Clouds in the sky

Description automatically generated

Figure : On the Ferry to Cedar Island

Earth Wise Conference Proposal

Submitted by Pacific Rim Nature Club

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Table of Contents

[Introduction 1](#_Toc32496165)

[Facilities 1](#_Toc32496166)

[Accommodations 1](#_Toc32496167)

[Additional Accommodations 2](#_Toc32496168)

[Meeting Venues 2](#_Toc32496169)

[Audio/Visual Equipment and Internet 3](#_Toc32496170)

[Catering/Dining Facilities 3](#_Toc32496171)

[Access and Travel 3](#_Toc32496172)

[Special Events 3](#_Toc32496173)

[Opening Reception 3](#_Toc32496174)

[Activities 4](#_Toc32496175)

[Conclusion 4](#_Toc32496176)

# Introduction

A wooden boat in a body of water

Description automatically generatedThe Pacific Rim Nature Club would be delighted to host the Earth Wise Conference on beautiful Cedar Island, just a twenty-minute ferry ride from Brentwood Bay, just outside of Victoria, BC. Cedar Island is well known for its world-class nature preserve (the Pacific Rim Reserve), glorious beaches, forest trails, and friendly community. The Pacific Rim Nature Club believes that Cedar Island would be a magical place for the Earth Wise conference.

Figure : View from Pacific Rim Lodge

Cedar Island offers a unique experience to delegates that is very much in keeping with Earth Wise’s mandate of promoting and celebrating the natural environment in British Columbia. The principal venue we propose—The Pacific Rim Lodge—is a rustic getaway right on the waterfront. The Lodge has recently been renovated to a high standard of comfort while still retaining a lovely “summer camp” feel. Delegates can stroll to the beach, soak in the hot tub, take a walk into quaint Welcome Cove where the ferry docks, and hike the numerous woodland trails.

Following are details related to the Pacific Rim Nature Club’s bid to host the Earth Wise conference.

# Facilities

## Accommodations

Pacific Rim Lodge would be the principal venue for the conference with additional venues used as needed to accommodate delegates. The Pacific Rim Lodge accommodates up to 50 people in 25 guest rooms. All the guest rooms can accommodate up to two people. Costs are as follows:

22 rooms with twin or double beds $140

1 Junior Suite with one queen bed $175

1 Superior Suite with 1 queen bed $200

1 Cottage with 1 king bed and kitchen $250

When a majority of the rooms in the Pacific Rim Lodge are booked, the meeting rooms and other facilities are included at no extra cost. The Lodge contains the following venues for meetings:

* One very large room that can accommodate up to 140 people and can be divided into two rooms for breakout sessions
* One suite that can accommodate 20 people
* One board room that can accommodate 20 people

### Additional Accommodations

In addition to the accommodation offered at Pacific Rim Lodge, delegates can choose from the bed and breakfast establishments listed below, each of which is within walking distance of the Pacific Rim Lodge.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Accommodation | Rooms | Cost | Contact |
| Evergreen Bed and Breakfast | 5 | $200 - $235 | 250-555-1266 |
| Heron Point Guest House | 4 | $145 - $235 | 250-555-5789 |
| Laurel Hideaway | 4 | $150 | 250-555-8823 |
| Lighthouse Point Bed and Breakfast | 4 | $210 - $340 | 250-555-1276 |
| Oceanview Hideaway | 4 | $190 | 250-555-8723 |
| Pacific Sands Bed and Breakfast | 4 | $160 | 250-555-3466 |
| Seastrand House | 4 | $250 | 250-555-9340 |
| Seaview Bed and Breakfast | 3 | $200 | 250-555-7899 |
| Westview Bed and Breakfast | 4 | $125 - $165 | 250-555-1800 |

## Meeting Venues

As noted above, the principal meeting venue would be at the Pacific Rim Lodge, which can accommodate up to four breakout sessions—one large room divided into two that can accommodate up to 70 people each and two rooms that can accommodate 20 people each. In addition, Seastrand House (a five-minute walk) can accommodate a meeting of up to 30 people and the Cedar Island Community Hall (a 15-minute walk or short bus ride from the Lodge) can accommodate up to 75 people.

The venues available on Cedar Island are not conventional hotel meeting rooms. Delegates may need to move around to different locations. However, we feel this activity is part of the charm of coming to Cedar Island for the Earth Wise conference. A shuttle bus will be available as needed.

### Audio/Visual Equipment and Internet

The Pacific Rim Lodge has free Wi-Fi throughout the facility. In addition, the Lodge has two 50″ TV screens, a large pull-down screen, and a sound system. The Pacific Rim Nature Club can provide two projectors at a nominal additional charge.

## Catering/Dining Facilities

The Pacific Rim Lodge can provide catering for the entire conference—up to 140 people seated at tables. We anticipate the following schedule for food service:

* Friday Reception: Reception hosted by the Pacific Rim Nature Club held at the Cedar Island Community Hall—a stunning venue overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The reception will include a cash bar, hors d’oeuvres, and musical entertainment. Following the reception, delegates who are staying on Cedar Island can either go to one of the five restaurants on the Island or arrangements can be made for a buffet dinner at Pacific Rim Lodge.
* Saturday Breakfast: Buffet breakfast at the Lodge
* Saturday Lunch: Buffet lunch at the Lodge
* Saturday Banquet: Banquet at the Lodge

In addition, the Lodge can provide snacks during breaks. Delegates who go to other venues for breakout sessions will also be provided with snacks arranged through one of the local cafes.

## Access and Travel

Getting to Cedar Island is half the attraction of any visit to the Island. The Queen of Georgia from Brentwood Bay outside Victoria runs almost hourly beginning at 5:00 am with the last ferry leaving Cedar Island at 10 pm. The ride is just twenty minutes past some of the most breathtaking marine scenery in western Canada. Delegates who live in Victoria can easily commute to Cedar Island for the conference events. A walk-on passenger pays $9.10 and a passenger with a vehicle pays $32.65. We recommend that delegates walk onto the ferry instead of bringing cars. Parking is limited near the Lodge and in Welcome Cove. The Pacific Rim Nature Club can arrange to pick up people who need assistance. The Lodge also provides a shuttle service.

# Special Events

## Opening Reception

The Pacific Rim Nature Club proposes a cocktail reception with cash bar and appetizers at the stunning new Cedar Island Community Hall. The Hall overlooks a stunning view of the southern Gulf Islands and the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. The Hall can accommodate up to 110 people for a reception. A local band will perform.

## Activities

The Pacific Rim Nature Club will also organize additional activities, depending on the preferences of the delegates.

# Conclusion

Cedar Island is a special place. The people who live here love to share the island with visitors. Every weekend, notices for nature walks, concerts, art openings, garden walks, plant sales, and other community events crowd the bulletin boards. At the same time, Cedar Island is a great place to just relax and enjoy the view. Delegates looking for a lively night life won’t find it on Cedar Island. What they will find is a level of tranquility and quiet that has become all too rare in our modern lives.

The Pacific Rim Nature Club welcomes the opportunity to host delegates from all over British Columbia. Delegates will experience the unique charm that has made Cedar Island a magnet for environmentalists and nature lovers from all over the world while also enjoying the opportunity to network with fellow delegates in surroundings that are truly spectacular – rain or shine!