

## MAPLE BAY YACHT CLUB - MARINE PARK HOST PROGRAM

TO: Commodore Jim Fisher and members of the Executive Committee

FROM: Julie Scurr, Park Host Coordinator

DATE: October 25, 2024

SUBJECT: ***MBYC Park Host Program - End of 2024 Season Report***

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*In 1986 our yacht club became the first club to participate in the BC Parks volunteer park host program and we have been volunteering as park hosts at Pirates Cove Marine Park on DeCourcy Island ever since. In 2009 we assumed responsibility for serving as Park Hosts in Conover Cove on Wallace Island as well. As Park Hosts we are able to help maintain the natural beauty of these beautiful marine parks at the same time as we assist other boaters so they too may have an enjoyable and safe visit. We act as the 'eyes and ears' for those officially responsible (BC Parks and RCMP) and we have the opportunity to meet and inform other boaters as necessary.*

The 2024 boating season was busy with lots of visitors to the parks, including boaters visiting for the first time. The weather was warm & dry starting in the spring and but unsettled for most of the summer. We did not have the hot dry weather we have experienced in the last year, though drought and fears of wildfires were top of mind for many, until finally the rains came back in the fall.

Fortunately, the park host dock at Pirates Cove was back in service again this season having the chains and anchors inspected and repaired, thanks K2 Park Services, who were able to get all done by the end of last season.

Our members actively participated as volunteer park hosts, at both marine parks, and were in attendance for most of the cruising season, showing a strong presence at the host docks. While our host visit numbers were down this year, it was probably a function of the variable weather experienced rather than desire.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that we have started the park host season in April (rather than May) and run until the end of October (rather than September in the past), enabling a longer shoulder season. The participation is still variable during those shoulder months, but we are encouraged by those who did attend, and hope that there will continue to be more uptake in these months in the future. We will continue to advocate for shoulder season visitation.

We were, once again, able to hold the official Spring Cleanup at Pirates Cove, which saw 19 club members (10 boats) attending and participating and were rewarded with sunshine and dry weather. Friday's happy hour was well attended as was the pot luck dinner on Saturday as well. There wasn't a lot of garbage collected during the clean up but a few big pieces that were brought in were left for K2 to remove. Along with garbage collection, we refreshed the pirate's chest, raked trails, swept off the tent platforms and checked all the stern chains.

Most importantly, I'm pleased to report that our volunteer hosts were welcomed, thanked and complimented by the hundreds of park guests they had contact with, for their participation in the program. It would seem our efforts to maintain the park host program are being well received and appreciated.

While we have pages of documentation, I have condensed the numbers (using the 1800 hrs. count to represent each date) and added a few suggestion/comments/observations that were submitted by individual park hosts. The detailed daily reports are available for inspection (stored at the MBYC) should they be required.

The following synopsis of our 2024 season is submitted for your information and reference.

### **Conover Cove Marine Park, Wallace Island..... Season Totals**



**Number of dates MBCY Park Host in attendance:** 97 (13% decrease over 2023)

#### **1800 hrs Daily Count Totals**

Boats anchored in Conover Cove:

- Canadian 440
- US 86

Boats anchored in Princess Cove:

- Canadian 1075
- US 184

**Total number of boats anchored over-night and enjoying the Wallace Island Park, during the 97 dates monitored:**

- Canadian 1515
- US 270

**The count for kayaks, tents and campers follows.** Please note these numbers are inter-related and **do not** indicate which tents and campers came by kayak, etc.

Kayaks - 209                      Tents - 318                      Campers – 599

What they **do indicate** is that a significant number of guests are using the camping sites and beaches.

