



THE OSPREY

**Newsletter of the
West Kootenay Naturalists'
Association**

**3378 14 Ave, Castlegar BC V1N
4G1**



Osprey in palm tree, Baja

© Lynda Stevens

Member
Address Label Here

GENERAL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month, 7:00 pm, *except as noted*. Check newsletter for each month's venue. **Changes may be mentioned at meetings, and/or in your local newspaper.** Beverages will *not* be available at Nelson meetings until someone steps forward to handle this task. Venues for '11/'12: Sept – Nelson, Oct -- potluck in Genelle Hall, 6 pm. BYO dishes, cutlery, etc, Nov – Castlegar, Jan – Castlegar, February annual banquet – Trail, March -- Nelson, April -- potluck venue TBA. BYO dishes, cutlery, etc, May -- Castlegar. For June annual picnic venue, see appropriate Field Trip Schedule. No meetings in July, August, or December. ***“The Osprey” is distributed at September, January, and May meetings. Please attend to pick yours up or ask a friend to also request yours, unless you are receiving it by email. Saving postage keeps costs down and dues stable.***

WKNA OFFICERS 2010-11

ELECTED:

PRESIDENT	Brent Hancock	250-304-6840 bthancock@shaw.ca
VICE-PRESIDENT	Arnold By	250-368-3068
PAST PRESIDENT	Joan Snyder	250-226-0012
RECORDING SECRETARY	Linda Szymkowiak	250-362-7107
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP	Esther Brown	250-368-3663 estherbrown@shaw.ca

APPOINTED:

AREA REPRESENTATIVES:		
CASTLEGAR/SLOCAN VALLEY	Marg Webster	250-365-2572
	Mary Martin	250-365-3827
TRAIL & AREA	Pamella Wik	250-368-3378
NELSON/SALMO/KASLO	Ruth Ingles	250-352-7957
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE	Pamella Wik	250-368-3385
BC NATURE DIRECTOR (WKNA)	Joan Snyder	250-226-0012
ARCHIVIST	Mary Martin	250-365-3827
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Margo Saunders	250-693-2229 penandpaddle@gmail.com
FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS	Audrey Mann, Rosland, Trail & areas	250-362-9465
	(Nell Plotnikoff, Slocan/Nelson)	250-359-7406
	(John Golik, Slocan/Nelson)	250-359-7278
	Hazel Beynon, Castlegar	250-365-7806
	Webb Webster, Castlegar	250-365-2572
PRESENTATION COORDINATOR	vacant	

SECTION CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE HEADS:

BIRDING	Ed Beynon	250-365-7806
ENERGYCONSERVATION	Shirley Coffin	250-364-0339 slicoffin@shaw.ca
BIRD COUNTS: Bird Studies Canada, WKNA, Christmas and Summer	vacant	
BLUEBIRDS	vacant	
BUTTERFLIES	Rita Wege	250-359-7234
INJURED BIRDS/ANIMALS	Carol Pettigrew (birds)	250-365-3701
	Helen Jameson, Blewett (animals)	250-352-2356
INVASIVE PLANTS	vacant	
RIVERS DAY (National)	vacant	
RIVERS DAY (Provincial)	vacant	
VIOLIN LAKE STAKEHOLDERS	Margo Saunders	250-693-2229
WEBSITE, KOOTENAY REGIONAL	Kevin MacAskill	250-825-2245
	Arnold By	250-368-3068

TRIP REPORTS

December 21, 2010:

The moonlight ski was held at Mud Lake because of concern about the safety of the ice at Nancy Greene Lake. Seven people attended and we had a beautiful moon. The lunar eclipse occurred in the wee hours of this morning, so we missed that. There was a great assortment of food and beverages and the camaraderie was wonderful.

SW Webster

Saturday, January 15, 2011:

Thirteen Nats and three guests snowshoed the South Belt area of Rossland to Drake Lake. After an hour and a half snowshoe hike around the trails, we had a choice of three homemade soups and our lunches back at Davies' house. Everyone go to see the variety of birds at the feeder. [In answer to his query, everyone *thoroughly* enjoyed the day -- and the hospitality of Edward and Deyanne.]

