



HARRISON RIVER VALLEY
TOURISM HARRISON

TOURISM HARRISON RIVER VALLEY ANNOUNCES SEASON OF THE WILD

Celebrating the Salmon, Eagles, and Sturgeon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 14, 2021

(Harrison River Valley, BC) After over 25 years of collective effort by the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival Committee to promote the winter bald eagle gathering in Harrison Mills, Tourism Harrison is carrying the baton forward with its first *Season of the Wild* celebration.

“Even though the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival is no longer operating, the organizers’ hard work and spirit lives on. While we were saddened to hear that the festival would not be moving forward, we embrace the need to continue building on the Harrison River Valley’s designation as the world’s largest winter bald eagle gathering,” says Robert Reyerse, Executive Director of Tourism Harrison.

The wilds include the waterways surging with life, including salmon and, the modern-day dinosaur, the white sturgeon. Every year, the salmon swim up the Harrison River and come to rest in the region’s tributaries to lay their eggs. Spawning season begins in the middle of October and attracts tens of thousands of eagles. Eagle viewing is from October to early January with peak viewing from late November to early December.



“November foreshadows the arrival of 35,000 plus wintering bald eagles. While the peak numbers are usually present, squabbling for spawned out salmon carcasses is the feature of the day. 25 years of festival history, is now honouring the eagles with *Season of the Wild*, says David Hancock, founder of the Hancock Wildlife Organization.

Guests are encouraged to explore the *Season of the Wild* web page to discover the best ways to see the eagles. Signature experiences include boat tours, nature walks, salmon dishes, and a speaker series. Guests can immerse themselves in the wild by booking one of the region’s **wildlife getaway packages**.

#JUST UP THE ROAD



Video Location: Sandpiper Resort

“Sandpiper Resort has been a prime viewing site for the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival, primarily, due to the Harrison River being in our backyard. Its certification as Canada’s only Salmon Stronghold, deeply, lends to attracting the eagles. We are fortunate to see the thousands of eagles that arrive every year and are expecting another banner year,” says Ted Swaine, General Manager of Sandpiper Resort.

To learn more, visit tourismharrison.com, explore the [themed itineraries](#), and follow Tourism Harrison River Valley on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Youtube](#), and [Twitter](#). Official *Season of the Wild* hashtags are #HarrisonRiverValley, #BreatheInTheWild and #JustUpTheRoad. High-resolution images may be [downloaded here](#).

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Media Contact:

Summer Dhillon

summer@slapcommunications.com

604.614.4609



ABOUT THE HARRISON RIVER VALLEY

The Harrison River Valley communities — Harrison Hot Springs, Agassiz, Harrison Mills, and the District of Kent — have united. Tourism Harrison is now covering the Harrison River Valley. The region shares land with the traditional territories of the Sts’Ailes, Seabird Island, Sq’ewá:lxw, Cheam, Douglas, Leq’a:mel, Samahquam, Sq’ewlets, and Skatin First Nations. Located in the Fraser Valley, the region is blessed with wildlife, natural hot springs, glacier-fed lakes and rivers, and mountain vistas, with a brand essence speaking to “breathing and healing together in the wild”. The Harrison River Valley is located an hour from the Canada-US border and is 1.5 hours from downtown Vancouver.

#JUST ^{UP} THE ROAD