



FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

17TH ANNUAL FVBEEF

**DISCOVER THE
VALLEY OF
THE EAGLES**

From Mission, BC to Harrison Mills, BC
and the Chehalis/Harrison Estuary
90 minutes east of Vancouver

NOVEMBER 17TH - 18TH, 2012

2012 FVBEEF

Multi-Weekend Family Event

Main Festival Weekend:

November 17th - 18th, 2012

- Eagle Viewing
- Eagle Boat Tours
- Exhibitor's Hall
- Expert Speakers
- First Nations Food & Entertainment
- Wildlife Displays
- Guided Walking Tours
- Green Businesses
- Delicious Food
- Festival Souvenirs
- and MORE!

For the latest info visit

www.fvbef.ca



Photo © Lauren Nicholl

2012 FESTIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE UPDATED

EAGLE VIEWING



EVENTS + ACTIVITIES



SPEAKERS



Celebrating the beauty and biodiversity of the Fraser River Valley
by honouring the majestic Bald Eagle and the Cycle of the Salmon.

For the latest, most up to date info on the Festival, visit us at www.fvbef.ca



WELCOME TO THE 17TH ANNUAL FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

In 2012 we will be bigger and better than ever

The first weekend (Nov 17 & 18) will include all the sites and activities that frequent festival visitors have come to expect. These include: the indoor Exhibitors Hall (filled with wildlife displays and "green" businesses and organizations); a site that offers an authentic First Nations cultural experience; a 1906 Historic Site with the raptors from the Vancouver Zoo; and both land and water eagle viewing opportunities. As always a lineup of expert and entertaining speakers are scheduled at Tapadera Estates, Kilby Historic Site and Fraser River Safari jet boat tours. Viewing sites will have interpreters, viewing scopes and even iPhone adapters to add to the experience. A walking tour featuring Nature Trust is also occurring on the first Sunday. Note: some activities are best if booked early to avoid disappointment.

The weekends following will see photography workshops at Harrison Hot Springs, and additional jet boat eagle tours with Fraser River Safari and David Hancock. Kilby Historic Site will also be open ready to warm up eagle enthusiasts with a hot coffee or a hot meal.

Please read through this program to help plan your visit to this year's Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival. Support the Society and the event by purchasing any of the incredible eagle inspired souvenirs that will be available for purchase at many of the sites.

For the very latest information please visit the website www.fvbef.ca

Bald IS beautiful... *The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival Society*

2012 FESTIVAL OVERVIEW:

NOVEMBER 17th - 18th, 2012

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- World Record Number of Bald Eagles: **15**

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SPEAKERS / WALKS + TALKS

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WATCH FOR HARRISON'S HOT SPOTS!! NOV 17th - 18th ONLY



Harrison's Hot Spots are now an exciting part of the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival.

For \$3 buy one of our 2012 Souvenir buttons and receive an entry form with every purchase. Each entry form gives you 5 chances to win great prizes at participating sites.

Buttons are available to purchase at the Mission Chamber of Commerce, Leq'a:mel Hall, Kilby Historic Site, and Sts'ailes Healing Centre.

All proceeds from the sale of the buttons go back to support the festival in years to come.

Thank you for your support!

2012 FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

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IMPORTANT:

PETS

Please be courteous and **leave all pets at home or in your vehicle** while visiting these environmentally sensitive sites.

KEEP IT GREEN

Join us this year in being an active member in helping the environment: bring along your coffee cup, or buy a special souvenir cup available at Leq'a:mel, to reduce the use of Styrofoam.

BUS GROUPS

Parking is limited at some sites!
For more info please contact Sharie Conroy at 604-826-8179 or sconroy@johnconroy.com

ETC:

FOOD

At Festival sites (see fvbef.ca for more details.)

- Exhibitor's Fair @ Leq'a:mel
- Tapadera
- Pretty Estates Resort
- Kilby Historic Site
- Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem (SAT Only)

Other :

- Sasquatch Inn Pub
- Dewdney Pub

GPS

There are 25 geocaches hidden as part of the FVBEF. View at www.geocaching.com keyword "fvbef".

INFO CENTRE



Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Centre



CONTACT: Allison Jack

TELEPHONE: (604)-826-6914

EMAIL:

tourism_services@missionchamber.bc.ca

WEBSITE: www.missionchamber.bc.ca

SITE ADDRESS:

34033 Lougheed Hwy,
Mission BC V2V 5X8
N 49 08.300 W 122 16.950



Just east of Mission on the Scenic 7, also known as the Lougheed Hwy, the Visitor Centre will open its doors during the Nov 17th-18th weekend to hand out programs and information to festival goers.

