



MESSAGE FROM MANAGER CHERYL HOOD



Nature is waking up on the hill, Blue Birds have returned, deer are wandering the fields, and our resident marmot poked his nose out of the den. We are excited with the plans as we look towards opening on April 17th, we are introducing nature talks, "experience the grasslands" trail tours with our staff and volunteers and we are planning workshops for all ages, Xeriscape gardening, Bats of Vernon, plus others to be confirmed. Also, watch our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for other, new and exciting programming.

New to the site, we are finishing up on the new trail and plant identification signs. Come up to the Allan Brooks Nature Centre to take a deep breath, walk the trails and visit the Interpretive Centre to meet "Cheep Cheep" the Golden Eagle (new taxidermy donation), and learn about the Okanagan's natural beauty of the grasslands.

See you in April!

Trumpeter Swans are our largest native waterfowl, stretching to 6 feet in length and weighing more than 25 pounds. To get airborne they require at least a 100 meter-long "runway" of open water: running hard across the surface.



Source:
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Trumpeter_Swan/overview

FIELD TRIPS TO THE CENTRE

Teachers! Registration for Field Trips is now open. "Experiences at the Nature Centre" are offered April through November and are designed to fit the new BC curriculum for students in grades pre-K to 7. Students will learn and play with hands-on nature activities at the Allan Brooks Nature Centre. [Book your school program now.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for the following events:

- Season Opening Day Event | April 17
- Worm Composting Workshop | April 24
- Little Sprouts Local Plant Knowledge for Kids Workshop | May 8
- Annual Plant Sale | May 15-16
- *Nature Nibbles* How to Recognise and Use Wild Plants for Food Workshop | May 29



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for meaningful opportunities to learn more about nature and to share your love of nature with others? Become a volunteer! Opening day is only 5 weeks from now which means we are actively recruiting volunteers to fill the following positions:

Nature Interpreters, School Program Lead, Summer Camp Assistant, Visitor Services, & Guardians of the Grasslands.

Contact Michelle at volunteer@abnc.ca for more info or visit [Volunteer Jobs](#) to apply!



HAPPY RETIREMENT

Allan Brooks Nature Centre is sad to say goodbye to one of our dedication team members, Michelle Hudon. Michelle has worked at the Nature Centre as our Volunteer Coordinator for the past 3 years and has been an invaluable contributor to the centre's success. We would like to thank Michelle for all of her hard work and many achievements; she has been an incredible team member, but also a friend to all. We wish Michelle all the best in her retirement!



WE'RE HIRING

Come work with us! The following positions are currently open to applicants:

- Volunteer Coordinator (*PT permanent*)
- Public Outreach and Events Assistant
- Environmental Education Program Assistant
- Visitor Services Representative/Interpreter (*full time seasonal*)

For complete job descriptions and how to apply visit [Careers](#) on our website.

GIFT SHOP

We would like to thank our volunteer Stan Williamson for his very generous support of the Nature Centre over the past several years. Stan builds bird boxes for us that we sell in our Gift Shop, with all of the proceeds going towards environmental education.

If you are interested in purchasing a bird box call 250-260-4227 or email info@abnc.ca for more information.



MEMBERSHIP

Watch our social media and read our next newsletter for exciting membership updates next week!