

# Sargeant Bay Society

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## Newsletter #71

November 19, 2004

### Boundary Correction

*The boundary adjustment to bring the entire watershed of Triangle Lake within the park boundary received Royal Assent on October 21.*

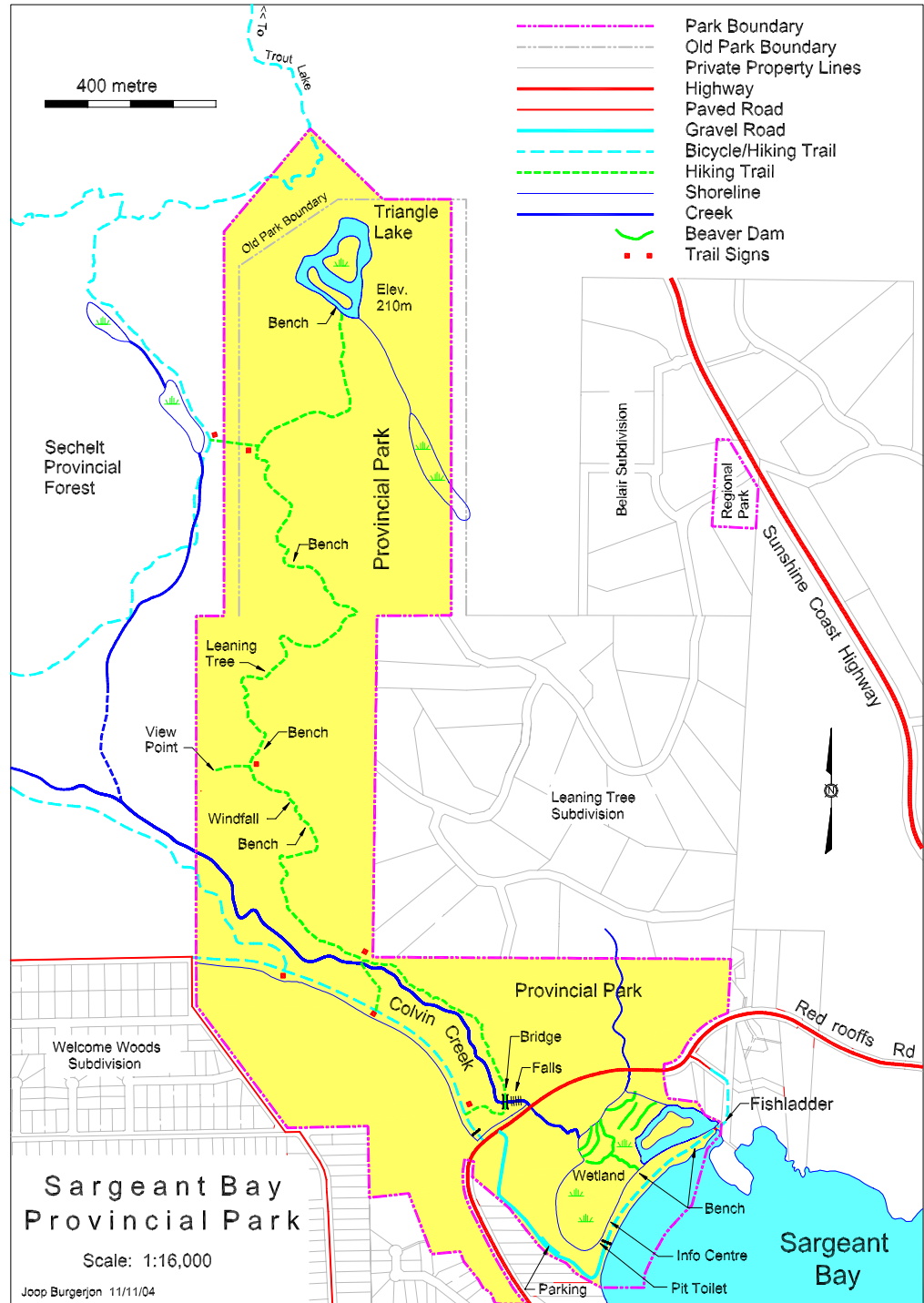
This completes our four-year long struggle to protect the lake's sensitive ecosystem from the effects of potential future logging or rural development in the surrounding Sechelt Provincial Forest.

