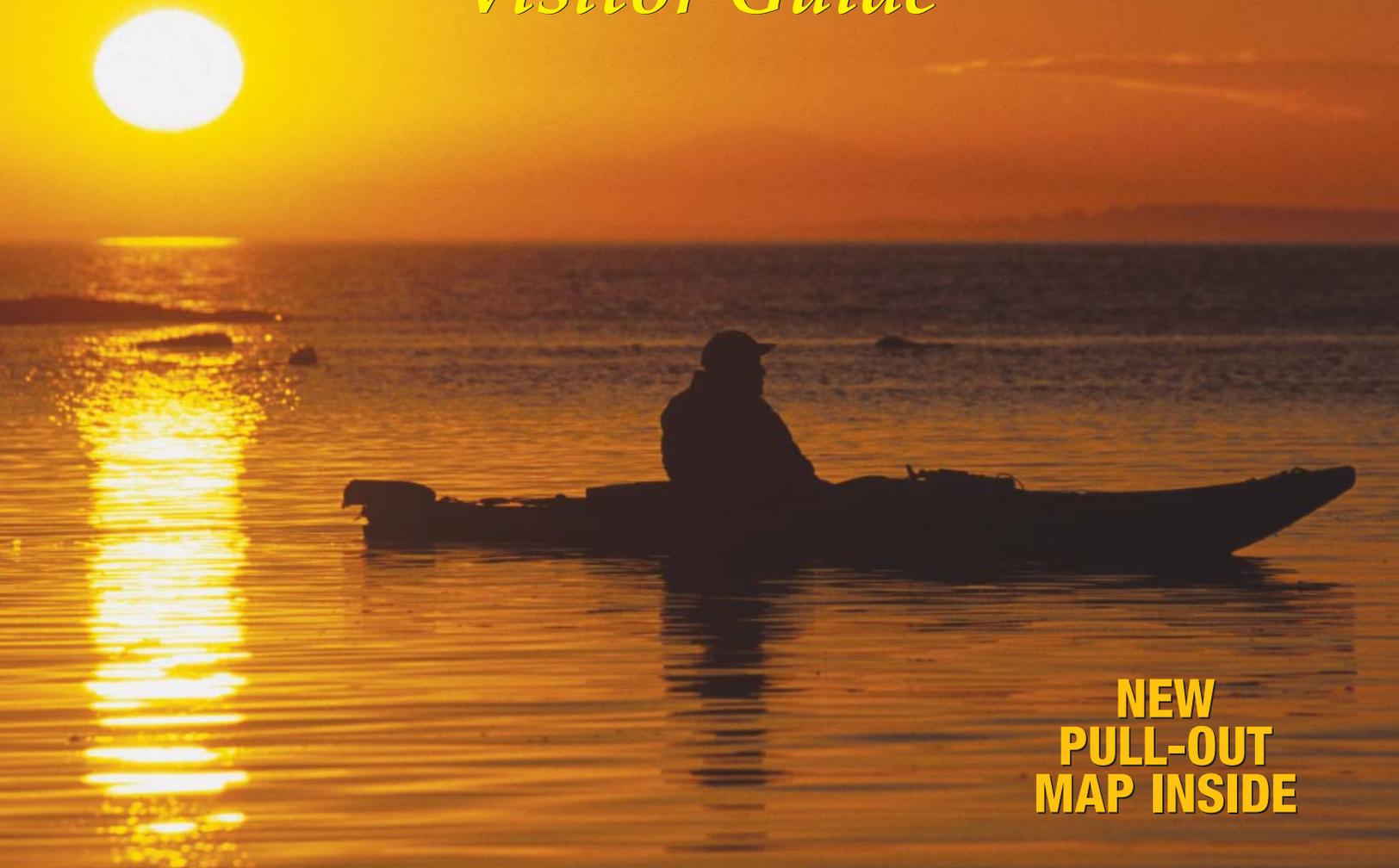




GULF ISLANDS

NATIONAL PARK RESERVE OF CANADA

Visitor Guide



**NEW
PULL-OUT
MAP INSIDE**



Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada

Established in 2003, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve safeguards a portion of British Columbia's beautiful southern Gulf Islands archipelago. These islands are among some of the most ecologically at risk natural regions in southern Canada.



Park offices are located in Sidney, on **Saturna Island** adjacent to the Recreation Centre and on **North Pender Island** at Hope Bay. There are RCMP detachments located in Sidney and on the Penders and Mayne Island.

**Gulf Islands
National Park Reserve
Administration Office**
2220 Harbour Road
Sidney, BC V8L 2P6
Ph: 250-654-4000
Email: gulf.islands@pc.gc.ca
Office open: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,

Monday to Friday
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National Parks

National parks are places where unique ecosystems are protected and where visitors have the opportunity to explore and learn about our country's amazing natural and cultural history. Established in 2003, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve is representative of the

Strait of Georgia Lowlands natural region. We encourage you to experience the park in ways that the memories you take home are those that last a lifetime in your heart but that leave no lasting trace on park ecosystems.

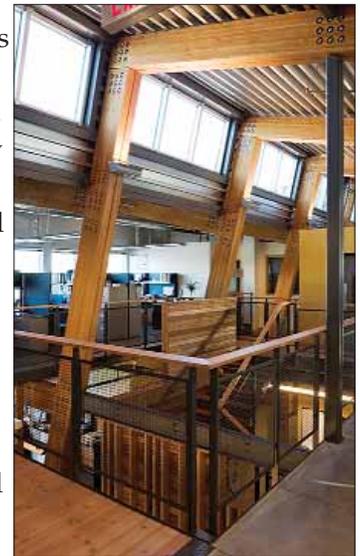
a first in Canada

In 2006, the park's Operations Centre achieved a Platinum certification under the Canada Green Building Council's LEED program—the first building in Canada to receive this highest level of certification. LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—recognizes buildings that incorporate design, construction and operational practices that result in reduced environmental impacts. The project was managed by Public Works and Government Services Canada. Building design was by Larry McFarland Architects Ltd of Vancouver, and the building contractor was Ledcor Construction.

Located on the waterfront of Tsehum Harbour in Sidney, the building houses the park's operations and



administration staff as well as offices for the local Parks Canada Coastal BC Field Unit. The sustainable design vision developed for this project was to demonstrate how a building can be designed to respond to its site and environment to minimize dependence on outside sources of energy and its impact on the environment. The natural resources available on site—the ocean, sunlight and the abundant rainfall—have all been incorporated into the building's systems. The energy savings generated by the building's innovative systems are approximately 75% of that of a comparable building using conventional heating and lighting technologies. Find out more about the building and the LEED program by visiting the park's website (www.pc.gc.ca/gulf) and the Canada Green Building Council website (www.cagbc.org).



Images: Derek Lepper/Larry McFarland Architects Ltd/2006

park planning

After an extensive public consultation process, Interim Management Guidelines for the park were approved in late 2006. They provide direction to us on key issues and include zoning to ensure that appropriate levels of protection are in place for sensitive areas. Copies of a summary document or the full Guidelines are available in hard copy or CD upon request. A brochure illustrating park zoning is available from park offices.

We are now moving on to developing area plans for key high-use locations in the park.

We are guided in our work by the experience and counsel of the Park Advisory Board (representing other levels of government and the public) and by advisory boards and committees of interested First Nations. If you would like to be advised of opportunities for input to upcoming plans, please contact park planner Carolyn Stewart at 1-866-944-1744 or Carolyn.Stewart@pc.gc.ca.

Exploring the Park

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE of Canada is spread over a myriad of islands, islets and reefs in the southern Strait of Georgia. Park lands are open year-round, but limited or no services are available in the off-season. The park's campgrounds and fee collection programs are contracted to Park Facility Operators who provide the basic day-to-day services to our visitors.

Only four of the larger islands—Saturna, Mayne, North Pender and South Pender—are accessible by BC Ferries. These islands are also home to several thousand islanders who are welcoming you to a very special place. Please respect private property, obey posted speed limits (50 kph/30 mph) and watch for pedestrians and cyclists. Camping and accommodation are limited on the islands, so it's best to make your overnight arrangements in advance.

Be Aware – Then Prepare

- Dress and equip yourself for the weather and your activity.
- Island terrain is often hilly and rocky, with steep cliffs dropping precipitously to the ocean. Footing may be treacherous. Exercise caution.
- When walking along the shore or exploring tidepools, keep track of rising tides and be sure that you can return safely to land above the high tide line.

Remember...

- Never feed, disturb or approach wildlife.
- Leave all natural objects (including plants, driftwood, etc.) and cultural artifacts as and where they are.
- If you are traveling through the park with a firearm, it must be in a locked case, with ammunition stored separately.
- Hunting is prohibited, except by First Nations.
- Possession of wildlife parts is illegal.
- No off-road vehicle access.
- Take off and landing of aircraft is prohibited without a permit.
- Bicycles are not allowed on park trails



Tour Operators

Exploring the park with a tour operator licensed by Parks Canada is a great way to enhance your visit. Licensed tour operators have met industry certification standards and government regulatory requirements. If you're not sure that the tour operator you've chosen is licensed, ask for more information from the operator or contact the park office.

Interpretive Programs

Park Interpreters can help you discover the stories behind the scenery. Watch for information about programs, special events or guided walks posted at park information kiosks or check the park's website (www.pc.gc.ca/gulf). Our Interpreters are also out roving park trails on the larger islands during the summer months, so don't be surprised if you run into one with something interesting to share with you!



Images: ©Parks Canada/Don McCulloch/2006

First Nations

There are many Coast Salish First Nations who have long and continuous ties to the Gulf Islands. The Coast Salish people have special ties to the environment—a spiritual connection to the land, the earth and the water. Their knowledge of natural systems has been passed down from generation to generation through oral histories. Over millennia and to this day, the forests and seas have provided them with food, materials for everyday life and places for spiritual contemplation. First Nations scientific and traditional knowledge are being

Fire Danger

The Gulf Islands are frequently in drought conditions during the summer months, and fire hazard is often extreme. At those times, campfire restrictions will be posted, and you may occasionally hear the sound of a smoke patrol helicopter flying over the islands in the evening. **NO CAMPFIRES are permitted in the park except in the fire grates provided at Prior Centennial campground (North Pender Island) and at McDonald campground (Sidney, Vancouver Island).** Propane and gas stoves are OK; hibachis and propane campfires are prohibited.

used in parallel with modern science to help park managers make decisions on how to restore and maintain park ecosystems.

The ocean has always been their central source of food—a rich harvest of seals, sea lions, whales, six-gilled shark, porpoise, shellfish, halibut, salmon and other fish. Hunting deer and small mammals and the harvesting of berries and plants are done in rhythm with the seasons. First Nations can pursue traditional activities—including hunting and harvesting of plants and other materials—within the national park reserve. Parks Canada works with First Nations to ensure that these activities are done in ways that respect the conservation of species and the ecosystem, and in a manner that does not endanger the safety of other park users. From November through February, watch for the warning signboards that are placed at access points when hunting is in progress.

Greening Your Visit

PACK IN, PACK OUT: There are no garbage facilities on the islands: all garbage and recycling has to be trucked off the islands. To minimize your impact on the islands, please take your garbage with you when you leave the islands. Limited community recycling opportunities are available on Saturna, Mayne and Pender Islands, and at Sidney Spit.