Be sure to stop in on your way to or from this annual event, take in the new gift shop and plan your next visit to Mission. Festival Souvenirs will be available for purchase on site.

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Saturday and Sunday: 9am – 3pm

EVENTS + ACTIVITIES



1



Exhibitor's Fair at Leq'a:mel Hall

CONTACT: Sharie Conroy

TELEPHONE: (604)-826-8179

EMAIL: sconroy@johnconroy.com

SITE ADDRESS:

43101 Leq'a:mel Way, Deroche, BC
N 49 12.225 W 122 02.080

The one stop spot- to learn, to shop, to eat and to play, all under one roof. Don't miss the fascinating educational, environmental, and wildlife displays, the work of local artists and crafts people, a variety of green businesses and products.

Highlights include:

- FESTIVAL SOUVENIRS post cards, jewelry, etc
- Kids Activities: Educational Activities, Colouring Contest
- Unique gift items by local artisans
- Delicious cuisine cooked up in the kitchen
- Updated counts: Bald Eagles/ Trumpeter Swans
- The Abbotsford/Mission Recycling Program
- Wildlife and Nature Displays

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Saturday 9am – 4pm

Sunday 10am – 3pm

Visit us at www.fvbef.ca for the latest 2012 Festival info and changes.



John W. Conroy, Q.C.
Ondine Snowdon
Joel Doucette
Tonia Grace

2459 Pauline Street
Abbotsford, BC
Canada V2S 3S1
Toll-free: 1-877-852-5110
Tel: (604) 852-5110
Fax: (604) 859-3361
Email: office@johnconroy.com

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EAGLE VIEWING



2



Tapadera Estates

CONTACT: Al Roberts

TELEPHONE: (604)-796-2372

EMAIL: alrc@telus.net

SITE ADDRESS:

14600 Morris Valley Rd, Harrison Mills, BC
N 49 15.897 W 121 57.004

The best place to view the Bald Eagles out on the estuary is at the viewing tent, situated at the foot of our boat launch. Also, Sonsie the teaching eagle from OWL will be here.

Tapadera Social Club will serve refreshments at the gazebo beside a roaring fire.

Viewing scopes supplied by Celestron and Kowa.

SATURDAY SPEAKERS:

11am – Matt Foy – *Salmon Restoration Biologist, DFO*

1pm – David Hancock – *Hancock Wildlife Foundation, Eagle Biologist*

SUNDAY SPEAKERS:

11am – Steve Howard – *Bird enthusiast, Lecturer, Educator - Wildlife Rehabilitation*

1pm – David Hancock – *Hancock Wildlife Foundation, Eagle Biologist*

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Saturday and Sunday 9am – 3pm



3



Eagle Point Community Park

CONTACT: Gord Gadsden

PHONE: 604-702-5024

EMAIL: ggadsden@fvrd.bc.ca

SITE ADDRESS:

Eagle Point Community Park,
Morris Valley Road between Sandpiper Golf Course and Tapadera Estates
N 49 15 673 W 121 56.878

Eagle Point Community Park can provide one of the best opportunities to view Bald Eagles in the Chehalis River Estuary. Trumpeter Swans and many other waterfowl and bird species join about a thousand Bald Eagles that congregate near this vantage point to feed on salmon. Also, chum salmon gather right in front of the site and are easily observed as they spawn.

A park ranger, knowledgeable local residents from the community and a bird expert from Wild Birds Unlimited will be there to answer questions. Spotting scopes, a tent and patio heater will be available.

Viewing scopes supplied by Vortex.

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Saturday and Sunday 9am – 3pm



4



Pretty Estates Resort

CONTACT: Chris Lepine

PHONE: (604)-796-1000

EMAIL: chris@sandpiperresort.ca

WEBSITE: www.prettyestatesresort.com

SITE ADDRESS:

14282 Morris Valley Rd., Harrison Mills, BC
N 49 15.382 W 121 56.965

Pretty Estates (aka Sandpiper) is proud to be a viewing site for the 2012 Festival. Nestled in a centuries-old forest of Douglas Firs and surrounded by the West's most idyllic golf course, Pretty Estates Resort is the perfect escape. Here, indulgence is a way of life. You'll find it in the tasteful tranquility that surrounds you and feel it in the attentive service that sets us apart. Thousands of Bald Eagles return every year with increasing numbers and winter on our property overlooking the Harrison River – a popular eagle feeding area. Enjoy a trail walk through the resort's tranquil forest to our specially designated bald eagle viewing area.

Festival site amenities include: parking for up to 125 cars, food & beverage services and River's Edge Restaurant.

