

On The Road With Roada...



ello Luvvies,

Well, here we are, just us “girls” and our little darling’s – Tom and Charlotte. Madge and I SO look forward to summers spent with the little ones. Don’t grandchildren grow quickly! But, I digress. I’m here in the absolutely stunning Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park in Parksville and THAT’s what I want to tell you all about.

Madge and I met up with Tom & Charlotte at the Departure Bay ferry terminal in Nanaimo, then headed directly Up Island to our reserved spot at this wonderful Provincial Park. It was a scenic and very short 25 minute drive – even with the stop for Slushies! Horrible things, don’t agree with them myself, Madge and the children have told me to lighten up – everybody loves a Slushie! – so they say.

I’ve gone off on a tangent again, haven’t I? Well, back to the Park. The beauty of majestic old-growth trees, ocean sunsets and a wide sandy beach with campsites nestled amongst Douglas-fir trees makes Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park one of the premier vacation destinations on Vancouver Island.

The warm ocean water and sandy beach makes the park a favourite with families – which is why Madge and I thought this is exactly where we should camp with the children. At low tide, almost a kilometre of sandy flats are exposed, perfect for beachcombing. When the tide rolls in over the sun-baked sand the warmed water is unbeatable for swimming.

There are 174 serviced camping spots and 25 walk-in campsites, within five minutes walk to the beach. The campground is fully equipped with a sani-station, showers, flush and pit toilets and wheelchair accessibility. It was a good thing we’d had the forethought to book ahead as reservations are mandatory between the last week of June and Labour day.

The park is open all year, and fees for the drive-in campsites and walk-in campsites are collected from March 16 to October 15. Provincial Park fees are very reasonable, at \$22/party per night for frontcountry camping. There are a few things to keep in mind when staying at a Provincial Park however:

- ^a Fees are charged per party, per vehicle, per night and a second (non-RV) may be allowed on site for an additional nightly charge of ½ the campsite fee.
- The maximum length of stay in any Provincial Park is 14 days per park, per calendar year. Some parks may limit maximum length of stay to seven days. Limits will be posted in the park.
- If arriving at the park on a first-come, first-serve basis, payment can only be made in CASH. No personal cheques, bank debit or credit cards are accepted.

Oh, we’re all so thrilled to be here! There will be lots of beach frolicking and combing going on for the next two weeks. We’re also planning lots of little day trips – there’s so much to do so close by. We’re going to have lovely long walks up at Englishman River and Little Qualicum Provincial Falls, we’re going to see the Goats on the Roof and sample some smashing iced treats in Coombs and we’re even going to try our hand at golf. Mini-golf that is! Our little charges have told us all about the wonderful mini-golf to be experienced in Parksville and right here on the doorstep of Rath Trevor.

Well, this is Roada, Madge, Tom and Charlotte signing off with our warmest wishes to all for a super summer filled with fun and family and sun!

TTFN (ta, ta for now)

BC FERRY SCHEDULE Swartz Bay - Tsawwassen Victoria - Vancouver Crossing Time 1hr 33 min

May 1 - June 5, 2007

Leave Tsawwassen	Leave Swartz Bay
7:00 am Daily	7:00 am Daily
8:00 am Daily*	8:00 am Daily*
9:00 am Daily	9:00 am Daily
10:00 am Daily	10:00 am Daily**
11:00 am Daily*	11:00 am Daily
12:00 pm FR & SU only	12:00 pm FR & SU only
1:00 pm Daily	1:00 pm Daily
2:00 pm FR & SU only	2:00 pm FR & SU only
3:00 pm Daily	3:00 pm Daily
4:00 pm FR & SU only	4:00 pm TH, FR & SU only
5:00 pm Daily	5:00 pm Daily
6:00 pm TH, FR & SU only	6:00 pm FR & SU only
7:00 pm Daily	7:00 pm Daily
9:00 pm Daily	9:00 pm Daily

* except May 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 & 13

** May 18-21, 26 & 28 only

June 6 - June 26, 2007

Leave Tsawwassen	Leave Swartz Bay
7:00 am Daily	7:00 am Daily
9:00 am Daily	8:00 am Daily
10:00 am Daily	9:00 am Daily
11:00 am Daily	11:00 am Daily
12:00 pm FR & SU only	12:00 pm Daily
1:00 pm Daily	1:00 pm Daily
2:00 pm Daily	2:00 pm TH, FR & SU only
3:00 pm Daily	3:00 pm Daily
4:00 pm TH, FR & SU only	4:00 pm Daily
5:00 pm Daily	5:00 pm Daily
6:00 pm Daily	6:00 pm TH, FR & SU only
7:00 pm Daily	7:00 pm Daily
9:00 pm Daily	9:00 pm Daily

Tsawwassen - Duke Point Vancouver - Nanaimo Crossing Time 2 hours

May 1 - June 26, 2007

Leave Tsawwassen	Leave Duke Point
5:15 am Daily Except SU	5:15 am Daily Except SU
7:45 am Daily	7:45 am Daily Except SU
10:15 am Daily	10:15 am Daily
12:45 pm Daily	12:45 pm Daily
3:15 pm Daily	3:15 pm Daily
5:45 pm Daily	5:45 pm Daily
8:15 pm Daily	8:15 pm Daily
10:45 pm Daily	10:45 pm Daily

Check schedule changes at
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