

A CELEBRATION OF SWANS

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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A CELEBRATION OF SWANS 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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Summary

A key feature of the Wildlife Viewing Program is the annual A Celebration of Swans birding festival and 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 as spring progresses. A Celebration of Swans is part of the larger Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month (YBAM), which is recognized each 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 from southern wintering areas to northern breeding grounds each spring.

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.

The centre's building is open daily in April and the grounds are open year-round. This year the facility was open and staffed until 8 May 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.

Both the festival and the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre were well attended this year. The program continues to be popular with Yukoners and visitors alike. This report describes Swan Haven / A Celebration of Swans program activities from January to December, 2016.

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A Celebration of Swans

Similar to last year, we promoted the festival as “April 2016”; however the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre was open until 8 May, with our final event occurring on 14 May (Table 1, Appendix 1).

Centre attendance and school program participation were up significantly from 2015 and were higher than average (Table 2). Event participation was down slightly from 2015 but still higher than average. Total festival participation was up significantly from 2015, and above 5,000 for the first time.

Supporters and Partnering Organizations

Twenty-four different organizations either hosted or aided in the delivery of A Celebration of Swans events (Table 3). Many individuals also contributed (Appendix 2).

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre

The centre was open daily in April, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 to 7:00 pm on weekends and holidays. This year, we were able to keep the centre open daily from 1 to 8 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 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 3,723 people during the 2016 operating season, however without a formal registration process it is difficult to know exactly how many people visit the centre and grounds each year.

Poster Contest

For the past 16 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 30 images by 10 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 Christ the King Elementary, Grey Mountain Primary, and Robert Service School

were voted as the winners and we displayed their artwork at the Canada Games Centre from 11 to 31 May.

Swan Cam

Due to poor quality of imagery in recent years, Yukon Energy decided not to host the Swan Cam in 2016. Planning has begun on a “gull cam” at the Yukon River dam in Whitehorse. The image quality is expected to be much higher with this project. The Wildlife Viewing Program is partnering with Yukon Energy on the Gull Cam project.

The Swan Haven Report

A daily summary of bird activity and festival events was produced and posted on our website each day in April (Appendix 3). Due to the time required each day to produce this report, the format will be simplified for the 2017 festival.

Open House for Local Residents

On the 31st of 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.

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 7 to 22 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 487. All but one of the available 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.

Advertising and Promotion

We promoted Swan Haven and A Celebration of Swans through print, radio, web, and social media (Table 4). We also created an “event” on our Facebook page for each of the festival events. Some events were “promoted”—a form of paid advertising.

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.

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.

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.

From 31 March to 18 July, and from 3 August to 30 September an infrared “trail counter” was deployed on the shoreline viewing deck. The counter was removed for 16 days to allow maintenance on the viewing deck (painting). The device records the passage of people through an infrared beam.

Counter data will be analysed with data from two other counters in a forthcoming report. However, an initial data review suggests the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre is regularly visited in the “off-season” months of May to September with over 1,000 potential visitors in May 2016 and over 600 potential visitors in each of June, July, and August (Figure 2). These figures should be considered “high-end estimates” of visitation, due to the possibility of multiple counter triggers by the same individual visitor. Techniques to verify and quantify this error source will be examined in 2017.

Hazard Tree Removal

We identified three trees at the centre as having significant dieback and rotten stem wood. The risk of human injury and property damage was high and the trees were removed in September.

Lower deck railing

In September we removed a section of deck railing and replaced it with plexi-glass. This will provide an unobstructed view of the bay for children and adults using wheelchairs.

New traffic barriers

In August we replaced the old yellow traffic barriers with new “city block” and timber barriers. The new barriers have a clean look and are moveable for site access by staff.

Painting

In July, the Y2C2 staff (Conservation Officer Services branch) painted the shoreline deck and stairs, the three building decks, and the inside of the main door to the building.

Other work

We conducted routine maintenance, garbage collection and outhouse maintenance as needed, from May to September 2015. A new “hours of operation” sign was produced and will be installed in March 2017.

On 10 September, we completed winter shutdown procedures to reduce damage to infrastructure by snow fall and snow ploughs. The propane tank was filled in early October 2016.

Next Steps

Infrastructure and Property, Swan Haven Interpretive Centre

We will undertake the following actions in 2017:

- 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 2016 were well-attended and total participation reached 5,000 for the first time. We will review each individual event for relevance, popularity and value for the 2017 festival.

