



NATURE BAY NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 1

Winter 1991

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

1990 HIGHLIGHTS

Since the last newsletter SABNES has completed several projects on the foreshore. Some of these are evident to anyone walking in the area. Keep your eyes open and see the latest happenings. The following are projects completed or near completion:

-- The road along the back of the Nature Trust property near the railway tracks and the road on the berm of land near the old boat basin have been narrowed with bends created to make aesthetically pleasing winding trails.

-- Vegetation has been planted on both of the above trails to create shade on the paths, to provide habitat for passerine birds, and to shield the nesting birds from pedestrian traffic. Native trees and shrubs have been used.

-- Native vegetation has also been planted in various spots on the foreshore itself to enhance wildlife habitat.

-- The first boardwalk has been completed for wildlife viewing.

-- Ducks Unlimited have created two waterfowl ponds by digging in suitable locations on the foreshore. These were used by migrating birds within minutes of their completion. They will be interesting to watch this spring.

-- Ducks Unlimited have also done some work on the rectangular berm in preparation for future development. They have planted various grasses and cattails to see whether they will grow in the nutrient poor soil from the dredgeate.

-- Dozens of bird boxes have been placed in trees and on posts on the shore.

-- Marker buoys were made and placed in the bay to shield the nesting grebes and other waterfowl from boat action. These buoys will be put out again as soon as the lake opens and boat traffic begins.

-- SABNES sponsored the Naturalist Club construction of the bird blind and viewing platform at the end of the boat berm.

THANKS! A special Thank You to Newnes Machine for their generous contribution of a POST POUNDER to help in the construction projects on the foreshore.

SABNES BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 1991

Appointed Directors:

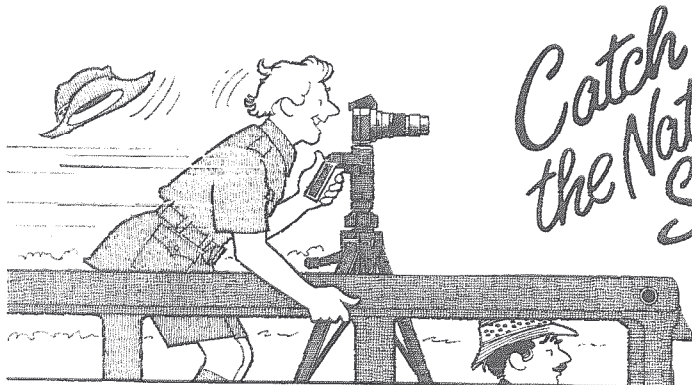
Chamber of Commerce: Ian James
Downtown Improve. Assn.: Karen Angove
Fish & Game Club: George Cave
Ministry of Environment: Phil Belliveau
Shuswap Naturalist Club: Harry Higgins
Shuswap Nation Tribal Council: Ramona Halota

Elected Directors:

Dr. John Henderson -- President
Jim Beckner -- Vice President
Dave Barnard -- Sec. Treas.
Ralph Segreto
Vic Bates
Dick Smith

Project Manager: Gary Kennedy

District Representative: Charles Nash

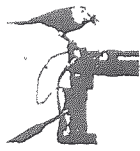


*Catch
the Natural
Spirit!*

by ATTENDING
SABNES BI-ANNUAL MEETING

Thurs. April 18, 1991,
Shuswap Inn,
7:30 P.M.

832-BIRD



BIRD SIGHTINGS

The following is a list of unusual bird sightings on the Salmon Arm Bay Foreshore in 1990.

- Jan. 25th Peregrine Falcon - single at sewage outfall. Rare.
- May 2nd Sandhill Cranes - flock of 18, east of the wharf. Rare.
- June 14th Great Egret - single showing in its breeding plumage. Vagrant.
- July (all month) Clark's Grebe - single male east of the wharf. Vagrant.
- Dec. 16th Yellow-billed Loon - single seen at Sunnybrae. Rare.
- Designation: Rare - but in its normal range.
Vagrant - outside its normal range.

FORESHORE FOR THE BIRDS?

In addition to birds, insects, microbes, plankton and a variety of vegetation, the foreshore also supports a mammal population.

Three otters spent the late summer and fall in the boat basin west of the wharf. Somehow they avoided boat propellers, spilled fuel and milfoil machines and fed on young salmon, trout and rough fish which live in the basin. They are fascinating to watch as they slide down the bank and move with incredible grace through the water.

Some ground squirrels survived the fill dropped on their colonies east of the wharf as did the deer mice and meadow vole population.

Short-tailed weasel prey on the mice and voles, as do the skunks in the area.

