

Orca Whales at Herron Island

Late Friday afternoon, September 11, 2009, residents sighted a pod of Orcas off the north end of Herron Island. The Orcas wandered about 20 feet off the small boat dock. The small pod slowly swam to Packard's Point on Herron Island, and then headed south down the west side of the Herron Island. Anita Bray called island residents along the west and south sides to alert neighbors about this wonderful event.

A second group of Orcas appeared on the West side of Herron Island, the two pods of Orcas merged together off the sand spit on the southwest corner of Herron Island. Denny Dubeck thought 'it was a beautiful sight', as he stood on his deck overlooking the Orcas. Those members standing on the South Beach taking pictures said it was a spectacular, exciting, sight as they swam south in one pod. While in the smaller pod the whales swam very close together, however in the large group they swam further apart.

A distinctive feature of the Orca is its large triangular dorsal fin, which can reach up to a height of six feet in males. The female dorsal fin can reach three feet in height and is curved.

On Sunday the whales returned and were spotted at Johnson Point. Many islanders boated over and watched the Orcas before they continued on their journey south. The Herron Islanders who watched these wonderful creatures said they played, went down and then resurfaced. It was like a spectacular game of hide and seek.

Anita Bray