Edward Davies

Saturday, February 5, 2011:

Twenty one members and one guest met at Nancy Greene Lake, carpooled, and drove to the trailhead at the Paulson Summit. It was a bright sunny day with fresh soft snow, perfect for snowshoeing. We climbed up a fairly high hill from the parking lot and as we crested the hill we were greeted with unparalleled views of Old Glory and adjacent mountains, as well as Mount Gladstone. Many photos were taken. We snowshoed on to the Griz Cabin where all 22 of us snugly fitted in to eat lunch and chat. The majority of the group took a slightly longer route back and passed by "George's cabin", an old packrat-ridden cabin near Michener Creek. The rest of the snowshoers wanted the shortest way back so returned the way they came in.

Ed & Hazel Beynon

Saturday, February 26, 2011:

Hike to Troup -- Eight Nats gathered for a hike to Troup along the rail trail. The trip had been planned as a snow shoe or ski, but due to the lack of snow it was best done as a hike. We started just above Selkirk College 10th Street Campus. There was some high cloud with the sun occasionally breaking through, and the temperature was -15 degrees. What little snow there was had been well compacted by the many skiers and hikers who regularly use the trail. The trip to Troup is 5 km one way on a gentle down slope, making for an easy hike. Three rebuilt trestles were crossed on the route; the trestles have been beautifully rebuilt. Many interesting ice falls were noted. At Troup we stopped for lunch at a new picnic table and admired the clearing done by the local hermit. We enjoyed sampling home prepared food by some of the members: roasted almonds and sunflower seeds, dried pears, and dried plums. The return trip took a bit more effort on the up-slope. The lake views of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake along the trail were much admired by all.

Alan McCuaig

Saturday, January 8, 2011

The rain and sleet during the night was only a bad dream! In the morning, I "sprang from my bed" and "threw open the sash" when "what to my wondering eyes should appear, up in the sky was a big golden sphere". Off we went to Nancy Greene Summit to meet with other eager Nats and friends. In total, 22 snowshoers and 2 skiers had a frolicking good day up at Red Dog and Mosquito cabins and some adventurous folks even found "new" trails! Although the sun kept hiding behind passing clouds, the beauty of the snow-covered trees and the sparkles at our feet made it a perfect outing.

Nell Plotnikoff

Saturday, January 22, 2011

A large group of 23 members met at Bonanza parking lot. The sun was shining and the temperature was about -5 degrees. We snowshoed along a logging road for about 1.5 kilometres, then followed a track, which the leaders had made and packed the day before, through the woods and along the west side of the Orion Lakes. The obvious delight of some members as they snowshoed through the old growth trees was very satisfying. Lunch was eaten at the side of the lake in the welcome sunshine as the Andromeda cabin was too small for all of us and also had a disagreeable packrat odour in it. Our return trip continued on around the end of the lake, then back up a trail to the road. We didn't see any wildlife, which was not surprising since we were such a large group.

Hazel and Ed Beynon

Saturday, March 12, 2011:

We had a pleasant day with 7 enthusiastic Nats. The leader partially led the group, but had several individuals who arose to the occasion to trek through the foot of new snow. The group travelled Ursa Major 2 and Gemini Trails to Gordon Kier Cabin. Some in the group were really beginning to wonder if there really was a cabin in the area. To our surprise, we met two of the original four Kier Cabin makers, the two Peters. From Gordon Kier Cabin, it was pretty much a downhill trek to the parking lot. Peter Woods thanked all the Naturalists for developing a highway through the woods to the Cabin - it made their trek much easier. [See Pat's photo on next page]

Pat West



Saturday, March 19, 2010:

Webb and Margo went up the day before, a beautiful sunny day of course, to track and reflag the trail for the snowshoers. The snow is about twelve feet deep, three or four feet more of snow cover than average, so many flags are there, but buried! We made the loop toward the bridge, and went in 'the back' way to the Plewman Ridge cabin. They must have been having problems with vandals and others, as they have a "Private" sign prominently displayed. Such a shame that this would be necessary. Webb wiggled his way in and lit a fire, finding the shovel INSIDE, from where it would supposedly not be stolen. On the Saturday though, there was a torrential downpour in the valley, and a preponderance of wet, heavy snow further up. The Nancy Greene highway was in terrible condition, and we realized, upon arrival at the parking area, that it would be foolhardy to attempt the trail *and then* the drive out, but valiantly, every single person showed up "because we said we would." This is the definition of integrity, and the reason for writing a report for a nonexistent trip. Thank you to those other seven Nats that live by their word. You are to be commended and I am sure that your real friends appreciate your upstanding morals. There are so few of us left that we should all be applauded.

