

NATURE BAY



SALMON ARM BAY  
NATURE  
ENHANCEMENT  
SOCIETY

# NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society

PO Box 27, Salmon Arm, B.C. Canada V1E 4N2

Phone 250-833-9717 Email: sabnes@jetstream.net

Website: [www.sabnes.org](http://www.sabnes.org)

SPRING  
2009

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON FRIDAY  
MAY 29TH AT THE ART GALLERY 70 HUDSON  
AVE NE, SALMON ARM. FOLLOWING THE MEET-  
ING DICK CANNINGS FROM NARAMATA WILL  
PRESENT "THE WORLD NEEDS MORE BIRDERS"**



## Dick Cannings

I was born and raised in the Okanagan Valley, in a family keenly interested in natural history. This early involvement in birds, bugs and plants led me to a university education in zoology, including a BSc degree from the University of British Columbia and a MSc from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Six summers as a Park Naturalist in my university student years gave me a broad knowledge of the ecology of British Columbia. This knowledge was deepened through my 15 years as Curator of the Cowan Vertebrate Museum at the University of British Columbia. That position not only gave me a tremendous opportunity to learn more about my favourite subject--birds--but also gave me experience in teaching ecological field methods and natural history to university students. I still teach a field ecology course for UBC every year, held in such diverse places as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Arizona and the Yukon. My main research inter-

est is the breeding biology of birds, particularly small owls. I continue to do consulting work, primarily on impacts to species at risk in the Okanagan Valley.

After having lived away from the valley for almost 25 years, in 1995 I returned to what has always been home, and now work as a consulting biologist in Naramata, BC. I work half-time for Bird Studies Canada, coordinating Canadian Christmas Bird Counts, the eBird program and the British Columbia Owl Survey.

I have served on various boards and committees, including 8 years as co-chair for birds on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, 11 years on the British Columbia Environmental Appeal Board and 5 years on the British Columbia Forest Appeals Commission. I was a founding director of the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance and a present member of the British Columbia board of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

I have produced regular radio items on natural history themes for CBC and taught continuing education courses on birding and nature. I've also led about 50 natural history tours to destinations around the world, particularly in the New World tropics. When I'm not birding, I play fiddle in a local Scottish country dance band.

I have written a number of books, including *The Birds of the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia* with my brothers Sydney and Robert Cannings; *British Columbia: A Natural History* with Sydney Cannings, *The BC Roadside Naturalist*, *The Rockies: a Natural History*, *Birds of Southwestern British Columbia*, and *An Enchantment of Birds*. *British Columbia: A Natural History* won several awards, including the Bill Duthie Booksellers Choice Award for best book published in British Columbia, the Canadian Science Writers' Book Award and the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for best book on the history of British Columbia.

**COME JOIN US FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE BRIGHOUSE NATURE CENTRE JUST SOUTH OF THE WHARF ON MAY 30TH AT 10AM.**

**DICK CANNINGS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.**

**There is much to celebrate at this opening especially our volunteers. They maintain our beautiful trail and the signage along it.**

**After high water in July we will be organizing a "Take Back the Trail" work bee to trim back the grass and branches that usually grow over the trail during the flooding season.**

**Please come out and give a hand, we will keep you posted on the timing.**



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

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 Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union  
 Shuswap Community Foundation  
 TD Friends of the Environment  
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**Words by Ron Wedman:**

I hope everyone is envious of our new T-shirts shown below. We just got them in and you can have one too for the meagre price of 20 bucks. In addition to advertising the society and showing your support for the cause it is a way of raising some money as well. At time of writing we do not have our grant to hire a student for the summer to run the Interpretive Centre. If we are not successful at getting the grant we will have to open the centre using our volunteers. We hope to know soon. We will be calling for help if we don't get the grant.

Our "No Dogs Allowed" sign at the west gate seems to be working as I have noticed a significant decrease the in the dog population on the trail.

Thanks to all who make this organization great.

**Elected Directors**

Mike Saul, Treasurer	832-0926
Ron Wedman, President	832-4634
Gary Lomax	832-7585
Ed Dahl	832-0544
Hanne MacKay	832-8989
Joyce Henderson	832-4127

**Appointed Directors**

Gary Carder, Naturalist Club	832-4171
Clr Ken Jamieson, City of Salmon Arm	
Tim Giandomenico, C of C	833-5800
Hank Shelley, Fish & Game	832-3951

**Non-voting Directors**

Tom Brighthouse, Secretary	832-3951
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Thanks to Yves Cusson of **Cusson Tree Service** for donating his time to remove the Osprey nest in front of the Prestige Hotel this spring. The nest was removed to discourage the nest being taken over by Canada geese that typically start nesting prior to the arrival of the Osprey in the spring. You can view the nesting in real time on

**www.shuswapnews.com.** Have a look and let us know what you think.