

A Celebration of Swans

Wildlife Viewing Program

2013



A Celebration of Swans

~ MARSH LAKE ~ TAGISH LAKE ~
~ TESLIN LAKE ~ KLUANE LAKE ~ LAKE LABERGE ~

Photo: Rick Maslin

APRIL 2013 EVENT INFORMATION:
867-667-8291 or www.wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca
Swan Cam: www.yukonenergy.ca

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

WILDLIFE  VIEWING



**Prepared by
Scott Cameron**

Yukon
Environment

June 2014

**A CELEBRATION OF SWANS:
WILDLIFE VIEWING PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT, 2013.**

**Yukon Department of Environment
Fish and Wildlife Branch
PR-14-04**

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Summary / Highlights

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 the third week of April each year, to coincide with the return of migratory waterfowl 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. As such, the area has been identified as a Habitat Protection Area by the Government of Yukon, and is awaiting a management planning process.

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

The centre's building is open daily in April; the grounds are open year-round. The Swan Haven Interpretive Centre is managed by the Wildlife Viewing Program. Girl Guides of Canada own the property and Government of Yukon 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.

Scope

This report describes Swan Haven / *A Celebration of Swans* program activities from January to December, 2013.



Figure 1. Hundreds of Yukoners enjoyed Swan Haven during Family Weekend, 2013.

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A Celebration of Swans

This year's festival was April 13-21, with additional events occurring before and after these dates. Participation was strong for most individual events and for the festival overall (Table 1, Figures 2 and 3).

Table 1. Participation summary for *A Celebration of Swans*, 2013.

Festival Component	Number of People		
	2013	2012	Average 2003-2013
Interpretive Centre	2,428	2,059	2,965
Events	1,191	662	725
School Program	429	586	544
Total participation:	4,048	3,307	4,234

Festival participation has fluctuated over the years (Figure 2). While this is typical for environmental education centres, the exact causes of the variation are not known. Swan Haven visitors may feel that they have seen the exhibits already and the centre offers nothing new for their interests. The new exhibits and interpretive updates planned for 2014 are intended to engage visitors again and attract return visitation. We continue to try new activities and techniques to ensure continued relevancy of *A Celebration of Swans*.