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Saturday and Sunday 8am – 9pm

The FVBFE is a Registered Charity. Visit www.fvbef.ca to donate. Thank you for your support!



THE FARM HOUSE NATURAL CHEESES IS PART OF A SMALL FAMILY DAIRY FARM LOCATED IN LUSH GREEN AGASSIZ, IN THE EASTERN FRASER VALLEY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM SUNDAY

604-796-8741

www.farmhousecheeses.com

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Sporting Optics

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EAGLE VIEWING



5



Fraser River Safari - Jetboat Eco River Tours

CONTACT: Jo-Anne or Rob Chadwick

PHONE: (604)-826-7361

TOLL FREE: 1-866-348-6877

EMAIL: info@fraserriversafari.com

WEBSITE: www.fraserriversafari.com

In 2011 we counted thousands of eagles from our boat in the estuary in cozy comfort. The Safari boat is fully enclosed and heated which offers guests incredible wildlife adventures despite the weather. Tours will run 4 times daily and perfect for photographers of all skill levels. Pre-booking strongly recommended, empty seats can be purchased DURING the weekend at Kilby Historic Site.

NOTE: TOURS LEAVE FROM THE BEACH UNDER THE KILBY TRAIN BRIDGE

TOUR TIMES: Saturday AND Sunday

9:30 AM — Exclusive tours feat. David Hancock

- Duration 90 minutes
- Cost \$90 adult; \$85 seniors/children (includes all taxes and hot lunch)

or **11:30 AM** or **1:00 PM** or **2:30 PM**

- Duration 1 hour
- Cost \$55 adult; \$50 seniors/children (includes all taxes)

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES



6



Kilby Historic Site

CONTACT: Jo-Anne Leon

PHONE: (604)-796-9576

EMAIL: info@kilby.ca

WEBSITE: www.kilby.ca

SITE ADDRESS:

215 Kilby Road, Harrison Mills, BC V0M 1L0
N 49 14.169 W 121 57.372

Kilby Historic Site is the perfect place for a trip down memory lane. The 1906 General Store is all that remains of this once thriving mill town located on the confluence of the Fraser and Harrison rivers. Today the general store is a wonderful 1920s museum depicting rural life in the Fraser Valley, complete with costumed interpreters, crafts for the kids and friendly farm animals.

Exhibitors: Bear Aware, Greater Vancouver Zoo live birds of prey exhibit. Both exhibitors allow you to enjoy a hands-on, educational experience throughout both days.

Speaker Daily at 2pm Cliff Jury, Wild Birds Unlimited "Bringing Nature & People Together"

Site facilities: Kilby Restaurant, Gift Shop & a short walk down the road, the Kilby Park.

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Saturday and Sunday 11am — 4pm



7



Inch Creek Hatchery

CONTACT: James Weger

TELEPHONE: (604)-826-0244

EMAIL: James.Weger@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

SITE ADDRESS:

38620 Bell Rd, Box 61, Dewdney BC
N 49 10.592 W 122 09.300

Inch Creek Hatchery is a large Fisheries and Oceans Canada facility that rebuilds local Chum, Coho, Chinook and steelhead runs, as well as, Pitt River Sockeye and the endangered Cultus Lake Sockeye. Hundreds of Coho and Chum salmon return to the hatchery and you can see them actively spawning in the hatchery creek entrance.

You can also view one of the prehistoric wonders of the Fraser River, two adult sturgeons over 6 feet in length that make their home in the hatchery pond. Education displays and materials will be set up, and fisheries technicians are available to show you around and answer questions regarding all the enhancement work based at Inch Creek Hatchery.

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Saturday and Sunday 9am — 3pm

Visit us at www.fvbeef.ca for the latest 2012 Festival info and changes.

Don't Miss the Boat in 2012!
FRASER RIVER SAFARI - Official jetboat tours of the FVBEF

Always the best seats for eagle viewing
Book yours today!

7,362 eagles counted on one trip in 2010!

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WATCH THE EAGLES SOAR FROM OUR SUNNY PATIO



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EVENTS / ACTIVITIES



8 **Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem** (Healing Retreat Centre)

CONTACT: Debbie Bennett
TELEPHONE: (604) 796-9832
TOLL FREE: 1-877-796-9832
EMAIL: Debbie.Bennett@stsailles.com
WEBSITE: www.stsaillesdevcorp.com/tourism
SITE ADDRESS:
 16300 Morris Valley Road, Harrison Mills BC
 N 49 17.700 W 121 55.860

Saturday November 17th ONLY

Doors Open at 9:30 am

Coffee/Tea/Juice – Cafeteria

Educational Walk+ Talk – 10am

Artisan Demonstrations & Sales 9:30am – 3pm
 Craft kits \$10 and up.

