

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Stanley Park**

### **How big is Stanley Park?**

1000 acres or 400 hectares.

### **How old is Stanley Park?**

It was opened in 1888, with the official dedication on October 29, 1889, which makes the park 114 years old.

### **How did Stanley Park get its name?**

It was named after the Governor General of Canada, Lord Stanley (also of Stanley Cup fame). The city had wanted to name it after Lord Strathcona, but Strathcona himself suggested that Stanley would be a better name.

### **Who owns Stanley Park?**

It is owned by the federal government but is leased to the City of Vancouver for \$1 a year.

### **What was the area used for before becoming a park?**

A military reserve.

### **How many people visit the Park annually?**

Approximately 9 million people! About 75% visit during the summer.

### **When was the Park logged?**

There were five logging companies active in the Park in the 1860's-80's. This is when most of the logging took place. Most of the trails through the park are left are old skid roads left over from this time.

### **Did Native People ever live here?**

Lumbermen's Arch is one of the most interesting historical areas of the Park. The area is the site of a longstanding native village (Xway-Xway). If we were to peel back the grass in this area, we would probably find post-holes from the long shacks built by the villagers. Evidence from a large midden (native garbage and sometime burial heap) that extends along the lower part of this area (4.3 acres) indicates that there has been some form of settlement for over 500 years, maybe longer. During the creation of Park Drive in 1888, ground-up shells from this midden were dug up and used to pave the road. In the course of excavating the paving material, workers (who kicked the resident natives out of their homes and moved in) discovered stumps of dead cedars over 500 years old and exhumed a number of skeletons. Coast Salish natives stopped using this type of burial years before, in favour of cedar boxes or slabs containing the bones placed in tree boughs or on the forest floor.

A proper archaeological excavation has never occurred at this site, but we do know that there was a native settlement here from at least the early 1860's, consisting of four small dwellings and one communal lodge. Musqueam and/or Squamish peoples may have used this site at varying times of the year, and it reportedly drew 2,000 natives for potlatches. It is very likely that it was a communal Coast Salish gathering site.

### **How old is the city of Vancouver?**

The city was incorporated in 1886. The Lost Lagoon fountain was installed in July 1936 as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations that marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city.

## **Stanley Park Ecology Society**

### **What is the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES)?**

SPES is a not-for-profit organization. It promotes awareness of and respect for the natural world by providing a leadership role in the stewardship of Stanley Park through collaborative initiatives in education, research and conservation.

### **What programs does SPES operate?**

- School Programs: from Kindergarten to Grade 7 – Nature in the Park (spring and fall), Nature in the Classroom(winter), and Urban Camping
- Public Programs: Sunday Discovery Walks, ESL walks, Young Naturalists Club, Lost Lagoon Nature House, SPES Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Eco Rangers, Creatures of the Night, and Special Events
- Conservation Programs: Co-Existing with Coyotes, Ivy Busters, GPS/Monitoring, GIS/Mapping, Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron and other wildlife monitoring

**How I become a member of the Stanley Park Ecology Society?** Membership forms at the Nature House and in our newsletter explain membership categories and benefits. Benefits include an annual subscription to the newsletter, discounts on Discovery Walks and Public Programs. You can become a member by filling out a membership form and submitting your payment at the Lost Lagoon Nature House or by mailing it to SPES.

## **Stanley Park Amenities**

### **Where did the zoo go?**

In 1994, the residents of Vancouver voted against keeping the Zoo. The Ecology Society replaced the Zoological Society. The Children's Farmyard is the only remnant of the Stanley Park Zoo.

### **Are there killer whales in the aquarium?**

Not anymore.

### **Where are the washrooms? (see the Stanley Park Map and Guide)**

Lost Lagoon (up the path from the Nature House)

Beaver Lake, Children's farmyard and train (at the picnic tables, outside the gate)

Dining Pavilion, Rose Gardens (underneath the Pavilion)

Aquarium (near the gift shop)

Between Ferguson Point and Prospect Pt. (Third Beach, Prospect Point picnic area and Prospect Point)

Second Beach (near the pool)

Brockton Oval, totem poles (Brockton Oval change rooms and Brockton Clubhouse)

Lumbermen's Arch (under the overpass)

### **Where can I find food?**

- Fish House Restaurant
- Prospect Point Café
- Sequoia Grill/Tea House
- Stanley Park Dining Pavilion

- Concessions & Food Stands: Second Beach, Third Beach, Prospect Point, Lumbermen's Arch (hours are weather dependent) Children's Farmyard, Aquarium, Cricket clubhouse (near Brockton oval), Totem Poles, Information Booth

**Where can I buy souvenirs?**

Gift shops are located at the Totem Poles, Prospect Point, and the Aquarium.

