



The Urban Sanctuaries Project

The Urban Sanctuaries Project is a collaborative effort of local conservation partners to increase awareness of the three federally-designated Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the capital region — namely, Victoria Harbour (est. 1923), Shoal Harbour (est. 1931), and Esquimalt Lagoon (est. 1931) — and to improve habitat protection and restoration within these urban sanctuaries.

Increasing environmental concerns and decreasing bird populations worldwide, amplify the need for appreciation and stewardship of our local ecosystems and the wildlife within them. The Urban Sanctuaries Project raises awareness and encourages stewardship initiatives in the community, with a special focus on youth involvement and leadership mentoring. By increasing awareness of the sanctuaries, the public will become more informed and engaged in regional conservation issues. This will encourage our communities to advocate for better protection and preservation of the important habitats within our sanctuaries that migratory and resident birds and

other wildlife rely on. By sharing the wealth of knowledge that exists in the region, we can improve the urban environments we live in based on informed consideration for the habitats and organisms around us.

Project objectives:

- To celebrate and steward the diverse and productive natural upland and marine ecosystems within the three Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the capital region;
- To raise awareness and understanding of the importance of nature within an urban environment;
- To create a diverse working coalition of partners, including businesses, planners, outdoor enthusiasts, environmental organizations, government agencies, cultural institutions, educators, park managers and scientists.

Join us today! To find out how, go to www.sanctuaryproject.ca.

Urban Sanctuary Partners





Let's Celebrate!

In 2017, Canada celebrates its 150th birthday, and the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Convention Act, an important early step in the history of the Canadian environmental movement. The centennial of the Act represents 100 years of awareness and stewardship of wildlife, providing a unique and valuable opportunity to celebrate the region's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and acknowledging the importance of nature to residents and visitors. In 2015, Nature Canada designated the area a "NatureHood" in recognition of the exceptional opportunities here to experience nature in an urban setting. The abundance of wildlife here in the urban centre is truly exceptional. From giant whales to tiny hummingbirds and rare coastal plants, we have it all!

The Urban Sanctuaries Project partners will host a series of events to celebrate our regional MBSs and to engage the public in regional conservation issues. The Robert Bateman Centre will use the Urban Sanctuaries Project to spearhead most of its nature programs for the next 18 months. It will also form the basis for activities to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary and the centennial of the Migratory Bird Convention Act.

If you would like to get involved with the Urban Sanctuaries Project contact info@batemancentre.org.

The Urban Sanctuaries Project partners will host a series of events and activities throughout 2016 and 2017, including:

- Sanctuary Box juried art show at Robert Bateman Centre in partnership with the Surfrider Foundation
- A field guide to birds, species and habitats of Southern Vancouver Island
- Youth/Schools Program on Birds & Habitats
- Youth and adult symposiums
- Pop-up exhibit on the MBSs to tour locally
- Unveiling of new Robert Bateman painting of Bufflehead ducks.
- Life of Migratory Birds summer 2017 exhibit at Robert Bateman Centre
- Speakers Series and bird walks.
- All Buffleheads Day celebration October 15, 2017.

See website www.sanctuaryproject.ca for a complete listing of activities and events

The NatureHood program connects people of all ages to nature right where they live, which in Canada increasingly means urban centres. To find out more, visit: naturecanada.ca/what-we-do/naturehood/