

NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society
PO Box 27, Salmon Arm, B.C. Canada V1E 4N2
Email: sabnes.org@gmail.com



AGM

PLEASE JOIN US
In the Shuswap Room

AGM

North Okanagan Shuswap School Board Office

341 Shuswap St SW, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2

7:00 pm Tuesday May 28th

There will be a short business meeting followed by coffee and goodies.

After the break, we will have two presentations:

Pat Hutchins

Birds of the Shuswap

Di Wittner

New Bird Houses on the Foreshore



The Foreshore Trail is now closed to dogs until June 30th

Based on recent observations by local naturalists and biologists, and recommendations by the Foreshore Trail Monitoring Advisory Group which includes dog walkers, SABNES, Greenways and Trail Alliance representatives, the City has shifted the dog walking ban to **May 1—June 30** in order to better align with the peak nesting season. Trail users are **asked to continue** to report all disturbances or bylaw infractions by emailing trailreport@shuswaptrails.com (Attach photos if available.) Also call the animal control hotline at **250-833-8492**. **We have had reports of dogs roaming freely around the Osprey tower at the end of the spit of land close to the wharf (the Kime Trail). We request that these instances be likewise reported.** Please show respect to fellow trail users and compliment those dog-walkers who are respecting the by-laws.

Thanks to Doug and Hanne MacKay for installing the banners.



SABNES President's Report

I have some good news for those of you who spent time helping plant the hummocks in 2017. When my husband Dave and I walked the hummocks a month or so ago, we saw Pacific Willow but little else. When Sarah Weaver, Geoff Benson and I walked the hummocks this past week, I was delighted. There is a wide variety of shrubs now in leaf, and even a number of conifers have survived. We saw Wild Rose, Red Osier Dogwood, a few Trembling Aspen and a variety of Willows.

Kim Fulton, who supervised the planting, later toured the hummocks and gave them a score of 8.5/10! I was delighted!

He said, "Overall, I am pleased with how they're progressing. Many of our plantings are "free to grow" and others have risen above the competitive invasive plants. My understanding is that the Sweet Clover, which was a dominant invasive particularly on second hummock (from the East), has gifted the hummocks with fixed-nitrogen and will also nurture the bees. I am pleased that the Red Osier Dogwood is coming into its own. Our goal of creating a more diverse habitat for all creatures is well on its way. It will take a few more years for the system to stabilize."

Gary Lomax has served on our SABNES Board for over 10 years. He has served as President and has donated his skills and countless hours. He is stepping down this year from the Board, but you may still



New Willow growth on the Hummocks



I fancied a bigger place this year. I'm so lucky, isn't this one just ducky?

see him mending something on the trail now and again. All the best, Gary, and thank you for your many years of service.

A special thank you to Jim Hoskins, a friend to all of us, including the beaver and wildlife in general. He's quietly worked in the background for many hours. Thank you, Jim. Your nest boxes and bat houses are works of art.

Thanks to SABNES Board members for their contributions over the past year. We work well as a group and accomplish a lot in a short space of time. The combined efforts of everyone involved make this organization strong and a pleasure to be a part of. Thanks to our members, too. We appreciate your support.

Janet Aitken

Being Extra Pleasant to a Pheasant

SABNES Board member, Sylvia Lindgren tells of her May 2nd experience.



*Today I was driving along 20th St and two pheasants ran out into the road. I swerved to avoid them and missed one but the male ran into the side of my car with a sickening thump, thump, thump. I looked in the mirror and he was sitting at the side of the road. I turned around to go back and check on him and, as I returned, I saw him run across the road to the other shoulder. Just as I was thinking he was going to be okay he fell over on the grass then got up and fell over onto the road. I couldn't leave him there dying a slow death on the road so after calls to the RCMP, Conservation, the SPCA and Karen Beggs, Shuswap Vet agreed to take him. **He survived!** After a few hours, we took him back to find his mate and off he ran.*

Beaver Benefits

Sarah Weaver

Beavers have been busy at the foreshore in Salmon Arm. Wire wrapped around the trees have not deterred them; instead, each section of wire has been carefully chewed around. The image on the right was taken November 29, 2018 at the original beaver pond on the SABNES - Raven trail.

The image on the left is how the tree looked on December 17, 2018:

And by December 26, 2018, as the image on the left shows, the felled tree had been carted off -- presumably by a beaver.

What do other Canadian cities do about beaver? Beaver Management Guidelines in Oshawa and Red Deer mention the significance of beaver in the ecosystem, but also talk about problems of blocked culverts and downstream flooding. In some places beaver trapping is part of a management process. I doubt that the beaver activity on the **SABNES** trail will lead to flooding, or blocked culverts. Instead, I see

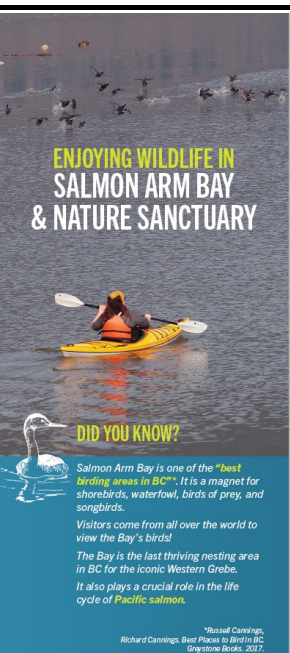
a pond created by the damming of a creek which would normally be draining directly into the marsh area.

