

A Celebration of Swans

Wildlife Viewing Program

2015



A Celebration of

Swans

MARSH LAKE - TAGISH LAKE - TESLIN LAKE - KLUANE LAKE - LAKE LABERGE

APRIL 2015 EVENT INFORMATION
867-867-8291 or www.env.gov.yk.ca/swans
Swan Cam: yukonenergy.ca
Photo: Gureeta Rai

Wildlife  Viewing

Water birds need open water in spring to feed, rest and stay safe



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Yukon
Environment

April 2016

**A CELEBRATION OF SWANS:
WILDLIFE VIEWING ANNUAL REPORT
2015**

**Yukon Department of Environment
Fish and Wildlife Branch
PR-16-05**

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Summary

A key feature of the Wildlife Viewing Program is the annual *A Celebration of Swans* birding festival and our related activities at Swan Haven. *A Celebration of Swans* is held during April each year, to coincide with the return of migratory waterbirds to Yukon. The festival provides many opportunities for Yukoners to enjoy and learn about native swan species. *A Celebration of Swans* is part of the larger Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month, which takes place in April.

Swan Haven is located on the shores of M'Clintock Bay at the north end of Marsh Lake, approximately 35 km southeast of Whitehorse. This is a critical staging area for migrating birds as they travel each spring from southern wintering areas to northern breeding grounds.

The focal point for visitors to Swan Haven is the interpretive centre. This facility is located on Swan Haven Drive, Marsh Lake. Visitors can enjoy interpretive displays both inside and outside the building, waterbird viewing, interactions with staff, interpretive activities, and a picnic area.

This year, the interpretive centre was open and staffed from 1 April to 10 May, however, the grounds are open year-round. The extended hours allowed us to promote learning and discovery of shorebirds in the area. The Swan Haven Interpretive Centre is managed by the Wildlife Viewing Program. Girl Guides of Canada own the property and the Yukon government owns all assets.

This year Nikon Canada donated a spotting scope to be used as a festival grand prize. Participants in festival events were given the chance to enter a raffle to win the spotting scope. A Whitehorse resident was the grand prize winner.

Both the festival and the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre were well attended this year, with above average participation. The program continues to be popular with Yukoners and visitors alike.

Scope

This report describes Swan Haven / *A Celebration of Swans* program activities from January to December, 2015.



The Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, ready for the season.

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A Celebration of Swans

For this year, we promoted the festival as “April 2015”, however the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre was open until 10 May, with our final event wrapping up at the same time (Appendix 1).

Centre attendance and event participation were up slightly over 2014 and were higher than average. School program participation was below average, at 75% of average attendance. Total festival participation was up slightly from 2014, remaining above average for the second year in a row.

Table 1. Participation summary for A Celebration of Swans, 2015.

Festival Component	Number of People			
	2015	2014	2013	Average (2003-2015)
Interpretive Centre	3,170	3,019	2,428	2,985
Events	799	798	1,191	736
School Program	389	505	429	529
<i>Total participation</i>	<i>4,358</i>	<i>4,322</i>	<i>4,048</i>	<i>4,250</i>

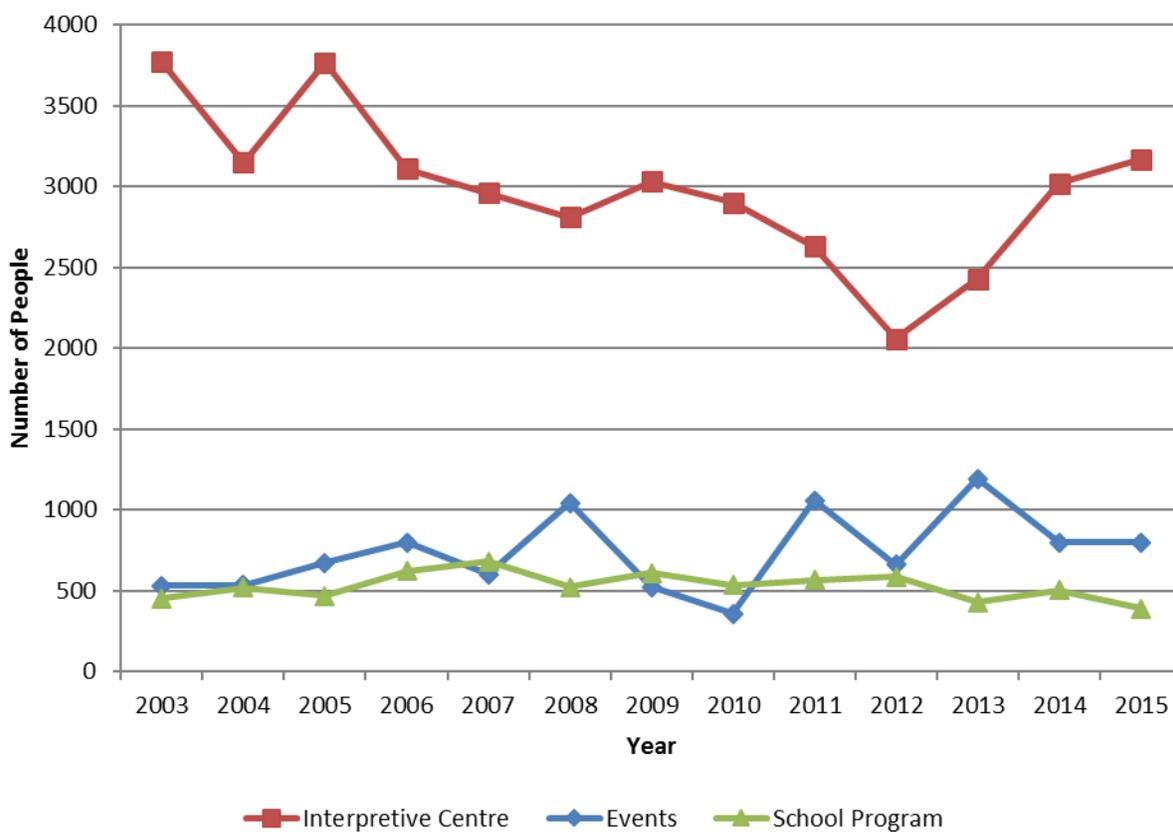


Figure 1. Participation trends by festival component, 2003 to 2015.