**Is there a bank machine here?**

The only bank machine in the Park is in the Aquarium gift shop.

**Are there picnic areas?**

Ceperley Meadow, Third Beach, Ferguson Point, Prospect Point, Children's Farmyard, Lumbermen's Arch and Brockton Oval.

**What are the hours/rates of the Train, Farmyard, Aquarium, and Nature House?**

***Farmyard & Miniature 2009/2010***

Feb 7 - May 15	11am - 4pm weekends only, weather permitting*
Mar 14 - 22 (Spring Break)	11am - 4pm daily
Apr 10 - 13 (Easter Weekend)	11am - 4pm daily
May 16 - Jun 26	11am - 4pm daily
Jun 27 - Sep 8	Train 10:30am - 5pm daily Farmyard 11:00am - 4pm daily
Sep 12 - 13	11am - 4pm, weather permitting*
Oct 8 - Nov 1	<a href="#">Stanley Park Halloween Ghost Train</a>
Nov 27 - Jan 2, 2010	<a href="#">Bright Nights Christmas Train</a>

\* For dates when open weather permitting phone the Info Line at 604-257-8531.

***Aquarium 2009:***

Winter Hours:  
**9:30 am - 5:00 pm**

Summer Hours:  
**9:30 - 7:00 pm**

**Admission Rates**

**Please note: summer rates are effective Saturday June 27.**

**\*Students must provide current student ID card**

Adults	<b>\$19.95</b> <b>summer rate: \$28</b>
Seniors/ Youths (13-18)	<b>\$14.95</b> <b>summer rate: \$22</b>
/Students*	
Children (4-12)	<b>\$11.95</b> <b>summer rate: \$18</b>
Children 3 years & under	<b>FREE</b>

## **Nature House**

9:30am-4:30pm Saturdays and Sundays only, except during July and August, when we are open Wednesday-Sunday. Check our website at [www.stanleyparkecology.ca](http://www.stanleyparkecology.ca) for summer schedule; free!

### **Where is the nearest telephone?**

There are many phones throughout the Park. You can find them close to points of interest like Second Beach, Ferguson Point, Prospect Point, the Dining Pavilion, and Brockton Oval.

### **Where can I park?**

You can park almost everywhere in the Park. There are parking lots near First Beach, Second Beach, the Fish House Restaurant, Ferguson Point, the Hollow Tree, Prospect Point and the Prospect Point picnic area, the Dining Pavilion, the Children's Farmyard, the Aquarium, the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, and Brockton Oval. You can also park in designated places on the roads in the Park.

### **Is there free parking?**

No. Paying for parking helps to ensure that Stanley Park is maintained to the highest standard possible.

### **How much is parking?**

**April 1 - September 30** 6:00 am—9:00 pm

Hourly Rate	2.00
Daily Rate	8.00
Season Pass	* 175.00

**October 1 - March 31** 7:00 am—6:00 pm

Hourly Rate	1.00
Daily Rate	4.00
Annual Pass	* 250.00

### **What should a visitor do if they lose money in a meter?**

A private company (Vinci Parking) owns the meters. Tell the visitor that they could put a note on their dash, note the meter number and call the number on the meter. We cannot prevent them from getting a ticket. As a SPES volunteer, take down the number and location of the meter and call the staff and ask them to alert Vinci Parking, or, if you see a parking ambassador, let him/her know about the broken meter.

