

## Parksville Beaches Temporarily Closed to Dogs

We wish to remind the public, Parksville beaches within the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area (PQBWMA) will be temporarily closed to dogs for the annual Brant geese migration. Rathtrevor Beach will be closed to dogs from February 15 to April 30 and Parksville Bay Beach from March 1 to April 30.

The Black Brant geese you see along our shores are on a difficult journey of migration from California and Mexico to northern nesting grounds. Our beaches provide an abundant food source for Brant, which need to gain weight and strength before making another non-stop flight. Disturbance caused by something as simple as a child or dog running on the beach can have drastic effects on the geese while feeding. For this reason, Parksville beaches are closed to dogs on-leash and off-leash during the same time each year.

It should be noted, the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area has regulations in place that dogs must always be leashed within the wildlife management area. Information about PQBWMA may be found <u>here</u>.

## **Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park**

Permanent and seasonal beach closures exist for pets along the shores of Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park to protect migratory birds. The beach is closed to dogs from February 15 to April 30. The sandy day-use beach along the east shore of the park is closed to pets year-round. Leashed pets are only permitted on the rocky north shore of the park from May 1 to February 14. Information about Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park may be found <u>here</u>.

Questions should be directed to the RAPP line (Report All Poachers and Polluters) <u>online</u>, by phone 1 877 952-7277 and #7277 on the Telus mobility network.

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For more information: Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications communications@parksville.ca; 250 954-3073

> The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations, home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.

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