



**AN INVITATION  
to the Opening Ceremony of the  
Sea to Sky Marine Trail  
in Squamish, British Columbia**

The Province of British Columbia and the Squamish Nation warmly invite you to a community event celebrating the official opening of the Sea to Sky Marine Trail, part of the Trans Canada Trail Network.

The Sea to Sky Marine Trail is a major new recreation amenity for Howe Sound. Six new waterfront public Recreation Sites have been developed as rustic campsites for users of self-propelled watercraft such as sea kayaks. These sites, plus the three existing Provincial Marine Parks, create the opportunity for multi-day paddling and camping trips throughout Howe Sound.

Come out this Sunday to celebrate both the teamwork that allowed this vision to come to fruition and your appreciation of this fantastic marine environment.

When: Sunday, 14 June 2015 at 3 p.m.

Where: Nexen Beach  
37321 Galbraith Ave.  
Squamish, BC

All ages welcome. Bring your canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards, as there will be a short group-paddle from Nexen Beach to St'a7mes for a BBQ and story-telling.

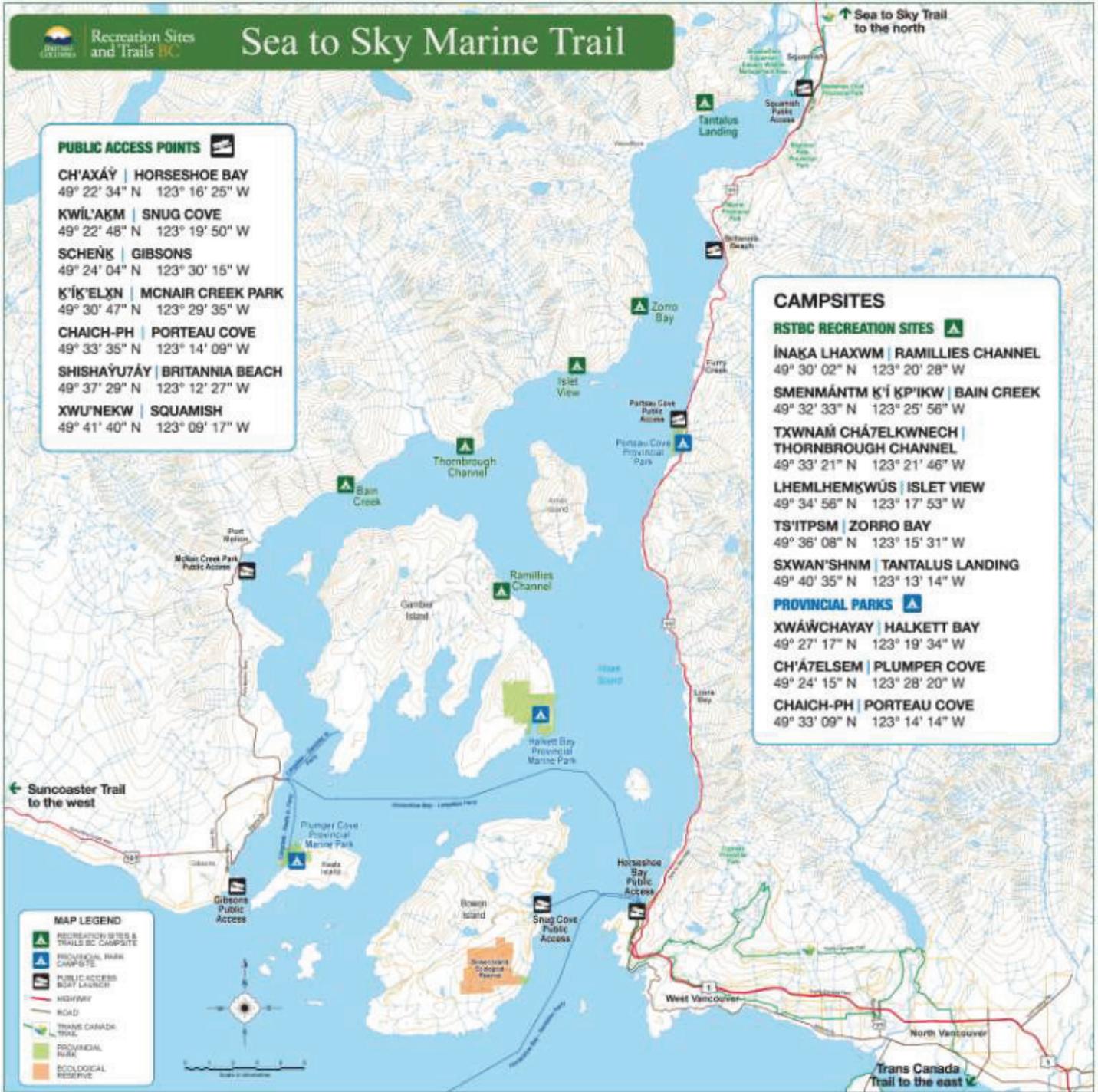
Volunteers are welcome. Call 604-932-1343 for more information on how you can participate.

