

NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society

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FALL
2004

President's Report by Bob Holtby

It's been another good year on the Bay. We've seen a good number of hatchings. As a board, we've wrestled with dealing with habitat development, weeds, and web pages. It's not been boring.

Again, it's been a privilege to act as President of SABNES. Every day I'm impressed by the dedication of the membership.

I'm also impressed by the importance that visitors place on the health of the wetlands. We have folks from all over the world who come to visit the Bay and observe our wildlife. Our mandate is, in fact, international, not just local.

We've been pleased to have Christine Grube Lefkove working with us this fall. She's extended our operational season, is working on the centre's marketing plan, and is entering data from bird counts in preparation for Ed McDonald's book. We've been able to extend the contract with HRDC for her services until February 5, 2005.

It was an honour last month to receive the **Business Excellence Award for Best Tourism Attraction** of the year from the Chamber of Commerce. This is great recognition for the job that Nature Bay Society has done in promoting the foreshore and its inhabitants.

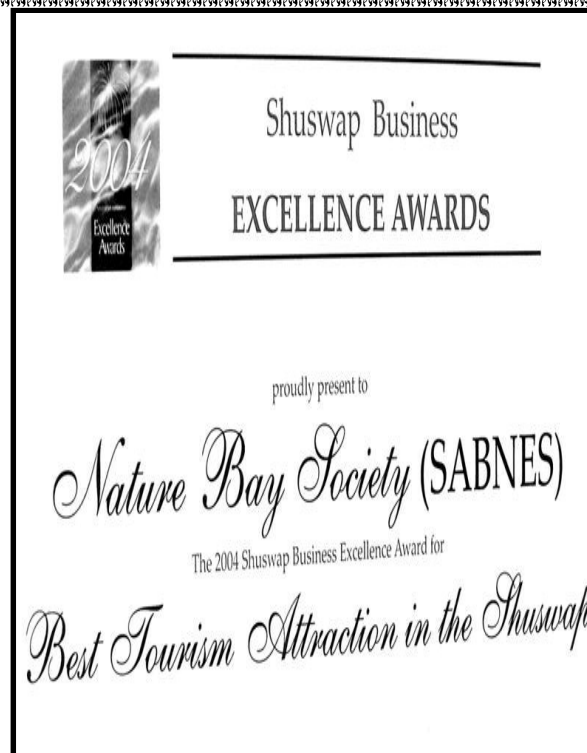
I'm looking forward to our Annual Meeting. Reviewing the history of the foreshore should be a great opportunity to appreciate the heritage we have. I hope you can attend.

**JOIN US FOR OUR NATURE BAY ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY 7:30PM NOVEMBER 26 AT THE ART GALLERY, 70 HUDSON AVE NE
OUR GUEST IS DAVE HARPER SPEAKING ON THE HISTORY OF THE BAY**

AGM TOPIC

Dave Harper, a local historian, will be leading a discussion on the History of the Salmon Arm Bay at our Annual Meeting on November 26. Dave has a good collection of photographs and memorabilia but, surprisingly, there appears to be little in the way of photographs of the bay as it has evolved.

Consequently, we're asking people to search through their old photos and bring them to the meeting to add to Dave's presentation. Even if the bay is a background to a photo of Cousin Bill, it can add to our knowledge. Your participation combined with Dave's leadership should give us a worthwhile evening.



NATURE BAY SOCIETY WINS TOURISM AWARD

Visitors from around the world have been delighted with the information and displays at our Interpretive Centre.

They come from places such as South Africa, Vancouver Island, France, Fort St. James, Australia, Quesnel, England, Calgary, Taiwan, Oregon, Holland, Quebec, Ireland and Edmonton. Total visitors to the Nature Bay Society Interpretive Center this year has increase from last year.

We encourage our guests to learn about the wild life in the Salmon Arm Bay, a place of many wonderful things.

Bird Report for the Bay Area – Fall 2004 by Ed McDonald

It has been an exciting few months in the Salmon Arm bay area, and here are a few of the highlights. July started out with the **Western Grebe** producing 75 young. This is the fourth highest count in the 15 years Frank and Doris Kime have been monitoring this species. Another feel good story was the rescue from a menacing Osprey of an **Ancient Murrelet** by two youngsters at Canoe Point. They took some excellent photographs of the bird before releasing it to safety. It is only the ninth confirmed sighting in the southern interior since 1930 and a first for Salmon Arm.

In August and September the mudflats managed to host both an abundance and a variety of shorebirds. On August 22 a

group of observers counted a swarm of over 300 **Baird's Sandpipers**, 220 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 43 **Red-necked Phalaropes** and 8 **Wilson's Phalaropes**. More surprisingly there were 9 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**, which tied a provincial record for the most seen in one area. Two very rare sightings were a **Black Turnstone** – a first for the bay and an albino Lesser Yellowlegs. As we marveled at this phenomena, two **Sandhill Cranes** flew by followed by a **Mew Gull**. A **Sabine Gull**, a **Franklin's Gull** and 7 **American Golden Plovers** were sighted west of the wharf on August 25.