Through promotion and teacher engagement activities, we will continue to encourage participation in the Swan Haven School Program. Swan Haven visits by young Yukoners through this program are extremely valuable. Over the years of the program, thousands of Yukon students have learned about the conservation of migrating waterbirds. Some of these students are now adults and are bringing their own

children to Swan Haven each spring. This “multiplier effect” aids in building a culture of respect for Yukon’s wildlife.

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. We will use a trail counter to record visitation from March to September 2017 and explore strategies to reduce and quantify sources of error. The trail counter data will be compared to, and augment, visitation estimates by staff. However, to date no trail counter data has been used in April visitation estimates for this program.

The daily “Swan Haven Report” will be simplified and Facebook will be leveraged more to take advantage of its greater reach.

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.

Table 1. A Celebration of Swans Events, 2016.

| 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. | 18 |
| 2 April | Winter Swans | Johnsons Crossing | A short walk and talk about the overwintering swans in the area. | 10 |
| 9 April | Bird ID workshop | Swan Haven | Bird identification workshop. | 20 |
| 9 April | Tagish Stories and Campfire | Tagish | First Nation stories about spring around a campfire with tea and bannock. | 45 |
| 9 April | Swan Haven Kitchen Party | Swan Haven | Musical jam night. | 25 |
| 10 April | New Yukoner Day | Swan Haven | Guided hike, bus shuttle, campfire and BBQ | 150 |
| 10 April | Ask Jim Anything | Swan Haven | An informal Q&A with retired biologist Jim Hawkings. | 20 |
| 16 & 17 April | Family Weekend | Swan Haven | Swan viewing, face painting, crafts, games, activities | 400 |
| 23 April | Spiritual Celebration of Swans | Swan Haven | Multi-faith service, songs and quiet reflection. | 10 |
| 23 April | Bird Banding 101 | Swan Haven | Bird banding demo and presentation by Society of Yukon Bird Observatories. | 25 |
| 24 April | Bird Photography Workshop | Swan Haven | Introduction to wildlife photography on the shoreline. | 8 |
| 24 April | Watercolour Landscape Workshop | Swan Haven | Drop-in watercolour painting workshop. | 31 |
| 27 April | Senior's Tea | Swan Haven | Drop-in event hosted by the Marsh Lake Community Society with tea, coffee and baked goods. | 30 |
| 1 May | Shorebirds of Swan Haven: volume I | Swan Haven | A birding walk focused on shorebirds. | 3 |
| 7 May | Shorebirds of Swan Haven: Volume II | Swan Haven | A birding walk focused on shorebirds. | 5 |
| 14 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. | 3 |
| | | | <i>Attendance sum:</i> | <i>803</i> |

Table 2. Participation summary for A Celebration of Swans, 2016.

| Festival Component | Number of People | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | Average (2003-2016) |
| Interpretive Centre | 3,723 | 3,170 | 3,019 | 3,038 |
| Events | 803 | 799 | 798 | 741 |
| School Program | 487 | 389 | 505 | 526 |
| <i>Total participation</i> | <i>5,013</i> | <i>4,358</i> | <i>4,322</i> | <i>4,305</i> |

