

Peachland:

BC's Second Bat Friendly Community!

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Bat Education and Ecological Protection Society (BEEPS)

Purpose:

We are the advocates and stewards of the Bat Colony housed in the Peachland Historic School, dispelling myths about bats and promoting how bats and humans can cohabitate harmoniously.

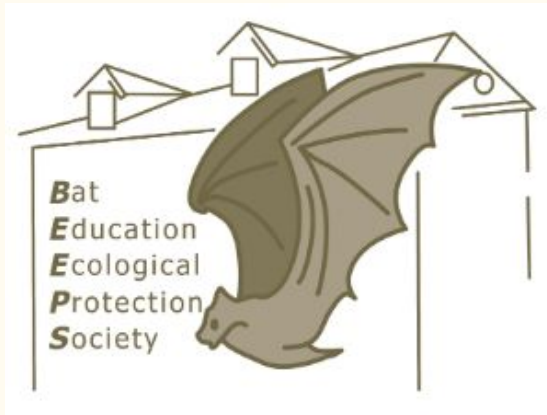


Photo
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Nicola
Kennedy

History: What BEEPS and Peachland accomplished prior to becoming a Bat Friendly Community (BFC)

Today: What BEEPS has done since becoming a BFC and our new normal with Covid-19 regulations

Future: BEEPS plans for program and infrastructure expansion



“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make”
- Jane Goodall

History:
We've been
Bat Friendly
for years!



Old Historic Schoolhouse

- Built in **1908**
- The last day of classes was held in **2002**
- In **2011** the school was repurposed as a multi-purpose community building, which included the **beginnings of a bat information centre**



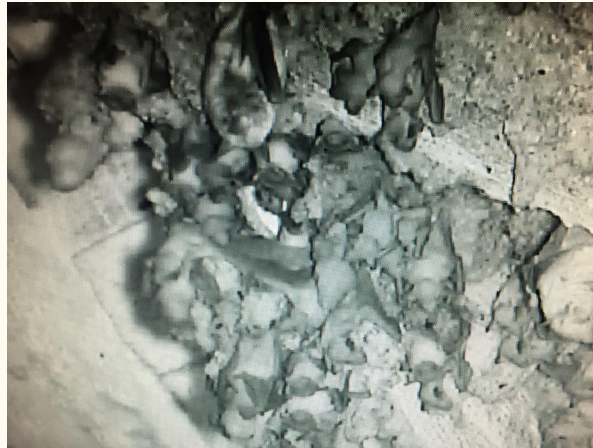
BEEPS History

- Founded in **2015**
- Actively promote the **protection** and **preservation** of bat species in Peachland, and **educate** the public as a means of achieving these goals



Maternity Colony

- **1500 bats**
- **5 video cameras (2011, 2019), an Anabat Roost Logger (2012) and two Hobo temperature/humidity loggers (2014)**



Community Engagement & Education

- Bat chats
- Bat counts
- Guano clean out
- Bat houses
- Bat house interpretive trail



Bat Chats

- Bat Chats were **first held in 2011** at the Legends of the Lake Interpretive Centre in Peachland Historic School
- Bat Chats on the road (2016)



Bat Counts

- Peachlands first Bat Count was in **2012**
- BEEPS facilitates Bat Counts Friday nights in the summer



Guano Clean Out

- First attic clean out in **2012**
- Community partnership with Peachland Fire Department
- For years, guano was distributed to locals as a fundraiser for educational programs. The sale of guano is **currently discontinued** due to the potential threat of spreading White-nose Syndrome and other pathogens.



Bat Houses

- In an effort to enhance bat habitat, in **2016** BEEPS began the sale, and distribution of locally crafted bat houses.



Bat House Interpretive Trail

- In **2016**, BEEPS, in partnerships with Peachland Rotary and the District of Peachland, installed **eight bat houses** on an interpretive trail.
- Trail signage allows for both **guided** and **self-guided** tours.



