

BCHPA Presidents Report

We managed to assist some great projects this year! The North Okanagan weather stations are now all deployed and operational. Access to Mt Irwin in Port Alberni has been negotiated and is now available for weekend flying. The Nelson developments are well underway with hefty consultation between all stakeholders the tenure application should be a formality. A new hiking trail for Mt St. Benedict was built and the launch was seeded. Cover for upper Pemberton launch was seeded and repairs to irrigation were made. Tenure for the Clearwater launch was also secured and as usual we made a contribution to the server fees of Canada RASP.

Upcoming projects are launch improvements in Terrace, an east facing launch on Millers Ridge in Pemberton and the Bridal Falls gondola project which will regain access to an alpine launch in the Fraser Valley. We've also started a discussion with an S.I.V. instructor of international repute on steps the BCHPA could take to further the safety training of our members.

Two projects were rejected as presented, both were for weather stations. Weather stations was a topic that was vigorously debated within the board and in the wider community this year. Ultimately the board concluded weather stations are non essential items with significant upfront costs and ongoing maintenance requirements. These projects need to demonstrate significant local support and planning for addressing the on-going maintenance.

The BCHPA continues to accrue funds. In our constitution clause 2(a) defines our purpose to be the development of free flight. This board interpreted this clause to mean site development and not site maintenance. I think the membership should consider broadening the scope of the BCHPA to include site maintenance as the accumulation of capital does not benefit the members. I would encourage the next board to form a committee of interested parties taking submissions from the membership to determine how to allocate funds to site maintenance.

I believe the board did a great job this year in their back and forth communications with the stakeholders of the individual projects, doing their due diligence in ensuring the association's funds were not avoidably wasted or frivolously spent. In retrospect I think we could have done more to communicate our thinking and decision making with the wider membership and I exhort the next board to take steps in that direction. I'd like to thank the previous board for their efforts in promoting free flight in BC and their time in the hand-off and introduction to our new roles. I'd like to thank all the local volunteers for their efforts in developing free flight in British Columbia this year, and finally, I'd like to thank my fellow board members for their time and effort in serving the members of this association.

Sincerely,
Tom Dupree - President BCHPA