

## Park Hazards

Boaters are cautioned to keep a close eye on the weather as Stuart Lake is subject to sudden heavy winds which can transform the lake surface into dangerous whitecaps. Small boats should never venture far from shore.

Safe swimming practices are a must! Visitors are encouraged to stay within the designated swimming area. There are no lifeguards on duty.

## Special Regulations

- ▶ Help us to protect your parkland. Enjoy your visit to Paarens Beach Provincial Park, but leave it as you have found it so future visitors may enjoy the park as you have. All natural features and man-made structures are protected under the *Park Act*.
- ▶ Alcohol and boats do not mix. Alcohol is permitted only in designated camping areas and not while operating your boat.
- ▶ Be extremely careful with fire. Fires are permitted only in designated fire rings.
- ▶ If you bring a pet, keep it under control at all times and do not let it disturb other park users.
- ▶ Anglers must be in possession of a current British Columbia fishing licence and British Columbia fishing regulations apply.

## Reservation Service

A number of campsites at Paarens Beach Provincial Park are available for reservation. To reserve a site call the *Discover Camping* Reservation Service toll free at 1-800-689-9025. Internet users can visit the website at [www.discovercamping.ca](http://www.discovercamping.ca) for further information.

## Visitor Information

The relatively flat geographic features of the Nechako Plateau give way to the rolling hills around Fort St. James. Mount Pope, overlooking Stuart Lake to the west, signals the beginning of the Omineca Mountains rising to the north. The lake, about 70 kilometres long, is one of the largest natural lakes in the province.

The park is located on a stretch of wide, sandy beach. A change house, abundant picnic tables, playground and a log picnic shelter all add up to long, leisurely summer afternoons of swimming, sunbathing and enjoying the outdoors.

The campground provides 36 well-maintained campsites, some right next to the beach. A boat launch provides access to the renowned fishing opportunities of the whole Stuart-Takla chain of waterways.

The diverse terrain and vegetation in the area surrounding the park maintains abundant wildlife.

Paarens Beach Provincial Park is located less than a two-hour drive northwest of Prince George. Travel Hwy 16 for one hundred kilometres west of Prince George to Vanderhoof, then take Hwy 27 north for another 54 kilometres. Then prepare to relax and enjoy the leisurely days of summer at the lake.

For more great lakeside camping, Sowchea Bay Provincial Park is located just five kilometres down the road from Paarens Beach.

## For More Information

BC Parks

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



Ministry of Water, Land  
and Air Protection

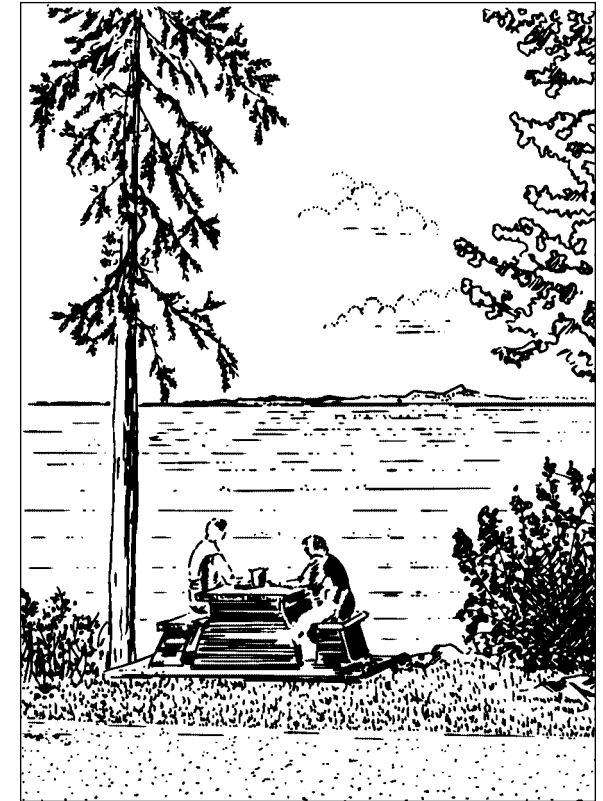


03/2003



# Paarens Beach

## PROVINCIAL PARK



Welcome. Paarens Beach is a delightful small provincial park that few people outside of the area seem to know about. Situated on the southwest shore of beautiful Stuart Lake, it is an ideal base from which to explore the rich history and enjoy the multitude of recreational opportunities around Stuart Lake and the nearby community of Fort St. James.

## Nechako

## Facilities

Paarens Beach Provincial Park provides visitors with well-maintained camping facilities. It is the ideal centre from which to participate in the wide range of recreational opportunities available in the area.