Margo Saunders

Saturday, April 9, 2011:

Fifteen West Kootenay Nats braved -4 to -1C temperatures on their second annual early spring birding trip to Beaver Creek Park, south of Trail, and were rewarded with 34 species. Dr. Snyder, PhD. in Zoology, was recovering from serious illness but managed to get first spot on the only shorebird of the day -- a Killdeer -- before she had to go rest up. I delivered on all my promises except the Black-necked Stilts, seen last year, and the Osprey, who probably looked at their thermometers and cancelled their flights. I sweated out the appearance of the Mountain Bluebirds but the group was finally rewarded with two, possibly three pair, at only 15-20m distances. And the highlight was a Say's Phoebe which both Ed Beynon and Gwen Nichol identified simultaneously by ear and the rest of us audio challenged all got to listen to afterwards. It's a species listed on the WK Bird Check List as 'occasional'; I've seen them only in the Okanagan. Paul Prappas and Carolee pushed on to the Pend d'Oreille River Valley and expanded the list with two pair of Western Bluebirds and some Red Crossbills. In taxonomic order:

Mallard	Killdeer	Red-breasted Nuthatch
American Widgeon	Herring Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Common Goldeneye	Hairy Woodpecker	Western Bluebird
Barrows Goldeneye	Northern Flicker	Mountain Bluebird
Bufflehead	Say's Phoebe	Townsend's Solitaire
Common Merganser	Tree Swallow	American Robin
Canada Goose	Violet-green Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Stellar's Jay	Rufous-sided Towhee
Bald Eagle	Common Raven	Song Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Merlin	Black-capped Chickadee	Western Meadowlark
Red Crossbill		

Michael [McMann] in Robson

Saturday, April 16, 2011:

Seven hikers took a side trip on the way to Kaslo to visit Fletcher Falls. The many species of moss were stunning with an array of greens, and the falls themselves are spectacular at this time of year. We stopped to admire a herd of nine deer that were enjoying lunch along-side the road. It was suitable that the rain did not stop the Naturalists from enjoying the Interior Rain Forest of the Kaslo River Trail. The Kaslo Trailblazers Society have done an excellent job of maintaining the trail, even planting some iris and daffodils in a garden area for the enjoyment of hikers. A wealth of knowledge is to be found in their pamphlet including information about the river, plants, animals, history and some geology. Webb was impressed that the 15-inch diameter water turbine, found in the undergrowth was part of a Gilkes machine that ran at 900 revolutions per minute and generated 300 horsepower for the city of Kaslo, back in 1914. The happy but soggy hikers enjoyed a bowl of warm soup at the local café before heading back home.

Diane White

Take a look... 

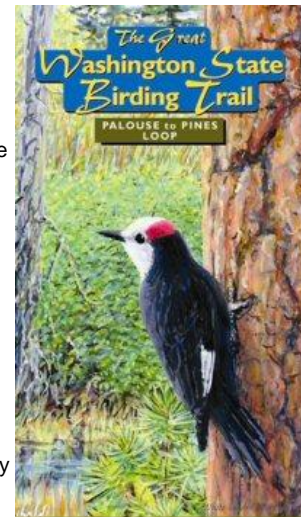
News release for immediate release
More information: Christi Norman, Director
Great Washington State Birding Trail
206-652-2444 x 104 office; 360-789-7282 cell

**WASHINGTON BIRDING TRAIL EXPANDS TO FAR EASTERN WASHINGTON
“Great Washington State Birding Trail *Palouse to Pines Loop* “**

OLYMPIA, January 26, 2011—Under the watchful eyes of a live Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk, the sixth and newest route of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, the Palouse to Pines Loop, was unveiled in the Cherberg Building on the state capitol campus Jan. 26th. The owl and hawk are species of birds regularly seen on this part of the birding trail that winds through eastern Washington.

