



SPRING 2010



### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings to everyone. A special welcome goes out to all new members and to our existing members. I send my thanks to last year's executive and look forward to working with the present executive and members on upcoming issues.

Well, that was an interesting winter. I would imagine that with the early Spring, everyone is anticipating another great year of fishing, camping, shooting and hunting, to name a few great past times.

Over the next few months the club will again be hosting many events at the range (archery, black powder, trap, etc.). Please familiarize yourself with our calendar of events, which is posted in the clubhouse. There may be the odd occasion that some events are closed to the public. If you do not participate in any club activities, come out and observe. The events are always fun and well run, with people willing to share their knowledge. You may come away with a new interest.

Whatever your interest, get out and enjoy your province. It's the best place on earth. Again this year, we find that there will always be someone who wants to take a piece of it away from you. So please, inform yourself and be ready to preserve the heritage we all enjoy. There is an update of some important issues in the BCWF section of this newsletter and I implore everyone to get involved,

stay informed and spread the word about what is happening.

Have a great Summer.

Bill Butchart



### ARCHERY

The venue will be moved to outdoor shooting at the Range. Give Merv a call for more information at 832-5177



### BANQUET 2009

WOW! The community came out and really supported our club again this year. We were worried that due to the economic slowdown and the Olympics, we would be shy on attendance and prizes. But, we do have to say that the banquet was another great success. A HUGE round of applause to everyone that helped out and especially to Susan and her wonderful staff at Cookshack Creations, for cooking up another fine feast. And of course congratulations to all the winners of the fine prizes that we were able to offer.

Just a reminder to all members to have your trophy's scored and entered with Ian for next year's banquet. Give Ian a call for more information at (250) 833-6474.



The 53<sup>rd</sup> upcoming BCWF AGM will be held in Prince George April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>. There are plans for an outdoor show to coincide with the AGM, so there will be plenty to see and do, should you wish to attend.

The anti-bear hunting groups are at it again and they have money! Please send your letters to the Premier, you MLA and the Environment Minister telling them

that you agree with the BCWF. The hunt is and should be based on science and not based on emotions.

*For those of you that do not have access to my emails, the following is a very important item supplied by Mel Arnold, President of the BCWF. Please read it and if you agree, please contact your MLA and Premier as soon as possible.*

## BCWF & JOINT MINISTERS' MEETING ON FIRST NATION ISSUES

George Abbott, Minister of Reconciliation and Recognition; Barry Penner, Minister of Environment; Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development

Brief Prepared for February 2, 2010

The members of BC Wildlife Federation appreciate this opportunity to bring our concerns forward and offer our insights for resolving some difficult issues relating to the balance of First Nations rights and those of the general public.

This question has been answered somewhat by the courts whereupon government must implement policy that is fair to all. This is the ideal. Unfortunately, current government policy has interpreted court decisions so broadly that First Nations expectations and demands are steadily rising. There appears to be no clear limits or identifiable delineation with regard to the claim of infringement on the exercise of native rights. The unwillingness to seek court decisions on whether claims of infringement are valid and whether that infringement, if it exists, may be justified has produced an emerging trend of constant appeasement. It now appears set for no reason other than the fear of unfavorable rulings in court. Our assessment is that this fear – not knowledge, now guides decision-making on First Nations related issues. Infringement of Aboriginal Rights Government can infringe for many reasons and the justification can be for any reason.

Government is and has been too conservative. When our Federal Government looked at Section 35 of the Constitution Act, it found it necessary for the courts to be involved to decide if a right existed, if that right was

infringed, and if the infringement could be justified. The Sparrow decision in the Supreme Court of Canada answered the question, “What does Section 35 mean?” and “What are the mechanics around applying it?” It clearly lays out what Section 35 means in the real world, specifically that aboriginal rights are not guaranteed and that they can be regulated. What then follows is the onus to justify infringements of aboriginal rights. Justify to whom? The Courts, of course. With no clear definition of “aboriginal rights”, the courts have become indispensable. It is inherent in how Section 35 gets engaged that the courts have a significant role in dealing with the Aboriginal people of Canada. However, this province has adopted an image of failure if it resorts to a court action to clarify any aboriginal right. Being so conservative makes a travesty of the rules that previous courts have laid down. The province should be utilizing the court system the way it was intended to be used. The province has sought to resolve problems by sidestepping this process and as a consequence bigger problems and potential divisions between First Nations and BC citizens are being created that could potentially escalate into the future.