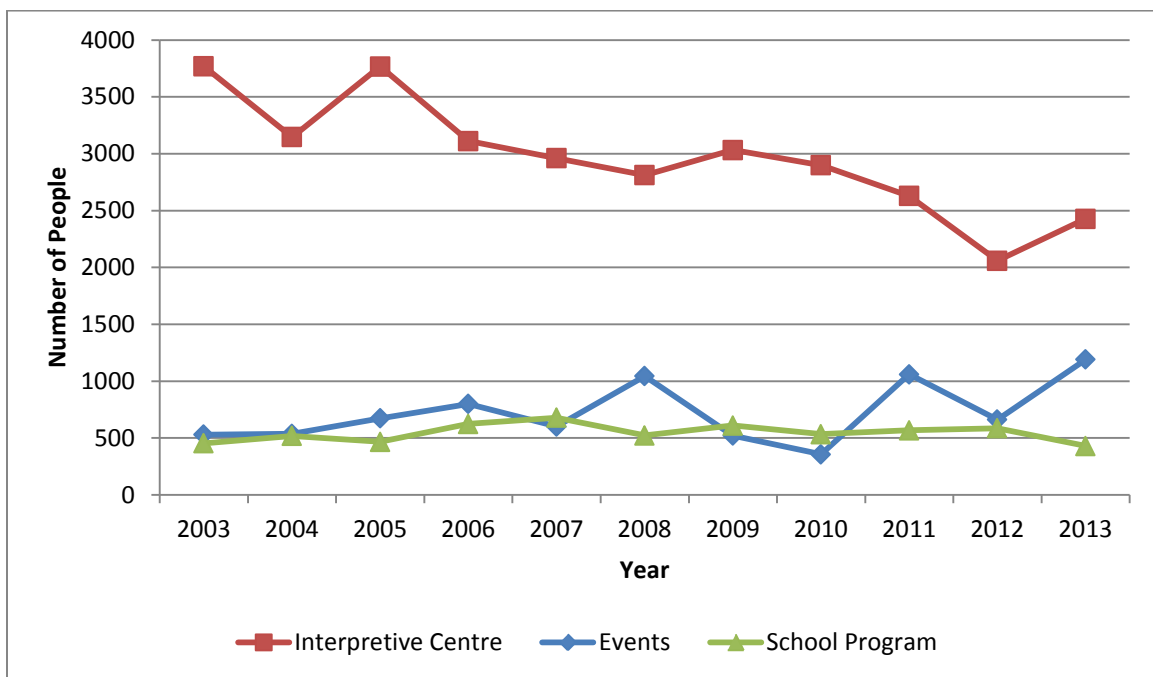


Figure 2. Participation trends by festival component, 2003 to 2013.

Table 2. *A Celebration of Swans Events, 2013.*

Date/Time	Event	Location	Description	Attendance
April 7 10:30 am – 12 pm	Winter Swans	Johnsons Crossing	A talk and short walk about the overwintering swans in the area.	6
April 12 5 – 7:30 pm	Jeu-questionnaire et bricolage sure les cynges	Whitehorse	A presentation and craft at the Association franco-Yukonnaise's Cafés-rencontres.	50
April 13 12 – 2 pm	Tagish Stories and Campfire	Tagish	First Nation stories about spring around a campfire with tea and bannock.	53
April 13 8 - 10 pm	Coffee House Music Night	Swan Haven	Musical jam session with light refreshments.	19
April 14 11 am – 12 pm	From Image to Identity	Swan Haven	Bird identification workshop.	15
April 14 1 – 3:30 pm	Forest Birds of Swan Haven	Swan Haven	Bird banding display by Society of Yukon Bird Observatories.	28
April 14 3:30 - 4 pm	A Bird's Eye View	Swan Haven	Presentation on bird banding by Society of Yukon Bird Observatories.	16
April 14 8 – 9 pm	Spiritual Celebration of Swans	Swan Haven	Multi-faith service, songs and quiet reflection.	12
April 17 11 am – 3 pm	Seniors' Tea	Swan Haven	Drop-in event hosted by the Marsh Lake Community Association with tea, coffee and baked goods.	30
April 18 6:30 – 8:30 pm	Following the Swans	Carcross	Outdoor swan viewing and indoor presentation and craft.	4
April 20 & 21 12 – 4 pm	Family Weekend	Swan Haven	Swan viewing, face painting, crafts, games, activities, food concession by Girl guides of Canada.	~900
April 27 10:30 am – 12 pm	Bird Photography Workshop	Swan Haven	Introduction to wildlife photography on the shoreline.	15
April 28 2 – 5 pm	Watercolour Landscape Workshop	Swan Haven	Drop-in water colour painting workshop.	25
May 12 12 – 4 pm	Swans of Kluane	Burwash Landing	Walk and talk along the shores of Kluane Lake with waterfowl viewing. Tea, bannock and stew.	18
Attendance sum:				1191

Supporters / Partnering Organizations

Over 20 different organizations either hosted or aided in the delivery of A *Celebration of Swans* events (Table 3). Many individuals also contributed ([see Appendix B](#)).

Table 3. Supporters and partnering organizations for A *Celebration of Swans* 2013.

