

NATURE BAY NEWS

Spring 1990

NEWSLETTER OF THE SALMON ARM BAY NATURE ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY
P.O. Box 27, Salmon Arm, B.C. Canada V1E 4N2

NATURE CALENDAR!! Now Available

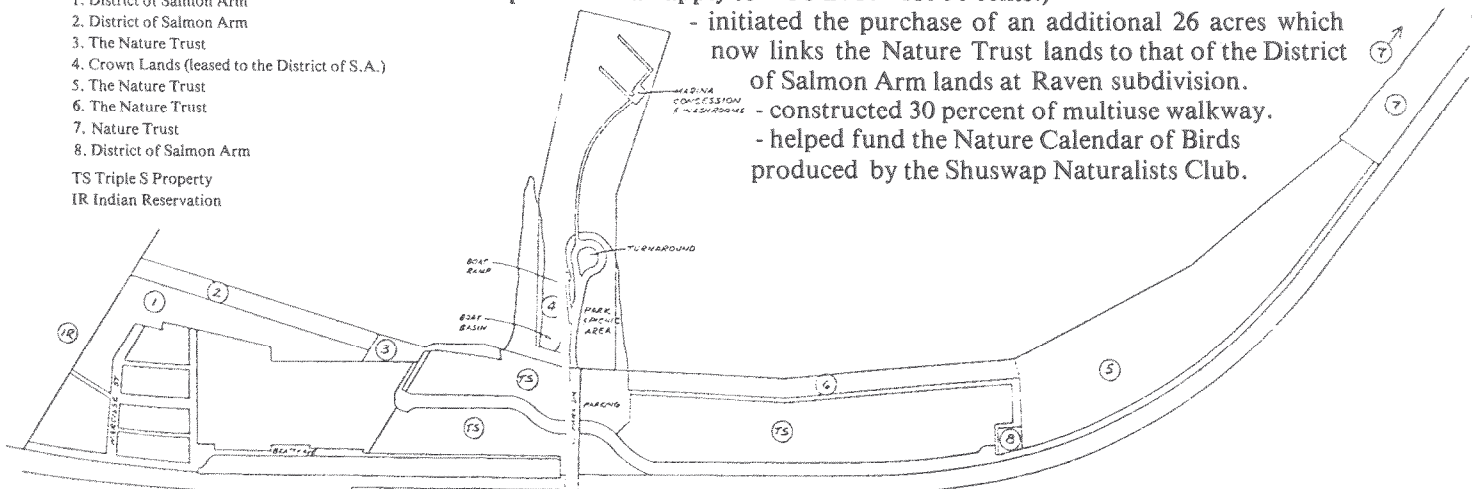
"A Nature Calendar of Birds in Salmon Arm" is now available at the Canadian Photoscene office and Elaine's Books in Salmon Arm. This beautifully printed book was produced by the Shuswap Naturalists Club with funding from the provincial government and the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society.

Information for the book was collected over many years by Deane Munro, Jim Shaver and Frank Kime. Mary Lou Tapson-Jones helped collate the information and Frank Kime created the watercolour bird paintings used in the calendar. The book follows the birdlife in the Shuswap during the various seasons, giving amateurs and experts alike a guide of what to look for.

Proceeds, after costs are met, will be invested in foreshore birdwatching projects.

Land Ownership

1. District of Salmon Arm
 2. District of Salmon Arm
 3. The Nature Trust
 4. Crown Lands (leased to the District of S.A.)
 5. The Nature Trust
 6. The Nature Trust
 7. Nature Trust
 8. District of Salmon Arm
- TS Triple S Property
IR Indian Reservation



NEW VISION — HABITAT ENVIRONMENT

An amazing amount of work has gone into formulating a workable lakeshore development plan for Salmon Arm Bay. The Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society was created in 1988 to coordinate the efforts of at least 7 provincial and federal agencies, the District of Salmon Arm, community planners, developers, naturalists, and dozens of concerned private groups and individuals.

The work is ongoing for plans to protect and enhance more than 70 acres of foreshore land now under the management of the Society. This is often a very complex business with so many government agencies and committee groups involved.

