

## Kw'as Park Guide



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### TRAILS

Kw'as Park trails (pronounced 'koass') are located in a 70 hectare (173 acre) forested area between Hague and Gunflint Lakes on Cortes Island. The trails pass through an astounding variety of ecosystems including a wet



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spruce grove, a ridge with large red cedars, a valley with tall alders, and high open bluffs with pine, arbutus and manzanita. As

much as 20% of the park is still virgin old growth and the rest is mature second growth forest. The Millennium Old Growth Trail and the Secret Trail meander through virgin forests with stands of large old growth Douglas firs.

To reach the north entrance to the trails, park at the s-curve just beyond the Cortes Motel. To access the south portion, park at the parking lot off Kw'as Bay Rd. Allow 1.5 hours for the south loop and 2 hours for the north loop. The trails (12 km) are well marked and maps are posted conveniently throughout the park.

### *K'as Oyeta*

is the Coast Salish name for Hague Lake, and means 'hot water (lake)'. This is very appropriate as Hague Lake is flat-bottomed and shallow (35-50 ft) and warms up quickly in the summer and freezes before the deeper Gunflint Lake (70-80 ft) in a cold spell. Hague and Gunflint lakes are inhabited by an ancient strain



Photo: N. Meredith

of coastal cutthroat trout -landlocked some 10,000 years ago. These fish are unusually healthy and unique in that they spawn in the late fall.



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What are now second growth forests were logged in the early 1920s - look for springboard and cable marks on the large stumps and traces of

skid roads. There are also the remains of a steam donkey on Gunflint Lake. Its history is both an interesting and sad one and can be read in full at the site. The steam donkey was used to haul logs from the bush to the edge of Little Hague Lake (now Gunflint Lake). From here the logs were floated to Hague Lake and then sluiced down to Manson's Lagoon. The steam donkey operated for only a short while before it exploded in the fall of 1923, which effectively terminated logging in this area. The explosion was heard for miles around and some pieces of the donkey remain at the bottom of Gunflint Lake.



Photo: N. Meredith



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For your own protection and to protect the forest:

**PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAILS  
NO BIKING WITHIN THE PARK**

Exercise caution at all times in the park as you are in ungroomed wilderness. Trails may not be safe during high winds due to possible falling branches and tree blow-down.

#### Strathcona Regional District

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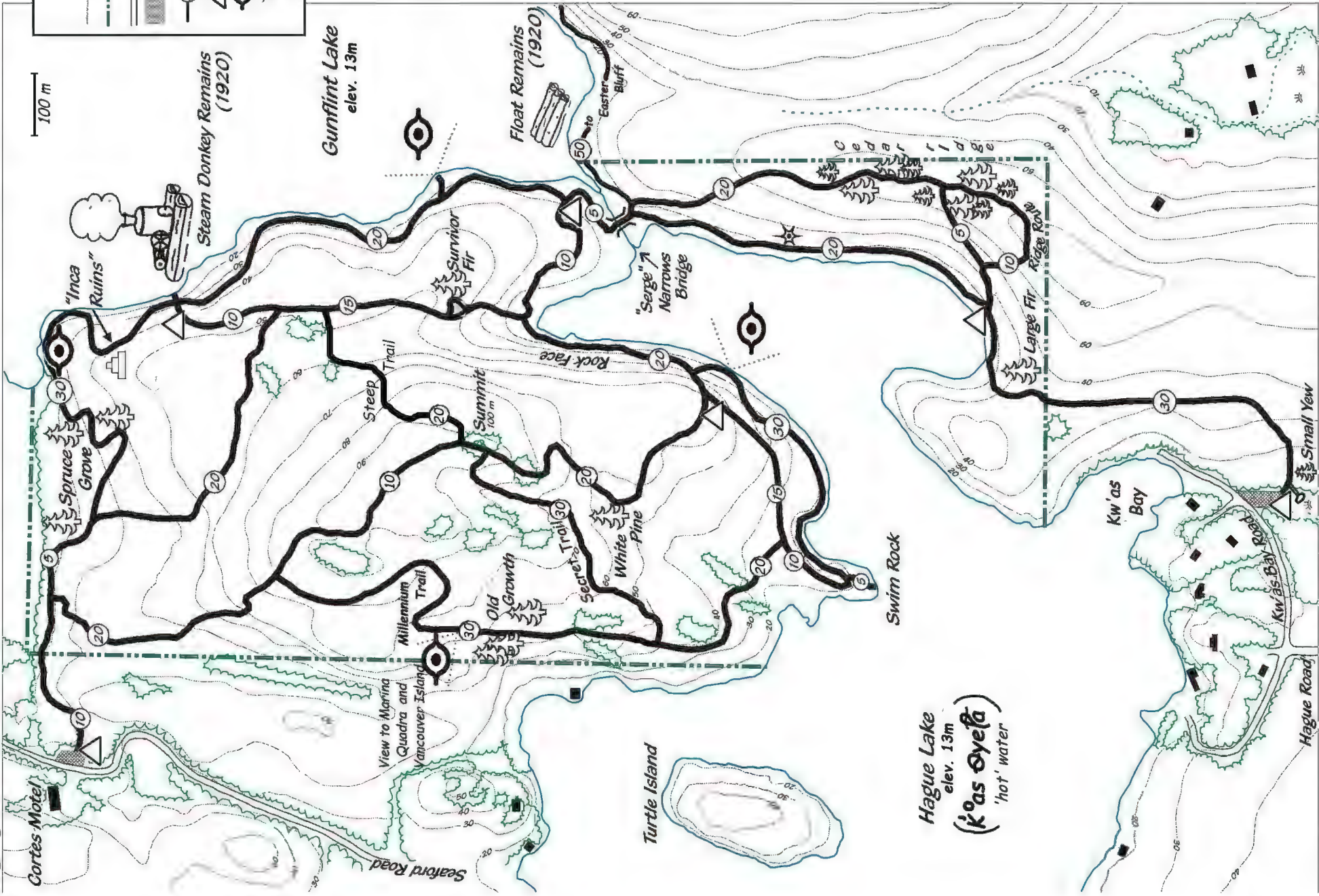
Web: [www.strathconard.ca](http://www.strathconard.ca)



# KW'AS PARK

**LEGEND**

	CONTOURS
	PARK BOUNDARY
	ROADS
	PARKING
	TRAIL & TIME TO WALK
	MAP
	VIEW
	LIGHTNING STRIKE
	SWAMP



PLEASE... STAY ON TRAILS · KEEP DOGS ON LEASH · PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN