

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

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
 Gentech Engineering Inc
 Lady in the Tub- Bed and Bath Boutique
 Randy's Cleaning Service
 Shuswap Lady Striders
 Standard Roofing Corporation
 Wickett Business Services

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

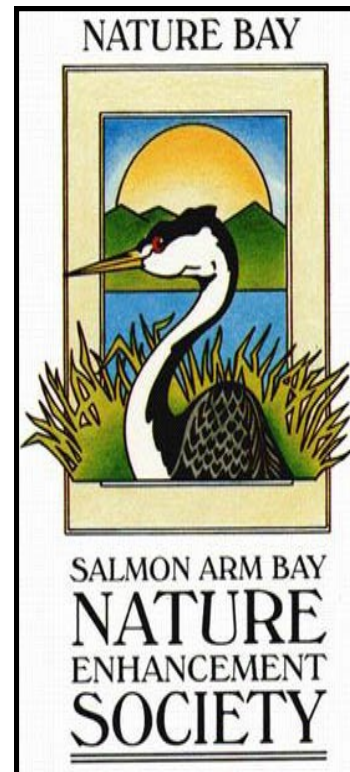
Annual Membership Fees *

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

Corporate or Organization

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

* All but \$5 is tax-deductible



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
 Website: www.sabnes.org

**Fall
2012**

As a non-profit organisation, SABNES depends 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. Thanks to those who have undertaken to maintain their allotted portion of the trail and to those members, directors and friends who come out to help on clean-up days and assist in maintaining and staffing the Brighthouse Nature Centre. **We rely on memberships in large part to generate the**



revenue required to maintain trails, boardwalks and the Nature Centre. Our memberships have fallen to below 100 and I urge members to pass on this newsletter to others who may consider joining us. Finally a big thank you for grants received this year from the City of Salmon Arm, Shuswap Community Foundation and Salmon Arm Rotary Club. See you on the foreshore.

Gary Lomax, SABNES President

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date : _____

I would like to help **SABNES** :- Please check

With staffing the nature centre
 (June, July and August)

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
 Email:- sabnes.org@gmail.com website : www.sabnes.org

MORE BUOYS ADDED



Gary Lomax and Ed Dahl launch one of three buoys purchased with the aid of a grant from **The Shuswap Community Foundation**. These will enhance the demarcation of no-boating zones to protect ecologically sensitive areas. Thanks to **Doug and Hanne Mackay** for the use of their houseboat.

Replacing 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 costs about \$500. Anyone interested should contact **Janet Aitken** at **SABNES**

The foreshore trail provides a great deal of pleasure to visitors and to local residents. **Greg Wiebe** from **Grindrod** writes:

"It's great to go there after doing chores in the city. Soon after arrival there are the familiar sounds and sights of ospreys, grebes, eagles, herons and many more birds, plus evidence of beavers. The trees and bushes isolate one from the city, and the view of receding hills across the lake is one of the best."

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

Please note that this newsletter, along with many older ones can be accessed from the **SABNES** website www.sabnes.org

If you received this newsletter by e-mail and would prefer also/instead to receive a printed version, you can e-mail us at sabnes.org@gmail.com .

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 .

Please encourage your friends and relatives to become **SABNES** members. You can do this by passing on the printed newsletters, which contain membership forms, or by forwarding your electronic version..

Thanks,

Geoff Benson **SABNES** Newsletter Editor



Panoramic View of Nature Bay from the Foreshore - Taken on Oct 17th, 2012

Geoff Benson



NHLer taking a break from raking in the shekels? No cigar. It's Mike Saul raking gravel on the foreshore trail. Thanks to all nine volunteers, including Hanne Mackay's grandson Ben for doing the raking and the **City of Salmon Arm** for providing and predispersing the gravel along the trail.

Beavers on the Foreshore

It's more than a year since beavers have been lodged in the middle of the pond immediately west of the first boardwalk on the foreshore trail. At first they began to demolish the willows on the north side of the pond, and **SABNES** took action to protect some of the larger trees in that area. Now the beavers have become active on the south side of the pond and are attacking the trees which line the trail. The rate at which they can partially demolish a sizeable tree is astonishing and these could become a hazard to pedestrians over a single night.