Coyotes have dens between the wharf and Raven subdivision and possibly also on the Indian land near the river mouth. They hunt for smaller mammals and sometimes wounded ducks who cannot fly south. Although they live here all year long, they are more likely to be seen in winter when food is scarce and they travel across the ice.

Muskrats have occupied one of the two new ponds dug by Ducks Unlimited. These animals rely on plants, pond weeds and sedges which grow in the area.

Between the SABNES gate and the Raven subdivision a small herd of deer are using the foreshore to browse and to gain access to water.

The future of plants, fish and animals of the Salmon Arm Bay depends on the protection and management the citizens of Salmon Arm provide.

What Your Society Does!

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

a) To assist the Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of the Environment & Parks with development and operation of their management plan for the Salmon Arm foreshore as a Nature Conservancy and viewing area.

b) To develop, operate and promote a system of walkways, viewing areas and interpretive facilities for scientific, educational, environmental protection and public viewing purposes.

c) To promote environmental awareness and assist in projects meeting that goal in the area of Salmon Arm.

The directors of SABNES, as the society is called, is accomplishing their goals through the efforts of the following committees:

- THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, headed by Karen Angove, is responsible for projects of habitat protection and enhancement on the foreshore as well as for education.

- THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, headed by Ralph Segreto, is responsible for memberships, fund raisers, and marketing.

- THE LAND PURCHASE COMMITTEE, headed by Dave Barnard, whose job is to negotiate for the purchase of the Triple 'S' lands east of the wharf.

- THE CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, headed by Vic Bates, is in charge of any construction projects on society controlled lands.

- THE SIGNAGE COMMITTEE, headed by Ian James, is in charge of any signs on society lands.

- THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, chaired by the Pres. Dr. J. Henderson, meets at least once every two weeks, to oversee all aspects of SABNES.

WELL DONE SHUSWAP NATURALISTS . . .

SABNES wishes to extend our gratitude to the Shuswap Naturalists for their effort in the construction of the new bird blind and viewing platform at the old boat basin. Along with your efforts, the following donations are appreciated: B.C. Hydro - drilling of postholes; Salmon Arm Ready Mix - concrete; Federated Co-operatives - building supplies; Lakeside Timber - building supplies; Cascade Forest Products - shakes; and the many people who volunteer their labour amounting to over 445 man hours.

SHUSWAP NATURALIST CLUB

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

- Apr. 14 - Salmon Arm Foreshore
Birds - Early Migrants
Leaders: Deane Munro & Frank Kime
- Apr. 20 - Little Shuswap
Spring Wild-flowers
Leader: Mary Lou Tapson Jones.
- Apr. 28 - Nisconlith & Chase Hills
Spring Wild-flowers
Leader: Mary Lou Tapson Jones
- May 04 - Douglas Lake
Birds - Migration
Leaders: Bob Woods & Frank Kime
- May 12 - Salmon Arm Foreshore
Birds - Residents
Leaders: Deane Munro & Frank Kime
- May 25 - Kalamalka Park
Birds - Residents
Leaders: Frank Kime & Mary Lou Tapson Jones
- Jun. 02 - Vaseux Lake (Weekend Trip)
Birds - Residents
Leader: Deane Munro
- Jun. 08 - Salmon Arm Foreshore
Birds - Nesting
Leaders: Deane Munro & Frank Kime
- Jun. 15 - Gardom Lk, Canoe Pond & McGuire Lk.
Birds
Leader: Deane Munro
- Jun. 23 - Fly Hills
Wild-flowers & Birds (singing Thrushes)
Leaders: Mary Lou Tapson Jones & Frank Kime

NOTE: Meeting places and time will be available from the Shuswap Naturalist Club or the above group leaders. Also watch for further "Outings".

OKANAGAN COLLEGE Four classroom sessions will include: bird watching, identification, bird life and habitat and watching techniques. There will also be two Sat. field trips March 16 and 23.

INSTRUCTOR: Frank Kime

PLACE: Okanagan College - Rm 140

DATE: Wed. beginning Feb. 27/91

TIME: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

FEE: \$30.00 (plus 7% GST)

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! Ralph Segreto, on behalf of SABNES and the Membership Committee, wishes to extend a hearty Thank You to Shuswap Clothing and Shoe Co. for their generous efforts in the sale of Society shirts.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The chairperson of the Technical Committee is Karen Angove, a trained biologist. Her committee members are: Project Manager Gary Kennedy, Directors Jim Beckner, Harry Higgins & Phil Belliveau, Ornithologist Frank Kime and Ian Barnett from Ducks Unlimited.

