

*On behalf of Roberts Bay Residents, Welcome to
the beautiful Roberts Bay neighbourhood!*

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Roberts Bay Residents are a small group of neighbours who have been meeting periodically since 2018, with the aim of ensuring that the unique and fragile Roberts Bay ecosystem remains a safe refuge for wildlife, and a source of inspiration for present and future residents and visitors.

In 2018, we met with 70 neighbours to discuss the health of the Bay and surrounding area. Since then, we have been sending out brief e-newsletters to interested neighbours approximately once a month. Our aim is to share information and increase understanding about Roberts Bay and the Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary¹ within which Roberts Bay is located. Our newsletters contain information about the health of Roberts Bay, its animals and plants, volunteer opportunities (no obligation!), events, and ways people can help. Our e-newsletter distribution has now grown to over 150 neighbours.

We focus primarily on news, facts, and analysis based on accepted scientific and expert knowledge, sourced from reputable organizations and environmental professionals. We use verified information sources wherever possible, sharing URLs where applicable. We serve as a contact point for readers' inquiries about where to direct issues and concerns regarding Roberts Bay. We respect the privacy of those on our mailing list, and do not share someone's email address with anyone without permission. If you would like to sign up for our e-newsletter, or have any questions, we welcome you to contact Jocelyn at: robertsbayres@gmail.com

For those new to the area, the Town of Sidney's Parks and Trails Map <https://www.sidney.ca/wp-content/uploads/Parks-and-Trails-Map.pdf> shows parks, trails, beach access points and amenities, including Roberts Bay and Mermaid Creek (#16), an important estuary for the Bay.

On the other side of this page we've included some additional information and tips we hope will be useful.

¹ Information about Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary is available at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-sanctuaries/locations/shoal-harbour.html>, and at <https://www.friendsofshoalharbour.ca/>

Tips to help protect Roberts Bay's fragile ecosystems:

Stormwater Drains:

Storm drains north of Beacon Avenue in Sidney flow directly into the sensitive ecosystem of Roberts Bay. Don't let anything harmful fall into a storm drain, including litter, car washing products, gasoline and lawn chemicals. Stormwater drains marked with a yellow fish are a reminder that all the drains, whether marked or not, lead directly into local watersheds.



On the beach:

1. Keep your eyes open for wildlife! Avoid disturbing birds by viewing them from a distance.
2. Do not let your dog chase or disturb wildlife. This is against the law.
3. Avoid disturbing vegetation. Native plants stabilize the beach and backshore, protecting habitat.



A bit about the birds around Roberts Bay:

We share the Bay with many different bird species who depend on the Bay. Here are a couple of examples:



Bufflehead: a small duck that flies from its summer breeding ground in Northern Alberta to spend winters with us. Their food consists of tiny shrimp, crabs and fish.

Great Blue Heron: The endangered Great Blue Heron lives here all year round and nests around Roberts Bay and nearby area, in tall old trees. You will often see them fishing in the bay when tides are suitable.



If you'd like to know more, **Ebird.org** has a Sidney Roberts Bay hotspot, under the **Explore** tab, with information about over 100 species observed here. You can also print a checklist for Roberts Bay. Go to: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1173047>

We hope you enjoy living here!

We invite you to sign up for our e-newsletter by emailing robertsbayres@gmail.com
(We do not share e-mail addresses on our mailing list)