



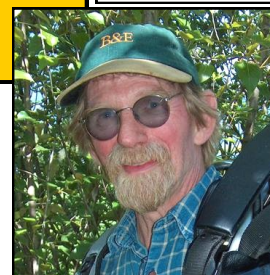
# NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society  
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 Email: [sabnes@jetstream.net](mailto:sabnes@jetstream.net)  
 Website: [www.sabnes.org](http://www.sabnes.org)

## President's Message

As of Wednesday Nov 16<sup>th</sup> SABNES will have been in existence for 23 years. It was created with the cooperative efforts of many individuals and organisations with a common vision to protect the ecosystem of the wetlands contiguous to the foreshore of Salmon Arm Bay for the benefit of all. 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.

We have many people to thank for their input and expertise.



SABNES President  
Gary Lomax



Trail Marker



G Benson

Work Party August 2011

**Gentech Engineering** made and installed 16 trail markers to identify the 200-metre trail segments, which members adopted to keep their assigned

sections trimmed. Also, thanks to members and volunteers who helped with the general maintenance of the trail and nature centre. **Cardinal Rentals** lent us an articulated hedge trimmer and the **Shuswap Community Foundation** awarded us a grant, which has enabled us to purchase a trimmer for future maintenance work.

This year, lake levels remained high until the end of July. The bird-tower boardwalk sustained extensive water damage. With the assistance of a grant from the **Shuswap Community Foundation** we were able to replace two sections of the boardwalk and make other improvements.

SABNES is pleased with the **City of Salmon Arm's** initiative in implementing a facelift to a 225-metre section of the trail extending west from a point 600 metres from the Raven end.



G Benson

Newly replaced Sections of the Bird-tower Boardwalk



G Benson

COS Workers completing the improved trail segment

This segment had experienced serious erosion and gravel depletion due to flooding. Gravel has been added to raise the path by about 20cm. Willow sprigs have been planted and matting placed along the bank to mitigate erosion.

Thanks again to all our stakeholders who continue to cooperate and work with us to maintain our mandate to preserve and enhance this unique natural area of the Bay. Please make sure your memberships are current and encourage others to join and support our organisation.





Grebes on the West side of the Prestige walkway– taken on June 28th,2011

week.

The Government of Canada high water level for the year was recorded at **348.863** metres about July 25th, while the records of the City indicated a high level of **348.63** June 25 - 28. The high water level in **2008** was **348.74 m.** June 9th.

On June 30th we counted **91** adult Western Grebes and one Clark’s Grebe, **8** nests and two newly hatched young grebes. The Grebes were still courting despite many nests having been destroyed the previous night by a wind storm which created waves. Eight nests were still intact. On July 2 , **Clive Bryson** observed that strong winds through the night had wiped out the remaining nests.

On July 6th the Grebes were spread out all over Salmon Arm Bay. We counted **84** adults, **10** young and one nest. The lake water level was in decline, at **348.51 metres.**

We continued to count the Grebes even though the situation appeared



G Benson

somewhat dismal. By July 20 there were **19** young, and the total keeps on rising. On August 10th we counted **155** adults, **70** young which we think were from **54** families. August 24 we counted again, **197** adults, **111** juveniles. Our count of families was **76**. Its quite likely that the number of families is slightly high because some of the young are quite developed and don’t necessarily remain close together.

It is remarkable that so many young have hatched despite the destruction of nests during wind events at high water.

Thanks to the **Canada Summer Jobs Grant** from the **Federal Government**, together with a **\$2,000 Grants-in-Aid** from the **City of Salmon Arm**, we were able to hire a student for **14 weeks** this summer. **Liz Foster** did a fine job of managing the **Brighthouse Nature Centre**. Liz particularly enjoyed working with school groups and young children. An estimated **1800** people made contact with the **BNC** over the summer. Thanks also to members and helpers who also volunteered to staff the centre.

It has been an interesting spring and summer thus far on Shuswap Lake. Monica and I started counting the Western Grebes May 11, 2011 when the lake water level was 345.82 metres above sea level. The low level for the year was recorded at **344.97** metres March 15 & 16, 2011, so the lake level had increased by **0.85** metres. We counted 258 Western Grebes May 11. There was no evidence of nest building and not much courting going on.

There were 213 Grebes on May 21, 10 days later, and the lake level had escalated by **0.77** metres. In the next **10** days the level increased by 0.95 m., which is about **4 inches** per day. The grebes were not as easily found during the count. We counted only **121** Grebes, likely the Grebes were nesting though it wasn’t otherwise noticeable.

The first nests were seen by us June 8, we counted 9 between the Prestige Inn and Peter Jannink Park. On June 15 we counted **22** nests in the same area, and the water level was **348.42** and only rose to **348.50** the following



Clive Bryson





## Osprey Oscars for Sauls



**In early August** I received a call from Peigi MacMillan in the Brighthouse Nature Centre saying she'd received a report that a large raptor was down on the grass near the wharf, with people milling around. Pam grabbed a blanket and we went there to find an immature osprey looking bewildered. I went fairly close and told it that it was a silly bird for leaving its nest too early, while Pam went up behind it and dropped a blanket on it. The

nest by the wharf still had its 3 young so we looked at the nest in front of the Prestige which had only 1 youngster, but had had two the day before. The Prestige receptionist gave us a key for an upper floor and with the help of Don, the groundskeeper, we put the bird on the pool roof opposite the nest. When we went back a while later, both chicks were in the nest.

