

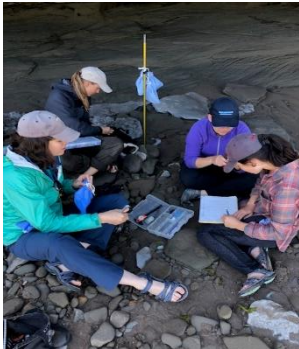


As a Sub Committee of the Cap Bimet Residents Association Inc, the Cap Bimet Swallow Society is mandated to research and implement strategies for the protection and recovery of our area's endangered swallow populations. These rapidly disappearing birds which were always abundant in our area are remarkable insectivores **and nature's most effective means for mosquito control !!** We are pleased to provide the following update to the Association Executive and area residents concerning our activities for past year and our plans for the 2019-2020 season to protect, preserve and rebuild our area swallow populations.

Condolences: Our Society would like to extend its heartfelt condolences to the family of Guy Gaudet. Guy was a lifelong resident of Cap Bimet, a friend and avid supporter of our Swallow Society. His two sons Remi and Serge continue to play an active role in our activities. Guy was an avid birder leading his family to have one of the most extensive collection of active tree swallow houses in the Cap Bimet region. We are deeply saddened by his passing and he will be greatly missed by all.

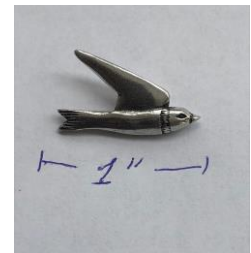
1. **Education and Public Awareness:** We have made great strides in improving public awareness concerning the dramatic decreases of swallow populations being experienced in the last years and means to protect the remaining colonies. We are delighted that our new partner Vision H2O was awarded over \$8000 from the Nature Conservancy Fund to enhance awareness and education regarding area swallow species. Some of the key initiatives that were launched with this fund included:
 - a. **For the first time in over a decade, Cap Bimet was successful in attracting and protecting a colony of an estimated 150 bank swallows.** This was very exciting and encouraging for our Society and many area residents. We appreciate the efforts and enthusiasm of Cap Bimet residents in ensuring the protection of the nesting sites that were marked off for the season. The birds chose sand dunes rather than our artificial site which made the environment particularly vulnerable to natural predators as well as pet and human activity. The season results nonetheless seemed very encouraging. To the delight of many, we enjoyed the display of a full healthy colony of endangered bank swallows trying to re-establish themselves in Cap Bimet, while eating tons of mosquitos and entertaining us with their impressive flight acrobatics.
 - b. **Three Swallow Information Sessions** were organized and held this summer. One in Cap Brule on and two more in Cap Bimet. Ornithologist Alain Clavette presented on swallows and their characteristics while Maurice D. LeBlanc from the CBSS shared the results of recovery and research efforts..
 - c. Vision H2O **designed and installed awareness fencing and professional interpretive boards** for the re-established Bank Swallow nesting site.
 - d. We are **collected all available public education documents** from different Canadian jurisdictions to make information readily available for public distribution and education.
 - e. Ornithologists and coastline erosion experts from Acadia University, Universite de Moncton, Mount Allison University and Universite de Rimouski. continue to offer us their expertise to assist us in identifying viable and scalable alternatives that may serve, support and save our area bank, cliff, barn and tree swallow populations.
 - f. Vision H2O has assigned students to assist us with our Swallow education, protection and conservations initiatives this summer.

Artificial Bank Swallow Hills: The CBSS has been working diligently to create and improve an artificial Bank Swallow site on the south side of the Cap Bimet Condo property. Regardless of our best efforts the hills have yet to successfully attract any Bank Swallows. Although we recognize that re-establishing habitat does not necessarily guarantee the return of the populations or the survival of the species we are not giving up! In fact, from our research it would seem that the work of re-establishing bank swallow colonies through man-made artificial efforts has rarely been attempted or successful anywhere in the world! But we keep trying! We will be applying shortly to have permission from the NB Department of Environment to combine both of our hills into one larger hill that includes topsoil and sod planted on the top. Our consultations are also creating additional hope that the Society may ultimately create and develop a prototype that can prove to be a viable shoreline protection alternative for property owners while attracting and protecting native Bank Swallow populations.



a) Research and Tagging of Bank Swallows. Our Society was instrumental in ensuring that 10 Bank Swallows from a rare colony in Cap Brule were tagged and tracked using electronic devices that send signals to antennas strategically placed all along the eastern seaboard to South America. Some of our area birds were tracked as far as Venezuela and Florida region over the winter. Results of the research were presented at the Cap Brule and Cap Bimet information sessions.

2. **Swallow Pins:** Our Cap Bimet Swallow Society seeks **everyone's** assistance to enhance the public's awareness of the important issues that are being faced by our area swallows and the means to protect and support them. Again this year, to support the birds, we are selling beautifully crafted pewter pins produced for our exclusive use by Seagull Pewter based in Nova Scotia. They are designed to be ornithologically correct representation of a Bank Swallow with all proceeds being used for the promotion, coordination and oversight of our swallow preservation and recovery efforts. Our pin campaign has so far raised over \$1100 for the Society which is being managed in-trust by the Cap Bimet Residents Association Inc. These pins have been designed to ensure that as many people as possible have an opportunity to contribute to the success of our precious swallow populations who need our immediate help. 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 our cherished swallow populations. The 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!.

For more information please contact.

**Cap Bimet
Swallow
Society**



**Société des
Hirondelles
du Cap Bimet**

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

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