Organization	Contribution
Association franco-Yukonaise	‘Jeu-questionnaire et bricolage sure les cynges’ event
Canada Games Centre / City of Whitehorse	Display space for art exhibit
Canadian Wildlife Service	Promotion and waterfowl monitoring
CBC/Radio-Canada	TV, radio and web promotion
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Promotion and support for ‘Tagish Stories and Campfire’ event
CKRW The Rush	Radio promotion
Ducks Unlimited	Promotion
Girl Guides of Canada	Food concession (‘Snack Shack’)
Kluane First Nation	Promotion and support for ‘Swans of Kluane’ event.
Mac’s Fireweed Books	Storefront Challenge display
Marsh Lake Community Association	Hosting ‘Senior’s Tea’ event
Rick Massie	Contributed photograph for poster
Society of Yukon Bird Observatories	Promotion, ‘Forest Birds of Swan Haven’ event, and ‘A Bird’s Eye View’ event
Whitehorse Public Library	Storefront Challenge display
Whitehorse Star	Newspaper and web promotion
Whitehorse United Church, Trinity Lutheran Church	‘Spiritual Celebration of Swans’ event
Yukon Brewing	Storefront Challenge display
Yukon Conservation Society	Promotion
Yukon Energy	Sponsored festival poster and swan cam, promotion
Yukon News	Newspaper and web promotion
Yukon Literacy Coalition	‘Family Days’ event
YG Education	Hosted ‘Following the Swans’ event at Ghuch Tlâ Community School
YG Environment, Animal Health Unit	‘Family Days’ event
YG Tourism and Culture	Twitter and Facebook promotion

Swan Haven Interpretive Centre

The centre was open daily in April, from 5-9 pm on weekdays and 12-7 pm on weekends and holidays. A contractor (Jukka Jantunen) was responsible for day-to-day operations of the centre, visitor reception, and daily counts of waterfowl. Environment Yukon staff also worked at the centre during peak visitation times. Mr. Jantunen is an accomplished birder and photographer and has been involved in many Yukon bird monitoring programs in recent years.

Visitors could enjoy the exhibits, view waterfowl from the centre's two decks, and interact with knowledgeable staff and the contractor. Total visitation at the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre was 2,428 people during April 2013. This should be considered a minimum count as the contractor may have missed some visitors during busy periods.



Figure 3. Visitors enjoy a craft in the interpretive centre.

Poster Contest

As in the previous 13 years, a poster was produced to commemorate *A Celebration of Swans*. A contest was held to obtain a swan-related image for use in poster design (Figure 3). A total of 54 images by 17 artists were submitted for consideration. The winning entry was submitted by Whitehorse photographer Rick Massie. The poster was designed by Paul Gowdie of Tarius Design, and Yukon Energy again sponsored the design and printing.



Figure 4. Final 2013 poster design.

Interest has been building in recent years, as reflected by the number of contest entries.

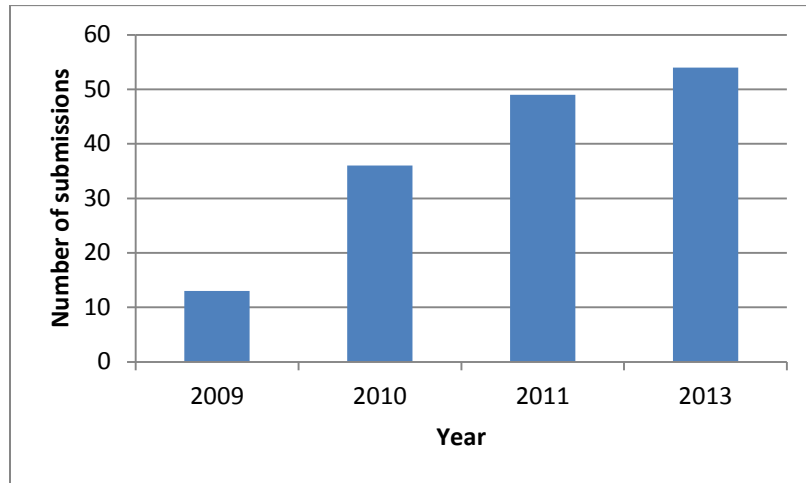


Figure 5. Recent entry totals to the poster contest (no contest in 2012).

Student Art Display and Contest

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

We received 77 entries from students across the territory and the top ten vote-getters received a certificate and prize. The winning submissions were also displayed at the Canada Games Centre during May. Students from Hidden Valley Elementary School (Whitehorse), Selkirk Elementary (Whitehorse), and Del Van Gorder School (Faro) created the winning entries.



Figure 6. Winning submissions from Del Van Gorder School (Faro).

Storefront Challenge

Along with the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, we encouraged local businesses to recognize *A Celebration of Swans* by decorating their storefronts or offices. The challenge was described in a chamber newsletter and we provided a poster and suggestions to local business owners.