When First Nations bring forth a complaint of an infringement of a right, the province has three options. One, for the short term at least, is to ignore it. The second option is to say, “You’re right” and give the complainant what they want. The third option is to consider that they don’t know the answer to whether a right exists, whether it has been infringed upon, if that infringement may be justified, what would resolve the complaint to everyone’s satisfaction, and to seek the advice of the Supreme Court of Canada. The province has invariably chosen the second option.

First Nations are very aware of this and they see no shame in taking legal action because they know the only proof of a right is with a court decision, and they often lose. They want certainty while it appears our province, trying to avoid the controversy of engaging the process that would provide it, instead acquiesces. Meanwhile, British Columbians see their valued heritage shrinking quickly with little or no consultation. Expedient decisions to appease may work in the immediate short term, but once the general public becomes educated as to what they, their children and grandchildren have lost,

this lack of long term vision will create serious divides and long term problems.

### Third Party Engagement

Since the 2002 Referendum, there has been no public forum for input into treaties. That exclusion has continued and today we see a multiplicity of agreements frequently on land use being made that impact significantly on the public with virtually no consultation. Business and industry have found incentive to enter into dialogue and engage First Nations in various ventures and have the resources to do so. Indeed, profit is an incentive that everyone understands. The public, however, has no favour or opportunity and depend on elected government to work in good faith on their behalf and we see this as a serious shortcoming. The public has been dismissed as having no importance or having nothing to offer in the development of agreements with First Nations. Again, we must urge you, the leaders of our province, to determine some way of involving stakeholders at all discussion tables on agreements with First Nations. BCWF is most willing to participate in those areas where it has expertise and enter dialogue with First Nations when the opportunity exists.

BC Wildlife Federation is a business. It is in the business of advocating for public lands and resources and public access to those lands and resources. Our profit is not generally measurable in dollars. It is measurable in terms of a future filled with enjoyment in the outdoors, backpacking the alpine, calling in a bull moose, treasuring the excitement of your child tackling their first rainbow trout. The loss our members fear is not the same as the revenues from an oil company or the royalties from forestry or mining. Our balance sheet is measured in terms of values that are rooted in a sincere commitment to conservation, a deep appreciation of all that nature offers for food, family recreation and a strong connection to the wilderness landscape. Hunting and angling and the commerce involved in those activities generate significant revenues annually. These revenues, either directly through Licences and Tags or the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, help keep our fish and wildlife populations healthy. Scientific management, habitat enhancement, and other related services are funded by these revenues. Hunting and angling, combined with other outdoor activities, constitute a solid home grown contribution to BC's economy. It is

organic, free of the vagaries of exchange rates, international airline security, and impacted the least by domestic economic upheaval. The trip to Italy might be cancelled but the annual hunting or fishing trip up country will not. The province also benefits indirectly through taxation. This should be a vital consideration, when viewing the underpinnings of our domestic economy. The return on investment by ensuring equitable solutions for all has not been clearly identified. The economic benefit for the province by ensuring equitable access for all, needs to be clearly recognized and quantified. Rural BC counts on this and it cannot be underestimated.

This government has the duty to consult with First Nations. Doesn't the government also have a duty to consult with other British Columbians? When a treaty or agreement is offered to First Nations, every voting age person gets to vote on its acceptability. The referendum of 2002 was a true measure of public opinion about treaties. Would another similar survey tool not indicate clearly what the needs of British Columbians are? BCWF representatives have had numerous meetings over the years with Ministers and Senior Ministry officials. Repeatedly, we have brought forward our frustration with the provincial policy of government to government negotiations with First Nations. This policy has resulted in the total alienation of the public from First Nations people. There is no identity attached to an agreement in terms of its impacts on ordinary British Columbians. With public input excluded, issues like loss of access to Crown Lands, fish and wildlife resources are not properly addressed.

It is our understanding that it is "Honour of the Crown" that obliges the province to be generous lest they risk infringement of a right, or an ability to exercise that right. Honour of the Crown means good faith, don't mislead, don't break a commitment. However, there is no dishonour in going to court. That's where the opinion of whether or not the conduct was honourable or not is determined. The province doesn't recognize that in the area of constitutional law the courts have an advisory function. The province somehow sees no need to seek this advice which is the single source of the uncertainty and lack of vision we have in balancing the rights of British Columbians and First Nations people. The price this government pays for not going through the courts to develop the law is that the law doesn't get developed.