### **What can a visitor do if he/she has a flat tire, empty tank or has locked keys in the car?**

Vinci Parking, the company who manages the pay parking lots, is providing a free assistance service to Park visitors through Busters Towing. Busters will assist, free of charge, visitors who:

- Locked their keys in the car
- Ran out of gas – they will give visitors enough gas to get to a gas station
- Need a jumpstart
- Have a flat tire - help you get the spare tire on

**VERY IMPORTANT: For roadside assistance, call 604-685-8181.** PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL THE VISITOR THAT THIS SERVICE IS BEING PAID FOR BY VINCI PARKING!!!

### **Where is the Information Booth?**

Just inside the Georgia Street entrance to Stanley Park you will find the Information Booth in the parking lot below Malkin Bowl and the Aquarium. It can be accessed by car along Park Drive and on foot by following the Seawall from the Georgia Street entrance. There's information about services, facilities, special events, parking regulations and where to eat in the park. Pick up snacks and browse through brochures about local attractions. Parking and washrooms are available. 604-681-6728

### **What is the Stanley Park Shuttle schedule and route?**

**Funding for this service has been discontinued for the 2009 summer season, as part of budget reduction initiatives at the Park Board. Staff are currently exploring all options for funding the popular trolley bus (including sponsorships and advertising) which would allow for its continued service this year and / or in future years, at no or minimal cost to the Board.**

**Check back on this page for Shuttle updates.**

In the past, the free shuttle service around the Park had stops at 15 popular locations. The service was offered by the Parks Board and the trolleys belong to The Vancouver Trolley Company

Service: mid-June through late September from 10 am to 6:30 pm (the last one leaving from the railway at 6:30 pm). The service ran approximately every 15 minutes.

Shuttle stops are easily identified.

### **What sightseeing tours are available? (information subject to change – check websites)**

1. The Vancouver Trolley Company [www.vancouvertrolley.com](http://www.vancouvertrolley.com)

The same company that runs the free Stanley Park Shuttle also offers a City Attractions Hop On Hop Off Tour which operates year-round except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The tour includes Vancouver city highlights including Granville Island and Stanley Park. The drivers give "live" commentary" on the tour which takes approximately two hours and 40 minutes and has 30 stops. There are six stops in the Park: Pavilion/Rose Garden, Vancouver Aquarium by the Horse and Carriage Tour ticket booth, the Totem Poles, and Prospect Point, Sequoia Grill and The Fish House.

Service:

Peak Season (Apr 24 – Sep 30): approximately every 20 minutes

Off-Season (Sep 31 – Apr 23): approximately every 40 minutes.

The first tour starts about 9 am and last tour starts about 3 pm.

Tickets are available from the driver when boarding.

Tickets are valid for two consecutive days.

**Ticket prices as of 2008** are:

\$35 Adults

\$32 Seniors/Students

\$18 Children (4 – 12)

2. **Stanley Park Horse Drawn Tours** [www.stanleyparktours.com/](http://www.stanleyparktours.com/)

Horse-drawn carriage rides are a fun, relaxing and educational way to learn about Stanley Park and its surroundings. A professional guide narrates the tour.

How long is the tour: one-hour tour (no reservations required)

Service: departs every 20-30 minutes, daily, rain or shine, March 15 to October 31

Departs from: the Horse-Drawn Tour kiosk beside the Information Booth on Park Drive, just off the Georgia Street entrance to Stanley Park.

**Ticket prices as of Feb 2009:**

- \$26.99/Adults
- \$24.99/Seniors (over 65 - ID may be required)
- \$24.99/Students (ID may be required)
- \$14.99/Children (3-12 inclusive)
- Free - Tots (2 and under, when not occupying a seat if otherwise needed)

**Service:**

**March 15 - March 31: 9:40 am (1st departure) to 4 pm (last departure)**

**April 1 - June 30: 9:40 am (1st departure) to 5 pm (last departure)**

**July 1 - September 1: 9:30 am (1st departure) to 5:30 pm (last departure)**

**September 2 - September 30: 9:40 am (1st departure) to 5 pm (last departure)**

**October 1 - October 31: 9:40 am (1st departure) to 4 pm (last departure)**

**Where is Artists Circle?**

Located near the lower Aquarium parking lot, where the Horse-Drawn Tour Kiosk is, walk up the trail and enjoy. There are no regular hours but if it's a nice day there will be at least a few artists displaying their wares.

