

Mount Helliwell, Hornby Island



Leader: Loys Maingon

Date & Time: Sunday May 15th, 8 am

Meeting Location: Filberg Centre

Car Pool: A Car Pool will leave at 8 am; extra cars may be parked at Buckley Bay ferry terminal. Two BC Ferry rides are included in cost.

Cost: \$35 before March 15, \$40 afterwards

Max participants: 16

What to Bring: Water (no water in park)

How to Dress: Good hiking shoes

Difficulty: No Wheel Access

Helliwell Provincial Park sits on a rocky headland forested with a beautiful stand of old-growth Douglas fir. Located on St. John's Point on Hornby Island, the stunning Helliwell bluffs guard the northern entrance to Tribune Bay.

Spectacular views of marine life, the Strait of Georgia and the Coast Mountains can be had from any point along the bluffs. As you explore the park's meandering hiking and walking trails, you will find weather-beaten old-growth Douglas firs and gnarled Garry oaks, as well as flora and fauna which may seem more at home in a desert than in a Northwest rainforest. The best times to visit are in late April and early May, when colourful wildflowers carpet the hillside along the cliffs. Please stay on designated trails to protect these fragile areas.

Conservation/Wildlife: The primary role of Helliwell Park is to protect rare and endangered terrestrial ecosystem elements, including old-growth Douglas fir and Garry oak meadows, and representative examples of marine ecosystems. The park contains sea bluffs and a rich intertidal zone. Helliwell Park is also an Important Bird Area that serves to identify and conserve a global network of bird habitat areas. It supports significant concentrations of birds that congregate in large numbers such as pelagic cormorants, surf or white winged scoters, glaucous winged gulls, long-tailed ducks, buffleheads, Barrows and common goldeneye and common mergansers. The park is nationally significant for the habitat of one of the last known populations of the endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. A number of other endangered plants and animals can be found in the park, which is also home to the rare Six-gill shark. Many sea birds and marine mammals can be seen from the trail along the bluff in the park. (Above quotes from BC Parks Website)

Parks Web Site <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/helliwell/>