Table 2. A Celebration of Swans Events, 2015.

Date	Event	Location	Description	Attendance
31 March	Swan Haven Open House	Swan Haven	A meet and greet for Marsh Lake residents before the centre opens.	12
4 April	Winter Swans	Johnsons Crossing	A short walk and talk about the overwintering swans in the area.	8
4 April	Ask Jim Anything	Swan Haven	An informal Q&A with retired biologist Jim Hawkings.	20
6 April	Spiritual Celebration of Swans	Swan Haven	Multi-faith service, songs and quiet reflection.	30
10 April	Havre des cygnes - mise à jour	Whitehorse	A presentation and craft at l'Association franco-yukonnaise's Cafés-rencontres.	17
11 April	Tagish Stories and Campfire	Tagish	First Nation stories about spring around a campfire with tea and bannock.	30
11 April	Coffee House Music Night	Swan Haven	Musical jam session with light refreshments.	1
12 April	Bird Photography Workshop	Swan Haven	Introduction to wildlife photography on the shoreline.	10
12 April	Willow Weaving Workshop	Swan Haven	Drop-in workshop to weave willow swans and ducks for the fence.	18
18 April	Forest Birds of Swan Haven	Swan Haven	Bird banding display by Society of Yukon Bird Observatories.	0
18 April	A Bird's Eye View	Swan Haven	Presentation on bird banding by Society of Yukon Bird Observatories.	20
19 April	From Image to Identity	Swan Haven	Bird identification workshop.	10
19 April	Watercolour Landscape Workshop	Swan Haven	Drop-in watercolour painting workshop.	29
21 April	Carcross Birding	Carcross	Outdoor swan viewing.	1
25 & 26 April	Family Weekend	Swan Haven	Swan viewing, face painting, crafts, games, activities, food concession by Girl guides of Canada.	500
29 April	Senior's Tea	Swan Haven	Drop-in event hosted by the Marsh Lake Community Society with tea, coffee and baked goods.	50
2 May	Shorebirds of Swan Haven: volume I	Swan Haven	A birding walk focused on shorebirds.	3
7 May	Frog Walk	Whitehorse	A short walk and talk about Wood Frogs.	22
9 May	Dagay-Swan Way (Swans of Kluane)	Burwash Landing	Walk and talk along the shores of Kluane Lake with waterfowl viewing. Tea, bannock and stew.	14
10 May	Shorebirds of Swan Haven: Volume II	Swan Haven	A birding walk focused on shorebirds.	4
<i>Attendance sum:</i>				799

Supporters and Partnering Organizations

Twenty-five different organizations either hosted or aided in the delivery of *A Celebration of Swans* events. Many individuals also contributed (see Appendix 2).

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre

The centre was open daily in April, from 5 to 9 pm on weekdays and 12

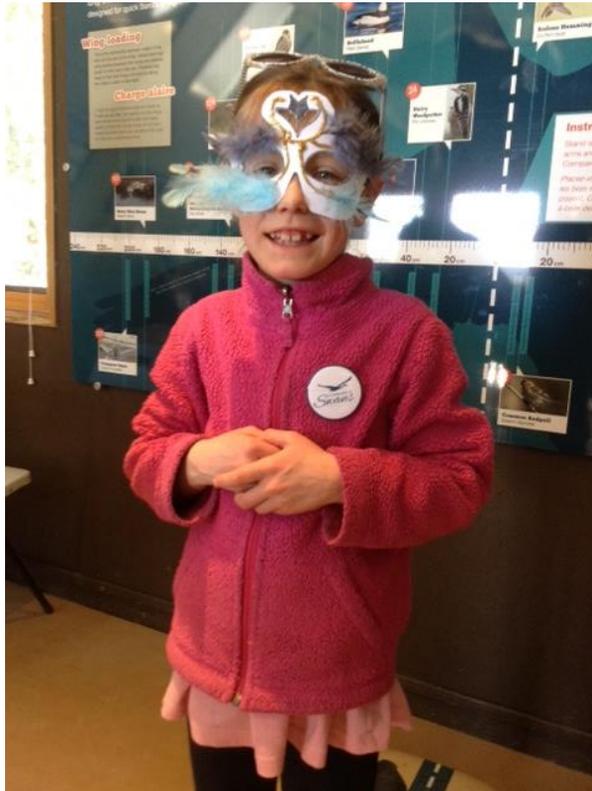
to 7 pm on weekends and holidays. This year, we were able to keep the centre open daily from 1 to 10 May thanks to a financial contribution from Ducks Unlimited Canada. A contractor (Jukka Jantunen) was responsible for day-to-day operations of the centre, visitor reception, and daily counts of waterfowl. Mr. Jantunen is an accomplished birder and photographer and has been involved in many recent Yukon bird

Table 3. Supporters and partnering organizations for *A Celebration of Swans* 2015.