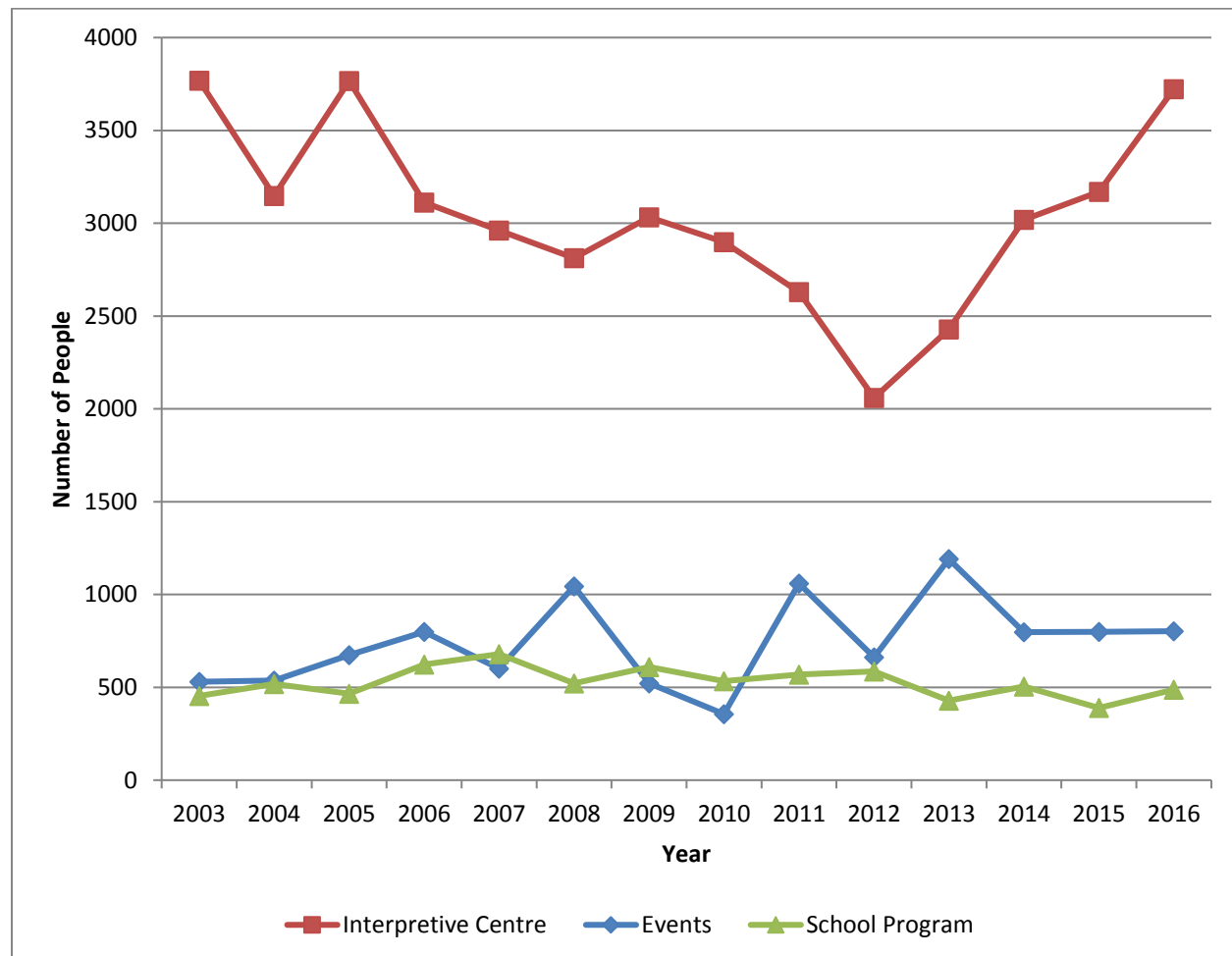


Figure 1. Participation trends by festival component, 2003 to 2016.

Table 3. Supporters and partnering organizations for A Celebration of Swans 2016.

| Organization | Contribution |
|---|---|
| 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 | 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 |
| Science Adventures (Yukon College) | School program promotion |
| Society of Yukon Bird Observatories | Promotion, 'Bird Banding 101' 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 Bird Club | Promotion |
| Yukon Conservation Society | Promotion |
| Yukon Energy | Sponsored festival poster, promotion |
| Yukon News | Newspaper and web promotion |
| Department of Tourism and Culture | Twitter and Facebook promotion |

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. |
| 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. "Events" created for each festival event. Some were promoted. |
| 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. |