Cases establish precedents. If balanced clear jurisprudence is to be achieved there have to be a lot of decisions.

Impacts to BC Residents Court decisions surrounding Aboriginal rights are being translated into government policy that frequently go far beyond what the decision intended. In Haida and Taku (who lost their case), First Nations gained a declaration that the province had to “if necessary accommodate” them. That accommodation was to mean that a mining road should go around a sacred area instead of through it and not provide anything more. What has happened since is that a torrent of “economic” accommodation has emerged. British Columbians see this as “royalty” on crown resources that is not going into the pool that supports the programs the public depend upon. We question if anyone is doing the accounting of what appears to be a loss of public revenue or considering the impacts of this loss to the tax base necessary to maintain adequate public services.

It is with profound disappointment that our members perceive a gradual loss of public lands and resources either through sale or lease to commercial interests or through agreements with First Nations. Gradually these transfers are seen as bringing exclusivity of public access, a serious detriment to our members. The province did not appeal the William decision preferring to negotiate the limits of aboriginal title claimed therein. The leaders of our province owe a rational explanation for the non-defense of the legal rights and economic interests of British Columbians. In the area of fish and wildlife management, the members of BCWF are extremely concerned about the direction being taken. Regulations are being proposed for political reasons that clearly reduce resident access both to lands and resources. There appears no need to supply supporting data for these proposed restrictions on residents, only the desire to appease demands of First Nations. Our members question a policy that can justify an unregulated hunt by First Nations at the expense of resident opportunity. Certainty of access to lands and resources is the current major issue for all British Columbians whether it is industry, business or members of the general public. For many of our members that certainty was seriously damaged by the actions of some members of the Tahltan First Nations out of Iskut last September. Family members who had hunted the area for decades were denied access. These actions, although

illegal, were condoned by the RCMP. Because of the inability of the province to enforce the law, many individuals went away disappointed and angry. BC Wildlife Federation maintained a patient posture throughout this exercise; however, since that time it has gone to some length to quantify the anger. Our members are not prepared to accept illegal action and sit idle. They expect some action that will uphold and assert their rights as citizens of British Columbia. BCWF can be a valuable resource to the province in resolving some issues with First Nations but we need a vision that is supportable in terms of being respectful to all persons and the landscapes in which we live.

*Please keep an eye on the BCWF website for updates to this and other important updates.*



## BLACK POWDER

Well this year we have had a Black Powder Rifle shoot at Salmon Arm with 18 shooters braving the snow, cold and fog in the early month of the year. We were able to walk the trail and fill the fog free areas with powder smoke, whoops and screams depending on hits or misses. All in all a good time. Then a good pistol shoot down in Armstrong in February. Good turn out and some very good shooting. We have some very good shots amongst us with both flinters and caplock pistols and rifles. Another shoot was planned for the 14th of March up at the Salmon Arm range and as the weather is warmer in the unusual early spring we should have a good turnout. The annual MMM meeting will take place after this shoot so all MMM should attend. We have a planned breakfast meet in Vernon to start the ball rolling regarding the Mountain Man rendezvous which will be held on the May long week end. The rendezvous is not just for the black powder shooters but is open to any and all who would like to see a snapshot of life in the bush 200 years ago. Really worth coming to.

Early campers are expected to arrive Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. The range will be closed for the shooting events, Saturday, Sunday & Monday, May 22, 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>. Spectators are always welcome.

### **People I keep running across....**

Very interesting people who live and have lived in the Salmon Arm area, for instance, Ashley Haines. Who was he? A gun maker, gun fixer, gun tester and knife and firearm inventor, a man who was right up there with Jack O'Connor, Elmer Keith, Skeeter Skelton, Dean A. Grennell, a local boy who did a lot of work with Winchester and was well recognized by the other big firearm companies. Check with Jack Stead on who Ashley was and Jack is no slouch in any of these areas himself. We also have Bruce Lamb, an old bush cruiser who was a bush pilot, lived in the Northern areas of B.C. and has written and published several books and still sneaks articles into magazines. He is a pretty good story teller and damn good shot with his rifles. There have been several more that I have been fortunate enough to find and talk to but the gentleman I want to mention now is so unusual as to be unique.