**At the beginning of October** there was an osprey on the wharf railing and a group of people watching it. When it flew off I noticed it had an injured left leg. I went back a couple of days later and it was again on the railing with people taking photographs of it. While it was intently looking into the water for fish I quietly went up behind it. In one swift careful move I plucked it off the railing holding its wings and legs. When I talked to it quietly it rotated its head and looked at me straight in the eye, but never struggled. A kind couple from Toronto (I didn't have my car), drove me to Shuswap Veterinary Clinic where I



left it. Next day I went back to the clinic and was told the osprey had suffered a dislocated hock which they had been able to relocate, and they'd fed it by tube. Because it was so thin they were sending it to the Bird Rehabilitation Centre in Kamloops so that it could be fattened up.

Because I fish I have always felt an affinity to ospreys, even though there were none in Britain when I was young (there are about 200 pairs nesting now in U.K.). **Mike Saul**



This picture of two intrepid adventurers was taken on **June 29th** on their journey from Raven. Considerable weeding was necessary before continuing their mission.



I welcome your comments, ideas, articles, poems and photographs for **your** future newsletters. Please e-mail them to me at [benson.geoff137@gmail.com](mailto:benson.geoff137@gmail.com), or mail them to the **SABNES** postal address on the back sheet. Thanks to Mike Saul for pointing out my deliberate mistake in the last issue when I referred to a Painted Turtle as a Tortoise. **Geoff Benson**

**Elected Directors**

Gary Lomax, President; Geoff Benson, Treasurer; Ed Dahl; Hanne MacKay; Tony Say; Pamela Dettwiller, Mike Saul

**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, Sec  
Tom Brighthouse, Advisor  
Joyce Henderson, 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  
Cardinal Rentals Limited  
Cusson Tree Services  
Gentech Engineering Inc  
Lady in the Tub– Bed and Bath Boutique  
Lakeside Insurance Services  
Marlin Travel  
Drs. CJ and M Taylor Parfitt  
Randy’s Cleaning Service  
Salmon Arm DIA  
Salmon Arm Stationery and Office Supplies  
Shuswap Accupuncture  
Shuswap Flight Centre  
Shuswap Lady Striders  
Stella Jones Inc  
Talerico Fine Art Gallery  
TD Canada Trust  
Warren Bell MD  
Standard Roofing Corporation  
Wickett Business Services

**GRANTING AGENCIES**

City of Salmon Arm  
Human Resources Development Canada  
Salmar Community Association  
Salmon Arm Rotary Club  
Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union  
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

**Treasurer’s Report - Geoff Benson**

I have taken over this role from Mike Saul. Many thanks go to him for doing an excellent job for more than ten years. We continue to survive financially because of generous funding from various sources and also from our loyal members, both individual and corporate. Special thanks for a **Canada Summer Jobs** grant of **\$4,813** and also **\$2,000** from the **City of Salmon Arm Grants-in-Aid program** which covered the cost of hiring **Liz Foster** as interpreter at the **BNC** this summer. To-date we have received memberships and donations totalling **\$3,363** including one life membership. Our major expenses have been making necessary repairs and improvements to the boardwalks. Thanks to the **Shuswap Community Foundation** for a grant of **\$3,000** which has been used for some of these repairs and also to purchase a trimmer for trail maintenance. Finally we need to give a big thank you to the many members and helpers who were generous with their time and commitment to work on maintenance activities, hosting at the BNC, attending planning meetings etc.

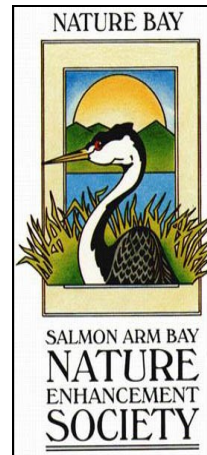
**Membership Form**

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

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

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

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



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

Nature Bay Society is a Charitable Organization.  
Receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued  
**SABNES, P.O. Box 27, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2**

**In Memoriam—John MacVicar**

John MacVicar, who passed away suddenly on **November 3, 2011** at his home in the Salmon River Valley, will be sadly missed by his many friends. Born on December 11, 1946 in New Brunswick, he served in the Canadian Forces in Europe. He returned to British Columbia and in 1982 graduated from **Selkirk College** in Castlegar as a Forestry Technician. John was a great lover of nature and an avid reader. His work for the **Salmon River Roundtable**, the **Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society**, the **Caravan Theatre** and particularly his set building over many years in the **Shuswap Theatre** endeared him to many colleagues. His sense of humour was legendary and his audible laughter was appreciated greatly by those on stage at the many theatre performances he attended. Salmon Arm has lost a very willing volunteer. Contributions in his memory should be sent to the **Shuswap Theatre** or to the **SABNES**.

**Tom Brighthouse**



**John repairing one of the boardwalks  
He loved to be out on the trail**