“The Palouse to Pines Loop will bring new visitors and new dollars to our rural areas, and gives us yet another reason to be good stewards of our lands and waters,” said Sen. Lisa Brown, D-Spokane. “The birding trail is a guide to many of the special places along our state’s eastern corridor.”

She received a framed copy of the map at the unveiling event from Audubon Washington Birding Trail Program Director Christi Norman. According to Norman, birding “trails”, now offered in more than 30 states, are self-guided driving tours to places where birds are likely to be seen.



With 40+ million Americans describing themselves as interested in bird watching, developers of the Great Washington State Birding Trail hope to entice both local residents and out-of-state visitors to the Palouse to Pines Loop, which features 215 of Washington’s 346 annually recorded bird species.

Year-round, Boreal Owls and Boreal Chickadees tuck away in alpine forests; Pygmy Nuthatches and White-headed Woodpeckers favor old-growth Ponderosa pines. Black Terns and Common Nighthawks arrive in spring along with thousands of feathered migrants that come courting: Mountain Bluebirds, Yellow Warblers, Black-chinned Hummingbirds – plus swallows, sparrows, and shorebirds. Common Loons nest on hidden lakes. American White Pelicans visit in summer followed in fall by hundreds of Tundra Swans, and in winter by extravagant numbers of waterfowl.

Millions of years of plate tectonics, lava flows, glaciation, and cataclysmic floods have sculpted eastern Washington’s stunning terrain. The region enjoys distinct seasons: winter snow, spring wildflowers, summer heat, fall harvest. Evergreen and leafy trees, pothole lakes, shrub-steppe, rivers large and small, and irrigation channels nourish flora, fauna, and farms.

The Palouse to Pines Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail was developed and funded by Audubon Washington, the Washington State Department of Transportation, Inland Northwest Community Foundation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and individual contributors. Like the first five maps, the new publication features original artwork by noted Washington wildlife painter Ed Newbold.

The live birds featured at the Palouse to Pines unveiling ceremony came from Vashon Island’s Wolftown, a nonprofit facility that rescues and rehabilitates injured native birds and other wildlife, and offers them for educational presentations.

Together with its local chapters, Audubon Washington produced the first map of the birding trail in 2002, the Cascade Loop. The Coulee Corridor followed in 2003, Southwest Loop in 2005, Olympic Loop in 2007, and the Sun and Sage Loop in 2009. One additional route covering the Puget Sound area will complete the birding trail in 2011. All maps contain

information about habitat, bird species, access, and best seasons for birding. Signs marking birding trail sites will be installed in coming years.

The new map can be seen online at <http://wa.audubon.org>. Copies of the Great Washington State Birding Trail maps can be ordered online: http://wa.audubon.org/birds_GreatWABirdingTrail.html

CHECK OUT OUR CLUB WEBSITES

<http://www.columbiariver.ca/wkna/>
Powered and funded by Sharpwit Web Consulting "Virtual Community"
Regional Naturalists' website: www.kootenaynaturalists.org

Getting your *Osprey* by email? Watch for it in your Google group
wknats@googlegroups.com

Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is AUGUST 3, 2011

Material accepted by the Publisher any time up to this date. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, spelling and syntax. Any major changes will be discussed with the contributor.