While many companies displayed the poster, few went beyond this level of participation. Mac's Fireweed Books, Yukon Brewing, and the Whitehorse Public Library all created swan-related artwork/displays. Participation in the Storefront Challenge has varied since its introduction in the 2005 festival and companies do not always notify us that they have created a display. This festival component will be reviewed in 2014.



Figure 7. Yukon Brewing display.



Figure 8. Mac's Fireweed Books display.

Open House for Local Residents

On March 28, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, 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 to meet Environment Yukon staff. This year special focus was placed on the shoreline stabilization project, completed just weeks earlier.

School Program at Swan Haven

We again offered free outdoor education activities at Swan Haven for regional schools (grades 2-6). Three staff members were hired for the month of April to deliver this program. Morning and afternoon time slots were available on weekdays (excluding Wednesdays) from April 8-26. Programs were curriculum matched to each grade level and allowed students to enjoy and learn about swans and other migrating birds.

Initial booking numbers were quite low and renewed promotion occurred in early April. The final school program participation was 429 people, down 17% from 2012. The reduced participation will be examined and addressed in preparation for *A Celebration of Swans, 2014*.



Figure 9. A school group enjoys the views at Swan Haven.

Infrastructure and Property

Shoreline Erosion Protection Project

Construction

Major infrastructure work occurred at the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre in February and March 2013. To address significant, on-going concerns over shoreline erosion and stability, we planned and completed a construction project under the terms of water license number MS10-081, issued by the Yukon Water Board.

The effects of erosion on the shoreline had been a concern since at least 2007. Significant planning and regulatory work occurred from 2009 to 2011, notably obtaining construction drawings and the legal authorizations to proceed with an erosion protection project. Unfortunately, the project was stalled in May 2011 due to construction bids that vastly exceeded the budget.

In 2012 a new, cost-effective approach was explored and the project was re-scoped. New drawings were produced and construction of an erosion protection system occurred from February 25 to March 13, 2013.

Gabion mats were selected as the erosion protection solution. Gabion mats are large, mesh baskets filled with rock, and placed along the shoreline. The gabions absorb the energy of wind-driven waves, and protect the underlying soil materials from erosion. The general steps of the construction project were:

1. **Pre-construction**: establishing contracts; spill response equipment and procedures; communications with Yukon Water Board, partners, and local residents; health and safety planning.
2. **Site preparation**: snow clearing, site signage, removing viewing platform and staircase, erecting silt fencing, removing parking barricades.
3. **Bank preparation**: contouring the shoreline with an excavator to design specifications.
4. **Install gabions**: placing geotextile cloth on prepared slope, assembling, placing and filling gabions.
5. **Gabion edge protection**: Placing rip-rap (rock) on each edge of gabion structure to blend gabions back into the existing shoreline.
6. **Restoration**: Returning the viewing platform, staircase and parking barricades to their original positions. Minor maintenance fixes on staircase and viewing platform. General clean-up of the site.



Figure 10. Erosion protection features at Swan Haven.

Re-vegetation

After construction was completed, attention turned to re-vegetation of the shoreline to improve the visual aesthetics of the site, and to further guard against soil erosion. Research was conducted to determine a suitable approach to re-vegetation. This included a literature review, conversations with government and private sector vegetation specialists, and several site visits.

In September 2013 a native seed mixture was spread along the top portion of the shoreline bank, above the gabion mats, as per directions from Randy Lewis of Arctic Alpine Seeds. Re-vegetation efforts will continue in 2014 to ensure long-term slope stability.

Construction of a fence along the top of the bank began as well, with fence posts installed in the ground in October. Further work on the fence is planned for March 2014. The fence will increase visitor safety on the site and reduce foot traffic in revegetating areas.