For instance, to establish guidelines for habitat protection of fish, the Society has to get input from the federal government for salmon, which use the bay as a rearing

ground. Other species, such as carp, trout, or whitefish come under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. Similar complicated issues arise for the Board of the Society on a regular basis.

Fortunately, the hardworking Board has kept its vision for the preservation and enhancement of the wildlife habitat on our bay. They know how valuable this habitat is for the protection of the breeding colony of Western Grebes in Shuswap Lake, as well as for the more than 150 species of birds which use our foreshore. They also know the educational, recreational and ecological benefits to the entire Shuswap area of protecting our bay.

This is our first newsletter. We look forward to sharing our ideas with you in future issues.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOCIETY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1989

- awarded consulting contract to Madrone Consultants of Victoria for wildlife viewing plans.
- consulted with Ducks Unlimited who did a contour study of original Nature Trust lands.
- initiated contact with native Indian bands.
- designed brochure and slide presentation shown to over 30 groups to date.
- sponsored the Environment Youth Corps program under the supervision of the Outdoor Recreation Foundation of B.C.
- awarded "Go B.C." Lottery grant for \$242,000. (For every \$1.00 that the Society spends we can apply to "Go B.C." for 50 cents.)
- initiated the purchase of an additional 26 acres which now links the Nature Trust lands to that of the District of Salmon Arm lands at Raven subdivision.
- constructed 30 percent of multiuse walkway.
- helped fund the Nature Calendar of Birds produced by the Shuswap Naturalists Club.

PROJECTS FOR 1990

- major boardwalks and viewing platform east of marina.
- access gate to Nature Trust property.
- floats to be constructed and installed in Salmon Arm Bay advising of boating restrictions during nesting period.
- installation of 160 bird Boxes.
- initial study by Madrone Consultants of viewing potential of Indian lands.
- pond construction by Ducks Unlimited.
- nesting platforms and loafing rafts to be installed.
- 1500 native trees to be planted at various locations east and west of wharf.
- Salmon Arm Rotary Club to plant shade trees in Peace Park
- revegetation of the new 16 acre berm.
- informational and educational signs designed and erected.

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT WEEK

The first week of June each year is declared Canadian Environment Week. The week includes World Environment Day June 5. This year's theme for Environment Week is based upon the concept that our global future depends upon sustainable development of our world's resources.

Sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the

present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainable development ensures a healthy environment, which in turn shows a vigorous economy and a stable future.

To meet the objectives of Canadian Environment Week, the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society, with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Salmon Arm will invite local school children, community organizations, native Indian representatives and interested members of the public to attend a celebration, to include tree planting, at the Rotary Peace Park. This celebration will take place during Environment Week.

Watch the newspapers for further information. Plan to attend!

WATCH FOR THESE SPRING BIRDS

In spring the numbers of birds and species diversity is at its greatest. The resident population swells with the addition of birds that return here to breed and other migrants passing through. Waterfowl are at the most abundant as we might expect at a lakeshore marsh.

Birds on or near the water:

Western Grebe	Red-necked Grebe
Canada Goose	Mallard
Gadwall	Pintail
Green-wing Teal	Blue-wing Teal
Cinnamon Teal	American Widgeon
Shoveler	Wood Duck
Lesser Scaup	Common Goldeneye
Ruddy Duck	Common Merganser
Great Blue Heron	American Coot
Killdeer	Spotted Sandpiper
Ring-bill Gull	Wilson's Phalarope
Swallows	Belted Kingfisher

Birds in fields, trees or shrubs

Common Snipe	
Ring-neck Pheasant	
Maggie Crow Raven	
Starling	
Black-capped Chickadee	
Common Yellowthroat	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	
Red-winged Blackbird	
Savannah Sparrow	Song Sparrow

Raptors

Red-tailed Hawk	Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier	Osprey
American Kestrel	Merlin

For a more complete list see the nature calendar referred to on Page 1.

ATTRACTING FOREIGN BIRDERS

On June 9, a group of British birders will be passing through Salmon Arm on their way to Kamloops. For the first time their leader, Lawrence Holloway, now in his twenty-fifth year as head of *Ornitholidays*, will know that our area is a possible stopover point for future years.

Holloway has in his possession the naturalist calendar showing which birds show up in which months of the year.