The habitat provided gives much more diversity than what would normally be there. While there is no doubt it is sad to see a large tree felled, most are willows and poplars which will regenerate from the stump.

In the fall of 2012 Salmon Arm Council agreed that **SABNES** could manage the "issue" of beavers felling trees on the foreshore trail. This is an extract from the November 2012 issue of the SABNES newsletter:

SABNES does not want to interfere with the beavers, who are important members of wetlands ecosystems. Decapitated willows rapidly regenerate themselves. Nevertheless, SABNES will continue to protect the larger trees by surrounding their lower trunks with wire netting. Trees which become hazardous will be cut down and tossed into the area near the pond to provide the beavers with sustenance.

We need to revisit the policy of wiring trees. While wire has successfully deterred some beaver from chewing trees, the foregoing pictures show that it is not wholly successful. And wire requires maintenance; it does not take long before tree bark grows around it. The beaver pond is one of my favorite places to visit on the nature trail. It is peaceful, and there is always a kingfisher, or flicker, or scores of black-birds, to accompany my thoughts. Thanks to the beavers for creating it.



New Joint Publication from SABNES and SNC

Sarah Weaver has designed and orchestrated a new brochure of information to enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of the wildlife in the Salmon Arm Bay region and specifically in the **SABNES** Nature Sanctuary. It is entitled **Enjoying Wildlife in Salmon Arm Bay and Nature Sanctuary** and includes a map of the SABNES lands with trails clearly marked. We thank the **Prestige Harbourfront and Resort Centre** for their design and printing of this brochure, done in partnership with the **Shuswap Naturalist Club**. Copies will be available at the **Brighthouse Nature Centre**. Thanks to Sarah for all her time and dedicated effort required to produce this excellent publication.

Like us on **Facebook** to get updates on news and events. Search "**Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society**"

SABNES BOARD OF DIRECTORS Elected Directors

Janet Aitken, President.
Geoff Benson, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.
Mona Broad, Hanne MacKay, Gary Lomax, Sid Visser, Sarah Weaver, Di Wittner.

Appointed Directors

Councillor Sylvia Lindgren, **City of Salmon Arm;**
Fish and Game Club and **Downtown Salmon Arm Improvement Association:** No appointed representatives.

Non-voting Directors

Georgia McLeod, Secretary
Tom Brighthouse, Advisor

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

LIFE CORPORATE MEMBERS

Askews Foods

Royal Bank

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Browne Johnson Land Surveyors
Dr Lyle A Martin
Gentech Engineering Inc.
Hub International Barton Insurance
Dr Chris Parfitt
Bowers Funeral Services Ltd.
Shuswap Acupuncture and Laser Therapy Clinic
Trent Sismey Inc.
Prestige Harbourfront Resort and Convention Centre

GRANTING AGENCIES

City of Salmon Arm
Salmon Arm Rotary Club
Shuswap Community Foundation
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund

Annual Membership Fees *

Individual.....\$15
Family.....\$25
Sustaining Individual.....\$50
Sustaining Family.....\$100
Life Membership.....\$500

Corporate or Organization

1-4 Employees.....\$50
5-10 Employees.....\$100
+ 10 Employees.....\$150
Life Membership.....\$2,500

* All but \$5 is tax-deductible

Membership Form

(If you **have been a member**, we only need you to enter **new** information)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date: _____

Please Check

I would like to give **SABNES** my time
to help staff the nature centre
(June, July and August)

☐

to help with trail clean-up and maintenance

☐

Nature Bay Society (**SABNES**) is a Charitable Organization.
Most of the Annual Fee is tax-deductible.
Receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued.

Nature Bay Society, P.O. Box 27, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2

website : www.sabnes.org

Email: sabnes.org@gmail.com

SABNES Foreshore Trail Community Weed-Pull

When: Wednesday May 29, 10:00 AM

Where: SABNES Foreshore Trail

Who: You!

Bring work gloves, gardening tools,
gumboots, & smiles!

Extra gloves & refreshments provided



Please Join Us



A Way of making an Everlasting contribution to SABNES

Please consider making a donation to **SABNES** via the **Shuswap Community Foundation (c/o SABNES Endowment Fund)**. Your donation will remain in perpetuity in the fund and generate income, which will be used to help keep the **SABNES** lands in their natural state for the foreseeable future. **Please** send your cheque payable to **Shuswap Community Foundation, PO Box #624, 450 Lakeshore Drive, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N7**. Please mark on your cheque that you wish to place the donation in the **SABNES ENDOWMENT FUND**. The **Shuswap Community Foundation** will send you a tax receipt.



Janet Aitken, May 13th 2019