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Newsletter #100 – Spring 2019

Editor – Rand Rudland

AGM, Cooper's Green Hall May 2, 2019 – 7:30 PM Agenda

1. Call to order – 7:30 PM
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of 2018 minutes
4. Business arising
5. Reports
 - a. President's – Rand R.
 - b. Finance – Garry P.
 - c. Membership – Rand R.
 - d. Salmon Update – Dave Spicer
6. New business
7. Election of directors
8. Adjournment

Newsletter #100, 40th Anniversary of SBS:

This 100th edition marks quite a milestone for the Society, and the Newsletter. Starting with typewritten reports to the Sargeant Bay Property Owners' Association (1978 - see 1st page of Newsletter #1 attached herein), progressing through the formation of the Society in 1979 and continued by Joop Burgerjon until 2012 when I took over the editing function. Photocopies were sent by land mail for many years, but now the new reality is digital in all aspects—compose, edit, save and attach to an email for immediate distribution.

What will the Newsletter look like on its 150th edition? And what will the Redroofs area around the Park look like then?

Joop & Jessie Endowment for the Sargeant Bay Society with the SC Community Foundation:

The Endowment Fund now stands at \$20,055.00. Thank you for all the contributions made last year.

Summer Activities – 2019

1 - Botany Hike – April 28th, 2019

Kye Goodwin will lead a hike to explore the botany of the Breadner Loop trails on Truman Rd in Halfmoon Bay. Roadside parking 0.27 km along Truman Rd. at 9 AM. This is considered a moderately challenging trail. Maybe the Tiger Lilies will be in bloom at that time?



2 - Birding on the Berm – May 19, 2019

Last year Tony Greenfield and 35 local birders saw a total of 36 species during a 3-hour joint outing with the Sargeant Bay Society and the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society. This year may be even better!!!! Join the group of birders at the upper Park parking lot for a 9 AM start.

Maybe a Red-tailed Hawk such as this will grace us with its presence.



3 - Bats of Sargeant Bay – Michelle Evelyn and the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project crew – June 8, 2019 – 9 – 10 PM

Michelle and Dave will use their acoustic recording technology to explore the dusk skies over Colvin Lake in search of Little Brown Myotis and other bat species that may be foraging in the area.

4 – Intertidal Explorations - Lee-Ann Ennis – Iris Griffith Centre - July 6, 2019 – 1100 AM

Once again, this popular event will explore the intertidal habitat of Sargeant Bay. A low tide of 0.6' at 12:55 pm should allow excellent access to the lowest areas of the beach. Bring all the family, water shoes, and sunscreen. Shovels and buckets provided by Lee-Ann and the Iris Griffith Centre crew.

Look for pipefish, starfish, ghost shrimps and maybe more new species, adding to the biodiversity of the Park.



Christmas visitors – a family group of Trumpeter Swans spent a few days over Christmas on Colvin Lake before heading further south. Note the drab gray coloration and orange bill of the juvenile bird. By the time it returns on the northern migration it will have all the white feather colouration and a black bill as do the adults seen here.

Don Basham reported 55 swans resting on the water of Sargeant Bay on March 19th this year. There was a major northward movement of swans during this week, with many reported up and down the Sunshine Coast. Spring had finally arrived!