In the month of September we were rewarded with several sightings of large flocks of songbirds resting on their migration route south. The most spectacular of these was about 300 **Mountain**

Bluebirds filling the trees near the top of Mt. Ida. Mixing in with the bluebirds were several **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. **Western Tanagers**, in groups of 15 or more, passed through the Sunnybrae area. The **Peregrine Falcon** and the **Northern Harriers** were also very busy at this time.

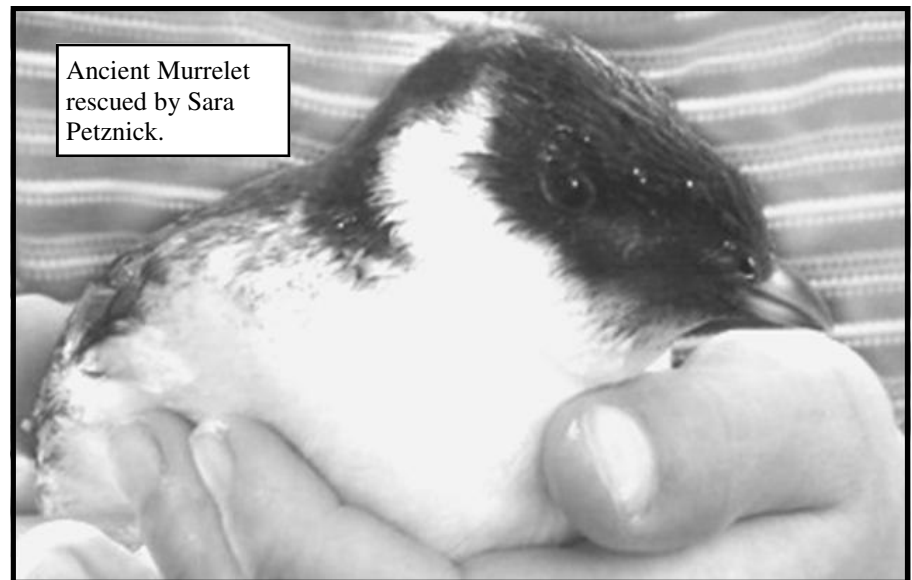
On October 20 the **Trumpeter Swans** arrived in the bay, while a raft of 300+ **Lesser Scaups**, **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Redheads** appeared in the middle of the bay. Winter cannot be far behind.

The Shuswap Naturalist Club is putting together a series of photographs of some of the rare birds that have visited the marsh over the past few years. We hope to put these on display for a **conference we are hosting in May 2005**. The theme of the conference is a study of wetlands in an urban area.

NEW WALKWAY by Marty Bootsma

After many years, work on the walkway along our waterfront connecting Marine Park to the Foreshore Greenway trail is finally underway. Early in the 90's, a 6 meter wide strip right of way was dedicated to park along the foreshore between Marine Park and the Nature Trust Lands to the East. Part of the negotiations between the developer Vic Bates, the District of Salmon Arm, SABNES, and Nature Trust, this strip was intended to provide public access to the foreshore in front of any future development on the foreshore. In 2002 the issue became prominent in light of applications for development in this area.

It was determined that the cost to build the walkway along that location would be prohibitive. A walkway built closer in to the existing bank could be accomplished for less cost, and more importantly, less environmental impact. In January 03 a meeting between the District and affected property owners resulted in a consensus to work towards building a walkway approximately 30 metres closer to the shore. This would require additional rights of way to be registered across all the commercial properties east of Marine Park. The affected properties also agreed to make a financial contribution to this project of over \$80,000. A section in front of the



Prestige Inn was added to take full advantage of possible grants. This required an additional right of way from that property, the owner also agreeing to contribute \$10,000, as well as a right of way for Nature Trust BC.

In March 03 Council received a detailed report on the proposed walkway and in April 03 agreed in principle to go ahead. That was the easy part. Federal approval was required from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Provincial approval from the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection. An environmental impact study was commissioned. Funding from the Softwood Lumber Economic Adjustment Initiatives for

\$437,500 was approved, prices were obtained, and the project was slated to be completed by May 04.

However the bids came in unacceptably high, and were rejected by council. although this meant delaying the project for one more season. After some re-designing, the cost was brought down considerably and construction started this October. The walkway will go from just west of the Prestige Inn to the Rotary Pond and from Marine Park to the East side of Lakeside Manor, where it will continue to Harbourfront Drive. Total cost will be over 1 million dollars, not a cheap addition to our community but one that I am sure will be enjoyed by thousands in the years to come.