**Where is the water park?**

It is located on the seawall side of the Lumberman's Arch area.  
It is NOT the Second Beach Pool! There are a few water spraying toys, but no pools.  
It is unsupervised and is open daily from 10am-6pm, weather permitting.

**Stanley Park Wildlife and Natural History**

**What animals may you see while walking in Stanley Park?**

Raccoons, squirrels (eastern grey & Douglas) coyotes, fish, frogs and turtles.

**What should I do if someone reports a dead or injured animal?**

Follow injured wildlife procedures as outlined in the Eco Ranger Training Manual or report to the Nature House staff.

**What are the mounds of dirt I see in the Park?**

These are molehills. Moles are burrowing animals, and as they dig their homes a pile of dirt accumulates at the surface. There is no action by the Park to get rid of them, as they are considered part of the ecology and not pests.

**What kinds of swans are on the lagoon?**

Mute swans (*Cygnus olor*). They are an exotic species brought from the U.K. They are also native to Asia. You can identify a mute swan by its "S"-shaped neck, its bright orange bill, and the black knob at the base of the bill. Mute swans like to swim with their wings slightly raised and fluffed.

### **Were there ever black swans in the Park?**

Australian black swans (*Cygnus atratus*) arrived in the Park in 1901, a gift from the New South Wales Zoological Society Zoological Gardens in Australia. These swans were smaller, less aggressive and less adaptable than the mute swans, and eventually died off.

### **Do the swans get fed?**

The Park Board feeds the swans in the early morning to ensure that they will eat nutritious food. There are also, technically, too many swans on the Lagoon. In the wild, only one pair would inhabit a lake this size, therefore if the swans depended on the Lagoon for all of their food needs they would soon strip it of everything, and/or starve to death.

### **Can the swans fly?**

The swans are pinioned (wing tendons clipped) to keep this introduced species from spreading to other parts of the province. Unlike clipped wings, it is a permanent surgery. Some may find this cruel but it is the only way to ensure that a non-native species does not spread. Feral populations have caused a lot of damage in other areas of the continent.

### **What is the natural food of ducks?**

Different ducks eat different things. Mallards and wood ducks, both dabbling ducks, and the most common ducks on the Lagoon in the summer, eat mostly aquatic invertebrates (e.g. midge larvae, dragonfly and damselfly nymphs), plants, seeds and snails. There is plenty of food for them, NATURALLY.

### **What kind of chipmunk is that?**

What you see is not a chipmunk but a Douglas squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*). It is the native squirrel of the Pacific coast area. Chipmunks live at higher altitudes so there are none in the Park. The black and grey squirrels you see are not native. The original 16 squirrels were released here in 1914 as a gift from the New York Parks Department.

### **Are there bald eagles in the Park?**

Many people don't realize that we have many bald eagles living, feeding and nesting in Stanley Park. Always keep your eyes open for a large bird soaring overhead. It is very common to see gulls and crows mobbing eagles because they consider them predators and are trying to drive them from their territory. In the Park, bald eagles are often spotted on snags (dead branches) around Beaver Lake, near Third Beach, by the Pavilion and soaring above Lost Lagoon.

#### *Description:*

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus* (sea eagle) *leucocephalus* (white head)) has a 6.5-8 ft wingspan (bigger than most adult men). The female bald eagle is larger than the male, usually by 2-3 inches. Her head is blockier and less rounded than the male's. It is virtually impossible to mistake an adult bald eagle for another bird; its white head, brown body and piercing yellow eyes are unmistakable. Immature bald eagles can be a little bit more difficult to identify as they do not come in to full plumage until they are 5-7 years old. While immature, bald eagles often look very "salt and peppery" with mottled white and brown patches, a dark beak, which will later turn yellow and dark eyes, which also turn yellow when the eagle reaches maturity.

