

Minutes

Langford Lakes and Area Protection Society
Meeting of Thursday, September 17, 2009
Spencer School Sewing Room

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:00.

There was a special mention of thanks given to Chuck Dumaresq for his \$50 donation to the operation of the weed harvester.

Robin Ruff introduced herself as our guest speaker. Originally from Ontario, Robin completed a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies here in BC, did her teacher training in Ontario, and has been teaching here at Spencer Middle School for the last year and a half.

She is excited to have access to local areas for nature studies with her students. She successfully applied to the City of Langford for a grant for greening habitat – removing invasive species and replanting native plants.

She has a leadership class of 28 Grade 8 & 9 students as part of her teaching assignment who will be taking on this greening project. The students will be asked to decide which of several options they will commit to doing around Spencer's Pond: some might clear ivy from the Garry oak trees, others might clear the trail to the pond itself. It is largely student directed and there might be 2 or 3 groups working on the different projects. Robin is looking to LLAPS to help with the supervision of students, make suggestions and offer any expertise (such as Doug's knowledge of native plants).

Ron R asked Robin if she had any information about where the water in the pond comes from, or goes to but she wasn't certain. She would check with the City's Engineering Dept but Ron wasn't sure if they knew of any water studies or hydrology reports that would provide that information.

Nancy Turner, UVic botanist was recommended as another source for native plant suggestions. Robin also felt that Todd C from HAT had surveyed the area and would be a good source of information.

Robin did acknowledge that any LLAPS members (or anyone else) who offered to help with students might need to obtain a criminal records check. She was going to confirm this with the school administration. If interested in helping, please call her at the school and leave your name and contact information.

Eric Bonham will be one of the guest speakers at our next meeting (Thursday, Oct.8) as well as Elaine Lambrick who coordinated the Green Map project in the Highlands. It was mentioned that attendance of our council members or John Manson should be encouraged to hear what these folks have to say. At a previous meeting, several Highland members of council attended to hear Eric's presentation as their projects had full municipal support.

To date, no guest speakers have been booked for either the Nov. 12th or Dec. 10th meetings. Please let Ann Nelms know if you have any suggestions and potential contacts.

The official portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:10