The adjustment was recommended by our Society in the Sargeant Bay Park Background Report of March, 2000. Negotiations between the Ministry of Forests and BC Parks required accurate location of the heights of land and BC Parks commissioned a GPS survey.

However, the resulting map, drafted by the Mapping Branch of WLAP was ambiguous and incorrect. To clear up the confusion, our Society commissioned a ground survey by Peter Gordon, Land Surveyor.

This survey was used to redraw the park boundary, as shown on adjacent map.

The area added to the park is 4 ha, insignificant in terms of relative timber value, but most important to the ecological integrity of the lake.



## Beach Clean-up

Students from Halfmoon Bay Elementary School completed their usual thorough job of cleaning up the beach in September. This year their efforts can best be described as above and beyond the call. In addition to the litter and customary flotsam and jetsam, they hauled the decaying carcass of a harbour seal off the beach up onto the berm behind the pit toilet, from where it was later removed for disposal by BC Parks. This cannot have been a pleasant task.

## Birds

The most notable wildlife observation in recent months has been the *white-breasted nuthatch* that visited Joop Burgerjon's feeder over a nine-day period in early November. Not to be confused with its close relative, the *red-breasted nuthatch*, which is much more widespread in BC and often frequents feeders here on the Coast, this species is typically found in ponderosa pine parkland in the southern Interior. It is a rare vagrant west of the Coast Mountains and this is the first fully documented record on the Sunshine Coast. The only other time this species is known to have visited us was in March, 2000, when it was heard, but not seen.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

Apart from this rarity, the fall bird life at Sargeant Bay is unfolding more or less as it should. Birds that make their winter home in the wetland have returned right on schedule. The first *pie-billed grebe* sighting was on September 4 and four *buffleheads* were on Colvin Lake on October 31, a little early for this species. Also of interest are the increased numbers of *surf scoters* and *Barrow's goldeneyes* on the bay in mid-November. A total of 17 scoters and 25 goldeneyes were seen on November 13. These are not big numbers, but significantly higher than Waterbird Survey counts in November in the previous three years. Both species have been congregating around a small raft of logs salvaged early in the year but left moored a short distance off the beach throughout the summer. Perhaps the logs provide a suitable habitat for something diving ducks like to eat.

Passage migrants have shown up from time to time. *Bonaparte's gulls* could generally be seen in the bay through August and September; particularly large flocks were noted on August 8 (30+) and October 2 (100+). Other transients have passed through in ones and twos. A single female *wood duck* was seen on September 19, together with one *northern pintail* and one *ring-necked duck*. *American widgeon* and *green-winged teal* have also been occasional visitors. An *American coot* showed up recently; a relatively unusual visitor in recent years.

Among the songbirds, a female *yellow-headed blackbird* was seen perching on driftwood logs on the beach on September 4. This is another Interior bird that is relatively rare on the Coast and may be a first for Sargeant Bay. Migrating *Savannah* and *Lincoln's sparrows* were usually easy to find along the berm throughout September.

## Mammals

Readers of previous newsletters will know that the editor's primary wildlife interest is birds; four-legged and legless creatures are often neglected. Nevertheless, they are surely around, possibly in larger numbers than we imagine. *Bobcats* are a shy nocturnal animal and rarely seen, but one showed up on Ken and Frances Redmond's deck, on Redrooffs Road in early October.

## Salmon

Like last year the beavers have not, as yet, built a dam at the fish ladder this year, so we may, again, not have to do any clearing this fall. We already have a report of salmon returning to spawn from Steve and Maggie Marsh who saw two *chum* in the lake immediately above the fish ladder on November 7.

## Dogwoods

The dogwoods we planted a year ago, in memory of Eric Hoare, suffered from the drought this summer. However, at least 6 and perhaps 9 of the 12 trees we planted may survive.

## Sargeant Bay on Channel 11

The Community Channel on Coast Cable Channel 11 will air:

**"Stewards of Halmoon Bay"**  
a 21 minute show about parks and trails  
featuring Sargeant Bay Park among others.

Monday, November 22 at 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm.  
Wednesday, December 1 at 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm.  
Thursday, December 2 at 9:00 am.

## Feedback

Finally the customary note that feedback is always welcome. As you received this newsletter by e-mail, it is easy for you to let us have your comments: Just click the reply button, or address to: [sargbay@dccnet.com](mailto:sargbay@dccnet.com).