

NATURE BAY NEWS



The Newsletter of Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society

Spring 2001



A pair of
Barn Owls
spent part of
their winter
at the wharf.

What a year it has been! With the reporting of a winter wren in April the total of foreshore bird species reached 190! In a four hour period early last September, 89 species of birds were identified by our two teams of observers, one going west to the Salmon River Mouth and one east from the wharf as far as Raven's subdivision.

What special memories remain vivid? How about a pair of barn owls under the wharf, with pellet after pellet declaring their nightly visits to the gazebo. What a flurry of raptors: two peregrine falcons, a gyrfalcon, the usual red-tailed hawks and a resident kestrel for an extended period, mid-winter, at the same time as the barn owls were here.

How about the third

week in April when five of the six possible grebe species were reported in the bay. The only one not seen was the Clark's grebe, and you have to get close to see if she or he is present.

How about 150 trumpeter swans, the biggest birds in N.A., sailing past like a long elegant necklace of avian pearls.

Did the pair of California Quail which evidently walked all the way from Vernon prove a point about global warming?

Twenty-eight pelicans did not stay long in mid April. A huge flock of surf scoters and one immature double crested cormorant stayed not much longer.

There is always a surprise somewhere on the bay. Ted, Peter, Ed, Marlene, Joyce and Tom

can each tell you about special moments during the two year weekly surveys from March 1999 to February 2001. Since then we have limited our weekly coverage to the easterly route, only occasionally counting the western area.

Soon it will be time to give the western Grebes special attention. There were one hundred and twenty reported in mid-April, almost enough to give us our regular sixty or so nests. Will the low water levels we expect affect the breeding efficiency this year? Who can tell?

Tom Brighthouse
Weekly Bird Survey
Recorder



PRESIDENT'S

As the new president of SABNES, I am looking forward to a productive year. Tom Brighthouse, our past president, has done a great job over the last three years directing SABNES and we hope to build on the work he and his directors have done.

Jim Beckner has again volunteered to coordinate the Raven Trail maintenance. It is really exciting to see how much the trail from the wharf is used now that it has been completed.

We have received more financial support from the community:

\$2,500 from Askew's, in the fall, and \$2,500 from the Royal Bank. Thanks to this generous funding we will be able to have an interactive display at the interpretive centre.

We have also received many donations in memory of Ted Lee, and this spring, a memorial bench will be placed along the trail in his memory. The plaque in honour of Eric Christmas which was vandalized 2 years ago will be replaced and rededicated this spring. Other people have shown interest in dedicating benches or plants to their loved ones

and I find this encouraging. We hope to hire a student again this summer.

Finally, I am happy that we will be able to hold the Grebe Festival again, but this year on Mother's Day. Carole Lee and Mary Regier of L&R Communications have agreed to coordinate the one day event. We look forward to the festival continuing annually for many years.

In conjunction with the Grebe Festival we intend to hold a semi-annual SABNES meeting on May 12th. Bill Munroe has agreed to give a naturalist talk on that Saturday. (See further info on Page 3) We were disappointed that he was unable to speak to us at our annual meeting in November so it is great that he can address us in May, a more fitting time, as Bill's parents Dean and Bunny helped with the Grebe count for many years.

Our challenge for 2001 is to increase the membership in SABNES. We are getting good support from the municipality, the business community, the Naturalist Club, and from many volunteers but we must increase our

general membership so that the nature trust lands can be enjoyed by as many as possible.

John Henderson
President

SABNES

Executive and Directors

John Henderson
President

832-4127

Tom Brighthouse
Secretary

832-3951

Mike Saul

Treasurer

835-4695

Jim Beckner

Director

832-3534

Karen Bissenden

Director

832-4886

Bill Eaton

Director

832-2428

REPS

Karen Angove, DIA

832-2064

Rick Howie, MOE

371-6245

Frank Kime,

Naturalists

835-8537

Jane Petch, DSA

832-7732

Vacant positions:

Cham. of Comm &

Fish & Game club



SABNES SEMI ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 12, 2001, 7:30 pm

Salmon Arm Art Gallery

SPEAKER: BILL MUNRO: "Frog Watch to Grizzlies"

Bill Munro, born in Salmon Arm, will bring his wealth of knowledge on endangered species to the Nature Bay meeting. Bill retired from jobs in the Federal and Provincial wildlife branches where he produced studies and supervised work on a wide variety of threatened species. His "Frog Watch to Grizzlies" presentation will be a rare opportunity to tap into his cross-Canada experiences. The public is welcome at this special event on the eve of the one day Grebe Festival.



AND THE WINNER IS ...

Gordon Dettelbach held the winning ticket for the Hamish Tucker reproduction, Alpine Sunset. Many thanks to Hamish Tucker for the contribution of his work, and a round of applause to Pam and Mike Saul who sold so many tickets. This project raised almost one thousand dollars.

