

September 20, 2012

Baikie Island grand opening, Sept. 30

World River's Day is coming up, and it's time to celebrate the grand opening of the Baikie Island Nature Reserve. Join us on Sunday, Sept. 30 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

After decades of industrial use Baikie Island has been restored to its natural state. Many Campbell Riverites donated money to help purchase of this island through the Return to the River campaign in the late 1990s. With the help of that fundraising, the Nature Conservancy of Canada purchased the property in 2000 and began the work of assessing and restoring estuary's island hub. Two backwater marshes and a waterside forest zone have been recreated on the island, and native plants have been established by work crews and volunteers.

"Slowly but surely, the original inhabitants of the island have been returning and range from a multitude of fish and bird species to black bear, deer and mink," says Lynn Wark, the City's parks project supervisor. *"It's a nature lover's paradise!"*

Join the grand opening celebration, Sunday, Sept. 30. A ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. will be followed by opportunities to browse interpretive stations and tour the island until 2:30 p.m. The stations feature information of interest to all ages, and experts who have helped guide the Baikie Island restoration process will be available to answer questions. Refreshments will also be available.

Please note that dogs **must** be on a leash while visiting the park.

View *The Amazing Makeover of the Campbell River Estuary* video on the City's YouTube channel – accessible from the www.campbellriver.ca.

For more information call the Parks Department at 250-286-7275.

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