

# Media Backgrounder and Fact Sheet

Ministry of Environment  
Government of British Columbia

## *MAGNIFICENT AND MAJESTIC B.C. PARKS*

British Columbia's incredible network of provincial parks is world renowned for its campsites, day-use areas, and thousands of kilometres of trails. Climbing the highest peaks, exploring the lowest valleys, and enjoying majestic forests, mysterious caves, sandy beaches, and peaceful rivers are just some of the fun and exciting ways to explore the province. B.C. Parks protects natural places for world-class conservation, outdoor recreation, education and scientific study.

- During the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, Cypress Provincial Park will play host to the Freestyle Skiing and Snowboard events. Just 30 minutes from downtown Vancouver, the park's highlights include mountaintop plateaus and rugged peaks, sub alpine lakes, streams, ancient forest stands and second-growth forests.
- Stawamus Chief Provincial Park protects 700 metre massive granite cliffs that stand at the southern entrance to Squamish on the scenic Sea to Sky Highway (route to Whistler, B.C.). The park provides rock climbing opportunities of international significance and hiking trails to The Chief's three summits offer stunning views of the picturesque surroundings.
- Shannon Falls, found in Shannon Falls Provincial Park, is composed of a series of cliffs, rising 335 metres above the Sea to Sky Highway, making it the third highest falls in the province, ranking behind 481 metre Della Falls in Strathcona Provincial Park and 396 metre Hunlen Falls in Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.
- Strathcona Provincial Park, located in the centre of Vancouver Island, boasts a rugged mountain wilderness comprising more than 250,000 hectares. Designated in 1911, this is the oldest provincial park in B.C.
- MacMillan Provincial Park, located on central Vancouver Island, offers a rare crown jewel – Cathedral Grove. Here, visitors can stroll along a network of trails under the shadow of towering ancient Douglas-fir trees, majestic pillars untouched by the modern world – some more than 800 years old.
- The B.C. Government completed a \$73-million agreement in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Municipality of Delta to protect Burns Bog – a vital ecosystem sometimes called “The Lungs of the Lower Mainland” for its significant contribution to air quality.
- Today, a total of 14.26 per cent (more than 13.5 million hectares) of British Columbia is protected – more than any other province in Canada. This is an area equal in size to the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I. combined!
- In September, the B.C. Ministry of Environment launched GeoTrek 2009 - a fun and environmentally friendly geocaching game to encourage provincial parks visits and celebrate the 2010 Winter Games. One hundred caches are placed in secret locations across the province for geocachers to discover.

## CONTACTS

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CPAWS-BC is a non-profit organization, helps to educate the public about the importance of parks and protected and wilderness preservation. CPAWS-BC works in partnership with BC Parks in a variety of areas including conservation initiatives and planning for the 100 year celebration of BC Parks in 2011.

### **Chris Edley**

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BC Parks, the BC Geocaching Association (BCGA), and Project Blue Sky are collaborating to host GeoTrek 2009 - a fun, healthy, and environmentally friendly game, allowing participants to explore BC's spectacular provincial parks and celebrate the upcoming 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

## VISUAL RESOURCES

- Images of BC Parks – contact BC Parks, Ministry of Environment for more info: Jim Gilliland at 250-356-6831, or [Jim.Gilliland@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jim.Gilliland@gov.bc.ca); or Tammy Liddicoat at 250 356-7435 or [Tammy.Liddicoat@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tammy.Liddicoat@gov.bc.ca)

## WEB RESOURCES

- BC Parks website offers a listing of all of the provincial parks, as well as a general outline of what BC Parks does for the province, services, and values. <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/>
- The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is Canada's grassroots voice for wilderness. CPAWS-BC is a non-profit organization, helps to educate the public about the importance of parks and protected and wilderness preservation. <http://www.cpawsbc.org/>
- BC Parks, the BC Geocaching Association (BCGA), and Project Blue Sky are collaborating to host GeoTrek 2009 - a fun, healthy, and environmentally friendly game, allowing participants to explore BC's spectacular provincial parks and celebrate the upcoming 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. <http://www.bcgeocaching.com/>

MEDIA COVERAGE

**You are here: Geocaching brings attention to our Island, The Daily News (Nanaimo), Thursday, October 01, 2009**

<http://www2.canada.com/nanaimodailynews/news/story.html?id=c893618a-a9fa-4a7e-b41a-0bf3c708dbd4&p=1>

**Mountain park will preserve 1,300 acres, The Daily News (Nanaimo) Tuesday, September 22, 2009**

<http://www2.canada.com/nanaimodailynews/news/story.html?id=16a99168-8226-4075-9881-316fe9c51c2d>

**BC Parks and Ecological Reserves, Destination 2010.ca, February 23, 2009**

<http://www.destination2010.ca/content/finishedarticles/bc-parks-and-ecological-reserves#>

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**For assistance or more information:**

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