### **Are there great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) in the Park?**

These are the second largest long-legged birds found in the west (next to sandhill cranes). The great blue heron has grey-blue feathers and a long neck, legs and bill. The

adult has a white forehead and a six foot wingspan. The heron eats fish, small mammals, frogs, large insects, even ducklings and rats. It usually nests in a colony. Great blue heron habitat can be found in marshes, streams, ditches, and tidal mudflats. There is a heronry near the main tennis courts and VPB offices, with numerous nests (over 160 in 2005). For quite a few years the colony was located near the Aquarium but a few years ago it disappeared and all of the nests were abandoned. Fortunately, the herons remained in the park and started building nests near the Park Board offices. Dr. Rob Butler, the author of *The Great Blue Heron*, and local heron expert seems to think that they abandoned the first sight because the bald eagles had begun to prey on the colony. Unfortunately, in 2002, there have been several bald eagle attacks on the heronry at the Park Board Offices. See the SPES website for updates.

Great blue herons do not mate for life; the females choose a new mate every year. You can find the nests near the VPB office by looking for whitewash below trees and listening for the machine-gun like sound ("ack-ack-ack") of young herons. The great blue heron is a Species at Risk on the Pacific Northwest Coast, due to loss of habitat and the newly-emerging threat from bald eagles.

### **Is there a rat problem and what is being done about it?**

Yes, as all of the left over food that is meant for other animals attracts the rats. Rats carry many diseases that are transferable to humans and pets. The way to stop a rat infestation is to stop creating the abundance of food. There is nothing official being done to limit the rat population in the Park. Natural predators like coyotes, crows, herons, eagles, hawks etc. take care of the rats and we, as SPES staff and volunteers do our best to educate visitors about not feeding wildlife.

### **Are there coyotes (*Canis latrans*) in Stanley Park? Are they dangerous?**

It is nearly impossible to tell as they have a wide home range, but there was one spotted at Beaver Lake in 2008 and also in 2007. They are generally not dangerous to humans. However, a coyote that has been fed previously or is being fed, could bite or approach you looking for a handout, and small unleashed dogs could be attacked.

### **Please don't feed wildlife!**

Stay away from coyotes and if approached, make yourself look as large as you can, make lots of noise, and slowly back away; never run.

### **Do I have to be concerned about coyotes while taking my dog for a walk?**

It is the owner's responsibility to keep pets safe and leashed at all times. Coyotes are naturally timid around humans, but many are becoming habituated and will approach people looking for food. Do not use an extendable leash, as coyotes have been known to snatch small dogs while 20ft away from their owners. Although many dogs are bigger than coyotes, small dogs can be prey. If you see a coyote and feel that your dog is threatened pick it up and move to a more populated area. Don't let your dog wander around in bushes.

### **What happened to the raccoons in the Park?**

In June 1998, raccoons were hit by canine distemper. This wiped out almost the entire population in the Park. Canine distemper is an airborne disease. When the disease hit the Park, the population was at such high numbers and the raccoons lived in such close proximity, that the disease was able to spread quickly. June is kit month and some females were denning up having their young and missed the outbreak. Raccoons are nocturnal animals and usually are never seen in the daytime. Because of human feeding,

raccoons have learned that if they sleep at night, there are humans that will feed them in the daytime.

### **Where do raccoons live?**

Raccoons prefer denning sites in places like stumps, logs, caves, garages, attics, culverts, and hollow trees. You can see raccoons around Ceperley Meadow, Prospect Pt. and the Miniature Railway.

### **What happened to the striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) in the Park?**

It is thought that the increase in the number of coyotes in the Park may have caused the skunks to move out to nearby neighborhoods. Skunks are a natural prey of coyotes. They also could have been hit by the distemper outbreak of 1998. In June last year three skunks were found dead or dying due to a rabies outbreak. It was thought that they contracted it from eating a bat. Since then no more rabies outbreaks have occurred.

### **Where do the birds go in the winter?**

Many birds migrate in the winter. Birds, such as songbirds, fly up here in the spring and summer to nest and in autumn and winter they fly south to warmer places to find food. Other birds, such as ducks, nest in the North in the spring and summer, and fly here for the winter. You can see many different species on Lost Lagoon during the winter!

### **What kind of fish and turtles are in Lost Lagoon?**

The turtles are generally red-eared sliders. These were common in pet stores (and are not native) and some people let them go in Lost Lagoon. Pet stores stopped carrying them in 1998 because they were found to carry Salmonella. Advise people not to try to pick them up as they may carry the disease. Native fish in Lost Lagoon include stickleback and sculpins; carp and catfish (brown bullheads) have been introduced.