See you on June 14!

[www.seatoskymarinetrail.ca](http://www.seatoskymarinetrail.ca)

**OVERVIEW:**

This event will celebrate the official opening of the Sea to Sky Marine Trail. In development for over five years, this marine trail network connects the communities of Howe Sound with opportunities for multi-day sea kayak camping trips. The Sea to Sky marine trail network currently links fifteen elements including public access points and campsites. This allows users to enjoy self-propelled marine travel and multi-day camping trips throughout Howe Sound. It will also serve to connect the Sea to Sky Trail in Squamish with the rest of the Trans Canada Trail in West Vancouver.



## EVENT DETAILS:

**Date:** 14 June 2015

**Time:** 3:00 to 7:00 pm

- 3:00-3:30pm: public visitation of information booths, drumming circle, arrival of canoes
- 3:30-4:15 pm: Opening prayer and remarks, drumming circle with welcome song, and speeches
- 4:15-5:00 pm: Group paddle up Blind Channel to St'a7mes Reserve lands
- 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm: outdoor BBQ dinner at St'a7mes Reserve lands (drumming and dancing, storytelling TBC)

**Start Location:** Nexen Beach: 37321 Galbraith Ave., Squamish, BC V8B 0K1.  
Lots of parking available at Nexen Beach, large gravel area

**End Location:** St'a7mes Reserve lands: End of Chief Billy Way, on Stawamus Reserve  
Exit Highway 99 by Totem Hall

## CONTACTS:

- Gordon McKeever - Project Manager  
Sea to Sky Marine Trail  
Tel: 604-932-1343  
[gordon@SeaToSkyTrail.ca](mailto:gordon@SeaToSkyTrail.ca)
- Teresa McMillan, Recreation Technician  
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
Sea to Sky District and South Sunshine Coast District  
Phone: 604-898-2132 / Cell: 604-848-5006  
[Teresa.McMillan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Teresa.McMillan@gov.bc.ca)
- Website: [www.seatoskymarinetrail.ca](http://www.seatoskymarinetrail.ca)

## DIGNITARIES & PARTNER REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE (In speaking order):

MC: Gordon McKeever, Sea to Sky Marine Trail Project Manager

- Chief Bill Williams, Squamish First Nation – TBC
- The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
- Jordan Sturdy, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky
- Patricia Heintzman, Mayor of Squamish
- Representative from BC Marine Trails Network – TBC
- Jim Bishop, Trans Canada Trail Board Director
- Representative from Recreation Sites & Trails BC – TBC

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

<b>Lead agency:</b>	Province of BC: Recreation Sites & Trails BC
<b>Trail type:</b>	Non-linear marine trail network
<b>Network area:</b>	Squamish to Horseshoe Bay - 35 kilometres
<b>(linear distances)</b>	Horseshoe Bay to Gibsons - 17 kilometres
	Gibsons to Squamish - 40 kilometres
<b>Network uses:</b>	Paddling and camping
<b>Network Elements:</b>	

### Seven primary Public Access Points:

- Horseshoe Bay, West Vancouver
- Snug Cove, Bowen Island
- Town Of Gibsons, Sunshine Coast
- McNair Creek Park, Sunshine Coast
- Porteau Cove Provincial Park, mid eastern shore of Howe Sound
- Britannia Beach, north eastern shore of Howe Sound
- District of Squamish, northern tip of Howe Sound

### Three existing Provincial Marine Parks for camping:

- Halkett Bay Marine Park, Gambier Island
- Plumper Cove Marine Park, Keats Island
- Porteau Cove Provincial Park (also listed as an Access Point)

### Six new waterfront Recreation Sites for camping:

- Ramillies Channel Recreation Site, Gambier Island
- Bain Creek Recreation Site, mid western shore of Howe Sound
- Thornbrough Channel Recreation Site, mid western shore of Howe Sound
- Islet View Recreation Site, mid western shore of Howe Sound
- Zorro Bay Recreation Site, north western shore of Howe Sound
- Tantalus Landing Recreation Site, north western shore of Howe Sound

### Traditional Territory:

Howe Sound has been the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation for many millennia. They have supported this project, have provided place names in their own language and have named this trail **áyelhkw shewálh** (which translates to “beach trail”). Part of the subsequent evolution of the Sea to Sky Marine Trail is the intention to develop a strong interpretive signage program.