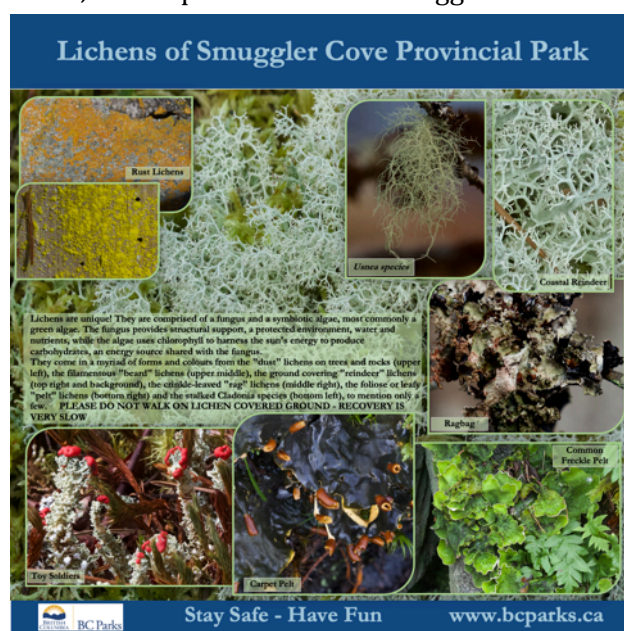
Watch for membership renewal reminders arriving by email in the near future – please renew promptly and encourage your friends to do the same. If you do not get a reminder, you are paid up to date.



(Photo of 2 adult and 1 juvenile Trumpeter Swans by Don Basham, Dec. 28, 2019)

Smuggler Cove Marine Prov. Park Signage Project:

Part of the updated Sargeant Bay Society mandate includes involvement in projects in other wetlands of the Halfmoon Bay area. This includes Smuggler Cove. Some of the original BC Parks signage has deteriorated, and what remains does not cover much of a variety of topics. A cooperative project between the Ruby Lake Lagoon Society and the Sargeant Bay Society will result in new educational signage appearing in various parts of the Smuggler Cove trail system. Thanks to a BC Parks grant successfully applied for by LeeAnn Ennis, such topics as “Flora of Smuggler Cove Prov.



Park”, “Songbirds of Smuggler Cove Prov. Park”, “Ferns of Smuggler Cove Prov. Park”, to mention a few, will be ready for installation in advance of the

busy summer tourist season. See an example above. Work party notices to follow for installation.

A portion of this funding will provide additional Sargeant Bay Prov. Park signage for the Triangle Lake Loop Trail as well.

Many thanks go to local experts Kye Goodwin and John Fields for their contributions to the identification of flora and fungi of this area. Also thanks to Marcia Mason and Arnold Skei for photos of a few bird species that I did not have in my database. Finally thanks to Rod Dalziel of BC Parks for proof reading the signage and making recommendations to improve the overall presentations, and to BC Parks for funding this project.

Fishladder Cleanup:

The winter storms, combined with a very high tide, saw the direction of flow strongly reversed through the fish ladder. This very large cedar log, about 15' long, remained lodged in the structure despite a number of high tides that followed. Finally a crew – well actually Jeff Muckle (below) – was able to cut sections off the end until we could safely tip it into the water.



Streamkeepers Salmon Spawning Count – Winter 2018 (Report & photos by Dave Spicer)

After a number of Sargeant Bay members completed the Stream Keepers Course in late September 2018, a committed group organized a daily salmon monitoring schedule for the fall and early winter. Rick Walters, Ian Kirkland, Jim Quirk, Don Basham, Don Johnson, Penny Dunford, Wayne Rolfe and myself all volunteered to make sure there was a daily check of the lagoon, the fish ladder, and Colvin Creek itself for any sightings of returning salmon. This group of volunteers also worked to clear the beaver dams daily or when needed so there were no large obstructions for the salmon. Colvin Creek, located in Sargeant Bay park, is the final destination for a small number of Coho and Chum salmon. For the last 40 years there have been returning salmon reported, in some years as many as 100, and in some years none at all.

In the fall of 2017, no adult fish were seen in the lagoon or creek, although during the 2018 Stream Keepers course juvenile Coho were seen in the creek, so obviously a small number of Coho did return to spawn in fall 2017. We had hopes to see a few more fish returning for fall 2018 in the hope that some made it into the creek.

