

*news release*

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

Not to be released before: **2009-08-04**  
Date & Time of Incident: **2009-08-03 at 1:30 pm**  
Location of Incident: **Westwood Lake**  
Nanaimo RCMP File #: **2009-22761**

CAPTION: **Female sexually assaulted at Lake**

DETAILS:



The public is being advised to use extreme caution after a female hiker was sexually assaulted while walking along Westwood Lake yesterday afternoon.

The victim age 23, was nearing the walking bridge at the north end of the lake approximately 2.5 km from the main gate, when confronted by a partially clothed male. He tapped her on the shoulder and as she turned she noticed he was naked from the waist down. His face was covered with a yellow T-shirt and his eyes were blocked with a floppy black hat. He had at least one days growth of hair on his chin and it was sprinkled with "salt and pepper hair".

The disgusted female had a few words with the male and turned away from him. The suspect then ran towards her, reached around her and attempted to rip off her top and in doing so sexually assaulted her. The female struck out at him and he ran off into the bushes. She yelled for help and a couple walking near by came to her assistance. She then used her cell phone to call police. Officers attended but the male could not be located.

This incident has similarities to another incident reported on Sunday July 26 at Collier Dam at 2:30 pm. In that incident, a 35 year old female was walking with her two dogs when she was startled after a male jumped out of the bushes naked from the waist down. His face was covered with a bright green T-shirt and he was wearing a black New York Yankees baseball cap. He also had on white socks and black shoes. The female told the male she was going to call the police and upon hearing this the male ran off in a westerly direction towards Seventh St. Investigators believe the two incidents may be related and have provided the following description of the suspect:

Caucasian male, 35-45, 5ft 6" to 5ft 9, medium length dark hair, tanned, no tattoos or piercings, very skinny bordering on gaunt.

Anyone with information on these two incidents is asked to contact the Nanaimo RCMP at 250-754-2345 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-22-TIPS(8477)

Contact Officer:

Released by: Constable Gary O'Brien

Date: 2009-08-04



Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
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