Organization	Contribution
Association franco-yukonnaise	'Havre des cygnes : Regard sur le passé' event
L'Aurore boréale	Promotion
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Promotion and support for 'Tagish Stories and Campfire' event
CBC/Radio-Canada	TV, radio and web promotion
City of Whitehorse	Display space in Canada Games Centre
CKRW The Rush	Radio promotion
Ducks Unlimited	Financial contribution to centre operation.
Environment Canada	Promotion and waterfowl data
Girl Guides of Canada	Food concession, property access
Gureeta Rai	Contributed photograph for poster
Hougen Group of Companies	Promotion (sign on 3 rd Avenue walkway)
Hurlburt Enterprises Inc.	Snow clearing
Kluane First Nation	Promotion and support for 'Swans of Kluane' event
Marsh Lake Community Society	Hosting 'Senior's Tea' event
Nikon Canada	Donation of spotting scope for festival grand prize
Science Adventures (Yukon College)	School program promotion
Society of Yukon Bird Observatories	Promotion, 'Forest Birds of Swan Haven' event, and 'A Bird's Eye View' event
What's Up Yukon	Newspaper and web promotion
Whitehorse Public Library	Hosted swan display
Whitehorse Star	Newspaper and web promotion
Whitehorse United Church	'Spiritual Celebration of Swans' event
Yukon Conservation Society	Promotion
Yukon Energy	Sponsored festival poster and swan cam, promotion
Yukon News	Newspaper and web promotion
Department of Tourism and Culture	Twitter and Facebook promotion

monitoring programs. Our staff also worked at the centre during peak visitation times.

Visitors to the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre could enjoy the exhibits, view waterbirds from the centre's two decks, and interact with our knowledgeable staff and contractor. Total visitation at the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre was estimated at 3,170 people during the 2015 operating season, however without a formal registration process it is difficult to know exactly how many people visit the centre and grounds each year.



Mask-making at Swan Haven, 2015.

Poster Contest

For the past 15 years we have produced a festival poster to commemorate *A Celebration of Swans* and increase local engagement. We held a contest to obtain a swan-related image for use in the poster design. A total of 62 images by 14 artists were submitted for consideration. Whitehorse photographer Gureeta Rai submitted the winning entry this year. Paul Gowdie of Tarius Design designed the poster layout, and Yukon Energy again sponsored the design and printing.

Student Art Display and Contest

We invited Yukon students in grades 2 through 6 to submit original artwork for display at the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre throughout the month of April. Visitors to Swan Haven could vote for their favourite pieces in a “people’s choice” style contest.

Entries from students in Holy Family Elementary and Jack Hulland Elementary were voted as the winners and we displayed their artwork at the Canada Games Centre from 12 to 29 May.



Poster design, 2015.

Storefront Challenge

Through our website and poster distribution, we encouraged local businesses to recognize *A Celebration of Swans* by decorating their storefronts or offices. The challenge was not a primary focus this year as interest has been low in recent years. A volunteer created a display at the Whitehorse Public Library. Many festival posters were visible around Whitehorse during the festival.

Swan Cam

Yukon Energy again hosted and maintained a live-feed, web-based “[swan cam](#)”. We selected a new location this year along the Tagish

River, south of the car bridge. We hoped this new location would provide closer views of swans compared to previous years. Unfortunately, with early ice melt



Swan Haven open house, 2015.

most water birds were spread out north of the car bridge and far from the camera.

In 2016, we plan to examine alternate camera locations to improve the quality of camera footage.

Open House for Local Residents

On 31 March, we hosted an open house for Marsh Lake residents at the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre. This was an opportunity for local residents to enjoy Swan Haven before the April crowds and meet Environment Yukon staff.



Our grand prize winner tries out her new scope.

Festival Grand Prize Draw

For this year, Nikon Canada donated a spotting scope to be used as a festival grand prize. Festival participants could enter a raffle for a chance to win the spotting scope. We awarded the prize to a Whitehorse resident on 22 May 2015.

Swan Buttons

We produced collectible buttons for *A Celebration of Swans* this year. The buttons were available for free at the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre. We had intended for the buttons to serve as a proxy for visitation and assist in counting our guests. Unfortunately, it quickly became apparent that many people were not taking buttons and the rate of button usage could not be used to estimate visitation.

The buttons did serve as a promotional piece for the festival and for Swan Haven.

Swan Mugs

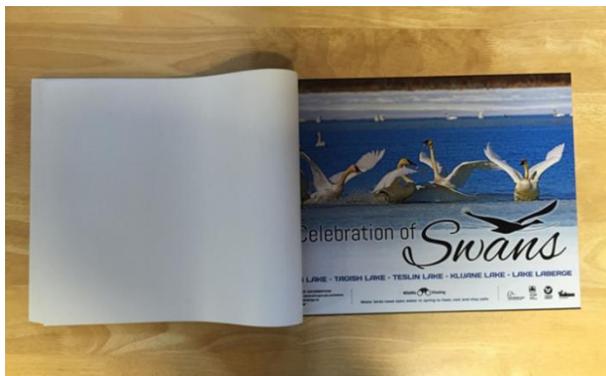
We also produced coffee mugs with the festival logo printed on the side. The mugs were used as thank-you gifts for guest speakers and during events when refreshments were served. These professional looking mugs were well received—further enhancing our festival branding.



Branded coffee mugs for the festival.

“Flipbook” Collection of Festival Posters

We designed and produced a “flipbook” of every festival poster to date. The flipbook is a sturdy, portable document that can be used to showcase *A Celebration of Swans* in many professional situations, such as community meetings and trade shows. The book’s binding is adjustable to allow for the addition of future posters.



“Flipbook” collection of festival posters.

School Program at Swan Haven

We again offered free outdoor education activities at Swan Haven for regional schools (grades 2 to 6). We hired three staff members for most of April to deliver this program. Teachers could select morning and afternoon time slots (24 total) on weekdays from 9 to 24 April. Programs were curriculum matched to each grade level and allowed students to enjoy and learn about swans and other migrating birds.

We sent a promotional package to schools in February to encourage registration. The final school program participation was 389 people (below average). Only 11 of the available 24 time slots were utilized by school groups. Grades 2, 3 and 4 continue to be the most common participants. Our staff completed other tasks supporting *A Celebration of Swans* when not delivering school programs.



A school group enjoys a game about migration, 2015.

Advertising and Promotion

We promoted Swan Haven and *A Celebration of Swans* through print, radio, web, and social media (Table 4).