**JUST A REMINDER **

NOTE -- IMPORTANT CHANGES IN #4

1. **Everyone likes cookies and squares!** We need TWO people to bring them to each meeting. Contact Shirley Coffin to volunteer your baking skills. Get your name in early and choose your month (new list begins each September).
2. **Do you have any suggestions for new areas to visit?** Would you be willing to lead a hike? Please contact a Program Director with your great ideas. Thank you to all the contacts/leaders in all seasons. We learn so much from each of you.
3. **Common courtesy and common sense** dictates that you call the contact person to confirm your attendance at an event on the program. Lead time for the newsletter is as much as nine months between planning and execution. Nothing is written in stone and changes may have to be made from time to time, due to weather conditions or personal reasons. We would not want you to miss out on a single chance to enjoy our environment! **Don't wait until the last minute** to phone if you are interested in any of our events....leader may have already left, especially if camping or long distances are involved.
4. **The leader of an outing is responsible for:**
 - ✓ Finding a replacement contact/leader if you cannot be available for your planned outing. A replacement *leader* may choose to do the same outing, or they may suggest another.
 - ✓ Getting the appropriate waiver form signed by every person attending. *Member* waiver forms are included in your newsletter (if you are getting hard copy), one for each hike you are leading. If you are getting your newsletter by email, please request the waivers as attachments and the Editor or the Treasurer will be happy to supply them. *There are TWO waivers - one for members and one for guests (one-day membership + \$1.00). Request the guest waiver beforehand and keep extra copies just in case.* Forward these forms to Webb Webster or Esther Brown, respectively, immediately.
 - ✓ Make it a policy with the entire group to keep the person behind you in sight. If your follower on the trail is lagging, slow your pace to keep them in sight. If everyone in the group continually checks to make sure they can see the person behind them, it is impossible for anyone to get into serious trouble. If you split into groups, do not allow any one person to 'take off' by him/herself.
 - ✓ Making sure that no one is left behind with car trouble at the parking area, especially in winter, Arranging to have the trip report forwarded to the Editor. The leader may delegate this, of course, but please advise the Editor from whom to expect it. The writer also has the obligation to get the report submitted in time.

Think BIG

The prestigious journal *Nature* calls the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative the kind of effort needed to ensure that national parks are able to withstand the effects of climate change. *Nature*, the international weekly journal of science Volume 469, Page 131 Published online 12 January 2011

The best way to manage national parks in the face of the effects of climate change is not to manage at the park level, but to work with landscapes. A new US initiative shows the way.

In 1882, the US conservationist George Bird Grinnell wrote about humans invading natural habitats as "the tide of immigration" that was then sweeping across the American West. "There is one spot left, a single rock about which this tide will break, and past which it will sweep, leaving it undefiled by the unsightly traces of civilization." That rock was Yellowstone National Park, then just ten years old.

Thanks in large part to the success of Yellowstone, this rocks-in-the-tide or 'protected area' model has been adopted worldwide. Yellowstone remains the archetype for the park as an island in space and time, walled-off from changes to the land around it. But any park scientist or manager will tell you that to freeze a park in time is an unattainable ideal. And for better or worse, parks cannot be completely isolated in space either. Yellowstone is surrounded by national forests, ranches, game refuges and other natural lands that are ten times the size of the park itself, as well as by the spawning tendrils of residential development. European spotted knapweed gets in and grizzly bears get out.

As the effects of global climate change begin to unspool, park managers at Yellowstone and around the world are deciding how to proceed, torn between their impulse to fight to keep ecosystems the way they are and a reluctance to fiddle with nature too much.

Perhaps the best approach is for them to ponder instead the larger landscape in which their parks sit. Scaling up is reassuring. At the park level, climate change may extirpate a species. At the landscape level, climate change merely moves it. And scaling up is more effective. Ecologists and conservation biologists have known for decades that small isolated parks leak species. Smaller populations have smaller gene pools in which maladapted traits are more likely to become fixed. Smaller populations are more vulnerable to drought, pests, hard winters or simple bad luck. "It would be unforgivable to lose honeyeaters, antelopes, grizzlies and orchids."

This is why conservation biologists, since at least the early 1990s, have called for parks to be connected to one another by unbroken corridors of nature, through which large species can move. For small mobile species, such as birds and insects, a stepping-stone scatter of protected areas close to one another has much the same effect. Climate change makes such connectivity even more important, as species challenged by the changing climate will need big gene pools to draw from and lots of different places to which they can move to. In particular, sites with microclimates to harbour species that can't take the heat need to be identified, protected and linked to existing protected areas.

As corridor ecology has taken off as a scientific subfield, so have corridor and connectivity projects such as the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative in North America and the Australian Alps to Atherton Connectivity Conservation Area. Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is restoring lands beyond nature reserves in its Futurescapes programme. Some projects are even species-specific, such as Protecting the Pronghorn Path — a 240-kilometre-long federally designated and protected 'migration corridor' put in place on all the different lands that the American antelope crosses on its way between summer and winter ranges in Wyoming. As the pronghorns make their way back and forth, the ungulates traipse across national forests, Bureau of Land Management gas fields, private cattle ranches and state-owned roads, where the department of transportation is this winter installing pronghorn-friendly underpasses. Coordinating all of those players is a massive job, one that was tackled in this case by the Wildlife Conservation Society, based in New York. But there is not the money to do for the whole of Earth what the society was able to do in Wyoming.