For your interest, the costs involved for a two-week trip from Britain on this trip labelled "The Canadian Rockies" is 1465 pds. sterling (without the food). Including the air fare this averages out at \$270 Canadian per person per day.

An interesting footnote says that "food is of an excellent quality in Canada and is inexpensive by British standards."

S.A.B.N.E.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

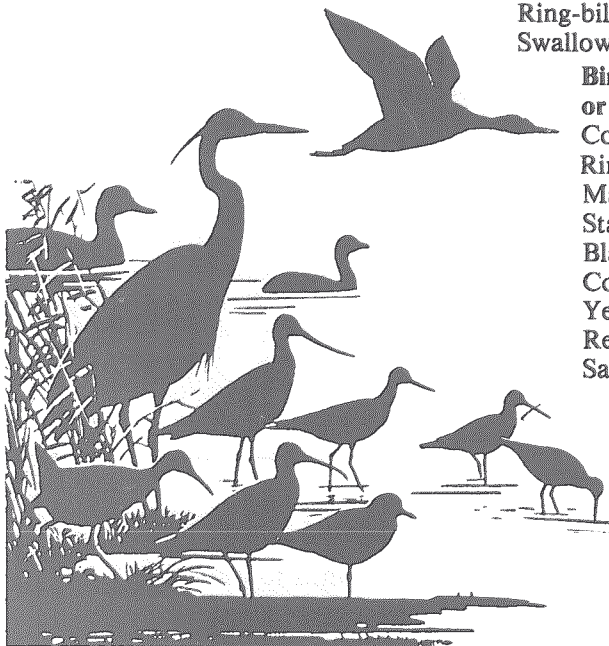
Appointed Directors:

Chamber of Commerce	-Joan Dicks
Downtown Improve. Assn.	-Karen Angove
District of Salmon Arm	-Phil Cave
Fish and Game Club	-George Cave
Ministry of Environment	-Doug Jury
Shuswap Naturalists Club	-Harry Higgins

Elected Directors:

Vic Bates	Rick Roberts
Dave Barnard	Eric Christmas
Barry Scott	John Henderson

Glen Hope and Jim Shaver were two founding members of the Society whose hard work and dedication were very much appreciated. Glen and his family have moved to Vancouver and Jim has just been appointed Chief Naturalist to look after interpretive programs in five provincial parks. Jim is still active with S.A.B.N.E.S. working on the newsletter and with the technical committee. Two other directors contributed to the success of the Society - Mike Summerfeldt and Frank Kime. Frank continues to offer his expertise in the planning phase of the nature reserve. The Board offers its thanks to all these former directors for their hard work.



1990 PROJECTED FUNDING

"Go B.C." Funds	\$42,000
Lottery Pull Tickets	18,000
Memberships & Donations	30,000
Federal/Provincial Grants	20,000
	<hr/>
	\$110,000

FISH & GAME CLUB NEWS

The Salmon Arm Fish and Game Club is a member of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, an organization of member clubs as well as single members, whose collective voice in Victoria helps protect all forms of wildlife and their environment from exploitation.

In the 1970's, when the bird sanctuary east of the wharf was threatened with development, our club with the assistance of the Federation and the Ministry of the Environment was successful in having the project stopped. With the help of other groups we were also able to have the grazing cattle removed from this area.

In past years our club has erected goose nesting tubs in the trees along the old river mouth, with limited success. We did have some success with wood duck boxes placed in the same area.

The nesting islands that we placed on McQuire Lake are well used by several different species of birds. The Fish and Game Club sponsors an annual pheasant feeding program to help the birds over the cold winter months.

The instructors of the C.O.R.E. program are volunteers from our club, as are the members of the fund raising committee of Ducks Unlimited.

We work in many other areas as well. We have an ongoing stream enhancement program on Cedar Creek, the inflow to White Lake, which provides spawning beds for rainbow trout. Similar work has been done on Tappen and Canoe Creeks as well.

Under Forestry supervision the Fish and Game Club has an ongoing deer enhancement program on a section of Mt. Ida. We have, along with the Federation, lobbied to have the Hat Creek development, with its acid rain implications, put on hold.

