

Sights as you Paddle on Sproat Lake

Welcome to the beautiful Alberni Valley and Sproat Lake (Named after Gilbert Malcom Sproat who was an entrepreneur and colonial official). The lake is 25 Km's long and has 3 Provincial parks around its boundaries. The area has a rich history and beautiful scenery for your paddle. Here is an outline and description of the sights you will see on your way.

The race starts at Sproat Lake Park. The park has camping and picnic areas plus a nice swimming beach. Be sure to walk to the Petroglyphic on the rock wall; these pictographs are estimated to be a thousand years old and were made by our local Indigenous people

Leaving from the start of the race at Sproat lake Provincial Park Boat launch you will see the following sights:

- 1) To the right you will see the famous Water Bombers. While no longer in service these Bombers fought many of the fires in B.C. and even went to Australia to help out. The Plane at the rear is painted the original colours from the U.S Air force. The future of these planes is uncertain.
- 2) To the left is Bishops landing. The original starting point for days in the past for logging crews and the connection to take passengers to Klitsa Lodge. Today the area houses the Fish and Duck Restaurant and Pub and you can rent houseboats to cruise the Lake and relax.
- 3) Slightly to the left and straight ahead of the departure point you will see Massacre island. In 1856 a local Indigenous Band was chased onto this island by an invading east Coast tribe and were massacred on this island.
- 4) Directly to the right you will see Weiner Bay where Drinkwaters Restaurant, Bar and accommodations are. You will also find a Beer and Wine store there and a convenience store.
- 5) Heading out from the start for you will see Vanderbilt Island with a rich history. In 1920 Cornelius Vanderbuilt purchased the island. The island has changed hands many since the Vanderbuilts sold it in 1927.
- 6) To the right of Vanderbilt Island you will see the point where the old Klitsa lodge was situated. Klitsa Lodge operated for many years and people would travel by boat from bishop's landing to go and stay they relax, fish and hunt. Today, the point is occupied by a house overlooking the beautiful view.
- 7) Going right past Klitsa point you will hit the straight away to Battleship Island. The long race halfway point is past Battleship Island and you will return.

Enjoy many of the sights and activities of the areas particularly the beautiful outdoors. For information on some of the Hiking trails in the area check out the following Website <http://www.valleyoftrails.ca/>

For an informative book on Sproat Lake, its history and pioneer families obtain a copy of Sproat lake Reflections by Sproat lake History Book Committee 2008.