In February 2010, the US Department of Interior ordered all the land-management agencies it oversees to join with other federal, state and private land managers in 'landscape conservation cooperatives' to help to understand and respond to the effects of climate change. At a recent scientific meeting in Yellowstone, many scientists groaned at the prospect of yet another entity in the already crowded and confusing realm of conservation planning. But if these cooperatives are widely embraced, they could be a way to move beyond the truism that landscape-level conservation is needed, and start to do it.

It would be unforgivable to lose honeyeaters, antelopes, grizzlies and orchids, not because scientists didn't know how to save them, but because they were mired in bureaucratic mud.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

NOTE: For all field trips, please call the contact/leader for meeting time and place

JULY

Saturday July 2	Hike Gardner Cave in Crawford State Park, 18 km n of Metaline WA. Stairs, walkways, lights. Wear sturdy footwear and jacket for cool temp. Easy. <u>BRING YOUR PASSPORT</u> and be prepared to pay your driver (Park fee \$5 per car)	Margo Saunders 250-693-2229
Saturday July 9	Hike Blackjack ski trails. Easy	Deyanne Davies 250-362-7727
Saturday July 16	Twin Peaks (Pot Hill). Moderate	Ed & Hazel Beynon 250-365-7806
Saturday July 23	McCrae Creek. Whirlpool and small lake; St Mary's lookout. Christina Lake area. Easy	Ron Davies 250-447-9091
Saturday July 30	Hike Cornice Ridge @ Kootenay Pass. Moderate	Lloyd Jeffery 250-368-9243

AUGUST

Saturday August 6	Hike Pedro Creek area to Rockslide Lake. Easy	Dennis Holden 250-365-2715
Saturday August 13	Geology hike, leader's choice. Moderate	Frank Fowler 250-362-7215
Friday to Tuesday August 19-23	McKean Lakes; Kimbol Lake & Saddle Mtn. Moderate to strenuous. Do all or part. Get detailed schedule from leader/contact. Make your arrangements early!	Pat West 250-304-2656
Saturday August 27	Unnecessary Ridge. Moderate to strenuous	Herb Hess 250-365-7267

SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 3	Leader's Choice	Anja Logodi 250-362-3302
Saturday September 10	Bigwood Trail, Nelson area. Easy	Julia Roberts 250-352-5492
Saturday September 17	Leaders' choice	Margaret & Erik Knudsgaard 250-362-9572
Saturday September 24	Raptor watch. Bring binoculars & chair. Easy	Michael McMann 250-365-5647
	SEE OCTOBER 4 FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING INFO. SCHEDULE HAS BEEN CHANGED for this occasion only to accommodate presenter: President of BC nature will be touring West Kootenay	

OCTOBER

Saturday October 1	Galena Trail. Easy	Alan McCuaig 250-825-2226
TUESDAY OCTOBER 4	September general meeting & presentation, Nelson venue	Call your rep for venue and show info
Saturday October 8	Leader's choice, Nelson area. Easy	Diane White 250-825-4178
Saturday October 15	Ross Lake near Balfour. Easy hike; 4x4 required. Call leader to get your name on the list of passengers, or advise if you are bringing your truck, and how many passengers you can take	Julia Roberts 250-352-5492
Saturday October 22	Hike Antenna Trail, Montrose. Easy to moderate	Pamella Wik 250-362-7424
MONDAY OCTOBER 24	Potluck @ Genelle Hall. Doors open 5:15 pm; dinner 6 pm sharp; meeting 7 pm; presentation 8 pm. BYO dishes, cutlery, etc	Call your rep FMI
Saturday October 29	Tour of Rock Walls in Trail. Easy	Audrey Mann 250-362-9465

**Remember: September 25 is *Provincial Rivers Day*.
Tell us what you have planned.**