With regards to the future, we are concerned about the loss of part of the bird sanctuary which, along with the increased boating activities, will have a detrimental effect on all forms of bird life on the foreshore. As well, the loss of nesting and resting habitat due to the cattle grazing on the Indian reserve and bordering Crown land is a very serious problem in our estimation.

Our club is very aware of what is taking place on the foreshore and we want to see it preserved for all types of wildlife activity.

SPECTACULAR GREBES IN SALMON ARM BAY

The Western Grebe is the largest of six grebes found in North America. All but one species of grebe are distinguished from ducks by a number of anatomical features. Grebes have long slender necks, are virtually tailless and have a pointed bill. Sexes look similar. Grebes also differ from ducks by having lobed toes rather than webbed feet; (this might not be too useful when identifying these birds from a distance, however!)

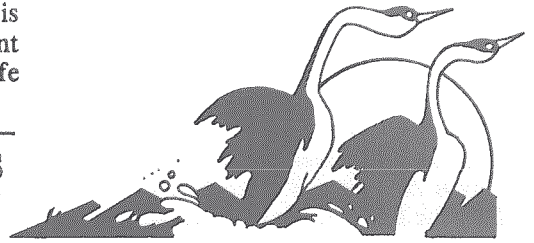
The Western Grebe is the only grebe to nest in colonies. They require extensive stands of marsh vegetation along the larger lakes in order to establish their breeding colonies. Their nests, masses of floating vegetation, are attached to grazing plants.

Three colonies of Western Grebes are known to occur in British Columbia. Two of these are in the Creston area and one in Salmon Arm bay of Shuswap Lake. These colonies represent the western extension of the normal breeding range for the species.

The courtship display of the Western Grebe is a spectacle to behold. It begins with head bobbing and neck posturing between two or more grebes. Then, swimming side-by-side the birds raise themselves out of the water and 'rush' across the top of the water. The display ends with the birds diving out of sight. As the pairs become established, they can be seen offering nesting material to each other before nest building begins.

It is not clear exactly what function these elaborate displays serve. It is thought that it may help to cement the pair bond. Among Western Grebes this could be important as both parents participate in nest building, incubation and care for the young. The non-breeding birds of this colony remain in a loose flock away from the nesting area.

Western Grebes from the Salmon Arm Bay colony begin arriving on the bay in April and stay through until October or November depending on the weather. Courtship displays can be seen any time after the birds have arrived. Most pairs seem to be established by mid May when the local population is divided into in-shore pairs building nests and an off-shore flock. Egg laying begins in early June and after a 23 day incubation period the juveniles begin to appear in early July.



The young can swim and dive almost as soon as they are hatched, but they are often seen riding on their parents' backs when they are very young. The young grow quickly, reaching adult size by the fall. All the grebes depart for the coast as winter descends in late October or early November.

It is not known exactly where along the coast the Salmon Arm Bay colony spends the winter. Western Grebes are seen on salt water bays from the Alaska panhandle south to the Baja California peninsula in Mexico.

It should be noted that the Western Grebe is a very wary bird. Great care has to be taken in the Shuswap area. With care these spectacular birds will continue to return here to breed and the colony will thrive.

OUR BAY AND THE SALMON

The Federal Salmon Hatchery on the Eagle River enhances salmon stocks in the Salmon River. Each fall adult coho and chinook salmon are collected in the Salmon River and transported to the hatchery where the eggs are incubated until they hatch.

In 1989 over 700,000 chinook and coho fry were released into the Salmon River. These fish, along with wild stocks from other streams feeding into Shuswap Lake, utilize the productive foreshore areas of our bay as a rearing habitat.

This area is considered to be inherently very productive as a result of extensive foreshore vegetation and large areas of shallow mud flats. Juvenile salmon use benthic invertebrates produced in such habitat as a primary food source. From late April to early July they feed here until the daily water temperatures exceed 22-23 C when the fry move offshore into deeper waters and to other areas of the lake.

The freshwater rearing phase is considered to be a critical component of the salmon's life history. Maintenance of the salmon resource, therefore, requires the protection of the habitat base in Shuswap Lake upon which the stocks ultimately depend.