Here is a brief summary of salmon sightings in the Park for fall 2018:

October 16th - first school of Chum salmon were seen swimming in the lagoon area below the fish ladder. 8-12 Chum were jumping and swimming in the lagoon during the high tide. There was little rain at this time and low water flow, so the salmon were not trying to enter the fish ladder. Also, on October 16-17th, large schools of bait fish were seen against “the rock” at the north end of the beach. This brought dozens of gulls, Bald Eagles, Common Loons and seals. It was quite the



loud spectacle for those who saw it. Sargeant Bay was looking quite healthy. A large Lingcod was also seen swimming in the lagoon in shallow water, likely escaping the seals in the area-an unusual sighting from the shoreline.



October 31st - up to 11 Chum were seen moving in and out of the bottom of the ladder.

Nov 1st - a bright Coho was seen and photographed leaping midway in the fish ladder.



November 4th - a few Coho and Chum seen in Colvin Lake (above the fish ladder). Chum were seen in pairs along some gravel areas of Colvin Lake so likely some spawn in the lake as well as in Colvin Creek.

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

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November 16 - first sighting of salmon in Colvin creek for 2 years! 8 Chum were seen spawning in the creek. Also, salmon were seen at this same time entering the fish ladder. By November 23rd there were no more Chum in the creek.



November 29th - The first Coho arrived, and 7 were seen in the creek.

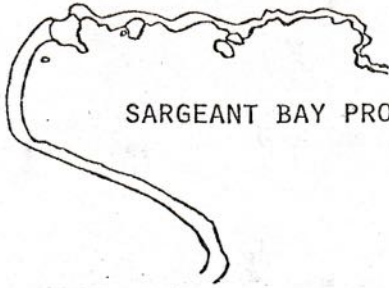
In November I did meet with Jim Wilson (one of DFO's technicians) at the fish ladder during a heavy rain event with high water flow. He observed that the fish ladder was functioning perfectly and presented no problems for fish entering Colvin Lake. He did suggest a small improvement that would be easy to do--to cut small "V" notches in the fish ladder steps as this would make it easier for smaller fish to climb the ladder. This is something that will be done during the dry season this summer.

In summary, the final count of salmon entering Colvin Creek was approximately 8 Chum and 7 Coho. These are not huge numbers, but still a positive result for a small salmon bearing creek like Colvin. We can also assume that some Chum spawned in Colvin Lake and were not seen or counted, and we may have not seen all fish as they are very good at hiding under trees and creek banks and many spawn at night. The fact that none were seen at all the previous year makes 2018 a good improvement. We can only hope for an increase in salmon returns in the coming years.

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SARGEANT BAY PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1562, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0

April 3, 1978

Dear

At our meeting on March 26 the membership of the Association increased from 8 to 15 families. To keep the organization simple and informal, minimal constitution and by-laws were adopted as follows:

Constitution

- a) To promote conservation of the natural habitat of Sargeant Bay.
- b) To act in the best interest of the property owners of Sargeant Bay.
- c) To provide a vehicle whereby said property owners may communicate to and receive information from the Area "B" Rate-payers' Association and the various local, provincial and federal government agencies that have jurisdiction over the Sargeant Bay area.

By-laws

- a) The membership fee is \$5.00 p.a. per family and is to be reviewed at each Annual Meeting.
- b) An Annual Meeting will be called each Easter Saturday. Other meetings may be called as necessary or at the request of 10 % of the members.
- c) The Executive will consist of a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, to be elected for one, two and three year terms respectively at the first Annual Meeting. At subsequent Annual Meetings all Executive Officers will be elected for three year terms.
- d) All registered owners of property adjoining, or within 200 ft from the beach, limited to but not including Lot 30 on Bayview Road to the West, and Caleta Subdivision to the East are eligible to become members. (This article of the by-laws will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to arrive at a closer definition.)

Subsequently Executive Officers were elected as follows:

President:	Joop Burgerjon, for a one year term.
Secretary:	Judy Malnerick, for a two year term.
Treasurer:	Edith Caple, for a three year term.