

Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society

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*Establish and protect world-class parks,
wilderness areas and linking corridors*

PRPAWS YEAR END 2019 REPORT

- From the start of the year, winter through spring, the PAWS crews were marking, brushing, grubbing, raking and signing to prepare for the annual arrivals of visitors to the Sunshine Coast Trail (SCT) from top to bottom. And shuffelized much of the 180 km to boot. We built boardwalks and bridges. We worked together with other volunteers, and also with a crew of five Tla'amin Nation workers who were hired through a grant the Tla'amin Trails Group had received from the provincial Rural Dividends Program. That grant ran for 10 weeks and the men upgraded the trails that had been roughed out last year, by another Tla'amin crew. It has become quite popular even though it isn't officially opened yet. It is family friendly and people can find it opposite Tla'amin Convenience Store and gas station. Then we installed temporary map signs at over a dozen trail and road intersections that will be replaced with permanent aluminum ones during the first quarter of 2020.
- PAWS had tables with brochures, books and a variety of collateral about the SCT at a variety of events, or made slide presentations throughout the year. In early January, we presented displays at the Banff Mountain Film Festival, in February at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival (VIMFF) as well as the Vancouver Outdoor Adventure Show. We displayed and distributed the draft map of the Tla'amin Trails Network on Tla'amin Nation Day for further input of place names and additional landmarks. We presented a slide show to retired MacMillan Bloedel supervisors at their Annual General Meeting, and another slide show at a Sechelt sports store.
- We prepared the [Marathon Shuffle](#) Route on the SCT and then hosted the 26th Annual Shuffle on April 28.
- In May, the PAWS crew upgraded Rieveley Pond Hut by building 3 full walls with windows, plus another of our famous Appalachian inspired compostable toilets.
- Vincent Massey School – who has come with a contingent of 30 students for four years - raised funds for building a picnic table on the SCT every May.
- PAWS guided about a dozen Recreation Sites and Trail BC (RSTBC) managers, officials and friends on the Tokenatch section of the SCT. By all accounts it was a grand outing.
- We consulted with Tla'amin Timber and their partners A & A Trading about two cutblocks that were designed adjacent to the SCT, Canada's Longest Hut-to-Hut Hiking Trail. It received generous buffers, mostly of 30 m or more. One cutblock is already harvested near Fiddlehead and the other one is engineered between Lost Lake and Haywire Bay, again with considerable care for the SCT.

- PAWS built a brand new Buckwheat footbridge above Golden Stanley Hut in August, then Kwolum Bridge in the Tla'amin Trails network in September. The Kwolum trail now connects to the SCT just south of Little Sliammon Lake.
- In October and November PAWS worked together with Western Forest Products and the Powell River Community Forest and built a relocation of the SCT around the North and West side of March Lake Trail between KM 106 and 108, with a large part meandering through a beautiful yellow cedar old growth forest. We constructed several boardwalks and bridges across small creeks.
- In November PAWS put on a slide show presentation for the Powell River Naturalist Club with standing room only. The SCT is a magnet that brings international visitors to hike its unique environment, as well as locals who enjoy its natural attractions.
- To cap off an eventful year, in December PAWS received permission from RSTBC to build a hut at Bliss Portage (KM 8 of the SCT) and within a day or so we handed in our application to build the northern Trailhead Kiosk at KM Zero which we will build as time, funding and the vagaries of life allow.

Our success this year couldn't have been done without the support of PAWS members and donors. To start this new year, we ask that you please consider giving the gift of protecting local old and as well as mature growth and promoting sustainable recreation, by donating to PAWS on your own or someone else's behalf. Donations of \$20 or more will receive tax receipts in return for your generosity. Membership fees and donations will assist with funding new huts, purchase bear & critter-proof food storage lockers and trail maintenance equipment such as saws, loppers, and weed-eaters that help keep the SCT a world-class hiking trail.

The Board of Powell River Parks and Wilderness wishes you a healthy and happy New Year. Make some time if you can to enjoy the trails.

David Bedry, Krystle Dawn, Monty Drake, Scott Glaspey, Brian Johnston, Jesse Newman, Jim Simonetta, Jim Stutt, Dustin Villeneuve, Eagle Walz, and Emily Walz