**NATURE CONSERVANCY OF THE NORTH OKANAGAN SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF DIRECTORS FOR 2023**

**for the 23rd Annual General Meeting – April 24, 2024**

**Officers and Directors**

Officers:

President – John Ensing Secretary - Marnie Williamson

Vice-President – Al McNiven Treasurer - Bill Wagner

Board Members:

Andrew Miller - Director

Jeff Ward - Director

Keenan Rudichuk - Director

**General Meetings held in 2023**

Regular Board meetings were held Jan 18, February 15, March 22, April 26 (also the 2021 AGM date), May 24, June 21, September 13, October 25, and November 29.

**Conservation Covenants**

**Clerke Nature Reserve (Vernon)**

A monitoring visit of the property was completed on May 30, 2023. Dames Rocket *(Hesperis matronalis*), reported as present on the site in the previous monitor visit, is much reduced in frequency. The covenant area is in good shape and in compliance with the covenant agreement. The next monitor visit is scheduled for the fall of 2024.

**Woodland Haven Bird Sanctuary (Spallumcheen)**

NCNO conducted an annual monitoring on October 6, 2022. The next visit will occur in the spring of 2024.

**Windfalls Nature Conservancy [Middle Shuswap River]**

This site was monitored in the spring of 2023. This site along the Shuswap River was found to be in excellent condition. The next annual monitoring of the property will be completed in the spring of 2024, and will include representatives of TLC (BC), who are co-holders of this covenant.

**Tassie Properties ("Phina Tassie Conservation Area", Coldstream Creek)**

Both sites of the Phina Tassie Conservation Area were monitored in the spring of 2023 and were found to be in compliance with the terms of the covenant. These sites will be monitored in the fall of 2024.

**Anne Tchvyl Covenant (Coldstream Creek)**

A monitor visit was conducted on October 19, 2022. It was concluded that the property meets the requirements specified by the covenant. The site will be monitored again in the spring of 2024.

Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum acanthium***)** was mechanically removed in the spring of 2023 and the same initiative will be undertaken again in the spring of 2024. It is hoped that these repeated measures will remove this biennial from the site. In addition, we have facilitated a collaboration between the landowner and Agriculture Canada with respect to a research project on the control of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) at the site.

**Montgomery Road**

This new covenant will have its initial monitor visit soon after its registration in the spring of 2024. RDNO is a co-holder of this new covenant.

**Other Reports**

Keenan Rudichuk was appointed as a Director of NCNO.

NCNO has completed its revision of its Strategic Plan, which also includes a review of the Vision and Mission Statements. The revised document was included in a 2023 update of the Directors’ Manual.

NCNO is represented on the Greater Vernon Advisory Committee by Jeff Ward, whose functions include providing input to RDNO on its 2022 Report on Trails and Natural Spaces.

NCNO participated in a November meeting sponsored by the North Okanagan Naturalist Club, which brought together a number of community-based environmental organizations in the North Okanagan to discuss our respective organizations and the protection of natura landscapes in our region.

Over the past 20 years, NCNO has been successful in establishing conservation covenants on a growing number of properties in the North Okanagan. The new covenant property near Montgomery Road in rural Lumby, and reported on in last year’s AGM report, is nearing completion. The Board is also actively investigating if land acquisition by the Society is a viable approach to enhancing land conservation in the North Okanagan. The Board is continuing to consider if NCNO has reached a size in which professional administrative assistance is required to assist in record keeping, document filing, meeting our Society obligations and in providing continuity to our Board over time.

NCNO appreciates the support of its patrons as well as the continuing financial support of the Greater Vernon Services Commission [North Okanagan Regional District].

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