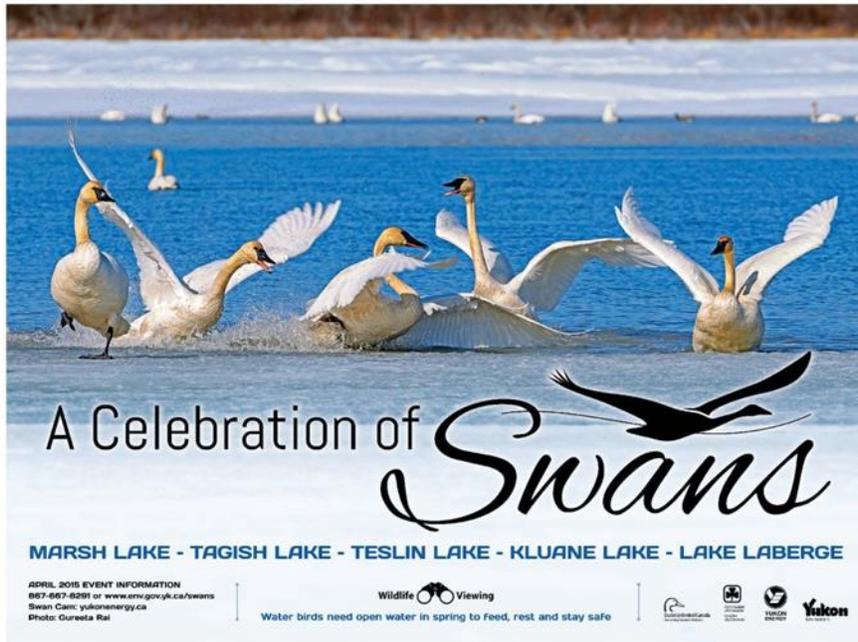
Radio coverage, particularly by CBC Radio's morning show *A New Day*, was very supportive of our

program. The show's staff often checked the latest "Spring Update from Swan Haven" and discussed it on-air.

Word-of-mouth continues to be an effective advertising technique as well.

Table 4. Summary of advertising and promotion techniques.

Technique	Outlet	Note
Print ad	l'Aurore boréale What's Up Yukon Whitehorse Star Yukon News	Generally small ads directing people to our online events calendar. A full-page ad was placed in What's Up Yukon as we received a 50% discount.
Radio ad	CHON CKRW	30-second ads.
Web ad	Whitehorse Star	Ads appearing on the Whitehorse Star website.
Online ad	Facebook	Ads appearing in Facebook feeds in the Whitehorse area.
Radio interviews	CBC CKRW	Live, on-air interview on the morning show (<i>A New Day</i>). Described upcoming events and recent swan numbers.
TV interview	CBC	Recorded interview played on CBC Northbeat and web portals.
ENV Twitter account	-	Promotion of events and Swan Haven Interpretive Centre.
Wildlife Viewing Facebook page	-	Promotion of events and Swan Haven Interpretive Centre. Recent sightings and bird counts.
ENV website: "The Swan Haven Report"	-	A daily, online report summarizing the swan migration at Swan Haven, events and interesting sightings.
All About Birds festival listing	Cornell Lab of Ornithology	An online festival and events listing service from the premier birding authority in North America.
Swan "Cut-outs"	-	Large, wooden swan cut-outs placed around Whitehorse and Marsh Lake to indicate the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre is open. Locations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Bottom of Two Mile Hill 2) Second Avenue and Quartz Road (SuperStore) 3) Robert Service Way roundabout 4) Lewes Boulevard (FH Collins) 5) Alaska Highway and Swan Haven Drive 6) Swan Haven Interpretive Centre
Third Avenue sign	-	A large (8 x 2') sign advertising Swan Haven placed on the pedestrian overpass near Main Street.
Event posters	-	Posters advertising individual festival events posted around Whitehorse.



Free Wildlife Viewing Events

Saturday, April 11

Picnic and Stories Around the Campfire

Tagish River Bridge, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm

Bring your own picnic lunch, we'll bring the tea and bannock. Carcross/Tagish First Nation Elder Ida Calmegane will share some traditional stories of spring in Yukon.

Coffee House Music Night

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Bring your acoustic instruments to Swan Haven for a musical evening, unplugged! Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, April 12

Bird Photography Workshop

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Bring your camera and questions and join photographer Jukka Jantunen for a workshop on bird photography.

Willow Weaving Workshop

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, 1:00 - 3:00 pm (drop-in)

Shiela Alexandrovich will help you weave a simple swan design with willow branches, and later incorporate it into our new fence on the shores of Swan Haven. No experience required and materials are provided.

Saturday, April 18

Bird Banding 101

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

We're turning it over to the Society of Yukon Bird Observatories. A banding demonstration (1:00-2:00 pm), Q&A, and a slideshow (2:00-3:00 pm) about the group's work at three Yukon banding stations.

The Girl Guides are selling BBQ lunch and cookies, noon - 3:00 pm.

Sunday, April 19

Bird Identification Workshop

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Join Jukka Jantunen as he helps us identify our feathered friends that make their home in Yukon.

Watercolour Landscape Workshop

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, 2:00 - 5:00 pm (drop-in)

Would you like to try painting landscapes? Materials provided. No experience required.

The Girl Guides are selling BBQ lunch and cookies, noon - 3:00 pm.

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre

April 1 to May 10, 2015

Weekdays: 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Weekends and holidays: 12:00 noon – 7:00 pm



For our complete events calendar:
Call (867) 667-8291 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8291

www.env.gov.yk.ca/swans



Advertisement in What's Up Yukon.



Vegetation and compost on the upper slope.

Infrastructure and Property

Shoreline Revegetation

Grasses and shrubs continue to grow along the upper portion of the shoreline, above the gabion mats installed in 2013. This new growth will help anchor the soil and protect against erosion.

In August 2015, we added compost and native grass seeds to the upper slope, providing nutrients and seed stock for further plant growth. Given the success to date, we will continue to employ simple, low-cost methods to promote re-vegetation.

Visitation Monitoring Tools

We know the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre receives visitors year-round, especially during the summer months when the building is not staffed. We have started work on quantifying this “off-season” usage. Accurate visitation data will inform decision-making regarding site maintenance, capital projects, and educational activities.

