

Living with Bats on Exterior Walls

Location: Clubhouse, Vancouver
Colony size: 50
Species: Yuma Myotis, Little Brown Myotis

History

The Vancouver Rowing Club is the oldest amateur sports organization in Vancouver. The club was founded in 1866, with the clubhouse moving to its current location in Coal Harbour, within Stanley Park, in 1911. The building was designated a heritage site in 1986.

"Bats are seen nightly in the summer over the water, yet I don't think many of our members are even aware that bats use our facility" – VRC General Manager

The caretaker discovered the bat roost in 2008 and simply added guano management to his weekly duties. As a result, the Vancouver Rowing Club colony was unknown to many club members. Although bats can be found in various locations, most prefer to roost in gaps under the railings along a busy stairwell.



The Vancouver Rowing Club has provided a long-term roost for bats in the heart of the city.

Management actions

Since the bats roost on the exterior of the building, little maintenance is required. Guano falls from the railing onto the side of the building, within a stairwell, and on the top window ledge, but is easily cleaned off by spraying with a hose.

"No harm is done to us and cleaning the guano is of no concern" – VRC Caretaker

Contributions to bat conservation and research in BC



The bats use the bottom of the railing. This provides ideal spacing for bats and is similar to a chamber found within a bat house.

The site offers excellent bat viewing in an urban centre. The clubhouse is on private property; however, its entrance is located off the seawall. From April through August, visitors to Stanley Park can enjoy watching bats emerge from their roost to feed over the water at sunset. Some club members also enjoy this acrobatic display each year.

Volunteers for the Stanley Park Ecology Society noted the roost in 2016; informal monitoring was conducted on the roost in 2016 and 2017. It was included in the BC Annual Bat Count beginning in 2018. The Vancouver Rowing Club will continue to work with the BC Community Bat Program to provide access to the building for future counts.