

City of Vancouver

Nesting Bald Eagle Update

April 27, 2010

The bald eagles nesting in Vancouver have settled in for another breeding season. Most of the pairs have completed the annual renovations to their nest sites, many have laid eggs and some have even hatched chicks. The timing of the egg laying for most sites was similar to last year and only one of the nests has been relocated.



The Wall St (also known as Lafarge) nest site can now be viewed through a webcam supplied by the Hancock Wildlife Foundation (see www.hancockwildlife.org).

Photo: Martin Passchier

Stanley Park Ecology Society staff and volunteers monitor 18 bald eagle nests in Vancouver in cooperation with the Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program (WiTS). Bald Eagles are a common species in British Columbia and their numbers have been increasing in this area and across North America over the last several decades. These large birds of prey have successfully adapted to the urban environment and have constructed nests in large trees near the ocean in a variety of locations including city parks, parking lots, back yards and industrial areas.

Bald eagles are faithful to their mates and their nest locations, resulting in large, deep nests that are used nearly year-round as feeding and resting platforms. Generally between March and July, both parents attend to the raising of chicks from the month long incubation period, through the two-month rearing period until the young are able to leave the nest.

The following details some of the recent developments at nest sites across the city (see map on last page for nest locations):

The Merilees Trail eagle nests in Stanley Park has already successfully hatched one chick on about April 21st despite noisy road construction taking place nearby.

In 2009 the **Pipeline Road** pair, also in Stanley Park, did not attempt to lay eggs possibly because their nest had suffered severe damage over the winter. However, this year they have been observed making the necessary repairs and hopefully have begun incubating a new clutch.

The **Jericho** pair has moved across the street into a black cottonwood tree after their nest in a large Douglas-fir tree fell apart last summer. They were incubating eggs as of March 15th.

The Wall St. eagle pair in the Port of Vancouver laid three eggs again this year but only one of the chicks has survived. This nest can now be viewed through a Hancock Wildlife Foundation webcam (<http://www.hancockwildlife.org/index.php?topic=LaFargeEagleNest>).

The **Vanier Park** nest has successfully hatched two chicks again this year despite some disturbance they felt as a result of the Olympics. There was some concern about the effect of the park's light display which was so close to their nest tree, but due to precautions taken by event organizers, and the resilience of these birds, the pair began incubating on schedule in early March. Sometime around April 9th the first chick hatched and recently a second chick has been confirmed.



This photo taken from the Burrard bridge shows two fluffy, grey heads of eagle chicks. Photo: Martin Passchier



The **Strathcona Park** pair successfully hatched a chick for the first time in several years. This pair built a new nest last season, perhaps in an attempt to have better luck, but to no avail. This year, they moved back to their original site and their persistence has paid off with the successful hatching of at least one chick on April 6th.

The **Strathcona Park** pair has hatched at least one chick in recent days.

Photo: Martin Passchier



Other active nests in Vancouver include the Southlands, Renfrew, Imperial, Kerrisdale, SW Marine Dr, Westbrook, Cathedral and Monument nests. Volunteers have confirmed activity at these nests and some are incubating eggs, but due to their locations, it is often hard to determine this early in the season if there are eggs or young chicks.

The Renfrew pair are still incubating eggs. Photo: Martin Passchier

Inactive nests likely include Towers Beach, Pandora, Musqueam Creek and Dining Pavilion sites. It should be noted that on occasion these pairs have fooled us in to thinking they are inactive because the incubating adults can be hard to observe. SPES volunteers and staff will continue monitoring these sites throughout the season to determine if they are in fact inactive.

Bald Eagle Nests in Vancouver 2010



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|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Merilees Trail | 6 Vanier Park | 11 Kerrisdale | 16 Hastings St. |
| 2 Pipeline Road | 7 Strathcona Park | 12 Musqueam Creek | 17 Southlands |
| 3 Cathedral Trail | 8 Wall St. | 13 Towers Beach | 18 Monument |
| 4 Dining Pavilion | 9 Pandora | 14 Westbrook | |
| 5 Jericho | 10 Imperial | 15 SW Marine Dr. | |

More information: www.stanleyparkecology.ca

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