

Strathcona Wilderness Institute – 2015 Annual Visitor Report
Park Use Permit, Authorization 103312

- **Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre - open from May 22nd to October 12th , 2015.**

The Centre at Paradise Meadows was staffed for 124 days from May 22nd to Oct.12th 2015 as follows:

8 days in May
28 days in June
31 days in July
26 days in Aug.
24 days in Sept.
7 days in Oct.

8040 visitors entered the Centre. In addition, **313** participants & leaders were involved in the organized events (Hikes & Nature Walks etc - see below).
The busiest days drew almost 200 visitors, with an average per day of about 65.

Organized Events Summary : total attendance

6 Nature Walks - 8 participants in 2 (four cancelled because of weather or illness)
15 Hikes : 88 participants in 10 (five cancelled because of weather)
1 pre-booked tour - Probus (21)
2 school groups (36 kids + 8 adults accompanied by an SWI Naturalist)
1 Summer Camp (26 kids + 6 adults)
1 Guest Speaker – Wedlidi Speck - 21 in attendance.
MARS presentation – 26 in attendance (Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society)

note : one hike focussed on “citizen science” with Erica McClaren, Parks Biologist, leading a group to monitor plants at Hairtrigger Lake]

In addition, non SWI events included 2 school groups (85 + 8 adults) plus 1 Summer Camp group (26 + 6 adults).

Visitor Provenance Summary

Canada: 10 provinces/territories – 82% of total visitors

BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, PEI, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland.

US: 33 states -- 4.5% of total visitors

Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri,

Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington DC, Washington, Wisconsin,

Europe: 23 countries -- 11% of total visitors

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Wales.

Other countries: 18 countries - 2.5 % of total visitors

Australia, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Vietnam.

Wheelchair & Trailrider Use

8 visitors made use of the Wheelchairs for the Paradise Meadows Boardwalk during the summer.

2 visitors made use of the Trailrider in July and Judy Norbury, Chairperson of Strathcona Wilderness Institute, travelled up to Battleship Lake on the TrailRider in October and November to inspect the new Accessibility installations.

- **The Buttle Hut - open weekends, June 6th to Aug. 16th, plus Sept. 5-7th, 2015**

The Buttle Hut beside Park HQ at Buttle Lake was staffed for 25 days (= weekends) between June 6th and August 16th, plus the Labour Day weekend.

The total number of Visitors was **991**.

Provenance : 69% Canadian , 6.5% US, 21.5% European, 3 % Pacific Rim .

Organized events - summary

- 2 Hikes in the Buttle lake area : one with **4** participants, one cancelled.
- **The Buttle Nature Camp** : a total of **29** people were involved in the Buttle Nature Camp, June 19th -22nd, including those registered and the guides and lecturers. Based at Strathcona Park Lodge, the group did a series of Nature Walks and Hikes in the Buttle Lake area during the day, and had lectures in the evenings.