ONLY 40 PRINTS LEFT!!!!

Steve Mennie, our well-known local artist has created a print exclusively for SABNES for our major fundraiser. This print depicts a familiar scene in the bay west of Salmon Arm. Thank-yous go to Tom & Elsie Brighthouse and to Mike and Pam Saul for their efforts in the sales of this print. Only forty prints are left. When all are sold a profit of \$7,000 will be available for Wildlife Sanctuary Improvements. The prints cost \$150, unframed, however, Frames by Filliatraut offer an exceptional price. Prints are available at Salmon Arm Stationary and at the semi-annual meeting on May 12 at the Art Gallery. The perfect gift for the discriminating



Still: Dancing In the Bay

Eleven years of twice weekly grebe reports along with local photos and environmental notes makes up this **unique book** by Frank & Doris Kime. With all profits generously going to SABNES, this book, for \$5, is available at: Buckingham Palace, The Matchbox, Askew's, L'original Gallery, Book Nook, Chamber of Commerce, and Edgemont Farms. Of course the book is available at SABNES events and at the interpretive centre. Ph. 833-4886 for copies.

Write a Letter to Your Love ...

And use hand sketched Note cards by Pat Nesbitt depicting our waterfront. If you've taken your guests for a walk (or a ski) along the Raven Trail, write them, or send along to them a package of 4 cards (2 scenes) to remind them of those good memories. Available at SABNES events, the interpretive centre in summer, and at L'original Gallery. Pat Nesbitt is a local Artist who specializes in Pen&Ink, She accepts commissions: 832-8923.

MEMBERSHIP: (Have you renewed?)



In every non-profit organization, three items forecast a successful future: A strong, clear, common vision, an action plan to follow through on the vision, and, a healthy membership. SABNES has had a clear mandate since becoming a non-profit society 12 years ago and through thousands of hours of volunteer work, has become a successful steward of the protected foreshore of the Salmon Arm Bay.

Your individual membership runs January to December, Corporate Memberships run from July to June. The cost per year has not changed while everything else has gone up: Individual: \$10, Family \$20, and Junior \$5. For this small sum you receive semi-annual newsletters, a vote at our meetings, and most importantly, a sense of community pride that you support the protection and upkeep of a beautiful waterfront that is home to so many species.

Over the years membership has fluctuated greatly. This year, the goal is 200 members. **Have you renewed?** Your support is important in many ways. For those who are able, there are often “physical” tasks like re-positioning the buoys, battling with the weeds (Woody Night Shade especially), trail clean up, bench area preparation, tree planting, bird tower maintenance, and even “weed-eating” on the island. But this organization has volunteers of many sorts, the board of directors is of course all volunteer, the newsletter is now produced, and sent out almost entirely by volunteer labour, and a few dedicated people have done all the phoning to members, and, done all the weekly bird counts. You can be a part of any of these. Or not. But just by renewing your membership, or by becoming a new member, you support your waterfront, you support judicious stewardship of our rare marshlands.

There should be a membership form in this newsletter. If not, call any director (names and phone numbers Page 2) and the process will be simplified for you. Those who walk Raven Trail regularly may be encouraged to join as they are most aware of some of the results of SABNES work.



PRESTIGE INN NOTES:

As a part of their commitment to environmental issues, the Prestige Inn hired an expert on grebe habitat and he, together with Rick Howie of the Ministry of Environment, hired a back hoe operator familiar with sensitive terrain to dig channels in the reed canary grass to create mounds in front of the Prestige Inn site.

The reed canary grass growing on these mounds will provide protected nesting sites for the grebes. Some years

heavy winds and rain have wiped out nests. Further west, mitigation work involved the back hoe deepening a pond to enhance grebe environment. Frank Kime and Rick Howie were present for all major work and reported that the operator was able to complete his tasks without the machine actually touching the marsh. Four by eight sheets of plywood were laid down for protection. This kind of work has shown success elsewhere.

Membership Form

Please enrol me as a Member of the **Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society**, as:

Yearly membership:

- Family \$20/yr.
- Individual \$10/yr.
- Junior \$5/yr

Organizations:

- 10+ employees \$150/yr.
- 5-10 emp. \$100/yr
- 1-4 emp. \$50/yr

Please ask about sustaining or life memberships.

Volunteer opportunities: Membership, Fund-raising, P.R., Physical Work, Newsletter, other.
Contact the president.

Name _____

Address _____

City/Prov. _____ P.C. _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Name of spouse _____

***Recommended by _____

Mail to: SABNES
BOX 27
SALMON ARM, B.C.
V1E 4A5

Tax receipts mailed. Memberships available at
the Grebe Festival.

Thank-You:

- :To Ira Redwood for the title page in the last issue.
- :To Tom Brighthouse for his articles, pictures, proofing.
- :To Ruth Dynes, Mary Harrington, Heather Keely and
Teresa Karpowich for mailing out the newsletters.
- :To all those who have contributed articles.