Other Exterior Work

Other work on the exterior infrastructure included:

1. Removed the large sandblasted cedar sign and returned it to the Parks shop to be refurbished. Posts were also removed and new ones are being made for re-installation at a location closer to the access road;
2. Relocated and painted a garbage/recycle bin;
3. Painted the sign board, viewing platform and staircase;
4. Installed a hand sanitizer dispenser in the pit toilet;
5. Improved wheelchair access to the boardwalk;
6. Repaired picnic tables;
7. Painted the doors of the building to match the red trim;

8. Sanded and stained the wooden benches on the upper deck;
9. Removed two panels from the viewing platform and moved them to the sides/back of the platform to clear up sightlines;
10. Removed old chimney pipe and repair roof;
11. Re-painted the parking posts and access road barriers yellow;
12. Cleared out debris and scraps from under the deck;
13. Unlocked and cleaned lenses in permanent viewing scope. New lenses to be installed in spring 2014;
14. Outhouse directional signage produced and ready to be installed in spring 2014;
15. Cleaned and repaired the rain gutters.



Figure 11. Y2C2 staff painting at Swan Haven, summer 2013.

Building Interior

A major refresh of the building interior began in 2013. We developed an interpretive concept, including messages, colour-schemes, displays and a revised building layout. Work included:

1. Interpretive planning;
2. Establishing design contracts;
3. Acquiring display materials;
4. Removing old chimney and patching roof;
5. Painting interior walls and floor.

This work will continue into early 2014 with carpentry, and display fabrication and installation.

Note: In November 2012 the original propane heater was deemed unserviceable and was replaced by a new, efficient propane heater. The new unit vents through the wall, which allowed the removal of the chimney.



SWAN HAVEN
SCRAPBOOK

SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

Next Steps

Infrastructure and Property

We will undertake the following actions in 2014:

- monitor built structures for safety issues and effectiveness, particularly new erosion protection features;
- continue to comply with terms and conditions of our water licence (annual report, January);
- monitor the seeded areas of the property and assess the need for further re-vegetation action (April-June);
- finish construction of the fence along the top of the shoreline bank (March);
- fabricate and install new exhibits in the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre (February to March).

A Celebration of Swans

Next year, 2014, marks the 20th anniversary of the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre. This will be recognized throughout *A Celebration of Swans 2014*. Comments, suggestions and evaluations from the 2013 festival will be used in the planning process.

In particular, the Swan Haven School Program will be examined to encourage more participation in 2014. A new promotional strategy is being developed, with input from Science Adventures, Yukon College. The strategy will leverage the new centre exhibits to encourage teachers to return: a sense of ‘newness’ will be highlighted. A new evaluation format will be used, to get feedback from teachers on their experience in our program.

Festival events in 2013 were generally well-attended, with the exception of events in Carcross and Johnson’s Crossing. These sites are important as part of the overall swan migration story, and also give opportunities for local community members to get involved in the festival, without traveling far. Increased promotion will be used in 2014, to boost attendance.



Figure 12. Enjoying spring stories and tea around the campfire in Tagish, 2013.

New events and elements will be added to *A Celebration of Swans* 2014 to recognize the 20th anniversary of the centre. A 20-year retrospective event is being planned for Whitehorse, with guest speakers looking back over Swan Haven's history. A new "daily update" web product will be tested, to create and maintain interest in the program throughout April.

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

Appendix A – YBAM Calendar of Events 2013

Yukon Celebrates Spring 2013



Above: Enjoying Spring Stories around the Campfire with Carcross/Tagish First Nation elder Ida Calmegane on the beach in Tagish in 2012.

Cover photo:

The Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) is one of Yukon's most common ducks. Large groups have been recorded on McIntock Bay and they are easily distinguished by their unusually long tails. They usually arrive in Yukon during the first or second week in April. (Photo ©Ducks Unlimited Canada/www.ducks.ca)

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. They are working hard to ensure habitats remain healthy for the widest variety of species.

With the participation of:

- Association franco-yukonnaise
- Canada Games Centre
- Carcross/Tagish First Nation
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Environment Canada
- Girl Guides of Canada
- Kluane First Nation
- Marsh Lake Community Association
- Society of Yukon Bird Observatories
- Town of Faro
- Whitehorse Star
- Whitehorse United Church
- Yukon College
- Yukon Energy
- Yukon Literacy Coalition
- Yukon News
- Yukon Wildlife Preserve

www.wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca



Yukoners can celebrate spring in so many ways!