36 campsites at Paarens Beach Provincial Park. Each has a picnic table and fire ring.



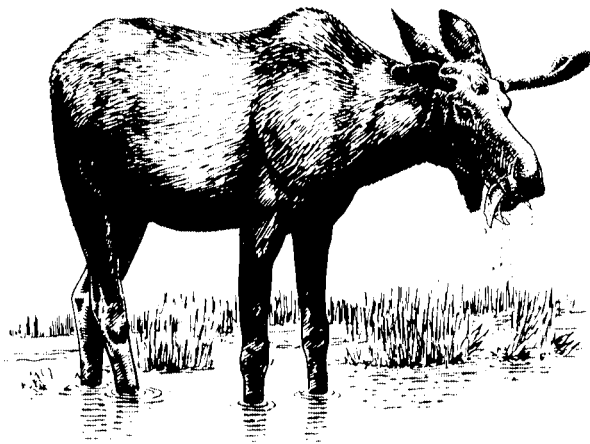
A large day-use/picnic area is located adjacent to the beach. Change houses, abundant picnic tables, a playground for the kids and a log picnic shelter are available.



A boat launch, located within the park, provides access to Stuart Lake.



The beach area provides excellent swimming and sunbathing opportunities. Visitors are encouraged to stay within the designated swimming areas. There are no lifeguards on duty.



Part of the Fraser River watershed, the Stuart–Takla chain of waterways is famous for its fishing. Fish for rainbow trout, lake char, Dolly Varden, ling cod (burbot) and kokanee. Refer to the current *BC Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis* for specific catch quotas and regulations.



Stuart Lake has a lot of shoreline to explore. Boaters are cautioned to keep a close eye on the weather as the lake is subject to sudden heavy winds which can create dangerous conditions.



A popular hiking destination in the area is **Mount Pope Provincial Park**, located across the lake from Paarens Beach Provincial Park. Although the first part is relatively steep (climbing 300 metres in elevation), the overall slope is roughly 13% with periodic viewpoints along the way. The entire elevation gain of the six-kilometre trail is 791 metres. Allow four to six hours for the round trip.

Another interesting hike is the **Tulle Lake** trail network featuring 15 kilometres of interconnecting trail to three lakes with good fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities.

For the extremely energetic hiker with extra time to spend, the historic **Nautley/Sowchea Pack Trail** intersects the Tulle Lake trail system. This 45-kilometre trail was used for generations as an early trade route between villages on Fraser Lake and Stuart Lake.



Although Paarens Beach does not have any mountain biking opportunities within the park, the sport is gaining in popularity around the Fort St. James area. A small handout is available locally which can direct visitors to several popular mountain bike routes.



Windsurfing is a popular activity on Stuart Lake.

## Local Attractions

### Fort St. James National Historic Park:

Paarens Beach Provincial Park is an ideal base from which to explore the rich heritage of the area. Only minutes away in Fort St. James you can visit Fort St. James National Historic Park. This fully restored Hudson's Bay Company Post commemorates the partnership between the fur traders and First Nations people. The fort was the hub of commerce and communication in the 1800s. It was the capital of this extensive area known as New Caledonia, which later became British Columbia. The historic site is home to the largest group of original wooden buildings depicting the fur trade in Canada. The massive fur warehouse is one of the finest examples of Red River framing in North America.

Visitors will receive a warm welcome at the modern visitor centre where they can watch a presentation in the theatre, walk around the display room and step back in time with a walk out to the old Hudson's Bay Company Post. Daily programs include costumed interpreters in each historic building, livestock, gardens and traditional arts by aboriginal people. Before heading home visitors can relax and enjoy the scenery while having lunch at the Old Fort Cafe, an open-air log building with picnic tables.

### Mount Pope Provincial Park:

The most popular hiking destination in the area is Mount Pope. From the 1,472-metre summit the panoramic view of Fort St. James, Stuart Lake and the snow-capped Omineca Mountains to the north is unbeatable. A gazebo at the top provides hikers with a place to rest and enjoy the view. Allow four to six hours for the round trip. The mountain was named after Major Franklin Pope who, in 1865, spent the night alone on the mountain after being separated from his Carrier guides while surveying a route for the Overland Telegraph to Siberia.

### Our Lady of Good Hope Church:

Another site of historical interest is Our Lady of Good Hope Church which was built in 1873. It is the third oldest church in the province and remained in regular use until 1951. Visitors can attend a weekly mass at the historic church in the summer months.