### **Where can I see the most wildlife?**

A variety of wildlife can be seen around Lost Lagoon, but more can be seen around Beaver Lake. Animals like the red-winged blackbird, the great blue heron, and wood ducks can be seen in the daytime. At night, bats and owls are about.

### **Where can I get more information about the park wildlife and/or vegetation?**

The best information can be obtained from the Lost Lagoon Nature House.

### **What do the racoons, skunks and coyotes eat?**

Racoons and skunks are omnivorous, eating a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, insects and small birds and animals. Coyotes are also omnivores, but are mostly meat eaters, hunting small mammals such as mice, voles and squirrels.

### **Where are the eagle nests?**

(See map inside the Nature House). One is near the junction of Cathedral Trail & Bridle Path Trail; one is just off Pipeline Road; one is north of the Miniature Railway near the pa circle; and one is near the junction of Merilees and Siwash Rock trails.

### **What kind of squirrels are there in the park?**

The small reddish brown squirrel is the native Douglas squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*), most commonly seen in the more heavily wooded areas of the park. The grey and black squirrel, often see in more open area, are the eastern grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) which were introduced to the park around 1909 from the New York City Parks Department (Central Park) as a gift to the city of Vancouver.

**How can I tell a lesser scaup from a greater scaup?**

A lesser scaup has a purplish gloss to its head and a small bump at the back - at the crown. The greater scaup has a greenish gloss to its head and a smoother head. The lesser scaup is more common on Lost Lagoon in the summer. The females are very similar in appearance.

**What are the small black "ducks" with the white bills and distinctive bobbing movement as they swim?**

These are American coots (*Fulica americana*), and are actually NOT ducks. They belong to the rail family, which include cranes and herons. On land, you can see that they have "chicken feet" instead of webbed feet.

**Stanley Park Plants****Which trees are most commonly seen in the Park?**

The common temperate rainforest trees you can find in Stanley Park are Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, big-leaf maple, and vine maple.

**What is lichen?**

Lichen is an organism made up of a symbiotic relationship between fungus and algae. In many cases the fungus and the algae, which together make lichen, are found separate. But many lichens include a fungus that is not found outside of its lichen form.

**What is a nurse stump/log?**

A nurse stump or log is a dead tree, which is used by other plants and animals. The dead wood has a lot of nutrients and seeds sprout quickly in the rotting wood. You can see them almost everywhere. Many of the big stumps left over from when the Park was logged now have other trees and bushes growing out of them. As the wood breaks down, the new plants root in the earth.

**What is a wildlife tree?**

A wildlife tree is any living or dead tree that provides habitat for animals. This includes most trees but some people do not realize that various creatures often use many dead trees. A good example can be seen on Tatlow Walk on the right side coming from the Lagoon. Remove these trees and one removes all of the critters that used it for food, water, shelter, nesting etc. etc.

**What does "skunk cabbage" (*Dracontium foetidum*) look like and what was it used for?**

Mostly noticeable in March and April in almost every swampy or mucky place. It looks like soft yellow sheaths when young and have a sickish smell when open. It has a large number of small greenish flowers. The leaves are the largest of any native plant. First Nations people used the large thick leaves to line steam cooking pits. The roots would be eaten in the spring to prevent starvation. Black bears may eat all or part of the plants.

**What does salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) look like and what was it used for?**

The leaves are oval and evergreen. The flowers are white to pink, urn-shaped and 5-toothed on a loosely-flowered stem. The stem is red, glandular and hairy. The fruit is berry-like, hairy and edible. First Nation people used to make syrup and dried cakes to eat in winter months.

## **About The Seawall**

### **How long is the Seawall?**

8.9km or 5.5miles. You can also cycle or skate around it in a counter-clockwise direction. It takes about two hours to walk the length of the Seawall.

### **How long did the Seawall take to build?**

Construction began in 1914 and the remaining portion (northwest of Second Beach) was completed in 1980.

### **What are 1<sup>st</sup> (English Bay), 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Beach?**

English Bay was referred to as 1<sup>st</sup> Beach, as it's the "first beach" as you entered the Park. Second and Third Beaches are not natural beaches. Sand was imported to create a place for tourists. There is an outdoor heated pool at Second Beach.

