

NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society

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Website: www.sabnes.org

Spring
2013

PLEASE JOIN US

AGM 7:30 pm Wednesday June 5th

SAGA ART GALLERY, 70 HUDSON AVE NE
EVERYONE WELCOME, REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
FREE ADMISSION

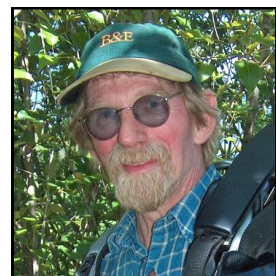
FOLLOWING THE AGM **HANK SHELLEY** WILL GIVE A TALK
ON SOME OF HIS

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES IN THE SHUSWAP



Hank Shelley is well known for his captivating stories, published weekly in the *Lakeshore News*, which recount his experiences in the great outdoors of the Shuswap. Hank was raised on a farm in the Armstrong area and started hunting and fishing at an early age. He started in Forestry as a patrolman and ran fire-fighting crews near Enderby. After military service he ran a fishing lodge for a number of years. Subsequently he worked as a patrolman for DFO in Salmon Arm and became a fishery officer.

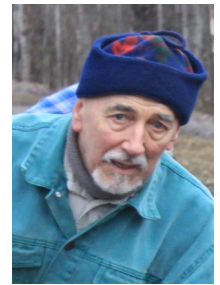
As a non-profit organisation, **SABNES** continues to depend on individuals, businesses and community organisations and governments for help and funding. It is fortunate that Salmon Arm has so many community-minded volunteers to help us continue our mandate of conservation, enhancement and education. A big thank you to the many members and volunteers who **on a regular basis** undertake to clear and tidy up individual 200m sections of the foreshore trail. Thanks to **Yves Cusson of Cusson Tree Service** for cleaning the Osprey Nests. Thanks go also to the volunteers who supervise the Nature Centre during the Summer and those who keep the centre clean and attractive for our visitors. Thanks to those who give **SABNES** generous grants of money and supplies—you will find their names throughout this newsletter.



SABNES President
Gary Lomax

Fishing with Bald Eagles

by Mike Saul



Peter Jannick Park
May 2012

I often fish from my boat on Shuswap Lake, going along close to the shore by Murdoch Point, across the bay from Sicamous. I fish very slowly, about 1km per hour, usually trolling a fly. The Bald Eagles watch the anglers along there, and if the rainbow trout is a jumper, the eagle will fly down and try to snatch it off the line. Early in the Spring the eagles are very hungry and will fly along from tree to tree to keep a close watch. Last year as I was reeling in a trout I heard a whooshing sound and looked up to see an eagle coming straight at me as I was lifting the fish into the boat. I leaned back quickly and the eagle missed me and the fish and settled in a nearby tree. I released the trout and slipped it over the side. Without hesitation the eagle swooped down in a power dive, wings up, hit the water, spraying me, and took off with the trout.



Ed Dahl, Gary Lomax and Mike Saul shown (above) remove the sections of cap-sized walkway and (below) secure the useable timber together with the donated poles.



Bird Tower now Isolated from Boardwalk



SABNES has disassembled the collapsed portion of the boardwalk extending from the foreshore trail. The tower is now “strictly for the birds”. They took reusable timber to Christmas Island where it is temporarily being stored. The photograph shows the wood being secured to the old bridge to prevent it from floating away as the lake levels rise. The newly peeled cedar poles shown here will be used to repair the bridge and put up another Osprey or Eagle nest pole on the Island. Work on these projects will have to wait until water levels drop, probably in the autumn. Many thanks to **Bell Pole Canada and Stella-Jones Canada** from SABNES for providing these poles and two others for our use.

Brighthouse Nature Centre Opens 8th June

SABNES will soon be hiring a person to manage the Nature Centre which will be open to the public every day from June 8th until the last week in August. Funds for this will come from SABNES and from a grant of \$3,000 generously donated by the **City of Salmon Arm**. Last month a group of executive enhanced the ambience of the centre by removing the badly worn carpet and installing gorgeous drop (-dead) flooring. Thanks to them for all their hard work and also to the **Shuswap Community Foundation for a grant of \$3,000**, part of which covered the cost of materials.



