



# FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

16TH ANNUAL FVBEP

DISCOVER  
THE VALLEY  
OF THE  
EAGLES

**NOVEMBER 19-20, 2011**



Photo © Gary McGuire

**2011 FVBEP**  
2 Day Family Event  
November 19-20, 2011

- Eagle Viewing
- Expert Speakers
- First Nations Dancers
- First Nations Artisans
- Environmental Displays
- Nature Walking Tours
- Green Businesses
- Delicious Food
- and more!

For the latest info visit  
[www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca)

## 2011 FESTIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE

### EAGLE VIEWING



### EVENTS + ACTIVITIES



### WALKS + TALKS



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

For the latest, most up to date info on the Festival, visit us at [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca)



# WELCOME TO THE 16TH ANNUAL FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

## Record numbers of eagles descend upon the Harrison River in 2010!

Last December on a jet boat tour of the Harrison biologist David Hancock counted 7362 bald eagles along the Harrison River. It was an amazing event to witness and an affirmation to the committee that the celebration of the area is well warranted.

The 2011 program has been created to help you plan your visit to the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival during the November 19-20 event. This year there will be both eagle viewing sites as well as other venues set up to offer great activities, entertaining speakers and delicious food options.

Once again we will offer some of the most popular scheduled activities such as interpreted walking tours, authentic aboriginal dancers, First Nation's artisans, a traditional salmon BBQ and the now famous jet boat eagle expeditions. Book these activities early to avoid disappointment. Don't forget to look for our unique souvenirs that will be available for purchase at many of the sites.

For the very latest information please visit the website [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca) and for the schedule of expert speakers we have lined up.

See you along the way... *The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival Society*



Photo © Ed Kingshott

## 2011 FESTIVAL OVERVIEW: NOVEMBER 19-20, 2011

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Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa  
2011's Featured Resort

## WATCH FOR HARRISON'S HOT SPOTS!!



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

For \$3 buy one of our 2011 Souvenir buttons and receive an entry form with every purchase. Each entry form gives you 5 chances to win great prizes at participating sites.

Buttons are available to purchase at the Mission Chamber of Commerce, Leq'a:mel Hall, Kilby Historic Site, Sts' Ailes Healing Centre, Inch Creek Hatchery and Tapadera Estates

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

Thank you for your support!

# 2011 FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 19-20, 2011 - DISCOVER THE VALLEY OF THE EAGLES



## IMPORTANT:

### PETS

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

### KEEP IT GREEN

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

### BUS GROUPS

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

### ETC:

### FOOD

At Festival sites (see [fvbef.ca](http://fvbef.ca) for more details.)

- Exhibitor's Fair @ Leq'a:mel
- Tapedara
- Sandpiper Golf Resort
- Kilby Historic Site
- Sts'Ailes Lhawathet Lalem (SAT Only)

Other :

- Sasquatch Inn Pub
- Dewdney Pub

### GPS

There are 10 geocaches hidden as part of the FVBEF. View at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) keyword "fvbef".

## INFO CENTRE



### Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Centre



**CONTACT:** Allison Jack  
**TELEPHONE:** (604)-826-6914

**EMAIL:**  
[tourism\\_services@missionchamber.bc.ca](mailto:tourism_services@missionchamber.bc.ca)

**WEBSITE:** [www.missionchamber.bc.ca](http://www.missionchamber.bc.ca)

#### SITE ADDRESS:

34033 Lougheed Hwy,  
Mission BC V2V 5X8



Just east of Mission on the Scenic 7, also known as the Lougheed Hwy, the Visitor Centre will open its doors during the Nov. 19th and 20th weekend to hand out programs and information to festival goers. Be sure to stop in on your way to or from this annual event, take in the new gift shop and plan your next visit to Mission. Festival Souvenirs will be available for purchase on site.

