

WAYFINDING AND BEACH ACCESS SIGNAGE FOR PENDER HARBOUR

*Prepared by the Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association, Spring
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Harbour Chamber of Commerce*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tourism is Vital

As we all know, tourism is one of the main economic drivers of the Sunshine Coast. It benefits all facets of business: restaurants and grocers, accommodation, retail outlets, adventure tourism and so on.

The Drawback: Lack of Access

One of the biggest drawbacks to tourism in Area A is the lack of access to some of our finest oceanside attractions. Many of our parks and public have zero signage to attract visitors. For example, residents often report talking to visitors who are lost and frustrated while trying to find our spectacular Francis Point Provincial Park, but there is no directional signage in the community. Being unable to find our best oceanfront attractions (other than the Skookumchuck) is clearly detrimental to tourism.

Helping Visitors Interact with our Ocean

With this in mind, PHARA is proposing that select signage be installed at the sites listed herein. Attached maps should help those who may not be familiar with the sites (which is another reason for erecting signs).

First Nations Recognition

The Shíshálh nation would be invited to add their historic names for the areas to the park and access signage.

FRANCIS POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

Location: (N 49.610936. W 124.05752) At the end of Merrill Road off Francis Peninsula Road

Attractions: Easy access to sheltered ocean bay, excellent hiking trails through 81 hectares of forest and along mossy bluffs fronting on the Strait of Georgia. Fantastic views over the Strait. Great picnic spot. Good parking. Outhouse.

Ownership: Private land under lease to the Provincial Government.

Reason for signage: Currently there are no directions signs on highway or at the access to road to park. It is not on a main road. Visitors have been unable to find the park since its inception. Many residents report visitors driving around in frustration trying to find it.

Signage request: Install one sign at the intersection of Francis Peninsula Road and Highway 101 on MOTI right of way. Sign to read: "Francis Point Provincial Park" with a directional arrow. Install second sign at the junction of Merrill Road and Francis Peninsula Road on MOTI right of way. Sign to read: "Francis Point Provincial Park" with a directional arrow.

Wayfinding signage to FP Prov Park



FRANCIS POINT PROVINCIAL PARK



GARDEN BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

Location: (N 49.646173. W 124.007640) Turn off Highway 101 at Garden Bay Road. Follow until Claydon Road. Left on Claydon to park sign.

Attractions: Overlooks Garden Bay waterfront and boat anchorage. 4.5 km walking trail through forest and along 200 metres of shoreline, swimming, dinghy dock for launching kayaks, canoes, SUPs etc., fishing, picnic tables, outhouse. Good parking.

Ownership: Provincial Government park, signs on MOTI right of way.

Reasons for signage: Park is seldom used as the only signage is at the entrance to the park off Claydon Road, which is not on any main road.

Signage request: Install sign at the junction of Claydon Road and Garden Bay Road on MOTI right of way. Sign to read: "Garden Bay Marine Provincial Park," with a directional arrow.

GARDEN BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK



GARDEN BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK



GARDEN BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK/MOUNT DANIEL HIKING TRAIL

Location: (49.64548° N. 124.00048° W) Access off Garden Bay Road (5223 Garden Bay Rd). Turn left onto Garden Bay Road from Highway 101. Look for pullout/parking area on left side of road a short distance past the road the Pender Harbour Transfer station.

Attractions: Approx one-hour hike to top of mountain. Excellent views all round. Very popular tourist attraction.

Ownership: Provincial Government park, signs on MOTI right of way.

Reason for signage: Access and parking area is very poorly marked. Small trail map sign is poorly visible. Many visitors cannot find the access.

Signage request: Mount Daniel Hiking Trail sign opposite parking area pointing to access, on MOTI right of way. Sign to read: "Mount Daniel Trail" with a directional arrow.