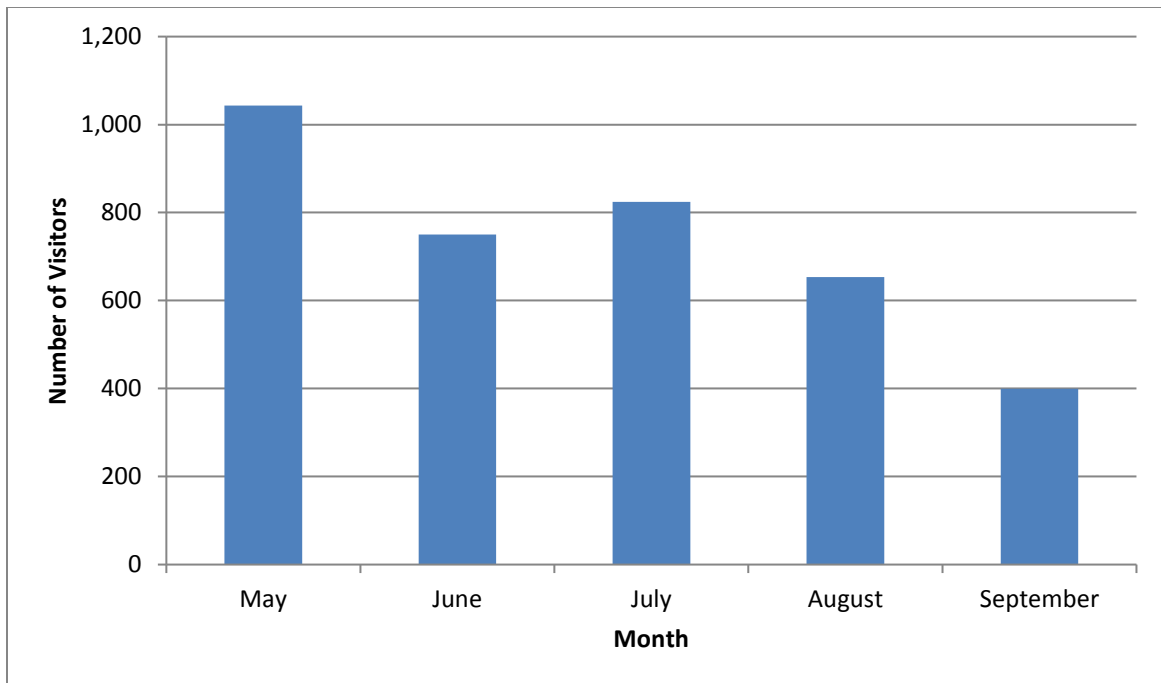


Figure 2. Monthly visitation totals from trail counter at Swan Haven Interpretive Centre, May to September 2016. No data was collected from 19 July to 2 August. Assumes each visitor was counted twice—once entering the site and once leaving the site.

APPENDIX 1 APPENDIX 1 YUKON BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

[see next page]

Spring Events Calendar 2016



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:

- 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 Society
- Society of Yukon Bird Observatories
- Town of Faro
- What's Up Yukon
- Whitehorse Star
- Whitehorse United Church
- Yukon Bird Club
- Yukon College
- Yukon Energy
- Yukon News
- Yukon Wildlife Preserve



www.wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca



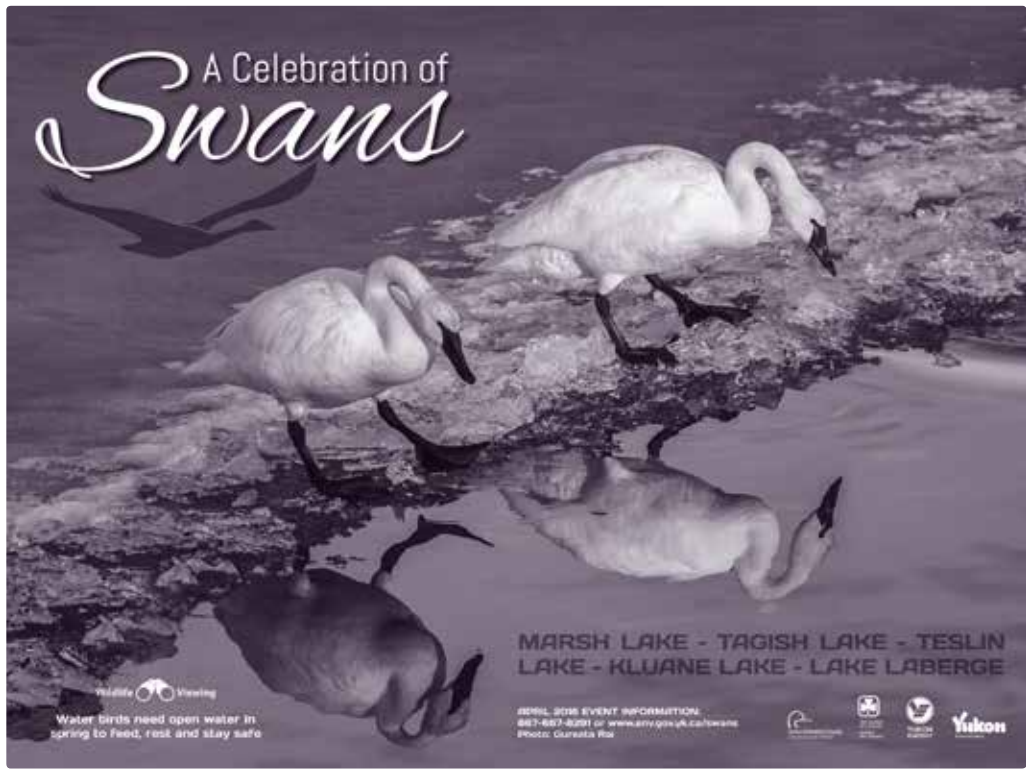
Above: Enjoying Family Weekend activities at Swan Haven.

