

# Remembering Marlene HIKICHI

We are very saddened to learn today of the passing of Marlene Hikichi, a long-time SONC member, outing organizer, club secretary, champion of nature and friend to many SONC members.



Marlene passed away following a recent health issue. She leaves behind her beloved husband Mits, her partner in life and all things nature, and their two sons.

For more than a decade, Mits, Jim Ginns and Marlene, put together regular overnight SONC birding trips to hots spots like Soap Lake, Washington State, the Kootenays and other BC regions. They set up many weekend day trips to lovely birding spots like Molson across the line in Washington State, the Boundary area and points north, including the Adams River to see the fall salmon run.

You couldn't head home from a big outing without taking a side trip to find the chocolate lilies or another rarity, stop at a pub for dinner and have hearty laughs about the day's sightings and adventures.

For many years, Marlene spearheaded SONC's refuse pick-up during the Ironman races, organized SONC's annual summer picnic at the Summerland Research Station and on countless occasions, welcomed the Thursday birders to the Hikichi home in Trout Creek for a delicious, prepared lunch.

When Mits put together the Golden Dragons dragon boat team, Marlene was in the boat, as were numerous other SONC members.

As a long-time operating room nurse at the Penticton Hospital, Marlene found quiet in nature and birding. She encouraged others to explore that same peacefulness, including hospital coworker and long-time SONC'er Charmaine Forster, who got hooked on birding and a close friendship with Marlene following an outing to Vaseux Lake.

Marlene and Mits have been long-time supporters of BC Nature and in 2012 were honoured by the Federation of BC Naturalists for the Hikichis' dedication to and support of BC's natural environment.

We send our condolences to Mits and family as well as to the numerous SONC members who shared special times on and off the birding trail with their wonderful friend Marlene.

Additional information on any services will be shared when available.

Wendy Stewart - Sept 2025