

# RAPTOR NESTS

## NORTH PENDER ISLAND DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA

### What Are They?

North Pender Island contains important trees used by bald eagles, other raptors and great blue herons for nesting and breeding.

**Bald Eagles** are a regionally significant species. North Pender Island supports a population of resident and wintering birds. Resident eagles establish a territory around a nest site with most pairs using the same site for their entire breeding life. Nests are semi-permanent structures that represent a significant investment of energy. Eagle nest trees requirements are specialized and typically involve large, 150+ year old Douglas-fir trees located within one kilometre of the shoreline water.

**Other Raptors** include falcons, hawks, ospreys, vultures, owls and golden eagles.

**Great Blue Herons** are listed as a threatened species in British Columbia. Breeding is concentrated in the Strait of Georgia, with large colonies nesting in forest areas or on solitary trees near estuarine mudflats and eelgrass beds. There are no large breeding colonies of herons on North Pender.



Derek Holzapfel

### Why They Are Important

Eagles, raptors and herons are extremely susceptible to human disturbance during the breeding and nesting season. In addition, these species have lost a significant number of nest sites due to logging and land development. In order to maintain healthy local populations of these significant and, in some cases, threatened species, it is necessary to protect their habitat, and breeding and nesting sites.



Hans Tammemagi

***Raptor and heron nest areas make up only 0.6% of North Pender Island***

### Their Purpose

The purpose of the Raptor Nests Development Permit Area (DPA) is to offer protection to a number of identified raptor and heron nests on North Pender Island by guiding any new development that might occur adjacent them. The areas covered by this DPA are indicated in Schedule O of the North Pender Island Official Community Plan (OCP).

### What Does This Mean?

If you have a property that is partially located within a Raptor Nests DPA you will need to obtain a development permit from the Islands Trust before undertaking certain new land-altering activities identified in the North Pender Island OCP.

The regular maintenance of existing buildings and landscaping, as well as any development that takes place outside of the DPA does not require a Development Permit.



Islands Trust

# Extent of Raptor Nests DPA Areas on North Pender Island



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## Associated Species

### Animals

*Eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures, osprey, owls, great blue herons*

### Plants

*Nest and perching trees such as old Douglas-firs*

### Rare Species

*Raptors and great blue herons are protected under British Columbia's Wildlife Act*

## How to Protect this Ecosystem

### Retain Existing Raptor and Heron Habitats

Protect existing or potential nest trees, perches, roost trees, snags and trees with potential nesting cavities. Where possible, retain groups of trees rather than isolated single trees.

### Establish a Surrounding Buffer

A protective vegetated buffer around a nest area will help protect it from potentially harmful outside disturbance.

### Avoid Disturbance

Limit human activity in these areas while occupied - particularly during the breeding and nesting season. Human activities may disrupt important nesting, breeding, roosting and feeding activities. If necessary, conduct potentially disruptive activities during periods when birds are not using the area. Locate new trails, buildings and roads away from known nesting, roosting and foraging areas.

### Consider Establishing a Protective Covenant

Properties with raptor or heron nests may qualify for the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program. This program provides landowners who permanently protect natural features of their land with the opportunity to receive a 65% exemption in property taxes on the protected portion of their land. [www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/naptep.cfm](http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/naptep.cfm)

*Ecosystem DPAs guide development in identified ecologically sensitive areas*

## For More Information

To determine if your land has a Raptor Nests DPA on it consult the North Pender Island Official Community Plan (OCP). Copies of the OCP are available from Islands Trust offices in Victoria and Pender Island, and on-line at:

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/np](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/np)

If you have any questions about DPAs please contact Islands Trust staff by phone by dialing 1.800.663.7867 and requesting 250.405.5151 or by email at [npi@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:npi@islandstrust.bc.ca).