Boat holding tanks should be discharged at a pump-out station (located nearby at Van Isle Marina in Sidney) and not in park waters. When moored near shore, use park toilet facilities whenever possible to minimize boat sewage.

Garbage on our beaches and in our waters can trap, injure or kill aquatic life and shore birds, and foul boat propellers or intake fittings. Equally dangerous to marine life are the oils, detergents, sewage and toxic products that are carelessly discharged into the water. Don't toss your garbage overboard, and secure any loose items so that they aren't inadvertently blown or washed overboard.

Enjoying the Park with Your Dog

Dogs are welcome at Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. To protect park ecosystems, however, park regulations require that your dog must always be kept on-leash. This prevents your pet from harassing wildlife or damaging sensitive plants, shows respect for other visitors—and also keeps your dog safe. Stoop, scoop and dispose of your dog's waste with the rest of your garbage.



Images: ©Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006

Water

Drinking water is only available at Prior Centennial and McDonald campgrounds and at Sidney Spit. Water at Sidney Spit has a high sodium content and should not be consumed by people with kidney or heart ailments. **THERE IS NO WATER AT BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES OR DAY-USE AREAS.**

Because of the summer drought conditions on the islands, visitors should practice water conservation throughout their visit.

Fishing & Shellfish Harvesting

A tidal waters sportsfishing license is required to fish or to capture any species of finfish or shellfish in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Check size and catch limits in the British Columbia Tidal Waters Sportfishing Guide, for Areas 18 and 19. There are also Rockfish Conservation Areas established by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in this region. Please consult their website (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) for more information on these closures. Fishing licenses are available from many sporting goods stores, resorts, marinas and charter boat companies. Freshwater lakes and streams in the park support sensitive ecosystems and threatened species. For these reasons, recreational freshwater fishing is prohibited in the park.

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning

The oceans contain microalgae that sometimes multiply in great numbers. This is called a plankton bloom. The algae responsible for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) produce an extremely potent toxin that affects nerve impulses and can lead to paralysis of muscles and asphyxiation. Shellfish containing the toxin do not appear physically different from those that do not. Fisheries and Oceans Canada issues warnings and closures for PSP contamination. Don't take chances. It is illegal—and could be deadly—to harvest shellfish in a closed area. There are permanent closures in effect at Bedwell Harbour (South Pender I.) and at James Bay (Prevost I.). Seasonal closures (May 31 to September 30) are in effect at Princess Bay (Portland I.) and at Reef Harbour (between Cabbage and Tumbo Islands).

Living with Wildlife

Your activities while visiting the park can have an impact on your personal safety and the safety and health of wildlife. While there are few large predators on the southern Gulf Islands, black bears, cougars and wolves have all been sighted in recent years. You may encounter wildlife at any time. Be aware of your surroundings, especially at dusk and dawn, or in densely vegetated areas. Shorelines, wetlands and intertidal areas are

Seal Pups

Seal pupping season occurs during the spring and summer months. Each year, people find seemingly abandoned seal pups on shore. However, the mother may simply be out foraging or have been frightened away by human presence and will soon return to tend

to her pup. In most cases, the pups are healthy—although to the untrained eye they may seem in distress (uneven breathing, nasal discharge, weeping eyes and making whining noises). As difficult as it may be to do, you must stay back at least 100 metres from the pup. It is illegal to possess, touch, harass or remove wildlife in a national park. Even if the pup is indeed injured, this is considered to be part of nature's process, and park staff will not intervene.



Images: ©Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006

How to keep a bare campsite

Store ALL FOOD and other WILDLIFE ATTRACTANT items in a hard-sided vehicle/trailer/motor home (not in a tent or tent-trailer) when not in use. Whenever these items are not in use such as when you are sleeping at night, or when your site is unattended for any length of time (e.g. to go to the washroom), they should be stored properly.

Wildlife attractants are things that have an odour or could appear to be food to wildlife:

Coolers (full/empty)	Bottles/Cans (full/empty)
Food and Condiments	Tablecloths
Garbage/Wrappings/Plastic Bags	Toiletries/Suntan Lotion
Dishes/Pots	ANY item associated with food preparation or clean up (soap, dish clothes and towels)
Pet Food/Bowls	

When people leave wildlife attractants unsecured (e.g. on a picnic table or in a tent), wildlife can learn to associate food-rewards with people and lose their fear of humans. Once an animal gets used to human food, it becomes a risk to public safety, and may be destroyed.



particularly critical habitats for shorebirds and waterfowl. Please take particular care in these areas, even more so if your dog is accompanying you.

When food is left out, animals can lose their fear of humans. Once an animal gets used to human food, it becomes a risk to public safety and may be destroyed. Other animals may become dependent on human food in place of their natural diet, with adverse affects on their health. By keeping a clean campsite, you are playing an important part in preventing problem animals and in keeping park wildlife healthy.

What you can do to reduce human/wildlife conflicts:

- Keep your dog on a leash at all times.
- Never allow wildlife access to food, garbage, toiletries or coolers.
- Report any bear, wolf or cougar sightings to park staff.
- Follow marine mammal and seabird viewing guidelines (see back cover).
- Do not attempt to assist animals that may seem to be in distress. Contact a park warden. 1-877-852-3100.



Many park islets are critical nesting areas for shorebirds and seabirds.



River otters are part of both terrestrial and marine ecosystems, reflecting the importance of protecting both uplands and adjacent waters.)

Image © Parks Canada/2005

Image © Parks Canada/Matthew Payne/2005

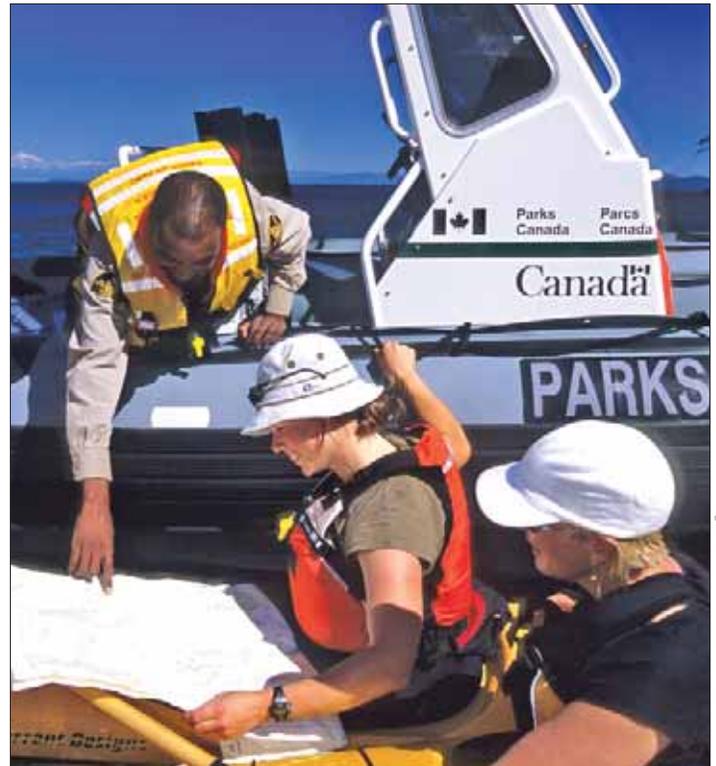


On the Water

The waters adjacent to park lands on the larger islands, as well as those surrounding the smaller islets and reefs are protected and managed by Parks Canada, extending 200 metres seaward. Larger zones of protected waters occur where islands and islets are grouped together, and around Portland Island.

Keep Safe!

- Comply with the Small Vessel Regulations by having appropriate lifejackets and other safety equipment on board your vessel, including on your dinghy.
- Use local nautical charts: 3441, 3442, 3462, 3476, 3477, 3478, and refer to the Canadian Hydrographic Service's *Sailing Directions (Pacific Coast)*.
- The speed limit is 5 knots within 30 metres of shore.
- Always check tides, currents and weather.
- Be aware of coastal hazards such as submerged rocks and shoals, floating logs and debris, crab traps, winds, currents and fog.
- Boat Passage and Boiling Reef (both adjacent to Saturna Island) are considered Class 3 waters for kayakers. Kayakers should plan their travel through these waters carefully or choose an alternate route.
- Drinking while boating is extremely dangerous—and it's a criminal offence. Remember, don't "cruise with booze".



Images: ©Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006

Moorage

- Fees are collected from May 15 to September 30, after 6 p.m.
- Mooring buoys are located at Sidney Spit (21), Beaumont (15) and Cabbage Island (10) for \$9.90/night. Only one boat per buoy is permitted; vessel size restrictions are printed on the buoys.
- Maximum total stay at mooring buoys in the park is 14 days in a calendar year.

Special Preservation Areas

Sprinkled throughout the park are a number of smaller islands and islets. The ecosystems of these islands are fragile and easily impacted and some support unique or threatened species or are the best examples of natural features or ecosystems. Brackman and Georgeson Islands, park islets and six other locations have been designated as Special Preservation Areas. While small in size, islets are vitally important as refuges for native plants and important habitat for marine mammals such as seals and sea lions. Others are important feeding, nesting and roosting sites for endangered birds like the Marbled Murrelet, Black Oystercatcher and Double-crested, Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants. In order to protect these ecologically sensitive areas, they have been afforded the highest level of protection and are designated as **AUTHORIZED ACCESS ONLY AREAS**. Boaters and kayakers should remain 100 metres off-shore to protect wildlife from disturbance. Access to the

shoreline of Dock Island below the high tide line, and the south end of Lot 65 (the Belle Chain island closest to Samuel Island at lat/long 48° 49' 42"N 123° 12' 42" W) is permitted for day use rest stops by paddlers and boaters. Coast Salish First Nations may access the islets for traditional cultural purposes.



- Dock space is available during peak season at Sidney Spit for \$1.95/metre/night.
- Designated staff mooring buoys and dock space must be left free for park emergencies.
- Dinghy docks are located at Portland Island at Tortoise Bay during the peak season, and at Royal Cove year round. Stern tie rings are located at both Royal Cove and Tortoise Bay.

Boats may also anchor in park waters. However, preliminary studies have identified eelgrass beds in some areas of the park that could be adversely affected by anchoring. Try to avoid these sensitive areas whenever possible.



Image: © Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006
Bottom image © Parks Canada/Chris Cheadev/2003

Marine Hosts

Volunteer Marine Hosts provide general information to boaters from June to September. Members of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club are your hosts in Princess Bay at Portland Island. The Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club hosts marine visitors at Beaumont in the Bedwell Harbour area of South Pender.



Under Consideration

A National Marine Conservation Area Reserve in the Strait of Georgia

In late 2003, the governments of Canada and British Columbia launched a feasibility study to consider the creation of a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCA reserve) in the southern Strait of Georgia. The study is approximately one year away from completion.

NMCA reserves are a type of marine protected area managed for sustainable use and containing smaller zones of high protection. They are established to represent a marine region and to demonstrate how conservation practices can be harmonized with resource use in marine ecosystems. Activities such as commercial and sports fishing, marine transportation, commercial shipping and a range of recreational and tourism activities can continue.