Today:
In partnership with
the District of
Peachland, BEEPS
continues to debunk
myths about bats



Bat Friendly Community Designation

- In **2019**, BEEPS took the final step in becoming a BFC by requesting the support of Peachland Council as an ongoing partner.
- BEEPS requested Council to:
 - Annually participate in National Bat Week in partnership with BEEPS
 - Display bat literature provided by BEEPS within the municipal office



Peachland Farmers & Crafters Markets

- **2020 BEEPS Summer Students** were an intricate part of the Peachland **community** by greeting market goers upon entry, and ensuring COVID-19 protocols were adhered to
- **Information booth** on bats and Okanagan tourism resources



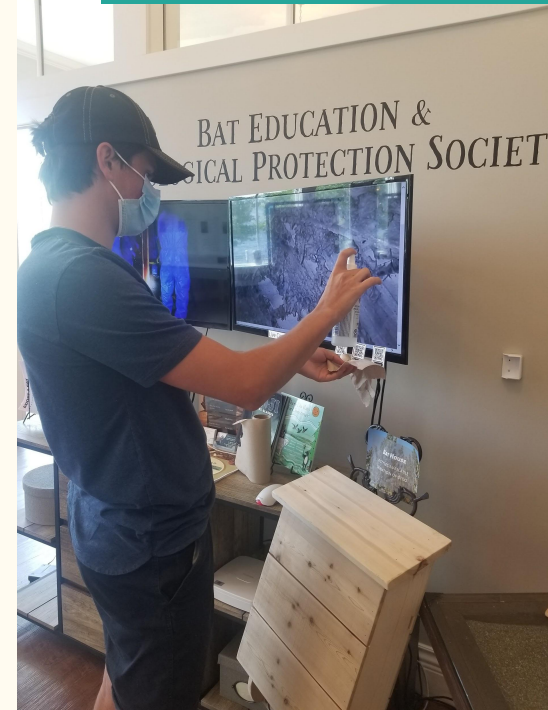
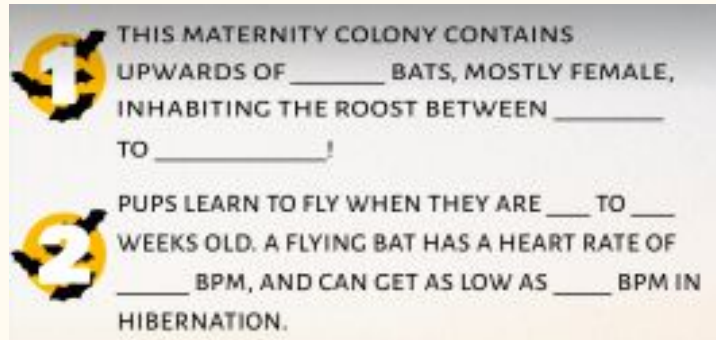
Community Engagement

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, BEEPS fundraisers were reimagined to ensure that community outreach was still possible
- Bat chats and crafts were incorporated into **tie dye** events
- **Rock painting** for Bat House Interpretive Trail



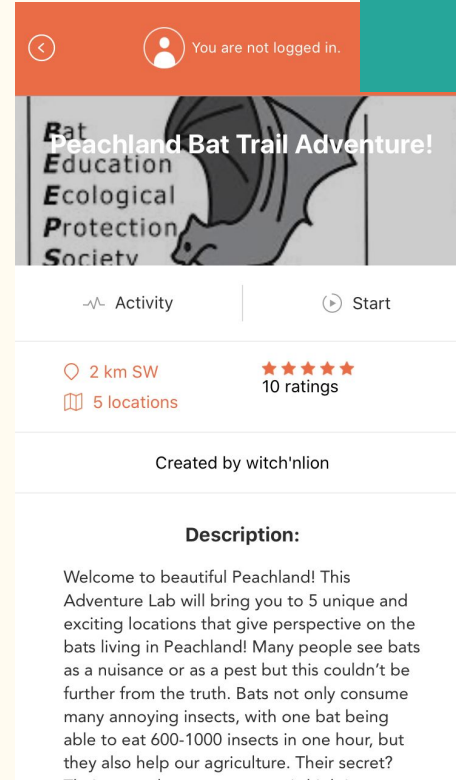
Adversity breeds Opportunity with Innovative Modifications

- **Videos** produced as a virtual shift for Bat Chats
- **Craft packages** to replace hands on activities
- Individual interactive multi-age **activities**



Geocaching Adventure Labs

- An Adventure Lab is a new popular **contactless** way of geocaching
- In 2020, BEEPS produced two different community Adventure Labs
 - Peachland Bat Trail Adventure
 - History of Peachland Adventure



Future: The future is Bat Friendly!