Cover photo: Wood Frogs can be heard croaking during the spring breeding season, even when ice is still on the lakes. (Photo by Jukka Jantunen.)

Yukoners can celebrate spring in so many ways!

A Celebration of Swans

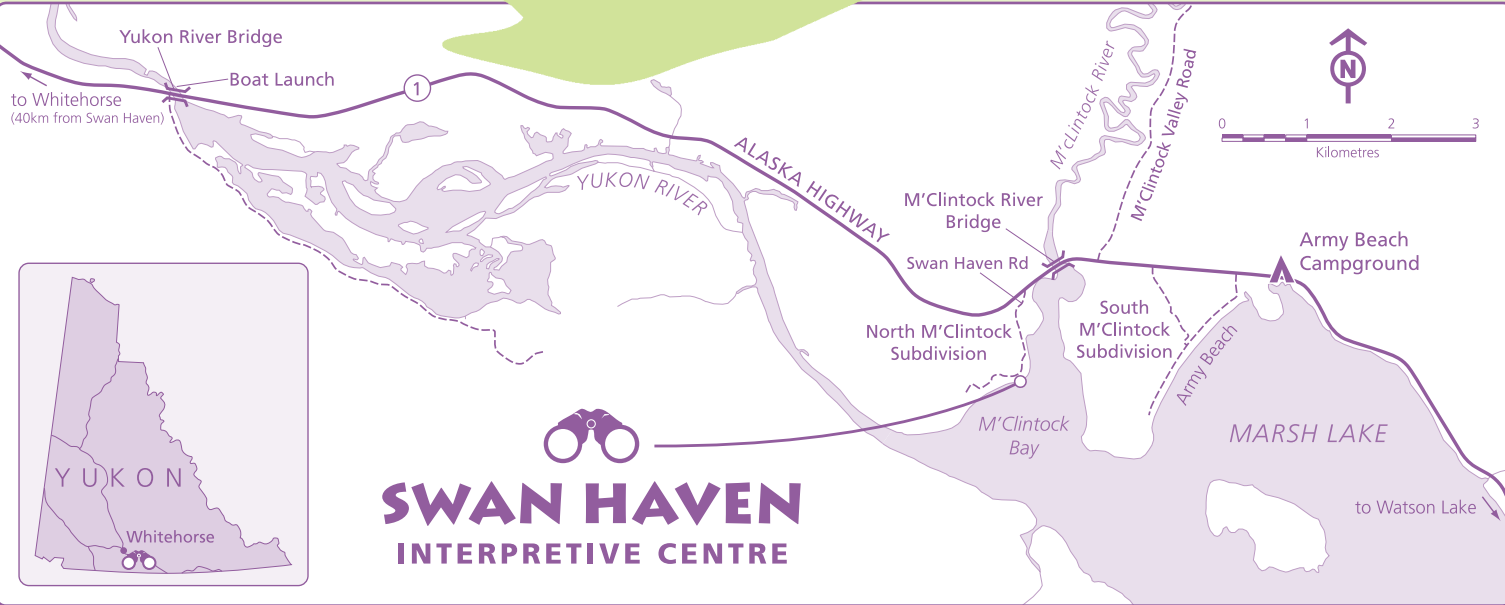
Yukon's premier birding festival brings residents and visitors alike out to great swan viewing areas to welcome spring to the North. The shallow open waters of M'Clintock Bay, Tagish Lake, Teslin Lake, Kluane Lake, and Lake Laberge are critical stopovers on the swans' long migration to northern nesting 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 6 to 8

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 2016

Friday, April 1 - Swan Haven Interpretive Centre Opens

See On-going Events for details.