Various Arts & Crafts Workshops 9:30am – 3pm

Sasquatch Tours Dancers 11 am – 12 pm

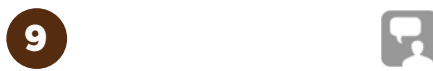
Sts'ailes Salmon Lunch, Bannock Taco Option (see options below 11:30am – 1:30pm)

Nelson Leon & Pow Wow Dancers 1pm–2 pm

Salish Society Drummers & Singers
 2:30pm–3pm

Options: Bannock Tacos or Grilled Salmon. Pre-purchase is highly recommended (see fvbef.ca for more details, or email Debbie @ contact info above).

SPEAKERS / WALKS + TALKS



9 **Chehalis Interpretive Nature Walk**

CONTACT: Jason Northcott
PHONE: (604)-924-9771
EMAIL: jnorthcott@naturetrust.bc.ca

SITE ADDRESS:

Meet @ 10am at Chehalis River Recreational Area on Morris Valley Road, (drive 5 kms, then turn right just before the bridge crossing the Chehalis River).

Jason Northcott (The Nature Trust of BC) and Dan Buffet (Biologist with Ducks Unlimited Canada) will lead a walking tour of a 500 ha conservation area on the Chehalis River. Binoculars, comfortable hiking shoes and proper outer wear recommended.

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Sunday, November 18th ONLY

Walking Tour : 10am

****Help by pre-booking** with Robin Rivers Nature Trust at 604-924-9771, ext. 226 or by e-mail rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca

ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL EVENTS



November 2012 – January 2013

Eagle Boat Tours w/ David Hancock and Fraser River Safari:

November – January

Nov 24/25, Dec 1/2, Dec 8/9, Dec 15/16

For more information:
www.fraseriversafari.com
 or Tel: 1-866-348-6877

Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival at Harrison Hot Springs

Nov 23-25

Speakers, photography workshops, etc.

For more information:
www.tourismharrison.com

DSLR Weekend Photo Workshop At Sasquatch Crossing

Nov 30 - Dec 2

- Limited spots available
 Get more out of eagles with David Hancock, Christian Sasse and Glen Browning.

For more info see:
www.fvbef.ca/education/workshops

The FVBef is a Registered Charity. Visit www.fvbef.ca to donate. Thank you for your support!

Welcome to the 'Beating Heart' of the Harrison Eco System...

Sasquatch Crossing Eco Lodge

- 9 unique guest rooms/ Private baths
- Dining, meetings, retreats for groups of 6 – 20
- Cozy fireplace, billiards room, wifi.

604-796-9798

Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem

- For groups of 30 – 150
- Meetings, community or family gatherings
- Full catering, cultural & recreation services

604-796-9832

Chehalis Store & Gas Station

- Groceries, hot and cold beverages
- Medication, auto and cleaning supplies
- Lottery, souvenirs including Sasquatch wear: caps, toques, T's, Hoodies, mugs, blankets, bags
- Local Camping Reservations

604-796-9252

www.stsaillesdevcorp.com

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SPEAKERS / WALKS + TALKS



David Hancock – Hancock Wildlife Foundation, Eagle Biologist

Saturday – 9:30 am – On board Fraser River Safari Jet Boat Eco Tours

Saturday – 1:00 pm – Tapadera Estates – “The amazing recovery of the Bald Eagle”

Sunday – 9:30 am – On board Fraser River Safari Jet Boat Eco Tours

Sunday – 1:00 pm – Tapadera Estates – “The amazing recovery of the Bald Eagle”



Cliff Jury – Ecologist and lecturer

Saturday & Sunday – 2:00 pm – Kilby Historic Site – “Attracting Birds To Your Yard”

Matt Foy – Salmon Restoration Biologist DFO

Saturday – 11:00 am – Tapadera Estates

Steve Howard – Expert Wildlife Rehabilitation

Sunday – 11:00 am – Tapadera Estates – Wildlife Rehabilitation

Educational Walk and Talk

Saturday 10am – Sts’ailes Lhawathet Lalem

The beauty of an Eagle from a Chehalis point of view



Cliff & Sherry Jury

13-33324 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 2B4
Phone: (604) 852-1960

8810C Young Rd
Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 4P5
604-792-1239

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Proud supporter of the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival



The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival is a Registered Charity

Support the Festival and help us continue raising awareness about one of the most biologically diverse and important areas in B.C.