Bat Friendly Infrastructure

- In an effort to increase the **sustainability** of Peachland, BEEPS has engaged in two projects aimed at making Peachland a greener place
 - Green Roofs
 - Bat Friendly Lighting



Implementation of
Green Roofs and Bat
Friendly Lighting

Jackson MacPherson, Natalie Rehberg and Darlene Hartford
BAT EDUCATION AND ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION SOCIETY |

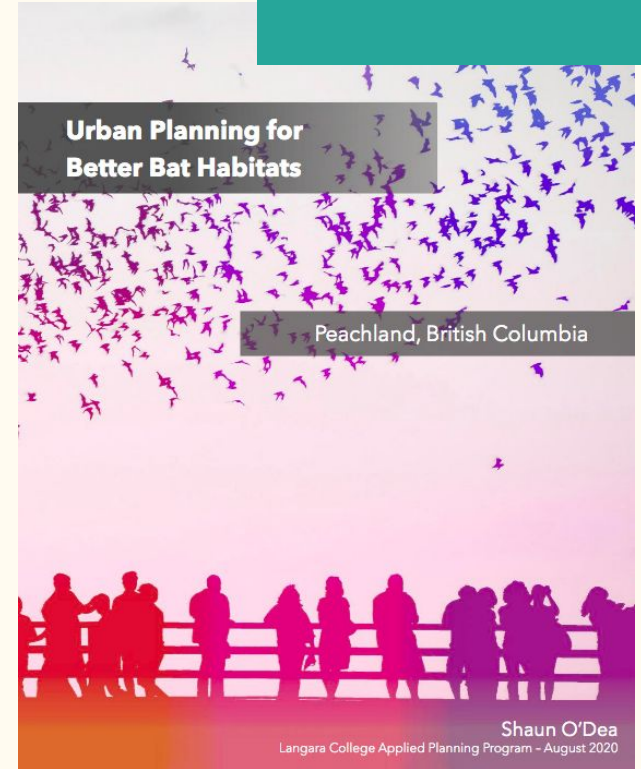
Green Roofs

- Green Roofs are a process of placing soil and plant life on a roof to **create habitat**
- BEEPS **partnership** with the District of Peachland
- **Bat Friendly Plants:** Pale Evening Primrose, Mock Orange, Kimberly Wild Rose



Bat Friendly Lighting

- BEEPS Student **LED** light experiments
- District of Peachland Student volunteer **research** paper



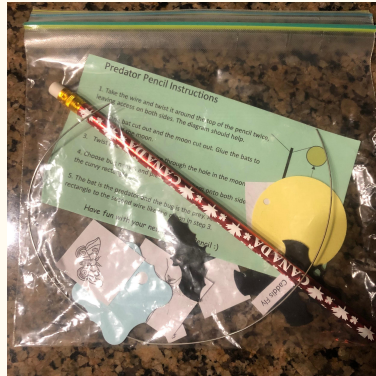
Bat House Interpretive Trail Upgrades

- Guano catchers
- Increased and improved signage
- Painted rocks



Bat Chats

- Bat Talk & Walk
- Zoom into Bat Chats
- Craft package takeaways



International Bat Week

- **Presentation** to Peachland Council - Bat Friendly Lighting and Green Roofs
- **Tie Dying** Bat Shirts
- Small group Bat House Interpretive Trail **Tours**



Bats Out of the Darkness: Travelling Bat Exhibit

- Coming to Peachland starting **June 2021!**



Greeting Cards