## **Lost Lagoon**

### **How did Lost Lagoon get its name?**

Pauline Johnson, a Metis woman, whose father was a First Nations chief in the East and whose mother was an English noblewoman, was very fond of the area that was then called Coal Basin. She enjoyed canoeing and always missed the Basin as it "disappeared" with low tide. She wrote a poem about it and dubbed it "Lost Lagoon."

### **How far is it around the Lagoon?**

1.79km or 1.1miles.

### **How deep is Lost Lagoon?**

The water is approximately 4 feet deep (at its deepest, 11feet).

### **Can I fish in Lost Lagoon?**

Fishing, swimming and boating are not permitted on the lagoon.

### **Was there ever fishing here?**

The lagoon was stocked with fish and fishing was permitted in 1929. The building that is now the Nature House used to be the boathouse and one could rent boats up until 1972.

### **Why is the Lagoon green?**

Natural algal blooms occur in the summer due to the high amount of bird feces. The feces provide nutrients for algae to grow.

### **What is the Storm Water Management Facility (biofiltration wetland)?**

Prior to the construction of the wetland, all of the runoff from the Causeway was flowing untreated into Lost Lagoon, compromising the quality of the water. With the wetland functioning, all water from the North side of the Park will be channeled down to the wetland and treated before entering the Lagoon.

There is a three-step process to treating the water. It first runs into a sedimentation fore bay, where the heaviest grit, gravel and other stuff will sink to the bottom. In the second step, water moves through the marsh terraces, where all of the plants are. The plants and the slow moving water allow more of the pollutants to settle. The pollutants are filtered and absorbed by the soil and plants in the marsh. The third step consists of deep

pools and channels, which contribute to the diversity of plant and animal life, increase the plant/water surface edge length, and are aesthetic features to enhance the natural look of the wetland. The berm, which will never be open to public use, gives the birds a place away from people.

In the long run, say 100 years, it may be necessary to till and replant as the plants functions may be depleted. This method, the scientific and engineering knowledge, is the best available. It has also been proven in many areas around the world, including Hastings Park and Fraserview Golf Course.

## **Nature House**

### **Who funds the Nature House?**

The Nature House is run by SPES, and supported by the Vancouver Parks Board.

### **What is at the Lost Lagoon Nature House?**

The Nature House provides visitors nature interpretation and park information. It has interactive displays and activities. It sells some nature merchandise and books.

### **Are there nature programs run out of the Nature House?**

Sunday Discovery Walks at 1:00pm

Bird walks on the last Sunday of the month at 9am

Native Plant Demonstration Garden (above the Nature House near the tennis courts)

## **Interesting Locations**

### **What's to do at Ferguson Point?**

Pauline Johnson memorial was placed here. As recently as 1945 Ferguson Point, another "look-out" in Stanley Park was the site of some important military installations. The restaurant is now called the Sequoia Grill (formerly the Ferguson Point Teahouse). With towering trees in its backyard and the ocean at its front door, Sequoia Grill sits cosily at water's edge on Stanley Park's Ferguson Point and has been voted the best and longest sunset view.

### **Old Hollow Tree**

This cedar is estimated to be 700 to 800 years old. It had been standing in its hollowed, burnt-out condition long before the Park was established, but was severely damaged in the December 2006 windstorm. There has been controversy about keeping or removing the damaged tree, but currently the tree is being propped up.

### **Siwash Rock**

This rock used to be a blend of sandstone and molten material. The main sandstone mass eroded more quickly than the volcanic mass leaving the pinnacle.

### **The Legend of Siwash Rock**

From the Stanley Park Explorer:

The hero, named Skalsh or Slah-kay-ulsh, of this story was an Indian of the Squamish tribe. Long, long ago he and his people heard that Q'uas the Transformer had been sent on a mission to visit every tribe in the world, hearing and perhaps granting wishes to those with favours to ask. When Q'uas was said to be approaching our hero's village, Skalsh went for a long swim of purification in the waters of the modern day English Bay.

