

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The 107th Annual General Meeting of Nature Vancouver was held on **Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm** at **Hewett Centre Hall, Unitarian Church, 949 West 49th Avenue (49th & Oak) Vancouver.**

Members could attend the meeting online via [Zoom Video Conferencing](#).

The short business session was followed by **Annual Volunteer Awards and Scholarship** presentations. After that, Rebecca Clapperton Law spoke to us about **Nature Kids BC**.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to order

John Martin, President, welcomed everyone to the 107th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nature Vancouver, and called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. He thanked volunteers for their time and work to prepare the AGM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Unanimous by members present.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting held on May 23, 2024

Nigel Peck moved, Peter Ward seconded the motion to vote on approval of the minutes of the AGM held on May 23, 2024. Twenty-four members present and ten online members voted to approve the minutes.

4. Board of Directors Report – John Martin

See President's Report included in this document.

5. General Yearly Update – Donna Underhill

See Vice-President's Update in this document.

6. Treasurer's Report – Adele Liu

See Treasurer's report included in this document.

7. Approve the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the Review Engagement Report.

Caroline Penn approved, Donna Underhill seconded to vote on approving the 2024 financial statements. Thirty members present, and thirteen online members voted to approve the financial statements.

8. Election of the Nature Vancouver Board of Directors for 2025-2026

Peter Ward approved, Nigel Peck seconded to vote on electing the 2025/2026 Board. Board members include John Martin, Donna Underhill, Elisa Kreller, Sheila Sakich, Laura Cottle, Sunny Sun, Nickolas Johnstone, Kelvin Yip.

9. Other business

None to note.

10. Adjournment

Sue Garber moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sheila Byers. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

NOTE: The draft minutes of 2024 AGM, the draft financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the Treasurer's report are available from the links below. Members were requested to refer to these documents in advance of and during the meeting, should they have any questions, concerns or comments.

[w Draft Minutes_Nature Vancouver 2024 AGM.docx](#)

[President's Report](#)

[Vice Presidents Report](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[Financial Statements DRAFT -Year End Dec 31, 2024](#)

Board of Directors 2025-2026 – Nominations

Nature Vancouver Board can have up to a maximum of twelve Directors. The deadline for nominations was May 9, 2025. Nominations from the floor were not permitted. We had received the following nominations:

John Martin, Donna Underhill, Laura Cottle, Sheila Sakich, Sunny Sun, Kelvin Yip, Nickolas Johnstone, Elisa Kreller

Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony was introduced by Nigel Peck. Presentations of awards were for the following; Garibaldi, Frank Sanford, Kay Bemish, Davidson, and the Kay and Charles Ney award.

The Garibaldi award was presented to Jason Attai for the website. This was presented by Nigel Peck.

The Garibaldi award was presented to Joanna Chin for education. This was presented by Donna Underhill.

The Garibaldi award was presented to Brian Lessi for camp coordination. Presented by Nigel Peck.

The Garibaldi award was presented to Kelvin Yip for birding, staffing outreach events, and for volunteering on the Board. This award was presented by Nigel Peck.

The Garibaldi award was presented to Laura Cottle for her volunteer work on the Board, the camp committee, role as camp manager, and for her chair on the scholarship committee. This award was presented by Nigel Peck.

The Garibaldi award was presented to John Martin for his role as President/Director of the Board in 2024, and for his leading role in Citizen Science. This award was presented by Joan Lopez.

The Frank Sanford award for community service was presented to Rebecca Law, President of NatureKidsBC by Deborah.

The Kay Beamish award for education was presented to Neill Vans by Nigel Peck.

The Davidson award was presented to Joan Lopez for her contributions and commitment to the NV Board, programs and projects. Her award was presented by Sheila Byers, Caroline Penn and Jennifer .

The Kay & Charles Ney award was presented to Denis LaPlant and Teresa Gagne by Nigel Peck.

Scholarships Presentations

Laura Cottle, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, introduced members of the Scholarship Committee; Michelle Parry, Steven Partington, Gordon Squire. There was one undergraduate and one graduate Nature Vancouver scholarship presented of \$1,000. each. There were sixteen applications for the Nature Vancouver scholarships, six undergraduate students and ten graduate student applications were received.

The undergraduate scholarship of \$1,000. was awarded to Agraj Rathi who is studying in the department of Fish, Wildlife and Recreation at the BC Institute of Technology. This undergraduate scholarship was presented by Steven Partington.

The graduate scholarship of \$1,000. was awarded to Lindsey Lalach whose academic focus at Simon Fraser University is on cormorants. This scholarship was presented to Lindsey by Michelle Parry.

The Hugh Hamilton scholarships were introduced by Mr Hamilton's son. There were two awards presented of \$5,000., one to an undergraduate student and another to a graduate student. There were a total of eighteen applications for the Hugh Hamilton scholarships, twelve undergraduates, and six graduate students.

The undergraduate awarded the Hugh Hamilton scholarship was Tara Brudar who is studying Natural Resources Conservation at UBC. This scholarship was presented to Tara by Gordon Squire.

The graduate awarded the Hugh Hamilton scholarship was Daniel Stewart who is a PhD candidate studying at UBC. This scholarship was presented to Daniel by Hugh Hamilton's son.

The Chair of the Nature Vancouver Scholarship Committee informed members that the Nature Vancouver Board has voted to continue to make the Hugh Hamilton Awards available for three more years.

Guest Speaker

This year's guest speaker was Rebecca Law, President of NatureKidsBC. She provided an interesting and informative discussion on NatureKidsBC. The focus was on family and community based programs being offered to promote healthy relationships within the community. There are currently thirty communities in BC participating in NatureKids, with two hundred families in the Vancouver club. The average age of children involved is five to twelve years of age, up to age twenty -five. Family involvement is welcomed.

NatureKidsBC publishes the Nature Wild Magazine enjoyed by participants. The organization is now looking at how to sustain programs and projects, and how to work deeper within communities for their long term involvement. A Youth Advisory Committee is being established to help explore where kids will be in the next twenty-five years, and how NatureKidsBC can meet their needs.

This portion of the Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm. Refreshments and socialization followed adjournment.

Meeting minutes submitted by Sheila Sakich, Recording Secretary.