

Ministry Drives South Kamloops Secondary School Students Batty

Submitted by Duane Wells, Regional Manager Environmental Services

“You don’t need superpowers to be a super hero”
– Batman

Sue Scallon and her crew of students at South Kamloops Secondary School truly epitomize Batman’s quote. In an effort to improve bat roosting opportunities in and around some of our project sites in the Southern Interior Region, we asked Sue and some of her students to assist in the construction of boxes to house bats.

She was more than willing to help out and through the Environmental Enhancement Fund we were able to buy supplies for 20 bat boxes. Once completed, these bat boxes will be installed at projects in places like Harper Creek where the ministry created 200 metres of new stream channel. Look out mosquitoes – the bats are coming!

Half the bat species in B.C. are considered species at risk (vulnerable or threatened of becoming

extinct). With their important role in controlling nocturnal insect populations, and cycling nutrients from wetlands to forests, bats are a critical part of our ecosystems.

Bats require summer roosting habitat (such as large trees, caves or cliffs), winter hibernation sites, and a good source of insects (like wetlands), all of which are impacted by human activities. Habitat loss along with other factors like human persecution and extermination, house cat predators and pesticides is putting pressure on bat populations.

Seventy per cent of bats consume insects and small bugs for food. The other 30 per cent eat various types of fruit. Only a small number of bats feed on blood.

The dung of bats is very rich, and in some parts of the world farmers collect it to use as fertilizer. Bat dung was also used during the American Civil War to make gun powder.

B.C. has an annual bat count that takes place between June 1 and Aug. 15. If you have time to participate in this citizen-science monitoring program please check this link: <http://bcbats.ca/attachments/BCBatCountInstructions2017.pdf> ◆



◀ Technology education teacher extraordinaire Sue Scallon, with students Sam Thacker, Deegan Ludwig-Konrad, Sarah Mueller and Rhys Paetkau taking a well-deserved break from cutting bat boxes.



▲ Members of the public and a City of Fort St. John employee talk to RCMP and CVSE members, including Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Erick Bessant-Chavez (second from right).

CVSE Contributes to Fort St. John Law Day

Submitted by Erick Bessant-Chavez, Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer

Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) participated in the Fort St. John Court House’s annual Law Day event, May 27.

Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Erick Bessant-Chavez represented CVSE and spoke with the public at the event, where CVSE, RCMP and the Sherriff’s office displayed their vehicles.

Law Day featured a Superman-themed mock trial, the emergency vehicle displays, court house tours, information booths hosted by community law agencies and free hot dogs and pop. It has been running in Fort St. John every year, since 2013.

Commercial Transport Enforcement Officer Nav Kambo, who was off duty at the time, generously took this photo of CVSE’s community interaction. ◆