**OPERATIONAL HOURS:**  
Saturday and Sunday: 9am – 3pm

## EVENTS + ACTIVITIES



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### Exhibitor's Fair at Leq'a:mel Hall



**CONTACT:** Sharie Conroy  
**TELEPHONE:** (604)-826-8179  
**EMAIL:** [sconroy@johnconroy.com](mailto:sconroy@johnconroy.com)  
**SITE ADDRESS:**  
43101 Leq'a:mel Way, Deroche, BC  
N 49 12.225 W 122 02.080

The one stop spot- to learn, shop, eat and play, all under one roof. Don't miss the over 30 fascinating educational, environmental, & nature displays, the work of local artists and crafts people, a variety of green businesses & products. **Highlights include:**

- Sontie the teaching eagle from OWL.
- Bear Necessities Workshop on bears, with Ross Davies of Kanaka Creek at 12:30pm Sat+Sun
- Kids Activities-Japanese fish prints and more
- BC Hydro Activity + Updated eagle/bird counts
- Unique gift items by local artisans
- Delicious cuisine (soup and fresh bannock)
- Festival Souvenirs, and more!

**OPERATIONAL HOURS:**  
Saturday 10am – 4pm  
Sunday 10am – 3pm



Visit us at [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca) for the latest 2011 Festival info and changes.

### CONROY & COMPANY Barristers and Solicitors

**JOHN W. CONROY, Q.C.**  
*Barrister & Solicitor*

2459 Pauline Street  
Abbotsford, BC  
Canada V2S 3S1  
E-mail: [jconroy@johnconroy.com](mailto:jconroy@johnconroy.com)

Telephone: 604-852-5110  
Toll Free: 1-877-852-5110  
Fax: 604-859-3361  
Website: [www.johnconroy.com](http://www.johnconroy.com)

### Historic Dewdney Pub

aka the church of the blues

Great Food Great Music

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# 2011 FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

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## EAGLE VIEWING



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### Tapadera Estates

**CONTACT:** Al Roberts

**TELEPHONE:** (604)-796-2372

**EMAIL:** alrc@telus.net

**SITE ADDRESS:**

#4-14600 Morris Valley Rd, Harrison Mills, BC  
N 49 15.897 W 121 57.004

The best place to view the Bald Eagles out on the estuary is at the viewing tent, situated at the foot of our boat launch.

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

*Viewing scopes supplied by Celestron.*

**SATURDAY SPEAKERS:**

**12pm – Matt Foy** – *Salmon Restoration Biologist, DFO*

**2pm – David Hancock** – *Hancock Wildlife Foundation, Eagle Biologist*

**SUNDAY SPEAKERS:**

**12pm – Steve Howard** – *Expert Wildlife Rehabilitation*

**2pm – David Hancock** – *Hancock Wildlife Foundation, Eagle Biologist*

**OPERATIONAL HOURS:**

Saturday and Sunday 9am – 3pm



3



### Eagle Point Community Park

**CONTACT:** Gord Gadsden

**PHONE:** (604)-702-5024

**EMAIL:** ggadsden@fvrd.bc.ca

**SITE ADDRESS:**

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

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

An on site park ranger with spotting scopes, a tent and patio heater will be there to answer questions along with bird experts from Wild Birds Unlimited.

*Viewing scopes supplied by Vortex.*

**OPERATIONAL HOURS:**

Saturday and Sunday 9am – 3pm



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### Sandpiper Golf Resort

**CONTACT:** Chris Lepine

**PHONE:** (604)-796-1000

**EMAIL:** chris@sandpiperresort.ca

**WEBSITE:** www.sandpiperresort.ca

**SITE ADDRESS:**

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

Sandpiper is proud to be a viewing site for the 2011 Festival. Nestled in a centuries-old forest of Douglas Firs and surrounded by the West's most idyllic golf course, Sandpiper Golf Resort is the perfect escape. Here, indulgence is a way of life. You'll find it in the tasteful tranquility that surrounds you and feel it in the attentive service that sets us apart.

Thousands of Bald Eagles return every year with increasing numbers and winter on our property overlooking the Harrison River – a popular eagle feeding area. Enjoy a trail walk through the resort's tranquil forest to our specially designated bald eagle viewing area.

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

**OPERATIONAL HOURS:**

Saturday and Sunday 8am – 9pm



The FVBFE is a Registered Charity. Visit [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca) to donate. Thank you for your support!