On 26 May, we installed a pneumatic traffic counter at the “driveway” approach to the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre. The counter’s tube was positioned to be triggered by a vehicle when entering the drive, but not on exiting. As of 10 September, the traffic counter had been triggered 2,454 times over the 107 days of deployment. Subsequent testing suggested the counter was malfunctioning and these results are therefore suspect.



Trail counter on the shoreline viewing deck.

We will consult with Highways and Public Works staff regarding pneumatic traffic counters. Based on these discussions, we may again deploy a counter in 2016.

We also began testing an infrared “trail counter” at the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre. The device records the passage of people through an infrared beam. The unit was deployed on 10 September for a 22-day test period. Based on initial data analysis, we estimate 196 people visited the site during this period. In 2016, we will deploy the trail counter from March to September to improve our visitation estimates.

Fire Safety Inspection and Equipment

On 26 May, Deputy Fire Marshal Kevin Taylor conducted a Fire Safety Inspection Report including an occupancy load declaration for the centre’s building.

Mr. Taylor also provided new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, which we installed immediately. He also recommended an escape ladder as a secondary means of egress from the second floor. We purchased a ladder and placed it on the second floor.

Hazard Tree Removal

We identified five trees at the centre as having significant dieback and rotten stem wood. The risk of human injury and property damage was high; a contractor removed the trees in August.

Rain gutters

The existing rain gutters on the centre were old, separating and did not adequately collect rain water off the roof. This resulted in significant pools of water around the building in April. These pools would freeze overnight causing a slip hazard for staff and visitors.

We installed new rain gutters and downspouts in September 2015 to reduce this risk and to move water away from the building.

Other work

We conducted routine maintenance, garbage collection and outhouse maintenance as needed, from May to September 2015. On 10 September, we completed winter shutdown procedures to reduce damage to infrastructure by snow fall and snow ploughs.



Swan Haven, ready for winter.

Next Steps

Infrastructure and Property, Swan Haven Interpretive Centre

We will undertake the following actions in 2016:

- monitor built structures for safety issues and effectiveness, particularly erosion protection features;
- continue to comply with terms and conditions of our water license (annual report, January);
- monitor the seeded areas of the property and assess the need for further re-vegetation action (April-August).

The seeded, upper portion of the shoreline has hosted some plant growth since last year. This is desirable for aesthetics and to help anchor the soil.

A Celebration of Swans

We will continue to build upon the success and popularity of *A Celebration of Swans*. Festival events in 2015 were generally well-attended. We will review each individual event for relevance, popularity and value for the 2016 festival.

Through promotion and teacher engagement activities, we will continue to encourage participation in the Swan Haven School Program. Encouragingly, participation increased in the student art contest this year. Anecdotal evidence suggests the art display and “people’s choice” style voting is very popular with Swan Haven visitors. The art

contest may be a means of drawing more teachers to the on-site educational programs.

Tracking visitation to Swan Haven has been challenging. With no “front gate” or sales receipts, our figures are estimates, and should be considered a minimum visitation number.

Pending discussions with Highways and Public Works staff, in 2016, we will continue using a pneumatic traffic counter to complement staff-collected figures. In addition, we will use a trail counter to record visitation from March to September 2016.

We will continue producing the daily “Swan Haven Report”. We will make small improvements to the design of the updates and work with the Web Communications Coordinator to maximize the reach of these updates. Also, we have started working with Environment Canada staff to automate the graph generation.

This year, we conducted an informal review of the Wildlife Viewing Program; it would be beneficial to complete a more formal evaluation process specific to *A Celebration of Swans*. A professional review of audience needs, expectations and desires would help inform future program development. Audience (visitor) segmentation tools are widely used in the tourism industry. Application of these tools to our visitors may yield insights for adjustments. A gap analysis of current activities would contribute to wise, future decision making.

A Celebration of Swans has great community support. We will continue to strengthen this program by focussing on high quality experiences for participants.

APPENDIX 1 YUKON BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

[see next page]

Spring Events Calendar 2015



Wildlife Viewing

Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month

April is Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month (YBAM)

Many Yukoners recognise the importance of maintaining biodiversity both here and around the world.

With the participation of:

- Association franco-yukonnaise
- Carcross/Tagish First Nation
- CBC Yukon
- City of Whitehorse
- CKRW The Rush
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Environment Canada
- Girl Guides of Canada
- Kluane First Nation
- Marsh Lake Community Association
- Nikon Canada
- Society of Yukon Bird Observatories
- Town of Faro
- What's Up Yukon
- Whitehorse Star
- Whitehorse United Church
- Yukon College
- Yukon Energy
- Yukon News
- Yukon Wildlife Preserve



