



The Cap Bimet Residents Association and its Swallow Society members are requesting the support and partnership of area residents and Canadians as a whole to create greater public awareness of the dramatic swallow populations declines being experienced since the 1970s. We seek to generate expert-level information so that we may begin to understand and implement means to serve, support and save our area bank, cliff, barn and tree swallow populations. The information will be used to implement strategies for the protection and recovery of our area's endangered swallow populations which are remarkable insectivores **and nature's most effective means for mosquito control !!**

Our newly created society seeks **everyone's** assistance and support in ensuring greater public awareness of the important issues that are faced by our area swallows. We all share in the responsibility to minimize the risks of any future damages to our rapidly declining swallows population. Local property owners and construction companies often remain unaware of the environmental scars they leave behind unintentionally with their landscaping and construction activities. While we implement a comprehensive recovery strategy, and the birds are under our trusteeship, we wish to work with area residents and experts to immediately reduce risks that may exist to our area swallows due to environmental accidents or illegal construction activities.



The return of the bank swallow colonies to the communities of Cap Bimet, Beaubassin-Est and the entire Northumberland strait is a project of the heart for ALL area residents. These unique birds have amazing characteristics that have immeasurably enhanced the quality of life for people in the area for centuries. They are at the very core of the character and charm that our area shoreline communities offer. Every year fewer and fewer of us can clearly remember the 1960s and early 70s when thousands of these fly and mosquito-catching acrobats flew above our heads so skillfully while we walked the area beaches and cliff-faced shorelines. These highly social yet territorial birds were not only determined little scrappers,

but they were also huge bug and mosquito vacuums cleaners. Thanks to swallows, Cap Bimet and many other regional areas were once blessed with the complete and total absence of mosquitos during the 60s and early 70s! The envy of any visitors or family members who had the privilege of spending time here.

Over the course of only the past few years, we did to them the very thing we do not want nature to do to us; we destroyed their property. **98% of the bank swallow population across Canada, including along the Northumberland strait, has disappeared since the 1970s.** They have been here for millennia yet WE have wiped them out in 30 short years. Unfortunately bank swallows are not only threatened by habitat loss but by many other factors including damage caused by construction and excavation activities, window and car hits, pesticides, as well as global warming trends. Compounding the difficulties is the fact that re-establishing habitat does not necessarily guarantee the return of the populations or the survival of the species. In fact, from our research it would seem that the work of re-establishing bank swallow colonies through man-made artificial efforts has never been attempted in Canada or anywhere else in the world!





There is is incredible hope for recovery if we act now. As recent as 2016 more than sixty bank swallows attempted to recolonize in the dugout construction site of a Cap Bimet shorefront property. Following an imposed stop-work order, the colony was studied by the Canadian Wildlife Service who determined it was still early enough to cover the area in plastic and force the birds to settle elsewhere for their nesting and roosting needs. The truth of the matter is that by losing their traditional area shoreline habitats these birds have adapted and continue to fearlessly fight for survival as a species. They have become pests to the construction industry. Cap Bimet residents witnessed this in 2010 when the much needed local sewage system was installed. Bank swallow colonies had established dozens of nests in the large banks of dirt

created by the excavators. Unfortunately as such sites were not environmentally protected they were all destroyed by heavy equipment with complete disregard and impunity. In some jurisdictions, the construction industry and quarries have been forced to adopt new guidelines ensuring that cliffs, banks or sand hills do not exceed 70 degrees before overnight shutdown to avoid the risk of bank swallow colonies finding a new home....they are homeless and have nowhere else to go. They need our help and they need it NOW.



The fact remains that our Swallow Society has been mandated by the Cap Bimet Residents Association to lead what promises to be an exciting, innovative, fascinating and extremely challenging project. This promises to be a very long-term, complex, challenging, multi-phased, and multi-year project. It will undeniably necessitate the ongoing awareness, engagement, collaboration and support from the entire community for many years to come. Throughout the evolution of the various project phases, we will undoubtedly also require the assistance and collaboration of many

different experts, researchers, government and private sector contributors, engineers and volunteers. We are convinced that Cap Bimet and Beaubassin area residents along with the assistance of well intentioned federal, provincial and not for profit sectors experts can come together to find both short and long term strategies to stop and/or reduce the 8.9% per year decline in swallow populations that we have been experiencing since the 70s.



This is a project that allows Beaubassin area residents to share with their children and grandchildren the importance of ensuring the future health, stability and protection of the Northumberland bank swallows and other area vulnerable ecosystems. It provides the opportunity to teach to the next generations the importance of environmental respect and reverence toward our ecosystems and of taking responsibility for our environmental footprints. We must repair our

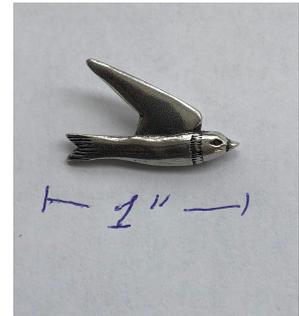
environmental damages to the best of our ability regardless of the financial costs, inconveniences or perceived personal injustices that may result. That is why the whole area needs to come together to **BRING BACK THE BIRDS!**

Our new Society is committed to lead the preparation of a detailed recovery strategy proposal for eventual government and/or private sector funding considerations. The Canadian Wildlife Service is delighted to know that our community and its Association is now prepared to collaborate with them and move forward with concrete actions to protect and recover our area shorebirds. They advise us they have the content area experts and rather significant grant monies that can be applied for to support any research or colony recovery efforts we may chose to propose to assist these endangered birds.



We have already begun our journey by creating two sand hills to safeguard and hopefully attract the remaining colonies. We continue to be challenged to identify and consider all alternatives and/or strategies that may easily and quickly be implemented to begin protecting and rebuilding the bird colonies as soon as possible. Strategies being considered by the Cap Bimet Residents Association are under advisement by its Swallow Society members, as well as researchers and experts from Dalhousie University and Canadian Wildlife Service. We are also greatly appreciative of the in-kind and material supports already provided by many local residents, contractors and not for profit organizations such as Vision H2O and the Shediac Watershed Society.

To support the birds, we are presently selling beautifully crafted pewter pins produced for our exclusive use by Seagull Pewter based in Nova Scotia. They are designed to be ornithologically correct with all proceeds being used for the promotion, coordination and oversight of our swallow preservation and recovery efforts. Our pin campaign has been designed to ensure that as many area residents as possible have an opportunity to contribute to the success of our precious swallow populations who need our immediate help. We need everyone's help to help them. Interested organizations or individuals are invited to inquire about our pin reselling opportunities.



We all share in our wish to address and reverse the unacceptable trends being experienced by the our swallow populations. Teh Cap bimet Swallow Society sincerely hopes that our experience and leadership may serve to assist others who may be interested in replicating, collaborating with and/or enhancing our efforts. Together we encourage others to use our shared knowledge to reproduce our efforts and implement their own possible means to BRING BACK THE BIRDS!.



Area citizens, along with researchers, engineers, wildlife and coastline erosion experts are presently being challenged to identify cost-effective, attractive and scalable alternatives to the shoreline protection methods that both support and protect bank swallow recovery efforts. We have a big puzzle to solve together. Cap Bimet and Beaubassin area residents, led by expert researchers, will ultimately seek to rebuild and reestablish bank, tree, cliff and barn swallow colonies. Our Society and Birds themselves thank you for considering our request for support. For more information please contact:

**Cap Bimet Swallow Society - Société de l'hirondelle du Cap Bimet**

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