Number of contacts between guests and hosts:                      **794**

Number of contacts with park staff:    30

**Suggestions/comments/observations from Park Host notes:**

- Thank you to BCMPF Society for donating the hardware and K2 Park Services for their labour, installing **4 new shore ties in Conover Cove** and making them visible to visitors; this stopped boaters tying to trees and/or rocks, protecting the natural environment in the Cove.
- In the previous year there was a note in the log book, of Scotch Broom growing on the south peninsula. **To prevent the spread of this invasive plant, MBYC would like to organize a work party to cut the broom in the spring and pile up for the park contractor to remove. We need BCP permission to do this needed action.**
- Hosts assisted with docking, anchoring, stern ties, and multiple mechanical issues, including assisting a wedding party disembark and re-embark on their big day 😊
- Lots of day trippers and 1<sup>st</sup> timers to the park again this year, visitors noted from France, New Zealand, Utah, North Carolina, New Mexico, etc.
- Multiple compliments re the cleanliness of park
- Park hosts assisted with some medical emergencies including an injured visitor who fell on the trail and was cut. Safety first!
- Conover is a popular destination for school & youth groups, with multiple groups in attendance throughout the summer, as noted in the log book.
- Several park users asked if an outhouse could be installed at Princess Cove to service visitors in that area of the park.
- The outhouse at Chivers Point does not appear/smell to be working properly and needs to be replaced.
- Park hosts were able to retrieve several tires from the sea bed in the cove and K2 was gracious in removing them from the area to be disposed of properly. (the tires possibly used as bumpers on the resort dock in the past???)
- Once again this year, K2 was a great advocate for the park, answering the calls for service, transporting garbage from the island and maintaining the park in a great condition. A great contractor to be working with, they will be missed!

## Pirates Cove, DeCourcy Island ..... Season Totals



**Number of dates MBCY Park Host in attendance: 73** (an increase from last year, due to the park host float being unusable for most of the cruising season, but a decrease from 2 years previous, probably a residual impact from COVID.)

### 1800 hrs Daily Count Totals

Boats anchored in Pirates Cove:

- Canadian 675
- US 114

Boats anchored in South Cove:

- Canadian 273
- US 29

**Total number boats anchored over-night and enjoying the Pirates Cove Marine Park during the 73 dates monitored:**

- Canadian 948
- US 143

**The count for kayaks, tents and campers follows.** Please note these numbers are inter-related and **do not** indicate which tents and campers came by kayak, etc.

Kayaks - 196                      Tents – 150                      Campers – 293

What they **do indicate** is that a significant number of guests are using the camping sites and beaches.

Number of contacts between guests and hosts:      243

**Suggestions/comments/observations from Park Host notes:**

- MBYC kept the Pirates Chest clean and well stocked on the dates they were there, multiple compliments from visitors (big & small) about the 'treasures' in the chest, and that it's a highlight of the children's summer visits.
- Lots of compliments on how clean the park is.
- Many kudos to the park hosts on their volunteerism and commitment!
- Many hosts commented on having to assist visitors with anchoring and stern tying in the Cove. (Also provided entertainment for the hosts!)
- But amongst the amusement was many comments about providing more **visible identification of the stern ties**, similar to what's in other areas, to allow easier viewing of the infrastructure from the boats arriving.
- Thank you BCP for replacing the tenting platforms at South Beach, the campers appreciated it for sure! And it was noted that there appeared to be more campers in the park this year; it's becoming a popular destination for groups and others.
- A few campers commented that the food cache in the campground is an area that gets lots of sunshine in the daytime and get too hot, and wondered can this cache be relocated to a shadier spot that would keep it out of the sunshine?
- The north side outhouse was torn down this summer, and there were lots of comments from visitor about the wish to have a replacement outhouse installed in the area. Sure hope this is on the radar at BCP, sorely needed for sure.
- The dock ladder on the host float needs a replacement cable installed. K2 has been informed.
- The bat houses are still not occupied 😞 and replacement locations need to be found. Hopefully BCP can help identify and allow relocation. Don't know if bats can control wasps, but it was noted that the wasp season started very early this year and was definitely a problem!
- **Wondered if timber spacers can be installed under the boarding ladders on the dinghy docks to make them more usable? Would create more space for feet on the step. This issue has been noted for several years now, and I personally saw a disabled woman almost fall out of her dinghy because these ladders are not functional. Is BC Parks or the park contractor able to get this repair/reno done?**
- Park users & hosts were concerned about the wildfire danger in the park, due to the amount of underbrush and fallen timber on the ground. Would there be a possibility of MBYC doing a cleanup, maybe bringing in a chipper to help the clean up?
- And finally, the Pirates Chest needs repair. It is hoped that during the Clean up activity in the 2025 season, MBYC will be able to remove, facilitate repair and replace before the summer season.

This brings the 2024 Park Hosting Season to an end. The number of nights that park hosts attended both parks was 170 showing that MBYC members love to volunteer for park hosting duties and to spend time in, and promote, our Marine parks.

If you have any questions, or wish further details, please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Scurr  
2024 Park Host Coordinator

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