



Grasslands Conservation Council
of British Columbia

GRASSLANDS CELEBRATION

June 12, Kamloops

For Immediate Release

June 24, 2010

The GCC thanks all those who made the Grasslands Celebration a Success

The Grasslands Conservation Council of BC (GCC) thanks the many people and organizations that helped make our first Grasslands Celebration a resounding success on June 12th. The 160 participants of the daytime tours and the 110 guests left with a greater appreciation for grasslands, and the number of GCC members rose 25%.

"I learnt so much!" exclaimed one of the participants on the "Planning for Grasslands" tour in Lac du Bois grasslands northwest of Kamloops. "I've lived in Kamloops all my life and never made it to Lac du Bois before. Thanks for getting me out."

No matter what the participants' background, there was much to learn: from the importance of grasslands for BC's threatened and endangered wildlife to the significant role cattle play in ensuring grassland habitat remains for wildlife. Some tours moved very slowly—who knew there was so much that could be seen in a square metre of grassland—while others covered considerable distances in investigating the multiple ways we use and benefit from grasslands.

A busy display area let even those guests who did not go on tours explore the grasslands. There, they were able to get close to grassland animals, such as Pilot the burrowing owl, brought by the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society, and snakes and raptors from the BC Wildlife Park. Children tried their hand at ranching by practicing lassoing in the adjacent corral.

The Lac du Bois grasslands are perfect for exploring all aspects of grasslands, as they are used for ranching, recreation, research and even for some industrial uses, such as gas lines. They also offer an overview of the province's grasslands, for those along the Lac du Bois Road range from low to medium to upper grasslands, a rare occurrence in British Columbia.

The evening dinner was held in the equally beautiful Knutsford grasslands. The delicious bar-b-q of local beef and produce was accompanied by stunning grasslands art. Guest speaker Trevor Herriot, an award winning author and broadcaster from Saskatchewan, presented on the importance of ranching to grassland birds and explored ways to help the cattle industry become more sustainable so that sound ranching practices can continue to maintain grassland habitats.

The City of Kamloops had proclaimed Saturday, June 12, 2010, as **Grasslands Appreciation Day**, in honour of the rare and special grasslands in and around Kamloops and of the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC's (GCC) Tenth Anniversary.

The celebration of grasslands continues in downtown Kamloops to July 18th with children's delightful interpretations of grasslands at the **Children's Grasslands Art Exhibit** at the Kamloops Art Gallery.

The Celebration's success was due to the hard work, talent and generosity of volunteers, tour leaders, the guest speaker, artists, partners, and donors of auction items. The GCC warmly thanks everyone for their part in helping raise appreciation for our beautiful and important grasslands.

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About the GCC:

The Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia (GCC) is dedicated to the stewardship and conservation of the rare and beautiful grasslands of our province. We work to build a better understanding of grasslands and provide methods and tools to better care for them, pursuing a vision of healthy and life-sustaining grasslands for current and future generations.

For further information, please visit www.bcgrasslands.org or contact:

Catrina Crowe

Communications and Outreach Coordinator
Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia
250-374-5787 Ext. 203
gcc@bcgrasslands.org