



## President's Report

May 30th, 2023

Link to PPT on Youtube

<https://youtu.be/qkA3CPIcuAw>

### Welcome

BCW is a grassroots organization that focuses on local issues that ties regional and global issues.

BCW is a great example of acting locally and making a difference globally. By improving the condition of our wildlife locally, contributing to protect biodiversity globally

BCW started as a series of grassroots meetings

- Wildlife-vehicle collisions

Other priorities quickly emerge including:

- Wildlife access to the river (berm)
- Garbage - both in the hamlet and local provincial park
- Reducing human-wildlife conflicts by raising awareness and on issues such as:
  - Habitat fragmentation
  - Pet's potential negatively impacts wildlife and what to do about it.
  - Removing wildlife attractants on our properties

### Highlight accomplishments

The Power point showcases many of our achievements in the past years. Amongst them

- The Art project with the school
- The Science project with the school
- Mapping Wildlife Movement - Citizen led research
- Harm reduction in Bragg Creek provincial Park

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- Garbage pickup and raising awareness through social media and posters
- Private road signs for Fawning and Rutting Seasons
- Wildlife corridor signs by Rockyview County
- Bragg Creek Day parade
- Communications
  - monthly articles in HCN, Chatter in the Wood,
  - Quarterly newsletters
  - Website
  - Social media
  - 4 Presentation (in person/on Zoom)
  - Several newsletter, tv interviews
- Incorporation

**Much of the work of BCW is in two areas:**

- **Communication** - raising awareness, education, encouraging exchanges on wildlife matters.
- **Advocating for our Wildlife;**
  - Interview with our two municipal candidate in 2021
  - Presentation to Rockyview staff and counselors
  - BCT - Terms of reference for Action Plan 2.0 - for the next 10 years
  - BCT - Draft Action Plan 2.0 for the next 10 years
  - Participating in discussion with regional organization on issues associated with Y2Y

**Indicators that we are meeting a need**

- 1000 followers on Facebook pages
- 140 address on our e-list
- 30 members sign up in the past month
- Over 40 volunteers
- Collaboration with Redwood Meadows, Cochrane Ecological Institute, Y2Y, BCT, local organizations

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- Support from Rockyview
- MLA Awareness
- 4 Sponsorships

#### **Indication we are making a difference**

1. Traffic seems to be a bit more mindful
2. People are readily voicing concerns on wildlife issues (bear) and willing to discuss ways to mitigate problems such as garbage
3. Rockyview's kitchen scrap/organic collection bins
4. The School sees us as a valuable partner
5. People are looking to us for information on how to help them with wildlife issues

Clearly the response has been very positive and heartwarming. Clearly, the community share a common vision of what they want Bragg Creek to be - a community that lives alongside its wild neighbours.

- A lot of groundwork has been done.
- We have a strong foundation to build on.

#### **Ongoing and emerging issues for the coming year:**

1. Ongoing awareness and education (communication & presentation)
2. Understanding our wildlife - Finalize year two of the Mapping Wildlife Movement - Citizen led research
3. Berm - wildlife safe access to the river
4. Mitigating wildlife-vehicle collisions - Engage the province, county and community on ways to mitigate wildlife-vehicle collisions
5. Garbage - harm reduction
6. County garbage by-law
7. Upcoming massive clearcutting of West Bragg Creek (Fullerton / Moose Mountain)

#### **Some of these issues**

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1. Will be resolved with a few meetings and a couple reports (by-law, berm)
2. Others will require sustained and ongoing efforts (awareness through communication)
3. Others will take years (road mitigation, clearcutting) and complex collaboration

### **Strategies to get there:**

Our strength is the employment of our collective wisdom. The following are suggestions and ultimately the decision is that of the group.

Suggested approaches:

1. Engage in collaborations with:
  - a. Expert organizations such as Cochrane Ecological Institute to provide valuable information and raise awareness on how to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts
  - b. The local school in engaging wildlife related art/science projects
2. Work with Rockyview County to:
  - a. Draft a Garbage by-law Park
  - b. Plan wildlife (human) access to the river over the berms
  - c. Continued support promoting safe driving on our roads
3. Strengthen our communication tools (Newsletters, articles, social media, website as a hub for information)
4. Remain nimble to address emerging issues as they come

No doubt the coming year will see a continuation of the momentum we have established. The expertise and passion of the volunteers involved and the support of the community is simply astounding.

### **Recognize sponsors and members and volunteers**

Much of this work would not have been possible without the support of

- Incredible volunteers

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- Sponsors (individual, grant, businesses) that have simply come forward
- Supportive councilor and county staff
- Support and interest of media
- A community that readily identify with BCW vision

**Congratulation to all of you - Bragg Creek Wild**

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