NATURE BAY BOARD MEET WITH GOVERNMENT MINISTERS NOVEMBER 13

Your Board had a very productive meeting with provincial ministers on November 13. The Honourable George Abbott announced a new fund which will enable either SABNES or Nature Trust to apply for the ownership of Christmas Island.

Since it is a man-made island created from dredgate when the marina was deepened its status has been ambiguous. Steps will be taken to acquire the island and make it an official part of the

wildlife sanctuary as soon as possible. The board requested that the Ministry nominate a successor to Rick Howie who had done such a fine job of representing the Ministry on our Board in the past.

The ministers heard about our noxious weed problems. As landowners, renting the areas for \$1 a year from Nature Trust BC the Ministry has the official responsibility for control of weeds on this land. The Nature Bay board were looking for at least some funding for controlling the worst problems, for example the aggressive woody nightshade.

NEW DECK FOR INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

Over ten or more years the old deck leading to the entrance to the Centre has deteriorated. Fortunately the Vancouver Foundation have provided \$2500 for a new one. The entrance will be moved to the east end of the building in such a way that walkers using the linking path between the two board walks will be tempted, we hope, to come and see our displays. The deck will measure 16' by 12' and will not require anything more than a little pruning to the adjacent tree. A ramp will run along the back of the building allowing wheel chair and baby buggy access. The structure is being built by Sandy Forsythe and his Economic Development Crew funded by HRDC.



Mike Saul, Hon Bill Barisoff (Min of Water, Land and Air Protection), Tom Brighthouse Gary Carder, Bob Holtby, Hon George Abbott (Min of Sustainable Development) Marty Bootsma.

In appreciation of financial support please take your business to these companies

LIFE CORPORATE MEMBERS

**Askews Foods
Royal Bank**

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Prestige Harbourfront Resort
Shuswap Lake Vacation
Shuswap Veterinary Clinic
Browne and Johnson Surveyors
Gentech Engineering
Lakeside Insurance
BPL Industries
Crown Furniture and Mattresses
Foto Shoppe
Glenn Power Contractors
Verdurmen and Lee Legal Services
Salmon Arm Downtown Improvement Association
Salmon Arm New and Used Building Materials
Silicon Garden Computer Cooperative
Skookum Cycle and Ski Ltd
Talana Holdings

VALUABLE SERVICE DONATIONS

Frames by Filiatrault
Heron Framing and Gallery
Salmon Arm Stationery and Office Supplies
Salmon Arm Economic Development Corporation
Traditional Log Homes

GRANTING AGENCIES

Municipality of Salmon Arm
Human Resources Developmt Canada
Salmar Community Association
Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union
Shuswap Community Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment
Vancouver Foundation

GRANTS FOR 2004

\$1500 from the Municipality of Salmon Arm for keeping the Interpretive Centre open. \$2500 from Vancouver Foundation through the Shuswap Community Foundation for materials for the new deck on the Interpretive Centre. \$400 from the Downtown Improvement Association for extra signage on the Interpretive Centre. The Federal Government Human Resources and Skills Development provided a \$9/hr wage for 10 weeks for our summer student to work at the Interpretive Center. In addition this department is providing living expenses and some job costs for a Job Experience Programme at the Interpretive Centre from Sept 2004 to Feb 2005.

Bill Eaton goes bill to bill with a Grebe skull, one of the many displays at the Nature Bay Interpretive Centre.

NATURE BAY Board of Directors

President:
Bob Holtby 832-7865
Secretary:
Tom Brighthouse 832-3951
Treasurer:
Mike Saul 832-0926
Elected Directors:
Bill Eaton 832-2428
Doug Leatherdale 832-2850
Ron Wedman 832-4634

Appointed:
Webmaster:
Rick Kwitkoski 675-3688
Downtown Improvement:
Karen Angove 832-7571
Shuswap Naturalist Club:
Gary Carder 832-4171
District of S.A.:
Clr. Marty Bootsma 832-3400
Chamber of Commerce:
Tim Giandomenico 833-5800



NATURE BAY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM:

PO Box 27, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2

Ph. 250-833-0917

Thanks for joining !!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date: _____

Society Objectives: To assist the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Nature Trust of BC with the development and operation of the Salmon Arm Bay, its walkways, trails and viewing facilities for scientific, educational and environmental purposes and to increase the awareness and involvement with related projects in the community.

Annual Membership Fees Structure:

Individual..... \$ 10
Family\$ 20
Sustaining Individual \$ 50
Sustaining Family.....\$100
Life membership\$500
Corporate or Organization
1-4 Employees.....\$ 50
5-10 Employees....\$100
+10 Employees\$150