



# Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society

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

## Year End Report 2018

- PAWS spent the first quarter brushing and bucking the Marathon Shuffle Route on the Sunshine Coast Trail (SCT), then going back to our roots we hosted the 25th Annual Marathon Full Shuffle, and also helped Tla'amin Tribal Canoe Journeys group host the Half Shuffle. For 2019 PAWS will go back to its roots again and host the Full Shuffle. We will open up the registration later in March. TBA.
- We published the PAWS Spring Newsletter both hardcopy and online before the 25th Annual Marathon Shuffle on the last Sunday of April.
- Outreach – we had a table with maps and pictures, and other collateral at the Banff Mountain Film Festival, Jan. 12th & 13th.
- We also had a table and made a presentation at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, Feb. 10th.
- PAWS made a slide presentation to Tla'amin Government on the SCT, Canada's Longest Hut-To-Hut Hiking Trail, which traverses Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Lands and traditional territory.
- Together a crew of four Tla'amin workers and a couple of PAWS volunteers built a hiking trail heading inland from Tla'amin's Governance House in a semi-circle, passing creeks and hilltops, then looping back down to the highway at the Tla'amin Convenience Store. People have begun discovering it from that end as there is plenty of parking above the soccer field and takes you up to viewpoints. While usable now, the next phase will enhance the trail with permanent markers, signs, maps, benches and perhaps a footbridge over Sliammon Creek.
- On various SCT sections we replaced hundreds of old metal markers that had grown into the bark. This task continues and shows red reflective markers (diamonds North, squares South), which are one of our asks for donations – each marker costing \$1.00.
- We built a reroute to compensate for the loss of the wooden "First & Last Bridge" crushed by a massive alder over Saltery Creek.
- By June PAWS had cleared the SCT from end to end. We received support from BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, Tla'amin Nation, Powell River Community Forest, and the BOMB Squad. We worked with a BC Parks crew of student rangers to improve the lakeside section of the Confederation trail. This involved building several boardwalks and reroutes to deal with ever-present muddy spots. We thank all of our partners and supporters for their generous help.
- Trail Maintenance carried on throughout summer and fall on our regular two days a week (Tuesday & Thursday). During that time we built and repaired several bridges and boardwalks, using our latest investment, a new Alaska mill, to manufacture planks in the field for bridges and tables, etc.
- A large PAWS contingent was busy with various Knuckleheads volunteers in late summer and fall building a large insulated hut dubbed the "Vic" up on Sentinel Ridge just west of the Knuckleheads. The mountain hut is ready for use now, but it takes a 2-3 hour access hike in the snow. Be prepared. It's like walking from Hawaii into the Antarctic – almost.
- Other members of our active Trailday Crew spent the fall building a safe 1.5-km trail reroute, complete with a 30' bridge across Pearson Creek on Confederation Trail (SCT), or doing other trail maintenance and improvements.
- Data Collection – installed a laser counter and game camera on the SCT. Water taxi and other boat and land shuttles recorded a very busy year servicing the SCT. The Powell River Visitor Infocentre statistics show the SCT continues to be Powell River's #1 tourism amenity by far and away, helping grow our economic diversification, attracting rising numbers of hikers from around the world, as well as from our community. We keep logbooks at the huts and at some benches. Data from these surveys continues to show a 20% annual growth.
- To improve communications we are developing a Facebook Group forum for sharing and discussing trail conditions, directions, events, photos, FAQs and more. This forum will be launched early in the New Year. Stay tuned.
- Several media trips enjoyed the Sunshine Coast Trail and sang its praises in international publications. It is now recognized as a world class hiking trail. PAWS' <https://sunshinecoast-trail.com/> website has 8651 likes and is appreciated by potential visitors who are doing their pre-trip research.
- We remind snowshoe hikers and others venturing into the higher elevations – roughly above 400 metres where they will generally encounter snow – to come prepared for these challenging conditions on the trails. Be safe and enjoy the marvelous outdoors. If you want to hike the SCT in snow free conditions during the winter months, use any of the sections forming the first 65 km from Sarah Point to Inland Lake, and also around Lois Lake and Saltery Bay to Fairview Bay.
- Dates to save: Fri & Sat, January 11 & 12 – Banff Mountain Film Festival @ Brooks  
Wed, February 27, 2019 – PAWS AGM  
Sun, April 28, 2019 – 26th Annual Shuffle (29 km)
- Our success thus far couldn't have been done without the support of PRPAWS members, donors, volunteers, and various governments, organizations, and businesses. It's a great time of year to give the gift of protecting local old growth, by donating to PRPAWS on your own or someone else's behalf. Donations of \$20 or more will receive tax receipts in return for your generosity. Membership dues will be used for maintenance equipment such as saws, loppers, weed-eaters and the like, to keep the SCT a world-class hiking trail. Please welcome our new membership coordinator, Jesse Newman, who is a director on the PRPAWS board. Renewing is easy using PAYPAL on the SCT Donation page, or contact Jesse directly at [info@sunshinecoastshuttle.ca](mailto:info@sunshinecoastshuttle.ca).

**THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
From your PAWS Board of Directors