Celebration of Swans April 13-21

Yukon's premiere bird festival brings residents and visitors alike out to great swan viewing areas to welcome spring to the north, arriving on the wings of the Trumpeter Swans. The shallow open waters of McIntock 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 & Sheep Viewing Festival ▶ May 3-5

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 Viewing Festival. The awe-inspiring number of cranes continues to attract and inspire visitors. Catch a glimpse of the Fannin 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 sheep viewing tours, art displays and BBQ.

Environment Fair: Born to be Wild May 10 from 1:00 pm – 8:00pm and May 11 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Canada Games Centre

Environment Yukon is once again hosting this fun and interactive fair that will focus on how we interact with the natural world around us. Along with other Yukon agencies and organizations, we will provide activities, information, and entertainment focused on helping us learn more about how we can get in sync with nature.



www.wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca




Biodiversity Month Events 2013




Admission is free for all events unless otherwise noted.

- A Celebration of Swans Event


 **Sunday, April 1 • Swan Haven Interpretation Centre opens**
See On-going Events for details.

 **Sunday, April 7 • Winter Swans**
Johnsons Crossing 10:30 am - 12 pm. Join Adam Skrutkowski on the banks of the Teslin River to get a glimpse of the hardy swans that spent the winter at Johnsons Crossing. Adam will share his photos of the swans throughout the winter and his observations on how they survive the cold weather. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the shores of the Teslin River.

 **Vendredi le 12 avril • Jeu-questionnaire et bricolage sure les cygnes**
Centre de la francophonie, 302 rue Strickland, 17 h à 19h30. Plaisir garanti pour toute la famille! Après un dîner en français, les adultes pourront tester leurs connaissances, tandis que les enfants s'amuseront dans un atelier de bricolage, le tout sous le thème des cygnes. Le coût pour le repas est de 10\$ versé à la port.


 **Saturday, April 13 • Picnic and Stories around the Campfire**
Tagish River Bridge, Day Use Area, 12:00 pm - 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, lawn chair, and a blanket to be able to sit back and relax!

 **Saturday, April 13 • Coffee House Music Night**
Swan Haven, 8:00 pm - 10:00pm. 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-a-long. Light refreshments will be served.


 **Sunday, April 14 • From Image to Identity**
Swan Haven, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. Join Jukka Jantunen as he uses some of his spectacular bird photographs to teach us how to identify the 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.

Sunday, April 14 • Forest birds of Swan Haven: bird banding display
Swan Haven, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm. The Society of Yukon Bird Observatories will have a mist net set up at Swan Haven to demonstrate bird banding and talk about 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.

Sunday, April 14 • A Bird's Eye View
Swan Haven, 3:30 - 4:00 pm. Come learn all about Yukon's 3 bird banding stations from the experts themselves. Members of the Society of Yukon Bird Observatories will share a slide show presentation all about migration monitoring and bird banding. Find out what is planned for the 2013 banding season and the return of our feathered friends.

 **Sunday, April 14 • Spiritual Celebration of Swans**
Swan Haven, 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm. All are welcome to this special time to give thanks for the return of the spring. Join in song and prayer during this multi-faith service, while enjoying the sunset and time for quiet reflection with the swans.

 **Wednesday, April 17 • Swan Haven Seniors Tea**
Swan Haven, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm (drop-in). Marsh Lake Community Association invites you to enjoy tea, coffee, and home-made goodies and peaceful swan viewing. For more info call 660-4999 or e-mail marshlake@gmail.com

 **Thursday, April 18 • Following the Swans**
Carcross, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Bring the family for an evening of swan appreciation. Meet Environment Canada biologist Jim Hawkings at the railway bridge in downtown Carcross for swan viewing. Afterwards, enjoy refreshments and join Jim in a discussion about swan migration, while the kids do crafts and listen to swan stories.

 **April 20 & 21 • 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 swan-craft, and immerse yourself in the kaleidoscope of swan sounds.

April 20 & 21 • Girl Guide Snack Shack
Swan Haven, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Pick up a bite to eat at the Girl Guides of Canada Snack Shack. The girls will be selling baked goods as well as hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks to fundraise for their many activities. Don't miss your chance to pick up some cookies while you're there!