Ran into him the other day, at a friend's and had quite a discussion with him.

About 12 years ago he was hunting up out of Fort St. James and was attacked by a sow timber grizzly, who had not only her three year old cubs, but her new cubs traveling with her. From what he figured the older cubs weighed in about 300 pound and were eating anything the sow was killing so she saw him as a food item. He had shot at a coyote earlier on and because his rifle was hair triggered he just left the old brass in the chamber thinking he would be able to jack a new cartridge up and be in action again. He said the bear came right out of the ditch, grabbed him by the arm and was ripping at his belly with her claws. This knocked the rifle out of his hand and as the bear was shaking him pretty good his knife fell out of the sheath to the ground. The bear then grabbed him by the leg and lifted the flesh right off the thigh bone. One thing that saved him from being torn into eatable chunks was that the bear was missing one of its large front teeth. He found this out later in the hospital from a South African Dr. who had seen wounds

like this in his home country. He told me he could remember thinking, "I am not going out like this". As the attack progressed and he was bounced on the ground he felt the knife blade, grabbed it (he said he sliced his fingers pretty good but didn't even realize it) and started stabbing the bear in the head. He put 32 stab wounds in the animal's head, in the eye, the throat... anywhere he could stab. He must have hurt the old girl pretty bad because she dropped him and went away. They found her later, dead not too far away and could see where she had bitten into the earth as she died. He managed to crawl to his rifle and get three shots away which brought his cousins in a hurry. He was flown out to the hospital where they hit him with needle and thread, sowed him up and saved his life. He showed me some of the bite marks on his arms and chest and belly; it looked bad. The interesting thing about this episode is that he killed the bear with a 5 ½ inch bowie knife. Hugh Glass the old mountain man is the only fellow I have heard of who did something similar in a fight with a grizzly back in the 1830 era. I have done some checking and found only three other times that man has killed a bear with a knife and they were blackies, not the old silver back grizz. When told that the bear may have to go to the Government or the Natives, he said quite strongly that he had paid for the bear with his blood, killed it with his knife and it was his. He has it at home. It may be interesting to have him bring the skull and the story to one of our meetings.

Interesting fellows in this country.....

Len Leyshon - Monashee Mountain Men



### **CLUB CLEANUP DAYS**

Come out and donate an hour or so of your time. Be proud of your club and facilities. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 8th and Sunday, May 9th for the Spring cleanup. If you know of any projects that we should be undertaking, please contact Lionel and let him know. Lunch will be provided for all the hardworking volunteers.



## FISH REPORT

For all you anglers out there that just can't wait.... Watch for the new regulations coming to interior lakes. We anticipate that Gardom Lake will be stocked this Spring, for a Summer opening. Watch for more information about this great fishing lake in local papers, emails for more information on the opening of this great fishing lake. The gate is now open at Herald's Park for boat launching and fishing.



## DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

A committee was formed in 2009 to inventory and evaluate all club equipment. It was the recommendation of this committee that a number of the items should be considered surplus. The following items will be on display and disposed of by silent auction over the weekend of May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (Club Clean-up Days).

Assorted pruning shears (various styles and lengths); Swede saws; Hip waders (various sizes); Protective Leggings (chainsaw protection); Hitachi DH 40FA Hammer Drill with assorted drill bits; Yamaha Generator (2600amp); Clay Bird throwers; Honda powered water pump; Hilti MD 2000 Epoxy applicator; and possibly some other treasures not yet discovered.

The Auction will close at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lionel 804-0976 for more info

### PACKAGE DEAL:

1150 rounds 9mm, 150 rounds 44 mag. All firearms are in operating good condition to excellent. Homac gun cabinet; Czechoslovakian Military 30-06 with scope; Rossi Pump Action .22; Stoeger/Whitby Backpacker Model 410ga.; Thompson Center Black Powder Rifle 54

cal.; Browning Mark 1 9mm with pachmeyer grips & adjustable sights; Smith & Wesson Stainless Steel 6" Barrel 44 magnum and all accessories as pictured. \$2,000 for the entire lot Contact Tim 250-517-9402 cell



or 250-832-6107



## GUN, KNIFE &

## ANTIQUE

For you gun, antique and knife enthusiasts, the 10<sup>th</sup> annual KTSA Gun & Antique (and knife) Show and Sale will take place April 24<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup> at the McArthur Island Sports Centre. Saturday 9 am – 5 pm and Sunday 9 am – 3 pm. Admission is \$6.00 Seniors (gold card) \$4.00 and accompanied children 12 and under Free.