Public consultation during the feasibility study has been, and will continue to be, a high priority. For more information on how to participate, go to www.pc.gc.ca/straitofgeorgia or email straitofgeorgianmca@pc.gc.ca or call Bill Henwood at 604-666-0285.

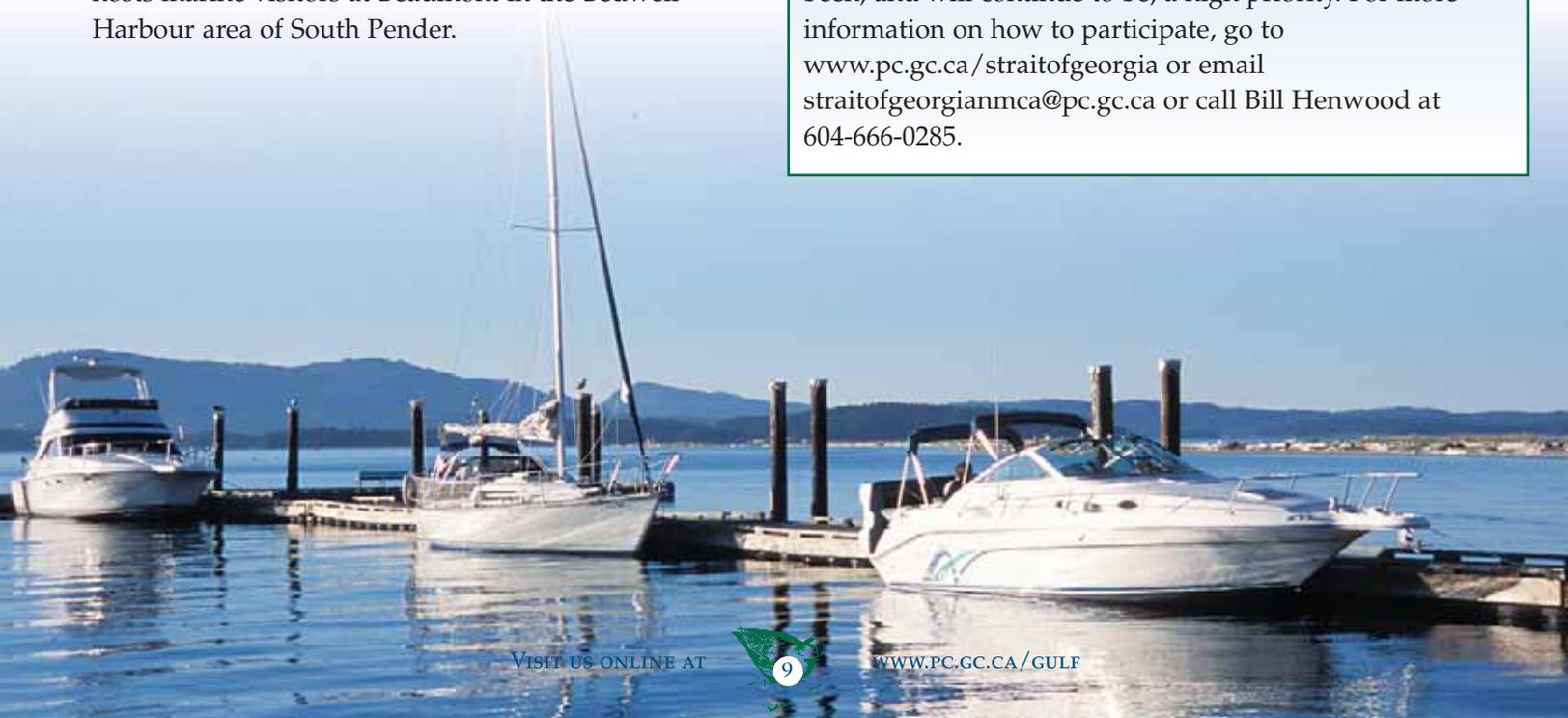




Image © Parks Canada/Michèle Wink/2004

A Special Place

THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS bask in Canada’s only Mediterranean-type climate. The surrounding mountain ranges on Vancouver Island and the Olympic Peninsula wring out the moisture from Pacific winds, leaving the islands in a “rain shadow.” The weather is warm and dry in summer, and mild and wet in winter. From these benevolent conditions has sprung an ecosystem unique in Canada. Some plant and animal species found here occur nowhere else in the country. Douglas fir is the most common tree, but in drier areas the distinctively red-barked arbutus tree takes hold. Garry oaks, common here but rare elsewhere, are found at lower elevations. At higher elevations like Mount Warburton Pike on Saturna Island, Douglas fir is joined by western hemlock and western red cedar. In spring, moist sites burst into bloom with wildflowers such as camas lilies, stonecrop, white fawn lilies and chocolate lilies.

The scenic beauty of the Gulf Islands is embodied in its rocky shorelines, steep headlands and offshore rocks and islets. Plant communities develop slowly on these crags, reflecting the difficult environmental conditions. Many plant species grow on sites perched on exposed fractured bedrock in dry shallow soils. If disturbed or trampled, these ecosystems may not be able to recover for many years, if at all.

Used by First Nations for millennia and settled by Europeans since the mid-1800s, the landscape of the islands is much altered. Although the loss of old growth forest to farming, forestry and settlement is mourned, the older second-growth forests that blanket most of the islands today are valued for their biodiversity and the connections that they provide between natural areas and sensitive ecosystems. The deliberate suppression of fire that began after settlement was a contrast to the regular use of fire by Coast Salish First Nations for thousands of years to keep meadows free of trees in order to maintain rich food resources like the camas lily. Today, because of the absence of fire for so long, the forests are at risk for a devastating fire. How best to help the ecosystem reclaim its natural rhythm is a significant challenge facing park managers.

A Passion for Stewardship

Parks Canada is not alone in its dedication to stewardship of Canada’s special places. We work closely with the Islands Trust, the provincial agency charged with the responsibility for preserving the communities, culture and environment of the Gulf Islands. We’re also in good company and work collaboratively with a variety of other government agencies, First Nations, environmental organizations and individuals who are all committed to protecting the Gulf Islands. BC Parks, the Islands Trust Fund, Capital Regional District, the Nature Trust of BC, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Vancouver Foundation, the Devonian Foundation, and private donors have all contributed to the mosaic that has become Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

Wetlands are critical habitat for species like this tiny Pacific tree frog.



Image © Parks Canada/Brian Reader/2004

Wildlife

The wide variety of terrestrial and marine habitats in the Gulf Islands mean that the wildlife found here is very diverse. Whales, porpoises, sea lions and seals call the surrounding waters home; eagles, falcons and turkey vultures soar overhead. Hundreds of thousands of seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl thrive on the bounty of the nutrient-rich ocean waters. Intertidal marine life abounds.

On land, few large predators remain, causing significant alteration to island ecosystems as prey species have multiplied virtually unchecked—such as when deer populations eliminate the forest understorey

in their search for suitable browse. Overall, the Gulf Islands have 38 COSEWIC-listed species: 15 Endangered, 10 Threatened and 13 species of Special Concern. These species range from butterflies to snakes, from shellfish to ferns, and from bats to killer whales.



Image: ©Parks Canada/Chris Holbert/2006

Alien Invasions

The southern Gulf Islands have been invaded by exotic plant and animal species since the mid-1800s. Exotic species become a problem when they out-compete native species for habitat. When native



Scotch Broom

plant species are replaced by exotic species, insect and animal species dependent on the native plants are also affected. Food chains are disrupted, and vital habitat is lost. The islands have been invaded by Scotch broom, Daphne, English ivy, gorse, Himalayan blackberry, American holly and Carpet burweed. Parks Canada is undertaking a program of removal of some of these, concentrating at the outset on the smaller islets. It is more likely that eradication of these invaders will be most successful in more remote areas where reintroduction of the exotic species is less likely.

Exotic species aren't limited to plants; the fallow deer on Sidney Island and feral goats on Saturna Island are altering local ecosystems as they browse and graze. How to manage their impacts on the health of the ecosystem will need to be addressed in the future.

Wanted!

Butterfly Recovery in the Park

Have you seen these butterflies in the park? If not, there is a good chance you may in the years to come. In an effort to increase the ecological integrity of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, Parks Canada is actively working towards the recovery of several rare and endangered butterfly species associated with sensitive areas such as Garry oak meadows and associated ecosystems. Various sites in the park will undergo restoration to improve the quality and quantity of butterfly habitat. Restoration activities include non-native plant species control and native plant species enhancement, focusing on critical butterfly host plants. Butterfly recovery efforts began in the summer 2007.

Common Ringlet (Coenonympha tullia insulana), an increasingly rare butterfly species in BC.



Taylor's Checkerspot (Euphydryas editha taylori), an endangered species protected under the federal Species at Risk Act.



Images: ©James Miskelly

The Park as a Laboratory

Gulf Islands National Park Reserve serves as an ecological benchmark for the study of natural environments in a relatively undisturbed state. Maintaining or restoring the ecological integrity of the park while providing for visitor use requires a full understanding of natural and cultural resources, their interrelationships and processes, and human interests and activities. We do this through scientific research.



Image © Parks Canada/Scott Giroux/2005

Identifying the diversity of marine life in the near-shore eelgrass ecosystem.

While some projects are short term, many of these initiatives are multi-year programs. For more information about research in the park, contact Todd Columbia, Park Ecologist, at 250-654-4011, todd.Columbia@pc.gc.ca or visit the Parks Canada Agency website at www.parksCanada.gc.ca.

Under the Microscope

Here are just a few of the many research projects under way in the park:

- **Archaeological inventory**
- **Marine:** Intertidal monitoring; Biological inventory of eel grass communities and their fish populations.
- **Plants:** Adaptive variation in *Plectritis congesta* (Sea Blush); Impacts of Canada Geese on native plant communities.
- **Mapping:** Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping; Hyperspectral Remote Sensing LiDAR
- **Wildlife:** Black oystercatchers; Predicting impact of deer browsing on shrubs and birds; Demographics of songbirds in the southern Gulf Islands; Sharp-tailed Snake survey; Monitoring of Sidney Island deer populations; *Trichoclea edwardsii* moths on Sidney Island
- **Land:** Sediment transport and erosion processes at Sidney Island.

Sharing Knowledge

The following is a fragment of the rich oral history of the Hul'qumi'num First Nations that helps us to better understand these unique islands. We thank the Hul'qumi'num people for their generosity in sharing this knowledge with us.

Name of Speaker: Luschiim (Arvid Charlie, of the Cowichan Tribes)
Name of Recorder: Lea Joe (his niece)
Spoken on: February 13, 2007, at Ladysmith, BC, and excerpted with his permission.

When we left home, here, *Quwutsun* [Cowichan], we went to harvest out on the islands, and sometimes we continued on to visit our relatives on the mainland. We stopped in several places. One of the places we stopped at was *xwixwyus* [Winter Cove], where we camped, sometimes for several days, even weeks, 'we' meaning more than just us, our relatives from other places. We camped, harvested, and socialized. *Xwixwyus* was a

good place because there was an abundance of a variety of foods and medicines: clams, *sweem* [horse clam], *saxwa* [butter clam], *skw'they* [littleneck clam] and *stl'ula'um* [basket cockle].