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

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**604-796-8741**  
[www.farmhousecheeses.com](http://www.farmhousecheeses.com)

**EAGLE PACKAGES**  
STARTING AT \$369.00

featured resort of  
**2011 Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival**



**866.797.5304 or [HarrisonResort.com](http://HarrisonResort.com)**

# 2011 FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

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## EAGLE VIEWING



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### Fraser River Safari - Jetboat Eco River Tours

**CONTACT:** Jo-Anne or Rob Chadwick

**PHONE:** (604)-826-7361

**TOLL FREE:** 1-866-348-6877

**EMAIL:** info@fraserriversafari.com

**WEBSITE:** www.fraserriversafari.com

BOOK EARLY SO YOU DON'T MISS THE BOAT  
Stay both warm & dry while viewing eagles this festival. The Safari boat is fully enclosed and heated with large opening picture windows. Unsold seats can be purchased at Kilby Historic Site.

**TOUR TIMES: Saturday and Sunday**

**9:30am - SORRY SOLD OUT.**

POST FESTIVAL TRIPS WITH DAVID. See ad below in program or visit website.

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

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

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

## EVENTS / ACTIVITIES



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### Inch Creek Hatchery

**CONTACT:** James Weger

**TELEPHONE:** (604)-826-0244

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

**SITE ADDRESS:**

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

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

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

**OPERATIONAL HOURS:**

Saturday and Sunday 9am - 3pm



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### Kilby Historic Site

**CONTACT:** Jo-Anne Leon

**PHONE:** (604)-796-9576

**EMAIL:** info@kilby.ca

**WEBSITE:** www.kilby.ca

**SITE ADDRESS:**

215 Kilby Road, Harrison Mills, BC V0M 1L0

Kilby Historic Site is the perfect place for a trip down memory lane. The General Store is all that remains of this once thriving mill town located on the confluence of the Fraser and Harrison rivers.

Today the general store is a world class 1920s Fraser Valley living history site, complete with costumed interpreters, friendly farm animals and orchard playground. Site facilities also include a restaurant and gift shop.

On site throughout the day we will have the Greater Vancouver Zoo with their Birds of Prey. Other activities include Winter Container Gardening workshop at noon and 2 pm. And at 1 pm enjoy listening to Cliff Jury of the Wild Bird Habitat Store, on how to attract birds to your backyard in the winter.

**OPERATIONAL HOURS:**

Saturday and Sunday 9am - 4pm



Visit us at [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca) for the latest 2011 Festival info and changes.

**Eagle Touring until January?**  
Even though the festival ends Nov 20 the eagle numbers can actually increase through January  
On one Dec tour last year we counted 7362 eagles



David Hancock will join the crew of Fraser River Safari for 3 exciting post festival tours. **Nov 26, Dec 4 and Dec 10.**  
Tours include a hot lunch served at Kilby.



For more information or to book your seat call  
Tel #604-826-7361 or visit [www.fraserriversafari.com](http://www.fraserriversafari.com)

Valid Nov. 19 & 20, 2011 Only



**10% OFF Coupon**

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Harrison Mills, BC

Receive 10% off any apply!  
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per apply.  
Ask Server for Details

Try our Famous Pizza  
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WATCH THE EAGLES SOAR FROM OUR NEW PATIO



# 2011 FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

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## EVENTS / ACTIVITIES



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### Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem (Healing Retreat Centre)

**CONTACT:** Rhonda Bouzovetsky

**TELEPHONE:** (604) 796-9832

**EMAIL:** Lhawathet@chehalisband.com

**WEBSITE:** www.stsailesdevcorp.com/tourism

**SITE ADDRESS:**

16300 Morris Valley Road, Harrison Mills BC

**Saturday November 19th ONLY**

A full day of cultural experiences from a Chehalis point of view. For more details on activities please visit the website or call.

**Artisan Demonstrations & Sales** 10am – 4pm

Craft kits \$10 and up.

**Educational Walk+ Talk with**

**Dion Charlie** 10am , 1 pm & 3 pm

**Sasquatch Tours Dancers** 11 am – 12 pm

**Nelson Leon & Pow Wow Dancers** 1pm-2 pm

**Make your own Dreamcatcher, Mini Drum,**

**Mini Drum Stick** 10am – 12pm; 3pm-4pm

\$10 - \$15 includes project kit

**Make your own Cedar Bark Bracelet**

\$15 Buttons and beads extra

**Sts'ailes Salmon Lunch, Bannock Taco**

**Option** 11:30am – 1:30pm Pre-purchase is

highly recommended (see [fvbef.ca](http://fvbef.ca) for more details,

or email Rhonda @ contact info above).



