

12th Annual 5K Wreck Beach Bare Buns Run/Walk

MEDIA RELEASE
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Naked and almost-naked runners run on sand and in nature

VANCOUVER, BC -- On Sunday August 17th, 2008, hundreds of runners will bare themselves in varying degrees of undress to run and walk a 5 kilometer course on world-renowned Wreck Beach. Listed by USA Today as one of the 10 great places to leave the swimsuit at home and shortlisted on CBC's "Seven Wonders of Canada," the Wreck Beach run attracts beach goers and fitness buffs from around the world.

"This is an officially-timed event and we expect hundreds of people from all over the world," said Judy Williams, Wreck Beach Preservation Society chair and run "Buns Master". "Runners come from as far away as Hong Kong, Australia and all over the United States," Williams continued.

"Not only does the run promote the healthiness and enjoyment of social naturism, it also is one of the Wreck Beach Preservation Society's main fund raisers of the year," Williams said.

The Wreck Beach run completes a 3-part clothing-optional running series, with two prior runs in Washington State.

Registration fees are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, with all runners receiving a certificate of participation with top runners winning medals. Registration opens at 9:30 am on August 17th with the race beginning 12:00 Noon sharp, rain or shine, on the tidal flats at the bottom of Wreck Beach Trail 6. Participants who pre-register at www.barebuns.ca also receive a run T-Shirt.

"If you are too shy to completely bare your buns, get a friend or one of our beach artists to body paint them for you!" say race organizers.

For event details and to pre-register, phone 604-876-3909, email registrar@barebuns.ca, or visit <http://www.barebuns.ca>

This year's sponsors are listed prominently on the backs of run shirts which travel literally around the world.

Proceeds from the run support the preservation activities of the Wreck Beach Preservation Society. Formed in 1977, the Society has so far successfully resisted attempts by developers and governments to build roads, housing developments, and other intrusions along the 7.8 kilometer beach which would threaten its nature and wooded cliffs which serve to separate the beach from the city.

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For more information:

Interviews: Judy Williams, Buns Master and Wreck Beach Preservation Society Chair,
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Registration information: Dena Ellery, Run Registrar, registrar@barebuns.ca, 604-876-3909
Wreck Beach Preservation Society: <http://www.wreckbeach.org>

Office run photos suitable for publication available upon request.

Fact Sheet

Wreck Beach Bare Buns Run/Walk

- The **Bare Buns Run/Walk** is a fundraiser for the Wreck Beach Preservation Society, whose mandate is to preserve Wreck Beach in as nearly a natural state as possible, and is designed to promote the healthy and positive benefits of social nudism. In a culture which promotes unrealistic and unattainable ideals, the Wreck Beach Bare Buns Run/Walk promotes body acceptance through nude recreation.
- The **run is clothing-optional**. Participants may choose to run shy (clothed), with bare bums, or totally nude.
- The run is the third in a series of three naturist-club sponsored runs, along with **Fraternity Snoqualmie** (southeast of Issaquah, Washington) which kicks off their run in the beginning of July, and **Kaniksu Ranch**, outside Spokane, Washington, at the end of July. Runners who take part in all three runs receive a participation medal at Wreck Beach.
- **Registration and check-in** starts Sunday, August 17, 9:30 a.m. at the base of Wreck Beach Trail 6 with the race starting at 12:00 Noon sharp. Medals are awarded to winners in each category with certificates awarded to all those who cross the finish line "with bare buns". Registration fees are \$25 adult, \$20 for youth under 16 or seniors over 55, and includes a T-shirt or tank top. Youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Those wishing to walk are very welcome to participate.
- Participants are asked to **pre-register** with forms available at <http://www.barebuns.ca> or at the top of Wreck Beach Trail 6. The run occurs rain or shine.
- The run is officially timed, with **medals** awarded to the top three male and female runners in the following age groups: Under 12, 13-16, 17-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65, and over 65. **Certificates will be awarded** for oldest, youngest, best-decorated "buns", most outrageous hats, and farthest traveled. Medals will go to the first men, women, and children across the finish line.
- An **official WBPS photographer** will record the event. Do not take pictures without permission, or identifiable close-ups of persons wearing red wristbands. An area will be designated for those wishing to be photographed. There is to be no photography of children.
- The date for the run is selected for the low tide that day. The **5 kilometer course is laps on the sandy tidal flats** that are accessible from Wreck Beach Trail 6 with the exact course depending on wind and tides for that day.
- The Wreck Beach Bare Buns **Run/Walk is in honour of Paddy**, a local character actor, long-time member of ACTRA (Association of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists), and stand-up comic who worked from Los Angeles to Vancouver with fellow comedian and beach luminary, Watermelon. Because Paddy tirelessly fundraised for the beach he so loved, the Bare Buns Run/Walk was dedicated to his memory after his death in 1997.
- The first Wreck Beach Bare Buns Run/Walk was in 1997 and attracted 75 participants in a cold driving rain. Last year's run, in 2007, attracted 142 participants.

Wreck Beach

- Wreck Beach **attracts up to 14,000 visitors on a peak summer day, over 500,000 visitors annually** and **generates over \$60 million annually** in related tourist revenues. It is Canada's first and largest, legal, clothing-optional beach.
- Wreck Beach is the **entire 7.8 kilometer foreshore Pacific Spirit Park** area that encompasses the University of British Columbia and is administered by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) – now renamed Metro Vancouver.