Tuesday, April 23 • Albert Creek Bird Observatory Banding Station opens
Watson Lake, early mornings from April 23 - June 7. See ongoing events for details.


 **Saturday, April 27 • Bird Photography Workshop**
Swan Haven, 10:30 am - 12 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.

 **Sunday, April 28 • Watercolour Landscape Workshop**
Swan Haven, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (drop-in). Would you like to try painting landscapes? Local artist Daphne Mennell will be on hand to give tips to aspiring artists. Materials provided. No experience required.


May 3-5 • Faro's Crane and Sheep Viewing Festival
Faro, Yukon. Free events for all ages including bird and sheep viewing tours and talks, plant walks, art auction and BBQ. Contact Town of Faro at 994-2728 or www.faroyukon.ca


May 10 & 11 • Environment Fair: Born to be Wild
Canada Games Centre, Friday 1 pm - 8 pm, Saturday 10 am - 3 pm. Hands on activities, games, prizes, and a chance to ask questions of the experts, the Environment Fair invites you to come and learn about your wild neighbours. This is family friendly event but there is something for everyone.

 **Saturday, May 11 • Frog Walk**
Meet at the Carcross Cut-off, 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Join Lee Mennell for a guided walk along Rat Lake and take in the spring sounds of frogs and birds in the wetland. We'll have a campfire going to warm you up, and the chance to sit back and enjoy the sounds of spring. Don't forget your rubber boots, camera, and an extra layer of clothes.


 **Sunday, May 12 • Swans of Klwane**
Kluane Museum, Burwash Landing, 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm. Bring your lunch out to Klwane and enjoy a guided hike by Mary Jane Johnson and an elder from Klwane First Nation. Learn about the swans of the area 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 12 • Mother's Day at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve
Yukon Wildlife Preserve, 9:30am - 6:00pm. Check out our new animal mothers and their cute babies. Join a guided bus tour at 10am, 12noon, 2pm or 4pm 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.

 **Wednesday, May 22 • Into the Boreal World**
Yukon College, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity on the Boreal Worlds Trail. Located behind Yukon College, new interpretive panels along the trail offer you a glimpse into the diversity in our own backyard. Join us for a guided walk along the trail with activities to help you discover the boreal world.

 **Saturday, May 25 • Paddling down the Lewes**
McClintock River Bridge, Marsh Lake, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. The swans have moved on but there are still plenty of birds on the mudflats of McClintock Bay. Bring your own canoe and safety gear, and join Environment Yukon biologists as we guide you down the river to the Lewes River Bridge. You must REGISTER for this event by contacting the Wildlife Viewing Program.

Ongoing Events

 **Swan Haven Interpretation Centre**
Monday, April 1 to Tuesday, April 30, 2012
Weekdays: 5 pm to 9 pm
Weekends and holidays: 12 noon to 7pm
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, or visit www.wildlifeviewing.gov.yk.ca

 **Yukon Student Art Display**
April 1-30, Swan Haven. Get inspired by this youth art extravaganza and vote for your favourite piece. The People's Choice Awards will be given to 10 students and announced in the Yukon News. The top pieces of student artwork as chosen by you will be on display in the Canada Games Centre!

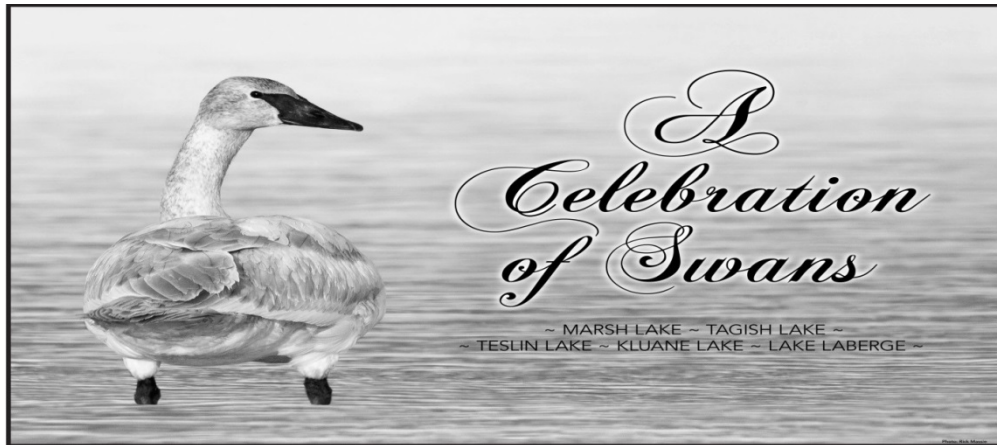
 **Storefront Challenge**
Visit Yukon businesses during April and check out their swan and spring-themed decorations and displays. You can find a list of participating businesses on our website or at Swan Haven.