## WALKS + TALKS



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### Chehalis River Eagle Watching Tour

**CONTACT:** Jason Northcott

**PHONE:** (604)-924-9771

**EMAIL:** jnorthcott@naturetrust.bc.ca

**SITE ADDRESS:**

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

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

**OPERATIONAL HOURS:**

**Sunday, November 20th ONLY**

Walking Tour : 10am

**\*\*Help by pre-booking** with Robin Rivers Nature Trust at 604-924-9771, ext. 226 or by e-mail [rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca)

corrected site #



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### Surrey Trekkers Volkssport Club

**CONTACT:** Brenda Dudfield

**TELEPHONE:** (604) 584-1900

**EMAIL:** Dudfield@shaw.ca

**WEBSITE:** www.surreytrekkers.com

**SITE ADDRESS:**

Great Blue Heron Reserve  
5200 Sumas Prairie Road, Chilliwack BC

**Sunday November 20th ONLY**

For more information please visit the Surrey Trekkers Website.

This is a 10 km walk on Sunday starting from the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve. Registration is from 9:30 am with the walk to start at 10:00 am sharp. This will be a self-guided map walk, (participants will be given a map with directions).

**REGISTRATION** – Sunday 9:30am

**WALK STARTS** – Sunday 10:00am

corrected site #

The FVBFE is a Registered Charity. Visit [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca) to donate. Thank you for your support!



# 2011 FRASER VALLEY BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 19-20, 2011 - DISCOVER THE VALLEY OF THE EAGLES



## WALKS + TALKS



**David Hancock** – Hancock Wildlife Foundation, Eagle Biologist  
Friday – 3:00 pm – Special event must be pre-register, fees apply.  
Saturday – 9:30 am – On board Fraser River Safari Jet Boat Eco Tours  
Saturday – 2:00 pm - Tapadera Estates – “The amazing recovery of the Bald Eagle”  
Sunday – 9:30 am – On board Fraser River Safari Jet Boat Eco Tours  
Sunday – 2:00 pm – Tapadera Estates – “The amazing recovery of the Bald Eagle”

**Cliff Jury** – Ecologist and lecturer  
Saturday & Sunday – 1:00 pm – Kilby Historic Site - “Attracting Birds To Your Yard”

**Matt Foy** – Salmon Restoration Biologist DFO  
Saturday – 12:00 pm – Tapadera Estates

**Steve Howard** – Expert Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Sunday – 12:00 pm – Tapadera Estates– Wildlife Rehabilitation

**Dion Charlie** – Educational Walk & Talk  
Saturday 10am , 1 pm & 3 pm – Sts’Ailes Lhawathet Lalem  
The beauty of an Eagle from a Chehalis point of view



**Wild Birds Unlimited®**  
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Cliff & Sherry Jury

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

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

cwjury@shaw.ca  
www.wbu.com/fraservalley



**Mark your calendar now  
for the 2012 FVBEP!**

Next year's festival **November 17th -18th, 2012**



## The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival is a Registered Charity

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

For details on how to donate, visit us at [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca)

Paula Kent, PFP, Branch Manager



**TD Canada Trust**

TD Canada Trust  
The Junction  
32555 London Avenue, Suite 140  
Mission, British Columbia V2V 6M7  
T: 604 820 5600 Ext. 250 F: 604 820 5620  
kentp2@tdbank.ca



**KILBY**  
HISTORIC SITE

**Nov 19 - 20**  
11 am - 4 pm

- Speakers at noon 1 and 2 pm
- Winter Container Gardening Speaker at noon and 2 pm
- Attracting Birds to your Backyard in the Winter at 1 pm

On site throughout the day  
Vancouver Zoo with their Birds of Prey

**Museum, Restaurant & Gift Shop**  
215 Kilby Road, Harrison Mills  
[www.kilby.ca](http://www.kilby.ca) • 796-9576

Regular Admission Applies • Season Memberships Available

# WILDLIFE VIEWING ETIQUETTE



- 1. Where ever possible – Stay in your vehicle.** Birds and animals are much more accepting of vehicles than they are of people. Use your vehicle as a 'blind'.
- 2. Keep your distance:** Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto lens. If you try to 'get closer' the prey will just move further away.
- 3. Stay on trails:** Trails are there for a reason. Straying off them not only damages or destroys sensitive habitat but infringes on the wildlife's space.
- 4. Respect your fellow viewing enthusiasts:** Don't hog the best spots. Once you've had a chance to see and take a few pictures, move on so the next person has a chance.
- 5. Walk slowly and speak quietly;** Nothing can send wildlife heading for the hills faster than someone running towards it shouting "look at the ....."
- 6. Watch carefully – respect the 'comfort zone':** all wildlife, including birds, have a comfort zone which can vary dramatically depending on species, environment or previous experience... as long as you are outside of the comfort zone the animal or bird will continue doing what it was doing, if the comfort zone