SHUSWAP NATURALIST CLUB

The Shuswap Naturalists Club meets at Salmon Arm Senior High School (Room 22) on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome to the meetings and to the following outings planned for this spring:

- Apr. 8 Campbell Brown Park (near Vernon)
Leader - Harry Higgins
832-4034
- Apr. 22 Shuswap Lake
Leader - Mary Lou Tapson-Jones
832-4113
- Apr. 24-47 Grays Harbour, Bowerman Basin, U.S.A.
Leader - Harold Smiley
832-1012
- Apr. 28 Douglas Lake
Leader - Bob Woods
832-2809
- May 5 Bear Creek & Niskonlith
Leader - Mary Lou Tapson-Jones
- May 13 McGuire Lake, Canoe Point, Gardom Lake - Bird outing
Leader - Deane Munro
832-6560
- May 25-27 Vaseaux Lake camping trip
Leader - Deane Munro
- June 2-3 Weekend for Nature
Activities to be announced.
- June 9-10 Albert Canyon - day and overnight trip
Leader - Deane Munro
- June 17 Woodhaven
Leader - Mary Lou Tapson-Jones
- June 23 Nakusp Hot Springs
Leader - Barbara Hall
832-6466

Watch the Salmon Arm Observer for further details of these outings or call the trip leader for times of meeting place.

LEGACY FOR HABITAT

The Nature Trust of British Columbia, created in 1971 by the Government of Canada, as a centennial gift to the people of British Columbia, has been working to

protect plants and wildlife in the province and to create a legacy of grasslands, marsh, forest and mountain and species they nurture.

The Nature Trust is a charitable corporation dedicated to the conservation of areas of ecological significance in this province. To achieve this goal, The Nature Trust identifies important areas of the province, acquires key lands, leases its lands to Crown and private agencies and encourages private and government sectors to set aside important areas.

One such area identified is the Salmon Arm Foreshore Conservation Area; in 1976 the Nature Trust Board approved a property acquisition here. In 1988 two properties were purchased and leased to the Ministry of the Environment for 99 years.

This on-going project, apart from its biological significance, has served as a catalyst bringing together a wide variety of local groups as well as provincial and federal agencies. The Nature Trust is proud of its record but recognizes that much remains to be done and encourages enquiries at its offices at 909-100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1A2.

It is interesting to note that the executive director of The Nature Trust is former Salmon Arm resident, Ron Erickson.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 136 members including 22 sustaining members and 4 life members.

Corporate Donations & Memberships:	
Salmon Arm Rotary Club	\$5,000
Salmar Community Assn.	2,500
NRS Bestsellers Realty	2,000
Saan Stores Ltd.	1,850
Salmon Arm Lions Couples Club	1,800
Salmon Arm Observer	1,000
Harbour Front Village Dev.	500
Salmon Arm Fish & Game Club	150
Kinette Club of Salmon Arm	200
Ken's Office Supply	100
Turner Plumbing	100

The following firms have also supplied many services without charge to the society;

Askews Foods
Salmon Arm Credit Union
Harbour Front Village
Collins Barrow
Royal Bank
RBC Dominion Securities
Salmon Arm Insurance

WHAT WE DO!

The Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society was incorporated in 1988 to administer public-owned properties in the Salmon Arm Bay. The purposes of the Society are:

- To assist the Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of the Environment and Parks with development and operation of their management plan for the Salmon Arm foreshore as a Nature Conservancy and viewing area.
- To develop, operate and promote a system of walkways, viewing areas and interpretive facilities for scientific, educational, environmental protection and public viewing purposes.
- To promote environmental awareness and assist in projects meeting that goal in the area of Salmon Arm.

JOIN NOW

Please enroll me as a member of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society as indicated below:

Family	\$20.00/yr	_____
Individual	10.00/yr	_____
Junior	5.00/yr	_____
Organization	50.00/yr	_____
Life	500.00	_____

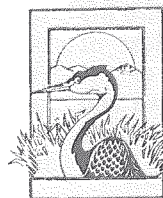
Memberships over \$5.00 include tax deductible donations. Official receipts will be issued.

Name _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____

Your assistance will help the society provide wildlife protection, habitat enhancement and a natural viewing experience in the Salmon Arm Bay. Help us carry on this important work.



Mail completed forms to:

SALMON ARM BAY
NATURE
ENHANCEMENT
SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 27
SALMON ARM, B.C.
CANADA V1E 4N2