

## HI ALL: The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival is BACK - Nov 25 + 26



After the human Covid disruptions to "everything" and the Heat Dome and Avian Influenza decimations of our breeding population of eagles, this year we are again welcoming all to attend the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle gatherings of thousands of bald eagles along the Harrison River. This is our recovery year.

Fortunately this year is another peak Pink Salmon run -- and that is normally prelude to bumper numbers of eagles visiting the Chehalis - Harrison complex. The salmon are already here in huge numbers. All the river banks are lined with welcoming fish.

On Thursday last I counted 1031 eagles on the flats in front of the Sandpiper GAZEBO -- the world's most visited -- by eagles and we hope people! By this weekend this could double and by the festival November 25 & 26 weekend we may be on route to a new record -- over 7662 in the 5 km stretch opposite the Sandpiper GAZEBO viewing stand.

Starting early in November the northern breeding eagles of Alaska, Yukon and across the Boreal Forests of Canada are forced south by the lakes and rivers freezing up. We have the first non-freezing river, and we offer a historical welcome to these scavenging eagles for the winter months. The Harrison holds the records for the most productive salmon river in Canada and the largest gathering of eagles in the world.

Our Bald Eagle Festival is the official welcoming party -- help us tell the world of this incredible gathering. On a world scale of big bird congregations, this eagle gathering is a biological happening about equivalent to the Wildebeest migration on the Serengeti.

If you would like a personal interview, or don't have time to get your own images or videos, I would be pleased to provide and answer any questions. After 3 sub-normal breeding seasons locally, it is quite wonderful to have spawning salmon appear in good numbers to welcome both our northern visiting eagles and offer an extra reason for our local breeding eagles to feed and socialize along the coastal rivers. Please call me anytime at: **604 761-1025**

David Hancock, HWF & FVBEP director. See our FVBEP schedule of events:

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