Some of these foods we dried, some of them we ate immediately. There was also a lot of different kinds of fish: *sts'atx* [halibut], *tuqw-tuqw* [red snapper]. Those little bays around there is where you got your *q'eq'o'*

[skate] — a real delicacy. I usually caught them when I'm hunting for *sqim'ukw'* [octopus], *'eyx* [crab] and *puwi'* [flounder]. I'm told we had duck nets that we put up in certain places. We also got seaweeds— *lhuq'us* [green seaweed] and *pulhtalus*. We always ate some of that, as part of regular diet.

There's a place that's very narrow called Boat Passage. Its name is *kw'ulhutsun*. *Kw'ulh* is 'to spill'. So *kw'ulhutsun* is the location where, when the tide is changing, the high tide area will spill into the low tide area. It's quite a difference in water level elevation and very *xwoom* [swift] over there. You don't go through there just any time, you gotta be careful to go through there, go through it slack tide or close to it.

When we went to *xwixwyus* [Winter Cove], we brought along our dwelling. We were highly mobile, so the boards that we made at the time, split boards from cedar, was called *siil-tuhw*. At these camping places, we had poles erected for dwellings.



Skate

We took our *siil-tuhw* along and when we got there, they just attached to your boards and then you had your dwelling. The *siil-tuhw* could be on the roof; and for lighter traveling you could have *salu-uts* [reed mats] for your walls. But we also had *s-punow't-hw* [underground dwelling] and that was for warmth. Later on of course, we had tents to use.

We'd cross over there, at *xwixwyus*, and then some would come home from there, but others would go visit their relatives, one of them being from Lummi. Grandpa *Luschiim* talked a lot about traveling back and forth. From *xwixwyus* we'd go over to Tumbo, and we'd leave there at 2, 3 o'clock in the morning to give yourself lots of time to get across before the wind blows up. You knew



Octopus

the tides, you knew the winds. So you timed to go across good water, meaning good tides. The majority of your traveling is drifting down with the tide, and you come back kind of a different way, to be going the same way— drifting with the tides and the winds. Sometimes we *ta'luqwum* [raft canoes], especially if we were worried about the wind. When you put your *siil-tuhw* across the canoes and tie it on there, you can load up

your canoes, you're steady, you won't tip over, plus you can load up bulky gear on your rafted canoes.

Along with the regular stories, what grandpa, great-grandpa *Luschiim* shared was survival foods. One of them was *p'ul'q'ius* [razor clams]. Sometimes when you get blown out there, you're there for a long time, and you run out of food. *P'ul'q'ius* was a survival food. *Kwakwatl'shun* [red rock crab] was also a survival food. There's not much meat in there, but if you were starving, yes, you harvested them.

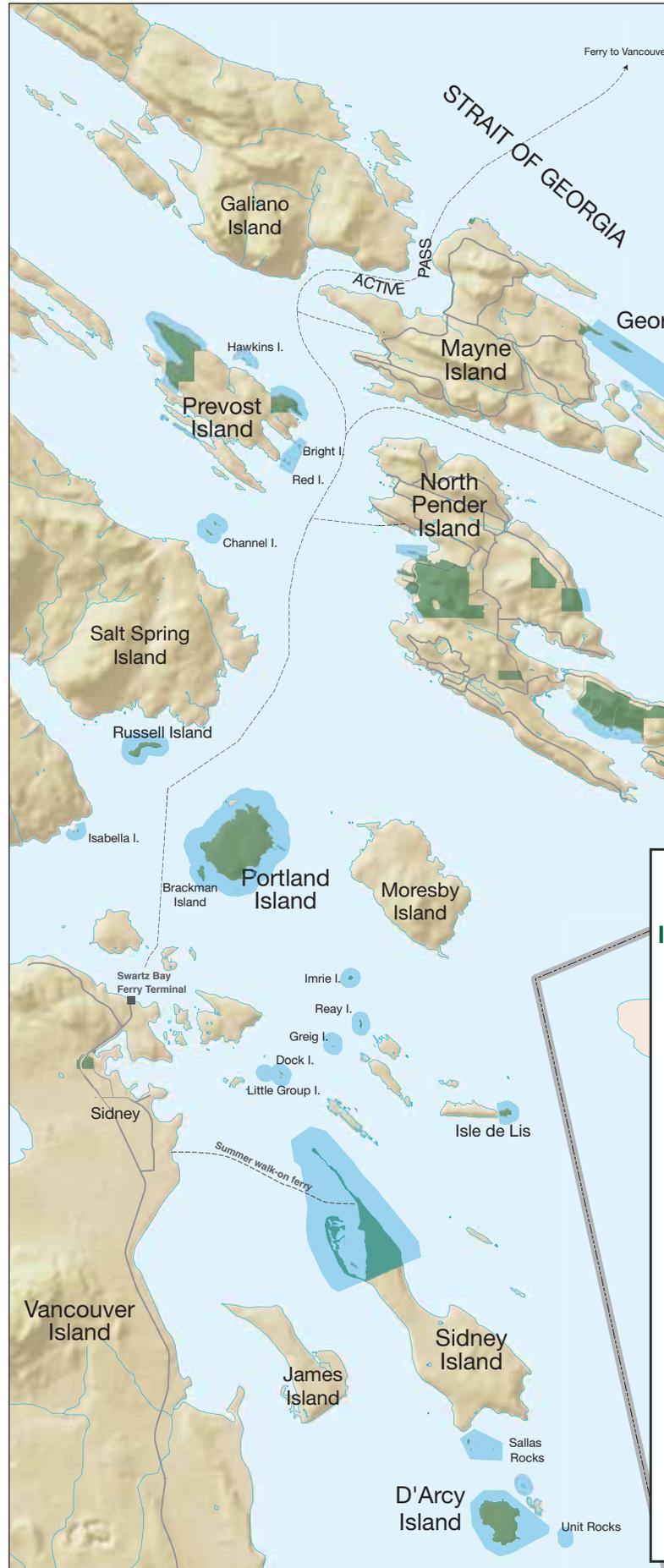
When I was 3-4 years old, he (*Luschiim*) used to come visit us at Quamichan. And he'd stop when we're walking, and he'd say, "you know, there's no way a person can starve here" and he pointed to the trees, and told me which ones you can eat the inner bark, to survive. I've read where shipwrecks happened, and the people all died after they got ashore because they ran out of food. Yet, when I went there, I look around and I see all the food from the trees they could have survived on. So, to me, or to grandpa, it was very important for him to share survival food, whether it be animal or plant material. He told me what to survive with out on the islands.

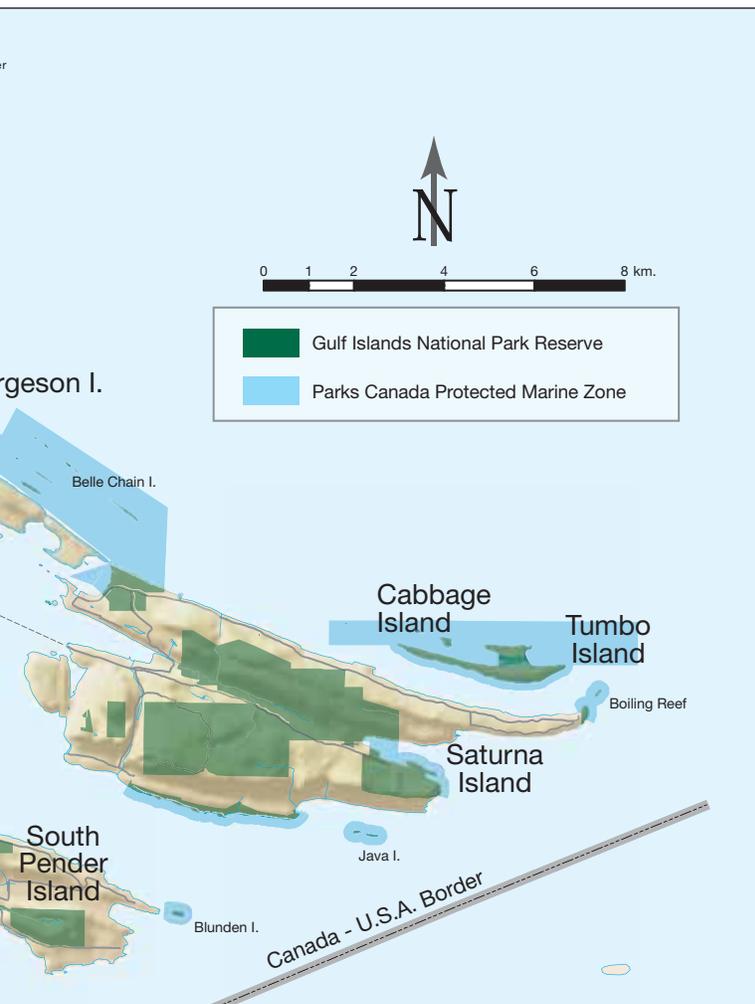
First Nations Cultural Heritage Sites

First Nations people have resided in and used the Gulf Islands for thousands of years. We are reminded of their long-time presence by the layers of shells found at various sites throughout the park. These tell us that First Nations people had villages or camped at these locations while they made use of local natural resources. Archaeologists are able to determine the type of use at a site by the amount of layered shell: larger deposits indicate a village site.

First Nations people value these sites as part of their history and as tangible evidence of their connection to the land. These sites are also meaningful to us all for the rich and complex perspective that they add to the history of the park, and require our respect and protection. Parks Canada is working with local First Nations to care for and protect these cultural sites. You can help by leaving them undisturbed and using the provided stairs to avoid walking on the face of the shell layers.

If you see suspicious behaviour or witness desecration of any cultural site, please contact us. It is illegal to remove or disturb cultural objects from the park and you may be subject to fines. If you find artifacts, leave them in place, and notify park staff.





First People, First Voices

The Coast Salish First Nations speak three major dialects of the Coast Salish language: Sencot'en, Hul'q'umi'num' and Samish. The park's website offers you an opportunity to learn a few words of one of these languages: Hul'q'umi'num'. By clicking on an interactive park map, you'll be able to hear place names as well as some common day-to-day words spoken in Hul'q'umi'num'. Mabel Mitchell, the Hul'q'umi'num Treaty Group's language instructor, gives voice to the words. First Nations languages are dynamic, living and evolving languages. By learning these place names, we discover a bit more about the islands' geography and use. Explore the islands through this linguistic lens by visiting the park website at: www.pc.gc.ca/gulf. (NOTE: Two different spellings appear in this guide: Hul'qumi'num and Hul'q'umi'num'. Hul'qumi'num refers to the people; Hul'q'umi'num' refers to the language.)

SENĆOŦEN and HUL'Q'UMI'NUM' are the two predominant language groups of the Coast Salish First Nations in the Gulf islands. Some place names and their translations appear below.

