

# NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society  
PO Box 27, Salmon Arm, B.C. Canada V1E 4N2  
Email: [sabnes.org@gmail.com](mailto:sabnes.org@gmail.com)



Spring 2018

## AGM

## PLEASE JOIN US

In the Shuswap Room

## AGM

SD#83 School Board Office

341 Shuswap St SW, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2

### 7:00 pm Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>

There will be a short business meeting followed by coffee and goodies.

After the break **Di Wittner** will give an informative and entertaining talk entitled:



Janet Aitken

## Wild Neighbours: Who is really Living in Your Backyard?



### The Foreshore Trail

The foreshore trail is closed to dogs during the critical nesting period between **April 15 and June 15**; there is no dog access off the foreshore trail onto the boardwalks or Christmas Island at any time, and removal of dog waste is required. Monitoring of trail users and compliance with dog control will continue on the foreshore this Summer. Trail users are **asked to continue** to report all disturbances or bylaw infractions by emailing [trailreport@shuswaptrails.com](mailto:trailreport@shuswaptrails.com) ( Attach photos if available.) Also call the animal control hotline at **250-833-8492**. We have had reports of dogs roaming freely around the Osprey tower at the end of the spit of land close to the wharf( the Kime Trail). We request that these instances be likewise reported. Please show respect at all times to fellow trail users and compliment those dog-walkers who are respecting the by-laws.



Nesting Season Banner Apr 15—Jun 15 on the Main Gate to the Foreshore Trail

It's been a busy spring for **SABNES**. Members have tackled a number of projects and, like most gardeners at this time of year, we are working our way through a list. We share our accomplishments with pride. As President, I am overwhelmed by the generosity and community spirit volunteers have shown.

Thanks to **Sid Visser** and **Gary Lomax** for repairing the Bird Viewing Platform by Christmas Island. After a survey of damage inflicted by last year's high water, they have made the structure safe again.

The Hummocks are greening up. Keep an eye out for flowering shrubs over the next weeks. Our goal of creating greater diversity and enriching the habitat is becoming a reality. There have been reports of deer, weasels, pheasants, geese and aquatic invertebrates to name a few. Unfortunately, we lost some trees and shrubs, first to high water and then to the extended drought. **Kim Fulton** and



Restoring the Bird Tower



Kim Fulton reading to a mesmerised group of children helping with Hummock maintenance

six classes of students planted 80 indigenous potted shrubs and trees: **Red Osier Dogwood**, **Black Hawthorne** and **Paper Birch**. About 600 **Pacific Willow** whips were planted very close together to help prevent erosion at the toes of the hummocks. **Molly Cooperman** and the teachers provided educational stations including a predator prey game called **Oh Deer**, birdwatching (with **SABNES** binoculars), and track and scat identification.

Thanks to the teachers who made the above possible: **Ceren Caner**, **Emily Styles**, **Megan Weir**, **Jodi Wentworth**, **Tammy Meerza**, **Steve Rodwell** and **Kira Limber**. We also appreciate the help of their students

and parents who volunteered--all under the leadership of **Kim Fulton**.

Thank you, Kim!

Thanks to **Di Wittner** and **Jim Hoskins**, over 60 Bird boxes now reside on the foreshore. **Swallow** populations, which have doubled this year, are quickly settling into their new abodes to nest. Di has accumulated stories about her encounters in cleaning out the old boxes and repositioning them above the high water mark. She numbered each box and, with the help of the Young Naturalists, will be monitoring the nesters. Jim has built a number of boxes and helped Di mount the new ones. We are hoping his new



Pat Hutchins

Owl box attracts a couple of owls. Thanks to Di and Jim for their hours of work! And also Molly and the Young Naturalists for their important role in monitoring.

New 'signs of spring' are popping up. Once again, **Sid Visser** and **Di Wittner** and I installed new signage. A new **Ringed-Bill Gull** sign has been placed at the end of the boardwalk and a new **Beaver** sign replaces the over-weathered one. The **Grebe** sign that mysteri-



ously disappeared from in front of the **Prestige** last fall has been replaced. Sid also continues to 'fix' things around the Nature Centre. We are lucky to have found this multi-skilled member.

One of our newest **SABNES** Board members, **Sarah Weaver**, has worked tirelessly to make our signs more effective. She and her husband **Ken Stengler**, **Hanne** and **Doug MacKay** and I installed the new signs by the wharf that warn the public of Sensitive Nesting Habitat. The message urges kayakers and paddle boarders to steer clear of the nesting area between the shore and the buoys. Watch for the new sign that is in the works for



end of the wharf.

Our membership numbers are up, thanks to the efforts of **Geoff Benson** and **Mona Broad**.

A Treasurer's work is never done! **Geoff Benson** is a truly a gift. I imagine that **SABNES** and its many grants are a challenge to keep track of, yet Geoff does this effortlessly and accurately. He also edits our colourful newsletters and handles memberships. Thanks to Mona for making reminder phone calls to members to renew. They proved worth the effort!

**Georgia McCleod** is our self-appointed secretary. I'm not sure how many years she's been doing our minutes, but she is a master at making sense out of meetings. Geoff Benson and Georgia updated our Bylaws and Constitution recently. Georgia warns that these documents could put you to sleep, but having said that, I hope you do get a chance to read them. Finally we are most grateful to the **Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HTCF)** which made all our exciting efforts in wetland complexing on the foreshore possible.

## Janet Aitkin

**P.S.** A great bonus of working down on the foreshore is to have more opportunities to see and record nature. Note the **Canada Goose** egg on top of the beaver lodge!



