

COMMUNITY

Reward for Buckey's return

By Ryan Jensen
Smithers Interior News

It's been nine months since he disappeared.

There have been no leads as to his whereabouts despite an exhaustive search effort throughout the Bulkley Valley.

He's about two-foot tall, weighs about 50 pounds, has reddish-brown hair, webbed skin between his toes, bucked teeth and a roundish flat tail.

Buckey the Beaver was last seen May 2012 at his home inside the Aspen Riverhouse lounge.

The Riverhouse has not been the same since Buckey disappeared, general manager Colin Bateman said.

"Our staff would have nightly conversations with him once everybody had left for the night," Bateman said.

"They have no one to confess their sins to now.

"We did an investigation the night he went missing but we've had no luck."

The Riverhouse lounge is now offering a new beer, Thirsty Beaver, in an attempt to try to lure Buckey back.

Now, the Bulkley Valley Research Centre (BVRC) and the Aspen Riverhouse have teamed up to bring Buckey back before the BVRC's annual general meeting Feb. 25.

Over the last few years, the BVRC has hosted their annual general meeting at the Riverhouse and Buckey has become an integral part of the organization, BVRC research program manager Rick Budhwa said.

"We felt like he was a part of our team," he said.

"A good component of our research is focused on wildlife and natural resources so we became quite fond of Buckey.

"We're leading the charge to bring him back to his rightful place.

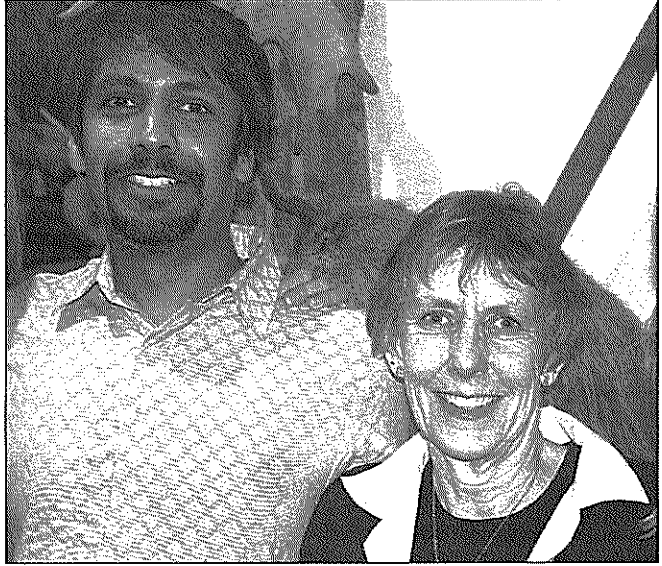
"We have all of our wildlife biologists on high alert."

A reward is being offered for Buckey's safe return.

Call the Aspen Riverhouse at 250-847-4672 or the BVRC at 250-847-2827.

The AGM is open to the public and will consist of dinner, a short meeting, an awards ceremony and anniversary celebration.

Reserve your spot by Feb. 20.



Rick Budhwa and Kirsteen Laing pose in front of Buckey at the Aspen Riverhouse lounge, moments before the beaver disappeared.

Contributed photo