For details on how to donate, visit us at www.fvbef.ca



AdCentives
102 - 7311 Vantage Way
Delta, BC V4G 1C9

v. 604.952.5555
f. 604.952-4567
e. info@adcentives.ca

KILBY
HISTORIC SITE

December Hours
Open Thursday
thru to Monday
11 am to 4 pm
Dec 6 to Dec 17

1906 General Store
Museum, Restaurant
and Gift Shop

215 Kilby Road,
Harrison Mills
604-796-9576
www.kilby.ca



WILDLIFE VIEWING ETIQUETTE



Photo © Christian Sasse

1. Where ever possible – Stay in your vehicle. Birds and animals are much more accepting of vehicles than they are of people. Use your vehicle as a 'blind'.

2. Keep your distance: Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto lens. If you try to 'get closer' the prey will just move further away.

3. Stay on trails: Trails are there for a reason. Straying off them not only damages or destroys sensitive habitat but infringes on the wildlife's space.

4. Respect your fellow viewing enthusiasts: Don't hog the best spots. Once you've had a chance to see and take a few pictures, move on so the next person has a chance.

5. Walk slowly and speak quietly; Nothing can send wildlife heading for the hills faster than someone running towards it shouting "look at the"

6. Watch carefully – respect the 'comfort zone': all wildlife, including birds, have a comfort zone which can vary dramatically depending on species, environment or previous experience... as long as you are outside of the comfort zone the animal or bird will continue doing what it was doing, if the comfort zone is

infiltrated the animal or bird will stop, become agitated and if the comfort zone continues to be pressed – the animal or bird will leave. If you inadvertently infiltrate a comfort zone... stop and retreat until the subject relaxes.

7. Diagonal rather than direct: If you must move closer to a subject, try a diagonal approach. The wildlife or bird won't feel as threatened as they would with a direct approach.

8. Teach your children all of the above: NEVER allow your children to throw rocks at, chase, run up to or try to catch wildlife, other than with a camera.

9. Pets: If you are attending an event where there are other viewers... leave your pet at home or in your vehicle. If you are viewing on your own there is no reason why a well trained pet cannot participate with you provided you keep said pet on a lead at all times and adhere to all the above points.

10. Be Patient: Wildlife doesn't appear on demand. When possible, pick a likely spot and sit quietly.... you'll be surprised at what might show up.

Kathy Stewart

BIRD COUNT

The counts below are taken during the two day festival by a group of volunteers. Historically, the highest eagle counts on the Harrison Mills Chehalis Flats occur in early December. For example, 7362 eagles were counted on Chehalis Flats on December 11, 2010. Go to www.fvbef.ca/eagle-count for more details.

BALD EAGLE:



Adult birds – large dark brown body with white head and tail.

Young birds – mottled brown. Look in large trees near bodies of water.

2007 count = 1,038
2008 count = 2,185
2009 count = 1,208
2010 count = 1,173
2011 count = 2,725

2012 count = _____

TRUMPETER SWAN:



Adult Birds – large white birds w/ black bill.

Young Birds – gray with light bill. Look in areas of water, shallow enough for feeding on aquatic vegetation or in fields.

2007 count = 162
2008 count = 509
2009 count = 292
2010 count = 162
2011 count = 208

2012 count = _____

GREAT BLUE HERON:



Very large gray/blue bird with long neck, bill and legs.

Look along edges of the water or on stumps and piers close to water, or feeding in fields.

2007 count = 18
2008 count = 10
2009 count = 7
2010 count = 3
2011 count = 6

2012 count = _____

Take Your Interest in Birding to the Next Level

BECOME A 'CITIZEN SCIENTIST'

When you go for a walk, do you find yourself looking for birds?

Do you count them? If so, why not join the hundreds of people, just like yourself, who are contributing bits and pieces of information that, together, create a picture of bird life in North America. IT'S EASY AND IT'S FREE.

Next time you go for a walk, take along pen and paper and jot down the bird species you see, then take a few minutes and send that information to Ebird Canada @ www.ebird.ca Do you walk the same area frequently? If you do, so much the better. The information you and other's gather and submit shows long term and seasonal trends.

Do you feed the birds in your yard?

Why not participate in 'Project Feeder Watch'? For a nominal fee, from November to April of each year, 'Feeder Watchers' participate by sending in weekly reports as to what species are coming to their feeders. For more information go to Bird Studies Canada website at: www.bsc-eoc.org and click on 'Project Feeder Watch'.

Kathy Stewart



Pretty Estates Resort

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Sandpiper Golf Course,
Rowena's Inn on the River and
River's Edge Restaurant

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Your Escape Should Be Too.