Salmon Arm Fish & Game Club will host its annual Antique and Gun Show October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Community Centre. Proposed hours again this year will be Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday 9am – 3pm. We always need a few volunteers to help set up and tear down and accept entry fees, so plan to help out.



## HANDGUN

For information about handgun shooting, give Don Schmok a call at (250) 832-3646



## CARETAKER SERVICES CONTRACT

The Salmon Arm Fish & Game Club has approved a motion to contract caretaker services as a test project for

the summer of 2010. The term of the contract is May 15 to October 15, 2010 and limits the maximum hours of the contract to 60 with an hourly rate of \$10.00. The contractor would be expected to carry out the designated duties over a monthly average of approx. 3 hours per week (10 hours per month). Flexibility due to weather would be dealt with at the club Executive level. The contractor would be required to submit a supplied monthly log and payment would be calculated based on the hours recorded.

Caretaker Duties will include:

- Mowing and trimming of vegetation on and ranges, fences and buildings.
- emptying garbage cans from ranges and buildings into dumpsters.
- Sweeping of floor areas on ranges and clubhouse.
- Collecting of debris off range areas (targets, frames etc.).
- Maintaining a supply of target frames on each range.

Changes in duties will be negotiated between the contractor and the Club Executive. The club will supply all equipment necessary to carry out these services. Termination of the contract may be initiated by either party with a minimum of two weeks notice. If you are a club member, with a history of active involvement in club projects and activities and interested in applying for this contract, Please contact Lionel at (250) 804-0976 or Anne at (250) 832-8743. The contract will be awarded following the April 13th Director's meeting.



## LOST AND FOUND

The BBQ is missing one of the 20lb bottles. If it was/is being re-filled, kindly return it to the bbq unit.

Also missing is a tiger torch that was being stored at the range. Please return it to the clubhouse, no questions asked.



## MEETINGS

Executive meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and Members' Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. Meetings commence at 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse



## MEMBERSHIP 2010

2010 memberships and keys are available at Westside Stores or at a meeting.



As always, a gentle reminder that all members and **guests** must sign in/log in when using the club facilities. Please use your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER in the sign in books and please ensure that all guests sign in by name.

All Directors will at any time request to see your valid membership card while utilizing the club facilities, so **please carry it on your person while using club facilities.**

Please provide your email address when signing up, so that important news and newsletters can be sent out electronically.

Membership in the club is valid from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. There is no discounted rate should you purchase your membership late in the year. Buy your membership early to take advantage of the full benefits of being a club member.



## RIFLE RANGE

The Range Committee and interested members met on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. We will (hopefully) bring forward two plans for the next members' meeting. Once the members decide on a course of action, we will start the process of acquiring the various authorizations from the City and Range Inspectors. Once our initial plans are approved, we can cost and implement the plan.

The 2010 Easter Shoot will be held the weekend after Easter, to allow for everyone to enjoy their family time. So, Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This is a family event, so bring out your favourite 22 or rifle and blast some eggs. Registration will commence at 9 am with the first shot down range at 10 am. Bipods are allowed. Please, no bench rest shooting and scopes are limited to 6 power. For more information, contact Tony Cox at (250) 833-8944.



## SHOTGUN NEWS

Shooting continues the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month until May when we will switch over to Wednesday evening practices.

Mark your calendars. June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> are the dates for this year's Anniefest. Please note that the range will be closed during this event.



## HELLOOOO.....

I hope you enjoy receiving a copy of the newsletter. I'm sure you get tired of hearing.... but Send me any changes to your email address.... to [safishgameclub@hotmail.com](mailto:safishgameclub@hotmail.com)

If you have any suggestions of what you would like inserted in the next newsletter, send it to me.

Don't forget to keep informed on all gun, fishing and hunting regulations.

Feel free to send your comments, suggestions and ads to the webmaster for inclusion in the club's website.

Thanks everyone  
Anne

*"Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not." ~Thomas Jefferson*