

WILDSIGHT Kim-Cran Branch AGM 2020 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this unique way for us to come together as an organization to participate in our AGM in a way that protects everyone, and saves some CO2 emissions.

We are in different times, requiring different ways of looking at how we interact. These are also uncertain times. Wildsight Kim-Cran branch is currently revisiting our physical space in all ways. Stay tuned!

It has been a privilege to serve on the board of Wildsight Kimberley-Cranbrook Branch as President with such a wonderfully committed group of people.

Our board members are: Nadine Rake, Woody Maguire, Marty Musser, Daryl Calder, Jessica Fong and Sonja Seher. Andrea Chapman, our Branch Manager is on maternity leave and Cristina Borgorgelli is our Interim Branch Manager.

In past years I have commented that organizations often experience steps and plateaus of change. This past year I felt that we were taking some steps up, and we are at the stage where we need to implement those steps in order to secure our longevity. Just as I say that, we are facing challenges that are interrupting those steps.

Here's some of our accomplishments in 2019:

- Our branch manager, Andrea Chapman is on maternity leave. She just gave birth to a baby boy, Graeme, on February 6th.
- The Kimberley Farmers' Market is a growing success. Alannah Leach had a family emergency and moved back to Ontario. We recently hired Chad Kile as our Sustainability Coordinator, looking after the Market and Apple Capture. He hasn't gotten his feet wet yet.
- Our educational partnership with the Meadow Creek Association around McGinty Lake is a resounding success.
- Our T-shirts sold very well as part of our swag sales. We also have a repurposed a hand-made soap we sell for donations.
- We undertook a volunteer survey and will continue to pursue the suggestions made and get to know our volunteers better through their help with our programs and events.
- We made a decision to cancel "Wild and Scenic Film Fest" and hold a local film event instead. However, over the summer, McKim School renovated its lobby and turned it into a library, which prohibited us from using that venue for that film event and we were forced to cancel it.
- Woody Maguire is our Regional representative on Wildsight and Bryan Duffet is the Wildsight Regional branch liaison person. Bryan is a tremendous help to the branches in helping us address issues with Regional. We are revisiting the Wildsight on-line donations page to make it easier for people to support their local branch.

- January 3 & 4 was our major fund raiser - Best of Banff at Key City Theatre. It was a sell out event. This is another event that simply would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers that consistently make this a huge success.
- One of our board members, Nadine Rake, sat on the RDEK's Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee, which resulted in a Solid Waste strategic plan for the RDEK. Nadine had a baby boy, Kai, on December 16th.
- Our branch is also a member of the East Kootenay Humanity Network. Last year we celebrated U.N. International Day of Water, U.N. International Day of Forests, and U.N. International Mother Earth Day. Our guest speaker was Bob Sandford EPCOR Chair, Water Security, United Nations University, Institute for Water, Environment and Health.
- Last summer we raffled off an e-bike, which we purchased from Black Dog in Kimberley. It was a nice fund raiser for us and we were able to support the Odyssey Camps for children. The woman who won the bike has contacted us to say that it has been life altering for her. She's really enjoying it.
- Our Apple Capture program went very well and there were lots of participants for our Harvest party and apple pressing event in Kimberley on Oct. 22nd.
- The Personnel Committee has developed a wage scale for staff and contractors.

Non-profits are finding it more difficult to obtain funding for core programming and activities. We are most grateful to have wonderful volunteers, who have given so generously of their time and energy, to put on successful events that help fund us.

Wildsight Kimberley-Cranbrook invites you to imagine a future in which nature and economy go hand in hand. A future in which we are motivated by our love of this stunning place to work together to keep our water clean, our landscapes wild and our community sustainable. Imagine a place where you feel rooted and connected, where your life is in balance, where you are inspired.

This dream of a connected, sustainable community doesn't come about by itself, but we at Wildsight Kimberley-Cranbrook branch believe it's possible. Together, through our combined actions, we can make an enormous difference.

Consider joining us. Get involved in your community. Volunteer for an hour or two with like-minded people. Join our board.

Thank you.

Sharon Cross