Prominent eagle viewing site

- On-site, complementary parking
- Walking trails through tranquil forests
- Riverside Bald Eagle viewing grounds
- Waterfront accommodations and dining

Photo © Christian Sasse



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ON THE RIVER



RIVER'S EDGE
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and other prizes!



WIN A PAIR OF YF30 KOWA BINOCULARS! & OTHER PRIZES

Purchase a 2012 Festival Souvenir Button & for each button purchased receive 5 chances to WIN great prizes by visiting the participating sites.

\$3 each or 4 for \$10 VALID ON NOV 17 & 18th ONLY

Visit Leqamel Exhibitors Hall, Sts'Ailes Healing Centre, Inch Creek Hatchery, Mission Visitor Centre or Kilby Historic Site for more info

Thank you for your support!

The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival Society



HARRISON
HOT SPRINGS

Bald Eagle
Photo Expo & Workshop
November 24 & 25

for details visit
www.tourismharrison.com




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HOT SPRINGS

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we are just 10 minutes from where the eagles soar &
90 minutes from Vancouver

Call 604-796-5581 for a free visitors guide
or visit us online at www.tourismharrison.com

THE BALD EAGLE

OUR GREAT CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

Bald Eagles are iconic. They are big spectacular predators but prefer to be pirates and scavengers. They are very territorial but gather by the thousands to share in and squabble over temporary and annual food surpluses like the spawned out salmon carcasses. The bald eagle is the symbol of wildness but it has invaded our city parks and suburban areas where they can reproduce more successfully than in the wilderness. The Bald Eagle is the American National Symbol – but most bald eagles live in and pass through Canada. But we Canadians like to share so we invite you all to come to the World's Greatest Bald Eagle Gathering Site – the Fraser River Bald Eagle Festival at Harrison Mills, British Columbia this fall. Thousands of eagles will be here -- Will you?

But why are there so many eagles on the Harrison – Chehalis River complex? The reasons are good and bad. The good part is that the Chehalis Flats, an alluvial fan draining the Chehalis River into the Harrison River, is fortunately still one of the richest salmonid rivers in Canada, hosting all 5 species of salmon, 3 trout and a huge population of 180 million year old sturgeon. On top of this the spawned out carcasses attract thousands of gull, waterfowl and the world's largest gathering of eagles. The other 'good' element is that our southern British Columbia coastal rivers do not freeze up in the winter and this allows late season spawning of the salmon. In the colder more northern rivers of Alaska and BC the salmon spawn early and the dead carcasses become the early season buffet but as soon as the freezing weather



Photo © Leonard Jellicoe

comes their dinner is locked under the ice. Southward the eagles come – by the thousands.

The not-so-nice part of the story is about human induced changes in the eagles' migratory patterns. One of the west coast's greatest food sources for bears, wolves and eagles has been the huge spawning runs of chum salmon. Until recently this was a commercially neglected species and our predators could fatten up for winter. In the last few years we humans have so greatly depleted the other more valuable salmon species that we have now turned to harvesting the formerly "inferior dog or chum salmon". We are now leaving nothing for the predators and scavengers.

The recent sharp decline in chum salmon has meant the eagles have had to cut short their northern migration and more quickly move south, even before the freeze up, because there were no salmon to eat in the northern rivers. The Chehalis – Harrison River complex is the southernmost largest salmon spawning grounds left. We are the eagles' last and greatest gathering site. Come and join our Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival, November 17 and 18, and during the following weekends through Christmas. If the salmon carcasses hold we sometimes get a few thousand eagles still holding into January and early February.

View the details of the FVBEF at:
www.fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca

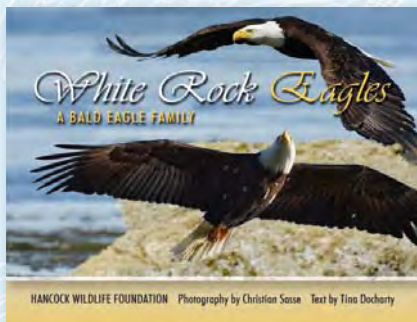
Also watch the Hancock Wildlife Foundation / FVBEF sponsored live streaming cams located out on the Chehalis alluvial fan. Some days they can be not just seen feeding on the salmon carcasses but sitting and resting on our cams! See "Live Cameras" at www.hancockwildlife.org

David Hancock
Eagle Biologist and host of
Bald Eagle Live CAMs at www.hancockwildlife.org

HANCOCK HOUSE PUBLISHERS

congratulates the FVBEF on their 17th Bald Eagle Festival

To honour this festival we have produced, in cooperation with Hancock Wildlife Foundation, a spectacular book *White Rock Eagles* with photography by Christian Sasse. This well-known photographer regularly posts to our Live Cam site at www.hancockwildlife.org where his book, our new 2013 HWF Eagle Calendar and other eagle books are available.



