

The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival Celebrates Harrison Mills as the World's Bald Eagle Capital

For Immediate Release

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(Fraser Valley, BC) On November 16th and 17th, the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival (FVBEP) will celebrate the beauty and biodiversity of the Harrison Mills region by honouring the *Season of the Eagles* and the *Cycle of the Salmon*.



Deep in the heart of 'Sasquatch Country', and due to recent global shifts beginning in 2010, visitors will witness the **world's largest** gathering of bald eagles. The raptors are drawn to the region by the millions of spawning salmon that travel up the Fraser River to tributaries, such as the Harrison River. The Chehalis Flats and Harrison River estuary is also home to diverse wildlife including trumpeter swans, ducks, seals, bears, coyotes, deer and the great white sturgeon.

"The Harrison region is part of the winter homeland for over 10,000 bald eagles -- the world's largest concentration of eagles ever witnessed as they forage, fight and feast on record salmon runs in the Harrison River," says David Hancock, Bald Eagle Biologist of the [Hancock Wildlife Foundation](#).

For thousands of years, the First Nation Peoples have lived harmoniously with the land and water; however, in present time, the Sts'ailes work in collaboration with the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival, the District of Mission, the Salmon Stronghold, and the Hancock Wildlife Foundation where they welcome visitors and share the knowledge they have gained over the generations.

The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival will feature all of the designated eagle viewing sites ([see Map](#)) November 16-17, in addition to exhibitors, displays, activities and [boat tours with Fraser River Safari](#). The second weekend, Saturday November 23, hosts the Sts'ailes Salmon Celebration at Pretty Estates Resort. The third weekend features a photo workshop at Harrison Hot Springs and, during the entire season, visitors can see the eagles at [Kilby Historic Site](#), [Pretty Estates Resort](#) (home to Sandpiper Golf Course, Rowena's Inn on the River and Sandpiper Golf Course) and their new Bald Eagle Observation Platform--the "Pretty Walk"—including telescopes.



For further details visit www.fvbef.ca For a **complete schedule of events**, see the next page.

For interviews with biologist David Hancock, contact the HWF Project Coordinator at Karen@hancockwildlife.org

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[About the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival Committee](#)

In 1998, due to increased community involvement and new partnerships, a small yet enthusiastic committee formed. The committee worked to broaden the scope of the Festival and changed the name to form its new identity – Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival (FVBEP).

Schedule of Events

Eagle Release

- **November 12, 2013** Official 'Eagle release' will be held at Pretty Estates Resort

Season of the Eagles

The season will be marked by four weekends.

- **Weekend #1 November 16 -17** [18th Annual Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival](#)

David Hancock will provide lectures on the Wondrous Bald Eagle Recovery and Harrison Mills—the Bald Eagle Capital of the World

- **Weekend #2 November 23** **First Annual Sts'ailes Salmon Celebration at Pretty Estates Resort**

This day-long event will celebrate the Sts'ailes' commitment to the salmon, their cultural ties through dancing, art and stories, carving and weaving demonstrations, a traditional salmon barbeque, and guided tours of the river, revealing their cultural ties to the Harrison region. The Chehalis Fish Hatchery and the Sasquatch Crossing Eco Lodge will also have exhibits.

[About the Sts'ailes](#)

The Sts'ailes People have their ancestral home just upstream, another mile north along Morris Valley Road from the Harrison Mills' eagle viewing areas. This area has been their continuous home for thousands of years and they have supported not just the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival, the formation of the new Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle and Salmon Preserve, but are the key initiators of the Harrison River Salmon Stronghold. The Sts'ailes are "The Salmon People". The Harrison River Salmon Stronghold, Canada's first Salmon Stronghold, is a new designation by international conservation organizations to acknowledge that this river system is one of Canada's most important salmon rivers -- and ecologically the foundation for supporting the world's largest gathering of eagles and a major host to waterfowl and sturgeon. Visit

[About Pretty Estates Resort](#) (*home to Sandpiper Golf Course, Rowena's Inn, and River's Edge*)

Pretty Estates Resort offers front row seats to world-class eagle viewing being situated on the banks of the Harrison River. A new observation platform, complete with telescopes, was just built. [Live eagle viewing cameras are also installed on site and can be viewed](#) live or on a large screen at Pretty Estates' Restaurant—[River's Edge](#).

- **Weekend #3 November 30 - December 1** Photo Workshops at Harrison Hot Springs, eagle viewing at Pretty Estates, Harrison River RV Resort and Kilby Historical Site. Eagle viewing tours with [Fraser River Safari](#)
- **Weekend #4 December 7 - 8** FVBEF Harrison Mills Event: Pretty Estates , Kilby Historical Site and eagle viewing tours with Fraser River Safari