SENĆOŦEN Names

	Meaning	Location
ĆTESU	just arrived	D'Arcy Island
SXEĆOŦEN	dry mouth	Portland Island
XEXEĆOŦEN	little dry mouth	Brackman Island
S,DÁYES	wind drying	North Pender Island
TÁ,WEN	coho salmon	Georgeson Island
WÁWEN	place of seal hunting	Prevost Island
WYOMEĆEN	land of caution	Sidney Island
XELEXÁTEM	crossways	Rum Island
TEKTEKSEN	long nose	Saturna Island
TEMOSEN	becoming a	Tumbo Island
WSI,I,KEM	little land of clay	good fishing tide McDonald Campground

Hul'q'umi'num' Names

Tl'uqtusun	Pointed or Long Nose	East Point, Saturna Island
Xwixwiyus	Swift, Narrow Passage	Boat Passage, Saturna Island
Tl'uqayum	Calm Waters	Lyall Harbour, Saturna Island
Tl'uli	[Uncertain]	North end of Samuel Island
Hwu'eshwum	Place of Seals	Prevost Island
Hwtl'uquyuxum	Whirlpool Place	Annette Inlet, Prevost Island
Ste'yus	Wind Drying	Bedwell Harbour, Pender Island
Tl'e'ulthw	Permanent Houses	Pender Canal, North Pender
Sq'e'utl'um	Place of Otters	Otter Bay, North Pender Island
Ts'umeqwus	Sasquatch	Russell Island

Experience First Nations' Culture

Parks Canada's Coastal BC Field Unit is working with local First Nations in the regions of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve in order to facilitate opportunities for the development of new aboriginal ecotourism ventures. Such businesses will encourage park visitors to experience these areas through the eyes and cultures of the people who have lived here for thousands of years.

In 2006, the Tseycum First Nation launched Tseycum Canoe Tours. Through this new venture, you can experience authentic Coast Salish culture through tours offered in either a traditional ocean-going canoe or a motorized tour boat. First Nation guides tell legends and sing traditional songs and explain some of the traditional ways of the Coast Salish people, including resource-friendly hunting and gathering techniques. These tours are designed for all ages and abilities. For more information call (250) 656-7224 or info@tseycumtours.com or visit www.tseycumtours.com.

Echoes of the Past



Image © Parks Canada/Chris Chesdale/2003

Roesland Resort, North Pender Island

In quiet moments, the hills, valleys and sheltered coves may speak to you of the First Nations, explorers, settlers and early entrepreneurs who were drawn by the spirit and opportunities of the Gulf Islands. Traces of their passage rest in shell beaches, a forgotten rock quarry, an overgrown orchard. Even place names tell tales—of Spanish adventurers, English mapmakers and pioneering families. More poignant stories lie hidden in places like D’Arcy Island, where Chinese lepers were once banished to sad isolation.

Roesland Resort – A ‘No Worries’ Vacation

For more than seventy years, Roesland Resort lured guests to the shores of Ella Bay. Robert Roe came to North Pender Island from Scotland in 1896 with his wife and sons and in 1908 bought the property that would eventually become the popular resort. Early brochures reveal a glimpse of what guests might have experienced: “In the evening we have the glorious colours of the sunset, then the bonfires are lit, and far into the night songs are sung and tales are told—with

no mosquitoes to mar the pleasure.” One brochure comforted: “Ladies summering without their men folk need have no worries about heavy luggage. Everything is made as convenient as possible.” The resort ceased operation in 1994.

Russell Island

During the fur trade, the Hudson’s Bay Company hired several hundred Hawaiians (Kanakas) as labourers. After their contracts expired, some Hawaiians decided not to return to their homeland. Many settled on southern Saltspring, Portland, Coal and Russell Islands. Russell Island features one of the last known Hawaiian homesteads. Maria Mahoi, born on Vancouver Island in the mid 1800s to a First Nations mother and Hawaiian father, inherited Russell Island from its first settler, William Haumea (a Hawaiian friend, and possibly her father). Maria and her second husband, George Fisher, brought their family to the island in 1902, and Maria lived on the island until her death in 1936.



Clues to a much longer human presence are scattered across Russell Island, including shoreline shell middens left by millennia of use by area First Nations. Near the trail on the western end of the island, rectangular scars on Douglas fir trees indicate where they may have removed bark for fire starter or other necessities.



Both historic images courtesy of Pat Chubb



C-03858 British Columbia Archives

Chinese lepers sort supplies on the beach at D'Arcy Island (ca. 1890s).

D'Arcy Island - Suffering in Isolation

D'Arcy Island has a unique history as a leper colony (established in 1891) to which members of the Victoria's Chinese community afflicted with the disease were exiled. Their only contact with the outside world occurred when a supply ship arrived four times a year. The inhabitants were fed, clothed and housed, but received no medical attention. An orchard and the disintegrating remains of a few buildings are the legacy of this sad chapter of Canada's history. A commemorative plaque was dedicated on the island by the City of Victoria in 2001.

Taylor Point – A Legacy in Stone

Far from their birthplaces in the British Isles, George Grey Taylor and his wife Anne carved a living out of an isolated point of land on Saturna Island—he from the native sandstone, she and the children from the yields of the garden, pastures and sea. Two daughters and three sons were raised on the 101 acres pre-empted by Taylor in 1892. Separated by steep cliffs from the rest of their Saturna neighbours, the family had to be self-sufficient.



The crumbling ruins of their stone house remind visitors of the pioneering Taylor family on Saturna Island.



Image © Parks Canada

An orchard bore apples, cherries and pears for preserves. There were cows to milk, sheep to shear, and cod, salmon, clams and crab to be gathered from the ocean.

A mason by trade, George designed and built the family home in 1892 from stone quarried on the property. Sandstone from the small quarry was also used in the construction of several buildings in Victoria. The Taylor's house was destroyed by fire in 1932. Anne moved to North Pender Island but George remained at Taylor Point and died the following year. Anne, described as a "hard-working Lancashire woman," lived to the age of 90.

the Outer Islands

Cabbage Island

FRONTING ON THE OPEN WATERS of the Strait of Georgia, the Outer Islands are the last bastion against the urban metropolis of mainland British Columbia across the waters to the north. Facing the silhouettes of skyscrapers by day, and the sparkling lights of a big city by night, the Outer Islands are a serene contrast—so near to and yet so far from the frenzy of modern life.

These islands have always been important to those who travel the waters of the inland Salish Sea. They were used by First Nations as a launching area before they traveled into open water heading to the Fraser River. Similarly, miners headed for the goldfields of British Columbia's interior made Mayne Island their last stop, giving rise to the name Miners Bay.

The numerous small islets paralleling Mayne and Saturna Islands support an abundance of marine life and waterfowl. In days past, First Nations people made stinging nettle nets to hang across narrow gaps between islets to intercept migrating waterfowl. Codfish and their eggs were harvested in shallow areas. The herring fishery has also played an important role in the culture of First Nations. The method of fishing was a ritual undertaken with grace and skill. Paddling a canoe, the fisher would lower a rake which had pins of bones and in a gentle swooping motion would prick the herring and catch it on the sharp ends.

Saturna Island was and still remains an important and special place for First Nations. The island had affluent permanent village sites particularly on the east and west shores of the inlets. People lived in large cedar bighouses built using corner cedar posts. In some places, these posts still stand.

Saturna Island

If you are planning to stay overnight on Saturna, be sure to make arrangements in advance. There are several accommodations options, from rustic cabins to bed & breakfasts to inn-type lodgings, but they are limited in number. There is currently no overnight camping on the island, but plans are under way to provide a small number of walk-in campsites in the park in the near future.

Narvaez Bay

Narvaez Bay is one of the most beautiful and undisturbed bays in the southern Gulf Islands. Park at the gate at the end of the Narvaez Bay Road, and walk past the gate and down the road to the bay. Be careful if you are out on the rocky promontory: stay well back from cliff edges. Rocks may be slippery and the drop-off is significant. Stay on the main path to avoid trampling sensitive vegetation.

Taylor Point

This strip of virtually undisturbed old growth forest running north from Taylor Point to the vineyard is one of the longest uninterrupted stretches of protected shoreline in the southern Gulf Islands. The cliffs are part of the rare coastal bluffs ecosystem in the Gulf Islands. At Taylor Point, the remnants of a farm with its old stone house and nearby sandstone quarry are reminders of one of the island's past commercial enterprises. There are currently NO SERVICES at Taylor Point. The adjacent lands are actively farmed and grazed: please respect private property and always keep your dog on leash to avoid harm to livestock. (NOTE: A trail has not yet been developed to Taylor Point, although hikers occasionally flag their own routes along the cliff edge. These are not designated trails and their routes, close to the cliff edge, may pose dangers to hikers.)

Winter Cove

This sheltered cove is backed by forested upland, open meadows and a salt marsh. Strong tidal currents rush through Boat Passage, providing whitewater excitement for kayakers. The cove itself offers excellent sheltered moorage. Onshore there is an easy walking trail through the forest and marsh and along the shoreline.

East Point

Set on sculpted sandstone cliffs, East Point became part of the national park reserve in 2006. Built between 1881 and 1887, the lightstation located here warned sailors away from the roiling waters of Boiling Reef just offshore. Nutrient-rich upwellings in this vicinity attract marine mammals and seabirds, providing excellent wildlife viewing opportunities.

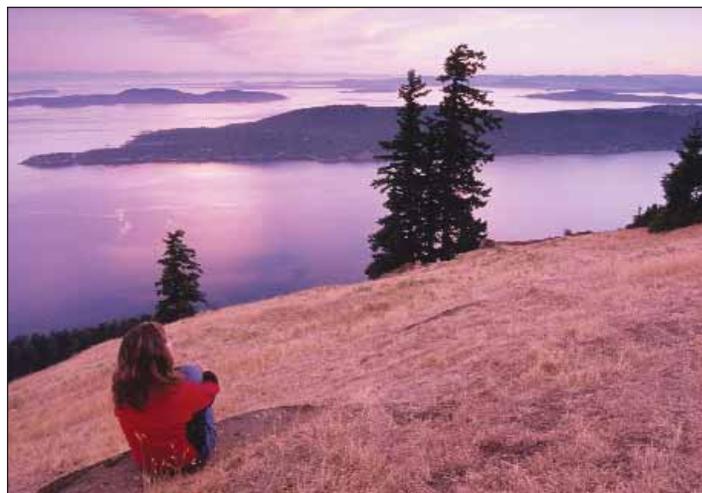
East Point, Saturna Island



Images: ©Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006

Mount Warburton Pike

The summit of Mount Warburton Pike provides breathtaking panoramic views of the southern Gulf Islands and the neighbouring San Juan Islands in the United States. At 397 metres (1,303 ft.), Warburton Pike is the highest point of land on Saturna Island. The open, grassy slopes of the ridge are unique in the Gulf Islands, and the slopes and ridge itself are significant habitat for falcons and eagles. The road to the summit is unpaved, winding and narrow. All vehicles (including bicycles) must remain within the marked summit parking area.



Images: ©Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006

Sunset at Mount Warburton Pike, Saturna Island

Lyllal Creek

A trail descends from the Narvaez Bay Road to the mouth of Lyllal Creek, passing through the forested heart of the island. Lyllal Creek is one of the few remaining salmon-bearing streams in the Gulf Islands, a success achieved through the long-time efforts of Saturna Island volunteers.