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

- 7. Diagonal rather than direct:** If you must move closer to a subject, try a diagonal approach. The wildlife or bird won't feel as threatened as they would with a direct approach.
- 8. Teach your children all of the above:** NEVER allow your children to throw rocks at, chase, run up to or try to catch wildlife, other than with a camera.
- 9. Pets:** If you are attending an event where there are other viewers... leave your pet at home or in your vehicle. If you are viewing on your own there is no reason why a well trained pet cannot participate with you provided you keep said pet on a lead at all times and adhere to all the above points.
- 10. Be Patient:** Wildlife doesn't appear on demand. When possible, pick a likely spot and sit quietly... you'll be surprised at what might show up.

*Kathy Stewart*

## BIRD COUNT

### BALD EAGLE:



**Adult birds** – large dark brown body with white head and tail.  
**Young birds** – mottled brown.  
 Look in large trees near bodies of water.

2006 count = 1,145  
 2007 count = 1,038  
 2008 count = 2,185  
 2009 count = 1,208

**2011 count =** \_\_\_\_\_

### TRUMPETER SWAN:



**Adult Birds** – large white birds w/ black bill.  
**Young Birds** – gray with light bill.  
 Look in areas of water, shallow enough for feeding on aquatic vegetation or in fields.

2006 count = 157  
 2007 count = 162  
 2008 count = 509  
 2009 count = 292

**2011 count =** \_\_\_\_\_

### GREAT BLUE HERON:



Very large gray/blue bird with long neck, bill and legs.  
 Look along edges of the water or on stumps and piers close to water, or feeding in fields.

2006 count = 27  
 2007 count = 18  
 2008 count = 10  
 2009 count = 7

**2011 count =** \_\_\_\_\_

# Take Your Interest in Birding to the Next Level

## BECOME A 'CITIZEN SCIENTIST'

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


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

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

### Do you feed the birds in your yard?


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

Kathy Stewart



## Soar into Mission for the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival

**For information on Mission contact:**  
Stacey Crawford  
Economic Development Officer  
District of Mission  
604-820-3789  
[www.mission.ca](http://www.mission.ca)



*....an unforgettable experience*

Proud festival viewing site

- On-site parking
- Walking trails through tranquil forests
- Riverside Bald Eagle viewing area
- Historic Rowena's Inn accommodations
- River's Edge Restaurant
- Spectacular Sandpiper Golf Resort



14282 Morris Valley Road, Harrison Mills, BC V0M 1L0  
p. 877-796-1001 web: [www.sandpiperresort.ca](http://www.sandpiperresort.ca)

## HARRISON HOT SPRINGS

*find nature just up the road*



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Year round wild life viewing, eco tours & Agri Tours hiking, biking, golfing & paddling and the world famous hot springs. With accommodations to suit every taste we are just 10 minutes from where the eagles soar & 90 minutes from Vancouver

Call 604-796-5581 for a free visitors guide or visit us online at [www.tourismharrison.com](http://www.tourismharrison.com)

# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHEHALIS-HARRISON RIVER SALMON RUNS TO BALD EAGLES

With over 7300 eagle being seem from one position along the Chehalis-Harrison last fall, and probably over 10,000 being present in this small region, we excitedly look towards setting another record this season.

The bald eagle historically was our dominant coastline predator -- certainly in greater abundance along the British Columbia shores than bears or wolves and certainly more dominant than the smaller and more ubiquitous gulls. The talks, tours and many of the Festival cooperators display different events of these prolific rivers. [The talks, tours and many of the Festival cooperators display different events of these prolific rivers.](#)

Today these eagles have shown an incredible comeback from 50 years ago when they were considered vermin and shot -- and even bountied -- in Alaska . Along our Chehalis--Harrison River flats each winter about 3000 to 10,000 eagles congregate to feast on the spawned out salmon carcasses and socialize -- they learn to be eagles. This is a wondrous site, on the scale of the mass migrations of hoofed mammals on the Serengiti.