Society of Yukon Bird Observatories Banding Stations
The Society of Yukon Bird Observatories promotes understanding, appreciation and conservation of Yukon birds. The Albert Creek Bird Observatory station carries out migration monitoring by netting birds in mist nets to count, measure and band. Through station visits by schools, the local public and tourists, the society strives to educate the public on the importance of migratory birds to the overall Yukon ecosystem. The Albert Creek observatory is located 10 km outside of Watson Lake and is open from April 23 to June 7 (weather depending). The station is open in the mornings from sunrise for about 6 hours.

wildlife.viewing@gov.yk.ca
667-8291 or 1-800-661-0408 ext 8291



Appendix B – A Celebration of Swans Thank You Ad



To everyone who made Swan Haven and
A Celebration of Swans 2013 a success,

Thank You!

Poster:

Yukon Energy | Rick Massie

Yukon Energy Swan Cam:

Yukon Energy | Peter Heebink

Swan Haven Support:

Environment Yukon, Monitoring & Inspections staff | Peter Heebink

The Snack Shack:

Girl Guides of Canada, 1st Whitehorse Pathfinders & friends

Promoters:

CBC/Radio-Canada (TV, radio, web) | CKRW The Rush | Whitehorse Star | Yukon Conservation Society | YG Tourism and Culture | Yukon News | all the businesses and individuals who take it upon themselves to share the swanspiration!

Community Displays & Art Exhibits:

City of Whitehorse (Canada Games Centre) | Mac's Fireweed Books | Whitehorse Public Library | Yukon Brewing

Events & Activities:

Adam Skrutkowski | Barry Kitchen | Ben Schonewille | Bev Brazier, Rev. | Bryan Levia | Daphne & Lee Mennell | Deborah Moroz, Pastor | Environment Canada | Environment Yukon, Animal Health Unit | Ghuch Tlā | Community School & Larry Kiesling | Ida & Henry Calmegane | Jim Hawkings | Jukka Jantunen | Julie & Justin Carre | Kluane First Nation | Association franco-yukonaise | Marsh Lake Community Society, Wendy Morrison & all the volunteers | Mary Jane Johnson | Odile Duval | Remy Rodden | Society of Yukon Bird Observatories | Ted Murphy-Kelly | Yukon Energy | Yukon Literacy Coalition

Thank you to the children, youth and adults

who submitted inspiring creations for the poster and the lively walls of Swan Haven.

The Swan Haven

People's Choice Art Awards go to:

Gessica Ryan, Kenneth Pickett, Marc Ryan, Rhys Delvin, Trinity Michell-Grenon (Grade 4&5, Del Van Gorder School, Ms. Evans)

Taia Zakus (Grade 3, Hidden Valley School, Mrs. Macleod)

Andrew Stogneff, Kengxu Liang, Ralph Hermosa, Tyson Smith (Grade 5, Selkirk Elementary, Ms. Innes-Taylor)

School Programs:

Karine Grenier, Lance Leenders, Maria Leung, Science Adventures NRI (Heather Dundas) and 430 teachers and students!

Waterfowl Monitoring:

Adam Skrutkowski | Environment Canada | Jim Hawkings | Jukka Jantunen

Coordinators:

Environment Yukon, Wildlife Viewing Program



Girl Guides
of Canada
Guides
du Canada



Yukon
Environment