Tumbo Island

Tumbo Island has recovered well from the fur farming, timber harvesting and coal mining activities that highlighted its rich and varied past. Today, the island is largely forested with old growth Douglas fir and Garry oak meadows. Tumbo Island derives its name from the landform that gives it its distinctive shape—a tombolo. A tombolo is a sandbar extending outward from shore connecting with an island—or from island to island as it does here. First Nations found a safe harbour on Tumbo Island when hand trolling for fish offshore in their canoes or on their journeys across the strait. The island remains an important spiritual place to this day.

Mayne Island

Mayne Island has many services including grocery stores, restaurants and pubs, a liquor outlet, service station, docks and art galleries. The island is also well known for its birdwatching, kayaking, whale watching and cycling opportunities. There are inns, bed and breakfasts, cottages and camping opportunities; make your overnight arrangements in advance. An active Parks and Recreation Commission maintains a trail system, community parks and the popular Japanese Garden.

Bennett Bay

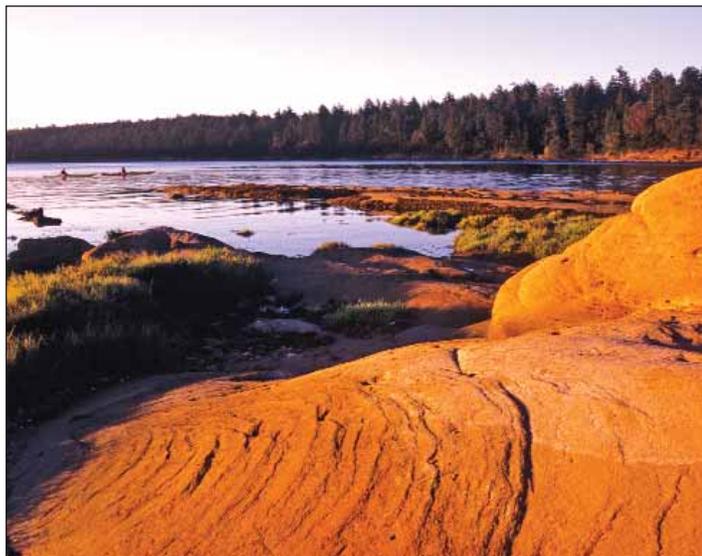
Bennett Bay is located on the Strait of Georgia shore of Mayne Island. The peninsula (Campbell Point) features remnant old-growth forest, a walking trail and superb views from the point across to Georgeson Island. Bennett Bay is a popular launch point for kayakers.

Georgina Point

Georgina Point—one of the newest additions to park—sits at the entrance to Active Pass. This popular day-use area, long managed by the Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission, provides spectacular views across the Strait of Georgia. It is one of the island's most treasured heritage places.

Nearby Islands and Reefs

Georgeson Island, just off of the tip of Campbell Point, is a beautiful forest-clad sandstone ridge. Located southeast of Georgeson Island are Anniversary Island and the rest of the Belle Chain Islets. The islets are highly valued as marine mammal haulouts (seals and sealions) and nesting sites for Black Oystercatchers, Glaucous-winged Gulls and Pigeon Guillemots. The sensitive ecosystems on these islands and islets are Special Preservation Areas and are designated as authorized access only (see page 8).



Images: © Parks Canada/John McCulloch/2006

Reef Harbour between Cabbage and Tumbo Islands.

Tumbo Island can be visited by kayak or by dinghy from larger boats. A short trail system provides opportunities to explore the island. (Note: a life tenancy agreement for the house on the island means that there may occasionally be someone in residence on the island. Please respect their privacy.)

Cabbage Island

The marsh and stands of Garry oak, arbutus and coastal Douglas fir on these islands are some of the most intact wetland and vegetation communities remaining on the Gulf Islands. The island is an important nesting site for Black Oystercatchers and Bald Eagles. Oystercatchers are particularly sensitive to disturbance by dogs and people walking along the shoreline: use an alternate route or landing area if you spot Oystercatchers on the beach. Be respectful of your fellow campers. Quiet hours are from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am.

Georgeson Island looking from Campbell Point, Mayne Island.

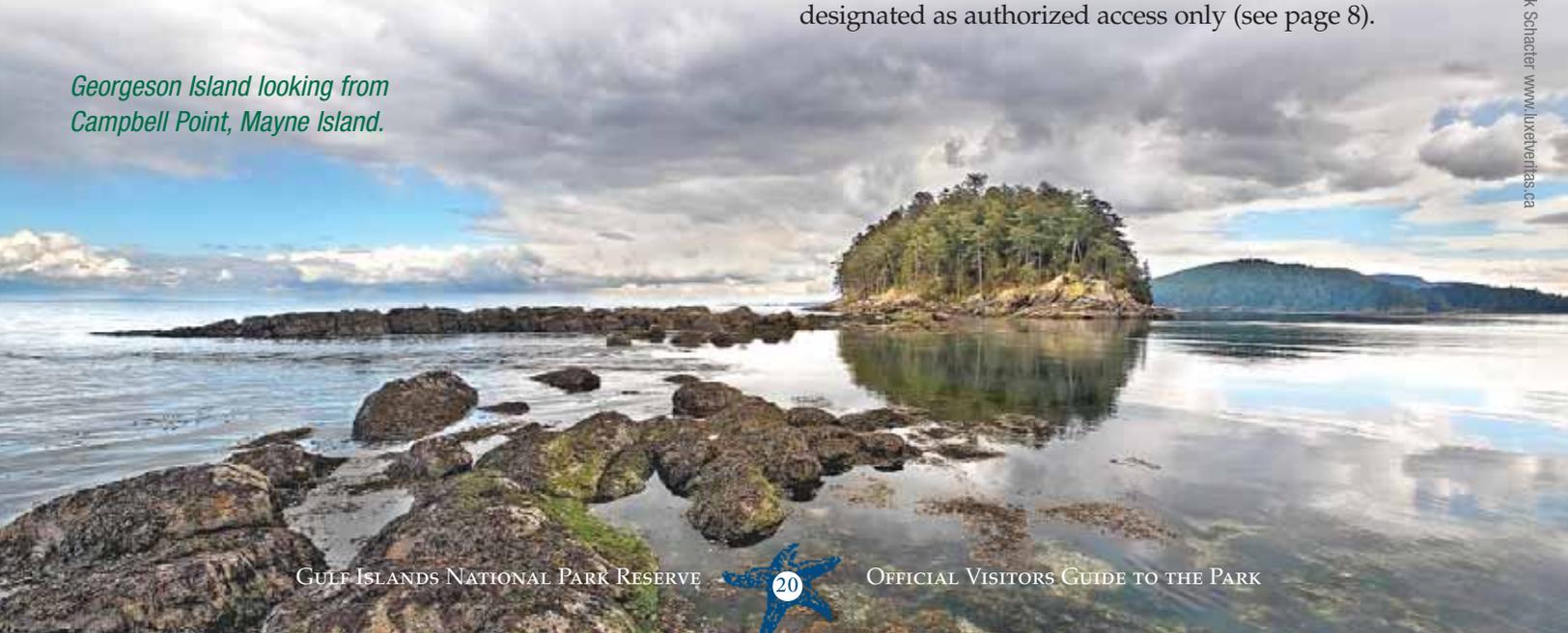
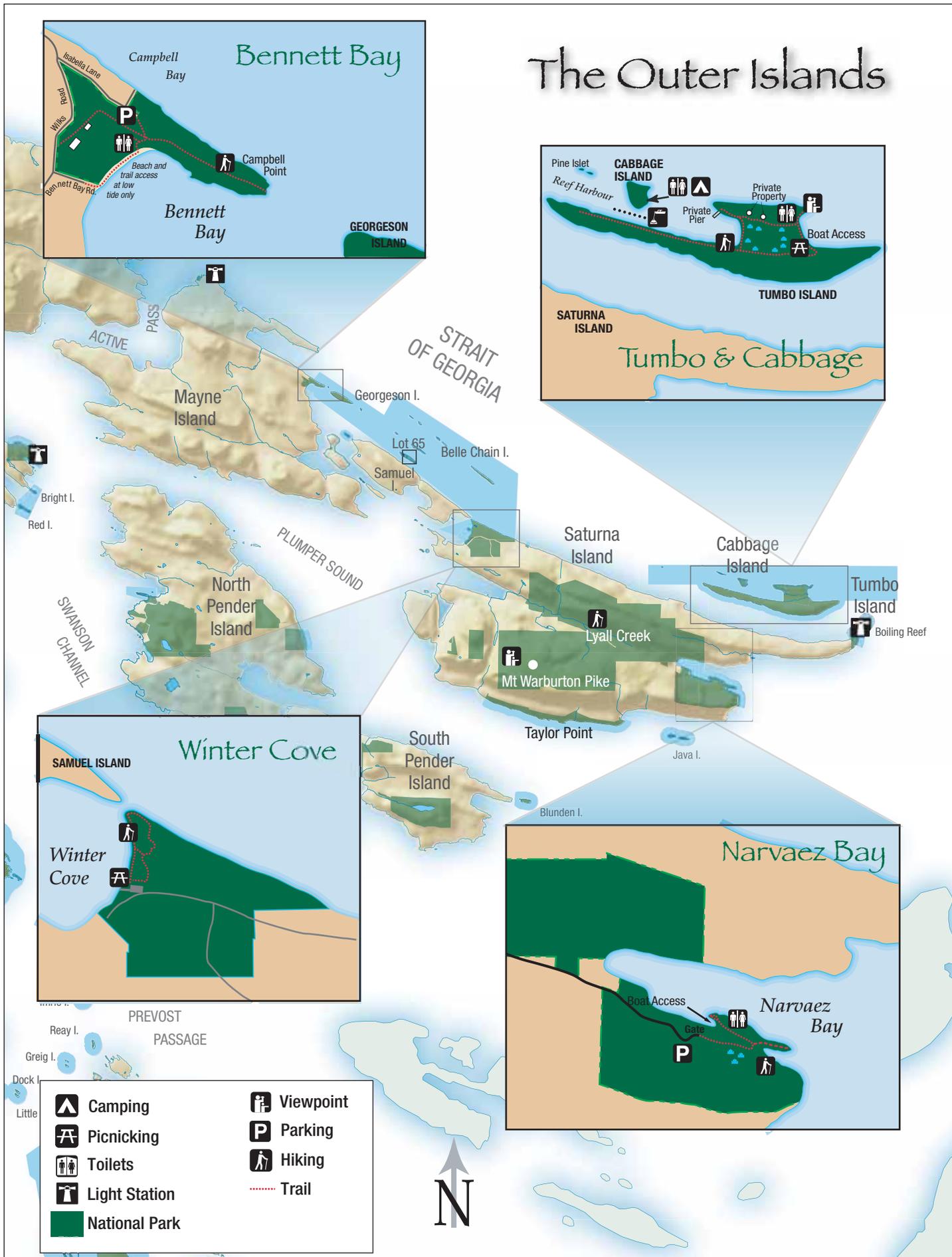
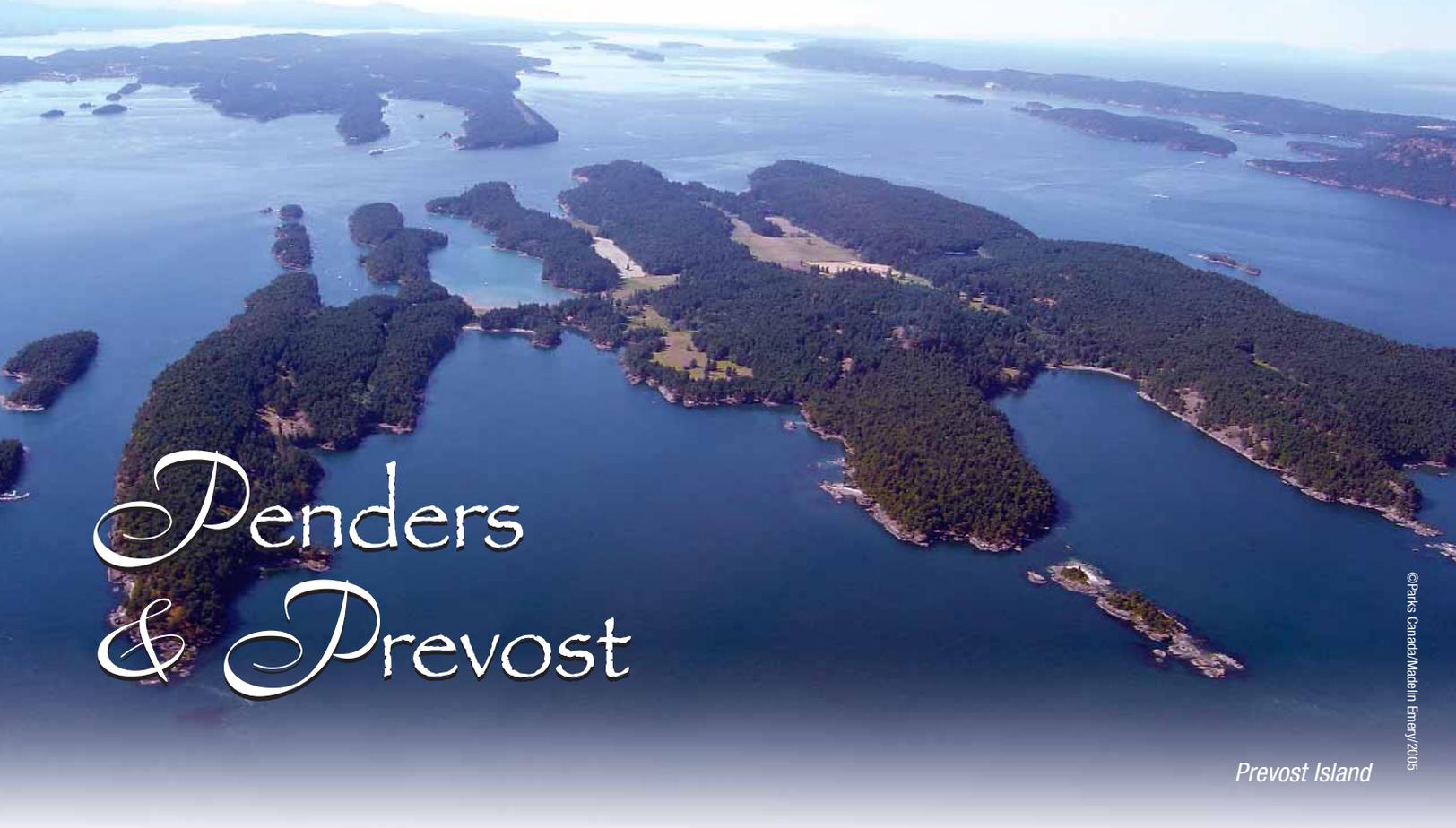


