

Gathering of the Eagles

5.22.22



Canoe Encampment & Potlatch

Wednesday, May 25, 2022
SAN JUAN to ORCAS ISLAND

7:00 am Breakfast & Break down camp
8:00 am Depart for Camp Orkila, Orcas Island
9:00 am Low Tide
1:00 pm Canoes Family Lunch

PUBLIC WELCOME TO ATTEND EVENTS
4:00 pm Victory Paddle & Landing at Camp Orkila
5:00 pm Islanders bring your own chair & Dinner
6:00 pm Canoe Family Protocol
11:00 pm Conclusion

Thursday, May 26, 2022
ORCAS ISLAND

8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am Travel to Sacred Site of Mt. Constitution
12:00 pm Lunch (on your own)

PUBLIC WELCOME TO ATTEND EVENTS
2:00 pm Afternoon with the Elders Storytelling
5:00 pm Islanders bring your own chair and Dinner
6:00 pm Canoe Family Protocol
1:00 am Conclusion

Friday 11am DEPARTURE TO LUMMI



Gathering of the Eagles Canoe Encampment 2022

YOU ARE INVITED to a special inter-island tribal canoe journey “The Esqaplh etse Kwelengsen” (Gathering of the Eagles). This grassroots journey will follow ancestral highways May 22 through May 27 in the traditional territories of Lopez, San Juan, and Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands.

We expect a dozen indigenous canoe families from the Salish Sea, Portland, Seattle, and Maui to celebrate with islanders at every stop-over to share songs and dances in the Hope of inspiring the next generation of community building & organizing.

Schedule:

May 22-23 Lopez Island Odlin County Park

May 23-25 San Juan Island arrival near Shipyard Cove, camping at Fairgrounds

May 25-27 Camp Orkila on Orcas; Starts 4pm Wed. 25th & 2pm Thurs 26th; bring dinner & chair

May 27 Lummi Nation weekend potlatch

May 28 with a Special Honoring of Se-Sealth (Jewell Praying Wolf James) 1:00 pm at the Wexliem Community Center, 2100 Lummi View Drive, Bellingham, WA

Want to volunteer?

1. Orcas: David Turnoy 360-317-8392 davidgeri@rockisland.com
2. Support Boat: Dave Roseberry 360-298-2940
3. Organizer: Freddie Lane: (phreddielane@gmail.com) 360-391-7560

Like to Donate?

Contribute online or by check through the Orcas Island Community Foundation. The Kids and Canoes Fund allows 100% of your gift to pass through to Camp Orkila or other local non profit corporations. OICF will send you a tax notice automatically. Thank you for helping this great event!

Online: oicf.us, select "Donate Today" then scroll down to Kids and Canoes; or click this link:

https://oicf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=1146



Kids & Canoes Program 2022

Kids and Canoes is helping raise \$6000 towards the exciting “Gathering of Eagles” Canoe Encampment that comes to Orcas May 25-27, 2022, at Camp Orkila. This is exactly the kind of intercultural event that Kids and Canoes exists to support! Thank you for volunteering or donating towards this important relation building event (oicf.us-Donate Now!-Scroll down to Kids and Canoes.) Please attend the festivities! (See Poster for Schedule)

Background

Dear to the heart of many of us over the years has been to find a way to get Lummi and Orcas kids interacting on a regular basis to create friendships and to learn from each other. In 2000, at a celebration of the 10 year anniversary of preserving Madrona Point, I asked Lummi Elder Chadaskatum (right) how Orcas Islanders could build an enduring, mutually beneficial relationship with the Lummi people?

His answer: “Let’s find a way to get our kids together through the schools.” One successful approach for involving youth among native peoples of the northwest in traditional activities has been the revival of the “Tribal Canoe Journey.” It is exciting that the Canoe Encampment (a smaller version) is coming to Orcas for the first time. Let us hope for a successful visit so this could potentially become a yearly celebration.

The photo to the right is from the “War Canoe Races” sponsored by the Lummi Nation in 2002. This was very popular and accompanied by other cultural activities. Unfortunately transporting canoes to Orcas by ferry proved to be too expensive to repeat!



Lummi canoe builder Dean Washington (pictured) spoke eloquently to islanders at the Oddfellows: “Just think what it would be like to see our children paddling together in a canoe, sitting on the beach and they’re learning some of the words from our language and we’re learning some of the ways of their people.” (Islands Sounder 2.28.2018)

Inspired, Islanders have contributed to acquire a 40 foot Lummi travel / reef net capable canoe. We agree with Dean: let’s get Orcas and Lummi kids paddling together, having positive experiences that connect them with the wider world and each other – imagine the thrill of reef net fishing for the first time!



Momentum is Building across our Community for this Program

The Orcas Island Library has presented Native American speakers. The Orcas Center Visual Arts Committee has featured regional Native American artists. The Orcas Island Historical Museum supports the Lummi Vision from the 1980’s to establish a Cross-Cultural Understanding/Heritage Center on Madrona Point. The Oddfellows have long hosted Lummi.

Camp Orkila is very generously donating half the cost of housing the “Gathering of Eagles Canoe Encampment.” Salmonberry School is also supporting the Encampment. West Beach Resort is allowing their beach to be used by the journey. Past gatherings featuring Lummi speakers, such as when Dean Washington spoke about his vision for Madrona Point (his ancestors were part of the Longhouse located there) have attracted large audiences.

Interested in joining an ad hoc “Kids and Canoes” Committee?

The Kids and Canoe Program is one element of a larger proposal: to create a Lummi – Orcas Partnership. Its purpose is to build a mutually beneficial relationship between our communities through specific activities that support culture and education and build trust. Our first effort is to help with this year’s Canoe Encampment and to plan for a fundraiser next spring to help with next year’s visit.

The second goal is to start a conversation with Freddie Lane about how to establish the Kids and Canoe Program here on Orcas. There could be a summer element at Camp Orkila and a partnership with Orcas Schools. An unfunded state law from 2015 requires that schools teach a native American curriculum in collaboration with the local tribe – for us, that is Lummi.

Do you have questions or would you like to join a committee working for these causes?

Please call, text, or email me: Peter Fisher 360-376-5955 pcf@petercfisher.com