White Rock Eagles: A Bald Eagle Family

ISBN 978-0-88839-729-4, 11 x 8½ inches, hardcover, 80 pages

HANCOCK HOUSE PUBLISHERS

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THE GATHERING



The Fraser River originates in the Rocky Mountains and winds its way slowly towards Vancouver and the Pacific Ocean. Along the way the river swells and grows as it inherits many other streams and rivers. Just south of Hope, the mighty Fraser receives the Harrison River. The Harrison drains an enormous watershed of its own, including rivers such as the Birkenhead, Lillooet and massive Harrison Lake. At the southern most point of Harrison Lake the Chehalis River unites with the Harrison River. Every year the Harrison/Chehalis River confluence is witness to an incredible gathering of salmon and eagles.

Each fall and winter tens of thousands of salmon of varying species and stocks return to their natal home of the Harrison/Chehalis Rivers. They spawn and die, leaving their nutrient rich bodies to nourish plants and animals. As if they had heard a dinner bell

ring, many hundreds of bald eagles travel from great distances to collect here and enjoy the feast left for all. This phenomenal gathering of salmon and eagles requires multiple local and global environmental factors to be at their optimum.

These factors include; climatic conditions, ocean productivity, clean, cool, oxygenated freshwater, quality habitat and many others. When favourable conditions align, the abundance and diversity of life is amazing, making the Harrison/Chehalis River confluence one of the most valuable wildlife regions in the world. Annual events in nature are often taken for granted. This year come and stop, visit and appreciate this miracle.

Written by
Mark Johnson, DFO Community Advisor
and Tom Cadieux

Sponsors of the 2012 Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations for their invaluable contributions



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 17TH, 2012

UPDATED



INFO CENTRE

Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce
Visitor Information Centre

9am – 3pm



INTERPRETERS

BUSES

FOOD

ACCESSIBLE



EAGLE VIEWING SITES

HOTSPOT

INTERPRETERS

BUSES

FOOD

ACCESSIBLE

Tapadera - (LAND)

9am – 3pm



Eagle Point Community Park - (LAND)

9am – 3pm



Pretty Estates Resort - (LAND)

8am – 9pm



Fraser River Safari - (WATER)

– Official jetboat tours of the FVBEF

9:30am, 11:30am

1:00pm, 2:30pm



EVENTS + ACTIVITIES

HOTSPOT

INTERPRETERS

BUSES

FOOD

ACCESSIBLE

The Exhibitor's Fair at Leq'a:mel 9am – 4pm



Inch Creek Hatchery 9am – 3pm



Kilby Historic Site 11am – 4pm



Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem 9:30am – 3pm



Educational Walk & Talk

10am

Artisan Demonstrations & Sales

9:30am – 3pm

Various Arts & Crafts Workshops

9:30am – 3pm

Sasquatch Tours Dancers

11 am – 12 pm

Sts'ailes Salmon Lunch

11:30am – 1:30pm

Nelson Leon & Pow Wow Dancers

1pm–2 pm

Salish Society Drummers & Singers

2:30pm–3pm

SPEAKERS / WALKS + TALKS

HOTSPOT

INTERPRETERS

BUSES

FOOD

ACCESSIBLE

David Hancock @ Fraser River Safari Tour 9:30am



Matt Foy @ Tapadera Estates 11:00am



David Hancock @ Tapadera Estates 1:00pm



Cliff Jury @ Kilby 2:00pm



For the latest, most up to date **FESTIVAL INFO**, visit us at www.fvbef.ca

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 18TH, 2012

UPDATED



INFO CENTRE

HOTSPOT INTERPRETERS BUSES FOOD ACCESSIBLE

Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce
Visitor Information Centre 9am – 3pm



EAGLE VIEWING SITES

HOTSPOT INTERPRETERS BUSES FOOD ACCESSIBLE

Tapadera - (LAND) 9am – 3pm



Eagle Point Community Park - (LAND) 9am – 3pm



Pretty Estates Resort - (LAND) 8am – 9pm



Fraser River Safari - (WATER)
– Official jetboat tours of the FVBEF 9:30am, 11:30am
1:00pm, 2:30pm



EVENTS + ACTIVITIES

HOTSPOT INTERPRETERS BUSES FOOD ACCESSIBLE

The Exhibitor's Fair at Leq'a:mel 10am – 3pm



Inch Creek Hatchery 9am – 3pm



Kilby Historic Site 11am – 4pm



SPEAKERS / WALKS + TALKS

HOTSPOT INTERPRETERS BUSES FOOD ACCESSIBLE

David Hancock @ Fraser River Safari Tour 9:30am



Chehalis River Interpretive Nature Walk 10:00am



Steve Howard @ Tapadera Estates 11:00am



David Hancock @ Tapadera Estates 1:00pm



Cliff Jury @ Kilby 2:00pm



Additional 2012 Festival Events

Don't forget to check out the
Additional 2012 Festival Events
on page 14

Mark you calendar now for the 2013 FVBEF!