At a recent meeting of the Technical Committee the following projects were outlined for action:

- Making a circular trail by using the existing road out to the rectangular berm, creating a walkway on the shore side of the berm to the northeast corner, constructing a boardwalk back to the shore and a path back to the road. This would be the beginning of the trail which is eventually planned to be extended to Raven Subdivision.

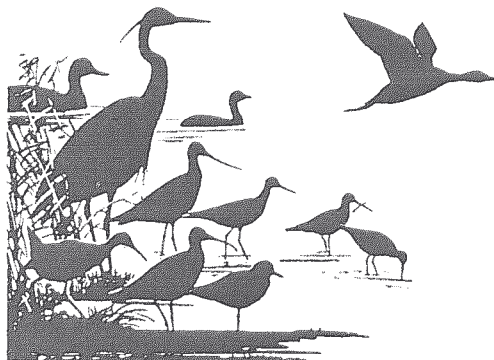
- Creating a formal plan to be submitted for approval to SABNES and the Dept. of Lands for development of the large rectangular berm as a suitable wildlife habitat. This valuable 17 acres will take much work and money to develop but will eventually be a showpiece for the society.

- Shuswap Naturalists created the bird blind and viewing platform and temporary fencing on the boat berm. They are also planning to surface the walking trail to the blind and make the temporary fencing on the berm more visually pleasing.

- The work crews under the direction of Gary Kennedy plan to build two large (10 ft. X 20 ft.) loafing rafts to be floated in the bay. They are also putting in new bird boxes, and raptor posts for hawks, ospreys and eagles on the foreshore. The crew is responsible for planting, transplanting and watering shrubs and trees on the shore.

- As soon as authority is received, the Technical Committee, with the assistance of the Naturalist Club, is planning to develop the district-owned property near the sewage outfall. This will be a prime bird-watching area.

- Many signs will be made this year and placed in the wharf area as well as in location around the district to advise people of the projects being developed and the importance of public cooperation in supporting the work being done by SABNES.



ROTARY Helps the Bay

The generous contribution from the Rotary Club of Salmon Arm in the amount of \$10,000.00, is greatly appreciated by SABNES. Through the concerns and help from fine citizens and organizations such as the Rotary Club, the dream of this Nature Bay is becoming Reality.

THE WESTERN GREBE COLONY . . .

. . . Update for the 1990 Season

Last years (1990) breeding season for the Western Grebe started in May with the main concentration of over 156 birds just west of the wharf to the sewage outfall. Here they could be seen going through their various courtship displays, which includes their "dance over the water", in pairs or as a group.

In late May, as the lake-level rose, this concentration broke up as the birds attempted to find nest-sites.

By July, the old 1989 nest-site just west of the wharf was flooded, with no Canary-grass tall enough for nest-anchorage.

On a survey in late July it was found that there were no nest-sites at the Salmon River mouth. This is the traditional nesting area over many years but due to the lack of reed-beds for nest-anchorage there were none this year. Possibly this is because of overgrazing by cattle which are not restricted from the reed-beds.

In early August the first "creche" of young were seen when 16 were counted with six adults. This being in the area immediately east of the wharf. This group generated "Ornithological interest", for one of the male adults was identified as a Clark's Grebe. He was heard calling and seen as part of the family group. He was not discouraged from participating in caring for the young. It is not certain that he was part of the breeding process but this is probable. Once proven this would be an historical moment, a first in British Columbia Natural history.

On the count in late August, a total of 212 Western Grebes were counted but the number of juveniles was very low - only 23. It had been a very poor breeding season with high summer lake-levels being the main cause. Also the lack of reed beds at the river-mouth, where they could have nested in these conditions, is viewed with great concern.

If the same lake-levels occur this year (1991), the areas of tall reed growth must be protected during the breeding period. These are in the area being developed as the "Nature Viewing areas" east of the wharf and east of the 10th Street extension.

*Catch
the Natural
Spirit!*



SABNES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society needs new members to help reach its goals. The challenge to each member is to bring a friend into the Society. We currently have a membership of 240, an increase from 1990 of over 100 members. Let's each bring in a new member today. **THANK YOU!**

Share our vision!

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

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$20.00/yr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Sustaining | \$50.00/yr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$10.00/yr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Sustaining | \$100.00/yr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior | \$ 5.00/yr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Sustaining | \$500.00/yr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | \$50.00/yr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Life | \$2500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$500.00 | | |

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

In addition to my membership, I would like to make a donation (tax deductible) in the amount of \$ _____

I would like to volunteer! I am interested in helping with:

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | Physical Work | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical Help | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

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.

Catch the natural Spirit!



Mail completed forms to:

SALMON ARM BAY
NATURE
ENHANCEMENT
SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 27

SALMON ARM, B.C.

CANADA V1E 4N2

Thank you for your support.