While engaged in this rite, he noticed a canoe not far off and swam towards it to greet the occupants. Asked why he was swimming there he told those in the canoe that he was purifying himself so as to be worthy to approach Q'uas the Transformer who was expected shortly. One of the passengers in the canoe said that he assumed then that the swimmer had a personal request to make of Q'uas when he saw him. Skalsh replied that he had nothing to ask for himself but would seek Q'uas' aid for his people. The traveler in the dugout asked him again if he had no interest in securing Q'uas help with some individual problem or desire only to be told again that the swimmer sought only help for his village. Then the traveler in the dugout revealed that he was in fact the same Q'uas that Skalsh was purifying himself for and that of all the people Q'uas had met, the swimmer was the only unselfish one. So impressed was Q'uas that he transformed Skalsh into a 15.2 metre pinnacle of rock to stand forever as an example of how all people should be. And so to this day Skalsh stands near the shore of Stanley Park, an immortal memorial to unselfishness in the distant past of the Indian people.

### **What can you do at Prospect Point?**

Prospect Point is near the Lions Gate Bridge and gives a nice view of West and North Vancouver, and the ocean. Prospect Point is the highest point of the Park. There is a restaurant and souvenir shop.

### **How deep is Beaver Lake?**

It is about 4ft deep. The area is 4.28 hectares (1985 survey). The lake is continuously getting smaller due to succession. Succession has been sped up due to the introduced fragrant water lilies.

### **Where does the water in Beaver Lake come from?**

Prospect creek receives water from The City of Vancouver's pump. It empties into Beaver Lake.

### **What is at the Children's Farmyard?**

The Children's Farmyard has exotic and non-exotic farm animals. It also has exotic birds, reptiles, snakes and spiders.

### **What is special about the Rose Gardens?**

The Rose Garden was begun in 1920 by the Kiwanis community club to prove that roses could be grown in Vancouver.

### **What's the history of Malkin Bowl?**

This outdoor theatre was built by W.H. Malkin (the mayor of Vancouver from 1929-1932) to commemorate his deceased wife. During WWII, "Theatre Under the Stars" started performing annual summer shows. It replaced a bandstand, one of several found around the city.

### **Is there a midden at Lumbermen's Arch?**

In 1888, shells from a large midden left from Natives (it marks the settlement of Whoi-who) were used to build the part of the Parkway. Due to the middens large size, it is assumed that it was used for several millennia during seasonal hunting and gathering in the area.

### **What's the history of Brockton Point?**

At Fishermen's cove once stood a small thriving village of settlers. In the 1920's, squatter eviction trials were held. The inhabitants could stay only if they could prove their residence of 60 years or more. Many of the early pioneers were buried here. The lighthouse was built in 1916.

### **What is the Nine o'clock gun?**

The gun was brought to the park by the Department of Fisheries in the 1890's as a time signal for fishermen in the harbor to set their chronometers. The gun replaced the original time indicator, a stick of dynamite, which was detonated nightly at 9pm by Brockton Lighthouse keeper, William D. Jones.

### **What's the history of Deadman's Island?**

A fight here involved 200 Native warriors dying in a tribal war. They gave their lives for the women and children. It was also a burial ground for Indians: bodies were hung in boxes from the trees. It was also used as a small pox quarantine house during the 1888 epidemic.

## **By-Law Issues**

### **Can I feed the \_\_\_\_\_? (Fill in the wildlife of your choice!)**

There is a by-law in Vancouver that prohibits feeding the wildlife. For other reasons, see "Good Reasons Not to Feed the Wildlife." The No-feeding by-law is Parks Control By-law #14 (L).

### **Can we cycle in the Park?**

There are different trails where you can cycle and roller blade. (Show map – dotted trails). Note that it is one direction around the seawall.

### **Can we eat the berries/pick the flowers?**

Because Stanley Park is a City of Vancouver park, it is against the law to take anything out of the Park, including berries, leaves, feathers, shells etc. All of these items are important food and shelter for the wildlife of the park.

### **Where can I have a barbecue?**

Barbecues are allowed in the picnic areas in the Park at Second Beach, Third Beach, Fish House Restaurant, Ferguson Point, Prospect Point, the Hollow Tree, and Brockton Oval.

### **Can my dog run free?**

No, dogs must be leashed for the safety of people and other animals. There are dog off-leash parks located throughout Vancouver (refer to Park Board dog- off- leash pamphlet).