### An Environment to Celebrate:

For many decades, Howe Sound suffered from serious pollution from a variety of sources including a major copper mine, two pulp mills, a chloro/alkali chemical plant and untreated sewage from some communities. Consequently recreational usage, especially in the northern half, has been much less than other coastal bodies of water.

The acid rock drainage from the mine has been remediated. One pulp mill no longer operates and the other has significantly improved their discharges. The chemical plant site has been remediated. Much energy and many resources have been applied to restore habitat

The result of these positive changes the marine ecosystem is rebounding at a fantastic rate. Orcas and dolphins are routinely seen throughout the Sound. A grey whale was feeding in the Squamish estuary for the first time in memory. The presence of these large marine mammals indicates positive changes throughout the food chain.

The Sea to Sky Marine Trail offers a unique opportunity to experience and celebrate the environmental renaissance of Howe Sound.

## **A Major Opportunity:**

Recreation Sites and Trails BC saw an opportunity and a need to develop more public recreation opportunities in Howe Sound. At the same time, the Sea to Sky Trail project, led by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, needed to connect with the rest of the Trans Canada Trail in West Vancouver. The land route was too hard for the type of trail desired so the decision was made to take to the water.

Water routes already exist on the Trans Canada Trail. Certain sections use lakes or rivers to traverse the landscape. Known as “blueway trails”, the Sea to Sky Marine Trail will be Trans Canada Trail’s first salt water blueway trail section.

Five years in the works, the marine trail network will help reconnect communities with Howe Sound and forms one more link with each other community around the Sound.

Kayaking is a very popular activity in south-west British Columbia. This network will be within an hour’s travel of over two million people. In addition to the positive effects of a healthy outdoor activity, the communities around Howe Sound should experience positive impacts on tourism and their local economies.

The Sea to Sky Marine Trail is a major new free public recreation amenity that helps connect people with their environment in a positive, healthy way. All this plus it is literally in Vancouver’s back yard.

## **Basic Needs of a Marine Trail Network:**

Kayak campers are very self sufficient recreationists. A lack of potable water or toilet facilities on site are not uncommon to this type of camping. Essentially, the most basic need is a safe place to land on shore and a place to pitch a tent. The rustic conditions the new Recreation Sites meet those basic needs.

## **Part of a Bigger Network:**

The Sea to Sky Marine Trail links to the Sea to Sky Trail in the north, the rest of the Trans Canada Trail in Horseshoe Bay and the Suncoaster Trail on the Sunshine Coast. As they are developed, it will also link with other marine trail networks in British Columbia.

## **Partnering for Success:**

The Sea to Sky Marine Trail is an excellent example of the positive results that can come from the collaboration of a diverse group of stakeholders. Contributing to the success of this project are four levels of government, one First Nation, two not-for-profit organizations and the private sector. The Government of Canada’s primary involvement has been through their long time support for the Trans Canada Trail project. The private sector’s key role has also been as a significant contributor towards funding and in the development of the network and the sites.

Our partnership includes:

- **The Province of British Columbia:**
  - **Recreation Sites & Trails BC** – the lead agency and caretaker of the new Recreation Sites.
  - **BC Parks** – caretaker of the three Marine Parks in the Sound.
- **Squamish Nation** – caretakers of Howe Sound for many millennia.
- **BC Marine Trails Network Association** – a not-for-profit organization focused on creating marine trail networks along all parts of British Columbia’s 27,000 km of coastline. They will host a link to the Sea to Sky Marine Trail website, maintain a page of Howe Sound information and include the Howe Sound sites with all pertinent details on their public interactive web map.
- **Trans Canada Trail Foundation** – intent on creating the largest trail network in the world, linking Canada from sea to sea to sea.
- **Squamish-Lillooet Regional District** – government agency hosting one Provincial Park and two Recreation Sites in the network. Funder of initial development of the project.
- **Sunshine Coast Regional District** – government agency hosting two Provincial Marine Parks and four Recreation Sites in the network.
- **Gordon McKeever** – Project Manager.