Image: © Mark Schaefer www.luxaventuras.ca

The Outer Islands





Penders & Prevost

© Parks Canada/Madeleine Emery/2005

Prevost Island

THE PENDERS—North and South Pender Islands—were once one island connected by a narrow strip of land. A canal between the islands was dredged in 1903 to allow boats to make a speedier passage to the outer Gulf Islands. Rejoined again with the building of a one-lane bridge in 1957, the two islands are now home to a combined population of around 2000 permanent residents, the majority of whom live on North Pender.

There are a variety of accommodations available on the Penders including inns, vacation cottages, bed and breakfasts, resorts, camping and marinas. The Driftwood Centre on North Pender is the islands' commercial hub. A Canada Customs point of entry is located at Bedwell Harbour (Poets Cove) on South Pender Island, and Parks Canada's field office is located at Hope Bay on North Pender Island.

North Pender

Roesland/Roe Lake

This former cottage resort harkens back to a time when families came back year after year to enjoy the beauty of the Gulf Islands. A small footbridge leads out to a short trail and viewpoint on Roe Islet. The Pender Islands

Museum Society offers a glimpse into the islands' past at their museum located in the original 1908 farmhouse. (Note: Roesland's previous owners were granted a life tenancy when these lands were purchased for the park, and still live on a portion of the property. Please respect their privacy and the posted boundaries.) A little farther along South Otter Bay Road, a trail leads into the uplands above Shingle Bay to Roe Lake.

Prior Centennial Campground

Set in the shade of a thick forest of ferns, cedar, fir, maple and alder trees, this small campground has 17 drive-in campsites. Reservations are accepted (1-800-689-9025). The campground is a great base from which to explore the rest of The Penders. There is a short 1 km walking trail in the campground.

Loretta's Wood

Loretta's Wood is home to four provincially rare or endangered plant communities, one vulnerable plant community, and the red-legged frog—a COSEWIC-listed Species of Concern. The property also contains wetland and terrestrial herbaceous ecosystems, both of which have been identified in the joint federal-provincial Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory initiative. Although no services and facilities are currently provided, a trail system is under consideration for the future.

South Pender

Mount Norman/Beaumont

Visitors to this area of the park can enjoy a challenging shore-to-sky hiking experience up to the summit of Mount Norman (244 metres/800 ft). Your reward is panoramic views from the highest point on the island. With good anchorage, mooring buoys and a sandy beach for kayakers to land, this area is a popular place to camp and picnic for visitors touring the islands by boat and kayak. Volunteer Marine Hosts from the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club provide park information to marine visitors during the summer months. Visitors can also access this area by trail from Canal Road or Ainsley Point Road, a 15-minute drive from the ferry terminal.

Greenburn Lake

Freshwater lakes are rare in the Gulf Islands. Greenburn Lake and its wetlands are vital to the recharge of South Pender's scarce water supply. This area also contains pockets of the endangered Garry oak ecosystem. Visitors can hike up along the old access road to this picturesque lake surrounded by high bluffs. There are no visitor facilities at the lake. Bring your own drinking water.

Prevost Island

National park reserve lands are located on both the north and south shores of Prevost Island. The majority of the island, however, remains in the hands of the descendants of Digby de Burgh—the man who bought the island in the 1920s. They continue to farm and raise sheep on the island.

James Bay and Selby Cove

James Bay and Selby Cove are located at the northern tip of Prevost Island and are only accessible by water. The park lands form a narrow point adjacent to a deep cove with a shoreline that varies from steep rock faces on the Trincomali Channel waterfront to gently-rising shelved rock near Peile Point, to a gravel beach in James Bay. This campsite is popular with kayakers, and there is good anchorage in Selby Cove.

Portlock Point

Portlock Point/Richardson Bay and the Portlock Point automated light are easily seen by ferry passengers as they exit Active Pass on the way to Victoria. The shoreline of Richardson Bay on Prevost Island provides a good alternative to the nearby islets for a break for kayakers on longer paddling routes.

Portlock Point, Prevost Island

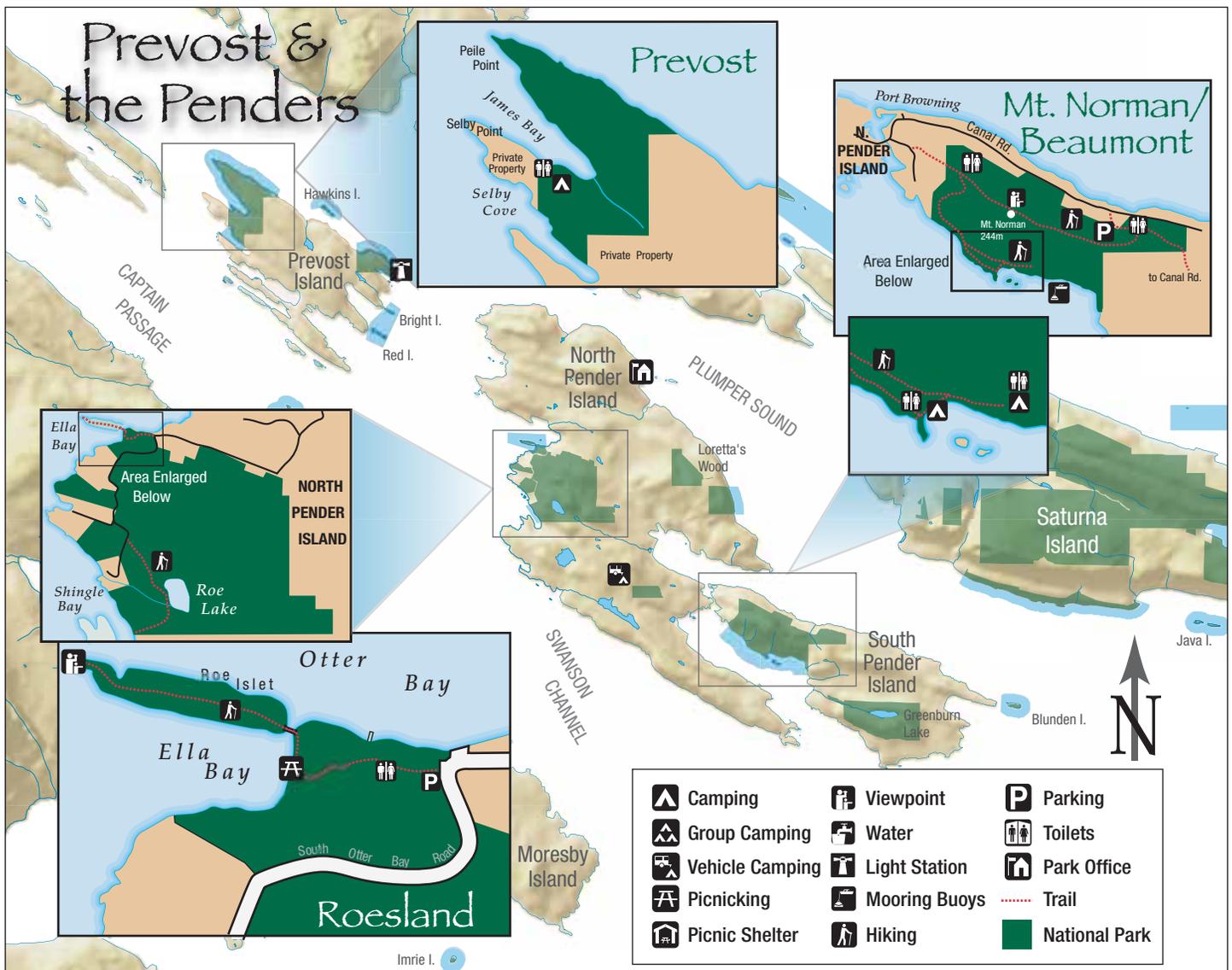


Nearby Islets

Blunden Islet off Teece Point on South Pender Island is a relatively undisturbed islet with no evidence of invasion by exotic species. The Channel Islands in Captain Passage are important as seal and sealion haulouts and are also used for nesting by various bird species. The Channel Islands were used by First Nations as landmarks when navigating between islands, and for harvesting of marine mammals, shellfish, barnacles, chitons and sea urchins. The Red Islets, Bright Islet and Hawkins Islet located adjacent to Prevost Island feature relatively undisturbed coastal bluff and Garry oak/arbutus woodland. **The sensitive ecosystems on these islands and islets are being afforded the highest level of protection within the national park: these areas are designated as authorized access only.**



©Parks Canada/2004



the Inner Islands

Sidney Spit

Vancouver Island

(McDonald Campground)

McDonald campground is located just a few minutes from the Swartz Bay ferry terminal. Follow the signs from Highway 17. This campground lies at the edge of the town of Sidney, and is an excellent base of operations for exploring both the Gulf Islands and the Greater Victoria area. Municipal bus service is available into Sidney, Victoria and to the BC Ferries terminal.