www.wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca



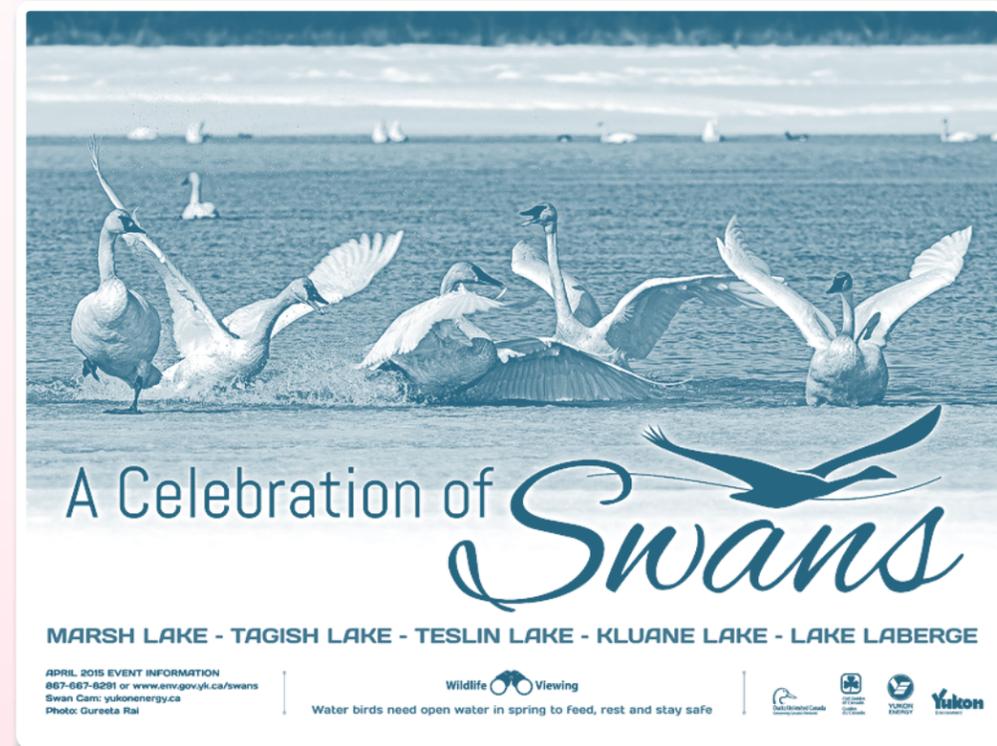
Above: Enjoying Family Weekend activities at Swan Haven in 2014.

Cover photo: Arctic Grayling spawn in spring, shortly after the ice melts on creeks and streams. (Peter Mather Photography)

Yukoners can celebrate spring in so many ways!

A Celebration of Swans

Yukon's premier birding festival brings residents and visitors alike out to great swan viewing areas to welcome spring to the North. The shallow open waters of M'Clintock Bay, Tagish Lake, Teslin Lake, Kluane Lake, and Lake Laberge are critical stopovers on the swans' long migration to northern nesting grounds. These lakes provide access to food, good visibility, and little disturbance. In return for a safe place to stay, we are given the chance to experience a spring spectacle of birds not to be missed.



Faro's Annual Crane and Sheep Festival May 1 to 3

In spring, tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes darken the skies above Faro as they migrate to their breeding grounds in northern Yukon and Alaska. Come and enjoy a weekend of wildlife appreciation at Faro's annual Crane and Sheep Festival. The awe-inspiring number of cranes continues to

attract and inspire visitors. Catch a glimpse of the Fannin's sheep that are unique to the area in the hillsides surrounding the town. Festival events include the ever popular early morning bird walks, crane and Fannin's sheep viewing tours, art displays and BBQ.



www.env.gov.yk.ca/events

Biodiversity Month Events 2015

Wednesday, April 1 - Swan Haven Interpretive Centre Opens

See On-going Events for details.

Saturday, April 4 - Winter Swans

Johnsons Crossing, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon. Join Adam Skrutkowski at the boat launch under the bridge to get the latest update on overwintering swans at Johnsons Crossing. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the shores of the Teslin River.

Saturday, April 4 - Ask Jim Anything

Swan Haven, 1:30 – 2:30 pm. Jim Hawkings spent decades working as a biologist, studying and conserving migratory birds and their habitat in Yukon. Ask him all about it in this informal Q&A.

Monday, April 6 - Spiritual Celebration of Swans

Swan Haven, 10:30 – 11:30 am. All are welcome at this special time to give thanks for the return of spring. Join in song and prayer during this multi-faith service, while enjoying time for quiet reflection with the swans.

Vendredi 10 avril - Havre des cygnes - mise à jour

Toutes les dernières nouvelles concernant le Havre des cygnes et plus encore, durant le café-rencontre. Au programme : courte présentation, jeux et bricolages pour les enfants. Venez vous informer sur la migration des oiseaux ce printemps. Prix du repas : 12 \$ pour les non membres, 11 \$ pour les membres AFY.

Saturday, April 11 - Picnic and Stories Around the Campfire

Tagish River Bridge, Day Use Area, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm. Come to this great swan viewing area with your own picnic lunch and sit around the campfire enjoying a cup of tea and homemade bannock. Carcross/Tagish First Nation Elder Ida Calmegane will share some traditional stories of spring in Yukon. Be sure to bring a mug for tea, a lawn chair, and a blanket so that you can sit back and relax!

Saturday, April 11 - Coffee House Music Night

Swan Haven, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Bring your acoustic instruments to Swan Haven for a musical evening, unplugged! Please RSVP to Wildlife Viewing if you would like to lead some songs, and be prepared to sing-along. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, April 12 - Bird Photography Workshop

Swan Haven, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Bring your camera and questions and join photographer Jukka Jantunen for a workshop on bird photography. Jukka will take you down on the ice to try your hand at snapping photos of the birds, while discussing some tips and tricks of this challenging trade. Dress warmly.

Sunday, April 12 - Willow Weaving Workshop

Swan Haven, 1:00 – 5:00 pm. 1:00 – 3:00 pm (drop-in workshop), 3:00 – 5:00 pm (demonstration and installation). Help us put the finishing touches on our post-and-rail fence. Shiela Alexandrovich will help you weave a simple swan design with willow branches, and later incorporate it into our new fence on the shores of Swan Haven. No experience required and materials are provided. Depending on demand, there may be a sign-up sheet and short wait upon your arrival at the event.

Saturday, April 18 - Forest Birds of Swan Haven: Bird Banding Display

Swan Haven, 1:00 – 2:00 pm. The Society of Yukon Bird Observatories will have a mist net set up at Swan Haven to demonstrate bird banding and to discuss what we hope to learn from our feathered friends. This is your chance to get a closer look at some beautiful forest birds. Don't forget your camera.

Saturday, April 18 - Bird's Eye View

Swan Haven, 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Come learn all about Yukon's three bird banding stations from the experts themselves. Members of the Society of Yukon Bird Observatories will share a slide show presentation about migration monitoring and bird banding. Find out what is planned for the 2015 banding season and the return of our feathered friends.

