



NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society
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Website: www.sabnes.org



Spring
2016

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR

AGM 7:00 pm Monday May 30th

SAGA ART GALLERY, 70 HUDSON AVE NE

EVERYONE WELCOME, REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
NO ADMISSION CHARGE

FOLLOWING A SHORT MEETING, LOCAL BIOLOGIST **DI WITTNER**

WILL GIVE A PRESENTATION ON **BADGERS**



Among species often maligned and misunderstood, Badgers are intelligent and amazingly mysterious mammals.

Dianne tells her story of preparing two baby badgers for life in the wild. For four months, Dianne “walked” with these siblings who’d lost their mother when they were mere infants. You’ll be touched by their antics and emerging independence as these badgers learned to become fearless hunters.

Where have all the beavers gone, long time passing?

If you know the answer, let us know. Last fall there was a lot of activity on the CP rail side of the trail near the West gate, which caused the water to back up and flow over the trail. This is no longer happening. Perhaps they have moved on to pastures new !



A deer walks on the edge of one of the Beaver ponds on the Foreshore

Thanks to Ed and Monica from SABNES

Drs Ed and Monica Dahl, both retired veterinarians, have left Salmon Arm for Vancouver Island to be closer to their family. Their contribution to SABNES and to the Shuswap Naturalists has been immense. How could we have hoped to welcome such knowledgeable members to our groups?

Frank and Doris Kime, during their retirement years, had made it their pleasant chore to keep a record of the comings and goings of our star bird, the Western Grebe and its rarer cousin, the Clark's Grebe. Ed and Monica assumed this role with gusto. In addition they played a major part in the maintenance of the trails, the building of our new bridge and the heavy work of repairing the roof and floor of the Interpretive Centre.

It was Monica who spotted the dead grebe which a taxidermist turned into our signature exhibit. Eager to pass on their love of Nature, the couple organised and supervised the Young Naturalists Club.

Ed and Monica will be hard to replace. We all wish them well in their new location.

Tom Brighthouse

Postscript : As both a farewell and a thankyou, **Hanne and Doug McKay** invited the Dahls with other SABNES Board members for a barbecue cruise on Salmon Arm Lake. It was a beautiful afternoon in mid-April and the sun was shining in a cloudless sky. The Grebes were in attendance in good numbers and choreographed a few dances a few hundred yards from the boat. It was an appropriate tribute for the couple who have worked so hard on their behalf. *Have you seen Ed's spectacular CD ROMs on the Grebes and other Birds of the Bay?* You can view them down at the Nature Centre which opens in June.

Geoff Benson



Ed and Monica show delight with the appetizing food on their plates. They are also very chuffed with this gift from SABNES – a framed photograph of a dancing grebe taken by **Clive Bryson**.

\$48,000 Grant Awarded to SABNES

The **Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation** recently announced approval of a \$48,000 grant to the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society (SABNES) for habitat enhancements on The Nature Trust's Salmon Arm Bay property. Here is a description of how the grant will be used. Currently, the flat wetland of Salmon Arm Bay's foreshore lacks the complex habitats that would increase biodiversity. Also, the extensive presence of invasive reed canary grass has eliminated valued nesting habitat. Wetland inventories undertaken by the City of Salmon Arm in 2012 found that reed canary grass had reduced the amount of functional habitat in the Bay, which is one of only two breeding areas of the Western Grebe population known in BC. The creation of additional habitat along the foreshore will rehabilitate the wetlands to the benefit of a variety of waterfowl, as well as enhancing habitat for Western Painted Turtles, small mammals and juvenile salmon.

The HCTF grant will support SABNES working with the City of Salmon Arm during their planned maintenance of the gravity sewer line in the winter of 2017. This will allow the project's objectives to be met without damaging existing habitat features through the use of swamp matting, which the City will deploy for their sewer works when working with heavy equipment. Hummocks will be created on the grassed foreshore flats, breaking up the reed canary grass and adding features that include snags, sand for turtle nesting, basking logs and rip-rap reptile habitat. The complex habitat created will then be enhanced with seeding, native container stock tree planting and live stem staking of native riparian species. SABNES will also install 4-7 poles with a variety of bird and bat houses attached. Placement of up to 15 wooden pallets, anchored with long leashed chains to cinder blocks among the hummock pools will add more nesting options for the wide diversity of waterfowl.

Success of the project will be measured in hectares enhanced and planting green-up survival, along with the Shuswap Naturalists monitoring of species' utilization.

Special thanks go to **Gerry Leering, R.P.Bio., from Principal Environmental Compliance Services** who helped us put this grant together and who will also be managing the project. This is an exciting endeavour for SABNES.

Janet Aitken, SABNES president



Nesting Season Banner Installed Apr15—Jun 15 on the Main Gate to the Foreshore Trail

Salmon Arm Bay Foreshore Trail Closed to Dogs during critical nesting season

The Shuswap, British Columbia – The Salmon Arm Bay is having babies! Visitors to the popular foreshore trail are asked to take extra care this spring – including leaving their dogs at home – to ensure the many birds, amphibians, fish, and mammals that live in the nature reserve have ample space to nest and raise their young.

