

# Sargeant Bay Society

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## Newsletter #86

Editor: Joop Burgerjon

April 10, 2012

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**Monday, May 7, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.**

Halfmoon Bay Elementary School  
8086 Northwood Road, Welcome Woods.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM
3. President's Annual Report
4. Financial Report
5. Membership Report
6. Election of Directors
7. Any other business

### Summer Events

Sunday, May 20, 8:30 am at the Sargeant Bay Parking Area.  
"Birding by the Bay" with Tony Greenfield. This is a great opportunity to learn to recognize many birds seen or heard frequently at Sargeant Bay and beyond.

Sunday, July 8, 10:00 am at Trout Lake  
Hike around Triangle Lake. Kye Goodwin will guide this nature interpretation walk. The walk will begin and end at Trout Lake and will explore both the unique plant life around Triangle Lake and the remnants of old-growth forest to the south. This is a "moderate" hike, but sturdy footwear is advised.



Trumpeter Swans in evening sun on Sargeant Bay - March 30, 2012

Photo: Joop Burgerjon

### **In Memoriam: Elvie Newell**

A year ago John and Elvie Newell were among the first ones to report on the new heron nest, visible from the road to Sargeant Bay beach. In November, 2011 we received this message from John:

*"Elvie Margaret Newell died peacefully, with her family at her bedside, in Vancouver General Hospital at 2:00am on August 23, following a massive stroke. Elvie was a low-key member of the Society from when we first arrived on the Coast in 1997. She was an enthusiastic but non-competitive birder who, unlike me, was not much of a one for keeping lists. She had an excellent ear and when I became deaf to high frequencies, she acted as my ears, both on local bird walks and many more wide-ranging trips. Without her, many songbirds went unnoticed by me."*

As a result John, who was the editor of this newsletter from 2001 to 2009 and maintained the BC Water Bird Survey for Sargeant Bay, moved to Vancouver.

As active members of our society both Elvie and John will be much missed.

### **In Memoriam: Len Harrison**

Len Harrison passed away on January 30 in Totem Lodge. Len was a long time member and faithful supporter of the society. He served as director from 1993 to 2001. He too will be sorely missed.

### **Birding for early warblers**

Eighteen hardy birdwatchers attended this walk on March 18, organized by the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society and guided by Tony Greenfield. The walk began under bizarre circumstances as arriving participants from north of Sargeant Bay reported clear blue skies while cars from the Sechelt area arrived covered in snow and some folks never even made it due to snow covered roads.

The walk was arranged weeks ago in anticipation that a warm front might deliver early migrants such as swallows, Rufous Hummers and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The warm front did not arrive but the Yellow-rumped Warblers were present anyway. Over the years the alders along the berm at this location have proven to be a reliable spot for early sightings of this warbler, and so it proved again.



Sunshine Coast Natural History Society - Birding for early warblers - March 18, 2012

Photo: Joop Burgerjon

31 species were recorded. The highlights were:  
 Great Blue Heron, numerous around breeding area.  
 Virginia Rail, one heard.  
 Downy Woodpecker, one pair.  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, abundant, migrant flocks, singing.  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler, at least 2 birds.  
 Brewer's Blackbird, 1 male, unexpected at this location.  
 Red-winged Blackbird, many, very noisy.

Here is the complete list of the birds observed at this bird walk as compiled by John Hodges:

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Seen:</b>           | Common Goldeneye          |
| Pelagic Cormorant      | Surf Scoter               |
| Mallard                | Hooded Merganser          |
| Barrow's Goldeneye     | Great Blue Heron          |
| Common Merganser       | Common Raven              |
| Bufflehead             | Red-winged Blackbird      |
| Bald Eagle             | European Starling         |
| Northwestern Crow      | Song Sparrow              |
| Brewer's Blackbird     | Dark-eyed Junco           |
| American Robin         | Chestnut-backed Chickadee |
| Spotted Towhee         | Ruby-crowned Kinglet      |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler  | Downy Woodpecker          |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet |                           |
| Glaucous-winged Gull   | <b>Heard:</b>             |
| Northern Flicker       | Pacific Wren              |
| Common Loon            | Virginia Rail             |
| Canada Goose           | Varied Thrush             |

### Volunteer activities

Volunteers kept the beaver dam at the fish ladder open during the spawning season. Our short video on how to do this, [FishLadder111009 - YouTube](#), must have motivated several members.

Credits are due to all those who collected garbage on the beach and berm and placed it at the pit toilet, from where BC Parks takes it to the dump. Most of it floats in from the bay and this stormy winter there was lots.

We particularly wish to thank Bev Miller, who placed a garbage can near the bench facing the Rock, and regularly carries it to Redrooffs Road to be emptied by the SCRD garbage service.

The reason why BC Parks does not place garbage cans in the park is because they expect the public to "carry out what you carry in". However, this does not apply to garbage that floats in.

### Invasive Plant Control

The patch of St. John's Wort that has been expanding on the berm in recent years was cut down in January under our Invasive Plant Control program. St. John's Wort is an invasive plant, that has medicinal properties. It will re-grow of course, but the fresh shoots can now be cut with a weed eater by BC Parks' maintenance crew. We hope this will eradicate the plant after a few years.

### Website (We are not on Facebook )

Our website, [www.sargbay.ca](http://www.sargbay.ca), contains lots of information about Sargeant Bay Provincial Park. Visit it if you want to know something about the park. If you can't find it, let us know: [Sargbay@dccnet.com](mailto:Sargbay@dccnet.com). Maybe we can do something about it.

### Feedback

We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. As you received this newsletter by e-mail, it is easy for you to let us have your comments: Just click the reply button or [Sargbay@dccnet.com](mailto:Sargbay@dccnet.com) and give us your valued opinion.



Heron back on nest at road to beach March 6, 2012

Photo: Joop Burgerjon