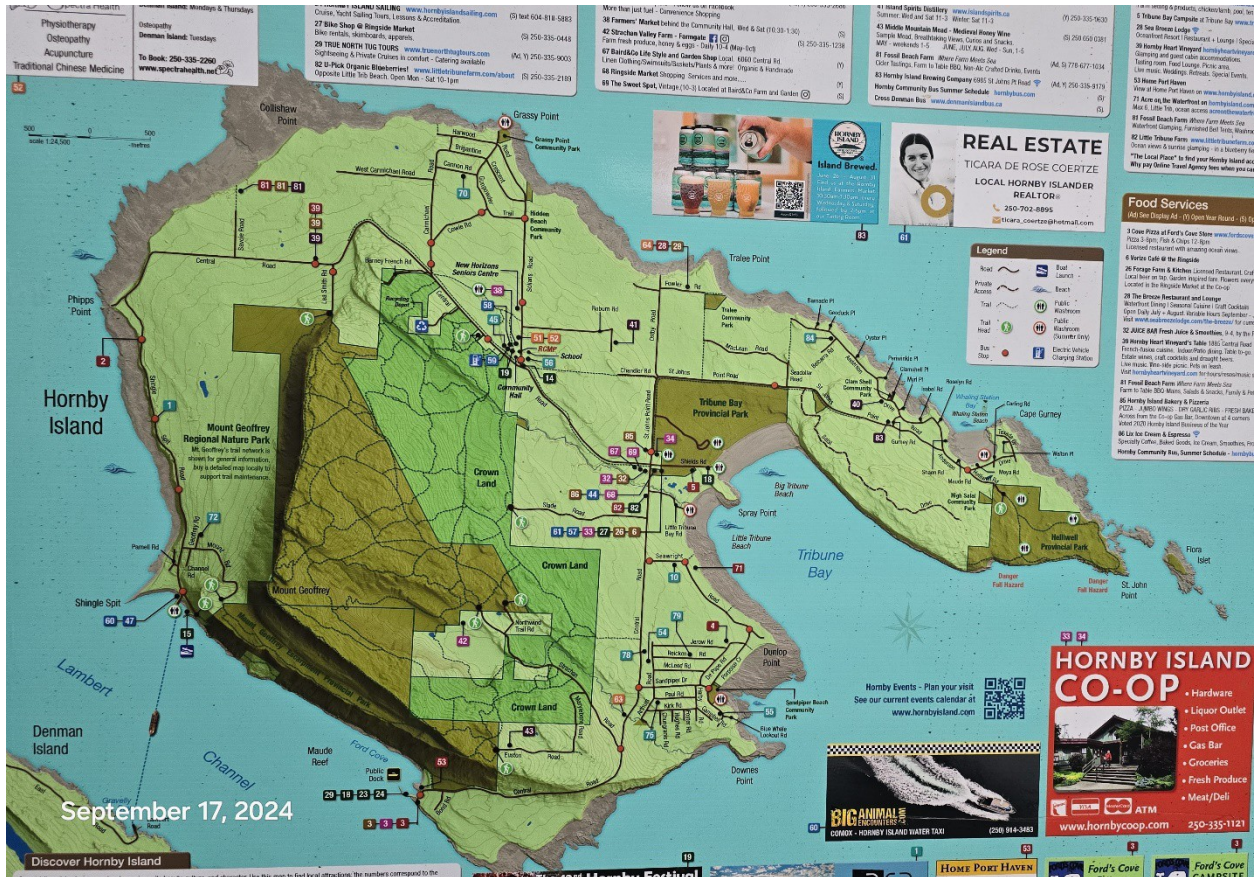


# Hornby Island

Ten Salish Salties travelled to Sea Breeze Resort on Hornby Island on Sunday 15 Sept 2024 for a five day adventure kayaking counter clockwise around this 18 nm Island. We took three days to do it with one day off. As this is “shoulder” season, there were only two restaurants available to us – Fords Cove and The Breeze. Both were good.



Arriving via the ferry from Buckley Bay to Denman and then the second ferry from Denman to Hornby, we all made it in time to attend their annual Fall Fair. It appears everyone on the island was there to socialize, check the exhibits, eat and be merry.





## Hornby Island Fall Fair

## Sea Breeze Lodge

Accommodation at Sea Breeze was very good. We all had booked cabins (with full kitchens) about a year ago, so were able to get what we wanted. Some cabins had recently been renovated and were outstanding. All had a sea view, facing Texada Island. We did breakfasts and prepared lunches in our cabins, and most ate out every night.

On Monday, we repositioned two vehicles at our planned overnight stop at Shingle Spit. We then launched from a long steep carry to the rough beach at Sea Breeze and paddled the 6 nm around the north coast. Finding a suitable lunch stop was a challenge – that coast is very rocky with a long flat rock shelf stretching hundreds of meters out from shore. Winds and currents were mild even though the tidal swing was 12 feet. We locked all our kayaks to each other with a long stainless steel wire close to the boat ramp at Shingle Spit and were pleased to see they were not tampered with when we returned two days later.



Lunch stop - with fast incoming tide!



Kayaks at Shingle Spit

The weather on Tuesday was windy with some rain so we made that our day off to explore the island. There is not much to see and do, but what is on Hornby is wonderful. Most noteworthy is Helliwell Park with its long walks on top of cliffs with spectacularly eroded formations and stunning views to Vancouver Island, Lasqueti and Texada Islands in the distance. The funky shops and galleries beside the Co-Op were fun to explore.



## Helliwell Park

## Painting by Graham Herbert

On Wednesday, we repositioned two vehicles at Tribune Beach and then drove back to Shingle Spit for our 6 nm paddle along some wonderfully scenic shoreline. Passing the well named Norman Point, we had good views back to Chrome Island light house. We found a nice lunch stop near Sandpiper Beach before arriving at Tribune Bay with its wide expanse of white sand. As the tide was a long way out, we had a very long carry to take our kayaks up to a safe location beside the picnic shelter in Tribune Bay Park. As the park is closed from 11 PM to 7 AM, we felt this was a safe place to leave our kayaks for the night, and this proved to be the case.



Tribune Bay



Helliwell Park

On Thursday we left all our vehicles at Whaling Station Bay as we decided it was a better beach to remove and load our kayaks on our vehicles than at Sea Breeze. To actually circumnavigate the entire island a few of us went all the way to Sea Breeze before backtracking to the Bay. The coast from Tribune Bay passing Helliwell Park was the most spectacular of the entire trip. We ogled and noodled and took many pictures. Passing St John Point islands we were greeted by hundreds of skittery seals – all insisted on charging into the water en masse when they spotted us! Sounded like a freight train. When we were spotted by a large pod of snarly growly sea lions, we became the skittery ones!

We returned home on Friday, some stopping to pick up fresh fish/oysters at the Fanny Bay fish store behind the Petro Canada gas station. Others stopped for the canned salmon, at Nuu-cha-nulth owned, St. Jean's Cannery in Nanaimo.

Contact any of us for more information about kayaking at Hornby Island: Allison Altherr, Barbara McDougall, Vic Turkington, BJ Porter, Jonathan Lomas, Susan McGillivray, Jim Lamb, Katie Jones, Greg Rooney & Norm Smyth.



Tribune Bay sunrise.