Saturday, April 2 - Winter Swans

Johnsons Crossing, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Most swans migrate south for the winter, but there are always exceptions. Join Adam Skrutkowski at the boat launch under the bridge (west side of river, before the lodge) to get the latest update on overwintering swans at Johnsons Crossing on the Teslin River.

Saturday, April 9 - Bird ID Workshop

Swan Haven, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Join Jukka Jantunen as he helps identify our feathered friends that make their home in Yukon. Jukka will share his photographs and identification tips inside the interpretive centre.

Saturday, April 9 - 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 you can sit back and relax!

Saturday, April 9 – Swan Haven Kitchen Party

Swan Haven, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Bring your acoustic instruments to Swan Haven for a musical evening, unplugged! We'll have songbooks available so you can sing along. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, April 10 – Ask Jim Anything

Swan Haven, 2:00 – 3:00 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.

Sunday, April 10 – New Yukoner Day

Swan Haven, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

New to Yukon? Never been to Swan Haven before? Come on out for an enjoyable day of learning and discovery. There will be guided walks (2:00 and 3:00 pm) to see the swans and other waterbirds, and a campfire with hotdogs to roast (4:00 pm). A free shuttle will leave Whitehorse at 1:00 pm, taking you to Swan Haven. You can catch the return shuttle departing Swan Haven at 5:00 pm. Call us for details and to reserve a seat (667-8291).

Tuesday, April 12 – Film Screening: THE MESSENGER

Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, Whitehorse, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Join the Society of Yukon Bird Observatories (SOYBO) for a screening of the critically acclaimed documentary, The Messenger. Visually stunning and thought-provoking, The Messenger is an exploration of humanity's deep connection to birds and the effects human-made hazards have had on their populations.

Pre-purchase tickets only. Tickets are available by email (yukonbirdobservatories@gmail.com) or in person at Elements Hair Studio and Day Spa in the Best Western Gold Rush Inn on Main Street. Tickets are \$20 each (\$10 for current members of SOYBO).

April 16 & 17 – Family Weekend

Swan Haven, 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

The whole family is welcome to attend an afternoon of swan-watching and fun activities. Get your face painted, vote for your favourite artwork, play games, read a book, do a swan-craft, and immerse yourself in the cacophony of swan sounds.

Saturday, April 23 - 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.

Saturday, April 23 – Bird Banding 101

Swan Haven, 1:00 – 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 demonstrate banding techniques, weather-permitting. After the demonstration we will enjoy a slide show presentation about migration monitoring and bird banding in Yukon.

Sunday, April 24 - 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 hobby. If weather is poor this event may be moved inside the centre.

Sunday, April 24 - 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 will be provided. No experience is required.

Wednesday, April 27 - Swan Haven Seniors Tea

Swan Haven, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm (drop-in)

The Marsh Lake Community Society invites you to enjoy tea, coffee, homemade goodies, and peaceful swan viewing. For more information call 660-4999 or email marshlake@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 1 - Shorebirds of Swan Haven: Volume I

Swan Haven, 10:00 – 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.

Saturday, May 7 - Shorebirds of Swan Haven: Volume II

Swan Haven, 10:00 – 12:00 noon

We'll see what new birds have arrived before we close the doors at Swan Haven for the season. This is your last chance to try and stump Jukka with a bird question! Rubber boots are recommended.

Sunday, May 8 - 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

Tuesday, May 10 – Frog Walk

Paddy's Pond, Whitehorse, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

The Wood Frogs will be calling happily as their breeding season progresses. We'll wander the trails and shoreline listening and looking for wildlife. Meet at the end of Hillcrest Drive.

Saturday, May 14 - Dagay-Swan Way

Burwash Landing, 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

Bring your lunch to Kluane and enjoy a guided walk with Mary Jane Johnson and an Elder from Kluane First Nation. Learn about the dagay-swans of Jedali and enjoy a cup of hot 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 (667-8291). Meet at the Kluane Museum.

On-going Events

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre

April 1 to May 8, 2016

Weekdays: 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Weekends: 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 8th allowing more time to enjoy the return of spring.

Yukon Student Art Display

April 1 to May 8, 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 put on display in the Canada Games Centre!

Society of Yukon Bird Observatories: Bird Banding Stations

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

Dates to be determined.

Contact teslin.bird.banding@gmail.com

Yukon Parks: Free Camping in May!

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.