We are so fortunate to still have all five species of salmon, as well as Steelhead and rainbow trout, abundantly using these Chehalis-Harrison waters. Watch our live Salmon CAMs to show all these species in their upstream migration. And the bald eagles have for millennia been feasting here. Even the Coast Sal-



ish people have had over 6400 years of continuous occupation at the juncture of these productive rivers. (discussed on one of the Chehalis First Nations Tours. As the glaciers retreated with the receding ice age, these rivers quickly acquired plants and insects that supported salmon. Then the predators, the eagles, bears and humans came.




But our spawning flats also attract thousands of swans, geese and ducks to also feast on the salmon eggs and rotting carcasses. From our Eagle Point Observatory, accessed from the Morris Valley Road , you can witness this incredible congregation of prey and predators, and watch their constant interaction.

This Observatory offers viewing of the largest gathering of eagles or predators anywhere in the world. I have counted 2580 eagles at one time from this Observatory -- and over 7300 from out on the Safari River Tour Boat.-- one of the world's greatest predator concentrations.




Our November Bald Eagle Festival is the start of the viewing season but the feasting going on some years as late as early February. The Christmas--New Year week usually hosts the peak numbers. Hope to see you at the Festival or on Tour.

*David Hancock*  
Eagle Biologist and host of  
Bald Eagle Live CAMs at [www.hancockwildlife.org](http://www.hancockwildlife.org)

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# HARRISON RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON: MAKING THE RIGHT MOVES

Harrison River sockeye salmon are a very interesting population of fish that have a unique life history. Most young sockeye choose a lake to rear in for one to two years before migrating to the sea. Harrison River sockeye, however, choose a very different strategy despite spawning very near (below) Harrison Lake. They spawn in the Harrison River in November and December and in the spring of the next year the fry swim-up from the gravel and head out to sea. They take their time to feed in the Fraser River estuary and then slowly migrate around to the west side of Vancouver Island. On the other hand, most other Fraser River sockeye stocks leave lakes and swim downstream as yearlings, then head up the coast through Georgia Strait and into open seawater through Johnstone Strait.

You might think this puts Harrison sockeye at a disadvantage, given that most other sockeye are heading to the ocean as much larger one or two-year-old smolts, but that is not necessarily the case. In the past six years the Harrison River sockeye stock has seen its largest returns in documented history. In both 2005 and 2009 adult returns reached over 300,000. In 2010 well over 500,000 fish arrived. These recent returns compare very favourably to the limited number (only tens of thousands) returning in the previous 50 years.

One of the main beneficiaries of these returns have been bald eagles, which visit the Harrison River in winter to feed on all



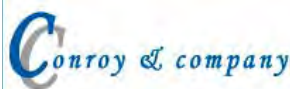
species of Pacific salmon which are spawning and dying here. However, the last few years of enormous sockeye returns may partly explain some of the record numbers of eagles sighted here in recent years.

Scientists are theorizing why Harrison River sockeye have this odd approach and particularly wondering why they are doing so well compared to other Fraser River sockeye populations. They have no sure answers at this time, but it is apparent that success is a matter of both where and when the sockeye make their out-migration journey. Whether they are encountering better feeding conditions or experiencing less predation, it seems that for the time being Harrison River sockeye are making all the right moves.

*Mark Johnson,  
DFO Community Advisor*

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## Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival

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### 2011 Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival - Festival Sites

### NOVEMBER 19-20, 2011

Look for Harrison signs for site locations



Each sign will have the site number in the middle.

Visit [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca) for the latest info



#### Festival Sites - Eagle Viewing, Festival Events

-  **Information Centre**  
- Mission Chamber of Commerce
-  **1** Exhibitors Fair at Leq'a:mel
-  **2** Tapadera Estates Eagle Viewing Site
-  **3** Eagle Point Community Park
-  **4** Sandpiper Golf Resort
-  **5** Fraser River Safari – Jetboat Eco River Tours
-  **6** Inch Creek Hatchery
-  **7** Kilby Historic Site
-  **8** St's'ailes Lhawathet Lalem
-  **9** Chehalis River Eagle Watching Tour
-  **10** Volkssport Club

Visit [www.fvbef.ca](http://www.fvbef.ca) for the latest and more Festival info