



NATURE BAY NEWS
 Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society
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SPRING 2007

NATURE BAY SOCIETY SEMI ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY JUNE 8TH, 7:30PM
ART GALLERY, 70 HUDSON AVE NE, SALMON ARM
PRESENTATION BY DON CECILE ON SHORE BIRDS
DOOR PRIZES AND GOODIES - EVERYONE WELCOME



We are open for business. Elizabeth Connor is our new student employee working at the Interpretive Centre 10-5 from Monday to Friday. On weekends the IC will be staffed by John MacVicar who also does maintenance as required one day per week.

Our Web Site is a good way to get introduced to SABNES and our new Web Cam showing the life and times of the Osprey family north of the Prestige Inn plus other bird life and scenes in the area.

GREENWAYS COMMITTEE by Tom Brighthouse

Closely allied to the work conducted by SABNES are the activities of the Greenways Committee. For about twelve years this group has busied itself in two ways: first it has studied development plans and made suggestions to council in favor of walking trails, linear parks and sometimes just green passage way for wildlife. Secondly this active group has organized work parties, sometimes with groups from Kati-mavik and Canada World Youth.

Little Mountain Park, Turner Creek Trail, the Raven Trail along the foreshore, and more recently Coyote Park have been major successes, always with the great co-operation from city councillors. Another short route links the SASS to Lakeshore Road. Numerous lesser links have also been made. Future projects include the land for public walking which has been dedicated in the recent subdivisions in Glen Eden.

The generosity of private land owners must be acknowledged. The Beckner and Ritchie families have kindly agreed to an easement across their properties so that Raven Trail can link up to Coyote Park. Funds to provide fencing are needed before this area can be opened to the public. At present an area of City land overlooking the bay at North Canoe is being brushed out to make walking and biking trails, similar to the ones in Little Mountain Park.

Partly because of suggestions from the committee, it is now policy to insist on pathways through the end of culs-de sac so that residents can take the short cut between one subdivision and another. This adds greatly to the walkability of neighbourhoods, especially appreciated by those who do not have motor transportation or who prefer not to use it. The committee can be proud of their hard work and the long lasting improvement to the community. Please contact Gary Kalloch at 832-6522 if you would like to become more involved in this worthwhile work.

We greatly appreciate the financial and service support from the following companies

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By Ron Wedman, President:

Thanks to the work of many dedicated SABNES members a number of projects have been accomplished in the last few months. Our web site has been revamped and updated by D'Arcy McLeod, a Web Cam spearheaded by Tim Giandomenico has been installed to view an Osprey nest north of the Prestige Inn (work continues to improve picture quality), the Interpretive Centre building foundation has been replaced, painting reapplied and eaves troughing replaced through the efforts of many volunteers. Our IC was broken into in March with numerous items stolen and damage incurred to our front Roll Shutter door. The stolen items have been replaced and repairs made to the building to increase security. Thanks to Tom Rice for filling in to manage the Interpretive Centre. Thank you also to Dave Nordstrom who over the past few years has been our recording secretary at our meetings.

We are indebted to **Ted Hillary** for reporting his observations so that we can continue our records of Spring arrivals. The Northern Pintail is always early showing up in early March in big flocks. The Green-winged Teal also arrive early and seem to want to leave in early May to make room for their blue winged cousins which arrive and stay in much smaller numbers along with the spectacular Cinnamon Teal.

The swallows always proceed in order, first the Violet-green, then the Tree and the Northern Rough-winged and last the mud builders, the Cliff and in declining numbers the Barn Swallows. We have had Bank Swallows some years but none so far this year. Where are they going to get the mud building materials in this dry weather? So much for our six swallow species.

The other group which comes in half dozens is the grebe set. The Pied-bill grebe is seen even in late winter, but in ones and twos. Occasionally we see Eared and Horned Grebes. Our special bird, the Western Grebe, arrives in dozens in the first week of April and builds up into the hundreds as the prairie migrants go through. Then we settle down to the sixty or so breeding pairs which are right now looking for nesting sites. Each year we hope for an average of fifty or so young to reach adult stage. Birders scan the flocks in search of the one or two Clark's Grebes which turn up each year. These are the lighter birds with the white covering more of the face and extending above the red eye.

Lastly since the Bald Eagles in Gardom lake scared out the twenty or so pairs of Red-necked Grebes, we have had more sightings here, one nesting for a couple of years on McGuire Lake and one or two on the bay. A score of duck species and more than two dozen shorebirds types help make up the total of two hundred forty species which have been observed here.