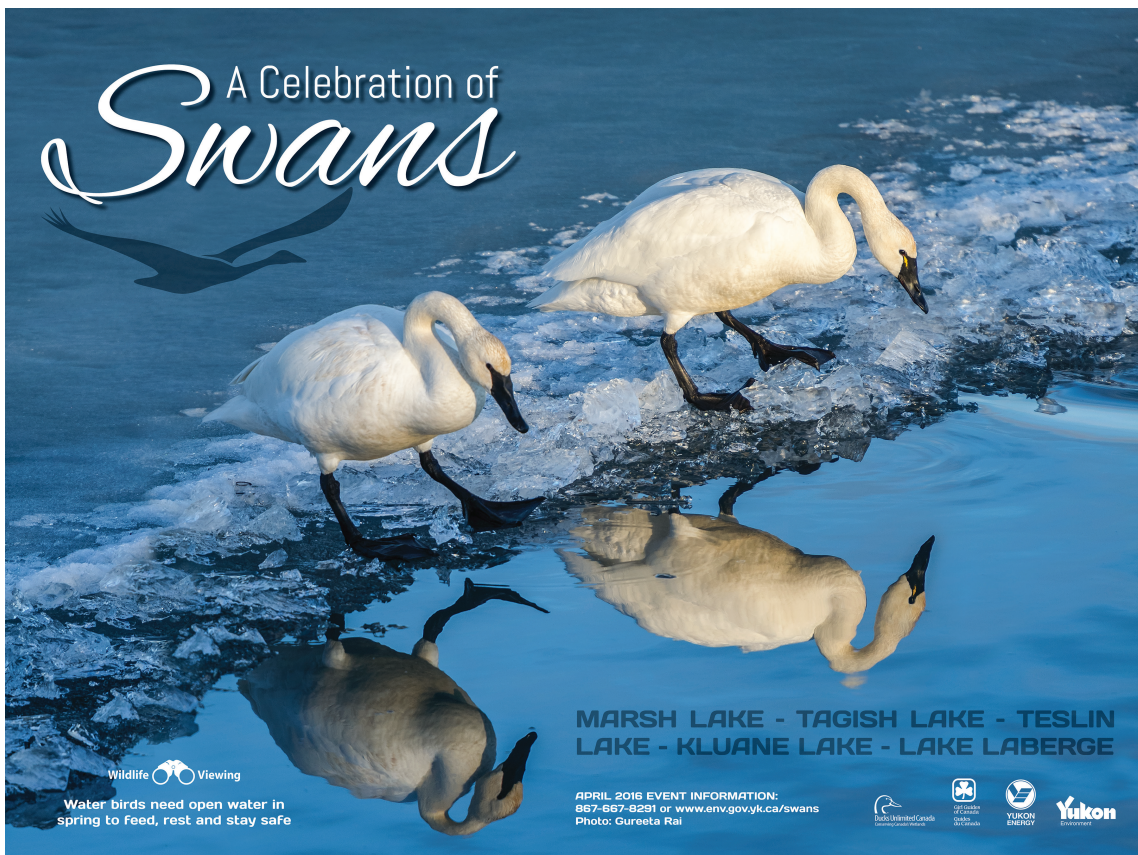
wildlife.viewing@gov.yk.ca

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



APPENDIX 2 APPENDIX 2 A CELEBRATION OF SWANS THANK-YOU AD

[see next page]



To everyone who made Swan Haven and *A Celebration of Swans 2016* a success, *Thank You!*

Poster:

Yukon Energy | Gureeta Raj
Tarius Design

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

Swan Haven:

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Girl Guides of Canada
Hurlburt Enterprises Inc. | Jukka Jantunen | Oliver Barker
Peter Heebink | YG Whitehorse
Grader Station

Events & Activities:

Adam Skrutkowski | 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 | Society of Yukon Bird Observatories
Ted Murphy-Kelly | Yukon Energy

Community Displays:

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

Waterbird Monitoring:

Adam Skrutkowski | Environment Canada | Jim Hawkings | Jukka Jantunen

Student Art Contest:

Thank you to all students and teachers who submitted artwork. This year's 'People's Choice' winners were students from Christ the King Elementary School (Mr. Chartrand's class), Grey Mountain Primary School (Ms. Dykman's class), and Robert Service School (Mr. Betts' 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!