A Gnawing Need



Salmon Arm councillors have agreed to let **SABNES** address this issue. **SABNES** does not want to interfere with the beavers, who are important members of wetlands eco-systems. Decapitated willows rapidly regenerate themselves. Nevertheless, **SABNES** will continue to protect the larger trees by surrounding their lower trunks with wire netting. Trees which become hazardous will be cut down and tossed into the area near the pond to provide the beavers with sustenance.

Bird Tower Boardwalk Severely Damaged



The bird-tower boardwalk sustained considerable damage due to prolonged high water levels this year and is no longer usable in its present state. Only last year **SABNES** spent around **\$3,000** to replace planks and make height adjustments. **SABNES** directors are of the view that we should convert the boardwalk into a bird sanctuary. They propose that the horizontal approach section be removed in its entirety and the newer wood used in maintaining other boardwalks. The bird-tower would thereby be isolated and from then on be "strictly for the birds".



Pelicans off Christmas Island - Taken by Clive Bryson on Sept 29

Birding in the Bay – Ted Hillary's Highlights from 2012



Black-bellied Plover

their plumage is rather drab at this time. In May I also saw an **Anna's Hummingbird** at a feeder just west of the Nature Park. This hummingbird is becoming quite common in the southern part of British Columbia, but is still rare here. It is a recent migrant, moving in from the U.S., often coming north in the winter.



Anna's Hummingbird



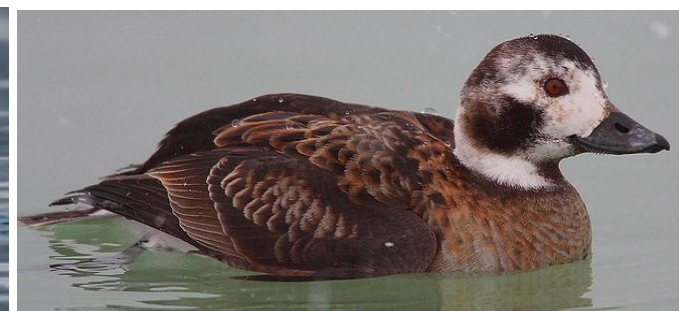
Upland Sandpiper

A third rare bird that appeared just before Labour Day, and which unfortunately I did not see, was a **Ruddy Turnstone**. It has been seen here on only a few occasions. It breeds in the far arctic and winters along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

My last highlights of the year were the four **Long-Tailed Ducks** which were swimming close to the breakwater at the end of the wharf on October 7. There were three males and one female in fresh winter plumage—quite spectacular! These are sea ducks that nest in the tundra and are seldom seen here. It was a thrill seeing them and showing them to some of our Thanksgiving visitors.



Male Long-tailed Duck



Female Long-tailed Duck

Of the 184 species of birds I saw in and around Salmon Arm Bay in 2012, there were several highlights. Before mid-January I had seen two each of the **Pacific Loon** and the **Red-throated Loon**. Both of these species are arctic birds which winter along the Pacific coast and only occasionally visit here. In May I saw a **Black-bellied Plover** feeding in front of the Peter Jannink Nature Park. It was in full breeding plumage, the first one I have seen here at this time of the year. We regularly have these plovers here in the fall, but



Pacific Loon



Red-throated Loon

Near the end of August I saw a **Swamp Sparrow** by the mouth of the Salmon River, my first sighting in this area. This sparrow has been seen by a number of birders in this general area in the past 10 years. I wonder whether or not it is nesting here? If this could be confirmed, it would be a first.

Over the Labour Day weekend we had a couple of rare visitors between the wharf and



Swamp Sparrow

the Nature Park. The first of these was an **Upland Sandpiper**, a native of dry grasslands east of the Rockies, which is facing endangered status because of habitat loss. Over the past 15 years it has been identified here on only two or three occasions.

A second bird present at this time was a **Hudsonian Godwit**. It was here for more than a week and put on a good show as it fed alongside the wharf. It is another rare bird from the prairies which we have been seeing here on several occasions over the past few years.



Hudsonian Godwit



Ruddy Turnstone

We are fortunate to have the Salmon Arm Bay at our doorstep. It attracts such a wide variety of bird life. Every day I go birding I anticipate seeing something new or different, and I am seldom disappointed.

Ted Hillary

(Note : All photos are taken from public domain websites)