GARDEN BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK/MOUNT DANIEL HIKING TRAIL



GARDEN BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK/MOUNT DANIEL HIKING TRAIL



BAKER BEACH (KWILKWILEM)

- **Location:** 12499 Baker Road. Turn off Highway 101 at Francis Peninsula Road, left on Murdoch, left on Davis Road which becomes Baker Road. Drive to parking area at end of Baker Road.
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- **Attractions:** Five-acre park. Very pretty setting. One of the few accessible sandy ocean beaches in the harbour. Driftwood logs for lounging. Swimming, picnic benches. Dogs on leash. Wheelchair accessible trails. Good parking.
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- **Ownership:** SCRD, signs on MOTI right of way.
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- **Reasons for signage:** Very difficult to find for visitors due to the many turns that must be made to reach the park.
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- **Signage request:** One sign at the intersection of Warnock Road and Davis Road on MOTI right of way. Sign to read “Baker Beach Park” with a directional arrow.

BAKER BEACH (KWILKWILEM)



BAKER BEACH (KWILKWILEM)



MARTIN COVE

Location: (N 49.6213. W 124.0639) Near end of Francis Peninsula Road. Turn off Highway 101 onto Francis Peninsula Road. Either drive along the length of Francis Peninsula Road or the more direct route: Follow Francis Peninsula Road to Murdoch. Make left onto Murdoch then left onto Francis Peninsula Road. Martin Cove is on the right.

Attractions: Secluded cove with deep walls for scuba diving and established path down to beach. Logs to lounge on. Popular swimming and scuba diving spot with easy entrance to ocean. Kayak, canoe SUP launch site. Underwater sea life includes wolf eel, octopus and nudibranchs. Parking is limited.

Ownership: MOTI right of way

Reason for signage: Currently not marked at all. Visitors may not know it is a public access.

Signage request: Sign on Francis Peninsula Road at entrance to access point. Sign to read “Martin Cove Beach Access” with a directional arrow.

MARTIN COVE



MARTIN COVE



BARGAIN HARBOUR

Location: Turn off Highway 101 at Francis Peninsula Road, proceed over small bridge over Canoe Pass and pull off to the left side of Francis Peninsula Road at the pullout overlooking the ocean (Bargain Harbour).

Attractions: Great views of the bay, steps that lead down to the rocky shoreline, ample parking, scenic rest stop.

Ownership: MOTI right of way.

Reason for signage: The path to the beach is not marked and most people will miss it.

Signage request: Request a beach access sign near the steps to the beach or across road. Sign to read "Bargain Harbour Beach Access" with a directional arrow.

BARGAIN HARBOUR



BARGAIN HARBOUR



OVERALL BEACH ACCESS/OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SIGNAGE

We propose a community beach access, outdoor adventure and attractions sign to alert visitors to these local activities.

Location: Northwest corner of Highway 101 and Francis Peninsula Road, across Francis Peninsula Road from the Pender Harbour Health Clinic. There is a wide undeveloped gravel section of road here, currently used for general parking. In addition, a tourist information highway sign announcing the map could be placed on Highway 101 south of Francis Peninsula Road.

Attraction: A general map on this unused section of MOTI right of way would allow visitors to better locate the main ocean access points as well as other useful information for visitors (i.e. lake access, trailheads and other outdoor activities). This would not only guide visitors but show them some of the excellent activities available in our area and reduce the current confusion on finding these locations.

Ownership: MOTI right of way

Reason for Signage: This map would better provide information about the myriad outdoor opportunities in our area and to provide access information for visitors. Currently there is no such signage at any of the entrances to the Pender Harbour area.

Signage request: A large sign, potentially 4' x 8' be erected in the location noted above. Also, another sign be located on Highway 101 south of Francis Peninsula Road to alert visitors of the map just ahead.

GENERAL WAYFINDING SIGNAGE



NEXT STEPS

We are currently mapping out exact GPS coordinates for these signs. If the project receives SCRD support, we would be asking you to approve staff time for assistance in reviewing, approving and determining a plan to support this important community initiative, and to garner the necessary approvals from MOTI and Provincial Parks on our behalf.

The signs would be designed and built to SCRD (and MOTI) standards and then approved by the SCRD and MOTI. The Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association (PHARA) volunteers would work with the sign makers to produce the signs and would take on installation of the signs or, if the SCRD prefers, they could do the installations themselves.

PHARA has \$2,500 in funding (thanks to a 2020 SCRD Grant in Aid). All we are asking is that the SCRD allow staff to spend time to help obtain the necessary approvals.