“Spring is the critical nesting season for wildlife in the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Reserve,” says SABNES President, Janet Aitken. “Even small incremental disturbances can cause irreparable damage. So trail users are asked to take extra precaution.”

To ensure we protect all the species that raise their young in the nature reserve, the City of Salmon Arm has closed the foreshore trail to dog walking between April 15 and June 15. Trail users are asked to leave dogs at home, be extra vigilant of immature wildlife on the trails and viewing decks, and be sure to report any disturbances or bylaw infractions directly to the animal control hotline at 250-833-8492. Reports can also be emailed to trailreport@shuswaptrails.com.

“Submitting reports is an important part of the adaptive monitoring plan for the foreshore trail,” says consulting biologist, Jeremy Ayotte. “Trail users are our eyes on the ground.” These reports are being monitored by a City working group assembled to help city staff and council determine if the current dog walking bylaw restrictions are sufficient to ensure the safety of wildlife in the nature reserve. Any immediate concerns could result in further restrictions.

“This is the community’s opportunity to show we are serious about protecting foreshore wildlife and can manage our dogs responsibly at the same time,” says Peter Robertson, who advocated for allowing leashed dog walking on the trail and is part of the monitoring group.

In December, Salmon Arm Council moved to implement a trial period to see if dogs walked on the foreshore trail with restricted 2 metre leashes could be adequately managed without increasing impacts to wildlife. The trial includes the current closure to dogs during the critical nesting period between April 15 and June 15, no dog access off the foreshore trail onto the boardwalks or Christmas Island at any time, and required removal of dog waste. Council will review results of the trial period in January 2017 to determine if this approach can work for the long term.

The foreshore monitoring group includes leadership from City staff, the Nature Trust, the Provincial Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations, SABNES, the City Greenway Liaison Committee, and local dog walkers. The Shuswap Trail Alliance is providing facilitation for the working group. The facilitator is Phil McIntyre-Paul and has support from consulting biologist, Jeremy Ayotte.

Based on a News Release—April 18 , 2016 by Phil McIntyre-Paul



The **Brighthouse Nature Centre** will be open **June - August**, thanks to grants of **\$3,000** from the **City of Salmon Arm** and **\$3,752** from **Canada Summer Jobs**. This funding will enable us to staff the Nature centre for most days during June, July and August.



We are most grateful to **Kim Fulton**, a former school principal from Armstrong who organised small party of **SABNES** members and helpers to plant willow cuttings and small conifers, close to the trail.

Kim Fulton

Elected Directors

Janet Aitken, President;
Geoff Benson, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor;
Ed Dahl; Hanne MacKay; Gale-Paule Davison ; Gary Lomax

Appointed Directors

Pat Mearns, **Shuswap Naturalists Club** ;
Councillor. Ken Jamieson, **City of Salmon Arm**;
FishNGame and **DowntownImprovementAssn**
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

Bernd Hermanski Architect Inc.
Browne Johnson Land Surveyors
Dr Lyle A Martin
Gentech Engineering Inc.
Hub International Barton Insurance
Prestige Harbourfront Resort and Convention Centre
Shuswap Acupuncture and Laser Therapy Clinic
Shuswap Lady Striders
Standard Roofing Corporation
Terratech Consulting Ltd

Innovation Catalyst

GRANTING AGENCIES

City of Salmon Arm
Salmon Arm Rotary Club
Shuswap Community Foundation

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

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



Young Naturalists Explore on the Foreshore

Hanne McKay

Many school classes visit the Salmon Arm Bay foreshore to have a 'living classroom'. A grade two class spent the day exploring the bird life, insects and the creatures found in the shore water. The children in this picture are fascinated by a small leech that was spotted using a magnifying glass while looking at a sample of shore water in a Petri dish. Many teachers also take their students to the Brighthouse Nature Centre to view the videos of shorebirds and the specimens that are found there. Salmon Arm is very fortunate to be one of the few cities in North America that has a vibrant wetland within its city limits.

Hot on the Trail



These pics were taken from the top of the Bird Tower on the Foreshore Trail. Two Bald Eagles looking for opportunities in the Bay and Painted Turtles enjoying the Sun. Thanks to **Rotary and Steve Genn**, in particular, for their efforts in repairing the boardwalk and thereby making this excellent viewing platform re-accessible.
Geoff Benson

Lady's Slipper Orchid

Look for these rare and beautiful flowers on the Foreshore. **Admire, photograph and protect.**

When is a worm not a worm?

When it is blind. On a recent visit to the Raven Trail, we found just inside the west gate what appeared to be a round shoelace. When held by the tail it wriggled its 12 inch length quite energetically. It turned out to be a snake called a blindworm, protected in some parts of Europe (where it is better known as a slow worm), but never recorded in the Shuswap. Instead of eyes it gets by with two black dots which detect the light when it emerges from its home underground.

Tom Brighthouse