

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

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Questions and Answers

1) How do I fill out my Registration form on line?

While you cannot e-mail your Registration Form to us, you can open a writable PDF file, and use that to enter all your information. The Blue/Grey fields on the form allow you to enter the information, price and check marks as required. This does require Adobe Reader on your machine.

a) Click on the **Fillable Registration** link on the Website. An editable copy of the Form will appear. The grey-green fields are editable; hover your cursor over any colored field, and fill the area in.

b) Fill in the **Contact Information** at the top of page. Do not forget to tick the **Director** or **Executive** boxes if applicable.

c) In the **Upper Table**, type in the cost in the \$Amount column for all the Activities you want to attend that have an added cost.

d) Add up the costs and place this number in the Total row. Indicate if you will be attending the Executive or Director Meetings.

e) In the **Lower Table**, select all the Activities (free and/or paid) you would like to attend. The Activities in each group are concurrent. Select your first choice, and any 2nd or 3rd choices you want. If your first choice is full, we will put you into your second choice etc.

f) Select your **Dietary Requirements** in small table to lower left.

g) Review your contact information, your choices, and your addition.

h) When satisfied, select the Printer Button from Menu at top and your hardcopy will be printed locally.



i) Close the Registration Page. Your Information will not be stored on the Internet.

j) Mail the Registration Form (1 per person), any Waivers you need, and your cheque (1 per person) to the address in Note 3 at the bottom of the form. Sorry, we cannot accept any Registrations by e-mail.

You will receive a written confirmation, either by e-mail or by Canada Post, that we have received your registration and cheque, along with all the choices you selected. Later, we will send a second Confirmation once your choices have been assigned. We will make an effort to assign your first choices, but we cannot guarantee them.

2) What does the Registration Include?

The full three-day registration of \$135 or \$150 entitles you to participate in all the Conference Activities that do not have a separate cost associated with them. The full Registration covers the cost of the Artisan Breakfasts (Friday and Saturday), appetizer during breaks, the wine and cheese social (alcohol not included), and the cost of renting the Florence Filberg Centre for the three days. It also considers an allowance to cover the accommodation and mileage costs for those situations where we have to pay for them.

Partial (one-day) registrations allow you to attend all free Activities that day only. Any Activities with a separate cost attached (e.g. the Dinners and some Field Trips) are charged in addition to the Registration.

The Conference/AGM budget is very tight and any profit (or loss) distributed between CVNS and BC Nature. The Conference/AGM is run only by Volunteers from CVNS that have freely offered their time and skills.

3) What are the Waivers about?

We have two Insurance Waivers on this site. All participants in Field Trips must sign the “Standard CVNS Waiver” to attend any of the trips, except Tree Island (see below), put on during the BC Nature AGM and Conference. Each club member has already signed a similar waiver with his or her club, but as Comox Valley Nature is hosting these events, our Club requires a similar waiver. Only one “Standard Waiver” is required signed for the full Conference. CVNS members have already signed the “Standard Waiver”, and therefore do not need to sign another one.

The second waiver is only required for those participating in the Tree (Sandy) Island Sand Dune field trip, and it is called the “Tree Island Waiver”. The executive of BC Nature felt their insurance would not cover this trip, and so a separate waiver that does not mention BC Nature was required. All participants on this trip, including CVNS members, must sign the “Tree Island Waiver” before leaving on the Tree Island trip.

Both waivers are available on the Website, and if possible, participants should ensure a signed copy of the appropriate waiver(s) is included with their Registration Form. Waivers will also be available at the Registration Desk during the Conference.

Example:

Ann is not going to Tree Island, but is going to VIU, therefore needs only a “Standard waiver”.

Barbara is going to VIU and Tree Island, and she needs both waivers.

Cathy is taking the Tree Island trip only, and only needs the “Tree island Waiver”.

Donna is a CVNS member booking Tree Island and other trips. She only needs to sign the Tree Island Waiver, as she has already has a CVNS “Standard Waiver”.

4) How do I select Workshops on the Registration Form?

The Registration Form shows the Field Trips and Workshops broken into time frames (e.g. Friday afternoon), and they are mutually exclusive for the most part. I.e. one person cannot take two field trips on Friday afternoon.

We have provided a space to indicated your first, 2nd, etc. choice in field trips, in case your first choice is fully booked. For example, say you want to take the Point Holmes Foreshore trip and the Alan Brooks trip. Assuming that your order, you place a “1” in front of the Point Holmes trip,

and a “2” in front of the Alan Brooks trip, if Point Holmes is full, we will register you with the Alan Brooks trip.

If one of your choices is a paid trip (e.g. Mitlenatch), you are advised to select that one as your first choice, and include the cost in your registration cheque.

5) What is the Conference Refund Policy?

Currently the Policy is No refunds after April 1st, but the Registration Sub-committee is reviewing this policy, with a view to providing a more generous policy for last minute cancellations. Any changes to the refund policy will be announced to April 1st, and will be posted on the Website AGM News feed.

Refunds for Field Trips, which are fully booked, or cancelled, will be provided to the Registrant on arrival at the Conference. We will endeavour to advise Registrants of any issues of this sort by e-mail. All requests for refunds will be appraised individually.

6) Why is there a discount for early Registration?

The AGM Committee requires relatively firm Registration numbers. This allows us to provide figures for Catering firm. We asked them to source local produce, where possible, for all meals. Additional associated Conference expenses are dependent on numbers as well. Early Registrations will also give you a better chance of getting the trips you want, and may allow the Committee time to expand the number of Field Trips if feasible.

7) Are there other meal options for the Quadra Island Field Trip (Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre) BBQ lunch?

The availability of a non-salmon option at the Nuyumbalees Cultural Center is currently under investigation. We are also checking on the possibility of having the tour without taking the BBQ Salmon lunch, although if this option becomes available, the participant may have to bring their own lunch, as food service at Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre is limited.

8) What Ferry do I have to catch from the Mainland?

Both the Horseshoe Bay and Tsawwassen-Duke BC Ferry routes terminate in Nanaimo. Courtenay lies about 110 km north of Nanaimo, on either the Inland Highway (#19) which is faster, or the old Island Highway (19a) which is slower, but follows the east coast and is very scenic.

The Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay Ferry terminates at the south end of Vancouver Island in Sidney. This would add about 140 km to the drive north on Vancouver Island.

Ferry Schedules and additional information is available from

<http://www.bcferrries.com/schedules/mainland/>

9) Will I see Whales on the boat trips?

If you mean true whales (e.g. Humpback or Grey Whales), it is unlikely any will be in the Salish Sea (Georgia Strait) in May, although anything is possible. Orcas (Killer Whales, which are really members of the dolphin group) are more likely, as we have a number of resident pods that travel up and down the Salish Sea. Porpoises, seals and sea-lions frequent our coast and are seen quite often.

The only guaranteed way to see a whale is at the Vancouver Island University Research Station Field trip. They have a skeleton of a Grey Whale on display.

Two links are included below. The first (blogspot) reports on recent sightings such as the recent (January 28) spotting of Humpback Whales, and Southern resident Orcas in upper Georgia Strait.

<http://whalesanddolphinsofbc.blogspot.ca/>

<http://whalesanddolphinsbc.com/>

10) Are there any extra trips planned?

As of this writing, there are no further trips planned. We are contemplating Field Trips to the Alpine meadows of Strathcona Park, but these would depend on an early spring and finding volunteer leaders. We will advise you of any extra trips as they develop through the Website AGM News.