Warden of Trout Creek ER, and then when he went to college in Nanaimo, he took over as ER Warden for Klanawa ER for a short time. He is now with BC Parks staff in the Pemberton area. He gave the presentation on Awards to Volunteers for that area.

5. Johanna Hurley gave a presentation on invasive species in parks.

On October 28 several wardens from the Kootenay-Okanagan region gave excellent presentations on their reserves. The Zoom presentation format worked very well for both of these meetings. We hope that when BC Parks sets up these meetings, they might record them so that others can see the work being done in the Ecological Reserves.

## The Log



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