Janet Aitkin

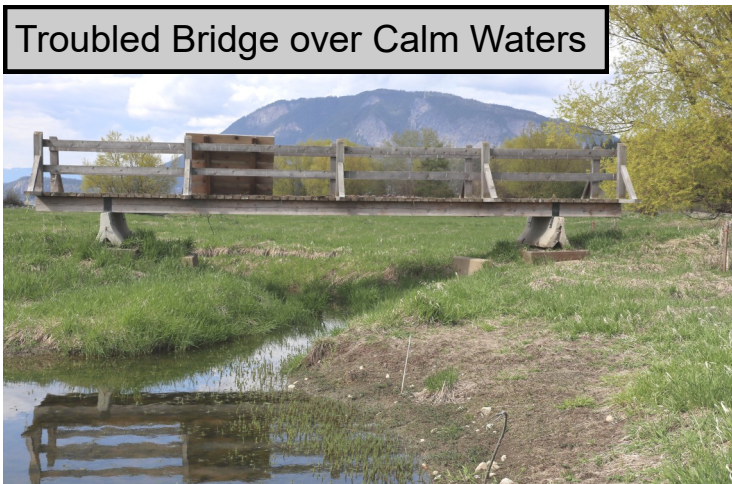
## Face-off at the Wharf

I took these photos from the Wharf on May 5. The **Canada Goose** standing on top of the Osprey pole is reminiscent of Nelson on his column in Trafalgar Square! The **Osprey** took occasional sorties round his nest but didn't challenge its nemesis directly. Visit the wharf soon and see what transpires. I also had the great fortune to see five grebes close to the wharf, diving and playing.

Geoff Benson



## Troubled Bridge over Calm Waters



## Thanks Steve!

Two years ago the newly constructed bridge on Christmas Island floated away at high water even though it was heavily weighted with its two concrete supports. It lodged in a nearby tree, together with one of the access staircases. (The other staircase was presumably broken up.) Fortunately **David Aitkin** who was kayaking nearby, managed to secure one of the access staircases to the bridge. Thanks to **Steve Genn** for hiring a crane and moving the bridge back to its original position. This time we need to secure the blocks and the bridge firmly to the ground!

**SABNES is on FACEBOOK** Login to Facebook and then search: [salmon arm bay nature enhancement society](#)

Lots of information and things to see, including a 25sec clip of a Beaver munching away!

## SABNES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Elected Directors

Janet Aitken, President.  
Geoff Benson, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.  
Mona Broad, Hanne MacKay, Gale-Paule Davison, Gary Lomax, Sid Visser, Sarah Weaver, Di Wittner.

### Appointed Directors

Councillor. Ken Jamieson, **City of Salmon Arm**;

**FishNGame** and **Downtown Improvement Association**; No appointed reps

### Non-voting Directors

Georgia McLeod, Secretary  
Tom Brighthouse, Advisor.

We greatly appreciate the financial and service support from the following companies:

### LIFE CORPORATE MEMBERS

Askews Foods

Royal Bank

### CORPORATE MEMBERS

Browne Johnson Land Surveyors

Dr Lyle A Martin

Gentech Engineering Inc.

Hub International Insurance

Dr Chris Parfitt

Bowers Funeral Services Ltd.

Shuswap Acupuncture and Laser Therapy Clinic

Shuswap Lady Striders

Prestige Harbourfront and Convention Centre

### GRANTING AGENCIES

City of Salmon Arm  
Salmon Arm Rotary Club  
Shuswap Community Foundation  
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund

### Annual Membership Fees \*

Individual.....	\$15
Family.....	\$25
Sustaining Individual.....	\$50
Sustaining Family.....	\$100
Life Membership.....	\$500

### Corporate or Organization

1-4 Employees....	\$50
5-10 Employees.....	\$100
+ 10 Employees.....	\$150
Life Membership.....	\$2,500

\* All but \$5 is tax-deductible

## Membership Form

( If you **have been a member**, we only need you to enter **new** information )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give **SABNES** my time  
to help staff the nature centre  
( June, July and August)

to help with trail clean-up and maintenance

Nature Bay Society (**SABNES**) is a Charitable Organization.  
Most of the Annual Fee is tax-deductible.  
Receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued.

Nature Bay Society, P.O. Box 27, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2  
website : [www.sabnes.org](http://www.sabnes.org)  
Email: [sabnes.org@gmail.com](mailto:sabnes.org@gmail.com)



### Wanted – Two Students to Work in the BNC (Brighthouse Nature Centre) over the Summer as Interpreters

Thanks to \$4,000 grants from the **City of Salmon Arm** and the **Federal CSJ (Canada Summer Jobs)**, together with some contribution from **SABNES** members' subscriptions, we aim to open the Nature Centre 7 days a week over the Summer, starting in early June. **If you know of any potential applicants, please contact us as soon as possible.** The positions would require each Interpreter to work a **35hr** week in return for **\$15/ hr** plus benefits.

## A Way of making an Everlasting contribution to SABNES

Please consider making a donation to **SABNES** via the **Shuswap Community Foundation ( c/o SABNES Endowment Fund)**. Your donation will remain in perpetuity in the fund, and generate income which will be used to help keep the **SABNES** lands in their natural state for the foreseeable future. **Please** send your cheque payable to **Shuswap Community Foundation, PO Box #624, 450 Lakeshore Drive, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N7**. Please mark on your cheque that you wish to place the donation in the **SABNES ENDOWMENT FUND**. The **Shuswap Community Foundation** will send you a tax receipt.

### Red-tailed Hawk



Clive Bryson