Thank-you! K. Bissenden

Salmon Arm Grebe Festival 2001



Saturday, May 12, 7:30 pm Salmon Arm Art Gallery
Speaker: Bill Munro, "Frog Watch to Grizzlies"

Sunday, May 13



Walks & Talks:

Hosted by the Shuswap Naturalist Club

- ◆ Guided Walks: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, noon.
Depart from interpretive centre. Approx 90 minute.
- ◆ Special Family Nature Walk: 2:00 pm
(Sorry, no dogs on walks)
- ◆ Viewing Scopes at Bird Blinds: 10:00 am—4:00 pm
- ◆ Ask the Naturalist: 10:00—4:00
Head over to the Interpretive Centre with
your birding questions.
- ◆ The Western Grebe: presentation by  Frank
Kime. Interpretive Centre 12:30
- ◆ Wildflowers of the Shuswap: presentation by
 Mary Lou Tapsen-Jones: Interp. Centre 2:30

What's a Grebe?

The Grebe most commonly seen in the Salmon Arm Bay is the Western Grebe. Recognizable by its long graceful neck, long beak, and by what appears to be predominately black and white colouring, two other identifying points are its red eye and its call: "Ca-creet". Frequently visible from the wharf, also look for it by Christmas Island, off Heron View, and at the mouth of the Salmon River. You will never forget the first time you see its amazing mating dance when they seem to "walk", at high speed, on the water. When high water peaks, watch for their floating nests, and later, careful observation will reveal babes on their parents backs.

Salmon Arm Grebe Festival 2001

Sunday, May 13 Community Events

- 10:00–11:00 am. Interdenominational Church
Service, at the Gazebo
Hosted by:
Lakeside Community Church
- 11:00–11:30 am. Welcome to Grebe Festival
Official Re-opening of Wharf
Hosted by: District of S.A.
- 12:00 noon Lunch Box Auction
Buy Mom a picnic lunch.
Hosted by:Lakeside Youth Group
- 1:00–1:30 Salmon Arm Community Band
- 1:30–2:00 Mashamba: African Drumming
- 2:00–3:00 Skate Board Demo (weather permitting)
Hosted by Ride Tech

KIDS ACTIVITIES

(11:30–4)

BIRD FEEDERS
NATURE CRAFTS
ROCK PAINTING



EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS

(11:30–4)

Blue Heron Venture
KeeTwo Wildlife Rehab Centre
SABNES
Department of Fisheries
Bike for Life

FOOD

Concession Open: Hotdogs,
Hamburgers, Snacks
Ice Cream: Down the Wharf
Box Lunch Auction

Many Thanks to ★ ★
Carole Lee and Mary Regier for
their efforts towards the Grebe ★
Festival! ★ ★ ★ ★


Grebe Festival Trivia Quiz

- 1) What year was the first full weekend Grebe Festival?
 - 2) What was the largest musical group to perform at the Festival in the first two years?
 - 3) Who is the parent organization for the Festival?
 - 4) What four local "organizations" were part of the initial planning along with the Shuswap Naturalists and SABNES?
 - 5) Which two grebe species are the stars of the show?
 - 6) Who provided all of the funding for the first two years?
 - 7) What eating event never happened?
 - 8) Who was the honorary Patron?
 - 9) What two factors have made successful nesting difficult in recent years?
 - 10) Which two single attractions during the festival had the largest attendance?
- (answers below)



SEE YOU AT GREBE DAY:
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 8-4. AT YOUR WATERFRONT!
Check out the website: www.grebe@shuswap.net





TRAIL CLEAN UP DAY FOR "TRAIL ADOPTERS"
SUNDAY, MAY 7/01
BRING YOUR CLIPPERS, GARBAGE BAGS, RAKES, WORK GLOVES.
CALL JIM BECKNER: 832-3534

New Look of the Newsletter

When I proposed this newsletter two years ago I naively suggested that I would shortly learn to produce it myself, saving the cost of professional layout. I am finally meeting that promise. I would like to heartily thank Marg, of Marg Shand Graphics for getting us started, for her incredible patience and good humour with every issue, and for her exceptional professionally completed work at an extremely fair rate. Now that I have completed an issue, I have even more respect for her efforts!

Karen Bissenden

(1) 97 (2) Okanagan Symphony Orchestra (3) SABNES (4) District of Salmon Arm, D/A, Chamber of Commerce, S.A. Leisure Services. (5) Clark's and, mainly, western grebe (6) Local business's. In the next two years the head office of Clarica donated large sums, in addition to local support. (7) The Grebe-B-Q. Even though it was meant to be a family BBQ (chicken served) concerns were expressed about the name. (8) Mary Thomas (9) Water levels too high for emerging vegetation to provide support for floating nests, and high westerly winds destroying or dumping nests. (10) The Community Church Service & The Fishing Derby.