Sidney Spit (Sidney Island)

This popular island is accessible by a seasonal walk-on ferry service (round trip fare: \$12.00/adult, \$10.00/child [2-12], \$10.00/senior; 250-474-5145), and by boat and kayak. Sheltered anchorage is available on the west side of the spit. Camping, group camping and picnicking are available. Park Facility Operators are on site throughout the summer. To reserve group camping or group picnicking, call 250-559-2115. **NEW THIS YEAR: VISITORS CAMPING ON THE ISLAND MUST BE REGISTERED AT A DESIGNATED CAMPSITE BEFORE THE LAST FERRY LEAVES FOR THE DAY.**

Backed by towering bluffs, its tidal flats and salt marshes teem with birds and marine life. Located on the edge of the Pacific flyway, the island attracts large numbers of shorebirds during the spring and fall migrations. The inner lagoon, hook spit and the vegetated centre of the main spit are particularly sensitive ecosystems. To protect them, land access is limited to a narrow strip along the outer edge of the hook spit, and visitors should keep to the sand edges of the main spit. Boats (including kayaks) are prohibited from the lagoon.

On the northwest side of the island was a large First Nations settlement as well as campsites and places of cultural and spiritual significance. They fished in this entire area year-round, and shellfish, medicines, berries and plants were harvested on the island.

In years past, the island has been farmed and also seen industrial development: between 1906 and 1915, the Sidney Tile and Brick Company operated on the island. Broken red bricks abound on the shoreline and in the underbrush, and remnant works can be seen in the camping area.

D'Arcy Island

With numerous coves, cobble beaches and a forest of arbutus and Douglas fir, D'Arcy Island's beauty belies its past history as a leper colony for Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s. First Nations have a long association with this small island, reserving it primarily for religious practices. To avoid damaging sensitive habitats or disturbing cultural features, please camp only on the provided tent pads. A small area of the island is marked as closed, in order to prevent the spread of Carpet burweed (*Soliva sessillisis*), a plant native to South America. This alien invader can out-compete native plants, some of which are already endangered. Carpet burweed spreads its spiny seeds by sticking to the bottom of bare feet, shoes, animal paws, tents and ground tarps. By staying out of this closed area, you can avoid inadvertently spreading Carpet burweed to other locations.

Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)

This small island features a Douglas fir/arbutus forest and coastal bluffs, as well as vegetation that reflects the warm Mediterranean climate of the southern Gulf Islands, including

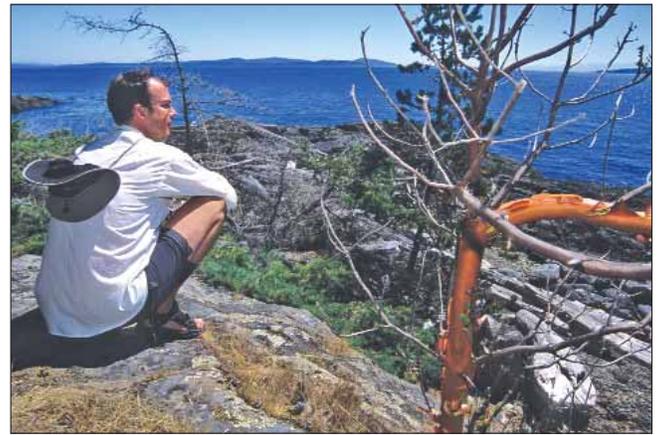


Image © Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006

Relaxing on Isle-de-Lis

prickly pear cactus. A trail circles the island and provides views of seals and otters at Tom Point, as well as of Haro Strait and the San Juan Islands. Rum Island's name derives from its former role as a liquor cache during Prohibition. This island is popular with kayak campers, so arrive early in the day for a better chance of getting one of the three campsites. Camp in the designated sites with tent pads. Rum Island is connected to neighbouring Gooch Island by a gravel beach that is the best place to put a kayak ashore. Gooch Island is private property: please do not trespass.

Princess Margaret (Portland Island)

First settled by Kanaka (Hawaiian) immigrants in the 1880s, Portland Island's history is primarily agricultural—a history that is echoed in the fruit trees, roses and garden plants that can be found scattered throughout the island. The island was presented as a gift to Princess Margaret in 1958 to commemorate her visit to the province. She returned the island to British Columbia as a provincial park in 1967. Now part of the national park reserve, the island features cliffs, protected coves and sand beaches. The island was once the site of a First Nations village, but now the shell beaches ringing the island are the most visible reminder of their presence. To protect these areas from erosion, please use the wooden stairs where provided.

There are three designated camping areas on the island. Tent pads are provided at Arbutus Point. Random camping is permitted at Princess Bay and Shell Beach. During the summer months, the Royal Victoria Yacht Club provides information to boaters at a float in Princess Bay, through the park's Marine Host program.



Brackman Island

Brackman Island is unique in that it has never been affected by livestock grazing, logging or settlement. There are pockets of old growth forest, some as old as 250 years. Thirteen rare plant species have been identified. This island is being afforded the highest level of protection within the national park: it is designated as authorized access only.

Russell Island

Settled by Hawaiians as early as 1886, this small island at the mouth of Salt Spring's Fulford Harbour is blessed with many of the natural features typical of the southern Gulf Islands. Stands of shore pine rim the island's outer edges. Open meadows of native grasses host yearly bursts of camas lilies and a variety of other wildflowers. The original house dates back over a century. Caretakers are in residence on the island.

The Islets

The islets in this area that are included in the park are Dock Islet, the Isabella Islets, Imrie Island, Grieg Island

and Reay Island, the Little Group, Sallas Rocks and Unit Rocks. The sensitive ecosystems on these islands and islets are being afforded the highest level of protection within the national park: these areas are designated as authorized access only except for Dock Islet which is available for day-use along its shoreline. No services are provided and camping is prohibited. Dogs must be on leash. Plan your paddling itinerary to include those islands in the area where designated camping is allowed: D'Arcy, Portland and Rum Islands, Sidney Spit and nearby Ruckle Provincial Park on Salt Spring Island.



Image © Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006

Who we are...

PARK WARDENS are on hand to protect the natural and cultural resources of the park, and to ensure the safety of visitors. They enforce the regulations that protect the integrity of the park's ecosystems and cultural features, and conduct research that helps us better manage the park.

PARK INTERPRETERS share their knowledge about the natural and cultural history of the islands through activities like guided walks, evening presentations and providing information to visitors about ways to experience the park which would best suit their interests and abilities.

PARK FACILITY OPERATORS (PFOs) are contractors who collect fees, undertake the day-to-day maintenance of visitor facilities, and provide a first point of contact for basic park information. They can call for assistance from park wardens or the RCMP in the event of emergencies or illegal activities.

OPERATIONS CREW—These folks are the hardworking souls who are out making our trails safe, repairing and upgrading visitor facilities and working as fire crew (if needed).



Park warden on patrol in the Pacific Wynnd.

Image © Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2006

RESEARCHERS may be park staff or contracted or independent researchers. They're delving into everything from archaeology to bugs and birds to visitor behaviour. If you encounter a researcher, ask them what they're working on: they'll give you an insight into what makes the park tick!

RCMP—These are the people to call if your emergency is something that you would call the police for at home. They deal with criminal offences in the park.

Wildlife Viewing Guidelines

The following are guidelines, however there are also federal regulations in place that prohibit harassment and disturbance of marine mammals. Disturbance includes anything that we do that interferes with an animal's ability to hunt, feed, communicate, socialize, rest, breed and care for its young.



Image © Parks Canada/Josh McCulloch/2005

Whale Watching

BE CAUTIOUS and COURTEOUS: approach areas of known or suspected marine mammal activity with extreme caution. Look in all directions before planning your approach or departure.

SLOW DOWN: reduce speed to less than 7 knots when within 400 metres/yards of the nearest whale. Avoid abrupt course changes.

AVOID approaching closer than 100 metres/yards to any whale. If your vessel is unexpectedly within 100 metres/yards of a whale, **STOP IMMEDIATELY** and allow the whales to pass.

AVOID approaching whales from the front or from behind. Always approach and depart whales from the side, moving in a direction parallel to the direction of the whales.

KEEP CLEAR of the whales' path. Avoid positioning your vessel within the 400 metre/yard area in the path of the whales.

STAY on the OFFSHORE side of the whales when they are traveling close to shore. Remain at least 200 metres/yards offshore at all times.

LIMIT your viewing time to a recommended maximum of 30 minutes. This will minimize the cumulative impact of many vessels and give consideration to other viewers.

DO NOT swim with or feed whales.

Porpoises and Dolphins

OBSERVE all guidelines for watching whales.

DO NOT drive through groups of porpoises or dolphins for the purpose of bow-riding. Should dolphins or porpoises choose to ride the bow wave of your vessel, **REDUCE SPEED** gradually and avoid sudden course changes.

Seals, Sea Lions & Birds on Land

AVOID approaching closer than 100 metres/yards to marine mammals or birds.

SLOW DOWN and reduce your wake/wash and noise levels.

PAY ATTENTION and back away at the first sign of disturbance or agitation.

BE CAUTIOUS AND QUIET, and do not go ashore or approach haul-outs and bird colonies, especially during breeding, nesting and pupping seasons (generally May to September).

DO NOT swim with or feed any marine mammals or birds.

It is normal for seals and sea lions to spend some time on the shore. Please don't touch or approach them. It's stressful for the animal and can be dangerous to you, your children or your pet.

Although it is tempting to do so, IT IS PROHIBITED TO APPROACH, FEED OR TOUCH SEAL PUPS. The best way you can help is by contacting a Park Warden if you are concerned that a pup may be in distress.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency911

Park Emergency

or to report an offence1-877-852-3100

Marine Distress VHF Channel 16

Park Office – Sidney250-654-4000

or Toll Free1-866-944-1744

Park Office – Saturna250-539-2982

Park Office – Pender250-629-6137