Coordination:

Environment Yukon,
Wildlife Viewing Program



Girl Guides
of Canada
Guides
du Canada



APPENDIX 3 APPENDIX 3 SAMPLE “THE SWAN HAVEN REPORT”

[see next page]

The Swan Haven Report

April 4, 2016

Swan ticker: **2,070** (2,064 Trumpeter + 6 Tundra)

Highlights: Oh boy—two thousand swans for the second day in a row, way above average! This is the only year on record with swan counts in the 2000's during the first 5 days of April. What will we see tomorrow?! There were also 400 Common Goldeneye ducks on the bay.

First sighting for: (this spring) Ring-necked Duck (5) Greater White-fronted Goose (1)

Around the region: Tagish is also a busy place with 434 Trumpeter Swans, 77 Mallards and a pair of Redhead ducks.

[Upcoming events](#)

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

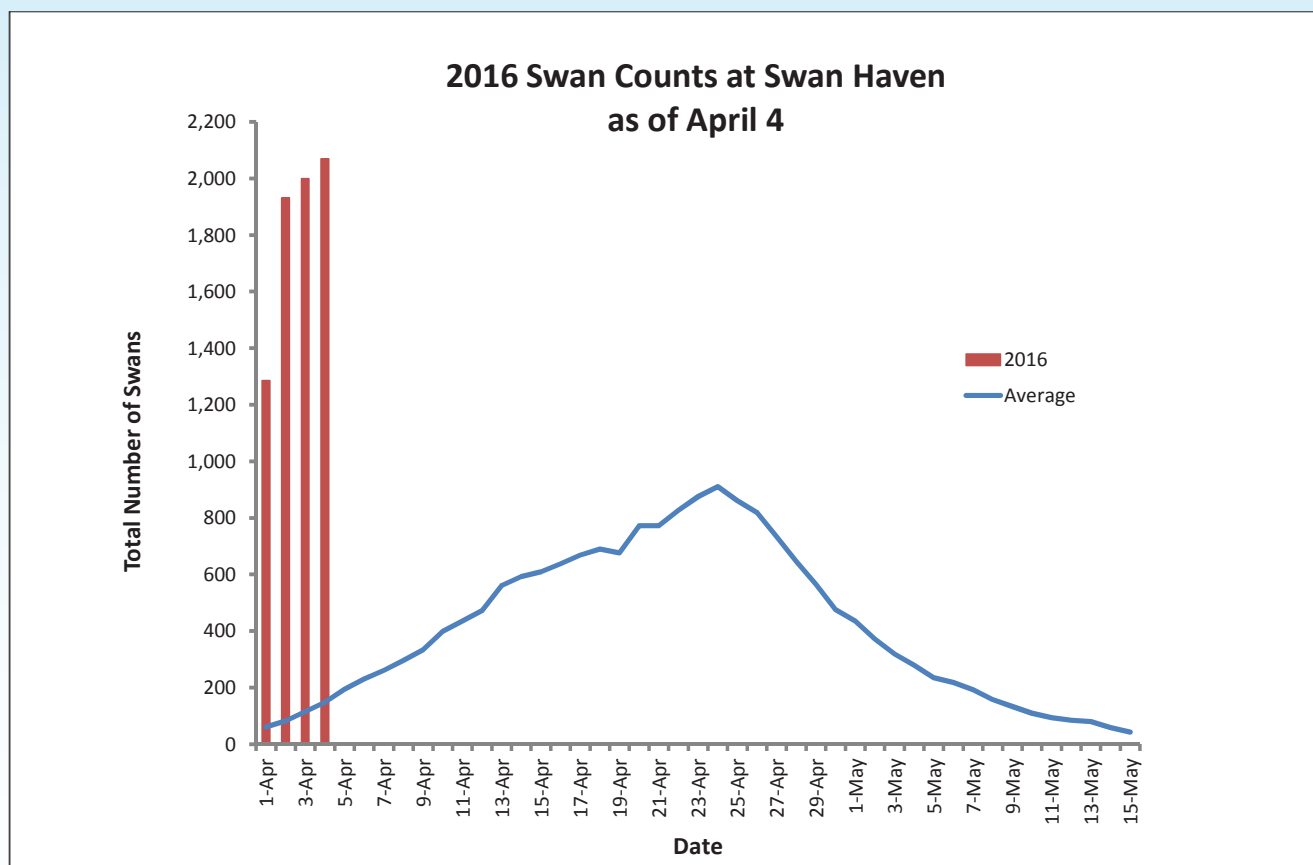
Detailed Bird Observations (from eBird.org)

[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