Next year's festival:

November 16th -17th, 2013

For the latest, most up to date **FESTIVAL INFO**, visit us at www.fvbef.ca

ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL EVENTS

NOVEMBER, 2012 TO JANUARY, 2013



EAGLE VIEWING BOAT TOURS

November 2012 - January 2013 :: Nov 24/25, Dec 1/2, Dec 8/9, Dec 15/16
Dates will be added on supply and demand.

Eagle Viewing Boat Tours with Wildlife Biologist David Hancock and Fraser River Safari

Fraser River Safari eagle tours will continue taking guests out into the magic of the Chehalis/ Harrison Estuary until the eagles have moved on for the season. Tours have continued until right after the Christmas Holidays in past years.

For more information:
www.fraserriversafari.com
1-866-348-6877

FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL @ HARRISON HOT SPRINGS

November 23th - 25th, 2012

Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival at Harrison Hot Springs

Speakers, photography contest, photo expo, workshops.

For more information:
www.tourismharrison.com

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP @ SASQUATCH CROSSING

November 30th - December 2nd, 2012
- limited spots available

Weekend DSLR Photo Work Shop - Get More Out of Eagles

At Sasquatch Crossing

With David Hancock, Christian Sasse and Glen Browning

Restricted Participation: Learn tips for your SLR & Photoshop Stay at Eco Lodge Friday & Saturday nights. All attendees are required to have a single lens reflex camera. 2 nights – 3 days.

For more information:
www.fvbef.ca/education/workshops

WORLD RECORD NUMBER OF BALD EAGLES: AT HARRISON MILLS, BC

The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival at Harrison Mills, at the confluence of the Chehalis and Harrison Rivers, has become the most famous and reliable place to see bald eagles in the entire world. In December of 2010 7,362 bald eagles were counted in a small section of this area. Over 10,000 were estimated to be in the normal Festival count area from Harrison Bay northward along the Harrison River to the Chehalis Flats. This incredible world record aggregation of a large predator is an annual event.

The eagles start to move into our area as soon as the dead salmon carcasses begin to appear in October. The Bald Eagle Festival weekend in November matches the build-up which peaks in December and wanes, as the salmon carcasses are eaten out, through January and February. What really drives the eagles to our area is the freezing up of the northern rivers – the eagles can't get at the dead salmon under the ice. Southward the eagles come by the thousands and our incredibly productive Chehalis – Harrison River complex provides food for thousands of eagles, usually for months. Other adult eagles return to be closer to their breeding territories in southern BC and Washington State. Over 370 pairs of eagles now nest in the lower Fraser Valley.

Our Festival coincides with the arrival of the big eagle migration. From the three major viewing sites along Morris Valley Road, north off Highway 7 at the Sasquatch Inn, Tapadera Estates, Eagle Point Community Park and the Sandpiper Golf Course (at Pretty Estates Resort), the eagles can be viewed by the public. Starting about this same time the Fraser River Safari Tours offer frequent tours up the Harrison River from Kilby that enable viewers to see the great concentrations from closer up – and to visit the bigger eagle concentration areas not visible from the shoreline points.

So many people still have not seen an eagle – yet during our fall salmon runs it is possible to frequently see several thousand in a single day and from a single location. We encourage you to attend the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival, see the Sts'ailes First Nation dancers and crafts, view our eagles, attend lectures on local wildlife and view all the related booths at the Festival outreach centers. When you fall in love with our eagles you will be on the path to wanting to develop a sustainable world.

David Hancock, Wildlife Biologist

See HWF live cams at: www.hancockwildlife.org

View the details of the FVBEF at: www.fraservalleybald eaglefestival.ca

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BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL**

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For information on Mission contact:
Stacey Crawford
Economic Development Officer
District of Mission
604-820-3789
www.mission.ca

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MISSION RECORD

www.missioncityrecord.com

& Observer

The Agassiz ♦ Harrison ♦ Hope
www.agassizharrisonobserver.com

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Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival



Black Press www.blackpress.ca

2012 Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival - Festival Sites NOVEMBER 17th-18th, 2012

