

Excerpt from Delta Naturalists Society Newsletter, November 2021

TOM BEARSS BURSARY FUND. Your executive is incredibly pleased to announce that the bursary DNS established at UBC has reached its funding goal of \$50,000. In fact, at last report from the university, the bursary fund was at \$60,000 and still growing. We attribute the recent surge to a September funding drive that Scott Bearss, Tom's son, initiated within the Bearss family and Tom's circle of friends. The overall funding success is a credit both to them and the generosity of you, the DNS members, over the last 15 months.

There is only one more step required to enshrine this bursary as an endowed fund that will sustain the annual bursary on a perennial basis – the UBC Senate must formally approve the endowment. We are advised this step is just that – a formality – and that it will be on the agenda of their November meeting.

The \$2000 bursary is also scheduled to be awarded this fall, for the second time, to some deserving student(s) in one of the five environmental degrees we paired with the bursary. To refresh your memory, these degrees are:

- Marine Biology
- Conservation Biology
- Ecology and Environmental Biology
- Environmental Sciences, and
- Natural Resources Conservation

The first four degrees are within the Science Faculty and Natural Resources Conservation is an interdisciplinary program within the Faculty of Forestry. Undergraduate students in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year in any one of these programs are eligible to apply for the Tom Bearss Bursary.

We think our Delta Naturalists Society can take a lot of satisfaction in having conceived, organized and funded the Tom Bearss Bursary in close partnership with the University of British Columbia, and Tom's family and friends. The resultant bursary will be a lasting tribute to Tom and will provide important university financial support to new generations of environmental scientists.