Sunday, April 19 - Bird ID Workshop

Swan Haven, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon. Join Jukka Jantunen as he helps us identify our feathered friends that make their home in Yukon. Head down on the ice and work together identifying some of the more challenging birds at Swan Haven. Dress warmly.

Sunday, April 19 - Watercolour Landscape Workshop

Swan Haven, 2:00 – 5:00 pm (drop-in). Would you like to try painting landscapes? Local artist Daphne Mennell will be on hand to share tips with aspiring artists. Materials provided. No experience required.

Tuesday, April 21 - Carcross Birding

Carcross, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Meet at the foot bridge behind the post office and we'll see what birds are on the narrows. We may wander through the community, depending on where the birds are.

April 25 & 26 - Family Weekend

Swan Haven, 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm. The whole family is welcome to an afternoon of swan-watching and fun activities. Get your face painted, vote for your favourite artwork, play games, read a book, do a swancraft, and immerse yourself in the cacophony of swan sounds.

Wednesday, April 29 - Swan Haven Seniors Tea

Swan Haven, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm (drop-in). The Marsh Lake Community Association invites you to enjoy tea, coffee, homemade goodies, and peaceful swan viewing. For more information call 660-4999 or email, marshlake@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 2 - Shorebirds of Swan Haven: Volume I

Swan Haven, 10:30 – 12:00 noon. Move over swans, it's shorebird time! Sandpipers and snipes, yellowlegs and godwits, Jukka Jantunen will sort it all out during a short walk and talk. The shores of Swan Haven boast much more than swans and ducks. Rubber boots are recommended.

Thursday, May 7 - Frog Walk

Schwatka Lake, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. The Wood Frogs will be calling happily as muskrats swim by. We'll wander the shoreline listening and looking for wildlife. Meet at the float plane docks (call for details).

Saturday, May 9 - Dagay-Swan Way

Kluane Museum, Burwash Landing, 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm. Bring your lunch out to Kluane and enjoy a guided hike by Mary Jane Johnson and an Elder from Kluane First Nation. Learn about the swans of Jedali and enjoy some warm tea and bannock at the end of the day. Warm layers and rubber boots are a must! Some transportation may be available from Whitehorse and Haines Junction. Please call Wildlife Viewing for details.

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve

Yukon Wildlife Preserve, 9:30 am – 6:00 pm. Check out our new animal mothers and their cute babies. Join a guided bus tour at 10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm or 4 pm, or embark on a self-guided walking/bike tour. Regular admission rates apply, but mothers get in free! For more information, call 456-7300 or email, info@yukonwildlife.ca

Sunday, May 10 - Shorebirds of Swan Haven: Volume II

Swan Haven, 10:30 – 12:00 noon. We'll see what new birds have arrived before we close the doors of Swan Haven for the season. This is your last chance to try to stump Jukka with a bird question! Rubber boots are recommended.

Sunday, May 31 - Paddling Down the Lewes

M'Clintock River Bridge, Marsh Lake, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm. The swans have moved on but there are still plenty of birds on the mudflats of M'Clintock Bay. Bring your own canoe and safety gear and join Environment Yukon biologists as we paddle down the river to the Lewes River Bridge. You MUST REGISTER for this event by contacting the Wildlife Viewing Program. This is a challenging paddle in high winds.

On-going Events

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre

April 1 to May 10, 2015

Weekdays: 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Weekends and holidays: 12:00 noon – 7:00 pm

An interpreter will be available to answer your questions during these hours. For more information, please call 667-8291 or 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8291. You can also visit www.swanhaven.gov.yk.ca. Enjoy a longer season at Swan Haven this year. The centre will remain open until May 10th allowing more time to enjoy the return of spring.

Swan Cam - www.yukonenergy.ca

See what the swans are up to, any time of day. Watch in real time as the swans, ducks and geese feed and interact. Brought to you by Yukon Energy.

Festival Grand Prize

When you attend a festival event at A Celebration of Swans this year, you will be entered into a draw to win a Nikon spotting scope! Full contest rules apply. Brought to you by Nikon Canada.

Yukon Student Art Display

April 1 to May 10, Swan Haven. Get inspired by this youth art extravaganza and vote for your favourite piece. The top pieces of student artwork as chosen by you will be on display in the Canada Games Centre!

Bird Banding Stations:

Society of Yukon Bird Observatories

See spring migration up close as songbirds are measured and banded. www.yukonbirdobservatories.org

• Albert Creek Bird Observatory

10 km west of Watson Lake

May 1 to June 7: Daily, sunrise for 6 hours. (867) 335-1518

• McIntyre Marsh Bird Banding Station

Fish Lake Road, Whitehorse

May 2 to 31: Weekends and holidays, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Free camping in May! (Yukon Parks)

Camping fees waived for Yukon residents during May at all Yukon government campgrounds. Please register nightly. Visit yukonparks.ca for more information.

Admission is free for all events unless otherwise noted.

wildlife.viewing@gov.yk.ca

667-8291 or 1-800-661-0408, ext. 8291



APPENDIX 2 A CELEBRATION OF SWANS THANK-YOU AD

[see next page]



To everyone who made Swan Haven and
A Celebration of Swans 2015 a success,

Thank You!