Visit us at the BNC this Summer

SABNES Bird Report, May 19, 2013, by Ed Dahl

Monica and I did our first count of the **Western Grebes** on April 23rd in light rain. We counted **300** Western Grebes, mostly near Sandy Point and south to the Salmon River mouth and some midway between Appleyard and the river mouth. At that time there weren't many other birds around the Bay.

On May 7th, which was a clear, calm sunny day, we counted **165** Grebes towards Sandy Point and the River mouth. A couple of grebes were dancing. There were also **7** Western Grebes by the marina. Lake water levels were still very low at this time.

One week later on May 14th, it was calm, cloudy and 12 degrees and lake levels were rising. We counted **157** Western Grebes, **53** just east of the **Nature Centre** and **18** west of the **Prestige Inn** along the the grass. At **Peter Jannink Park** the grass adjacent to the path had shallow water where **2 Black-necked Stilts** were feeding along with a few **Long-billed Dowitchers** and a **Least Sandpiper**, all resplendent in their spring colours.



Long-billed Dowitcher (PJ Park)



Least Sandpiper



Black-necked Stilt (PJ Park)

By Saturday May 18th, there were a few Western Grebes within the open water behind the **Prestige**, some of which were dancing. I took that as a good sign and expect a lot of the Grebes will soon be building nests there. That area seems to offer some protection from north winds as long as lake levels do not get too high (as was the case last year). The **Shuswap Lake** water level in **2012** was **90 cm. (30")** higher than the **5** year average high water level and very close to the high water levels of **1972**, **40** years earlier.

Other bird life has increased dramatically over the last few weeks and tree foliage has proliferated, constraining the view for birders.

Those d*** beavers again! Cut it right down to the wire this time!



One of our resident Beavers

Elected Directors
 Gary Lomax, President; Geoff Benson, Treasurer; Ed Dahl; Hanne MacKay; Janet Aitken; Pamela Dettwiler; Mike Saul; Tony Say

Appointed Directors
 Don Parks, **Shuswap Naturalist Society** ; Cllr. Ken Jamieson, **CSA**; Elaine Gustafson, **MOE** ; Hank Shelley, **FishNGame** ; Gale-Paule Davison, **DIA**

Non-voting Directors
 Georgia McLeod, Secretary
 Tom Brighthouse, Advisor

Askews Foods
Royal Bank

CORPORATE MEMBERS
 Wickett Business Services
 Hub International Barton Insurance
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 Browne Johnson Land Surveyors
 Lady-in-the-Tub Bed and Bath Boutique
 Gentech Engineering Inc.
 Shuswap Acupuncture and Laser Therapy Clinic
 Terrstech Consulting Ltd
 Dr Lyle H Martin

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

We greatly appreciate the financial and service support from the following companies
LIFE CORPORATE MEMBERS

GRANTING AGENCIES
 City of Salmon Arm
 Salmon Arm Rotary Club
 Shuswap Community Foundation

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date : _____

I would like to give **SABNES** my time Please check
 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 Email:- sabnes.org@gmail.com



Help to replace Signage on Foreshore Trail

Many of the signs are in poor condition after 20 years of use; some have been vandalised. **SABNES** intends to purchase a new family of signs and invites individuals and organisations to donate towards or sponsor signs One sign installed would cost **\$120-\$300**, depending on size. Anyone interested should contact

Janet Aitken at **SABNES**

Mail

E-Mail

I welcome your comments, ideas, articles, poems and photographs for **your** future newsletters. Please e-mail them to me at sabnes.org@gmail.com, or mail them to the **SABNES** postal address on the back sheet.

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If you received a printed copy of this newsletter and would prefer also/instead to receive it by e-mail, you can write to us (address on back page), or e-mail us at sabnes.org@gmail.com .

Many thanks,

Geoff Benson