

Sargeant Bay Society

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Annual General Meeting

The 33rd AGM of the Society was held on May 7, 2012. The meeting was attended by Ryan Elphic, Senior Front Country Ranger, BC Parks. This was a good opportunity to discuss matters of 3rd party liability, The Rock as a potential addition to the park, Dog Control (Note the bigger Dog Control sign) and Vegetation Restoration.

All directors were re-elected by acclamation. Joop announced that he will not accept the position of Secretary at the next AGM, when he will have held that position for 25 years. He would stand for re-election as a director with his only responsibility to maintain the SBS website.

The directors for FY 2012/2013 are:

Tony Greenfield: President
Joop Burgerjon: Secretary/Editor/Webmaster
Maggie Marsh: Treasurer
Katie Caple: Membership Secretary
Elise Rudland: Summer Program Organizer
Lexi Harrington: Director at Large
Penny Hall: Director at Large

Rand Rudland has agreed to take over the job of Secretary and is welcomed as a director. The Society's bylaws allow us to fill vacancies subject to election at the following AGM.

Summer Events

Tony Greenfield's birding event at Sargeant Bay on May 20 and Kye Goodwin's nature hike around Triangle Lake on July 8 were well attended and much appreciated, according to the feedback we received.

Erik Berntsen

Erik is an exceptional man. He is the one who regularly picks up the garbage on the beach, on the road that intersects the park and beyond. Recently he removed a dead and smelly young harbour seal from the beach, took it into the forest and buried it. Then he kept checking the spot to see if animals had not dug it up. He deserves our strongest appreciation and admiration for doing what most of us would be reluctant to do. A big thank-you for you Erik.

Earlier this summer, at the beginning of the swimming season, a big dead seal washed up on the beach. People just looked at it, then left it, considering it was too heavy to lift. Fortunately the next tide took it out.

Observations

On July 24, 7:30 am, Eda Kadar watched a pod of White-sided Dolphins fishing in front of a cabin on the SW shore of the Bay. There could have been 8-10 and they stayed for about half an hour before moving on..



Photo: petcaregt.com

On August 16, Joop Burgerjon, while resting on the bench on the East shore, watched four River Otters playing in Triangle Lake. Why were they there? The small boggy lake can't possibly have a sustainable fish population for these active animals. River Otters also eat frogs and both Red-legged Frogs and Pacific Tree Frogs are abundant in the lake. Many clusters of Red-legged Frog eggs are found each spring at the abandoned beaver dam. The tree frogs lay their eggs at the bottom making them more difficult to find, but their loud chorus in spring proves their abundance.



Photo: http://camashill.blogspot.ca/2011_03_01_archive.html

In the fall one can sometimes see an American Dipper at the fish ladder. They come down from the mountain streams, where they catch their food, mostly aquatic insects, under water by holding on to the rocks. They are really after salmon eggs in the spawning season, but at the fish ladder they catch mostly sticklebacks.



This fish, not a stickleback, looks rather too big to swallow:



Photos: Joop Burgerjon.

The Beaver Dam at the Fish Ladder.

The beaver dam at the fish ladder will have to be kept open during the spawning season, which for this location is from November 15 to December 15. Several unknown volunteers usually take care of this. All that is needed is to make a hole in the dam for the salmon to pass through. Removing the whole dam is counter-productive, as the beavers then push their branches into the fish ladder. The beavers always fill the hole by the next morning, so it helps to have many volunteers. If you want to help, we have a short video on how to do it. You can view it by clicking:

[How to clear a beaver dam in 5 minutes.](#)

Invasive Plant Control

The Sargeant Bay Society has been involved with Invasive Plant Control since 1993. We have been successful in virtually eliminating Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberry, Evergreen Blackberry and Yellow Flag in Sargeant Bay Provincial Park with only limited effort continuing to prevent these species from invading again. We have not bothered to remove the two St. John's Wort patches on the berm, as we did not consider them all that invasive. However, as they did turn out to expand noticeably over the last few years, we decided to add them to the list of undesirable invasive species.

At the same time we considered reintroducing some native ground flowers, such as Chocolate Lily and Harvest Brodiaea, that used to grow on the berm. We abandoned that idea as being impractical as the berm is well used by the public and success would be doubtful. Three specimens of Red-Flowering Currant were introduced in 2008 and were doing well until they were inadvertently destroyed by people.

Therefore, we propose to introduce 15 specimens of the wild variety of Red-Flowering Currants at the location where we hope to eliminate the St. John's Wort. This way we can combine the effort to control the St. John's Wort and to care for the young currant bushes.

The Red-Flowering Currant bushes would be a welcome change from the Nootka Rose bushes that are monopolizing the shore of the wetland. Although native they are invasive none-the-less.


Elise Rudland has agreed to be in charge of the project.

The Heron Nests

In the spring the four nests in the wetland were occupied again and the outlook for a second productive breeding season looked good. However, since early June no herons were seen any more at the nests. Very likely the nests have been raided by eagles. Great Blue Herons started to nest in the wetland in 1999, 2000 and 2011 and in the forest across from Redroofs Rd. in 2006 and 2007. Only the 2006 and 2011 broods were successful.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon.

Website (We are not on Facebook )

Our website, www.sargbay.ca, contains lots of information about Sargeant Bay Provincial Park and the rôle of the Sargeant Bay Society. Visit it if you want to know something about the park. If you can't find it, let us know: 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 and give us your valued opinion.