Poster:

Yukon Energy | Gureeta Raj | Tarius Design

Yukon Energy Swan Cam:

Yukon Energy | Jeff Hamm | Rob Hopkins

Food Concessions:

Girl Guides of Canada | Nancy Deasty and the Porter Creek Junior Volleyball Club

Promotion:

Aurore boréale | CBC/Radio-Canada (TV, radio, web) | CKRW The Rush | Hougen Group of Companies | What's Up Yukon | Whitehorse Star | Yukon Conservation Society | YG Tourism and Culture | Yukon News

Events & Activities:

Adam Skrutkowski | Ben Schonewille | Bev Brazier, Rev. | Daphne Mennell | Environment Canada

Ida & Henry Calmegane | Jim Hawkings | Jukka Jantunen | Kluane First Nation | l'Association franco-yukonaise Margaret Campbell | Marsh Lake Community Society Mary Jane Johnson | Shiela Alexandrovich | Society of Yukon Bird Observatories | Ted Murphy-Kelly | Yukon Energy

Swan Haven:

Don Fulmer | Ducks Unlimited Canada | Gerry Whitley | Girl Guides of Canada | Hurlburt Enterprises Inc. | Jukka Jantunen | Lucy Johanson | Peter Heebink | Vesta Mather | YG Whitehorse Grader Station

Spotting Scope Contest:

Nikon Canada

Community Displays:

City of Whitehorse (Canada Games Centre) | Nancy Deasty | Whitehorse Public Library

Student Art Contest:

Thank you to all students and teachers who submitted artwork. This year's "People's Choice" winners were students from Jack Hulland Elementary (Mr. Morphet's class) and Holy Family Elementary (Mrs. Blythe's & Ms. Mitcham's class). The winning pieces are on display at the Canada Games Centre until May 31.

School Programs:

Karine Genest | Karine Grenier | Vanessa Stewart | Science Adventures (Heather Dundas) and hundreds of teachers and students!

Waterfowl Monitoring:

Adam Skrutkowski | Environment Canada | Jim Hawkings | Jukka Jantunen

Coordination:

Environment Yukon, Wildlife Viewing Program



Girl Guides of Canada
 Guides du Canada



APPENDIX 3 SAMPLE “THE SWAN HAVEN REPORT”

[see next page]

The Swan Haven Report

April 6, 2015

Swan ticker: **1,244** (1,238 Trumpeter + 6 Tundra)

Highlights: Boy oh boy. Early spring as far as the swans are concerned. We had some strong swan backing vocals for our Spiritual Celebration today. All in all, a great Easter weekend.

First sighting for: Lesser Scaup (2)
(this spring)

Around the region: Similar bird species are being observed around the Southern Lakes: swans, wigeons, mallards, pintails, goldeneyes, and mergansers.

[Upcoming events](#)

[What is / where is Swan Haven?](#)

[Swan Cam](#)

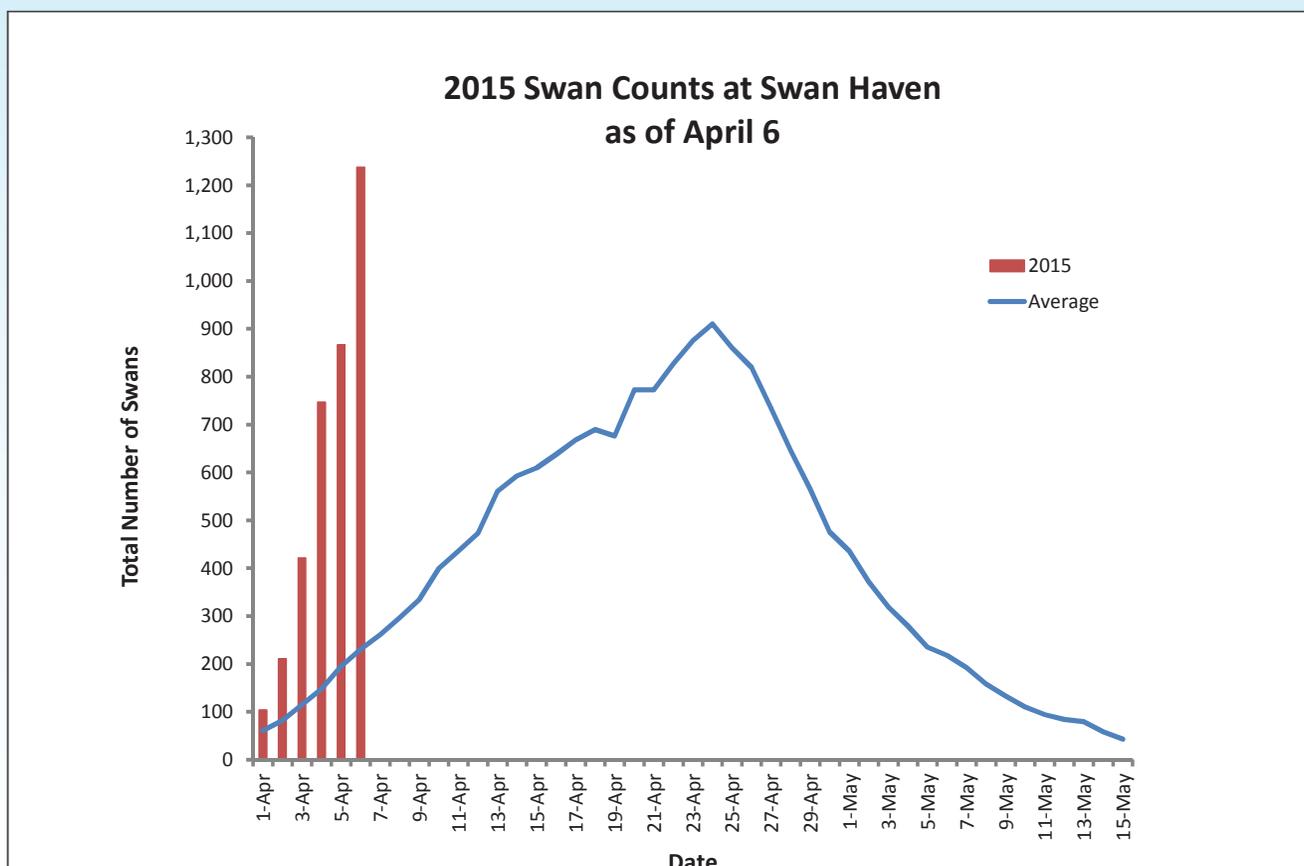
Detailed Bird Observations (from eBird.org)

[Swan Haven](#)

[Tagish](#)

[Carcross](#)

[Johnsons Crossing](#)



Call (867) 667-8291 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 local 8291

www.env.gov.yk.ca/swans

