

Sargeant Bay Society

P.O. Box 1486
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0
srgntbay.soc@gmail.com
www.sargbay.ca

Newsletter #102 – Spring 2020

Editor – Rand Rudland

AGM 2020

An in-person 2020 AGM will not be held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a Zoom meeting planned for later in the summer, so watch for an email to sign up for this event. Your executive and directors at present are as follows:

Rand Rudland – president
Tony Greenfield – vice-president
Maggie Marsh – secretary
Garry Paulson – treasurer
Katie Caple – membership
Dave Spicer – responsible for salmon-related affairs
Wendy Griffin – website design and maintenance
Heather Newman, Elise Rudland, Jeff Muckle, Rick Walters – directors-at-large.

New Website

Many thanks to Director Wendy Griffin for taking on the onerous task of constructing and maintaining a new website, and to Heather Newman for hosting on her server.

Our website will remain www.sargbay.ca. Please let us know if there are any errors when you visit it next.

Burgerjon Legacy Fund Update:

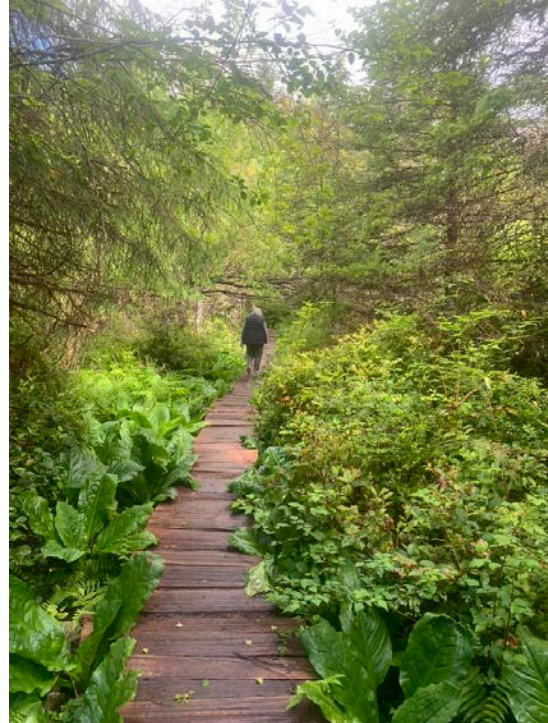
Continued donations to the Joop and Jessie Burgerjon Endowment for the Sargeant Bay Society saw the fund grow to \$22,610 as of Dec. 31, 2019, with an additional \$3,000 added in early 2020. The dividend from the Legacy Fund for year-end 2019 amounted to \$860. All donations gratefully accepted!

Summer Activities - 2020

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation we will not be scheduling any group activities for the foreseeable future. Do visit the Park responsibly.

Phare Lake—SBS Volunteers participate in a wetland rehabilitation project with the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project.

Next time you are looking for an nearby outing, visit the Phare Lake area (there is a new “easy” 3.2 km trail that circumnavigates Phare Lake—the Wormy 150 Trail). A portion of the Trail shown below includes a raised boardwalk across a wet drainage into Phare Lake.



Following the Old Sechelt Mine Fire and the untimely death of John Phare while fighting the fire, Wormy Lake was renamed to honour John’s legacy to the community. Subsequent to the fire the Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SCCF), the tenure holder for the forest in the area of the fire, performed a salvage cut to harvest as much useable wood as possible from the burned area.

As part of their commitment to wetland recovery in their tenure area, the SCCF partnered with the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project (SCWP) to undertake a wetland reclamation project in the

small wetland at the junction of the mine road (the continuation of Mason Road, or alternate access from Trout Lake Road and Halfmoon-Carlson FSR) and the Phare Lake access road. As part of the SBS mandate to protect and enhance wetlands in the area, a group of SBS volunteers also participated.

Over 2000 shrubs, trees, grass & reed plugs were planted along the waters edge and in the immediate upland to the pond. Nest boxes for swallows and bats were installed on posts in the middle of the pond, the posts having been erected by an excavator that had made small islands for bird nesting habitat.



Shovels, picks, and a modicum of sweat, saw the job completed by the eight SBS volunteers and three SCWP staff over a 2-day period.



The encouraging result of all this hard work was soon realized, as Tree Swallows and Violet-green Swallows were soon observed feeding in the area over the pond and entering the nest boxes.

Tree Swallows are at-risk aerial insectivores.



Cedar Waxwings also frequent the area.



A female Western Tanager was seen on successive days in the area, suggesting the possibility of nesting nearby.

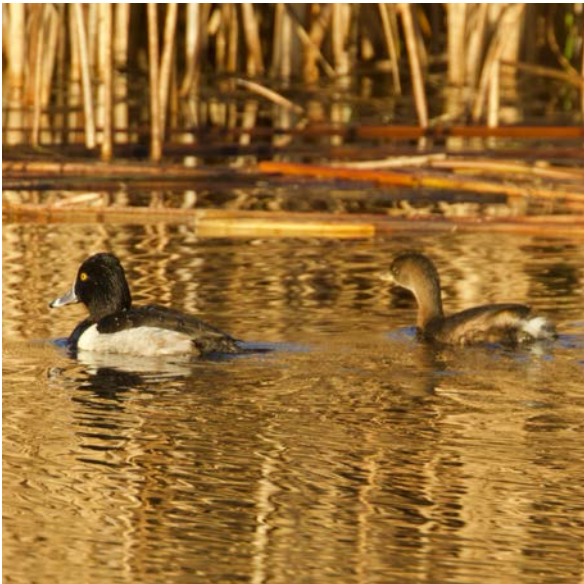


Some of the bird sightings from the Park before the “shut-down”

A full-plumaged Great Blue Heron displays a throat plume on a windy day.



An unlikely pair—Ring-necked Duck (left) and Pied-billed Grebe—bask in the late afternoon sun.



If you photograph any interesting events or activities in the Park, please send along for inclusion in the Newsletter, with a short description of what you saw.

Send to: srgntbay.soc@gmail.com

Contact us at 604-885-4642

Part of a large flock of Pine Siskins that were working the high tide line for a quick meal.



A female (dark orange breast band) Belted Kingfisher surveys Colvin Lake for lunch.



A winter-plumaged Common Loon hunting very near shore.



All Photos ©R. Rudland