

1888

Stanley Park
officially opens.



Happy Birthday, **STANLEY PARK**

Vancouver's favourite attraction turns 125 this year. We look back at some historical highlights

BY SHERI RADFORD



1886

Vancouver's first city council, in its first meeting, decides to request that the federal government lease them a 400-hectare (1,000-acre) military reserve to be used as a park.



1898

The Nine O'Clock Gun fires for the first time. Unknowing visitors to Stanley Park still jump when this cannon booms every evening.

1909

New York City makes a gift of eight pairs of grey squirrels. The huge squirrel population in Stanley Park today is the result of that gift.



1917

Master stonemason Jimmy Cunningham begins building what will eventually become the Stanley Park seawall.



1936

The picturesque Lost Lagoon Fountain goes into action. Formerly used in Chicago's World's Fair, it was purchased for \$35,000.



1962

Hurricane Frieda makes it all the way to Vancouver, toppling 3,000 trees in Stanley Park.



1972

Sculptor Elek Imredy's "Girl in a Wet-suit" is installed along the Stanley Park seawall. This life-sized bronze statue of a female scuba diver was inspired by the famous mermaid statue in Copenhagen.



2006

A terrible windstorm strikes Stanley Park, damaging much of the seawall and destroying 41 hectares (101 acres) of forest. The public raises millions of dollars to restore the beloved park.



1955

Jimmy Cunningham officially retires, though he continues supervising construction of the seawall, occasionally in his pyjamas.

1980

The second (and, presumably, final) opening of the Stanley Park seawall takes place.



2013

TripAdvisor's first Travellers' Choice Awards name Stanley Park the best park in the world, beating out tough competitors such as New York City's Central Park.

1916

Construction of the Stanley Park causeway causes Lost Lagoon to become land-locked.



1938

The Lions Gate Bridge opens, connecting North Vancouver to downtown via Stanley Park. The Guinness family (of beer fame) paid \$6 million to build it.



1934

Malkin Bowl opens with a performance by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Today the outdoor space is used for concerts and Theatre Under the Stars (page 73).



1956

The Vancouver Aquarium (page 73) opens. It eventually becomes the largest aquarium in Canada.

1971

The first official opening of the Stanley Park seawall takes place, even though the section between Second Beach and Third Beach remains unfinished.

2001

Timothy Taylor's much-praised novel *Stanley Park* is published.



2013

August 24 and 25

A huge party celebrates Stanley Park's quasiquintennial. The whole family is invited for a weekend of music, games and memories. Canadian rockers Arkells, The Born Ruffians and We Are the City perform at Second Beach. Bobs & Lolo, Music with Marnie and Will Stroet & the Backyard Band entertain the wee ones. Fans of experimental theatre watch Boca del Lupo's outdoor performances of *Fall Away Home*. Sports fanatics cheer at cricket, rugby and Coast Salish Slahal games. Also on the schedule: ecological talks, wildlife trail walks, bike tours, mural art workshops, performances in the Shakespeare Garden and a *Grease* sing-a-long. See page 68 for more information. [W](#)



1980

Children's performer Raffi releases "Baby Beluga." The popular song was inspired by the Vancouver Aquarium's Kavna the beluga whale.

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